

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
JANUARY 26-29, 2012
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,006**

PEW.1 AND PEW.2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PEWWP.1 Just in general, how well do you think **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** understands the problems of average Americans? How about, **[INSERT NEXT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?¹

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at <u>all well</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Barack Obama January 26-29, 2012	28	26	17	23	7
b. Mitt Romney January 26-29, 2012	7	29	23	23	18
c. Newt Gingrich January 26-29, 2012	10	22	22	27	18

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the REPUBLICAN presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=784]:

		SELECTED TRENDS FOR COMPARISON²:										
		Jan	Nov	Aug	May	Oct 2007		Sep 2003	Oct 1995	Oct 1991	Jan 1988	
Jan 26-29 <u>2012</u>		4-8 <u>2012</u>	9-14 <u>2011</u>	17-21 <u>2011</u>	25-30 <u>2011</u>	Rep <u>cands</u>	Dem <u>cands</u>	Dem <u>cands</u>	Rep <u>cands</u>	Dem <u>cands</u>	Rep <u>cands</u>	Dem <u>cands</u>
4	Excellent	3	5	4	3	3	9	3	3	2	4	2
21	Good	27	23	22	22	28	35	29	30	19	36	29
37	Only fair	35	36	38	35	40	33	39	44	39	41	44
34	Poor	27	28	26	27	19	17	15	19	16	11	17
5	DK/Ref. (VOL.)	7	7	9	13	10	6	14	4	24	8	8

¹ PEWWP.1a-c asked in conjunction with *The Washington Post*.

² Before October 2007, answer choice read "Fair" not "Only Fair." In October 2007 the question was asked both ways and no difference was found. As a result, October 2007 numbers combine both versions of the question. In 1988, 1991 and 1993 question asked about "men running for the [party] presidential nomination."

PEW.3 FULL TREND:

Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the REPUBLICAN presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=341]:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Jan 26-29, 2012	8	38	40	12	2
Jan 4-8, 2012	5	46	34	10	6
Nov 9-14, 2011	10	38	39	7	6
Aug 17-21, 2011	9	40	38	6	7
May 25-30, 2011	5	39	36	7	13
February, 2008	10	50	31	7	2
January, 2008	11	57	28	3	1
November, 2007	9	47	34	7	3
October, 2007	5	46	36	7	6
September, 2007	8	41	36	8	6
October, 1995	5	46	40	6	3
January, 1988 (GP)	6	50	35	4	5

Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the DEMOCRATIC presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
February, 2008	30	50	16	2	2
January, 2008	28	50	18	2	2
November, 2007	16	51	28	2	3
October, 2007	16	48	26	5	5
September, 2007	15	49	29	2	5
January, 2004	8	39	41	6	8
December, 2003	5	40	39	7	9
September, 2003	4	40	39	5	12
February, 1992	6	39	47	4	5
October, 1991	3	24	38	11	23
January, 1988 (GP)	4	33	45	11	7

PEW.4-PEW.6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 26-29, 2012 among a national sample of 1,006 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (604 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 402 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 200 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,006	4.0 percentage points
Registered voters	784	4.5 percentage points
Republican voters	225	8.0 percentage points
Democratic voters	256	7.5 percentage points
Independent voters	257	7.5 percentage points
Rep/Rep-leaning voters	341	6.5 percentage points

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

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