



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2011

Less Optimism about America's Long-Term Prospects

Economy Dominates Public's Agenda, Dims Hopes for the Future

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut

President, Pew Research Center

Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock

Associate Directors

Scott Keeter

Director of Survey Research

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-4350

Fax (202) 419-4399

www.people-press.org

Less Optimism about America's Long-Term Prospects

Economy Dominates Public's Agenda, Dims Hopes for the Future

The public's policy agenda is again dominated by the economy and jobs with other major issues viewed as less important. Fully 87% say that strengthening the economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress and 84% rate improving the job situation as a top priority, by far the highest percentages among 22 issues tested.

And with the economy continuing to struggle, optimism about the country's long-term future has declined. Currently, 54% say they are optimistic about the long-term future of the United States, down from 61% last April. In 1999, 70% said they were optimistic about the country's future.

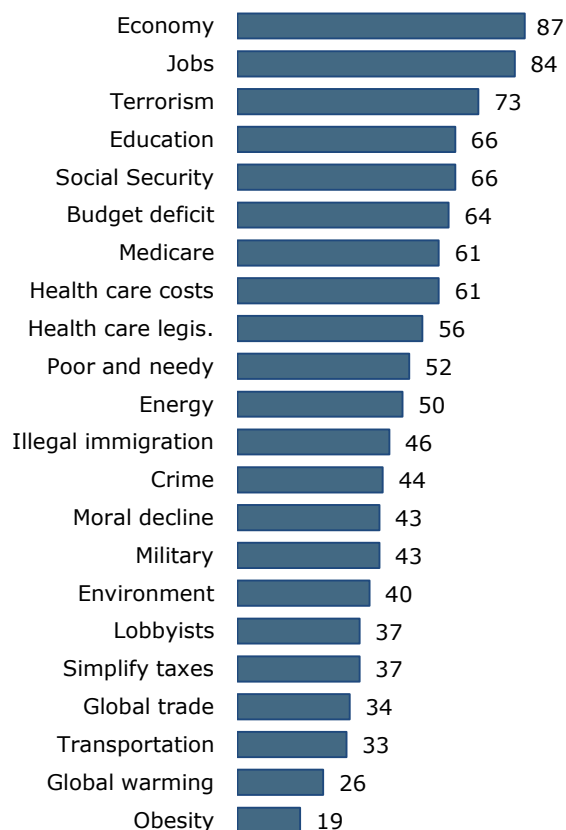
The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 5-9 among 1,503 adults, finds that concern about the budget deficit has increased in recent years. Currently, 64% view reducing the budget deficit as a top priority, up slightly from 60% a year ago, and 53% in 2009. Yet reducing the deficit continues to lag far behind the economy and jobs among the public's priorities.

This also is true for policy goals related to health care, whether reducing health care costs (61% top priority) or revising last year's health care law (56%). The public continues to be divided over what it wants to see done with the health care law – 37% favor its repeal, while nearly as many (35%) want the law expanded, and 20% would leave it as it is.

As President Obama prepares for his State of the Union speech next week, 34% say his address will be more important than previous years' speeches; 11% say it will be less important and 49% say it will be about as important as past State of the Union addresses. These opinions are little

Top Policy Priorities for 2011

% rating each a "top priority"



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011.

different from expectations about last year's speech; in January 2010, 39% said his State of the Union would be more important than past addresses.

More Long-Term Pessimism

The survey finds that just 23% are satisfied with current national conditions, which is little changed from the last few months. And compared with the late 1990s, there is far less optimism about the country's long-term future.

In May 1999, when the economy was thriving, 70% were optimistic about the future of the U.S. over the next 50 years, while only 27% were pessimistic. Pew Research's report on that survey – "[Optimism Reigns, Technology Plays a Key Role](#)" – reflected the public's upbeat mood.

Last year, in a [survey](#) conducted by the Pew Research Center in partnership with *Smithsonian Magazine*, fewer expressed a positive view of the long-term future; still, optimists far outnumbered pessimists (61% to 36%). In the current survey, 54% are optimistic about life over the next half-century while 42% are pessimistic.

People's predictions about their own lives in coming decades also turned more negative between 1999 and 2010. But there has been no change in the past year. Somewhat more are optimistic about the lives of themselves and their families over the next 50 years than they are over the future of the country (63% vs. 54%).

Fewer Are Optimistic about America's Future

	May 1999	April 2010*	Jan 2011	99-11 change
<i>Future of U.S. over next 50 years ...</i>	%	%	%	
Optimistic	70	61	54	-16
Pessimistic	27	36	42	+15
Don't know	3	3	4	
	100	100	100	
<i>Life for you and your family over next 50 years ...</i>				
Optimistic	81	64	63	-18
Pessimistic	15	31	33	+18
Don't know	4	4	5	
	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 6-9, 2011 Omnibus. PEW6 & PEW7. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
* In April 2010, questions asked about future over next "40 years."

Policy Priorities – Jobs Jump, Crime Tumbles

The annual policy priorities list has shifted over the years. For example, jobs have long been a public concern, but the percentage citing improving the job situation as a top priority jumped 21 points from January 2008 to January 2009 – from 61% to 82%. Currently, 84% say that improving the job situation should be a top priority for the president and Congress.

And while the percentage saying that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority also has steadily increased, crime concerns have plummeted. A decade ago, 76% said that reducing crime should be a top priority; just 44% currently rate reducing crime as a top policy priority.

As in the past, there are wide partisan differences over the importance of a number of issues. But strengthening the economy and improving the jobs situation are leading goals for Republicans, Democrats and independents alike. Defending the country from future terrorist attacks also ranks very high among all three groups, though more Republicans (83%) see this as a top priority than do Democrats (72%) or independents (67%).

The survey finds that many of the issues that have consistently clustered near the bottom of the annual priorities list, such as dealing with global trade and dealing with global warming, remain there in 2011. Yet the lowest-ranking priority of the 22 issues included this year is dealing with obesity. Just 19% say that dealing with obesity should be a top priority for the president and Congress. While Democrats (26% top priority) and independents (20%) are more likely than Republicans (8%) to view this as a top priority, it ranks at the bottom of the list among all three groups.

Partisans Agree: Boost Economy, Improve Job Situation

Top policy priorities for...

Republicans	Democrats	Independents
90% Economy	88% Jobs	88% Economy
87% Jobs	87% Economy	81% Jobs
83% Terrorism	78% Education	67% Education
69% Social Sec.	76% Health costs	67% Terrorism
68% Deficit	72% Terrorism	65% Social Sec.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q26.

Republicans Want to Scrap Health Bill, Democrats Want to Expand It

<i>View of health care legislation...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Approve	41	15	69	38
Disapprove	48	78	18	51
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100

What should Congress do with health care law?

Expand it	35	16	51	37
Leave as is	20	14	28	19
Repeal it	37	64	12	38
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q29-30. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

One of the biggest partisan gaps is over the goal of reducing health care costs – 76% of Democrats rate this as a top priority compared with 48% of Republicans. By contrast, there is very little partisan difference in opinions about the importance of revising the health care legislation passed last year – though it is clear that Republicans and Democrats have very different ideas about *how* to revise the legislation.

More than six-in-ten (64%) Republicans support repealing health care legislation while roughly half (51%) of Democrats support expanding it. Independents are divided – 38% would repeal the legislation and 37% would expand it. Notably, the option of leaving the legislation as it is wins only modest support across the board.

Public Looks Homeward, But Global Problems Loom

By an overwhelming margin (78% to 11%), Americans think it is more important for President Obama to focus on domestic policy rather than foreign policy. These opinions are little changed over the past two years.

The public's focus on domestic issues also is reflected in opinions about the most important national problem: In an open-ended format, 35% cite unemployment or the lack of jobs, while 27% cite the economy more generally; just 6% cite international or foreign issues. There also has been little change in views of leading national problems over the past year.

At the same time, most Americans do not think that the U.S. is making progress on such hot-button international issues as Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and in dealing with drug violence along the Mexican border.

Little Progress Seen on Foreign Hot Spots

<i>How is U.S. doing on ...</i>	Making progress	About the same	Losing ground	DK
	%	%	%	%
Situation in Iraq	32	48	15	5=100
Situation in Afghanistan	23	45	24	7=100
Dealing w/ Iran	13	53	26	9=100
Drug violence on Mexican border	12	38	43	7=100
Dealing w/ North Korea	9	50	26	14=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q27. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Iraq is the only issue tested where more think the United States is making progress (32%) rather than losing ground (15%); a plurality (48%) says that things in Iraq are about the same as they have been. On Afghanistan, roughly the same percentage says the U.S. is losing ground (24%) as sees it making progress (23%), while 45% say things are about the same.

When it comes to drug violence along the Mexican border, many more people say that the U.S. is losing ground than making progress. Roughly four-in-ten (43%) say the U.S. is losing ground on drug violence along the border compared with just 12% who say the United States is making progress.

SECTION 1: PUBLIC'S POLICY PRIORITIES

A decade ago, in January 2001, the public's policy agenda was very different. Then as now, strengthening the economy ranked at the top, but it was followed closely by improving education, reducing crime, and securing Social Security and Medicare. Improving the job situation ranked eighth among 11 policy priorities listed.

Public's Agenda for President and Congress 2001-2011

<i>% considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Jan 2001	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	10-11 change
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Strengthening nation's economy	81	71	73	79	75	66	68	75	85	83	87	+4
Improving the job situation	60	67	62	67	68	65	57	61	82	81	84	+3
Defending against terrorism	--	83	81	78	75	80	80	74	76	80	73	-7
Improving education	78	66	62	71	70	67	69	66	61	65	66	+1
Securing Social Security	74	62	59	65	70	64	64	64	63	66	66	0
Reducing budget deficit	--	35	40	51	56	55	53	58	53	60	64	+4
Securing Medicare	71	55	56	62	67	62	63	60	60	63	61	-2
Reducing health care costs	--	--	--	--	--	--	68	69	59	57	61	+4
Revising health care legislation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	56	--
Dealing with problems of the poor and needy	63	44	48	50	59	55	55	51	50	53	52	-1
Dealing with nation's energy problem	--	42	40	46	47	58	57	59	60	49	50	+1
Dealing with illegal immigration	--	--	--	--	--	--	55	51	41	40	46	+6
Reducing crime	76	53	47	53	53	62	62	54	46	49	44	-5
Dealing with moral breakdown in country	51	45	39	45	41	47	47	43	45	45	43	-2
Strengthening the military	48	52	48	48	52	42	46	42	44	49	43	-6
Protecting environment	63	44	39	49	49	57	57	56	41	44	40	-4
Reducing influence of lobbyists	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	39	36	36	37	+1
Simplifying tax system	--	--	--	--	39	40	--	--	--	--	37	--
Dealing with global trade	37	25	--	32	32	30	34	37	31	32	34	+2
Improving roads, bridges, and public transportation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	--
Dealing with global warming	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	35	30	28	26	-2
Dealing w/ obesity	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19	--

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q26.

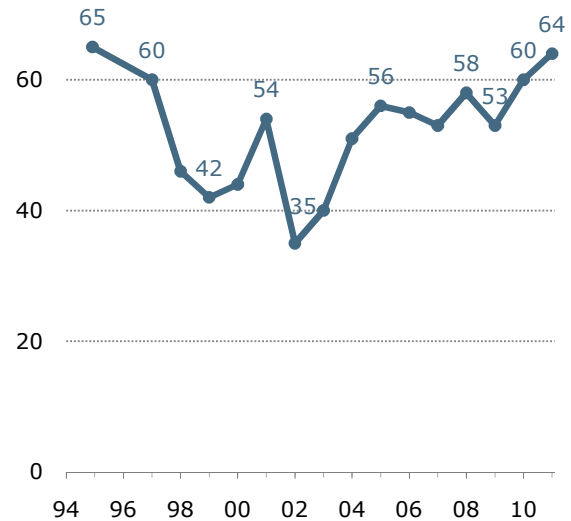
Today, the economy and jobs are the leading priorities, followed by defending the country against terrorism (73% top priority). Terrorism has been at or near the top of the annual priorities list since it was first included in 2002.

Reducing the budget deficit, or national debt, rated as a top policy priority during the 1990s, declined in importance in the early part of this decade, and has made a comeback in recent years. In January 2002, four months after the 9/11 attacks, just 35% said that reducing the budget deficit should be a top policy priority for President Bush and Congress.

By the beginning of Bush's second term, in January 2005, 56% said that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority. In January 2009, shortly before Obama took office, 53% rated the deficit as a top priority. That increased to 60% last year and 64% in the new survey. Currently, about as many rate the deficit as a top priority as did so in December 1994 (65%), at the end of Bill Clinton's second year in office.

Deficit Concerns Climb Back to Levels of Mid-1990s

% reducing the budget deficit as "top priority"



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. From 1998 to 2001 question asked about "paying off the national debt" rather than "reducing the budget deficit".

Deficit an Out-of-Power Concern?

Typically, members of the party that does not hold the White House view reducing the deficit as a more important priority than do members of the president's party. This pattern was particularly evident during the Bush administration.

From 2002 to 2008, substantially more Democrats than Republicans rated reducing the budget deficit as a top priority. On several occasions during the Clinton administration, more Republicans than Democrats said that reducing the deficit – or paying off the national debt -- was a top priority.

In the new survey, 68% of Republicans and 61% of Democrats see reducing the budget deficit as a top policy priority (this difference is not statistically significant). While deficit reduction ranks fifth among Republicans, it is the 9th-ranking priority for Democrats.

Partisan Views of Importance of Reducing the Budget Deficit

<i>% rating deficit "top priority"</i>	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
	%	%	%	
Jan 2011	68	61	65	+7
Jan 2010	61	60	60	+1
Jan 2009	51	52	57	-1
Jan 2008	52	64	57	-12
Jan 2007	42	57	53	-15
Jan 2006	45	62	56	-17
Jan 2005	48	64	54	-16
Jan 2004	44	57	55	-13
Jan 2003	38	48	33	-10
Jan 2002	27	41	38	-14
Jan 2001*	49	55	58	-6
Jan 2000*	39	41	50	-2
Jan 1999*	42	42	43	0
Jan 1998*	54	38	47	+16
Jan 1997	66	54	62	+12
Dec 1994	65	61	68	+4

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q26bF1.

* From 1998 to 2001 question asked about "paying off the national debt" rather than "reducing the budget deficit".

Crime Declines as Public Priority

With declining crime rates, the proportion saying that reducing crime should be a top national priority has fallen dramatically.

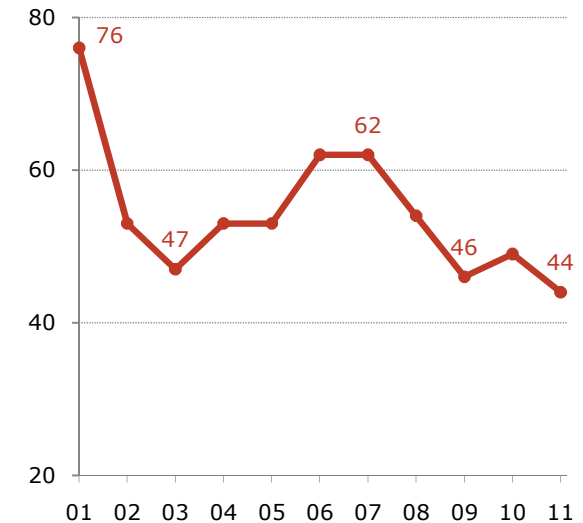
The percentage rating crime as a major priority fell nearly 30 points – from 76% to 47%– between 2001 and 2003. But these percentages subsequently increased – to 53% in 2004 and 2005, and 62% in 2006 and 2007. Since January 2007, the proportion saying that crime should be a top priority for the president and Congress has fallen by 18 points to 44%.

Compared with a decade ago, there has been an across-the-board decline in the percentage viewing crime as a major priority. However, as was the case in 2001, poor people and less-educated people are far more likely to rate crime as a top policy priority than are better educated and more affluent people.

More than half of those with no more than a high school education (58%) and those with family incomes of less than \$30,000 (54%) say that reducing crime should be a top priority. That compares with just 27% of college graduates and an identical percentage of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more. Notably, these gaps were about as wide in 2001, when overall concern over crime was much greater.

Crime as a Priority Falls, Rises, Falls Again

% saying reducing crime is "top priority"



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q26cF1.

Crime a Bigger Concern for Poor and Less Educated

% saying reducing crime is "top priority"	Jan 2001	Jan 2011	Change
	%	%	
Total	76	44	-32
Men	73	42	-31
Women	78	46	-32
College grad+	58	27	-31
Some college	74	37	-37
HS or less	83	58	-25
\$75,000+	64	27	-37
\$30k-74,999	70	48	-22
<\$30,000	84	54	-30
Republican	69	44	-25
Democrat	82	46	-36
Independent	72	44	-28

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q26cF1.

Persistent Partisan Differences over Priorities

Roughly four-in-ten Democrats (41%) say that dealing with global warming should be a top priority for the president and Congress, compared with 29% of independents and just 10% of Republicans. The wide partisan gap over the importance of dealing with global warming is not new – it was approximately as large in 2010 and 2009.

Democrats also are far more likely to view reducing health care costs (28-point partisan gap), dealing with the problems of the poor (26 points), protecting the environment (24 points), and improving the educational system (23 points) as top priorities than are Republicans. These differences also are in line with previous policy priority surveys.

Improving the nation's roads, bridges, and transportation does not rank as a particularly high

priority for Democrats, Republicans or independents. Still, Democrats are more likely to see this as important (41% top priority vs. 30% of independents, 26% of Republicans. This is the case for dealing with obesity as well.

As in previous surveys, dealing with illegal immigration is a much higher priority for Republicans (61%) than for independents (47%) or Democrats (33%). There are more modest differences (11-point partisan gap) over defending the country from future terrorist attacks. These differences also are little changed from previous years.

Dueling Partisan Agendas

	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>% considering each as a "top priority"</i>	%	%	%	
Dealing with global warming	10	41	29	-31
Reducing health care costs	48	76	59	-28
Dealing with problems of the poor	40	66	48	-26
Protecting the environment	30	54	36	-24
Improving educational system	55	78	67	-23
Dealing with obesity	8	26	20	-18
Dealing with nation's energy problem	44	60	48	-16
Dealing with global trade	25	41	35	-16
Improving roads, bridges, transportation	26	41	30	-15
Securing Medicare	58	68	59	-10
Reducing crime	44	46	44	-2
Reducing the influence of lobbyists	37	39	38	-2
Improving job situation	87	88	81	-1
Securing Social Security	69	69	65	0
Revising health care legislation	58	56	53	+2
Strengthening nation's economy	90	87	88	+3
Dealing with moral breakdown	45	41	43	+4
Strengthening the military	51	45	39	+6
Reducing budget deficit	68	61	65	+7
Simplifying tax system	38	31	42	+7
Defending against terrorism	83	72	67	+11
Dealing with illegal immigration	61	33	47	+28

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q26.

SECTION 2: VIEWS OF LONG-TERM FUTURE, PAST

Most Americans are optimistic about the future of the U.S. over the next 50 years, but optimism has declined since April 2010 and is down considerably from the boom period of the late 1990s.

In the current survey, 54% say they are either very (17%) or somewhat (37%) optimistic about the future of the U.S. over the next 50 years. Less than a year ago, 61% expressed optimism, and 23% were very optimistic. And in May 1999, a 70% majority took either a very (23%) or somewhat (47%) optimistic view of life in the U.S. over the next 50 years.

Since spring 2010, older Americans, particularly those 50 to 64, have become more pessimistic about the long-term future of the country.

Optimism among those ages 50 to 64 has declined 16 points since April 2010, while there has been no substantive change among those younger than 50.

Democrats also have become significantly less optimistic about the long-term future. In April 2010, 72% were either very or somewhat optimistic; in the current survey that figure is down 11 points to 61%. A similar decline in long-term optimism for the country can be seen among women (down 10 points) and those with lower levels of education.

Less Optimism about Future of U.S.

<i>Future of U.S. over next 50 years ...</i>	May 1999	April 2010*	Jan 2011	99-11 change
Very optimistic	23	23	17	-6
Somewhat optimistic	47	38	37	-10
Somewhat pessimistic	20	23	28	+8
Very pessimistic	7	13	14	+7
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 6-9, 2011 Omnibus. PEW7. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

* In April 2010, question asked about future over next "40 years."

Short-Term Decline in Views of America's Long-Term Future

	April 2010*	Jan 2011	Change
<i>% optimistic</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Total	61	54	-7
Men	58	55	-3
Women	63	53	-10
18-29	59	58	-1
30-49	61	58	-3
50-64	61	45	-16
65+	62	54	-8
College grad+	59	58	-1
Some college	60	47	-13
HS or less	62	55	-7
Republican	55	55	0
Democrat	72	61	-11
Independent	55	50	-5

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 6-9, 2011 Omnibus. PEW7.
* In April 2010, question asked about future over next "40 years."

Personal Optimism Steady Since Last Spring

While expectations for the future of the country over the next 50 years have declined since last April, personal expectations have remained stable. More than six-in-ten (63%) say they are either very (25%) or somewhat (38%) optimistic about life for their family over the next 50 years. This is unchanged from April 2010, though down significantly from May 1999.

Life For You and Your Family Over the Next 50 Years ...

	May 1999	April 2010*	Jan 2011	99-11 change
<i>% saying they are...</i>	%	%	%	
Very optimistic	40	26	25	-15
Somewhat optimistic	41	38	38	-3
Somewhat pessimistic	10	19	21	+11
Very pessimistic	5	12	12	+7
Don't know	4	4	5	
	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 6-9, 2011 Omnibus. PEW6. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

* In April 2010, question asked about future over next "40 years."

People younger than 50 are among the most optimistic about life for their family in the future; nearly three-quarters (74%) express optimism compared with far fewer (50%) of those 50 and older.

Looking Back: Life Better Since the 1960s?

In May 1999, more than six-in-ten Americans (63%) said that their lives were better than the lives of family members 50 year earlier, in the 1950s. Currently, 50% say that their lives are better when compared with those of family members in the 1960.

Fewer people also say that life has gotten better in the United States over the past 50 years than did so in 1999. Today, about as many say life has gotten better in the U.S. since the 1960s say life has gotten worse (37% vs. 38%); 19% say life has stayed the same. In 1999, 44% said life in the U.S. had gotten better since the 1950s, 30% said it had gotten worse, and 20% said it had stayed the same.

Is Life Today Better than It Was 50 Years Ago?

	May 1999*	Jan 2011	Change
<i>Compared to your family in the 1960s, your life is...</i>	%	%	
Better	63	50	-13
Worse	12	20	+8
About the same	21	22	+1
Don't know	4	7	
	100	100	
<i>Life in the U.S. since 1960s has ...</i>			
Gotten better	44	37	-7
Gotten worse	30	38	+8
Stayed the same	20	19	-1
Don't know	6	6	
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 6-9, 2011 Omnibus. PEW1 & PEW2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
* In May of 1999, question asked about life in the 1950s.

Those 50 and older take a more negative view of changes in the United States since the 1960s than do young people. Nearly half of those 65 and older (49%) and 50 to 64 (46%) say life in the U.S. has gotten worse since the 1960s. By contrast, those younger than 30, who have no personal memories of the 60s, are more likely to say that life has gotten better since then (47% better vs. 25% worse).

Better educated people also are more likely than those with less education to say that life has gotten better in the United States since the 1960s.

More Older People Say Life Has Gotten Worse Since the 60s

<i>Life in the U.S. since the 60s ...</i>	Gotten better	Gotten worse	Stayed about same	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	37	38	19	6=100
Men	41	34	20	4=100
Women	33	42	17	8=100
18-29	47	25	22	7=100
30-49	41	34	16	9=100
50-64	31	46	19	4=100
65+	30	49	19	2=00
College grad+	49	26	17	8=100
Some college	34	42	16	7=100
HS or less	32	44	21	4=100

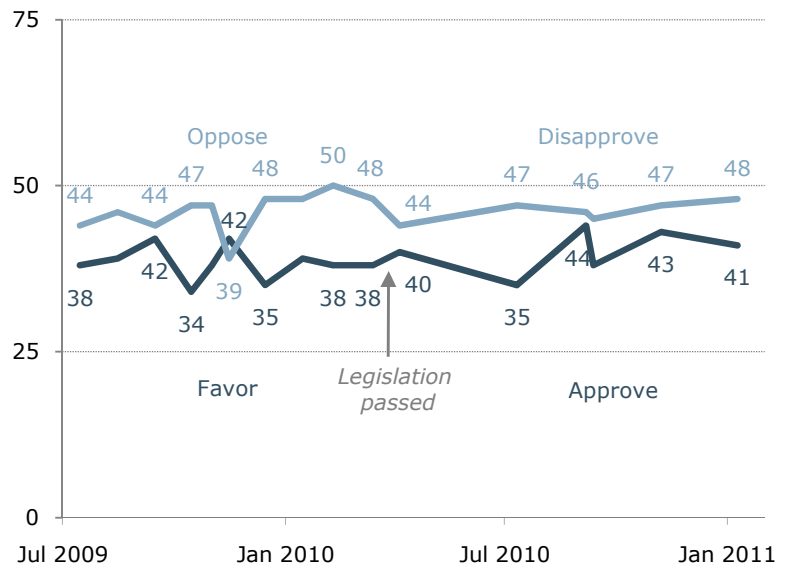
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 6-9, 2011 Omnibus. PEW2.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SECTION 3: OPINIONS ABOUT HEALTH CARE

The GOP's push to repeal last year's health care legislation has drawn only modest public support. Close to four-in-ten (37%) favor repealing the health care law, but nearly as many (35%) say the law should be expanded. Far fewer (20%) say they would like Congress to leave the law as is. Shortly after the midterm elections in November, 40% favored the law's repeal, while 30% supported expanding the law and 22% wanted to leave the law as it is.

Overall opinions about health care legislation have remained quite stable through the year and a half that the issue has been debated. In the current survey, 41% say they approve of the legislation while 48% disapprove. Shortly after the legislation passed last March, 40% approved of the bill and 44% disapproved. And in July 2009, when health care legislation drew protests at lawmakers' town hall meetings, 38% favored the health care proposals then being discussed in Congress while 44% opposed them.

Views of Health Care Legislation Have Changed Little Over Course of Debate



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q29. Since April 2010, the question asked whether the respondent approved or disapproved of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress. Prior to April 2010, the question asked whether respondent favored or opposed health care bills being discussed in Congress.

No Consensus about Future of Health Care Legislation

There is little difference across age groups in support for repealing the health care legislation. However, younger people are somewhat more likely than older Americans to favor expansion. Among those younger than 30, 44% favor expanding the law, 32% favor repealing it and 18% say it should be left as is. Among those 65 and older, 23% say expand it, 34% say repeal it and 27% say leave it as is.

On balance, those with annual family incomes below \$30,000 favor expanding the legislation (42%) rather than either repealing it (28%) or leaving it unchanged (21%). By comparison, half (50%) of those with incomes of \$75,000 or above favor repeal, while 28% favor expanding the law and 19% say leave it as is.

There are key differences within the parties in views about the future of the legislation. Support for repeal is particularly high among conservative Republicans (74%), but garners less support from moderate and liberal Republicans (46%). And while a majority of liberal Democrats (63%) advocate for expanding the bill, enthusiasm for expansion is more muted among conservatives and moderates in the party (48%).

What Should Congress Do With the Health Care Law?

	Expand it	Leave it as is	Repeal it	DK	N
Total	35	20	37	8=100	1503
18-29	44	18	32	7=100	217
30-49	35	19	39	7=100	436
50-64	37	20	39	5=100	472
65+	23	27	34	16=100	361
College grad+	32	17	44	7=100	542
Some college	30	17	45	7=100	397
HS or less	39	24	28	9=100	560
<i>Family income</i>					
\$75,000 or more	28	19	50	4=100	432
\$30,000-74,999	37	20	35	8=100	474
Less than \$30k	42	21	28	9=100	429
Conservative Republican	10	10	74	7=100	295
Mod/Lib Republican	27	23	46	3=100	125
Independent	37	19	38	6=100	525
Cons/Mod Democrat	48	29	14	9=100	291
Liberal Democrat	63	24	9	4=100	148
<i>Tea Party</i>					
Agree (24%)	16	8	72	4=100	419
Disagree (22%)	52	30	13	5=100	363
No opinion/Other/DK (53%)	36	22	30	11=100	721

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q30. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Revising Law Rated as More Important By “Repealers”

Most Americans (56%) say that revising last year’s health care law should be a top priority for the president and Congress. But views of the importance of this objective vary widely according to people’s opinions of what they want Congress to do with the law.

Fully 70% of those who favor repealing the health care law see revising health care legislation as a top policy priority. That compares with 55% of those who say the law should be expanded and just 32% of those who favor leaving the law as it is.

More Repeal Supporters See Revising Law as Top Priority

	<i>View of what Congress should do now...</i>		
	Expand law	Leave it as is	Repeal law
<i>Revising the health care legislation is...</i>	%	%	%
A top priority	55	32	70
Lower priority	30	28	14
Not important	6	13	7
Should not be done	8	22	7
Don’t know	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
N	230	153	322

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 5-9, 2011. Q26w & Q30.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 5-9, 2011 among a national sample of 1,503 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (1,000 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 503 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 235 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

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 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2010 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 sample sizes and 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	1503	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	737	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	766	4.5 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.

In addition to the main survey, this report is supplemented with results from an omnibus survey. Telephone interviews were conducted January 6-9, 2011 among a national sample of 1,018 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (687 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 136 who had no landline telephone). Interviewing was conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. 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 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2010 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 sample sizes and 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	1018	4.0 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
Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley, Senior Researchers
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, and Alec Tyson, Research Associates
Jacob Poushter, Research Analyst
Danielle Gewurz, Research Assistant

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
January 5-9, 2011
N=1503

RANDOMIZE Q.1/Q.1a AND Q.2**QUESTIONS 1-1a PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****RANDOMIZE Q.1/Q.1a AND Q.2****ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	March, 2006	32	63	5
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	January, 2006	34	61	5
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	July, 2005	35	58	7
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	February, 2005	38	56	6
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	January, 2005	40	54	6
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	December, 2004	39	54	7
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	July, 2004	38	55	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	May, 2004	33	61	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	December, 2003	44	47	9
Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	October, 2003	38	56	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	August, 2003	40	53	7
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	January, 2003	44	50	6
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	November, 2002	41	48	11
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	September, 2002	41	55	4
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	May, 2002	44	44	12
December, 2008	13	83	4	March, 2002	50	40	10
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
August, 2008	21	74	5	June, 2001	43	52	5
July, 2008	19	74	7	March, 2001	47	45	8
June, 2008	19	76	5	February, 2001	46	43	11
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	January, 2001	55	41	4
March, 2008	22	72	6	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	September, 2000	51	41	8
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
October, 2007	28	66	6	April, 2000	48	43	9
February, 2007	30	61	9	August, 1999	56	39	5
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
December, 2006	28	65	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
July, 2006	30	65	5	February, 1998	59	37	4
May, 2006*	29	65	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
				September, 1997	45	49	6
				August, 1997	49	46	5
				January, 1997	38	58	4
				July, 1996	29	67	4

¹ From September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

QUESTION 2 CONTINUED ...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 1996	28	70	2
October, 1995	23	73	4
June, 1995	25	73	2
April, 1995	23	74	3
July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 1994	24	71	5
October, 1993	22	73	5
September, 1993	20	75	5
May, 1993	22	71	7
January, 1993	39	50	11
January, 1992	28	68	4
November, 1991	34	61	5
<i>Gallup</i> : Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
August, 1990	47	48	5
May, 1990	41	54	5
January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5

QUESTION 3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 4-6****QUESTION 7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=737]:**

Q.8F1 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

Jan 5-9 2011		Aug		Early				Mid-				Mid-					
		26-29 10 ²	Feb 10	Aug 09	Feb 09	Oct 08	Jul 08	Jan 08	Sep 07	Jan 07	Sep 06	Jan 06	May 05	Jan 05	Jul 04	Apr 03	Mar 02
35	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	27	31	19	31	9	5	5	3	5	4	7	7	7	8	10	4
27	Economy (general)	35	24	27	53	55	39	20	10	5	9	11	15	12	14	28	8
11	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget/Gov't spending	3	11	6	4	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	1
9	Dissatisfaction with gov't/politics/Obama/Gov't control	9	5	5	5	4	3	6	7	8	6	5	6	5	7	3	4
9	Health care/costs/accessibility	4	13	20	3	4	3	10	7	8	4	6	7	5	5	3	2
3	War/War in Iraq/War in Afghan. Education/schools/affording	3	4	5	3	11	17	27	37	42	25	23	24	32	25	14	10
3	education	1	1	2	1	--	4	4	3	4	4	3	2	3	4	4	4
2	Immigration	2	1	1	1	1	2	6	6	5	6	3	4	1	1	1	1
2	Energy costs	--	--	--	--	5	19	3	2	2	7	5	6	--	2	--	1
2	Morality/Ethics/Family values	4	3	3	1	1	3	2	3	3	2	4	3	5	4	4	8
2	Finances/money	2	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Inflation	1	--	--	2	5	6	3	1	--	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
1	Crime/Violence	--	1	1	1	--	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	4
1	Environment/pollution/Global warming	1	1	--	1	1	3	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
1	Housing market/foreclosures	2	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Trade/Jobs moving overseas	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	--	--	2	1	1	2	--	--
1	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	7	2	3	2	3	2
1	Taxes	1	1	--	--	1	--	2	1	--	--	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	Terrorism	--	2	1	1	2	3	3	6	5	14	6	8	10	8	9	24
1	Uneven distribution of wealth	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--
1	Defense/National security	--	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	2	5
1	Drugs/Alcohol	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	4
1	Wall Street/Corporate America	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
10	Other																
5	Don't know/No answer	7	6	5	3	4	4	5	5	7	7	7	5	5	6	9	8
6	(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/INTERNATIONAL	4	11	10	7	18	25	36	48	50	47	37	36	49	41	29	39
62	(NET) ECONOMIC	65	65	55	80	75	61	34	20	15	23	26	31	24	26	41	16

² Complete trend for Q8.F1 not shown; trends available to 1987.

QUESTIONS 9-13 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

Q.14 Now thinking about Barack Obama's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

	<u>More important</u>	<u>Less important</u>	<u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Obama				
Jan 5-9, 2011	34	11	49	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	39	9	45	7
Bush				
January, 2008 ³	19	27	46	8
January, 2007	32	16	43	9
January, 2006	30	14	47	9
January, 2005	34	9	47	10
Mid-January, 2004	34	9	49	8
January, 2003	52	6	35	7
January, 2002	54	4	36	6
Clinton				
January, 2000	16	22	53	9
January, 1999	27	16	51	6

NO QUESTION 15**QUESTION 16 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 17-18****ASK ALL:**

Q.19 Right now, which is more important for President Obama to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

	<u>Domestic policy</u>	<u>Foreign policy</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Obama					
Jan 5-9, 2011	78	11	1	7	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	73	12	1	10	3
January 7-11, 2009 ⁴	71	11	*	14	4
Next President					
September, 2008 ⁵	60	21	*	15	4
May, 2008	61	22	*	15	4
G.W. Bush					
January, 2008	56	31	1	8	4
January, 2007	39	40	1	15	5
August, 2006	50	32	1	12	5
January, 2006	57	25	1	13	4
October, 2005	64	20	1	12	3
Early January, 2005	53	27	1	16	3
January, 2002	52	34	*	11	3
Clinton					
Early September, 1998	56	30	0	11	3
January, 1997	86	7	*	5	2
December, 1994	85	7	2	4	2
October, 1993	76	13	*	7	4

³ In 2008, question began "As you may know, George W. Bush will give his annual State of the Union address in a few weeks..."

⁴ January 7-11, 2009, survey asked about "president-elect Obama."

⁵ September and May 2008 surveys asked about priorities for the "next president."

QUESTION 20-23 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 24-25****ASK ALL:**

Q.26 I'd like to ask you about priorities for President Obama and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done. (First,) should **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... **[INSERT ITEM]?) [REPEAT AS NECESSARY TO BE SURE RESPONDENT UNDERSTANDS SCALE: should this be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?]**

		Important				(VOL.) DK/Ref
		Top priority	but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	
<u>SUMMARY TABLE</u>						
m.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	87	11	1	1	1
a.F1	Improving the job situation	84	13	*	1	2
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	73	22	3	1	1
n.F2	Improving the educational system	66	26	5	2	1
o.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	66	26	4	1	2
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	64	27	3	2	4
p.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	61	31	4	2	3
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	61	28	4	4	2
w.F2	Revising the health care legislation passed last year	56	23	7	10	5
q.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	52	36	8	2	2
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	50	39	7	2	2
h.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	46	38	12	3	1
c.F1	Reducing crime	44	43	10	2	1
s.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	43	35	14	6	3
r.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	43	30	12	9	6
e.F1	Protecting the environment	40	44	12	3	2
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	37	31	19	6	7
d.F1	Changing the federal income tax system to make it simpler	37	37	17	5	4
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	34	44	13	3	5
g.F1	Improving the country's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems	33	48	16	2	2
u.F2	Dealing with global warming	26	35	21	14	4
k.F1	Dealing with obesity in this country	19	39	25	14	3

Q.26 CONTINUED...FULL TREND:**ASK ITEMS a THRU k OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=737]:**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.F1	Improving the job situation					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	84	13	*	1	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	81	15	1	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	82	15	1	1	1
	January, 2008	61	31	4	2	2
	January, 2007	57	30	10	1	2
	January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2
	January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1
	January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1
	January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	64	27	3	2	4
	Jan 6-10, 2010	60	29	5	2	4
	Jan 7-11, 2009	53	33	7	2	4
	January, 2008	58	33	5	1	3
	January, 2007	53	34	7	2	4
	January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4
	January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3
	January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2
	January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3
	January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	<i>Paying off the national debt</i>					
	January, 2001	54	32	8	2	4
	January, 2000	44	38	11	3	4
	July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2
	January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4
	January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2
c.F1	Reducing crime					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	44	43	10	2	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	8	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	46	41	9	2	2
	January, 2008	54	36	7	1	2
	January, 2007	62	31	5	1	1
	January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2
	January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1
	January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2
	January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2
	January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*

Q.26 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2
d.F1	Changing the federal income tax system to make it simpler					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	37	37	17	5	4
	January, 2006	40	35	16	6	3
	January, 2005	39	36	15	6	4
e.F1	Protecting the environment					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	40	44	12	3	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	44	42	11	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	42	12	3	2
	January, 2008	56	34	8	1	1
	January, 2007	57	32	9	1	1
	January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*
	January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1
f.F1	Reducing health care costs					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	28	4	4	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	57	31	5	4	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	59	30	5	4	2
	January, 2008	69	24	3	3	1
	January, 2007	68	24	4	3	1
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2
	January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3
g.F1	Improving the country's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	33	48	16	2	2
h.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	38	12	3	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	40	41	14	2	3
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	36	18	3	2
	January, 2008	51	32	11	3	3
	January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2

Q.26 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	73	22	3	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	80	17	2	*	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	76	18	3	1	2
	January, 2008	74	22	2	*	2
	January, 2007	80	16	2	1	1
	January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1
	January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	34	44	13	3	5
	Jan 6-10, 2010	32	46	12	4	7
	Jan 7-11, 2009	31	49	11	2	7
	January, 2008	37	45	11	2	5
	January, 2007	34	46	12	2	6
	January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6
	January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7
k.F1	Dealing with obesity in this country					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	19	39	25	14	3
NO ITEM I						
ASK ITEMS m THRU w OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=766]:						
m.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	87	11	1	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	83	14	1	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	85	12	*	1	1
	January, 2008	75	20	2	1	2
	January, 2007	68	25	4	2	1
	January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2
	January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1
	January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1
	Early September, 2001 ⁶	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1
n.F2	Improving the educational system					
	Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	5	2	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	65	28	4	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	61	30	5	2	2
	January, 2008	66	26	4	2	2
	January, 2007	69	25	4	1	1
	January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1
	January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2

⁶ In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

Q.26 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2
Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1
January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1
January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1
July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2
January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1
January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*
January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*
o.F2 Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	4	1	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	66	28	3	2	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	63	31	3	1	2
January, 2008	64	28	4	2	2
January, 2007	64	28	5	2	1
January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2
January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1
January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2
January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2
Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1
January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2
January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1
July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1
January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*
January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1
p.F2 Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
Jan 5-9, 2011	61	31	4	2	3
Jan 6-10, 2010	63	30	4	1	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
January, 2008	60	33	4	1	2
January, 2007	63	31	3	1	2
January, 2006	62	30	4	2	2
January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*
January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1
January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1
January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1
January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2
January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2
July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2
January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1
January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1
q.F2 Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people					
Jan 5-9, 2011	52	36	8	2	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	53	38	6	2	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	50	39	6	3	2
January, 2008	51	37	7	2	3
January, 2007	55	36	6	2	1
January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2
January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1
January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1
January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1

Q.26 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1
January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2
January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2
July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1
January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1
January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1
January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*
r.F2 Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country					
Jan 5-9, 2011	43	30	12	9	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	45	31	13	7	4
Jan 7-11, 2009	45	29	16	6	4
January, 2008	43	31	13	8	5
January, 2007	47	30	12	8	3
January, 2006	47	26	14	9	4
January, 2005	41	32	14	10	3
January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2
January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4
January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4
January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5
January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3
July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4
January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4
January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2
January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3
s.F2 Strengthening the U.S. military					
Jan 5-9, 2011	43	35	14	6	3
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	35	10	5	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	44	39	8	4	5
January, 2008	42	38	12	5	3
January, 2007	46	35	10	5	4
January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3
January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2
January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1
January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3
January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2
January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2
t.F2 Dealing with the nation's energy problem					
Jan 5-9, 2011	50	39	7	2	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	7	2	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
January, 2008	59	32	6	1	2
January, 2007	57	35	6	1	1
January, 2006	58	33	6	1	2
January, 2005	47	42	7	1	3
January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2
January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3
January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3
Early September, 2001 ⁷	46	41	6	2	5
u.F2 Dealing with global warming					
Jan 5-9, 2011	26	35	21	14	4
Jan 6-10, 2010	28	36	20	14	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	30	37	19	10	4

7

In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

Q.26 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 2008	35	38	15	7	5
January, 2007	38	34	16	8	4
v.F2 Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington					
Jan 5-9, 2011	37	31	19	6	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	36	34	18	7	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	36	34	18	5	7
January, 2008	39	32	16	4	9
January, 2007	35	30	23	4	8
w.F2 Revising the health care legislation passed last year					
Jan 5-9, 2011	56	23	7	10	5

ASK ALL:

Q.27 Next, we're interested in how you think the U.S. is doing on some international issues. First, **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**. Do you think the U.S. is making progress, losing ground, or are things about the same as they have been when it comes to **[ITEM]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you think the U.S. is making progress, losing ground, or are things about the same as they have been on this issue?]**

	Making progress	About the same	Losing ground	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. The situation in Iraq				
Jan 5-9, 2011	32	48	15	5
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
<i>The war in Iraq</i>				
December, 2008 ⁸	36	34	26	4
b. The situation in Afghanistan				
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	45	24	7
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
<i>The war in Afghanistan</i>				
December, 2008 ⁹	21	42	31	6
c. Dealing with Iran				
Jan 5-9, 2011	13	53	26	9
d. Dealing with North Korea				
Jan 5-9, 2011	9	50	26	14
e. Drug violence along the Mexican border				
Jan 5-9, 2011	12	38	43	7

NO QUESTION 28

⁸ Item was not part of a list in Dec. 2008.

⁹ Item was not part of a list in Dec. 2008.

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

ASK ALL:

Q.29 Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress last year?

Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>		Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u> ¹⁰	Sep 9-12 <u>2010</u>	Aug 25-Sep 6 <u>2010</u>	Jul 8-11 <u>2010</u>	Apr 1-5 <u>2010</u>
41	Approve	43	38	44	35	40
48	Disapprove	47	45	46	47	44
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10	17	10	17	16

ASK ALL:

Q.30 What, if anything, do you think Congress should do with the health care law? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>		Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>
35	Expand it	30
20	Leave it as is	22
37	Repeal it	40
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8

NO QUESTIONS 31-35

QUESTIONS 36-39 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTION 40

QUESTIONS 41-42 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 43-44

QUESTIONS 45-46 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

¹⁰ In November 2010 the question asked about legislation passed "earlier this year." In September, August and July the question asked about legislation passed "in March." In April, the question asked about the legislation passed "last month."

ASK ALL:

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

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	24	32	39	2	*	2	15	17
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Yearly Totals								
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY

From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	Strongly <u>agree</u>	Agree	Disagree	Strongly <u>disagree</u>	No opinion <u>either way</u>	(VOL.) Haven't <u>heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Jan 5-9, 2011	6	18	12	10	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	5	17	14	12	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	8	19	11	11	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 ¹¹ (RVs)	12	17	11	14	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	9	19	11	13	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	11	18	12	14	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	8	14	9	9	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	9	15	10	8	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	10	15	8	10	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	9	15	7	7	29	--	1	31

ASK ALL:

CVOTE10A

In the 2010 elections for CONGRESS, did things come up which kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

ASK IF RESPONDENT VOTED (CVOTE10A=1):

CVOTE10B

Did you happen to vote for a Republican candidate or a Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in your district?

Jan 5-9
2011

66	Yes, voted
30	Republican
27	Democrat
2	Other/Independent candidate (VOL.)
1	Didn't vote for Congress (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
33	No, didn't vote
*	No, too young to vote (VOL.)
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

¹¹

In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May through October, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March it was described as "the Tea Party Protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
JANUARY 6-9, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1018**

ASK ALL:

First, I'm going to ask you a few questions about the past...

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 Compared to members of your family in the 1960s, would you say your life today is generally better, worse, or about the same?

Jan 6-9 <u>2011</u>		May <u>1999</u> ¹²
50	Better	63
20	Worse	12
22	About the same	21
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Now, thinking about life in the U.S.... Since the 1960s, would you say life in the U.S. has gotten better, gotten worse or stayed about the same?

Jan 6-9 <u>2011</u>		May <u>1999</u> ¹³
37	Gotten better	44
38	Gotten worse	30
19	Stayed the same	20
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

QUESTIONS PEW.3-PEW.5 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

Now, I'd like to ask you a different kind of question. Try to think about what things will be like over the next 50 years.¹⁴

ASK ALL:

PEW.6 First, thinking about you and your family... Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic about life for you and your family over the next 50 years?

Jan 6-9 <u>2011</u>		Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u> ¹⁵	May <u>1999</u>
25	Very optimistic	26	40
38	Somewhat optimistic	38	41
21	Somewhat pessimistic	19	10
12	Very pessimistic	12	5
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	4

¹² In May, 1999, the question asked "Compared to members of your family in the 1950s..."

¹³ In May, 1999, the question asked "Now, thinking about life in the U.S.... Since the 1950s..."

¹⁴ For April 21-26, 2010, the introduction read "Now, I'd like to think about what things will be like in 2050, that is, 40 years from now..." In May 1999, the introduction read "Now, thinking about the long term future, that is the next 50 years or so..."

¹⁵ For April 21-26, 2010, the question asked about "life for you and your family over the next 40 years."

ASK ALL:

PEW.7 And, thinking about the United States... Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic about the future of the U.S. over the next 50 years?

Jan 6-9 <u>2011</u>		Apr 21-26 <u>2010¹⁶</u>	May <u>1999</u>
17	Very optimistic	23	23
37	Somewhat optimistic	38	47
28	Somewhat pessimistic	23	20
14	Very pessimistic	13	7
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3

QUESTIONS PEW.8-PEW.9 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**QUESTIONS PEW.10-PEW.13 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

¹⁶ For April 21-26, 2010, the question asked about "the future of the U.S., over the next 40 years."