

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**OCTOBER 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
 September 30-October 4, 2009  
 N=1500

**QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 9 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:**

Q.10F1 How much confidence do you have in Barack Obama to do the right thing when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**—a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not too much confidence, or no confidence at all?...How about when it comes to **[NEXT ITEM]**?

|      |   | A great<br><u>deal</u> | A fair<br><u>amount</u> | Not too<br><u>much</u> | No confidence<br><u>at all</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|------|---|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| d.F1 | Dealing with Iran<br>September 30-October 4, 2009 | 17                     | 34                      | 24                     | 20                             | 5                              |

**ITEMS a, b, c and e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**NO QUESTION 11**

**QUESTIONS 12 THROUGH 58 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about Iran for a moment...

Q.59 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the dispute about Iran's nuclear program? Have you heard...**[READ]**

| <u>Sep 30-Oct 4</u><br><u>2009</u> |                                  | <u>Sep</u><br><u>2006</u> | <u>Feb</u> <sup>1</sup><br><u>2006</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 41                                 | A lot                            | 41                        | 32                                     |
| 41                                 | A little                         | 44                        | 46                                     |
| 18                                 | Nothing at all                   | 14                        | 21                                     |
| *                                  | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b> | 1                         | 1                                      |

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=747]:**

Q.60F1 From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the United States negotiating directly with Iran over the issue of its nuclear program?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

|    |                                  | <u>Sep 2006</u>  |
|----|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 63 | Approve                          | 54 <i>Favor</i>  |
| 28 | Disapprove                       | 32 <i>Oppose</i> |
| 9  | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b> | 14               |

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.61F2 From what you know, do you think the United States negotiating directly with Iran will or will not work in getting Iran to give up its nuclear program?

|    |                                  |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 22 | Will work                        |
| 64 | Will not work                    |
| 13 | Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b> |

1 In February 2006, question was worded "The Iranian government recently said it will resume research on nuclear technology, despite opposition from other countries. How much, if anything, have you read or heard about this ..."

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY[N=747]:**

Q.62F1 Would you approve or disapprove of tougher international economic sanctions on Iran?

- 78 Approve
- 12 Disapprove
- 10 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.63F2 Do you think tougher international economic sanctions on Iran would or would not work in getting Iran to give up its nuclear program?

- 32 Would work
- 56 Would not work
- 11 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.64 In your opinion, which is more important [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

- 61 To prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, even if it means taking military action [OR]
- 24 To avoid a military conflict with Iran, even if it means they may develop nuclear weapons
- 4 Neither (VOL.)
- 1 Both (VOL.)
- 10 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

**IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5, 8 OR 9 IN PARTY [N=662], ASK:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

|                       |            | (VOL.)   | (VOL.)      | (VOL.)        |             |        | Lean | Lean |
|-----------------------|------------|----------|-------------|---------------|-------------|--------|------|------|
|                       | Republican | Democrat | Independent | No preference | Other party | DK/Ref | Rep  | Dem  |
| Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009    | 23         | 34       | 37          | 3             | 1           | 3      | 16   | 14   |
| September 10-15, 2009 | 23         | 34       | 34          | 4             | *           | 5      | 13   | 17   |
| August 20-27, 2009    | 26         | 32       | 36          | 3             | *           | 3      | 14   | 16   |
| August 11-17, 2009    | 23         | 33       | 38          | 3             | *           | 3      | 16   | 15   |
| July, 2009            | 22         | 34       | 37          | 5             | *           | 2      | 15   | 14   |
| June, 2009            | 25         | 34       | 34          | 3             | *           | 3      | 11   | 16   |
| May, 2009             | 23         | 39       | 29          | 4             | *           | 4      | 9    | 14   |
| April, 2009           | 22         | 33       | 39          | 3             | *           | 3      | 13   | 18   |
| March, 2009           | 24         | 34       | 35          | 5             | *           | 2      | 12   | 17   |
| February, 2009        | 24         | 36       | 34          | 3             | 1           | 2      | 13   | 17   |
| January, 2009         | 25         | 37       | 33          | 3             | *           | 2      | 11   | 16   |
| December, 2008        | 26         | 39       | 30          | 2             | *           | 3      | 8    | 15   |
| Late October, 2008    | 24         | 39       | 32          | 2             | *           | 3      | 11   | 15   |
| Mid-October, 2008     | 27         | 35       | 31          | 4             | *           | 3      | 9    | 16   |
| Early October, 2008   | 26         | 36       | 31          | 4             | *           | 3      | 11   | 15   |
| <b>Yearly Totals</b>  |            |          |             |               |             |        |      |      |
| 2008                  | 25.3       | 35.8     | 31.7        | 3.8           | .3          | 3.1    | 10.5 | 15.4 |
| 2007                  | 25.4       | 32.9     | 33.7        | 4.6           | .4          | 3.1    | 10.7 | 16.7 |
| 2006                  | 27.6       | 32.8     | 30.3        | 5.0           | .4          | 3.9    | 10.2 | 14.5 |
| 2005                  | 29.2       | 32.8     | 30.3        | 4.5           | .3          | 2.8    | 10.2 | 14.9 |
| 2004                  | 29.7       | 33.4     | 29.8        | 3.9           | .4          | 2.9    | 11.7 | 13.4 |
| 2003                  | 29.8       | 31.4     | 31.2        | 4.7           | .5          | 2.5    | 12.1 | 13.0 |
| 2002                  | 30.3       | 31.2     | 30.1        | 5.1           | .7          | 2.7    | 12.6 | 11.6 |

**PARTY CONTINUED...**

|                          |                   |                 |                    | (VOL.)            | (VOL.)       | (VOL.)     |             |             |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|                          | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> | No                | Other        | DK/        | <i>Lean</i> | <i>Lean</i> |
|                          |                   |                 |                    | <u>preference</u> | <u>party</u> | <u>Ref</u> | <u>Rep</u>  | <u>Dem</u>  |
| 2001                     | 29.2              | 33.6            | 28.9               | 5.1               | .5           | 2.7        | 11.7        | 11.4        |
| 2001 <i>Post-Sept 11</i> | 30.9              | 31.8            | 27.9               | 5.2               | .6           | 3.6        | 11.7        | 9.4         |
| 2001 <i>Pre-Sept 11</i>  | 28.2              | 34.6            | 29.5               | 5.0               | .5           | 2.1        | 11.7        | 12.5        |
| 2000                     | 27.5              | 32.5            | 29.5               | 5.9               | .5           | 4.0        | 11.6        | 11.6        |
| 1999                     | 26.6              | 33.5            | 33.7               | 3.9               | .5           | 1.9        | 13.0        | 14.5        |
| 1998                     | 27.5              | 33.2            | 31.9               | 4.6               | .4           | 2.4        | 11.8        | 13.5        |
| 1997                     | 28.2              | 33.3            | 31.9               | 4.0               | .4           | 2.3        | 12.3        | 13.8        |
| 1996                     | 29.2              | 32.7            | 33.0               | 5.2               | --           | --         | 12.7        | 15.6        |
| 1995                     | 31.4              | 29.7            | 33.4               | 5.4               | --           | --         | 14.4        | 12.9        |
| 1994                     | 29.8              | 31.8            | 33.8               | 4.6               | --           | --         | 14.3        | 12.6        |
| 1993                     | 27.4              | 33.8            | 34.0               | 4.8               | --           | --         | 11.8        | 14.7        |
| 1992                     | 27.7              | 32.7            | 35.7               | 3.9               | --           | --         | 13.8        | 15.8        |
| 1991                     | 30.9              | 31.4            | 33.2               | 4.5               | --           | --         | 14.6        | 10.8        |
| 1990                     | 31.0              | 33.1            | 29.1               | 6.8               | --           | --         | 12.4        | 11.3        |
| 1989                     | 33                | 33              | 34                 | --                | --           | --         | --          | --          |
| 1987                     | 26                | 35              | 39                 | --                | --           | --         | --          | --          |