

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**DECEMBER 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**December 7-11, 2011**  
**N=1521**

**QUESTION 1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.2 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.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Republican leaders in Congress			
Dec 7-11, 2011	21	68	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	23	67	10
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 <sup>1</sup>	34	43	22
Nov 4-7, 2010	41	37	22
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16
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

<sup>1</sup> 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.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
December, 1996 <sup>2</sup>	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			
Dec 7-11, 2011	31	58	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	30	61	9
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

<sup>2</sup> 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?".

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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 <sup>3</sup>	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
November, 2006 <sup>4</sup>	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
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22
December, 1994	52	28	20

**NO QUESTIONS 3, 10-11****QUESTIONS 4-9 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>3</sup> In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

<sup>4</sup> 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?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

Dec							Early					
7-11		May	Jan	Aug	Feb	Aug	Feb	Oct	Jul	Jan	Sep	Jan
2011		<u>11</u> <sup>5</sup>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>07</u>
21	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	26	35	27	31	19	31	9	5	5	3	5
19	Economy (general)	28	27	35	24	27	53	55	39	20	10	5
	Dissatisfaction with gov't/politics/											
10	Obama	4	9	9	5	5	5	4	3	6	7	8
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced											
9	budget/Gov't spending	10	11	3	11	6	4	1	1	2	1	1
4	Partisanship/Parties/Gridlock	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	Health care/costs/accessibility	6	9	4	13	20	3	4	3	10	7	8
4	War/War in Iraq/War in Afghan.	5	3	3	4	5	3	11	17	27	37	42
	Education/schools/affording											
3	education	2	3	1	1	2	1	--	4	4	3	4
2	Morality/Ethics/Family values	1	2	4	3	3	1	1	3	2	3	3
2	Finances/money	5	2	2	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--
2	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3
2	Lack of leadership	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Taxes	1	1	1	1	--	--	1	--	2	1	--
2	Distribution of wealth/inequality	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--
1	Greed	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Immigration	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	6	6	5
1	Financial crisis	--	--	4	4	7	16	26	--	--	--	--
1	Housing market/foreclosures	1	1	2	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--
1	Social Security	1	--	--	--	1	--	1	--	1	1	1
1	National security	1	1	--	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1
1	Defense/national security	1	1	--	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1
1	Jobs moving overseas/Trade	1	1	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	--
1	Inflation	2	2	1	--	--	2	5	6	3	1	--
1	Energy costs	7	2	--	--	--	--	5	19	3	2	2
1	Crime/Violence	1	1	--	1	1	1	--	1	1	2	2
1	Drugs/Alcohol	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
1	Race relations/Racism	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--
	Environment/Pollution/											
1	Global warming	--	1	1	1	--	1	1	3	1	1	1
1	Too much foreign aid/Spend at home	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--
1	Wall St/Corporate America/banks	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
8	Other											
6	Don't know/No answer	7	5	7	6	5	3	4	4	5	5	7
<b>6</b>	<b>(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/</b>											
<b>6</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>55</b>	<b>(NET) ECONOMIC</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>

*Total exceeds 100% due to multiple responses*

<sup>5</sup> Complete trend for Q12 not shown; trends available to 1987.

**ASK IF ANSWER GIVEN IN Q.12 (Q.12=1) [N=1443]:**

Q.13 Which political party do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you just mentioned – the Republican Party or the Democratic Party? **[IF NECESSARY: thinking about what you see as the most important problem ...]**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) No <u>difference</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 7-11, 2011	32	38	20	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	31	38	19	12
Aug 27-30, 2009	23	38	28	11
January, 2007	24	42	21	13
January, 2006	27	41	19	13
January, 2005	36	35	18	11
Mid-January, 2004	35	35	14	16
March, 2002	38	27	21	14
<i>Gallup: January, 1999<sup>6</sup></i>	33	43	n/a	24
<i>Gallup: April, 1998</i>	40	42	10	8
July, 1996	36	35	18	11
April, 1995	42	32	17	9
July, 1994	36	33	16	15
June, 1993	28	35	23	14
January, 1992	32	41	12	15
May, 1990 (RVs)	29	30	31	10
May, 1988	26	38	22	14
January, 1988	30	35	24	11
May, 1987	28	38	24	10

**NO QUESTION 14****ASK ALL:**

Q.15 From what you've read and heard about the Occupy Wall Street movement involving demonstrations in cities around the country, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the Occupy Wall Street Movement?

	-----Support-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Neither</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	44	15	29	35	19	16	6	16
Oct 20-23, 2011 <sup>7</sup>	39	16	23	35	16	19	6	20

**NO QUESTION 16-17****REGIST/REGICERT PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

<sup>6</sup> In January 1999, the "no difference" and "don't know" categories are combined.

<sup>7</sup> In October 2011 question read "From what you've read and heard do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the Occupy Wall Street movement" and was asked as part of a list.

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Thinking about another topic...

Q.18 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1211]:**

	(VOL.)			
	Representative (VOL.)			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>not running</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	50	33	1	16
<b>2010 Election</b>				
Oct 27-30, 2010	49	32	2	18
Oct 13-18, 2010	47	32	1	20
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	49	33	1	17
Jun 16-20, 2010	49	34	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	43	32	1	24
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	31	*	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	52	29	1	18
<b>2008 Election</b>				
Late February, 2008	60	22	1	17
<b>2006 Election</b>				
November, 2006	55	25	1	19
Late October, 2006	55	26	1	18
Early October, 2006	50	27	1	22
September, 2006	53	27	1	19
August, 2006	51	30	*	19
June, 2006	51	32	1	16
April, 2006	57	28	1	14
February, 2006	59	28	1	12
September, 2005	57	25	1	17
<b>2002 Election</b>				
Early October, 2002	58	19	2	21
June, 2002	58	23	1	18
<b>2000 Election</b>				
Early November, 2000	59	16	2	23
October, 2000	60	17	1	22
July, 1999	66	23	*	11
<b>1998 Election</b>				
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16
Early October, 1998	58	20	2	20
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16
March, 1998	63	21	1	15
January, 1998	66	23	0	11
August, 1997	66	22	0	12
<b>1996 Election</b>				
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21
October, 1996	62	19	2	17
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17
<b>1994 Election</b>				
November, 1994	58	25	1	16
Late October, 1994	55	30	2	13
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20
<b>1990 Election</b>				
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	62	22	2	14

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT= 1):**

Q.19 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1211]:**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	20	67	13
<b>2010 Election</b>			
Oct 27-30, 2010	35	51	13
Oct 13-18, 2010	33	54	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	33	56	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	56	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	27	57	15
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	53	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	34	53	13
<b>2008 Election</b>			
Late February, 2008	36	49	15
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	37	46	17
Late October, 2006	34	49	17
Early October, 2006	32	48	20
September, 2006	35	49	16
August, 2006	36	49	15
June, 2006	29	57	14
April, 2006	34	53	13
February, 2006	36	49	15
September, 2005	36	48	16
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early October, 2002	39	38	23
June, 2002	45	37	18
<b>2000 Election</b>			
October, 2000	40	34	26
July, 1999	41	47	12
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	41	37	22
Early October, 1998	39	39	22
Early September, 1998	46	37	17
March, 1998	45	41	14
January, 1998	44	43	13
August, 1997	45	42	13
<b>1996 Election</b>			
Early September, 1996	43	43	14
<b>1994 Election</b>			
November, 1994	31	51	18
Late October, 1994	31	56	13
Early October, 1994	28	56	16

**NO QUESTIONS 20-24****QUESTIONS 25-29 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**RANDOMIZE Q.30/Q.31 IN BLOCK WITH Q.32/Q.33 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about your own personal finances...

Q.30 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	6	32	37	24	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	5	33	40	21	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	29	36	26	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	7	29	41	22	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	5	30	40	23	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	6	33	36	23	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	6	30	40	23	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	6	32	38	20	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	6	31	39	22	2
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	28	39	24	2
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	5	30	40	25	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	6	32	38	22	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	6	31	36	26	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	6	32	39	22	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	5	33	41	20	1
December, 2008	6	32	40	21	1
Early October, 2008	6	35	40	18	1
July, 2008	9	33	37	19	2
April, 2008	8	35	39	16	2
March, 2008	8	39	34	17	2
Early February, 2008	9	36	37	16	2
January, 2008	10	39	34	15	2
November, 2007	9	41	34	15	1
September, 2007	10	38	34	16	2
February, 2007	8	41	36	14	1
December, 2006	8	40	35	16	1
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2
Mid-May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1
U.S. News: January, 1993	4	33	46	16	1
U.S. News: October, 1992	6	34	40	19	1
U.S. News: August, 1992	5	30	47	17	1
U.S. News: May, 1992	4	35	45	15	1
U.S. News: January, 1992	4	32	45	18	1



**RANDOMIZE Q.30/Q.31 IN BLOCK WITH Q.32/Q.33 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.31 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	Improve <u>a lot</u>	Improve <u>some</u>	Get a <u>little worse</u>	Get a lot <u>worse</u>	(VOL.) Stay the <u>same</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 7-11, 2011	9	49	17	5	15	4
Jun 15-19, 2011	7	49	21	7	13	3
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	44	23	10	13	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	7	49	20	6	14	4
Oct 13-18, 2010	9	48	16	6	17	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	52	15	8	12	4
Dec 9-13, 2009	9	44	19	8	15	4
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	6	50	19	8	13	4
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	10	49	17	6	13	4
Aug 11-17, 2009	8	47	17	8	15	5
Jun 10-14, 2009	9	54	17	7	9	4
Feb 4-8, 2009	7	47	22	7	13	4
December, 2008	7	49	21	6	13	4
Early October, 2008	8	51	20	6	9	6
July, 2008	7	44	21	7	14	7
March, 2008	10	45	20	7	13	5
January, 2008	11	49	16	6	14	4
September, 2007	10	52	14	4	16	4
February, 2007	11	52	12	3	19	3
December, 2006	10	57	13	3	14	3
January, 2006	10	51	14	5	16	4
Mid-May, 2005	10	51	15	5	15	4
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3
<i>U.S. News</i> : October, 1992	9	51	14	3	15	8
<i>U.S. News</i> : August, 1992	6	50	20	5	14	5
<i>U.S. News</i> : May, 1992	8	49	22	4	13	4
<i>U.S. News</i> : January, 1992	9	46	19	5	16	5

**RANDOMIZE Q.30/Q.31 IN BLOCK WITH Q.32/Q.33 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.32 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 7-11, 2011	*	8	38	53	1
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

## Q.32 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
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 <sup>8</sup>	2	29	42	26	1

## RANDOMIZE Q.30/Q.31 IN BLOCK WITH Q.32/Q.33 BLOCK

## ASK ALL:

Q.33 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>
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	18	50	4
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4

<sup>8</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

## Q.33 CONTINUED...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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

**ASK ALL:**

And a different kind of question...

- Q.34 Some people think of American society as divided into two groups, the "haves" and the "have-nots," while others think it's incorrect to think of America that way. Do you, yourself, think of America as divided into haves and have-nots, or don't you think of America that way?

	<u>Yes, divided</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	38	58	4
Sep 22-25, 2011	45	52	2
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	53	5
Apr 14-21, 2009	35	62	3
Early October, 2008	44	53	3
January, 2008	43	54	3
July, 2007	48	48	4
September, 2006	41	55	4
Early October, 2005	48	50	2

## Q.34 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes, divided</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Late March, 2005	38	59	3
Late February, 2004	38	59	3
June, 2001	44	53	3
<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1998	39	59	2
<i>Gallup</i> : July, 1988	26	71	3
<i>CBS/NY Times</i> : Aug, 1984	31	61	8

## ASK ALL:

Q.35 If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in, the haves or the have-nots?

	<u>Haves</u>	<u>Have-nots</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	39	7	9
Sep 22-25, 2011	48	34	11	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	45	36	9	10
Apr 14-21, 2009	48	36	7	9
Early October, 2008	47	38	8	7
January, 2008	50	34	10	6
July, 2007	45	34	13	8
September, 2006	52	29	10	9
Early October, 2005	47	38	11	4
Late March, 2005	48	34	8	10
Late February, 2004	59	27	7	7
June, 2001	52	32	10	6
<i>Gallup</i> : April, 1998	67	24	6	3
<i>Gallup</i> : July, 1988	59	17	15	9

## ASK ALL:

Q.36 Now, thinking about some possible economic concerns for the country. First, do you think that **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** poses a major threat, a minor threat, or no threat to the economic well being of the-U.S.? What about **[INSERT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Is [ITEM] a major threat, a minor threat, or no threat to the economic well being of the U.S.?**]

	<u>Major threat</u>	<u>Minor threat</u>	<u>No threat</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Economic problems in Europe Dec 7-11, 2011	46	33	8	13
b. Economic competition from China Dec 7-11, 2011	59	27	7	7
c. The power of financial institutions and banks Dec 7-11, 2011	56	29	8	7
d. The size of the national debt Dec 7-11, 2011	76	16	4	4
e. Government regulation of business Dec 7-11, 2011	44	34	13	9

## NO QUESTIONS 37-40

Next,

**ASK ALL:**

Q.41 Compared to recent Congresses, would you say THIS Congress has accomplished more, accomplished less, or accomplished about the same amount?

	<u>More</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same amount</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	8	50	37	5
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	20	36	37	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	18	33	44	6
October, 2007	5	43	42	10
October, 2006	6	39	47	8
Early September, 2006	7	37	49	7
June, 2006	7	43	42	8
April, 2006	8	38	48	6
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	11	27	54	8
June, 2002	16	22	56	6
July, 2000	21	15	55	9
August, 1999	15	20	60	5
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	24	23	49	4
Early September, 1998	25	15	55	5
Early August, 1998	18	15	60	7
November, 1997	23	12	59	6
April, 1997	10	22	59	9
Gallup: October, 1994	10	36	51	3

**[IF "2" IN Q.41, ASK]:**

Q.42 Who do you think is most to blame for this **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

**BASED ON THOSE WHO SAY CONGRESS ACCOMPLISHED LESS [N=861]:**

	Republican <u>leaders</u>	Democratic <u>leaders</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> Neither/ <u>Someone else</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	23	32	1	3
Jun 16-20, 2010	16	49	28	5	3
October, 2007	30	26	34	5	5
October, 2006	59	10	21	4	6
June, 2006	56	16	22	2	4
April, 2006	58	13	21	4	4

**ASK ALL:**

Q.43 Which comes closer to your view of Congress these days? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Dec 7-11 <u>2011</u>		Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>
32	Most members of Congress have good intentions, it's the political system that is broken	38
55	The political system can work fine, it's the members of Congress that are the problem	52
6	Both <b>(VOL.)</b>	3
1	Neither <b>(VOL.)</b>	1
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	6

**ASK ALL:**

Q.44 I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**. The next pair is **[NEXT PAIR]**...

a.	Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're <u>willing to work hard</u>	Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success <u>for most people</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Dec 7-11, 2011	58	40	3
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	62	34	4
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	64	33	3
March, 2006	64	33	3
December, 2005	64	33	3
December, 2004	68	28	4
September, 2000	73	24	3
August, 1999	74	23	3
July, 1994	68	30	2

**NO ITEM b**

c.	As Americans, we can always find ways to solve our problems and <u>get what we want</u>	This country can't solve many <u>of its important problems</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Dec 7-11, 2011	60	36	3
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	57	37	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	54	42	5
December, 2008	68	27	5
October, 2008	64	29	7
December, 2004	59	36	5
September, 2000	59	36	5
August, 1999	63	32	5
July, 1994	52	45	3

d.	Wall Street helps the American <u>economy more than it hurts</u>	Wall Street hurts the American <u>economy more than it helps</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Dec 7-11, 2011	36	51	13
Mar 8-14, 2011	38	47	15

e.	The economic system in this country unfairly <u>favors the wealthy</u>	The economic system in this country is generally fair <u>to most Americans</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Dec 7-11, 2011	61	36	3

Next...

**ASK ALL:**

Q.45 Do you think there is too much power in the hands of a few rich people and large corporations in the United States, or don't you think so?

Dec 7-11 <u>2011</u>		<i>Gallup</i> <u>April 1941</u> <sup>9</sup>
77	Yes, think a few rich people and corporations have too much power	60
19	No, do not think a few rich people and corporations have too much power	26
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14

<sup>9</sup> In April 1941, question read "Do you think there is too much power in the hands of a few rich men and large corporations in the United States?"

Thinking about the political parties ...

**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Please tell me if you think each phrase I read better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders (First,) which party do you think is better described by the phrase... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE.]** Which party **[NEXT ITEM]?**

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Is more extreme in its positions					
Dec 7-11, 2011	53	33	4	1	9
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	50	38	3	1	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	50	35	4	2	9
b. Is more willing to work with political leaders from the other party					
Dec 7-11, 2011	25	51	3	12	10
Jul 20-24, 2011	26	51	1	12	9
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	32	49	2	10	6
c. Can better manage the federal government					
Dec 7-11, 2011	35	41	3	13	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	38	2	14	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	41	39	2	8	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	43	36	2	11	8
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	41	41	3	8	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	41	37	3	12	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	40	40	4	9	8
Aug 27-30, 2009	34	38	4	14	10
October, 2007	32	44	5	9	10
March, 2007	31	47	3	8	11
Early October, 2006	34	44	3	9	10
April, 2006 <sup>10</sup>	35	39	3	15	8
January, 2006	34	40	4	12	10
Early October, 2005	35	41	3	13	8
July, 2004	37	40	4	9	10
Early September, 1998	37	32	8	12	11
August, 1997	39	33	4	16	8
July, 1996	45	32	4	12	7
April, 1995	49	30	3	13	5
July, 1994	43	31	4	17	5
May, 1993	36	32	2	17	13
July, 1992	30	36	1	23	10
May, 1990	28	20	12	31	9
May, 1988	33	30	10	17	10
January, 1988	30	28	12	20	10
May, 1987	24	25	13	28	10
d. Governs in a more honest and ethical way					
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	45	2	16	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	42	2	20	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	33	42	3	14	8
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	35	4	16	9
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	41	4	18	6
August 27-30, 2009	26	42	4	20	9
October, 2007	26	40	6	19	9
March, 2007	25	43	4	18	10
Early October, 2006	27	41	4	18	10

<sup>10</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Able to manage the federal government well."

**Q.46 CONTINUED...**

	Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>equally</u>		
April, 2006 <sup>11</sup>	28	36	4	23	9
January, 2006	30	37	4	19	10
Early October, 2005	30	40	6	18	6
July, 2004	34	37	5	15	9
Early September, 1998	31	28	6	23	12
March, 1998	28	32	7	24	9
August, 1997	28	33	5	26	8
July, 1996	38	37	2	18	5
April, 1995	35	36	4	19	6
July, 1994	32	35	6	21	6

**NO QUESTION 47****QUESTIONS 48-52 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**


---

<sup>11</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Governs in an honest and ethical way."



PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
DECEMBER 8-11, 2011 OMNIBUS  
FINAL TOPLINE  
N=1,008

**PEW1, PEW2, PEWWP1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

Now thinking about the Occupy Wall Street movement...

**RANDOMIZE PEW.2A AND PEW.2B**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.2A Do you agree or disagree with the concerns the Occupy Wall Street movement protests have raised?

Dec 8-11

2011

48	Agree
30	Disagree
22	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**RANDOMIZE PEW.2A AND PEW.2B**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.2b Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Occupy Wall Street movement protests are being conducted?

Dec 8-11

2011

29	Approve
49	Disapprove
23	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**PEW3 AND PEW4 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**