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For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, June 18, 2009

Health Care Views Similar to '93, But Fewer Favor Rebuilding System
OBAMA'S RATINGS REMAIN HIGH DESPITE SOME POLICY CONCERNS

Also inside...

- Optimism about Obama's economic policies
- *Both* Obamas are overwhelmingly popular
- Sotomayor wins broad backing
- North Korea worries increase
- Obama striking right balance in Middle East

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Health Care Views Similar to '93, But Fewer Favor Rebuilding System OBAMA'S RATINGS REMAIN HIGH DESPITE SOME POLICY CONCERNS

A solid majority of Americans (61%) continue to approve of Barack Obama's job performance, although they express mixed views of several of his policies. An important positive sign for Obama is the public's continued optimism that his policies will improve the economy – fully 65% express this view. A smaller majority (55%) is optimistic Obama will reduce the budget deficit over the long-term. Nonetheless, Obama's job approval on the economy has declined from 60% in April to 52% currently.

The slippage in the president's economic ratings appears unrelated to the public's assessments of his administration's impact on current economic conditions – most (53%) say his policies have “not had an effect so far” or that it is too early to tell. Instead, it may have more to do with his relatively poor ratings for handling the problems of troubled automakers General Motors and Chrysler.

Nearly as many disapprove (44%) as approve (47%) of Obama's performance in handling the automakers' problems. There is even less support for government efforts to keep G.M. and Chrysler in business: 58% disapprove of the government spending billions to keep the troubled automakers in business, while just 36% approve.

Job Approval Still Strong, Economic Ratings Slip			
	<u>Feb</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>June</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Obama job</i>			
Approve	64	63	61
Disapprove	17	26	30
Don't know	<u>19</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Obama's handling of...</i>			
Foreign policy			
Approve	52	61	57
Disapprove	17	22	31
Economy			
Approve	56	60	52
Disapprove	24	33	40
Financial inst.			
Approve	--	--	50
Disapprove	--	--	40
US automakers			
Approve	--	--	47
Disapprove	--	--	44

Continued Optimism About Obama's Economic Policies		
<i>Obama's policies will...</i>	<u>April</u>	<u>June</u>
	%	%
<i>Improve economic conditions</i>		
Optimistic	66	65
Pessimistic	26	28
Don't know	8	7
<i>Reduce deficit over long term</i>		
Optimistic	54	55
Pessimistic	36	36
Don't know	10	9
But Little Impact So Far		
<i>So far, econ. policies have...</i>		
Made things better	26	26
Made things worse	17	16
Had no effect/Too soon	53	53
Don't know	4	4

On other economic policies, 55% approve of the \$800 billion economic stimulus passed in February and an even larger majority (73%) approves of substantially increasing spending on roads, bridges and other public works projects. But only about half (49%) approves of spending billions to keep financial markets secure and Obama draws mixed ratings for his handling of this issue (50% approve, 40% disapprove). Overall opinions about Obama's economic policies have changed little since March.

Views of Obama's Economic Policies		
	App-rove %	Dis-approve %
Opinion of...		
\$800 billion economic stimulus	55	39
Gov't spending billions to...		
Increase spending on roads/public works	73	23
Keep financial inst. & markets secure	49	45
Keep G.M., Chrysler in business	36	58
Figures read across.		

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted among 1,502 adults June 10-14, shortly after Obama's major overseas trip, finds the public rendering largely positive judgments about his approach to foreign policy. Currently, 57% approve of Obama's handling of foreign policy, which is largely unchanged from April (61%).

About half of Americans (51%) believe that Obama is about right in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues, while 38% say he is not tough enough. This represents a modest decline from last September, during the presidential campaign, when 45% of registered voters said he would not be tough enough on foreign policy.

Positive Views of Obama's Foreign Policy	
	June 2009 %
Obama's approach on... Foreign policy	
Too tough	2
Not tough enough	38
About right	51
Terrorism policies compared w/ Bush...	
US is safer	28
US is less safe	21
No difference	44
Dealing w/ allies	
Pushes US interests too hard	8
Takes allies' interests into account too much	20
Strikes right balance	57
Middle East	
Favors Israel too much	6
Favors Palest. too much	17
Strikes right balance	62

Moreover, only about one-in-five Americans (21%) say that the United States is less safe from terrorism under the Obama administration than it was under the Bush administration. More than four-in-ten (44%) say Obama's policies have not made a difference, while 28% believe they have made the nation safer from terrorism.

And in the aftermath of his trip, Obama's approaches to U.S. allies and the Middle East are viewed positively. Nearly three times as many say Obama is striking the right balance in dealing with U.S. allies than say he is taking the allies' interests into account too much (57% vs. 20%). And while 62% say he strikes the right balance in dealing with the Middle East, just 17% say he favors the Palestinians too much.

However, while Obama receives solid approval ratings on North Korea (51% approve) – which a larger share of Americans see as a major threat to the United States – there is increasing disapproval of his decision to close the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In mid-April, the public approved of his decision by 51% to 38%: now, opinion is evenly divided (45% approve, 46% disapprove).

The survey finds that as Congress opens a major debate over reforming the nation’s health care system, public opinion about the issue has changed somewhat since President Clinton launched his unsuccessful effort to pass an overhaul of health care in 1993.

There continues to be widespread support for changing the health care system so that all Americans have insurance that covers all medically necessary care: 75% favor this currently, while 21% are opposed. However, the percentage favoring this proposal is down from 83% in April 1993. Similarly, while a large majority (61%) believes it is very important to limit annual increases in health care costs, fewer say that now than did so 16 years ago (69%).

Public Opinion about Health Care: 1993 and 2009		
	April 1993	June 2009
<i>Change system so all are covered for necessary care</i>	%	%
Favor	83	75
Oppose	13	21
<i>Change system to limit annual cost increases</i>		
Very important	69	61
Fairly important	24	27
Not too important	5	10
<i>More important goal...</i>		
Guarantee access for all to necessary care	74	56
Limit annual cost increases	20	36
<i>Health care system needs...</i>		
To be completely rebuilt	55	41
Fundamental changes	26	30
Only minor changes	15	24

When asked which is more important – to control annual cost increases or guarantee all Americans access to needed care – a majority (56%) says that it is more important to provide access to necessary medical care for all Americans while 36% say it is more important to control health care costs. In 1993, the public also opted for guaranteed access to care for all, but by a greater margin (74% to 20%).

Perhaps the most important change since 1993 is in the public’s assessment of how much change the current health care system needs. In April 1993, a majority (55%) said the system needed to be completely rebuilt, 26% said it needed fundamental changes, while 15% said it needed only minor changes. Today, fewer than half (41%) say the system needs to be completely rebuilt, while 30% say it requires fundamental change and 24% say the system works pretty well and needs only minor changes.

Sotomayor's Confirmation Favored

Half of Americans (50%) favor the confirmation of Judge Sotomayor to the Supreme Court while a quarter oppose her confirmation and another quarter offer no opinion. Sotomayor's current support is comparable to support for Chief Justice John Roberts just prior to his confirmation hearings in 2005.

Shortly before Samuel Alito's hearings in 2006, a third (33%) said the Senate should confirm Alito while 19% were opposed; but nearly twice as many expressed no opinion than do so about Sotomayor's confirmation (48% vs. 25%).

Sotomayor's Support Comparable to Roberts'

<i>Should Senate confirm to Court?</i>	<i>Roberts*</i>	<i>Alito*</i>	<i>Sotomayor</i>
	<u>Sep 2005</u>	<u>Jan 2006</u>	<u>Jun 2009</u>
	%	%	%
Should	46	33	50
Should not	21	19	25
Don't know	33	48	25

* Survey conducted closest to Senate hearings.

When asked about Sotomayor's ideology, about as many people say she is moderate (34%) as say she is liberal (31%). There is a similar division of opinion about whether Obama is listening more to liberals in his party than to moderates: 39% believe that Obama listens more to liberal members of his party while 35% say that he listens more to moderate Democrats.

Who Has Obama's Ear?

<i>Obama is listening more to...</i>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>June</u>
	%	%	%	%
Liberals in his party	34	44	40	39
Moderates in his party	44	30	33	35
Don't know	22	26	27	26

There has been little change in these opinions since April, when 40% said Obama listened more to liberals in his party and 33% said he listened more to moderates in the Democratic Party. However, somewhat more liberal Democrats now believe that Obama is listening more to them than did so in April; 41% of liberal Democrats say Obama listens more to liberals in his party, up from 28% in April.

The survey finds that Obama continues to draw higher personal ratings than job approval ratings. And if anything, Michelle Obama is even more popular than her husband. More than seven-in-ten Americans (72%) say they have a favorable impression of Barack Obama, while 25% have an unfavorable opinion, virtually unchanged from April.

Michelle Obama's personal image also changed little: 76% have a favorable view of the first lady, while 14% have an unfavorable impression. As

Both Obamas Remain Overwhelmingly Popular

<i>Opinion of...</i>	<u>Fav</u>	<u>Unfav</u>	<u>DK/ Can't rate</u>
	%	%	%
Barack Obama			
June 2009	72	25	3=100
April 2009	73	24	3=100
January 2009	79	15	6=100
October 2008	66	28	6=100
Michelle Obama			
June 2009	76	14	10=100
April 2009	76	13	11=100
January 2009	68	15	17=100
September 2008	56	25	19=100

was the case in April, a majority of Republicans (59%) say they have a favorable opinion of Michelle Obama as do even larger shares of independents (73%) and Democrats (92%).

SECTION 1: OBAMA AND THE ECONOMY

While the public's overall approval of the president has shifted little over the last few months, assessments of Barack Obama's handling of the economy are now less positive than they were in mid-April. A slim majority (52%) continues to give Obama high marks for his handling of the economy (compared with 60% in April); four-in-ten (40%) now say they disapprove of the job he is doing on the economy.

Substantial party differences remain in views of Obama's handling of the economy, although the decline in approval is seen across

the board. Fully 80% of Democrats approve of Obama's handling of the economy, compared with 50% of independents and just 20% of Republicans.

Views of Obama's handling of the economy differ little by education or income. However, Americans with annual family incomes of less than \$30,000 now hold considerably less favorable opinions of Obama's handling of the economy than they did in April. Today, a slim majority (53%) of those in this group approve of the president's handling of the economy, down from 77% approval a few months ago.

	<i>Mid-April</i>		<i>June</i>		<i>Apr-Jun change in approval</i>	<i>June N</i>
	<i>App- rove</i>	<i>Dis- app</i>	<i>App- rove</i>	<i>Dis- app</i>		
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>		
Total	60	33	52	40	-8	743
Men	56	37	49	43	-7	367
Women	65	29	55	37	-10	376
18-29	68	23	59	33	-9	100
30-49	63	33	55	39	-8	234
50-64	53	42	45	46	-8	225
65+	56	31	50	41	-6	171
College grad+	58	38	55	39	-3	264
Some college	61	32	53	41	-8	194
HS or less	61	31	50	40	-11	281
\$75,000 or more	54	42	48	47	-6	197
\$30k-74,999	56	40	53	39	-3	255
Less than \$30,000	77	20	53	41	-24	194
Republican	30	61	20	74	-10	209
Democrat	86	11	80	16	-6	243
Independent	56	37	50	38	-6	244

Figures read across.

Most Expect Obama to Improve Economy

Americans' optimism about Barack Obama's economic policies remains high, despite the decline in his ratings on the economy. As was the case in April, about two-thirds (65%) say they are optimistic that Obama's policies will improve economic conditions in the country; a slimmer majority (55%) say they think his policies will reduce the budget deficit over the long term.

Partisan differences persist in these views, as Democrats are nearly twice as likely as Republicans to say they are optimistic Obama's policies will improve economic conditions (85% vs. 43%), while 63% of independents hold this view. Similarly, while 78% of Democrats expect Obama's policies will ultimately reduce the budget deficit, only 31% of Republicans and 52% of independents say the same.

Most Are Optimistic Obama's Policies Will Work				
<i>Obama's policies will...</i>				
Improve economic conditions	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Optimistic	65	43	85	63
Pessimistic	28	51	11	29
Reduce budget deficit over the long term				
Optimistic	55	31	78	52
Pessimistic	36	61	15	38
Figures read down.				

Older Americans are less optimistic on both of these measures than are younger people: While 68% of those younger than 65 are optimistic about the impact of Obama's policies on the economy, only 54% of older Americans are similarly optimistic. A similar gap (58% to 43%) exists on the question of the budget deficit.

While public optimism about Obama's policies remains high, there has been little shift in the perceived impact of Obama's economic policies to date. As was the case in April, about a quarter (26%) say these policies have made economic conditions better, while 16% say they have made conditions worse. However, a majority of the public (53%) say these policies have not yet had an effect or that it is too soon to tell.

Top Concern: Too Much Spending

When asked if they had specific concerns about Obama's economic policies, the cost of these policies is mentioned most frequently. Nearly a quarter (24%) of the public cites concerns about spending, the debt or the deficit; 13% mention a policy of Obama's, with 5% specifically citing economic bailouts.

Republicans are more than twice as likely as Democrats (36% vs. 14%) to

Concerns over Obama's Economic Policies				
<i>Concerns about Obama's economic policies...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Spending/Cost/Debt (NET)	24	36	14	26
Spending	14	23	7	14
Debt/Deficit	9	11	6	9
Policies (NET)	13	19	12	13
Bailout (general)	5	8	3	4
Jobs/unemployment	8	7	6	8
Scope of government	4	10	1	4
None	20	8	32	19
Other	27	25	30	24
Multiple responses accepted; figures add to more than 100%.				

express concerns about the cost of Obama’s policies or their impact on the debt or deficit. About a quarter of independents (26%) raise concerns about spending or debt.

Concern that Obama’s policies will expand the scope of government or lead to socialism is cited by just 4% overall. Among Republicans, 10% cite concerns relating to the scope of government, which is less than a third of the proportion of Republicans citing excessive spending or debt (36%).

When asked about what, if anything, makes them hopeful about Obama’s economic policies, 21% mention aspects of the process or Obama’s efforts, while 16% point to specific policies or plans. A majority of Republicans (53%) say nothing about Obama’s plans makes them hopeful, compared with 30% of independents and just 14% of Democrats.

Obama’s Job on Banks, Automakers

While slightly more approve than disapprove of his handling of the problems of major banks and financial institutions (50% vs. 40%), the public is nearly evenly divided on the administration’s handling of General Motors and Chrysler (47% approve, 44% disapprove).

While about a third of Republicans (34%) approve of the way Obama had handled problems with banks and financial institutions, an even smaller percentage (26%) approves of his handling of automakers’ problems. Large majorities of Democrats approve of Obama’s handling of both issues (67% banks, 65% automakers), while fewer than half of independents approve of Obama’s job performance on problems with banks (49%) and automakers (45%).

Public Split on Obama’s Handling of Auto and Finance Industries				
<i>Obama’s handling of...</i>				
Problems of major U.S. banks and financial institutions?	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Approve	50	34	67	49
Disapprove	40	61	23	41
<i>Obama’s handling of...</i>				
Problems of U.S. automakers like GM and Chrysler				
Approve	47	26	65	45
Disapprove	44	65	25	48
Figures read down.				

Divisions over Stimulus and Spending

A majority (55%) of Americans approve of Obama's \$800 billion stimulus package, which was enacted in February.

Substantial majorities of both liberal (86%) and conservative and moderate (75%) Democrats approve of the stimulus package, while four-in-ten (40%) moderate and liberal Republicans and just 20% of conservative Republicans do so. As with other economic policies, independents are divided; a slim majority (52%) approves of the stimulus package.

	<u>Total</u>	Cons <u>Rep</u>	Mod/Lib <u>Rep</u>	<u>Ind</u>	Cons/Mod <u>Dem</u>	Lib <u>Dem</u>
<i>Approve of...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Obama's \$800 billion stimulus	55	20	40	52	75	86
<hr/>						
<i>Gov't spending billions to...</i>						
Increase spending on roads, other public works projects	73	58	70	72	85	87
Keep financial institutions & markets secure	49	28	50	48	61	68
Keep GM and Chrysler in business	36	17	34	35	47	47
N=	1502	280	114	502	324	166

There is broad support across the political spectrum for the government to provide billions to substantially increase spending on roads, bridges and other public works projects. But other major programs – efforts to keep financial institutions secure and Chrysler and G.M afloat – are far more contentious.

Sizable majorities of liberal Democrats (68%) and moderate and conservative Democrats (61%) approve of the government spending billions to keep banks and financial institutions secure. About half of independents (48%) and moderate and liberal Republicans (50%) agree. Only about a quarter of conservative Republicans (28%) approve of spending billions to prop up financial institutions.

Just 36% of Americans approve of spending billions to keep U.S. automakers in business. Only about half of liberal and conservative and moderate Democrats (47%) – and far fewer independents (35%) and Republicans (22%) – favor spending billions to keep the automakers in business.

Those without college experience and those with yearly incomes of less than \$30,000 are somewhat more supportive of this policy than those with greater education and higher annual incomes. Regional differences are also evident, with slightly higher support among those in the Northeast than among those in the South and West.

Little Support for Bailing Out Automakers			
	<u>App-rove</u> %	<u>Disapp-rove</u> %	<u>N</u>
Total	36	58	1502
College grad+	33	62	526
Some college	30	63	390
HS or less	40	54	580
\$75k or more	32	64	417
\$30k-\$74,999	34	61	507
Less than \$30,000	40	53	388
Northeast	40	54	281
Midwest	39	55	376
South	33	59	557
West	31	64	288

Figures read across.

SECTION 2: OPINIONS ABOUT HEALTH CARE

As health care reform legislation moves forward in Washington, the political environment is somewhat different than the last time a major overhaul of the health care system was attempted sixteen years ago. In early 1993 the sense of a health care crisis was far more widespread than it is today – a 55% majority in 1993 said they felt the health care system needed to be “completely rebuilt” compared with 41% today. Health care costs were also a broader problem in 1993 – 63% of Americans said paying for the cost of a major illness was a “major problem” for them, compared with 48% currently.

The issue of limiting overall health care spending is also more prominent in 2009 than it was in 1993. Somewhat fewer today say the country spends “too little” on health care, and a larger share believe that limiting the overall growth in health care costs is a higher priority than expanding coverage. But overall, public support for guaranteed access to medical care for all Americans remains widespread.

Health Care Spending

Relatively few Americans believe the country as a whole is spending the right amount on health care at this point, but there is no consensus on what the problem is. Just as many Americans say we are spending too much on health care (38%) as too little (40%).

This represents a sharp turnaround in the balance of opinion from three years ago. In early 2006, a 57% majority said that the country as a whole was spending too little on health care, while about half as many (26%) said we were spending too much. And this shift in opinion crosses party lines – more Democrats, Republicans and independents today say the country spends too much on health care than said this in 2006.

In April 1993 – as Bill Clinton was initiating his health care reform effort – 49% of Americans felt the country was spending

How Much We Spend on Health Care

	Apr 1993	Jun 1994	Mar 2006	Jun 2009
	%	%	%	%
Too much	36	38	26	38
Too little	49	40	57	40
Right amount	8	13	9	14
Don't know	7	9	8	7

Question: Thinking about the country as a whole, do you think we spend too much, too little or the right amount on health care? Figures read down.

Republicans say “Too Much,” Democrats “Too Little”

	Too much	Too little	Right amount	N
	%	%	%	
Total	38	40	14	1502
Republican	43	30	19	401
Democrat	34	51	10	508
Independent	38	40	15	502
College grad+	50	30	13	526
Some college	37	41	14	390
HS or less	32	46	15	580
<i>Household income</i>				
\$75,000 or more	42	37	17	417
\$30k-74,999	39	44	11	507
Less than \$30,000	35	44	15	388

1 Figures read across.

too little on health care, while 36% said the country was spending too much. Just a year later – in June of 1994 – the public was divided, much as it is today, with 38% saying too much and 40% saying too little.

Most Democrats (51%) believe we are spending too little on health care in this country, while about a third (34%) say too much. By comparison, a plurality of Republicans (43%) say we are currently spending too much on health care, with 30% saying too little. Overall, the share of Americans saying we spend too much on health care rose from 26% to 38% since 2006, and this rise occurred among Republicans (up eight points), Democrats (up 14 points) and independents (up 11 points) alike.

More Say We Spend Too Much on Health Care			
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Change</u>
	%	%	
Total	26	38	+12
Republican	35	43	+8
Democrat	20	34	+14
Independent	27	38	+11

While a minority viewpoint, Republicans are roughly twice as likely as Democrats (19% vs. 10%) to say the country is spending the right amount on health care. This viewpoint is particularly prevalent among conservative Republicans, 23% of whom express satisfaction about current levels of health care spending.

By a 50% to 30% margin college graduates are more likely to say the country spends too much, not too little, on health care. By contrast, adults with no more than a high school diploma tend to think we spend too little (46%) not too much (32%) on health care in this country. There is a similar, though less prominent, pattern when it comes to income levels.

Most Back Overhaul; Fewer Than in 1993 See Crisis

Most Americans believe that the nation's health care system is in need of substantial changes. Four-in-ten (41%) say the health care system needs to be completely rebuilt, while 30% think it needs fundamental changes. About one-in-four (24%) believe that the health care system works pretty well and needs only minor changes.

But there is less support for completely rebuilding the health care system than there was during the early stage of the Clinton administration's unsuccessful effort to revamp health care. In April 1993, a majority of Americans (55%) said the health care system needed to be completely rebuilt. As discussion of Clinton's proposals progressed, support for completely rebuilding the health care system declined. By June 1994, just 37% said the health care system needed to be completely rebuilt.

Health Care: How Much Change Is Needed?

	Apr 1993	Jun 1994	Mar 2009	Jun 2009
<i>Health care system needs to be...</i>	%	%	%	%
Completely rebuilt	55	37	40	41
Fundamental changes	26	32	36	30
Only minor changes	15	28	21	24
Don't know	4	3	3	4

Question: Do you think the health care system in this country works pretty well and requires only minor changes, do you think it needs fundamental changes, or do you think it needs to be completely rebuilt? Figures read down.

Support for a complete rebuilding of the health care system is lower than in early 1993 among all partisan groups. Today, 53% of Democrats, 38% of independents and 28% of Republicans support completely rebuilding the health care system. In April of 1993, 70% of Democrats, 55% of independents, and 41% of Republicans supported completely rebuilding the system.

People with no more than a high school education (47%) or some college (42%) are far more likely than are college graduates (31%) to favor a complete rebuilding of the health care system. The education gap was even wider in 1993, when 63% of those with no-college and 56% of those with some college education said the system needed to be completely rebuilt, compared with 36% of college graduates. Income is also a factor, with those living in low income households backing the most dramatic overhaul of the health care system.

Health Care System Needs to be Completely Rebuilt

	Apr 1993	Jun 2009	93-09 diff
	%	%	
Total	55	41	-14
Republican	41	28	-13
Democrat	70	53	-17
Independent	55	38	-17
College grad+	36	31	-5
Some college	56	42	-14
HS or less	63	47	-16
<i>Household income*</i>			
\$75,000 or more	41	32	-9
\$30k-74,999	58	44	-14
Less than \$30,000	63	50	-13

* To adjust for inflation, comparable income groups in 1993 are: \$50,000 or more, \$20-\$49,999, less than \$20,000.

Health Reform Priorities

Most Americans favor ensuring health coverage to all Americans, and most also say it is very important to limit the overall annual increase in health care costs. Neither of these objectives, however, receives as overwhelming support as they did in early 1993. When Americans are asked to prioritize between these two goals, most continue to say that expanding health insurance to all is the more important goal. But the share who rate costs as the more important concern is nearly double what it was in 1993.

The public's overall support for expanding health insurance to cover all Americans remains widespread, though more sharply partisan than in 1993. In the spring of that year, 83% of Americans favored changing the health care system so that all Americans would have health insurance that covers all medically necessary care. Today, 75% support such a reform.

The difference is that support for universal health insurance was more bipartisan in early 1993 than it is today. While there has always been a partisan gap, two-thirds (67%) of Republicans said they favored health coverage for all Americans in 1993, compared with barely half (52%) today. By contrast, the share of Democrats backing this kind of change remained a solid 92% in both years.

There has also been a 15-point drop in the share of independents backing universal health insurance – from 89% in 1993 to 74% today.

The share of Americans who say it is very important to change the health care system in this country in order to limit the overall annual increase in the nation's health care costs is also slightly lower today (61%) than in 1993 (69%). Today fewer than half of Republicans (47%) rate this as very important, compared with 72% of Democrats and 60% of independents.

Changing the health care system so that all Americans have health insurance that covers all medically necessary care?

	April 1993		June 2009		Diff in favor
	Favor %	Oppose %	Favor %	Oppose %	
Total	83	13	75	21	-8
Republican	67	27	52	42	-15
Democrat	92	6	92	7	0
Independent	89	9	74	21	-15

How important is it to change the health care system to limit the overall annual increase in health care costs?

	April 1993		June 2009		Diff in very
	Very impt %	Less impt %	Very impt %	Less impt %	
Total	69	29	61	37	-8
Republican	57	41	47	50	-10
Democrat	78	19	72	27	-6
Independent	69	30	60	38	-9

Which is more important...

	April 1993		June 2009		Diff in 'limit'
	Limit costs %	Expand care %	Limit costs %	Expand care %	
Total	20	74	36	56	+16
Republican	37	55	54	37	+17
Democrat	10	84	22	74	+12
Independent	17	79	39	54	+22

When asked whether reining in health care costs or expanding health care coverage is the more important goal for the nation, 56% prioritize guaranteeing access to all while 36% side with limiting growing health care costs. Opinion was more one-sided in early 1993, when 74% prioritized expanded health care coverage and just 20% saw reining in costs as the bigger concern.

The balance of opinion among Republicans is the reverse of what it was in 1993. Then, 55% prioritized expanded care while 37% emphasized reining in costs. Today, 37% prioritize expanded care while 54% emphasize reining in costs. While most Democrats and independents continue to see expanding access to health care coverage as the higher priority, it is by slimmer margins than was the case sixteen years ago.

Fewer See Cost of Care as Major Problem

In the current survey, far fewer say health care expenses are a major problem for themselves and their families than was the case in 1993. Just under half of Americans (48%) say that paying for the cost of a major illness is a major problem, substantially lower than the 63% who said this in early 1993.

Similarly, about a third of Americans (34%) say paying for the cost of routine medical care is a major problem for them. In 1993, 40% said this was the case.

But for the most part, it is those who are relatively well off who are feeling more at ease. Just 27% of high income Americans say the cost of a major illness is a major problem for them today, down from 48% in 1993. By comparison, 67% of low income Americans say this is a major problem, little changed from 73% sixteen years ago.

Similarly, the share of high income Americans who say paying for routine medical care is a major problem fell from 25% in 1993 to 13% today. Meanwhile, just over half

<i>Percent saying each is a "major problem" for their family</i>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2009</u>
	%	%	%	%
Paying for the cost of a major illness	63	51	54	48
Paying for the cost of routine medical care	40	32	38	34
Paying for the cost of health insurance	--	--	--	43
Employer making you pay larger share*	--	--	--	35
Paying for the costs of prescription drugs	--	--	44	34
Quality of medical care in your community	23	13	--	24
Availability of medical care in your community	20	--	25	21

* of health insurance costs.

	<u>Apr 1993</u>	<u>Jun 2009</u>	<u>93-09 diff</u>
	%	%	
Total	63	48	-15
\$75,000 or more	48	27	-21
\$30k-74,999	62	47	-15
Less than \$30,000	73	67	-6

	<u>Apr 1993</u>	<u>Jun 2009</u>	<u>93-09 diff</u>
	%	%	
Total	40	34	-6
\$75,000 or more	25	13	-12
\$30k-74,999	35	32	-3
Less than \$30,000	52	54	+2

* To adjust for inflation, comparable income groups in 1993 are: \$50,000 or more, \$20-\$49,999, Less than \$20,000.

of low income Americans – at both points in time – say this is a major problem for them.

There is far less concern about the quality and availability of medical care in people’s communities. Just 24% say the quality of medical care in their community is a major problem for them and their families, and 21% say the availability of medical care is a major problem. These figures are virtually unchanged from 1993. Income is an overwhelming factor in these assessments, as lower income people are far more likely than higher income people to say health care quality and availability are major problems for them.

Nationwide, 43% of Americans say paying for the cost of health insurance poses a major problem for them and their family. Fully 59% of Americans with family incomes under \$30,000 say health insurance is a major problem for them. Not surprisingly among the low income who currently have no health insurance 73% rate insurance costs as a major problem.

The share of Americans who say paying for the cost of prescription drugs is a major problem dropped from 44% in 2006 to 34% today. This decline has occurred across both age and income categories at about equal rates.

<i>“Major problem” for your family</i>	Health Prescription		<u>N</u>
	<u>Insurance</u>	<u>drugs</u>	
	%	%	
Total	43	34	1502
White	41	30	1205
Black	50	48	146
Hispanic	61	60	135
18-29	39	30	187
30-49	46	37	473
50-64	48	34	476
65+	34	32	339
<i>Household income</i>			
\$75,000 or more	24	16	417
\$30k-74,999	44	33	507
Less than \$30,000	59	50	388
<i>Among < \$30,000</i>			
Have health insurance	50	41	272
No health insurance	73	63	115

SECTION 3: FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

In the aftermath of North Korea’s nuclear test in late May, an increasing proportion of Americans view North Korea’s nuclear program as a “major threat.” Currently, 72% say North Korea’s nuclear program is a major threat to the well-being of the United States, up from just 53% in January.

Somewhat more Americans (78%) view Islamic groups like al Qaeda as a major threat to the United States than say that about North Korea. However, concern over North Korea’s nuclear program is now on par with concern over Iran’s nuclear program (69% view this as a major threat). The current survey was largely completed before the outbreak of widespread public protests in Iran over the country’s June 12 presidential election.

	May 2008	Sept 2008	Jan 2009	June 2009
<i>% saying each is a “major threat” to US...</i>	%	%	%	%
Islamic extremist groups	72	72	77	78
N. Korea’s nuclear program	55	55	53	72
Iran’s nuclear program	62	60	65	69
Drug violence in Mexico	--	--	--	59
China’s emerging power	50	48	46	52
Political instability in Pakistan	41	43	47	50
Israeli-Palestinian conflict	--	--	45	49

As in the past, there are sizable gaps in how Republicans and Democrats view possible international threats to the United States. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to see most issues as major threats, with the biggest gaps over Iran’s nuclear program (15 points), the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (14 points) and Islamic extremist groups (13 points).

<i>% saying each is a “major threat” to US...</i>	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D <i>diff</i>
Iran’s nuclear program	82	67	66	+15
Israeli-Palestinian conflict	57	43	50	+14
Islamic extremist groups	89	76	73	+13
China’s emerging power	63	51	45	+12
Political instability in Pakistan	56	47	49	+9
N. Korea’s nuclear program	79	73	69	+6
Drug violence in Mexico	63	60	52	+3

Notably, the partisan differences are not as wide in views of North Korea’s nuclear program: 79% of Republicans, 73% of Democrats and 69% of independents say this poses a major threat to the United States. In January, 60% of Republicans and about half of Democrats (51%) and independents (53%) viewed North Korea’s nuclear program as a major threat.

Obama and Foreign Policy

A majority of the public approves of the way Obama is handling the nation's foreign policy (57%); however, the percent who disapprove has grown from 22% in April to 31% in the current poll. There continue to be wide partisan differences in these assessments: 78% of Democrats approve of Obama's handling of foreign policy compared with only 37% of Republicans. More than half (53%) of independents approve, but this is down 10 points since April.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Foreign policy</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	57	37	78	53
Disapprove	31	53	12	34
Don't know	12	10	10	13
<i>North Korea</i>				
Approve	51	36	64	50
Disapprove	23	38	13	25
Don't know	26	27	22	25

The public also generally approves of Obama's handling of the situation with North Korea; 51% approve and 23% disapprove, while a relatively large share (26%) offers no opinion. Notably, about as many Republicans approve (36%) as disapprove (38%) of Obama's handling of the North Korean situation.

Obama's ratings are fairly similar to those George W. Bush received in January and February of 2003 and the public's ratings of Bill Clinton in June of 1994. As with Obama's overall rating on foreign policy, far fewer Republicans (36%) approve of his handling of North Korea than do independents (50%) and Democrats (64%).

Fewer Approve of Closing Guantanamo

The public is now evenly split over Obama's plan to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay; 45% approve of closing Guantanamo within a year, while 46% disapprove. As recently as April, 51% approved and 38% disapproved of Obama's decision to close Guantanamo.

While most Democrats (64%) approve of Obama's decision to close the prison, support has fallen by 12 points since April. A majority of independents (51%) disapprove of Obama's plan to close Guantanamo while just 40% approve. There has been little change in views of Republicans; in the current poll 29% approve and 63% disapprove.

<i>Approve of Obama's decision to shut Gitmo...</i>	April	June	Change
Total	51	45	-6
Republican	26	29	+3
Democrat	76	64	-12
Independent	46	40	-6

Nonetheless, more than half (52%) of the public approves of transferring some of the prisoners to “federal maximum-security prisons in the U.S.” if the military prison at Guantanamo is closed, while 43% disapprove.

Other polls that asked whether prisoners should be transferred to prisons “in your community,” “in your state,” or to “prison facilities in the United States” – without explicitly mentioning that they would be placed in maximum security prisons – have found less support for this policy.

Fewer See Obama as “Not Tough Enough”

Most Americans (51%) say Obama is about right in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues, while 38% say he is not tough enough. Opinion has shifted somewhat since September 2008, when 44% of registered voters said he would be about right and 45% said he would not be tough enough. Throughout last year’s presidential campaign, voters were divided over whether they believed Obama would be not tough enough or about right in his approach to foreign policy.

Obama’s Approach to Foreign Policy is...			
	<u>Not tough enough</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>Too tough</u>
	%	%	%
Total	38	51	2
Republican	67	26	2
Democrat	19	75	2
Independent	39	49	2

Figures read across.

As was the case last fall, the view that Obama is not tough enough on foreign policy is widely shared among Republicans. In fact, substantially more Republicans believe Obama is not tough enough in his approach to foreign policy and national security (67%) than disapprove of his handling of foreign policy (53%). By contrast, 39% of independents and just 19% of Democrats say Obama is not tough enough on foreign policy. As might be expected, an overwhelming majority (81%) of those who disapprove of Obama’s handling of foreign policy says he is not tough enough, while most of those who approve say he is about right (76%).

Obama's Handling of Terrorism, Allies

While Obama's terrorism policies have come under criticism from former vice president Dick Cheney and other leading Republicans, the public generally disagrees with Cheney's contention that the country is less safe from terrorism under Obama's administration than it was under the Bush administration.

Only about one-in-five (21%) believe Obama's policies have made the country less safe from terrorism compared with the Bush administration; somewhat more (28%) say the country is safer now, while 44% say there has been no difference.

A plurality of Republicans (45%) say that Obama's terrorism policies have made the country less safe, although nearly as many (37%) say there has been no change. More than four-in-ten Democrats (44%) say his administration's policies have made the country safer when compared with Bush's, though 45% say they have made no difference. And nearly half of independents (47%) say Obama's policies have not made a difference, with the remainder split between those who say they have made the country safer (24%) and less safe (21%) from terrorism.

	<u>Safer</u> %	<u>Less safe</u> %	<u>No difference</u> %
Total	28	21	44
College grad+	33	24	38
Some college	24	22	51
HS or less	27	20	43
Republican	12	45	37
Democrat	44	6	45
Independent	24	21	47

Figures read across.

Following Obama's first visit to Europe as president, a majority of Americans (57%) believe he is "striking the right balance" when it comes to dealings with U.S. allies. Just one-in-five (20%) say he is taking the interests of U.S. allies into account too much while 8% say he is pushing America's interests too hard.

Republicans are evenly divided in opinions about Obama's handling of relations with allies: 38% say he takes allies' interests into account too much and 37% say he is striking the right balance. Nearly eight-in-ten Democrats (77%) and 56% of independents believe that Obama is striking the right balance when it comes to dealings with U.S. allies.

<i>In dealing w/ US allies, Obama...</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Takes allies' interests into account too much	20	38	7	22
Pushes US interests too hard	8	7	7	10
Is striking the right balance	57	37	77	56

Figures read down.

Obama and Israel

The public also positively views Obama's approach to the Middle East: 62% say he is striking the right balance, while 17% say he favors the Palestinians too much and 6% believe he favors Israel too much.

While there are clear partisan differences in these opinions, Republicans are about as likely to say Obama is striking the right balance in the Middle East (43%) as say he favors the Palestinians too much (36%). Majorities of Democrats (78%) and independents (64%) say Obama is striking the right balance when it comes to the Middle East.

More white non-Hispanic evangelical Protestants (37%) than members of other religious groups say that Obama favors the Palestinians too much. However, nearly half of white evangelical Protestants (47%) believe that Obama strikes the right balance on the Middle East.

	Favors the Palestinians <u>too much</u> %	Favors Israel <u>too much</u> %	Strikes the right <u>balance</u> %
Total	17	6	62
Republican	36	5	43
Democrat	4	5	78
Independent	19	8	64
Protestant	21	6	57
White evangelical	37	3	47
White mainline	16	8	56
Catholic	14	8	69
White non-Hispanic	16	12	63
Unaffiliated	10	8	71

Figures read across.

SECTION 4: THE COURT AND THE CONGRESS

Half of the public (50%) says that the Senate should confirm Sonia Sotomayor to replace retiring U.S. Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter. By contrast, only a quarter (25%) says the Senate should not confirm the federal appeals court judge from New York, while another quarter (25%) did not express an opinion.

Sotomayor has strong support among Democrats, especially liberals, as well as among non-Hispanic blacks, Hispanics and college graduates. Meanwhile, Republicans are internally divided over whether President Obama's first Supreme Court pick should be confirmed.

The opinions of moderate and liberal Republicans are much like the nation as a whole (46% support confirmation, 28% are opposed). Conservative Republicans stand staunchly in opposition; by a greater than two-to-one margin (53% to 24%), conservative Republicans say Sotomayor should not be confirmed.

Broad Support for Sotomayor			
<i>Should Senate confirm?</i>	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	50	25	25
Men	47	28	25
Women	52	22	26
White	46	28	26
Black	66	14	20
Hispanic	67	12	21
College grad+	61	22	17
Some college	44	29	27
HS or less	46	25	29
Republican	30	44	25
Cons Rep	24	53	23
Mod/Lib Rep	46	28	26
Independent	47	26	27
Democrat	69	11	20
Mod/Cons Dem	66	12	22
Liberal Dem	78	8	14
<i>Heard about nomination...</i>			
A lot	68	26	6
Little/Nothing/DK	38	24	38
Figures read across.			

Impressions of Sotomayor

About as many Americans say Sotomayor is a moderate (34%) as describe her as a liberal (31%). Fewer than one-in-ten (8%) say she is conservative, while 26% offer no opinion.

While Republicans and Democrats differ in their impressions of Sotomayor's ideology, there also are divisions within both parties. A majority of conservative Republicans (54%) say Sotomayor is liberal while 22% say she is moderate. Moderate and liberal Republicans are more evenly divided – 39% say she is liberal and 34% moderate.

Democrats generally view Sotomayor as moderate – more than twice as many say she is moderate (45%) than liberal (19%). However, liberal Democrats are more likely than conservative and moderate Democrats to describe Sotomayor as liberal (30% vs. 15%). Like the public, independents are evenly divided, with 32% saying she is liberal and 34% saying she is moderate.

By greater than two-to-one (41% to 15%), more African Americans say that Sotomayor is moderate rather than liberal. More Hispanics also view her as moderate (36%) than liberal (21%). Non-Hispanic whites are evenly divided (33% liberal, 33% moderate).

Importance of Court Issues

Among the issues that may face the Supreme Court in coming years, comparable majorities say that election and voting issues (57%), the rights of terrorist suspects (57%) and abortion (55%) are very important to them personally. Smaller percentages view affirmative action (40%) and issues related to homosexuality (33%) as very important.

These opinions have shown little change since November 2005, although fewer people now cite abortion as very

	Lib- eral %	Mod- erate %	Conserv- ative %
Total	31	34	8
Male	35	32	8
Female	27	36	8
White	33	33	6
Black	15	41	15
Hispanic	21	36	15
Republican	49	25	6
Cons Rep	54	22	4
Mod/Lib Rep	39	34	11
Independent	32	34	7
Democrat	19	45	12
Cons/Mod Dem	15	45	14
Liberal Dem	30	49	7

Figures read across.

Importance of Court Rulings on Key Issues

	Very Impt %	Fairly Impt %	Not too/ Not at all %
<i>Personal importance of possible Court issues...</i>			
Election and voting rules June 2009	57	25	14
Rights of terror suspects June 2009	57	25	15
November 2005	57	23	16
Abortion June 2009	55	20	22
November 2005	62	20	16
Affirmative action June 2009	40	32	21
November 2005	38	37	19
Issues related to homosexuality June 2009	33	18	45
November 2005	36	20	41

Figures read across.

important (55%) than did so four years ago (62%). Since 2005, there has been an 11-point decline in the percentage of Democrats rating abortion as very important (from 68% to 57%); fewer independents also view abortion as very important personally (58% in 2005, 50% currently). There has been no change in the views of Republicans; as in 2005, 62% regard abortion as very important to them personally.

For the most part, there are only modest partisan differences in opinions about the personal importance of issues that may come before the Supreme Court. About six-in-ten Democrats (62%) say that court decisions about election and voting rights are very important to them personally, compared with 55% each for Republicans and independents. However, this is a particularly important issue for African Americans – 78% say it very important – compared with 53% of whites and 60% of Hispanics.

There are partisan differences over the importance of affirmative action. About half of Democrats (49%) say court decisions on this are very important, compared with 39% of Republicans and 35% of independents. A majority (59%) of African Americans say that affirmative action issues that come before the Supreme Court are very important to them personally, compared with 42% of Hispanics and 36% of whites.

Ratings of Republican Leaders

The job approval of Republican leaders in Congress remains at near record lows. Currently, 29% approve of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing, while a majority (56%) disapproves. Approval ratings are little changed from March when Republican leaders received their lowest approval marks (28%) since Pew Research first began tracking the question in 1994.

	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Disapprove</u> %
Total	29	56
Republican	47	41
Democrat	21	67
Independent	25	60
Figures read across.		

In large part, low overall ratings for Republican leaders in Congress reflect ambivalence among those in their own party. Fewer than half of Republicans (47%) approve of the work their congressional leaders are doing; however, about as many (41%) disapprove. In addition, a majority of independents offer critical assessments of Republican leaders in Congress: 60% disapprove of their performance, just 25% approve. Democrats are predictably critical of the performance of Republican leaders (67% disapprove), but no more so than Republicans are of Democratic congressional leaders (75% disapprove).

Democratic Leaders' Approval Slips

Approval of Democratic congressional leaders has slipped somewhat since earlier in the year. In February, shortly after Barack Obama's inauguration, a 48% plurality approved of the job Democratic leaders were doing while less than four-in-ten (38%) disapproved. These generally favorable ratings held through March.

	Feb <u>2009</u>	Mar <u>2009</u>	Jun <u>2009</u>	<i>Mar-June</i> <u>Change</u>
	%	%	%	
Approve	48	47	42	-5
Disapprove	38	35	45	+10

Figures read down.

Since then, however, approval of Democratic leaders in Congress has slipped five points while disapproval has climbed 10 points. As a result, about as many now disapprove (45%) as approve (42%) of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing. The trend in opinion among political independents mirrors that of the general public: Currently, just 33% of independents approve of how Democratic leaders are handling their job while 53% disapprove; this represents an eight-point drop in approval from March.

Working Together?

Half of the public (50%) says that Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress are not working together in dealing with important issues facing the country, while 39% say they are working together. Opinion was more divided in February over whether the White House and GOP congressional leaders were working together in developing a plan to stimulate the economy (45% not working together; 43% working together).

When asked who is to blame for the two sides not working together, more than twice as many say Republican leaders than say Obama (26% vs. 12%). However, the percent saying Obama is to blame is up from 7% in February, and the share volunteering that both are to blame is also up from 5% to 9%.

A majority (59%) of Republicans now say Obama and Republican congressional leaders are not working together: 28% blame Obama, 11% blame Republican leaders and 12% blame both. Democrats are more divided: 45% think they are working together and the same percentage says they are not. Many more Democrats say Republican leaders are to blame (38%) than fault Obama (2%). A majority (52%) of independents say the two sides are not working together; more than a quarter (27%) blame GOP leaders while 11% blame Obama.

	Feb* <u>2009</u>	June <u>2009</u>	
	%	%	
Working together	43	39	
Not working together	45	50	
<i>Who is most to blame?</i>			
Republican leaders	27	26	
Barack Obama	7	12	
Both (Vol.)	5	9	
Neither/Other/Don't know	6	4	
Don't know	12	11	

*In February, the question asked about "developing a plan to stimulate the economy and create jobs." In June the question asks about "dealing with important issues facing the country." In both surveys, respondents who say they are not working together are asked who they think is "most to blame" for this.

Favorable Ratings: Pelosi and the Obamas

About a third of the public (35%) holds a favorable opinion of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, while 41% express an unfavorable view of her. While the overall balance of opinion is mixed, far more hold a *very* unfavorable opinion (25%) of Pelosi than say they have a *very* favorable opinion (8%).

Two-thirds of Republicans (66%) hold an unfavorable impression of Pelosi, while just 18% offer a favorable opinion of the speaker of the house. Among independents, a 45% plurality offers an unfavorable impression, 31% offer a favorable one. More than half of Democrats (55%) view the speaker of the house positively, while 20% offer a negative assessment.

Barack and Michelle Obama receive much more positive ratings from all partisan groups than does Pelosi. A majority of Republicans (59%) rate Michelle Obama favorably. Her ratings are even higher among independents (73% favorable), and more than nine-in-ten (92%) Democrats express a favorable view of Michelle Obama.

Barack Obama continues to register relatively high favorability ratings. An overwhelming 94% of Democrats hold a favorable opinion of Obama, as do 70% of independents. Republican opinions are more mixed: 52% view Barack Obama unfavorably, while 46% take a favorable view of the president.

There is a modest gender gap when it comes to evaluations of these three Democratic political figures; women are 10 points more likely than men to rate Michelle Obama favorably, six points more likely to rate Barack Obama favorably, and eight points more likely to rate Nancy Pelosi favorably.

To some extent, these gaps reflect the fact that women are substantially more likely to identify as Democrats overall – 40% of women say they are Democrats compared with 28% of men. But even when party is taken into account, gender is a factor in views of Michelle Obama and Nancy Pelosi. Two-thirds (67%) of Republican women offer a favorable assessment of Michelle Obama, compared with 53% of Republican men. And

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Barack Obama				
Favorable	72	46	94	70
Unfavorable	25	52	5	25
Michelle Obama				
Favorable	76	59	92	73
Unfavorable	14	27	4	15
Nancy Pelosi				
Favorable	35	18	55	31
Unfavorable	41	66	20	45

Figures read down.

	Barack Obama	Michelle Obama	Nancy Pelosi
<i>Percent favorable among...</i>	%	%	%
All women	75	81	39
All men	69	71	31
Republican women	51	67	18
Republican men	43	53	17
Democratic women	94	93	56
Democratic men	94	91	54
Independent women	71	74	39
Independent men	70	71	25

Pelosi gets better ratings among women independents (39%) than among men independents (25%).

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, from June 10-14, 2009 (1,126 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 376 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 153 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. 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/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2008 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also 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 2008 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 sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,502	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	759	4.0 percentage points
Form 2	743	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	401	5.5 percentage points
Democrats	508	5.0 percentage points
Independents	502	5.0 percentage points

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 CENTER

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:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JUNE 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
 June 10-14, 2009
 N=1,502

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.1 AND Q.2

ASK ALL:

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2009	30	64	5	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
May, 2009	34	58	8	May, 2002	44	44	12
April, 2009	23	70	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
January, 2009	20	73	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
December, 2008	13	83	4	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	June, 2001	43	52	5
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
August, 2008	21	74	5	February, 2001	46	43	11
July, 2008	19	74	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
June, 2008	19	76	5	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	September, 2000	51	41	8
March, 2008	22	72	6	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	April, 2000	48	43	9
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
October, 2007	28	66	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
February, 2007	30	61	9	November, 1998	46	44	10
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
July, 2006	30	65	5	September, 1997	45	49	6
May, 2006	29	65	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
March, 2006	32	63	5	January, 1997	38	58	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	July, 1996	29	67	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	June, 1995	25	73	2
Late May, 2005	39	57	4	April, 1995	23	74	3
February, 2005	38	56	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
January, 2005	40	54	6	March, 1994	24	71	5
December, 2004	39	54	7	October, 1993	22	73	5
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
July, 2004	38	55	7	May, 1993	22	71	7
May, 2004	33	61	6	January, 1993	39	50	11
Late February, 2004	39	55	6	January, 1992	28	68	4
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	November, 1991	34	61	5
December, 2003	44	47	9	Late February, 1991 (Gallup)	66	31	3
October, 2003	38	56	6	August, 1990	47	48	5
August, 2003	40	53	7	May, 1990	41	54	5
April 8, 2003	50	41	9	January, 1989	45	50	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	May, 1988	41	54	5
September, 2002	41	55	4	January, 1988	39	55	6

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.1 AND Q.2

ASK ALL:

Q.2 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>
June, 2009	61	30	9
Mid-April, 2009	63	26	11
Early April, 2009	61	26	13
March, 2009	59	26	15
February, 2009	64	17	19

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.3 AND Q.A3

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2009	29	56	15	July, 1999	36	45	19
March, 2009	28	51	21	June, 1999	37	46	17
February, 2009	34	51	15	May, 1999	38	44	18
Early October, 2006	33	56	11	March, 1999	38	47	15
June, 2006	30	53	17	February, 1999	37	51	12
March, 2006	32	50	18	January, 1999	38	50	12
January, 2006	33	52	15	Early December, 1998	38	49	13
Early November, 2005	33	50	17	November, 1998	41	48	11
Early October, 2005	32	52	16	Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15	Early August, 1998	43	37	20
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15	June, 1998	42	38	20
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17	May, 1998	40	41	19
Early February, 2004	41	42	17	April, 1998	41	40	19
January, 2003	48	37	15	March, 1998	43	39	18
June, 2002	50	34	16	January, 1998	43	41	16
May, 2002	49	34	17	November, 1997	41	43	16
February, 2002	56	24	20	August, 1997	42	44	14
Early September, 2001	43	39	18	June, 1997	33	50	17
June, 2001	40	40	20	May, 1997	40	44	16
May, 2001	45	36	19	April, 1997	40	44	16
April, 2001	45	30	25	February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 2001	43	36	21	January, 1997	38	47	15
July, 2000	36	46	18	November, 1996	40	43	17
May, 2000	40	42	18	July, 1996	38	48	14
March, 2000	38	43	19	June, 1996	36	50	14
February, 2000	40	43	17	April, 1996	39	46	15
January, 2000	39	41	20	March, 1996	35	51	14
December, 1999	38	42	20	February, 1996	33	53	14
October, 1999	34	50	16	January, 1996	36	54	10
Late September, 1999	34	46	20	October, 1995	36	51	13
August, 1999	40	44	16	September, 1995	36	50	14

Q.3 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 1995	38	45	17
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994	52	28	20

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.3 AND Q.A3

ASK ALL:

Q.A3 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2009	42	45	13
March, 2009	47	35	18
February, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 ¹	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22

¹ In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=743]:

Thinking about some issues...

Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]
How about [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.F2	The economy			
	June, 2009	52	40	8
	Mid-April, 2009	60	33	7
	February, 2009	56	24	20
b.F2	The nation's foreign policy			
	June, 2009	57	31	12
	Mid-April, 2009	61	22	17
	February 2009	52	17	31

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.5F2 AND Q.6F2

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=743]:

Q.5F2 What, if anything, concerns you the most about Barack Obama's economic policies? [RECORD
VERBATIM; PROBE FOR CLARITY; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES; DO NOT PROBE
FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS]

- 24 Spending/Costs/Debt (NET)**
- 14 Spending/Giving money away
- 9 Debt/Deficit/Burden on future generations
- 2 Inflation/Printing money
- 1 Taxes
- 1 How to pay for spending
- 13 Policies (NET)**
- 5 Bailout (general)
- 2 Auto industry/Auto bailout
- 2 Healthcare/Medical
- 2 Stimulus
- 2 Bank industry/Bank bailout
- 2 Policies/Plans/Views (general)
- 8 Jobs/Unemployment
- 4 Scope of government (NET)**
- 3 Government ownership/Control of private industry
- 1 Socialism/Socialist
- 3 Not enough aid to middle class/Helping rich not poor
- 3 Obama's personal traits
- 2 Political obstacles/lack of support
- 1 Moving too fast/Doing too much at once
- 20 None
- 19 Other
- 9 Don't know/Refused

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.5F2 AND Q.6F2

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=743]:

Q.6F2 What, if anything, has made you most hopeful about Barack Obama's economic policies? [**RECORD VERBATIM; PROBE FOR CLARITY; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES; DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS**]

21 Obama's actions/the process (NET)

- 10 Trying his best/Doing something
- 5 Cares/Understands the middle class or poor/Makes the rich and powerful pay or be accountable
- 4 Brings fresh eyes/Change in approach/Hope
- 2 Smart/Common sense/Gets good advice
- 1 Openness of the process/Honesty about the situation
- 1 Decisions are made quickly

16 Policies/Plans (NET)

- 5 Jobs/Helping with jobs
- 3 Stimulus
- 2 Health care efforts
- 2 Immigration/Helping Immigrants
- 1 Tax cuts
- 1 Dealing with housing, foreclosures, mortgages
- 1 Bailout/Assistance for banks
- 1 Social Security/Helping seniors
- 1 Help for the auto industry
- 1 Green energy/focus on environment
- 5 Getting the economy going/Turnaround starting or hope for turnaround
- 4 Negative remarks
- 1 Everything
- 31 Nothing/None
- 11 Other
- 14 Don't know/Refused

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.7F1 AND Q.8F1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.7F1 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic that Barack Obama's policies will improve economic conditions in the country?

		Early April <u>2009</u>
65	Optimistic	66
28	Pessimistic	26
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.7F1 AND Q.8F1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.8F1 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic that Barack Obama's policies will reduce the budget deficit over the long term?

		Early April <u>2009</u>
55	Optimistic	54
36	Pessimistic	36
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=743]:

Q.9F2 Since taking office, have Barack Obama's economic policies made economic conditions better, worse, or not had an effect so far?

		Mid-April <u>2009</u>	March <u>2009</u>
26	Better	26	14
16	Worse	17	15
49	No effect so far	47	64
4	Too soon/early to tell (VOL.)	6	4
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	3

ASK ALL:

Q.10 When it comes to national policy, who do you think Barack Obama is listening to more... **[READ, RANDOMIZE]**

		Mid-April <u>2009</u>	March <u>2009</u>	Jan <u>2009</u>
39	Liberal members of his party [OR]	40	44	34
35	Moderate members of his party	33	30	44
26	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	27	26	22

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.11F1 AND Q.12F1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.11F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the problems faced by U.S. automakers like General Motors and Chrysler?

47	Approve
44	Disapprove
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.11F1 AND Q.12F1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.12F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the problems faced by major U.S. banks and financial institutions?

50	Approve
40	Disapprove
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=743]:

Now, thinking about foreign policy and national security...

Q.13F2 Do you think Barack Obama is too tough, not tough enough or about right in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues?

2	Too tough
38	Not tough enough
51	About right
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Thinking about foreign policy and national security... Do you think Barack Obama [ROTATED WITH JOHN MCCAIN] would be too tough, not tough enough, or about right in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	Mid-Sept 2008	Late May 2008	Late Feb 2008
Too tough	3	3	3
Not tough enough	45	43	43
About right	44	43	39
Don't know/Refused	8	11	15

RANDOMIZE Q.14F1 WITH Q.15F1/Q.16F1 BLOCK

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.14F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation with North Korea?

		-- G.W.Bush --		-- Bill Clinton-- <i>Newsweek</i>	
		Feb	Jan	Oct ¹	June
		2003	2003	1994	1994
51	Approve	48	53	49	31
23	Disapprove	34	27	31	42
26	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	18	20	20	27

RANDOMIZE Q.14F1 WITH Q.15F1/Q.16F1 BLOCK

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.15F1 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's plan to close the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay within a year?

		Mid-April ²	Feb
		2009	2009
45	Approve	51	46
46	Disapprove	38	39
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	15

1 In October 1994 the question was worded, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is dealing with North Korea?"

2 Prior to June 2009, question asked about Barack Obama's "decision" to close. ...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.16F1 If the U.S. closes the military prison in Guantanamo Bay, would you approve or disapprove of some of the prisoners being transferred to federal maximum-security prisons in the U.S.?

52 Approve
 43 Disapprove
 5 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 17-20

QUESTION 21 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.22 Now I'd like your views on some people. As I read some names, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person. First, [INSERT FIRST NAME; RANDOMIZE] would you say your overall opinion of... [INSERT NAME] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [NAME] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?]
 [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a.	Barack Obama								
	June, 2009	72	37	35	25	11	14	*	3
	Mid-April, 2009	73	38	35	24	10	14	*	3
	January, 2009	79	40	39	15	4	11	0	6
	Mid-October, 2008	66	33	33	28	13	15	*	6
	Late September, 2008	65	33	32	30	11	19	*	5
	Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4
	Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9
	April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6
	March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9
	Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8
	Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10
	January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8
	Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11
	August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13
b.	Michelle Obama								
	June, 2009	76	36	39	14	5	9	1	9
	Mid-April, 2009	76	36	40	13	4	9	1	10
	January, 2009	68	28	40	15	4	11	2	15
	Mid-September, 2008	56	23	33	25	11	14	2	17
	Late May, 2008	43	14	29	21	8	13	4	32

QUESTION 22c HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

d.	Nancy Pelosi								
	June, 2009	35	8	28	41	25	16	15	8
	December, 2007	25	6	19	38	19	19	20	17
	December, 2006	32	9	23	27	13	14	26	15

QUESTIONS Q22e TO Q22h, 23 TO 27 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 28-30

ASK ALL:

Q.31 From what you've read and heard, do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's roughly 800 billion dollar economic stimulus plan passed by Congress in February?

55 Approve
 39 Disapprove
 6 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

From what you've read and heard, do you think Barack Obama's roughly 800 billion dollar economic stimulus plan passed by Congress last month is a good idea or a bad idea?

Mar
2009
 56 Good idea
 35 Bad idea
 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.32 As you may know, the federal government has taken several steps to address economic problems facing the nation. Do you approve or disapprove of the government spending billions of dollars [INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about the government spending billions of dollars [INSERT NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	To substantially increase spending on roads, bridges, and other public works projects June, 2009	73	23	3
b.	In an effort to keep General Motors and Chrysler in business June, 2009	36	58	6
c.	In an effort to keep financial institutions and markets secure June, 2009	49	45	6

Q.32a.-b. TREND FOR COMPARISON:

As you may know, the government has taken or is considering other steps to address economic problems facing the nation. Do you think it is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to spend billions of dollars [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?³

	<u>Right thing</u>	<u>Wrong thing</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
To substantially increase spending on roads, bridges, and other public works projects			
March, 2009	77	19	4=100
December, 2008	70	24	6=100
In loans to General Motors and Chrysler to keep them in business			
March, 2009	30	63	7=100
December, 2008 ⁴	39	54	7=100

Q.32c. TREND FOR COMPARISON:

In addition to the economic stimulus program Congress recently passed, the government is investing roughly 700 billion dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?

	<u>Right thing</u>	<u>Wrong thing</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
March, 2009	48	40	12
December, 2008 ⁵	47	43	10
November 14-17, 2008 (NII)	40	43	17
Mid-October, 2008	47	37	16
Late September, 2008	45	38	17
September 19-22, 2008 (NII)	57	30	13

3 In December 2008, question was worded “As you may know, the government is considering several other proposals to address economic problems facing the nation. Do you think it is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to spend billions of dollars...?”

4 In December 2008, item asked about “General Motors, Ford and Chrysler.”

5 In December 2008 the question was worded: “As you may know, the government is investing billions of dollars to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?” November and October surveys did not include the phrase “of dollars” after “billions.” In Late September 2008 and in the September 19-22 News Interest Index (NII) the question was worded, “As you may know, the government is potentially investing billions to try to keep financial institutions and markets secure. Do you think this is the right thing or the wrong thing for the government to be doing?” In Late September 2008, an experiment testing the word “committing” instead of “investing” showed no difference in the results. Results for the two versions have been combined.

ASK ALL:

Q.33 In dealing with important issues facing the country, are [RANDOMIZE; Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress, Republican leaders in Congress and Barack Obama] working together or not working together?

ASK IF 'NOT WORKING TOGETHER' (Q.33=2) [N=837]:

Q.34 Who do you think is most to blame for them not working together? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		<u>Feb 2009⁶</u>
39	Working together	43
50	Not working together	45
12	Barack Obama to blame	7
26	Republican leaders in Congress to blame	27
9	Both to blame [VOL. DO NOT READ]	5
1	Neither to blame [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1
0	Democrats/Democratic leaders [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2
1	Other to blame [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1
2	Don't know who is to blame [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12

NO QUESTIONS 35 AND 36

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.37 How much, if anything, have you heard about Barack Obama's choice of Sonia Sotomayor to be the next Supreme Court justice? [READ]

39	A lot
38	A little [OR]
21	Nothing at all
2	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]

ASK ALL:

Q.38 From what you've seen and heard so far, do you think the Senate should or should not confirm Sonia Sotomayor to the Supreme Court?

		<i>Samuel Alito</i>			<i>Harriet Miers</i>	<i>John Roberts</i>	
		Jan <u>2006</u>	Early Dec <u>2005</u>	Nov <u>2005</u>	Early Oct <u>2005</u>	Mid-Sept <u>2005</u>	Early Sept <u>2005</u>
50	Should	33	32	40	33	46	35
25	Should not	19	19	23	27	21	19
25	Don't know/Refused	48	49	37	40	33	46

ASK ALL:

Q.39 What is your impression of Sonia Sotomayor, do you think she is [READ IN REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]?

31	Liberal
34	Moderate [OR]
8	Conservative
26	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]

6 In February 2009, question was worded: "In developing a plan to stimulate the economy and create jobs. ..."

ASK ALL:

Q.40 As I read some issues the Supreme Court may rule on over the coming years, please tell me how important each issue is to you personally. First, are court decisions on **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** very important, fairly important, not too important, or not at all important to you? Next, how about court decisions on **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**

		<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Fairly</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>Important</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Abortion					
	June, 2009	55	20	11	11	3
	November, 2005	62	20	8	8	2
	July, 2005	63	21	8	7	1
b.	Affirmative action					
	June, 2009	40	32	14	7	8
	November, 2005	38	37	12	7	6
	July, 2005	43	35	12	7	3
c.	Issues related to homosexuality					
	June, 2009	33	18	20	25	4
	November, 2005	36	20	20	21	3
d.	The rights of people held in custody as terrorist suspects					
	June, 2009	57	25	9	6	3
	November, 2005	57	23	10	6	4
	July, 2005	62	21	10	6	1
e.	Election and voting rules					
	June, 2009	57	25	9	5	3

NO QUESTIONS 41 AND 42

QUESTIONS 43 AND 44 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 45 AND 46

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=743]:

Now, a few questions about foreign policy ...

Q.47 I'd like your opinion about some possible international concerns for the U.S. Do you think that **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** is a major threat, a minor threat or not a threat to the well being of the United States? What about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**

		Major Threat	Minor Threat	Not a Threat	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.F2	China's emergence as a world power				
	June, 2009	52	31	11	6
	January, 2009	46	36	13	5
	September, 2008	48	35	11	6
	Late May, 2008	50	31	10	9
	February, 2006	47	34	12	7
	Late October, 2005	52	31	10	7
	May, 2001	51	30	10	9
	July, 1999	53	33	10	4
b.F2	North Korea's nuclear program				
	June, 2009	72	19	5	5
	January, 2009	53	32	8	7
	September, 2008	55	33	7	5
	Late May, 2008	55	32	7	6
	February, 2006	60	27	6	7
	Late October, 2005	66	24	4	6
c.F2	Iran's nuclear program				
	June, 2009	69	20	5	5
	January, 2009	65	23	6	6
	September, 2008	60	29	6	5
	Late May, 2008	62	25	8	5
	February, 2006	65	24	5	6
	Late October, 2005	61	27	5	7
d.F2	Political instability in Pakistan				
	June, 2009	50	33	7	9
	January, 2009	47	37	8	8
	September, 2008	43	40	8	9
	Late May, 2008	41	40	9	10
e.F2	Islamic extremist groups like al Qaeda				
	June, 2009	78	14	4	4
	January, 2009	77	15	4	4
	September, 2008	72	21	3	4
	Late May, 2008	72	18	4	6
f.F2	The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians				
	June, 2009	49	35	9	6
	January, 2009	45	40	9	6
g.F2	Drug-related violence in Mexico				
	June, 2009	59	30	7	4

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Now, a few questions about foreign policy ...

Q.48F1 When it comes to Barack Obama’s dealings with our allies, do you think he is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE WITH “IS HE STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE” LAST]**?

- 8 Pushing America’s interests too hard
- 20 Taking into account the interests of our allies too much [OR]
- 57 Is he striking the right balance
- 15 Don’t know/Refused **[VOL. DO NOT READ]**

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.49F1 AND Q.50F1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.49F1 Compared with the Bush Administration, do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States **[READ AND RANDOMIZE WITH “HAVEN’T THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE” LAST]**?

- 28 Safer from terrorism
- 21 Less safe from terrorism [OR]
- 44 Haven’t they made a difference
- 7 Don’t know/Refused **[VOL. DO NOT READ]**

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.49F1 AND Q.50F1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=759]:

Q.50F1 Thinking about the situation in the Middle East these days, do you think Barack Obama is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE WITH “STRIKING ABOUT THE RIGHT BALANCE” LAST]**?

- 6 Favoring Israel too much
- 17 Favoring the Palestinians too much [OR]
- 62 Striking about the right balance
- 14 Don’t know/Refused **[VOL. DO NOT READ]**

NO QUESTIONS 51 AND 52

ASK ALL:

Thinking about health care...

Q.53 Do you think the health care system in this country works pretty well and requires only minor changes, do you think it needs fundamental changes, or do you think it needs to be completely rebuilt?

		March	June	Jan	April
		<u>2009</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
24	Only minor changes	21	28	21	15
30	Fundamental changes	36	32	33	26
41	Completely rebuilt	40	37	42	55
4	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3	4	4

ASK ALL:

Q.54 As I read from a list, please tell me whether each is a major problem for you and your family or not. First, is... **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** a major problem for you and your family or not a major problem? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**?

		<u>Major Problem</u>	<u>Not a Major Problem</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	Paying for the cost of routine medical care			
	June, 2009	34	65	1
	March, 2006	38	61	1
	June, 1994	32	67	1
	April, 1993	40	60	*
b.	Paying for the cost of a major illness			
	June, 2009	48	50	2
	March, 2006	54	44	2
	June, 1994	51	47	2
	April, 1993	63	36	1
c.	Paying for the costs of prescription drugs			
	June, 2009	34	66	*
	March, 2006	44	55	1
d.	Paying for the cost of health insurance			
	June, 2009	43	56	1
e.	Your employer making you pay a larger share of your health insurance costs			
	June, 2009	35	61	5
f.	The availability of medical care in your community			
	June, 2009	21	78	1
	March, 2006	25	74	1
	April, 1993	20	79	1
g.	The quality of medical care in your community			
	June, 2009	24	73	2
	June, 1994	13	85	2
	April 1993	23	75	2

ASK ALL:

Q.55 Thinking about the country as a whole, do you think we spend too much, too little or the right amount on health care?

		<u>March 2006</u>	<u>June 1994</u>	<u>April 1993</u>
38	Too much	26	38	36
40	Too little	57	40	49
14	Right amount	9	13	8
7	Don't know/Refused	8	9	7

RANDOMIZE Q.56 AND Q.57

ASK ALL:

Q.56 Do you favor or oppose changing the health care system in this country so that all Americans have health insurance that covers all medically necessary care?

		June <u>1994</u>	April <u>1993</u>
75	Favor	76	83
21	Oppose	19	13
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	4

RANDOMIZE Q.56 AND Q.57

ASK ALL:

Q.57 How important is it to you that we change the health care system in this country in order to limit the overall annual increase in the nation's health care costs. Is it [READ]?

		April <u>1993</u>
61	Very important	69
27	Fairly important	24
10	Not too important	5
2	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2

ASK ALL:

Q.58 What do you think is a more important goal for the nation [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

		April <u>1993</u>
36	To find a way to limit the overall annual increase in health care costs [OR]	20
56	To change the system so that all Americans are guaranteed access to all medically necessary care	74
8	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	6

ASK ALL:

Q.59 Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan or do you not have health insurance at this time? [READ IF NECESSARY: A health plan would include any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid]

81	Covered by health insurance
18	Not covered by health insurance
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PARTY

In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN

As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No <u>Preference</u>	Other <u>Party</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2	12	17
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3	11	14
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2	12	18
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--