



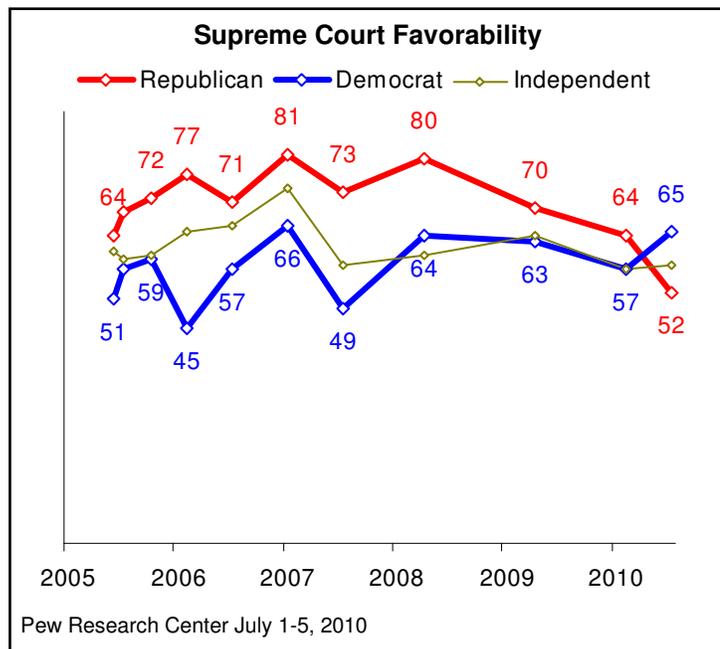
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, July 9, 2010

Public Views of Congress Recover Slightly
REPUBLICANS LESS POSITIVE TOWARD SUPREME COURT

Republicans' opinions of the Supreme Court have become less favorable during the Obama administration. As a result, more Democrats than Republicans now express a positive opinion of the Supreme Court – the first time this has occurred since the Clinton administration.

Overall opinions of the Supreme Court are unchanged since February, at 58% favorable, but are somewhat less positive than in April 2009 (64% favorable). Over this period, favorable impressions of the court among Republicans have fallen by 18 points – from 70% to 52%.

Democrats' views of the Supreme Court have shown less change: 65% now have a favorable view of the Supreme Court, up slightly from February (57%), and about the same as in April 2009 (63%). Independents' opinions also have changed little over this period. Currently, 58% of independents have a positive impression of the court.



Plurality Sees Current Court as "Middle of the Road"

	Jul 2007	Apr 2010	Jun 2010
Current court is...	%	%	%
Conservative	36	24	23
Middle of the road	35	36	39
Liberal	14	24	23
Don't know	15	16	14
	100	100	100

Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted July 1-5 among 1,007 adults reached on cell phones and landlines, finds that the public's perceptions of the Supreme Court's ideology have changed little since earlier this year. But compared with July 2007, fewer people view the court as conservative and more see it as liberal.

Currently, 39% say the Supreme Court is middle of the road, while equal numbers rate it as conservative or liberal (23% each). In July 2007, 36% said the court was conservative, while 35% said it was middle of the road and just 14% said it was liberal.

Shifting Views of Court's Ideology

The belief that the Supreme Court is conservative has declined across the political spectrum since 2007. Yet among Republicans, in particular, there also has been a striking rise in the view that the court is liberal.

The proportion of Republicans saying the court is liberal has nearly doubled over the past three years, from 18% to 34%. At the same time, the percentage saying the court is conservative has fallen from 26% to 12%. About four-in-ten Republicans (39%) see the Supreme Court's ideology as middle of the road, about the same as in July 2007 (44%).

More Republicans Now See Supreme Court as Liberal				
<i>Current court is...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
July 2010	%	%	%	%
Conservative	23	12	31	22
Middle of the road	39	39	41	41
Liberal	23	34	16	24
Don't know	14	15	12	12
	100	100	100	100
July 2007				
Conservative	36	26	48	37
Middle of the road	35	44	28	35
Liberal	14	18	11	13
Don't know	15	12	13	16
	100	100	100	100
<i>07-10 change in "liberal"</i>	+9	+16	+5	+11

Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Independents also are more likely to view the Supreme Court as liberal than in 2007 – 24% now say the court is liberal compared with 13% then. Still, a plurality of independents (41%) now sees the court as middle of the road.

Democrats' views of the Supreme Court's ideology also have changed since 2007. A plurality of Democrats (41%) now says the court is middle of the road while 31% say it is conservative. In 2007, nearly half of Democrats (48%) said the court was conservative while 28% said it was middle of the road.

Views of Congress, Political Parties

The new survey finds that the public's views of Congress have improved a bit since reaching an all-time low in the spring. Currently, 33% say they have a favorable opinion of Congress while 56% have an unfavorable view. In early April, shortly after passage of major health care legislation, 25% expressed a favorable opinion of Congress and 65% felt unfavorably. In March, just prior to the bill's passage, opinions were equally negative.

Opinions of Congress remain far less positive than they were in April 2009. At that time, 50% had a favorable impression of Congress while 43% had an unfavorable view.

Nearly half of Democrats (48%) now say they have a favorable view of Congress while 39% feel unfavorably. In both March and April, the balance of opinion among Democrats was more negative than positive.

	<i>April 2009</i>		<i>Mar 18-21 2010</i>		<i>Apr 1-5 2010</i>		<i>Jul 1-5 2010</i>		<i>4/10-7/10 fav change</i>
	<u>Fav</u> %	<u>Unfav</u> %	<u>Fav</u> %	<u>Unfav</u> %	<u>Fav</u> %	<u>Unfav</u> %	<u>Fav</u> %	<u>Unfav</u> %	
Total	50	43	26	62	25	65	33	56	+8
Republican	29	65	20	73	13	79	22	68	+9
Democrat	66	26	38	50	40	52	48	39	+8
Independent	47	46	21	67	23	68	29	61	+6

Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010.

Favorable views of Congress among Republicans and independents also have risen since the spring. But the balance of opinion among both groups toward Congress remains decidedly negative.

There also has been an improvement in opinions of the Democratic Party. Currently, about as many say they have a favorable opinion (44%) as an unfavorable opinion (45%) of the Democratic Party. In both March and April, unfavorable views of the party outnumbered favorable opinions – by 49% to 40% in March and 52% to 38% in April. Still, the party’s image is far less positive than it was in early 2009. In January of last year, 62% said they had a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party.

Opinions of the Republican Party have shown far less change over the past year and a half. Currently, 39% have a favorable impression of the GOP while 49% have an unfavorable opinion. That is little changed from views of the Republican Party in March and April. In February, opinion of the Republican Party was evenly divided (46% favorable/ 46% unfavorable) – their best showing since September 2008.

Modest Rebound in Democratic Party's Image								
	Jan	Apr	Aug	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	4/10-7/10
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>change</u>
Democratic Party	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total favorable	62	59	49	48	40	38	44	+6
Republicans	30	24	17	18	11	10	11	+1
Democrats	90	91	85	84	78	78	81	+3
Independents	58	52	40	40	33	27	36	+9
Republican Party								
Total favorable	40	40	40	46	37	37	39	+2
Republicans	74	79	78	82	77	79	82	+3
Democrats	22	18	16	23	15	12	14	+2
Independents	38	41	40	42	33	33	35	+2

Pew Research Center July 1-5, 2010.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,007 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from July 1-5, 2010 (675 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 332 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 136 who had no landline telephone). Interviews were not conducted on Independence Day, July 4. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,007	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	259	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	308	7.0 percentage points
Independents	377	6.5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian, Jocelyn Kiley and Alec Tyson, Research Associates
Jacob Poushter, Research Analyst

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
July 1-5¹ OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,007

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [ITEM] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN “NEVER HEARD OF” AND “CAN’T RATE.”]

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
ASK ALL:								
a. The Republican Party								
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6

¹ Polling was not conducted on the Independence Day holiday, July 4.

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6
b. The Democratic Party								
July 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
July 1-5, 2010	33	6	27	56	23	33	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
d. The Supreme Court								
July 1-5, 2010	58	9	49	25	8	17	1	16
Feb 3-9, 2010	58	8	50	27	8	19	*	15
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	64	8	56	21	6	15	0	15
April, 2008	65	15	50	25	7	18	*	10
July, 2007	57	12	45	29	9	20	0	14
January, 2007	72	18	54	17	3	14	2	9
July, 2006	63	7	56	27	8	19	1	9
February, 2006	60	16	44	28	10	18	*	12
Late October, 2005	62	12	50	27	10	17	*	11
July, 2005	61	12	49	28	10	18	*	11
June, 2005	57	8	49	30	8	22	*	13
July, 2001	70	15	55	20	6	14	*	10
March, 2001	72	15	57	20	5	15	*	8
January, 2001	68	18	50	21	8	13	1	10
October, 1997	77	13	64	18	6	12	*	5
May, 1997	72	16	56	22	5	17	0	6
July, 1994	80	18	62	16	3	13	*	4
May, 1993	73	17	56	18	4	14	0	9
November, 1991	72	18	54	21	5	16	0	7
May, 1990	65	10	55	25	7	18	1	9
January, 1988	79	14	65	13	2	11	*	8
May, 1987	76	13	63	17	2	15	*	7
March 1985 (Roper)	64	17	47	28	7	21	--	8

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the Supreme Court...

PEW.2 In your view, do you think the current Supreme Court is conservative, middle of the road, or liberal?

July 1-5 <u>2010</u>		Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>	July <u>2007</u>
23	Conservative	24	36
39	Middle of the road	36	35
23	Liberal	24	14
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	16	15

PEW.3 THROUGH PEW.7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

PEW.8 THROUGH PEW.18 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
				No <u>preference</u>	Other <u>party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>		
July 1-5, 2010	23	31	39	3	1	3	16	16