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Most See Inequality Growing, but Partisans Differ over Solutions

54% Favor Taxing the Wealthy to Expand Aid to Poor

A Pew Research Center/USA TODAY Survey

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Most See Inequality Growing, but Partisans Differ over Solutions

54% Favor Taxing the Wealthy to Expand Aid to Poor

There is broad public agreement that economic inequality has grown over the past decade. But as President Obama prepares for Tuesday's State of the Union, where he is expected to unveil proposals for dealing with inequality and poverty, there are wide partisan differences over how much the government should – and can – do to address these issues.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center and [USA TODAY](#), conducted Jan. 15-19 among 1,504 adults, finds that 65% believe the gap between the rich and everyone else has increased in the last 10 years. This view is shared by majorities across nearly all groups in the public, including 68% of Democrats and 61% of Republicans.

Yet there is a sharp disagreement over whether this gap needs government attention. Among Democrats, 90% say the government should do “a lot” or “some” to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else, including 62% who say it should do a lot. But only half as many Republicans (45%) think the government should do something about this gap, with just 23% saying it should do a lot. Instead, nearly half of Republicans say the government should do “not much” (15%) or “nothing at all” (33%) about the wealth divide.

Partisans Agree Inequality Has Grown, But Differ Sharply over Gov't Action

<i>In past 10 years, has gap between rich and everyone else ...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	R-D diff
Increased	65	61	68	67	-7
Decreased	8	7	8	8	-1
Stayed the same	25	28	23	23	+5
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<i>How much, if anything, should the gov't do to reduce the gap ...</i>					
A lot/Some	69	45	90	69	-45
Not much/Nothing	26	48	10	28	+38
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	100	100	

Survey conducted Jan. 15-19, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

The differences are somewhat less stark when it comes to views of government action in reducing poverty: Nearly all Democrats (93%) and large majorities of independents (83%) and Republicans (64%) favor at least some government action. However, more than twice as many Democrats as Republicans say the government should do a lot to reduce poverty (67% vs. 27%).

In part, these differences reflect divergent beliefs about the effectiveness of government action on inequality and poverty. Republicans are far less likely than Democrats to say the government *can* do a lot to reduce poverty and especially inequality.

When asked what would do more to reduce poverty, 54% of all Americans say raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations in order to expand programs for the poor. Fewer (35%) believe that lowering taxes on the wealthy to encourage investment and economic growth would be the more effective approach.

Three-quarters of Democrats favor raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations to expand programs for the poor as the better approach to lessen poverty. Republicans, by about two-to-one (59% to 29%), believe the government could do more to reduce poverty by lowering taxes on the wealthy and corporations in order to encourage more investment and economic growth.

Divisions are comparably wide when it comes to the effect of government assistance programs to the poor: By a 66% to 26% margin, most Democrats think aid to the poor helps because people can't get out of poverty until their basic needs are met. But by a 65% to 28% margin, most Republicans believe these programs do more harm than good by making people too dependent on the government.

More Pew Research Resources

The Pew Research Center's Fact Tank blog contains several posts exploring issues of poverty and income inequality. For more on this topic, including different ways to measure economic inequality and how the U.S. compares to the rest of the world, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/topics/income-inequality/>.

Wide Partisan Gap over How Best to Reduce Poverty

<i>What would do more to reduce poverty?</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations to expand programs for the poor	54	29	75	51
Lowering taxes on the wealthy and corporations to encourage investment and economic growth	35	59	17	36
<i>Government aid to the poor...</i>				
Does more good than harm because people can't get out of poverty until basic needs are met	49	28	66	49
Does more harm than good by making people too dependent on government	44	65	26	46

Survey conducted Jan 15-19, 2014. Figures read down; don't know responses not shown. Q26, Q44c.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

Two current policy proposals backed by the Obama administration to address poverty and the plight of the long-term unemployed draw substantial public support, although partisan differences are evident here as well.

Overall, 73% of the public favors raising the federal minimum wage from its current level of \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10 an hour. And 63% back a one-year extension of unemployment benefits for those who have been out of work a long time. Both issues receive nearly unanimous support from Democrats and are favored by wide margins among independents but divide the GOP.

Among Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican Party, 70% who agree with the Tea Party oppose an extension of unemployment benefits and nearly as many oppose raising the minimum wage (65%). Yet 52% of non-Tea Party Republicans favor a one-year extension of unemployment benefits and an even higher percentage (65%) supports increasing the minimum wage.

The survey finds that more people think that circumstances beyond an individual's control (50%) – rather than a lack of hard work (35%) – are generally to blame if a person is poor.

Similarly, more say that factors beyond an individual's control have more to do with someone being rich. About half (51%) say having greater advantages than others generally has more to do with why a person is rich, while

Public Supports Raising Minimum Wage, Extending Unemployment Aid

Views of government policies ...

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Increasing minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour</i>	%	%	%	%
Favor	73	53	90	71
Oppose	25	43	9	27
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>One-year extension of unemployment benefits for those out of work for a long time</i>				
Favor	63	43	83	57
Oppose	34	54	15	39
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted Jan 15-19, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q46a-b.

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Why are Some People Poor and Others Rich?

Which has more to do with why a person is...

Poor	%	Rich	%
Lack of effort on his or her own part	35	Because he or she worked harder than others	38
Circumstances beyond his or her control	50	Because he or she had more advantages than others	51
Both (Vol.)	11	Both (Vol.)	7
Don't know	<u>4</u>	Don't know	<u>4</u>
	100		100

Survey conducted Jan 15-19, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q49F1, Q50F2.

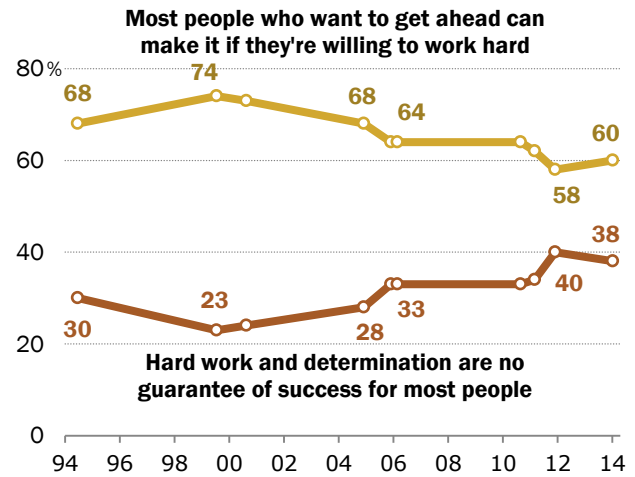
PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

38% say it is because they worked harder than others.

Moreover, by a 60% to 36% margin, most Americans feel the economic system unfairly favors the wealthy, as opposed to being fair to all.

Yet amidst these skeptical views, most Americans continue to believe that opportunity exists for those who make the effort. Six-in-ten (60%) say most people who want to get ahead can make it if they are willing to work hard. Some 38% take the more pessimistic view that hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people. While opinions about the nexus between success and hard work have changed little since 2011, a decade ago just 28% were of the view that hard work and determination were no guarantee of success.

Does Hard Work Lead to Success?



Survey conducted Jan. 15-19, 2014. Q44a.

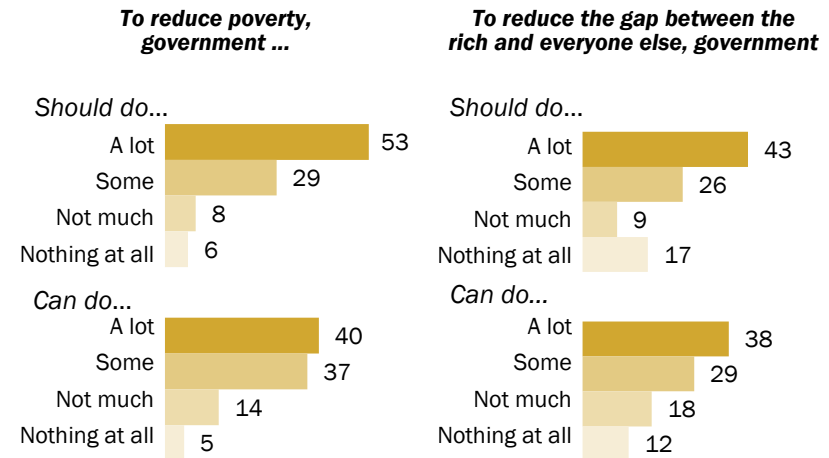
PEW RESEARCH CENTER/USA TODAY

Government's Role in Reducing Poverty and Inequality

There is a broad consensus that the government should do “a lot” or “some” to reduce poverty – 82% of Americans express this view, with 53% saying the government should to a lot in this area.

Most also believe the government should be addressing the gap between the rich and everyone else, but there is substantially less agreement in this area. While 69% say the government should do something, fewer than half (43%) say it should be doing a lot and roughly a quarter (26%) say the government should take some action.

How Much *Should* the Government Do to Reduce Poverty and Inequality? How Much *Can* It Do?



Survey conducted Jan 15-19, 2014. Don't know responses not shown. Q13-Q16.

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Majorities of Americans believe the government can do at least something to reduce poverty and the gap between the rich and everyone else. But fewer believe the government *can* do a lot to lessen poverty (40%) than say it *should* take a lot of action to achieve this goal (53%).

While Democrats support a great deal of government action on both issues, Republicans see addressing poverty and addressing inequality as two different things. A majority of Republicans (64%) support at least some government action in reducing poverty. But only 45% of Republicans favor government action on reducing the gap between the rich and everyone else. Instead, 15% say not much should be done, while 33% of Republicans say the government should do nothing at all to address the gap between the rich and everyone else.

Independents also are more likely to favor a lot of government action to reduce poverty (56%) than the gap between the rich and everyone else (42%). Nearly three-in-ten independents (28%) say the government should do little or nothing to deal with inequality, almost double the percentage who favors little or no action on reducing poverty (15%).

Some of these partisan gaps reflect a difference of opinion about how much the government can do to address these issues. About half (53%) of Democrats think the government can do a lot to address poverty, a view shared by 37% of independents and just 25% of Republicans.

Among Republicans, about as many say there is little or nothing the government can do to reduce poverty (26%).

These divides are similar when it comes to what the government can do about income inequality, though this is met with even greater skepticism in the GOP. Nearly half (49%) of Republicans think there is little or nothing the government can do about the divide between the rich and everyone else.

More Republicans, Independents Favor Gov't Action on Poverty than Inequality

How much if anything should the government do to reduce ...

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
Poverty	%	%	%	%	
A lot	53	27	67	56	-40
Some	29	37	27	27	+10
Not much	8	14	2	10	+12
Nothing at all	6	13	2	6	+11
Don't know	4	9	2	2	
	100	100	100	100	
Gap between rich and everyone else	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
A lot	43	23	62	42	-39
Some	26	22	28	27	-6
Not much	9	15	4	11	+11
Nothing at all	17	33	6	17	+27
Don't know	4	7	1	4	
	100	100	100	100	

Survey conducted Jan. 15-19, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q13F2, Q14F1

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Opinions about the Rich and Poor, Economic Fairness

Republicans and Democrats have very different views about why some people are rich and others are poor, as well as about the fundamental fairness of this country's economic system.

Nearly six-in-ten Republicans (57%) say that hard work generally has more to do with why a person is rich; 32% say it is because of the advantages they had in life. Most Democrats (63%) say greater advantages have more to do with a person being rich, with just 27% saying it is because they have worked harder than others.

These differences carry over into attitudes about the fairness of the American economic system. Three-quarters of Democrats say the economic system unfairly favors the wealthy; just 25% say the system is generally fair to most Americans. About half of Republicans (53%) say the economic system is fair to most Americans; 42% say it unfairly favors the wealthy.

Meanwhile, Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to say that hard work and determination lead to success for most people. Fully 76% of Republicans say most people can get ahead if they are willing to work hard; just 20% say that hard work is no guarantee of success. Democrats are evenly divided: 49% say most can get ahead through hard work, but 48% say hard work is no guarantee of success.

Most Republicans Say the Rich Work Harder than Others, Most Democrats Say They Had More Advantages

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D gap
	%	%	%	%	
Opinions about the rich and poor					
<i>Which has more to do with why a person is rich?</i>					
Because he or she worked harder than others	38	57	27	37	+30
Because he or she had more advantages	51	32	63	52	-31
<i>Which is more to blame if a person is poor?</i>					
Lack of effort on his or her part	35	51	29	33	+22
Circumstances beyond his or her control	50	32	63	51	-31
Fairness of the economic system					
The economic system in this country is generally fair to most Americans	36	53	25	35	+28
The economic system in this country unfairly favors the wealthy	60	42	75	60	-33
Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard	60	76	49	59	+27
Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people	38	20	48	39	-28

Survey conducted Jan 15-19, 2014. Don't know responses not shown. Q49F1, Q50F2, Q44a-b.

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Opinions about the factors that result in wealth and poverty differ across income categories. But higher and lower income Americans are in greater accord when it comes to their views of the fairness of the economic system.

Among those with family incomes of at least \$75,000, more say hard work (51%) is a bigger factor in someone being rich than extra advantages (39%). Among those with incomes of less than \$30,000, about twice as many cite more advantages than harder work for why someone as rich (59% vs. 29%).

However, majorities across income categories see the economic system as tilted toward the wealthy. Yet majorities also say most people can get ahead through hard work.

People with lower incomes express more positive views of government programs to aid the poor than do

those with higher incomes. A majority of those with family incomes of less than \$30,000 say aid to the poor does more good than harm (60%) and favor raising taxes on the wealthy to expand those

Large Income Differences in Opinions about the Rich and Poor, Not the Fairness of the Economic System

	Total	\$75K or more	\$30K-\$75K	Less than \$30K	High-low gap
	%	%	%	%	
Opinions about the rich and poor					
<i>Which has more to do with why a person is rich?</i>					
Because he or she worked harder than others	38	51	38	29	+22
Because he or she had more advantages	51	39	52	59	-20
<i>Which is more to blame if a person is poor?</i>					
Lack of effort on his or her part	35	46	34	28	+18
Circumstances beyond his or her control	50	46	47	60	-14
Fairness of the economic system					
The economic system in this country is generally fair to most Americans	36	38	37	32	+6
The economic system in this country unfairly favors the wealthy	60	59	60	64	-5
Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard	60	62	61	57	+5
Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people	38	34	37	40	-6
Views of policies to address poverty					
<i>In your view...</i>					
Gov't aid to the poor does more harm than good by making people too dependent on government assistance	44	51	47	33	+18
Gov't aid to the poor does more good than harm because people can't get out of poverty until their basic needs are met	49	45	45	60	-15
<i>What would do more to reduce poverty?</i>					
Lowering taxes on wealthy people to encourage more investment and economic growth	35	44	31	33	+11
Raising taxes on the wealthy and corporations to expand programs for the poor	54	46	57	56	-10

Survey conducted Jan 15-19, 2014. Don't know responses not shown. Q49F1, Q50F2, Q44a-c, Q26.

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programs (56%). Those with incomes of \$75,000 or more are divided over whether aid to the poor does more good than harm and in opinions about raising taxes to expand programs that help the poor.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 15-19, 2014 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 (602 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 902 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 487 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://peoplepress.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 2012 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 and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2013 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:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1504	2.9 percentage points
Form 1	765	4.1 percentage points
Form 2	739	4.2 percentage points
Republican (F1/F2)	354 (186/168)	6.0 (8.3/8.7) percentage points
Democrat (F1/F2)	477 (220/257)	5.2 (7.6/7.1) percentage points
Independent (F1/F2)	587 (308/279)	4.7 (6.4/6.8) 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.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/USA TODAY
 JANUARY 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY
 FINAL TOPLINE
 January 15-19, 2014
 N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
 QUESTIONS 3-4, 9-12 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
 NO QUESTIONS 5-8**

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=739]:

Next,

Q.13F2 How much, if anything, should the government do to reduce poverty? **[READ IN ORDER]**

(U)
 Jan 15-19
2014
 53 A lot
 29 Some
 8 Not much
 6 Nothing at all
 4 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=765]:

Next,

Q.14F1 How much, if anything, should the government do to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else? **[READ IN ORDER]**

(U)
 Jan 15-19
2014
 43 A lot
 26 Some
 9 Not much
 17 Nothing at all
 4 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=739]:Q.15F2 How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce poverty in this country? **[READ IN ORDER]**

(U)
 Jan 15-19
2014
 40 A lot
 37 Some
 14 Not much
 5 Nothing at all
 4 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=765]:

Q.16F1 How much do you think government policies and programs can do to reduce the gap between the rich and everyone else in this country? **[READ IN ORDER]**

(U)
Jan 15-19
<u>2014</u>
38 A lot
29 Some
18 Not much
12 Nothing at all
3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTION 17, 19, 22**QUESTIONS 18a-c, 20-21, 23-24 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTION 18d PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.25 Do you think your family's income is going up faster than the cost of living, staying about even with the cost of living, or falling behind the cost of living?

(U)				Early			<i>NBC/WSJ</i>
Jan 15-19		Oct	July	Feb	Sep	Jan	June
<u>2014</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>1996</u>
7	Going up faster	5	6	6	10	9	9
34	Staying about even	34	28	33	43	41	38
57	Falling behind	57	64	58	44	47	50
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	2	3	3	3	3

ASK ALL:

Q.26 In your view, what would do more to reduce poverty? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

(U)
Jan 15-19
<u>2014</u>
54 Raising taxes on wealthy people and corporations in order to expand programs for the poor [OR]
35 Lowering taxes on wealthy people and corporations in order to encourage more investment and economic growth
11 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

QUESTIONS 27-33 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.34 In the last ten years, do you think the gap between the rich and everyone else in the U.S. has increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

(U)
Jan 15-19
<u>2014</u>
65 Increased
8 Decreased
25 Stayed the same
2 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

QUESTIONS 34b-38, 42 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 39-41, 43**

ASK ALL:

Q.44 I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**. The next pair is **[NEXT PAIR]**...

a.	Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're <u>willing to work hard</u>	Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success <u>for most people</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	60	38	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	58	40	3
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	62	34	4
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	64	33	3
March, 2006	64	33	3
December, 2005	64	33	3
December, 2004	68	28	4
September, 2000	73	24	3
August, 1999	74	23	3
July, 1994	68	30	2
b.	The economic system in this country unfairly <u>favors the wealthy</u>	The economic system in this country is generally fair <u>to most Americans</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	60	36	4
Dec 7-11, 2011	61	36	3
c.	Government aid to the poor does more harm than good by making people too dependent on <u>government assistance</u>	Government aid to the poor does more good than harm because people can't get out of poverty <u>until their basic needs are met</u>	(VOL.) Neither/DK
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	44	49	7

**QUESTION 44d PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
QUESTIONS 44e, 45 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

ASK ALL:

Q.46 Thinking about some government policies, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose?]**

	----- FAVOR -----			----- OPPOSE -----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Net</u>	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
a. An increase in the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour							
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	73	40	33	25	9	16	3
Feb 13-18, 2013 ¹ (U)	71	36	34	26	10	16	3
January, 2007	84	48	36	14	6	8	2
March, 2006	86	49	37	11	3	8	3
December, 2004	86	53	33	12	4	8	2
June, 2001	87	49	38	12	4	8	1

¹ In February 2013, the question was worded "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$7.25 to \$9.00 an hour." In January 2007, the question was worded, "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour." In March 2006, December 2004, June 2011 and October 2009, the question was worded: "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.45 an hour." In February 1998, the question was worded: "An increase in the minimum wage, from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.15 an hour."

Q.46 CONTINUED...

	----- FAVOR -----			----- OPPOSE -----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Net	<i>Strongly</i> <i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Net	<i>Strongly</i> <i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
October, 1999	82	48	34	16	4	12	2
February, 1998	80	48	32	19	5	14	1

- b. A one-year extension of federal unemployment benefits for people who have been out of work for a long time

Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	63	24	38	34	12	22	3
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QUESTIONS 47-48 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=765]:**

Q.49F1 In your opinion, which is generally more often to blame if a person is poor? Lack of effort on his or her own part, or circumstances beyond his or her control?

	Lack of <u>effort</u>	Circumstances <u>beyond control</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	35	50	11	4
Apr 4-15, 2012	38	46	11	5
Mar 11-21, 2010	32	49	14	5
October, 1997	39	44	14	3
CBS/NYT: 1995	35	42	18	4
CBS/NYT: 1994	44	34	18	4
LAT: 1992	27	52	18	3
NYT: December, 1990	30	48	20	2
Gallup: May, 1990	35	45	17	3
Gallup: 1989	38	42	17	3
Gallup: 1988	40	37	17	6
Gallup: 1984	33	34	31	2
CBS/NYT: 1982	37	39	17	7
Gallup: 1967	42	19	36	3
Gallup: 1965	40	29	28	3
Gallup: November, 1964	31	31	34	5
Gallup: September, 1964	34	25	38	3
Gallup: March, 1964	34	29	32	6

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=739]:

Next,

Q.50F2 In your opinion, which generally has more to do with why a person is rich? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

(U)	
Jan 15-19	
<u>2014</u>	
38	Because he or she worked harder than most other people
51	Because he or she had more advantages in life than most other people
7	Both (VOL.)
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTION 51

ASK ALL:

Q.52 If you were asked to use one of these commonly used names for the social classes, which would you say you belong in? The upper class, upper-middle class, middle class, lower-middle class, or lower class?

	<u>Upper class</u>	<u>Upper-middle class</u>	<u>Middle class</u>	<u>Lower-middle class</u>	<u>Lower class</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	1	13	44	28	12	1
Jul 16-26, 2012 (SDT)	2	15	49	25	7	2
Apr 4-15, 2012	1	11	47	27	11	2
Dec 7-11, 2011	1	15	46	25	11	2
Mar 15-29, 2011 (SDT)	2	17	52	20	7	2
May 11-31, 2010 (SDT)	2	18	50	21	8	1
February, 2008 (SDT)	2	19	53	19	6	1

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>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Yearly Totals								
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

QUESTIONS REPJOB, DEMJOB, 53-55 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=624]:

	<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>
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ²	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--

² 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."

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	Not heard of/ <u>DK</u>
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(SDT)	Pew Research Social and Demographic Trends