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Continued Dissatisfaction with Republican Field

Obama Leadership Image Takes a Hit, GOP Ratings Decline

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Continued Dissatisfaction with Republican Field Obama Leadership Image Takes a Hit, GOP Ratings Decline

The public is profoundly discontented with conditions in the country, its government, political leadership and several of its major institutions. Fully 79% are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country. Even more (86%) say they are frustrated or angry with the federal government. Favorable ratings for both political parties are in negative territory and have declined since the beginning of the year.

Just 22% approve of the job performance of Republican congressional leaders, down from 36% in February. Ratings for Democratic leaders are only somewhat better (29% approve). More generally, the Republican Party's favorable rating has declined from 43% in early February to 34% currently. At 43%, the Democratic Party is viewed more favorably than the GOP, but it too was rated a bit better earlier in the year (47% in February).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Aug. 17-21 among 1,509 adults, finds that Barack Obama's job approval rating has declined markedly since the killing of Osama bin Laden in early May. For the first time in his presidency, significantly more disapprove than approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president (49% vs. 43%), and the margin of strong disapproval over strong approval has widened; currently, 38% strongly disapprove of Obama's job performance while 26% strongly approve.

Discontent with Political Leaders, More Anger at Government

	Feb 2011	Aug 2011
<i>Job rating ...</i>	%	%
Obama		
Approve	49	43
Disapprove	42	49
<i>Favorable opinion of ...</i>		
Republican Party		
Favorable	43	34
Unfavorable	48	59
Democratic Party		
Favorable	47	43
Unfavorable	46	50
Congress		
Favorable	34	25
Unfavorable	57	70
<i>Feeling about federal government ...</i>		
Angry	14	26
Frustrated	59	60
Basically content	22	11

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Congress favorability, feeling about federal government from early March.

There also has been a substantial erosion of Obama's leadership image. Since May, the percentage saying Obama is able to get things done has fallen from 55% to 44%, while the percentage viewing Obama as a strong leader has declined from 58% to 49%. Fewer Democrats and independents now view Obama as a strong leader than did so in May (down 10 points, eight points, respectively).

Democrats also want Obama to get tougher in his dealings with congressional Republicans. Currently, 57% of Democrats say Obama should challenge the Republicans more often, while 32% say he is handling relations with the GOP about right. In early April, just 39% of Democrats said Obama should do more to challenge Republicans and 47% said he was handling things about right.

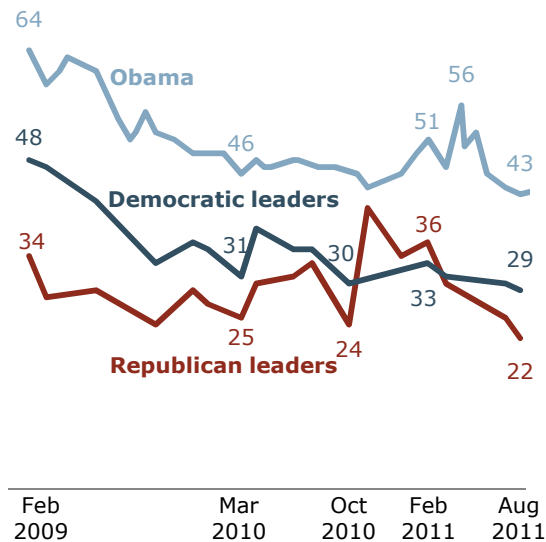
The better news for Obama is that he continues to be seen by majorities as someone who stands up for what he believes in (71%), as caring (63%) and trustworthy (59%). Moreover, his 43% job approval rating, while much lower than his rating just a few months ago, is relatively strong given the widespread dissatisfaction with national conditions, increasingly negative views of the economy, and broad distrust of government. And Obama's approval rating continues to be much higher than those for congressional leaders of both parties.

Fewer See Obama as Able to Get Things Done, Strong Leader

	Jan 5-9	May 25-30	Aug 17-21	Change May-Aug
<i>% saying each describes Obama ...</i>	%	%	%	
Able to get things done	54	55	44	-11
Strong leader	53	58	49	-9
Stands up for what he believes in	77	75	71	-4
Well-informed	64	67	63	-4
Warm and friendly	70	73	70	-3
Trustworthy	58	62	59	-3
Cares about people like me	60	64	63	-1
Good communicator	75	75	75	0

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q7.

Approval Ratings for Obama, Congressional Leaders



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q3, Q6.

Obama continues to run even in a 2012 matchup against a generic Republican presidential candidate. Currently, 43% of registered voters say they would like to see Obama reelected while 40% would prefer a Republican. That is little changed from a month ago (41% Obama, 40% Republican), but in May Obama held an 11-point lead in the generic ballot.

Voters remain unimpressed by the GOP field. As was the case in late May, prior to the Ames straw poll and Rick Perry's entry into the presidential race, only about a quarter of voters (26%) say they have an excellent or good impression of the possible GOP candidates. Most (64%) say as a group the candidates are only fair or poor.

Republican and Republican-leaning voters continue to

express mixed views of the GOP candidates (49% excellent or good, 44% only fair or poor). In May, 44% of Republican voters said the party's presidential field was excellent or good, while 43% said it was only fair or poor.

Views of the GOP Field: Past and Present

	Oct 1995	Oct 2007	May 2011	Aug 2011
All registered voters	%	%	%	%
Excellent/Good	33	31	25	26
Only fair/Poor	63	59	61	64
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100
Republican, Rep- leaning RVs				
Excellent/Good	51	52	44	49
Only fair/Poor	46	43	43	44
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q27. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Question not asked in 2000 election cycle,

Of the party's best-known possible candidates, only Mitt Romney and Rick Perry have broad potential appeal: 54% of registered voters who have heard of Romney say there is a good chance (16%) or some chance (38%) they would vote for the former Massachusetts governor. Nearly half (47%) say there is at least some chance they would vote for Perry, though an identical percentage (47%) says there is no chance they will support Perry.

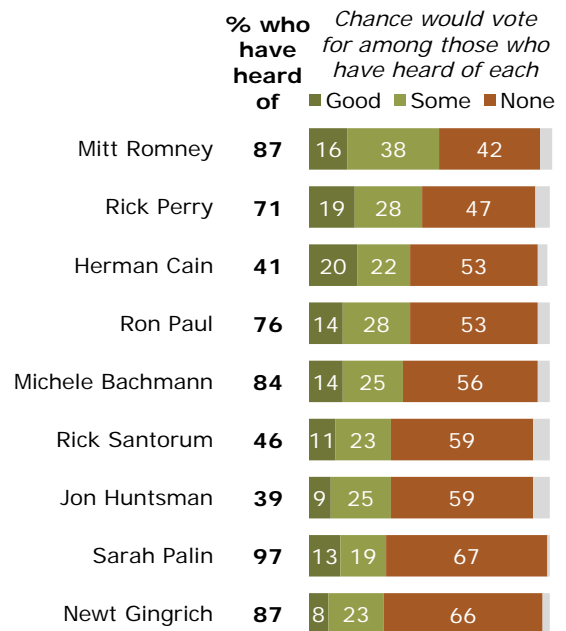
Fewer say there is at least some chance they would vote for Ron Paul (42%) or Michelle Bachmann (39%). Substantial majorities of those who have heard of Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich have ruled out voting for them; 67% say there is no chance they would vote for Palin while 66% say there is no chance they would vote for Gingrich.

Among Republican and Republican-leaning voters who have heard of each of the candidates, Perry generates a little more enthusiasm than Romney: 37% say there is a good chance they would vote for Perry while 40% say there is some chance. By comparison, 28% of GOP voters say there is a good chance they would vote for Romney and 47% say some chance.

As many Republican and Republican-leaning voters say there is a good chance they would vote for Bachmann as for Romney (28% each). But more Republican voters say there is no chance they would vote for Bachmann (31% vs. 21% for Romney). Higher percentages of Republican voters say there is no chance they would vote for Palin (41%) and Gingrich (48%).

The Appeal of the GOP Field

Based on registered voters



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q28.

Republican Voters' Views of the Most Visible GOP Candidates

Republican and Republican-leaning voters:	Chance would vote for among those who have heard of each			
	Good chance	Some chance	No chance	DK
	%	%	%	%
Rick Perry	37	40	17	7=100
Mitt Romney	28	47	21	5=100
Michele Bachmann	28	37	31	4=100
Sarah Palin	24	34	41	2=100
Ron Paul	21	37	37	5=100
Newt Gingrich	17	33	48	2=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q28. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The survey also finds that amid widespread dissatisfaction with national conditions, the public is taking a more negative view of national institutions. The percentage saying they can trust the government always or most of the time has declined by 10 points since early March (from 29% to 19%) and is at one of its lowest points in half a century. The percentage saying they are angry at the federal government has nearly doubled since March (from 14% to 26%) and is at a historic high.

And favorable views of both business corporations and labor unions have fallen. Just 38% now have a favorable opinion of business corporations, the lowest favorable rating for business in more than a quarter century of Pew Research Center surveys. About the same percentage (41%) have a favorable opinion of labor unions, which equals a low in Pew Research Center surveys.

Other Major Findings:

Tea Party Image Slips. As the Tea Party movement has gotten better known, its image has become much more negative. In February 2010, 33% had a favorable opinion of the Tea Party, 25% an unfavorable one; today 36% have a favorable view, while 43% have an unfavorable opinion.

Changing Economic Priorities. As many Americans (47%) place a higher priority on spending to help the economy recover as on reducing the budget deficit (46%). In June, 52% said reducing the deficit was the higher priority while 42% said spending to help the economy recover was the higher priority.

Disgruntled Democrats. Currently, 61% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say their party is doing only a fair or poor job of standing up for its traditional positions, such as protecting the interests of minorities and helping the poor. Last fall, shortly after the midterm election, 50% said the party was doing only a fair or poor job in supporting the party's traditional positions.

Perry and the Tea Party. Nearly half (49%) of Republican and Republican-leaning voters who agree with the Tea Party (and have heard of Perry) say there is a good chance they would support him. Far fewer Tea Party Republicans (29%) say there is a good chance they would vote for Romney. And nearly twice as many GOP Tea Party supporters think Perry has a better chance to defeat Obama than say that about Romney (34% vs. 18%).

SECTION 1: VIEWS OF OBAMA

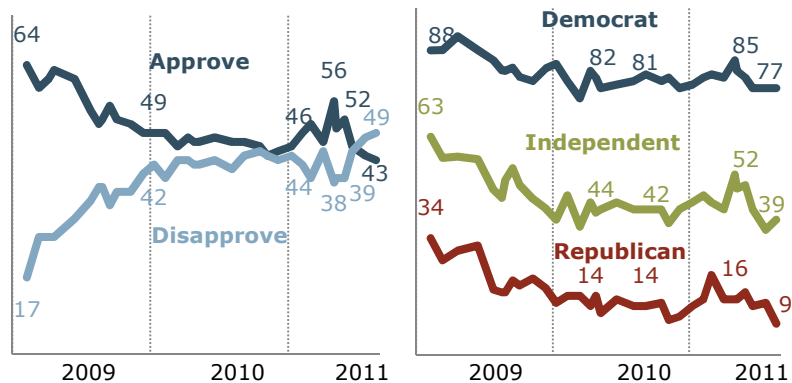
Barack Obama's public image has eroded in recent months. His overall job approval rating is now, on balance, significantly negative for the first time in his presidency, and his rating on the economy has continued to decline. Nevertheless, even as public impressions of Obama on traits related to leadership have declined significantly, Americans continue to rate the president positively on many other personal traits. And increasing numbers both blame Republican leadership for the lack of cooperation in Washington and say they would like to see Obama challenge Republican leadership.

Obama's Ratings Slide

About half (49%) of Americans now disapprove of the job Obama is doing, while just 43% approve. This is little changed from last month (48% disapprove, 44% approve), but reflects a substantial drop from the period following the killing of Osama bin Laden in May.

Republican assessments of Obama—already negative—have continued to sour. Today, just 9% say they approve of the job Obama is doing, down from 15% last month. Obama's ratings among independents and Democrats are little changed since last month. Still, just 39% of independents approve of his handling of the job, while 52% disapprove. About three-quarters of Democrats (77%) continue to approve of Obama.

Obama's Job Ratings



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q3.

More Strong Disapproval of Obama

As disapproval of Obama's job performance has grown, an intensity gap also has emerged. Americans are now significantly more likely to say they very strongly disapprove of Obama's performance than to say they very strongly approve (38% vs. 26%). From early 2010 through March of this year, about as many strongly approved of the president's performance as strongly disapproved.

Nearly three-quarters of Republicans (73%) strongly disapprove of Obama, and this rises to 81% among conservative Republicans (compared with 54% among moderate and liberal Republicans). Far fewer Democrats (53%) strongly approve of the way Obama is handling his job as president; 60% of liberal Democrats strongly approve, as do 48% of conservative and moderate Democrats. By about two-to-one (39% to 20%), more independents strongly disapprove than strongly approve of Obama's performance).

Most African Americans (64%) continue to strongly approve of Obama's performance. By contrast, just 19% of whites and 26% of Hispanics strongly approve of Obama's job performance. People younger than 30 are the only age group in which about as many strongly approve of Obama's job performance as strongly disapprove (30% and 21%, respectively). Among older age groups far more strongly disapprove than strongly approve.

Strong Disapproval of Obama Grows

	Apr 2009	Jan 2010	Sep 2010	Jan 2011	Mar 2011	Aug 2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	63	49	47	46	51	43
<i>Very strongly</i>	45	30	28	27	32	26
Disapprove	26	42	44	44	39	49
<i>Very strongly</i>	18	30	32	30	29	38

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Partisan Intensity Gap in Obama Job Rating

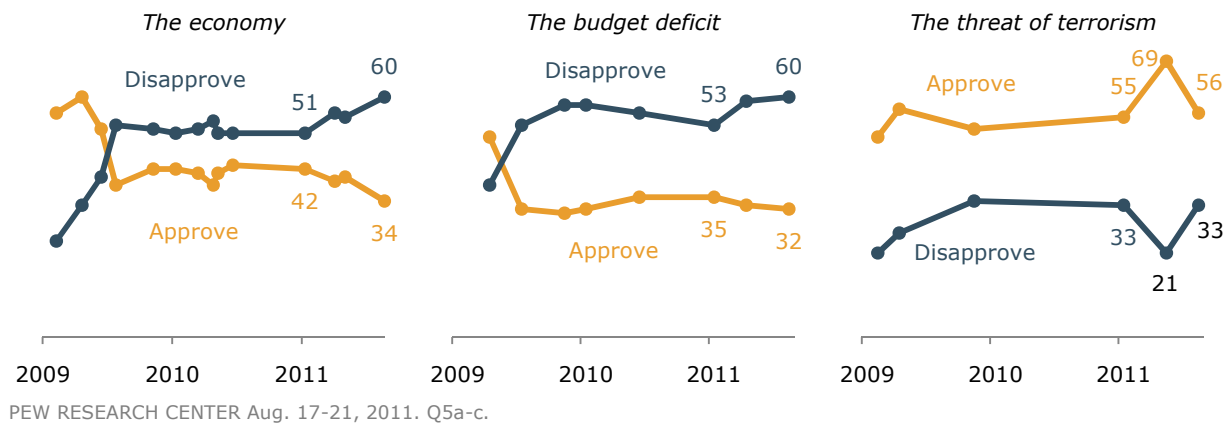
	App-rove	Very strongly	Dis-approve	Very strongly
	%	%	%	%
Republican	9	3	87	73
Cons Rep	5	2	93	81
Mod/Lib Rep	19	7	73	54
Independent	39	20	52	39
Democrat	77	53	17	9
Cons/Mod Dem	73	48	21	11
Liberal Dem	85	60	10	5
White	35	19	57	45
Black	82	64	11	7
Hispanic	50	26	41	21
18-29	57	30	35	21
30-49	43	25	51	40
50-64	38	26	55	44
65+	35	23	57	46

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q3/3a. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Most Continue to Approve of Obama on Terrorism

Public evaluations of Obama's handling of the economy and the budget deficit have also grown more negative in recent months. Today, six-in-ten (60%) disapprove of his performance on each of these issues. Americans' ratings of Obama's handling of the threat of terrorism continue remain more positive: 56% currently approve, about the same percentage as throughout much of his presidency. Obama received a significant bump on this measure, which has since receded, the day following the announcement of the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Obama's Handling of the Economy, Deficit, Terrorism



About three-in-ten independents approve of Obama's handling of the economy (30%) and the budget deficit (28%). Roughly half of independents (53%) approve of Obama's job dealing with terrorist threats.

Very few Republicans (7% each) approve of Obama's handling of the economy or the budget deficit; more Republicans (33%) have positive views of Obama's handling of terrorism. Among Democrats as well, Obama gets much better ratings on terrorism (82%) than for his handling of the economy (64%) or the budget deficit (58%).

Partisan Gaps in Issue Approval

Approve of the way Obama is handling...	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Economy	34	7	64	30
Budget deficit	32	7	58	28
Threat of terrorism	56	33	82	53

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Obama's Leadership Image Slips

Americans continue to have positive personal impressions of Barack Obama along most dimensions. Majorities say he stands up for what he believes in (71%), cares about people like them (63%), and most view him as a good communicator (75%), well-informed (63%) and trustworthy (59%). Public assessments of these traits are relatively unchanged in recent months.

But evaluations of Obama's leadership have dropped off in recent months. Today, the public is divided over whether Obama is a strong leader (49% strong leader, 47% not a strong leader), and more now say he is not able to get things done than say he is (50% not able, 44% able).

Among independents, the balance of opinion on these dimensions has shifted. Today, more say Obama is not a strong leader than say he is (51% vs. 44%); in May, that balance was reversed (52% strong leader, 41% not strong). And a majority of independents (55%) now say Obama is not able to get things done; in May, just 43% said this.

Views of Obama's ability to get things done have also declined among Republicans (20% now say he can get things done, compared with 31% in May) and Democrats (67% today, 79% in May). And although three-quarters of Democrats (75%) continue to say Obama is a strong leader, this has dropped 10 points since May. Among Democrats, liberal Democrats continue to rate Obama more highly on these characteristics than do conservative and moderate Democrats.

Fewer See Obama as Strong Leader, Able to Get Things Done

	Jan 2011	May 2011	Aug 2011	May-Aug change
<i>Obama is...</i>	%	%	%	
A strong leader				
Total	53	58	49	-9
Republican	30	29	24	-5
Democrat	79	85	75	-10
Independent	50	52	44	-8
Able to get things done				
Total	54	55	44	-11
Republican	36	31	20	-11
Democrat	74	79	67	-12
Independent	53	50	40	-10

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q7b-c.

Wide Partisan Gaps in Views of Obama's Personal Traits

Across the board, Democrats express much more positive views of Obama's traits and personal qualities than do Republicans. The partisan gap is particularly pronounced in opinions about whether Obama is trustworthy.

Nearly nine-in-ten Democrats (88%) and a majority of independents

(57%) view Obama as trustworthy. That compares with just 29% of Republicans; 68% say Obama is not trustworthy. The partisan gaps in views of Obama's personal traits are nearly as wide in opinions about whether Obama is a strong leader (51 points) cares about people like me (50 points) and able to get things done (47 points).

Nonetheless, Republicans have positive views of some of Obama's traits. Majorities see Obama as a good communicator (60%), as someone who stands up for what he believes in (58%) and as warm and friendly (52%).

Partisan Gap in Impressions of Obama

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>Think of Obama as...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Trustworthy	59	29	88	57	-59
A strong leader	49	24	75	44	-51
Cares about people like me	63	38	88	60	-50
Able to get things done	44	20	67	40	-47
Well-informed	63	43	82	60	-39
Warm and friendly	70	52	90	67	-38
Stands up for what he believes in	71	58	87	70	-29
A good communicator	75	60	87	76	-27

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q7.

Plurality Wants Obama to Challenge GOP

A 37% plurality now contends that Obama should challenge the Republicans in Congress more often; 25% say Obama should go along with GOP leaders more frequently, while about the same percentage (26%) say he is handling the situation about right. In April, fewer (27%) said Obama should challenge GOP congressional leaders more often.

Democrats, in particular, are now more likely to say Obama should challenge Republicans in Congress more often. Today, a majority of Democrats (57%) say Obama should challenge the GOP more frequently; in April, just 39% said this.

And there is little difference among Democrats on this question. Liberal Democrats and their conservative and moderate counterparts are about equally likely to want to see Obama stand up more to Republicans (60%, 55% respectively).

More Now Say Obama Should Challenge Republicans

	Apr 2011	Aug 2011	Change
<i>Obama should...</i>	%	%	
Go along with GOP more often	29	25	-4
Challenge GOP more often	27	37	+10
Is handling situation about right	34	26	-8
Neither/Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	+3
	100	100	

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Democrats Increasingly Want Obama to Stand Up to GOP

<i>Obama should challenge GOP more often...</i>	Apr 2011	Aug 2011	Change
	%	%	
Total	27	37	+10
Republican	8	15	+7
Cons Rep	8	13	+5
Mod/Lib Rep	10	22	+12
Democrat	39	57	+18
Cons/Mod Dem	35	55	+20
Liberal Dem	45	60	+15
Independent	30	36	+6
Lean Rep	19	21	+2
Lean Dem	45	51	+6

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Little Partisan Cooperation Seen

Fully 75% of the public says that Obama and Republican congressional leaders are not working together to address the important issues facing the country. Just 21% say the two sides are cooperating. The view that Obama and Republican leaders are not working together has grown in recent months. In February, 65% said they were not working together, 27% said they were.

More Blame GOP than Obama for Lack of Cooperation

	Feb 2009*	Jun 2009	Aug 2009	Jan 2010	Feb 2011	Aug 2011
<i>Obama and GOP leaders are...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Working together	43	39	24	25	27	21
Not working together	45	50	63	67	65	75
<i>Who is to blame?</i>						
GOP leaders	27	26	29	32	31	37
Barack Obama	7	12	17	19	19	21
Both (vol.)	5	9	9	9	11	12
Neither/Other/DK (vol.)	6	4	7	7	4	5
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q39-40. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. * Feb. 2009 asked specifically about the economic stimulus.

The public continues to place greater blame for the lack of cooperation on Republican leaders (37%) than on Barack Obama (21%), though about one-in-ten (12%) volunteer that both are responsible.

Both Republicans and Democrats are more likely to place the blame on the opposing party's leadership than on their own. About six-in-ten Democrats (59%) blame GOP leadership, while about half of Republicans (47%) blame Obama.

However, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to assign at least some of the blame to their own party for the lack of cooperation. Three-in-ten Republicans say Republican congressional leaders are either mostly (12%) or partially (18%) to blame; by contrast, fewer than one-in-ten Democrats say Barack Obama is either mainly (5%) or partially (3%) to blame.

Partisan Divisions about Cooperation, Blame

	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>Obama and GOP leaders are...</i>	%	%	%	%
Working together	14	28	20	-14
Not working together	83	70	76	+13
<i>Who is to blame?</i>				
GOP leaders	12	59	38	-47
Barack Obama	47	5	19	+42
Both (vol.)	18	3	15	+15
Neither/Other/DK (vol.)	5	2	5	+3
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	+1
	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q39-40. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

SECTION 2: THE 2012 ELECTION

Barack Obama continues to run even with a generic Republican candidate in the 2012 general election. Among registered voters, 43% say they would like to see Obama reelected while 40% say they would prefer that a Republican candidate win the election. Voter preferences are little changed from July, but Obama has lost the advantage he held over a Republican candidate in the spring of this year.

Independent voters are divided over their preference in the 2012 general election. As many say they would like to see Obama reelected (38%) as say they prefer a Republican candidate to win (36%). In May, Obama enjoyed a seven-point edge among independents (42%-35%). In July, just 31% of independents backed Obama while 39% preferred to see a Republican win.

Obama Runs Even with Generic Republican Candidate

	March 2011	May 2011	July 2011	August 2011
All registered voters				
	%	%	%	%
Obama reelected	47	48	41	43
Prefer Republican	37	37	40	40
Other/DK (Vol.)	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100
Independent voters				
Obama reelected	40	42	31	38
Prefer Republican	34	35	39	36
Other/DK (Vol.)	<u>26</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>26</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q26. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About eight-in-ten Democrats (82%) say they want Obama to be reelected; liberal Democrats (91%) are more likely to take this view than are conservative and moderate Democrats (76%). By comparison, 87% of Republicans say they prefer a GOP candidate to win, including 91% of conservative Republicans.

Obama continues to perform well among young people, blacks and low-income households. Women also support Obama over a generic Republican by a 50%-34% margin.

Among whites, Obama trails a Republican candidate 47%-36% and he performs particularly poorly among white men (53%-29% GOP candidate) and whites without a college degree (50%-29% GOP candidate).

2012 Generic Ballot

<i>Looking ahead to 2012, would you prefer to see...</i>	Barack Obama reelected %	Republican candidate win %	Other/DK %
All Voters	43	40	17=100
Republican	6	87	7=100
Democrat	82	8	10=100
Independent	38	36	26=100
Men	36	47	17=100
Women	50	34	16=100
White	36	47	18=100
Black	84	7	8=100
18-29	57	33	10=100
30-49	43	42	15=100
50-64	38	42	19=100
65+	42	41	18=100
<i>Household income</i>			
\$75,000+	40	46	14=100
\$30k to \$74,999	41	43	16=100
<\$30,000	51	33	16=100
<i>Among whites...</i>			
Men	29	53	18=100
Women	41	41	17=100
College grad+	48	40	12=100
Some coll or less	29	50	21=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q26. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Voters View the GOP Field

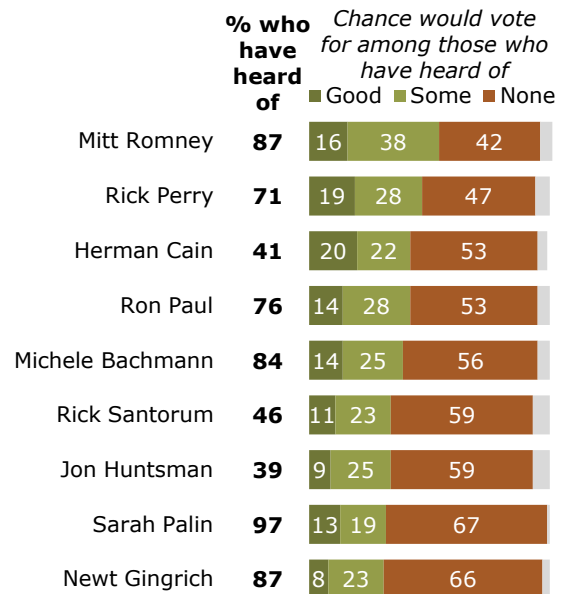
In evaluating possible Republican candidates, most voters (54%) say there is at least some chance they would vote for Mitt Romney, among those who have heard of the former Massachusetts governor. Recent entry Rick Perry also ranks comparatively well among the GOP field. While Perry is not as well known as Romney, 47% of those who have heard of Perry say there is at least some chance they would vote for him.

Other highly visible Republicans garner less potential support from voters. In particular, roughly two-thirds of those familiar with Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich say there is no chance they would vote them. Somewhat smaller majorities say there is no chance they would vote for Michele Bachmann (56%) or Ron Paul (53%). Herman Cain, Rick Santorum and Jon Huntsman are still unfamiliar to a majority of voters, and receive limited support even from those who have heard of them.

Michele Bachmann has become much more visible in recent months. However, she garners no greater potential support from voters who have heard of her now than three months ago. In May, slightly more than half of voters (54%) had heard of Michele Bachmann. In the current survey, that number has risen to 84%. Yet of those who have heard of her, the share who would consider voting for her has remained unchanged: 40% in May, compared with 39% in the current survey.

Candidate Visibility and Support

Based on registered voters



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q28.

Republican Views of GOP Candidates

Republican and Republican-leaning voters offer a positive initial response to Rick Perry’s candidacy. Eight-in-ten (80%) have heard of Perry and about three-quarters (77%) of those who have heard of him say there is at least some chance they would vote for him. Mitt Romney is somewhat better known than Perry (94% have heard of him) and receives similar potential support with 75% of those who have heard of him saying there is at least some chance they would vote for him.

While overall support for Romney and Perry is similar, slightly more say there is a good chance they would vote for Perry (37%) than say the same for Romney (28%).

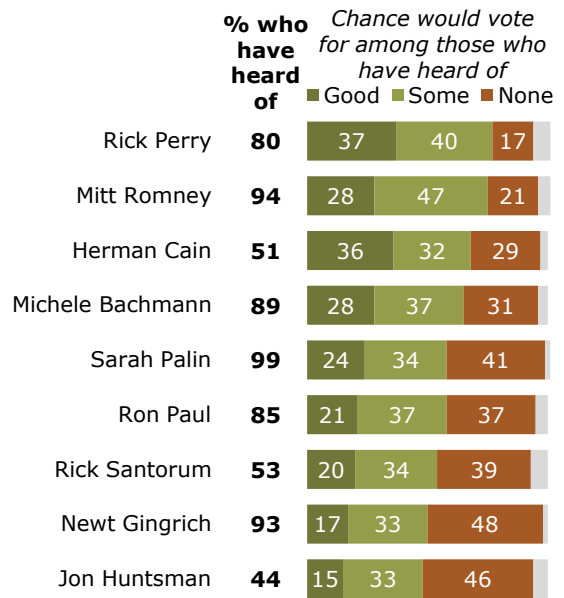
Herman Cain is known by 51% of Republican voters, placing him among the least visible GOP candidates. However, he receives strong support from those who have heard of him – 68% say there is at least some chance they would vote for him, including 36% who say there is a good chance.

Nearly all Republican and Republican-leaning voters have heard of Sarah Palin (99%) and more than eight-in-ten recognize Michele Bachmann (89%) and Ron Paul (85%). However, these highly visible potential candidates receive somewhat less support than Perry and Romney. About two-thirds (65%) of GOP voters who have heard of Bachmann say there is at least some chance they would vote for her, while 31% say there is no chance they would back her. Smaller majorities (58% each) of Republican voters say there is some chance they would vote for Palin and Paul.

Newt Gingrich is known by 93% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters. About as many say there is no chance they would vote for Gingrich (48%) as say there is at least some chance (50%). Jon Huntsman is the least visible major candidate (just 44% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters have heard of him), and also draws only modest support from those familiar with him.

Perry, Romney Garner Broadest Support from GOP Voters

Based on Republican and Rep-leaning voters



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q28.

Tea Party Republicans' Views of GOP Field

While Rick Perry and Mitt Romney have similar levels of support among GOP voters overall, Perry receives particularly strong support among those who agree with the Tea Party.

More than eight-in-ten Tea Party Republicans who have heard of Rick Perry say there is at least some chance they would vote for him (86%), including 49% who say there is a good chance. Mitt Romney also receives strong potential support (78% of Tea Party Republicans say there is some chance they would vote for him) but far fewer Tea Party Republicans say there is a good chance they would vote for Romney (29%). Since May, the percentage of Tea Party Republicans who say there is a good chance they would vote for Romney has slipped nine points.

Tea Party Republicans Enthusiastic About Perry

Chance would vote for based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters who agree with the Tea Party movement and have heard of each ...

	Good chance	Some chance	No chance	DK	Heard of
	%	%	%	%	%
Rick Perry	49	37	10	5=100	86
Herman Cain	47	30	22	1=100	64
Michele Bachmann	40	39	19	2=100	94
Sarah Palin	31	38	30	1=100	99
Mitt Romney	29	49	20	2=100	97
Rick Santorum	27	35	35	3=100	67
Ron Paul	26	36	36	3=100	94
Newt Gingrich	20	35	45	*=100	94
Jon Huntsman	12	27	55	7=100	51

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q28. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Michele Bachmann is one of several GOP candidates who fare better among Tea Party Republicans than among Republicans who disagree with or have no opinion of the Tea Party. About eight-in-ten Tea Party Republicans (79%) say there is at least some chance they would vote for her, 40% say there is a good chance. By comparison, 49% of non-Tea Party Republicans say there is at least some chance they would vote for her, just 15% say there is a good chance.

About seven-in-ten Tea Party Republicans (69%) say there is at least some chance they would vote for Sarah Palin, including 31% who say there is a good chance.

Herman Cain remains less well-known among Tea Party Republicans than most other candidates (64% have heard of him), but those who can rate him offer strong potential

support. About three-quarters say there is at least some chance they would vote for him (77%), including 47% who say good chance.

Bachmann and Perry Most Visible Candidates

Following his entry into the Republican presidential contest, Perry joined Bachmann as the most visible candidates in the race. When asked what possible candidate they've heard the most about in the news recently, 23% say Bachmann and 22% name Perry. Far fewer (7%) name Romney. None of the other candidates is mentioned by more than 4% of the public.

One month ago – before Perry joined the race – Bachmann was the most visible GOP candidate. In a July 21-24 poll, about a quarter (23%) mentioned Bachmann, 13% named Romney and 3% offered Perry.

Which GOP Candidate Have You Heard The Most About Recently?

	General Public			Republicans and Republican-leaners		
	June 16-19	July 21-24	Aug 18-21	June 16-19	July 21-24	Aug 18-21
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Michele Bachmann	5	23	23	7	25	23
Rick Perry	*	3	22	*	3	30
Mitt Romney	27	13	7	36	16	12
Sarah Palin	8	7	4	10	7	3
Donald Trump	2	4	3	2	3	3
Ron Paul	1	1	3	1	2	2
Newt Gingrich	5	1	1	4	1	*
Herman Cain	*	*	1	*	*	2
Tim Pawlenty	1	1	*	1	1	*
Jon Huntsman	*	1	*	*	1	0
Other	--	--	1	--	--	1
Don't know	<u>45</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>23</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
N	1,003	999	1,007	418	395	365

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 18-21, 2011 omnibus. PEW3. Other category from previous surveys not shown because of changes in candidates mentioned. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding and changes in "other" category.

Currently, Perry and Bachmann also are about equally visible among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. Three-in-ten (30%) say Perry is the candidate they have been hearing most about, while 23% who say that candidate is Bachmann. Another 12% name Romney.

But Perry is far and away the most visible candidate among Republicans and GOP-leaning independents who say they are following campaign news very closely. More than half of this group (53%) say they have been hearing the most about Perry; 21% say they have been hearing most about Bachmann and 12% say Romney. Among those following

less closely, 25% say they have been hearing the most about Bachmann, 18% say Perry and 13% say Romney.

Following Bachmann's victory in the Iowa straw poll and the entrance of Perry into the race on August 13, interest in the campaign has grown. In the most recent [News Interest Index survey](#), about one-in-four (27%) report following news about the campaign very closely. That is a high point for the year.

Who Can Beat Obama?

When asked which GOP candidate has the best chance of defeating Obama, more voters name Mitt Romney than any other candidate. But Rick Perry is seen as having the best chance to win by Republican voters who agree with the Tea Party and by Republicans who have given a lot of thought to 2012.

Overall, 24% of voters say Mitt Romney is the potential GOP candidate with the best chance of defeating Barack Obama. Rick Perry (18%) is the second most mentioned candidate. No other GOP candidate is mentioned by more than 8% of voters.

Perry is seen as having the best chance to defeat Obama by Republican voters who agree with the Tea Party movement and by

Republican voters who have given a lot of thought to the candidates running in 2012. About a third (34%) of Tea Party Republicans say Perry has the best chance of winning next year's election, significantly fewer (18%) say Romney. Similarly, 39% of Republican and Republican-

Engaged Republicans Say Perry Has Best Chance of Defeating Obama

<i>Which candidate has best chance of defeating Obama</i>	All voters	Among Rep/Rep-leaning RVs			A lot of thought given to 2012
		All Rep/Lean Rep	Tea Party		
	%	%	%	%	
Romney	24	22	18	20	
Perry	18	28	34	39	
Palin	8	9	8	6	
Bachmann	7	7	8	6	
Paul	4	3	3	4	
Gingrich	3	4	3	4	
Huntsman	2	1	0	1	
Cain	1	3	4	2	
Santorum	1	1	1	*	
None (Vol.)	11	3	3	2	
Other (Vol.)	1	1	1	*	
Don't know	<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
N	1205	561	291	216	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug.17-21, 2011. Q29. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

leaning voters who have given a lot of thought to 2012 say Perry has the best chance of defeating Obama, 20% say Romney has the best chance.

Voter Engagement Edges Higher

About two-thirds of voters (64%) have given at least some thought to the candidates who may be running for president in 2012, including 32% who say they have given 2012 “a lot” of thought. Overall, thought given is up eight points from July and the change has come entirely from those who say they have given the 2012 candidates “a lot” of thought (24% in July, 32% in the current survey).

Republican and Republican-leaning voters continue to express somewhat more interest in the 2012 candidates than do their Democratic counterparts. Nearly seven-in-ten Republican voters (74%) have given at least some thought to 2012 compared with 60% of Democratic voters.

Tea Party Republicans are especially engaged: 84% of Republican voters who agree with the Tea Party movement have given at least some thought to the candidates running in 2012, compared with 62% of Republican voters who do not agree with the movement.

Engagement Gaps Persist

	July 2011	August 2011	Change
<i>Given a lot/some thought to 2012 candidates</i>	%	%	
All registered voters	56	64	+8
Rep/Rep-leaning RVs	65	74	+9
Dem/Dem-leaning RVs	53	60	+7
<i>Among Rep/Rep-leaning RVs</i>			
Agree w/Tea Party (50%)	76	84	+8
Disagree/No opinion (50%)	57	62	+5

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q25. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Ratings of Overall GOP Field

At this early stage of the nomination process, Republican voters continue to offer tepid ratings of the overall GOP field. No more than half (49%) call the group of candidates running for the GOP nomination excellent (9%) or good (40%), nearly as many (44%) say they are only fair (38%) or poor (6%) candidates.

Tea Party Republican voters remain more favorable toward the GOP field than do non-Tea Party Republicans. Six-in-ten Tea Party Republicans (60%) call the GOP candidates excellent or good, compared with 37% of those

who do not agree with the Tea Party. Republican voters who have given a lot of thought to the candidates running in 2012 also express favorable views of the field: 59% call the GOP candidates excellent or good, compared with 43% of Republicans who have given less thought to the election.

Tea Party Republicans Continue to See Good Field of Candidates

	May 2011	August 2011
<i>Rate GOP field as excellent or good</i>	%	%
All Rep/Rep-leaning RVs	44	49
Agree w/Tea Party (50%)	55	60
Disagree/No opinion (50%)	35	37
A lot of thought given	59	59
Less thought given	38	43

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q27. Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.

SECTION 3: CONGRESS, THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE TEA PARTY

Just a quarter of Americans (25%) say they have a favorable opinion of Congress, while 70% have an unfavorable view. This is among the lowest favorable ratings for Congress in more than two decades of Pew Research Center surveys.

The number expressing a favorable opinion of Congress has fallen by nine points since March (from 34% to 25%), with nearly equal declines among Republicans, Democrats and independents.

The current rating is identical to April 2010 (25%), a period of highly negative views toward both the federal government and politicians. (See [*“Distrust, Discontent, Anger and Partisan Rancor.”*](#) April 18, 2010.)

Democrats have much less favorable opinions of Congress than they did last year, when their party controlled both the House and Senate. In July 2010, for instance, nearly half of Democrats (48%) had a favorable opinion of Congress; that compares with just 28% in the current survey.

Republicans’ views of Congress became more positive after their party won the House in last fall’s midterm. In March of this year, 38% of Republicans felt favorably toward Congress, up from 22% in July 2010. But the percentage of Republicans with favorable opinions of Congress has fallen to 29% in the new survey.

Favorable Views of Congress Decline

<i>% saying they have favorable view of Congress...</i>	Feb 2010	April 2010	July 2010	March 2011	Aug 2011	Mar-Aug change
Total	41	25	33	34	25	-9
Republican	33	13	22	38	29	-9
Democrat	58	40	48	37	28	-9
Independent	35	23	29	30	20	-10
R-D diff	-25	-27	-26	+1	+1	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q16c.

Republican Leaders Lose Support from GOP Base

The public also continues to express highly negative views of the way congressional leaders from both parties are handling their jobs. Just 22% approve of the job performance of Republican congressional leaders; 69% disapprove. The approval rating for Democratic leaders is not much better (29% approve/63% disapprove).

Ratings for GOP leaders have fallen sharply among the Republican base – and the change has been particularly dramatic among Republicans and Republican leaning-independents who agree with the Tea Party. Among all Republicans, 46% now approve of the job performance of Republican leaders, down 23 points from January.

In January, Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party approved of GOP leaders' job performance by an overwhelming 74% to 9% margin. Today, just 37% of Tea Party Republicans approve of the way Republican leaders are handling their jobs while 59% disapprove.

In the past month alone, following the debt ceiling agreement between President Obama and Republican leaders, the approval rating for GOP leaders has fallen by 14 points – from 51% to 37% – among Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party.

Abysmal Ratings for Congressional Leaders

	Jan	April	July	Aug
<i>Job approval ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Republican leaders				
Approve	34	30	25	22
Disapprove	43	61	66	69
Don't know	<u>22</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100
Democratic leaders				
Approve	--	31	30	29
Disapprove	--	60	60	63
Don't know	--	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
		100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q6a-b. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Tea Party Republicans Turn Against GOP Leaders

	Jan	July	Aug	Jan-Aug change
<i>% approve of Rep leaders' job performance ...</i>	%	%	%	
Republican	69	54	46	-23
Democrat	13	10	9	-4
Independent	30	19	18	-12
<i>Among Reps, Rep-leaners</i>				
Agree w/ Tea Party	74	51	37	-37
Disagree/No Opinion	53	42	40	-13

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q6a.

Views of the Parties

Both political parties also are viewed less favorably than they were earlier this year. But the decline in the GOP's image has been more pronounced: Currently, 34% say they have a favorable opinion of the Republican Party while 59% view the GOP unfavorably. The percent expressing an unfavorable opinion of the Republican Party has risen by 11 points (from 48%) since February.

GOP Image Fades, Democrats Hold Favorability Advantage

	Democratic Party		Republican Party		Dem-Rep diff in Fav
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	
2011	%	%	%	%	
August	43	50	34	59	+9
March	48	45	42	51	+6
February	47	46	43	48	+4
2010					
September	50	44	43	49	+7
March	40	49	37	51	+3
February	48	44	46	46	+2
2009					
August	48	43	40	50	+8
April	59	34	40	51	+19
January	62	32	40	55	+22

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q16a-b.

The current balance of opinion toward the Democratic Party also is unfavorable (43% favorable vs. 50% unfavorable). In February, about as many said they had a favorable (47%) as unfavorable (46%) opinion of the Democratic Party.

Still, the Democrats are more viewed more favorably than the GOP (43% to 34%). The Democrats' advantage is far narrower than at the start of the Obama administration. In January 2009, 62% said they had a positive view of the Democratic Party compared with just 40% who said the same about the GOP.

Just 29% of independents now have a favorable opinion of the Republican Party, while 63% have an unfavorable view. The percentage of independents holding a favorable view of the GOP has declined by 12 points, from 41% in February.

While job approval ratings for GOP leaders have declined among Republicans (particularly

Independents View the GOP Less Favorably

<i>Favorable view of...</i>	Feb	March	Aug	Feb-Aug change
Republican Party	%	%	%	
Republican	83	79	77	-6
Democrat	19	20	11	-8
Independent	41	37	29	-12
Democratic Party				
Republican	12	13	11	-1
Democrat	87	84	81	-6
Independent	40	40	35	-5

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q16a-b.

those who agree with Tea Party), Republicans continue to express favorable overall views of their party. More than three-quarters of Republicans (77%) express favorable views of the GOP, which is largely unchanged from February (83%). However, Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with Tea Party have a less favorable view of the GOP than they did in February (68% today, 81% in February).

Democrats More Unhappy with Their Party

Democrats express fairly positive views of their party's congressional leaders – 53% approve of their job performance. But Democrats are increasingly critical of the party's advocacy of its traditional positions, such as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy and representing working people.

Currently, just 38% of Democrats and Democratic leaders say the party is doing an excellent or good job of standing up for its traditional positions; 61% say the party has done only a fair or poor job. Last November, following the party's dismal showing in the midterm elections, Democrats and Democratic leaners expressed more positive views of how well the party was standing up for its traditional positions (48% excellent or good/ 50% only fair or poor).

Republicans and Republican leaners currently give about the same negative evaluations as Democrats of their party's advocacy of its traditional positions – in the GOP's case, on such things as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values. Only about four-in-ten Republicans (39%) give their party excellent or good marks, while 59% say it has done only a fair or poor job. That represents little change from November 2010 (40% excellent/good, 52% only fair/poor).

Democrats More Critical of Party's Advocacy of Traditional Positions

<i>Job Democratic Party is doing in standing up for its traditional positions ...</i>	Nov 2010	Aug 2011	Change
Dems/Dem leaners	%	%	
Excellent/good	48	38	-10
Only fair/Poor	50	61	+11
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Job Republican Party is doing in standing up for its traditional positions ...</i>			
Reps/Rep leaners			
Excellent/good	40	39	-1
Only fair/Poor	52	59	+7
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. DEMJOB, REPJOB. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Generic Ballot for Congress

With still more than a year to go before the 2012 elections, voters are divided in their vote for Congress: 48% say if the election were held today they would vote for the Democrat in their district or lean Democratic, while 44% say they would vote for the Republican or lean Republican.

Notably, independent voters, whose support for Republicans was critical in their 2010 midterm victories, are now evenly divided: 44% favor the Republican candidate or lean Republican in their district and virtually the same percentage (42%) say they would vote for the Democrat.

Republicans and Democrats both overwhelmingly say they will vote for their party's candidates. And while Tea Party Republicans have become more critical of GOP congressional leaders, 98% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters who agree with the Tea Party plan to vote for the Republican candidate in their district.

Voters 65 and older also are divided (45% Republican vs. 49% Democrat). In the Pew Research Center's final pre-election survey, voters 65 and older supported the Republican candidate by a 12-point margin (50% to 38%). (See ["GOP Likely to Recapture Control of House," Oct. 31, 2010.](#))

Voters Divided in Early Preferences for Congress

	Rep/ Lean Rep	Dem/ Lean Dem	Other/ DK
	%	%	%
All voters	44	48	8=100
Men	53	41	6=100
Women	37	54	9=100
White	51	42	7=100
Black	8	84	8=100
18-29	34	56	9=100
30-49	47	43	9=100
50-64	47	48	6=100
65+	45	49	6=100
College grad+	41	53	6=100
Some college	51	41	8=100
HS or less	43	48	9=100
Republican	97	2	1=100
Democrat	3	95	2=100
Independent	44	42	15=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q30-30a. Based on registered voters (N=1205). Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic only.

Tea Party Loses Favor

The Tea Party has become much better known since the beginning of last year. And as the Tea Party has become more familiar, its image has grown less positive.

In the new survey, 36% say they have a favorable opinion of the Tea Party movement while 43% have an unfavorable view; 20% are unfamiliar with the Tea Party or express no opinion of the movement.

In February 2010, about the same percentage as today (33%) had a favorable opinion of the Tea Party but just a quarter (25%) had an unfavorable opinion; far more (42%) were unable to rate the Tea Party.

Tea Party: Better Known, Less Popular

<i>Opinion of Tea Party movement ...</i>	Feb 2010			Aug 2011		
	Fav	Unfav	Can't rate	Fav	Unfav	Can't rate
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	33	25	42=100	36	43	20=100
Men	37	24	39=100	39	45	16=100
Women	30	25	45=100	33	41	26=100
18-29	36	24	40=100	38	35	27=100
30-49	30	25	45=100	33	44	23=100
50-64	36	25	39=100	39	46	15=100
65+	31	24	45=100	36	47	16=100
College grad+	34	32	34=100	32	58	9=100
Some college	33	25	42=100	43	37	20=100
HS or less	33	19	48=100	35	37	28=100
Republican	51	10	39=100	64	22	14=100
Conservative	59	11	30=100	73	14	13=100
Mod/Lib	35	10	54=100	44	39	17=100
Democrat	21	37	42=100	17	66	18=100
Cons/Mod	23	34	43=100	20	60	20=100
Liberal	18	46	36=100	13	74	13=100
Independent	34	24	41=100	36	41	23=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q16g. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

In February 2010, college graduates were evenly divided in opinions of the Tea Party (34% favorable, 32% unfavorable). Today, about the same percentage of college graduates has a favorable opinion (32%) while 58% say they have an unfavorable impression. Opinions about the Tea Party have shown less negative movement among those with less education. Among independents, unfavorable opinions of the Tea Party have increased by 17 points (from 24% to 41%) while favorable opinions are largely unchanged (36% today, 34% then).

Conservative Republicans are one of the only groups in which favorable views of the Tea Party have increased since early last year – 73% have a favorable opinion now, compared

with 59% then. Unfavorable opinions among conservative Republicans have not increased over this period (14% now, 11% then).

The public continues to be divided over whether Republican leaders in Congress are paying too much, the right amount or too little attention to the Tea Party. Currently, 30% say GOP leaders are paying too much attention to the Tea Party while about the same percentage (31%) says they are paying too little attention to the Tea Party; 20% say they are giving the right amount of attention to the group. These views are little changed from early April (27% too much, 32% too little, 23% right amount).

SECTION 4: ANGER AND DISTRUST IN GOVERNMENT

When asked to describe their feelings about the federal government, 86% say either that they are frustrated (60%) or angry (26%). Just 11% say they are basically content with the federal government, by far the lowest percentage in a measure that dates to 1997. The share of Americans who

describe themselves as angry with the federal government has nearly doubled since March, from 14% to 26%, while those who say they are basically content has fallen by half, from 22% to 11%.

Frustration, Anger Reach New Highs

<i>Feeling about the federal government</i>	Oct 1997	Feb 2000	Nov 2001	Mar 2004	Oct 2006	Jan 2007	Sept 2010	Mar 2011	Aug 2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Angry	12	10	8	13	20	16	23	14	26
Frustrated	56	54	34	52	54	58	52	59	60
Basically content	29	33	53	32	21	21	21	22	11
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

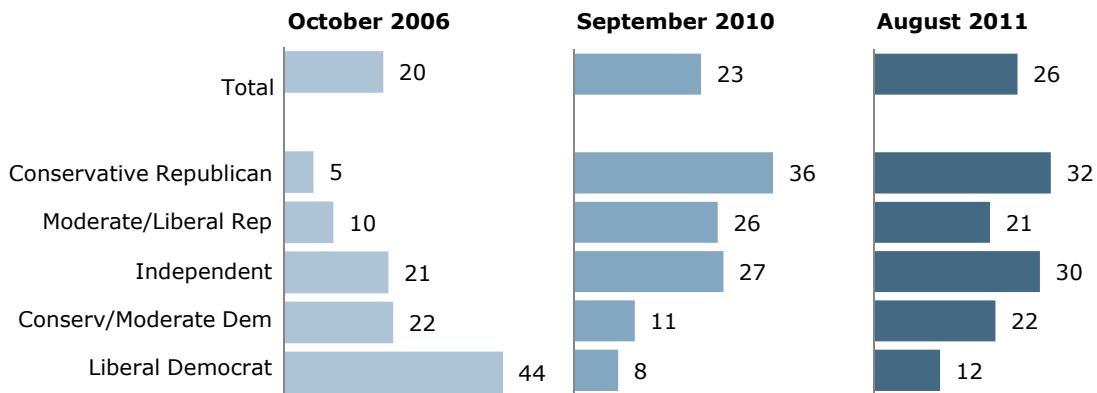
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug 17-21, 2011. Q17. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Anger with government had waned substantially earlier

this year – in March just 14% of Americans said they were angry with government, including just 16% of Republicans, 15% of independents, and 10% of Democrats. Today, 28% of Republicans, 30% of independents, and 19% of Democrats say they feel angry at the federal government.

In this regard, the current spike in public anger is notably broad-based. When anger rose to 20% in the fall of 2006, it was concentrated predominantly among liberal Democrats, with very few conservative Republicans expressing such strongly negative views. When anger rose to 23% in the fall of 2010, this pattern was reversed, with people on the right

Anger at Government More Widespread



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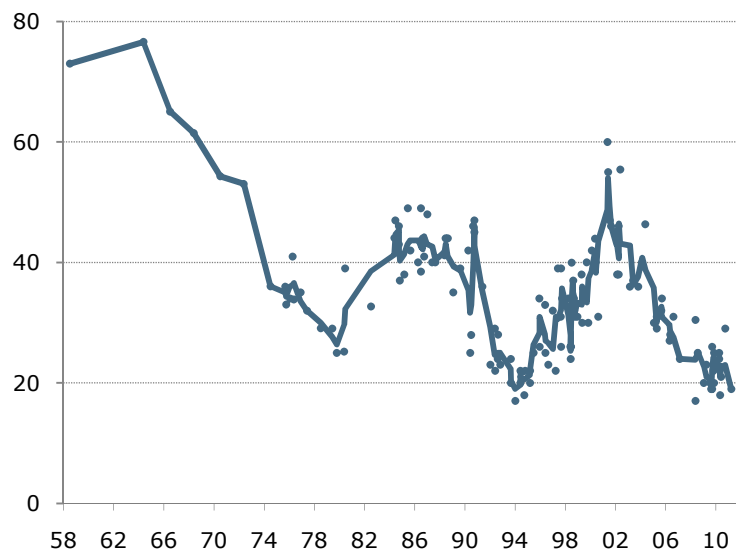
expressing the most anger. But today, this emotion is more broadly distributed. There is certainly more anger among conservative Republicans (32% angry) than among liberal Democrats (12%). But compared with a year ago, the political gap has narrowed as anger has risen among Democrats and remained high among Republicans. Across these three periods independents have grown consistently angrier, from 21% in 2006 to 27% a year ago to 30% today.

Similarly, public trust in government, which had recovered slightly earlier this year, has once again returned to deeply negative territory. In the current survey, 80% say they trust the government to do what is right only some of the time or never. Just 19% say the government can be trusted

just about always or most of the time. When this question was first asked on the American National Election Study in 1958 nearly three-quarters (73%) of Americans said they always or mostly trusted the government to do what is right. Across all updates of this question over the past 53 years by the ANES, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, CNN and Pew Research Center, the all time low mark for trust in government is 17%, measured by CBS and the New York Times in October 2008 and by Gallup in June 1994.

Trust in Government Returns to Historic Lows

Trust government in Washington to do what is right "just about always" or "most of the time"



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 17-21, 2010. Q17.
Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls, From 1976-now the trend line represents a three-survey moving average with individual datapoints shown.

To be sure, when the public is distressed, the government is not the only institution to be viewed negatively. With just 17% of Americans satisfied with the state of the nation, and 7% rating economic conditions favorably, the public's frustration has broad implications beyond the government and elected officials. For example, both labor unions and business corporations are receiving the lowest favorability ratings on record. The current poll finds just 38% saying they feel favorably toward business corporations, and just 41% saying the same about labor unions. Majorities felt favorably toward both of these groups as recently as 2007.

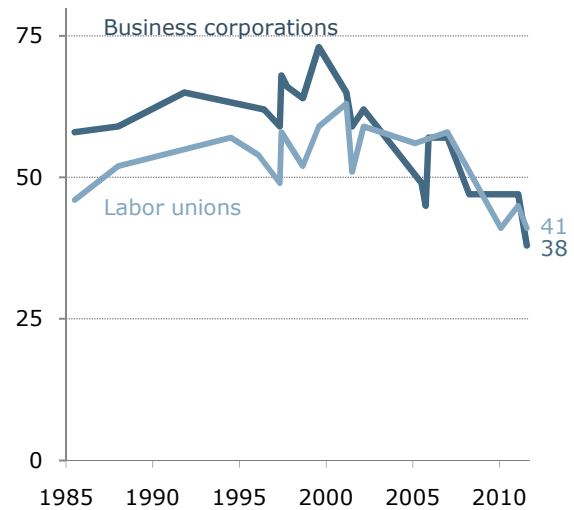
And over the course of the past few years, these declining ratings for business and labor have crossed party lines. While Republicans continue to hold a more positive view of business corporations than Democrats, favorability has fallen significantly among both groups. And independent ratings of business continue to track with the views of Democrats.

Labor union ratings have also slipped across party lines, though the partisan divide here has grown substantially. Far fewer Republicans today offer a favorable assessment of labor unions than in 2007 (27%, down from 47%). The slippage among Democrats has been far more modest (60%, down from 70%). Independent views fall in between, having slipped from 54% favorable in 2007 to 36% favorable today.

For more on views of labor and business see [*Labor Unions Seen as Good for Workers, Not U.S. Competitiveness.*](#)

Business, Labor Ratings Also in Decline

Percent favorable



PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 17-21, 2011. Q16e-f.

Long Term Declines Cross Party Lines

	2007		2011		Change in Fav
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	
Business corporations	%	%	%	%	
Total	57	30	38	52	-19
Republican	70	18	55	36	-15
Democrat	52	33	34	58	-18
Independent	54	34	32	57	-22
Labor unions					
Total	58	31	41	46	-17
Republican	47	45	27	64	-20
Democrat	70	19	60	26	-10
Independent	54	34	36	52	-18

PEW RESEARCH CENTER August 17-21, 2011. Q16e-f.

SECTION 5: ECONOMIC RATINGS AND PRIORITIES

Just 7% of Americans say the U.S. economy is in excellent (1%) or good (6%) shape, while 93% say economic conditions are only fair (37%) or poor (56%). Poor ratings of the economy have jumped 10 points from June.

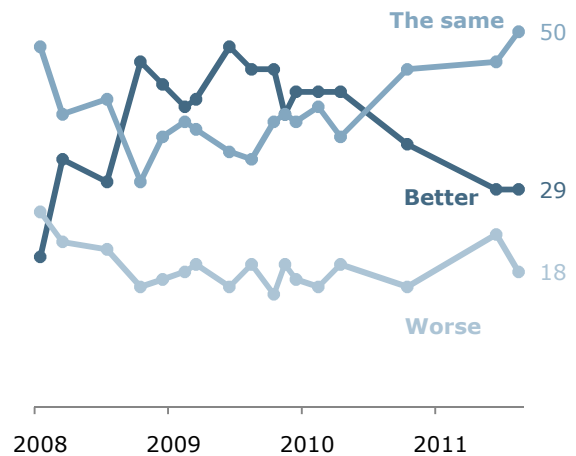
At the same time, about two-thirds of Americans (68%) do not expect the economy to improve in the next year. Half (50%) expect economic conditions to be the same as now in a year's time and 18% expect conditions to be worse. Just three-in-ten (29%) expect U.S. economic conditions to be better a year from now.

Combined, these figures show the gloomiest economic outlook since the start of the economic downturn. While the economy was clearly seen as in worse shape at times during late 2008 and early 2009, the public was far more optimistic about a turnaround at that time. Today, roughly two-in-three (65%) Americans say the economy is in only fair or poor shape *and* say it will get no better over the coming year. While little changed from June of this year, this is the highest since the Pew Research Center began asking this combination of questions in early 2004.

Most Say Economic Conditions are Poor



Few See Improvement Over Coming Year



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q36 & Q37.

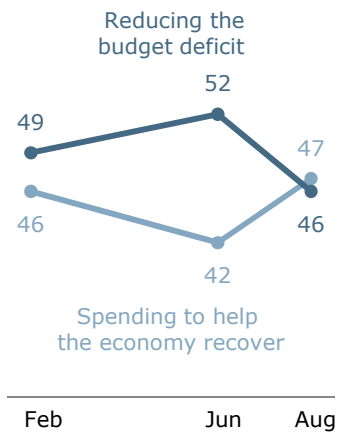
Public Less Focused on Deficit Reduction

Americans are now evenly divided over whether the federal government should prioritize spending to help the economy recover or reducing the budget deficit: 47% say spending to help the economy should be the higher priority, while 46% say reducing the budget deficit. In June, 52% viewed reducing the deficit as the higher priority compared with 42% who prioritized spending to help the economy. In February, the public was, as now, more evenly divided.

Democrats remain far more likely to prioritize spending on the economy (61%), than deficit reduction (32%), and their views are largely unchanged from two months ago. But the balance of opinion among independents has shifted markedly. In June, independents prioritized deficit reduction by a 15-point margin (54% vs. 39%). Today, independents are split evenly over this tradeoff (46% deficit reduction, 47% spending to help the economy).

Deficit Reduction Less of a Priority

Higher priority for federal government should be:



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q35.

Republicans and Republican leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party movement remain overwhelmingly committed to deficit reduction (82% today, 84% in June). But Republicans and Republican leaners who do not agree with the Tea Party are more divided today than they were in June. Two months ago, they favored deficit reduction over stimulus spending by 33 points (63% to 30%). Today, that margin has narrowed to 15 points (55% to 40%).

Fewer Independents Prioritize Deficit Reduction over Spending to Help Economy

	June		August	
	Reduce deficit	Spend to help economy	Reduce deficit	Spend to help economy
	%	%	%	%
Total	52	42	46	47
Republican	74	23	66	29
Democrat	36	59	32	61
Independent	54	39	46	47
<i>Among Rep/Lean Rep</i>				
Agree w/ Tea Party	84	13	82	16
Disagree/No opinion	63	30	55	40

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q35. Figures read across.

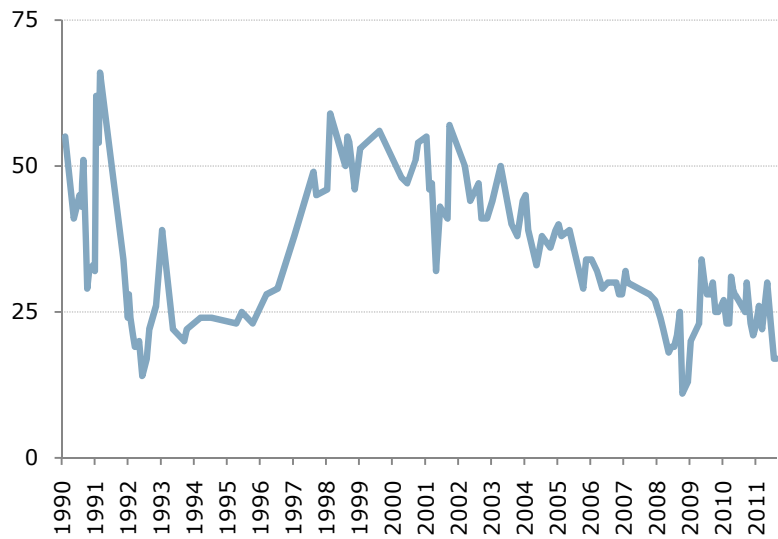
Satisfaction Remains Low

Just 17% of Americans are satisfied with the way things are going in the country today, while 79% are dissatisfied. These figures are unchanged from July before the debt-ceiling showdown and ensuing market fluctuations. Satisfaction is now at its lowest point since late 2008.

Older Americans are much less likely to say they are satisfied than are their younger counterparts. Just 5% of those 65 and older say they are satisfied with the state of the nation, compared with 31% of adults under age 30.

Democrats are somewhat more likely to say they are satisfied (21%) than are independents (15%) or Republicans (11%).

Satisfaction with the State of the Nation



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Aug. 17-21, 2011. Q2.

About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted August 17-21, 2011, among a national sample of 1,509 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (905 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 604 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 268 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	1,509	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	399	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	444	6.0 percentage points
Independents	589	5.0 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.

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted August 18-21, 2011, among a national sample of 1,007 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (603 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 404 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 195 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. 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, 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	1,007	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	246	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	293	7.0 percentage points
Independents	312	7.0 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AUGUST 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
August 17-21, 2011
N=1509

NO QUESTION 1**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>
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Early October, 2006	30	63	7
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	July, 2006	30	65	5
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	May, 2006*	29	65	6
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	March, 2006	32	63	5
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	January, 2006	34	61	5
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	July, 2005	35	58	7
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	February, 2005	38	56	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	January, 2005	40	54	6
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	December, 2004	39	54	7
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	July, 2004	38	55	7
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	May, 2004	33	61	6
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	December, 2003	44	47	9
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	October, 2003	38	56	6
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	August, 2003	40	53	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9</i>
Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	January, 2003	44	50	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	September, 2002	41	55	4
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	May, 2002	44	44	12
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	March, 2002	50	40	10
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
December, 2008	13	83	4	June, 2001	43	52	5
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	March, 2001	47	45	8
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
August, 2008	21	74	5	January, 2001	55	41	4
July, 2008	19	74	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
June, 2008	19	76	5	September, 2000	51	41	8
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	June, 2000	47	45	8
March, 2008	22	72	6	April, 2000	48	43	9
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
October, 2007	28	66	6	November, 1998	46	44	10
February, 2007	30	61	9	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
December, 2006	28	65	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
				January, 1998	46	50	4
				September, 1997	45	49	6
				August, 1997	49	46	5
				January, 1997	38	58	4

¹ In 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?"

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	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>
July, 1996	29	67	4	May, 1993	22	71	7
March, 1996	28	70	2	January, 1993	39	50	11
October, 1995	23	73	4	January, 1992	28	68	4
June, 1995	25	73	2	November, 1991	34	61	5
April, 1995	23	74	3	<i>Gallup: Late Feb, 1991</i>	66	31	3
July, 1994	24	73	3	August, 1990	47	48	5
March, 1994	24	71	5	May, 1990	41	54	5
October, 1993	22	73	5	January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1993	20	75	5	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	Approve	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Approve	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19
May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11				

ASK IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE (Q.3=1,2):

Q.3a Do you [approve/disapprove] very strongly, or not so strongly?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>		Feb 22- Mar 1 <u>2011</u>	Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>	Aug 25- Sep 6 <u>2010</u>	Jun 16-20 <u>2010</u>	Jan 6-10 <u>2010</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>
43	Approve	51	46	47	48	49	63
26	Very strongly	32	27	28	29	30	45
15	Not so strongly	18	16	17	17	15	13
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	2	2	3	5
49	Disapprove	39	44	44	43	42	26
38	Very strongly	29	30	32	31	30	18
11	Not so strongly	10	13	11	11	11	8
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	1	*
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10	10	9	9	10	11

NO QUESTION 4

ASK ALL:

Now, thinking about how Barack Obama is handling some issues...

Q.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]**

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	The economy			
	Aug 17-21, 2011	34	60	6
	May 2, 2011	40	55	4
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	56	6
	Jan 6-9, 2011	42	51	7
	Jun 16-20, 2010	43	51	5
	May 6-9, 2010	41	51	8
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
	Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
	Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
	Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
	Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
	Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
	Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20
b.	The federal budget deficit			
	Aug 17-21, 2011	32	60	9
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	33	59	8
	Jan 6-9, 2011	35	53	12
	Jun 16-20, 2010	35	56	9
	Jan 6-10, 2010	32	58	11
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	58	11
	Jul 22-26, 2009	32	53	15
	April 14-21, 2009	50	38	12
c.	The threat of terrorism			
	Aug 17-21, 2011	56	33	12
	May 2, 2011	69	21	10
	Jan 6-9, 2011	55	33	12
	Jan 6-10, 2010	51	39	10
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 ²	52	34	14
	Apr 14-21, 2009	57	26	17
	Feb 4-8, 2009	50	21	29

ASK ALL:

Q.6 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the [ITEM] are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: REPEAT FULL QUESTION FOR NEXT ITEM]**

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	Republican leaders in Congress			
	Aug 17-21, 2011	22	69	9
	Jul 20-24, 2011	25	66	10
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	30	61	9
	Feb 24-27, 2011	36	45	19
	Jan 5-9, 2011 ³	34	43	22
	Nov 4-7, 2010	41	37	22
	Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16

² In surveys conducted October 28-November 8, 2009 and before, the item was worded "Terrorist threats."

³ Question wording for Nov. 4-7, 2010, and Jan. 5-9, 2011, was: "Do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

Q.6 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 22-25, 2010	33	53	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	55	14
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15
Early October, 2006	33	56	11
June, 2006	30	53	17
March, 2006	32	50	18
January, 2006	33	52	15
Early November, 2005	33	50	17
Early October, 2005	32	52	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17
January, 2003	48	37	15
June, 2002	50	34	16
May, 2002	49	34	17
February, 2002	56	24	20
Early September, 2001	43	39	18
June, 2001	40	40	20
May, 2001	45	36	19
April, 2001	45	30	25
January, 2001	43	36	21
July, 2000	36	46	18
May, 2000	40	42	18
March, 2000	38	43	19
February, 2000	40	43	17
January, 2000	39	41	20
December, 1999	38	42	20
October, 1999	34	50	16
Late September, 1999	34	46	20
August, 1999	40	44	16
July, 1999	36	45	19
June, 1999	37	46	17
May, 1999	38	44	18
March, 1999	38	47	15
February, 1999	37	51	12
January, 1999	38	50	12
Early December, 1998	38	49	13
November, 1998	41	48	11
Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 1998	42	38	20
May, 1998	40	41	19
April, 1998	41	40	19
March, 1998	43	39	18
January, 1998	43	41	16
November, 1997	41	43	16
August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 1997	40	44	16
April, 1997	40	44	16
February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 1997	38	47	15

Q.6 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
December, 1996 ⁴	40	43	17
July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 1996	36	50	14
April, 1996	39	46	15
March, 1996	35	51	14
February, 1996	33	53	14
January, 1996	36	54	10
October, 1995	36	51	13
September, 1995	36	50	14
August, 1995	38	45	17
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994	52	28	20
b. Democratic leaders in Congress			
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	63	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	60	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	60	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	33	48	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	30	53	17
Jul 22-25, 2010	35	56	10
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	53	12
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 ⁵	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
November, 2006 ⁶	50	21	29
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21

⁴ From December, 1994, through December, 1996, the question was worded: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress?".

⁵ In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?".

⁶ Question wording in November, 2006, and December, 1994, was: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?".

Q.6 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22
December, 1994	52	28	20

ASK ALL:

Q.7 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, please tell me which one best reflects your impression of Barack Obama. (First,) does Barack Obama impress you as...**[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]?**

	Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>		May 25-30 <u>2011</u>	Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>	Jun 16-20 <u>2010</u>	Jan 6-10 <u>2010</u>	Sep 10-15 <u>2009</u>	Feb 4-8 <u>2009</u>
a.	59	Trustworthy	62	58	58	61	64	76
	37	Not trustworthy	31	36	37	31	30	15
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2	2	1	2	2	1
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	4	3	5	5	8
b.	44	Able to get things done	55	54	55	57	58	70
	50	Not able to get things done	38	38	39	35	31	15
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	3	3	2	3	3	2
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	4	5	8	13
c.	49	A strong leader	58	53	53	62	65	77
	47	Not a strong leader	37	41	42	32	29	13
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	2	2	2	2	1
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	4	3	3	5	9
d.	71	Stands up for what he believes in	75	77	--	--	--	--
	22	Doesn't stand up for what he believes in	18	16	--	--	--	--
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	1	--	--	--	--
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	--	--	--	--

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=777]:

e.F1	70	Warm and friendly	73	70	68	77	78	87
	22	Cold and aloof	20	23	26	16	16	8
	3	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	2	4	3	2	2
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	2	4	4	3
f.F1	63	Well informed	67	64	67	69	70	79
	33	Not well informed	27	31	30	26	23	15
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2	2	2	1	2	1
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	4	2	4	4	5

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=732]:

g.F2	75	A good communicator	75	75	77	83	83	92
	22	Not a good communicator	20	21	20	14	13	6
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	1	2	1	1	*
	2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	4	1	2	3	2
h.F2	63	Someone who cares about people like me	64	60	60	64	68	81
	31	Someone who doesn't care about people like me	30	34	35	30	25	14
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	*	1	2	1	1	1
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	3	4	6	4

ASK ALL:

Q.8 In dealing with Congress, do you think President Obama...**[RANDOMIZE: Should go along with the Republicans more often [OR] Should challenge the Republicans more often]** or is he handling this about right?

Aug 17-21 2011		Mar 30-Apr 3 2011	<i>Bush and Democrats</i>	<i>Clinton and Republicans</i>		
			Mar 2007 ⁷	Mar 1996	Aug 1995	Apr 1995
25	Should go along with the Republicans more often	29	43	30	26	25
37	Should challenge the Republicans more often	27	18	23	27	27
26	Is he handling this about right	34	27	41	38	41
4	Neither (VOL.)	1	3	2	2	2
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	9	4	7	5

QUESTION 9 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 10-15****ASK ALL:**

Q.16 Would you say your overall opinion of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-c FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS e,f WITH ITEM g LAST]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: do you have a very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly Unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of [ITEM]?**

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	
a. The Republican Party								
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	5	29	59	27	32	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	42	9	32	51	22	28	1	7
Feb 2-7, 2011	43	8	35	48	19	29	*	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	8	35	49	21	28	*	8
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9

⁷ In March 2007 and before, answer choices were not randomized, and the third answer choice read "...or is handling the situation about right?"

Q.16 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6
b. The Democratic Party								
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	9	34	50	21	29	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	14	34	45	18	27	*	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	47	13	35	46	17	29	*	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	13	36	44	20	24	*	7
July 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4

Q.16 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
Aug 17-21, 2011	25	4	21	70	30	40	4	6
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	34	4	30	57	21	36	1	8
July 1-5, 2010	33	6	27	56	23	33	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4

Q.16 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

NO ITEM d.

e. Labor unions

Aug 17-21, 2011	41	11	30	46	21	26	1	12
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	47	18	29	39	17	23	2	12
Feb 2-7, 2011	45	11	34	41	17	25	1	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	11	30	42	16	26	1	16
January, 2007	58	18	40	31	11	20	2	9
Late March, 2005	56	17	39	33	9	24	1	9
March, 2002	59	15	44	32	9	23	1	8
July, 2001	51	12	39	36	10	26	1	12
March, 2001	63	16	47	28	7	21	1	8
August, 1999	59	12	47	36	9	27	*	5
Early September, 1998	52	12	40	38	13	25	*	10
June, 1997	58	15	43	35	10	25	*	7
May, 1997	49	15	34	39	13	26	*	12
April, 1996	47	10	37	45	17	28	*	8
February, 1996	54	17	37	41	14	27	*	5
July, 1994	57	14	43	38	10	28	*	5
January, 1988	52	10	42	39	10	29	*	9
July, 1985	46	9	37	47	17	30	*	7

f. Business corporations

Aug 17-21, 2011	38	7	31	52	21	31	1	9
Feb 2-7, 2011	47	7	40	45	15	31	1	7
April, 2008	47	10	37	45	15	30	*	8
January, 2007	57	9	48	30	8	22	2	11
December, 2005	57	9	48	35	10	25	*	8
Late October, 2005	45	8	37	45	16	29	*	10
July, 2005	49	9	40	40	11	29	*	11
March, 2002	62	10	52	29	6	23	1	8
July, 2001	59	9	50	27	6	21	*	14
March, 2001	65	9	56	25	6	19	1	9
August, 1999	73	8	65	22	3	19	0	5
Early September, 1998	64	9	55	26	5	21	*	10
October, 1997	66	11	55	28	5	23	*	6
June, 1997	68	8	60	25	7	18	*	7
May, 1997	59	9	50	28	7	21	1	12
June, 1996	62	10	52	31	6	25	*	7
February, 1996	59	9	50	34	10	24	1	6
October, 1995	60	6	54	36	7	29	0	4
July, 1994	70	8	62	24	5	19	*	6
November, 1991	65	8	57	28	6	22	0	7
January, 1988	59	6	53	32	5	27	*	9
June, 1985	58	8	50	31	7	24	1	10

g. The Tea Party movement

Aug 17-21, 2011	36	11	25	43	23	20	5	15
Feb 3-9, 2010	33	10	23	25	10	14	19	23

ASK ALL:

Q.17 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

	<u>Basically content</u>	<u>Frustrated</u>	<u>Angry</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Aug 17-21, 2011	11	60	26	3
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	22	59	14	5
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	21	52	23	4
Apr 1-5, 2010	23	52	21	4
Mar 11-21, 2010	19	56	21	5
Early Jan, 2007	21	58	16	5
Early Oct, 2006	21	54	20	5
March, 2004	32	52	13	3
Mid Nov, 2001	53	34	8	5
Jun, 2000	28	53	13	6
Feb, 2000	33	54	10	3
Oct, 1997	29	56	12	3

ASK ALL:

Q.18 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	<u>Just about always</u>	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Only sometimes</u>	(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Aug 17-21, 2011	3	16	72	8	1
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	4	25	65	4	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	3	21	65	10	1
Apr 1-5, 2010	5	20	61	13	1
Mar 11-21, 2010	3	19	65	11	2
January, 2007	3	28	63	5	1
February, 2006	4	30	59	6	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	63	4	2
Mid-March, 2004	4	32	59	4	1
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1
November, 1998 ⁸	4	22	61	11	2
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October, 1997	3	36	59	2	*

NO QUESTIONS 19-24**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the 2012 Presidential election...

Q.25 How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2012?
[READ IN ORDER]

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Aug 17-21, 2011	27	30	23	18	1
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	29	27	23	1
May 25-30, 2011	23	30	27	19	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON: 2008 Presidential Election					
December, 2007	35	33	13	18	1
November, 2007	34	35	16	14	1
October, 2007	30	37	17	14	2
September, 2007	27	33	21	17	2

⁸ The November, 1998 survey was conducted Oct. 26-Dec. 1, 1998. The question asked, "How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most the time, or only some of the time?"

Q.25 TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
July, 2007	30	38	16	15	1
June, 2007	29	34	20	16	1
April, 2007	26	34	21	17	2
March, 2007	24	36	20	18	2
February, 2007	24	34	22	18	2
December, 2006	23	36	20	20	1

ASK ALL:

Q.26 Looking ahead, would you like to see Barack Obama re-elected president in 2012 or would you prefer that a Republican candidate win the election? **[INTERVIEWER: IF R SAYS "OTHER" OR "SOMEONE ELSE," PROBE ONCE: "If you had to choose, would you like to see Barack Obama re-elected or would you prefer that a Republican candidate win the election?"]**

	-----Total-----			-----Registered Voters-----		
	<u>Obama re-elected</u>	<u>Prefer Republican</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/DK</u>	<u>Obama re-elected</u>	<u>Prefer Republican</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/DK</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	38	19	43	40	17
Jul 20-24, 2011	42	37	20	41	40	19
May 25-30, 2011	48	35	18	48	37	15
Mar 8-14, 2011	48	35	17	47	37	16

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Looking ahead to the general election in November, would you like to see George W. Bush re-elected president in 2004 or would you prefer that a Democratic candidate win the election? **[INTERVIEWER: IF R SAYS "OTHER" OR "SOMEONE ELSE," PROBE ONCE: "If you had to choose, would you like to see George W. Bush re-elected or would you prefer that a Democratic candidate win the election?"]**

	-----Total-----			-----Registered Voters-----		
	<u>Bush re-elected</u>	<u>Prefer Democrat</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/DK</u>	<u>Bush re-elected</u>	<u>Prefer Democrat</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/DK</u>
Mid-January, 2004	44	40	16	48	38	14
Early January, 2004	43	43	14	44	42	14
December, 2003	47	38	15	49	37	14
October, 2003	40	44	16	42	42	16
September, 2003	44	43	13	45	43	12
August, 2003	40	39	21	43	38	19
Mid-July, 2003	45	37	18	47	37	16
April, 2003	46	35	19	48	34	18

Looking ahead, would you like to see Bill Clinton re-elected or would you prefer that a Republican candidate or an Independent candidate be elected President?⁹

	-----Total-----				-----Registered Voters-----			
	<u>Clinton re-elected</u>	<u>Prefer Republican</u>	<u>Prefer ind.</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Clinton re-elected</u>	<u>Prefer Republican</u>	<u>Prefer ind.</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
October, 1995	34	33	26	7	35	35	24	7
August, 1995	32	35	26	7	33	36	23	8
March, 1995	31	38	23	8	--	--	--	--
December, 1994	33	40	18	9	33	43	16	9

⁹ For 1993-1995 Clinton trends, if respondent did not answer, they were prompted to say who they leaned towards. Percentages shown include leaners in each answer category.

Q.26 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

Would you like to see George Bush re-elected President in November or would you prefer that a Democratic candidate win the election?

	-----Total-----			-----Registered Voters-----		
	G.H.W. Bush <u>re-elected</u>	Prefer <u>Democrat</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/DK</u>	G.H.W. Bush <u>re-elected</u>	Prefer <u>Democrat</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/DK</u>
February, 1992	40	48	12	39	49	12
January, 1992	42	42	16	41	45	14
November, 1991	41	43	16	41	44	15

ASK ALL:

Q.27 Overall, what's your impression of the possible candidates running for the REPUBLICAN presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

SELECTED TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

		Oct 2007		Sep 2003	Oct 1995	Oct 1991	Jan 1988	
		Rep <u>cands</u>	Dem <u>cands</u>	Dem <u>cands</u>	Rep <u>cands</u>	Dem <u>cands</u>	Rep <u>cands</u>	Dem <u>cands</u>
Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>								
4	Excellent		3	4	8	3	3	3
22	Good		22	28	35	27	29	18
39	Only fair		36	39	34	39	46	38
23	Poor		23	18	15	15	18	15
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)		15	11	8	16	4	27

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the REPUBLICAN presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=561]:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	9	40	38	6	7
May 25-30, 2011	5	39	36	7	13
February, 2008	10	50	31	7	2
January, 2008	10	57	28	3	1
November, 2007	9	47	34	7	3
October, 2007	6	46	36	7	6
September, 2007	8	41	36	8	6
October, 1995	5	46	40	6	3
January, 1988 (GP)	6	50	35	4	5

Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the DEMOCRATIC presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2008	30	50	16	2	2
January, 2008	28	50	18	2	2
November, 2007	16	51	28	2	3
October, 2007	16	48	26	5	5
September, 2007	15	49	29	2	5
January, 2004	8	39	41	6	8
December, 2003	5	40	39	7	9
September, 2003	4	40	39	5	12
February, 1992	6	39	47	4	5
October, 1991	3	24	38	11	23
January, 1988 (GP)	4	33	45	11	7

ASK ALL:

Q.28 Next, I'm going to read you a list of possible Republican presidential candidates. Not everyone will have heard of them. For each one that I name, please tell me whether or not you have heard of this person. First, **[INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE NAMES]**, have you heard of **[REPEAT NAME]** or not? **[ASK IF HAVE HEARD: How much of a chance is there that you would vote for (REPEAT NAME) if (he/she) is a candidate for president in 2012 — is there a good chance, some chance, or no chance?]** Have you heard of **[INSERT NEXT NAME]** or not? **[ASK IF HAVE HEARD: Is there a good chance, some chance, or no chance that you would vote for (REPEAT NAME) for president?]** **[INTERVIEWER CAN ACCEPT VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE "good chance/some chance/no chance" BEFORE FINISHING READING ENTIRE LIST, IF RESPONDENT HAS BEEN READ FULL LIST AT LEAST TWICE]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1205]:

	Have heard	Have not heard	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Based on Those Who Have Heard			(VOL.) DK/Ref	(N)
				Good chance	Some chance	No chance		
NO ITEM a.								
b. Mitt Romney								
Aug 17-21, 2011	87	13	*	16	38	42	5	(1088)
May 25-30, 2011	82	18	1	17	34	44	5	
June, 2007	62	37	1	14	26	52	8	
February, 2007	43	56	1	8	28	50	14	
c. Newt Gingrich								
Aug 17-21, 2011	87	12	*	8	23	66	3	(1106)
May 25-30, 2011	86	13	1	9	24	63	4	
June, 2007	87	12	1	11	19	63	7	
February, 2007	85	14	1	7	20	66	7	
d. Sarah Palin								
Aug 17-21, 2011	97	3	*	13	19	67	1	(1175)
May 25-30, 2011	97	2	*	14	20	63	3	
e. Rick Perry								
Aug 17-21, 2011	71	28	*	19	28	47	6	(916)
f. Ron Paul								
Aug 17-21, 2011	76	24	1	14	28	53	5	(960)
May 25-30, 2011	71	28	1	9	26	60	6	
g. Michele Bachmann								
Aug 17-21, 2011	84	15	1	14	25	56	5	(1062)
May 25-30, 2011	54	45	1	14	26	51	8	
NO ITEM h.								
i. Jon Huntsman								
Aug 17-21, 2011	39	61	*	9	25	59	7	(509)
May 25-30, 2011	32	68	1	8	27	49	16	
j. Rick Santorum								
Aug 17-21, 2011	46	54	*	11	23	59	7	(631)
May 25-30, 2011	41	58	1	11	27	51	10	
k. Herman Cain								
Aug 17-21, 2011	41	59	*	20	22	53	4	(545)
May 25-30, 2011	33	66	1	23	25	41	11	

ASK ALL

Q.29 Apart from your opinions about the Republican candidates, which one do you think has the best chance of defeating Barack Obama next November? **[OPEN END; RECORD FIRST MENTION ONLY.] [IF PERSON OFFERS MULTIPLE CANDIDATES, PROBE WITH: Which of those do you think has the best chance of defeating Obama?]**

Aug 17-21

2011

20	Mitt Romney
16	Rick Perry
8	Sarah Palin
6	Michele Bachmann
4	Ron Paul
3	Newt Gingrich
2	Jon Huntsman
2	Herman Cain
1	Rick Santorum
11	None
1	Other
25	Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL:

Thinking about next year's congressional elections ...

Q.30 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

IF Q.30=3,9 ASK:

Q.30a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1205]:

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	(VOL.) Other/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	44	48	8
2010 Election			
Oct 27-30, 2010	43	44	12
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	42	12
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	44	47	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	44	45	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	45	45	10
Mar 11-21, 2010	44	44	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	45	13
Jan 6-10, 2010	44	46	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	47	11
Aug 20-27, 2009	44	45	10
2008 Election			
June, 2008	37	52	11
2006 Election			
November, 2006	40	48	12
Late October, 2006	38	49	13
Early October, 2006	38	51	11
September, 2006	39	50	11
August, 2006	41	50	9
June, 2006	39	51	10
April, 2006	41	51	8
February, 2006	41	50	9
Mid-September, 2005	40	52	8
2004 Election			
June, 2004	41	48	11
2002 Election			
Early November, 2002	42	46	12
Early October, 2002	44	46	10

Q.30/Q.30a CONTINUED...

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	(VOL.) Other/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early September, 2002	44	46	10
June, 2002	44	46	10
February, 2002	46	45	9
Early November, 2001	44	44	12
2000 Election			
Early November, 2000	42	48	10
Early October, 2000	43	47	10
July, 2000	43	47	10
February, 2000	44	47	9
October, 1999	43	49	8
June, 1999	40	50	10
1998 Election			
Late October, 1998	40	47	13
Early October, 1998	43	44	13
Early September, 1998	45	46	9
Late August, 1998	44	45	11
Early August, 1998	42	49	9
June, 1998	44	46	10
March, 1998	40	52	8
February, 1998	41	50	9
January, 1998	41	51	8
August, 1997	45	48	7
1996 Election			
November, 1996	41	48	11
October, 1996	42	49	9
Late September, 1996	43	49	8
Early September, 1996	43	51	6
July, 1996	46	47	7
June, 1996	44	50	6
March, 1996	44	49	7
January, 1996	46	47	7
October, 1995	48	48	4
August, 1995	50	43	7
1994 Election			
November, 1994	45	43	12
Late October, 1994	47	44	9
Early October, 1994	52	40	8
September, 1994	48	46	6
July, 1994	45	47	8

NO QUESTIONS 31-34**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.35 If you were setting priorities for the federal government these days, would you place a higher priority on **[OPTION]** or a higher priority on **[OPTION]**?

Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>		Jun 15-19 <u>2011</u>	Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u>
47	Spending to help the economy recover	42	46
46	Reducing the budget deficit	52	49
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	5

Q.35 TREND FOR COMPARISON...

If you were setting priorities for the government these days, would you place a higher priority on [OPTION] or a higher priority on [OPTION]?

	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>	Jul 15-18 <u>2010</u>	Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Jul 22-26 <u>2009</u> ¹⁰	Jun 18-21 <u>2009</u>
Spending more to help the economy recover	43	51	47	53	48
Reducing the budget deficit	50	40	47	38	46
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	9	6	9	6

ASK ALL:

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.36 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Aug 17-21, 2011	1	6	37	56	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	*	8	45	46	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	1	7	38	53	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	1	11	45	42	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	1	8	44	45	1
Oct 13-18, 2010	1	7	38	54	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	1	7	43	48	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	1	8	48	43	1
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1

¹⁰ In July, 2009, question was asked as part of a list that included items on: spending on education, spending on health care and spending to develop energy technology.

Q.36 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 ¹¹	2	29	42	26	1

ASK ALL:

Q.37 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 2001	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3

¹¹ Earlier trends available from Gallup.

NO QUESTION 38**ASK ALL:**

Thinking more generally ...

Q.39 In dealing with important issues facing the country, are **[RANDOMIZE]**; Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress, Republican leaders in Congress and Barack Obama] working together or not working together?

ASK IF 'NOT WORKING TOGETHER' (Q.39=2):

Q.40 Who do you think is most to blame for them not working together? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>		Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u>	Jan 6-10 <u>2010</u>	Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>	Feb 4-8 <u>2009</u> ¹²
21	Working together	27	25	24	39	43
75	Not working together	65	67	63	50	45
21	Barack Obama to blame	19	19	17	12	7
37	Republican leaders in Congress to blame	31	32	29	26	27
12	Both to blame (VOL.)	11	9	9	9	5
1	Neither to blame (VOL.)	1	2	1	1	1
1	Other to blame (VOL.)	1	2	2	1	3
3	Don't know who is to blame (VOL.)	2	3	4	2	2
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	8	13	11	12

NO QUESTION 41**QUESTION 42 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTION 43****ASK ALL:**

Q.44 Are Republican leaders in Congress paying too much attention, too little attention, or the right amount of attention to the ideas and positions of the Tea Party?

Aug 17-21 <u>2011</u>		Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>
30	Too much	27	22
31	Too little	32	28
20	Right amount	23	25
20	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	19	25

NO QUESTIONS 45-54**QUESTIONS 55-87 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

¹² In February 2009, question was worded: "In developing a plan to stimulate the economy and create jobs. ..."

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
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
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
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 REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

REPJOB How good a job is the Republican Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values — In general, would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=665]:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	3	36	49	10	2
Nov 4-7, 2010	8	32	40	12	8
Feb 3-9, 2010	3	31	49	14	3
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	3	18	54	23	2
Mid-September, 2008	4	31	44	19	2
October, 2007	5	31	49	13	2
Late November, 2006	7	35	41	15	2
June, 2006	6	36	44	10	4
April, 2006	6	41	41	10	2
Mid-September, 2005	4	44	41	8	3
Late March, 2005	8	43	36	9	4
July, 2004	12	49	33	4	2
August, 2003	6	51	37	5	1
May, 2002	6	49	38	5	2
May, 2001	10	50	32	5	3
September, 2000 (RVs)	6	43	44	5	2

ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):

DEMJOB How good a job is the Democratic Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people — In general, would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=690]:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	6	32	47	14	1
Nov 4-7, 2010	10	38	35	15	2
Feb 3-9, 2010	8	47	36	7	1
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	10	45	39	4	2
Mid-September, 2008	9	41	36	11	3
October, 2007	4	35	48	9	4
Late November, 2006	6	37	45	7	5
June, 2006	4	30	51	13	2
April, 2006	5	35	48	11	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	32	49	14	2
Late March, 2005	3	30	51	14	2
July, 2004	6	43	40	8	3
August, 2003	5	33	51	9	2
May, 2002	5	39	43	10	3
May, 2001	8	39	40	7	6
September, 2000 (RVs)	11	52	32	4	1

ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/DK</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ¹³	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

ASK ALL:

PVOTE08A In the 2008 presidential election between Barack Obama and John McCain, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

ASK IF YES (PVOTE08A=1):

PVOTE08B Did you vote for Obama, McCain or someone else?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1205]:

	<u>Voted</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Other candidate</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Did not vote</u>	<u>(VOL.) Don't remember/Ref</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	89	46	33	6	5	11	1
Mar 8-14, 2011	88	46	32	5	5	12	*
Nov 4-7, 2010	89	45	33	6	4	11	1
Oct 27-30, 2010	88	44	35	4	5	10	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	89	45	35	4	4	10	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	89	46	34	4	4	10	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	92	44	37	4	6	8	*
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	93	47	34	5	7	7	*
Feb 4-8, 2009	93	48	33	4	8	7	*
Jan 7-11, 2009	93	48	35	4	6	7	*
December, 2008	93	50	32	3	9	7	*

¹³

In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." 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
AUGUST 18-21, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,007**

PEW.1-PEW.2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Thinking about possible Republican candidates for president in 2012... Regardless of whom you might prefer, which Republican candidate have you heard the most about in the news recently?

[OPEN END. RECORD FIRST MENTION ONLY.] [PLEASE BE CERTAIN TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "JOHN MCCAIN" AND "HERMAN CAIN".]

Aug 18-21		Jul 21-24	Jun 16-19	Jun 2-5	May 12-15	Apr 14-17
<u>2011</u>		<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>
23	Michele Bachmann	23	5	1	1	*
22	Rick Perry	3	*	*	*	*
7	Mitt Romney	13	27	22	7	9
4	Sarah Palin	7	8	20	2	4
3	Donald Trump	4	2	5	16	26
3	Ron Paul	1	1	1	2	*
1	Newt Gingrich	1	5	2	12	1
1	Herman Cain	*	*	*	*	*
*	Tim Pawlenty	1	1	1	1	1
*	Jon Huntsman	1	*	*	*	*
*	Mike Huckabee	*	*	*	2	2
1	Other					
35	None/Don't know/Refused	44	45	41	50	53