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For The People & The Press

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Republicans, Tea Party Supporters More Mellow

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## Fewer Are Angry at Government, But Discontent Remains High

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## Republicans, Tea Party Supporters More Mellow Fewer Are Angry at Government, But Discontent Remains High

The public remains deeply frustrated with the federal government, but fewer Americans say they are angry at government than did so last fall. Overall, the percentage saying they are angry with the federal government has fallen from 23% last September to 14% today, with much of the decline coming among Republicans and Tea Party supporters.

While anger at government has subsided, the public expresses no greater taste for political compromise today than it did last fall. As political leaders head into a tough political debate over the budget, 54% say they like elected officials who stick to their positions, while 40% prefer officials who make compromises with people they disagree with. This is virtually identical to the balance of opinion among registered voters last September.

By roughly two-to-one (63% vs. 32%), more Republicans say they like elected officials who stick to their positions rather than those who make compromises. About half of independents (53%) prefer politicians who stick to their positions compared with 41% who like elected officials who make compromises with people they disagree with. Democrats are evenly divided – 48% like elected officials who stick to their positions, 46% like those who compromise.

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### Anger at Government Subsides

	Sept 2010	Mar 2011	Change
<i>Feeling about the federal government</i>	%	%	
Angry	23	14	-9
Frustrated	52	59	+7
Content	21	22	+1
Don't know	4	5	
	100	100	
<i>Percent "angry" among...</i>			
Republican	33	16	-17
Independent	27	15	-12
Democrat	11	10	-1
Agree with Tea Party	47*	28	-19

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### Most Continue to Support Conviction over Compromise

	Sept 2010*	Mar 2011	Change
<i>I like elected officials who...</i>	%	%	
Stick to their positions	55	54	-1
Make compromises with people they disagree with	40	40	0
Neither/Both/Don't know	5	7	
	100	100	
<i>Percent "stick to positions" among...</i>			
Republican	67	63	-4
Democrat	50	48	-2
Independent	51	53	+2
Agree with Tea Party	66	69	+3

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 \* Based on registered voters.

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The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 22-Mar. 1 among 1,504 adults, finds a modest recovery in public trust in government from historic lows last year. Yet even with this uptick, the general mood remains overwhelmingly negative.

Just 29% say they can trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always or most of the time, up from 22% last March. About seven-in-ten (69%) say they trust the government only some of the time or never, compared with 76% a year ago.

The proportion of Republicans saying they can trust the government always or most of the time has increased from 13% to 24% over the past year; opinions among Democrats are unchanged over this period, at 34%.

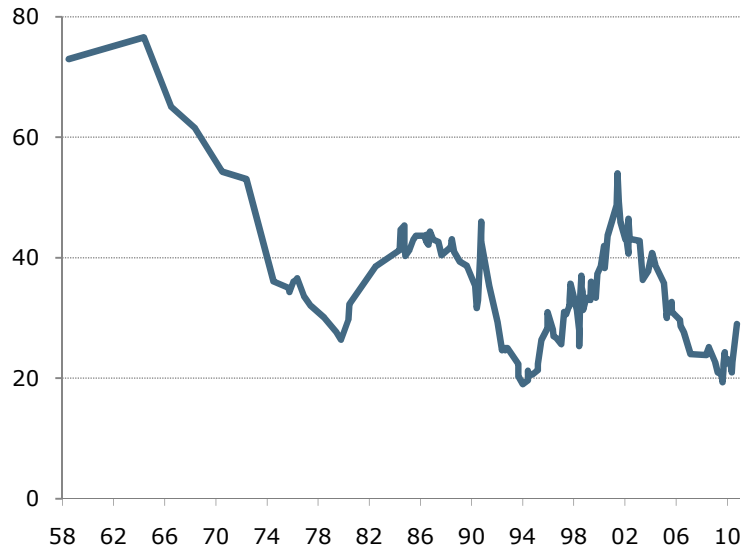
The public continues to express negative views of Congress, as well as Republican and Democratic congressional leaders. Just 34% say they have a favorable opinion of Congress, up slightly from 26% a year ago; a majority (57%) has an unfavorable view. Comparable percentages say they approve of the job performance of Republican (36%) and Democratic (33%) congressional leaders.

By contrast, Barack Obama's job ratings remain positive. Currently, 51% approve of Barack Obama's job performance while 39% disapprove. That is little changed from early February, but Obama's ratings have shown significant improvement since last fall, when about as many approved as disapproved.

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## Public Trust in Government, 1958-2011

*Trust the government in Washington to do what is right "just about always" or "most of the time"*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA25. Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN Polls. From 1976-2010 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

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The survey finds a continuing rise in support for same-sex marriage since 2009. Currently, 45% say they favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 46% are opposed. In Pew Research surveys conducted in 2010, 42% favored and 48% opposed gay marriage and in 2009, just 37% backed same-sex marriage while 54% were opposed.

### Liberal Movement on Gay Marriage, Abortion

	2008	2009	2010	2011	09-11 change
<i>Allow gays and lesbians to marry legally...</i>					
Favor	39	37	42	45	+8
Oppose	51	54	48	46	-8
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<i>Abortion should be...</i>					
Legal in all/most cases	55	47	50	54	+7
Illegal in all/most cases	39	44	44	42	-2
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	100	100	

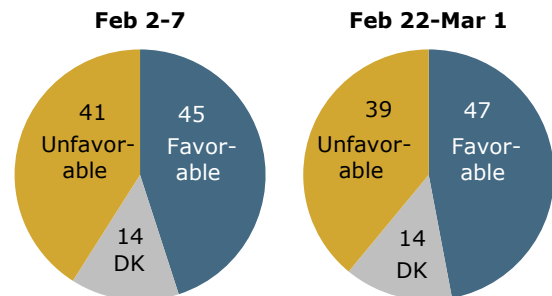
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA61, A62. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Gay marriage opinions based on yearly averages for 2008-2010; abortion opinions based on yearly averages for 2008-2009.

Over the same period, there has been movement toward a liberal position on abortion. In 2009, for the first time in many years, the public was evenly divided over whether abortion should be legal or illegal in all or most cases. But support for legal abortion has recovered and now stands at about the same level as in 2008 (55% then, 54% today).

Independents have become more supportive of both gay marriage and legal abortion since 2009. Roughly half of independents (51%) now favor same-sex marriage, up from 37% in 2009. And 58% of independents say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, compared with 47% in Pew Research Center surveys two years ago.

The public's overall views of labor unions have changed little through the lengthy stalemate between Wisconsin's governor and the state's public employee unions over collective bargaining rights. About half (47%) say they have a favorable opinion of labor unions compared with 39% who have an unfavorable opinion. In early February, 45% expressed a favorable opinion of unions and 41% said they had an unfavorable view. However, liberal Democrats and people in union households are more likely to say they have a *very* favorable opinion of labor unions than they were just weeks ago.

### Labor Union Favorability Holds Steady through Wisconsin Dispute



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 21-Mar. 1, 2011. QA4e.

*(For more on public attitudes toward labor unions, see Pew Research's [Feb. 17 report](#). For more on views of the showdown in Wisconsin between the governor and public employee unions, see [this report](#), released Feb. 28.)*

## SECTION 1: ATTITUDES ABOUT GOVERNMENT

When asked how they feel about the federal

government, a majority of the public has consistently expressed frustration.

Currently, 59% say they are frustrated with the federal government while 22% are content and 14% are angry.

The percent saying they are angry with government has declined nine points since last September.

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### Fewer Are Angry with Federal Government

<i>Feeling about the federal government</i>	<b>Oct 1997</b>	<b>Feb 2000</b>	<b>Nov 2001</b>	<b>Mar 2004</b>	<b>Oct 2006</b>	<b>Jan 2007</b>	<b>Mar 2010</b>	<b>Sept 2010</b>	<b>Mar 2011</b>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Basically content	29	33	53	32	21	21	19	21	22
Frustrated	56	54	34	52	54	58	56	52	59
Angry	12	10	8	13	20	16	21	23	14
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA24. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Fewer Republicans say they feel angry with the federal government than did so last fall. In the current survey, 16% of Republicans say they are angry with the government, down from 33% in September. There also has been a decline in anger among independents from 27% last fall to 15% now. Among independents who lean to the GOP, the percent saying they are angry declined from 38% to 20%. Views among Democrats have been fairly stable with 10% now saying they are angry with the federal government. Thus, the gap between Republicans and Democrats is much smaller than it was last year.

Nearly half (47%) of Tea Party supporters said they were angry with the federal government in September of last year. That has dropped to 28% in the current survey. Even among Republicans who support the Tea Party, there has been a decline in the percent saying they are angry with the government. As was the case last year, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who agree with the Tea Party are more likely to express anger with the federal government than those who disagree or have no opinion of the Tea Party (30% vs. 9%).

There also has been a decline in anger with the government among whites and people 50 and older. In September 2010, a quarter (25%) of whites said they were angry with the government; that has declined to 14% in the current survey. There now is little difference between whites, blacks and Hispanics in the percent expressing anger with the federal government.

Anger is down seven points among those under 50, 14 points among those ages 50 to 64 and 12 points among those 65 and older.

## Sharp Decline in Tea Party Anger

<i>Percent who are "angry" with the federal government</i>	<b>Mar 2010</b>	<b>Sept 2010</b>	<b>Mar 2011</b>	<b>Sept-Mar change</b>
	%	%	%	
Total	21	23	14	-9
White	23	25	14	-11
Black	12	11	12	+1
Hispanic	17	23	17	-6
18-29	16	15	9	-6
30-49	17	21	15	-6
50-64	26	28	14	-14
65+	26	30	18	-12
Republican	30	33	16	-17
Conservative Rep	32	36	19	-17
Mod/Lib Rep	27	26	11	-15
Democrat	9	11	10	-1
Cons/Mod Dem	10	11	11	0
Liberal Dem	7	8	8	0
Independent	25	27	15	-12
Lean Republican	37	38	20	-18
Lean Democrat	15	17	9	-8
<i>Tea Party</i>				
Agree with	43	47	28	-19
Disagree with	8	10	8	-2
No opinion	15	18	11	-7

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22 – Mar. 1, 2011. QA24.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic;  
 Hispanics are of any race.

## Trust in Government

Last year, a Pew Research survey on public attitudes toward government found that the proportion saying they can trust the government in Washington to do the right thing had fallen to one of its lowest levels in more than 50 years. (See *“Distrust, Discontent and Partisan Rancor,”* April 18, 2010).

Since then, public trust in government has risen, but it remains very low. Just 29% say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always (4%) or most of the time (25%). Last year, 22% said they could trust the government just about always (3%) or most of the time (19%).

### Trust in Government Rises Modestly

	March 2010		March 2011	
	Always/ Most of the time	Some of the time/ Never	Always/ Most of the time	Some of the time/ Never
Total	22	76	29	69
18-29	32	67	34	65
30-49	20	79	27	71
50-64	20	78	29	70
65+	20	77	27	72
College grad+	27	72	31	68
Some college	20	78	27	72
High school or less	21	76	29	69
Republican	13	86	24	76
Conservative Rep	11	88	17	82
Mod/Lib Rep	17	81	36	64
Democrat	34	64	34	65
Cons/Mod Dem	31	67	30	69
Liberal Dem	40	59	40	59
Independent	20	79	27	71
Lean Republican	14	85	24	76
Lean Democrat	26	71	33	65
<i>Tea Party</i>				
Agree with	7	92	14	85
Disagree with	39	59	35	64
No opinion	25	73	32	67

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22 – Mar. 1, 2011. QA25.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While most Republicans (76%) continue to say they trust the government only some of the time or never, the percent saying they trust the government always or most of the time increased from 13% last year to 24% now. Among moderate and liberal Republicans, 36% currently say they trust the government just about always or most of the time, up from 17% in March 2010. Trust is much lower among conservative Republicans; 17% say they trust the government at least most of the time, which is largely unchanged from a year ago (11%).



Tea Party supporters remain overwhelmingly distrustful of the government in Washington. Only 14% trust the government at least most of the time while 85% say they trust the government only some of the time or never.

There has been virtually no change among Democrats; 34% trust the federal government always or most of the time while 65% trust the government some of the time or never. Democrats continue to be more trusting of government than Republicans, but the partisan gap has been cut from 21 points in March and 26 points in September 2010 to 10 points in the current survey.

There is little difference in trust in government among Democrats; 40% of liberal Democrats say they trust the government to do what is right always or most of the time, compared with 30% of conservative and moderate Democrats.

Independents are somewhat more trusting of government than they were a year ago; 27% say they trust the government at least most of the time, up from 20% last March. The overwhelming majority (71%) continues to say they trust the government only some of the time or never (79% said this a year ago).

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### Smaller Partisan Gap in Trust in Government

<i>% who trust the government always or most of the time</i>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>R-D Diff</b>
	%	%	%	
March, 2011	24	34	27	D+10
September, 2010	13	39	18	D+26
March, 2010	13	34	20	D+21
June, 2009*	10	35	12	D+25
January, 2007	47	22	28	R+25
February, 2006	56	21	25	R+35
September, 2005	54	18	23	R+36
March, 2004	58	23	33	R+35
January, 2002*	61	41	37	R+20
February, 2000	38	46	37	D+8

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA25.  
\* Data from CBS/NYT.

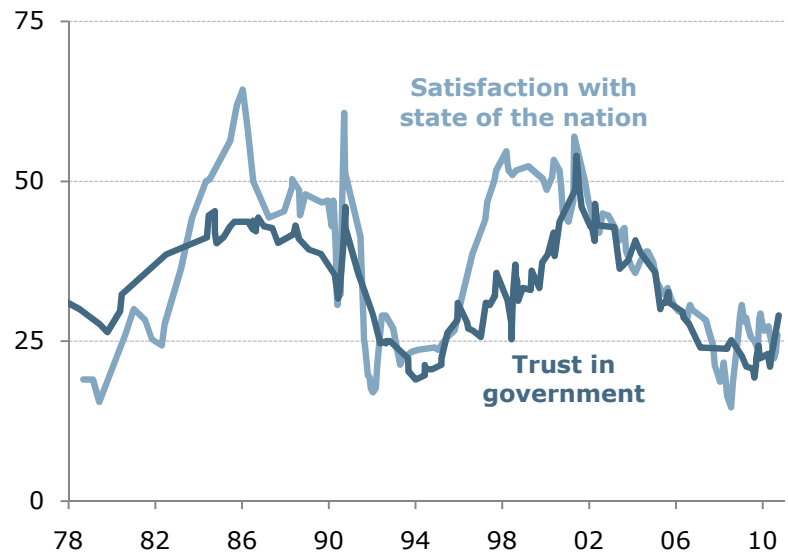
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## Long-Term Trends in Trust in Government

Historically, trust in government is related to broader measures of satisfaction with the state of the nation and economic stress. The low points in government trust over the past half century have mostly occurred during the nation's economic struggles and periods of intense dissatisfaction with the way things were going in the country.

Similarly, trust in government recovered during periods of high satisfaction and strong economic growth. Both trust in government and satisfaction with the state of the nation remain quite low today.

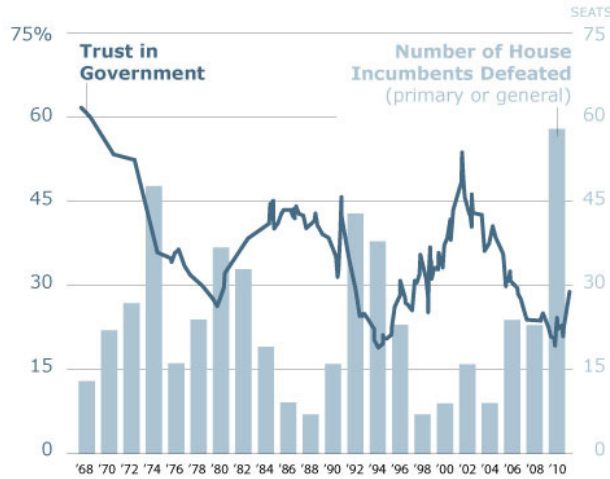
### Trust in Government and Views of National Conditions



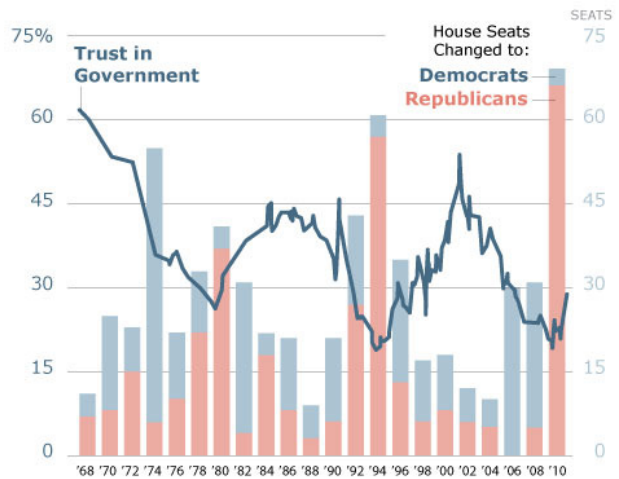
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA25.  
Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls.  
From 1976-2010 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average with individual data points shown.

Periods of high distrust in government also have corresponded with high turnover in Congress. In general, when public trust in government declines steeply – as it did in 1974, 1980 and in the early 1990s – incumbents are more likely to lose and a larger number of seats usually changes parties. In 2010, when trust reached one of its lowest levels in half a century, rivaling only the early 1990s, 69 seats changed parties, with Republicans gaining 66 seats previously held by Democrats while Democrats took possession of only 3 seats previously held by Republicans. Similarly, 58 incumbents lost in the primary or general elections that year.

**Trust in Government and Number of House Incumbents Defeated**



**Trust in Government and Number of House Seats Changing Party**



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA25. Percent trusting government to do what is right always or most of the time. Election data source: Harold Stanley and Richard Niemi, Vital Statistics on American Politics 2009-2010.

## Congress Favorability

The public continues to have a negative view of Congress. About a third of the public (34%) says they have a favorable opinion of Congress while 57% have an unfavorable view. This is little changed from July 2010 when 33% expressed a favorable view and 56% had an unfavorable opinion of Congress.

Although the overall opinion of Congress has been stable, there have been shifts among

Republicans and Democrats since last summer. Republicans now have a more favorable view of Congress. Currently, 38% express a favorable opinion of Congress, up 16 points since July 2010. At the same time, fewer Democrats view Congress favorably; 37% now say they have a favorable opinion, down from 48% last summer. These shifts among Republicans and Democrats have virtually erased what was a substantial partisan gap in July.

Although views among independents have been stable, they now view Congress less favorably than Republicans and Democrats. Only 30% of independents say they have a favorable opinion of Congress.

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### Congress Favorability Still Low

<i>Percent who have a favorable view of Congress</i>	<b>Mar 2010</b>	<b>July 2010</b>	<b>Mar 2011</b>	<b>July-Mar change</b>
	%	%	%	
Total	26	33	34	0
Republican	20	22	38	+16
Democrat	38	48	37	-11
Independent	21	29	30	0

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22 – Mar. 1, 2011. QA4c.

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## SECTION 2: VIEWS OF POLITICAL LEADERS AND COMPROMISE

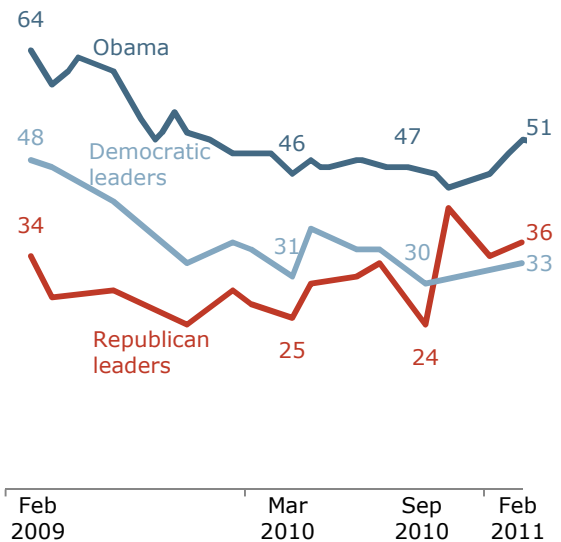
In the new survey, Barack Obama's job approval stands at 51%; 39% disapprove of the way Obama is handling his job as president. That is little changed from early February (49% approve vs. 42% disapprove). Nonetheless, the balance of opinion regarding Obama's job performance remains more positive than it was in the fall, when about as many disapproved as approved.

Obama's job ratings are much higher than those of either GOP congressional leaders or Democratic congressional leaders. Slightly more than a third (36%) say they approve of the GOP leaders' job performance while 45% disapprove. Ratings for Democratic leaders are comparable (33% approve, 48% disapprove).

Approval of Republican leaders rose sharply between October and November, shortly after the GOP's election victory. In early November, 41% approved of Republican leaders' job performance, up 17 points from just a month earlier. Their job ratings have changed little since November. Job ratings for Democratic leaders have been stable in recent months, but are far lower than they were in February 2009 (48% approve), shortly after Obama took office.

Opinions about the political parties also have shown little change recently. Currently, 42% say they have a favorable opinion of the Republican Party; 51% have an unfavorable opinion. About as many say they have a favorable opinion (48%) of the Democratic Party as an unfavorable one (45%). (*For recent trends in party favorability, see Pew Research's [Feb. 10 report](#)*).

**Job Ratings: Obama, GOP Leaders, Democratic leaders**



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar.1, 2011. Q A1. Feb. 24-27, 2011 PEW1a-b.

## Disagreements over Value of Political Compromise

A majority of the public (53%) says they like elected officials who stick to their positions rather than elected officials who make compromises with people they disagree with (40%). That is little changed from last fall.

By about a two-to one margin Republicans prefer elected officials who stick to their positions (63%) over elected officials who compromise with people they disagree with (32%).

Republicans are divided along ideological lines in opinions about compromise: Just a quarter of conservatives (25%) like elected officials to compromise, compared with 47% of moderate and liberal Republicans. There are similar divisions between Republicans and Republican leaners who agree with the Tea Party (20% prefer compromise) and those who do not (39%).

Democrats also are divided; overall, 46% favor elected officials who make compromises while 48% like elected officials who stick to their positions. Nearly six-in-ten liberal Democrats (57%) prefer elected officials who compromise, compared with 41% of conservative and moderate Democrats.

Views of independents overall largely mirror those of the general public's. But far more Republican-leaning independents than Democratic-leaning independents say they like elected officials who stick to their positions (64% vs. 48%).

### Both Parties Split in Views of Compromise

	<i>I like elected officials who...</i>		
	Compromise	Stick to positions	Both/Neither/DK
	%	%	%
Total	40	53	7=100
Republican	32	63	5=100
Conserv. Rep	25	70	5=100
Mod/Lib Rep	49	47	4=100
Democrat	46	48	6=100
Cons/Mod Dem	41	54	4=100
Liberal Dem	57	40	3=100
Independent	41	53	6=100
Lean Republican	29	64	8=100
Lean Democrat	46	48	6=100
<i>Among Republicans/Rep leaners</i>	31	63	6=100
Agree w/ Tea Party	20	74	6=100
Disagree/No opinion	39	56	5=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22 – Mar. 1, 2011. QA45b.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### SECTION 3: ATTITUDES TOWARD SOCIAL ISSUES

Public support for gay marriage continues to edge upward. At the same time, support for legal abortion has rebounded, after declining in 2009. In contrast, there has been no movement in public attitudes toward gun control. The public remains evenly divided over whether it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns or to control gun ownership.

Americans also are divided about whether the use of marijuana should be legalized. Opinion about legalizing marijuana has shifted substantially over the long term. A decade ago, the public opposed legalization by nearly two-to-one.

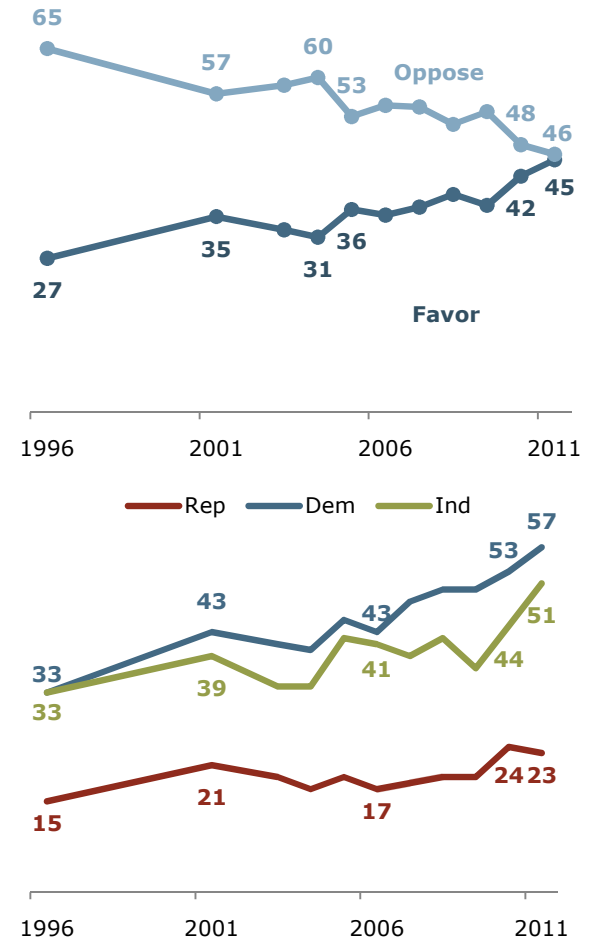
#### Shifting Attitudes about Same-Sex Marriage

The new poll finds that about as many adults now favor (45%) as oppose (46%) allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. Last year opponents outnumbered supporters 48% to 42%. Opposition to same-sex marriage has declined by 19 percentage points since 1996, when 65% opposed gay marriage and only 27% were in favor.

Majorities of the public now support same-sex marriage in the Northeast (59% in favor) and West (56%). In many states in those regions, efforts to legalize same-sex marriage have been underway or have already succeeded. By contrast, support is much lower in the Midwest (40% favor) and the South (34%).

As has been the case since 1996, there is a wide partisan division on the question of same-sex marriage. Currently 57% of Democrats favor making it legal, while only 23% of Republicans

**Support for Gay Marriage Nearly Matches Opposition**



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. Data from 1996, 2001, 2005, and 2011 are from individual surveys. Data from 2003-2004 and 2006-2010 represent annual totals of polls conducted in each year.

agree. Independents (at 51% in favor) are more similar to Democrats than to Republicans, in part because 46% of Republican-leaning independents are supportive of same-sex marriage, along with 58% of independents who lean Democratic.

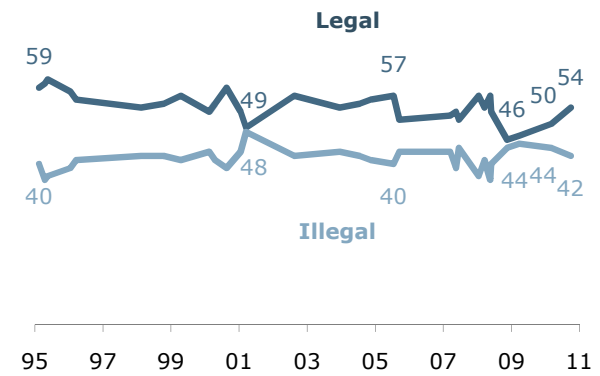
### Support for Legal Abortion Edges Upward

The current survey finds a majority of 54% supporting legal abortion in all or most cases; 42% say abortion should be illegal in most or all cases. This represents a small but significant change over the past two years. In Pew Research polling in 2009, opinion on whether abortion should be legal was evenly divided, with 46% favoring and 44% opposing legal abortion in most or all cases. Last summer, half of respondents (50%) supported legal abortion, while 44% opposed it.

Support for legal abortion is higher among Democrats and independents than among Republicans. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats (65%) say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, as do 58% of independents. Among Republicans, just 34% support legal abortion.

There has been relatively little change in views about abortion among different religious groups. A small majority of Catholics (52%) say abortion should be legal in all or most cases; 45% disagree. In 2010, Catholics were divided (47% in favor of legal abortion, 45% opposed). White evangelical Protestants remain the religious group most opposed to legal abortion, with just 34% saying abortion should be legal and 64% saying it should be illegal in all or most cases.

### Majority Says Abortion Should be Legal in All or Most Cases



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA62.

### Most Independents Favor Legal Abortion

	Legal in all/most cases %	Illegal in all/most cases %	DK %
Total	54	42	4=100
Republican	34	64	2=100
Democrat	65	31	4=100
Independent	58	38	4=100
Protestant	47	49	4=100
White evangelical	34	64	2=100
White mainline	60	37	3=100
Catholic	52	45	3=100
White Catholic	54	44	2=100
Unaffiliated	71	26	2=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA62. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

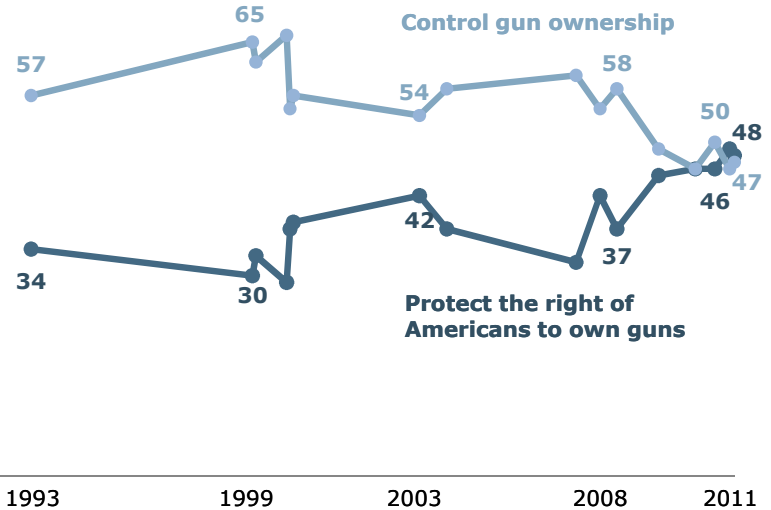


## Attitudes on Gun Control Unchanged

Nearly two months after the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and several others in Tucson, Arizona, public attitudes on the issue of gun control are unchanged. In the current poll, 48% say it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns, while 47% say it is more important to control gun ownership. This is nearly identical to the result from a poll taken in mid-January, shortly after the Tucson event.

### Long-Term Rise in Support for Gun Rights

More important to...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar. 1, 2011. QA60.

As in previous polling on the subject, attitudes are highly divided along party lines. About two-thirds of Republicans (66%) place greater importance on protecting gun owners' rights, while nearly as many Democrats (65%) say it's more important to control gun ownership. A small majority of 54% of independents place greater importance on protecting the rights of gun owners. For more detail about the demographic correlates of opinion on gun control, see "[Views of Gun Control – A Detailed Demographic Breakdown](#)," Jan. 13, 2011.

## Increased Support for Legalization of Marijuana

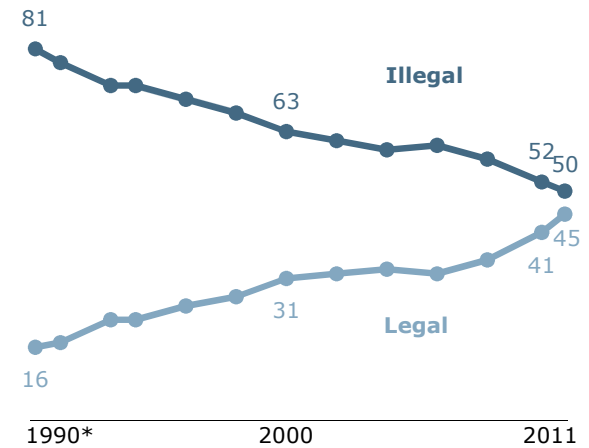
The public is divided over whether the use of marijuana should be legal or not; half (50%) oppose legalization while nearly as many (45%) favor legalizing marijuana. Support for legalizing marijuana is up slightly since March, 2010; and over the past 40 years – drawing on trends from Gallup and the General Social Survey – support for legalizing marijuana has never been higher.

Young people under the age of 30 favor legalizing the use of marijuana by a 54%-42% margin. Opinion is divided among those in middle age groups. Those 65 and older are broadly opposed to legalization (66% illegal, 30% legal).

A slim majority of Democrats (53%) favor legalizing the use of marijuana, while 43% are opposed. Support is particularly high among liberal Democrats, 66% of whom support legalization. Republicans, by contrast, oppose legalization by a wide 67%-30% margin and there are only modest differences between conservative Republicans and moderate and liberal Republicans– majorities of both groups oppose legalization. Independents are divided in their views: 49% say marijuana should be legal, 45% illegal.

About as many favor as oppose legalizing marijuana among those with some college experience. By contrast, those with no college experience oppose legalization by a 55%-40% margin.

### Should Marijuana Use be Legal?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar.1, 2011. QA63.  
\* 1990-2008 data from the General Social Survey

### Most Democrats Now Support Legalization

Use of marijuana should be ...	Legal	Illegal	DK
	%	%	%
Total	45	50	5=100
Men	48	47	5=100
Women	42	54	5=100
18-29	54	42	4=100
30-49	48	47	4=100
50-64	43	50	7=100
65+	30	66	4=100
College grad+	48	45	6=100
Some college	50	47	3=100
HS or less	40	55	5=100
Republican	30	67	3=100
Conservative Rep	27	69	4=100
Mod/Lib Rep	35	64	1=100
Democrat	53	43	3=100
Cons/Mod Dem	44	53	3=100
Liberal Dem	66	29	4=100
Independent	49	45	5=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 22-Mar.1, 2011. QA63.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## SECTION 4: OPINIONS OF LABOR UNIONS

The ongoing demonstrations in Wisconsin over public worker benefits and collective bargaining rights have had little effect on overall views of labor unions. In the current survey, 47% hold a favorable view of labor unions, compared with 39% who have an unfavorable view. In early February – before the Wisconsin demonstrations – the balance of opinion was about the same (45% favorable, 41% unfavorable).

Deep partisan divisions remain on views of labor unions. Democrats hold a more favorable than unfavorable view of labor unions by nearly three-to-one (64% favorable, 22% unfavorable). By contrast, 58% of Republicans take an unfavorable view, while 32% view labor unions favorably. Independents are divided: 45% hold a favorable view, 42% an unfavorable view.

### Union Favorability Holds Steady

	Feb 2-7		Feb 21-Mar 1	
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable	Unfavorable
	%	%	%	%
Total	45	41	47	39
Republican	30	56	32	58
Democrat	61	27	64	22
Independent	42	46	45	42

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 21-Mar. 1, 2011. QA4e.

### Liberals and Union Members Rally

While overall favorability ratings have remained stable, the percentage holding a *very* favorable view of labor unions – as opposed to a *mostly* favorable view – has risen seven points. This rise has come primarily from intensifying views among two groups: liberal Democrats and union households.

Overall, about as many liberal Democrats hold

### Sharp Rise in Number of Liberals Who Have Very Favorable View of Unions

	Percent "Favorable"			Percent "Very Favorable"		
	Feb 2-7	Now	Change	Feb 2-7	Now	Change
	%	%		%	%	
Total	45	47	+2	11	18	+7
Liberal Democrat	64	65	+1	14	32	+18
Mod/Cons Democrat	61	65	+4	17	25	+8
Independent	42	45	+3	10	15	+5
Mod/Liberal Republican	41	47	+6	11	19	+8
Conservative Republican	25	26	+1	5	9	+4
Labor household	69	73	+4	27	45	+18
Non-labor household	42	43	+1	9	14	+5

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 21-Mar. 1, 2011. QA4e.

favorable views of unions now (65%) as did so in early February (64%). However, the percentage holding a *very* favorable view has ballooned: from just 14% in February to 32% today – an 18-point rise in opinion.

A similar pattern can be seen among union member households. The percentage expressing *very* favorable views of unions has spiked from 27% to 45%. As the intensity of support for labor unions has grown in union households, overall favorability has remained about the same (69% in February, 73% now).

There has been no corresponding shift in opinion among conservative Republicans or non-labor households. Very unfavorable views of labor are about the same as they were in February for these groups, as negative views of labor have become no more intense.

## About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 22-March 1, 2011 among a national sample of 1,504 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (1,021 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 483 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 213 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,504	3.0 percentage points
Republicans	393	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	479	5.5 percentage points
Independents	551	5.5 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted February 24-27, 2011 among a national sample of 1,009 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (678 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 144 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or

older.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1009	4.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director  
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research  
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors  
Michael Remez, Senior Writer  
Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley, Senior Researchers  
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, and Alec Tyson, Research Associates  
Jacob Poushter and Gabriel Velasco, Research Analysts  
Danielle Gewurz, Research Assistant

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS  
2011 MARCH POLITICAL SURVEY A  
FINAL TOPLINE**

Survey A: February 22-March 1, 2011  
N=1504

**ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Q.A1 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>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

**ASK IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE (Q.A1=1,2):**

Q.A1a Do you [approve/disapprove] very strongly, or not so strongly?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Feb 22-Mar 1 <u>2011</u>		Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>	Aug 25- Sep 6 <u>2010</u>	Jun 16-20 <u>2010</u>	Jan 6-10 <u>2010</u>	Apr 14-21 <u>2009</u>
51	Approve	46	47	48	49	63
32	Very strongly	27	28	29	30	45
18	Not so strongly	16	17	17	15	13
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	2	3	5
39	Disapprove	44	44	43	42	26
29	Very strongly	30	32	31	30	18
10	Not so strongly	13	11	11	11	8
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	*
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10	9	9	10	11

**NO QUESTIONS 2-3****ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Q.A4 Would you say your overall opinion of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS a THROUGH c FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS d AND e]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
a. The Republican Party								
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	42	9	32	51	22	28	1	7
Feb 2-7, 2011	43	8	35	48	19	29	*	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	8	35	49	21	28	*	8
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12



## Q.A4 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6
b. The Democratic Party								
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	14	34	45	18	27	*	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	47	13	35	46	17	29	*	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	13	36	44	20	24	*	7
July 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6

## Q.A4 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	34	4	30	57	21	36	1	8
July 1-5, 2010	33	6	27	56	23	33	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3

**Q.A4 CONTINUED...**

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

**Q.A4d HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

## e. Labor unions

Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	47	18	29	39	17	23	2	12
Feb 2-7, 2011	45	11	34	41	17	25	1	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	11	30	42	16	26	1	16
January, 2007	58	18	40	31	11	20	2	9
Late March, 2005	56	17	39	33	9	24	1	9
March, 2002	59	15	44	32	9	23	1	8
July, 2001	51	12	39	36	10	26	1	12
March, 2001	63	16	47	28	7	21	1	8
August, 1999	59	12	47	36	9	27	*	5
Early September, 1998	52	12	40	38	13	25	*	10
June, 1997	58	15	43	35	10	25	*	7
May, 1997	49	15	34	39	13	26	*	12
April, 1996	47	10	37	45	17	28	*	8
February, 1996	54	17	37	41	14	27	*	5
July, 1994	57	14	43	38	10	28	*	5
January, 1988	52	10	42	39	10	29	*	9
July, 1985	46	9	37	47	17	30	*	7

NO QUESTIONS 5-16

Q.17, Q.A18-Q.A19 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 20-23

**ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Q.A24 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

	<u>Basically content</u>	<u>Frustrated</u>	<u>Angry</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	22	59	14	5
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	21	52	23	4
Apr 1-5, 2010	23	52	21	4
Mar 11-21, 2010	19	56	21	5
Early Jan, 2007	21	58	16	5
Early Oct, 2006	21	54	20	5
March, 2004	32	52	13	3
Mid Nov, 2001	53	34	8	5
Jun, 2000	28	53	13	6
Feb, 2000	33	54	10	3
Oct, 1997	29	56	12	3

**ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Q.A25 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	<u>Just about always</u>	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Only sometimes</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Never</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	4	25	65	4	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	3	21	65	10	1
Apr 1-5, 2010	5	20	61	13	1
Mar 11-21, 2010	3	19	65	11	2
January, 2007	3	28	63	5	1
February, 2006	4	30	59	6	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	63	4	2
Mid-March, 2004	4	32	59	4	1
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1
November, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	4	22	61	11	2
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October, 1997	3	36	59	2	*

**NO QUESTIONS 26-35**

**Q.36-Q.37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**NO QUESTIONS 38-44**

<sup>1</sup> The November, 1998 survey was conducted Oct. 26-Dec. 1, 1998. The question asked, "How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most the time, or only some of the time?"

**ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Q.A45 And which comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. **[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**

**Q.A45a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

b.

		<b>(RVs)</b>
		Aug 25-Sep 6
		<u>2010</u>
Feb 22-Mar 1		40
<u>2011</u>		
40	I like elected officials who make compromises with people they disagree with	40
54	I like elected officials who stick to their positions	55
3	Neither/Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>	3
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2

**Q.A46 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 47-55****Q.A56-Q.A59 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Q.A60 What do you think is more important—to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

	Protect right to own guns	Control gun ownership	<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	47	6
Jan 13-16, 2011	49	46	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	46	50	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	46	7
Mar 31-Apr 1, 2009	45	49	6
Apr, 2008	37	58	5
Nov, 2007	42	55	3
Apr, 2007	32	60	8
Feb, 2004	37	58	5
Jun, 2003	42	54	4
May, 2000	38	57	5
Apr, 2000	37	55	8
Mar, 2000	29	66	5
Jun, 1999	33	62	5
May, 1999	30	65	5
Dec, 1993	34	57	9

**ASK ALL:**

Q.A61 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			<b>(VOL.)</b>
	<i>Strongly</i>			<i>Strongly</i>			<b>(VOL.)</b>
	<u>Total</u>	<i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	<u>Total</u>	<i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<b>DK/Ref</b>
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	45	20	25	46	25	21	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	16	27	47	26	22	10
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 <sup>2</sup>	41	17	24	48	24	24	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	39	14	25	53	31	22	8
Mid-April, 2009	35	14	21	54	31	23	11
August, 2008	39	13	26	52	30	22	9
June, 2008	40	15	25	52	31	21	8
Late May, 2008	38	15	23	49	29	20	13

<sup>2</sup> In July 21-Aug 5, 2010, Aug 11-17, 2009, August 2008, August 2007, Early January 2007, Early November 2006, March 2006, July 2005, December 2004, Early February 2004, November 2003, Mid-July 2003, March 2001 and June 1996 the question was asked as part of a list of items. In May and June 2008, the question asked about "allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally."

## Q.A61 CONTINUED...

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	Strongly <i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Total	Strongly <i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
November, 2007	36	12	24	54	29	25	10
August, 2007	36	13	23	55	31	24	9
Early January, 2007	37	13	24	55	33	22	8
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	30	10	20	57	31	26	13
July, 2006	35	12	23	56	31	25	9
June, 2006	33	13	20	55	32	23	12
March, 2006	39	10	29	51	28	23	10
July, 2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11
December, 2004	32	14	18	61	38	23	7
August, 2004	29	8	21	60	35	25	11
July, 2004	32	10	22	56	33	23	12
Mid-March, 2004	32	10	22	59	35	24	9
Early February, 2004	30	9	21	63	42	21	7
November, 2003	30	10	20	62	41	21	8
October, 2003	30	9	21	58	33	25	12
Mid-July, 2003	38	10	28	53	30	23	9
March, 2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8
June, 1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8

## ASK ALL SURVEY A:

Q.A62 Do you think abortion should be [READ]

	Legal	Legal	Illegal	Illegal	(VOL.) DK/Ref	NET	NET
	in all <u>cases</u>	in most <u>cases</u>	in most <u>cases</u>	in all <u>cases</u>		<i>Legal in all/most</i>	<i>Illegal in all/most</i>
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	18	36	26	16	4	54	42
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	17	33	27	17	7	50	44
August 11-27, 2009	16	31	27	17	8	47	45
April, 2009	18	28	28	16	10	46	44
Late October, 2008	18	35	24	16	7	53	40
Mid-October, 2008	19	38	22	14	7	57	36
August, 2008	17	37	26	15	5	54	41
June, 2008	19	38	24	13	6	57	37
November, 2007	18	33	29	15	5	51	44
October, 2007	21	32	24	15	8	53	39
August, 2007	17	35	26	17	5	52	43
AP/Ipsos-Poll: February, 2006	19	32	27	16	6	51	43
ABC/WaPo: December, 2005	17	40	27	13	3	57	40
ABC/WaPo: April, 2005	20	36	27	14	3	56	41
ABC/WaPo: December, 2004	21	34	25	17	3	55	42
ABC/WaPo: May, 2004	23	31	23	20	2	54	43
ABC/WaPo: January, 2003	23	34	25	17	2	57	42
ABC/WaPo: August, 2001	22	27	28	20	3	49	48
ABC/BeliefNet: June, 2001	22	31	23	20	4	53	43
ABC/WaPo: January, 2001	21	38	25	14	1	59	39
ABC/WaPo: September, 2000 (RVs)	20	35	25	16	3	55	41
ABC/WaPo: July, 2000	20	33	26	17	4	53	43
ABC/WaPo: September, 1999	20	37	26	15	2	57	41
ABC/WaPo: March, 1999	21	34	27	15	3	55	42
ABC/WaPo: July, 1998	19	35	29	13	4	54	42
ABC/WaPo: August, 1996	22	34	27	14	3	56	41
ABC/WaPo: June, 1996	24	34	25	14	2	58	39
ABC/WaPo: October, 1995	26	35	25	12	3	61	37
ABC/WaPo: September, 1995	24	36	25	11	4	60	36
ABC/WaPo: July, 1995	27	32	26	14	1	59	40

**ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Q.A63 Do you think the use of marijuana should be made legal, or not?

	<u>Yes, legal</u>	<u>No, illegal</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	45	50	5
Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
<b>Gallup</b>			
October, 2010	46	50	4
October, 2009	44	54	2
October 2005	36	60	4
November, 2003	34	64	2
August, 2001	34	62	4
August, 2000	31	64	5
August, 1995	25	73	2
May, 1985	23	73	4
June, 1980	25	70	5
May, 1979	25	70	5
April, 1977	28	66	6
January, 1973	16	78	6
March, 1972	15	81	4
October, 1969	12	84	4
<b>General Social Survey</b>			
2008	35	57	8
2006	32	60	7
2004	33	59	9
2002	32	61	6
2000	31	63	6
1998	27	67	6
1996	25	70	5
1994	22	73	5
1993	22	73	5
1991	17	78	5
1990	16	81	3
1989	16	81	3
1988	17	79	4
1987	16	81	3
1986	17	80	2
1984	22	74	4
1983	19	77	3
1980	24	73	3
1978	30	66	4
1976	28	69	3
1975	20	74	5
1973	19	79	2

Q.A64-Q.A67 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 68-88

**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
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
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13

**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 IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT (PARTY=1,2):**

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG [Republican/Democrat] or NOT a strong [Republican/Democrat]?

	Strong Republican	Not strong/DK	Strong Democrat	Not strong/DK
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	14	10=24%	18	15=33%
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	14	10=24%	19	13=32%
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	13	12=25%	20	11=32%
April, 2009	12	10=22%	20	13=33%
October, 2007 <sup>3</sup>	13	12=25%	19	14=33%

<sup>3</sup> Data from Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends.



## PARTYSTR CONTINUED...

	Strong <u>Republican</u>	Not strong/ <u>DK</u>	Strong <u>Democrat</u>	Not strong/ <u>DK</u>
August, 2007	14	12=26%	18	14=32%
July, 2007	16	11=27%	19	13=32%
June, 2007	13	12=25%	19	15=34%
April, 2007	14	11=25%	15	13=28%
January, 2007	12	11=23%	17	14=31%
Mid-November, 2006	14	11=25%	22	14=36%
Late October, 2006	14	12=26%	18	14=32%
Early October, 2006	15	12=27%	19	15=34%
September, 2006	17	13=30%	18	16=34%
December, 2005	16	13=29%	20	14=34%
December, 2004	18	13=31%	19	15=34%
July, 2004	17	12=29%	20	13=33%
August, 2003	14	13=27%	15	16=31%
September, 2000	14	13=27%	19	15=34%
Late September, 1999	10	14=24%	15	16=31%
August, 1999	11	14=25%	15	18=33%
November, 1997	11	14=25%	14	18=32%
October, 1995	11	19=30%	14	16=30%
April, 1995	15	15=30%	14	15=29%
October, 1994	16	15=31%	18	14=32%
July, 1994	13	16=29%	15	18=33%
June, 1992	11	17=28%	14	18=32%
May, 1990	13	15=28%	16	17=33%
February, 1989	15	16=31%	17	21=38%
May, 1988	13	15=28%	19	19=38%
January, 1988	12	15=27%	19	20=39%
May, 1987	11	14=25%	18	19=37%

## 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>	No opinion <u>either way</u>	(VOL.) Haven't <u>heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>4</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>4</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."

## PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE

QA1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

QA1a: Do you (approve/disapprove) very strongly, or not so strongly?

	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Very strongly</u> %	<u>Not so strongly/ DK/Ref</u> %	<u>Dis-approve</u> %	<u>Very strongly</u> %	<u>Not so strongly/ DK/Ref</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	<u>N</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	51	32	20	39	29	10	10	1504
<b>SEX</b>								
Men	47	27	20	42	30	12	11	702
Women	55	35	20	36	27	9	9	802
<b>AGE</b>								
18-49	55	32	22	35	24	10	11	650
50+	47	31	16	45	35	10	9	839
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>								
18-29	57	30	27	29	17	12	14	194
30-49	53	34	19	38	29	9	9	456
50-64	50	31	19	43	33	10	7	498
65+	41	30	11	48	38	10	11	341
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>								
Men 18-49	49	29	21	38	25	13	12	338
Men 50+	44	26	17	48	37	11	8	359
Women 18-49	60	36	24	31	23	8	9	312
Women 50+	49	35	15	41	32	9	9	480
<b>RACE</b>								
White, non-Hispanic	42	23	19	48	37	11	10	1085
Black, non-Hispanic	86	74	11	7	1	6	7	144
Hispanic	64	36	28	24	13	10	13	127
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
College grad+	57	33	25	38	28	11	4	595
Some college	48	30	18	41	31	10	11	375
HS or less	50	32	18	38	27	10	13	528
<b>INCOME</b>								
\$75,000+	53	33	21	40	30	11	6	429
\$30,000-\$74,999	50	29	21	42	30	11	8	479
<\$30,000	54	35	19	33	23	10	13	408
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>								
Total White NH Prot.	37	21	16	54	43	10	10	600
White NH evang. Prot.	24	10	14	68	56	12	8	284
White NH mainline Prot.	49	30	18	40	31	9	12	316
Total Catholic	52	28	24	39	27	11	9	319
White NH Cath.	44	23	21	47	34	13	10	222
Unaffiliated	61	37	24	26	17	9	12	256
<b>REGION</b>								
Northeast	62	39	23	29	21	9	9	278
Midwest	49	28	21	43	31	12	9	396
South	48	32	16	41	32	10	10	533
West	50	28	22	39	28	11	11	297

**PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE (CONT.)**

QA1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

QA1a: Do you (approve/disapprove) very strongly, or not so strongly?

	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Very</u> <u>strongly</u> %	<u>Not so</u> <u>strongly/</u> <u>DK/Ref</u> %	<u>Dis-</u> <u>approve</u> %	<u>Very</u> <u>strongly</u> %	<u>Not so</u> <u>strongly/</u> <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	<u>N</u>
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>								
Yes, certain	50	32	18	42	32	10	8	1231
Not registered	55	30	25	30	18	12	15	273
<b>PARTY ID</b>								
Republican	23	8	15	71	57	14	6	393
Democrat	81	62	19	13	8	5	5	479
Independent	44	21	23	43	29	13	13	551
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>								
Rep/Lean Rep	21	6	15	71	56	15	8	640
Dem/Lean Dem	79	55	24	14	7	7	7	695
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>								
Conservative	29	16	13	62	50	12	9	593
Moderate	58	31	27	32	20	11	10	543
Liberal	79	59	19	14	8	7	7	306
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>								
Conservative Republican	17	3	14	77	65	12	6	286
Mod/Lib Republican	37	20	17	55	38	17	8	101
Mod/Cons Democrat	76	55	21	18	11	7	6	276
Liberal Democrat	91	72	19	6	2	4	3	186
<b>TEA PARTY MOVEMENT</b>								
Agree	13	5	8	84	71	14	3	347
Disagree	80	56	24	16	9	6	4	418
No opinion	52	30	22	34	23	11	14	697
<b>LABOR UNION</b>								
Member in HH	57	39	18	36	25	10	7	214
No member in HH	50	30	20	40	29	10	10	1281
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>								
Men	39	20	19	50	38	13	11	497
Women	46	27	19	45	36	9	9	588
18-49	44	22	22	45	34	11	11	391
50+	41	24	16	51	40	11	8	687
College grad+	52	26	26	43	32	11	5	471
Some college or less	38	22	16	50	40	11	12	610
\$75,000+	49	29	20	45	34	11	6	334
\$30,000-\$74,999	43	23	20	49	37	12	8	351
<\$30,000	41	21	20	45	35	11	14	261
Republican	20	7	13	74	60	14	6	350
Democrat	76	56	20	18	13	6	6	286
Independent	40	17	23	48	36	13	11	399
Northeast	52	31	21	40	29	11	8	202
Midwest	42	22	20	50	37	13	9	318
South	35	19	16	52	42	10	13	356
West	46	24	22	47	38	9	7	209