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**APRIL 18, 2010**

**The People and Their Government**  
**DISTRUST, DISCONTENT, ANGER AND PARTISAN RANCOR**

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- Where do you rank? Take the [Government Satisfaction Quiz](#).
- Examine over 50 years of data on [Public Trust in Government](#), charting survey findings, political events and economic data.

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# DISTRUST, DISCONTENT, ANGER AND PARTISAN RANCOR

## The People and Their Government

April 18, 2010

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## **The People and Their Government** **DISTRUST, DISCONTENT, ANGER AND PARTISAN RANCOR**

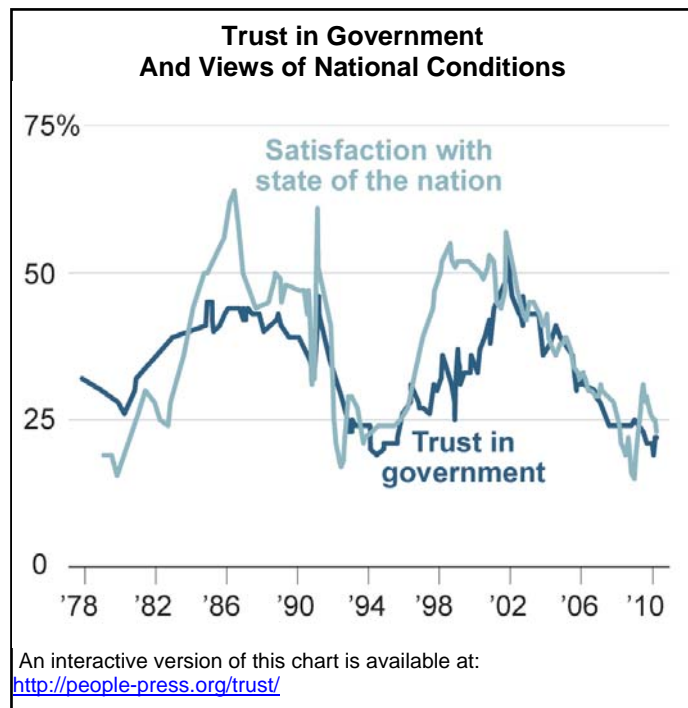
By almost every conceivable measure Americans are less positive and more critical of government these days. A new Pew Research Center survey finds a perfect storm of conditions associated with distrust of government – a dismal economy, an unhappy public, bitter partisan-based backlash, and epic discontent with Congress and elected officials.

Rather than an activist government to deal with the nation's top problems, the public now wants government reformed and growing numbers want its power curtailed. With the exception of greater regulation of major financial institutions, there is less of an appetite for government solutions to the nation's problems – including more government control over the economy – than there was when Barack Obama first took office.

The public's hostility toward government seems likely to be an important election issue favoring the Republicans this fall. However, the Democrats can take some solace in the fact that neither party can be confident that they have the advantage among such a disillusioned electorate. Favorable ratings for *both* major parties, as well as for Congress, have reached record lows while opposition to congressional incumbents, already approaching an all-time high, continues to climb.

The Tea Party movement, which has a small but fervent anti-government constituency, could be a wild card in this election. On one hand, its sympathizers are highly energized and inclined to vote Republican this fall. On the other, many Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say the Tea Party represents their point of view better than does the GOP.

These are the principal findings from a series of surveys that provide a detailed picture of the public's opinions about government. The main survey, conducted March 11-21 among 2,505 adults, was informed by surveys in 1997 and 1998 that explored many of the same questions and issues. While a majority also distrusted the federal government in those



surveys, criticism of government had declined from earlier in the decade. And the public's desire for government services and activism was holding steady.

This is not the case today. Just 22% say they can trust the government in Washington almost always or most of the time, among the lowest measures in half a century. About the same percentage (19%) says they are "basically content" with the federal government, which is largely unchanged from 2006 and 2007, but lower than a decade ago.

Opinions about elected officials are particularly poor. In a follow-up survey in early April, just 25% expressed a favorable opinion of Congress, which was virtually unchanged from March (26%), prior to passage of the health care reform bill. This is the lowest favorable rating for Congress in a quarter century of Pew Research Center surveys. Over the last year, favorable opinions of Congress have declined by half – from 50% to 25%.

While job ratings for the Obama administration are mostly negative, they are much more positive than the ratings for Congress; 40% say the administration does an excellent or good job while just 17% say the same about Congress.

Federal agencies and institutions also are viewed much more positively than is Congress. Nonetheless, favorable ratings have fallen significantly since 1997-1998 for seven of 13 federal agencies included in the survey. The declines have been particularly large for the Department of Education, the FDA, the Social Security Administration, as well as the EPA, NASA and the CDC. In terms of job performance, majorities give positive ratings to just six of 15 agencies or institutions tested, including the military (80% good/excellent) and the Postal Service (70%).

As was the case in the 1997 study of attitudes about government, more people say the bigger problem with government is that it runs its programs inefficiently (50%) than that it has the

<b>Declining Ratings for Many Federal Agencies</b>			
	1997/ 1998	2010	Change
<i>% favorable</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Dept. of Education	61	40	-21
FDA	75	58	-17
Social Security Admin.	62	49	-13
EPA	69	57	-12
NASA	73	61	-12
CDC	79	67	-12
Defense Department	76	67	-9
Postal Service	89	83	-6
Justice Department	56	51	-5
Veterans Admin.	59	57	-2
FBI	67	67	0
CIA	51	52	+1
IRS	38	47	+9
<b>More Say Government Has Wrong Priorities...</b>			
	Oct 1997	Mar 2010	
<i>Bigger problem w/ gov't...</i>			
Has wrong priorities	29	38	+9
Runs programs inefficiently	61	50	-11
Other/Don't know	10	12	
	100	100	
<b>And a Negative Effect on Daily Life</b>			
	Oct 1997	Mar 2010	
<i>Fed gov't's effect on your daily life...</i>			
Positive	50	38	-12
Negative	31	43	+12
Neither/Don't know	9	8	
No effect/Don't know	10	11	
	100	100	
Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q3d-p and March 11-21 Q29 & Q27a/28a. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.			

wrong priorities (38%). But the percentage saying government has the wrong priorities has increased sharply since 1997 – from 29% to 38%.

Perhaps related to this trend, the survey also finds a rise in the percentage saying the federal government has a negative effect on their day-to-day lives. In October 1997, 50% said the federal government had a positive effect on their daily lives, compared with 31% who said its impact was negative. Currently, 38% see the federal government’s personal impact as positive while slightly more (43%) see it as negative.

Rising criticism about government’s personal impact is not limited to the federal government. Just 42% say their state government has a positive effect on their daily lives, down from 62% in October 1997. There is a similar pattern in opinions about the impact of local government – 51% now see the impact of their local government as positive, down from 64% in 1997.

Despite the attention captured by demonstrations and other expressions of anti-government sentiment, Americans’ feelings about the federal government run more toward frustration rather than anger. In the current survey, 56% say they are frustrated with the federal government, 21% say they are angry

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

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q20. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

and 19% say they are basically content. Since October 1997, majorities have expressed frustration with the federal government, with a single notable exception; in November 2001, two months after the 9/11 attacks, just 34% said they were frustrated with the federal government.

And despite the frustration most Americans feel with government, a majority of the public (56%) says that if they had a child just getting out of school they would like to see him or her pursue a career in government; and 70% say the government is a good place to work, unchanged from October 1997.

However, along with the frustrated majority, which has remained fairly steady over the years, the survey also identifies a small but growing segment of the public that holds intense anti-government views. The proportion saying that they are angry with the federal government has doubled since 2000 and matches the high reached in October 2006 (20%).

Over this period, a larger minority of the public also has come to view the federal government as a major threat to their personal freedom – 30% feel this way, up from 18% in a 2003 ABC News/Washington Post survey. Intense anti-government sentiment is highly concentrated among certain groups – Republicans, independents and others who lean Republican, and those who agree with the Tea Party movement.

For example, 43% of Republicans say the federal government presents a major threat to their personal freedom, as do 50% of independents who lean Republican and fully 57% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement. That compares with just 18% of Democrats, 21% of independents who lean Democratic and just 9% of those who disagree with the Tea Party movement.

<b>Who's Angry at the Federal Government?</b>		
	<i>Percent who say...</i>	
	<b>They are angry with the federal government</b>	<b>Fed gov't is a major threat to them</b>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Total	21	30
Republican	30	43
Democrat	9	18
Independent	25	33
<i>Among independents</i>		
Lean Rep	37	50
Lean Dem	15	21
<i>Tea Party...</i>		
Agree with (24%)	43	57
Disagree with (14%)	8	9
No opinion/ Never heard of (61%)	15	25
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q20 & Q73.		

### The Perfect Storm

The current survey and previous research have found that there is no single factor that drives general public distrust in government. Instead, there are several factors – and all are currently present. First, there is considerable evidence that distrust of government is strongly connected to how people feel about the overall state of the nation.<sup>1</sup> Distrust of government soars when the public is unhappy with the way things are going in the country.

The recent downward trend in trust in government began in the fall of 2008, when public satisfaction plunged amid the financial crisis. In early October 2008, 11% said they were satisfied with the way things were going in this country – the lowest measure in more than

<b>Average Trust in Government Over the Course of Each Administration</b>					
<i>Average during each administration</i>	<i>Percent trusting gov't</i>				<i>R-D diff</i>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	
Barack Obama	22	12	33	18	-21
George W. Bush	37	50	26	28	+24
Bill Clinton	29	25	34	24	-9
George H.W. Bush	36	44	29	30	+15
Ronald Reagan	42	53	34	38	+19
Jimmy Carter	29	27	33	27	-6
Nixon/Ford	40	51	41	43	+10
Kennedy/Johnson	68	62	72	65	-10
<b>NET:</b>					
Republican admins	39	50	30	33	+20
Democratic admins	30	27	38	27	-11

Figures show the average percent saying they always or most of the time trust the government in Washington to do what is right across surveys conducted over the course of each administration. The Kennedy/Johnson and Nixon/Ford administrations are combined because relatively few surveys were conducted during those periods.

<sup>1</sup> See “[Deconstructing Distrust](#),” March 10, 1998.



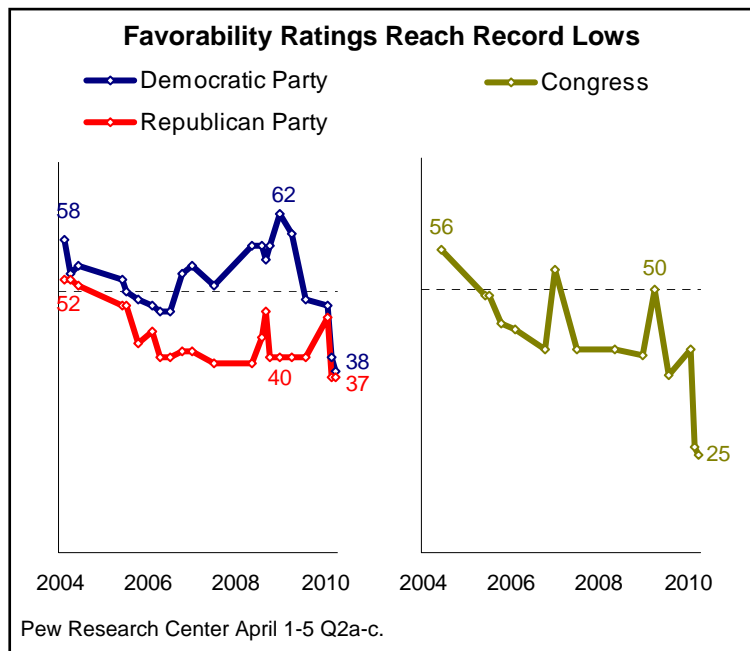
two decades of Pew Research Center polling. That same month, a CBS/New York Times survey found just 17% saying they could trust the government in Washington to do what is right, which matched an all-time low seen previously only in the summer of 1994.

A second element is presidential politics. Trust in government is typically higher among members of the party that controls the White House than among members of the “out” party. However, Republicans’ views of government change more dramatically, depending on which party holds power, than do Democrats’. Republicans are more trusting of government when the GOP holds power than Democrats are when the Democrats are in charge.

This pattern is particularly evident in the Obama era. The president’s policies – especially the year-long effort to overhaul the health care system – have served as a lightning rod for Republicans. Currently, just 13% of Republicans say they can trust the government in Washington to do what is right, nearly equaling a low point reached in June 1994 during the Clinton administration (11%).

A third factor is that a particular subgroup of independents, who are financially pressed, chronically distrustful of government and who typically lean to the Republican Party, appears to be especially angry today. Pew political typology surveys in the past have labeled these individuals as “disaffecteds.” This group may explain, in part, why at least as many Republican-leaning independents (37%) as conservative Republicans (32%) say they are angry with the government. And identical percentages of Republican-leaning independents and conservative Republicans (53% each) say they agree with the Tea Party movement.

Finally, record discontent with Congress – and dim views of elected officials generally – have poisoned the well for trust in the federal government. Undoubtedly, this has contributed to growing discontent with government even among groups who are generally more positive about it, such as Democrats. Today, many fewer Democrats say they trust government than did so during the later Clinton years. And just 40% of Democrats have a favorable impression of the Democratic



Congress – the lowest positive rating for Congress ever among members of the majority party.

For the most part, the public sees the members of Congress themselves, rather than a broken political system, as the problem with the institution. A majority says (52%) that the political system can work fine, it’s the members of Congress that are the problem; 38% say that most members of Congress have good intentions, but the political system is broken.

<i>Which comes closer to your view?</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
The political system can work fine, the members are the problem	52	60	50	51
Most members have good intentions, it's the political system that is broken	38	34	42	39
Other/Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q72. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Public opinion about elected officials in Washington is relentlessly negative. Favorable ratings for the Democratic Party have fallen by 21 points – from 59% to 38% – over the past year and now stand at their lowest point in Pew Research surveys. The Republican Party’s ratings, which increased from 40% last August to 46% in February, have fallen back to 37%.

When asked about a series of criticisms of elected officials in Washington – that they care only about their careers, are influenced by special interests, are unwilling to compromise, and are profligate and out-of-touch – large majorities (no fewer than 76%) agree with each of the statements. And while 56% say they would like their child to pursue a career in *government*, far fewer (36%) say the same about their child making a career in *politics*.

## It's Not Just Government

While anti-government sentiment has its own ideological and partisan basis, the public also expresses discontent with many of the country's other major institutions. Just 25% say the federal government has a positive effect on the way things are going in the country and about as many (24%) say the same about Congress. Yet the ratings are just as low for the impact of large corporations (25% positive) and banks and other financial institutions (22%). And the marks are only slightly more positive for the national news media (31%), labor unions (32%) and the entertainment industry (33%).

<i>Effect on way things are going in the country ...</i>	<u>Positive</u> %	<u>Negative</u> %	<u>Other/ DK</u> %
Banks & financial inst.	22	69	10=100
Congress	24	65	12=100
Federal government	25	65	9=100
Large corporations	25	64	12=100
National news media	31	57	12=100
Federal agencies & depts.	31	54	16=100
Entertainment industry	33	51	16=100
Labor unions	32	49	18=100
Obama administration	45	45	10=100
Colleges & universities	61	26	13=100
Churches & religious orgs.	63	22	15=100
Small businesses	71	19	10=100
Technology companies	68	18	14=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q18a-n. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Notably, those who say they are frustrated or angry with the federal government are highly critical of a number of other institutions as well. For example, fewer than one-in-five of those who say they are frustrated (18%) or angry (16%) with the federal government say that banks and other financial institutions have a positive effect on the way things are going in the country.

## Familiar Complaints, Growing Concerns

As in the past, poor performance is the most persistent criticism of the federal government. Fully 74% think that the federal government does only a fair or poor job of running its programs, which is on par with opinions in the late 1990s.

But another strain of criticism is that the federal government's priorities are misguided and that government policies do too little for average Americans. More than six-in-ten (62%) say it is a major problem that government policies unfairly benefit some groups while nearly as many (56%) say that government does not do enough to help average Americans.

Since 1997, there has been a substantial increase in the percentage saying that middle-class people get less attention from the federal government than they should; 66% say that currently, up from 54% thirteen years ago. In contrast with many opinions about government, this view is shared by comparable percentages of Republicans (68%), Democrats (67%) and independents (65%). Conversely, about half of Republicans (52%), Democrats (52%) and independents (47%) say that Wall Street gets more attention than it should from the federal government.

The size and power of the federal government also engender considerable concern. A 52% majority say it is a major problem that the government is too big and powerful, while 58% say that the federal government is interfering too much in state and local matters.

The public is now evenly divided over whether federal government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems (50%) or cut back greatly to reduce the power of government (47%). In 1997, a clear majority (57%) said government programs should be maintained. Greater support for cutting back government programs is seen among Republicans (up 14 points) and independents (eight points); by contrast, just 27% of Democrats say programs should be greatly cut back, unchanged from 1997.

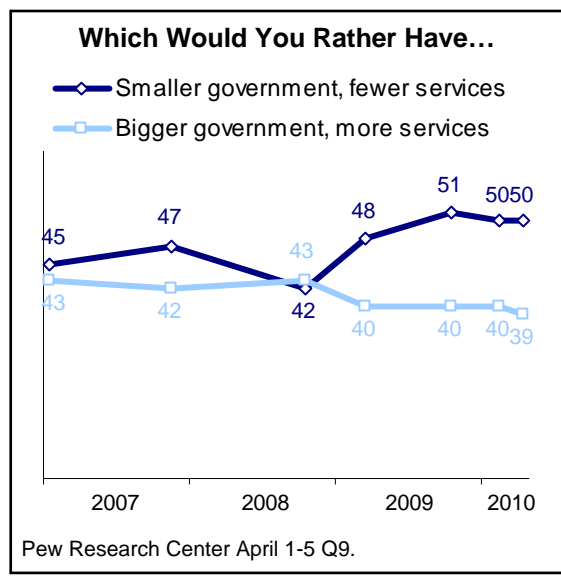
**More Want Government Programs Cut Back**

*Should government programs be...*

	<b>Oct 1997</b>		<b>Mar 2010</b>		<b>"Cut back" change</b>
	<b>Cut back</b>	<b>Main-tained</b>	<b>Cut back</b>	<b>Main-tained</b>	
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Total	41	57	47	50	+6
Republican	53	45	67	32	+14
Democrat	27	71	27	70	0
Independent	43	55	51	47	+8

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q23.

A desire for smaller government is particularly evident since Barack Obama took office. In four surveys over the past year, about half have consistently said they would rather have a smaller government with fewer services, while about 40% have consistently preferred a bigger government providing more services. In October 2008, shortly before the presidential election the public was evenly divided on this issue (42% smaller government, 43% bigger government).



## The Regulation Paradox

Despite the public's negative attitudes toward large corporations, most Americans (58%) say that "the government has gone too far in regulating business and interfering with the free enterprise system." This is about the same percentage that agreed with this statement in October 1997 (56%).

Along these lines, the public opposes government exerting more control over the economy than it has in recent years. Just 40% say this is a good idea, while 51% say it is not. Last March, the balance of opinion was just the opposite. By 54% to 37%, more people said it was a good idea for the government to exert greater control over the economy.

<b>Support for Financial Regulation, Not for Greater Control over Economy</b>				
<i>Stricter regulation of financial companies ...</i>	Apr <u>2009</u> %	Oct <u>2009</u> %	Feb <u>2010</u> %	Mar <u>2010</u> %
Good idea	60	54	59	61
Bad idea	31	38	33	31
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>More gov't control over economy...</i>	Mar <u>2009</u>		Feb <u>2010</u>	Apr <u>2010</u>
Good idea	54	--	46	40
Bad idea	37	--	42	51
Don't know	<u>9</u>	--	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
	100		100	100
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q46 and April 1-5 Q10. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.				

While the public is wary of too much government involvement with the economy, it suspends that concern when it comes to stricter regulation of major financial companies. A clear majority (61%) says it is a good idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business, which is virtually unchanged from last April (60%).

## Government Distrust and Midterm Politics

Hostility toward government seems likely to be a significant election issue and an important element in both midterm voting intentions and turnout. While there was widespread distrust of the federal government in the late 1990s, just 37% went so far as to say that the federal government needed "very major reform." Today, that figure stands at 53%; increasing numbers of Republicans, independents and Democrats say that government needs very major reform. Still, far more Republicans (65%) and independents (54%) than Democrats (41%) express this view.

Consistent with this pattern of partisanship, anti-government sentiment appears to be a more significant driver of possible turnout among Republicans and independents than among Democrats. Among Republican voters who are highly dissatisfied with government, 83% say they are absolutely certain to vote in the midterm elections; that compares with 67% of Republicans who express low levels of frustration with government. By contrast, there is no difference in intention to vote among Democrats who are highly frustrated with government (63%) and those who are less frustrated (64%).

Perhaps more troubling for Democrats, the link between dissatisfaction with government and voting intentions is at least as strong among independent voters. Independents who are highly dissatisfied with government are far more committed to voting this year than are independents who are less frustrated (78% vs. 58%). Overall, independents voters slightly favor the GOP candidate in their district by a 41% to 34% margin, but those who are highly dissatisfied with government favor the Republican candidate by an overwhelming 66% to 13% margin. Independents who are less dissatisfied with government favor the Democratic candidate in their district (by 49% to 24%), but are much less likely to say they are certain to vote.

**Dissatisfaction with Government Mobilizing Republicans and Independents**

<b>Absolutely certain to vote in 2010</b>	<b>Total %</b>	<i>Dissatisfaction w/gov't*</i>		<b>Diff</b>
		<b>High %</b>	<b>Low %</b>	
All registered voters	69	80	63	+17
Republican	76	83	67	+16
Democrat	64	63	64	-1
Independent	66	78	58	+20
<i>Among independents</i>				
Lean Rep	77	85	62	+23
Lean Dem	59	--	60	--

Based on registered voters. Pew Research Center March 11-21 PLANTO1 & PLANTO2.  
Dissatisfaction with government based on an index. "High dissatisfaction" are those who score in the top 30% of the index. There are too few highly dissatisfied Dem-leaning to report on.

**Dissatisfied Independents Plan to Vote Republican**

<b>2010 Midterm</b>	<b>All Independents %</b>	<i>Dissatisfaction w/gov't</i>	
		<b>High %</b>	<b>Low %</b>
Vote Republican	41	66	24
Vote Democratic	34	13	49
Other/DK	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>
	100	100	100
Absolutely certain to vote	66	78	58
Number of cases	623	258	365

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q10 and Q11.  
Based on registered voters.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

**How satisfied are you with government?**  
Take the quiz at <http://pewresearch.org/satisfaction/>

While the GOP has a decided enthusiasm advantage predicated on discontent with government, it has a potential unity problem given the appeal of the Tea Party to many of its members. Only about half of Republicans (49%) say that the GOP is the party that best reflects their views right now, while as many as 28% cite the Tea Party. Among independents who lean Republican, the problem is potentially greater: As many say the Tea Party best reflects their views right now (30%) as the GOP (29%), with nearly as many saying nobody is representing their views (28%).

<b>Which of the Following Groups Best Reflects Your Views Right Now...</b>				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Democratic Party	31	4	71	17
Republican Party	17	49	1	12
Tea Party	14	28	3	16
Green Party	4	1	7	4
Some other group	3	1	1	7
None of these	28	15	14	42
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

Pew Research Center April 8-11 Q10.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

**About the Surveys**

This extensive study of public attitudes toward the federal government serves as an update and expansion of the Pew Research Center's 1998 *Deconstructing Distrust* report (<http://people-press.org/report/95/how-americans-view-government>). Results are based on interviews from four telephone surveys conducted on landline and cell phones of nationwide samples of adults living in the continental United States.

The main survey was conducted March 11-21, 2010 with a sample of 2,505 adults. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. For the total sample of 2,505 interviews, the margin of sampling error that would be expected at the 95% confidence interval is plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger.

Three other surveys of approximately 1,000 adults each were conducted March 18-21, April 1-5 and April 8-11. Interviews were conducted in English. The margin of sampling error for these surveys is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

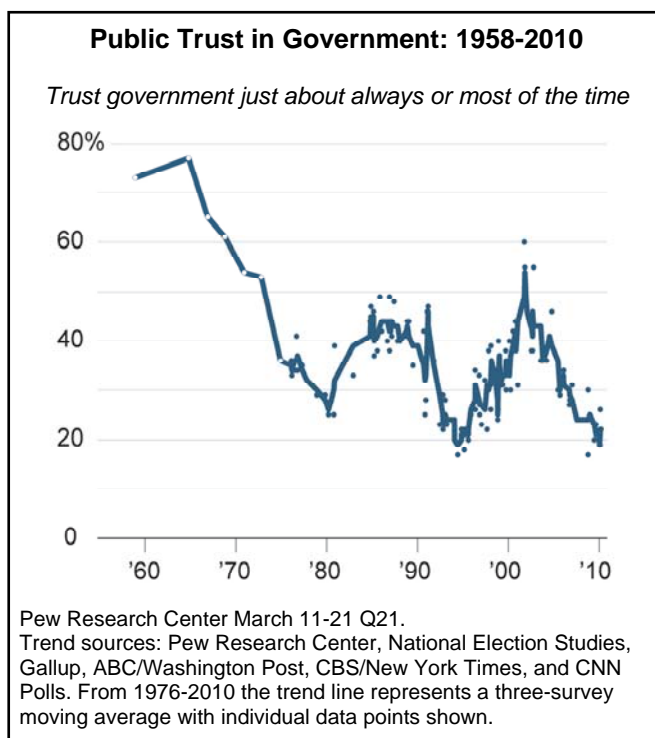




## SECTION 1: TRUST IN GOVERNMENT 1958-2010

Public trust in the federal government in Washington is at one of its lowest levels in half a century. Just 22% of Americans say they trust the government to do what is right “just about always” (3%) or “most of the time” (19%). The current level of skepticism was matched previously only in the periods from 1992 to 1995 (reaching as low as 17% in the summer of 1994), and 1978 to 1980 (bottoming out at 25% in 1980). When the National Election Study first asked this question in 1958, 73% of Americans trusted the government to do what is right just about always or most of the time.

The forces contributing to the current wave of public distrust include an uncertain economic environment, overwhelming discontent with Congress and elected officials, and a more partisan environment. The bitter and drawn-out health care debate exacerbated negative feelings about government – particularly Congress. During the final House debate over health care reform, public perceptions of Congress reached an all-time low. And the public’s impressions of elected officials as corrupt, wasteful, self-centered, unwilling to compromise, and indifferent to the concerns of regular Americans are widespread.

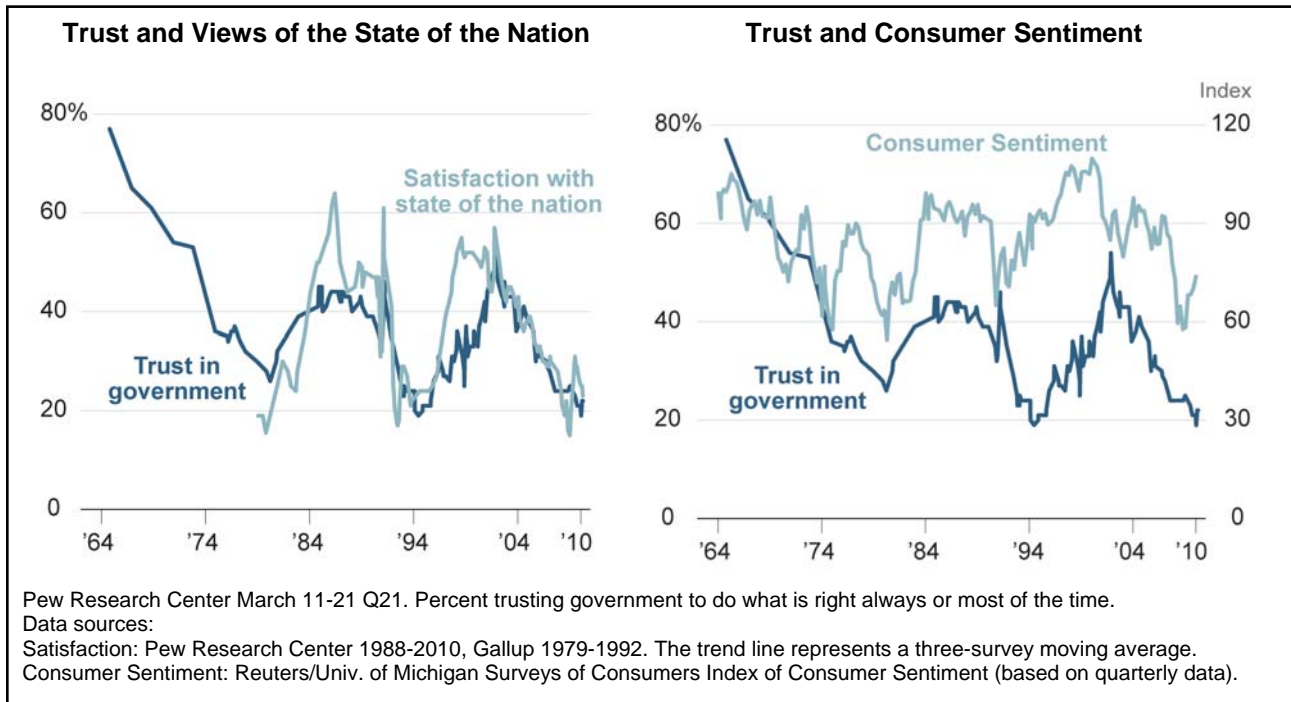


Yet dissatisfaction with government predates the health care debate and even Barack Obama’s presidency. After increasing in the immediate wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, trust in government began slipping almost immediately and continued to tumble with the debate over the war in Iraq, a series of White House and congressional scandals, the government’s poor response to Hurricane Katrina, and worsening economic conditions. The public’s view of government became even more negative during the financial meltdown and bank bailout in late 2008. A CBS/New York Times poll conducted in October 2008 found just 17% trusting the federal government to do what is right – a low seen previously only in a June 1994 Gallup survey.

**Interactive versions of the charts on trust in government in this chapter are available at:**  
<http://people-press.org/trust/>

## The Economy, Satisfaction and Trust in Government

It is no surprise that trust in government falls during economic hard times. Historically, confidence in government corresponds with broader measures of satisfaction with the state of the nation and economic stress. The low points in government trust over the past half-century have occurred during the nation's economic struggles in the late 1970s, the early 1990s, and over the past few years. And confidence in government recovered in the late 1980s and late 1990s, when economic growth was strong and satisfaction was high.



In 1979, Gallup found just 19% of Americans satisfied with the way things were going in the country, and public trust in government was at 29% that year. By the spring of 1980, the Reuters/University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index fell to an all-time low of 54, and trust in government slipped further to 25%. Both satisfaction and consumer confidence grew over the course of Ronald Reagan's presidency and trust in government also rebounded somewhat. But all three measures fell again in 1990 as economic problems worsened.

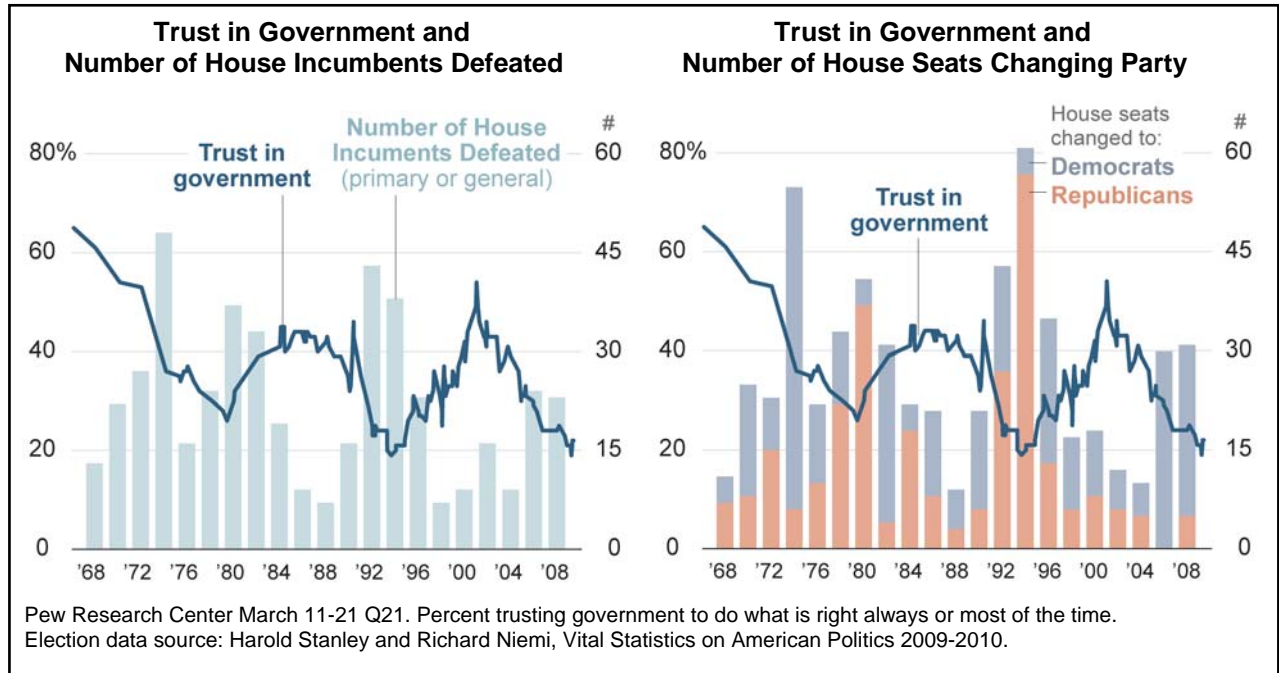
Despite a brief spike in satisfaction with the nation and trust in government at the start of the Gulf War in early 1991, continued economic problems through 1992 caused the steepest drop ever in both satisfaction and trust in government. Gallup polls found satisfaction with the state of the nation falling from 66% to 14% between February 1991 and June 1992. And according to CBS/New York Times polls conducted over that period, trust in government fell 25 points in just a year-and-a-half (from 47% in March 1991 to 22% in October 1992).

While satisfaction with national conditions, consumer sentiment and trust in government generally move together, there have been periods when these measures diverge. By 1993, satisfaction rebounded slightly, and consumer confidence rose substantially, yet trust in government continued to decline. And while consumer sentiment reached record highs in the late 1990s, and satisfaction rose as well, trust in government lagged far behind.

### Political Implications of Trust in Government

Public confidence in government reached historic lows in 1994, a few months before the GOP gained control of Congress. However, public trust in government was already at a very low level two years earlier, when 43 House members lost their seats and many others retired in the face of poor reelection prospects. Not only had economic conditions turned deeply negative, but the House banking scandal that year came to symbolize much of what Americans felt was wrong with the political system. While this scandal affected both Democrats and Republicans, it resulted in the largest turnover in House seats since 1974.

The broad frustration with government in 1992 also sparked an unprecedented rejection of both political parties. For the first time in modern history a plurality of Americans chose “independent” as their partisan affiliation and Ross Perot garnered 19% of the popular vote as an independent candidate for the White House.



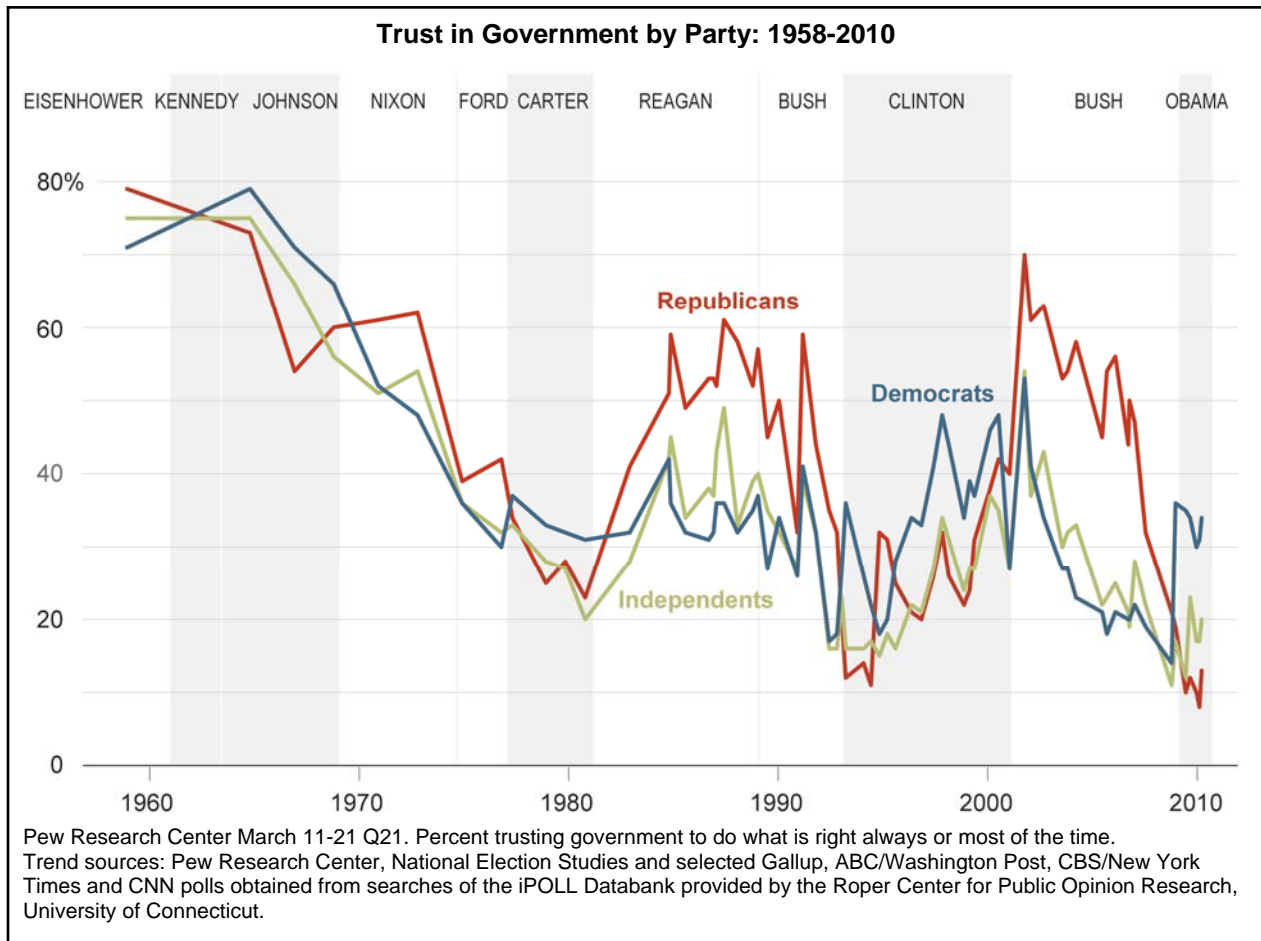
By 1994 distrust in government had increased following missteps in the early Clinton administration and the fight over health care reform. The Republican Party picked up 54 seats in that fall’s midterm election on a platform of government reform, deficit reduction and term limits

for members of Congress. Over this period, conservative talk radio tapped into the widespread anti-government sentiment. Trust in government recovered between 1994 and 1998, only to plummet temporarily with the impeachment of Bill Clinton.

In general, when trust falls steeply incumbents are more likely to lose – and the president’s party tends to lose the most. Following Nixon’s resignation in 1974, trust in government fell to 36% (from 53% in 1972). Democrats made huge gains as 48 incumbents – nearly all of them Republicans – lost reelection bids. When trust fell to 25% in 1980, Republicans made great gains as 37 incumbents – nearly all of them Democrats – were defeated. The collapse in government confidence in 1992 hurt both parties, but especially the Democrats, and the continuing decline in 1994 led to the Republicans gaining their first majority in the House in four decades.

Over the last two election cycles, the effects of low trust also have been evident. In 2006, 24 incumbents lost seats – all of them Republicans – as Democrats regained control of Congress. And in 2008 Democrats grew their majority larger and won the White House, when trust was at or near record lows.

## Partisanship and Trust in Government



Despite taking a conservative position on most issues related to government size and power, Republicans do not consistently feel less trustful of government than Democrats. Since the National Election Study began asking about trust in government in 1958, Republicans have consistently been more trusting when there has been a Republican in the White House, and Democrats have been more trusting when the presidency is held by a Democrat. Republicans felt far better about government under Nixon, Reagan and Bush than Democrats did under Carter, Clinton or Obama.

As with many other aspects of American politics, partisan divisions in trust in government have grown larger in recent decades. Averaging across the eight years George W. Bush served as president, 50% of Republicans said they could trust the government in Washington always or most of the time. Across that same period just 26% of Democrats offered the same assessment. This 24-point divide in government trust was larger than was the case under any previous administration.

While partisanship is a factor, the shifts in government trust tend to span party lines. Independents consistently take a relatively skeptical view of government – their views at any given time tend to track with whichever partisan group does not hold the presidency. During the Nixon, Reagan and both Bush administrations, about as many independents as Democrats trusted government. During the Carter and Clinton administrations, independents expressed as low or lower levels of trust than did Republicans. So far, the early part of the Obama administration represents a slight deviation from this pattern. While independent levels of trust are very low, Republican trust has been even lower.

During the first part of Barack Obama’s presidency, partisan differences in trust in government are nearly as large as they were during George W. Bush’s administration. Across six surveys conducted after Obama’s election, an average of 12% of Republicans say they trust government all or most of the time, compared with 33% of Democrats – a 21-point gap. The average partisan gap over the previous eight years was 24 points (26% of Democrats, 50% of Republicans), although overall levels of trust were higher.

While Obama’s term in office is still young, the average level of public trust in government over the past year-and-a-half is lower than the average under any previous administration. However, current ratings of government trust are nearly identical to those in the first part of Bill Clinton’s presidency. In 1993 and early 1994 an average of just 23% of Americans said they trusted government always or most of the time, including 14% of Republicans, 18% of independents and 28% of Democrats.

The figures over the past year-and-a-half are similar, though slightly more polarized: 22% trust government overall, including 12% of Republicans, 18% of independents and 33% of Democrats. And as with Clinton, much of the distrust in government Obama currently faces was already present prior to his taking office.

<b>Average Trust in Government Over the Course of Each Administration</b>					
<i>Average during each administration</i>	<i>Percent trusting gov't</i>				<i>R-D diff</i>
	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %	
Barack Obama	22	12	<b>33</b>	18	-21
George W. Bush	37	<b>50</b>	26	28	+24
Bill Clinton	29	25	<b>34</b>	24	-9
George H.W. Bush	36	<b>44</b>	29	30	+15
Ronald Reagan	42	<b>53</b>	34	38	+19
Jimmy Carter	29	27	<b>33</b>	27	-6
Nixon/Ford	40	<b>51</b>	41	43	+10
Kennedy/Johnson	68	62	<b>72</b>	65	-10
NET:					
Republican admins	39	50	30	33	+20
Democratic admins	30	27	38	27	-11

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q21.  
 Figures show the average percent saying they trust the government in Washington to do what is right always or most of the time across surveys conducted after each president won their election victory. The Kennedy/Johnson and Nixon/Ford administrations are combined because relatively few surveys were conducted during those periods.  
 Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, and selected Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN polls obtained from searches of the iPOLL databank provided by the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, University of Connecticut.

## The Precursors to 2010

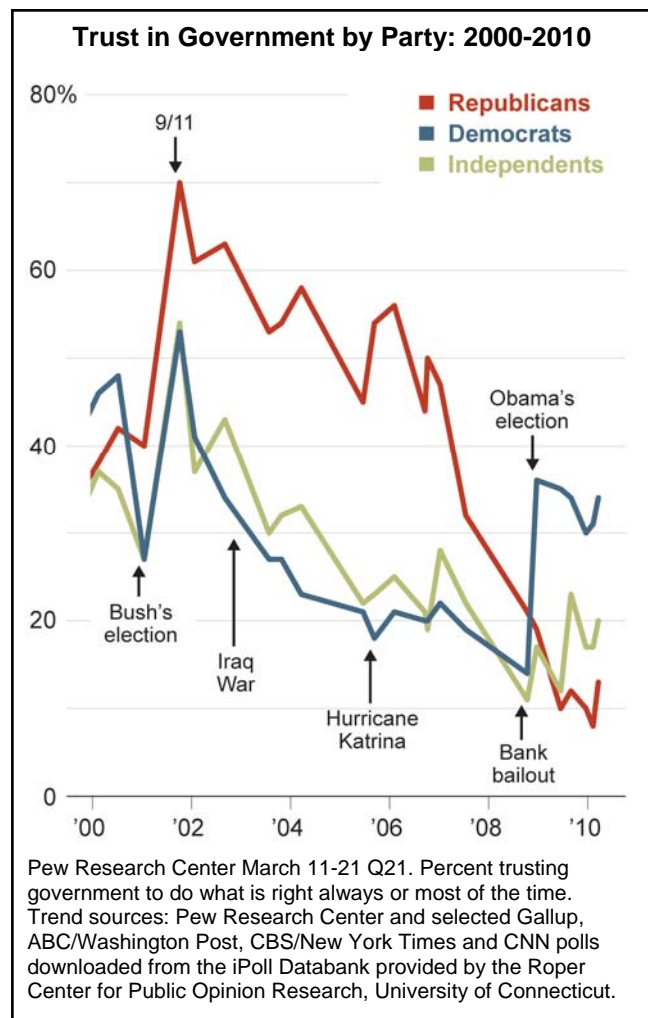
The current frustration Americans feel toward government, is best understood by looking back at the events and issues of the past decade. The largest spike in public trust in government occurred after the Sept 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. A Gallup survey conducted in early October of that year found 60% saying they trusted the government always or most of the time, roughly double the number who said this (31%) in a CBS/New York Times survey earlier in the year.

The post-9/11 rise in public confidence in government crossed party lines – for the first time in over 30 years (since 1970) majorities of Republicans (70%), Democrats (53%) and independents (54%) said they felt they could trust the government to do what is right always or most of the time. But the spike in confidence was short-lived. By December 2001, fewer than half of Americans said they trusted government.

In July 2003, 36% said they trusted government, according to a CBS News/New York Times poll. Just 27% of Democrats said they trusted government – about half the number who felt that way in October 2001. There was a comparable decline in trust among independents (from 54% to 30%). Even among Republicans, the proportion saying they trusted government fell from 70% to 53%.

Overall public trust in government slipped to 31% in the fall of 2005 following the government's poorly-rated response to Hurricane Katrina, a series of political scandals, and public doubt about the war in Iraq. At the time, 54% of Republicans continued to express confidence in government, compared with just 23% of independents and 18% of Democrats.

The final two years of George W. Bush's presidency saw further declines in public trust in government. By the summer of 2007, with Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, only 24% of the public trusted the government. About a third of Republicans (32%)





expressed confidence in government, and there were no improvements in the views of independents (22%) and Democrats (19%).

The financial crisis and government-sponsored bank bailout of late 2008 sent trust in government to new lows across party lines. A CBS/New York Times survey conducted in October 2008 found just 17% of Americans saying they trusted the government always or most of the time. Distrust of government became nearly universal – just 21% of Republicans, 14% of Democrats and 11% of independents expressed confidence in the federal government in Washington to do what is right.

Following Obama’s 2008 victory, Democratic trust in government rebounded – currently 34% of Democrats express trust in the government to do the right thing. And trust among independents has recovered slightly to 20% today. Meanwhile, Republican trust has fallen even lower; just 13% of Republicans today say they generally trust the federal government – roughly on par with Republican views of government in June 1994 (11%).

### The Current Trust Landscape

While party identification is closely linked to trust in government, other factors come into play as well. Roughly a third (32%) of adults under age 30 say they trust the government to do what is right always or most of the time, compared with 20% among all other age groups. Trust is also somewhat more widespread among college graduates (27%) than those with less education (20% of those with some college, 21% of those with a high school education or less).

Blacks are more likely than whites (37% vs. 20%) to say they trust government. This represents a sharp turnaround from the balance of opinion under George W. Bush. In particular, following Hurricane Katrina just 12% of blacks said they trusted the government always or most of the time, compared with 32% of whites.

Not surprisingly, just 7% of Americans who say they agree with the Tea Party movement feel they can always or mostly trust the government, while 92% say

<b>How Much of the Time Do You Trust the Government in Washington To Do What is Right?</b>		
	<u>Always/Most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time/Never</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Total	22	76
Republican	13	86
Conserv Rep	11	88
Mod/Lib Rep	17	81
Democrat	34	64
Cons/Mod Dem	31	67
Liberal Dem	40	59
Independent	20	79
Lean Rep	14	85
Lean Dem	26	72
No lean	18	77
White, non-Hispanic	20	79
Black, non-Hispanic	37	59
Hispanic	26	71
18-29	32	67
30-49	20	79
50-64	20	78
65+	20	77
College grad+	27	72
Some college	20	78
HS or less	21	76
<i>Tea Party...</i>		
Agree with	7	92
Disagree with	39	59
No opinion/		
Never heard of	25	73
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q21.		



they trust the government only some of the time or never. By contrast, 39% of those who disagree with the Tea Party movement, and 25% of those who have never heard of the movement or have no opinion of it, say they trust the government. (*For more detailed breakdowns on trust in government, see table on pg. 81*)

### A Health Care Recovery?

The main Pew Research Center survey reported here was conducted during the final stages of the congressional debate over health care reform – an undoubtedly tense and divisive moment in politics. To determine whether the passage of the legislation altered peoples’ views, a new survey that included the trust measure was conducted April 1-5, after the bill’s passage. Overall, there was little change in opinions – 25% of Americans in early April said they thought they could trust the government just about always or most of the time, which was virtually unchanged from 22% in March. However, trust among Democrats rose somewhat from 34% in March to 42% in early April.

	March 11-21	April 1-5	Change
<i>Trust gov't always/ most of the time</i>	%	%	
Total	22	25	+3
Republican	13	14	+1
Democrat	34	42	+8
Independent	20	19	-1

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q21 and April 1-5 Q6.



## SECTION 2: GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE AND POWER

When asked how they feel about the federal government, majorities consistently express frustration, while smaller numbers say they are basically content or angry. Anger toward the government has risen in recent years. In the current survey, as in 2006, about as many say they feel angry as content with the government. In earlier surveys, far more said they were content than angry.

While overall opinions of how the government runs its programs have declined only modestly since the late 1990s, far more Americans think that it needs very major reform than did so then. Support for making substantial cutbacks in federal programs also has increased.

	<u>Oct</u> <u>1997</u> %	<u>Jun</u> <u>2000</u> %	<u>Nov</u> <u>2001</u> %	<u>Mar</u> <u>2004</u> %	<u>Oct</u> <u>2006</u> %	<u>Mar</u> <u>2010</u> %
Basically content	29	28	53	32	21	19
Frustrated	56	53	34	52	54	56
Angry	12	13	8	13	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q20.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Asked about specific criticisms of the federal government, clear majorities say the government is wasteful and inefficient, that its policies unfairly benefit some groups and that it does not do enough to help average Americans. Fewer say the government is too big and powerful or that it interferes too much in people's lives. However, the idea that government is too big and powerful resonates particularly with Republicans – twice as many Republicans as Democrats see this as a major problem.

### **Widely Shared Frustration**

Majorities or pluralities of those in all demographic groups say that their attitude towards government is best described as frustrated. However, far fewer non-Hispanic blacks (48%) and Hispanics (47%) than whites (60%) say they are frustrated with government. Blacks and Hispanics also are about twice as likely as whites to say they are basically content with government (31% black, 30% Hispanic vs. 14% white).

Age also is a factor in sentiment about government. More than a quarter of those younger than 30 (28%) say they are basically content with government, the highest proportion of any age

group. By contrast, about a quarter of those age 50 and older (26%) express anger with government, compared with 17% of those under 50.

Three-in-ten Republicans (30%) say they are angry with government, and an additional six-in-ten (60%) say they are frustrated; just 9% say they are basically content with the federal government. Democratic opinion is the reverse: just 9% of Democrats say they are angry, while 58% are frustrated and 27% say they are basically content.

Agreement with the Tea Party movement is one of the strongest correlates of anger with government. More than four-in-ten of those who agree with the movement (43%) say they are angry with government, compared with just 8% of those who disagree with Tea Partiers and 15% of those who have no opinion or have not heard of the movement.

### Growing GOP Anger

Republican anger with the federal government is now at its highest point over the last decade, but this sentiment extends beyond those who consider themselves Republicans. Independents and others who lean towards the GOP express anger with the government at even higher levels than do self-identified Republicans (37% vs. 30%).

There is little difference between the levels of anger seen among conservative Republicans and their moderate and liberal counterparts (32% angry vs. 27% angry).

	Basically content %	Frustrated %	Angry %	DK %
Total	19	56	21	5=100
Men	19	54	22	4=100
Women	18	57	20	5=100
White, non-Hispanic	14	60	23	3=100
Black, non-Hispanic	31	48	12	9=100
Hispanic	30	47	17	5=100
18-29	28	51	16	5=100
30-49	19	61	17	3=100
50-64	14	56	26	4=100
65+	15	51	26	7=100
College grad+	18	60	19	3=100
Some college	16	59	21	4=100
HS or less	20	52	22	6=100
Republican	9	60	30	2=100
Democrat	27	58	9	6=100
Independent	18	54	25	3=100
<i>Tea Party...</i>				
Agree with	5	51	43	1=100
Disagree with	28	61	8	3=100
No opinion/ Never heard of	22	57	15	6=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q20.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

	Oct <u>2006</u> %	Mar <u>2010</u> %	<u>Change</u>	<u>N</u>
<i>% angry w/ federal gov't</i>				
Total	20	21	+1	2505
Republican	7	<b>30</b>	+23	762
Cons Rep	6	<b>32</b>	+26	546
Mod/Lib Rep	10	27	+17	206
Democrat	<b>28</b>	9	-19	824
Lib Dem	<b>44</b>	7	-37	297
Cons/Mod Dem	22	10	-12	493
Independent	21	25	+4	774
Lean Rep	13	37	+24	341
Lean Dem	29	15	-14	296
No lean	19	22	+3	282

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q20.

Overall Republican anger today is on par with the level of Democratic anger in October 2006 (30% of Republicans express anger today, compared with 28% of Democrats in 2006). But a smaller proportion (32%) of conservative Republicans express anger with the government today than did liberal Democrats in 2006 (44%). (For more detailed breakdowns on feeling about the federal government, see table on pg. 84)

### Government Performance

Overall views of the federal government's performance have not changed dramatically since 1997. As was the case then, about a quarter of Americans say the federal government does an excellent or good job in running its programs (25% then, 23% today). However, somewhat more say the government does a poor job (from 21% in 1997 to 28% today); fewer rate the government's performance as only fair (53% then, 46% today).

	Oct 1997	Mar 2010
<i>Job federal government does running programs</i>	%	%
Excellent	2	2
Good	23	21
Only fair	53	46
Poor	21	28
Don't know	1	2
	100	100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q24.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Notably, the increasing belief that the federal government does a poor job is almost entirely driven by partisanship. Fully 44% of Republicans say the government does a poor job in running its programs, up from just 28% in 1997 during Bill Clinton's second term. By contrast, there has been virtually no change in the percentage of Democrats giving the government poor ratings (10% then, 11% today).

Half of independents who lean Republican rate the government's performance as poor, up from just a third (33%) in 1997. Opinions among independents who lean to the Democratic Party, like those of Democrats themselves, are largely unchanged from 1997.

	Oct 1997	Mar 2010	<i>Change</i>
	%	%	
Total	21	28	+7
Republican	28	44	+16
Democrat	10	11	+1
Independent	24	32	+8
<i>Among independents</i>			
Lean Rep	33	50	+17
Lean Dem	13	14	+1
No lean	22	30	+8
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>			
Content	3	4	+1
Frustrated	22	24	+2
Angry	52	62	+10

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q24.

Not surprisingly, there is a strong relationship between expressing anger at the federal government and holding negative views of government performance. Fully 62% of those who are angry with the federal government say it does a poor job of running its programs; that compares with 52% in 1997. Those who are frustrated with government (24%) and basically

content (4%) are far less likely to rate the government's performance as poor and their opinions are largely unchanged from 1997.

### More Say Sweeping Change Is Needed

A majority of Americans (53%) say that the federal government needs very major reform, up sharply from 1997, when 37% expressed this view. Fewer than half (45%) think the government needs only some reform or not much change at all; in 1997, 62% said the government needed only some or little reform.

Unlike the rise in poor ratings for government performance, the belief that the federal government needs sweeping reform has increased among virtually all demographic and political groups. More non-Hispanic whites (55%) than non-Hispanic blacks (44%) say the government needs very major reform, but this view has increased among both groups since 1997.

Fewer than half of those under age 30 (44%) see very major reform as needed, the lowest percentage in any age group but more than the percentage of young people expressing this view in 1997 (35%). Majorities in older age groups now say the government needs very major reform, up substantially from 13 years ago.

Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (65%) say the government needs very major reform, up 23 points from 1997. Just four-in-ten Democrats (41%) agree. But even among Democrats, the share has grown by 11 points, from 30% in 1997.

	Oct 1997	Mar 2010
<i>Federal government needs...</i>	%	%
Very major reform	37	53
Only some reform	58	42
Not much change at all	4	3
Don't know	1	2
	100	100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q26.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

	Oct 1997	Mar 2010	Change	2010 N
<i>% saying fed gov't needs "very major reform"</i>	%	%		
Total	37	53	+16	2505
White, non-Hispanic	38	55	+17	1880
Black, non-Hispanic	32	44	+12	250
Hispanic	--	50	--	189
18-29	35	44	+9	347
30-49	37	53	+16	688
50-64	43	57	+14	808
65+	34	58	+24	621
College grad+	34	48	+14	902
Some college	36	51	+15	661
HS or less	39	57	+18	933
Republican	42	65	+23	762
Democrat	30	41	+11	824
Independent	39	54	+15	774
<i>Among independents</i>				
Lean Rep	45	69	+24	341
Lean Dem	34	43	+9	296
No lean	37	48	+11	282

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q26.

A majority of independents (54%) say they think the government needs very major reform, compared with 39% in 1997. The increase among Republican-leaning independents (24 points) has been as large as among self-identified Republicans (23 points). Fewer than half of Democratic-leaning independents (43%) and non-leaning independents (48%) say government needs major reform.

### Views of Government Power

Attitudes toward the scope of the federal government have undergone a significant change among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. Two-thirds of Republicans (67%) and 70% of Republican-leaning independents say federal programs should be greatly reduced to reduce the power of government while fewer than half as many say they should be maintained. In 1997 modest majorities of both groups (53% and 54%, respectively) favored cutting back government programs.

<b>Shift in Republican Opinions on Government Programs</b>					
<i>Government programs should be...</i>					
	<b>Oct 1997</b>		<b>Mar 2010</b>		<i>Change in cut back</i>
	<i>Cut back (1-3)</i>	<i>Main-tained (4-6)</i>	<i>Cut back (1-3)</i>	<i>Main-tained (4-6)</i>	
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	
Total	41	57	47	50	+6
Republican	53	45	67	32	+14
Democrat	27	71	27	70	0
Independent	43	55	51	47	+8
<i>Among independents</i>					
Lean Rep	54	45	70	28	+16
Lean Dem	28	69	31	67	+3
No lean	43	50	49	44	+6

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q23. Figures read across.  
 Question: Imagine a scale from one to six where ONE represents someone who generally believes that federal government programs should be cut back greatly to reduce the power of government, and SIX represents someone who feels that federal government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems. Where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?

By contrast, Democratic views about the size of government mirror opinions in 1997: 70% say federal programs should be maintained to deal with important problems. And there also has been little change since then in opinions among Democratic-leaning independents (67% programs maintained compared with 69% in 1997).

Beyond partisanship, the current survey shows that majorities of higher-income Americans (55% of those with family incomes of \$75,000 or more), whites (53%) and men (52%) say that federal programs should be cut back to reduce the power of government. By contrast, most lower-income people (57% of those with incomes of \$30,000 or less), Hispanics (66%), blacks (64%) and women (55%) say federal programs should be maintained to address important problems. There also are age differences in these opinions, with those under 30 the only group in which a clear majority (58%) says federal programs should be maintained.

### Specific Criticisms of Government

The familiar complaint that the government is inefficient resonates widely with the public. Fully 70% say the criticism that “the government is wasteful and inefficient” represents a major problem; this view is shared by majorities across most political and demographic groups.

More than six-in-ten (62%) contend that it is a major problem that “government policies unfairly benefit some groups,” while smaller majorities say that about the criticism that “the government doesn’t do enough to help average Americans” (56%), and government “is too big and powerful” (52%). Fewer than half (46%) say the claim “government interferes too much in peoples’ lives” is a major problem with government.

While there are partisan differences in opinions about the government’s inefficiency, fairness and whether it does enough for average people, these are dwarfed by the enormous partisan divide over whether the government is too big and powerful.

<b>Young, Poor and Minorities Favor Maintaining Programs</b>		
	<i>Gov't programs should be...</i>	
	<u>Cut back</u>	<u>Maintained</u>
	%	%
Total	47	50
Men	52	45
Women	42	55
White	53	45
Black	30	64
Hispanic	31	66
18-29	39	58
30-49	50	48
50-64	47	51
65+	50	45
College grad+	48	50
Some college	50	48
HS or less	45	51
<i>Family income</i>		
\$75,000 or more	55	45
\$30k-74,999	51	48
Less than \$30,000	39	57

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q23.  
Figures read across.

<b>Criticisms of the Federal Government</b>				
	<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%	%
Wasteful and inefficient	70	20	7	3=100
Policies unfairly benefit some	62	27	7	4=100
Does too little for average Americans	56	29	12	3=100
Too big and powerful	52	28	18	2=100
Interferes too much in people’s lives	46	34	18	2=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q67aF2-eF2.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.



More than twice as many Republicans (70%) as Democrats (34%) say the criticism that the government is too big and powerful is a major problem. And six-in-ten Republicans (61%) see the government interfering too much in people’s lives as a major problem compared with just 33% of Democrats.

Republicans (81%) also are more likely than Democrats (58%) to see government’s wastefulness and inefficiency and the claim that policies unfairly benefit some groups (66% and 55%, respectively) as major problems. More Democrats (63%) than Republicans (50%) say the criticism that the government fails to do enough to help average Americans is a major problem.

<b>Wide Partisan Gaps in Views of Government’s Power, Intrusiveness</b>				
<i>Percent saying each is a “major problem”</i>	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %	<i>R-D diff</i>
Too big and powerful	70	34	55	+36
Interferes too much in people’s lives	61	33	47	+28
Wasteful and inefficient	81	58	76	+23
Policies unfairly benefit some	66	55	65	+11
Does too little for average Americans	50	63	54	-13

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q67aF2-eF2

There are substantial differences by education when it comes to most of these questions, particularly the two criticisms concerning the federal government’s involvement in people’s lives. Fully 61% of those without college degrees say it is a major problem that the government doesn’t do enough to help average Americans; that compares with 43% of college graduates. And half (50%) of those without degrees see excessive government interference in people’s lives as a major problem compared with 37% of college graduates.

Whites are more likely than blacks to say several of these criticisms are major problems, although much of these racial differences are attributable to partisanship. Blacks are, however, as likely as whites to say that government interference in people’s lives is a major problem (47% of whites and 53% of blacks). Even when partisanship is controlled for, blacks are much more likely than whites to say this; fully 49% of black Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents see government’s interference in people’s lives as a major problem, compared with 28% of white Democrats and Democratic leaners.

Blacks are also more likely to say the criticism that the government doesn’t do enough to help average Americans is a major problem with government (71% vs. 53% of whites), and this racial gap persists within Democrats.

## More Say Government has Wrong Priorities

While the belief that the government is inefficient is widespread, a growing percentage of the public says that the government's priorities, rather than its inefficiency, are the bigger problem. Currently, 50% say the bigger problem with government is that it has the right priorities but runs its programs inefficiently, while 38% say the bigger problem is that it has the wrong priorities. In 1997, by more than two-to-one (61% to 29%), more saw inefficiency as the bigger problem.

In 1997, whites by two-to-one (60% to 30%) said that government's bigger problem was that it had the right priorities but was inefficient. Today, whites are divided, with fewer than half (47%) citing inefficiency and 42% saying it has the wrong priorities. Opinions among African Americans are largely the same as in 1997 (63% inefficient, 24% wrong priorities).

<b>Increasing Number See Wrong Priorities as Government's Bigger Problem</b>					
<i>Which is the bigger problem with government?</i>					
	<b>Oct 1997</b>		<b>Mar 2010</b>		
	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Has</u>	<u>Runs</u>	<u>Has</u>	<u>Wrong</u>
	<u>programs</u>	<u>wrong</u>	<u>programs</u>	<u>wrong</u>	<u>priorities</u>
	<u>inefficiently</u>	<u>priorities</u>	<u>inefficiently</u>	<u>priorities</u>	<u>change</u>
	%	%	%	%	
Total	61	29	50	38	+9
Men	57	32	46	41	+9
Women	64	27	53	35	+8
White, non-Hispanic	60	30	47	42	+12
Black, non-Hispanic	64	28	63	24	-4
18-29	58	35	53	35	0
30-49	62	30	49	41	+11
50-64	61	27	52	36	+9
65+	60	23	44	38	+15
College grad+	54	32	47	37	+5
Some college	59	31	45	46	+15
HS or less	64	28	54	35	+7
Republican	57	33	39	54	+21
Democrat	65	24	61	27	+3
Independent	63	29	49	37	+8

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q29.  
Question: "What do you personally feel is the bigger problem with government?  
Government has the wrong priorities or government has the right priorities but runs programs inefficiently?"

A majority of Republicans (54%) now say that wrong priorities are government's bigger problem; in 1997, most Republicans (57%) said government had the right priorities but was run inefficiently. By contrast, about six-in-ten Democrats (61%) say government's bigger problem is inefficiency, which is little changed from 13 years ago (65%).

## Regulation of Business, Interference with States

There continues to be broad public support for the stricter government regulation of major financial companies. However, a majority (58%) also says that the government “has gone too far in regulating business and interfering with the free enterprise system.” An identical percentage (58%) thinks the “federal government is interfering too much in state and local matters.”

<b>Government Seen as Going Too Far in Regulating Business and Interfering in State Matters</b>							
	Sept <u>1964</u>	Jan <u>1978</u>	Apr <u>1981</u>	Mar <u>1995</u>	Oct <u>1997</u>	May <u>2000</u>	Mar <u>2010</u>
<i>Has gone too far in regulating business</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Agree	43	58	65	73	56	60	58
Disagree	40	31	26	24	41	36	37
Don't know	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Is interfering too much in state and local matters</i>							
Agree	40	--	--	--	53	--	58
Disagree	48	--	--	--	44	--	38
Don't know	<u>12</u>	--	--	--	<u>3</u>	--	<u>5</u>
	100				100		100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q68a & Q68b.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 Note: 1964 data from Gallup, 1978 and 1981 from CBS/New York Times, 1995 from Hart/Teeter, and May 2000 from NPR/Kaiser/Harvard.

The belief that the government has gone too far in regulating business is on par with opinions in 2000 (60%) and 1997 (56%). In 1995, however, nearly three-quarters (73%) agreed that the federal government was going too far in regulating business.

Fully 79% of Republicans say the government has gone too far in regulating business, up from 67% in 1997. The proportion of Democrats agreeing with this statement has slipped slightly since then (from 45% to 39%). Consequently, the partisan gap, already 22 points in 1997, has increased to 40 points.

The modest partisan gap among independents who lean to either party also has ballooned. Currently, 78% of Republican-leaning independents say government regulation

<b>Growing Partisan Divisions on Government Regulation</b>				
	Oct <u>1997</u>	May <u>2000</u>	Mar <u>2010</u>	<i>97-10 change</i>
<b>Percent agree</b>	%	%	%	
<i>Gov't has gone too far in regulating business</i>				
Total	56	60	58	+2
Republican	67	73	79	+12
Democrat	45	47	39	-6
Independent	55	61	62	+7
<i>R-D diff</i>	+22	+26	+40	
<i>Among independents</i>				
Lean Rep	59	73	78	+19
Lean Dem	49	50	43	-6
No lean	56	--	60	+4

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q68a.  
 May 2000 data from NPR/Kaiser/Harvard.

of business has gone too far, compared with 43% of Democratic-leaning independents. In 1997, the differences in opinion between independents who lean Democratic and independents who lean Republican was just 10 points (59% vs. 49%).

### Too Much Attention to Wall Street, Too Little to Middle Class

Fully half of the public (50%) says Wall Street gets more attention than it should from the federal government and nearly as many (45%) see business leaders receiving too much attention. Conversely, two-thirds (66%) say middle class people in this country get *less* attention than they should from the government, and that figure is up 12 points from 1997. A majority (69%) also sees small businesses getting too little attention from the federal government.

Who Gets Too Much Attention, Too Little Attention from Government?					
		Too <u>much</u> %	Right <u>amount</u> %	Too <u>little</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
<b>Wall Street</b>	2010	50	25	16	9=100
<b>Business leaders</b>	2010	45	26	20	9=100
	1997	50	37	9	4=100
<b>Labor unions</b>	2010	34	30	26	11=100
<b>Poor people</b>	2010	17	22	56	5=100
	1997	10	23	65	2=100
<b>Middle class</b>	2010	9	22	66	4=100
	1997	9	36	54	1=100
<b>Small businesses</b>	2010	8	20	69	3=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q60aF1-fF2.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The belief that Wall Street gets too much government attention is shared across political lines: Identical majorities of Republicans and Democrats (52% each) say that Wall Street gets more attention than it should from the federal government, as do 47% of independents.

Somewhat more Democrats (49%) than Republicans (41%) say that business leaders get more attention than they should from the federal government. A plurality of independents (47%) also takes this view.

There also is considerable – and increasing – agreement that the middle class in this country gets less attention than it should from the federal government. Notably, about two-thirds of Republicans (68%), Democrats (67%) and independents (65%) say the middle class receives too little government attention; smaller majorities expressed this view 13 years ago.

Most people (56%) also say that poor people in this country get less attention than they should; but in contrast with opinions about the middle class, fewer say the poor gets too little attention than did so in 1997 (65%).

Slightly more than half of whites (52%) now say that poor people get too little attention, down from 62% in 1997. There has been less change among African Americans, who continue to overwhelmingly say that the poor gets too little attention (81%).

In the current survey, fewer Republicans say the poor get too little attention than did so in 1997 (39% now, 49% then); Democratic views are virtually unchanged. A slim majority (53%) of independents now say the poor get too little government attention, down from 70% in 1997. There have been comparable declines among Republican-leaning (20 points) and Democratic-leaning independents (19 points). However, Republican leaners continue to be far less likely than Democratic leaners to say the poor receive too little attention (38% vs. 63%).

**Broad Agreement that Middle Class Gets Short Shrift from Government**

	Oct 1997	Mar 2010	Change
<i>Middle class gets too little gov't attention...</i>	%	%	
Total	54	66	+12
Men	52	62	+10
Women	56	69	+13
White, non-Hispanic	56	68	+12
Black, non-Hispanic	48	60	+12
Hispanic	--	63	--
College grad+	57	64	+7
Some college	56	68	+12
HS or less	53	65	+12
Republican	52	68	+16
Democrat	56	67	+11
Independent	53	65	+12
<i>Among independents</i>			
Lean Rep	55	70	+15
Lean Dem	48	62	+14
No lean	61	59	-2

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q60bF1.

**Smaller Majority Says Poor Get Too Little Attention**

	Oct 1997	Mar 2010	Change
<i>Poor get too little gov't attention...</i>	%	%	
Total	65	56	-9
White, non-Hispanic	62	52	-10
Black, non-Hispanic	85	81	-4
College grad+	52	48	-4
Some college	67	54	-13
HS or less	69	62	-7
Republican	49	39	-10
Democrat	72	73	+1
Independent	70	53	-17
<i>Among independents</i>			
Lean Rep	58	38	-20
Lean Dem	82	63	-19
No lean	74	63	-11
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>			
Content	67	60	-7
Frustrated	65	58	-7
Angry	57	45	-12

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q60eF2.



## SECTION 3: GOVERNMENT CHALLENGES, VIEWS OF INSTITUTIONS

While the public is highly critical of government, there is a widespread acknowledgement that government faces more daunting problems today than it did in the past. The public also puts some blame on itself: Most say Americans are unwilling to pay for the things they want government to do.

For the most part, people do not see themselves as overtaxed by the federal government. Half say they pay about the right amount in taxes, while a smaller percentage says they pay more than their fair share in taxes. The proportion saying they pay more than their fair share has declined modestly since 1997.

The public's negative opinions about the federal government's impact on the country are matched by equally abysmal ratings for the impact of major financial institutions and large corporations. And while fewer people say the federal government has a positive effect on people's daily lives than in the late 1990s, this also is the case for state and local governments.

### Government's Job Seen as Harder

The view that government is now confronting more difficult problems is shared widely – even among those who say they are angry with government and those who agree with the Tea Party movement. Overall, 79% agree with the statement: “Government is facing more difficult problems than it did in the past.” Just 20% disagree with this sentiment.

Fully 70% of those who say they are angry with the federal government acknowledge that the government is facing tougher problems these days.

That is only somewhat smaller than the percentages of those frustrated (80%) or content (83%) with the federal government.

Substantial majorities across the demographic and political spectrum agree that the government is facing more difficult problems than it once did. About eight-in-ten Democrats (83%) concur, as do 79% of independents and 74% of Republicans.

<i>Gov't is facing more difficult problems than in the past ...</i>	<u>Agree</u> %	<u>Disagree</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	79	20	2=100
Republican	74	25	1=100
Democrat	83	15	2=100
Independent	79	20	1=100
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>			
Content	83	15	2=100
Frustrated	80	19	1=100
Angry	70	27	2=100
<i>Tea Party...</i>			
Agree with	69	29	1=100
Disagree with	84	16	*=100
No opinion/Never heard of	81	17	2=100
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q68d. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.			

## Public Seen as Unwilling to Pay

There also is agreement – though not nearly as widespread – that Americans are unwilling to pay for the things they want government to do. A majority (56%) agrees with this statement while 39% disagree.

The belief that the public is unwilling to pay for the things they want government to do also cuts across demographic and political lines. And while clear majorities of those who are content with the federal government and those who are frustrated (59% each) say

Americans are unwilling to pay for the things they want from government, only about half of those who are angry with government agree (48%).

Similarly, 49% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say the American public is unwilling to pay for the things they want government to do; a much higher percentage of those who disagree with the Tea Party (69%) say that people are unwilling to pay for the things they want from government.

## Views of Taxation

Currently, 50% of the public says they pay about the right amount in taxes considering what they get from the federal government, while 43% say they pay more than their fair share of taxes; very few people (3%) say they pay less than their fair share. In 1997, a majority (52%) said they paid more than their fair share in federal taxes, while somewhat fewer (45%) said they paid their fair share.

Compared with other attitudes toward government, partisan differences in views of the federal tax burden are modest. Most Democrats (55%) say they pay about the right amount in federal taxes while 38% say they pay more than their fair share. Republicans and independents are more evenly divided, but nearly half in each group say they pay about the right amount considering what they get from the federal government (47% of Republicans, 49% of independents).

<i>Americans aren't willing to pay for things they want gov't to do...</i>	<u>Agree</u> %	<u>Disagree</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	56	39	5=100
Republican	53	44	3=100
Democrat	60	36	4=100
Independent	57	38	5=100
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>			
Content	59	36	4=100
Frustrated	59	38	3=100
Angry	48	46	6=100
<i>Tea Party...</i>			
Agree with	49	46	4=100
Disagree with	69	28	2=100
No opinion/Never heard of	56	38	6=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q68c.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.



Compared with 1997, somewhat smaller proportions of Republicans, Democrats and independents now say they pay more than their fair share in taxes, while more view their federal tax burden as about right.

Notably, a majority of those who are frustrated with government (52%) say they pay about the right amount in federal taxes considering what they get from the government; 44% say they pay more than their fair share. In 1997, most (55%) of those who expressed frustration with government said they paid more than their fair share of taxes.

<b>Fewer Say They Pay "More than Their Fair Share" In Federal Taxes</b>					
	<b>Oct 1997</b>		<b>Mar 2010</b>		<i>"More than fair share" change</i>
	More than fair share	About right	More than fair share	About right	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	52	45	43	50	-9
Republican	57	41	49	47	-8
Democrat	46	48	38	55	-8
Independent	53	44	46	49	-7
<i>Family income*</i>					
\$75k or more	61	36	51	45	-10
\$30k-74,999	54	45	44	51	-10
Less than \$30k	38	55	36	56	-2
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>					
Content	41	45	26	66	-15
Frustrated	55	41	44	52	-11
Angry	63	35	61	33	-2

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q63.  
 \*Income categories for October 1997 are \$50,000 or more; \$20,000-\$49,999 and less than \$20,000.

However, there has been almost no change in opinions among those who say they are angry with the federal government. Currently, 61% of those who are angry with the federal government say they pay more than their fair share of taxes, which is largely unchanged from 1997 (63%).

The public's views of the taxes paid to state and local governments are similar to its view of the federal tax burden. About half (51%) say they pay the right amount in state taxes considering what they get from their state government; slightly more (55%) say they pay the right amount in local taxes. Opinions about both the state and local tax burdens are little changed from an NPR/Kaiser/Harvard survey conducted a decade ago.

### **Impact of Government, Other Institutions**

Large majorities of Americans say that Congress (65%) and the federal government (65%) are having a negative effect on the way things are going in this country; somewhat fewer, but still a majority (54%), say the same about the agencies and departments of the federal government.

But opinions about the impact of large corporations and banks and other financial institutions are as negative as are views of government. Fully 69% say that banks and financial institutions have a negative effect on the country while 64% see large corporations as having a negative impact.

By contrast, two other business sectors – small businesses and technology companies – are widely seen as having a positive impact on the country. Fully 71% say small businesses have a positive effect while 68% view the impact of technology companies positively. Churches and religious organizations and colleges and universities were the only other institutions that majorities say have a positive impact on the country (63% and 61%, respectively).

The public is divided over the impact of the Obama administration – 45% say it is positive while the same percentage sees it as negative. This opinion closely resembles Barack Obama’s job approval in April (48% approve, 43% disapprove).

<i>Effect on way things are going in the country ...</i>	<u>Positive</u> %	<u>Negative</u> %	<u>Other/DK</u> %
Small businesses	71	19	10=100
Technology companies	68	18	14=100
Churches & religious orgs	63	22	15=100
Colleges & universities	61	26	13=100
Obama administration	45	45	10=100
Entertainment industry	33	51	16=100
Labor unions	32	49	18=100
Federal agencies & depts	31	54	16=100
National news media	31	57	12=100
Large corporations	25	64	12=100
Federal government	25	65	9=100
Congress	24	65	12=100
Banks & financial inst	22	69	10=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q18aF1-18nF2.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Most Americans feel that the national news media (57%) and the entertainment industry (51%) have a negative effect on the way things are going in this country. A plurality (49%) says the same about labor unions.

### **Critical of Government, Critical of Business**

Predictably, people who say they are frustrated or angry with the federal government take a very dim view of government’s impact on the country. Yet they also offer critical views of the impact of a number of other institutions, particularly banks and large corporations.

Just 18% of those who feel frustrated with the government – and 16% of those who are angry – say that banks and financial institutions have a positive effect on the way things are going in the country. About the same percentage of the frustrated group (22%) says the federal government has a positive effect. Those who are angry, however, are less likely to give positive ratings to the federal government (7%) than to banks (16%).

Similarly, only about a quarter (24%) of those angry with government – and about the same percentage of those who are frustrated (23%) – think that large corporations have a positive effect on the country.

People who say they are basically content with the federal government not only are far more likely to say that the government has a positive effect, they also view the impact of other institutions more positively as well. For instance, 39% of those who are content with government say that banks and other financial institutions have a positive effect, roughly double the proportions of the frustrated and angry groups.

With a handful of exceptions, the “angry” group gives the institutions in the survey – government and non-government alike – the lowest positive ratings. Differences among the three groups are large in assessing the effects of the Obama administration and also in

assessing the impact of colleges and universities. Just 42% of those who are angry at the federal government say that colleges and universities have a positive effect on the country, far lower than the percentages of those frustrated (64%) or basically content (81%) with government who express positive views.

**Angry at Government -  
But Also Critical of Banks and Business**

% saying each has positive effect...	Feeling about federal gov't		
	Content	Frus- trated	Angry
	%	%	%
Small businesses	73	74	68
Technology companies	73	70	59
Churches & religious orgs	67	61	65
Colleges & universities	81	64	42
Obama administration	80	40	18
Entertainment industry	46	31	21
Labor unions	51	32	21
National news media	47	29	21
Federal agencies & depts	60	27	10
Federal government	64	22	7
Large corporations	36	23	24
Congress	49	20	9
Banks & financial inst	39	18	16

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q18aF1-nF2.

### Government’s Personal Impact

The proportion of Americans saying that the federal government’s activities, such as laws enacted, have a major impact on their day-to-day lives has changed little since October 1997. Currently, 89% say the federal government’s activities have a great (41%) or some (48%) effect; in October 1997, 90% said the government had a great (36%) or some (54%) effect. Similarly, opinions about how much the activities state and local governments affect people’s daily lives are about the same now as 13 years ago.

**Fewer Say Government at All Levels  
Has Positive Personal Impact**

*Impact on your day-to-day life is ...*

	Positive	Negative	Neither/ no effect*	DK amt of effect
	%	%	%	%
<b>Federal gov't</b>				
March 2010	38	43	18	2=100
October 1997	50	31	18	1=100
<b>Your state gov't</b>				
March 2010	42	39	16	2=100
October 1997	62	21	16	1=100
<b>Your local gov't</b>				
March 2010	51	29	18	2=100
October 1997	64	18	17	1=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q27a-cF2 & Q28a-cF2.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 \*Includes those who “Don’t know” if effect is positive or negative.

While the share who say government – at the federal, state or local level – has at least some effect on their day-to-day lives has changed little, the balance of opinion has become more negative toward the impact of all levels of government.

Overall, 38% of those who say the federal government has some effect on their day-to-day lives say that it has a positive impact; slightly more (43%) say the federal government’s activities have a negative personal impact. In 1997, half (50%) said the federal government’s impact was positive while 31% viewed it as negative.

Among Republicans, 60% see the impact of the federal government on their daily lives as negative while fewer than half as many (24%) see it as positive. In 1997, more Republicans said the government’s actions affected them positively rather than negatively (by 47% to 36%).

A narrow majority of Democrats (52%) says the federal government has a positive impact on their day-to-day lives, down from 60% in 1997. There has been comparable decline in positive views among independents (from 45% then to 36% today).

<b>Divided over Federal Government’s Personal Impact</b>					
	<b>Oct 1997</b>		<b>March 2010</b>		<b>Change in positive</b>
	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Neg</b>	<b>Pos</b>	<b>Neg</b>	
<i>Impact on your day-to-day life</i>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	
Total	50	31	38	43	-12
Men	48	36	37	43	-11
Women	53	26	38	43	-15
18-29	54	26	47	31	-7
30-49	51	32	38	44	-13
50-64	45	36	33	51	-12
65+	48	30	33	42	-15
Republican	47	36	24	60	-23
Democrat	60	20	52	29	-8
Independent	45	36	36	44	-9
<i>Feeling about federal gov’t...</i>					
Content	75	7	68	8	-7
Frustrated	45	36	38	44	-7
Angry	17	64	11	75	-6

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q28a.  
 Asked of those who say federal government has “great” or “some” effect. Figures based on total.

In 1997, those who said they were angry with the federal government overwhelmingly viewed its personal impact as negative (by 64% to 17%). Today, fully 75% see the government’s impact on daily life as negative while just 11% see it as positive. Among those frustrated with government, 44% see the federal government’s effect on daily life as negative, while 38% see it as positive; that is almost the opposite of their opinions in 1997 (45% positive, 36% negative).

## State Governments Also Viewed More Negatively

In October 1997, nearly three times as many people who said their state government's activities had an effect on their daily lives described the impact as positive rather than negative (62% vs. 21%). Today, just 42% say the personal impact of their state's government is positive while nearly as many (39%) see it as negative.

The rise in negative opinions about the impact of state government activities has been most pronounced among Republicans: just 39% of Republicans say their state government has a positive effect on their day-to-day life, compared with 66% in 1997. Yet there also have been sizeable declines in positive views among independents (down 21 points) and Democrats (14 points).

### Westerners More Likely to Say State Government Has Negative Impact on Daily Life

<i>Impact on your day-to-day life...</i>	<b>Oct 1997</b>		<b>March 2010</b>		<i>Change in positive</i>
	<u>Pos</u> %	<u>Neg</u> %	<u>Pos</u> %	<u>Neg</u> %	
Total	62	21	42	39	-20
East	59	24	44	37	-15
Midwest	63	20	41	42	-22
South	64	19	46	34	-18
West	58	25	34	48	-24
Republican	66	18	39	45	-27
Democrat	61	23	47	37	-14
Independent	61	25	40	40	-21
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>					
Content	77	6	58	17	-19
Frustrated	58	25	45	41	-13
Angry	42	41	26	55	-16

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q28bF1.  
 Asked of those who say state government has "great" or "some" effect.  
 Figures based on total.

People living in the West also assess the impact of state government actions more negatively than they did 13 years ago. In 1997, more than twice as many Westerners viewed the impact of state government's activities as positive compared to negative (58% vs. 25%). Currently, only about a third (34%) of Westerners see the impact of their state government's actions as positive while 48% see it as negative; the West is the only region where negative opinions significantly outnumber positive ones.

## Views of Local Government

More people (51%) see local government's activities as having a positive effect on their day-to-day lives than say that about the state or federal governments. Still, positive ratings also have declined since 1997 for local governments (from 64%).

More Republicans who say that local governments have a personal impact see that effect as positive rather than negative (by 48% to 33%). Still, positive evaluations of the effect of

local governments have fallen from 70% in 1997. There have been smaller declines in positive views among Democrats (nine points) and independents (eight points).

<b>Positive Views of Local Government Also Fall</b>					
	<b>Oct 1997</b>		<b>March 2010</b>		<b>Change in <u>positive</u></b>
	<b><u>Pos</u></b>	<b><u>Neg</u></b>	<b><u>Pos</u></b>	<b><u>Neg</u></b>	
<i>Impact on your day-to-day life</i>					
Total	64	18	51	29	-13
Republican	70	13	48	33	-22
Democrat	64	16	55	27	-9
Independent	58	22	50	28	-8
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>					
Content	76	11	63	10	-13
Frustrated	63	18	52	31	-11
Angry	43	32	37	47	-6
<small>Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q28cF2.            Asked of those who say local government has "great" or "some" effect.            Figures based on total.</small>					

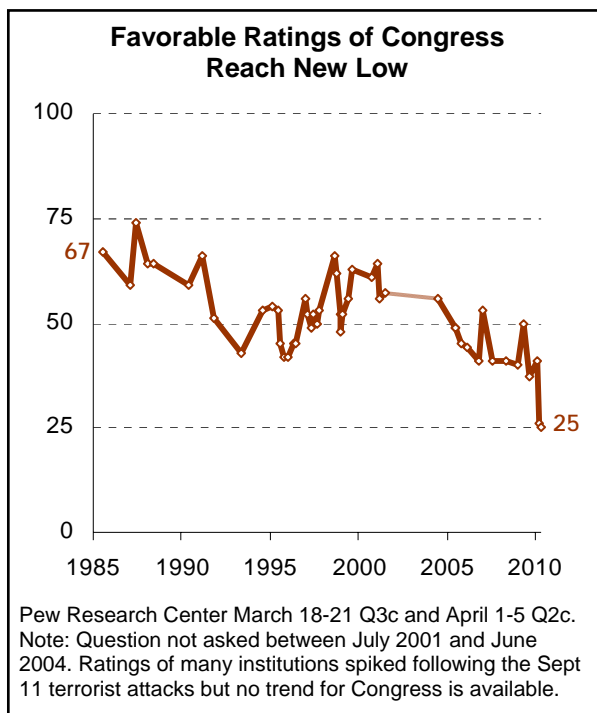
## SECTION 4: CONGRESS AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES

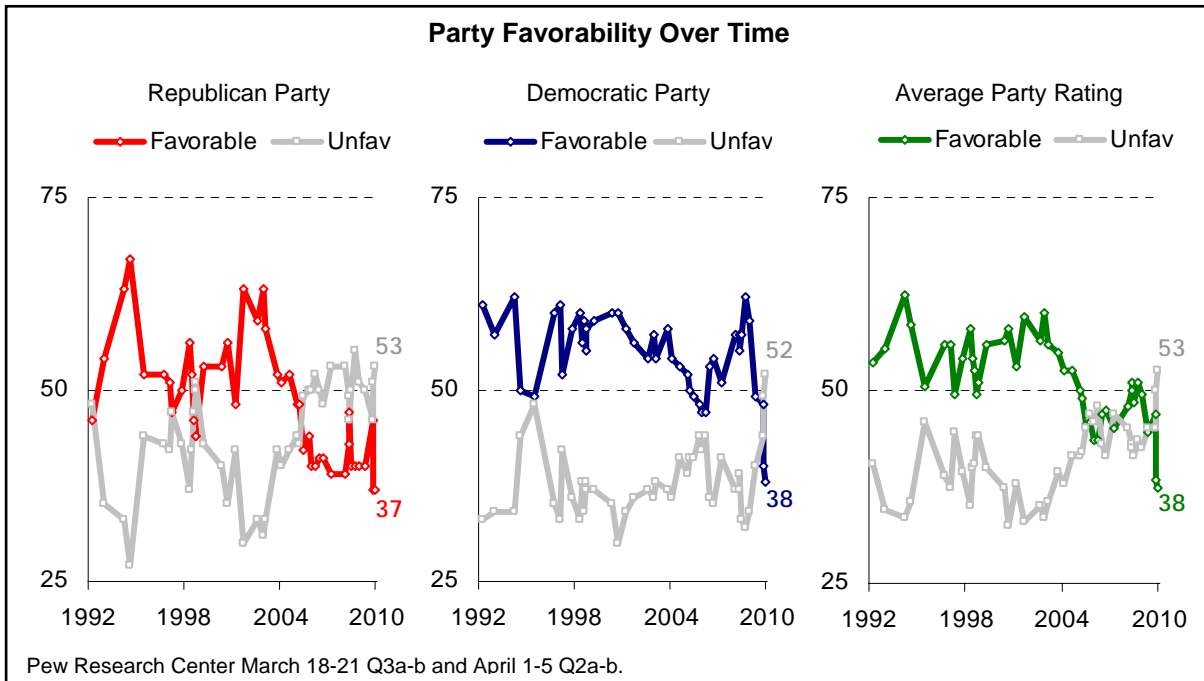
Americans have long held mixed feelings about political leaders in Washington, but public perceptions of elected officials, Congress, and the political parties have turned sharply negative. In March, during the final debate over health care reform, just 26% of Americans offered a favorable assessment of Congress – by far the lowest in a quarter-century of Pew Research Center polling. And there was no improvement upon passage of the bill – just 25% offered a favorable assessment of Congress in early April, while 65% view Congress unfavorably.

When asked to describe the major problems with elected officials these days, there is no single criticism that dominates. Large majorities across partisan lines see elected officials as not careful with the government's money, influenced by special interest money, overly concerned about their own careers, unwilling to compromise and out of touch with regular Americans. And the public sees the members of Congress themselves, not the system, as the root of the problem. More than half (52%) say the political system can work fine, it is the members of Congress that are the problem. Fewer (38%) are of the view that most members have good intentions but the political system is broken.

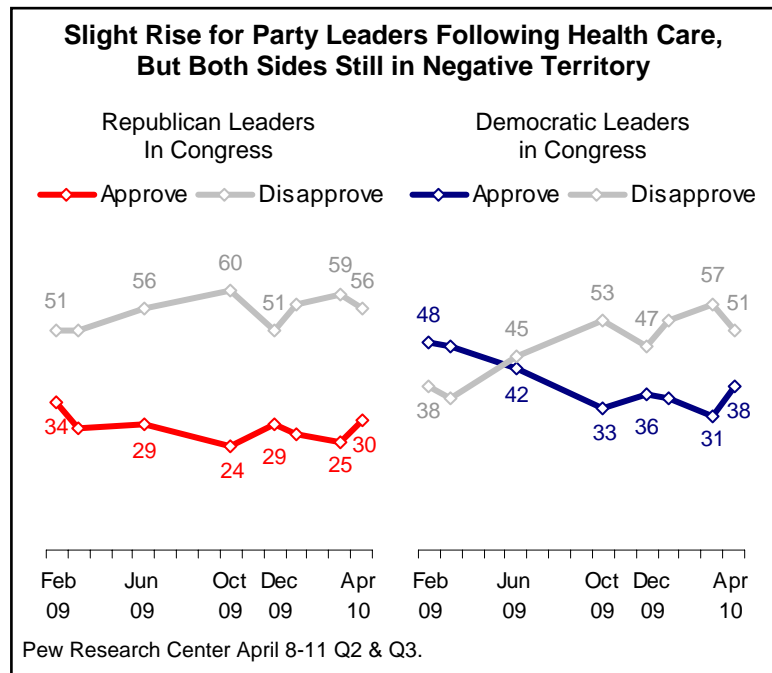
Increasing partisanship is a factor behind these assessments, and the public also has turned harshly critical of the political parties at unprecedented levels – with Democrats suffering the biggest declines over the past year. Favorability of the GOP dropped precipitously in late 2005, reaching 42% following Hurricane Katrina and, aside from brief spikes following the 2008 Republican convention and in February of this year, it has remained at roughly 40% since then.

As recently as January 2009, Democrats held a 22-point lead over Republicans in favorability (62% vs. 40%); today that advantage is gone, with just 38% offering a favorable assessment of the Democratic Party and 37% for the Republican Party. The extent to which the parties are seen as part of the problem today is perhaps best seen in the average rating for both, which never fell below 50% from 1992 through 2004, but has been in negative territory for most of the past six years. It reaches a new low of 38% in the latest poll.





While the overall image of the parties has never been lower, there has been a slight recovery in views of each party's leaders in Congress, as each party's base offered more praise in April than they did in March. Currently, 38% approve of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing, up from 31% a month ago – the share of Democrats offering a positive mark rose from 58% to 71%. Ratings for Republicans leaders rose slightly from 25% to 30% overall, driven by a shift from 49% in March to 60% currently among Republicans. There was no commensurate rise in party favorability ratings within each party's base. Despite these slim gains, majorities continue to say they disapprove of the job each party's leaders are doing in Congress.





## Sliding Favorability for Congress

In January 2009, 40% of Americans said they had a favorable opinion of the then-new 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. That rose to 50% in April 2009. By last August, as the health care debate was heating up and many lawmakers faced angry town hall meetings with constituents, favorability dropped to 37%. It hovered near four-in-ten in early February (41%), but then dropped to 26% in mid-March as lawmakers maneuvered over the fate of health care reform legislation. And there has been no change with the passage of the health care reform legislation: in early April, favorability stands at 25%. Close to two-thirds (65%) say they have an unfavorable opinion of Congress; 30% of those say *very* unfavorable. These recent numbers are the most negative in the history of Pew Research Center surveys since July 1985.

Last April, 66% of Democrats had a favorable view of Congress; this April, that is down to 40%. Just more than half (52%) say they have an unfavorable opinion, with 19% saying their opinion is *very* unfavorable. Among Republicans, just 29% had a favorable opinion of Congress last April; that has fallen to 13% in the new survey. Close to eight-in-ten Republicans (79%) say they have an unfavorable opinion, including 42% who say their opinion is *very* unfavorable.

Positive Views of Congress Slide During Health Care Fight							
	April 2009		Mar 18-21 2010		Apr 1-5 2010		4/09-4/10 fav change
	Fav %	Unfav %	Fav %	Unfav %	Fav %	Unfav %	
Total	50	43	26	62	25	65	-25
18-29	53	37	40	43	38	47	-15
30-49	52	41	25	61	22	70	-30
50-64	51	47	20	72	25	70	-26
65+	38	47	17	71	19	70	-19
Republican	29	65	20	73	13	79	-16
Democrat	66	26	38	50	40	52	-26
Independent	47	46	21	67	23	68	-24
<i>Household income</i>							
\$75k or more	44	52	21	73	21	73	-23
\$30k to \$74,999	50	45	27	61	24	70	-26
Less than \$30,000	57	35	31	54	33	57	-24
Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q3c and April 1-5 Q2c.							

Close to half of independents (47%) had a favorable view of Congress in April 2009. That has now slipped to 23%. About two-thirds of independents (68%) say they have an unfavorable opinion of Congress, including 31% who say *very* unfavorable. Among Republican-leaning independents, 79% say they have an unfavorable opinion of Congress, while just 16% say they have a favorable opinion.

## Favorability Down Sharply For Democrats, Already Low for Republicans

The 2008 election brought the nation a Democratic president in Barack Obama and larger Democratic majorities in the House and the Senate. In January 2009, more than six-in-ten Americans (62%) said they had a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party, but that high level of positive opinion would not last. Today, 38% say they have a favorable view of the party, the lowest in nearly two decades of Pew Research Center polling.

Republicans, meanwhile, are roughly where they were at the start of last year. Today, 37% say they have a favorable opinion of the Republican Party; in January 2009, 40% said this. The difference between Democratic and Republican favorability has dropped from 22 points to one.

In the month before the 2008 election, Democrats had a 17-point advantage on favorability. In October 2006, just before the election that gave Democrats control of Congress, they held a 12-point edge. Interestingly, there was no difference in favorability in the summer before the 1994 election that saw Congress flip from Democratic to Republican control. That July, 62% said they had a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party, while 63% said they had a favorable view of the Republican Party.

That year, both parties were seen a largely favorable light. The average of the two together was 63%. For several years after that, one party's higher rating would offset the other's lower one, keeping the average above 50% – until July 2005. Near the end of the 2006 campaign, Republican favorability had slipped to 41% – from 51% in June 2004 – and the two-party average dropped to 47%.

The average then stayed around 50% through Obama's election and the start of the current Congress. But the highly partisan debate over health care legislation over the past year seems to have taken a toll. In March, as lawmakers debated the final version of the health care legislation, the average favorability stood at 39%. This month, with that round in the fight now history, neither party has made any gains and the average stands at 38%.

	<b>Percent favorable</b>			<i>Avg for</i>
	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>D-R</u>	<u>both parties</u>
	<u>party</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>diff</u>	
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>		
Apr 2010	38	37	+1	38
Mar 2010	40	37	+3	39
Feb 2010	48	46	+2	47
Aug 2009	49	40	+9	45
Apr 2009	59	40	+19	50
Jan 2009	62	40	+22	51
<b>Previous elections</b>				
Oct 2008	57	40	+17	49
Oct 2006	53	41	+12	47
Jun 2004	54	51	+3	53
Jan 2002*	56	63	-7	60
Sep 2000	60	53	+7	57
Oct 1998	56	52	+4	54
Jul 1994	62	63	-1	63

Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q3a-b and April 1-5 Q2a-b. 1998 and 2000 figures based on registered voters.  
\*Jan 2002 data from ABC/Washington Post.

## Independents Less Favorable Toward Democrats

Since January 2009, the Democratic Party has seen the largest declines in favorability among independents, though it has lost ground among its own members and Republicans as well. Currently, 27% of independents say they have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party, down from 58% in January 2009.

At the start of the Obama administration, 30% of Republicans said they had a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party. That is now down to 10%. And among Democrats, favorability has dropped from 90% in January 2009 to 78%.

The Republican Party, on the other hand, started with relatively lower numbers that

have changed only slightly. Close to four-in-ten independents (38%) said they had a favorable view of the party in January 2009; that is now 33%. About two-in-ten Democrats (22%) had a favorable view of the opposition party at the start of 2009. That is now down to 12%. And among Republicans, favorability of the GOP today stands at 79%, not significantly changed from 74% in early 2009.

	Jan <u>2009</u>	Apr <u>2009</u>	Aug <u>2009</u>	Feb <u>2010</u>	Mar <u>2010</u>	Apr <u>2010</u>	<i>1/09-4/10</i> <u>change</u>
<b>Democratic Party</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total favorable	62	59	49	48	40	38	-24
Republicans	30	24	17	18	11	10	-20
Democrats	90	91	85	84	78	78	-12
Independents	58	52	40	40	33	27	-31
<b>Republican Party</b>							
Total favorable	40	40	40	46	37	37	-3
Republicans	74	79	78	82	77	79	+5
Democrats	22	18	16	23	15	12	-10
Independents	38	41	40	42	33	33	-5

Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q3a-b and April 1-5 Q2a-b.

## Low Numbers for Congress and the Parties Heading into Midterms

The current favorability rating for Congress (25% favorable) is much lower than in mid-1994 (53%) or fall 2006 (41%), mid-term election years that resulted in a large turnover of seats – and changes in control – in Congress.

Not surprisingly, in all three cycles, ratings of Congress are highest among people who identify with the party in control: Republicans in 2006, and Democrats in 1994 and today. However, where roughly two-thirds of Democrats in 1994 (64%) and Republicans in 2006 (65%) offered a favorable assessment of Congresses controlled by their party's leaders, just 40% of Democrats today have a positive view of a Congress controlled by their own party's leaders.

Ratings of the political parties are also starkly lower today than in these previous critical midterms. Favorability for the Democrats today (38%) is lower than in either 1994 (62%) when they went on to lose their majority, or 2006 (53%) when they went on to win a majority. In July 1994, more than six-in-ten Americans (63%) had a favorable opinion of the Republican Party. That number stood at 41% going into the 2006 mid-terms and is at a similar point today (37%).

The erosion of party images is most severe among political independents. In 1994 most independents viewed the Democratic Party (60%) and the Republican Party (64%) in positive terms. In 2006 – the year Democrats took control of Congress – substantially more independents offered a favorable view of the Democratic Party (48%) than the GOP (35%). This year, independents have about the same view of both parties (33% favorable for the Republican Party, 27% for the Democratic Party).

But party images are even suffering within each party's political base as well. In 1994, 94% of Republicans had a favorable view of their party, compared with 79% today. Among Democrats, 94% had a favorable view of their party in 1994, compared with 78% today.

	<b>1994</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
<i>% favorable</i>	<u>July</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>April</u>
	%	%	%
<b>Congress</b>			
Total	53	41	25
Republican	45	65	13
Democrat	64	34	40
Independent	49	34	23
<b>Democratic Party</b>			
Total	62	53	38
Republican	27	21	10
Democrat	<b>94</b>	89	<b>78</b>
Independent	60	48	27
<b>Republican Party</b>			
Total	63	41	37
Republican	<b>94</b>	86	<b>79</b>
Democrat	37	12	12
Independent	64	35	33

Pew Research Center April 1-5 Q2a-c.

## More See Lawmakers as Problem than System

Asked if they think the political system is broken or if lawmakers are more to blame for today's views of Congress, just more than half (52%) say "it's the members of Congress that are the problem." On the other hand, close to four-in-ten (38%) agree with the statement: "Most members of Congress have good intentions, it's the political system that is broken."

On balance, Republicans, Democrats and independents all tend to see the problem lying more with the members than the system, but Republicans are particularly of this view. By nearly two-to-one (60% vs. 34%) Republicans see the members of Congress themselves as the problem, not the system. The margin is in the same direction, but smaller among Democrats (50% vs. 42%) and independents (51% vs. 39%).

On this question, the responses of independents who lean toward either of the political parties are about the same: 53% of Republican-leaning and 51% of Democratic-leaning independents say it is the members of Congress that are the problem.

<b>More See Members of Congress – Not Political System – as the Problem</b>			
	The system is fine, members <u>are the problem</u>	Members have good intentions/ <u>system is broken</u>	Other <u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
Total	52	38	10=100
Republican	60	34	7=100
Conserv	61	32	7=100
Mod/Lib	57	39	4=100
Democrat	50	42	9=100
Cons/Mod	47	47	7=100
Liberal	55	36	9=100
Independent	51	39	10=100
Lean Rep	53	40	7=100
Lean Dem	51	36	14=100
No lean	43	37	20=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q72.  
 Question: Which comes closer to your view of Congress these days? Most members of Congress have good intentions, it's the political system that is broken OR the political system works fine, it's the members of Congress that are the problem.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding

## Common Criticisms of Elected Officials

When people are asked what they see – in their own words – as the biggest problem with elected officials in Washington, several common themes emerge. Almost two-in-ten (18%) say elected officials are influenced by special interest money, 14% say they care only about their political careers, 12% say they are out of touch with regular Americans and another 12% say they are not willing to work together and compromise.

Smaller percentages cite other concerns: 7% say they see elected officials in Washington as liars or dishonest, 5% point to the fight over health care, 4% each cite the economy, the notion that officials are all talk and little action or that the members of Congress themselves are the problem.

### Elected Officials Seen as Influenced by Special Interests, Looking Out for Themselves

%	
18	Influenced by special interest money
14	Care only about their political careers
12	Out of touch with regular Americans
12	Not willing to work together and compromise
7	Liars/Dishonest/Personal morality
5	Health care
4	The economy/Jobs
4	Do nothing/All talk/Don't do their jobs
4	Members are the problem/not qualified/Idiots
3	Not careful with the government's money
3	Obama/Democrats/Violating the Constitution
3	Been there too long/Term limits/Too old
2	Government is too big/too powerful/Personal liberty
2	Too focused on wars & foreign problems
2	Don't turn to faith/religion enough
1	Republicans/Conservative agenda

Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q1.

"In your own words, what do you see as the BIGGEST problem with elected officials in Washington, D.C. these days?"  
Numbers represent percent of respondents. N=530

And when Americans are asked separately whether some of the more frequently voiced criticisms are major problems, there is little disagreement. Large majorities see as major problems a lack of care with the government's money (83%), the influence of special interest money (82%) and the notion that elected officials "care only about their own political careers" (81%). Just under eight-in-ten say the same about officials' unwillingness to compromise (78% a major problem) and the notion that elected officials are out of touch with regular people (76%).

### Criticisms of Elected Officials Seen as Major Problems

<i>Criticisms of elected officials...</i>	Major	Minor	Not a	DK
	<u>problem</u>	<u>problem</u>	<u>problem</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%	%
Not careful w/ gov't's money	83	11	3	3=100
Infl. by special interest money	82	11	2	4=100
Care only about own careers	81	14	3	3=100
Unwilling to compromise	78	14	4	4=100
Out of touch w/ regular people	76	16	5	4=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q66a-e.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Republicans are most likely to say that a lack of care with the government's money represents a major problem (93%), but three quarters of Democrats (75%) agree, as do 85% of independents. There is little partisan difference in assessing the problem posed by the influence of special interest money: 86% of Republicans say this, along with 81% of Democrats and 82% of independents. And partisans on both sides see little effort to reach compromise: 80% of Republicans see this as a major problem, about the same as Democrats (82%) and independents (77%).

% saying each is 'major problem'	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%
Not careful w/ gov't's money	93	75	85
Infl. by special interest money	86	81	82
Care only about own careers	86	80	82
Unwilling to compromise	80	82	77
Out of touch w/ regular people	81	69	80

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q66a-e.

Republicans and independents are slightly more likely than Democrats to see the idea that elected officials are out of touch with regular people as a major problem: 81% of Republicans and 80% of independents say this, compared with 69% of Democrats.

### Poor Ratings for Congress Higher Than in 2005

When Americans are asked to assess several specific aspects of congressional performance, the responses, not surprisingly, also are decidedly negative. Much higher percentages rate the performance as poor than did so in 2005, the last time this series of questions was asked.

For example, 60% say Congress has done a poor job of working across party lines; 24% say only fair and 10% say excellent or good. In 2005, when Republicans controlled both the Congress and the White House, 37% rated congressional performance on this question as poor, 28% said only fair and 18% said excellent or good.

Congress' ratings on...	Excellent/ Only			
	Good	fair	Poor	DK
Dealing with important issues	%	%	%	%
Mar 18-21, 2010	15	33	48	5=100
Mid-March 2005	23	42	30	5=100
Acting ethically and honestly				
Mar 18-21, 2010	13	31	50	6=100
Mid-March 2005	23	43	29	5=100
Working across party lines				
Mar 18-21, 2010	10	24	60	7=100
Mid-March 2005	18	28	37	7=100
Understanding needs of people				
Mar 18-21, 2010	12	30	55	3=100
Mid-March 2005	20	38	38	4=100

Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q4a-d.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Five years ago, 29% gave Congress a poor rating for acting ethically and honestly, 43% said only fair and 23% said excellent or good. Now, 50% give Congress a poor rating for this, 31% say only fair and just 13% say excellent or good.

There are large swings toward poor ratings since 2005 among Republicans and independents, in part reflecting the shift to Democratic control of Congress following the 2006 midterm elections. There is less change among Democrats, who were more negative than the other groups five years ago.

In 2005, 12% of Republicans gave Congress a poor rating for how it was dealing with issues important to the nation, compared with 36% of independents and 42% of Democrats. Today, 58% of Republicans give Congress a poor rating on this, compared with 31% of Democrats. More than half of independents (54%) agree, including 66% of Republican-leaning independents.

<b>Poor Ratings for Congress Increase among Republicans, Independents</b>			
<i>% rating each as "poor"</i>	March <u>2005</u>	March <u>2010</u>	<u>Diff</u>
<i>Dealing with important issues</i>	%	%	
Republicans	12	58	+46
Democrats	42	31	-11
Independents	36	54	+18
<i>Acting ethically and honestly</i>			
Republicans	15	56	+41
Democrats	37	33	-4
Independents	31	60	+29
<i>Working across party lines</i>			
Republicans	28	67	+39
Democrats	44	57	+13
Independents	37	61	+24
<i>Understanding needs of people</i>			
Republicans	20	59	+39
Democrats	49	41	-8
Independents	44	64	+20
Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q4a-d.			

Currently, close to two-thirds of independents (64%) say Congress does a poor job "understanding the needs of people like yourself," up 20 points from 44% in 2005. Just more than seven-in-ten Republican-leaning independents say this (72%). About six-in-ten Republicans (59%) agree, compared to 41% of Democrats. In the case of Republicans, the number is up 39 points from 2005 (20%). About half of Democrats gave Congress a poor rating on this measure in 2005 (49%), but that has not improved much with Democrats in control. Currently, 41% say Congress does a poor job of understanding the needs of people.



## Most See Congress' Impact as Negative

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) say that Congress is having a negative effect on the way things are going in this country today, an assessment comparable to the negative assessments for the federal government as a whole (65%), large corporations (64%) and banks and financial institutions (69%).

Among Republicans, 78% say Congress is having a negative effect on the country, while about half of Democrats (51%) agree. Close to seven-in-ten independents (68%) see Congress having a negative effect, but among independents who say they lean Republican that number jumps to 80%. Among those who say they lean Democratic, 57% say Congress has a negative effect on the country.

Young people are less likely than older age groups to say Congress is having a negative effect on the country. Half of those ages 18 to 29 say this, compared with 74% of those ages 50 to 64 and 68% of those 65 and older. About six-in-ten (59%) of those with a high school diploma or less education say Congress is having a negative effect, compared with 73% of those with a college degree or more education.

<i>Congress' effect on the way things are going today...</i>	<u>Positive</u> %	<u>Negative</u> %	<u>Other/DK</u> %
Total	24	65	12=100
18-29	37	50	12=100
30-49	23	64	13=100
50-64	18	74	8=100
65+	17	68	15=100
College grad+	18	73	9=100
Some college	22	66	11=100
HS or less	28	59	13=100
Republican	12	78	9=100
Conserv Rep	7	82	11=100
Mod/Lib Rep	23	70	6=100
Democrat	34	51	15=100
Cons/Mod Dem	35	53	12=100
Liberal Dem	36	50	14=100
Independent	24	68	8=100
Lean Rep	15	80	5=100
Lean Dem	32	57	11=100
No lean	21	60	19=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q18hF2.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.



## SECTION 5: VIEWS OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Favorable ratings for most federal agencies and departments tested, in this study have declined substantially since the late 1990s. And job performance ratings for most federal agencies are lackluster: Of 15 agencies included in the survey, majorities give positive job performance ratings to only six.

Nonetheless, most Americans (70%) think that the government is a good place to work, and 56% say if they had a son or daughter getting out of school they would like to see him or her pursue a career in government. In contrast, just 36% say they would like their child to pursue a career in politics, while 55% would not.

### Declining Favorability for Agencies

Favorable opinions have declined significantly for seven of 13 federal agencies included in the current survey and in the study of attitudes about government conducted in 1997-1998. The most striking shift since then has occurred in views of the Department of Education.

Currently, 40% have a favorable opinion of the Department of Education while 53% have an unfavorable view. In October 1997, favorable views of the Education Department outnumbered unfavorable ones by a wide margin (61% to 37%).

Favorable ratings for a number of other agencies have fallen by double digits since 1997/1998: the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA (by 17 points), the Social Security Administration (13 points), the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA (12 points), the National Aeronautic and Space Administration, NASA (12 points), and the Centers for Disease Control, the CDC (also 12 points).

Opinions of the Defense Department also are somewhat less positive than in October 1997, although they remain highly favorable (76% then, 67% today). As was the case 13 years ago, the Postal Service receives the highest favorable ratings of the agencies included in the survey: 83% now have a favorable opinion of the Postal Service, compared with 89% in October 1997.

	1987/ 1988*	1997/ 1998	2010	97/98-10 Change
<i>% favorable</i>	%	%	%	
Dep't of Education	60	61	40	-21
FDA	74	75	58	-17
Social Security Admin.	--	62	49	-13
EPA	62	69	57	-12
NASA	66	73	61	-12
CDC	--	79	67	-12
Defense Dep't	57	76	67	-9
Postal Service	76	89	83	-6
Justice Dep't	53	56	51	-5
Veterans Admin.**	75	59	57	-2
FBI	78	67	67	0
CIA	52	51	52	+1
IRS	49	38	47	+9
Congress	64	53	26	-27

Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q3c-p.  
 \* 1987/1988 data from Roper.  
 \*\* From August 1986.

Views of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI (currently 67% favorable), Veterans Administration, the VA (57%), the Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA (52%), and the Justice Department (51%) are little changed from 1997/1998. Meanwhile, the Internal Revenue Service (the IRS) is viewed slightly more favorably than it was 13 years ago. Currently, 47% say they have a favorable impression of the IRS, up from 38% in 1997. The current measure is about the same as the percentage expressing a favorable opinion of the IRS in an August 1987 survey by the Roper Org. (49%).

While opinions of some federal agencies have become more negative since the late 1990s, favorable opinions of Congress have plummeted. Currently, just 26% express a favorable view of Congress, down from 53% in October 1997 and 64% a decade earlier (January 1988).

### Less Positive Views of Education Department

Favorable opinions of the Department of Education have fallen across the political and demographic spectrum. In October 1997, 65% of women and 57% of men said they had a favorable impression of the department; today, only about four-in-ten women (39%) and men (40%) feel favorably toward the Department of Education.

Fewer than half of Democrats (46%), Republicans (40%) and independents (37%) express a favorable opinion of the Education Department; in 1997, 71% of Democrats had a positive view as did 59% of independents and 54% of Republicans.

	Oct <u>1997</u> %	Mar <u>2010</u> %	<u>Change</u>	2010 <u>N</u>
Total	61	40	-21	530
Men	57	40	-17	252
Women	65	39	-26	278
College grad+	53	36	-17	202
Some college	58	32	-26	139
HS or less	66	47	-19	188
Republican	54	40	-14	136
Democrat	71	46	-25	144
Independent	59	37	-22	221

Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q3i.

## Social Security Administration Seen Less Favorably

In October 1997, 64% of Democrats and the same percentage of Republicans said they had a favorable opinion of the Social Security Administration. There has been no change in the percentage of Democrats who view the Social Security Administration positively, but favorable opinions among Republicans have fallen 18 points since then, to 46%. There has been a comparable decline in positive opinions among independents (from 59% favorable then to 43% today).

People ages 65 and older express much more favorable opinions of the Social Security Administration than do those in younger age groups. However, the proportion of seniors expressing positive opinions of the Social Security

Administration have declined by 17 points since October 1997 – from 86% to 69%. The decline has been as large among the 50 to 64 age group; currently, only about half (51%) of those 50 to 64 have a favorable impression of the Social Security Administration.

### More Partisan Views of Social Security Administration

	Oct 1997	Mar 2010	Change	2010 N
	%	%		
Total	62	49	-13	530
Men	59	45	-14	252
Women	65	52	-13	278
18-49	54	42	-12	231
50-64	68	51	-17	139
65+	86	69	-17	154
College grad+	56	56	0	202
Some college	55	37	-18	139
HS or less	68	51	-17	188
Republican	64	46	-18	136
Democrat	64	64	0	144
Independent	59	43	-16	221

Pew Research Center March 18-21 Q3g.

## Performance Ratings

The public makes major distinctions as to how well various federal departments and agencies do their jobs. Fully 80% of the public says the military does an excellent (39%) or good (41%), while 70% say the same about the Postal Service.

Clear majorities also give excellent or good job ratings to the CDC (62%), the Defense Department (60%), NASA (57%) and the FBI (58%). By contrast, opinions of the job performance of other agencies are less positive – including the CIA (46% excellent/good), EPA (43%), FDA (43%), Department of

### Strong Job Ratings for the Military, Postal Service

Job rating...	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	DK
	%	%	%	%	%
The military	39	41	13	3	4=100
Postal Service	20	50	21	7	2=100
NASA	16	41	23	6	13=100
CDC	14	48	24	7	7=100
Defense Dep't	14	46	26	8	5=100
FBI	10	48	24	7	11=100
Homeland Security	9	34	37	16	4=100
CIA	8	38	29	11	15=100
Veterans Admin.	8	33	32	15	12=100
EPA	7	36	36	16	5=100
FDA	7	36	35	17	5=100
IRS	5	35	38	16	6=100
Dep't of Education	5	28	35	29	2=100
Justice Dep't	4	34	38	20	5=100
Social Security Admin.	4	32	37	24	4=100
Obama admin.	10	30	28	30	3=100
Congress	2	15	40	40	3=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q52a-s.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Homeland Security (43%) and Veterans Administration (41%).

Notably, just a third (33%) says the Department of Education does an excellent (5%) or good job (28%); 64% say the department does only fair (35%) or poor (29%). Positive job ratings also are relatively low for the Social Security Administration (36% excellent/good), Justice Department (38%) and IRS (40%).

Four-in-ten say that the Obama administration does an excellent (10%) or good (30%) job; a majority (58%) says it does only fair or poor. The administration’s job rating is lower than Barack Obama’s job approval rating (48% approval). More than twice as many people give the Obama administration positive job marks as rate the job performance of Congress positively; just 17% say Congress is doing an excellent (2%) or good job (15%) while 80% say it has done only fair (40%) or poor (40%).

### Views of Agencies among the Angry

As expected, those who express negative opinions about the federal government generally – those who say they are frustrated (56% of public) or angry (21%) with government – give federal agencies less positive job ratings than do those who say they are basically content with the federal government (19%).

Still, the opinions of agencies among those who are frustrated and angry are not uniformly negative. Among those who say they are frustrated with government, majorities give positive job ratings to six agencies or institutions: the military (81% excellent/good), the Postal Service (71%), the CDC (64%), the Defense Department (62%), the FBI (59%), and NASA (57%).

Even among those who say they are angry with the federal government, majorities give positive ratings to four agencies or institutions (the military, Postal Service, NASA and Defense Department), while half (50%) give the CDC excellent or good ratings and about as many (49%) say the same about the FBI.

<i>Percent rating job as excellent/good</i>	<i>Feeling about fed gov't...</i>		
	<u>Content</u> %	<u>Frustrated</u> %	<u>Angry</u> %
Postal Service	84	71	55
CDC	77	64	50
The military	76	81	82
Defense Dep't	67	62	53
NASA	66	57	54
FBI	66	59	49
Justice Dep't	61	37	21
EPA	60	46	26
FDA	59	45	30
CIA	56	45	39
IRS	56	41	23
Homeland Security	54	42	34
Social Security	50	35	23
Dep't of Education	49	32	18
Veterans Admin.	37	42	38
Obama admin.	70	37	19
Congress	41	13	4

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q52a-s.

Those who are frustrated with government give the lowest job ratings to the Department of Education (32%), the Social Security Administration (35%) and the Justice Department (37%). Among those who are angry with government, just 18% say the Department of Education is doing an excellent or good job, while 21% give positive ratings to the Justice Department and 23% say the same about Social Security and the IRS.

Majorities of those who say they are basically content with the federal government give positive job ratings to 12 of 15 federal agencies or institutions included on the survey. Those who feel content with government give mixed job ratings to both the Department of Education (49% excellent/good, 49% only fair/poor) and the Social Security Administration (50%, 48%). Fewer than four-in-ten (37%) of those who are content with government give positive job ratings to the Veterans Administration while 47% say that agency does only fair or poor.

Fully seven-in-ten (70%) of those who say they are content with government say the Obama administration has done an excellent or good job; that compares with 37% of those who are frustrated with government and 19% of those who are angry with government. But fewer than half (41%) of those who are basically content with government give Congress positive job ratings; Congress' ratings are considerably lower among those who are frustrated (13%) and angry (4%) with government.

### Partisan Differences Over Agencies' Performance

The partisan differences in job ratings for federal agencies are modest in comparison with the enormous divide in views of the Obama administration. More Democrats than Republicans give positive marks to the EPA (by 15 points), Social Security (14 points) and the Postal Service (13 points).

By contrast, the military, the Defense Department, CIA, and Department of Homeland Security all get higher marks from Republicans than Democrats.

Just 12% of Republicans say the Obama administration has done an excellent or good job. That compares with 34% of independents and 68% of Democrats. Congress gets low job performance ratings across the board: just 10% of Republicans,

<i>Percent rating job as excellent/good</i>	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %	<i>R-D diff</i>
EPA	36	51	44	-15
Social Security	29	43	35	-14
Postal Service	63	<b>76</b>	<b>70</b>	-13
IRS	36	45	39	-9
CDC	57	64	64	-7
Dep't of Education	29	37	33	-8
FDA	45	49	37	-4
Justice Dep't	35	39	38	-4
NASA	58	56	60	+2
FBI	58	55	62	+3
Veterans Admin.	46	38	41	+8
Homeland Security	48	38	46	+10
Defense Dep't	69	57	56	+12
The military	<b>86</b>	74	80	+12
CIA	54	41	46	+13
Obama admin.	12	68	34	-56
Congress	10	24	14	-14

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q52a-s.

14% of independents and 24% of Democrats say Congress has done an excellent or good job.

### Government as a Career

A sizeable majority of Americans (70%) think that the government is a good place to work, and more than half (56%) say that if they had a son or daughter finishing school they would like to see them pursue a career in government. Fewer say that they would like to see their children go into politics (36%); nonetheless, perhaps as a consequence of the weak economy, the proportions who would recommend careers in both government and politics have both increased over the last decade.

The proportion expressing a positive view of their child having a career in government is up 13 points (from 43%) in a May 2000 NPR/Kaiser/Harvard survey. And compared with the previous Pew Research survey on attitudes toward government in 1997, more also say they would like to see a child pursue politics as a career (from 27% to 36%).

	Oct	Mar
<i>Is government a good place to work?</i>	<u>1997</u>	<u>2010</u>
	%	%
Yes	71	70
No	23	24
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100
<i>Like to see child pursue a career in <b>government</b>?</i>	May	Mar
	<u>2000*</u>	<u>2010</u>
Yes	43	56
No	51	35
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100
<i>Like to see child pursue a career in <b>politics</b>?</i>	Oct	Mar
	<u>1997</u>	<u>2010</u>
Yes	27	36
No	67	55
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q84F1, Q85F2, Q86F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.		
* 2000 data from NPR/Kaiser/Harvard.		

### Government Critics See It as Good Place to Work

Majorities across all major demographic and political groups say that government is a good place to work. And 72% of those who feel frustrated with the federal government think that the government is a good place to work, while just 21% do not. Even among those who are angry with the federal government, 55% say the government is a good place to work while 39% say it is not.

Those who say they agree with the Tea Party movement generally also see government as a good place to work. More than six-in-ten (64%) of those who agree with the Tea Party movement have a positive view of government employment, as do 82% of those who disagree with the Tea Party.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
Total	70	24	6=100
Republican	66	28	6=100
Democrat	76	19	5=100
Independent	69	25	6=100
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>			
Content	84	12	4=100
Frustrated	72	21	6=100
Angry	55	39	6=100
<i>Tea Party...</i>			
Agree with	64	32	4=100
Disagree with	82	14	4=100
No opinion/ Never heard of	70	23	7=100
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q86F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.			



As was the case in 1997, people who see the government as a good place to work most often cite the benefits as the main reason why; 30% cite the benefits, while 21% cite job security, 20% cite the pay, 18% say the work is challenging while 7% say the hours are good. These views vary little across political and demographic groups.

There is a similar pattern in opinions about whether people would like to see their child pursue a career in government. More Democrats (65%) than Republicans or independents (52% each) say they would welcome their child having a career in government.

Majorities of those who are basically content (71%) and frustrated (57%) with the federal government say they would like their child to have a career in government. But just 40% of those angry with the federal government agree; 51% in this group say that if they had a son or daughter finishing school, they would not like to see him or her pursue a career in government.

<b>Most Would Want to See Child Pursue Career in Government</b>			
<i>Like to see child pursue a career in government</i>	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	56	35	9=100
Republican	52	36	12=100
Democrat	65	29	6=100
Independent	52	39	10=100
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>			
Content	71	23	7=100
Frustrated	57	34	9=100
Angry	40	51	9=100
<i>Tea Party...</i>			
Agree with	48	43	9=100
Disagree with	69	24	7=100
No opinion/ Never heard of	56	34	10=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q85F2.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Careers in Politics

Since 1997, there has been a modest rise in the percentage saying that if they had a son or daughter just getting out of school, they would like to see them pursue a career in politics (from 27% to 36%). Still, most people (55%) would not view politics as a good career choice for a young person.

People younger than 30 – as well as those ages 50 to 64 – have more positive views of a career in politics than they did in 1997. Currently 45% of those younger than 30 say if they had a son or daughter they would like to see them go into politics, up from 29% in 1997; nearly four-in-ten (37%) of those 50 to 64 express this view, compared with just 22% in 1997. Independents

<b>More View Politics as a Good Career</b>			
<i>Like to see child pursue a career in politics</i>	<u>Oct</u> <u>1997</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>2010</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total	27	36	+9
18-29	29	45	+16
30-49	29	35	+6
50-64	22	37	+15
65+	23	24	+1
Republican	27	34	+7
Democrat	34	38	+4
Independent	19	36	+17
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>			
Content	33	39	+6
Frustrated	24	37	+13
Angry	25	30	+5
<i>Tea Party...</i>			
Agree with	--	38	
Disagree with	--	45	
No opinion/ Never heard of	--	32	

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q84F1.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

also are more likely to view a career in politics more positively than they did in 1997. Currently, 36% of independents say they would like to see their child pursue a political career, nearly double the percentage in 1997 (19%).

## SECTION 6: TEA PARTY AND VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

Over the past year, the Tea Party movement has emerged on the political scene. A majority of the public has heard about the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. and about a quarter of Americans say they agree with the movement.

Tea Party backers overwhelmingly identify with or lean to the Republican Party and describe their political views as conservative. Virtually all of them express feelings of frustration or anger with the federal government. A large majority of Tea Party backers distrust government and believe it has too much power and control over their lives.

Looking at the public as a whole, nearly half say the federal government threatens their personal rights and freedoms – with three-in-ten saying the government is a major threat. The percentage saying the government is a major threat to their personal rights and freedoms is now higher than when the question was first asked in 1995 and throughout the early 2000s. This shift has come almost entirely from Republicans and independents who lean to the GOP.

### Does Federal Government Threaten Personal Rights and Freedoms?

Currently, 30% of Americans say the federal government is a major threat to their personal rights and freedoms. That is up from 18% in October 2003 and more than the previous high of 23% in June 2000. Another 17% now say they see the government as a minor threat. Still, half of the public (50%) says they do not think the government threatens their personal rights or freedoms, little changed from percentage who said this in October 2003 (54%).

#### Public Divided About Whether Government Threatens Personal Rights and Freedoms

	(Net) Yes %	Major threat %	Minor threat %	No %	DK %
March 2010	47	30	17	50	2=100
October 2003	45	18	27	54	1=100
August 2002	32	13	18	63	5=100
November 2001	30	14	14	67	3=100
June 2000	46	23	23	52	2=100
December 1995	42	20	22	54	4=100
May 1995	36	12	24	62	1=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q73.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 Dec 1995 data from Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard.  
 June 2000, Nov 2001 and Aug 2002 data from  
 NPR/Kaiser/Harvard.  
 May 1995, Oct 2003 data from ABC News/Washington Post.

There is a substantial partisan and ideological divide about whether the federal government is a major threat to personal rights and freedoms. Currently, far more Republicans and independents who lean Republican say this than did so in 2003 during George W. Bush's first term as president. By contrast, opinion among Democrats and those who lean Democratic has shifted little since that time.

Nearly half (47%) of conservative Republicans now say the government is a major threat, up from just 13% in 2003. Similarly, more than twice as many moderate Republicans now say the federal government is a major threat to their personal rights and freedoms than did so in 2003 (12% in 2003, 32% now). There also has been a large shift among independents who lean Republican (19% in 1995 to 50% now).

Today, Democrats are far less likely than Republicans to say that the federal government is a threat to their personal rights and freedoms. Less than one-in-five (18%) say the government is a major threat, not much different from the 21% that said this in 2003. And liberal Democrats (15%) are nearly as likely to say this as conservative and moderate Democrats (19%). Similarly, 21% of independents who lean Democratic say the federal government is a major threat to their personal rights and freedoms; 19% said this in 2003.

There also are significant demographic differences in who believes the federal government is a major threat to their personal rights and freedoms. More men (34%) than women (27%) say the government is a major threat. Whites (31%) also are more likely than blacks (23%) to say the federal government is a major threat to their rights and freedoms.

Young people are less likely than others to say the government is a major threat to their personal rights and freedoms. About a quarter (24%) of those under 30 say this, compared with 34% of those ages 30 to 49 and 30% of those 50 and older. Fewer college graduates (24%) than those with high school education or less (34%) say the government is a major threat.

<b>More Republicans Say the Government is Major Threat to Their Personal Rights and Freedoms</b>					
	Dec 1995	June 2000	Oct 2003	Mar 2010	03-10 change
<i>% saying fed gov't is a major threat</i>	%	%	%	%	
Total	20	23	18	30	+12
Republican	23	32	13	43	+30
Conserv Rep	28	42	13	47	+34
Mod/Lib Rep	14	22	12	32	+20
Democrat	18	16	21	18	-3
Cons/Mod Dem	16	18	20	19	-1
Liberal Dem	20	14	23	15	-8
Independent	19	20	20	33	+13
Lean Rep	23	23	19	50	+31
Lean Dem	17	14	19	21	+2
No lean	20	25	21	27	+6

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q73.  
 Dec 1995 data from Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard.  
 June 2000 data from NPR/Kaiser/Harvard.  
 Oct 2003 data from ABC News/Washington Post

There also are differences in opinion by religious affiliation. White evangelicals are the most likely to say the government threatens their personal rights and freedoms; 42% say the government is a major threat, compared with 30% or less in other religious groups and only 20% of the religiously unaffiliated.

Those who are angry with the federal government are more than twice as likely as those who are frustrated or content to say that the government threatens their personal rights and freedoms. More than six-in-ten (62%) of those who say they are angry see the government as a major threat, compared with 26% of those who are frustrated with the federal government and 12% who are basically content. (*For more detailed breakdowns on perceived threat posed by the federal government to personal rights and freedoms, see table on pg. 87*)

<b>Do You Think the Federal Government Threatens Your Personal Rights and Freedoms?</b>					
	(Net) <u>Yes</u> %	<i>Major</i> <i>threat</i> %	<i>Minor</i> <i>threat</i> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	47	30	17	50	2=100
Men	52	34	18	46	2=100
Women	43	27	16	53	3=100
White, non-Hispanic	48	31	17	50	2=100
Black, non-Hispanic	37	23	14	56	7=100
Hispanic	49	31	17	49	2=100
18-29	40	24	15	58	3=100
30-49	53	34	19	46	1=100
50-64	49	31	18	49	3=100
65+	46	30	16	50	5=100
College grad+	37	24	13	62	1=100
Some college	49	31	19	49	1=100
HS or less	53	34	19	43	4=100
Protestant	52	34	18	45	3=100
White evangelical	59	42	18	39	1=100
White mainline	46	28	18	52	2=100
Catholic	45	30	15	53	3=100
Unaffiliated	39	20	19	59	2=100
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>					
Content	25	12	13	73	2=100
Frustrated	45	26	19	53	2=100
Angry	78	62	16	21	1=100
<i>Tea Party...</i>					
Agree with	73	57	16	25	2=100
Disagree with	21	9	12	79	1=100
No opinion/ Never heard of	44	25	19	53	3=100
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q73. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.					

## Secession?

Two-thirds of the public (67%) opposes allowing an American state to secede and become independent from the country if a majority of the people from that state wanted to do this; just a quarter (25%) favor allowing secession. Although views about government have become more negative since the late 1990s, the proportion that favors allowing a state to secede is little changed from the 23% that said this in 1997. Opposition to allowing secession has decreased somewhat from 73% in 1997.

More than a third of independents who lean to the GOP (36%) favor allowing a state to secede. This is more than within any other partisan or ideological group. There are also modest demographic differences on this question. About three-in-ten (29%) people under 50 favor allowing a state to secede, compared with 21% of those 50 and older. Americans with a high school education or less are more likely than those with a college degree to favor this (30% vs. 18%). There are no significant differences in the percentages that favor allowing secession by geographic region.

### Allow a State to Secede?

	<u>1997</u>	<u>2010</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Favor	23	25
Oppose	73	67
Don't know	4	8
	100	100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q74.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Question wording: Would you favor or oppose allowing an American state to secede and become independent from the country if a majority of the people from that state wanted to do this?

## Who Agrees with The Tea Party Movement?

A majority of Americans (68%) have heard or read about the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year; 26% have heard a lot, while 42% have heard a little. Three-in-ten have heard nothing at all about these protests. More Republicans (33%) and independents (28%) than Democrats (21%) have heard a lot about the Tea Party protests. Conservative Republicans (39%) and independents who lean to the GOP (41%) are the most likely to have heard a lot about the protests.

Overall, 24% of Americans say they agree with the Tea Party movement, including 9% who agree strongly; 14% say they disagree with the movement. Three-in-ten say they have no opinion, while 31% say they have not heard of the Tea Party movement.

### Do You Agree or Disagree With the Tea Party Movement?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Dis-</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>agree</u>	<u>opinion</u>	<u>heard of</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Total	24	14	30	31=100
Republican	45	4	28	23=100
Conserv Rep	53	3	28	16=100
Mod/Lib Rep	27	5	31	36=100
Democrat	6	24	33	37=100
Cons/Mod Dem	7	18	37	37=100
Liberal Dem	3	38	26	34=100
Independent	26	14	29	31=100
Lean Rep	53	3	26	18=100
Lean Dem	7	27	28	39=100
No lean	12	9	35	45=100
18-29	9	10	27	54=100
30-49	23	12	33	31=100
50-64	31	18	30	21=100
65+	33	17	29	21=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q88.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

There are strong partisan and ideological differences in views about the movement. Nearly half (45%) of Republicans agree with the Tea Party movement, compared with 26% of independents and only 6% of Democrats. More than half of conservative Republicans (53%) and independents who lean Republican (53%) say they agree with the Tea Party movement, compared with 27% of moderate Republicans. Far fewer in all other partisan and ideological groups say they agree with the movement.

A majority of those under 30 (54%) have not heard about the Tea Party protests, compared with 31% of those ages 30 to 49 and 21% of those 50 and older. Young people also are far less likely to agree with the Tea Party movement. Only 9% of those under 30 agree with the movement, compared with 23% of those ages 30 to 49 and 32% of people 50 and older. *(For more detailed breakdowns on opinion about the Tea Party movement, see table on pg. 90)*

### Which Group Best Reflects Your Views Right Now?

When the public was asked in a separate survey which group best reflects your views right now, 31% say the Democratic Party best reflects their views right now, 17% cite the Republican Party, and 14% say the Tea Party. Far fewer mention the Green Party (4%) or some other group (3%). And more than a quarter (28%) says none of these represents their views.

	Which of the Following Groups Best Reflects Your Views Right Now?						
	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	Among independents		
					Rep %	Dem %	No Lean %
Democratic Party	31	4	71	17	3	47	5
Republican Party	17	49	1	12	29	1	1
Tea Party	14	28	3	16	30	2	9
Green Party	4	1	7	4	1	8	3
Some other group	3	1	1	7	8	4	7
None of these	28	15	14	42	28	35	65
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
N	1001	247	319	369	177	126	132

Pew Research Center April 8-11 Q10.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Half of Republicans (49%) say the GOP best represents their views right now but 28% cite the Tea Party. A plurality of all independents (42%) says none of these currently reflects their views while 17% say the Democratic Party, 16% the Tea Party and 12% the Republican Party. Independents who lean to the GOP are divided – as many say the Tea Party (30%) best

reflects their views right now as cite the Republican Party (29%) – and 28% say nobody is representing their views.

Among independents who lean to the Democratic Party, 47% say that party best represents their views and 35% think nobody is representing their views. And about two-thirds (65%) of independents who do not lean to either the Republican or Democratic Party say that none of these groups represents their views. A large majority of Democrats (71%) say the Democratic Party best reflects their views while 14% say none of these groups does.

### Demographic Profile of Tea Party Backers

Looking at the 24% of the public who agree with the Tea Party movement, they are decidedly more Republican in partisan identification and more conservative than the general public. In addition, those who agree with the Tea Party movement are more likely to be male, white, affluent, weekly church attenders and to follow national news very closely.

More than eight-in-ten (82%) Tea Party backers either identify as Republicans (53%) or say they are independents who lean Republican (29%). By comparison, 41% of the general public identify as Republicans (28%) or lean to the GOP (13%). And while nearly half (46%) of the public are Democrats or independents who lean to the Democratic Party, only 13% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say they are Democrats or Democratic-leaning independents.

Nearly three-fourths (72%) of Tea Party backers describe their political views as conservative. By comparison, 41% of the public says their views are conservative. And a plurality of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say they are conservative Republicans (43%).

<b>Tea Party Backers– More Republican, Conservative</b>		
	General public	Agree w/ Tea Party
	%	%
Republican	28	53
Democrat	34	9
Independent/No pref	35	36
Conservative	41	72
Moderate	34	20
Liberal	20	6
Conserv Rep	19	43
Mod/Lib Rep	8	9
Ind lean Rep	13	29
Ind no lean	12	6
Ind lean Dem	12	4
Cons/Mod Dem	20	6
Liberal Dem	12	2
N	2505	704

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q88  
Data represent a profile of those who strongly agree or agree with the tea party movement (24% of the public). For example, 53% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement identify as Republicans. Figures read down.



A majority (56%) of Tea Party backers are men. Men make up 49% of the general public. And although young people comprise 21% of the general public, only 8% of those who agree with the Tea Party are under 30. About eight-in-ten (81%) are non-Hispanic whites, compared with 69% of the general public.

Only 18% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement have family incomes of less than \$30,000, compared with 31% of the general public. Close to four-in-ten Tea Party sympathizers (38%) have a high school education or less, compared with 47% of the general public. There are no differences between the public and Tea Party backers in employment status.

More than half (55%) of those who agree with the Tea Party say they follow national news very closely. About three-in-ten (31%) in the general public say the same. Nearly nine-in-ten (87%) are registered to vote, compared with 76% of the general public. About half (51%) of Tea Party backers say they are more patriotic than most, while 33% of the general public say they are more patriotic than most. Three-fourths display the flag at their home, office or on their car, compared with 58% of the public as a whole.

About half (49%) of those who agree with the Tea Party attend church or other religious services at least once a week; 38% of the public attends services weekly. And nearly half (47%) of Tea Party backers have a gun, rifle or pistol in their home, compared with 33% of the general public.

<b>Who Are Tea Party Backers?</b>		
	General public	Agree w/ Tea Party
	%	%
Men	49	56
Women	<u>51</u>	<u>44</u>
	100	100
18-29	21	8
30-49	34	33
50-64	26	33
65+	17	23
White non-Hispanic	69	81
Black non-Hispanic	11	3
Hispanic	13	9
Other non-Hispanic	6	4
College grad+	28	35
Some college	25	27
HS or less	47	38
<i>Family income</i>		
\$75,000 or more	25	36
\$30-\$75,000	31	31
Less than \$30,000	31	18
Employed	60	58
Registered to vote	76	87
Follow news very closely	31	55
More patriotic than most	33	51
Display the flag	58	75
<i>Religious attendance</i>		
Weekly or more	38	49
Monthly/Yearly	36	30
Seldom/Never	25	18
Have a gun	33	47
N	2505	704

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q88.  
Data represent a profile of those who strongly agree or agree with the Tea Party movement (24% of the public). Figures read down.

## Tea Party Critical of Big Government

Tea Party backers have even more negative views about government than the public more broadly. Fully 43% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement are angry with the federal government, compared with 21% of the general public. Among those who agree strongly, 61% are angry with the government. Similarly, 24% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say they never trust the government in Washington to do what is right (including 34% who strongly agree with the Tea Party movement); 11% of the general public says the same.

In addition, 73% of Tea Party backers say the federal government threatens their personal rights and freedoms, including 57% who say the government is a major threat. Among those who strongly agree with the movement, 86% say the federal government threatens their personal rights and freedoms and 73% say it is a major threat. By comparison, the general public is divided. Nearly half (48%) say the government threatens their personal rights and freedoms, including 30% who say it is a major threat, while 50% say it does not threaten their rights and freedoms.

Three-fourths of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say the federal government needs very major reform, compared with 53% of the general public. Those who agree with the Tea Party movement are particularly critical about the size and scope of the federal government. A majority (59%) of Tea Party backers feel the bigger problem with government is that it has the wrong priorities, while 32% say it has the right priorities but runs programs inefficiently. By comparison, 38% of the public says the government has the wrong priorities; half (50%) says the government has the right priorities but runs things inefficiently.

<b>Tea Party More Angry and Less Trusting of Government</b>		
	General public	Agree w/ Tea Party
<i>Feeling about federal gov't...</i>	%	%
Basically content	19	5
Frustrated	56	51
Angry	21	43
<i>Trust gov't in Washington</i>		
Always/Most of time	23	7
Only some of the time	65	68
Never (Vol)	11	24
<i>Fed gov't threatens your personal rights &amp; freedoms</i>		
Yes	48	73
Major threat	30	57
No	50	25
N	2505	704
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q20, Q21, Q73. Don't know responses not shown. Figures read down.		

A large majority (76%) of Tea Party backers generally believe that federal government programs should be cut back greatly to reduce the power of government, while only 23% say government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems. The public is much more divided in its view; 47% say programs should be cut to reduce the government’s power and 50% says programs should be maintained. And, although 88% of those who agree with the Tea Party think that the federal government being wasteful and inefficient is a major problem, 70% of the public feels the same. About eight-in-ten (82%) Tea Party backers think that the government being “too big and powerful” is a major problem, compared with 52% of the general public.

Three-fourths of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say it is a major problem that the government interferes too much in people’s lives; 46% of the public says the same. Seven-in-ten (71%) say the federal government has a negative effect on their day-to-day lives, compared with 43% of the general public. Tea Party backers are also more likely to agree that the federal government is interfering too much in state and local matters; 83% say this, while 58% of the public thinks the federal government is interfering too much. Similarly, 87% of Tea Party sympathizers agree that the government has gone too far in regulating business and interfering with the free enterprise system, compared with 58% of the public.

<b>Tea Party Backers’ Attitudes about Government</b>		
	General public %	Agree w/ Tea Party %
<i>Fed gov’t ...</i>		
Needs very major reform	53	75
Basically sound needs only some reform	42	22
<i>Bigger prob w/gov’t</i>		
Wrong priorities	38	59
Runs programs inefficiently	50	32
<i>Should the gov’t ...</i>		
Cut back programs to reduce power	47	76
Maintain programs to deal with important problems	50	23
<i>Major problems with federal government</i>		
Wasteful & inefficient	70	88
Too big and powerful	52	82
Interferes too much in people’s lives	46	75
<i>Fed gov’t effect on your day-to-day life?</i>		
Positive	38	17
Negative	43	71
No effect/Neither	14	8
<i>Agree that fed gov’t ...</i>		
Too far regulating business	58	87
Interfering in state/local	58	83
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q23,25-29,67-68. Figures read down.		

## Jobs Top Priority for Tea Party Backers and Public

Tea Party backers and the public as a whole both put the job situation at the top of the government's priority list. A majority (54%) of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say that the job situation should be the highest priority; 49% of the general public agree. But Tea Party backers are more likely than the public to say the budget deficit should be given the highest priority; 32% say this compared with 19% of the general public.

Those who agree with the Tea Party movement are more likely to say the federal government, Congress, the Obama administration and many other institutions have a negative effect on the way things are going in this country today. Fully 90% of those who agree with the Tea Party movement say the federal government has a negative effect, compared with 65% in the general public. Similarly, 86% say Congress has a negative effect on the country; 65% of the public says the same. And while 45% of the public says the Obama administration has a negative effect on the country today, 84% of Tea Party backers think this.

Those who agree with the Tea Party movement also are more likely than the general public to say labor unions, government agencies, the news media and the entertainment industry have a negative effect on the country today. The public and Tea Party backers agree that banks and financial institutions and large corporations have a negative effect on the country today. Still, a majority (56%) of those who agree with the Tea Party movement think it is a bad idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business. A majority of the public (61%) thinks this is a good idea.

	General public	Agree w/ Tea Party
<i>Top gov't priority</i>	%	%
Job situation	49	54
Health care costs	22	7
Budget deficit	19	32
Financial regulation	8	6
<i>Has a negative effect on the country today</i>	%	%
Federal government	65	90
Congress	65	86
Obama Administration	45	84
Labor unions	49	76
Agencies of gov't	54	74
News media	57	74
Entertainment industry	51	71
Banks & Financial inst.	69	68
Large corporations	64	56
Colleges & universities	26	38
Small businesses	19	15
Churches and relig org.	22	14
Tech companies	18	18
<i>Stricter financial regs</i>		
Good idea	61	38
Bad idea	31	56
<i>Paying more than your fair share of...</i>		
Federal taxes	43	56
State taxes	39	47
Local taxes	38	44

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q18, Q41, Q46, Q63-Q65. Figures read down.

Somewhat more Tea Party backers (56%) than the public overall (43%) say they pay more than their fair share of federal taxes. A greater share (47% vs. 39%) say the same about state taxes.

## SECTION 7: ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

Broad public frustration with government and politics is likely to play a major role in the midterm congressional elections this fall, and all signs suggest it benefits the Republican Party. In particular, seven months before the midterm elections, anti-incumbent sentiment has reached record levels, and anti-government sentiment is energizing many Republican-inclined voters.

Voters are evenly divided in their candidate preferences for this fall; 44% favor the candidates of each party, with 12% undecided. This is comparable to the voters' preferences in July 1994, when Republicans went on to win a

majority of House seats. However, despite growing frustration with politics over the past year, voter preferences have not tilted further in the GOP's direction since August of last year. (*For more detailed breakdowns of Congressional vote preferences, see table on pg. 93*)

	Vote Republican %	Vote Democrat %	Other/ DK %
March 2010	44	44	12=100
February 2010	42	45	13=100
January 2010	44	46	10=100
November 2009	42	47	11=100
August 2009	44	45	10=100
<hr/>			
April 2006	41	51	8=100
June 2002	44	46	10=100
March 1998	40	52	8=100
July 1994	45	47	8=100

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q10/Q11. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Record Anti-Incumbent Sentiment

Just 43% of voters now say they would like to see their member of Congress reelected in the fall. This is a record low point in the 16 years since Pew Research first began asking this question, and a significant drop from the already-low numbers seen last month.

Anti-incumbent sentiment is relatively widespread, with just 41% of Republicans, 54% of Democrats and 36% of independents saying they would like to see their representative reelected. This marks the lowest percentage of support for incumbents among both Republicans and independents over the last five midterm election cycles. And the 54% of Democrats expressing support for their incumbent nearly matches the Democrats' anti-incumbent mood in 2006, when Republicans controlled Congress.

	All voters	Rep	Dem	Ind
<b>% saying yes</b>				
<b>2010 Midterms</b>	%	%	%	%
Mar 2010	43	41	54	36
Feb 2010	49	45	60	43
Nov 2009	52	50	64	42
<b>2006 Midterms</b>				
Nov 2006	55	69	52	45
Jun 2006	51	63	49	45
Feb 2006	59	70	56	51
<b>2002 Midterms</b>				
Early Oct 2002	58	62	59	52
Jun 2002	58	65	59	49
<b>1998 Midterms</b>				
Late Oct 1998	64	69	68	56
Mar 1998	63	67	69	55
Aug 1997	66	69	69	58
<b>1994 Midterms</b>				
Nov 1994	58	55	68	52
Early Oct 1994	49	49	50	47

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q14. Based on registered voters.

Similarly, opinions about whether most members of Congress should be reelected now match the previous lows. Today, just 27% of voters say they would like to see most members reelected; this is down from earlier in the year, and is at about the same level as in the fall of 1994, just prior to the ouster of many incumbent representatives.

### Views of Government and the 2010 Vote

Both voting preferences and enthusiasm are strongly related to dissatisfaction with government. This is particularly true among independents; overall, independents slightly favor the Republican candidate, by a 41% to 34% margin. But among independents who score high on an index of dissatisfaction with government, Republicans enjoy a five-to-one (66% to 13%) advantage while Democrats hold a two-to-one advantage (49% vs. 24%) among the remainder of independent voters.

Dissatisfied independents also are more anti-incumbent; six-in-ten (60%) say they do not want to see their representative reelected in the fall, compared with 44% of more satisfied independents.

And anti-government sentiment is also linked to enthusiasm about voting. About three-quarters (78%) of independents who are dissatisfied with government say they are absolutely certain they will vote, compared with 58% of more satisfied independent voters.

The link between dissatisfaction and voting among independents remains strong even when party leaning is taken into account. Nearly four-in-ten (37%) independents say they lean Republican in their party identification, representing 13% of voters overall. Within this group, those who are highly dissatisfied with government are more likely than their more satisfied counterparts to support the GOP's candidate in

Want to See Most Representatives Reelected?				
% saying yes	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
	voters	Rep	Dem	Ind
<b>2010 Midterms</b>	%	%	%	%
Mar 2010	27	18	45	17
Feb 2010	32	22	48	24
Nov 2009	34	18	52	25
<b>2006 Midterms</b>				
Nov 2006	37	60	26	27
Jun 2006	29	43	22	24
Feb 2006	36	51	29	30
<b>2002 Midterms</b>				
Early Oct 2002	39	46	39	35
Jun 2002	45	53	46	36
<b>1998 Midterms</b>				
Late Oct 1998	41	52	39	34
Mar 1998	45	55	44	39
Aug 1997	45	52	44	42
<b>1994 Midterms</b>				
Nov 1994	31	18	49	25
Early Oct 1994	28	23	45	18

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q15.  
Based on registered voters.

Independents and the 2010 Midterms			
	Total	Dissatisfaction w/gov't	
		High	Low
<i>2010 Midterm</i>	%	%	%
Vote Republican	41	66	24
Vote Democratic	34	13	49
Other/DK	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Want your member reelected?</i>			
Yes	36	26	44
No	38	60	24
Not running/DK	<u>25</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>32</u>
	100	100	100
Absolutely certain to vote	66	78	58
Number of cases	623	258	365

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q10/Q11, Q14, PLANTO1 and PLANTO2.  
Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
Dissatisfaction with government based on an index. "High dissatisfaction" are those who score in the top 30% of the index.

their district, and 85% say they are certain to vote, compared with 62% of more satisfied Republican-leaning voters.

And the potential mobilizing effect of anti-government sentiment is seen among self-identified Republicans as well – 83% of highly dissatisfied Republican voters say they are absolutely certain they will vote, compared with 67% of those who are more satisfied. By contrast, within Democrats and Democratic leaners, there is no significant difference in engagement by level of satisfaction with the federal government.

<b>Partisanship, Dissatisfaction and the 2010 Midterms</b>									
	<b>Republican</b>			<b>Rep-leaning Inds</b>			<b>Democrat/Lean Dem</b>		
	<i>Dissatisfaction w/gov't</i>			<i>Dissatisfaction w/gov't</i>			<i>Dissatisfaction w/gov't</i>		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
<b>2010 Midterm</b>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Vote Republican	93	96	89	81	87	71	5	12	4
Vote Democratic	3	1	6	7	1	16	86	76	87
Other/DK	4	3	5	13	12	13	9	12	8
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Absolutely certain to vote	76	83	67	76	85	62	63	59	63
Number of cases	676	401	275	288	187	101	924	100	824

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q10/Q11, PLANTO1 and PLANTO2. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Dissatisfaction with government based on an index. "High dissatisfaction" are those who score in the top 30% of the index.

In short, the current enthusiasm gap between Democratic and Republican voters this fall is strongly associated with anti-government sentiment. Overall, 76% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters say they are certain they will vote, compared with 63% of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters. Relatively satisfied Republican voters are no more committed to voting than are Democrats – it is the highly dissatisfied Republicans and independents that are driving this difference.

## Dissatisfaction and Health Care Reform

Public views on health care reform were highly partisan from the start, but views of government also played a substantial role. In a December 2009 Pew Research Center poll, 84% of people opposed to health care reform said “too much government involvement” was a major reason for their opposition – more than any other concern listed.

In the March survey – conducted during the final debate over the bill in Congress – 40% of Americans favored the legislation, while 47% opposed it. Among the segment of the public most dissatisfied with government in general, 83% opposed the bill, while a slim majority (53%) of more satisfied Americans favored it.

Highly dissatisfied Republicans nearly universally opposed the legislation (93% oppose, 3% favor), while opposition was less overwhelming among more satisfied Republicans (67% oppose, 22% favor).

Among independents, the gap in opinion between the satisfied and the dissatisfied is even wider. Highly dissatisfied independents opposed the legislation by an 82% to 12% margin, while more satisfied independents favored the legislation than opposed it (49% favor, 33% oppose). Seven-in-ten Democrats backed the legislation in the weeks before the bill passed, and there were too few highly dissatisfied Democrats to analyze.

<b>Health Care and Dissatisfaction with Government</b>				
		<i>Dissatisfaction w/gov't</i>		<i>Hi-Lo</i>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>diff</u>
	%	%	%	
<b>Total</b>				
Favor	40	11	53	-42
Oppose	47	83	31	+52
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>	
	100	100	100	
N	2505	855	1650	
<b>Republicans</b>				
Favor	12	3	22	-19
Oppose	81	93	67	+26
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>	
	100	100	100	
N	762	429	333	
<b>Democrats</b>				
Favor	70	--	73	n/a
Oppose	17	--	14	
Don't know	<u>13</u>	--	<u>13</u>	
	100		100	
N	824	78	746	
<b>Independents</b>				
Favor	35	12	49	-37
Oppose	51	82	33	+49
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	
	100	100	100	
N	774	303	471	

Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q45.  
Dissatisfaction with government based on an index. "High dissatisfaction" are those who score in the top 30% of the index. There are too few highly dissatisfied Democrats to report on. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.



## Dissatisfaction and Financial Regulation

Americans back stricter regulation of major financial institutions by nearly two-to-one (61% good idea, 31% bad idea). But the majority of those who are highly dissatisfied with the federal government say increased regulation would be a bad idea (54% bad idea, 40% good idea).

Overall, most Republicans oppose stricter financial regulations (39% good idea, 54% bad idea), but there are significant differences by level of satisfaction with the federal government. On balance, more satisfied Republicans favor financial regulation than oppose it (50% good idea, 42% bad idea), while dissatisfied Republicans oppose it by a greater than two-to-one margin (29% good idea, 66% bad idea).

Most independents support greater financial regulation. About six-in-ten (63%) say it is a good idea to more strictly regulate the way major financial compaies do business, while three-in-ten (30%) say this is a bad idea. But, as with Republicans, there is a significant split in opinion by level of satisfaction with government. Dissatisfied independents are more evenly divided about increased financial regulation (50% good idea, 45% bad idea); by contrast, more satisfied independents favor increased regulation by a greater than three-to-one margin (71% good idea, 21% bad idea). Democrats overwhelmingly favor stricter regulation (78%), and there are too few highly dissatisfied Democrats to analyze the effect of anti-government sentiment on their views.

	Dissatisfaction w/gov't			Hi-Lo diff
	Total %	High %	Low %	
<b>Total</b>				
Good idea	61	40	70	-30
Bad idea	31	54	21	+33
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	
	100	100	100	
<b>Republicans</b>				
Good idea	39	29	50	-21
Bad idea	54	66	42	+18
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	
	100	100	100	
<b>Democrats</b>				
Good idea	78	--	79	n/a
Bad idea	15	--	13	
Don't know	<u>8</u>	--	<u>8</u>	
	100		100	
<b>Independents</b>				
Good idea	63	50	71	-21
Bad idea	30	45	21	+24
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	
	100	100	100	

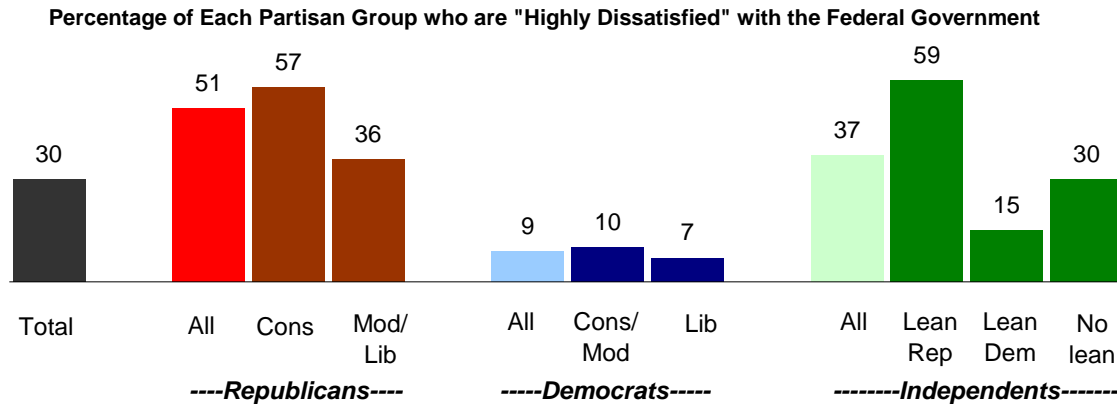
Pew Research Center March 11-21 Q46.  
Dissatisfaction with government based on an index. "High dissatisfaction" are those who score in the top 30% of the index. There are too few highly dissatisfied Democrats to report on. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### About the Index of Satisfaction with Government

Throughout this chapter, we compare the views of people who are more and less dissatisfied with government based on an index of questions from the March 11-21 2010 survey:

- Federal government or Congress effect on the country (Q18aF1 & Q18hF2)
- Content, frustrated or angry with the federal government (Q20)
- Trust in the federal government (Q21)
- Maintain or cut back federal government programs (Q23)
- Criticism of the federal government justified or not (Q25)
- Federal government needs major reform, some reform, or no reform (Q26)
- Federal government's effect on your own day-to-day life (Q27a/Q28a)
- Congressional job performance (Q52a)
- Obama administration job performance (Q52b)
- Federal agency job performance (The average rating given to nine federal agencies or institutions Q52d, Q52f, Q52g, Q52i, Q52l, Q52m, Q52n, Q52p, Q52r)
- Perceived threat of the federal government to personal rights and freedoms (Q73)

Those we define as highly dissatisfied are Americans who score in the top 30% on this index. Republicans and independents who lean to the Republican party are the most likely to pass this threshold: 51% of Republicans and 59% of Republican leaners are considered to be highly dissatisfied on this index. By comparison, relatively few Democrats (9%) or independents who lean to the Democratic Party (15%) score as highly dissatisfied with the federal government.



To see how your views of the federal government compare with the respondents in this survey, you can answer the questions on our website (<http://pewresearch.org/satisfaction/>) and see your score.

## ABOUT THE SURVEYS

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 2,505 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from March 11-21, 2010 (1,677 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 828 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 301 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 the methodology section of our website at: <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 2009 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 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total sample .....	2,505 .....	2.5 percentage points
Registered voters .....	2,070 .....	3.0 percentage points
Form 1 .....	1,268 .....	3.5 percentage points
Form 2 .....	1,237 .....	3.5 percentage points
Republicans .....	762 .....	4.5 percentage points
Democrats .....	824 .....	4.5 percentage points
Independents .....	774 .....	4.5 percentage points
Rep-leaning independents* .....	341 .....	6.5 percentage points
Dem-leaning independents* .....	296 .....	7.0 percentage points
Agree with Tea Party movement .....	704 .....	4.5 percentage points

\*Republican and Democratic leaning independents include all non-partisans (independent, no preference, other or don't know) who, on a follow up question, say that they currently lean toward the Republican or Democratic Party.

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 additional surveys**

In addition to the main survey described above, this report is supplemented with three additional surveys. Results for these three surveys are based on landline and cell phone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among nationwide samples of adults, 18 years of age or older, living in the continental United States. The landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The first survey was conducted March 18-21, 2010 among a sample of 1,002 adults (671 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 143 who had no landline

telephone). The second survey was conducted April 1-5, 2010 among a sample of 1,001 adults (670 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 120 who had no landline telephone). The third survey was conducted April 8-11, 2010 among a sample of 1,001 adults (670 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 331 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 124 who had no landline telephone).

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 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for the total sample in each survey is plus or minus 4 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:

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

## TRUST IN GOVERNMENT TABLE

Q.21 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?  
Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	NET <u>Always/Most</u> %	<i>Just about</i> <u>always</u> %	<i>Most of</i> <u>the time</u> %	NET <u>Some/Never</u> %	<i>Some of</i> <u>the time</u> %	(VOL.) <u>Never</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>TOTAL</b>	22	3	19	76	65	11	2	2505
<b>SEX</b>								
Men	23	4	19	75	63	12	2	1144
Women	22	3	20	76	66	10	2	1361
<b>AGE</b>								
18-49	25	4	21	74	65	10	1	1035
50+	20	3	17	77	65	13	3	1429
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>								
18-29	32	3	28	67	61	6	1	347
30-49	20	4	17	79	67	12	1	688
50-64	20	3	17	78	65	13	2	808
65+	20	2	17	77	65	12	3	621
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>								
Men 18-49	27	5	21	72	60	11	1	516
Men 50+	16	2	15	81	68	13	2	615
Women 18-49	22	2	21	77	69	8	1	519
Women 50+	23	4	19	74	62	12	3	814
<b>RACE</b>								
White NH	20	2	17	79	66	13	1	1880
Black NH	37	5	32	59	54	6	4	250
Hispanic	26	6	20	71	66	5	3	189
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
College grad	27	4	23	72	61	11	1	902
Some college	20	2	19	78	69	10	1	661
HS or less	21	4	17	76	64	12	3	933
<b>INCOME</b>								
\$75,000+	26	3	22	74	63	11	1	711
\$30,000-\$74,999	17	2	14	83	71	12	1	780
<\$30,000	27	5	23	70	60	10	3	675
<b>DETAILED INCOME</b>								
\$100,000+	29	5	23	70	60	10	1	418
\$75,000-\$99,999	21	1	21	78	66	12	0	293
\$50,000-\$74,999	17	3	13	83	73	10	0	320
\$30,000-\$49,999	17	2	15	83	70	13	1	460
<\$30,000	27	5	23	70	60	10	3	675
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>								
Married	20	2	17	79	65	14	2	1385
Not married	26	4	22	72	64	7	2	1099
<b>MARITAL STATUS BY SEX</b>								
Married men	20	2	18	78	63	15	2	672
Married women	19	3	16	80	66	13	2	713
Unmarried men	26	6	19	73	64	9	2	462
Unmarried women	27	2	24	71	65	6	2	637
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>								
Employed	22	4	18	76	67	10	2	1423
Not employed	23	3	20	74	62	13	2	1068

## TRUST IN GOVERNMENT TABLE (CONT.)

Q.21 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?  
Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	NET <u>Always/Most</u> %	<i>Just about</i> <u>always</u> %	<i>Most of</i> <u>the time</u> %	NET <u>Some/Never</u> %	<i>Some of</i> <u>the time</u> %	(VOL.) <u>Never</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>								
Yes, certain	21	3	19	77	65	12	1	2070
Not registered	27	5	21	70	62	8	4	435
<b>PARTY ID</b>								
Republican	13	2	11	86	71	15	1	762
Democrat	34	4	30	64	60	4	2	824
Independent	20	4	16	79	65	14	1	774
<b>PARTY LEANING</b>								
Lean Republican	14	4	10	85	65	19	1	341
Lean Democrat	26	3	23	72	66	6	2	296
No leaning	18	4	14	77	60	17	5	282
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>								
Republican/Lean Rep	13	2	11	86	69	17	1	1103
Democrat/Lean Dem	32	4	28	66	62	4	2	1120
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>								
Conservative Republican	11	1	10	88	72	17	1	546
Mod/Lib Republican	17	2	16	81	68	13	2	206
Mod/Cons Democrat	31	3	28	67	64	4	2	493
Liberal Democrat	40	5	34	59	55	4	1	297
<b>AMONG REPUBLICANS</b>								
Men	15	3	12	84	70	14	1	353
Women	11	0	11	89	71	17	1	409
18-49	17	2	15	82	70	12	1	303
50+	8	1	7	91	71	20	1	447
College grad	12	1	12	87	71	17	0	286
Some college or less	14	2	11	85	71	15	1	475
<b>AMONG DEMOCRATS</b>								
Men	33	3	29	65	62	4	2	305
Women	35	4	31	63	59	4	2	519
18-49	32	3	30	68	63	5	0	328
50+	36	6	31	60	57	3	4	489
College grad	44	6	38	55	52	3	1	293
Some college or less	30	3	27	68	63	4	2	529
<b>AMONG INDEPENDENTS</b>								
Men	21	5	16	77	62	15	2	421
Women	18	2	16	80	68	12	1	353
18-49	25	6	19	74	62	12	1	340
50+	12	1	11	86	70	16	2	422
College grad	23	4	19	75	62	13	1	292
Some college or less	19	4	15	80	66	14	2	478

## TRUST IN GOVERNMENT TABLE (CONT.)

Q.21 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?  
Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	NET <u>Always/Most</u> %	<i>Just about</i> <u>always</u> %	<i>Most of</i> <u>the time</u> %	NET <u>Some/Never</u> %	<i>Some of</i> <u>the time</u> %	(VOL.) <u>Never</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>								
Total White NH Prot.	18	2	16	81	65	15	1	1055
White NH evang. Prot.	16	1	14	84	68	15	1	554
White NH mainline Prot.	21	2	18	77	62	16	2	500
Total Catholic	23	3	20	75	65	10	2	550
White NH Cath.	20	2	18	80	67	13	0	393
Unaffiliated	23	4	19	75	69	7	2	356
<b>REGION</b>								
Northeast	23	3	21	75	66	10	1	456
Midwest	22	3	19	77	68	9	1	605
South	25	4	21	72	59	13	3	939
West	19	3	16	80	69	11	1	505
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>								
Men	20	3	17	80	66	14	1	867
Women	20	2	18	78	67	12	2	1013
18-49	23	3	20	76	65	11	1	699
50+	16	2	15	82	68	14	1	1154
College grad	25	3	22	74	63	11	1	742
Some college or less	17	2	16	81	68	14	1	1133
\$75,000+	25	3	22	74	64	11	0	588
\$30,000-\$74,999	14	2	12	85	72	13	1	602
<\$30,000	22	2	20	76	62	14	2	438
Employed	20	3	17	79	68	11	1	1063
Not employed	19	2	17	80	65	15	1	809
Republican	12	1	11	87	72	15	0	669
Democrat	35	3	31	65	61	4	0	507
Independent	16	2	14	83	66	17	1	616
East	20	2	18	79	68	10	1	369
Midwest	20	2	17	80	70	9	1	495
South	20	2	18	78	61	17	2	652
West	19	2	17	81	68	12	0	364

## FEELING ABOUT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TABLE

Q.20 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

	Basically <u>content</u> %	<u>Frustrated</u> %	<u>Angry</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>TOTAL</b>	19	56	21	5	2505
<b>SEX</b>					
Men	19	54	22	4	1144
Women	18	57	20	5	1361
<b>AGE</b>					
18-49	22	58	17	4	1035
50+	14	54	26	5	1429
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>					
18-29	28	51	16	5	347
30-49	19	61	17	3	688
50-64	14	56	26	4	808
65+	15	51	26	7	621
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>					
Men 18-49	24	56	17	3	516
Men 50+	12	53	29	6	615
Women 18-49	20	60	17	4	519
Women 50+	16	55	24	5	814
<b>RACE</b>					
White NH	14	60	23	3	1880
Black NH	31	48	12	9	250
Hispanic	30	47	17	5	189
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
College grad	18	60	19	3	902
Some college	16	59	21	4	661
HS or less	20	52	22	6	933
<b>INCOME</b>					
\$75,000+	18	60	21	1	711
\$30,000-\$74,999	15	61	21	3	780
<\$30,000	23	50	20	6	675
<b>DETAILED INCOME</b>					
\$100,000+	20	58	21	1	418
\$75,000-\$99,999	16	63	20	2	293
\$50,000-\$74,999	15	64	20	1	320
\$30,000-\$49,999	15	60	21	4	460
<\$30,000	23	50	20	6	675
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>					
Married	15	57	24	3	1385
Not married	23	55	17	6	1099
<b>MARITAL STATUS BY SEX</b>					
Married men	17	54	26	3	672
Married women	13	60	23	4	713
Unmarried men	22	56	17	5	462
Unmarried women	23	54	17	6	637
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>					
Employed	18	59	19	4	1423
Not employed	19	51	24	6	1068



## FEELING ABOUT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TABLE (CONT.)

Q.20 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

	Basically <u>content</u> %	<u>Frustrated</u> %	<u>Angry</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>					
Yes, certain	16	58	22	3	2070
Not registered	26	49	16	8	435
<b>PARTY ID</b>					
Republican	9	60	30	2	762
Democrat	27	58	9	6	824
Independent	18	54	25	3	774
<b>PARTY LEANING</b>					
Lean Republican	9	53	37	1	341
Lean Democrat	26	55	15	4	296
No leaning	22	45	22	12	282
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>					
Republican/Lean Rep	9	58	32	1	1103
Democrat/Lean Dem	27	57	11	6	1120
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>					
Conservative Republican	8	59	32	2	546
Mod/Lib Republican	10	62	27	1	206
Mod/Cons Democrat	27	57	10	5	493
Liberal Democrat	27	60	7	6	297
<b>AMONG REPUBLICANS</b>					
Men	12	59	28	1	353
Women	6	60	32	2	409
18-49	11	64	24	1	303
50+	6	54	37	2	447
College grad	7	61	30	1	286
Some college or less	9	59	30	2	475
<b>AMONG DEMOCRATS</b>					
Men	25	57	10	7	305
Women	28	59	8	5	519
18-49	27	62	7	4	328
50+	27	54	11	8	489
College grad	30	62	5	4	293
Some college or less	26	57	10	7	529
<b>AMONG INDEPENDENTS</b>					
Men	19	53	26	2	421
Women	17	55	24	4	353
18-49	26	52	19	3	340
50+	7	57	34	2	422
College grad	18	58	20	3	292
Some college or less	18	52	27	3	478

## FEELING ABOUT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TABLE (CONT.)

Q.20 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

	Basically <u>content</u> %	<u>Frustrated</u> %	<u>Angry</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>					
Total White NH Prot.	12	60	24	3	1055
White NH evang. Prot.	13	58	26	2	554
White NH mainline Prot.	11	62	22	5	500
Total Catholic	20	55	22	4	550
White NH Cath.	13	59	26	2	393
Unaffiliated	23	57	16	4	356
<b>REGION</b>					
Northeast	17	59	20	4	456
Midwest	16	60	20	3	605
South	20	53	22	5	939
West	21	52	21	6	505
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>					
Men	15	59	24	3	867
Women	14	60	22	4	1013
18-49	18	62	17	4	699
50+	11	58	28	3	1154
College grad	16	61	21	2	742
Some college or less	14	59	23	4	1133
\$75,000+	16	60	22	1	588
\$30,000-\$74,999	12	65	22	1	602
<\$30,000	18	56	21	5	438
Employed	15	62	20	3	1063
Not employed	13	56	26	4	809
Republican	7	62	30	2	669
Democrat	25	62	8	4	507
Independent	13	59	26	2	616
East	13	64	21	2	369
Midwest	14	63	21	2	495
South	15	57	24	5	652
West	16	56	23	4	364

## GOVERNMENT THREAT TO RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS TABLE

Q.73 Do you think the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms, or not?  
(IF YES) Is this a major threat or a minor threat?

	NET <u>Yes</u> %	<i>Major</i> <i>threat</i> %	<i>Minor</i> <i>threat</i> %	<u>No</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>TOTAL</b>	47	30	17	50	2	2505
<b>SEX</b>						
Men	52	34	18	46	2	1144
Women	43	27	16	53	3	1361
<b>AGE</b>						
18-49	48	30	17	51	2	1035
50+	47	30	17	49	3	1429
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>						
18-29	40	24	15	58	3	347
30-49	53	34	19	46	1	688
50-64	49	31	18	49	3	808
65+	46	30	16	50	5	621
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>						
Men 18-49	51	34	17	48	1	516
Men 50+	53	34	19	44	3	615
Women 18-49	44	26	18	54	2	519
Women 50+	43	28	15	53	4	814
<b>RACE</b>						
White NH	48	31	17	50	2	1880
Black NH	37	23	14	56	7	250
Hispanic	49	31	17	49	2	189
<b>EDUCATION</b>						
College grad	37	24	13	62	1	902
Some college	49	31	19	49	1	661
HS or less	53	34	19	43	4	933
<b>INCOME</b>						
\$75,000+	41	26	15	58	1	711
\$30,000-\$74,999	50	31	19	49	1	780
<\$30,000	51	33	18	45	4	675
<b>DETAILED INCOME</b>						
\$100,000+	39	25	14	61	0	418
\$75,000-\$99,999	45	28	17	54	1	293
\$50,000-\$74,999	48	31	17	51	1	320
\$30,000-\$49,999	51	30	21	48	1	460
<\$30,000	51	33	18	45	4	675
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>						
Married	49	32	17	48	2	1385
Not married	46	29	17	52	3	1099
<b>MARITAL STATUS BY SEX</b>						
Married men	53	35	18	45	1	672
Married women	46	29	16	51	3	713
Unmarried men	51	33	17	47	2	462
Unmarried women	41	24	17	56	3	637
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>						
Employed	48	30	17	51	2	1423
Not employed	47	30	17	49	4	1068

**GOVERNMENT THREAT TO RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS TABLE (CONT.)**

Q.73 Do you think the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms, or not?  
(IF YES) Is this a major threat or a minor threat?

	(Net) <u>Yes</u> %	<i>Major</i> <i>threat</i> %	<i>Minor</i> <i>threat</i> %	<u>No</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>						
Yes, certain	48	31	16	50	2	2070
Not registered	48	27	20	49	3	435
<b>PARTY ID</b>						
Republican	61	43	18	38	1	762
Democrat	34	18	16	63	3	824
Independent	50	33	17	48	1	774
<b>PARTY LEANING</b>						
Lean Republican	66	50	16	33	1	341
Lean Democrat	37	21	16	61	3	296
No leaning	48	27	20	47	6	282
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>						
Republican/Lean Rep	62	45	18	37	1	1103
Democrat/Lean Dem	35	19	16	63	3	1120
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>						
Conservative Republican	62	47	15	36	1	546
Mod/Lib Republican	55	32	23	44	1	206
Mod/Cons Democrat	37	19	18	60	3	493
Liberal Democrat	29	15	14	71	0	297
<b>AMONG REPUBLICANS</b>						
Men	64	46	18	35	1	353
Women	57	39	18	41	2	409
18-49	59	43	17	40	1	303
50+	62	43	19	36	2	447
College grad	58	41	16	42	1	286
Some college or less	62	43	19	37	2	475
<b>AMONG DEMOCRATS</b>						
Men	37	20	17	61	2	305
Women	32	16	15	65	3	519
18-49	36	19	17	62	2	328
50+	32	17	15	64	4	489
College grad	18	7	11	81	1	293
Some college or less	40	22	18	57	4	529
<b>AMONG INDEPENDENTS</b>						
Men	54	36	18	44	1	421
Women	45	29	15	54	1	353
18-49	49	31	17	50	1	340
50+	53	36	17	46	2	422
College grad	33	23	10	66	1	292
Some college or less	57	37	20	41	1	478

## GOVERNMENT THREAT TO RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS TABLE (CONT.)

Q.73 Do you think the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms, or not?  
(IF YES) Is this a major threat or a minor threat?

	(Net) <u>Yes</u> %	<i>Major</i> <i>threat</i> %	<i>Minor</i> <i>threat</i> %	<u>No</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>						
Total White NH Prot.	53	35	18	45	2	1055
White NH evang. Prot.	59	42	18	39	1	554
White NH mainline Prot.	46	28	18	52	2	500
Total Catholic	45	30	15	53	3	550
White NH Cath.	45	30	14	54	2	393
Unaffiliated	39	20	19	59	2	356
<b>REGION</b>						
Northeast	39	25	14	58	3	456
Midwest	48	29	19	49	2	605
South	50	34	16	47	3	939
West	49	31	19	49	2	505
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>						
Men	53	35	18	46	1	867
Women	43	26	16	55	2	1013
18-49	47	30	18	51	1	699
50+	48	32	17	49	2	1154
College grad	37	24	13	62	1	742
Some college or less	53	34	19	45	2	1133
\$75,000+	41	25	15	59	1	588
\$30,000-\$74,999	51	32	19	48	1	602
<\$30,000	52	34	18	45	3	438
Employed	48	30	18	51	1	1063
Not employed	48	32	17	49	3	809
Republican	60	43	16	39	1	669
Democrat	29	14	15	69	2	507
Independent	49	31	19	50	1	616
East	41	26	15	58	2	369
Midwest	48	28	20	50	2	495
South	53	36	17	45	1	652
West	47	30	17	52	2	364

## OPINIONS ABOUT TEA PARTY MOVEMENT TABLE

Q87.How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year?/ Q88. From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way

	Strongly agree/ <u>Agree</u> %	Strongly disagree/ <u>Disagree</u> %	No opinion/ <u>DK/Ref</u> %	Have not heard <u>of Tea Party</u> %	(N)
<b>TOTAL</b>	24	14	30	31	2505
<b>SEX</b>					
Men	28	16	28	29	1144
Women	21	13	32	34	1361
<b>AGE</b>					
18-49	18	12	31	40	1035
50+	32	17	30	21	1429
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>					
18-29	9	10	27	54	347
30-49	23	12	33	31	688
50-64	31	18	30	21	808
65+	33	17	29	21	621
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>					
Men 18-49	21	13	27	38	516
Men 50+	36	19	29	16	615
Women 18-49	14	10	34	42	519
Women 50+	28	16	31	25	814
<b>RACE</b>					
White NH	28	15	30	26	1880
Black NH	7	15	35	44	250
Hispanic	17	6	30	47	189
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
College grad	30	30	23	18	902
Some college	26	11	37	27	661
HS or less	20	7	31	43	933
<b>INCOME</b>					
\$75,000+	35	25	23	17	711
\$30,000-\$74,999	23	13	34	29	780
<\$30,000	14	8	33	45	675
<b>DETAILED INCOME</b>					
\$100,000+	34	31	20	14	418
\$75,000-\$99,999	35	16	28	21	293
\$50,000-\$74,999	24	13	40	24	320
\$30,000-\$49,999	23	13	31	33	460
<\$30,000	14	8	33	45	675
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>					
Married	33	16	29	22	1385
Not married	14	12	31	43	1099
<b>MARITAL STATUS BY SEX</b>					
Married men	35	18	26	20	672
Married women	31	15	31	23	713
Unmarried men	19	13	29	39	462
Unmarried women	10	11	34	46	637
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>					
Employed	23	15	30	32	1423
Not employed	25	13	31	31	1068

**OPINIONS ABOUT TEA PARTY MOVEMENT TABLE (CONT.)**

Q87.How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year?/ Q88. From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way

	Strongly agree/ <u>Agree</u> %	Strongly disagree/ <u>Disagree</u> %	No opinion/ <u>DK/Ref</u> %	Have not heard <u>of Tea Party</u> %	(N)
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>					
Yes, certain	28	16	31	25	2070
Not registered	13	8	28	51	435
<b>PARTY ID</b>					
Republican	45	4	28	23	762
Democrat	6	24	33	37	824
Independent	26	14	29	31	774
<b>PARTY LEANING</b>					
Lean Republican	53	3	26	18	341
Lean Democrat	7	27	28	39	296
No leaning	12	9	35	45	282
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>					
Republican/Lean Rep	48	4	28	21	1103
Democrat/Lean Dem	6	25	31	37	1120
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>					
Conservative Republican	53	3	28	16	546
Mod/Lib Republican	27	5	31	36	206
Mod/Cons Democrat	7	18	37	37	493
Liberal Democrat	3	38	26	34	297
<b>AMONG REPUBLICANS</b>					
Men	48	6	26	20	353
Women	43	2	31	25	409
18-49	38	5	27	30	303
50+	54	2	29	14	447
College grad	58	8	22	11	286
Some college or less	40	2	31	28	475
<b>AMONG DEMOCRATS</b>					
Men	8	29	28	36	305
Women	5	22	36	38	519
18-49	3	17	36	44	328
50+	10	32	29	29	489
College grad	5	48	23	24	293
Some college or less	6	16	36	42	529
<b>AMONG INDEPENDENTS</b>					
Men	29	15	28	29	421
Women	23	13	30	34	353
18-49	18	13	28	41	340
50+	38	16	30	16	422
College grad	28	32	25	16	292
Some college or less	25	7	30	38	478

## OPINIONS ABOUT TEA PARTY MOVEMENT TABLE (CONT.)

Q87. How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year?/ Q88. From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way

	Strongly agree/ <u>Agree</u> %	Strongly disagree/ <u>Disagree</u> %	No opinion/ <u>DK/Ref</u> %	Have not heard <u>of Tea Party</u> %	(N)
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>					
Total White NH Prot.	31	11	33	25	1055
White NH evang. Prot.	36	7	35	22	554
White NH mainline Prot.	26	15	31	28	500
Total Catholic	26	10	28	36	550
White NH Cath.	34	12	27	28	393
Unaffiliated	13	24	32	31	356
<b>REGION</b>					
Northeast	24	18	28	30	456
Midwest	22	12	29	36	605
South	25	11	33	31	939
West	25	18	28	29	505
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>					
Men	32	16	28	24	867
Women	25	14	33	28	1013
18-49	22	12	30	35	699
50+	35	17	30	17	1154
College grad	32	29	23	16	742
Some college or less	27	8	34	31	1133
\$75,000+	38	24	23	15	588
\$30,000-\$74,999	28	13	34	26	602
<\$30,000	17	8	36	39	438
Employed	27	16	29	27	1063
Not employed	30	13	32	24	809
Republican	47	4	30	20	669
Democrat	5	31	31	33	507
Independent	29	15	30	25	616
East	28	19	31	23	369
Midwest	26	12	29	33	495
South	30	11	34	25	652
West	30	21	26	23	364



## CONGRESSIONAL TRIAL HEAT TABLE

### BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

Q10/11: If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?/ As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

	Rep/ lean Rep %	Dem/ lean Dem %	(VOL.) Other/no lean %	(VOL.) DK/Ref %	(N)
<b>ALL REGISTERED VOTERS</b>	44	44	3	10	2070
<b>SEX</b>					
Men	47	41	2	10	921
Women	41	47	3	10	1149
<b>AGE</b>					
18-49	43	46	2	9	763
50+	45	43	3	10	1274
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>					
18-29	33	56	2	9	207
30-49	48	41	3	9	556
50-64	43	44	3	10	709
65+	47	40	3	10	565
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>					
Men 18-49	47	43	2	9	367
Men 50+	47	39	3	11	543
Women 18-49	39	49	3	9	396
Women 50+	43	46	2	10	731
<b>RACE</b>					
White NH	51	35	3	11	1621
Black NH	11	82	1	6	205
Hispanic	31	59	2	8	110
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
College grad	44	45	2	9	837
Some college	47	42	3	9	557
HS or less	42	44	2	12	670
<b>INCOME</b>					
\$75,000+	51	41	2	6	652
\$30,000-\$74,999	47	41	3	9	660
<\$30,000	32	55	2	11	472
<b>DETAILED INCOME</b>					
\$100,000+	51	42	2	5	383
\$75,000-\$99,999	51	39	3	7	269
\$50,000-\$74,999	48	39	4	9	284
\$30,000-\$49,999	46	42	3	9	376
<\$30,000	32	55	2	11	472
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>					
Married	52	36	2	9	1232
Not married	32	55	3	11	821
<b>MARITAL STATUS BY SEX</b>					
Married men	55	34	2	9	593
Married women	49	38	2	10	639
Unmarried men	35	51	3	11	320
Unmarried women	30	58	3	10	501
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>					
Employed	45	43	2	10	1181
Not employed	42	45	3	10	879

## CONGRESSIONAL TRIAL HEAT TABLE (CONT.)

### BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

Q10/11: If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?/ As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

	Rep/ <u>lean Rep</u> %	Dem/ <u>lean Dem</u> %	Other/ <u>no lean</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>PARTY ID</b>					
Republican	93	3	0	3	676
Democrat	5	90	1	5	692
Independent	41	34	6	19	623
<b>PARTY LEANING</b>					
Lean Republican	81	7	4	8	288
Lean Democrat	6	75	2	17	232
No leaning	20	17	15	48	182
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>					
Republican/Lean Rep	89	4	2	5	964
Democrat/Lean Dem	5	86	1	8	924
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>					
Conservative Republican	95	2	0	3	500
Mod/Lib Republican	87	8	0	5	168
Mod/Cons Democrat	6	87	0	7	413
Liberal Democrat	3	95	2	1	254
<b>AMONG REPUBLICANS</b>					
Men	92	3	1	4	306
Women	93	4	0	3	370
18-49	92	4	0	4	252
50+	93	3	0	3	413
College grad	92	2	1	5	271
Some college or less	93	4	0	3	404
<b>AMONG DEMOCRATS</b>					
Men	5	91	1	3	248
Women	4	89	1	6	444
18-49	5	91	1	3	248
50+	4	89	1	6	438
College grad	3	91	1	4	272
Some college or less	5	89	1	5	419
<b>AMONG INDEPENDENTS</b>					
Men	42	34	5	19	336
Women	40	34	8	18	287
18-49	35	40	6	19	239
50+	47	29	7	18	375
College grad	40	41	4	16	269
Some college or less	41	31	7	21	351

## CONGRESSIONAL TRIAL HEAT TABLE (CONT.)

### BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

Q10/11: If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?/ As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

	Rep/ <u>lean Rep</u> %	Dem/ <u>lean Dem</u> %	(VOL.) <u>Other/no lean</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	(N)
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>					
Total White NH Prot.	57	29	2	11	906
White NH evang. Prot.	69	20	2	9	483
White NH mainline Prot.	43	40	2	15	422
Total Catholic	45	42	4	9	448
White NH Cath.	54	34	5	8	352
Unaffiliated	29	57	3	10	278
<b>REGION</b>					
Northeast	40	50	2	8	382
Midwest	44	43	2	11	504
South	48	40	3	9	770
West	40	45	3	12	414
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>					
Men	53	33	3	11	731
Women	49	38	3	11	890
18-49	51	35	3	11	546
50+	51	36	3	10	1052
College grad	48	40	2	9	705
Some college or less	53	33	3	12	913
\$75,000+	55	36	2	6	545
\$30,000-\$74,999	53	33	4	10	527
<\$30,000	42	41	2	14	328
Employed	52	35	2	11	926
Not employed	49	36	4	11	689
Republican	93	3	0	4	605
Democrat	5	89	1	5	437
Independent	43	31	6	20	524
East	46	42	2	10	316
Midwest	49	37	2	12	422
South	59	28	4	10	566
West	45	40	3	12	317

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MARCH 2010 TRUST IN GOVERNMENT SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**March 11-21, 2010**  
**N=2505**

**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>
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5				
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	February, 2005	38	56	6
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	January, 2005	40	54	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	December, 2004	39	54	7
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	July, 2004	38	55	7
Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>2</sup>	30	64	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	December, 2003	44	47	9
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	October, 2003	38	56	6
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	August, 2003	40	53	7
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	January, 2003	44	50	6
December, 2008	13	83	4	November, 2002	41	48	11
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	September, 2002	41	55	4
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
August, 2008	21	74	5	May, 2002	44	44	12
July, 2008	19	74	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
June, 2008	19	76	5	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
March, 2008	22	72	6	June, 2001	43	52	5
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	February, 2001	46	43	11
October, 2007	28	66	6	January, 2001	55	41	4
February, 2007	30	61	9	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
December, 2006	28	65	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	August, 1999	56	39	5
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	January, 1999	53	41	6
July, 2006	30	65	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
January, 2006	34	61	5	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	August, 1997	49	46	5
				January, 1997	38	58	4
				July, 1996	29	67	4
				March, 1996	28	70	2
				October, 1995	23	73	4
				June, 1995	25	73	2

<sup>2</sup> From September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April, 1995	23	74	3
July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 1994	24	71	5
October, 1993	22	73	5
September, 1993	20	75	5
May, 1993	22	71	7
January, 1993	39	50	11
January, 1992	28	68	4
November, 1991	34	61	5
Late February, 1991 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	66	31	3
August, 1990	47	48	5
May, 1990	41	54	5
January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	50	45	5

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:**

Q.2F1 And thinking about the state where you live, are you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your state today?

		<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
	Mar 11-21, 2010	38	57	5
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2007 <sup>3</sup>	61	38	1
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2005	59	39	2
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2004	53	45	2
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2001	65	33	2
<i>Gallup</i>	July, 1995	50	46	4

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:**

Q.3F2 And thinking about the local community where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your local community today?

		<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
	Mar 11-21, 2010	62	34	4
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2007 <sup>4</sup>	79	20	1
	March, 2006	66	31	3
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2005	75	24	1
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2004	76	23	1
	February, 2001	73	22	5
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2001	76	22	2
	March, 1994	68	27	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.4 How closely do you follow news about national issues and events in Washington D.C.?

Mar 11-21

2010

31	Very closely
42	Fairly closely
20	Not too closely
6	Not at all closely
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**NO QUESTIONS 5-9**

<sup>3</sup> For July 7-9, 1995 through January 15-18, 2007 the Gallup question read, "In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your state at this time?"

<sup>4</sup> For January 10-14, 2001 through January 15-18, 2007 the Gallup question read, "All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your local community?"

**ASK ALL:**

The next congressional elections will be coming up later this year...

Q.10 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE: “the Republican Party’s candidate” OR “the Democratic Party’s candidate”] for Congress in your district?

**ASK IF ANSWERED OTHER OR DON’T KNOW (Q.10=3 OR Q.10=9):**

Q.11 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.10. IF NECESSARY: for U.S. Congress in your district]?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2070]:**

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	44	44	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	45	13
Jan 6-10, 2010	44	46	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	47	11
Aug 20-27, 2009	44	45	10
<b>2008 Election</b>			
June, 2008	37	52	11
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	40	48	12
Late October, 2006	38	49	13
Early October, 2006	38	51	11
September, 2006	39	50	11
August, 2006	41	50	9
June, 2006	39	51	10
April, 2006	41	51	8
February, 2006	41	50	9
Mid-September, 2005	40	52	8
<b>2004 Election</b>			
June, 2004	41	48	11
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early November, 2002	42	46	12
Early October, 2002	44	46	10
Early September, 2002	44	46	10
June, 2002	44	46	10
February, 2002	46	45	9
Early November, 2001	44	44	12
<b>2000 Election</b>			
Early November, 2000	42	48	10
Early October, 2000	43	47	10
July, 2000	43	47	10
February, 2000	44	47	9
October, 1999	43	49	8
June, 1999	40	50	10
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	40	47	13
Early October, 1998	43	44	13
Early September, 1998	45	46	9
Late August, 1998	44	45	11
Early August, 1998	42	49	9
June, 1998	44	46	10
March, 1998	40	52	8
February, 1998	41	50	9
January, 1998	41	51	8
August, 1997	45	48	7

**Q.10/Q.11 CONTINUED...**

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
<b>1996 Election</b>			
November, 1996 <sup>5</sup>	44	48	8
October, 1996	42	49	9
Late September, 1996	43	49	8
Early September, 1996	43	51	6
July, 1996	46	47	7
June, 1996	44	50	6
March, 1996	44	49	7
January, 1996	46	47	7
October, 1995	48	48	4
August, 1995	50	43	7
<b>1994 Election</b>			
November, 1994	45	43	12
Late October, 1994	47	44	9
Early October, 1994	52	40	8
September, 1994	48	46	6
July, 1994	45	47	8

**ASK ALL:**

PLANTO1 Thinking ahead to November, do you yourself plan to vote in the Congressional election this November, or not?<sup>6</sup>

**IF YES IN PLANTO1, ASK:**

PLANTO2 How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain, or not certain?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2070]:**

	<b>Yes, plan to vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	<b>Fairly certain</b>	<b>Not certain</b>	<b>No, don't plan to</b>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Mar 11-21, 2010*	91	69	20	2	6	3
<b>2008 Election</b>						
Mid-October, 2008 <sup>7</sup>	97	92	5	*	2	1
Early October, 2008	97	92	4	1	2	1
Late September, 2008	97	91	6	*	2	1
Mid-September, 2008	97	90	6	1	2	1
August, 2008	97	--	--	--	2	1
July, 2008	97	--	--	--	2	1
June, 2008	95	85	8	2	2	3
<b>2006 Election</b>						
November, 2006*	90	--	--	--	8	2
Late October, 2006*	94	--	--	--	3	3
Early October, 2006*	93	75	17	1	4	3
Early September, 2006*	92	--	--	--	5	3

\* Non-Presidential elections

<sup>5</sup> November 1996 trends based on likely voters.

<sup>6</sup> Question began with "Thinking ahead to November," on March 11-21, 2010 survey. Surveys prior to March, 2010 did not ask specifically about voting in the "Congressional election."

<sup>7</sup> In Mid-October 2008 and from Mid-October 2004 to November 2006 and in Early November 2002, the "Yes, Plan to vote" category also includes people who volunteered that they already voted. In November 2006, Early November 2002, Early November, 2000, Late October 1998, November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"



PLANTO1/PLANTO2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes, plan to vote</u>	<u>Absolutely certain</u>	<u>Fairly certain</u>	<u>Not certain</u>	<u>No, don't plan to</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
<b>2004 Election</b>						
November, 2004	97	--	--	--	2	1
Mid-October, 2004	98	--	--	--	1	1
Early October, 2004	98	91	6	1	1	1
September, 2004	98	91	6	1	1	1
August, 2004	98	89	8	1	2	*
June, 2004	96	85	10	1	2	2
<b>2002 Election</b>						
Early November, 2002*	90	--	--	--	8	2
Early October, 2002*	95	--	--	--	3	2
<b>2000 Election</b>						
Early November, 2000	96	--	--	--	3	1
Late October, 2000	97	--	--	--	2	1
Mid-October, 2000	96	--	--	--	2	2
Early October, 2000	97	87	9	1	2	1
September, 2000	95	84	10	1	3	2
June, 2000	95	84	10	1	2	3
<b>1998 Election</b>						
Late October, 1998*	91	--	--	--	6	3
Early October, 1998*	92	--	--	--	4	4
Early September, 1998*	95	--	--	--	2	3
Late August, 1998*	93	75	17	1	3	4
June, 1998*	95	74	19	2	3	2
<b>1996 Election</b>						
November, 1996	96	--	--	--	2	2
October, 1996	98	87	10	1	1	1
Late September, 1996	98	89	8	1	1	1
Early September, 1996	96	83	11	2	2	2
July, 1996	95	82	12	1	3	2
June, 1996	96	84	11	1	2	2
<b>1994 Election</b>						
November, 1994*	93	--	--	--	5	2
October, 1994*	95	--	--	--	3	2
<b>1992 Election</b>						
October, 1992	98	91	6	1	1	1
September, 1992	98	85	11	2	1	1
August, 1992	97	89	8	*	1	2
June, 1992	97	88	8	1	1	2
<b>1988 Election</b>						
Gallup: November, 1988	97	87	9	1	2	1
October, 1988	98	--	--	--	1	1

NO QUESTIONS 12 AND 13

**ASK ALL:**

Q.14 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2070]:**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Congressperson <u>not running</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	43	32	1	24
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	31	*	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	52	29	1	18
<b>2008 Election</b>				
Late February, 2008	60	22	1	17
<b>2006 Election</b>				
November, 2006	55	25	1	19
Late October, 2006	55	26	1	18
Early October, 2006	50	27	1	22
September, 2006	53	27	1	19
August, 2006	51	30	*	19
June, 2006	51	32	1	16
April, 2006	57	28	1	14
February, 2006	59	28	1	12
Mid-September, 2005	57	25	1	17
<b>2002 Election</b>				
Early October, 2002	58	19	2	21
June, 2002	58	23	1	18
<b>2000 Election</b>				
Early November, 2000	59	16	2	23
October, 2000	60	17	1	22
July, 1999	66	23	*	11
<b>1998 Election</b>				
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16
Early October, 1998	58	20	2	20
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16
March, 1998	63	21	1	15
January, 1998	66	23	0	11
August, 1997	66	22	0	12
<b>1996 Election</b>				
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21
October, 1996	62	19	2	17
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17
<b>1994 Election</b>				
November, 1994	58	25	1	16
Late October, 1994	55	30	2	13
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20
<b>1990 Election</b>				
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	62	22	2	14

**ASK ALL:**

Q.15 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2070]:**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	27	57	15
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	53	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	34	53	13
<b>2008 Election</b>			
Late February, 2008	36	49	15
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	37	46	17
Late October, 2006	34	49	17
Early October, 2006	32	48	20
September, 2006	35	49	16
August, 2006	36	49	15
June, 2006	29	57	14
April, 2006	34	53	13
February, 2006	36	49	15
September, 2005	36	48	16
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early October, 2002	39	38	23
June, 2002	45	37	18
<b>2000 Election</b>			
October, 2000	40	34	26
July, 1999	41	47	12
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	41	37	22
Early October, 1998	39	39	22
Early September, 1998	46	37	17
March, 1998	45	41	14
January, 1998	44	43	13
August, 1997	45	42	13
<b>1996 Election</b>			
Early September, 1996	43	43	14
<b>1994 Election</b>			
November, 1994	31	51	18
Late October, 1994	31	56	13
Early October, 1994	28	56	16

**NO QUESTIONS 16 AND 17**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.18 Please tell me if you think each of the following is having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going in this country today? First, (is/are) [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE] having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in the country these days? How about [NEXT ITEM] [INTERVIEWER: IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: "Overall do you think (it is/they are) having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going in this country today?" IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]?

		<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	(VOL.) Neither/ No Influence/ <u>Mixed</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:</b>					
a.F1	The federal government Mar 11-21, 2010	25	65	4	5
b.F1	Large corporations Mar 11-21, 2010	25	64	4	8
<b>NO ITEM c.</b>					
d.F1	Small businesses Mar 11-21, 2010	71	19	3	7
e.F1	Labor unions Mar 11-21, 2010	32	49	4	14
f.F1	Churches and religious organizations Mar 11-21, 2010	63	22	7	8
g.F1	Colleges and universities Mar 11-21, 2010	61	26	4	9
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:</b>					
h.F2	Congress Mar 11-21, 2010	24	65	4	8
i.F2	The Obama Administration Mar 11-21, 2010	45	45	4	6
j.F2	The agencies and departments of the federal government Mar 11-21, 2010	31	54	6	10
k.F2	The entertainment industry Mar 11-21, 2010	33	51	8	8
l.F2	Banks and other financial institutions Mar 11-21, 2010	22	69	4	6
m.F2	Technology companies Mar 11-21, 2010	68	18	4	10
n.F2	The national news media Mar 11-21, 2010	31	57	6	6

**NO QUESTION 19**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.20 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

Mar 11-21 2010		Early Jan 2007	Early Oct 2006	March 2004	Mid- Nov 2001	June 2000	Feb 2000	Oct 1997
19	Basically content	21	21	32	53	28	33	29
56	Frustrated	58	54	52	34	53	54	56
21	Angry	16	20	13	8	13	10	12
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	3	5	6	3	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.21 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Only sometimes	(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 11-21, 2010	3	19	65	11	2
January, 2007	3	28	63	5	1
February, 2006	4	30	59	6	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	63	4	2
Mid-March, 2004	4	32	59	4	1
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1
November, 1998 <sup>8</sup>	4	22	61	11	2
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October, 1997	3	36	59	2	*

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

NES <sup>9</sup> 2008	5	25	68	2	*
2004	4	43	52	1	*
2002	5	51	44	*	0
2000	4	40	55	1	1
1998	4	36	58	1	1
1996	3	30	66	1	*
1994	2	19	74	3	1
1992	3	26	68	2	1
1990	3	25	69	2	1
1988	4	37	56	2	1
1986	3	35	57	2	2
1984	4	40	53	1	2
1982	2	31	62	2	3
1980	2	23	69	4	2
1978	2	27	64	4	3
1976	4	30	62	1	3
1974	2	34	61	1	2
1972	5	48	44	1	2
1970	7	47	44	*	2

<sup>8</sup> The November, 1998 survey was conducted October 26-December 1, 1998. The question asked, "How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most the time, or only some of the time?"

<sup>9</sup> Trends from the American National Election Studies shown for reference. Additional data from Gallup, CBS/NewYork Times, ABC/Washington Post and CNN polls are used to create charts in the report. The full trend data is available on our website.

**Q.21 CONTINUED...**

	Just about <u>always</u>	Most of <u>the time</u>	Only <u>sometimes</u>	(VOL.) <u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
1968	7	54	36	*	2
1966	17	48	28	2	4
1964	14	62	22	*	2
1958	16	57	23	0	4

**NO QUESTION 22**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.23 Imagine a scale from one to six where ONE represents someone who generally believes that federal government programs should be cut back greatly to reduce the power of government, and SIX represents someone who feels that federal government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems. Where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?

	(1-3) <u>Cut back government</u>	(4-6) <u>Maintain government</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Average Rating</u> <sup>10</sup>
Mar 11-21, 2010	47	50	3	3.6
October, 1997 <sup>11</sup>	41	57	2	3.8
October, 1995 <sup>12</sup>	45	53	2	3.7
August, 1995	45	53	2	3.7

**ASK ALL:**

Q.24 All in all, how good a job does the federal government do running its programs? An excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Feb <u>1998</u>	Oct <u>1997</u>
2	Excellent	2	2
21	Good	30	23
46	Only fair	51	53
28	Poor	16	21
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.25 Some people think [criticism of the way the federal government does its job is justified], while others think the [government often does a better job than it is given credit for]. Which comes closer to your view?  
**[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS IN BRACKETS]**

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		<i>NPR/Kaiser/Harvard</i>	
		May <u>2000</u> <sup>13</sup>	Oct <u>1997</u> <sup>14</sup>
61	Criticism is justified	56	60
30	Government often does better job than given credit for	39	33
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	7

<sup>10</sup> Based on those who could rate themselves.

<sup>11</sup> In October, 1997 question asked, "If 1 represents someone who generally believes that, on the whole, federal government programs should be cut back greatly to reduce the power of government, and 6 represents someone who feels that federal government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems, where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?"

<sup>12</sup> Previously the question asked, "If 1 represents someone who believes that government programs should be cut back very much in order to lower taxes and reduce the power of government, and 6 represents someone who feels that government programs that help needy people and deal with important national problems should be maintained, where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?"

<sup>13</sup> Survey by National Public Radio, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

<sup>14</sup> In October, 1997 the response options were not randomized.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.26 And which of these statements comes closest to your view? **[READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]**

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u> <sup>15</sup>
53	The federal government needs very major reform	37
42	The federal government is basically sound and needs only some reform	58
3	The federal government doesn't need much change at all	4
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.27 How much effect do you think **[INSERT ITEM]**'s activities – such as the laws passed and so on – have on your day-to-day life? Do they have a great effect, some effect, or no effect? **[IF GREAT OR SOME EFFECT ASK Q.28 BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NEXT ITEM]**

Q.28 **[IF GREAT OR SOME EFFECT ASK IMMEDIATELY:]** In general, is **[INSERT ITEM]**'s effect on your life positive or negative?

	<u>Great effect</u>	<u>Some effect</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Posi- tive</u>	<u>Nega- tive</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>No/DK effect</u>
<b>ASK ALL:</b>									
a. The federal government									
Mar 11-21, 2010	41	48	10	2	38	43	4	4	11
October, 1997	36	54	9	1	50	31	5	4	10
ORC, March 1960	41	43	11	5	--	--	--	--	16

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:**

b. Your state government									
Mar 11-21, 2010	35	53	9	2	42	39	3	4	11
October, 1997	31	59	9	1	62	21	5	2	10

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:**

c. Your local government									
Mar 11-21, 2010	27	58	13	2	51	29	3	2	15
October, 1997	31	57	11	1	64	18	4	2	12
ORC, March 1960	35	53	10	2	--	--	--	--	12

**ASK ALL:**

Q.29 What do you personally feel is the bigger problem with government? Government has the wrong priorities, OR government has the right priorities but runs programs inefficiently?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u>
38	Wrong priorities	29
50	Runs programs inefficiently	61
5	Both (VOL.)	5
2	Neither (VOL.)	2
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3

<sup>15</sup> In October, 1997 response options were read in same order to all respondents.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.30 Thinking about people more generally, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Jan 14-27 <u>2010</u> <sup>16</sup>	Oct <u>2006</u>	June <u>2003</u>	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	Nov <u>1998</u>	June <u>1997</u>	Feb <u>1997</u>
36	Most people can be trusted	31	41	35	42	36	42	45
60	Can't be too careful	64	54	58	55	57	54	52
2	Other/Depends (VOL.)	4	3	4	2	6	3	2
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	3	1	1	1	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.31 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?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>2007</u>	LAT <u>1992</u>	-----Gallup-----				
				<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1964</u>
32	Lack of effort	39	27	35	38	40	33	34
49	Circumstances beyond control	44	52	45	42	37	34	25
14	Both (VOL.)	14	18	17	17	17	31	38
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3	3	3	6	2	3

**NO QUESTIONS 32 THROUGH 40**

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.41 Which of the following economic issues do you think should be the highest priority for the federal government? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

**IF ANSWER GIVEN (1-6 IN Q.41) ASK:**

Q.42 And which would you rate as the second highest priority? [READ AND RANDOMIZE, OMITTING OPTION SELECTED IN Q.41]

Mar 11-21, 2010			
First <u>priority</u>	Second <u>priority</u>	First/second <u>combined</u>	
49	29	78	The job situation
22	27	49	Health care costs [OR]
19	22	40	The budget deficit
8	19	27	Financial regulation
1	1	1	Other (VOL.)
1	1	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
n/a	1	n/a	No first choice

**NO QUESTION 43 THROUGH 44**

<sup>16</sup> Data from Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends Millennial Survey



**RANDOMIZE Q.45 AND Q.46**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.45 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care bills being discussed in Congress?

	Generally <u>favor</u>	Generally <u>oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	40	47	13
Mar 10-14, 2010	38	48	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	50	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	39	48	13
Dec 9-13, 2009	35	48	17
Nov 12-15, 2009	42	39	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	38	47	15
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	34	47	19
Sep 10-15, 2009	42	44	14
Aug 20-27, 2009	39	46	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	44	18

**RANDOMIZE Q.45 AND Q.46**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 All in all, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
61	Good idea	59	54	60
31	Bad idea	33	38	31
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	8	9

**NO QUESTIONS 47 THROUGH 51**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.52 As I name some federal government agencies and institutions, please tell me if it is your impression that each one is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job. First, would you say [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say [ITEM] is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job?]

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
a. Congress Mar 11-21, 2010	2	15	40	40	3	<b>2505</b>
b. The Obama administration Mar 11-21, 2010	10	30	28	30	3	<b>2505</b>

**ASK EACH RESPONDENT A RANDOM SIX (6)  
OF ITEMS C THROUGH S:**

c. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI Mar 11-21, 2010	10	48	24	7	11	<b>1034</b>
d. The Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA Mar 11-21, 2010	7	36	36	16	5	<b>1001</b>

**Q.52 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
e.	The Postal Service Mar 11-21, 2010	20	50	21	7	2	<b>997</b>
f.	The Social Security Administration Mar 11-21, 2010	4	32	37	24	4	<b>1012</b>
g.	The Veterans Administration, the VA Mar 11-21, 2010	8	33	32	15	12	<b>969</b>
h.	The military Mar 11-21, 2010	39	41	13	3	4	<b>976</b>
i.	The National Aeronautic and Space Administration, NASA Mar 11-21, 2010	16	41	23	6	13	<b>1020</b>

**NO ITEM j.**

l.	The Internal Revenue Service, the IRS Mar 11-21, 2010	5	35	38	16	6	<b>983</b>
m.	The Department of Education Mar 11-21, 2010	5	28	35	29	2	<b>1032</b>
n.	The Food and Drug Administration, the FDA Mar 11-21, 2010	7	36	35	17	5	<b>963</b>
o.	The Defense Department Mar 11-21, 2010	14	46	26	8	5	<b>1024</b>
p.	The Justice Department Mar 11-21, 2010	4	34	38	20	5	<b>1048</b>
q.	The Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA Mar 11-21, 2010	8	38	29	11	15	<b>997</b>
r.	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC Mar 11-21, 2010	14	48	24	7	7	<b>1028</b>
s.	The Department of Homeland Security Mar 11-21, 2010	9	34	37	16	4	<b>946</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 53 THROUGH 59**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.60 On a different subject... Do you think that [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] get(s) more attention from the federal government than (they/it) should, about the right amount of attention, or less attention than (they/it) should? ... How about [NEXT ITEM]? [INTERVIEWER: IF NECESSARY READ: "Do they/it get(s) more attention from the federal government than (they/it) should, about the right amount of attention, or less attention than (they/it) should?"]

		<u>More</u>	About <u>right</u>	<u>Less</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:</b>					
a.F1	Business leaders in this country				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	45	26	20	9
	October, 1997	50	37	9	4
b.F1	Middle class people in this country				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	9	22	66	4
	October, 1997	9	36	54	1
c.F1	Labor unions				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	34	30	26	11
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:</b>					
d.F2	Wall Street				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	50	25	16	9
e.F2	Poor people in this country				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	17	22	56	5
	October, 1997	10	23	65	2
f.F2	Small businesses in this country				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	8	20	69	3

**NO QUESTIONS 61 AND 62**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.63 Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*NPR/Kaiser/Harvard*

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		May <u>2000</u> <sup>17</sup>	Feb <u>2000</u>	Oct <u>1997</u>
43	More than fair share	55	55	52
3	Less than fair share	2	1	2
50	About the right amount	42	41	45
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	3	1

<sup>17</sup> May 2000 survey by National Public Radio, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The question read, "Considering what you get from the FEDERAL government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of federal taxes, less than your fair share, or about your fair share?"

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:**

Q.64F1 Considering what you get from your state government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of state taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*NPR/Kaiser/Harvard*

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		May <u>2000</u> <sup>18</sup>
39	More than fair share	40
3	Less than fair share	3
51	About the right amount	55
4	Don't pay state taxes (VOL.)	--
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:**

Q.65F2 Considering what you get from your local government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*NPR/Kaiser/Harvard*

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		May <u>2000</u> <sup>19</sup>
38	More than fair share	39
4	Less than fair share	4
55	About the right amount	55
1	Don't pay local taxes (VOL.)	--
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:**

Q.66 As I read a few criticisms people have made of elected officials in Washington, please tell me if YOU think each is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem. (First,) [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]. [PROBE IF NECCESARY: Is this a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem with elected officials in Washington?]

		Major <u>problem</u>	Minor <u>problem</u>	Not a <u>problem</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	They care only about their own political careers Mar 11-21, 2010	81	14	3	3
b.F1	They are influenced by special interest money Mar 11-21, 2010	82	11	2	4
c.F1	They are not willing to work together and compromise Mar 11-21, 2010	78	14	4	4
d.F1	They are not careful with the government's money Mar 11-21, 2010	83	11	3	3
e.F1	They are out of touch with regular Americans Mar 11-21, 2010	76	16	5	4

<sup>18</sup> In May, 2000 the NPR question read, "Considering what you get from your STATE government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of state taxes, less than your fair share, or about your fair share?"

<sup>19</sup> In May, 2000 the NPR question read, "Considering what you get from your LOCAL government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of local taxes, less than your fair share, or about your fair share?"

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:**

Q.67 As I read a few criticisms people have made of the federal government in Washington, please tell me if YOU think each is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem. (First,) [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]. [PROBE IF NECCESARY: Is this a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem with the federal government in Washington?]

		<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a.F2	The government is too big and powerful Mar 11-21, 2010	52	28	18	2
b.F2	The government is wasteful and inefficient Mar 11-21, 2010	70	20	7	3
c.F2	Government policies unfairly benefit some groups Mar 11-21, 2010	62	27	7	4
d.F2	The government doesn't do enough to help average Americans Mar 11-21, 2010	56	29	12	3
e.F2	The government interferes too much in peoples' lives Mar 11-21, 2010	46	34	18	2

**ASK ALL:**

Q.68 As I read a few statements some people have made about the federal government, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree. The first one is... [INSERT ITEMS, RANDOMIZE] Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely disagree?

	-----AGREE-----			----DISAGREE----			<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>	
	<u>Net</u>	<u>Comp- letely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Comp- letely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
a.	The government has gone too far in regulating business and interfering with the free enterprise system							
	Mar 11-21, 2010	58	24	34	37	10	27	5
	NPR/Kaiser/Harvard, May 2000 <sup>20</sup>	60			36			4
	October, 1997	56	14	42	41	5	36	3
	Hart Teeter, March 1995 <sup>21</sup>	73			24			3
	CBS/NYT, April 1981 <sup>22</sup>	65			26			9
	CBS/NYT, Nov. 1980	65			27			8
	CBS/NYT, Jan. 1978	58			31			11
	Gallup, Sept. 1964	43			40			17
b.	The federal government is interfering too much in state and local matters							
	Mar 11-21, 2010	58	21	36	38	8	30	5
	October, 1997	53	12	41	44	5	39	3
	Gallup, Sept. 1964	40			48			12

<sup>20</sup> The NPR/Kaiser/Harvard question was a standalone item.

<sup>21</sup> Hart Teeter response categories were : "strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree."

<sup>22</sup> CBS/NYT and Gallup response categories were "agree" and "disagree".

**Q.68 CONTINUED...**

		-----AGREE-----			----DISAGREE----			(VOL.)
		<u>Net</u>	<u>Comp- letely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Comp- letely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
c.	Americans aren't willing to pay for the things they want government to do Mar 11-21, 2010	56	16	41	39	12	27	5
d.	Government is facing more difficult problems than it did in the past Mar 11-21, 2010	79	37	41	20	5	15	2

**NO QUESTIONS 69 THROUGH 71**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.72 Which comes closer to your view of Congress these days? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Mar 11-21  
2010

38	Most members of Congress have good intentions, it's the political system that is broken [OR]
52	The political system can work fine, it's the members of Congress that are the problem
3	Both (VOL.)
1	Neither (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.73 Do you think the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms, or not?  
**[IF YES ASK:]** Is this a major threat or a minor threat?

	(Net)	<i>Major</i>	<i>Minor</i>		(VOL.)
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>threat</u>	<u>threat</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	47	30	17	50	2
ABC News/Washington Post, October 2003 <sup>23</sup>	45	18	27	54	1
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard, August 2002 <sup>24</sup>	32	13	18	63	5
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard, November 2001	30	14	14	67	3
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard, June 2000 <sup>25</sup>	46	23	23	52	2
Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard, December 1995	42	20	22	54	4
ABC News/Washington Post, May 1995	36	12	24	62	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.74 Would you favor or oppose allowing an American state to secede and become independent from the country if a majority of the people from that state wanted to do this?<sup>26</sup>

Mar 11-21		Oct
<u>2010</u>		<u>1997</u>
25	Favor	23
67	Oppose	73
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

<sup>23</sup> For the October 2003 and May 1995 trends, the follow-up question was worded "Is this a major threat or a minor threat to your personal rights and freedoms?"

<sup>24</sup> For the August 2002, November 2001, June 2000 and December 1995 trends, respondents who volunteered "Don't know" or "Refused" to the follow-up question are included with those who said "Minor threat".

<sup>25</sup> The June 2000 trend was asked as part of a list that also included state government and local government.

<sup>26</sup> In March, 2010, survey, "secede and" was added to the question wording.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.75 Do you work for federal, state, or local government—for example, as a public school teacher, police officer, firefighter, or other government job? **[IF YES:]** Is that a federal, state, or local government job?

**[IF ‘NO’ IN Q.75, ASK:]**

Q.76 Does anyone in your household work for federal, state, or local government? **[IF YES:]** Is that a federal, state, or local government job?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u>
24	Yes ( <b>NET</b> )	28
3	Respondent—federal	4
5	Respondent—state	6
5	Respondent—local	7
*	Respondent—Don’t know level	1
4	Not respondent but household member—federal	3
3	Not respondent but household member—state	3
4	Not respondent but household member—local	2
*	Not respondent but household member—Don’t know level	2
75	No	72
1	Don’t know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	*

**ASK ALL:**

Q.77 Do you think you are more patriotic, less patriotic, or about as patriotic as most other people in this country?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>	
33	More patriotic
6	Less patriotic
59	About as patriotic
2	Don’t know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.78 Do you display the flag at your home, in your office, or on your car, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	58	42	*
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009 <sup>27</sup>	59	40	1
January, 2007	62	38	*
Late March, 2005	64	36	*
Mid-July, 2003	69	29	2
August, 2002	75	25	*

<sup>27</sup> Previously, question asked: “Do you display the flag at your home, in your office, or on your car?” and was part of a list.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.79 Do you happen to have any guns, rifles or pistols in your home, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	33	62	5
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009 <sup>28</sup>	33	63	4
April, 2007	37	61	2
January, 2007	33	64	3
December, 2004	37	60	3
Mid-October, 2004	39	59	2
Mid-July, 2003	34	63	3
August, 2002	35	62	3
April, 2000	35	62	3
June, 1997	40	57	3
December, 1993	45	53	2

**NO QUESTIONS 80 THROUGH 83**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:**

Q.84F1 If you had a son or daughter just getting out of school, would you like to see him or her pursue a career in politics, or not?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u> <sup>30</sup>	-----Gallup-----					NORC <sup>29</sup>
			<u>1973</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1943</u>
36	Yes	27	24	36	23	26	21	17
55	No	67	64	54	69	60	68	69
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	13	10	8	14	11	14

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:**

Q.85F2 If you had a son or daughter just getting out of school, would you like to see him or her pursue a career in government, or not?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		NPR/Kaiser/Harvard May <u>2000</u>
56	Yes	43
35	No	51
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

<sup>28</sup> From 2004 to 2009, question asked "Do you happen to have any guns, rifles or pistols in your home?" and was part of a list except for in April 2007. From 1997 to 2003, the question asked about "guns or revolvers in your home." In 1993, the question asked about "guns in this household."

<sup>29</sup> National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago

<sup>30</sup> In October 1997, question asked: "If you had a son or daughter, would you like to see him or her go into politics as a life's work when he or she gets out of school?" Gallup and NORC asked only about sons.



**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:**

Q.86F1 Generally speaking, do you think government is a good place to work? **[IF YES:]** What's the main reason you think government is a good place to work? The pay, the benefits, the job security, because the work is challenging, or because the hours are good? **[ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE]**

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u>
70	Yes ( <b>NET</b> )	71
20	Pay	22
30	Benefits	34
21	Job security	22
18	Challenging work	16
7	Good hours	9
3	Make a contribution to society ( <b>VOL.</b> )	1
4	Other ( <b>VOL.</b> )	6
1	Don't know why ( <b>VOL.</b> )	2
24	No	23
6	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	6

*Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses*

**ASK ALL:**

Q.87 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year? **[READ]**

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>	
26	A lot
42	A little
30	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (1,2 IN Q.87) ASK:**

Q.88 From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>	
9	Strongly agree
15	Agree
7	Disagree
7	Strongly disagree
29	No opinion either way
1	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )
31	<i>Not heard of Tea Party</i>

**ASK ALL:**

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

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

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.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
Apr 9-11, 2010	23	32	38	5	*	2	17	13
Apr 1-5, 2010	24	29	40	3	1	3	17	15
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
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	--	--	--	--	--

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MARCH OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**March 18-21, 2010**  
**N=1,002**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=530]:**

Q.1 In your own words, what do you see as the BIGGEST problem with elected officials in Washington D.C. these days? [OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].

- 18 Influenced by special interest money
- 14 Care only about their political careers
- 12 Out of touch with regular Americans
- 12 Not willing to work together and compromise
- 7 Liars /Dishonest /Don’t keep promises/Personal morality
- 5 Health care
- 4 The economy/Jobs
- 4 Do nothing/All talk/Don’t do their jobs
- 4 General members are the problem/not qualified/bad managers/idiots
- 3 Not careful with the government’s money
- 3 Obama/Democrats/Liberal agenda/Violating the Constitution
- 3 They’ve been there too long/Term limits /They’re too old
- 2 Government is too big/too powerful/Personal liberty
- 2 Too focused on wars & foreign problems
- 2 Don’t turn to faith/religion enough
- 1 Republicans/Conservative agenda
- 1 No major problems
- 6 Other
- 9 Don’t know

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=472]:**

Q.2 In your own words, what do you see as the BIGGEST problem with the federal government in Washington D.C. these days? [OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].

- 25 Congress and Politics
- 9 Debt/Overspending/Fiscal responsibility
- 8 Health care
- 7 The economy/Jobs
- 7 The government is too big and powerful
- 6 Obama/Democrats/Liberal/Socialist agenda
- 5 Wars & foreign problems
- 4 The government doesn’t do enough to help average Americans
- 4 Out of touch (unspecified)
- 3 Corruption (unspecified)
- 3 The government interferes too much in peoples’ lives
- 3 Government policies unfairly benefit some groups
- 2 Nothing gets done
- 2 Republicans/Conservative/Right-wing/Religious agenda
- 1 The government is wasteful and inefficient
- 1 Incompetence (unspecified)
- 1 Bureaucracy / Red tape
- 1 Lies (unspecified)
- 1 Budget cuts hurting people
- 12 Other
- 8 Don’t know

**ASK ALL:**

Q.3 Thinking more generally ... Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE ITEMS a. THROUGH c. FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS d THROUGH p; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [ITEM] 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
<b>ASK ALL:</b>								
a. The Republican Party								
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6

**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
b. The Democratic Party								
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8

**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=530]:**

d.F1 The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI								
Mar 18-21, 2010	67	16	51	14	8	7	*	19
July, 2001	61	16	45	29	9	20	*	10
June, 1999	71	17	54	20	7	13	*	9
October, 1997	67	13	54	25	8	17	*	8
May, 1997	60	12	48	28	7	21	0	12
August, 1995	64	16	48	28	9	19	*	8

**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

		---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
	<i>ABC/Wash. Post, May 1995</i> <sup>31</sup>	82	34	48	9	6	3	*	9
	<i>Roper, August 1987</i> <sup>32</sup>	78	28	50	17	3	14		5
	<i>Roper, August 1986</i>	75	25	50	17	4	13		8
	<i>Roper, August 1985</i>	72	24	48	20	5	15		8
	<i>Roper, August 1984</i>	77	30	47	19	5	14		4
	<i>Roper, August 1983</i>	75	29	46	19	5	14		6
e.F1	The Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	57	11	46	32	12	20	1	10
	October, 1997	69	14	55	27	7	20	1	3
	<i>Roper, August 1987</i>	62	19	43	30	7	23		8
	<i>Roper, August 1986</i>	59	18	41	31	7	24		10
	<i>Roper, August 1985</i>	58	19	39	31	11	20		11
	<i>Roper, August 1984</i>	68	27	41	26	9	17		6
	<i>Roper, August 1983</i>	56	21	35	34	12	22		10
f.F1	The Postal Service								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	83	30	53	14	6	8	1	3
	October, 1997	89	28	61	11	3	8	0	*
	<i>Roper, April 1987</i>	76	33	43	22	8	14		2
	<i>Roper, April 1986</i>	74	27	47	24	8	16		2
	<i>Roper, April 1985</i>	70	23	47	27	11	16		3
	<i>Roper, April 1984</i>	69	24	45	28	10	18		3
	<i>Roper, April 1983</i>	70	25	45	27	10	17		3
g.F1	The Social Security Administration								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	49	9	40	39	17	22	0	12
	October, 1997	62	11	51	34	10	24	0	4
h.F1	The Defense Department								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	67	21	46	21	8	13	*	12
	Late October, 2005	56	14	42	32	13	19	1	11
	October, 1997	76	18	58	19	4	15	*	5
	<i>Roper, April 1987</i>	57	16	41	36	14	22		7
	<i>Roper, April 1986</i>	66	22	44	29	10	19		5
	<i>Roper, April 1985</i>	54	15	39	37	15	22		9
	<i>Roper, April 1984</i>	54	15	39	39	15	24		7
	<i>Roper, April 1983</i>	54	14	40	38	15	23		8
i.F1	The Department of Education								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	53	22	31	6	8
	October, 1997	61	12	49	37	11	26	0	2
	<i>Roper, April 1987</i>	60	14	46	35	11	24		5
	<i>Roper, April 1986</i>	63	16	47	32	10	22		5
	<i>Roper, April 1985</i>	61	14	47	34	11	23		5

<sup>31</sup> Question was worded: "Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of...the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)...Is that a very favorable/unfavorable impression, or just somewhat favorable/unfavorable?"

<sup>32</sup> Question wording for all favorability trends from the ends from the Roper Organization was: "Let me ask you about a few specific federal agencies [ITEM]—Is your opinion of them highly favorable, or moderately favorable, or not too favorable, or rather unfavorable?" In these surveys, those who could not rate were not distinguished from those who had never heard of the agency; both were entered as "don't know" and are shown here as "can't rate".

**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

		---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
	<i>Roper</i> , April 1984	56	14	42	38	13	25	6	
	<i>Roper</i> , April 1983	49	10	39	45	18	27	6	
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=472]:</b>									
j.F2	The National Aeronautic and Space Administration, NASA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	61	19	41	17	5	12	1	21
	February, 1998	73	23	50	20	5	15	1	6
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	66	23	43	24	5	19		10
	<i>Roper</i> , March 1986	61	23	38	30	11	19		9
k.F2	The Food and Drug Administration, the FDA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	58	10	48	30	10	20	1	11
	October, 1997	75	12	63	22	4	18	*	3
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	74	23	51	20	4	16		6
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	75	25	50	18	3	15		7
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	74	27	47	19	5	14		7
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	78	32	46	17	4	13		5
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1983	73	31	42	20	5	15		7
l.F2	The Veterans Administration, the VA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	57	19	38	22	5	17	2	20
	February, 1998	59	15	44	26	7	19	1	14
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	75	30	45	15	4	11		9
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	68	26	42	22	6	16		10
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	77	37	40	15	4	11		9
m.F2	The Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	52	11	42	21	8	13	2	25
	June, 1999	49	9	40	33	10	23	1	17
	February, 1998	51	7	44	32	7	25	1	16
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	52	12	40	38	9	29		10
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	61	14	47	26	6	20		13
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	53	15	38	33	11	22		15
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	58	17	41	30	8	22		11
n.F2	The Internal Revenue Service, the IRS								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	47	6	41	40	17	23	10	13
	October, 1997	38	5	33	60	25	35	*	2
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	49	10	39	46	19	27		5
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	51	10	41	45	19	26		4
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	48	8	40	47	19	28		5
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	60	13	47	34	11	23		6
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1983	50	12	38	44	16	28		6



**Q.3 CONTINUED...**

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
o.F2 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC								
Mar 18-21, 2010	67	15	52	16	5	10	2	15
February, 1998	79	20	59	11	2	9	1	9
p.F2 The Justice Department								
Mar 18-21, 2010	51	6	44	33	11	23	1	15
February, 1998	56	7	49	39	12	27	0	5
Roper, April 1987	53	10	43	39	15	24		8
Roper, April 1986	52	10	42	39	15	24		8
Roper, April 1985	53	10	43	39	17	22		9

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the U.S. Congress as a whole...

Q.4 Do you think Congress is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job in... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.)
						<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Dealing with the important issues facing the country					
	Mar 18-21, 2010	2	13	33	48	5
	Mid-March, 2005	2	21	42	30	5
b.	Acting ethically and honestly					
	Mar 18-21, 2010	2	11	31	50	6
	Mid-March, 2005	1	22	43	29	5
c.	Working across party lines to reach compromises					
	Mar 18-21, 2010	2	8	24	60	7
	Mid-March, 2005	1	17	38	37	7
d.	Understanding the needs of people like yourself					
	Mar 18-21, 2010	2	10	30	55	3
	Mid-March, 2005	2	18	38	38	4

**ASK ALL:**

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

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

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.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
				<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>		
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED ...**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
Mar 9-12, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**APRIL 2010 OMNIBUS SURVEY 1**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**April 1-5, 2010**  
**N=1001**

**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>
April 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	February, 2005	38	56	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	January, 2005	40	54	6
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	December, 2004	39	54	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	July, 2004	38	55	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>33</sup>	30	64	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	December, 2003	44	47	9
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	October, 2003	38	56	6
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	August, 2003	40	53	7
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	April 8, 2003	50	41	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	January, 2003	44	50	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
December, 2008	13	83	4	September, 2002	41	55	4
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	May, 2002	44	44	12
August, 2008	21	74	5	March, 2002	50	40	10
July, 2008	19	74	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
June, 2008	19	76	5	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	June, 2001	43	52	5
March, 2008	22	72	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
October, 2007	28	66	6	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
February, 2007	30	61	9	September, 2000	51	41	8
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
December, 2006	28	65	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	January, 1999	53	41	6
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
July, 2006	30	65	5	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
January, 2006	34	61	5	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
July, 2005	35	58	7	August, 1997	49	46	5
				January, 1997	38	58	4
				July, 1996	29	67	4
				March, 1996	28	70	2
				October, 1995	23	73	4

<sup>33</sup> From September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

**Q.1 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 1995	25	73	2
April, 1995	23	74	3
July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 1994	24	71	5
October, 1993	22	73	5
September, 1993	20	75	5
May, 1993	22	71	7
January, 1993	39	50	11
January, 1992	28	68	4
November, 1991	34	61	5
Late February, 1991 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	66	31	3
August, 1990	47	48	5
May, 1990	41	54	5
January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	50	45	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [ITEM] 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.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
<b>ASK ALL:</b>								
a. The Republican Party								
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
b. The Democratic Party								
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

**NO QUESTIONS 3-4**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

Apr 1-5 2010		Mar 11-21 2010	Early Jan 2007	Early Oct 2006	March 2004	Mid- Nov 2001	June 2000	Feb 2000	Oct 1997
23	Basically content	19	21	21	32	53	28	33	29
52	Frustrated	56	58	54	52	34	53	54	56
21	Angry	21	16	20	13	8	13	10	12
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	5	3	5	6	3	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Only sometimes	(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Apr 1-5, 2010	5	20	61	13	1
Mar 11-21, 2010	3	19	65	11	2
January, 2007	3	28	63	5	1
February, 2006	4	30	59	6	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	63	4	2
Mid-March, 2004	4	32	59	4	1
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1
November, 1998 <sup>34</sup>	4	22	61	11	2
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October, 1997	3	36	59	2	*

**QUESTIONS 7 AND 8 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.9 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Smaller government, fewer services	Bigger government, more services	Depends	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Apr 1-5, 2010	50	39	4	8
Feb 3-9, 2010	50	40	3	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	51	40	4	6
Mar 9-12, 2009	48	40	3	9
Late October 2008	42	43	4	11
November 2007	47	42	4	7
January 2007	45	43	4	8
CBS/NYT, November 2003	45	42	4	9
CBS/NYT, July 2003	48	40	5	7
CBS/NYT, January 2002	46	40	3	11
CBS/NYT, January 2001	51	36	5	8
CBS/NYT, September 1999	46	43	5	6
CBS/NYT, February 1996	61	30	4	5

<sup>34</sup> The November, 1998 survey was conducted October 26-December 1, 1998. The question asked, "How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most the time, or only some of the time?"



**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 Is it now a good idea or a bad idea for the government to exert more control over the economy than it has in recent years?

Apr 1-5 <u>2010</u>		Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Mar 9-12 <u>2009</u>
40	Good idea	46	54
51	Bad idea	42	37
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	9

**ASK ALL:**

Q.11 Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress last month?

Apr 1-5 <u>2010</u>	
40	Approve
44	Disapprove
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**TREND FOR COMPARISON (BEFORE HEALTH CARE REFORM SIGNED INTO LAW):**

As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care bills being discussed in Congress?

	Generally <u>favor</u>	Generally <u>oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	40	47	13
Mar 10-14, 2010	38	48	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	50	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	39	48	13
Dec 9-13, 2009	35	48	17
Nov 12-15, 2009	42	39	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	38	47	15
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	34	47	19
Sep 10-15, 2009	42	44	14
Aug 20-27, 2009	39	46	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	44	18

**ASK ALL:**

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

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

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>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Apr 1-5, 2010	24	29	40	3	1	3	17	15
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED ...**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**APRIL 2010 OMNIBUS SURVEY 2**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**April 8-11, 2010**  
**N=1001**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 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>
Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

**RANDOMIZE Q.2 AND Q.3**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 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>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14	June, 1999	37	46	17
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16	May, 1999	38	44	18
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16	March, 1999	38	47	15
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20	February, 1999	37	51	12
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17	January, 1999	38	50	12
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15	Early December, 1998	38	49	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21	November, 1998	41	48	11
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15	Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early October, 2006	33	56	11	Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 2006	30	53	17	June, 1998	42	38	20
March, 2006	32	50	18	May, 1998	40	41	19
January, 2006	33	52	15	April, 1998	41	40	19
Early November, 2005	33	50	17	March, 1998	43	39	18
Early October, 2005	32	52	16	January, 1998	43	41	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15	November, 1997	41	43	16
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15	August, 1997	42	44	14
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17	June, 1997	33	50	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17	May, 1997	40	44	16
January, 2003	48	37	15	April, 1997	40	44	16
June, 2002	50	34	16	February, 1997	44	42	14
May, 2002	49	34	17	January, 1997	38	47	15
February, 2002	56	24	20	November, 1996	40	43	17
Early September, 2001	43	39	18	July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 2001	40	40	20	June, 1996	36	50	14
May, 2001	45	36	19	April, 1996	39	46	15
April, 2001	45	30	25	March, 1996	35	51	14
January, 2001	43	36	21	February, 1996	33	53	14
July, 2000	36	46	18	January, 1996	36	54	10
May, 2000	40	42	18	October, 1995	36	51	13
March, 2000	38	43	19	September, 1995	36	50	14
February, 2000	40	43	17	August, 1995	38	45	17
January, 2000	39	41	20	June, 1995	41	45	14
December, 1999	38	42	20	April, 1995	44	43	13
October, 1999	34	50	16	March, 1995	43	39	18
Late September, 1999	34	46	20	December, 1994	52	28	20
August, 1999	40	44	16				
July, 1999	36	45	19				

**RANDOMIZE Q.2 AND Q.3****ASK ALL:**

Q.3 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>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 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 <sup>35</sup>	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

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<sup>35</sup> In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

**ASK ALL:**

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

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

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.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Apr 8-11, 2010	23	32	38	5	*	2	17	13
Apr 1-5, 2010	24	29	40	3	1	3	17	15
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18

Q.10 Thinking about other kinds of political parties and groups, which of the following groups would you say best reflects your views right now? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1-4 WITH ITEMS 5 AND 6 ALWAYS LAST]**

Apr 8-11

2010

- 31 The Democratic Party
- 17 The Republican Party
- 14 The Tea Party
- 4 The Green Party
- 3 Some other group
- 1 The Libertarian Party (VOL.)
- 28 Or none of these
- 3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)