

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**IMPEACHMENT VOTE RE-INTERVIEW SURVEY**  
**— FINAL TOPLINE —**  
**December 19-21, 1998**  
**N=805**

**MY FIRST QUESTION IS...**

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>
Late December, 1998	71	27	2=100
Early December, 1998	61	32	7=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>
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100

Q.3 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? **[READ AND ROTATE LIST]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK</u>
a. The debate and vote in the House of Representatives to impeach Bill Clinton	34	37	22	7	*=100
Early December, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	32	38	19	10	1=100
b. U.S. military strikes against Iraq	44	40	12	4	*=100

Q.4 Based on what you know at this point, do you think the Senate should or should not find Bill Clinton guilty and remove him from office?<sup>2</sup>

		<i>Based on Registered Voters</i>			
		Early Dec	Nov	Late Oct	Early Oct
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
31	Should be removed	29	23	28	32
65	Should not be removed	67	70	66	62
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY:**

Q.5aF1 If you had to choose, which do you think would be better for the country — if Clinton were to remain in office until the end of his term, OR if Clinton were to resign now, and turn the presidency over to Al Gore?

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY:**

Q.5bF2 If you had to choose, which do you think would be better for the country — if Clinton were to resign now, and turn the presidency over to Al Gore, OR if Clinton were to remain in office until the end of his term?

		<i>----- Gallup -----</i>					
		Early Sept	Late Aug	Aug 17	Jan 25-26	Jan 24-25	Jan 23-24
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
68	Remain in office	76	75	72	68	67	71
30	Resign	20	21	23	26	25	23
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

<sup>1</sup> In Early December the story was listed as “The impeachment inquiry in Congress into allegations against President Clinton.”

<sup>2</sup> 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?”

**IF ANSWERED "2" (SHOULD RESIGN) IN Q.5a or "1" (SHOULD RESIGN) IN Q.5b, ASK: [N=271]**

- Q.6 Why do you think Clinton should resign from office now — because you think the charges against him are serious enough to end his presidency, OR because it would be better for the country to avoid a trial in the Senate?
- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 39       | Charges against him are serious enough to end his presidency |
| 42       | Better for country to avoid a trial in the Senate            |
| 17       | Other/Both (VOL)   |
| <u>2</u> | Don't know/Refused   |
| 100      |  |

**ASK ALL:**

- Q.7x Why do you think most members of Congress voted in favor of impeaching President Clinton — because they think what he has done is serious enough to end his presidency OR for political reasons?
- |          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| 25       | Serious enough to end his presidency |
| 67       | For political reasons                |
| 5        | Both (VOL)                           |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know/Refused                   |
| 100      |                                      |

- Q.7y Representative Bob Livingston, who was to be the next Republican Speaker of the House, announced that he is leaving Congress because he had committed adultery in the past. Do you think it was a good idea or a bad idea for him to step down?
- |           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 46        | Good idea          |
| 43        | Bad idea           |
| <u>11</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100       |                    |

- Q.7a In general, do you think the news coverage of the impeachment debate was fair and objective, or do you think the news coverage was biased?
- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 56       | Coverage was fair and objective — <b>GO TO Q.8</b> |
| 35       | Coverage was biased — <b>GO TO Q.7b</b>            |
| <u>9</u> | Don't know/Refused — <b>GO TO Q.8</b>              |
| 100      |  |

**IF ANSWERED "2" (BIASED) IN Q.7a, ASK: [N=281]**

- Q.7b Do you think the news coverage favored Clinton and the Democrats too much, or do you think the news coverage favored the Republicans too much?
- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 26       | Coverage favored Clinton and Democrats |
| 66       | Coverage favored Republicans           |
| 3        | Other (VOL)                            |
| <u>5</u> | Don't know/Refused                     |
| 100      |  |

**FINALLY, ON ANOTHER SUBJECT,**

- Q.8 Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. military strikes against Iraq?
- |          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| 75       | Approve            |
| 20       | Disapprove         |
| <u>5</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100      |                    |

- Q.9 Do you think the military strikes will be effective in reducing Iraq's ability to produce weapons of mass destruction, or not?
- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 50       | Reduced Iraq's ability to produce weapons |
| 41       | Will not reduce Iraq's ability            |
| <u>9</u> | Don't know/Refused                        |
| 100      |   |