

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MAY 2000 POLITICAL SURVEY
—FINAL TOPLINE—
May 2-6, 2000
N=1,303

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>
May, 2000	57	33	10=100
April, 2000	57	31	12=100
March, 2000	57	35	8=100
February, 2000	58	33	9=100
January, 2000	56	35	9=100
December, 1999	55	35	10=100
October, 1999	59	34	7=100
Late September, 1999	59	33	8=100
September, 1999	56	36	8=100
August, 1999	60	32	8=100
July, 1999	58	31	11=100
June, 1999	55	35	10=100
May, 1999	56	34	10=100
April, 1999	56	38	6=100
March, 1999	62	31	7=100
February, 1999	64	30	6=100
Mid-January, 1999	66	29	5=100
January, 1999	63	30	7=100
Late December, 1998	71	27	2=100
Early December, 1998	61	32	7=100
November, 1998	65	29	6=100
September 21-22, 1998	62	33	5=100
September 19-20, 1998	55	36	9=100
Early September, 1998	61	33	6=100
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

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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
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>
May, 2000	40	42	18=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100
February, 2000	40	43	17=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100
October, 1999	34	50	16=100
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100
September, 1999	35	48	17=100
August, 1999	40	44	16=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
February, 1999	37	51	12=100
Mid-January, 1999	36	51	13=100
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
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
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

Q.3 How much thought have you given to the coming presidential election, quite a lot, or only a little?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=940]:

		Late Early										----- Gallup -----			
		Nov	Oct	Sept	Sept	July	June	Oct	Sept	Aug	June	Nov	Oct	Aug	Sept
		1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1992	1992	1992	1992	1988	1988	1988	1988
48	Quite a lot	67	65	61	56	55	50	77	69	72	63	73	69	61	57
4	Some (VOL.)	8	7	7	3	3	5	5	3	4	6	8	9	10	18
42	Only a little	22	26	29	36	41	41	16	26	23	29	17	20	27	23
5	None (VOL.)	3	1	2	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
<u>1</u>	DK/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.4 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

IF '3' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW/REFUSED in Q.4, ASK:

Q.4a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=940]:

		March 2000	Feb 2000	Dec 1999	Oct 1999 ¹	Sept 1999	July 1999	March 1999 ²	Jan 1999	Sept 1998
45	Gore/Lean Gore	49	45	40	39	39	42	41	44	40
46	Bush/Lean Bush	43	46	55	54	54	53	54	50	53
<u>9</u>	Undecided/Other/Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.5 What do you like most about (INSERT FROM Q.4 OR Q.4a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO CHOSE GORE OR BUSH IN Q.4/Q.4a:

		<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Stand on issues</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	
Al Gore		10	13	30	40	7=100	(N=415)
	March, 2000	10	14	28	40	8=100	
	October, 1999 ¹	8	11	32	43	6=100	
George W. Bush		12	22	8	51	7=100	(N=447)
	March, 2000	14	24	10	42	10=100	
	October, 1999 ¹	13	25	11	42	9=100	

Q.6 What do you like LEAST about (INSERT NAME NOT CHOSEN IN Q.4 OR Q.4a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO CHOSE GORE OR BUSH IN Q.4/Q.4a:

		<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Stand on Issues</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	
Al Gore		22	22	6	41	9=100	(N=447)
	March, 2000	22	20	5	43	10=100	
	October, 1999 ¹	24	22	5	39	10=100	
George W. Bush		25	13	13	35	14=100	(N=415)
	March, 2000	33	8	13	35	11=100	
	October, 1999 ¹	19	11	13	41	16=100	

NO QUESTION 7

¹ October 1999 results taken from the Typology re-interview survey.

² In previous months, the question asked: "Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and Texas Governor George W. Bush, the Republican..."

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.8 What do you think is more important — to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

		March	June	May	Dec
		<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1993</u>
38	Protect right of Americans to own guns	29	33	30	34
57	Control gun ownership	66	62	65	57
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.9 In your opinion, how likely is it that the president and Congress will pass significant new gun control laws this year — is it very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely?

14	Very likely
34	Somewhat likely
25	Not too likely
21	Not at all likely
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.10 How much, if anything, have you heard about the Million Mom March, a rally to be held in Washington, DC on Mother's Day in support of gun control — have you heard a lot about this, a little or nothing at all?

10	A lot
42	A little
48	Nothing at all
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK WOMEN ONLY [N=678]:

Q.10a Would you, yourself, be interested in attending the Million Mom March, or not?

21	Yes, would be interested
77	No, would not be interested
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Now a few more questions about the presidential campaign...

Q.11 As I read a list of phrases, tell me if you think each phrase better describes George W. Bush or Al Gore.
(READ AND ROTATE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES)

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS FORM 1 [N=468]; FORM 2 [N=472]:

					(VOL.)	
		<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>DK</u>
					<u>Equally</u>	
a.F1	Has led an interesting life	31	43	5	8	13=100
b.F2	Has a good sense of humor	34	48	4	5	9=100
c.F1	Is mature	44	41	4	6	5=100
d.F2	Is an attractive person	42	29	7	11	11=100
e.F1	Is down to earth	46	41	5	2	6=100
f.F2	Comes across well on television	40	43	3	6	8=100
g.F1	Is personally inspiring	33	42	17	2	6=100
h.F2	Has a lot of charisma	31	47	10	3	9=100
i.F1	Is a caring person	44	34	5	10	7=100
j.F2	Is a straight talker	37	43	10	3	7=100
k.F1	Is level-headed	43	42	3	6	6=100

On a different subject...

Q.12 How much, if anything, have you heard about the recent debate over whether the U.S. should develop a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks — a lot, a little or nothing at all?

10	A lot
43	A little
47	Nothing at all
*	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.13 Some people feel the U.S. should try to develop a ground- and space-based missile defense system to protect the U.S. from missile attack. Others oppose such an effort because they say it would be too costly and might interfere with existing arms treaties with the Russians. Which position comes closer to your view?

		-- Gallup --		
		May	Dec	Aug
		<u>1987³</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1985</u>
52	Should develop a ground- and space-based missile defense system	44	52	45
37	Oppose developing such a system	42	40	47
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused	14	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.14 Over the course of the past two decades, the U.S. and Russia have been gradually reducing the size of their nuclear arsenals. Do you think the U.S. and Russia should continue working toward reducing the number of nuclear weapons, or do you think they should maintain them at their current levels?

63	Continue working toward reductions
32	Maintain current levels
*	Increase (VOL.)
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.15 Should the U.S. go ahead with developing a missile defense system, even if that jeopardizes negotiations with the Russians aimed at further reducing the nuclear arsenals in both countries, OR should the U.S. hold off on developing a missile defense system and focus on negotiating further arms reductions with the Russians?

36	U.S. should go ahead with developing missile defense system
55	U.S. should hold off on developing a missile defense system
2	Neither (VOL.)
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

³

In May 1987, December 1986, and August 1985, question was worded: "Some people feel the U.S. should try to develop a space-based "Star Wars" system to protect the U.S. from nuclear attack. Others oppose such an effort because they say it would be too costly and further escalate the arms race. Which position comes closer to your view?"