

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JULY 2011 POLITICAL AND MEDIA SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**July 20-24, 2011**  
**N=1,501**

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 WITH Q.2/Q.3 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama 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 Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 WITH Q.2/Q.3 BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	December, 2008	13	83	4
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	August, 2008	21	74	5
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	July, 2008	19	74	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	June, 2008	19	76	5
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	Late May, 2008	18	76	6
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	March, 2008	22	72	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	October, 2007	28	66	6
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7				
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7				

<sup>1</sup> In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2007	30	61	9	February, 2001	46	43	11
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
December, 2006	28	65	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
July, 2006	30	65	5	August, 1999	56	39	5
May, 2006*	29	65	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
March, 2006	32	63	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
January, 2006	34	61	5	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
July, 2005	35	58	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	January, 1998	46	50	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
January, 2005	40	54	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
December, 2004	39	54	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
May, 2004	33	61	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	June, 1995	25	73	2
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	April, 1995	23	74	3
December, 2003	44	47	9	July, 1994	24	73	3
October, 2003	38	56	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
August, 2003	40	53	7	October, 1993	22	73	5
<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9</i>	September, 1993	20	75	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
November, 2002	41	48	11	January, 1993	39	50	11
September, 2002	41	55	4	January, 1992	28	68	4
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	November, 1991	34	61	5
May, 2002	44	44	12	<i>Gallup: Late Feb, 1991</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>3</i>
March, 2002	50	40	10	August, 1990	47	48	5
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	May, 1990	41	54	5
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	January, 1989	45	50	5
June, 2001	43	52	5	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
March, 2001	47	45	8				

**QUESTION 3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

- Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the [ITEM] are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: REPEAT FULL QUESTION FOR NEXT ITEM**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Republican leaders in Congress			
Jul 20-24, 2011	25	66	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	30	61	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	36	45	19
Jan 5-9, 2011 <sup>2</sup>	34	43	22
Nov 4-7, 2010	41	37	22
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16
Jul 22-25, 2010	33	53	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	55	14
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15
Early October, 2006	33	56	11
June, 2006	30	53	17
March, 2006	32	50	18
January, 2006	33	52	15
Early November, 2005	33	50	17
Early October, 2005	32	52	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17
January, 2003	48	37	15
June, 2002	50	34	16
May, 2002	49	34	17
February, 2002	56	24	20
Early September, 2001	43	39	18
June, 2001	40	40	20
May, 2001	45	36	19
April, 2001	45	30	25
January, 2001	43	36	21
July, 2000	36	46	18
May, 2000	40	42	18
March, 2000	38	43	19
February, 2000	40	43	17
January, 2000	39	41	20
December, 1999	38	42	20
October, 1999	34	50	16
Late September, 1999	34	46	20
August, 1999	40	44	16
July, 1999	36	45	19
June, 1999	37	46	17
May, 1999	38	44	18
March, 1999	38	47	15
February, 1999	37	51	12
January, 1999	38	50	12

<sup>2</sup> Question wording for Nov. 4-7, 2010, and Jan. 5-9, 2011, was: "Do you approve or disapprove of Republican congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

**Q.4 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early December, 1998	38	49	13
November, 1998	41	48	11
Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 1998	42	38	20
May, 1998	40	41	19
April, 1998	41	40	19
March, 1998	43	39	18
January, 1998	43	41	16
November, 1997	41	43	16
August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 1997	40	44	16
April, 1997	40	44	16
February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 1997	38	47	15
December, 1996 <sup>3</sup>	40	43	17
July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 1996	36	50	14
April, 1996	39	46	15
March, 1996	35	51	14
February, 1996	33	53	14
January, 1996	36	54	10
October, 1995	36	51	13
September, 1995	36	50	14
August, 1995	38	45	17
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994	52	28	20
b. Democratic leaders in Congress			
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	60	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	60	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	33	48	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	30	53	17
Jul 22-25, 2010	35	56	10
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	53	12
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 <sup>4</sup>	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27

<sup>3</sup> From December, 1994, through December, 1996, the question was worded: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress?".

<sup>4</sup> In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?".

**Q.4 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
November, 2006 <sup>5</sup>	50	21	29
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22
December, 1994	52	28	20

**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 How much confidence do you have that the government in Washington, D.C., will make progress over the next year on the most important problems facing the country? **[READ IN ORDER]**

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>		Sep 23-26 <u>2010</u>	Jun 24-27 <u>2010</u>	May 13-16 <u>2010</u>
6	A lot of confidence	10	10	10
33	Some confidence	34	32	32
37	Not much confidence <b>[OR]</b>	33	32	31
22	No confidence at all	20	23	25
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	3	2

**NO QUESTION 6****ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.7 Which of the following national economic issues worries you most? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>The job situation</u>	<u>The federal budget deficit</u>	<u>Rising prices</u>	<u>Problems in the financial and housing markets</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Other</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>None/not worried about any</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 20-24, 2011	39	29	15	11	3	1	2
May 25-30, 2011	38	28	20	10	2	*	2
Mar 8-14, 2011	34	24	28	10	3	*	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	44	19	23	10	1	1	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	47	19	15	14	1	1	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	49	19	15	12	2	1	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	41	23	16	13	3	1	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	45	22	17	11	2	*	2

<sup>5</sup> Question wording in November, 2006, and December, 1994, was: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?".

**QUESTIONS 8-9, 12-16 AND 18-21 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE  
NO QUESTIONS 10-11, 17 OR 22-23**

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

- Q.24 In your view, what is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit? Should we mostly focus on **[RANDOMIZE: Cutting major programs / Increasing taxes]** mostly focus on **[increasing taxes / cutting major programs]** or should we do a combination of both?

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>		Apr 7-10 <u>2011</u>	Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>
19	Cutting major programs	20	16
8	Increasing taxes	6	4
60	Combination of both	64	65
1	Deficit is not a priority/Don't focus on deficit <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	1
12	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	9	13

**ASK ALL:**

- Q.25 Looking ahead five years or so, do you think we will have made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>		Apr 21-25 <u>2011</u>	Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>	Feb <u>1989</u>
39	Yes	31	37	40
51	No	55	52	46
10	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	14	11	14

**RANDOMIZE Q26 AND Q.27**

**ASK ALL:**

- Q.26 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE.]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]?**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both</u> <u>equally</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK ALL FORM 1 [N=986] <sup>6</sup>:</b>					
a.F1 Reducing the federal budget deficit					
Jul 20-24, 2011	43	33	6	9	9
May 25-30, 2011	41	38	4	9	8
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	46	34	8	6	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	7	16	14
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	36	5	9	7
May 20-23, 2010	33	30	8	16	12
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	35	6	11	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
Early October, 2005 <sup>7</sup>	29	47	6	10	8
June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15

**ASK ALL FORM 2 [N=515] <sup>8</sup>:**

a.F2 Dealing with the federal budget deficit					
Jul 22-24, 2011	43	37	5	6	8

<sup>6</sup> For July 20-21, 2011 question was asked of all respondents. For July 22-24, the question was only asked of form 1 respondents.

<sup>7</sup> In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

<sup>8</sup> Question was asked only July 22-24, 2011.

## Q.26 CONTINUED...

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK ALL:</b>						
b.	Improving the job situation					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	39	39	5	7	9
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	39	10	6	6
	Oct 13-18, 2010	35	31	8	13	13
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	39	41	6	8	7
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	37	8	9	10
	September, 2006	29	47	6	5	13
	March, 1998	30	51	7	5	7
	October, 1994	37	42	6	7	8
<b>ASK ALL FORM 1 [N=986]<sup>9</sup>:</b>						
c.F1	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	38	40	5	7	10
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	39	9	6	7
	Sep 16-19, 2010	35	35	9	11	11
	September, 2006	26	46	4	11	13
	September, 2005	33	45	6	9	7
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	31	42	6	9	12
	Early September, 2002	30	38	8	10	14
	May, 2002	32	38	--	9	21
	January, 2002	28	40	--	6	26
	May, 2001 <sup>10</sup>	35	43	6	5	11
	January, 2001	36	44	--	7	13
	June, 1999	33	41	4	9	13
	January, 1999	27	46	--	7	20
	Early September, 1998	37	42	7	5	9
	May, 1990	28	41	--	16	15
<b>ASK ALL FORM 2 [N=515]<sup>11</sup>:</b>						
c.F2	Dealing with the Social Security system					
	Jul 22-24, 2011	37	42	7	5	9
<b>ASK ALL:</b>						
d.	Dealing with taxes					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	43	40	4	6	8
	Oct 13-18, 2010	36	35	7	9	12
	Sep 16-19, 2010	40	34	8	8	9
	Aug 27-30, 2009	38	37	4	11	11
	February, 2008	37	49	2	5	7
	October, 2006	32	40	5	7	16
	September, 2006	30	45	4	9	12
	February, 2006	35	46	5	6	8
	May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9
	June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12
	September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10
	March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9

<sup>9</sup> For July 20-21, 2011 question was asked of all respondents. For July 22-24, the question was only asked of form 1 respondents.

<sup>10</sup> For May 2001, June 1999, Early September 1998 and May 1990, the question was worded, "Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job in each of the following areas ... keeping Social Security financially sound?"

<sup>11</sup> Question was asked only July 22-24, 2011.

**RANDOMIZE Q26 AND Q.27****ASK ALL:**

Q.27 Please tell me if you think each phrase I read better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders (First,) which party do you think is better described by the phrase... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref	
<b>ASK ALL FORM 1 [N=748]:</b>						
a.F1	Can better manage the federal government					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	40	38	2	14	7
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	41	39	2	8	9
	Oct 13-18, 2010	43	36	2	11	8
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	41	41	3	8	7
	Jun 16-20, 2010	41	37	3	12	7
	Feb 3-9, 2010	40	40	4	9	8
	Aug 27-30, 2009	34	38	4	14	10
	October, 2007	32	44	5	9	10
	March, 2007	31	47	3	8	11
	Early October, 2006	34	44	3	9	10
	April, 2006 <sup>12</sup>	35	39	3	15	8
	January, 2006	34	40	4	12	10
	Early October, 2005	35	41	3	13	8
	July, 2004	37	40	4	9	10
	Early September, 1998	37	32	8	12	11
	August, 1997	39	33	4	16	8
	July, 1996	45	32	4	12	7
	April, 1995	49	30	3	13	5
	July, 1994	43	31	4	17	5
	May, 1993	36	32	2	17	13
	July, 1992	30	36	1	23	10
	May, 1990	28	20	12	31	9
	May, 1988	33	30	10	17	10
	January, 1988	30	28	12	20	10
	May, 1987	24	25	13	28	10
b.F1	Is more concerned with the needs of people like me					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	30	51	2	11	6
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	32	54	2	5	8
	Oct 13-18, 2010	36	46	2	8	9
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	33	53	2	7	5
	Jun 16-20, 2010	34	50	2	9	5
	Feb 3-9, 2010	31	51	3	8	7
	Aug 27-30, 2009	27	51	4	10	7
	October, 2007	25	54	4	8	9
	March, 2007	26	55	2	7	10
	Early October, 2006	27	55	3	8	7
	April, 2006 <sup>13</sup>	28	52	3	10	7
	Early October, 2005	30	52	5	7	6
	July, 2004	30	50	5	8	7
	Early September, 1998	31	46	5	9	9
	March, 1998	30	51	4	8	7
	August, 1997	31	49	3	10	7
	July, 1996	35	50	2	7	6
	April, 1995	39	49	2	7	3
	July, 1994	35	49	4	8	4

<sup>12</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Able to manage the federal government well."

<sup>13</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Is concerned with the needs of people like me."



## Q.27 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 1990	21	42	12	18	7
May, 1988	23	51	8	11	7
January, 1988	22	47	11	13	7
c.F1 Governs in a more honest and ethical way					
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	42	2	20	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	33	42	3	14	8
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	35	4	16	9
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	41	4	18	6
August 27-30, 2009	26	42	4	20	9
October, 2007	26	40	6	19	9
March, 2007	25	43	4	18	10
Early October, 2006	27	41	4	18	10
April, 2006 <sup>14</sup>	28	36	4	23	9
January, 2006	30	37	4	19	10
Early October, 2005	30	40	6	18	6
July, 2004	34	37	5	15	9
Early September, 1998	31	28	6	23	12
March, 1998	28	32	7	24	9
August, 1997	28	33	5	26	8
July, 1996	38	37	2	18	5
April, 1995	35	36	4	19	6
July, 1994	32	35	6	21	6

**ASK ALL:**

d.	Is more extreme in its positions					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	50	35	4	2	9

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

e.F2	Can bring about the kind of changes the country needs					
	Jul 20-24, 2011	36	43	3	9	8
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	41	44	2	8	5
	Oct 13-18, 2010	35	41	3	10	10
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	35	46	4	8	6
	Jun 16-20, 2010	33	45	3	12	7
	Feb 3-9, 2010	34	46	4	9	7
	Aug 27-30, 2009	25	47	5	13	9
	October, 2007	26	48	5	11	10
	March, 2007	26	52	4	9	9
	Early October, 2006	28	48	4	10	10
	April, 2006	32	47	2	12	7
	Early October, 2005	32	48	4	9	7
	July, 2004	35	46	3	7	9
	Early September, 1998	34	40	7	8	11
	March, 1998	32	45	7	8	8
	August, 1997	38	40	4	11	7
	July, 1996	39	46	2	7	6
	April, 1995	51	34	4	7	4
	July, 1994	39	42	4	10	5
	May, 1993	30	49	2	10	9
	July, 1992	24	47	2	16	11
	May, 1990	27	31	13	18	11
	May, 1988	27	43	9	11	10
	January, 1988	28	37	14	11	10
	May, 1987	26	36	14	14	10

<sup>14</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Governs in an honest and ethical way."

## Q.27 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
f.F2	Is more influenced by lobbyists and special interests				
	39	37	12	1	11
	44	34	11	2	9
	40	32	14	2	11
	37	31	17	3	12
	40	30	15	1	14
	41	27	16	2	14
	45	28	14	2	11
g.F2	Is more willing to work with political leaders from the other party				
	26	51	1	12	9
	32	49	2	10	6

## ASK ALL:

Q.28 If the government makes major cuts in federal spending in an effort to reduce the budget deficit, do you think these cuts would **[RANDOMIZE: help the job situation/hurt the job situation]**, or not have much of an effect either way?

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>		Mar 8-14 <u>2011</u> <sup>15</sup>
26	Help	18
27	Hurt	34
39	Not much of an effect either way	41
1	Mixed effect (VOL.)	1
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

## NO QUESTIONS 29-30

## ASK ALL:

Q.31 How much, if anything, have you heard about the possibility that the federal government might go into default if Republicans and the Obama administration can't agree on a plan to raise the federal debt limit by August second? **[READ IN ORDER]**

Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>	
50	A lot
32	A little [OR]
16	Nothing at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

## TREND FOR COMPARISON:

*How much if anything, have you heard about the possibility that the federal government might shut down this year if Republicans and the Obama administration can't agree on a budget [READ IN ORDER]?*

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	Nothing <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	42	25	2
Feb 24-27, 2011 <sup>16</sup>	37	34	29	*
Feb 17-20, 2011	21	35	44	*

<sup>15</sup> In March 2011, question read "If the government makes major cuts in federal spending this year in an effort to reduce the budget deficit..."

<sup>16</sup> For both February 2011 trends, the item was asked as part of a list. The wording for February 17-20, 2011, was: "The possibility that the federal government might shut down this year if Congress and President Obama can't agree on a budget."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.32 What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Jul 20-24  
2011

23	Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government goes into default [OR]
68	Should they be willing to compromise, even if that means they strike a deal you disagree with
8	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*If there is not a budget agreement by the end of next week the federal government will have to shut down nonessential services until a budget is passed. What would you like lawmakers who share your views on this issue to do? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]***

Mar 30-Apr 3  
2011

36	Should they stand by their principles, even if that means the government shuts down [OR]
55	Should they be more willing to compromise, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with
10	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*Gallup*  
Feb 2011<sup>17</sup> Aug 1995<sup>18</sup>

32	35
60	60
8	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.33 Just your best guess, do you think Barack Obama and the Republicans will or will not resolve this issue before the August second deadline?

Jul 20-24  
2011

56	Will
38	Will not
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

*ABC/Wash Post*

Jul 14-17  
2011<sup>19</sup>

54
43
3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.34 If the government cannot borrow more money after August second to fund its operations and pay its debts, do you think it would affect your own personal financial situation, or not?

Jul 20-24  
2011

65	Would
32	Would not
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

<sup>17</sup> In February 2011, the question was worded: "If the Republicans in Congress and President Obama do not agree on federal spending goals by March 4, the federal government will have to shut down all of its nonessential services until a budget is passed. What would you like the people in government who represent your views on the budget to do in this situation? Should they hold out for the basic budget plan they want, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they agree to a compromise budget plan, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

<sup>18</sup> In August 1995 the question was worded: "If the Republicans in Congress and President Clinton do not agree on federal spending goals this fall, the federal government will have to shut down all of its nonessential services until a budget is passed. How would you like the people in government who represent your point of view toward the budget to act in this situation — should they stand by their principles throughout the debate, even if that means the government shuts down, or should they be more willing to compromise in the debate, even if that means they pass a budget you disagree with?"

<sup>19</sup> ABC News/The Washington Post question read "Just your best guess, do you think Obama and the Republicans will or will not resolve this issue before the August second deadline the administration has set for raising the debt limit?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.34 If the government cannot borrow more money after August second to fund its operations and pay its debts, do you think it would affect your own personal financial situation, or not?

**ASK IF WOULD AFFECT PERSONALLY (IF Q34=1):**

Q.35 How worried are you, if at all, that not raising the debt limit by August second would **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? **[READ OPTIONS]**

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not worried at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Would not affect personally/DK</i>
a. Lead to the suspension of government services and benefits that affect you personally						
Jul 20-24, 2011	23	23	10	8	1	35
b. Harm your own investments and retirement savings						
Jul 20-24, 2011	23	22	9	10	1	35

**IF VERY/SOMEWHAT WORRIED ABOUT GOVERNMENT REDUCTIONS (Q.35a=1, 2) ASK IMMEDIATELY [N=700]:**

Q.36 What government services or benefits are you most worried about? **[OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]**

Jul 20-24  
2011

52	Social Security
20	Medicare
7	Health/Medical care (general)
6	Unemployment/Jobs
6	Medicaid
5	Disability/SSI
5	Education/Tuition/Student loans
5	Public assistance/Welfare/Food stamps/Other services for poor
3	Everything
3	Military/Defense
2	Retirement/Pensions
2	Veterans benefits/VA
2	Housing
1	Local (police, fire, garbage collection, etc.)
1	Childcare/Children's health
1	US credit/Financial markets/Investments
1	Services for seniors (general)
1	Federal salaries and jobs
1	State budgets
1	Parks and recreation
10	Other
10	Don't know/Refused

*Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses.*

**QUESTIONS 37-38, 41-42, 45-49, 52-54, 56-57 AND 60-62 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE  
NO QUESTIONS 43-44, 50-51, 55, 58-59**

**ASK ALL:**

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

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

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
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	24	32	39	2	*	2	15	17
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**Q.64 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>20</sup>	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

<sup>20</sup>

In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May through October, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."