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# Public's Policy Priorities Reflect Changing Conditions at Home and Abroad

*Fewer Cite Economy; More Prioritize  
a Strong Military*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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# Public's Policy Priorities Reflect Changing Conditions at Home and Abroad

## *Fewer Cite Economy; More Prioritize a Stronger Military*

As views of the economy improve and terrorist threats persist, the public's policy priorities have changed: For the first time in five years, as many Americans cite defending the U.S. against terrorism (76%) as a top policy priority as say that about strengthening the nation's economy (75%).

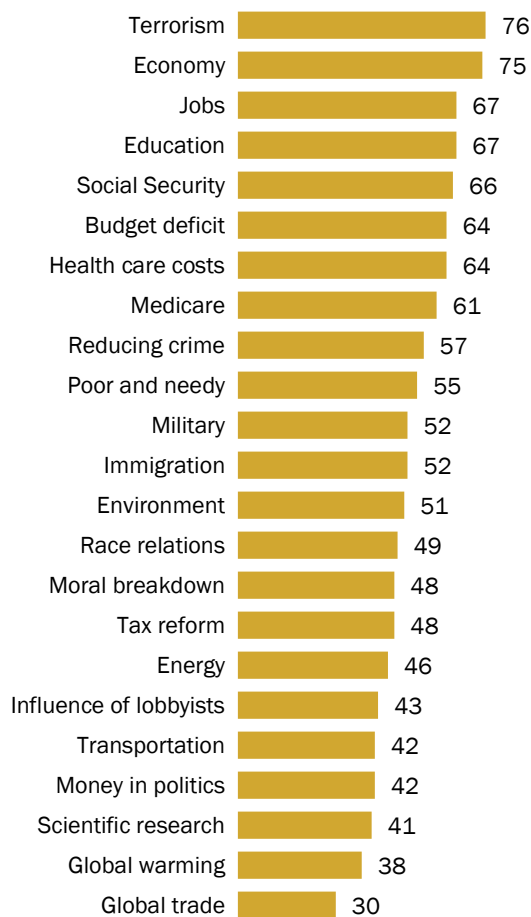
Since Barack Obama began his second term in January 2013, the economy has declined 11 points as a top priority, and improving the job situation has fallen 12 points (from 79% to 67%).

There has been little change over the past two years in the number saying that defending against terrorism should be a top priority; in fact, this has consistently been among the public's leading policy goals since 2002. But it has moved to the top of the priorities list as the economy and jobs have fallen.

The Pew Research Center's annual policy priorities survey, conducted Jan. 7-11 among 1,504 adults, also finds that the goal of strengthening the military has increased in importance. Currently, 52% say strengthening the military should be a top policy priority for the president and Congress this year, up from 41% in January 2013.

### Public's Policy Priorities for 2015

*% rating each a top priority for Obama and Congress ...*



Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

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While there have been increases since 2013 in the percentages of both Republicans (from 58% to 71%) and Democrats (from 31% to 41%) rating a stronger military as a top priority, this is now a leading goal for Republicans. It now ranks close to the economy, jobs and the budget deficit among Republicans' top priorities. Terrorism by a wide margin ranks first among Republicans (87%).

The survey finds little change over time in many of the public's other priorities: 67% rate improving education as a top priority, 66% cite securing Social Security, 64% reducing health care costs and 61% securing Medicare.

However, the budget deficit – which surged in importance between [2009 and 2013](#) – has lost ground since then.

Currently, 64% say reducing the budget deficit is a top priority; that is little changed from last year (63%), but down eight points since 2013.

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## Changes in the Public's Agenda Since Obama's Reelection

*% rating each a top priority for the president and Congress each year ...*

	Jan <b>13</b> %	Jan <b>14</b> %	Jan <b>15</b> %	'13-'15 change
Defending country from terrorism	71	73	76	+5
Strengthening the nation's economy	86	80	75	<b>-11</b>
Improving the job situation	79	74	67	<b>-12</b>
Improving the educational system	70	69	67	-3
Making Social Security system sound	70	66	66	-4
Reducing the budget deficit	72	63	64	<b>-8</b>
Reducing health care costs	63	59	64	+1
Making Medicare system sound	65	61	61	-4
Reducing crime	55	55	57	+2
Dealing with problems of poor & needy	57	49	55	-2
Strengthening the U.S. military	41	43	52	<b>+11</b>
Dealing with issue of immigration*	–	40	52	<b>+12</b>
Protecting the environment	52	49	51	-1
Addressing race relations	–	–	49	n/a
Dealing with moral breakdown	40	39	48	<b>+8</b>
Reforming the nation's tax system	52	55	48	-4
Dealing with nation's energy problem	45	45	46	+1
Reducing the influence of lobbyists	44	42	43	-1
Improving roads, bridges, public transit	30	39	42	<b>+12</b>
Dealing with role of money in politics	–	–	42	n/a
Supporting scientific research	–	–	41	n/a
Dealing with global warming	28	29	38	<b>+10</b>
Dealing with global trade issues	31	28	30	-1

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015. Significant differences in **bold**.

\* 2014-15 change.

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At the same time, other priorities are now viewed as more important. Increasing percentages say improving the nation's infrastructure (up 12 points since 2013), dealing with global warming (up

10 points) and dealing with the nation's moral breakdown (eight points) should be top priorities. Immigration, for which there is no 2013 trend point, has grown as a priority since last year; 52% view it as a top priority, compared with 40% last January.

The public's diminished focus on economic priorities comes as [perceptions about the state of the economy](#) and the availability of jobs have turned more positive. And while the recent terrorist attacks in Paris [did not result in a major increase in worries](#) about a possible attack soon in this country, there has been growing concern over Islamic extremism, both in the United States and overseas. [A poll in September](#), as the threat from ISIS emerged, found 53% saying they were very concerned about the rise of Islamic extremism in the U.S., up 17 percentage points since 2011.

As President Obama prepares for his Jan. 20 State of the Union, the public overwhelmingly thinks it is more important for him to focus on domestic policy than foreign policy. Two-thirds (67%) say it is more important to focus on domestic policy, compared with 20% who want him to focus on foreign policy. However, the share who rate foreign policy as more important has roughly doubled in the past year, from just 9% on the eve of Obama's last State of the Union.

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### Obama Should Focus More on...

	Domestic policy	Foreign policy	Both/ DK
Year	%	%	%
2015	67	20	13=100
2014	78	9	13=100
2013	83	6	11=100
2012	81	9	10=100
2011	78	11	11=100
2010	73	12	15=100
2009	71	10	18=100

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Survey is from Jan. of each year except 2010 from Nov. 2009.

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## Sharp Partisan Differences Over Many Priorities

As previous policy priority surveys have found, there are huge partisan differences over the importance of many goals, but also areas of common ground.

As in the past, some of the largest partisan gaps are over the environment, dealing with the poor and strengthening the military.

The partisan divide over dealing with global warming is especially striking: 54% of Democrats view this as a top priority for the president and Congress compared with just 15% of Republicans.

Democrats also are 31 points more likely than Republicans to prioritize protecting the environment (66% of Democrats vs. 35% of Republicans) and 30 points more likely to rate dealing with the problems of the poor and needy as a top goal.

By contrast, while 71% of Republicans say that strengthening the military should be a top priority, just 41% of Democrats agree.

### Wide Partisan Differences Over the Environment, Dealing With Problems of Poor, Strengthening Military

*% rating each a top priority for the president and Congress in 2015 ...*

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>R-D diff</b>
Dealing with global warming	15	54	39	<b>-39</b>
Protecting the environment	35	66	48	<b>-31</b>
Dealing with problems of poor and needy	40	70	52	<b>-30</b>
Improving the educational system	52	77	67	<b>-25</b>
Supporting scientific research	33	51	39	<b>-18</b>
Dealing with role of money in politics	33	51	43	<b>-18</b>
Improving roads, bridges and transit	34	52	41	<b>-18</b>
Addressing race relations	45	62	43	<b>-17</b>
Dealing with nation's energy problem	37	51	47	<b>-14</b>
Reducing health care costs	64	70	59	-6
Making Medicare system sound	55	58	67	-3
Improving the job situation	70	72	63	-2
Dealing with global trade issues	29	31	31	-2
Reducing crime	62	64	51	-2
Reducing the influence of lobbyists	41	42	46	-1
Strengthening the nation's economy	75	74	75	+1
Making Social Security system sound	65	62	70	+3
Reforming the nation's tax system	60	45	45	<b>+15</b>
Dealing with issue of immigration	60	45	53	<b>+15</b>
Defending country from terrorism	87	71	74	<b>+16</b>
Dealing with moral breakdown	58	42	48	<b>+16</b>
Reducing the budget deficit	72	55	68	<b>+17</b>
Strengthening the U.S. military	71	41	51	<b>+30</b>

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015. Significant differences in **bold**.

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Still, Republicans and Democrats are in synch on the importance of a number of goals. Comparable percentages in both parties view such items as strengthening the economy, improving the job situation and securing Social Security and Medicare as top policy priorities.

Defending against terrorism, strengthening the economy and improving the job situation rank among the leading priorities for both Republicans and Democrats. But strengthening the military and reducing the deficit rate as more important for Republicans than Democrats, while improving education and dealing with the problems of the poor rank higher for Democrats than Republicans.

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## Economy, Terrorism, Jobs Rank High for Both Republicans and Democrats

*% that are top policy priorities for...*

<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Independents</b>
87% Terrorism	77% Education	75% Economy
75% Economy	74% Economy	74% Terrorism
72% Budget deficit	72% Job situation	70% Social Sec.
71% Military	71% Terrorism	68% Deficit
70% Job situation	70% Poor & needy	67% Education
65% Social Sec.	70% Health care	67% Medicare

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

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## Changing Views of Economic Priorities

Strengthening the economy has been among the public's leading policy goals since the Pew Research Center began asking the question in 2000. The share citing the economy as a top priority increased during the recession, before declining over the past two years.

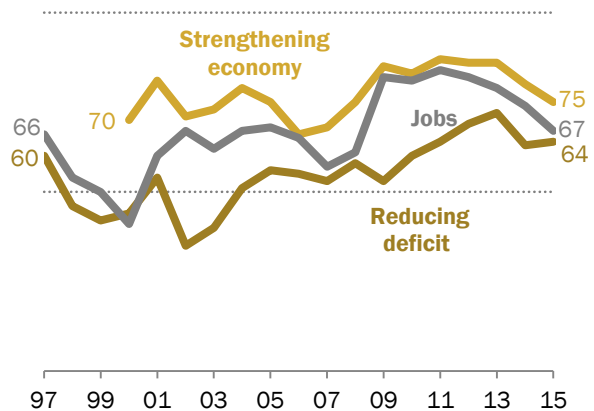
Similarly, the percentage saying improving the job situation should be a top priority increased as the economy worsened – from 57% in 2007 to 82% in 2009. It remained at about 80% through 2013, and has fallen 12 points since then to 67%.

The decline in the importance of improving the job situation has been particularly striking among those with higher incomes. In 2013, 78% of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more said that improving the job situation was a top priority for the president and Congress. Nearly identical shares of those with lower incomes also viewed this as a top goal: 76% of those with family incomes of \$30,000-\$75,000 and 79% among household earning less than \$30,000. Since then, jobs have fallen 21 points as a top priority among those with incomes of at least \$75,000 (57%), and 9 points among those with incomes of \$30,000 to \$75,000 (67%), and 9 points among those with incomes of \$30,000 to \$75,000 (67%).

But there has been virtually no change among those with incomes of less than \$30,000; 76% in this category still see jobs as a top priority, which is 19 points higher than those with incomes of at least \$75,000. The pattern is similar, though less pronounced, in views of the economy.

### Economic Issues Rise and Fall on Public's Agenda

% who say each is a top priority ...



Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015. From 1998-2001 the question asked about "Paying off the national debt."

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Nearly identical shares of those with lower

### Widening Income Divide in Views of Importance of Improving Job Situation

% who say each is a top priority ...

	Job situation			Economy		
	2013	2015	Change	2013	2015	Change
Total	79	67	-12	86	75	-11
<i>Family income</i>						
\$75k+	78	57	-21	88	73	-15
\$30-\$75k	76	67	-9	90	76	-14
<\$30k	79	76	-3	83	76	-7

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

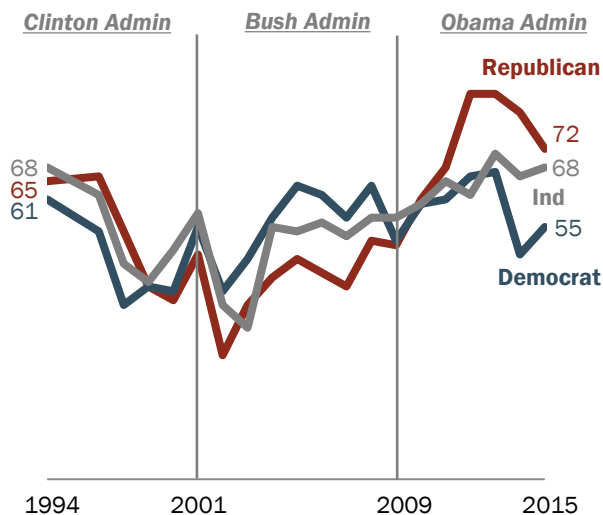
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Meanwhile, the percentage of Americans who say that reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority for the president and Congress rose 19 points between 2009 and 2013, but has fallen eight points over the past two years.

Pew Research Center surveys have found that, historically, the party holding the White House tends to place less importance on reducing the deficit compared with the party out of power. That remains the case today, with 72% of Republicans and 55% of Democrats rating deficit reduction as a top policy priority. But the share of Republicans who say that reducing the deficit should be a top priority has fallen 12 points (from 84%) since 2013. Among Democrats, deficit reduction declined from 67% in 2013 to 49% in 2014, before recovering slightly this year.

### Partisan Views on Deficit Reduction

*% who say reducing the deficit is a top priority...*



Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015. From 1998-2001 the question asked about "Paying off the national debt."

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## Views of Importance of Environmental Protection, Global Warming

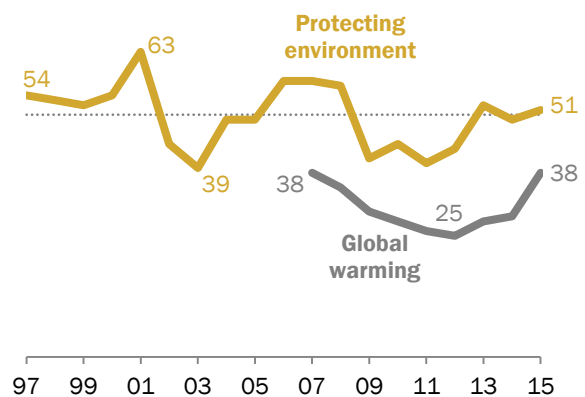
Currently, 51% say that protecting the environment should be a top priority for the president and Congress this year, which is little changed over the past two years. The percentage of the public rating environmental protection as a major policy goal hit a high point of 63%, after George W. Bush's election, and fell to about 40% in Obama's first years in office.

As with nearly all of the 24 priorities asked about, most Americans give at least some priority to environmental protection. While 51% rate it as a top priority, another 37% say it is an important but lower priority; just 11% say it is not too important or should not be done.

However, this is not the case with views of the importance of dealing with global warming. Nearly four-in-ten (38%) say it should be a top priority, 29% see it as an important but lower priority, while 31% say it is not too important or should not be done.

### Environmental Priorities

*% saying each is a top priority ...*



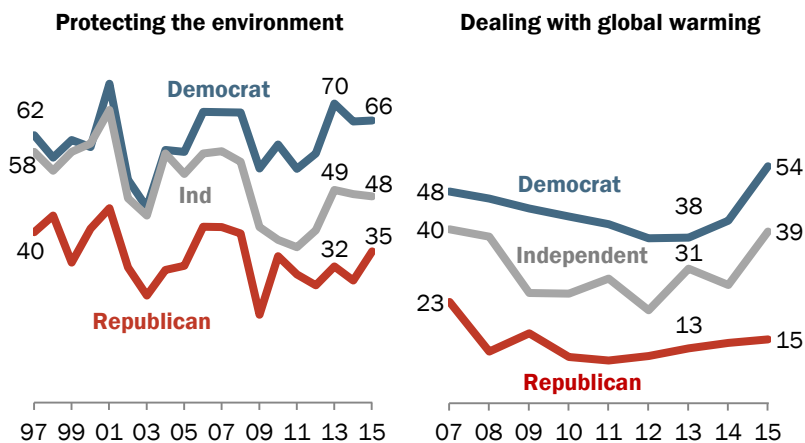
Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

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Opinions about the importance of both priorities, but especially global warming, are divided along partisan lines. Since 2013, the share saying that dealing with global warming should be a top priority has increased 16 points among Democrats (38% to 54%) and ticked up eight points among independents (31% to 39%). Just 15% of Republicans rate this as a top priority, while 21% view it as an important but lower priority. A majority of Republicans say dealing with global warming is not too important (31%) or should not be done (also 31%).

## Partisan Gaps on Environment and Global Warming

% saying \_\_\_\_\_ is a top priority



Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

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Partisan differences over the importance of protecting the environment are not as stark. Two-thirds of Democrats (66%) and 35% of Republicans rate this as a top priority. Most members of both parties (94% of Democrats and 82% of Republicans) say it is either a top priority or an important but lower priority.

## Age and Policy Priorities

For the most part, there are only modest differences in the policy priorities across age groups. But those younger than 30 are much more likely than those 65 and older to say that supporting scientific research and improving the educational system should be top priorities.

Older Americans, by contrast, attach more importance than younger Americans to several policy objectives – including defending against terrorism (84% vs. 69%), and securing Social Security (69% vs. 67%). The age differences are especially large when it comes to reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interests in Washington. Twice as many adults 65 and older (56%) compared with those under 30 (28%) view reducing the influence of lobbyists as a top priority.

### Young People More Likely to Prioritize Scientific Research, Education

*% rating each a top priority for Obama and Congress ...*

	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-49</b>	<b>50-64</b>	<b>65+</b>	<b>Yng-Old Diff</b>
	%	%	%	%	
Scientific research	53	36	43	32	<b>+21</b>
Educational system	74	73	60	56	<b>+18</b>
Environment	58	48	50	48	+10
Global warming	42	41	35	34	+8
Moral breakdown	52	45	50	48	+4
Poor and needy	52	58	56	49	+3
Global trade	32	28	32	29	+3
Nation's economy	73	74	78	73	0
Energy	46	46	47	46	0
Reducing crime	61	54	53	62	-1
Race relations	52	47	46	53	-1
Improving job situation	69	65	66	71	-2
Role of money in politics	43	40	40	48	-5
Reducing budget deficit	58	63	69	64	-6
Reducing health care costs	59	62	67	68	-9
Medicare system	58	58	63	68	-10
Strengthening military	51	46	53	62	-11
Social Security system	57	65	72	69	-12
Tax reform	39	43	58	52	-13
Immigration	43	51	56	57	-14
Roads, bridges and transit	30	45	47	44	-14
Terrorism	69	70	83	84	-15
Influence of lobbyists	28	41	50	56	-28

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015. Significant differences in **bold**.

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## Public's Priorities During Obama, Bush and Clinton Presidencies

*% considering each a 'top priority'*

	-Clinton-	--Bush--	-----Obama-----							14-15 change
	Jan 1999	Jan 2007	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Jan 2014	Jan 2015	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Defending against terrorism	--	80	76	80	73	69	71	73	76	+3
Strengthening nation's economy	--	68	85	83	87	86	86	80	75	-5
Improving job situation	50	57	82	81	84	82	79	74	67	-7
Improving education	74	69	61	65	66	65	70	69	67	-2
Securing Social Security	71	64	63	66	66	68	70	66	66	0
Reducing health care costs	--	68	59	57	61	60	63	59	64	+5
Reducing budget deficit	--	53	53	60	64	69	72	63	64	+1
Securing Medicare	62	63	60	63	61	61	65	61	61	0
Reducing crime	70	62	46	49	44	48	55	55	57	+2
Dealing with problems of the poor and needy	57	55	50	53	52	52	57	49	55	+6
Strengthening the military	--	46	44	49	43	39	41	43	52	+9
Dealing with immigration	--	55	41	40	46	39	39*	40	52	+12
Protecting environment	52	57	41	44	40	43	52	49	51	+2
Addressing race relations in this country	49**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	49	--
Reforming tax system	--	--	--	--	--	--	52	55	48	-7
Dealing with moral breakdown in country	50	47	45	45	43	44	40	39	48	+9
Dealing with nation's energy problem	--	57	60	49	50	52	45	45	46	+1
Reducing influence of lobbyists	--	35	36	36	37	40	44	42	43	+1
Improving roads, bridges, and public transportation	--	--	--	--	33	30	30	39	42	+3
Dealing with the role of money in politics	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	42	--
Supporting scientific research	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41	--
Dealing with global warming	--	38	30	28	26	25	28	29	38	+9
Dealing with global climate change	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	34	--
Dealing with global trade	--	34	31	32	34	38	31	28	30	+2

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

\*In 2013 and earlier, question asked about "illegal immigration." \*\*In 1999, question asked about "working to reduce racial tensions."

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## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 7-11, 2015 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (528 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 976 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 563 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 and nativity and region to parameters from the 2013 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2014 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 among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted 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>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Form 1	758	4.1 percentage points
Form 2	746	4.1 percentage points
Republican (F1/F2)	336 (165/171)	6.1 (8.8/8.6) percentage points
Democrat (F1/F2)	458 (230/228)	5.3 (7.4/7.4) percentage points
Independent (F1/F2)	647 (326/321)	4.4 (6.2/6.3) 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.

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JANUARY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
JANUARY 7-11, 2015  
N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 4F1-5F2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 3F2, 6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Q.7 Right now, which is more important for President Obama to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

	<u>Domestic policy</u>	<u>Foreign policy</u>	<b>(VOL.) <u>Neither</u></b>	<b>(VOL.) <u>Both</u></b>	<b>(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u></b>
<b>Obama</b>					
Jan 7-11, 2015	67	20	2	8	3
Apr 23-27, 2014 <sup>1</sup> (U)	72	13	1	9	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	78	9	1	8	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	82	8	1	6	3
Jan 9-13, 2013	83	6	1	7	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	81	9	1	5	4
May 25-30, 2011	77	9	1	9	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	78	11	1	7	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	73	12	1	10	3
January 7-11, 2009 <sup>2</sup>	71	11	*	14	4
<b>Next President</b>					
September, 2008 <sup>3</sup>	60	21	*	15	4
May, 2008	61	22	*	15	4
<b>G.W. Bush</b>					
January, 2008	56	31	1	8	4
January, 2007	39	40	1	15	5
August, 2006	50	32	1	12	5
January, 2006	57	25	1	13	4
October, 2005	64	20	1	12	3
Early January, 2005	53	27	1	16	3
January, 2002	52	34	*	11	3
<b>Clinton</b>					
Early September, 1998	56	30	0	11	3
January, 1997	86	7	*	5	2
December, 1994	85	7	2	4	2
October, 1993	76	13	*	7	4

**NO QUESTIONS 8-9, 11, 13, 17-19****QUESTIONS 10, 12A-12B, 14-16 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 12CF1-12JF2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>1</sup> The April 23-27, 2014 survey randomized response options by form.

<sup>2</sup> January 7-11, 2009, survey asked about "president-elect Obama."

<sup>3</sup> September and May 2008 surveys asked about priorities for the "next president."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 I'd like to ask you about priorities for President Obama and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done. (First,) should **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... **[INSERT ITEM?]** **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY TO BE SURE RESPONDENT UNDERSTANDS SCALE: should this be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?]**

<u>SUMMARY TABLE</u>		Important				<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
		Top priority	but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	
g.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	76	19	4	1	*
q.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	75	22	1	1	1
a.F1	Improving the job situation	67	28	3	1	1
r.F2	Improving the educational system	67	27	3	3	1
s.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	66	27	4	1	1
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	64	28	4	1	3
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	64	26	4	5	1
z.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	61	33	3	2	1
c.F1	Reducing crime	57	32	8	2	2
t.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	55	35	7	2	1
v.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	52	31	9	6	1
o.F2	Dealing with the issue of immigration	52	34	8	4	2
e.F1	Protecting the environment	51	37	9	2	1
l.F1	Addressing race relations in this country	49	33	10	6	2
u.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	48	28	12	8	3
d.F1	Reforming the nation's tax system	48	37	9	3	3
w.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	46	41	9	3	1
i.F1	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	43	37	12	4	5
p.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems	42	47	9	1	1
y.F2	Dealing with the role of money in politics	42	37	11	5	5
n.F1	Supporting scientific research	41	44	10	2	2
x.F2	Dealing with global warming	38	29	17	14	2
k.F1	Dealing with global climate change	34	33	17	13	3
h.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	30	50	12	3	4

FULL TREND:

		Important				<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
		Top priority	but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	

**ASK ITEMS a THRU n OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=758]:**

a.F1	Improving the job situation					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	67	28	3	1	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	74	21	1	2	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	79	16	2	3	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	82	14	1	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	84	13	*	1	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	81	15	1	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	82	15	1	1	1
	January, 2008	61	31	4	2	2
	January, 2007	57	30	10	1	2
	January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2
	January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1
	January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1
	January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4



## Q.20 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3
January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4
January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1
January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1
December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2
<b>b.F1</b> Reducing the budget deficit					
Jan 7-11, 2015	64	28	4	1	3
Jan 15-19, 2014	63	27	5	1	4
Jan 9-13, 2013	72	20	3	2	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	69	21	5	2	3
Jan 5-9, 2011	64	27	3	2	4
Jan 6-10, 2010	60	29	5	2	4
Jan 7-11, 2009	53	33	7	2	4
January, 2008	58	33	5	1	3
January, 2007	53	34	7	2	4
January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4
January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3
January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2
January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3
January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5
January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3
December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
<i>Paying off the national debt</i>					
January, 2001	54	32	8	2	4
January, 2000	44	38	11	3	4
July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2
January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4
January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2
<b>c.F1</b> Reducing crime					
Jan 7-11, 2015	57	32	8	2	2
Jan 15-19, 2014	55	35	7	2	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	55	33	9	2	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	48	37	11	2	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	44	43	10	2	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	8	2	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	46	41	9	2	2
January, 2008	54	36	7	1	2
January, 2007	62	31	5	1	1
January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2
January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1
January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2
January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2
January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2
January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*
January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2
July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1
January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2
January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1
January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*
December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2
<b>d.F1</b> Reforming the nation's tax system					
Jan 7-11, 2015	48	37	9	3	3
Jan 15-19, 2014	55	33	6	2	4
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	32	7	3	6

## Q.20 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
e.F1	Protecting the environment					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	51	37	9	2	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	49	40	7	3	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	52	33	10	3	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	43	39	15	3	*
	Jan 5-9, 2011	40	44	12	3	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	44	42	11	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	42	12	3	2
	January, 2008	56	34	8	1	1
	January, 2007	57	32	9	1	1
	January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*
	January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1
f.F1	Reducing health care costs					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	64	26	4	5	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	59	31	4	6	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	63	26	4	5	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	60	30	4	5	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	28	4	4	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	57	31	5	4	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	59	30	5	4	2
	January, 2008	69	24	3	3	1
	January, 2007	68	24	4	3	1
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2
	January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3
g.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	76	19	4	1	*
	Jan 15-19, 2014	73	23	3	1	*
	Jan 9-13, 2013	71	22	5	1	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	69	25	5	1	*
	Jan 5-9, 2011	73	22	3	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	80	17	2	*	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	76	18	3	1	2
	January, 2008	74	22	2	*	2
	January, 2007	80	16	2	1	1
	January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1

**Q.20 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1
h.F1	Dealing with global trade issues					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	30	50	12	3	4
	Jan 15-19, 2014	28	50	15	3	5
	Jan 9-13, 2013	31	47	15	2	6
	Jan 11-16, 2012	38	40	14	4	4
	Jan 5-9, 2011	34	44	13	3	5
	Jan 6-10, 2010	32	46	12	4	7
	Jan 7-11, 2009	31	49	11	2	7
	January, 2008	37	45	11	2	5
	January, 2007	34	46	12	2	6
	January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6
	January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7
i.F1	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	43	37	12	4	5
	Jan 15-19, 2014	42	30	17	5	6
	Jan 9-13, 2013	44	29	18	4	6
	Jan 11-16, 2012	40	31	18	5	6
	Jan 5-9, 2011	37	31	19	6	7
	Jan 6-10, 2010	36	34	18	7	6
	Jan 7-11, 2009	36	34	18	5	7
	January, 2008	39	32	16	4	9
	January, 2007	35	30	23	4	8
<b>NO ITEM j.</b>						
k.F1	Dealing with global climate change					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	34	33	17	13	3
l.F1	Addressing race relations in this country					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	49	33	10	6	2
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	<i>Working to reduce racial tensions</i>					
	January, 2003	33	43	18	4	2
	January, 2001	52	35	7	3	3
	January, 2000	46	40	10	2	2
	July, 1999	49	37	8	4	2
	January, 1999	49	35	11	3	2
	January, 1998	41	38	13	7	1
	January, 1997	50	34	9	5	2
<b>NO ITEM m.</b>						
n.F1	Supporting scientific research					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	41	44	10	2	2

## Q.20 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
<b>ASK ITEMS o THRU z OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=746]:</b>						
o.F2	Dealing with the issue of immigration					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	52	34	8	4	2
	Jan 15-19, 2014	40	40	14	5	2
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>						
	<i>Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration</i>					
	Jan 15-19, 2014	41	36	16	4	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	39	40	13	4	3
	Jan 11-16, 2012	39	38	17	4	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	38	12	3	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	40	41	14	2	3
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	36	18	3	2
	January, 2008	51	32	11	3	3
	January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2
p.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	42	47	9	1	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	39	46	13	1	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	30	51	16	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	30	52	15	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	33	48	16	2	2
q.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	75	22	1	1	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	80	15	2	2	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	86	11	1	1	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	86	11	1	1	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	87	11	1	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	83	14	1	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	85	12	*	1	1
	January, 2008	75	20	2	1	2
	January, 2007	68	25	4	2	1
	January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2
	January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1
	January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1
	Early September, 2001 <sup>4</sup>	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1
r.F2	Improving the educational system					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	67	27	3	3	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	69	24	3	2	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	70	22	4	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	65	27	4	3	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	5	2	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	65	28	4	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	61	30	5	2	2
	January, 2008	66	26	4	2	2
	January, 2007	69	25	4	1	1
	January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1

<sup>4</sup> In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

## Q.20 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2
January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2
Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1
January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1
January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1
July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2
January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1
January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*
January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*
s.F2 Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
Jan 7-11, 2014	66	27	4	1	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	66	28	4	1	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	70	24	2	1	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	68	26	2	2	1
Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	4	1	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	66	28	3	2	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	63	31	3	1	2
January, 2008	64	28	4	2	2
January, 2007	64	28	5	2	1
January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2
January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1
January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2
January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2
Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1
January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2
January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1
July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1
January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*
January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1
t.F2 Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people					
Jan 7-11, 2015	55	35	7	2	1
Jan 15-19, 2014	49	39	8	2	2
Jan 9-13, 2013	57	32	6	3	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	52	36	8	2	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	52	36	8	2	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	53	38	6	2	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	50	39	6	3	2
January, 2008	51	37	7	2	3
January, 2007	55	36	6	2	1
January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2
January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1
January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1
January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1
January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1
January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2
January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2
July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1
January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1
January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1
January, 1997	57	35	6	2	2

**Q.20 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
u.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	48	28	12	8	3
	Jan 15-19, 2014	39	32	14	11	4
	Jan 9-13, 2013	40	30	12	11	6
	Jan 11-16, 2012	44	30	11	10	5
	Jan 5-9, 2011	43	30	12	9	6
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	31	13	7	4
	Jan 7-11, 2009	45	29	16	6	4
	January, 2008	43	31	13	8	5
	January, 2007	47	30	12	8	3
	January, 2006	47	26	14	9	4
	January, 2005	41	32	14	10	3
	January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2
	January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3
v.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	52	31	9	6	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	43	36	14	6	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	41	36	14	7	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	39	36	15	8	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	43	35	14	6	3
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	35	10	5	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	44	39	8	4	5
	January, 2008	42	38	12	5	3
	January, 2007	46	35	10	5	4
	January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3
	January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2
	January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2
w.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	46	41	9	3	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	45	41	10	2	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	45	41	9	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	52	38	6	2	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	50	39	7	2	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	7	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
	January, 2008	59	32	6	1	2
	January, 2007	57	35	6	1	1
	January, 2006	58	33	6	1	2
	January, 2005	47	42	7	1	3
	January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3
	Early September, 2001 <sup>5</sup>	46	41	6	2	5

<sup>5</sup> In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

**Q.20 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
x.F2	Dealing with global warming					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	38	29	17	14	2
	Jan 15-19, 2014	29	31	20	15	5
	Jan 9-13, 2013	28	36	18	14	4
	Jan 11-16, 2012	25	35	20	16	4
	Jan 5-9, 2011	26	35	21	14	4
	Jan 6-10, 2010	28	36	20	14	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	30	37	19	10	4
	January, 2008	35	38	15	7	5
	January, 2007	38	34	16	8	4
y.F2	Dealing with the role of money in politics					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	42	37	11	5	5
z.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	61	33	3	2	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	61	30	6	2	2
	Jan 9-13, 2013	65	29	3	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	61	31	5	1	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	31	4	2	3
	Jan 6-10, 2010	63	30	4	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
	January, 2008	60	33	4	1	2
	January, 2007	63	31	3	1	2
	January, 2006	62	30	4	2	2
	January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*
	January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1

**QUESTIONS 21-24, 30-38, 61-66 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 25-29, 39-49, 52-53, 56-60, 67-68**

**QUESTIONS 50-51, 54-55 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) <u>No preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
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	--	--	--	--	--

**QUESTIONS REPJOB-DEMJOB PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**



**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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Jan 7-11, 2015	17	27	52	2	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	18	28	51	1	2	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	19	32	46	2	2	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	18	25	52	4	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	22	29	46	2	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	17	20	56	3	4	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	19	26	52	2	1	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	18	29	50	2	1	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	19	29	47	1	3	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	19	25	52	2	2	--
Sep 12-16, 2012	18	26	53	2	2	--
Jul 16-26, 2012	16	27	54	2	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	19	27	49	3	2	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	21	25	52	2	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	16	25	54	2	3	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	20	26	50	3	2	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
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 <sup>6</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

**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

<sup>6</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 2010 through October 2010, 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 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."