

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 2000 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**—FINAL TOPLINE—**  
**February 9-14, 2000**  
**N=1,330**

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>
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>
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

Q.3 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; ITEM a SHOULD ALWAYS COME BEFORE ITEM b]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK (VOL)</u>
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
a.	News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election				
	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
b.	The primaries in New Hampshire				
	18	27	26	29	*=100
	February, 1996 <sup>1</sup>				
	22	35	20	23	*=100
	February, 1992 <sup>2</sup>				
	19	31	26	23	1=100
	February, 1992 <sup>3</sup>				
	19	31	26	24	*=100
c.	The controversy over the new government in Austria that includes a right-wing political party				
	7	14	23	55	1=100
d.	The debate about flying the Confederate flag over the state capitol in South Carolina				
	19	29	24	27	1=100
e.	The Super Bowl				
	31	22	15	32	0=100
	February, 1990				
	22	22	19	37	0=100
f.	The crash of an Alaskan Airlines jet near Los Angeles				
	35	40	17	8	*=100
g.	Hillary Clinton's U.S. Senate campaign in New York <sup>4</sup>				
	15	31	27	26	1=100
	July, 1999				
	21	37	26	15	1=100
	June, 1999				
	14	32	31	22	1=100
	February, 1999				
	19	35	24	21	1=100

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<sup>1</sup> In 1996, the category was worded: "The Republican primary in New Hampshire."

<sup>2</sup> In 1992, the category was worded: "The Republican primary in New Hampshire."

<sup>3</sup> In 1992, the category was worded: "The Democratic primary in New Hampshire."

<sup>4</sup> In 1999, the category was worded: "Reports that Hillary Clinton might run for the U.S. Senate."

**Q.3 CONTINUED ...**

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK (VOL)</u>
h.	The suspension of baseball player John Rocker for remarks he made about minorities during a magazine interview	16	27	23	34	*=100
i.	The debate over whether a 6-year-old boy rescued at sea should be returned to his father in Cuba January, 2000	37	41	15	6	1=100
		39	38	14	8	1=100
j.	Computer hackers who attacked Yahoo and other commerce sites on the Internet	18	30	26	25	1=100

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

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=661]:**

Q.4F1 Do you happen to know which Republican candidate won the New Hampshire primary?

		<u>Feb 1996</u>
41	John McCain ( <i>correct</i> )	62 Buchanan ( <i>correct</i> )
14	Other answer (NET)	10
13	George W. Bush	n/a
*	Steve Forbes	n/a
*	Alan Keyes	n/a
0	Gary Bauer	n/a
1	Other mention	n/a
<u>45</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )	<u>28</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=669]:**

Q.5F2 Do you happen to know which Democratic candidate won the New Hampshire primary?

46	Al Gore ( <i>correct</i> )
3	Bill Bradley
5	Other
<u>46</u>	Don't Know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )
100	

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=661]:**

Q.6F1 Do you happen to know in what year the next United States census will be taken?

52	2000/this year ( <i>correct</i> )
10	Other answer
<u>38</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )
100	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=669]:**

Q.7F2 Do you happen to know if the federal government is spending MORE money than it is taking in this year, or spending LESS money than it is taking in?

		<u>Aug 1999</u>	<u>Feb 1989</u>
34	Spending more than it is taking in	41	81
29	Spending less than it is taking in	31	6
1	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> About equal	1	3
<u>36</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>27</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.8 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>(VOL) No Preference</u>	<u>(VOL) Other Party</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
February, 2000	27	30	34	6	1	2=100
Late September, 1999	24	31	36	5	1	3=100
August, 1999	25	33	37	3	*	2=100
November, 1997	25	32	38	3	*	2=100
June, 1996	30	33	34	2	*	1=100
February, 1996	30	32	32	3	1	2=100
October, 1995	30	30	35	3	*	2=100
April, 1995	30	29	37	3	*	1=100
March, 1995	35	28	32	--	2	3=100
February, 1995	33	30	33	--	2	2=100
December, 1994	35	31	30	--	2	2=100
November, 1994	28	31	35	4	*	2=100
October, 1994	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
Early October, 1994	33	30	32	-	2	3=100
July, 1994	29	33	35	2	*	1=100
June, 1992	28	32	36	1	*	3=100
May, 1990	28	33	28	9	*	2=100
February, 1989	31	38	23	7	*	1=100
May, 1988	28	38	26	6	*	2=100
January, 1988	27	39	26	6	*	2=100
May, 1987	25	37	28	8	*	2=100

**IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN Q.8, ASK [N=566]:**

Q.8a As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

31	Republican
32	Democrat
<u>37</u>	Other/Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL)</b>
100	

**IF ANSWERED "1" REPUBLICAN IN Q.8 OR Q.8a, ASK:**

Q.9 Now I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the Republican nomination for President in 2000. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President? (**PROBE: PLEASE WAIT UNTIL I READ THE ENTIRE LIST OF NAMES BEFORE YOU RESPOND.**) (**READ AND ROTATE**)

Q.9a Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

**BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN [N=412]:**

		Jan 2000 <sup>5</sup>	Dec 1999	Oct 1999	Sept 1999	July 1999	Dec 1998
62	George W. Bush/Lean Bush	69	64	63	56	60	57
30	John McCain/Lean McCain	17	17	10	6	4	4
6	Alan Keyes/Lean Keyes	2	3	1	2	n/a	n/a
1	None of them (VOL)	1	3	3	3	1	5
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	3	3	3	4	2	5

100

**IF ANSWERED "1" GEORGE W. BUSH OR "2" JOHN McCAIN IN Q.9 OR Q.9a, ASK:**

Q.10 What do you like most about (INSERT FROM Q.9 OR Q.9a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

**BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN WHO CHOSE BUSH OR MCCAIN IN Q.9/9a:**

	Personality	Leadership	Experience	Stand on Issues	DK/Ref	
George W. Bush	10	29	16	40	5=100	(N=243)
John McCain	14	17	16	50	3=100	(N=134)

**IF ANSWERED "1" GEORGE W. BUSH OR "3" ALAN KEYES IN Q.9 OR Q.9a, ASK:**

Q.11 What do you like LEAST about John McCain, his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

**BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN WHO DID NOT CHOOSE MCCAIN IN Q.9/9a:**

	Personality	Leadership	Experience	Stand on Issues	DK/Ref	
John McCain	23	6	9	38	24=100	(N=266)

**IF ANSWERED "2" JOHN McCAIN OR "3" ALAN KEYES IN Q.9 OR Q.9a, ASK:**

Q.12 What do you like LEAST about George W. Bush, his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

**BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN WHO DID NOT CHOOSE BUSH IN Q.9/9a:**

	Personality	Leadership	Experience	Stand on Issues	DK/Ref	
George W. Bush	34	11	14	27	14=100	(N=157)

<sup>5</sup> Percentages for previous months (1/00, 12/99, 10/99, 9/99, 7/99 and 12/98) do not equal 100%, because other candidates who were running at the time are not included in the trend.

**NO QUESTION 13 OR 14**

**IF ANSWERED "2" DEMOCRAT IN Q.8 or Q.8a, ASK:**

Q.15 There are now two candidates for the Democratic nomination for President in 2000, Al Gore and Bill Bradley. Please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic party's candidate for President?

Q.15a Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

**BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT [N=446]:**

		Jan <u>2000</u>	Dec <u>1999</u>	Oct <u>1999</u>	Sept <u>1999</u>	July <u>1999</u>
65	Al Gore/Lean Gore	68	53	60	58	65
28	Bill Bradley/Lean Bradley	24	38	31	32	29
3	None of them (VOL)	4	4	5	5	2
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

**IF ANSWERED "1" AL GORE OR "2" BILL BRADLEY IN Q.15 OR 15a, ASK:**

Q.16 What do you like most about (INSERT FROM Q.15 OR Q.15a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

**BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT WHO CHOSE GORE OR BRADLEY IN Q15/Q15a:**

	<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	Stand on <u>Issues</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	
Al Gore	11	15	38	33	3=100	(N=284)
October, 1999	6	15	28	45	6=100	
Bill Bradley	9	18	12	52	9=100	(N=129)
October, 1999	21	16	5	53	5=100	

Q.17 What do you like LEAST about (INSERT NAME NOT CHOSEN IN Q.15 OR Q.15a), his personality, his leadership ability, his experience or his stand on issues?

**BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT WHO CHOSE GORE OR BRADLEY IN Q15/Q15a:**

	<u>Personality</u>	<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Experience</u>	Stand on <u>Issues</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	
Al Gore	39	16	5	31	9=100	(N=129)
October, 1999	27	29	11	23	10=100	
Bill Bradley	22	11	16	26	25=100	(N=284)
October, 1999	17	5	19	15	44=100	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.18 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?

		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>
13	Excellent	13	7	16	12	10	12	11
50	Good	44	35	45	45	44	51	45
25	Only fair	29	42	25	27	33	28	32
7	Poor	11	14	10	11	10	6	7
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<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

Q.19 How have you been getting most of your news about the presidential election campaign? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines or from the Internet? (**ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS. IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ONE ADDITIONAL RESPONSE.**) Any others?<sup>6</sup>

		Jan <u>2000</u>	Sept <u>1996</u>	April <u>1996</u>	Feb <u>1996</u>	Sept <u>1992</u>	Jun <u>1992</u>	May <u>1992</u>	March <u>1992</u>	Feb <u>1992</u>
73	Television	75	75	81	85	83	84	86	83	80
33	Newspapers	31	44	48	56	49	55	51	48	49
15	Radio	12	14	21	21	13	18	17	14	18
2	Magazines	3	5	6	5	5	7	6	4	4
7	Internet	6	2	2	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2	Other	3	2	3	1	4	4	3	3	3
1	Don't know/Refused	1	1	1	1	1	*	1	*	1

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' TELEVISION IN Q.19, ASK:**

Q.19a Do you get most of your news about the presidential campaign from network TV news, from local TV news, or from cable news networks such as CNN and MSNBC?<sup>7</sup> (**ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS; DO NOT PROBE**)

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

		Jan <u>2000</u>	Sept <u>1996</u>	April <u>1996</u>
20	Network	24	29	39
28	Local	25	31	34
30	Cable	31	25	23
2	Other (VOL)	1	1	2
1	Don't know/Refused	1	1	1

<sup>6</sup> In 1996, the "Internet" category was worded "computer on-line sources."

<sup>7</sup> In 1996, the question was worded: "Do you get most of your news about the presidential campaign from network TV news, from local TV news, or from CNN?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 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?

		Sept <u>1999</u>	July <u>1999</u>	March <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>	Sept <u>1992</u>	Feb <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1991</u>	May <u>1988</u>	Nov <u>1987</u>
22	Too much	28	18	29	18	22	19	12	24	21
10	Too little	14	13	10	18	11	15	22	7	16
63	Right amount	49	59	58	60	62	62	58	62	58
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<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

Q.21F1/25F2 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?

Q.21aF1/25aF2 Do you support (INSERT CHOICE FROM Q.21/25) strongly or only moderately?

Q.21bF1/25bF2 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=971]:**

		Dec <u>1999</u>	Oct <u>1999</u>	Sept <u>1999</u>	July <u>1999</u>	March <u>1999</u> <sup>8</sup>	Jan <u>1999</u>	Early Sept <u>1998</u>
45	Gore/Lean Gore	40	44	39	42	41	44	40
18	Strongly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Moderately	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	DK/Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
46	Bush/Lean Bush	55	51	54	53	54	50	53
19	Strongly	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27	Moderately	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
*	DK/Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>9</u>	Undecided/Other/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.22F1/24F2 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and John McCain, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

Q.22aF1/24aF2 Do you support (INSERT CHOICE FROM Q. 22/24) strongly or only moderately?

Q.22bF1/24bF2 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or McCain, the Republican?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=971]**

41	Gore/Lean Gore
17	Strongly
24	Moderately
*	DK/Refused
49	McCain/Lean McCain
14	Strongly
34	Moderately
1	DK/Refused
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

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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..."

**NO QUESTION 23**  
**NO QUESTION 26**

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.27 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
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

**IF "1, YES" (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.27, ASK:**

Q.28 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>
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

**Q.28 CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Goes Online</u>	<u>Doesn't Go Online</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
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>9</sup>	14	86	*=100

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "1" YES IN Q. 28 ASK:**

Q.28a Do you ever go online to get information on current events, public issues and politics? **IF YES:** How often do you go online for this type of information... everyday, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, less often, or never?

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

	Nov <u>1998</u> <sup>10</sup>	Sept <u>1996</u>	July <u>1996</u>	April <u>1996</u>	March <u>1996</u>	Feb <u>1996</u>	Jan <u>1996</u>
9 Everyday	3	2	1	1	2	1	2
7 3-5 days/week	4	2	3	1	3	2	2
9 1-2 days/week	6	4	4	4	5	4	3
5 Once every few weeks	5	3	3	4	3	3	3
2 Less Often	5	1	2	1	1	2	1
20 No/Never	11	10	10	10	8	9	10
* Don't know/Refused	*	0	0	*	0	0	*
15 PC user, Does not go online	23	34	33	37	39	39	38
<u>33</u> Not a computer user	<u>43</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>41</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

<sup>9</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?

<sup>10</sup>

In November 1998, question was asked in a series with several other items. Worded: "Get news and information on..."

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED 1,2,3 OR 4 IN Q.28a ASK:**

Q.29 Do you ever go online to get information about the 2000 presidential campaign? **IF YES:** How often do you go online for this type of information... everyday, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, less often, or never?

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

		Sept <u>1996</u>	July <u>1996</u>	April <u>1996</u>	March <u>1996</u>	Feb <u>1996</u>
3	Everyday	1	*	*	*	*
2	3-5 days/week	1	1	1	1	1
4	1-2 days/week	2	1	1	2	2
2	Once every few weeks	1	1	1	1	1
1	Less Often	*	*	*	*	*
18	No/Never	6	8	7	9	6
*	Don't know/Refused	0	0	*	0	0
22	Does not go online for political/public issues	11	12	11	9	11
15	PC user, Does not go online	34	33	37	39	39
<u>33</u>	Not a computer user	<u>44</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>40</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY:**

Q.30F1 In your opinion, should there be a sales tax on purchases made on the Internet?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Online Users</u>	
38	31	Yes
52	64	No
<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )
100	100	
(N=661)	(N=380)	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY:**

Q.31F2 There are currently no sales taxes on purchases made on the Internet. Should the laws be changed to tax Internet purchases, or not?

<u>Total</u>	<u>Online Users</u>	
27	20	Yes, should be changed
60	73	No, should not be changed
<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )
100	100	
(N=669)	(N=365)	

**IF "1, YES" (GO ONLINE) IN Q.28, ASK:**

Q.32 Have you ever purchased goods or services online?

		<b>TREND BASED ON ONLINE USERS</b>			
		Dec	Jan	Nov	June
<u>Total</u>	<u>Online Users</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1995</u>
27	52	53	37	32	8
73	48	47	63	68	92
100	100	100	100	100	100
(N=745)					

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

**IF ANSWERED "1" REPUBLICAN IN Q.8 OR Q.8a, ASK:**

Q.33 As I read a list of phrases, tell me if you think this phrase better describes George W. Bush or John McCain. **(READ AND ROTATE)**

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN [N=543]:**

		<u>Bush</u>	<u>McCain</u>	(VOL) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL) <u>Both</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Would use good judgment in a crisis	52	32	2	6	8=100
b.	Personally likable	61	26	1	8	4=100
c.	Honest and truthful	45	34	6	8	7=100
d.	Has new ideas	41	42	4	3	10=100
e.	Cares about people like me	50	31	5	6	8=100
f.	A strong leader	62	27	2	4	5=100
g.	Can get things done	61	24	1	7	7=100
h.	Well-informed	46	34	2	11	7=100

**IF ANSWERED "2" DEMOCRAT IN Q.8 OR Q.8a, ASK:**

Q.34 As I read a list of phrases, tell me if you think this phrase better describes Al Gore or Bill Bradley. **(READ AND ROTATE)**

**BASED ON DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT [N=586]:**

		<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bradley</u>	(VOL) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL) <u>Both</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Would use good judgment in a crisis	59	23	3	6	9=100
b.	Personally likable	52	33	2	6	7=100
c.	Honest and truthful	48	29	5	7	11=100
d.	Has new ideas	47	39	3	3	8=100
e.	Cares about people like me	55	26	4	6	9=100
f.	A strong leader	58	28	4	2	8=100
g.	Can get things done	61	23	3	4	9=100
h.	Well-informed	62	20	2	10	6=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.35 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '3' OR '9' IN Q.35 , ASK:**

Q.35a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=971]:**

	<u>Republican/ Lean Rep.</u>	<u>Democrat/ Lean Dem.</u>	<u>Other/ Undecided</u>
February, 2000	44	47	9=100
October, 1999	43	49	8=100
June, 1999	40	50	10=100
November, 1998	42	48	10=100
Late October, 1998	40	47	13=100
Early October, 1998	43	44	13=100
Early September, 1998	45	46	9=100
Late August, 1998	44	45	11=100
Early August, 1998	42	49	9=100
June, 1998	44	46	10=100
March, 1998	40	52	8=100
February, 1998	41	50	9=100
January, 1998	41	51	8=100
August, 1997	45	48	7=100
Early November, 1996 <sup>11</sup>	44	48	8=100
October, 1996	42	49	9=100
Late September, 1996	43	49	8=100
Early September, 1996	43	51	6=100
July, 1996	46	47	7=100
June, 1996	44	50	6=100
March, 1996	44	49	7=100
January, 1996	46	47	7=100
October, 1995	48	48	4=100
August, 1995	50	43	7=100
November, 1994	45	43	12=100
October, 1994	47	44	9=100
Early October, 1994	52	40	8=100
September, 1994	48	46	6=100
July, 1994	45	47	8=100

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11

Early November 1996 trend based on likely voters.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.36 Looking ahead to the next presidential election, would you like to see a president who offers policies and programs similar to those of the Clinton administration, OR would you like to see a president who offers different policies and programs?

		Aug <u>1999</u>	June <u>1999</u>	Feb <u>1999</u>
41	Policies and programs similar to Clinton Administration	43	43	54
51	Different policies and program	50	50	41
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refuse	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.37 As you may know, the federal government now has a budget SURPLUS. In your opinion, which ONE of the following should be done with the available money? Should the money be used (**INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS**)... For a tax cut; to pay off the national debt more quickly; for increased spending on domestic programs such as health, education, and the environment; or to help make the Social Security and Medicare programs financially sound?<sup>12</sup>

	Tax <u>Cut</u>	National <u>Debt</u>	Domestic <u>Programs</u>	Social Security/ <u>Medicare</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2000	12	18	24	44	2=100
Mid-January, 1999	14	12	21	50	3=100
Early August, 1998	10	19	29	39	3=100
June, 1998	9	17	28	44	2=100
January, 1998	11	22	33	32	2=100

On another subject...

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=661]:**

Q.38F1 In general, do you think that free trade with other countries is good or bad for the United States?

64	Good
27	Bad
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=669]:**

Q.38aF2 Do you think U.S. participation in the World Trade Organization is good or bad for the United States?

62	Good
22	Bad
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

<sup>12</sup>

In previous years the question was worded: "If it turns out that the federal government has a budget SURPLUS this year, in your opinion, which ONE of the following should be done with the available money? Should the money be used ..."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.39 In deciding U.S. policies about trading with other countries, how much priority should be given to each of the following. First, **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)**. Do you think this should have top priority, some priority or no priority at all?

		Top Priority	Some Priority	No Priority	(VOL) DK/Ref
a.	Protecting the jobs of American workers	78	19	2	1=100
b.	Aiding the interests of US businesses abroad	19	61	16	4=100
c.	Promoting and defending human rights in other countries	28	55	15	2=100
d.	Improving the global environment	52	42	4	2=100
e.	Helping improve the living standards in developing nations	23	62	13	2=100
f.	Keeping the American economy growing	74	24	1	1=100

**IF RESPONDENT ASSIGNS "1" TOP PRIORITY TO MORE THAN ONE ITEM IN Q.39, ASK [N=1077]:**

Q.39a Of all the items you think should be top priority **(READ BACK ALL RESPONSES CODED AS "1" IN Q.39)**, which ONE would you say is the most important?

38	Protecting the jobs of American workers
1	Aiding the interests of US businesses abroad
6	Promoting and defending human rights in other countries
16	Improving the global environment
4	Helping improve the living standards in developing nations
33	Keeping the American economy growing
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

**NO QUESTION 40 OR 41**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=661]:**

Q.42F1 As you may know, the United States grants a trade status to most nations it trades with known as normal trade relations. In your opinion, should the U.S. permanently grant this same status to China, or not?

		<u>June 1999</u> <sup>13</sup>
28	Yes	32
56	No	54
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>
100		100

13

Question wording: "As you may know, the United States grants a trade status to most nations it trades with known as normal trade relations treatment. In your opinion, should the U.S. grant this same status to China, or not?"

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=669]:**

Q.43F2 The U.S. and China reached an agreement that requires China to lower some of its trade barriers in return for membership in the World Trade Organization. Have you heard about this trade agreement, or not?

37	Yes, have heard about agreement
62	No, have not heard about agreement
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

Q.44F2 What is your impression, do you think it will be good for the U.S. or bad for the U.S. if China becomes a member of the World Trade Organization and gains permanent normal trade relations status with the U.S., or won't it make much difference?

34	Good
20	Bad
32	No difference
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

**NO QUESTION 45**

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.46 Would you say you basically trust the federal government in Washington or not?

		<u>Oct 1997</u>
41	Yes	39
55	No	57
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>4</u>
100		100

Q.47 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

		<u>Oct 1997</u>
33	Basically content	29
54	Frustrated	56
10	Angry	12
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>3</u>
100		100

Q.48 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	Just About <u>Always</u>	Most Of <u>the Time</u>	Only <u>Sometimes</u>	(VOL) <u>Never</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref.</u>
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1=100
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2=100
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1=100
November, 1998	4	22	61	11	2=100
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1=100
November, 1997	2	36	60	2	*=100
NES <sup>14</sup> 1996	2	25	70	2	1=100
1994	2	19	74	3	2=100
1992	3	26	68	2	1=100
1990	3	25	69	2	1=100
1988	4	37	56	2	1=100
1986	3	35	58	2	2=100
1984	4	40	53	1	2=100
1982	2	31	62	2	3=100
1980	2	23	69	4	2=100
1978	2	27	64	4	3=100
1976	4	30	62	1	3=100
1974	2	34	61	1	2=100
1972	5	48	44	1	2=100
1970	7	47	44	*	2=100
1968	7	54	37	*	2=100
1966	17	48	28	3	4=100
1964	14	62	22	*	2=100
1958	16	57	23	0	4=100

Q.49 Generally, what one thing bothers you most about elected officials... (READ)? (IF RESPONDENT SAYS "ALL OF THE ABOVE," PROBE FOR ONE ANSWER.)

	Feb 1998
31 Their honesty and personal ethics	22
24 The way they campaign for office, or	31
41 The way they govern once elected	44
* Other (VOL) (SPECIFY)	2
<u>4</u> DK/Refused	<u>1</u>
100	100

14

Trend numbers for 1958 through 1996 are from the American National Election Studies.

Q.50 Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

		<u>Oct 1997</u>
55	More than fair share	52
1	Less than fair share	2
41	About the right amount	45
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>1</u>
100		100

Q.51 How much confidence do you have in the president and Congress to write new laws that would reduce the role of money in politics AND be fair to ALL candidates — including challengers, third parties and independents? Do you have a lot of confidence, some, only a little or no confidence in them to write such laws?<sup>15</sup>

		<u>Sept 1997</u>	<i>Center for Responsive Politics</i> <u>April 1997</u>
4	A lot of confidence	6	10
35	Some confidence	28	32
37	Only a little confidence	34	32
22	No confidence	29	25
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

Q.52 In general, do you think new laws COULD BE written that would be effective in reducing the role of money in politics, OR don't you think any new laws would be effective?

		<u>Sept 1997</u>	<i>Center for Responsive Politics</i> <u>April 1997</u>
59	Yes, new laws would be effective	62	62
34	No, new laws would not be effective	32	32
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100

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<sup>15</sup> In 1997, the question wording included "current president."