

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MARCH 2000 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**— FINAL TOPLINE —**  
**March 15-19, 2000**  
**N =1,184**

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>
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

**Q.1 CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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
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>
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
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

[NO Q.3, Q.4]

Now a different kind of question...

**FORM 1 ONLY:**

Q.5F1 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of Al Gore. 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).**)

March 2000	Frequency*	Sept 1999	Frequency*	Sept 1997	Frequency*	Early Sept 1996	Frequency*
Boring	24	Boring	61	Okay	59	Intelligent	20
Good	12	Good	46	Good	52	Good	16
Fair	9	Okay	36	Boring	42	Environmentalist	15
Capable	9	Quiet	20	Stiff	30	Honest	14
Honest	9	Dull	18	Intelligent	27	Leadership	14
Okay	8	Stiff	18	Honest	27	Smart	14
Politician	7	Nice	16	Fair	25	Quiet	13
Dull	7	Alright	14	Quiet	24	Stiff	13
I like him	7	Fair	14	Wimp	24	Fair	12
Dishonest	6	Intelligent	11	Environmentalist	21	Boring	11
Incompetent	6	Honest	10	Competent	21	Follower	11
Environmentalist	6	Idiot	10	Nice	20	Nice	11
Dislike	6	Likable	10	Invisible	19	Alright	9
Follower	6	Weak	10	Dull	18	Dull	9
Great	5	Competent	9	Unknown	15	Personable	9
Weak	5	Dislike	9	Phony	14	Sincere	9
Intelligent	5	Follower	9	Alright	13	Wimp	8
Alright	5	Incompetent	9	Fine	13	OK	7
Mediocre	5	Unimpressed	9	Follower	13	Politician	6
Fake	5	Bad	7	Adequate	13	Puppet	5
	(N=585)		(N=1205)		(N=2000)		(N=750)

\* Q.5F1 The "Frequency" column is the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

**FORM 2 ONLY:**

Q.6F2 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of George W. Bush. 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).**

March 2000	Frequency*	Sept 1999	Frequency*	March 1999	Frequency*
Good	17	Good	63	Good	42
Okay	11	Okay	37	Okay	25
Arrogant	10	Alright	27	Unknown	24
Reference to Father	9	Likable	27	Leader	20
Honest	8	Honest	22	Honest	16
Dislike	8	Unknown	20	Great	15
Integrity	7	Dislike	15	Conservative	14
Fair	6	Intelligent	13	Fair	13
Conservative	6	Rich	12	Old	11
Untrustworthy	6	Conservative	11	Alright	11
President	6	Fair	10	Intelligent	10
Determined	6	Impressive	10	Excellent	9
I like him	5	Interesting	10	Republican	8
Inexperienced	5	Politician	10	Potential	7
Great	5	Aggressive	9	Interesting	7
Wimp	5	Arrogant	9	Confident	6
Bad	5	Leader	9	Fine	6
Cocky	5	Smart	8	Nice	6
Excellent	5	Young	8	Strong	6
Leader	5	Confident	7	Competent	6
	(N=599)		(N=1205)		(N=893)

\* Q.6F2 The "Frequency" column is the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.7 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? **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	(VOL) DK
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
a. News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election	26	41	19	13	1=100
February, 2000	26	36	21	17	*=100
January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1=100
December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1=100
October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1=100
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1=100
July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1=100
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1=100

**Q.7 CONTINUED ...**

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<b>(VOL) DK</b>
b.	Increasing tensions between China and Taiwan	9	21	28	41	1=100
	Late July, 1999	8	20	25	47	*=100
<b>ASK FORM 1 [N=585]:</b>						
c.F1	Recent increases in the price of gasoline	58	28	10	4	*=100
	October, 1990	27	29	25	18	1=100
d.F1	Flood rescue efforts in Mozambique	10	26	30	34	*=100
e.F1	The shooting of a 6-year-old girl at a Michigan school	40	38	15	7	*=100
f.F1	The acquittal of four New York policemen who shot and killed Amadou Diallo, an African immigrant	28	35	20	17	0=100
<b>ASK FORM 2 [N=599]:</b>						
g.F2	Reports about the multi-millionaire who met and married a woman on national television	10	24	32	33	1=100
h.F2	Recent major ups and downs in the U.S. stock market	23	29	21	26	1=100
	March, 1999	18	29	22	31	*=100
	January, 1999	24	28	19	28	1=100
	Early September, 1998	32	31	20	17	*=100
	Mid-August, 1998	17	23	21	39	*=100
	January, 1998	21	25	23	31	*=100
	November, 1997 <sup>1</sup>	25	36	18	20	1=100
	September, 1997	14	22	23	40	1=100
	April, 1997	17	21	22	40	*=100
	February, 1996	12	20	25	42	1=100
i.F2	Pope John Paul asking for God's forgiveness for sins committed by the Roman Catholic church	16	27	25	31	1=100

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<sup>1</sup> In November 1997, April 1997 and February 1996, the story was listed as "Recent major ups and downs in the stock market."

Q.8 Thinking about the presidential primaries so far, generally do you think they have been a good way of determining who the best qualified nominees are or not?

		March <u>1996</u>	March <u>1992</u>	<b>Gallup</b> <u>1988</u>	<b>Newsweek</b> <u>1980</u>
41	Yes	35	31	48	40
50	No	58	59	37	48
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.9 All in all, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the presidential campaign so far: excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

		Feb <u>2000</u>	Sept <u>1996</u>	July <u>1996</u>	Feb <u>1996</u>	Sept <u>1992</u>	May <u>1992</u>	March <u>1992</u>	Feb <u>1992</u>
10	Excellent	13	13	7	16	12	10	12	11
46	Good	50	44	35	45	45	44	51	45
32	Only fair	25	29	42	25	27	33	28	32
9	Poor	7	11	14	10	11	10	6	7
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

I would like to ask you about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them...

Q.10 Do you happen to know who will probably be the Democratic presidential nominee?

72	Al Gore ( <i>correct answer</i> )
3	Other
<u>25</u>	Don't Know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )
100	

Q.11 Do you happen to know who will probably be the Republican presidential nominee?

75	George W. Bush ( <i>correct answer</i> )
2	Other
<u>23</u>	Don't Know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )
100	

Q.12 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.12, ASK:**

Q.12a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=912]:**

		Feb 2000	Dec 1999	Oct 1999 <sup>2</sup>	Sept 1999	July 1999	March 1999 <sup>3</sup>	Jan 1999	Sept 1998
49	Gore/Lean Gore	45	40	39	39	42	41	44	40
43	Bush/Lean Bush	46	55	54	54	53	54	50	53
<u>8</u>	Undecided/Other/Don't know	<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

Q.13 What do you like most about (INSERT FROM Q.12 OR Q.12a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO CHOSE GORE OR BUSH IN Q.12/Q.12a:**

		<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Stand on issues</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	
Al Gore		10	14	28	40	8=100	(N=443)
	October, 1999 <sup>2</sup>	8	11	32	43	6=100	
George W. Bush		14	24	10	42	10=100	(N=397)
	October, 1999 <sup>2</sup>	13	25	11	42	9=100	

Q.14 What do you like LEAST about (INSERT NAME NOT CHOSEN IN Q.12 OR Q.12a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO CHOSE GORE OR BUSH IN Q.12/Q.12a:**

		<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Stand on Issues</u>	<u>Don't know</u>	
Al Gore		22	20	5	43	10=100	(N=397)
	October, 1999 <sup>2</sup>	24	22	5	39	10=100	
George W. Bush		33	8	13	35	11=100	(N=443)
	October, 1999 <sup>2</sup>	19	11	13	41	16=100	

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<sup>2</sup> October 1999 results taken from the Typology re-interview survey.

<sup>3</sup> 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:**

Q.15 Which of the following is the most important reason why you (IF “1, GORE” IN Q.12 or Q.12a ASK: support; IF “2, BUSH in Q.12 or Q.12a, or 3, other, or 9, Don't know in 12a ASK: don't support) Al Gore for president — his personality and leadership abilities, OR his ties to the Clinton administration?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:**

	<i>Why Support Gore</i>		<i>Why Don't Support Gore</i>	
	<u>March 00</u>	<u>Oct 99<sup>4</sup></u>	<u>March 00</u>	<u>Oct 99<sup>4</sup></u>
Personality and leadership abilities	64	55	29	38
Ties to the Clinton administration	27	36	54	51
<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> Other/Neither	8	7	11	7
Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100
	<b>(N=443)</b>		<b>(N=469)</b>	

Q.16 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat, George W. Bush, the Republican, and Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party. Who would you vote for?

**IF '4' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW/REFUSED IN Q.16, ASK:**

Q.16a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat, Bush, the Republican, or Buchanan of the Reform Party?

<b>BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=912]:</b>		<u>Jan 2000</u>	<u>Sept 1999</u>
47	Gore/Lean Gore	39	35
40	Bush/Lean Bush	51	49
6	Buchanan/Lean Buchanan	4	10
<u>7</u>	Other/Don't Know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Now a few questions about press coverage of the presidential candidates...

Q.17 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the 2000 presidential campaign, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

		<u>Feb 2000</u>	<u>Sept 1999</u>	<u>July 1999</u>	<u>March 1996</u>	<u>Oct 1995</u>	<u>Sept 1992</u>	<u>Feb 1992</u>	<u>Oct 1991</u>	<u>May 1988</u>	<u>Nov 1987</u>
		25	Too much	22	28	18	29	18	22	19	12
10	Too little	10	14	13	10	18	11	15	22	7	16
61	Right amount	63	49	59	58	60	62	62	58	62	58
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

4

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

**Q.18-Q.21 ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=585]**

**[ROTATE Q.18, Q.19, Q.20]:**

Q.18F1 Would you say the press has been too easy, too tough or fair in the way it has covered John McCain's campaign?

12 Too easy  
 14 Too Tough  
 59 Fair  
15 Don't Know/Refused (VOL)  
 100

Q.19F1 Would you say the press has been too easy, too tough, or fair in the way it has covered Al Gore's campaign?

17 Too easy  
 8 Too Tough  
 65 Fair  
10 Don't Know/Refused (VOL)  
 100

Q.20F1 Would you say the press has been too easy, too tough, or fair in the way it has covered George W. Bush's campaign?

14 Too easy  
 10 Too Tough  
 65 Fair  
11 Don't Know/Refused (VOL)  
 100

Q.21F1 As it's shaping up so far, what's your opinion of the likely presidential candidates for this year? Would you say that you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the likely choices?

**--- Registered Voters ---**

Total	RVs		Late		Sept	June	Oct	Aug	June
			July	Oct					
			<u>1999</u>	<u>1996<sup>5</sup></u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>
12	13	Very satisfied	13	11	11	9	10	11	6
48	47	Fairly satisfied	40	48	50	37	41	42	31
26	27	Not too satisfied	25	27	26	31	33	31	35
11	11	Not at all satisfied	12	11	10	19	14	15	26
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100	100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100
(N=585)	(N=457)								

5

In previous years the question was worded "What's your opinion of the presidential candidates this year? Would you say that you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the choices?"

**Q.22-Q.23 ASK FORM 2 ONLY:**

Q.22F2 It looks certain that George W. Bush will become the Republican candidate for President and Al Gore the Democratic candidate for President. How satisfied are you with these choices... very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>		<b>Registered Voters</b> <u>July 1999<sup>6</sup></u>
21	22	Very satisfied	26
44	41	Fairly satisfied	50
21	22	Not too satisfied	15
11	13	Not at all satisfied	7
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>
100	100		100
(N=599)	(N=455)		

Q.23 Assuming that George W. Bush becomes the Republican candidate for President and Al Gore the Democratic candidate for President, are you more interested in seeing a third party candidate run for President or are you less interested in seeing a third party candidate run for President?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>		<b>Registered Voters</b> <u>July 1999<sup>7</sup></u>
36	37	More interested	40
56	56	Less interested	46
4	3	Neither ( <b>VOL</b> )	10
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100	100		100
(N=599)	(N=455)		

[NO Q.24, Q.25, Q.26, Q.27]

**[ROTATE BLOCK Q.28/28a WITH BLOCK Q.29/29a]**

Q.28 At any point in the presidential campaign, did you want John McCain to win the Republican nomination?  
**IF "1 YES" IN Q.28, ASK:**

Q.28a Were you a strong supporter of his, or not?

44	Yes	
	19	Yes, strong supporter
	24	No, not a strong supporter
	1	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )
48	No	
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )	
100		

<sup>6</sup> In July 1999 the question was worded "If George W. Bush becomes the Republican candidate for President and Al Gore the Democratic candidate for President, how satisfied would you be with the choices... very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied?"

<sup>7</sup> In July 1999 the question was worded "If George W. Bush becomes the Republican candidate for President and Al Gore the Democratic candidate for President, would that make you more interested in seeing a third party candidate run for President or would that make you less interested in seeing a third party candidate run for President?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.29 At any point in the presidential campaign, did you want Bill Bradley to win the Democratic nomination?

**IF "1 YES" IN Q.29, ASK:**

Q.29a Were you a strong supporter of his, or not?

28	Yes
9	Yes, strong supporter
19	No, not a strong supporter
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
60	No
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

On another subject...

C.1 How much credit, if any, do you give Bill Clinton for improved conditions in the country these days? A great deal of credit, some credit, hardly any credit or none at all?

31	A great deal
44	Some
13	Hardly any
11	None
*	Conditions are not improved (VOL)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

C.2 In your opinion, which presidential candidate would do a better job of making sure that things continue to improve in the country... Al Gore or George W. Bush?

46	Al Gore
43	George W. Bush
4	Neither (VOL)
1	Both (VOL)
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

C.3 All in all, what effect has Bill Clinton had on politics and the way government works in Washington, has he made things better, made things worse, or hasn't he had much of an effect?

39	Made better
28	Made worse
28	Not much of an effect
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

C.4 In your opinion, which presidential candidate would do a better job of improving politics and the way government works in Washington... Al Gore or George W. Bush?

40 Al Gore  
 44 George W. Bush  
 7 Neither (VOL)  
 1 Both (VOL)  
 8 Don't know/Refused  
 100

Q.30 Regardless of who you support, which one of the Presidential candidates — Al Gore or George W. Bush — do you think would do the best job of (INSERT ITEM. ROTATE IF RESPONDENT MENTIONS ANYONE OTHER THAN GORE OR BUSH PROBE ONCE: "IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN GORE AND BUSH ... " ) ?

		<u>Al Gore</u>	<u>George W. Bush</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
a.	Keeping the economy strong	44	43	4	9=100
b.	Making wise decisions about foreign policy	44	41	4	11=100
c.	Keeping Social Security and Medicare financially sound	47	36	5	12=100
d.	Representing your views on gun control	41	37	5	17=100
e.	Improving conditions for minority groups	55	28	4	13=100
f.	Improving the health care system	49	33	5	13=100
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=585]:</b>					
g.F1	Protecting and strengthening families	43	37	6	14=100
h.F1	Representing your views about abortion	40	33	6	21=100
i.F1	Preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction	43	31	7	19=100
j.F1	Dealing with taxes	42	40	6	12=100
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=599]:</b>					
k.F2	Improving education	41	44	4	11=100
l.F2	Dealing with campaign finance reform	32	39	13	16=100
m.F2	Protecting the environment	55	30	3	12=100
n.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	55	32	5	8=100
o.F2	Controlling the price of gasoline	25	41	14	20=100

[NO Q.31 OR Q.32]

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=599]:**

Q.33F2 As I read a list of different aspects of election campaigns, please tell me how much, if at all, each one bothers you personally. First, how much does (INSERT AND ROTATE) bother you -- very much, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?<sup>8</sup>

		<u>Very Much</u>	<u>Some- what</u>	<u>Not too much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a.F2	The amount of money politicians spend on campaigns	59	20	9	12	*=100
	February, 1996	56	17	13	13	1=100
	PSRA: July, 1994	69	16	7	7	1=100
b.F2	Political advertising on television	25	27	25	22	1=100
	February, 1996	32	24	26	17	1=100
	PSRA: July, 1994	31	29	23	16	1=100
c.F2	What politicians say to get elected	46	30	13	10	1=100
	February, 1996	53	25	11	10	1=100
	PSRA: July, 1994	61	23	9	5	2=100
d.F2	News coverage about campaigns	13	26	31	29	1=100
	February, 1996	15	26	30	27	2=100
	PSRA: July, 1994	23	31	25	20	1=100
e.F2	Negative campaigning	57	20	11	10	2=100
	February, 1996	60	17	11	10	2=100

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.34 There are many ways for people to vote, and some prefer one way over another. If you had the choice of voting in a booth at a polling place on election day OR over the Internet OR through the mail during the weeks leading up to election day, which would you prefer?

		<u>February 1996<sup>9</sup></u>
52	Voting in booth	54
26	Voting over Internet	n/a
20	Voting by mail	43
1	None (VOL)	2
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

<sup>8</sup> In March 2000 "if at all" was added to the question wording.

<sup>9</sup> In February 1996 the question was worded "There are different ways for people to vote, and some prefer one way over another. If you had the choice of voting in a booth at a polling place on election day OR voting through the mail during the weeks leading up to election day, which would you prefer?"

On a different subject...

Q.35 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, at home or anywhere else on at least an occasional basis?<sup>10</sup>

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
March, 2000	72	28	0=100
February, 2000	67	33	*=100
January, 2000	68	32	*=100
December, 1999	67	33	*=100
October, 1999	67	33	*=100
Late September, 1999	68	32	*=100
September, 1999	70	30	*=100
August, 1999	67	33	*=100
July, 1999	68	32	*=100
June, 1999	64	35	1=100
May, 1999	66	33	1=100
April, 1999	71	29	*=100
March, 1999	68	32	*=100
February, 1999	68	32	*=100
January, 1999	69	31	*=100
Early December, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early September, 1998	64	36	*=100
Early August, 1998	66	34	*=100
April, 1998	61	39	*=100
January, 1998	65	35	*=100
November, 1997	66	34	*=100
June, 1997	60	40	0=100
Early September, 1996	56	44	*=100
July, 1996	56	44	*=100
April, 1996	58	42	*=100
March, 1996	61	39	*=100
February, 1996	60	40	0=100
January, 1996	59	41	0=100

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<sup>10</sup>

In March 2000, "or anywhere else" was added to the question wording.

**IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.35, ASK:**

Q.35a Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

	<u>Goes Online</u>	<u>Doesn't Go Online</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
March, 2000	61	39	0=100
February, 2000	52	48	0=100
January, 2000	52	48	*=100
December, 1999	53	47	0=100
October, 1999	50	50	0=100
Late September, 1999	52	48	*=100
September, 1999	53	47	0=100
August, 1999	52	48	0=100
July, 1999	49	51	0=100
June, 1999	50	50	*=100
May, 1999	48	52	0=100
April, 1999	51	49	*=100
March, 1999	49	51	*=100
February, 1999	49	51	*=100
January, 1999	47	53	*=100
Early December, 1998	42	58	0=100
November, 1998	37	63	*=100
Early September, 1998	42	58	*=100
Early August, 1998	43	57	*=100
November, 1997	36	63	1=100
July, 1996	23	77	0=100
June, 1995 <sup>11</sup>	14	86	*=100

**[ROTATE M.1 AND M.2]**

M.1 Now I will read a series of statements that might be made about Al Gore over the course of the presidential campaign. Tell me if each statement would make you more likely to vote for Al Gore, less likely to vote for him or wouldn't it make a difference. First, **(INSERT STATEMENT; ROTATE)...**

	<u>More Likely</u>	<u>Less Likely</u>	<u>Wouldn't Make a Difference</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Gore has been part of a scandal-ridden Clinton administration	5	41	52	2=100
b. Gore strongly supports a woman's right to choose an abortion	41	28	28	3=100
c. Gore took part in unethical fund raising practices during the 1996 presidential campaign	6	52	40	2=100
d. Gore can carry on Clinton's successful economic policies	45	18	35	2=100
e. Gore is too much of a Washington insider	8	32	57	3=100
f. Gore is a strong backer of campaign finance reform	39	15	44	2=100

<sup>11</sup>

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?



M.2 Now I will read a series of statements that might be made about George W. Bush over the course of the presidential campaign. Tell me if each statement would make you more likely to vote for George W. Bush, less likely to vote for him or wouldn't it make a difference...

		<u>More Likely</u>	<u>Less Likely</u>	<u>Wouldn't Make a Difference</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Bush has too many ties to the far right wing of the Republican party	10	38	48	4=100
b.	Bush mostly opposes stronger gun control measures	35	34	28	3=100
c.	Bush has pledged to cut taxes	49	15	34	2=100
d.	Bush has improved the educational system in Texas	52	9	35	4=100
e.	Bush doesn't know enough about the issues to be president	7	47	43	3=100
f.	Bush will bring morality and ethics back to the White House	48	13	37	2=100

On another subject...

Q.36 Would you favor or oppose a law that banned the sale of handguns?

		<u>Sept 1999</u>	<u>May 1999</u>	<u>Dec 1993</u>
47	Favor	46	44	45
47	Oppose	50	50	51
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.37 What do you think is more important — to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

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

Q.38 Which do you think is more important... **(READ; ROTATE)**

59	More strictly enforcing current gun laws and punishing people who break them
	OR
37	Passing new laws to increase gun safety and further restrict the sale of guns
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

[NO Q.39, 40, 41]

**ASK ALL:**

And now a few questions on China...

Q.42 All things considered, which of these descriptions comes closest to your view of China today... do you think China is (**READ**):

		June	March	Sept
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1997</u>
17	An adversary	18	20	14
44	A serious problem, but not an adversary	53	48	46
26	OR, Not much of a problem	22	25	32
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>DO NOT READ</b> )	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.43 What is your impression... These days are relations between the U.S. and China improving, getting worse, or staying about the same?

		June	March	Aug
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1995</u>
13	Improving	7	13	16
19	Getting worse	35	19	22
55	Staying about the same	50	60	53
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100

**[NO Q.44]**

Q.45 In your opinion, has the Clinton administration been too tough, not tough enough, or about right in its dealings with China?

		June	March
		<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>
2	Too tough	1	2
42	Not tough enough	51	44
42	About right	35	43
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100

Q.46 As you may know, there have been renewed tensions about when and how to bring Taiwan back under Chinese control. If China were to use military force against Taiwan over this, should the United States use military force to defend Taiwan, or not?

31	Should use force
53	Should not use force
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Two last questions about international affairs...

K.1 There are now U.S. troops in Kosovo as part of a NATO peacekeeping force to help maintain peace. Do you favor or oppose having U.S. troops in Kosovo for this reason?

		<u>June 1999</u> <sup>12</sup>
51	Favor	56
41	Oppose	37
<u>8</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

K.2 Do you think the U.S. and NATO have made progress in achieving the goals they started out with when they became involved militarily in Kosovo or not?

		<u>June 1999</u> <sup>13</sup>
37	Yes	46
47	No	40
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>
100		100

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<sup>12</sup> In June 1999 the question was worded "The peace agreement calls for sending 7,000 U.S. troops, as part of a NATO peacekeeping force of about 50,000 troops, to help maintain peace in Kosovo now that the military conflict has ended. Do you favor or oppose sending U.S. troops to Kosovo as part of a NATO peacekeeping force?"

<sup>13</sup> In June 1999 the question was worded "Do you think that the U.S. and NATO have achieved the goals they started out with when they began the bombing campaign?"