

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**APRIL 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**March 30-April 3, 2011**  
**N=1507**

**Q.1 THROUGH Q.3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**Q.4 THROUGH Q.6 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about Libya...

Q.7 All things considered, do you think that the U.S. and its allies made the right decision or the wrong decision to conduct military air strikes in Libya?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	50	37	13
March 24-27, 2011	47	36	17

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

*Military force in Afghanistan*

Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	52	38	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	56	34	10
Jan 7-11, 2009	64	25	11
February, 2008	65	24	11
December, 2006	61	29	10
January, 2006	69	20	11

*Military force in Iraq*

Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	41	51	7
January, 2009	43	49	8
November, 2008	39	50	11
Late October, 2008	38	56	6
Mid-October, 2008	40	54	6
Mid-September, 2008	43	50	7
June, 2008	39	55	6
April, 2008	37	57	6
Late February, 2008	38	54	8
Late December, 2007	36	56	8
October, 2007	39	54	7
September, 2007	42	50	8
July, 2007	41	53	6
June, 2007	40	51	9
April, 2007	45	47	8
March, 2007	43	49	8
February, 2007	40	54	6
Mid-January, 2007	40	51	9
Early January, 2007	40	53	7
December, 2006	42	51	7
Mid-November, 2006	41	51	8
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	45	48	7
Late October, 2006	43	47	10
Early October, 2006	45	47	8
Early September, 2006	49	43	8
August, 2006	45	46	9
July, 2006	44	50	6
June, 2006	49	44	7
April, 2006	47	46	7

<sup>1</sup> In October 2009, the question was worded: "Do you think the United States' initial decision to use force in Afghanistan was the right decision or the wrong decision?"

## Q.7 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	Right <u>decision</u>	Wrong <u>decision</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2006	45	49	6
February, 2006	51	44	5
January, 2006	45	47	8
December, 2005	47	48	5
Late October, 2005	48	45	7
Early October, 2005	44	50	6
Mid-September, 2005	49	44	7
July, 2005	49	44	7
June, 2005	47	45	8
February, 2005	47	47	6
January, 2005	51	44	5
December, 2004	49	44	7
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12
Early October, 2004	50	39	11
September, 2004	53	39	8
August, 2004	53	41	6
July, 2004	52	43	5
June, 2004	55	38	7
May, 2004	51	42	7
Late April, 2004	54	37	9
Early April, 2004	57	35	8
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6
Late February, 2004	60	32	8
Early February, 2004	56	39	5
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5
Early January, 2004	62	28	10
December, 2003	67	26	7
October, 2003	60	33	7
September, 2003	63	31	6
August, 2003	63	30	7
Early July, 2003	67	24	9
May, 2003	74	20	6
April 10-16, 2003	74	19	7
April 8-9, 2003	74	19	7
April 2-7, 2003	72	20	8
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	25	6
March 25-27, 2003	74	21	5
March 23-24, 2003	74	21	5
March 20-22, 2003	71	22	7
Late January, 1991	77	15	8
<i>Air strikes against Serbia to force them to agree to terms of the peace agreement and end the fighting in Kosovo</i>			
July 9-13, 1999	68	22	10

## ASK ALL:

Q.8 Do you think the U.S. and its allies have a clear goal in taking military action in Libya, or not?

Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>		Mar 24-27 <u>2011</u>
30	Yes, have a clear goal	39
57	No, do not	50
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11

**ASK ALL:**

Q.9 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. and its allies sending arms and military supplies to anti-government groups in Libya?

Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>		Mar 10-13 <u>2011</u> <sup>2</sup>
25	Favor	23
66	Oppose	69
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8

**NO QUESTIONS 10-12****Q.13 THROUGH Q.35 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 36-42****ASK ALL:**

Q.43 As you may know, there have been protests and calls for change in a number of Middle Eastern countries recently. From what you have read and heard, do you think these events will lead to lasting improvements for people living in these countries, or not?

Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>	
42	Yes, lasting improvements
43	No, no lasting improvements
3	Depends/Too soon to tell (VOL.)
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.44 Do you think the anti-government protests and changes in the Middle East will end up being good for the United States, bad for the United States, or won't have much effect on the United States?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>		<i>Egypt</i> Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u> <sup>3</sup>
24	Good	15
35	Bad	28
28	Won't have much effect	36
4	Depends/Too soon to tell (VOL.)	5
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

**NO QUESTION 45****ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Thinking about U.S. policies toward the Middle East, how important should each of the following goals be? (First,) Should [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] be a very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important goal? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

		Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Helping to protect Israel Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	37	11	9	5
b.	Preventing the spread of terrorism Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	81	13	2	2	1

<sup>2</sup> For March 10-13, 2011 question was worded "sending arms and supplies to anti-government groups in Libya" and item was part of a list.

<sup>3</sup> In February 2011, the question read "From what you've read and heard, do you think the anti-government protests and calls for political change in Egypt will end up being good for the United States, bad for the United States, or won't have much effect on the United States?"

**Q.46 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
c. Keeping oil prices low Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	67	23	6	3	1
d. Encouraging the spread of democracy Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	42	36	10	6	5
e. Preventing attacks on civilians Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	67	21	4	5	4

**NO QUESTIONS 47-49****Q.50 THROUGH Q.51 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTION 52-55****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about Afghanistan...

Q.56 How well is the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	43	29	15	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	8	39	28	15	10
Jul 8-11, 2010	9	40	31	9	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	8	40	32	13	7
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	43	22	13	13
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	39	32	11	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	4	32	41	16	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	7	38	34	11	10
February, 2008	10	38	31	10	11

**NO QUESTION 57****ASK ALL:**

Q.58 Do you think the U.S. and NATO should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. and NATO should remove their troops as soon as possible?

	<u>Keep troops in Afghanistan</u>	<u>Remove their troops</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	44	50	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	44	47	8
Jul 8-11, 2010	47	42	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	53	40	6
Apr 15-May 5, 2010 <b>(GAP)</b>	48	45	7
Sep 10-15, 2009 <b>(GAP)</b>	50	43	7
June, 2009 <b>(GAP)</b>	57	38	5
Mid-Sept, 2008	61	33	6
April, 2008 <b>(GAP)</b>	50	44	6
Late Feb, 2008	61	32	7
May, 2007 <b>(GAP)</b>	50	42	7

**ASK ALL:**

Q.59 In the long run, how likely is it that Afghanistan can become a country that is stable enough to withstand the threat posed by the Taliban or other extremist groups? **[READ]**

Mar 30-Apr 3 2011		Oct 28-Nov 8 2009	
10	Very likely	10	
39	Somewhat likely	36	
29	Not too likely	29	
16	Not at all likely	18	
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	

**NO QUESTIONS 60-65****Q.66 THROUGH Q.73 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****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.) No	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	preference				
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
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean</i> <i>Rep</i>	<i>Lean</i> <i>Dem</i>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>			
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	--	--	--	--	--