

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JUNE 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
June 15-19, 2011
N=1502

QUESTIONS 1-2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 3-6****ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about the way some things work in this country ...

Q.7 Do you think [**INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-h WITH ITEM i ALWAYS LAST – OBSERVE FORM SPLITS**] in this country works pretty well and requires only MINOR CHANGES, do you think it needs MAJOR CHANGES, or do you think it needs to be COMPLETELY REBUILT? What about [**NEXT ITEM**]? [**IF NECESSARY: Does [ITEM] in this country work pretty well and require only MINOR CHANGES, need MAJOR CHANGES, or does it need to be COMPLETELY REBUILT?**]

		<u>Works pretty well/ Only minor changes</u>	<u>Major changes</u>	<u>Completely rebuilt</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	The Social Security system				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	41	34	18	7
	February, 2006	35	36	26	3
	January, 2005	47	34	15	4
b.	The Medicare system				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	38	33	21	8
	February, 2006	26	42	28	4
c.	The education system				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	32	47	19	2
	February, 2006	35	45	16	4
	January, 2005	36	45	17	2
d.	Immigration policy				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	26	43	24	6
	February, 2006	23	41	27	9
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:					
e.F1	The tax system				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	34	38	24	3
	February, 2006	35	39	22	4
	January, 2005	50	29	17	4
f.F1	The legal system				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	45	33	16	7
	February, 2006	43	34	19	4
	January, 2005	44	37	15	4
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=762]:					
g.F2	The criminal justice system				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	36	43	17	4
	February, 2006	36	41	20	3
h.F2	The Homeland Security system				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	55	24	13	8
	February, 2006	39	36	19	6
ASK ALL:					
i.	The Medicaid system which provides health and long-term care to low income people				
	Jun 15-19, 2011	39	37	17	8

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Now a different kind of question. Which of the following statements comes closer to the way you feel, even if neither is exactly right. **[READ]**

Jun 15-19 2011		Americans Discuss	
		Soc. Sec. Nov 1997 ¹	AARP Sep 1992 ²
33	Older people who can afford it need to give up some government benefits to help the country overcome its economic problems	50	32
62	The government needs to keep its promises to older people by maintaining their benefits, even for those who are well-off	48	65
2	Both/Neither/Other (VOL.)	1	2
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

NO QUESTIONS 9-15, 19-29, 36, 43-48**QUESTIONS 16-18, 30-35, 37-42 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.49 From what you know, how good a job does each of the following do serving the people it covers? (First,) does **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** do an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job serving the people it covers? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Does [ITEM] do an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job serving the people it covers?]** **[NOTE: If respondent says they are not covered by the program, prompt "Just your impression from what you know about it."]**

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Social Security Jun 15-19, 2011	7	32	40	16	5
b.	Medicare, which provides health care to seniors and people with permanent disabilities Jun 15-19, 2011	7	34	40	13	6
c.	Medicaid, which provides health and long-term care to low income people Jun 15-19, 2011	6	30	40	14	10
d.	Private health insurance Jun 15-19, 2011	5	31	37	20	7

ASK ALL:

Q.50 And from what you know about its financial condition, is **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** in excellent, good, only fair, or poor shape financially? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Is [ITEM] in excellent, good, only fair, or poor shape financially?]**

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Social Security Jun 15-19, 2011	2	16	32	45	5

¹ November 1997 trend conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Americans Discuss Social Security. Question was part of a list and began "I'm going to read some pairs of statements that give different views on some of these subjects. For each pair, please tell me which statement, A or B, comes closer to the way you feel."

² September 1992 question was part of a list and began "People today have many different views about politics, government and social problems. I'm going to read some pairs of statements that give different views on some of these subjects. Of course, these subjects are complicated, and no statement will capture exactly how you feel. For each pair, please tell me which statement, A or B, comes closer to the way you feel."

Q.50 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
b. Medicare Jun 15-19, 2011	2	16	38	36	8
c. Medicaid Jun 15-19, 2011	2	13	35	37	13

ASK ALL:

Q.51 What is more important, taking steps to reduce the budget deficit or keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are?

Jun 15-19 <u>2011</u>		Feb <u>1995</u>
32	Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit	24
60	Keeping Social Security and Medicare benefits as they are	70
4	Both equally (VOL.)	2
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

NO QUESTION 52**ASK ALL:****RANDOMIZE Q.53 AND Q.54**

Thinking specifically about Social Security...

Q.53 Which do you think is MORE important when it comes to Social Security's future **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Jun 15-19 <u>2011</u>		Feb <u>2005</u> ⁴	May <u>1999</u>	Feb <u>1999</u>	Aug <u>1998</u>
33	Avoiding any Social Security tax increases for workers and employers ⁵	30	34	32	33
56	Avoiding any future cuts in Social Security benefit amounts	60	53	59	55
4	Both/Neither/Other (VOL.)	4	8	5	7
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	5	4	5

*Americans Discuss Soc. Sec.*³

ASK ALL:**RANDOMIZE Q.53 AND Q.54**

Q.54 If there are financial sacrifices that come with changing Social Security **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Jun 15-19 <u>2011</u>		May <u>1999</u>	Feb <u>1999</u>	Aug <u>1998</u>
42	Should people of all income levels share in the financial sacrifices	46	46	47
53	Should higher income people who can most afford it make the financial sacrifices	47	47	46
2	Both/Neither/Other (VOL.)	4	3	3
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	4	4

*Americans Discuss Soc. Sec.*⁶

³ Question was asked as part of a list and began "People have different opinions about how the Social Security system might be changed for the future. We'd like your opinion on what policymakers' priorities should be when they are making decisions about Social Security's future."

⁴ Question began "When decisions about Social Security's future are being made, which do you think is more important?"

⁵ In 2005 and Americans Discuss Social Security trend, first response option read "Avoiding any tax increases for workers and employers."

⁶ Question was asked as part of a list and began "People have different opinions about how the Social Security system might be changed for the future. We'd like your opinion on what policymakers' priorities should be when they are making decisions about Social Security's future." Response options were "Having people of all income levels share in the financial sacrifices that might come with changing the Social Security program" and "Having those who can most afford it – higher income people – make the financial sacrifices that might come with changing the Social Security program."

ASK ALL:

Q.55 From what you know about the Medicare program that provides health care for seniors and people with permanent disabilities, does the program make it **[READ; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Jun 15-19

2011

- 16 Too easy to get medical care and treatments that may not be necessary
 32 Too difficult to get medical care and treatments that may be necessary
 40 [OR] Is Medicare coverage about right
 1 Other/Mixed **(VOL.)**
 11 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

Q.56 Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Jun 15-19

2011

- 31 People on Medicare need to be responsible for more of the costs of their health care in order to keep the program financially secure
 61 People on Medicare already pay enough of the cost of their health care
 * Both **(VOL.)**
 1 Neither **(VOL.)**
 * Other **(VOL.)**
 6 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

Q.57 And one question about a current debate over the MEDICAID program for low income people. Which comes closer to your view? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Jun 15-19

2011

- 37 States should be able to cut back on who is eligible for Medicaid in order to deal with budget problems
 58 Low income people should not have their Medicaid benefits taken away
 * Both **(VOL.)**
 1 Neither **(VOL.)**
 1 Other **(VOL.)**
 2 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

NO QUESTIONS 58-59**ASK ALL:**

Q.60 Please tell me whether you or anyone in your household currently receives **[INSERT ITEM]**? What about **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? ...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Social Security payments Jun 15-19, 2011	37	62	1
b. Medicare benefits Jun 15-19, 2011	30	68	2
c. Medicaid benefits Jun 15-19, 2011	16	82	2

ASK ALL:

Q.61 Are you or someone in your household covered by a private health insurance plan, such as insurance provided through an employer or purchased for an individual or family?

Jun 15-19

2011

72	Yes
28	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 62-71, 76**QUESTIONS 72-75, 77-83 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****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
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
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Yearly Totals								
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	--	--	--	--	--

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>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
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 ⁷	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

7

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."

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
June 16-19, 2011 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,003

PEW.1-PEW.3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 Now thinking about some programs, please tell me if over the years you think each has been very good, good, bad, or very bad for the country **[INSERT ITEM a FIRST, RANDOMIZE ITEMS b,c]**
 How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Has [ITEM] been very good, good, bad, or very bad for the country]**?

	<u>Very good</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Very bad</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Social Security					
June 16-19, 2011	30	57	8	3	2
February, 2005 ⁸	18	61	12	3	6
b. Medicare, which provides health care to seniors and people with permanent disabilities					
June 16-19, 2011	36	52	8	2	2
c. Medicaid, which provides health and long-term care to low-income people					
June 16-19, 2011	26	51	14	6	4

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 And how much if anything, have you heard about each of the following programs in the news recently? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Social Security				
June 16-19, 2011	34	45	21	*
b. Medicare				
June 16-19, 2011	33	44	22	1
a. Medicaid				
June 16-19, 2011	21	48	30	1

⁸ Item was not asked as part of a list.