PEW RESEARCH CENTER

PEW RESEARCH CENTER DECEMBER 2016 POLITICAL SURVEY FINAL TOPLINE NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 5, 2016 N=1,502

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2 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-	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Approve	Dis- approve	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	58	37	5	Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10
Oct 20-25, 2016	54	42	5	Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8
Aug 9-16, 2016	53	42	5	Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11
Jun 15-26, 2016	50	44	7	Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8
Apr 12-19, 2016	48	47	5	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9
Mar 17-26, 2016	51	44	6	Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7
Jan 7-14, 2016	46	48	6	Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8
Dec 8-13, 2015	46	49	4	Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8
Sep 22-27, 2015	46	48	5	May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10
Jul 14-20, 2015	48	45	7	May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11
May 12-18, 2015	46	48	6	May 2, 2011 (WP)	56	38	6
Mar 25-29, 2015	46	47	7	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8
Feb 18-22, 2015	48	46	5	Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10
Jan 7-11, 2015	47	48	5	Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	42	51	6	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10
Nov 6-9, 2014	43	52	5	Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13
Oct 15-20, 2014	43	51	6	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Sep 2-9, 2014	42	50	8	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	42	50	8	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Jul 8-14, 2014	44	49	6	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	44	50	7	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	44	49	7	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Feb 14-23, 2014	44	48	8	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	43	49	8	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	45	49	6	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	41	53	6	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Oct 9-13, 2013	43	51	6	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	44	49	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Jul 17-21, 2013	46	46	7	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Jun 12-16, 2013	49	43	7	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51 52	36 36	13
May 1-5, 2013	51	43	6	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Mar 13-17, 2013	47	46	8	Sep 10-15, 2009	55 52	33	13
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	51 52	41	7	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37 27	12
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Dec 5-9, 2012	55 50	39 43	6 7	Jul 22-26, 2009	54 61	34 30	12 9
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50 47			Jun 10-14, 2009			9 11
Jun 7-17, 2012 May 9-Jun 3, 2012	47 46	45 42	8 11	Apr 14-21, 2009	63 61	26 26	13
Apr 4-15, 2012	46 46	42 45	9	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009 Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15 15
•	50	45 41	9	•	59 64	26 17	15 19
Mar 7-11, 2012	30	41	9	Feb 4-8, 2009	04	1/	19

See past presidents' approval trends: George W. Bush, Bill Clinton

QUESTION 2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3 THROUGH 10

ASK ALL:

Q.11 How do you think President Barack Obama will go down in history... as an outstanding president, above average, average, below average, or poor?

					Gallup	
		Bush	Clinton	Clinton	Bush	Reagan
Nov 30-Dec 5		December	January	February	January	January
<u>2016</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u> 1999</u>	<u> 1993</u>	<u> 1989</u>
18	Outstanding	3	12	11	6	17
28	Above average	8	32	29	30	42
26	Average	28	32	27	51	25
11	Below average	24	10	13	8	9
16	Poor	34	11	18	4	5
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)) 3	3	2	1	2

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=752]:

Q.12F2 Thinking ahead, what do you think Barack Obama will be most remembered for after he has left office? [OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES; PROBE FOR CLARITY BUT NOT FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSES]

49 DOMESTIC POLICY (NET) 35 ACA/Obamacare/health care 7 Economy/taxes/budget/trade 2 Gay marriage/women's rights/civil rights 1 Immigration 1 Race/racial issues 1 Military/veterans 5 Other domestic policy 17 FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT 10 POSITIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA (NET) 10 Positive attributes (compassionate, intelligent, humble, dignity etc.) 3 Positive views of how he ran the country 1 Other positive assessments 9 FOREIGN POLICY (NET) 1 Cuba 1 Iran/Iran deal 1 ISIS/terrorism/national security 2 Killing Osama bin Laden 5 Other foreign policy 6 NEGATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA (NET) 4 Ran country poorly 5 Polarization/divisiveness 6 Other negative assessments 7 OTHER 7 NOTHING 8 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	Nov 30-Dec 5	
ACA/Obamacare/health care Economy/taxes/budget/trade Gay marriage/women's rights/civil rights Immigration Race/racial issues Military/veterans Other domestic policy FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT POSITIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA (NET) Positive attributes (compassionate, intelligent, humble, dignity etc.) Positive views of how he ran the country Other positive assessments FOREIGN POLICY (NET) Cuba Iran/Iran deal ISIS/terrorism/national security Killing Osama bin Laden Other foreign policy NEGATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA (NET) Ran country poorly Polarization/divisiveness Other negative assessments OTHER NOTHING	<u>2016</u> 49	DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)
Gay marriage/women's rights/civil rights Immigration Race/racial issues Military/veterans Other domestic policy FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT POSITIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA (NET) Positive attributes (compassionate, intelligent, humble, dignity etc.) Positive views of how he ran the country Other positive assessments FOREIGN POLICY (NET) Cuba Iran/Iran deal ISIS/terrorism/national security Killing Osama bin Laden Other foreign policy NEGATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA (NET) Ran country poorly Polarization/divisiveness Other negative assessments OTHER NOTHING	_	
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Q.12 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

Thinking ahead, what do you think George W. Bush will be most remembered for after he has left office?

	December
	<u>2008</u>
WAR (NET)	51
War in Iraq	29
War/Wars (general mentions)	20
War in Afghanistan/Afghanistan	2
War on Terror/Dealing with terrorists	1
NEGATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH (NET)	17
Stupid/Incompetent/Idiot	2
Ruining the country/Destroying America	2
Worst president	2
Bad speaker/vocabulary	1
Lying to the American people	1
Will be remembered for nothing	1
Other negative assessments	8
SEPTEMBER 11/FOREIGN POLICY (NET)	13
September 11/Handling of September 11 terrorist attacks	9
Keeping the country safe after September 11	9 3 1
Other foreign policy	1
ECONOMIC ISSUES (NET)	12
The economy (general mentions)	7
Current economic crisis/mortgage crisis and related bailout/debts	4
Recession	3
Gas prices	1
POSITIVE ASSESSMENTS OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH (NET)	4
Hurricane Katrina/Handling of Hurricane Katrina	1
Other mentions with unclear/neutral tone	4
Don't know/Refused	11

Q.12 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

Thinking ahead, what do you think Bill Clinton will be most remembered for after he has left office?

	January	March
	<u>2001</u>	<u> 1998</u>
SCANDALS (NET)	74	57
Lewinsky/Impeachment	43	6
Other Personal/Sex Scandals	18	38
Scandals	14	18
Lack of integrity/morals	1	1
Corrupting/disgracing/cheapening the White House	*	1
Whitewater	*	1
ECONOMY/BUDGET DEFICIT (NET)	14	14
Economy (Sub-Net)	13	11
The economy/Good management of the economy	12	9
Decrease in unemployment	1	3
Stock market	*	*
Inflation	*	*
Balancing the budget/Handling the deficit/Decrease in national debt (Sub-Ne	t) 1	5
FOREIGN POLICY (NET)	6	4
Middle East peace process	2	
Efforts for peace	2	
Improvements in foreign policy/world affairs	1	1
Iraq situation/No loss of life/Ensuring peace	*	3
OTHER POSITIVE COMMENTS (NET)	5	8
Good job he has done/Accomplishments	2	6
Good/Great president	2	
His concern for the common man/working people/poor/less fortunate	1	2
Good communicator	*	
OTHER NEGATIVE COMMENTS (NET)	3	3 3
Lying/Lack of honesty/Ability to spin the truth	2	3
Negative personal comment	1	
DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)	1	5
Don't Know/Can't think of anything	3	13

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=750]:

Q.13F1 In the long run, do you think the accomplishments of the Obama Administration will outweigh its failures, or will the failures outweigh the accomplishments?

	Accomplishments will outweigh failures	Failures will outweigh accomplishments	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Obama			
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	49	44	8
Jan 7-14, 2016	39	51	10
Jan 7-11, 2015	44	50	7
Jan 15-19, 2014	39	47	14
Jan 9-13, 2013	46	39	15
Jan 11-16, 2012	43	44	12
Bush			
December, 2008	24	64	12
January, 2008	28	59	13
January, 2007	31	53	16
January, 2004	49	36	15
Clinton			
January, 2001	60	27	13
January, 2000	51	37	12
August, 1999	56	38	6
January, 1999	50	34	16
Early September, 1998	52	35	13
Reagan			
Newsweek: May 1987	46	41	13
Newsweek Feb 1987	52	38	10

ASK ALL:

Q.14 Thinking about the major problems facing the country, would you say President Obama has made progress toward solving these problems, tried but failed to solve these problems, not addressed these problems, or made these problems even worse?

		Bush	Clinton	Clinton Early-	Clinton
Nov 30-Dec 5		December	January	September	October
<u>2016</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u> 1998</u>	<u> 1995</u>
35	Made progress	13	52	45	24
32	Tried but failed	34	27	34	50
9	Not addressed	12	9	9	11
21	Made worse	37	6	9	12
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	6	3	3

NO QUESTIONS 15-26, 28-34, 36-49

QUESTIONS 27, 35 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.50 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] very favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

								(VOL.)	(VOL.)
				ole			ble		Can't rate/
2	Barack Obama	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a.	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	64	34	30	34	18	17	0	2
	Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	49	22	27	49	33	16	*	2
	Mar 25-29, 2015	51	18	33	46	27	19	*	3
	Dec 3-7, 2014	48	19	29	49	28	20	0	3
	Jul 8-14, 2014	50	19	32	48	30	18	0	3 2 4
	Jan 15-19, 2014	51	19	<i>32</i>	45	24	22	*	4
	Oct 9-13, 2013	47	17	31	50	32	18	*	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	59	28	31	38	20	18	*	3 3 2 5
	Dec 5-9, 2012	59	26	33	40	24	16	*	2
	Oct 4-7, 2012	50	24	26	45	26	19	*	5
	Sep 12-16, 2012	57	27	30	40	23	17	*	4
	Jul 16-26, 2012	51	24	26	42	27	15	0	8
	Jun 7-17, 2012	53	20	33	44	22	21	0	4
	Mar 7-11, 2012	56	24	<i>32</i>	41	25	16	*	3
	Feb 8-12, 2012	54	22	32	42	26	16	*	5
	Jan 11-16, 2012	51	23	28	45	24	21	0	5 4
	Nov 9-14, 2011	52	21	31	45	24	21	*	3
	Mar 8-14, 2011	58	22	36	39	20	19	*	3
	Dec 2-5, 2010	54	26	29	43	25	18	*	2
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	53	21	32	43	23	20	*	5
	Jun 10-13, 2010	56	27	30	39	20	19	0	4
	Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	65	33	<i>32</i>	30	16	14	*	5
	Jun 10-14, 2009	72	37	35	25	11	14	*	3
	Apr 14-21, 2009	73	38	35	24	10	14	*	3
	Jan 7-11, 2009	79	40	39	15	4	11	0	6
	Mid-October, 2008	66	33	33	28	13	15	*	6
	Late September, 2008	65	33	<i>32</i>	30	11	19	*	5
	Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4
	Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9
	April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6
	March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9
	Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8
	Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10
	January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8
	Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11
	August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13
_	J ,								
b.	Michelle Obama					_			_
	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	72	46	25	22	9	13	*	6
	Dec 3-7, 2014	61	28	32	31	15	15	*	8
	Jul 8-14, 2014	62	29	33	30	14	16	*	8
	Jan 15-19, 2014	68	29	39	24	11	13	1	7
	Jan 9-13, 2013	67	<i>37</i>	30	22	11	11	1	11
	Sep 12-16, 2012	67	39	28	22	11	11	*	10
	Jun 7-17, 2012	68	33	35	21	11	10	1	10
	Jan 11-16, 2012	66	33	34	21	10	12	*	12

Q.50 CONTINUED...

INOLD								
		Favorab	ole	U	Infavora	ble	(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	heard of	<u>Ref</u>
Mar 8-14, 2011	69	30	39	21	9	12	1	9
Dec 2-5, 2010	62	30	31	27	15	12	1	10
Jun 10-13, 2010	69	31	38	22	9	12	1	9
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	71	33	38	16	8	8	1	11
Jun 10-14, 2009	76	36	39	14	5	9	1	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	76	36	40	13	4	9	1	10
Jan 7-11, 2009	68	28	40	15	4	11	2	15
Mid-September, 2008	56	23	33	25	11	14	2	17
Late May, 2008	43	14	29	21	8	13	4	32

QUESTIONS 50c-d, 68-71, 83, 86, 88, 89, 91-99, 101, 105-108, 115, 120, 124-126 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 51-67, 72-82, 84-85, 87, 90, 100, 102-104, 109-114, 116-119, 121-123

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent? **ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

			(VOL.)	(VOL.)				
				No	Other	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
<u> </u>	Republican	Democrat	<u>Independent</u>	preference		DK/Ref	Rep	<u>Dem</u>
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	24	33	35	5	1	3	15	16
Oct 20-25, 2016	26	33	36	3	*	2	15	17
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	27	32	33	5	*	3	11	16
Aug 9-16, 2016	27	32	35	2	1	2	13	16
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	33	37	4	1	2	16	16
Apr 12-19, 2016	25	32	37	3	1	2	16	17
Mar 17-26, 2016	25	31	38	3	*	2	15	20
Jan 7-14, 2016	24	30	38	5	1	2	14	17
Dec 8-13, 2015	26	31	37	4	*	2	16	15
Yearly Totals								
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	<i>27.9</i>	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3		3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34					
1987	26	35	39					

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

Pew Research Center/USA Today polls (U)