

FOR RELEASE OCTOBER 22, 2014

Support for U.S. Campaign Against ISIS; Doubts About Its Effectiveness, Objectives

*Just 30% Say U.S. and Allies Have
'Clear Goal'*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research

Alec Tyson, Senior Researcher

Rachel Weisel, Communications Associate

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

Support for U.S. Campaign Against ISIS; Doubts About Its Effectiveness, Objectives

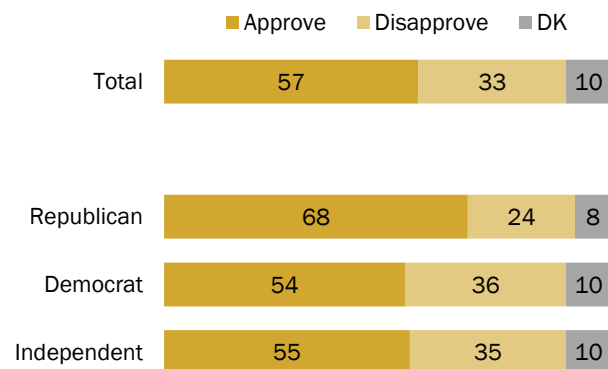
Just 30% Think U.S. and Allies Have ‘Clear Goal’

The public continues to support the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria. But most Americans say the U.S. military effort against ISIS is not going well, and just 30% think the U.S. and its allies have a “clear goal” in taking military action.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 15-20 among 2,003 adults, finds that 57% approve of the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria, while just 33% disapprove. Support is highest among Republicans (68%); majorities of Democrats (54%) and independents (55%) also approve.

Yet negative evaluations of how well the U.S. military campaign against ISIS is going also cross party lines: 64% of Republicans, 61% of independents and 52% of Democrats say the military campaign is going not too well or not at all well.

Bipartisan Support for U.S. Military Campaign Against Islamic Militants

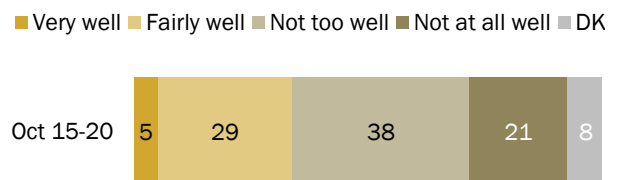


Survey conducted Oct. 15-20, 2014.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Just a Third of the Public Says U.S. Campaign Against ISIS Is Going Well

% saying U.S. campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria is going ...



Survey conducted Oct. 15-20, 2014.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Moreover, majorities across the board – 70% of Republicans, 65% of independents and 54% of Democrats – think the United States and its allies lack a clear goal in taking military action against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria.

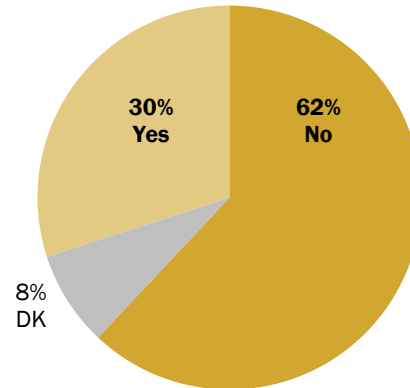
While Americans have doubts about the effectiveness and goals of the military campaign, many remain wary of the United States becoming too deeply involved in the conflict. Currently, 47% say their greater concern is that the U.S. will go too far getting involved in the situation, while 43% are more concerned that the U.S. will not go far enough in stopping Islamic militants. The share saying their bigger concern is that the U.S. will become too deeply involved in the situation has increased from 41% in mid-September.

And as other polls have shown, the public is opposed to the United States deploying ground troops to fight ISIS: 55% oppose sending U.S. ground troops to fight Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria, while 39% say they would favor this.

While President Obama has touted the involvement of other countries in the military effort against Islamic militants, the public is skeptical of the contributions made by U.S. allies. Overall, just 17% say countries that are allies with the U.S. are doing enough to help the U.S. military effort against militants in Iraq and Syria; far more (73%) say they are not doing enough.

There is hardly any divide across party lines on this question, and majorities of nearly all demographic groups say U.S. allies are not doing enough to contribute to the military effort.

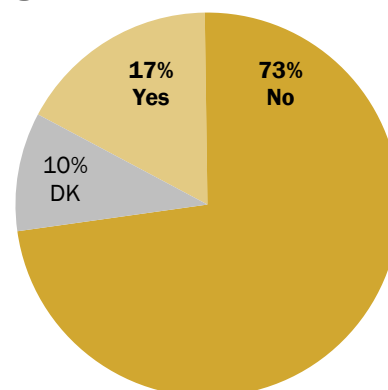
Most Say U.S. and Allies Do Not Have a Clear Goal in Taking Military Action



Survey conducted Oct. 15-20, 2014.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Are U.S. Allies Doing Enough to Help in Effort against Islamic Militants?



Survey conducted Oct. 15-20, 2014.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Concerns Over U.S. Involvement, Views of Use of U.S. Ground Troops

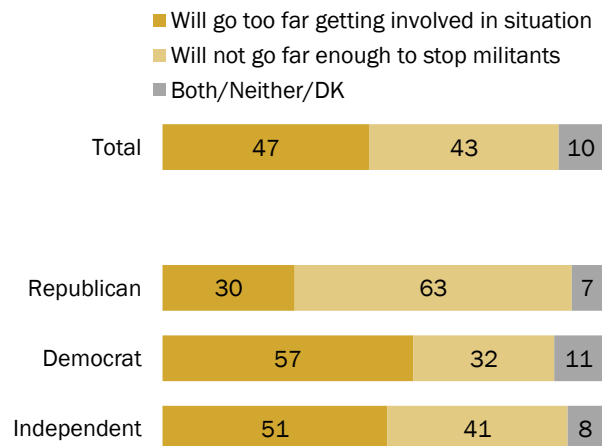
Republicans are far more concerned that the U.S. will not go far enough in stopping Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria (63%-30%). By contrast, Democrats (57%-32%) and independents (51%-41%) express more concern over the U.S. going too far getting involved in the situation.

Opinion among Republicans and Democrats is little changed [from mid-September](#). But among independents, whose opinions were divided a month ago, more now worry that the U.S. will go too far in getting involved than say it won't go far enough to stop the militants.

Across age groups, 65% of those under 30 say they are more concerned that the U.S. will go too far getting involved in the situation, while just 28% are more concerned about not doing enough to stop the militants. Older age groups are about evenly divided or express more concern over the U.S. not doing enough.

Democrats Worry U.S. Will 'Go Too Far' in Getting Involved in Iraq and Syria

% saying their greater concern about military action in Iraq, Syria is that the U.S. ...



Survey conducted Oct. 15-20, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Opposition to the use of U.S. ground forces to fight Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria spans most groups. Majorities of whites (53%), blacks (62%) and Hispanics (55%) oppose the use of ground troops, as do half or more across age groups and education levels.

Women oppose the deployment of U.S. ground forces to Iraq and Syria by about two-to-one (62% to 30%), while men are evenly divided (48% are opposed while 47% are in favor).

Republicans stand out for their support of U.S. ground forces in the fight against ISIS. By 57% to 39%, Republicans favor sending U.S. ground troops to fight Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria. By contrast, 56% of independents and 66% of Democrats oppose the use of ground forces to combat the militants.

Most Oppose Sending Ground Troops into Iraq and Syria to Combat Militants

U.S. sending ground troops to fight Islamic militants ...

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	39	55	6=100
Men	47	48	5=100
Women	30	62	8=100
White	41	53	6=100
Black	30	62	8=100
Hispanic	36	55	9=100
18-29	37	57	6=100
30-49	39	57	4=100
50-64	42	51	7=100
65+	37	57	7=100
College grad+	38	57	5=100
Some college	38	57	5=100
HS or less	39	53	8=100
Republican	57	39	4=100
Democrat	28	66	6=100
Independent	38	56	5=100
<i>Among Republicans/ Republican leaners</i>			
Tea Party	65	32	3=100
Non-Tea Party	49	45	5=100

Survey conducted Oct. 15-20, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic;

Hispanics are of any race.

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Little Change in Public Views of Military Action Against ISIS

Public opinion about U.S. military action against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria has changed little over the past month. Currently, 57% approve of the “military campaign” against the militants; **in mid-September**, 53% approved of Barack Obama’s “plan” for a campaign against the militants.

Women remain less likely than men to support military action. About half of women (52%) approve of the U.S. military campaign against the militants, compared with 63% of men. Support for the military campaign is lower among those younger than 30 (50% approve) and 65 and older (52%), than it is among those 30-49 or 50-64 (59% and 64%, respectively).

Nearly seven-in-ten Republicans (68%) approve of the military campaign against the Islamic militants, compared with 55% of independents and 54% of Democrats.

Gender Gap in Support for U.S. Military Campaign Against Islamic Militants

U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants ...

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %
Total	57	33	10=100
Men	63	30	7=100
Women	52	36	13=100
White	60	31	9=100
Black	53	32	15=100
Hispanic	46	43	11=100
18-29	50	37	13=100
30-49	59	31	9=100
50-64	64	30	6=100
65+	52	33	15=100
College grad+	62	30	8=100
Some college	59	32	10=100
HS or less	53	36	12=100
Republican	68	24	8=100
Democrat	54	36	10=100
Independent	55	35	10=100
<i>Among Republicans/ Republican leaners</i>			
Tea Party	70	26	4=100
Non-Tea Party	64	28	8=100

Survey conducted Oct. 15-20, 2014.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic;

Hispanics are of any race.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted October 15-20, 2014 among a national sample of 2,003 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (802 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,201 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 677 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://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 nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	2,003	2.5 percentage points
Republican	529	4.9 percentage points
Democrat	649	4.4 percentage points
Independent	727	4.2 percentage points

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

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

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
OCTOBER 2014 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
October 15-20, 2014
N=2,003**

**QUESTIONS 1-13, 20-21, 25-27, 34-35, 37-39, 43, 45-47, 54-57, 64-65,
70-73 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

NO QUESTIONS 2, 6-9, 14-19, 22-24, 28-33, 36, 40-42, 44, 48-53, 58-63, 66-69, 74

ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.75 Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>		Sep 11-14 <u>2014</u> ¹	(U) Aug 14-17 <u>2014</u> ²
57	Approve	53	54
33	Disapprove	29	31
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	19	15

ASK ALL:

Q.76 How well is the U.S. military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria going **[READ IN ORDER]**?

Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>	
5	Very well
29	Fairly well
38	Not too well
21	Not at all well
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.77 What concerns you more about the U.S. military action in Iraq and Syria **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**?

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>		Sep 11-14 <u>2014</u>	(U) Aug 14-17 <u>2014</u> ³
47	That the U.S. will go too far in getting involved in the situation	41	51
43	That the U.S. will not go far enough in stopping the Islamic militants	41	32
1	Both (VOL.)	3	2
2	Neither (VOL.)	6	5
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	9

¹ In the September 11-14, 2014 survey, respondents were asked: "As you may know, Barack Obama has announced a plan for a military campaign against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria, involving U.S. airstrikes and U.S. military training for opposition groups. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of this plan?"

² In the August 14-17, 2014 survey, respondents were asked: "Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. airstrikes against militants in Iraq in response to violence against civilians?"

³ In the August 14-17, 2014 poll, respondents were asked only about U.S. military efforts in Iraq: "What concerns you more about the U.S. military action in Iraq?"

ASK ALL:

Q.78 Do you think the U.S. and its allies have a clear goal in taking military action against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria, or not?

TREND FOR COMPARISON:*(Libya)*

Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>		Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>	Mar 24-27 <u>2011</u>
30	Yes, have a clear goal	30	39
62	No, do not	57	50
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	11

ASK ALL:

Q.79 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. sending ground troops to fight Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>	
39	Favor
55	Oppose
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.80 Do you think other countries that are allies of the United States are doing enough or not doing enough to help the U.S. military effort against Islamic militants in Iraq and Syria?

Oct 15-20 <u>2014</u>	
17	Yes, doing enough
73	No, not doing enough
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you think other countries that are allies of the United States are doing enough or not doing enough to help the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan?

CNN/ORC Poll

Apr 3-5 <u>2009</u>	
20	Yes, doing enough
78	No, not doing enough
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 81-82, 88-89**QUESTIONS 83-87 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

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

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
Dec 3-8, 2013	24	34	37	3	*	2	17	15
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	25	32	37	3	1	3	16	18
Yearly Totals								
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

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

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=810]:

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Not
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	No opinion	Haven't	<u>(VOL.)</u>	heard of/
			either way	heard of	<u>Refused</u>	<u>DK</u>
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8	56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10	50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁴	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

QUESTION SCALE10 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

⁴ In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."