

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS  
 VIDEOTAPE TESTIMONY RELEASE POLL  
 FINAL TOPLINE**

**Pre-Video Wave (Sept 19-20, 1998) N=500  
 Post-Video Wave (Sept 21-22, 1998) N=706**

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 "DON'T KNOW", ENTER AS CODE 9. 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 CODE 9.)**

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

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>
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

Q.3 Which of these best describes you... (READ)

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Late Aug <u>1998</u>	Early Feb <u>1998</u>
33	27	I like Bill Clinton personally and I like his policies, OR	31	33	39
34	34	I don't like Bill Clinton personally but I like his policies, OR	39	35	30
26	28	I don't like Bill Clinton personally and I don't like his policies	25	27	23
1	3	<b>(DO NOT READ)</b> I like Bill Clinton personally but I don't like his policies	2	2	3
<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
100	100		100	100	100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY:**

Q.4F1 How closely have you followed news about Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report regarding President Clinton — very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
September 21-22, 1998	22	42	24	11	1=100 (N=354)
September 19-20, 1998	19	46	21	13	1=100 (N=244)

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY:**

Q.5F2 How closely have you followed news about the investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton — very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
September 21-22, 1998	28	40	23	9	*=100 (N=352)
September 19-20, 1998	33	37	22	7	1=100 (N=256)
Early September, 1998	36	36	17	10	1=100
Late August, 1998	33	39	19	8	1=100
Mid-August, 1998	26	30	20	24	*=100
Early August, 1998	29	34	22	14	1=100
June, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	28	32	24	15	1=100
April, 1998	27	39	20	14	*=100
March, 1998	30	35	25	9	1=100
February, 1998 <sup>2</sup>	21	44	25	10	*=100
Early February, 1998	34	42	17	7	0=100
<i>Gallup</i> : 1/27/98	37	43	15	4	1=100
<i>CBS</i> : 1/26/98	38	41	15	5	1=100

<sup>1</sup> In June, April and March 1998, story was listed as "Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton."

<sup>2</sup> In February 1998, story was listed as "Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 Now, a few questions about the allegation that President Clinton lied under oath about a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Thinking specifically about this allegation, how important an issue do you think this whole situation is to the nation — of great importance, of some importance, or of very little importance?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Late Sept <u>1998</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>	Aug <u>1998</u>
37	42	Great importance	37	34	33	27
19	23	Some importance	22	20	23	21
42	33	Very little importance	38	42	42	46
--	--	None (VOL)	1	3	2	3
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>3</u>
100	100		100	100	100	100

**ASK QUESTION 7 AFTER SEPTEMBER 20 ONLY [N=706]:**

Q.7 Have you seen all or almost all, part, or none of the videotape of President Clinton's grand jury testimony, or haven't you seen it?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	
21	Yes, seen all/almost all
48	Yes, seen part
31	No, seen none
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.8 Do you think it was a good idea or a bad idea for Congress to release the videotape?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>	
33	32	Good idea
59	59	Bad idea
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	

**ASK Q. 9 THROUGH Q.10b AFTER SEPTEMBER 20 ONLY [N=706]:**

Q.9 In your opinion, in this testimony did Bill Clinton make a good case for himself, or didn't he?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	
31	Good case
46	Did not make good case
12	Didn't see video (VOL)
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.10 In your opinion, were the prosecutors fair or unfair in their questioning of Bill Clinton?

Sept	
<u>21-22</u>	
47	Fair
33	Unfair
12	Didn't see video (VOL)
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.10a Did the testimony make you more or less sympathetic to Bill Clinton as a person?

Sept	
<u>21-22</u>	
27	More
39	Less
18	No effect (VOL)
10	Didn't see video (VOL)
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.10b Did the testimony make you feel that these allegations against President Clinton are MORE serious than you thought, LESS serious than you thought, or didn't it affect your thinking on this matter?

Sept	
<u>21-22</u>	
23	More serious
13	Less serious
54	Hasn't affected thinking
7	Didn't see testimony (VOL)
<u>3</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	

H.1 Have you heard reports that Congressman Henry Hyde, the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, had an extramarital affair 30 years ago, or haven't you heard anything about this?

Sept	Sept	
<u>21-22</u>	<u>19-20</u>	
62	64	Have heard about
37	35	Have not heard
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't Know/Refused
100	100	

**BASED ON THOSE WHO HEARD:**

H.2 Do you think it was a good decision or a bad decision for news organizations to report this story?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>	
37	32	Good decision
56	60	Bad decision
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	100	
(N=463)	(N=342)	

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY:**

Q.11a 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.11b 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?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Late Aug <u>1998</u>	----- Gallup -----			
					Aug 17 <u>1998</u>	Jan 25-26 <u>1998</u>	Jan 24-25 <u>1998</u>	Jan 23-24 <u>1998</u>
69	60	Remain in office	76	75	72	68	67	71
26	34	Resign	20	21	23	26	25	23
<u>5</u>	<u>6</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	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 If Congress decided to begin impeachment hearings against President Clinton, how would you feel about the members who voted in FAVOR of beginning these hearings? Would your opinion of them be very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Late Aug <u>1998</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>
14	15	Very favorable	14	12	12
22	28	Mostly favorable	22	24	22
24	23	Mostly unfavorable	26	25	25
32	28	Very unfavorable	31	32	32
1	1	Depends/Depends on what's in the report	2	--	--
<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
100	100		100	100	100

Q.13 If it turns out that President Clinton lied under oath about having a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office, or not?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Late Aug <u>1998</u>	Mid- Aug <u>1998</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>	March <u>1998</u>	Early Feb <u>1998</u>
37	42	Yes, should be impeached	31	30	29	31	40	50
61	53	No, should not	65	66	65	63	55	46
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100		100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.14 If it turns out that President Clinton encouraged Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath about the nature of their relationship, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office, or not?

Sept <u>21-2</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		Early Sept <u>1998</u>	Late Aug <u>1998</u>	Mid- Aug <u>1998</u>	Early Aug <u>1998</u>	March <u>1998</u>	Early Feb <u>1998</u>
43	48	Yes, should be impeached	42	41	39	41	48	48
52	47	No, should not	53	55	55	53	47	47
<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
100	100		100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.15 Some people think that because of this scandal, President Clinton does not have the moral standing to lead the country. Other people think President Clinton still has the moral standing to lead. Which comes closer to your own view?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		Mid- Sept <u>1998</u>	Late Aug <u>1998</u>
41	48	Does not have moral standing	43	37
50	46	Still has moral standing	48	57
3	1	He never had moral standing (VOL)	2	2
2	1	Not important for President to have (VOL)	2	1
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
100	100		100	100

**IF VERY OR MOSTLY UNFAVORABLE IN Q.12, ASK Q.16; OTHERWISE GO TO Q.17**

Q.16 Earlier you said you would have an unfavorable opinion of most members of Congress who voted in favor of impeachment hearings. Do you feel this way more because you don't want to see the country go through an impeachment process, OR more because you don't think Clinton's actions are serious enough for impeachment?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		Early Sept <u>1998</u>
26	26	Don't want to see country go through impeachment	27
60	60	Clinton's actions not serious enough	62
1	3	Neither (VOL)	2
8	8	Both (VOL)	7
1	*	Other (SPECIFY)	1
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100	100		100
(N=393)	(N=252)		

**ASK ALL OF FORM 1:**

Q.17a

F1 If the investigations into the Clinton-Lewinsky matter continue, what position would you prefer the U.S. representative from your congressional district take — favor impeaching and removing Clinton from office, favor a formal reprimand or censure of Clinton, but not removing him from office, OR favor taking no formal action against Clinton?

**ASK ALL OF FORM 2:**

Q.17b

F2 If the investigations into the Clinton-Lewinsky matter continue, what position would you prefer the U.S. representative from your congressional district take — favor taking no formal action against Clinton, favor a formal reprimand or censure of Clinton, but not removing him from office, OR favor impeaching and removing Clinton from office?

Sept <u>21-22</u>	Sept <u>19-20</u>		--Gallup-- <u>Sept 14-15, 1998</u>
26	32	Impeach	27
44	43	Reprimand/Censure	45
26	19	No formal action	24
<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100	100		100

**ASKED OF RESPONDENTS INTERVIEWED AFTER SEPTEMBER 20 WHO ANSWERED "1" IN Q.11a OR "2" IN Q.11b (SHOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE) [N=476]:**

Q.17c Do you sometimes think it would be better for President Clinton to resign in order to end the controversy, or don't you ever feel that way?

**ASKED OF RESPONDENTS INTERVIEWED AFTER SEPTEMBER 20 WHO ANSWERED "2" IN Q.11a OR "1" IN Q.11b (SHOULD RESIGN) [N=196]:**

Q.17d Do you sometimes think it would be better for Congress to drop the whole Lewinsky matter in order to end the controversy, or don't you ever feel that way?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

Sept <u>21-22</u>	
69	Remain in office
13	Yes, sometimes think it would be better for Clinton to resign
55	No, don't ever feel that way
1	Don't know/Refused
26	Resign
7	Yes, sometimes think it would be better for Congress to drop the matter
19	No, don't ever think that way
*	Don't know/Refused
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	