



**THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**For The People & The Press**

***NEWS Release***  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**Wednesday, August 11, 2010**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**  
**Andrew Kohut, Director**  
**Carroll Doherty, Associate Director**

## Economic News Still Viewed as Mixed More Hearing Good News about Gulf Spill

In the days following BP's latest—and apparently successful—effort to seal the oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, public perceptions of news about the spill have become somewhat more positive. Only a quarter of Americans (25%) say they are hearing mostly good news about the oil spill, but that is more than double the percentage expressing this view two weeks ago (11%).

The latest weekly News Interest Index survey conducted August 5-8 among 1,002 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, finds that about half of the public (47%) says they are hearing a mix of good and bad news about the oil spill in the Gulf, while 25% say they are hearing mostly bad news. The percentage saying they are hearing mixed news has fallen since late July (from 59%), while the proportion hearing mostly bad news has edged upward (from 18%).

The Gulf coast oil leak continues to be the public's most closely followed story, but interest has declined from last week. About four-in-ten (42%) say they followed the story very closely, down from 57% a week ago.

Nevertheless, the Gulf oil leak was once again the public's top news story: 42% say it is the story they followed most closely this week; news about the economy was a distant second, cited by just 16%.

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### More Hearing Good News about the Gulf Oil Spill

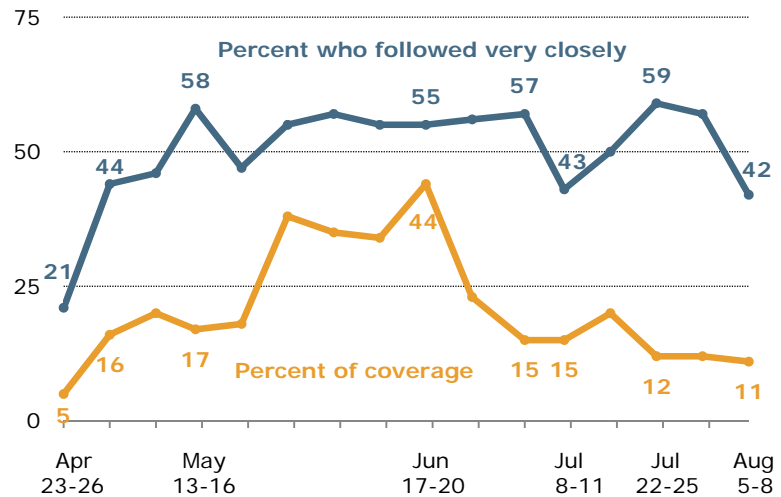
|                          | July<br>15-18<br>% | July<br>22-25<br>% | Aug<br>5-8<br>% |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Mostly good news         | 18                 | 11                 | 25              |
| Mostly bad news          | 31                 | 18                 | 25              |
| Mix of good and bad news | 48                 | 59                 | 47              |
| Don't know               | 3                  | 2                  | 3               |
|                          | 100                | 100                | 100             |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 5-8, 2010.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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News coverage about the leak also has dropped off in recent weeks. The leak accounted for 11% of this week's newshole according to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ). By comparison, the story dominated news coverage throughout June—constituting 44% of the newshole at its peak, the week ending June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Public Interest in Oil Leak Declines



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 5-8, 2010.

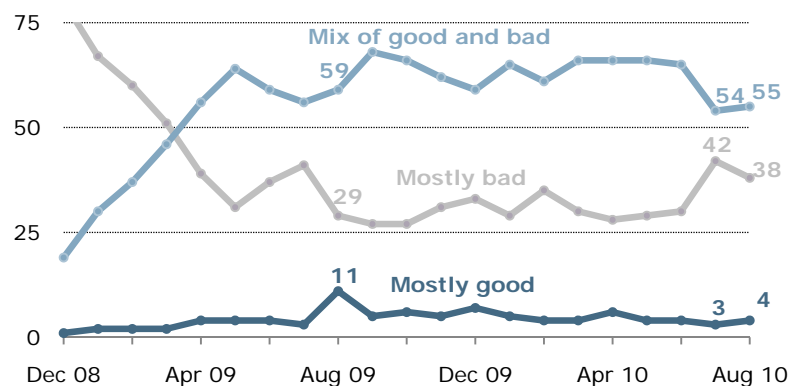
### Views of Economic News Little Changed

In contrast to views of news about the oil spill, the public's perceptions of economic news have not changed and remain far more negative than positive. Currently, 55% say they are hearing a mix of good and bad news about the economy, while 38% say the economic news they are hearing is mostly bad and just 4% say they are hearing mostly good news about the economy.

That is little changed from early July, when 54% said they were hearing mixed news, and 42% said they were hearing mostly bad news. In June, however, just 30% said they were hearing mostly bad news and 65% said the news was a mix of good and bad.

As has been the case throughout the year, Republican perceptions of

### No Improvement in Public Perceptions of Economic News



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 5-8, 2010.

economic news are more negative than Democratic perceptions. Half of Republicans (50%) say they are hearing mostly negative news. Just 27% of Democrats and 37% of independents say this.

Those who say they are following economic news very closely have similar impressions of the tenor of economic news as those who are following news about the economy less closely.

### Wide Partisan Differences in Perceptions of Economic News

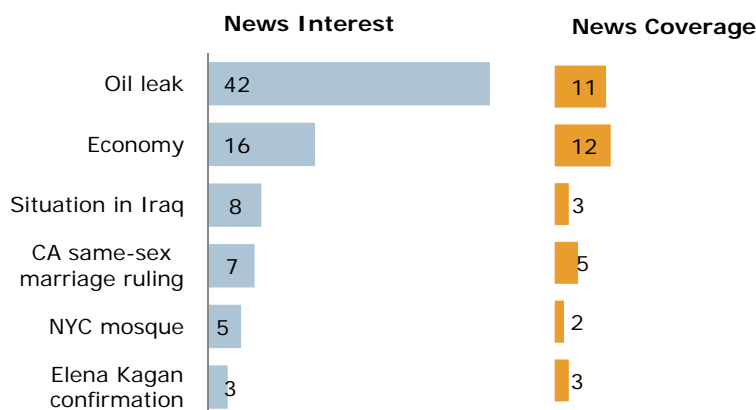
|                                   | Mostly good news % | Mostly bad news % | Mixed news % | DK    |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| Total                             | 4                  | 38                | 55           | 3=100 |
| Republican                        | 2                  | 50                | 46           | 1=100 |
| Democrat                          | 5                  | 27                | 66           | 2=100 |
| Independent                       | 4                  | 37                | 57           | 2=100 |
| <i>Following economic news...</i> |                    |                   |              |       |
| Very closely                      | 4                  | 41                | 54           | 1=100 |
| Less closely                      | 4                  | 36                | 56           | 3=100 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 5-8, 2010.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### The Week's News

Although the level of public interest in the oil leak is lower than it was earlier in the summer, the story continues to top the list of stories the public is following. Similarly, although the news media is no longer devoting as much coverage to the leak as in the past, it remains one of the top two stories covered by the press.

### News Interest vs. Coverage



News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, August 5-8, 2010. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, August 2-8, 2010.

News about the economy rivaled the oil leak in the amount of coverage this week, accounting for 12% of the newshole, and public interest in economic news remains high.

Nearly four-in-ten (39%) say they are following economic news very closely; 16% say it is the news they followed most closely.

As the scheduled end of the combat mission in Iraq approaches at the end of this month, about a quarter (23%) say they followed news about the situation in Iraq very closely, while just 8% say this is the story they followed most closely. The public's attention to news about Iraq has not shifted much over the last year. According to PEJ, Iraq filled just 3% of this week's newshole.

A federal judge's ruling that California's ban on same sex-marriage is unconstitutional garnered 5% of news coverage this week, with 21% of the public reporting that they are following this story very closely and 7% naming it their top story. Both Republicans (27%) and Democrats (25%) were more likely than independents (17%) to say they followed news about the Proposition 8 ruling very closely.

About one-in-five (19%) say they followed news about the planned mosque and Islamic cultural center near the site of the World Trade Center in downtown Manhattan very closely, with 5% saying it was the story they followed most closely. News about the planned mosque, which accounted for just 2% of the newshole, was followed more closely by Republicans (27% very closely) than Democrats (16% very closely); 19% of independents say they followed the story very closely.

Just 15% say they followed the Senate's confirmation of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court very closely—about the same percentage (16%) who said they followed her confirmation hearings in July. Only 3% of press coverage was focused on Kagan. The confirmations of both Sonia Sotomayor last year and John Roberts in 2005 were more closely followed by the public (22% and 28%, respectively, said they followed those confirmations very closely).

These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected August 2-8, and survey data

**measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected August 5-8, from a nationally representative sample of 1,002 adults.**

## About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to [www.journalism.org](http://www.journalism.org).) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Friday through Monday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,002 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from August 5-8, 2010 (671 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 131 who had no landline telephone). 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 | 1,002       | 4.0 percentage points |
| Republicans  | 276         | 7.5 percentage points |
| Democrats    | 278         | 7.5 percentage points |
| Independents | 328         | 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 Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

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

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Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, and Alec Tyson, Research Associates

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For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to [www.people-press.org](http://www.people-press.org).

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**AUGUST 5-8, 2010 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1002**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

|                                                    | <u>Very<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| August 5-8, 2010                                   | 39                      | 33                        | 14                         | 13                            | 1                        |
| July 29-August 1, 2010                             | 51                      | 33                        | 11                         | 5                             | *                        |
| July 22-25, 2010                                   | 46                      | 33                        | 14                         | 6                             | 1                        |
| July 15-18, 2010                                   | 37                      | 33                        | 14                         | 15                            | 1                        |
| July 8-11, 2010                                    | 36                      | 33                        | 15                         | 16                            | *                        |
| July 1-5, 2010                                     | 48                      | 30                        | 13                         | 8                             | *                        |
| June 24-27, 2010                                   | 37                      | 37                        | 15                         | 11                            | 1                        |
| June 17-20, 2010                                   | 38                      | 34                        | 15                         | 13                            | *                        |
| June 10-13, 2010                                   | 39                      | 35                        | 17                         | 9                             | *                        |
| June 3-6, 2010                                     | 35                      | 33                        | 16                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| May 27-30, 2010                                    | 43                      | 29                        | 13                         | 15                            | *                        |
| May 20-23, 2010                                    | 40                      | 35                        | 13                         | 11                            | *                        |
| May 13-16, 2010                                    | 49                      | 32                        | 11                         | 8                             | 1                        |
| May 7-10, 2010                                     | 42                      | 34                        | 11                         | 12                            | *                        |
| April 30-May 3, 2010                               | 32                      | 37                        | 17                         | 14                            | 1                        |
| April 23-26, 2010                                  | 42                      | 31                        | 13                         | 14                            | *                        |
| April 16-19, 2010                                  | 40                      | 32                        | 14                         | 14                            | 0                        |
| April 9-12, 2010                                   | 40                      | 32                        | 15                         | 13                            | *                        |
| April 1-5, 2010                                    | 33                      | 34                        | 14                         | 19                            | *                        |
| March 19-22, 2010                                  | 41                      | 32                        | 14                         | 13                            | *                        |
| March 12-15, 2010                                  | 41                      | 35                        | 12                         | 12                            | *                        |
| March 5-8, 2010                                    | 40                      | 34                        | 12                         | 13                            | *                        |
| February 26-March 1, 2010                          | 31                      | 33                        | 17                         | 19                            | *                        |
| February 19-22, 2010                               | 38                      | 34                        | 15                         | 12                            | *                        |
| February 12-15, 2010                               | 35                      | 34                        | 15                         | 16                            | *                        |
| February 5-8, 2010                                 | 43                      | 36                        | 13                         | 9                             | *                        |
| January 29-February 1, 2010                        | 45                      | 32                        | 13                         | 10                            | *                        |
| January 22-25, 2010                                | 41                      | 34                        | 14                         | 10                            | *                        |
| January 15-18, 2010                                | 37                      | 38                        | 14                         | 11                            | *                        |
| January 8-11, 2010                                 | 39                      | 33                        | 15                         | 12                            | *                        |
| December 18-21, 2009                               | 45                      | 31                        | 14                         | 10                            | 0                        |
| December 11-14, 2009                               | 42                      | 31                        | 14                         | 13                            | *                        |
| December 4-7, 2009                                 | 41                      | 36                        | 13                         | 9                             | 1                        |
| November 13-16, 2009                               | 38                      | 33                        | 14                         | 15                            | *                        |
| October 30-November 2, 2009                        | 34                      | 32                        | 17                         | 16                            | *                        |
| October 23-26, 2009                                | 44                      | 30                        | 15                         | 10                            | 1                        |
| October 9-12, 2009                                 | 41                      | 29                        | 16                         | 13                            | *                        |
| October 2-5, 2009                                  | 44                      | 30                        | 15                         | 11                            | 0                        |
| September 25-28, 2009                              | 44                      | 37                        | 10                         | 10                            | *                        |
| September 18-21, 2009                              | 44                      | 34                        | 15                         | 7                             | *                        |
| September 11-14, 2009                              | 45                      | 32                        | 14                         | 9                             | *                        |
| September 3-6, 2009                                | 41                      | 31                        | 15                         | 13                            | *                        |
| August 28-31, 2009                                 | 45                      | 30                        | 13                         | 12                            | 1                        |
| August 21-24, 2009                                 | 50                      | 27                        | 13                         | 10                            | 1                        |



## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                             | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>closely</u> | Not too<br><u>closely</u> | Not at all<br><u>closely</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| August 14-17, 2009          | 41                     | 37                       | 11                        | 12                           | *                |
| August 7-10, 2009           | 42                     | 34                       | 13                        | 10                           | *                |
| July 31-August 3, 2009      | 46                     | 34                       | 11                        | 8                            | *                |
| July 24-27, 2009            | 45                     | 35                       | 12                        | 8                            | *                |
| July 17-20, 2009            | 43                     | 35                       | 11                        | 11                           | 1                |
| July 10-13, 2009            | 37                     | 38                       | 13                        | 11                           | *                |
| July 2-5, 2009              | 38                     | 35                       | 15                        | 12                           | *                |
| June 19-22, 2009            | 42                     | 33                       | 15                        | 10                           | *                |
| June 12-15, 2009            | 41                     | 35                       | 12                        | 12                           | *                |
| June 5-8, 2009              | 41                     | 34                       | 11                        | 14                           | *                |
| May 29-June 1, 2009         | 43                     | 37                       | 11                        | 8                            | *                |
| May 21-24, 2009             | 44                     | 35                       | 13                        | 9                            | *                |
| May 15-18, 2009             | 44                     | 35                       | 12                        | 8                            | *                |
| May 8-11, 2009              | 42                     | 34                       | 12                        | 12                           | *                |
| May 1-4, 2009               | 47                     | 36                       | 11                        | 5                            | 1                |
| April 17-20, 2009           | 52                     | 30                       | 10                        | 7                            | 1                |
| April 9-13, 2009            | 48                     | 29                       | 13                        | 10                           | 0                |
| March 27-30, 2009           | 48                     | 32                       | 10                        | 10                           | *                |
| March 20-23, 2009           | 52                     | 34                       | 8                         | 6                            | *                |
| March 13-16, 2009           | 48                     | 33                       | 9                         | 10                           | *                |
| February 27-March 2, 2009   | 56                     | 30                       | 8                         | 6                            | *                |
| February 13-16, 2009        | 55                     | 29                       | 10                        | 6                            | *                |
| January 30-February 2, 2009 | 52                     | 31                       | 12                        | 5                            | *                |
| January 23-26, 2009         | 57                     | 30                       | 8                         | 5                            | 0                |
| January 16-19, 2009         | 43                     | 35                       | 13                        | 9                            | *                |
| January 2-4, 2009           | 42                     | 36                       | 15                        | 7                            | *                |
| December 12-15, 2008        | 51                     | 33                       | 9                         | 7                            | *                |
| December 5-8, 2008          | 42                     | 38                       | 13                        | 7                            | *                |
| November 21-24, 2008        | 59                     | 24                       | 9                         | 8                            | *                |
| November 14-17, 2008        | 56                     | 29                       | 9                         | 6                            | *                |
| November 7-10, 2008         | 54                     | 31                       | 8                         | 7                            | *                |
| October 31-November 3, 2008 | 63                     | 27                       | 6                         | 4                            | *                |
| October 24-27, 2008         | 52                     | 35                       | 7                         | 5                            | 1                |
| October 17-20, 2008         | 62                     | 29                       | 6                         | 3                            | *                |
| October 10-13, 2008         | 65                     | 25                       | 7                         | 3                            | *                |
| October 3-6, 2008           | 69                     | 23                       | 5                         | 3                            | *                |
| September 26-29, 2008       | 70                     | 22                       | 5                         | 3                            | *                |
| September 19-22, 2008       | 56                     | 27                       | 12                        | 5                            | *                |
| September 5-8, 2008         | 44                     | 33                       | 16                        | 7                            | *                |
| August 29-31, 2008          | 41                     | 34                       | 13                        | 11                           | 1                |
| August 15-18, 2008          | 39                     | 36                       | 15                        | 10                           | *                |
| August 8-11, 2008           | 39                     | 35                       | 16                        | 10                           | *                |
| August 1-4, 2008            | 47                     | 34                       | 11                        | 8                            | 0                |
| July 25-28, 2008            | 46                     | 32                       | 10                        | 12                           | *                |
| July 18-21, 2008            | 45                     | 33                       | 13                        | 9                            | *                |
| July 11-14, 2008            | 44                     | 33                       | 12                        | 10                           | 1                |
| June 27-30, 2008            | 49                     | 31                       | 12                        | 7                            | 1                |
| June 13-16, 2008            | 42                     | 33                       | 14                        | 11                           | *                |
| May 9-12, 2008              | 45                     | 31                       | 13                        | 11                           | *                |
| May 2-5, 2008               | 43                     | 31                       | 15                        | 10                           | 1                |
| April 18-21, 2008           | 41                     | 35                       | 13                        | 10                           | 1                |
| April 4-7, 2008             | 39                     | 37                       | 12                        | 12                           | *                |
| March 28-31, 2008           | 42                     | 36                       | 14                        | 8                            | *                |
| March 20-24, 2008           | 45                     | 33                       | 13                        | 9                            | *                |
| February 29-March 3, 2008   | 38                     | 35                       | 15                        | 11                           | 1                |
| February 15-18, 2008        | 37                     | 36                       | 11                        | 16                           | 8                |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                                             | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>closely</u> | Not too<br><u>closely</u> | Not at all<br><u>closely</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| February 1-4, 2008                          | 40                     | 37                       | 14                        | 8                            | 1                |
| January 18-21, 2008                         | 42                     | 31                       | 16                        | 11                           | *                |
| January 11-14, 2008                         | 36                     | 32                       | 15                        | 16                           | 1                |
| November 2-5, 2007                          | 27                     | 37                       | 16                        | 19                           | 1                |
| October 19-22, 2007                         | 25                     | 34                       | 20                        | 21                           | *                |
| August 10-13, 2007                          | 28                     | 36                       | 18                        | 18                           | *                |
| Mid-November, 2006                          | 31                     | 40                       | 17                        | 11                           | 1                |
| December, 2005                              | 35                     | 35                       | 18                        | 11                           | 1                |
| Early November, 2005                        | 35                     | 39                       | 17                        | 9                            | *                |
| Mid-May, 2005                               | 30                     | 39                       | 19                        | 11                           | 1                |
| January, 2005                               | 35                     | 41                       | 17                        | 7                            | *                |
| Mid-October, 2004                           | 30                     | 43                       | 16                        | 10                           | 1                |
| Early September, 2004                       | 39                     | 34                       | 15                        | 11                           | 1                |
| Mid-January, 2004                           | 37                     | 41                       | 15                        | 7                            | *                |
| December, 2003                              | 35                     | 38                       | 14                        | 11                           | 2                |
| November, 2003                              | 40                     | 34                       | 15                        | 10                           | 1                |
| October, 2003                               | 32                     | 39                       | 16                        | 12                           | 1                |
| September, 2003                             | 39                     | 30                       | 18                        | 12                           | 1                |
| March, 2003                                 | 40                     | 35                       | 16                        | 8                            | 1                |
| February, 2003                              | 42                     | 33                       | 15                        | 10                           | *                |
| December, 2002                              | 38                     | 34                       | 17                        | 10                           | 1                |
| February, 2002                              | 35                     | 40                       | 15                        | 9                            | 1                |
| January, 2002                               | 30                     | 44                       | 16                        | 9                            | 1                |
| December, 2001                              | 37                     | 40                       | 13                        | 8                            | 2                |
| Mid-November, 2001                          | 41                     | 36                       | 15                        | 7                            | 1                |
| June, 2001                                  | 24                     | 41                       | 18                        | 16                           | 1                |
| May, 2001                                   | 34                     | 36                       | 15                        | 15                           | 0                |
| April, 2001                                 | 36                     | 34                       | 16                        | 13                           | 1                |
| February, 2001                              | 30                     | 39                       | 18                        | 12                           | 1                |
| January, 2001                               | 32                     | 38                       | 17                        | 11                           | 2                |
| June, 1995                                  | 26                     | 41                       | 22                        | 11                           | *                |
| March, 1995                                 | 27                     | 45                       | 19                        | 9                            | *                |
| February, 1995                              | 23                     | 41                       | 22                        | 13                           | 1                |
| December, 1994                              | 28                     | 43                       | 20                        | 9                            | *                |
| October, 1994                               | 27                     | 40                       | 20                        | 12                           | 1                |
| June, 1994                                  | 25                     | 42                       | 23                        | 10                           | *                |
| May, 1994                                   | 33                     | 40                       | 16                        | 10                           | 1                |
| January, 1994                               | 34                     | 39                       | 16                        | 10                           | 1                |
| Early January, 1994                         | 36                     | 44                       | 13                        | 7                            | *                |
| December, 1993                              | 35                     | 41                       | 15                        | 8                            | 1                |
| October, 1993                               | 33                     | 38                       | 20                        | 9                            | *                |
| September, 1993                             | 37                     | 40                       | 14                        | 8                            | 1                |
| Early September, 1993                       | 39                     | 39                       | 14                        | 9                            | *                |
| August, 1993                                | 41                     | 36                       | 14                        | 9                            | *                |
| May, 1993                                   | 37                     | 38                       | 18                        | 6                            | 1                |
| February, 1993                              | 49                     | 36                       | 10                        | 5                            | *                |
| January, 1993                               | 42                     | 39                       | 12                        | 7                            | *                |
| September, 1992                             | 43                     | 37                       | 13                        | 6                            | 1                |
| May, 1992                                   | 39                     | 39                       | 15                        | 6                            | 1                |
| March, 1992                                 | 47                     | 38                       | 11                        | 4                            | *                |
| February, 1992                              | 47                     | 37                       | 10                        | 6                            | *                |
| January, 1992                               | 44                     | 40                       | 11                        | 5                            | *                |
| October, 1991                               | 36                     | 38                       | 16                        | 9                            | 1                |
| b. The major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
| August 5-8, 2010                            | 42                     | 36                       | 12                        | 9                            | 1                |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                                                                                                                       | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>closely</u> | Not too<br><u>closely</u> | Not at all<br><u>closely</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| July 29-August 1, 2010                                                                                                | 57                     | 31                       | 10                        | 2                            | 0                |
| July 22-25, 2010                                                                                                      | 59                     | 29                       | 8                         | 3                            | *                |
| July 15-18, 2010                                                                                                      | 50                     | 32                       | 10                        | 7                            | *                |
| July 8-11, 2010                                                                                                       | 43                     | 40                       | 10                        | 6                            | 1                |
| July 1-5, 2010                                                                                                        | 57                     | 29                       | 9                         | 5                            | *                |
| June 24-27, 2010                                                                                                      | 56                     | 31                       | 8                         | 5                            | *                |
| June 17-20, 2010                                                                                                      | 55                     | 32                       | 6                         | 6                            | *                |
| June 10-13, 2010                                                                                                      | 55                     | 31                       | 9                         | 5                            | *                |
| June 3-6, 2010                                                                                                        | 57                     | 27                       | 9                         | 6                            | *                |
| May 27-30, 2010                                                                                                       | 55                     | 26                       | 11                        | 7                            | *                |
| May 20-23, 2010: <i>An oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the coast of several states</i>                     | 47                     | 35                       | 11                        | 7                            | *                |
| May 13-16, 2010                                                                                                       | 58                     | 29                       | 9                         | 4                            | *                |
| May 7-10, 2010                                                                                                        | 46                     | 33                       | 11                        | 10                           | *                |
| April 30-May 3, 2010: <i>Oil leaking into the ocean near the Louisiana coast after an off-shore oil rig explosion</i> | 44                     | 35                       | 11                        | 10                           | *                |
| April 23-26, 2010: <i>An explosion on an off-shore oil rig near the coast of Louisiana</i>                            | 21                     | 35                       | 22                        | 23                           | *                |
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>                                                                                         |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
| April 1-5, 2010: <i>President Obama's proposal to allow offshore oil and gas drilling</i>                             | 20                     | 24                       | 21                        | 33                           | 1                |
| July 25-28, 2008: <i>A major oil spill into the Mississippi River</i>                                                 | 14                     | 19                       | 25                        | 41                           | 1                |
| December 4-8, 2002: <i>The large oil spill polluting the coast of Spain</i>                                           | 15                     | 29                       | 28                        | 27                           | 1                |
| May 4-7, 1989: <i>The Alaska oil spill</i>                                                                            | 52                     | 37                       | 7                         | 4                            | --               |
| c. The current situation and events in Iraq                                                                           |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
| August 5-8, 2010                                                                                                      | 23                     | 35                       | 22                        | 18                           | 1                |
| May 13-16, 2010                                                                                                       | 31                     | 34                       | 21                        | 13                           | 2                |
| March 12-15, 2010                                                                                                     | 22                     | 36                       | 28                        | 14                           | *                |
| March 5-8, 2010                                                                                                       | 26                     | 34                       | 20                        | 20                           | *                |
| January 29-February 1, 2010                                                                                           | 23                     | 33                       | 27                        | 17                           | *                |
| January 15-18, 2010                                                                                                   | 20                     | 35                       | 28                        | 17                           | *                |
| October 16-19, 2009                                                                                                   | 23                     | 30                       | 24                        | 23                           | *                |
| September 11-14, 2009                                                                                                 | 21                     | 33                       | 30                        | 16                           | *                |
| August 21-24, 2009                                                                                                    | 25                     | 35                       | 22                        | 18                           | 1                |
| August 14-17, 2009                                                                                                    | 19                     | 38                       | 23                        | 18                           | *                |
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>                                                                                         |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
| July 2-5, 2009: U.S. troops withdrawing from Iraqi cities                                                             | 25                     | 34                       | 20                        | 21                           | 0                |
| April 24-27, 2009: The current situation and events in Iraq                                                           | 21                     | 35                       | 25                        | 19                           | *                |
| March 20-23, 2009                                                                                                     | 25                     | 37                       | 21                        | 17                           | *                |
| February 27-March 2, 2009: Barack Obama's plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010                  | 40                     | 37                       | 13                        | 9                            | 1                |
| December 12-15, 2008: The current situation and events in Iraq                                                        | 24                     | 35                       | 25                        | 16                           | *                |
| November 21-24, 2008                                                                                                  | 32                     | 31                       | 24                        | 13                           | 0                |
| November 14-17, 2008                                                                                                  | 24                     | 33                       | 27                        | 16                           | *                |
| October 31-November 3, 2008                                                                                           | 30                     | 35                       | 22                        | 12                           | 1                |
| October 24-27, 2008                                                                                                   | 29                     | 35                       | 25                        | 11                           | *                |
| October 10-13, 2008                                                                                                   | 23                     | 34                       | 30                        | 13                           | *                |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                                | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>closely</u> | Not too<br><u>closely</u> | Not at all<br><u>closely</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| October 3-6, 2008              | 29                     | 33                       | 28                        | 10                           | *                |
| September 5-8, 2008            | 24                     | 37                       | 26                        | 13                           | *                |
| August 29-31, 2008             | 22                     | 32                       | 29                        | 16                           | 1                |
| August 22-25, 2008             | 26                     | 31                       | 27                        | 15                           | 1                |
| August 1-4, 2008               | 27                     | 40                       | 23                        | 10                           | *                |
| July 25-28, 2008               | 28                     | 33                       | 22                        | 17                           | *                |
| July 18-21, 2008               | 33                     | 35                       | 20                        | 12                           | *                |
| July 11-14, 2008               | 24                     | 35                       | 24                        | 16                           | 1                |
| July 3-7, 2008                 | 25                     | 35                       | 25                        | 15                           | *                |
| June 20-23, 2008               | 25                     | 36                       | 24                        | 15                           | *                |
| May 9-12, 2008                 | 29                     | 35                       | 21                        | 14                           | 1                |
| May 2-5, 2008                  | 26                     | 35                       | 25                        | 13                           | 1                |
| April 25-28, 2008              | 29                     | 35                       | 23                        | 12                           | 1                |
| April 18-21, 2008              | 29                     | 39                       | 20                        | 11                           | 1                |
| April 11-14, 2008              | 25                     | 39                       | 20                        | 15                           | 1                |
| April 4-7, 2008                | 25                     | 37                       | 23                        | 15                           | *                |
| March 28-31, 2008              | 29                     | 40                       | 19                        | 11                           | 1                |
| March 20-24, 2008              | 30                     | 38                       | 19                        | 13                           | *                |
| March 14-17, 2008              | 29                     | 38                       | 23                        | 10                           | *                |
| March 7-10, 2008               | 28                     | 39                       | 18                        | 15                           | *                |
| February 29-March 3, 2008      | 28                     | 40                       | 19                        | 13                           | *                |
| February 8-11, 2008            | 24                     | 35                       | 25                        | 16                           | *                |
| February 1-4, 2008             | 28                     | 39                       | 22                        | 11                           | *                |
| January 25-28, 2008            | 23                     | 35                       | 26                        | 16                           | *                |
| January 18-21, 2008            | 31                     | 33                       | 20                        | 15                           | 1                |
| January 11-14, 2008            | 25                     | 38                       | 21                        | 16                           | *                |
| January 4-7, 2008              | 27                     | 38                       | 20                        | 15                           | *                |
| December 14-17, 2007           | 26                     | 32                       | 24                        | 18                           | *                |
| December 7-10, 2007            | 28                     | 37                       | 21                        | 14                           | *                |
| November 23-26, 2007           | 25                     | 37                       | 21                        | 16                           | 1                |
| November 16-19, 2007           | 31                     | 37                       | 19                        | 12                           | 1                |
| November 9-12, 2007            | 29                     | 38                       | 19                        | 13                           | 1                |
| November 2-5, 2007             | 31                     | 35                       | 18                        | 15                           | 1                |
| October 26-29, 2007            | 28                     | 37                       | 21                        | 13                           | 1                |
| October 19-22, 2007            | 28                     | 37                       | 20                        | 15                           | *                |
| October 12-15, 2007            | 26                     | 36                       | 18                        | 19                           | 1                |
| October 5-8, 2007              | 29                     | 33                       | 22                        | 16                           | *                |
| September 28 – October 1, 2007 | 30                     | 41                       | 18                        | 11                           | *                |
| September 21-24, 2007          | 32                     | 38                       | 17                        | 13                           | *                |
| September 14-17, 2007          | 31                     | 36                       | 18                        | 15                           | 0                |
| September 7-10, 2007           | 32                     | 34                       | 20                        | 14                           | *                |
| August 30 – September 2, 2007  | 31                     | 34                       | 18                        | 16                           | 1                |
| August 24-27, 2007             | 34                     | 36                       | 18                        | 12                           | *                |
| August 17-20, 2007             | 33                     | 34                       | 18                        | 15                           | *                |
| August 10-13, 2007             | 36                     | 37                       | 14                        | 13                           | *                |
| August 3-6, 2007               | 29                     | 40                       | 19                        | 12                           | *                |
| July 27-30, 2007               | 28                     | 36                       | 19                        | 16                           | 1                |
| July 20-23, 2007               | 28                     | 34                       | 21                        | 16                           | 1                |
| July 13-16, 2007               | 25                     | 41                       | 17                        | 16                           | 1                |
| July 6-9, 2007                 | 36                     | 34                       | 18                        | 12                           | *                |
| June 29-July 2, 2007           | 32                     | 35                       | 19                        | 13                           | 1                |
| June 22-25, 2007               | 30                     | 36                       | 18                        | 15                           | 1                |
| June 15-18, 2007               | 30                     | 37                       | 20                        | 13                           | *                |
| June 8-11, 2007                | 32                     | 38                       | 15                        | 14                           | 1                |
| June 1-4, 2007                 | 30                     | 36                       | 20                        | 13                           | 1                |
| May 24-27, 2007                | 33                     | 36                       | 18                        | 12                           | 1                |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                                                                      | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>closely</u> | Not too<br><u>closely</u> | Not at all<br><u>closely</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| May 18-21, 2007                                                      | 36                     | 34                       | 15                        | 14                           | 1                |
| May 11-14, 2007                                                      | 30                     | 34                       | 18                        | 17                           | 1                |
| May 4-7, 2007                                                        | 38                     | 37                       | 15                        | 10                           | *                |
| April 27-30, 2007                                                    | 27                     | 35                       | 21                        | 16                           | 1                |
| April 20-23, 2007                                                    | 28                     | 35                       | 22                        | 15                           | *                |
| April 12-16, 2007                                                    | 34                     | 33                       | 20                        | 13                           | *                |
| April 5-9, 2007                                                      | 33                     | 39                       | 16                        | 11                           | 1                |
| March 30-April 2, 2007                                               | 34                     | 37                       | 16                        | 13                           | *                |
| March 23-March 26, 2007: News about the<br>current situation in Iraq | 31                     | 38                       | 18                        | 12                           | 1                |
| March 16-19, 2007                                                    | 34                     | 34                       | 17                        | 15                           | *                |
| March 9-12, 2007                                                     | 34                     | 37                       | 16                        | 13                           | *                |
| March 2-5, 2007                                                      | 37                     | 37                       | 16                        | 9                            | 1                |
| February 23-26, 2007                                                 | 36                     | 36                       | 15                        | 13                           | *                |
| February 16-19, 2007                                                 | 30                     | 36                       | 19                        | 14                           | 1                |
| February 9-12, 2007                                                  | 37                     | 34                       | 18                        | 11                           | *                |
| February 2-5, 2007                                                   | 38                     | 38                       | 17                        | 7                            | *                |
| January 26-29, 2007                                                  | 36                     | 38                       | 15                        | 11                           | *                |
| January 19-22, 2007                                                  | 37                     | 34                       | 18                        | 10                           | 1                |
| January 12-15, 2007                                                  | 38                     | 36                       | 17                        | 8                            | 1                |
| January, 2007                                                        | 46                     | 40                       | 8                         | 5                            | 1                |
| January 5-8, 2007                                                    | 40                     | 32                       | 16                        | 12                           | 0                |
| December, 2006                                                       | 42                     | 39                       | 12                        | 7                            | *                |
| November 30-December 3, 2006                                         | 40                     | 36                       | 13                        | 11                           | *                |
| Mid-November, 2006                                                   | 44                     | 38                       | 12                        | 6                            | *                |
| September, 2006                                                      | 33                     | 43                       | 14                        | 8                            | 2                |
| August, 2006                                                         | 41                     | 39                       | 12                        | 7                            | 1                |
| June, 2006                                                           | 37                     | 43                       | 13                        | 6                            | 1                |
| May, 2006                                                            | 42                     | 35                       | 15                        | 7                            | 1                |
| April, 2006                                                          | 43                     | 36                       | 13                        | 7                            | 1                |
| March, 2006                                                          | 43                     | 38                       | 12                        | 6                            | 1                |
| February, 2006                                                       | 39                     | 42                       | 12                        | 6                            | 1                |
| January, 2006                                                        | 40                     | 40                       | 12                        | 7                            | 1                |
| December, 2005                                                       | 45                     | 38                       | 11                        | 5                            | 1                |
| Early November, 2005                                                 | 41                     | 40                       | 13                        | 6                            | *                |
| Early October, 2005                                                  | 43                     | 36                       | 15                        | 6                            | *                |
| Early September, 2005                                                | 32                     | 40                       | 20                        | 7                            | 1                |
| July, 2005                                                           | 43                     | 37                       | 13                        | 6                            | 1                |
| Mid-May, 2005                                                        | 42                     | 42                       | 11                        | 5                            | *                |
| Mid-March, 2005                                                      | 40                     | 39                       | 14                        | 5                            | 2                |
| February, 2005                                                       | 38                     | 45                       | 13                        | 4                            | *                |
| January, 2005                                                        | 48                     | 37                       | 11                        | 4                            | *                |
| December, 2004                                                       | 34                     | 44                       | 15                        | 6                            | 1                |
| Mid-October, 2004                                                    | 42                     | 38                       | 11                        | 8                            | 1                |
| Early September, 2004                                                | 47                     | 37                       | 9                         | 6                            | 1                |
| August, 2004                                                         | 39                     | 42                       | 12                        | 6                            | 1                |
| July, 2004                                                           | 43                     | 40                       | 11                        | 6                            | *                |
| June, 2004                                                           | 39                     | 42                       | 12                        | 6                            | 1                |
| April, 2004                                                          | 54                     | 33                       | 8                         | 5                            | *                |
| Mid-March, 2004                                                      | 47                     | 36                       | 12                        | 4                            | 1                |
| Early February, 2004                                                 | 47                     | 38                       | 10                        | 4                            | 1                |
| Mid-January, 2004                                                    | 48                     | 39                       | 9                         | 4                            | *                |
| December, 2003                                                       | 44                     | 38                       | 11                        | 6                            | 1                |
| November, 2003                                                       | 52                     | 33                       | 9                         | 5                            | 1                |
| September, 2003                                                      | 50                     | 33                       | 10                        | 6                            | 1                |
| Mid-August, 2003                                                     | 45                     | 39                       | 10                        | 5                            | 1                |

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

|                                                                                                | Very<br><u>closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>closely</u> | Not too<br><u>closely</u> | Not at all<br><u>closely</u> | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Early July, 2003                                                                               | 37                     | 41                       | 13                        | 8                            | 1                |
| June, 2003                                                                                     | 46                     | 35                       | 13                        | 6                            | *                |
| May, 2003                                                                                      | 63                     | 29                       | 6                         | 2                            | *                |
| April 11-16, 2003: News about the war in Iraq                                                  | 47                     | 40                       | 10                        | 2                            | 1                |
| April 2-7, 2003                                                                                | 54                     | 34                       | 9                         | 2                            | 1                |
| March 20-24, 2003                                                                              | 57                     | 33                       | 7                         | 2                            | 1                |
| March 13-16, 2003: Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq | 62                     | 27                       | 6                         | 4                            | 1                |
| February, 2003                                                                                 | 62                     | 25                       | 8                         | 4                            | 1                |
| January, 2003                                                                                  | 55                     | 29                       | 10                        | 4                            | 2                |
| December, 2002                                                                                 | 51                     | 32                       | 10                        | 6                            | 1                |
| Late October, 2002                                                                             | 53                     | 33                       | 8                         | 5                            | 1                |
| Early October, 2002                                                                            | 60                     | 28                       | 6                         | 5                            | 1                |
| Early September, 2002: Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq              | 48                     | 29                       | 15                        | 6                            | 2                |
| d. The planned building of an Islamic cultural center and mosque in downtown New York City     |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
| August 5-8, 2010                                                                               | 19                     | 19                       | 18                        | 42                           | 2                |
| e. The confirmation of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court                                        |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
| August 5-8, 2010                                                                               | 15                     | 20                       | 24                        | 40                           | 2                |
| July 1-5, 2010: <i>Confirmation hearings</i>                                                   | 16                     | 24                       | 29                        | 29                           | 1                |
| May 13-16, 2010: <i>Kagan nomination</i>                                                       | 22                     | 28                       | 23                        | 24                           | 3                |
| August 7-10, 2010: <i>Confirmation of Sonia Sotomayor</i>                                      | 22                     | 29                       | 25                        | 24                           | 1                |
| July 17-20, 2009: <i>Confirmation hearings for Sotomayor</i>                                   | 20                     | 32                       | 20                        | 27                           | 1                |
| May 29-June 1, 2009: <i>Sotomayor nomination</i>                                               | 29                     | 29                       | 19                        | 23                           | 1                |
| January, 2006: <i>Samuel Alito nomination</i>                                                  | 14                     | 23                       | 25                        | 36                           | 2                |
| December, 2005                                                                                 | 14                     | 20                       | 31                        | 32                           | 3                |
| Early November, 2005                                                                           | 21                     | 28                       | 24                        | 25                           | 2                |
| Early October, 2005: <i>Confirmation of John Roberts as chief justice</i>                      | 28                     | 33                       | 18                        | 20                           | 1                |
| Early October, 2005: <i>Harriet Miers nomination</i>                                           | 22                     | 33                       | 21                        | 23                           | 1                |
| Early September, 2005: <i>Roberts nomination</i>                                               | 18                     | 26                       | 25                        | 29                           | 2                |
| August, 1993: <i>Ruth Bader Ginsburg nomination</i>                                            | 18                     | 30                       | 27                        | 24                           | 1                |
| Mid-October, 1991: <i>Clarence Thomas nomination</i>                                           | 41                     | 34                       | 15                        | 9                            | 1                |
| Early October, 1991                                                                            | 28                     | 35                       | 18                        | 18                           | 1                |
| July, 1991                                                                                     | 33                     | 33                       | 19                        | 14                           | 1                |
| October, 1990: <i>David Souter's confirmation</i>                                              | 15                     | 30                       | 26                        | 28                           | *                |
| August, 1990: <i>Souter nomination</i>                                                         | 16                     | 27                       | 27                        | 29                           | 1                |
| September, 1987: <i>Robert Bork nomination</i>                                                 | 17                     | 23                       | 29                        | 29                           | 2                |
| f. A federal judge ruling that California's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional       |                        |                          |                           |                              |                  |
| August 5-8, 2010                                                                               | 21                     | 27                       | 22                        | 28                           | 2                |

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

|                                                                       | <u>Very<br/>closely</u> | <u>Fairly<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not too<br/>closely</u> | <u>Not at all<br/>closely</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>                                         |                         |                           |                            |                               |                          |
| May 29-June 1, 2009: CA Supreme Court upholding a ban on gay marriage | 22                      | 35                        | 19                         | 23                            | 1                        |
| May 8-11, 2009: Steps to legalize gay marriage in ME and NH           | 16                      | 16                        | 22                         | 45                            | 1                        |
| April 9-13, 2009: Gay marriage in IA & VT                             | 13                      | 21                        | 23                         | 42                            | 1                        |
| Nov. 7-10, 2008: CA vote bans gay marriage                            | 18                      | 26                        | 24                         | 32                            | *                        |
| June 20-23, 2008: Same sex marriage in CA                             | 22                      | 26                        | 25                         | 27                            | *                        |
| May 16-19, 2008: CA Supreme Court ruling                              | 19                      | 27                        | 25                         | 28                            | 1                        |
| May 2004: Gay marriage                                                | 20                      | 27                        | 25                         | 27                            | 1                        |
| March 2004                                                            | 29                      | 33                        | 20                         | 17                            | 1                        |
| Early-February 2004: Debate over gay marriage                         | 26                      | 32                        | 22                         | 19                            | 1                        |
| Mid-August 2003                                                       | 19                      | 30                        | 22                         | 28                            | 1                        |

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? **[DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]**

|    |                                                                                         |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 42 | The major oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico                                                |
| 16 | Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy                                         |
| 8  | The current situation and events in Iraq                                                |
| 7  | A federal judge's ruling that California's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional |
| 5  | The planned building of an Islamic cultural center and mosque in downtown New York City |
| 3  | The confirmation of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court                                    |
| 7  | Some other story <b>(VOL.)</b>                                                          |
| 13 | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>                                                        |

**NO QUESTION PEW.3****PEW.4 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

And thinking about some topics in the news ...

PEW.5 Are you hearing mostly good news about **[INSERT ITEM a]** these days, mostly bad news about **[ITEM a]** or a mix of both good and bad news? And how about **[ITEM b]**? Are you hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news, or a mix of good and bad news **[ITEM b]**?

|                  | <u>Hearing<br/>mostly<br/>good news</u> | <u>Hearing<br/>mostly<br/>bad news</u> | <u>A mix of<br/>good and<br/>bad news</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/>DK/Ref</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. The economy   |                                         |                                        |                                           |                          |
| August 5-8, 2010 | 4                                       | 38                                     | 55                                        | 3                        |
| July 1-5, 2010   | 3                                       | 42                                     | 54                                        | 1                        |
| June 10-13, 2010 | 4                                       | 30                                     | 65                                        | 1                        |
| May 7-10, 2010   | 4                                       | 29                                     | 66                                        | 1                        |
| April 1-5, 2010  | 6                                       | 28                                     | 66                                        | *                        |
| March 5-8, 2010  | 4                                       | 30                                     | 66                                        | 1                        |

**PEW.5 CONTINUED...**

|                                                     | Hearing<br>mostly<br><u>good news</u> | Hearing<br>mostly<br><u>bad news</u> | A mix of<br>good and<br><u>bad news</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| February 5-8, 2010                                  | 4                                     | 35                                   | 61                                      | *                              |
| January 8-11, 2010                                  | 5                                     | 29                                   | 65                                      | 1                              |
| December 4-7, 2009                                  | 7                                     | 33                                   | 59                                      | 1                              |
| October 30-November 2, 2009                         | 5                                     | 31                                   | 62                                      | 2                              |
| October 9-12, 2009                                  | 6                                     | 27                                   | 66                                      | 1                              |
| September 3-6, 2009                                 | 5                                     | 27                                   | 68                                      | 1                              |
| August 7-10, 2009                                   | 11                                    | 29                                   | 59                                      | 1                              |
| July 2-5, 2009                                      | 3                                     | 41                                   | 56                                      | *                              |
| June 12-15, 2009                                    | 4                                     | 37                                   | 59                                      | *                              |
| May 8-11, 2009                                      | 4                                     | 31                                   | 64                                      | 1                              |
| April 9-13, 2009                                    | 4                                     | 39                                   | 56                                      | 1                              |
| March 13-16, 2009                                   | 2                                     | 51                                   | 46                                      | 1                              |
| February 13-16, 2009                                | 2                                     | 60                                   | 37                                      | 1                              |
| January 16-19, 2009                                 | 2                                     | 67                                   | 30                                      | 1                              |
| December 5-8, 2008                                  | 1                                     | 80                                   | 19                                      | *                              |
| b. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico <sup>1</sup> |                                       |                                      |                                         |                                |
| August 5-8, 2010                                    | 25                                    | 25                                   | 47                                      | 3                              |
| July 22-25, 2010                                    | 11                                    | 28                                   | 59                                      | 2                              |
| July 15-18, 2010                                    | 18                                    | 31                                   | 48                                      | 3                              |

<sup>1</sup> In both July 22-25 and July 15-18, the question was not asked as part of a list, and read "Now thinking about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, are you hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news or a mix of good and bad news about the situation in the Gulf of Mexico?"