

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JUNE 1998 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**— FINAL TOPLINE —**  
**June 4-8, 1998**  
**N=1,012**

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>
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
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

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

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

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]

**SPLIT FORM ITEMS ‘b’ THRU ‘i’; ASK ALL ITEM ‘a’:  
[FORM 1: N=516; FORM 2 N=496]**

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
a.	News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district	9	27	33	30	1=100
	April, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	16	33	24	27	*=100
	November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*=100
	October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1=100
	Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1=100
	September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*=100
	November, 1990 <sup>2</sup>	38	34	17	11	*=100
	October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*=100
b.F1	Allegations of sexual misconduct against Bill Clinton	28	32	24	15	1=100
	April, 1998	27	39	20	14	*=100
	March, 1998	30	35	25	9	1=100
	February, 1998 <sup>3</sup>	21	44	25	10	*=100
	Early February, 1998	34	42	17	7	0=100
c.F2	Recent political turmoil in Indonesia	12	27	30	31	*=100
d.F1	The shooting at a high school in Springfield, Oregon	46	36	14	4	*=100
e.F2	The new drug Viagra, designed to help men overcome impotence	15	28	29	27	1=100
f.F1	The death of Frank Sinatra	17	31	31	20	1=100
g.F2	The testing of nuclear bombs by India and Pakistan	36	34	16	14	*=100
h.F1	The merger of the Chrysler Corporation and Daimler Benz	12	22	27	38	1=100
i.F2	Allegations that the United States’ policy on China was influenced by campaign contributions	16	30	27	26	1=100

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<sup>1</sup> In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as “Candidates and election campaigns in your state.”

<sup>2</sup> In November 1990, story was listed as “Candidates and elections in your state.”

<sup>3</sup> In February 1998, story was listed as “Allegations that President Clinton had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky.”

On another subject...

Q.4 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '3' OR '9' IN Q.4, ASK:**

Q.4a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=771]**

	Republican/ <u>Lean Rep.</u>	Democrat/ <u>Lean Dem.</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
June, 1998	44	46	10=100
March, 1998	40	52	8=100
February, 1998	41	50	9=100
January, 1998	41	51	8=100
August, 1997	45	48	7=100
Early November, 1996 <sup>4</sup>	44	48	8=100
October, 1996	42	49	9=100
Late September, 1996	43	49	8=100
Early September, 1996	43	51	6=100
July, 1996	46	47	7=100
June, 1996	44	50	6=100
March, 1996	44	49	7=100
January, 1996	46	47	7=100
October, 1995	48	48	4=100
August, 1995	50	43	7=100
November, 1994	45	43	12=100
October, 1994	47	44	9=100
Early October, 1994	52	40	8=100
September, 1994	48	46	6=100
July, 1994	45	47	8=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress in your district — national issues, local or state issues, the candidate's political party, or the candidate's character or experience? **(IF MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Well, which is most important?)**

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=771]**

	March <u>1998</u>	Nov <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1996</u>	Late Sept <u>1996</u>	Early Sept <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>	Late Oct <u>1994</u>	Early Oct <u>1994</u>	--- CBS/NYT --- 10/24-28 9/28-10/1 <u>1986</u> <u>1986</u>	
22 National issue	18	23	19	25	18	22	22	22	22	20
37 State/local issue	37	38	45	38	42	38	38	27	25	23
4 Political party	6	6	7	6	6	5	3	5	6	9
32 Character/Experience	35	25	26	24	30	30	29	39	40	41
1 Other (VOL)	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	3
1 None (VOL)	1	*	1	*	*	*	1	1	1	*
<u>3</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

4

Based on likely voters.

**ROTATE QUESTIONS 6 AND 7**

Q.6 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote for Bill Clinton, as a vote against Bill Clinton, or isn't Bill Clinton much of a factor in your vote?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=771]**

		March	Sept	Nov	Oct	Early	Bush	----- Reagan -----		
		1998	1996	1994	1994	Oct	10/28-31	10/24-28	9/28-10/1	10/23-28
						1994	1990	1986	1986	1982
20	For	21	24	17	17	17	19	26	26	23
18	Against	15	18	21	21	23	15	12	16	21
57	Not a factor	59	51	55	57	54	61	55	51	51
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.7 Thinking about your vote for Congress this fall, will the issue of which party, the Republicans or the Democrats, controls Congress be a factor in your vote, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=771]**

45	Yes, will be a factor
51	No, will not
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.8 What one issue would you most like to hear the candidates in your state or district talk about? (**OPEN-ENDED; ACCEPT UP TO THREE MENTIONS**)

20	Education
12	Taxation
8	Social Security
8	Crime/Crime control/All other crime issues
5	Job/Employment
5	Health care
4	Youthful violence/Violence
4	Economy/Economic issues
4	Abortion
3	Family/Child care issues
3	All other social issues
3	Morality/Character issues
3	Environment
2	Balanced budget
2	Drugs
2	Foreign policy/International relations
2	Poverty/Homlessness
2	Highway improvement/Road construction
1	National security
1	Tobacco/Smoking
1	Immigration
1	Religion
1	Women's issues
*	Police/Quality of law enforcement
5	All other miscellaneous mentions
2	All other economic issues
*	None
21	No answer/DK/Refused

Q.9 Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then or hardly at all?

		Nov 1997	Nov* 1996	Oct* 1996	Oct 1995	April 1995	Nov 1994	Oct 1994	July 1994	May 1990	May 1988	Jan 1988	May 1987
36	Most of the time	41	52	43	46	43	49	45	46	39	37	37	41
34	Some of the time	36	32	37	35	35	30	35	33	34	37	35	35
21	Only now and then	16	12	13	14	16	13	14	15	18	17	18	15
9	Hardly at all	7	4	6	5	6	7	6	6	9	6	8	7
*	Don't know	*	*	1	*	*	1	*	*	*	3	2	2
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

\*Based on Registered Voters

Q.10 These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far?

**IF YES, ASK:**

Q.11 Are you absolutely certain you are registered to vote, or is there a chance your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

		Nov 1997	Sept 1997	Nov 1996	June 1996	Oct 1995	Apr 1995	Dec 1994	Nov 1994	Oct 1994	Oct 1994	July 1994	May 1993	June 1992	Nov 1990
78	Yes, registered	80	79	76	79	76	76	74	73	77	76	79	82	76	80
73	Yes, absolutely certain	75	76	69	75	73	74	70	70	74	72	75	--	73	--
	Chance registration														
4	may have lapsed	4	3	2	4	3	2	3	2	3	4	4	--	3	--
1	Don't know/Refused	1	*	*	0	*	0	1	1	0	*	0	--	0	--
22	No, not registered	20	20	24	21	23	23	24	26	22	23	20	17	23	20
*	Don't know/Refused	*	1	*	*	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	--
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 How often would you say you vote... always, nearly always, part of the time or seldom?

		Nov 1997	Sept 1997	June 1996	Feb 1996	Oct 1995	April 1995	Nov 1994	Oct 1994	July 1994	June 1992	May 1992	Nov 1991	May 1990	Feb 1989	Jan 1988	May 1987
40	Always	33	51	41	32	41	42	43	43	40	47	41	38	33	45	39	34
29	Nearly always	38	23	30	34	32	29	24	28	30	26	32	37	35	30	33	37
15	Part of the time	15	11	12	15	12	12	11	13	14	10	13	13	12	10	12	11
12	Seldom	9	10	12	11	11	11	13	10	11	11	11	9	10	8	8	6
4	(VOL) Other	*	*	1	1	*	*	1	5	*	1	*	0	1	1	1	2
0	(VOL) Never vote	5	5	4	6	3	6	8	1	5	5	3	3	8	6	6	9
*	Don't know	*	*	*	1	1	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	1	1
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

- Q.13 Do you, yourself, plan to vote in the election this November?  
 Q.13a How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain or not certain?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=771]**

	<u>Yes, Plan To Vote</u>	<u>Absolutely Certain</u>	<u>Fairly Certain</u>	<u>Not Certain</u>	<u>No, Don't Plan To</u>	<u>Can't Say/DK</u>
June, 1998	95	74	19	2	3	2=100
November, 1996 <sup>5</sup>	96	--	--	--	2	2=100
October, 1996	98	87	10	1	1	1=100
September, 1996	98	89	8	1	1	1=100
September, 1996	96	83	11	2	2	2=100
July, 1996	95	82	12	1	3	2=100
June, 1996	96	84	11	1	2	2=100
November, 1994+	71	--	--	--	26	3=100
October, 1994+	95	--	--	--	3	2=100
October, 1992	98	91	6	1	1	1=100
September, 1992	98	85	11	2	1	1=100
August, 1992	97	89	8	*	1	2=100
June, 1992	97	88	8	1	1	2=100
<i>Gallup</i> : November, 1988	97	87	9	1	2	1=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1988	98	--	--	--	1	1=100

+ Non-Presidential elections

**IF ANSWERED "1" ALWAYS VOTE IN Q.12, SKIP; OTHERWISE ASK: [N=596]**

- Q.14 I am going to read a list of reasons people sometimes give for not always voting. Please tell me if each is a very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important reason why you sometimes don't vote. First, **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** is this a very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important reason why you sometimes don't vote.

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Fairly Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. I'm not interested in politics	15	21	22	38	4=100
b. There are fewer major national problems these days	19	20	17	38	6=100
c. Voting doesn't really change things	21	18	17	41	3=100

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<sup>5</sup> In November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

On another subject...

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=516]**

Q.15F1 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the 1998 congressional elections, too little coverage to the congressional elections, or the right amount of coverage?

15 Too much  
 24 Too little  
 53 Right amount  
8 Don't know/Refused  
 100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=496]**

Q.16F2 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the upcoming elections for state and local offices, too little coverage to the upcoming elections for state and local offices, or the right amount of coverage?

17 Too much  
 28 Too little  
 49 Right amount  
 1 Didn't know there were elections this year (VOL)  
5 Don't know/Refused  
 100

**NO QUESTION 17**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.18 Now, I'm going to read you a series of statements that will help us understand how you feel about a number of things. For each statement, please tell me if you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it. The first one is... **(READ ITEMS IN ORDER.)**

	Completely <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Disagree</u>	Completely <u>Disagree</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. It is time for Washington politicians to step aside and make room for new leaders	20	46	24	7	3=100
November, 1997	27	41	23	4	5=100
July, 1994	34	45	14	4	3=100
June, 1992	38	46	12	2	2=100
November, 1991	32	45	16	4	3=100
May, 1990	21	40	26	4	9=100
February, 1989	20	38	30	4	8=100
May, 1988	26	42	22	3	7=100
May, 1987	16	46	26	3	9=100
b. Labor unions are necessary to protect the working person	35	34	19	11	1=100
November, 1997	29	41	19	8	3=100
May, 1990	25	46	19	6	4=100
May, 1988	26	43	19	7	5=100
May, 1987	19	48	21	6	6=100



**Q.18 CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Completely Agree</u>	<u>Mostly Agree</u>	<u>Mostly Disagree</u>	<u>Completely Disagree</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
c. Today it's really true that the rich just get richer while the poor get poorer	41	31	18	8	2=100
November, 1997	34	36	22	6	2=100
July, 1994	33	38	20	7	2=100
June, 1992	38	40	16	4	2=100
November, 1991	45	35	13	5	2=100
May, 1990	38	40	16	3	3=100
February, 1989	40	38	15	4	3=100
May, 1988	34	42	18	3	3=100
May, 1987	31	43	19	3	4=100
d. I'm pretty well satisfied with the way things are going for me financially	17	45	24	14	*=100
November, 1997	18	47	23	12	*=100
July, 1994	17	47	24	11	1=100
May, 1993	12	46	28	13	1=100
June, 1992	16	42	25	16	1=100
November, 1991	16	41	26	16	1=100
May, 1990	9	49	28	13	1=100
February, 1989	13	49	25	12	1=100
May, 1988	13	52	25	9	1=100
May, 1987	11	52	27	8	2=100
e. I feel it's my duty as a citizen to always vote	65	24	6	5	*=100
November, 1997	63	26	7	4	*=100
July, 1994	66	27	4	3	*=100
May, 1993	66	28	4	1	1=100
June, 1992	69	22	6	2	1=100
November, 1991	72	21	4	2	1=100
May, 1990	50	35	9	4	2=100
February, 1989	64	26	6	2	2=100
May, 1988	56	32	7	2	3=100
May, 1987	46	39	9	3	3=100
f. I'm interested in keeping up with national affairs	39	43	13	4	1=100
November, 1997	40	46	10	3	1=100
July, 1994	46	43	9	2	*=100
June, 1992	51	40	6	2	1=100
November, 1991	46	44	7	2	1=100
May, 1990	33	49	12	4	2=100
February, 1989	34	50	12	2	2=100
May, 1988	39	47	10	2	2=100
May, 1987	28	53	12	3	4=100

**Q.18 CONTINUED ...**

		Completely <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Disagree</u>	Completely <u>Disagree</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
g.	I'm generally bored by what goes on in Washington	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
h.	I'm pretty interested in following local politics	25	49	19	6	1=100
	November, 1997	20	48	25	6	1=100
	July, 1994	24	52	18	5	1=100
	June, 1992	26	47	21	5	1=100
	November, 1991	29	48	16	5	2=100
	May, 1990	17	53	23	6	1=100
	February, 1989	24	49	21	5	1=100
	May, 1988	21	51	22	5	1=100
	May, 1987	16	54	22	4	4=100
i.	Most issues discussed in Washington don't affect me personally	9	29	39	22	1=100
	November, 1997	8	27	45	19	1=100
	July, 1994	5	25	42	27	1=100
	June, 1992	7	26	43	22	2=100
	November, 1991	8	25	41	23	3=100
	May, 1990	7	28	46	16	3=100
	February, 1989	7	26	44	20	3=100
	May, 1988	7	29	45	17	2=100
	May, 1987	5	26	50	15	4=100
j.	I feel guilty when I don't get a chance to vote	35	28	18	14	5=100
	November, 1997	36	32	17	12	3=100
	July, 1994	38	32	18	9	3=100
	June, 1992	39	30	16	9	6=100
	November, 1991	46	28	14	8	4=100
	May, 1990	30	37	22	8	3=100
	February, 1989	38	34	17	7	4=100
	May, 1988	32	37	18	8	5=100
	May, 1987	25	41	22	6	6=100

Now a few questions about some issues that have been in the news lately...

Q.19 First, if it turns out that the federal government has a budget SURPLUS this year, in your opinion, which ONE of the following should be done with the available money? Should the money be used (**INSERT ITEM; ROTATE**)

		Jan <u>1998</u>
9	For a tax cut;	11
17	To pay off the national debt more quickly;	22
28	For increased spending on domestic programs such as health, education, and the environment;	33
44	To help make the Social Security and Medicare programs financially sound;	32
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL</b> )	<u>2</u>
100		100

Q.20 How much, if anything, have you heard about the dispute between Microsoft and both the federal and state governments, which have charged that Microsoft engaged in unfair business practices — a lot, a little or nothing at all?

36	A lot
38	A little
25	Nothing at all — <b>GO TO Q.21</b>
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused — <b>GO TO Q.21</b>
100	

**IF "A LOT" OR "A LITTLE" IN Q.20, ASK: [N= 787]**

Q.20a Who do you side with more in this dispute, Microsoft or the government?

47	Microsoft
28	Government
8	Neither ( <b>VOL</b> )
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.21 How much, if anything, have you heard about a proposal which would allow Americans to put a portion of their Social Security taxes into a personal savings account to be used for retirement — a lot, a little or nothing at all?

16	A lot
44	A little
40	Nothing at all — <b>GO TO Q.22</b>
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused — <b>GO TO Q.22</b>
100	

**IF “A LOT” OR “A LITTLE” IN Q.21, ASK: [N=629]**

Q.21a Generally, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

69	Favor
20	Oppose
<u>11</u>	Don't know/refused
100	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.22 How much, if anything, have you heard about the dispute between the tobacco industry and the federal and state governments regarding the advertising and sale of tobacco products — a lot, a little or nothing at all?

72	A lot
23	A little
5	Nothing at all — <b>GO TO Q.23</b>
*	Don't know/Refused — <b>GO TO Q.23</b>
<u>100</u>	

**IF “A LOT” OR “A LITTLE” IN Q.22, ASK: [N=964]**

Q.22a Who do you side with more in this dispute, the tobacco industry or the government?

29	Tobacco
62	Government
6	Neither ( <b>VOL</b> )
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**ASK ONLY THOSE RESPONDENTS WHO ANSWERED 1, 2 OR 3 IN Q.3i:**

Q.23 Based on what you've heard or read, do you think it is true or not true that the Clinton Administration favored China in foreign policy and trade decisions because China contributed money to the Democratic party?

74	Followed story very/fairly/not too closely
39	True
20	Not true
15	Not sure/don't know/refused
<u>26</u>	Did not follow story
100	

**NO QUESTION 24**

Q.25 Now, I'm going to read you some more statements. For each one I read, please tell me whether you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly disagree with it, or completely disagree with it. The first one is...

	Completely <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Disagree</u>	Completely <u>Disagree</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a. I often don't become aware of political candidates until I see their advertising on television.	23	40	25	11	1=100
June, 1992	20	42	27	10	1=100
May, 1990	17	45	28	7	3=100
May, 1987	10	42	34	10	4=100
b. I get some sense of what a candidate is like through his or her TV commercials.	10	37	35	16	2=100
June, 1992	13	41	33	12	1=100
May, 1990	9	49	30	8	4=100
May, 1987	7	50	31	8	4=100
c. I like to have a picture of a candidate in my mind when I go to vote for him or her.	26	38	19	16	1=100
June, 1992	26	50	15	6	3=100
May, 1990	21	53	14	6	6=100
May, 1987	16	54	16	6	8=100

On a different subject...

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=516]**

Q.26F1 We are interested in how people get to know about political candidates... Which gives you a better idea of where a candidate stands on issues: news reports on TV or candidates' TV commercials?

	Nov <u>1996</u> <sup>6</sup>	Nov <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1992</u>	June <u>1992</u>	Nov <u>1990</u> <sup>7</sup>	May <u>1990</u>	May <u>1987</u>
74 News reports	77	74	65	81	63	74	79
18 Candidates' TV commercials	16	22	18	15	28	17	13
<u>8</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

<sup>6</sup> November 1996 and November 1992 figures are based on voters. The question was worded: "Which gave you a better idea of where the *presidential* candidates stood on issues -- news reports or TV commercials and advertisements about the candidates?"

<sup>7</sup> November 1990 figures based on voters.

Q.27F1 Which gives you a better idea of what a candidate is like personally: news reports on TV or candidates' TV commercials?

		Nov <u>1996</u> <sup>8</sup>	Nov <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1992</u>	June <u>1992</u>	Nov <u>1990</u>	May <u>1990</u>	May <u>1987</u>
62	News reports	67	58	63	74	53	65	67
29	Candidates' TV commercials	26	35	23	22	38	26	24
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=496]**

Q.28F2 We are interested in how useful you think each of the following things is for finding out about the candidates running for office in your state or district. First how useful are **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** for finding out about the candidates running for office in your state or district? Are they very useful, somewhat useful, not too useful, or not at all useful. Next,...

		Very <u>Useful</u>	Somewhat <u>Useful</u>	Not too <u>Useful</u>	Not at all <u>Useful</u>	(VOL) <u>Never Use</u>	<u>DK</u>
a.	News reports	33	53	8	4	*	2=100
b.	Candidate debates	40	42	8	8	*	2=100
c.	Talk shows on the radio where people call in the express their opinions	26	38	16	17	1	2=100

8

November 1996, November 1992 and November 1990 figures based on voters. The question was worded: "... news reports or candidates' TV commercials and advertisements?"

**QUESTIONS 29 AND 30 HAVE DIFFERENT INTROS. BUT USE THE SAME ITEMS (a-g)**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=516]**

Q.29F1 Here are some things that have been in news recently. Please tell me how important each item is to you personally... very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important. First, how important to you personally is (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)? Is this very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important?

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=496]**

Q.30 Here are some things that have been in news recently. Please tell me how important each item is for the country... very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important. First, how important for the country is (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)? Is this very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important?

		<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Fairly</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref.</u>
a.	Government efforts to regulate the sale of tobacco products					
	To you personally (FORM 1)	48	29	14	9	*=100
	For the country (FORM 2)	40	28	17	13	2=100
b.	Reforming the campaign finance laws					
	To you personally (FORM 1)	33	35	19	10	3=100
	For the country (FORM 2)	47	34	12	5	2=100
c.	The debate in Washington about regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans					
	To you personally (FORM 1)	60	28	7	5	0=100
	For the country (FORM 2)	69	23	5	3	0=100
d.	Major corporate mergers involving banks, automobile companies and airlines					
	To you personally (FORM 1)	27	40	21	11	1=100
	For the country (FORM 2)	42	34	13	6	5=100
e.	The Justice Department's investigation into the business practices of Microsoft					
	To you personally (FORM 1)	19	31	30	17	3=100
	For the country (FORM 2)	21	33	27	13	6=100
f.	Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's investigation into the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky					
	To you personally (FORM 1)	17	17	18	47	1=100
	For the country (FORM 2)	18	14	19	48	1=100
g.	The outcome of the 1998 congressional elections and specifically which party controls Congress					
	To you personally (FORM 1)	41	32	16	10	1=100
	For the country (FORM 2)	51	31	13	3	2=100

Now two (FOR AL, CA, IA, NJ, NM, MS, AND SD RESPONDENTS, SUBSTITUTE "THREE" FOR TWO) final questions about the 1998 elections...

**ASK RESPONDENTS FROM AL, CA, IA, NJ, NM, MS, AND SD ONLY: [N=163]**

Q.31 Did you happen to vote in Tuesday's primary election here in (INSERT NAME OF STATE), or didn't you have a chance to vote?

39	Yes, voted
61	No, didn't vote
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**ASK ALL:**

Q.32 Thinking about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?

-- Gallup --			
		<u>April 1998</u>	<u>Oct 1994</u>
37	More	30	34
47	Less	48	46
14	Same (VOL)	19	18
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

Q.33 Some people who plan to vote can't always get around to it on election day. With your own personal daily schedule in mind, rate the chances that you will vote in the U.S. House of Representatives election in November. Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, less than 50-50, or don't you think you will vote in the House of Representatives election next November?

-- ABC/Wash. Post --		
		<u>July 1990</u> <sup>9</sup>
52	Absolutely certain to vote	53
20	Will probably vote	21
17	Chances 50-50	15
5	Less than 50-50	4
6	Don't think will vote	6
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

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<sup>9</sup> The ABC/Washington Post trend was worded slightly differently: "Some people have busier schedules than others. Because of this, some people who plan to vote can't always get around to it on election day. With your own personal daily schedule in mind, I'd like to rate the chances that you will vote in the U.S. House of Representatives election in November in the Congressional district where you live: are you absolutely certain to vote ..."