

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**OCTOBER 24-27, 2008 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY**  
**TOPLINE**  
**N=1,008**

Q.1 Apart from who you support, which presidential candidate have you heard the most about in the news in the last week or so? [OPEN-END. RECORD FIRST MENTION ONLY]

	<u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>John McCain</u>	<u>Sarah Palin<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Other<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
October 24-27, 2008	61	20	3	4	12=100
October 17-20, 2008	63	18	3	5	11=100
October 10-13, 2008	53	25	6	4	12=100
October 3-6, 2008	47	26	11	5	11=100
September 26-29, 2008	42	37	5	3	13=100
September 19-22, 2008	39	35	10	5	11=100
September 12-15, 2008	32	41	17	2	8=100
September 5-8, 2008	28	54	10	2	6=100
August 29-31, 2008	81	11		2	6=100
August 22-25, 2008	77	11		3	9=100
August 15-18, 2008	62	19		4	15=100
August 8-11, 2008	69	15		5	11=100
August 1-4, 2008	76	11		4	9=100
July 25-28, 2008	77	9		3	11=100
July 18-21, 2008	76	10		2	12=100
July 11-14, 2008	72	10		5	13=100
July 3-7, 2008	71	11		3	15=100
June 27-30, 2008	75	10		5	10=100
June 20-23, 2008	74	12		4	10=100
June 13-16, 2008	69	12		7	12=100
June 6-9, 2008	67	2		23	8=100
May 30-June 2, 2008	54	5		28	13=100
May 22-25, 2008	51	8		29	12=100
May 16-19, 2008	59	4		27	10=100
May 9-12, 2008	52	2		38	8=100
May 2-5, 2008	57	2		31	10=100
April 25-28, 2008	46	3		39	12=100
April 18-21, 2008	55	4		29	12=100
April 11-14, 2008	51	8		26	15=100
April 4-7, 2008	45	6		35	14=100
March 28-31, 2008	53	4		32	11=100
March 20-24, 2008	70	3		16	11=100
March 14-17, 2008	57	4		28	11=100
March 7-10, 2008	38	6		41	15=100

<sup>1</sup> Although the question specifically asks respondents to name a "presidential" candidate, Sarah Palin was accepted, as all responses were volunteered.

<sup>2</sup> "Other" includes responses for Hillary Clinton.

Q.2 Please think about each of the following candidates [INSERT NAME]. In the past few days, have you come to have a MORE favorable opinion of (him/her), a LESS favorable opinion, or hasn't your opinion of (him/her) changed lately?<sup>3</sup> [ROTATE IN BLOCKS: A/B FIRST, FOLLOWED BY C/D]

	More Favorable	Less Favorable	Opinion has Not changed	Don't know
a. Barack Obama	24	21	52	3=100
October 17-20, 2008	33	23	43	1=100
October 10-13, 2008	29	21	48	2=100
October 3-6, 2008	28	23	47	2=100
September 26-29, 2008	31	23	45	1=100
September 19-22, 2008	25	20	53	2=100
September 12-15, 2008	20	20	58	2=100
September 5-8, 2008	20	20	59	1=100
August 29-31, 2008	29	19	50	2=100
August 22-25, 2008	22	21	54	3=100
August 15-18, 2008	16	21	60	3=100
August 8-11, 2008	15	18	64	3=100
August 1-4, 2008	16	22	60	2=100
July 25-28, 2008	17	21	59	3=100
July 18-21, 2008	16	22	60	2=100
July 11-14, 2008	15	17	64	4=100
July 3-7, 2008	17	17	62	4=100
June 27-30, 2008	21	19	56	4=100
June 20-23, 2008	16	16	66	2=100
June 13-16, 2008	17	15	64	4=100
June 6-9, 2008	19	17	61	3=100
May 30-June 2, 2008	17	21	58	4=100
May 22-25, 2008	18	20	60	2=100
May 16-19, 2008	19	19	59	3=100
May 9-12, 2008	20	23	55	2=100
May 2-5, 2008	11	25	59	5=100
April 25-28, 2008	16	24	58	2=100
April 18-21, 2008	18	24	54	4=100
March 28-31, 2008	18	27	52	3=100
March 20-24, 2008	22	30	46	2=100
b. John McCain	19	28	50	3=100
October 17-20, 2008	24	34	41	1=100
October 10-13, 2008	17	33	47	3=100
October 3-6, 2008	21	29	47	3=100
September 26-29, 2008	24	35	40	1=100
September 19-22, 2008	20	30	48	2=100
September 12-15, 2008	28	25	45	2=100
September 5-8, 2008	35	24	40	1=100
August 29-31, 2008	28	22	47	3=100
August 22-25, 2008	17	20	60	3=100
August 15-18, 2008	17	21	59	3=100
August 8-11, 2008	14	20	63	3=100
August 1-4, 2008	18	23	57	2=100
July 25-28, 2008	16	19	62	3=100
July 18-21, 2008	17	15	65	3=100
July 11-14, 2008	14	15	66	5=100

<sup>3</sup> Prior to September 12-15, the question was worded, "Please think about each of the following *presidential* candidates..."

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>More Favorable</u>	<u>Less Favorable</u>	<u>Opinion has Not change</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
July 3-7, 2008	15	16	64	5=100
June 27-30, 2008	17	21	58	4=100
June 20-23, 2008	15	18	65	2=100
June 13-16, 2008	13	18	66	3=100
June 6-9, 2008	14	15	65	6=100
May 30-June 2, 2008	11	20	64	5=100
May 22-25, 2008	15	18	63	4=100
May 16-19, 2008	14	21	62	3=100
May 9-12, 2008	12	18	67	3=100
May 2-5, 2008	10	13	71	6=100
April 25-28, 2008	14	16	65	5=100
April 18-21, 2008	18	15	61	6=100
March 28-31, 2008	18	20	57	5=100
March 20-24, 2008	18	18	61	3=100
c. Joe Biden	14	23	57	6=100
October 17-20, 2008	20	18	57	5=100
October 10-13, 2008	23	14	56	7=100
October 3-6, 2008	34	20	42	4=100
September 26-29, 2008	15	19	60	6=100
September 19-22, 2008	17	19	55	9=100
September 12-15, 2008	14	18	58	10=100
d. Sarah Palin	20	33	43	4=100
October 17-20, 2008	21	35	40	4=100
October 10-13, 2008	21	38	37	4=100
October 3-6, 2008	37	33	27	3=100
September 26-29, 2008	20	38	38	4=100
September 19-22, 2008	29	34	33	4=100
September 12-15, 2008	31	27	37	5=100

Q.3 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS IN BLOCKS A-C FIRST, FOLLOWED BY D-F] [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. The Major League Baseball Playoffs and World Series	12	12	18	58	*=100
October 26-29, 2007	20	16	20	43	1=100
November, 1989 <sup>4</sup>	23	17	22	38	*=100
October, 1988	31	21	19	28	1=100
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	52	35	7	5	1=100
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*=100
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*=100
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*=100
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*=100
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*=100

<sup>4</sup> In 1988 and 1989, the story was listed as “The World Series.”

**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
<b>September 5-8, 2008</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 29-31, 2008</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>August 15-18, 2008</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 8-11, 2008</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 1-4, 2008</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0=100</b>
<b>July 25-28, 2008</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 18-21, 2008</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 11-14, 2008</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>June 27-30, 2008</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>June 13-16, 2008</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>May 9-12, 2008</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>May 2-5, 2008</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 18-21, 2008</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 4-7, 2008</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 28-31, 2008</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 20-24, 2008</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>February 29-March 3, 2008</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>February 15-18, 2008</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8=100</b>
<b>February 1-4, 2008</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>January 18-21, 2008</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>January 11-14, 2008</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>November 2-5, 2007</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>October 19-22, 2007</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 10-13, 2007</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>*=100</b>
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1=100
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1=100
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1=100
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1=100
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*=100
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2=100
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1=100
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1=100
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1=100
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1=100
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*=100
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1=100
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1=100
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1=100
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1=100
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2=100
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1=100
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1=100
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0=100
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1=100
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100

### Q.3 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100
c. News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election					
	<b>44</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>October 17-20, 2008</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>October 10-13, 2008</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>October 3-6, 2008</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>September 26-29, 2008</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>September 19-22, 2008</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>September 12-15, 2008</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>September 5-8, 2008</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 29-31, 2008</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 22-25, 2008</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 15-18, 2008</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>August 8-11, 2008</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 1-4, 2008</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 25-28, 2008</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 18-21, 2008</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 11-14, 2008</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>July 3-7, 2008</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>June 27-30, 2008</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>June 20-23, 2008</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>June 13-16, 2008</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>June 6-9, 2008</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>May 30-June 2, 2008</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>May 22-25, 2008</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>May 16-19, 2008</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>May 9-12, 2008</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>May 2-5, 2008</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 25-28, 2008</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>April 18-21, 2008</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 11-14, 2008</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>April 4-7, 2008</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 28-31, 2008</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 20-24, 2008</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 14-17, 2008</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 7-10, 2008</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1=100</b>

Q.3 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
February 29-March 3, 2008	43	34	14	9	*=100
February 22-25, 2008	42	37	13	8	*=100
February 15-18, 2008	44	36	10	10	*=100
February 8-11, 2008	39	37	15	9	0=100
February 1-4, 2008	37	35	16	12	*=100
January 25-28, 2008	36	37	14	12	1=100
January 18-21, 2008	36	34	18	12	*=100
January 11-14, 2008 <sup>5</sup>	32	31	19	17	1=100
January 4-7, 2008	33	36	19	11	1=100
December 14-17, 2007	25	34	22	19	*=100
December 7-10, 2007	24	35	22	19	*=100
November 30 – December 3, 2007	23	35	23	19	*=100
November 23-26, 2007	20	33	26	20	1=100
November 16-19, 2007	26	33	21	19	1=100
November 9-12, 2007	21	33	25	21	*=100
November 2-5, 2007	27	30	21	21	1=100
October 26-29, 2007	21	34	26	19	*=100
October 19-22, 2007	23	32	22	23	*=100
October 12-15, 2007	13	31	26	30	*=100
October 5-8, 2007	22	30	24	24	*=100
September 28 – October 1, 2007	21	34	25	20	*=100
September 21-24, 2007	24	31	22	23	*=100
September 14-17, 2007	22	31	24	23	*=100
September 7-10, 2007	18	34	26	22	*=100
August 30-September 2, 2007	19	35	21	25	*=100
August 24-27, 2007	22	28	24	26	*=100
August 17-20, 2007	19	27	24	30	*=100
August 10-13, 2007	23	32	21	24	*=100
August 3-6, 2007	19	31	25	25	*=100
July 27-30, 2007	19	32	22	26	1=100
July 20-23, 2007	16	26	30	27	1=100
July 13-16, 2007	17	29	27	27	*=100
July 6-9, 2007	24	29	24	22	1=100
June 29-July 2, 2007	20	32	25	23	*=100
June 22-25, 2007	18	31	21	30	*=100
June 15-18, 2007	17	32	26	25	*=100
June 8-11, 2007	19	30	24	26	1=100
June 1-4, 2007	16	27	32	24	1=100
May 24-27, 2007	22	33	23	22	*=100
May 18-21, 2007	18	31	24	27	*=100
May 11-14, 2007	18	30	23	28	1=100
May 4-7, 2007	23	34	21	21	1=100
April 27-30, 2007	14	30	29	26	1=100
April 20-23, 2007	18	28	27	27	*=100
April 12-16, 2007	18	28	27	27	*=100
April 5-9, 2007	25	30	26	19	*=100
March 30-April 2, 2007	20	29	27	23	1=100
March 23-26, 2007	20	32	22	26	*=100
March 16-19, 2007	15	28	29	27	1=100
March 9-12, 2007	24	30	23	23	*=100
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1=100

<sup>5</sup>

January 11-14, 2008 asked about: "News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign."

### Q.3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
<b>February 23-26, 2007</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>February 16-19, 2007</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>February 9-12, 2007</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>February 2-5, 2007</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>January 26-29, 2007</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>January 19-22, 2007<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>24</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>2004 Presidential Election</b>					
November, 2004 (RVs)	52	36	8	4	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	30	12	11	1=100
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*=100
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1=100
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*=100
Late February, 2004	24	40	23	12	1=100
Early February, 2004 <sup>7</sup>	29	37	20	13	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1=100
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	1=100
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1=100
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1=100
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1=100
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1=100
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1=100
January, 2003	14	28	29	28	1=100
<b>2000 Presidential Election</b>					
Early November, 2000 (RVs)	39	44	12	5	*=100
Mid-October, 2000 (RVs)	40	37	15	8	*=100
Early October, 2000 (RVs)	42	36	15	6	1=100
September, 2000	22	42	21	15	*=100
July, 2000	21	38	20	20	1=100
June, 2000	23	32	23	21	1=100
May, 2000	18	33	26	23	*=100
April, 2000	18	39	22	20	1=100
March, 2000	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
<b>1996 Presidential Election</b>					
November, 1996 (RVs)	34	45	15	6	*=100
October, 1996	31	39	18	12	*=100

<sup>6</sup> January 19-22, 2007 asked about: "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."

<sup>7</sup> From May 2003 to Early February 2004 and in March 1992, the story was listed as "The race for the Democratic nomination." In January 2003, the story was listed as "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004." In September 2000, Early September and July 1996, and May 1992, the question asked about "the presidential election campaign." In January, March and April 1996, the story was listed as "News about the Republican presidential candidates." In August 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential election." In July 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential campaign." In January 1992, the story was listed as "News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination." In 1988, the story was introduced as being from "this past year" and was listed as "News about the presidential campaign in 1988."

### Q.3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
Early September, 1996	24	36	23	17	*=100
July, 1996	22	40	23	14	1=100
March, 1996	26	41	20	13	*=100
January, 1996	10	34	31	24	1=100
September, 1995	12	36	30	22	*=100
August, 1995	13	34	28	25	*=100
June, 1995	11	31	31	26	1=100
<b>1992 Presidential Election</b>					
October, 1992 (RVs)	55	36	7	2	0=100
September, 1992 (RVs)	47	36	11	6	*=100
August, 1992 (RVs)	36	51	11	2	0=100
July, 1992	20	45	26	9	*=100
May, 1992	32	44	16	8	*=100
March, 1992	35	40	16	9	*=100
January, 1992	11	25	36	27	1=100
December, 1991	10	28	32	30	*=100
October, 1991	12	26	31	29	2=100
<b>1988 Presidential Election</b>					
October, 1988 (RVs)	43	44	11	2	*=100
August, 1988 (RVs)	39	45	13	3	*=100
May, 1988	22	46	23	6	3=100
November, 1987	15	28	35	21	1=100
September, 1987	14	34	37	14	1=100
d. The current situation and events in Iraq	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>October 10-13, 2008</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>October 3-6, 2008</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>September 5-8, 2008</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 29-31, 2008</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>August 22-25, 2008</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>August 1-4, 2008</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 25-28, 2008</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 18-21, 2008</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 11-14, 2008</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>July 3-7, 2008</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>June 20-23, 2008</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>May 9-12, 2008</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>May 2-5, 2008</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 25-28, 2008</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 18-21, 2008</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 11-14, 2008</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 4-7, 2008</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 28-31, 2008</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>March 20-24, 2008</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 14-17, 2008</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 7-10, 2008</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>February 29-March 3, 2008</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>February 8-11, 2008</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>February 1-4, 2008</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>January 25-28, 2008</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>January 18-21, 2008</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>January 11-14, 2008</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>January 4-7, 2008</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>December 14-17, 2007</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>*=100</b>



**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
<b>December 7-10, 2007</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>November 23-26, 2007</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>November 16-19, 2007</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>November 9-12, 2007</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>November 2-5, 2007</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>October 26-29, 2007</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>October 19-22, 2007</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>October 12-15, 2007</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>October 5-8, 2007</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>September 28 – October 1, 2007</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>September 21-24, 2007</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>September 14-17, 2007</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0=100</b>
<b>September 7-10, 2007</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 30 – September 2, 2007</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>August 24-27, 2007</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 17-20, 2007</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 10-13, 2007</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>August 3-6, 2007</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>July 27-30, 2007</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>July 20-23, 2007</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>July 13-16, 2007</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>July 6-9, 2007</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>June 29-July 2, 2007</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>June 22-25, 2007</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>June 15-18, 2007</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>June 8-11, 2007</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>June 1-4, 2007</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>May 24-27, 2007</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>May 18-21, 2007</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>May 11-14, 2007</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>May 4-7, 2007</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>April 27-30, 2007</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>April 20-23, 2007</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>April 12-16, 2007</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>April 5-9, 2007</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>March 30-April 2, 2007</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 23-March 26, 2007<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>March 16-19, 2007</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 9-12, 2007</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>March 2-5, 2007</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>February 23-26, 2007</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>February 16-19, 2007</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>February 9-12, 2007</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>February 2-5, 2007</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>January 26-29, 2007</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>January 19-22, 2007</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>January 12-15, 2007</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>January, 2007</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1=100</b>
<b>January 5-8, 2007</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0=100</b>
<b>December, 2006</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>*=100</b>
<b>November 30-December 3, 2006</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>*=100</b>

### Q.3 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*=100
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2=100
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1=100
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1=100
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1=100
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1=100
March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1=100
February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1=100
January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1=100
December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1=100
Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*=100
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*=100
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1=100
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
April 11-16, 2003 <sup>9</sup>	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 <sup>10</sup>	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002 <sup>11</sup>	48	29	15	6	2=100

<sup>9</sup> From March 20-24, 2003 to April 11-16, 2003, the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

<sup>10</sup> From Early October, 2002, to March 13-16, 2003, the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq."

<sup>11</sup> In Early September, 2002, the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."

### Q.3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
e. News about candidates for local and statewide elections	20	35	24	20	1=100
f. The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan	28	32	22	17	1=100
<b>October 10-13, 2008</b> <sup>12</sup>	19	34	29	18	*=100
<b>September 12-15, 2008</b>	21	34	25	19	1=100
<b>August 29-31, 2008</b>	18	27	32	23	*=100
<b>July 18-21, 2008</b>	27	33	24	16	*=100
<b>July 11-14, 2008</b>	19	28	29	23	1=100
<b>July 3-7, 2008</b>	19	28	32	21	*=100
<b>June 20-23, 2008</b>	20	30	30	20	*=100
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
Late July, 2002	41	38	13	7	1=100
June, 2002	38	32	20	9	1=100
April, 2002	39	39	13	8	1=100
Early April, 2002	45	37	12	5	1=100
February, 2002	47	39	8	5	1=100
January, 2002	51	35	9	4	1=100
December, 2001	44	38	12	5	1=100
Mid-November, 2001	49	36	11	3	1=100
Early November, 2001	45	36	12	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2001	51	35	10	3	1=100

Q.4 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? **[DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]**

40	News about the candidates for the 2008 presidential election
34	Reports about the conditions of the U.S. economy
6	The current situation and events and Iraq
4	The U.S. military effort in Afghanistan
3	News about candidates for local and statewide elections
3	The Major League Baseball Playoffs and World Series
3	Some other story ( <b>VOL. SPECIFY</b> )
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )
100	

### NO QUESTION 5

Thinking about the presidential campaign...

Q.6 All things considered....these days have you been hearing too much, too little, or the right amount about **[READ; ROTATE ITEMS A/B AND C/D IN BLOCKS]?**

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
a. Barack Obama	41	10	47	2=100
August 1-4, 2008	48	10	41	1=100
b. John McCain	31	22	45	2=100
August 1-4, 2008	26	38	35	1=100

<sup>12</sup> From June 20-23, 2008 to October 10-13, 2008 the story was listed as "The military effort in Afghanistan against Taliban fighters."

**Q.6 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
c. Joe Biden	20	38	37	5=100
d. Sarah Palin	46	18	33	3=100

**QUESTIONS 7 AND 8 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Q.9 In your opinion, is the reporting of who is ahead in the polls a good thing or a bad thing for the country?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=927]**

**-RV-**  
Late Oct  
1988

38	Good thing for the country	38
43	Bad thing for the country	45
14	Neither a good thing nor a bad thing (VOL.)	12
<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>5</u>
100		100

Q.10 In this campaign, which is giving you a better idea of where the candidates stand on issues – news reports on TV or the candidates' TV commercials?

Mid Oct  
1992

72	News reports on TV	65
14	Candidates' TV commercials	18
12	Neither (VOL.)	13
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

Q.11 In this campaign, which is giving you a better idea of what the candidates are like personally – news reports on TV or the candidates' TV commercials?

Mid Oct  
1992

66	News reports on TV	63
22	Candidates' TV commercials	23
10	Neither (VOL.)	9
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>
100		100

On another subject...

Q.12 How much if anything have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? **[READ ITEMS; ROTATE ITEMS]**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a.	Sarah Palin's recent appearance on Saturday Night Live	56	30	14	*=100
b.	Colin Powell endorsing Barack Obama for president	49	39	12	*=100
c.	Joe Biden's comment that Barack Obama would be tested by an international crisis early on in his presidency	43	35	21	1=100
d.	Barack Obama's campaign raising \$150 million in the month of September	42	39	18	1=100
e.	The Republican National Committee spending over \$150,000 on new clothes for Sarah Palin and her family members	52	27	20	1=100

Thinking about recent economic news...

Q.13 In general, do you think news reports are making the U.S. economy seem **WORSE** than it really is, **BETTER** than it really is, or are reports showing the situation about the way it really is?

		June 13-16, <u>2008</u>	Mar. 28-31, <u>2008</u> <sup>13</sup>	Nov. 9-12, <u>2007</u>	Dec. <u>2005</u>
40	Worse	34	35	42	39
11	Better	14	16	17	18
45	About the way it really is	48	46	35	36
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100

<sup>13</sup>

For March 28-31, 2008 this item was asked as part of a list.