

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MAY 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
May 25-30, 2011
N=1509

ASK ALL:

Q.1 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]**

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

QUESTIONS 2-3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 4-14

ASK ALL:

Q.15 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]**?

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.	62	Trustworthy	58	58	61	64	76
	31	Not trustworthy	36	37	31	30	15
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2	1	2	2	1
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	3	5	5	8
b.	55	Able to get things done	54	55	57	58	70
	38	Not able to get things done	38	39	35	31	15
	3	Neither particularly (VOL.)	3	2	3	3	2
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	4	5	8	13
c.	58	A strong leader	53	53	62	65	77
	37	Not a strong leader	41	42	32	29	13
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2	2	2	2	1
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	3	3	5	9

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:

d.F1	73	Warm and friendly	70	68	77	78	87
	20	Cold and aloof	23	26	16	16	8
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2	4	3	2	2
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	2	4	4	3
e.F1	67	Well informed	64	67	69	70	79
	27	Not well informed	31	30	26	23	15
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2	2	1	2	1
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	2	4	4	5
f.F1	75	Stands up for what he believes in	77	--	--	--	--
		Doesn't stand up for what					
	18	he believes in	16	--	--	--	--
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	--	--	--	--
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	--	--	--	--

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:

g.F2	75	A good communicator	75	77	83	83	92
	20	Not a good communicator	21	20	14	13	6
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	2	1	1	*
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	1	2	3	2
h.F2	64	Someone who cares about people like me	60	60	64	68	81
	30	Someone who doesn't care about people like me	34	35	30	25	14
	*	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1	2	1	1	1
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	3	4	6	4
i.F2	40	Liberal	--	--	42	44	38
	32	Middle of the road [OR]	--	--	36	36	40
	16	Conservative	--	--	14	9	13
	3	None particularly (VOL.)	--	--	1	2	2
	9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	--	--	7	9	7

QUESTIONS 16-25 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 26-28

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the 2012 Presidential election...

Q.29 How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2012? **[READ]**

		TREND FOR COMPARISON: 2008 Presidential Election									
May 25-30 2011		Dec 2007	Nov 2007	Oct 2007	Sep 2007	Jul 2007	Jun 2007	Apr 2007	Mar 2007	Feb 2007	Dec 2006
23	A lot	35	34	30	27	30	29	26	24	24	23
30	Some	33	35	37	33	38	34	34	36	34	36
27	Not much	13	16	17	21	16	20	21	20	22	20
19	None at all	18	14	14	17	15	16	17	18	18	20
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	1

ASK ALL:

Q.30 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?"]**

	Obama <u>re-elected</u>	Prefer <u>Republican</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/DK</u>
May 25-30, 2011	48	35	18
Mar 8-14, 2011	48	35	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?"]

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

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?

	Clinton <u>re-elected</u>	Prefer <u>Republican</u>	Prefer <u>independent</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
October, 1995	31	28	22	19
August, 1995	29	32	23	16
March, 1995	29	33	20	18
December, 1994	28	35	15	22
December, 1993	28	22	12	38

Q.30 TREND 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?

	G.H.W. Bush <u>re-elected</u>	Prefer <u>Democrat</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/DK</u>
February, 1992	40	48	12
January, 1992	42	42	16

ASK ALL:

- Q.31 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	Sept 2003	Oct 1995	Oct 1991	Jan 1988	
		Rep	Dem	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep
		<u>cands</u>	<u>cands</u>	<u>cands</u>	<u>cands</u>	<u>cands</u>	<u>cands</u>
May 25-30 <u>2011</u>							
3	Excellent	4	8	3	3	2	3
22	Good	28	35	27	29	18	34
36	Only fair	39	34	39	46	38	42
23	Poor	18	15	15	18	15	11
15	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	8	16	4	27	10

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=535]:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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

NO QUESTION 32

ASK ALL:

Q.33 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?]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1227]:

		Based on Registered Voters [N=1227]:			<i>Based on Those Who Have Heard</i>				
		<u>Have heard</u>	<u>Have not heard</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Good chance</u>	<u>Some chance</u>	<u>No chance</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	(N)
NO ITEM a.									
b.	Mitt Romney								
	May 25-30, 2011	82	18	1	17	34	44	5	(1057)
	June, 2007	62	37	1	14	26	52	8	
	February, 2007	43	56	1	8	28	50	14	
c.	Newt Gingrich								
	May 25-30, 2011	86	13	1	9	24	63	4	(1116)
	June, 2007	87	12	1	11	19	63	7	
	February, 2007	85	14	1	7	20	66	7	
d.	Sarah Palin								
	May 25-30, 2011	97	2	*	14	20	63	3	(1119)
e.	Tim Pawlenty								
	May 25-30, 2011	48	50	1	14	28	48	10	(654)
f.	Ron Paul								
	May 25-30, 2011	71	28	1	9	26	60	6	(925)
g.	Michele Bachmann								
	May 25-30, 2011	54	45	1	14	26	51	8	(731)
NO ITEM h.									
i.	Jon Huntsman								
	May 25-30, 2011	32	68	1	8	27	49	16	(412)
j.	Rick Santorum								
	May 25-30, 2011	41	58	1	11	27	51	10	(585)
k.	Herman Cain								
	May 25-30, 2011	33	66	1	23	25	41	11	(444)
l.	Gary Johnson								
	May 25-30, 2011	20	79	1	6	22	54	17	(244)

NO QUESTION 34-35, 40-44, 47-48.

QUESTIONS 36-39 AND 45-46 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Now a different kind of question...

Q.49 Regardless of the specific candidates who are running for president, we'd like to know how you generally feel about some different traits. First, would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate for president who **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or wouldn't this matter to you? How about if a candidate **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[INTERVIEWER NOTE: PLEASE PROMPT RESPONDENT WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS EVERY FIVE TO TEN ITEMS AS A REMINDER]**

		More <u>likely</u>	Less <u>likely</u>	Wouldn't <u>matter</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Is a woman				
	May 25-30, 2011	14	7	77	1
	August, 2007	15	12	72	1
	February, 2007	13	11	75	1
b.	Is black				
	May 25-30, 2011	7	3	89	1
	August, 2007	9	6	84	1
	February, 2007	7	4	88	1
c.	Is Hispanic				
	May 25-30, 2011	8	11	80	1
	August, 2007	9	15	75	1
	February, 2007	4	14	80	2
d.	Is Mormon				
	May 25-30, 2011	5	25	68	3
	August, 2007	5	25	66	4
	February, 2007	2	30	64	4
e.	Does not believe in God				
	May 25-30, 2011	5	61	33	2
	August, 2007	3	61	34	2
	February, 2007	3	63	32	2
f.	Has served in the military				
	May 25-30, 2011	49	4	47	1
	February, 2007	48	3	48	1
g.	Has been a business executive				
	May 25-30, 2011	35	14	49	2
	February, 2007	28	13	56	3
h.	Has been an elected official in Washington for many years				
	May 25-30, 2011	26	25	46	3
	February, 2007	35	15	45	5
i.	Has never held elected office before				
	May 25-30, 2011	9	51	38	3
	February, 2007	7	56	35	2
j.	Has used marijuana in the past				
	May 25-30, 2011	5	24	69	2
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
	<i>Used drugs in the past</i>				
	February, 2007	2	45	47	6
k.	Had an extramarital affair in the past				
	May 25-30, 2011	2	46	49	3
	February, 2007	1	39	56	4

Q.49 CONTINUED...

		More <u>likely</u>	Less <u>likely</u>	Wouldn't <u>matter</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
l.	Has been divorced				
	May 25-30, 2011	3	11	85	1
	February, 2007	3	9	86	2
m.	Is homosexual				
	May 25-30, 2011	3	33	62	2
	February, 2007	1	46	51	2
n.	Has been a governor				
	May 25-30, 2011	37	5	55	3

ASK ALL:

REGIST 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?
[INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY ARE IN NORTH DAKOTA AND DON'T HAVE TO REGISTER, PUNCH 1 FOR REGIST AND REGICERT]

ASK IF REGISTERED (REGIST=1):

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

May 25-30
2011

77	Yes, Registered
74	Absolutely certain
3	Chance registration has lapsed
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
22	No, not registered
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

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 preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	Republican	Democrat	Independent					
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
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
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

PARTY/PARTLY CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK ALL:

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Not heard of/
	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	Haven't heard of	Refused	DK
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 ¹	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

¹ 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."