

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 1999 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
— FINAL TOPLINE —
February 18 - 21, 1999
N=1,203

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. **[IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]**

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, 1999	64	30	6=100
Mid-January, 1999	66	29	5=100
January, 1999	63	30	7=100
Late December, 1998	71	27	2=100
Early December, 1998	61	32	7=100
November, 1998	65	29	6=100
September 21-22, 1998	62	33	5=100
September 19-20, 1998	55	36	9=100
Early September, 1998	61	33	6=100
Late August, 1998	62	32	6=100
Early August, 1998	63	28	9=100
June, 1998	59	32	9=100
May, 1998	62	28	10=100
April, 1998	62	28	10=100
March, 1998	65	26	9=100
Early February, 1998	71	26	3=100
January, 1998	61	30	9=100
November, 1997	58	31	11=100
September, 1997	58	29	13=100
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100
Early February, 1997	57	30	13=100
January, 1997	59	31	10=100
November, 1996	57	34	9=100
July, 1996	54	38	8=100
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

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

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

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

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

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT,

Q.3 Let's talk about the quality of your life. Imagine a ladder with steps numbered from zero at the bottom to 10 at the top. Suppose the top of the ladder represents the best possible life for you; and the bottom, the worst possible life for you. On which step of the ladder [INSERT ITEM]? You can name any number between zero and 10. ... And on what number step [INSERT ITEM]? ...

[READ A-C IN ORDER:]

a. do you feel you personally stand at the present time?		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1985</u> ¹	<u>1979</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1964</u>
43	High (8-10)	48	47	37	31	33	31	34	38	38	33	34	36
31	Medium (6-7)	31	31	33	35	36	36	31	30	26	29	30	33
25	Low (0-5)	21	22	29	34	30	33	33	32	33	38	34	30
<u>1</u>	Don't know	*	*	<u>1</u>	*	<u>1</u>	*	<u>2</u>	*	<u>3</u>	*	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
6.9	<i>Mean Rating</i>	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.9
b. would you say you stood five years ago?		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1964</u>	
27	High (8-10)	29	28	26	28	25	28	29	24	25	27	28	
23	Medium (6-7)	23	25	27	27	27	24	22	22	23	25	24	
49	Low (0-5)	48	46	46	44	48	48	49	53	50	47	47	
<u>1</u>	Don't know	*	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	*	*	*	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
5.7	<i>Mean Rating</i>	5.9	5.9	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.0	
c. do you think you will be five years from now—just your best guess?		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1964</u>	
69	High (8-10)	72	73	64	56	61	59	57	60	58	58	57	
14	Medium (6-7)	14	13	16	21	19	19	18	18	17	17	22	
10	Low (0-5)	11	10	16	18	14	16	19	14	17	15	11	
<u>7</u>	Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
8.2	<i>Mean Rating</i>	8.2	8.2	7.7	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.0	7.7	7.4	7.6	7.9	

¹ Trends for 1964 through 1985 are from Gallup.

Q.4 Now thinking about the ladder again, suppose the top represents the best possible situation for OUR COUNTRY; and the bottom, the worst possible situation. Please tell me on which step of the ladder [INSERT ITEM]. You can name any number between zero and 10. ... And on what number step [INSERT ITEM]?

[READ A-C IN ORDER:]

a.		you think the United States is at the present time?											
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1985²</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1964</u>
28	High (8-10)	20	15	10	20	13	14	16	7	16	10	17	30
34	Medium (6-7)	36	34	36	33	42	34	41	27	29	23	27	34
36	Low (0-5)	43	50	52	44	43	51	42	63	53	65	53	32
<u>2</u>	Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
6.2	<i>Mean Rating</i>	5.8	5.6	5.4	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.9	4.8	5.5	4.8	5.5	6.5
b.		would you say the U.S. was five years ago?											
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1964</u>		
17	High (8-10)	17	14	14	20	13	12	28	27	19	24		
34	Medium (6-7)	36	36	35	32	33	30	29	32	30	34		
44	Low (0-5)	45	48	48	43	51	56	40	36	47	37		
<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>		
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100		
5.8	<i>Mean Rating</i>	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.3	6.0	6.3	5.6	6.1		
c.		do you think the U.S. will be five years from now—just your best guess											
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1964³</u>	
36	High (8-10)	33	29	26	32	31	28	37	32	29	35	57	
26	Medium (6-7)	27	28	27	24	33	29	28	24	21	22	17	
27	Low (0-5)	36	39	44	36	31	34	27	34	37	33	15	
<u>11</u>	Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
6.6	<i>Mean Rating</i>	6.1	5.9	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.1	6.6	6.1	5.8	6.2	7.7	

² Trends for 1964 through 1985 and 1991 are from Gallup.

³ In 1964 the question referred to "ten years from now."

Q.5a In your own words, what are your main wishes and hopes for the country's future? What do you most hope for to make the country better? (**OPEN END, RECORD VERBATIM. PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR THEM. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES.**)

		<u>Feb. 1998</u>
31	ECONOMIC (NET)	30
10	Economy/Economic growth/Stability (unspecified)	11
6	Create jobs/More jobs/Lower employment	8
5	Social Security/Assured Social Security	1
4	Poverty/Take on hunger/Needy/Homeless	5
4	Taxes/Lower taxes/Easier tax laws	4
2	National debt/Attention to national debt/Get budget figured out	3
2	Distribution of wealth/Rid of greed	2
*	Inflation/Control inflation	1
2	All other Economic mentions	--
21	GOVERNMENT/POLITICAL LEADERSHIP (NET)	18
	Congress does what's best for the country should work for the people/Should look out for country not own interest	4
4	Distance from other countries problems/Take care of our own/Leave other countries alone	3
4	More moral President/Leader with good morals	3
2	Qualified people in Congress/Public office	2
2	Good President/Leader	3
2	New President/Get Bill Clinton out of office	2
*	Governor should have more morals/Good common sense	1
4	All other government/political leadership mentions	1
20	MISCELLANEOUS (NET)	14
8	Education/Well educated group of people	5
5	Health care for all/Medical care system to take care of all people	4
2	Drugs/Eliminate drugs/No drugs	4
1	Environment/Paying attention to the environment	*
4	All other miscellaneous mentions	2
16	WORLD PEACE/NATIONAL SECURITY (NET)	29
8	Peace (unspecified)	10
7	No war/World peace/Peace with all nations	16
*	Stay out of conflict with Iraq	2
1	All other world peace/national security mentions	1
14	RELIGION/MORALITY (NET)	13
5	Better morals (unspecified)	4
5	Back to Christianity/Country will return to Christian heritage	4
2	Improve quality of family	2
2	Personal responsibility	--
1	Bring back prayer to public schools	*
1	All other religion/morality mentions	*
8	COOPERATION/UNITY (NET)	10
7	People come together/More love between citizens	8
1	More equality	2
*	All other cooperation/unity mentions	*
6	CRIME (NET)	8
5	Crime/Violence/Eliminate crime/Violence	8
1	All other crime mentions	*
4	RACE RELATIONS (NET)	5
	More tolerance of other races/Racial problems have to go/People will learn to understand country is multi-ethnic	4
4	All other race relations mentions	*
7	Don't know/Refused/No answer	6

Q.5b And what are your main fears and worries about the country's future? (**OPEN END, RECORD VERBATIM. PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR THEM. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES.**)

		<u>Feb 1998</u>
29	WAR/NATIONAL SECURITY (NET)	40
16	War/World War III	25
3	Terrorism/Terrorist attack	2
3	A high profile as a world power/Not being a predominant nation	3
2	World's coming to an end	1
2	Nuclear war	3
2	War with Iraq	4
1	Biological germ warfare	2
*	War with China	*
1	All other War/National security mentions	1
25	MISCELLANEOUS (NET)	19
8	Crime/Violence	7
	Financial burden on the elderly/Eliminate benefits for the elderly/	
5	Lack of Social Security	2
4	Quality of education	3
3	Drugs/Drug use/Legalization of drugs	4
2	Lack of medical/health care	2
1	Pollution	1
*	Illegal immigration/Letting in too many aliens/Not curbing immigration	1
6	All othe miscellaneous mentions	2
19	ECONOMIC (NET)	17
7	Economic downturn/Collapse/Recession/Depression	6
4	Unemployment/Jobs leaving the U.S./Going to other countries	3
2	Poverty/Homelessness/Taking care of the poor	2
2	Government spending/Cost of big government	1
2	Economy (unspecified)	2
1	National debt	2
1	Inflation	1
1	All other economic mentions	1
18	GOVERNMENT/POLITICAL LEADERSHIP (NET)	18
4	Country's leadership/Leaders/Lack of leadership	4
	Getting involved in other people's business/Worry about	
3	own future not other countries	3
3	Big government/Too much government encroachment on individual rights	3
	Not working for the good of the people/Lack of focus	
3	on needs of people/Loss of confidence in the government	3
1	Gridlock in government/Internal fighting/Acting politically	1
1	Immoral President	1
1	Corruption in government/Dishonest/Illegal things in government	2
	Not using common sense/Not enough strength and wisdom/	
1	Responding the wrong way	2
1	Political uprising/Rebellion against authority/Anarchy	2
*	President's impeachment	*
*	All other Government/Political Leadership mentions	--
12	RELIGION/MORALITY (NET)	11
7	Decline/Lack of morals	4
3	Lack of parental guidance/Breakdown of the family	3
2	People's selfish interests/Self gratification	3
1	Immoral faults will be accepted so they don't seem wrong	1
*	All other religion/morality mentions	*
1	None	2
12	Don't know/Refused/No answer	9

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...

Q.6 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 the <u>Time</u>	Only <u>Some</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>DK</u>
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 ⁴ , 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.7 Now I'm going to read you a few statements. For each one, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or completely disagree. The first one is...(ROTATE ITEMS)

	<u>Completely Agree</u>	<u>Mostly Agree</u>	<u>Mostly Disagree</u>	<u>Completely Disagree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Generally speaking, elected officials in Washington lose touch with the people pretty quickly	29	49	18	3	1=100
November, 1997	32	44	18	5	1=100
July, 1994	39	44	13	3	1=100
May, 1993	29	53	13	3	2=100
June, 1992	35	49	12	3	1=100
Nov, 1991	41	43	11	4	1=100
May, 1990	30	48	17	2	3=100
Feb, 1989	30	50	16	2	2=100
May, 1988	26	50	19	3	2=100
May, 1987	22	51	21	3	3=100
b. Most elected officials are trustworthy	2	41	41	14	2=100
February, 1998	2	49	38	10	1=100
October, 1997	3	41	40	15	1=100

4

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

Q. 7 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Completely Agree</u>	<u>Mostly Agree</u>	<u>Mostly Disagree</u>	<u>Completely Disagree</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
c. The government is really run for the benefit of all the people	4	38	41	16	1=100
November, 1997	9	39	35	15	2=100
July, 1994	10	32	38	19	1=100
June, 1992	8	36	37	17	2=100
Nov, 1991	11	37	34	16	2=100
May, 1990	10	42	35	10	3=100
Feb, 1989	12	45	31	10	2=100
May, 1988	11	42	34	10	3=100
May, 1987	9	48	31	8	4=100
d. I'm generally bored by what goes on in Washington	17	39	32	11	1=100
June, 1998	16	33	33	16	2=100
November, 1997	14	37	34	14	1=100
July, 1994	17	34	33	15	1=100
June, 1992	20	35	31	13	1=100
November, 1991	16	36	30	16	2=100
May, 1990	12	36	38	12	2=100
February, 1989	10	37	37	13	3=100
May, 1988	11	37	38	12	2=100
May, 1987	8	34	41	13	4=100

Q.8 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]

[NOTE: ASK ITEMS A-D FIRST, ROTATING ITEMS; THEN ASK ITEMS E-G, ROTATING ITEMS]

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL.) DK
a. The impeachment trial of President Clinton in the Senate	31	38	20	11	*=100
Mid-January, 1999	22	37	26	14	1=100
January, 1999	27	37	21	14	1=100
Late December, 1998 ⁵	34	37	22	7	*=100
b. The Texas murder trial of a man accused of dragging a black man behind a pickup truck	24	41	20	14	1=100
c. Protests in Europe over the capture of a Kurdish rebel leader	5	17	30	48	*=100

⁵

In Late December the story was listed as "The debate and vote in the House of Representatives to impeach Bill Clinton."

Q. 8 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL.) DK
d.	NATO efforts to end ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia	11	30	28	30	1=100
	Mid-January, 1999 ⁶	9	21	24	44	2=100
	March, 1998 ⁷	5	12	26	55	2=100
e.	Charges of corruption against members of the International Olympic Committee	11	33	27	29	*=100
	January, 1999 ⁸	9	28	29	33	1=100
f.	The labor dispute and flight cancellations involving American Airlines	18	41	26	15	*=100
g.	Reports that Hillary Clinton might run for the U.S. Senate	19	35	24	21	1=100

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT,
ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=603]**

Q.9 Generally speaking, would you say that you personally care a good deal WHICH PARTY wins the presidential election in the year 2000 or that you don't care very much which party wins?

		<u>Oct 1995⁹</u>	<u>Oct 1991</u>	<u>May 1987</u>
61	Care a good deal	61	55	54
36	Don't care very much	36	39	40
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=600]

Q.10 Generally speaking, would you say that you personally care a good deal WHO wins the presidential election in the year 2000 or that you don't care very much who wins?

		<u>Oct 1995</u>	<u>Oct 1991</u>	<u>May 1987</u>
83	Care a good deal	78	73	76
16	Don't care very much	19	22	20
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100

⁶ In Mid-January the story was listed as "The massacre of 45 people in Kosovo, Serbia."

⁷ In March 1998 the story was listed as "Ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."

⁸ In January 1999, the story was listed as "Charges that Salt Lake City used illegal practices to win the 2002 Winter Olympic games."

⁹ For Q.9 and Q.10 the trends from 1995, 1991 and 1987 refer to the 1996, 1992 and 1988 elections.

ASK ALL:

Q.11 Thinking about the Democratic and Republican parties, would you say there is a great deal of difference in what they stand for, a fair amount of difference, or hardly any difference at all?

		March <u>1998</u>	June <u>1997</u>	Oct <u>1995</u>	July <u>1994</u>	May <u>1990</u>	May <u>1987</u>
33	A great deal	28	25	34	23	24	25
46	A fair amount	45	48	46	51	45	45
18	Hardly any	23	25	18	24	27	25
<u>3</u>	DK/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

ROTATE Q.12 AND Q.13

Q.12 What does it mean to you when someone says they are a REPUBLICAN? (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.**)

		May <u>1990</u>	Jan <u>1987</u>
18	Conservative/Right wing	22	21
12	Rich, powerful, monied interests	20	18
6	Business oriented	10	13
	That's their party/Vote for Republican Party/		
11	Agrees with GOP population	--	8
5	Personal greed/Out for personal gain/Protect own assets	--	--
4	Against government spending/Conservative spending	6	5
3	Doesn't bother me/It's their choice	--	--
2	Not a Democrat	--	--
2	Religious/Pro-life/Family oriented	1	--
2	Morality	--	--
1	Honest	--	--
1	Concerned about freedom	--	--
--	Named party	--	5
--	Not for people	4	5
--	Lower taxes, no tax against taxes	1	1
--	Mentioned Bush	1	--
--	Mentioned abortion	1	--
--	Represents the public	--	2
--	Strong national defense	--	2
11	Other	8	12
33	No answer	45	28

Q.13 What does it mean to you when someone says they are a DEMOCRAT? (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE.**)

		May <u>1990</u>	Jan <u>1987</u>
16	Liberal	18	18
15	For the people/For working people That’s their party/Vote for Republican Party/	18	21
12	Agrees with GOP population	--	9
9	For social programs/Social justice	9	7
4	Just a name/Doesn’t mean much	--	3
3	Cares for poor, disadvantaged	7	7
3	Not much difference/Same as if they were Republican	--	--
2	Too much government spending/Bigger government	3	7
2	Middle class/For the middle class	--	--
2	Open-minded	--	--
1	Believe in higher taxes, for taxes	1	2
1	Pro-choice/Mentions abortion	1	--
*	For minorities	2	--
--	Not in control of things	--	1
--	Trustworthy/truthful	--	1
--	Mentions of prominent Democrats	1	--
11	Other	8	12
30	No answer	47	27

Q.14 In reporting on a presidential candidate, what ONE factor do you think news organizations should pay the most attention to...(READ)

		<u>Oct 1995</u>	<u>Oct 1991¹⁰</u>	<u>Nov 1987</u>
12	What a candidate is like as a person,	6	7	9
49	What a candidate believes about important issues, OR	69	46	41
36	What a candidate has accomplished in the past?	23	42	45
<u>3</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don’t know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100

¹⁰

For October 1991 and November 1987 trend figures based on slightly different question, "In reporting on a presidential candidate, what one factor do you think news organizations should pay the most attention to... a candidate's personal character, a candidate's stand on issues, OR a candidate's past experiences and qualifications."

- Q.15 Next, I'm going to read you a list of some people who have been in the news lately. Not everyone will have heard of them. For each one that I name, please tell me whether or not you have heard of this person. (First,) (INSERT NAME; ROTATE ITEMS), have you heard of this person or not? (IF YES, ASK Q.16; IF NO, DK, SKIP TO NEXT ITEM.) [NOTE: ASK ITEMS A-I AND ITEMS J-M IN BLOCKS; ROTATE BLOCKS, AND ROTATE ORDER OF ITEMS WITHIN BLOCKS]
- Q.16 How much of a chance is there that you would vote for (INSERT NAME) if (he/she) is a candidate for president in 2000 — is there a good chance, some chance, or no chance?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=924]

		Have	Have not	DK/	<i>Based on Those Who Have Heard</i>				
		<u>Heard</u>	<u>Heard</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/</u>	<u>(N)</u>
					<u>Chance</u>	<u>Chance</u>	<u>Chance</u>	<u>Ref.</u>	
a	Dan Quayle	97	3	0=100	9	33	54	4=100	(902)

FORM 1 ONLY: [N=471]

b.1	George W. Bush	95	5	*=100	32	36	27	5=100	(449)
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FORM 2 ONLY: [N=453]

b.2	Texas Gov. George W. Bush	93	7	*=100	36	39	22	3=100	(419)
b.	Elizabeth Dole	91	9	*=100	26	38	33	3=100	(854)
c.	Steve Forbes	71	29	*=100	8	35	52	5=100	(685)
d.	Patrick Buchanan	83	15	2=100	6	26	63	5=100	(782)
e.	John McCain	32	67	1=100	16	42	35	7=100	(332)
f.	John Kasich	21	78	1=100	16	31	45	8=100	(229)
g.	Gary Bauer	18	81	1=100	12	26	51	11=100	(188)
h.	Lamar Alexander	42	57	1=100	6	27	60	7=100	(421)
i.	Robert Smith	12	87	1=100	8	19	64	9=100	(120)
j.	Al Gore	98	2	0=100	22	30	45	3=100	(910)
k.	Jesse Jackson	98	2	*=100	12	30	56	2=100	(904)
l.	Bill Bradley	55	44	1=100	14	41	39	6=100	(531)
m.	John Kerry	38	61	1=100	8	37	48	7=100	(374)

Q.17 Now I'd like your views on some things in the news. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of what I name. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS) is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? (INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")

NOTE: OCTOBER 1998 TRENDS ARE BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS.

		Very Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Very Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Never Heard <u>Of</u>	Can't Rate
a..	The Democratic Party	11	47	26	11	0	5=100
	January, 1999	14	41	26	12	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	18	41	24	10	0	7=100
	October, 1998	11	45	29	9	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	13	47	25	8	*	7=100
	March, 1998	15	43	26	10	*	6=100
	August, 1997	11	41	32	10	0	6=100
	June, 1997	10	51	25	8	*	6=100
	January, 1997	13	47	28	7	*	5=100
	October, 1995	9	40	37	11	—	3=100
	December, 1994	13	37	31	13	*	6=100
	July, 1994	13	49	27	7	*	4=100
	May, 1993	14	43	25	9	0	9=100
	July, 1992	17	44	24	9	*	6=100
b.	The Republican Party	7	37	36	15	0	5=100
	January, 1999	10	34	27	23	0	6=100
	Early December, 1998	11	35	27	20	*	7=100
	October, 1998	9	43	28	14	0	6=100
	Early September, 1998	9	47	26	11	*	7=100
	March, 1998	10	40	31	12	*	7=100
	August, 1997	9	38	36	11	*	6=100
	June, 1997	8	43	31	11	1	6=100
	January, 1997	8	44	33	10	*	5=100
	October, 1995	10	42	28	16	*	4=100
	December, 1994	21	46	19	8	*	6=100
	July, 1994	12	51	25	8	*	4=100
	May, 1993	12	42	25	10	0	11=100
	July, 1992	9	37	31	17	*	6=100
c.	The news media	6	43	34	15	0	2=100
	March, 1998	9	39	34	16	*	2=100
	September, 1997	7	43	34	14	*	2=100

Q.17 CONTINUED ...

		Very Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Very Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Never Heard <u>Of</u>	Can't <u>Rate</u>
d.	Congress	4	48	36	8	0	4=100
	January, 1999	7	41	30	15	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	11	41	29	12	0	7=100
	October, 1998	7	55	25	8	0	5=100
	Early September, 1998	7	59	22	5	0	7=100
	October, 1997	5	48	33	11	0	3=100
	August 1997	6	44	33	11	0	6=100
	June, 1997	4	48	34	8	0	6=100
	May, 1997	5	44	32	10	*	9=100
	February, 1997	6	46	31	9	*	8=100
	January, 1997	6	50	32	8	*	4=100
	June, 1996	6	39	38	12	*	5=100
	April, 1996	6	39	37	13	0	5=100
	January, 1996	4	38	38	16	*	4=100
	October, 1995	4	38	42	13	0	3=100
	August, 1995	5	40	34	13	*	7=100
	June, 1995	8	45	31	11	*	5=100
	February, 1995	10	44	27	10	0	9=100
	July, 1994	7	46	34	9	*	4=100
	May, 1993	8	35	35	13	0	9=100
	November, 1991	7	44	34	9	0	6=100
	March, 1991	16	50	19	7	0	8=100
	May, 1990	6	53	25	9	1	6=100
	May, 1988	8	56	23	5	0	8=100
	January, 1988	6	58	25	4	0	7=100
	May, 1987	10	64	16	4	*	6=100
	January, 1987	7	52	23	8	0	10=100
	June, 1985	9	58	21	5	*	7=100

Q.18 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?

54 Policies and programs similar to Clinton administration
 41 Different policies and programs
5 Don't know/Refused
 100

Q.19 Now thinking about both the strengths and weaknesses of Bill Clinton as a person, would you like to see the next president have personal qualities similar to Bill Clinton, OR would you like to see a president who has different personal qualities?

17 Similar personal qualities
 78 Different personal qualities
5 Don't know/Refused
 100

NOW A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEWS...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=603]

Q.20 Some people think that by criticizing leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion?

		Early Feb <u>1998</u>	Feb <u>1997</u>	Late Jan <u>1994</u>	Early Jan <u>1994</u>	Aug <u>1989</u>	Dec <u>1986</u>	June <u>1985</u>
31	Criticism by the press keeps political leaders from doing their job	39	32	24	18	23	26	17
58	Criticism keeps leaders from doing things that shouldn't be done	55	56	66	69	68	60	67
<u>11</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u> 100	<u>12</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>13</u> 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>14</u> 100	<u>16</u> 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=600]

Q.21 Some people say that in covering the personal and ethical behavior of public figures, news organizations are only reporting the news. Others say that news organizations are driving the controversies themselves, by devoting as much coverage to these stories as they do. Which view comes closer to your own?

		<u>March 1995</u>
24	Only reporting the news	20
72	Driving the controversy	74
1	Neither (VOL.)	*
<u>3</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u> 100

ASK ALL:

Q.22 In general, do you think news organizations get the facts straight, or do you think that their stories and reports are often inaccurate?

		Early Aug <u>1998</u>	Early Feb <u>1998</u>	Feb <u>1997</u>	Jan <u>1992</u>	Aug <u>1989</u>	Aug <u>1988</u>	May <u>1988</u>	Jan <u>1988</u>	July <u>1985</u>
37	News organizations get the facts straight	33	34	37	49	54	40	48	44	55
58	Stories and reports often inaccurate	58	63	56	44	44	50	43	48	34
<u>5</u> 100	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u> 100	<u>3</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>7</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100	<u>9</u> 100	<u>8</u> 100	<u>11</u> 100

Q.23 I'm going to read you some pairs of opposite phrases. After I read each pair, tell me which ONE phrase you feel better describes news organizations generally. If you think that NEITHER phrase applies, please say so. [ROTATE ITEMS]

			Jan <u>1987</u>	July <u>1986</u>	June <u>1985</u>
21	a.	Care about the people they report on, OR	41	--	35
67		Don't care about the people they report on?	45	--	48
9		Neither applies	9	--	10
<u>3</u>		Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	--	<u>7</u>
100			100		100
26	b.	Willing to admit their mistakes, OR	--	--	34
66		Try to cover up their mistakes?	--	--	55
6		Neither applies	--	--	4
<u>2</u>		Don't know/Refused	--	--	<u>7</u>
100					100
40	c.	Moral, OR	--	--	54
38		Immoral?	--	--	13
16		Neither applies	--	--	20
<u>6</u>		Don't know/Refused	--	--	<u>13</u>
100					100
59	d.	Growing in influence, OR	--	--	63
32		Declining in influence?	--	--	17
6		Neither applies	--	--	7
<u>3</u>		Don't know/Refused	--	--	<u>13</u>
100					100
45	e.	Protect democracy, OR	52	58	54
38		Hurt democracy?	27	18	23
13		Neither applies	13	17	13
<u>4</u>		Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
100			100	100	100
69	f.	Care about how good a job they do, OR	--	77	79
22		Don't care about how good a job they do?	--	16	11
6		Neither applies	--	5	4
<u>3</u>		Don't know/Refused	--	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
100				100	100
52	g.	Highly professional, OR	--	71	72
32		Not professional?	--	13	11
13		Neither applies	--	12	9
<u>3</u>		Don't know/Refused	--	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
100				100	100
41	h.	Stand up for America, OR	53	53	52
42		Too critical of America?	35	28	30
13		Neither applies	8	15	10
<u>4</u>		Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
100			100	100	100

Q.23 CONTINUED ...

			Jan <u>1987</u>	July <u>1986</u>	June <u>1985</u>
56	i.	Politically biased in their reporting, OR	47	42	45
31		Careful that their reporting is NOT politically biased?	39	41	36
8		Neither applies	7	9	7
<u>5</u>		Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
100			100	100	100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT,

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=603]

Q.24 In your opinion, over the past few years have we made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

		May <u>1997</u>	Dec <u>1994</u>	Feb <u>1989</u>
61	Yes	29	26	15
29	No	59	65	77
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=600]

Q.24a In your opinion, have we made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

61	Yes
31	No
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=603]

Q.25F1 President Clinton has proposed setting aside approximately two-thirds of an expected budget surplus to fix the Social Security system. What do you think the leaders in Washington should do with the remainder of the surplus? Should the money be used for a tax cut, OR should it be used to fund new government programs?

53	Should be used for a tax cut
34	Should be used to fund new programs
9	Should be used for some other purpose (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=600]

Q.26F2 President Clinton has proposed setting aside approximately two-thirds of an expected budget surplus to fix the Social Security system. What do you think the leaders in Washington should do with the remainder of the surplus? Should the money be used for a tax cut, OR should it be spent on programs for education, the environment, health care, crime-fighting and military defense?

- 27 Should be used for a tax cut
- 65 Should be spent on programs
- 5 Should be used for some other purpose (VOL.)
- 3 Don't know/Refused
- 100

ASK ALL:

Q.27 Generally, which approach to cutting taxes would you prefer — a 10 percent across-the-board income tax cut that would apply equally to all Americans, regardless of how much money they make; OR, targeted tax benefits designed to help offset the costs of education, child care, and long-term care for lower and middle class Americans?

- 37 10% across-the-board income tax cut
- 58 Targeted tax benefits for lower and middle class
- 2 Neither (VOL.)
- 3 Don't know/Refused
- 100

Q.27a Next, I'd like your opinion on some programs and proposals that are being discussed in this country today. For each one, please tell me how important it is for Congress to do. (First,...) **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)** — is this a very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important thing for Congress to do?

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. A 10 percent across-the-board income tax cut that would apply equally to all Americans	42	31	16	10	1=100
b. Eliminating the so-called "marriage penalty", which taxes some married couples at a higher rate than if they filed as single people	48	32	12	5	3=100
c. Increasing the amount of money senior citizens can earn before their Social Security benefits are reduced	61	29	6	3	1=100
d. Providing tax credits to people who provide long-term care to elderly or disabled family members	67	28	4	1	*=100
e. Cutting the capital gains tax	31	40	15	7	7=100

ON ANOTHER SUBJECT,

Q.28 Do you approve or disapprove of the vote in the Senate impeachment trial which allowed Bill Clinton to remain in office?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
February, 1999	63	34	3=100
TREND PRIOR TO SENATE VOTE:	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Favor</u>	
Mid-January, 1999 ¹¹	63	33	4=100
January, 1999	64	32	4=100
Late December, 1998	65	31	4=100
Early December, 1998 ¹²	67	29	4=100
November, 1998	70	23	7=100
Late October, 1998 (RV)	66	28	6=100
Early October, 1998 (RV)	62	32	6=100

Q.29 Thinking back over the past year, what grade would you give the press for the way it has covered the investigation and impeachment trial of Bill Clinton? Would you grade the press an A, B, C, D, or F?

13	A
26	B
28	C
17	D
14	F
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	
2.1	<i>Mean Rating</i>

Q.30 In your opinion, how much, if at all, has the investigation and impeachment of Bill Clinton hurt the country — a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or not at all?

31	Great deal
32	Fair amount
24	Not very much
12	Not at all
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

¹¹ For Mid-January 1999, January 1999 and Late December 1998 trend figures based on different question, "Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be removed from office?"

¹² For early December 1998, November 1998 and October 1998 trend figures based on slightly different question, "Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be impeached and removed from office?"

Q.31 The law that provides for an independent counsel to look into possible wrongdoing by presidents and senior members of their administrations is currently up for renewal. Do you think this law should be renewed, or not?

57 Should be renewed
 38 Should not
5 Don't know/Refused
 100

Finally, I'd like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only...

Q.32 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?

		Early					Late Early					Late Early					
		Jan	Dec	Sept	Aug	Aug	April	Jan	Nov	June	Sept	Sept	July	April	March	Feb	Jan
		1999	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1997	1997	1996 ¹³	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996
68	Yes	69	64	64	66	66	61	65	66	60	59	56	56	58	61	60	59
32	No	31	36	36	34	34	39	35	34	40	41	44	44	42	39	40	41
*	DK/Ref	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	*	0	0
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.32, ASK:

Q.33 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:

		Early			Early			Early		
		Jan	Dec	Nov	Sept	Aug	Nov	July	June	
		1999	1998	1998	1998	1998	1997	1996	1995 ¹⁴	
49	Goes online	47	42	37	42	43	36	23	14	
51	Does not go online	53	58	63	58	57	63	77	86	
*	Don't know/Refused	*	0	*	*	*	1	0	*	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

¹³ Based on registered voters only.

¹⁴ 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?