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61% Dislike Clinton, 68% Like His Policies
IT'S STILL THE ECONOMY THEY SAY

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61% Dislike Clinton, 68% Like His Policies

IT'S STILL THE ECONOMY THEY SAY

Americans credit a strong economy and, to a lesser extent, a good foreign policy as reasons why they approve of the president's job performance, even though they increasingly dislike Bill Clinton personally. Further, strong public criticism of the way he has handled the Monica Lewinsky matter has failed to shake Clinton's approval ratings or increase support for impeachment or resignation.

But Clinton's performance-based support shows some signs of vulnerability. A 55% majority of the public believes that the current controversy is so great that it is interfering with his ability to govern the country, and 43% think that the president does not command sufficient respect from other leaders to be effective.

Personal judgments are much harsher. Fully 62% of Americans say they don't like Clinton as a person — up from 53% in early February, when the scandal was first unfolding. Seven-in-ten say his relationship with Monica Lewinsky was *very* wrong. Nearly as many (68%) say the president should have cleared the air back in January, and an equal number (70%) think his recent admission was compelled by the evidence against him.

But when asked why they continue to support the president in light of their personal view of him, 34% of those with a mixed opinion volunteered the state of the economy, 18% cited his handling of foreign policy and 14% mentioned that Clinton's private conduct is distinct from his ability to lead the nation. References to foreign policy may reflect opinion of last week's air strikes against terrorist bases, which met with even broader approval in the Pew Research Center survey than in initial overnight reaction polls.

While a majority believes the magnitude of the scandal is inhibiting Clinton's abilities, this sentiment has yet to take any toll on the president's approval rating, which at 62% is as high as it was in early August. Even 38% of Republicans approve of Clinton's job performance.

Nonetheless, doubts about the president's moral authority are a potentially serious worry. Substantial minorities believe that Clinton does not have sufficient respect of other leaders (43%) or the moral standing with the public to lead the country (37%). This view of the president is far more powerfully connected to believing that he should resign than is personal criticism of him regarding his involvement with Lewinsky or his handling of the matter. Although Americans see moral leadership as a less important presidential role than managing the economy or stewardship of foreign policy, fully 64% say it is very important.¹

Moral Standing Matters More			
<i>Clinton Should...</i>			
	<u>Resign</u>	<u>Remain</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Lewinsky Affair...</i>			
Very wrong	27	69	4=100
Not very wrong	8	91	1=100
<i>Clinton's Admission...</i>			
Forced by evidence	26	70	4=100
Right thing to do	9	89	2=100
<i>Has Moral Standing To Lead...</i>			
No	43	48	9=100
Yes	5	94	1=100

Say It Ain't So

For all the frustration with Clinton's handling of the Lewinsky matter, in many ways the public remains very tolerant of him. Less than half of those who think the president should have admitted his relationship sooner say they are *angry* with him about it. A denial factor also continues to operate in Clinton's favor. While the percentage thinking it is *definitely* true that he had a sexual relationship with the former White House intern jumped from 22% to 49% after his speech, almost as many Americans (43%) continue to say this is only *probably* true.

By week's end, the speech itself received a mixed review from the public. As many thought the president blamed others too much (46%) as believed he shouldered enough of the blame himself (45%). Even so, nearly two-in-three Americans (61%) think the speech was enough to end the matter.

Similarly, by a 75% to 21% margin the public wants Clinton to remain in office rather than resign. Solid majorities of Republicans, Democrats and Independents all favor a continuance of his presidency.

¹ Based on a separate Pew Research Center survey conducted August 21-25, 1998 (N=1016).

This concurrence notwithstanding, partisanship plays a crucial role in views of the Lewinsky scandal. Although the public is divided as to whether the president’s behavior caused the controversy or whether it was politically inspired, by a margin of 74% to 18% Republicans blame the president. The balance of opinion is just the opposite among Democrats (26% to 62%). Members of the political parties even differ on the wrongness of Clinton’s behavior — only 55% of Democrats see it as very wrong, compared to 86% of Republicans.

	<u>Very</u> %	Some- <u>what</u> %	Not <u>too</u> %	Not <u>at all</u> %	Don't <u>Know</u> %
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	86	9	3	0	2=100
Democrat	55	27	8	5	5=100
Independent	73	18	3	3	3=100
<i>Sex</i>					
Male	69	18	6	3	4=100
Female	71	19	4	2	4=100

Americans Again Attentive

In the wake of Clinton’s nationally-televised address, Americans tuned back into news about the scandal — and lowered their personal opinions about Clinton. Fully 72% of Americans were following the investigation very or somewhat closely, up from 56% the week before.

The recent turn of events has further tarnished Clinton’s personal image. The most damning evidence may come from people’s own descriptions of the president. Americans continue to give a mix of positive and negative answers for the “one word” that best describes Clinton, although the balance has shifted noticeably from two years ago. In the summer of 1996, “good” was mentioned more often than any other word. Now, “liar” and “dishonest” are the two most frequently mentioned descriptors.

----- July 1996 -----		----- August 1998 -----	
	<u>Frequency*</u>		<u>Frequency*</u>
1. Good	33	1. Liar	42
2. Wishy-washy	20	2. Dishonest	18
3. Okay	18	3. Good	13
4. Dishonest	18	4. Untrustworthy	12
5. Liar	17	5. Good President	10
6. Fair	16	6. Leader	10
7. Trying	14	7. Immoral	9
8. Intelligent	13	8. Sneaky	8
9. Slick	11	9. Human	8
10. Great	11	10. Smart	7
Number of interviews (610)		Number of interviews (503)	

* This table shows the number of respondents who volunteered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

At the same time, the latest revelations have not dampened Clinton’s job approval ratings and most Americans still want the president to serve out his term — 75% say it would be better for the country for Clinton to stay in office and 55% oppose impeachment even if Clinton obstructed justice by encouraging Lewinsky to lie.

Indeed, the possibility of impeachment wins less support today than it did in February or March, even as most Americans have come to accept that Clinton probably or definitely had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky and lied about it under oath. Some 83% say it is likely Clinton lied under oath about the affair, up from 66% earlier this month.

While more Americans now see the investigation as mostly about whether the president lied (48%) rather than about sex (38%), more than half (52%) say lying about a sexual relationship with Lewinsky would be less serious than lying about a government policy matter. A majority of those who think lying about sex is just as serious say Clinton should leave office if he lied.

Strong Words for Hillary

In contrast to her husband, Hillary Clinton continues to draw high marks from the public. Two-thirds of Americans (66%) say they admire Hillary Clinton’s decision to stand by her husband and nearly as many (63%) have a favorable opinion of the First Lady.

These views are also reflected in the one-word descriptions people give Hillary Clinton. While Americans continue to use many of the same words — both positive and negative — to describe her as they did two years ago, favorable mentions now substantially outnumber unfavorable ones. In sharp contrast with her husband, the five most frequently mentioned words used to describe Hillary Clinton are all positive attributes.

Hillary Clinton’s “Top 10”			
<i>----- July 1996 -----</i>		<i>----- August 1998 -----</i>	
	<u>Frequency*</u>		<u>Frequency*</u>
1. Strong	25	1. Strong	66
2. Dishonest	24	2. Intelligent	17
3. Intelligent	23	3. Brave	11
4. Smart	23	4. Good	10
5. “Rhymes with rich”	22	5. Loyal	9
6. Good	19	6. Smart	9
7. Bossy	15	7. Dominating	8
8. Aggressive	14	8. Courageous	8
9. Outspoken	10	9. Powerful	7
10. Okay	10	10. Naive	6
Number of interviews (606)		Number of interviews (498)	

* This table shows the number of respondents who volunteered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

It's Marriage, Not Gender

Although gender has played an influential role in Americans' views of the Clinton Administration through much of his two terms, there are no differences between the sexes in their attitudes toward Clinton's resignation or impeachment. Fully 76% of men and 74% of women think it would be better for the country for Clinton to finish out his term; two-thirds of both genders oppose impeachment for perjury.

This lack of difference in opinion between men and women holds up across party lines. For example, equal numbers of Republican men and women favor Clinton remaining in office (57% and 60%, respectively). Similarly, support for impeachment is the same among both GOP men and women (50% and 53%, respectively).

Although women in general do not condemn Clinton, married women have a harsher perspective. Almost half (47%) of married women think that Clinton should be impeached if he encouraged Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath; only 33% of unmarried women agree. There are no differences between married and unmarried men on this issue: just over 40% of both groups support impeachment for suborning perjury.

The only apparent gender gap concerns Hillary Clinton — and works to her benefit. The First Lady receives favorable ratings from fully 67% of women, 8 percentage points better than she does among men. This gap remains among Republicans and Independents as well: 44% of GOP women rate Mrs. Clinton favorably, compared to 38% of GOP men. Two-thirds (67%) of Independent women have a favorable opinion, compared to 58% of Independent men.

While the number of Americans who view the president favorably has fallen in recent months, his ratings remain well above those of two other players in the ongoing investigation. Just 29% of Americans hold a favorable view of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, while even fewer (14%) view Monica Lewinsky favorably. Although a majority of Republicans (57%) view Starr favorably, only 17% have a favorable opinion of Lewinsky.

The vice president's ratings remain on par with the president's, and largely unchanged from past months — 55% of Americans have a favorable view of Al Gore. Some 39% have a favorable opinion of House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

No Political Fallout, Yet

There are no early indications that the president’s political problems are suppressing interest in the fall elections among Democrats, as some have speculated they might. The current survey finds 36% of Democrats highly likely to cast a ballot in the mid-term elections; this is unchanged from June. Similarly, Republicans have not been emboldened by recent developments in the Clinton scandal. Some 43% of GOP adherents fall into the most likely voter category this month, compared to 44% in June.

Disheartened Democrats?						
	<i>Republican</i>		<i>Democrat</i>		<i>Independent</i>	
	<u>June</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Aug.</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Likelihood of Voting*</i>						
High	44	43	35	36	26	26
Moderate	22	25	23	26	21	25
Low	16	11	14	12	14	13
Non-voter	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>36</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Classification based on responses to four voter turnout questions.

The race for control of Congress remains tight. Among registered voters, the two parties are in a dead heat: 44% would vote Republican if the election were held today, 45% would vote Democratic. However, as was the case in the Pew Research Center’s June survey, Republicans enjoy a slight edge among the most probable voters (47% to 43%).

Despite the current controversy, most registered voters (61%) continue to say that Clinton will *not* be a factor in their vote for Congress this fall. Only 17% see their choice as a vote against Clinton, 20% say it will be a vote for the president. These numbers are virtually unchanged from March and June of this year. Only 33% of Republicans consider their vote for Congress a vote against Clinton, even fewer than the 41% who held this view in October 1994.

But the potential for a political impact is also evident in the new survey. While strong supporters of the president largely say they will vote Democratic and strong critics Republican, those who express a mixed view of Clinton divide evenly on the generic ballot measure: some 43% intend to vote Republican, 44% Democratic.

Mixed Views of Clinton — Mixed Vote*			
	<i>View of Clinton...</i>		
	<u>Like Policies & Him</u>	<u>Like Policies Not Him</u>	<u>Dislike Both</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Cong'l Pref.</i>			
Republican	11	43	81
Democrat	82	44	10
Undecided	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100

* Based on registered voters

At this point, if members of Congress were faced with a vote on whether to begin impeachment hearings against Clinton, they would find little public support for moving forward. A majority of Americans (57%) say they would have an unfavorable opinion of members who voted in favor of beginning hearings. Only 36% would have a favorable opinion.

Media’s Grades Improve

Public evaluations of news media coverage of the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal have improved since earlier in the year. A narrow majority (55%) now says news organizations are doing an excellent or good job reporting about the allegations against Clinton. This is up substantially from 42% in March and 46% in February shortly after the story first broke. Still, a large segment of the American public (42%) thinks the media is doing only a fair or poor job covering the allegations.

Democrats and Independents are slightly more critical of the media’s coverage of the scandal, though even these groups are more likely than not to say the coverage has been excellent or good. Uncharacteristically, Republicans give the media relatively better ratings.

Americans are divided over whether the press is providing them with the information they need to make up their own minds about this issue. Half (51%) say the press is doing an excellent or good job in this regard; 47% say they are doing only a fair or poor job. But the public is more critical of the press’ objectivity. Only four-in-ten

	<u>Excellent</u> %	<u>Good</u> %	<u>Fair</u> %	<u>Only Poor</u> %	<u>Don’t Know</u> %
<i>Job the press is doing...</i>					
Overall					
Current	19	36	23	19	3=100
February	12	27	31	26	4=100
Providing information					
Current	14	37	28	19	2=100
February	10	35	31	21	3=100
Being objective					
Current	9	31	34	24	2=100
February	7	29	37	23	4=100

say the press is doing an excellent or good job being objective about whether or not the investigation is important for the country. In early February, a similar proportion (36%) said the press was being objective about whether or not the President was guilty of the allegations being made at the time. In each case, majorities gave the press only fair or poor ratings for objectivity.

Other opinions aside, an overwhelming majority of Americans (69%) believe the media is giving too much attention to the Clinton investigation. This is up substantially from prior surveys that asked about media coverage of the Whitewater investigation. This view, which is held by nearly all major demographic groups, has a distinctly partisan tilt. Only about half of Republicans (51%) think the media is over-covering the story, compared to 82% of Democrats. Independents come closer to Democrats in this regard: 70% say the media is giving this scandal too much attention.

Terrorism Worries

While interest in the Clinton-Lewinsky investigation ticked up during this period, U.S. military strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan captured the most attention. Fully 44% of the public followed this story very closely; another 35% followed fairly closely. The explosion of a car bomb in Northern Ireland garnered much less public attention. Only 17% of the public followed the tragedy very closely. Americans are paying very little attention to the economic turmoil in Russia. Only 8% followed this story very closely.

The public overwhelmingly approved of the U.S. air strikes against terrorist sites in Afghanistan and Sudan (79% approved vs. 11% who disapproved). Republicans and Democrats endorsed the strikes with equal enthusiasm. However, Republicans were much more cynical about Clinton's underlying motivations for embarking on this course of action. Fully 37% of Republicans said Clinton ordered the attack mainly because he wanted to turn attention away from the Monica Lewinsky affair. This compares with 27% of Independents and only 11% of Democrats who saw the strikes as a diversionary tactic. Overall, the public rejects this view, however. The vast majority of Americans (69%) believe Clinton ordered the strikes to fight terrorism, not to divert public attention.

Concern over terrorism is up somewhat in the wake of the recent air strikes. Some 47% of Americans say they worry a great deal or somewhat about terrorism when they are in public places here in the United States. This is up from 35% in April 1997 and 34% in March 1996. Nonetheless, a slim majority of Americans (52%) express little or no worry about terrorism.

TABLES

**PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH
NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"**

	Strikes Against Afghanistan & Sudan	Allegations of Clinton's Misconduct	Attempt to Break Maris' Home Run Record	Explosion of Car Bomb in Ireland	Economic Problems in Russia	(N)
<i>Total</i>	44	33	18	17	8	(1001)
<i>Sex</i>						
Male	49	32	28	16	9	(484)
Female	39	33	9	17	8	(517)
<i>Race</i>						
White	44	32	18	18	8	(816)
*Hispanic	35	22	22	11	15	(56)†
Black	39	36	17	13	8	(116)
<i>Age</i>						
Under 30	36	29	25	11	6	(173)
30-49	41	30	15	13	6	(446)
50+	51	39	17	25	13	(369)
<i>Education</i>						
College Grad.	51	37	16	18	9	(323)
Some College	45	33	24	16	6	(251)
High School Grad	42	33	18	17	8	(322)
< H. S. Grad.	36	29	9	16	13	(99)
<i>Region</i>						
East	38	32	20	21	11	(177)
Midwest	47	35	21	17	6	(266)
South	45	33	18	15	9	(362)
West	42	31	11	15	7	(196)
<i>Party ID</i>						
Republican	49	43	21	19	9	(269)
Democrat	44	30	19	18	8	(332)
Independent	39	28	14	13	8	(337)

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.

* The designation, Hispanic, is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

† Note small sample size.

BILL CLINTON FAVORABILITY

March 1998 vs. August 1998

	-----March 1998-----		-----August 1998-----		Change in Favorability
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	62	35	54	44	-8
Sex					
Male	62	35	53	45	-9
Female	61	35	55	43	-6
Race					
White	57	39	50	48	-7
Non-white	86	13	79	21	-7
Black	91	8	87	12	-4
Race and Sex					
White Men	57	39	49	49	-8
White Women	58	38	50	47	-8
Age					
Under 30	63	34	58	41	-5
30-49	61	36	51	46	-10
50-64	61	36	52	47	-9
65+	64	31	59	39	-5
Education					
College Grad.	60	38	45	53	-15
Some College	59	38	52	46	-7
High School Grad.	63	34	58	40	-5
<H.S. Grad	66	27	60	37	-6
Family Income					
\$75,000+	56	43	44	53	-12
\$50,000-\$74,999	62	37	51	48	-11
\$30,000-\$49,999	59	38	48	50	-11
\$20,000-\$29,999	60	36	59	39	-1
<\$20,000	67	28	67	31	0

Question: Now I'd like your views on some people and things in the news. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of who or what I name. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE) is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Continued ...

	-----March 1998-----		-----August 1998-----		<u>Change in Favorability</u>
	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	
	%	%	%	%	
<i>Total</i>	62	35	54	44	-8
<i>Region</i>					
East	66	31	65	34	-1
Midwest	61	33	56	43	-5
South	60	37	52	46	-8
West	61	37	44	53	-17
<i>Community Size</i>					
Large City	71	26	58	39	-13
Suburb	61	37	49	49	-12
Small City/Town	62	35	57	41	-5
Rural Area	53	42	51	48	-2
<i>Party ID</i>					
Republican	27	71	27	72	0
Democrat	90	10	80	19	-10
Independent	61	35	50	47	-11
<i>1996 Presidential Vote</i>					
Clinton	89	9	78	20	-11
Dole	17	82	15	84	-2
<i>1996 Congressional Vote</i>					
Republican	28	69	26	72	-2
Democrat	90	9	74	25	-16

WHY CLINTON ADMITTED TO RELATIONSHIP

	<u>Evidence</u> %	<u>Right Thing</u> <u>To Do</u> %	<u>Don't Know/</u> <u>Refused</u> %
Total	70	24	6=100
Sex			
Male	72	23	5=100
Female	67	26	7=100
Race			
White	73	21	6=100
Non-white	48	46	6=100
Black	43	50	7=100
Race and Sex			
White Men	75	20	5=100
White Women	71	22	7=100
Age			
Under 30	67	28	5=100
30-49	74	22	4=100
50-64	74	18	8=100
65+	58	33	9=100
Education			
College Grad.	83	13	4=100
Some College	79	17	4=100
High School Grad.	66	29	5=100
<H.S. Grad	47	39	14=100
Family Income			
\$75,000+	78	18	4=100
\$50,000-\$74,999	82	13	5=100
\$30,000-\$49,999	77	19	4=100
\$20,000-\$29,999	64	30	6=100
<\$20,000	54	38	8=100

Question: Do you think Bill Clinton admitted that he had a relationship with Monica Lewinsky because of the evidence gathered against him, or do you think he admitted having the relationship because he thought coming forward was the right thing to do?

Continued ...

	<u>Evidence</u>	Right Thing <u>To Do</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Total</i>	70	24	6=100
<i>Region</i>			
East	66	27	7=100
Midwest	69	23	8=100
South	69	26	5=100
West	75	21	4=100
<i>Community Size</i>			
Large City	62	33	5=100
Suburb	77	16	7=100
Small City/Town	72	21	7=100
Rural Area	66	29	5=100
<i>Party ID</i>			
Republican	84	12	4=100
Democrat	56	36	8=100
Independent	72	23	5=100
<i>1996 Presidential Vote</i>			
Clinton	67	29	4=100
Dole	92	6	2=100
<i>1996 Congressional Vote</i>			
Republican	86	11	3=100
Democrat	62	32	6=100

HILLARY'S DECISION TO STAND BY HUSBAND

	<u>Admire</u> %	<u>Think Poorly</u> %	<u>Neither/ Both</u> %	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u> %
Total	66	20	9	5=100
Sex				
Male	67	22	8	3=100
Female	66	18	9	7=100
Race				
White	64	21	10	5=100
Non-white	83	12	4	1=100
Black	90	7	2	1=100
Race and Sex				
White Men	66	22	9	3=100
White Women	62	20	11	7=100
Age				
Under 30	70	19	9	2=100
30-49	63	22	9	6=100
50-64	63	21	11	5=100
65+	74	16	4	6=100
Education				
College Grad.	59	23	13	5=100
Some College	65	21	9	5=100
High School Grad.	70	18	8	4=100
<H.S. Grad	70	19	4	7=100
Family Income				
\$75,000+	57	27	12	4=100
\$50,000-\$74,999	60	26	9	5=100
\$30,000-\$49,999	69	18	9	4=100
\$20,000-\$29,999	69	20	8	3=100
<\$20,000	80	12	4	4=100

Question: How do you feel about Hillary Clinton's decision to stand by her husband — do you admire her, or do you think poorly of her?

Continued ...

	<u>Admire</u>	<u>Think</u>	<u>Neither/</u>	<u>Don't know/</u>
	%	<u>Poorly</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Refused</u>
		%	%	%
<i>Total</i>	66	20	9	5=100
<i>Region</i>				
East	64	20	11	5=100
Midwest	68	19	7	6=100
South	69	19	8	4=100
West	63	22	9	6=100
<i>Community Size</i>				
Large City	76	14	6	4=100
Suburb	58	23	13	6=100
Small City/Town	64	22	9	5=100
Rural Area	71	19	5	5=100
<i>Party ID</i>				
Republican	50	34	10	6=100
Democrat	82	10	5	3=100
Independent	64	21	10	5=100
<i>1996 Presidential Vote</i>				
Clinton	80	9	9	2=100
Dole	43	38	13	6=100
<i>1996 Congressional Vote</i>				
Republican	54	31	10	5=100
Democrat	76	12	8	4=100

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,001 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period August 21-24, 1998. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=503) or Form 2 (N=498), the sampling error is plus or minus 5 percentage points.

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

SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone numbers in the U.S. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing three or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. The use of replicates also insures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the sample.

At least five attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home." If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who is at home." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 1996). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
LATE AUGUST 1998 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
— FINAL TOPLINE —
August 21-24, 1998
N = 1,001

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. **[IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton 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 Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Late August, 1998	62	32	6=100
Early August, 1998	63	28	9=100
June, 1998	59	32	9=100
May, 1998	62	28	10=100
April, 1998	62	28	10=100
March, 1998	65	26	9=100
Early February, 1998	71	26	3=100
January, 1998	61	30	9=100
November, 1997	58	31	11=100
September, 1997	58	29	13=100
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100
Early February, 1997	57	30	13=100
January, 1997	59	31	10=100
November, 1996	57	34	9=100
July, 1996	54	38	8=100
June, 1996	54	38	8=100
April, 1996	53	39	8=100
March, 1996	55	38	7=100
February, 1996	51	39	10=100
January, 1996	50	43	7=100
October, 1995	48	42	10=100
September, 1995	45	42	13=100
August, 1995	44	44	12=100
June, 1995	50	40	10=100
April, 1995	47	43	10=100
March, 1995	44	44	12=100
February, 1995	44	44	12=100
December, 1994	41	47	12=100
November, 1994	48	40	12=100
October, 1994	41	47	12=100

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Early October, 1994	38	47	15=100
September, 1994	41	52	7=100
July, 1994	45	46	9=100
June, 1994	42	44	14=100
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100
January, 1994	51	35	14=100
Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100
December, 1993	48	36	16=100
October, 1993	44	42	14=100
September, 1993	49	35	16=100
Early September, 1993	43	43	14=100
August, 1993	39	46	15=100
May, 1993	39	43	18=100
Early May, 1993	45	37	18=100
April, 1993	49	29	22=100
February, 1993	56	25	19=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
March, 1998	43	39	18=100
January, 1998	43	41	16=100
November, 1997	41	43	16=100
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

Q.3F1 Now a different kind of question. Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of Bill Clinton. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes him. **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).**

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

Q.4F2 Now a different kind of question. Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of Hillary Clinton. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes her. **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).**

*This table shows the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

Bill Clinton’s “Top 20”		Hillary Clinton’s “Top 20”	
	<u>Frequency*</u>		<u>Frequency*</u>
1. Liar	42	1. Strong	66
2. Dishonest	18	2. Intelligent	17
3. Good	13	3. Brave	11
4. Untrustworthy	12	4. Good	10
5. Good President	10	5. Loyal	9
6. Leader	10	6. Smart	9
7. Immoral	9	7. Dominating	8
8. Sneaky	8	8. Courageous	8
9. Human	8	9. Powerful	7
10. Smart	7	10. Naive	6
11. Sleazy	7	11. Tough	6
12. Excellent	6	12. Controlling	5
13. Great	6	13. Aggressive	5
14. Okay	6	14. Admirable	5
15. Intelligent	6	15. Nice	5
16. Scum	6	16. Excellent	5
17. Stupid	5	17. Faithful	5
18. Politician	5	18. Fine	5
19. Adulterer	5	19. Steadfast	5
20. Disgust	4	20. “Rhymes with rich”	5

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?
[READ AND ROTATE LIST]

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL) DK
a. The investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton	33	39	19	8	1=100
Mid-August, 1998	26	30	20	24	*=100
Early August, 1998	29	34	22	14	1=100
June, 1998 ²	28	32	24	15	1=100
April, 1998	27	39	20	14	*=100
March, 1998	30	35	25	9	1=100
February, 1998 ³	21	44	25	10	*=100
Early February, 1998	34	42	17	7	0=100
<i>Gallup</i> : 1/27/98	37	43	15	4	1=100
<i>CBS</i> : 1/26/98	38	41	15	5	1=100
b. Economic problems in Russia	8	22	29	41	*=100
c. The explosion of a car bomb in Northern Ireland	17	30	27	26	* =100
d. U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan	44	35	13	8	* =100
e. The attempt by Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa to break Roger Maris' home run record	18	19	18	44	1=100

² In June, April and March 1998, story was listed as "Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton."

³ In February 1998, story was listed as "Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky."

On another subject...

Q.6 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 RESPONDENT ANSWERED '3' OR '9' IN Q.5, ASK:

Q.6a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=781]

	<u>Republican/ Lean Rep.</u>	<u>Democrat/ Lean Dem.</u>	<u>Other/ Undecided</u>
Late August, 1998	44	45	11=100
Early August, 1998	42	49	9=100
June, 1998	44	46	10=100
March, 1998	40	52	8=100
February, 1998	41	50	9=100
January, 1998	41	51	8=100
August, 1997	45	48	7=100
Early November, 1996 ⁴	44	48	8=100
October, 1996	42	49	9=100
Late September, 1996	43	49	8=100
Early September, 1996	43	51	6=100
July, 1996	46	47	7=100
June, 1996	44	50	6=100
March, 1996	44	49	7=100
January, 1996	46	47	7=100
October, 1995	48	48	4=100
August, 1995	50	43	7=100
November, 1994	45	43	12=100
October, 1994	47	44	9=100
Early October, 1994	52	40	8=100
September, 1994	48	46	6=100
July, 1994	45	47	8=100

4

Based on likely voters.

ASK ALL:

Q.7 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote for Bill Clinton, as a vote against Bill Clinton, or isn't Bill Clinton much of a factor in your vote?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=781]

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Not a Factor</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2=100
Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4=100
June, 1998	20	18	57	5=100
March, 1998	21	15	59	5=100
September, 1996	24	18	51	7=100
November, 1994	17	21	55	7=100
October, 1994	17	21	57	5=100
Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6=100
<i>CBS/NYT (BUSH): 10/28-31, 1990</i>	19	15	61	6=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/24-28, 1986</i>	26	12	55	7=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 9/28-10/1, 1986</i>	26	16	51	7=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/23-28, 1982</i>	23	21	51	5=100

Q.8 These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far?

IF YES, ASK:

Q.8a Are you absolutely certain you are registered to vote, or is there a chance your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

	<u>June 1998</u>	<u>Nov 1997</u>	<u>Sept 1997</u>	<u>Nov 1996</u>	<u>June 1996</u>	<u>Oct 1995</u>	<u>Apr 1995</u>	<u>Dec 1994</u>	<u>Nov 1994</u>	<u>Oct 1994</u>	<u>Oct 1994</u>	<u>July 1994</u>	<u>May 1993</u>	<u>June 1992</u>	<u>Nov 1990</u>
78 Yes, registered	78	80	79	76	79	76	76	74	73	77	76	79	82	76	80
75 Yes, absolutely certain	73	75	76	69	75	73	74	70	70	74	72	75	--	73	--
Chance registration															
3 may have lapsed	4	4	3	2	4	3	2	3	2	3	4	4	--	3	--
* Don't know/Refused	1	1	*	*	0	*	0	1	1	0	*	0	--	0	--
22 No, not registered	22	20	20	24	21	23	23	24	26	22	23	20	17	23	20
* Don't know/Refused	*	*	<u>1</u>	*	*	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	--
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.9 How often would you say you vote... always, nearly always, part of the time or seldom?

	<u>June 1998</u>	<u>Nov 1997</u>	<u>Sept 1997</u>	<u>June 1996</u>	<u>Feb 1996</u>	<u>Oct 1995</u>	<u>April 1995</u>	<u>Nov 1994</u>	<u>Oct 1994</u>	<u>July 1994</u>	<u>June 1992</u>	<u>May 1992</u>	<u>Nov 1991</u>	<u>May 1990</u>	<u>Feb 1989</u>	<u>Jan 1988</u>	<u>May 1987</u>
38 Always	40	33	51	41	32	41	42	43	43	40	47	41	38	33	45	39	34
30 Nearly always	29	38	23	30	34	32	29	24	28	30	26	32	37	35	30	33	37
16 Part of the time	15	15	11	12	15	12	12	11	13	14	10	13	13	12	10	12	11
10 Seldom	12	9	10	12	11	11	11	13	10	11	11	11	9	10	8	8	6
* (VOL) Other	4	*	*	1	1	*	*	1	5	*	1	*	0	1	1	1	2
6 (VOL) Never vote	0	5	5	4	6	3	6	8	1	5	5	3	3	8	6	6	9
* Don't know	*	*	*	*	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	<u>1</u>	*	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

- Q.10 Do you, yourself, plan to vote in the election this November?
 Q.10a How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain or not certain?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=781]

	<u>Yes, Plan To Vote</u>	<u>Absolutely Certain</u>	<u>Fairly Certain</u>	<u>Not Certain</u>	<u>No, Don't Plan To</u>	<u>Can't Say/DK</u>
Late August, 1998†	93	75	17	1	3	4=100
June, 1998†	95	74	19	2	3	2=100
November, 1996 ⁵	96	--	--	--	2	2=100
October, 1996	98	87	10	1	1	1=100
September, 1996	98	89	8	1	1	1=100
September, 1996	96	83	11	2	2	2=100
July, 1996	95	82	12	1	3	2=100
June, 1996	96	84	11	1	2	2=100
November, 1994†	71	--	--	--	26	3=100
October, 1994†	95	--	--	--	3	2=100
October, 1992	98	91	6	1	1	1=100
September, 1992	98	85	11	2	1	1=100
August, 1992	97	89	8	*	1	2=100
June, 1992	97	88	8	1	1	2=100
Gallup: November, 1988	97	87	9	1	2	1=100
Gallup: October, 1988	98	--	--	--	1	1=100

† Non-Presidential elections

- Q.11 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
February, 1998	59	37	4=100
January, 1998	46	50	4=100
September, 1997	45	49	6=100
August, 1997	49	46	5=100
January, 1997	38	58	4=100
July, 1996	29	67	4=100
March, 1996	28	70	2=100
October, 1995	23	73	4=100
June, 1995	25	73	2=100
April, 1995	23	74	3=100
July, 1994	24	73	3=100
March, 1994	24	71	5=100
October, 1993	22	73	5=100
September, 1993	20	75	4=100
May, 1993	22	71	7=100
January, 1993	39	50	11=100

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In November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

Q.11 CONTINUED...

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
January, 1992	28	68	4=100
November, 1991	34	61	5=100
<i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i>	66	31	3=100
August, 1990	47	48	5=100
May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 1989	45	50	5=100
September, 1988	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

Q.12 Now I'd like your views on some people and things in the news. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of who or what I name. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **(INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")**

	<u>Very Favorable</u>	<u>Mostly Favorable</u>	<u>Mostly Unfavorable</u>	<u>Very Unfavorable</u>	<u>Never Heard Of</u>	<u>Can't Rate</u>
a. Bill Clinton	18	36	20	24	0	2=100
March, 1998	22	40	19	16	*	3=100
November, 1997	19	44	21	14	0	2=100
September, 1997	18	44	21	14	0	3=100
August, 1997	16	45	21	17	0	1=100
April, 1997	17	44	21	16	*	2=100
January, 1997	17	49	18	14	*	2=100
October, 1996 ⁶	12	45	22	19	0	2=100
June, 1996	16	45	23	14	*	2=100
April, 1996	16	41	24	16	0	3=100
February, 1996	20	35	22	21	0	2=100
January, 1996	13	43	27	15	0	2=100
August, 1995	13	36	29	20	0	2=100
February, 1995	14	41	25	17	0	3=100
December, 1994	17	34	24	22	0	3=100
July, 1994	15	43	25	16	*	1=100
May, 1993	18	42	23	12	0	5=100
July, 1992	17	42	25	9	0	7=100
June, 1992	10	36	33	14	1	6=100
May, 1992	11	42	32	10	*	5=100
March, 1992	10	43	29	11	1	6=100
February, 1992	15	44	24	7	2	8=100
January, 1992	9	28	11	4	27	21=100
November, 1991	5	25	8	2	39	21=100

6

October 1996 trend based on registered voters.

Q.12 CONTINUED ...

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Never Heard Of	Can't Rate
b.	Al Gore	11	44	23	14	1	7=100
	March, 1998	17	42	19	11	2	9=100
	November, 1997	12	43	26	12	1	6=100
	September, 1997	11	35	28	15	1	10=100
	August, 1997	15	39	22	15	1	8=100
	April, 1997	12	45	24	12	1	6=100
	January, 1997	18	47	21	8	1	5=100
	July, 1994	18	49	19	7	2	5=100
	August, 1992	22	44	15	5	2	12=100
	July, 1992 ⁷	15	32	14	5	6	28=100
	September, 1987	6	23	11	3	23	34=100
c.	Hillary Clinton	25	38	21	13	*	3=100
	March, 1998	26	39	17	14	*	4=100
	January, 1997	17	40	23	17	*	3=100
	June, 1996	13	40	26	17	*	4=100
	April, 1996	12	37	27	19	0	5=100
	February, 1996	14	28	27	27	0	4=100
	January, 1996	10	32	28	26	0	4=100
	October, 1995	14	44	24	14	—	4=100
	August, 1995	16	33	25	22	*	4=100
	July, 1994	19	38	22	18	1	2=100
	May, 1993	19	41	18	11	1	10=100
d.	Kenneth Starr	7	22	26	33	5	7=100
	March, 1998	6	16	24	25	19	10=100
	<i>Gallup</i> , January 1998		24		24	29	23=100
e.	Monica Lewinsky	3	11	33	44	*	9=100
	March, 1998	3	14	37	30	4	12=100
	<i>Gallup</i> , February, 1998		13		63	4	20=100
	<i>Gallup</i> , January 1998		30		50	1	19=100
f.	Newt Gingrich	5	34	32	19	4	6=100
	March, 1998	6	30	29	20	6	9=100
	November, 1997	6	24	35	24	4	7=100
	August, 1997	6	24	35	27	2	6=100
	April, 1997	5	23	36	28	3	5=100
	January, 1997	4	24	39	26	2	5=100
	August, 1995	9	21	29	25	4	12=100
	February, 1995	12	29	22	15	10	12=100
	December, 1994	7	18	15	13	30	17=100
	July, 1994	2	12	8	4	65	9=100

7

July 1992 trend based on 461 respondents asked on July 9, 1992 only.

Q.13 Which of these best describes you... (READ)

		Early Feb <u>1998</u>
33	I like Bill Clinton personally and I like his policies, OR	39
35	I don't like Bill Clinton personally but I like his policies, OR	30
27	I don't like Bill Clinton personally and I don't like his policies	23
2	(DO NOT READ) I like Bill Clinton personally but I don't like his policies	3
<u>3</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>5</u>
100		100

IF ANSWERED 1 "APPROVE" IN Q.1 AND 2 OR 3 IN Q.13, ASK: [N=302]

Q.14 I notice you disapprove of Bill Clinton as a person. What makes you approve of the way he is handling his job as president? (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.**)

34 ECONOMY (NET)

- 28 Economy is doing well/Country in good economic shape/Doing good job handling economic issues
- 6 Employment is up/Lower unemployment rates
- 1 Inflation is down/low
- 1 All other economy mentions

25 JOB PERFORMANCE (NET)

- 18 He's doing a good job/fair job/Handles the position well
- 7 Good policies/Ideas in tune with those of the nation
- * All other job performance mentions

18 FOREIGN POLICY (NET)

- 10 Doing a good job handling threat of terrorism/terrorists
- 7 Good job with foreign policy/Handles foreign affairs well
- 1 Peace/Not at war

14 PUBLIC, PRIVATE LIFE UNRELATED (NET)

- 12 Private conduct doesn't affect ability to lead/Does a good job despite personal/moral flaws/sexual conduct
- 4 He/Clinton is able to separate his private life from his public life

13 PERSONALITY TRAITS (NET)

- 6 Decisive/Has clear ideas/Follow up on decisions
- 5 Clinton has best interests of country in mind
- 2 Sharp/Intelligent
- 1 Charismatic/Knows how to appeal to people

11 DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)

- 3 Social Security/Medicare
- 2 Health care policies/Reform
- 2 Family/Child care
- 1 Education
- 1 Welfare reform
- 1 Drugs/Crime
- 4 All other domestic policy mentions

6 Country is in good shape/Things are going well

* Other Miscellaneous mentions

4 Don't know/Refused

1 Nothing

6 MISCELLANEOUS NEGATIVE TRAITS

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

Q.15F1 Now a few questions about the allegations of sexual misconduct against President Clinton. Thinking specifically about these allegations, how important an issue do you think this whole situation is to the nation — of great importance, of some importance, or of very little importance?

		Mid	Early	--- CBS News ---				
		Aug	Aug	March	Feb	Early Feb	Jan 26th	Jan 24-25
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
26	Great importance	24	22	26	22	25	39	40
25	Some importance	21	22	24	25	27	28	21
48	Very little importance	49	51	46	50	45	28	35
1	None (VOL)	3	3	2	3	1	2	3
*	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	*	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100
							(N=609)	(N=943)

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

Q.16F2 Now, a few questions about the allegation that President Clinton lied under oath about a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Thinking specifically about this allegation, how important an issue do you think this whole situation is to the nation — of great importance, of some importance, or of very little importance?

		Early Aug
		<u>1998</u>
33	Great importance	27
23	Some importance	21
42	Very little importance	46
2	None (VOL)	3
*	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.17 How good a job are news organizations doing at reporting about the allegations against President Clinton — an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

		March	Feb	Early Feb
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
19	Excellent	13	12	10
36	Good	29	27	36
23	Only fair	27	31	32
19	Poor	28	26	19
<u>3</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.18 How would rate the job the press is doing (**INSERT ITEM; ROTATE**)... would you say they are doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job? How about...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Being objective about whether or not the investigation of President Clinton is important for the country	9	31	34	24	2=100
Early February, 1998 ⁸	7	29	37	23	4=100
b. Providing you with the information you need to make up your own mind about this issue	14	37	28	19	2=100
Early February, 1998 ⁹	10	35	31	21	3=100

Q.19 Do you think the media is giving TOO MUCH attention to the investigation of President Clinton, TOO LITTLE attention, or about the right amount?

		---- Whitewater Investigation¹⁰ ----			
		<u>May 1997</u>	<u>Aug 1995</u>	<u>March 1994</u>	<u>Newsweek March 1994</u>
69	Too much	43	45	55	44
4	Too little	14	15	7	10
26	About the right amount	39	37	33	36
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100
					(N=735)

Q.20 Do you think this controversy is so great that it is interfering with Bill Clinton's ability to run the country, or don't you think so?

55	Yes, interfering
42	No, not interfering
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

8 Question worded: "Being objective about whether or not President Clinton is guilty of any of these allegations."

9 Question worded: "Providing you with the information you need to make up your own mind about these allegations."

10 Question worded: "Do you think the media is giving too much attention to the Whitewater case and White House handling of it, too little attention or about the right amount?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

Q.21a

F1 If you had to choose, which do you think would be better for the country -- if Clinton were to remain in office until the end of his term, OR if Clinton were to resign now, and turn the presidency over to Al Gore?

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

Q.21bF2

If you had to choose, which do you think would be better for the country -- if Clinton were to resign now, and turn the presidency over to Al Gore, OR if Clinton were to remain in office until the end of his term?

		----- Gallup -----			
		Aug 17	Jan 25-26	Jan 24-25	Jan 23-24
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
75	Remain in office	72	68	67	71
21	Resign	23	26	25	23
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.22 If Congress decides to begin impeachment hearings against President Clinton, how would you feel about the members who voted in FAVOR of beginning these hearings? Would your opinion of them be very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

		Early
		<u>Aug 1998</u>
12	Very favorable	12
24	Mostly favorable	22
25	Mostly unfavorable	25
32	Very unfavorable	32
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>
100		100

Q.23 Now I'm going to describe some of the allegations being made in this matter. As I read each one, please say whether you think it is definitely true, probably true, probably not true, or definitely not true. (First,...) (Next,...) **(DO NOT ROTATE)**

	Definitely <u>True</u>	Probably <u>True</u>	Probably <u>Not True</u>	Definitely <u>Not True</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
a. The allegation that Bill Clinton had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky?	49	43	3	2	3=100
Mid-August, 1998	22	50	13	6	9=100
Early August, 1998	19	51	14	7	9=100
Late February, 1998	13	48	23	7	9=100
Early February, 1998	9	43	29	10	9=100
b. The allegation that Bill Clinton lied under oath about having an affair with Monica Lewinsky?	44	39	10	3	4=100
Mid-August, 1998	21	45	18	5	11=100
Early August, 1998	20	46	16	8	10=100
Late February, 1998	14	42	25	10	9=100
Early February, 1998	9	40	31	11	9=100
Gallup: Jan 28, 1998	9	37	31	13	10=100
Gallup: Jan 25-26, 1998	18	38	23	13	8=100
Gallup: Jan 23-24, 1998	15	40	26	10	9=100
Gallup: Jan 21, 1998	8	41	28	15	8=100
c. The allegation that Bill Clinton participated in an effort to obstruct justice by getting Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath about the affair?	17	32	31	13	7=100
Mid-August, 1998	13	34	30	12	11=100
Early August, 1998	14	34	28	14	10=100
February, 1998	8	32	36	16	8=100
Gallup: Jan 28, 1998	6	30	36	16	12=100
Gallup: Jan 25-26, 1998	14	34	28	16	8=100
Gallup: Jan 23-24, 1998	11	35	31	14	9=100
Gallup: Jan 21, 1998	6	33	33	18	10=100

Q.24 If it turns out that President Clinton lied under oath about having a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office, or not?

	Mid-Aug <u>1998</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>	March <u>1998</u>	Early Feb <u>1998</u>
30 Yes, should be impeached	29	31	40	50
66 No, should not	65	63	55	46
<u>4</u> Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100	100	100	100

Q.25 If it turns out that President Clinton encouraged Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath about the nature of their relationship, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office, or not?

		Mid-Aug <u>1998</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>	March <u>1998</u>	Early Feb <u>1998</u>
41	Yes, should be impeached	39	41	48	48
55	No, should not	55	53	47	47
<u>4</u>	Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

Q.26F1 Some people think that because of this scandal, President Clinton does not have the respect he needs from officials in Washington and world leaders to give direction to the country. Other people think this scandal has not hurt President Clinton's ability to lead at home and abroad. Which comes closer to your own view?

43	Does not have respect he needs
50	Scandal has not hurt ability to lead
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

Q.27

F2 Some people think that because of this scandal, President Clinton does not have the moral standing to lead the country. Other people think President Clinton still has the moral standing to lead. Which comes closer to your own view?

37	Does not have moral standing
57	Still has moral standing
2	He never had moral standing (VOL)
1	Not important for President to have (VOL)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.28 Do you think this investigation has been mostly about possible sexual misconduct, or mostly about whether the president lied under oath?

37	Sexual misconduct
48	Lied under oath
12	Both/neither (VOL)
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.29 What do you think caused this controversy in the first place -- the president's political enemies were trying to hurt him, or the president's behavior was wrong?

42 Political enemies
47 Behavior was wrong
9 Both/neither (**VOL**)
2 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.30 If President Clinton lied about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, do you think this is more serious than if he lied about a government POLICY matter, less serious, or is there no difference?

7 More serious
52 Less serious
39 No difference
2 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.31 In his statement to the American public, do you think Bill Clinton accepted enough of the blame in this matter, or do you think he tried to blame others too much?

45 Accepted enough
46 Blamed others too much
9 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.32 Bill Clinton has told the American people that he had an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky but misled the public earlier to protect his family. In your opinion, should Clinton's statement be enough to end the matter OR do you think Congress should still consider impeachment hearings?

		Early Aug <u>1998</u> ¹¹
61	Enough to end the matter	60
32	Congress should still consider impeachment hearings	32
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100		100

11

Question worded: "If Bill Clinton were to tell the American public that he had an affair with Monica Lewinsky but lied about it under oath to protect his family, in your opinion should this be enough to end the matter, OR do you think Congress should still consider impeachment hearings?"

Q.33 In his statement, President Clinton admitted he had an inappropriate relationship with an intern in his office. In your opinion, how wrong was this relationship -- very wrong, somewhat wrong, not too wrong, or not at all wrong?

70	Very wrong
18	Somewhat wrong
5	Not too wrong
3	Not at all wrong
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF 1 "VERY WRONG" OR 2 "SOMEWHAT WRONG" IN Q.33, ASK: [N=896]

Q.34 Do you think it was wrong because (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE) , or is that not an important factor to you?

a. Bill Clinton is President of the United States, not an ordinary citizen

36	Yes
63	Not a factor
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

b. Monica Lewinsky was a 21-year old INTERN at the White House

22	Yes
77	Not a factor
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.36 Do you think Bill Clinton should have told the public about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky sooner than he did, or do you think it was right for him to wait?

68	Sooner
24	Right to wait
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF 1 "SOONER", ASK: [N=684]

Q.36a Are you angry with Bill Clinton about this, or not?

47	Yes
52	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.37 Do you think Bill Clinton admitted that he had a relationship with Monica Lewinsky because of the evidence gathered against him, or do you think he admitted having the relationship because he thought coming forward was the right thing to do?

70	Evidence
24	Right thing to do
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF 1 "EVIDENCE", ASK: [N=723]

Q.37a. Are you angry with Bill Clinton about this, or not?

45	Yes
54	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.38 How do you feel about Hillary Clinton's decision to stand by her husband — do you admire her, or do you think poorly of her?

66	Admire
20	Think poorly
9	Neither/Both (VOL)
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Now a question about the military action taken (FRIDAY: "YESTERDAY"/SATURDAY-MONDAY: "A FEW DAYS AGO")...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=503]

T.1 Do you approve or disapprove of U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan?

		---- Gallup ¹² ----	
		Aug 21-23	Aug 20
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
79	Approve	75	66
11	Disapprove	18	19
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100

12

Question worded: "As you may know, the United States recently launched military attacks against terrorist facilities in the countries of Afghanistan and Sudan. Do you approve or disapprove of those attacks?"

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=498]

T.2 Do you think President Clinton ordered the attack on sites in Afghanistan and Sudan mainly to fight terrorism, or mainly because he wanted to turn public attention away from the Monica Lewinsky affair?

		<i>ABC News</i>
		<u>Aug 20, 1998</u> ¹³
69	Fight terrorism	64
23	Turn attention away from affair	30
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100
		(N=510)

Q.39 How much, if at all, do you worry about terrorism when you're in public places here in the United States?

		April	March
		<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>
17	A great deal	11	13
30	Somewhat	24	21
24	Not much, OR	29	27
28	Not at all	35	39
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
100		100	100

13

Question worded: "Just your best guess, do you think Clinton ordered the attack on these sites mainly to fight terrorism, or mainly because he wanted to turn public attention away from the Monica Lewinsky affair?"

FINALLY, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY.

Q.40 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?

		Early											
		Aug	April	Jan	Nov	June	Late	Early	July	April	March	Feb	Jan
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>Sept 96¹⁴</u>	<u>Sept 96</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>
66	Yes	66	61	65	66	60	59	56	56	58	61	60	59
34	No	34	39	35	34	40	41	44	44	42	39	40	41
<u>0</u>	DK/Ref	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.40 AND FORM 1, ASK: [N=503]

Q.41aF1 Do you ever use a computer at work, school or home to connect with computers over the Internet, the World Wide Web, or with information services such as America Online or Prodigy?

IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.40 AND FORM 2, ASK: [N=498]

Q.41bF2 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

NOTE: Trend numbers are for Q.41aF1 only.

		Early										
		Aug	April	Jan	Nov	July	April	March	Feb	Jan	June	
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995¹⁵</u>	
BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:												
43	Goes online	41	36	37	36	23	21	22	21	21	14	
23	Does not go online	25	25	28	29	33	37	39	39	38	86	
*	Don't know/Refused	*	0	0	1	0	*	0	*	0	*	
<u>34</u>	Not a computer user	<u>34</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>n/a</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

¹⁴ Based on registered voters only.

¹⁵ The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:
 (1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)
 (2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?