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Foreign Policy Views: Afghanistan, Iran, Israel

Little Support for U.S. Intervention in Syrian Conflict

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Little Support for U.S. Intervention in Syrian Conflict

There is strong public sentiment against the United States intervening in the fighting in Syria between government forces and anti-government groups. Nearly two-thirds (64%) say the United States does not have a responsibility to do something about the conflict in Syria. Similar percentages oppose the U.S. and its allies bombing Syrian military forces to protect anti-government groups, as they did in Libya, and sending arms and military supplies to those fighting the government of President Bashar al-Assad.

The public also continues to support withdrawing U.S. forces from Afghanistan as soon as possible. But when it comes to Iran's nuclear program, there is greater concern that the United States will wait too long to act than that it will act too quickly.

Few Say U.S. Has Responsibility to Act in Syria

<i>Does the U.S. have a responsibility to do something about ...</i>	Yes	No	DK
	%	%	%
Fighting in Syria	25	64	11=100
Fighting in Libya (3/11)	27	63	10=100
Ethnic genocide in Darfur (12/06)	51	36	13=100
Ethnic fighting in Kosovo (3/99)	47	46	7=100
Fighting between Serbs and Bosnians (6/95)	30	64	6=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 7-11 among 1,503 adults finds that opposition to U.S. involvement in Syria crosses party lines. Majorities of Republicans and Democrats say the U.S. does not have a responsibility to get involved, and reject airstrikes or the shipment of arms to anti-government forces.

There are much wider partisan differences over whether or not to maintain U.S. forces in Afghanistan and in concerns about Iran. Overall, 57% say U.S. forces in Afghanistan should be removed as soon as possible while 35% say the troops should remain until the situation there is stable. In dealing with Iran, more Americans say their greater concern is that the United States will wait too long to take action, rather than it will take action too quickly (54% to 34%).

The survey also finds that a plurality of the public (46%) says that U.S. support for Israel is about right; 22% say the U.S. is too supportive of Israel and a comparable percentage (20%) say it is not supportive enough. Republicans are more likely than Democrats or independents to say that the U.S. is not supportive enough of Israel.

Opposition to Air Strikes, Arming Rebels

Current views about possible U.S. involvement in Syria are similar to opinions about the prospect of U.S. military action in Libya last year, shortly before the U.S. and its allies launched air strikes in support of anti-government rebels.

A year ago, 63% said the U.S. did not have a responsibility to do something about fighting in Libya; a nearly identical percentage (64%) now says the U.S. does not have a responsibility to act in Syria. In the current survey, 68% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats say the U.S. does not have a responsibility in this area.

There also is strong opposition to using military options in dealing with Syria. Fully 62% oppose bombing the Syrian military and 63% are against sending arms to anti-Assad groups. Last year, prior to the allied military mission in Libya, 69% opposed arming anti-government rebels and 77% opposed bombing Libyan air defenses.

Most Oppose Using Military Options in Syria

<i>Favor/oppose U.S. and its allies ...</i>	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Bombing Syrian forces to protect anti-government groups	25	62	13=100
Sending arms to anti-government groups	29	63	9=100
Libya (3/2011)			
Bombing Libyan air defenses	16	77	7=100
Sending arms to anti-government groups	23	69	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q66-Q67. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

After the allies launched air strikes against Libya last year, there was modest public support for the military operation; 47% said the airstrikes were the right decision while 36% said they were the wrong decision. (See [*“Modest Support for Libya Airstrikes, No Clear Goal Seen,”*](#) March 28, 2011). In September, even after the rebels took control of Tripoli and Gadhafi went into hiding, fewer than half (44%) said that the airstrikes were the right decision. (See [*“Libya: Steady Views, Declining Interest,”*](#) Sept. 8, 2011).

Iran Nuclear Concerns

A majority (54%) of Americans say they are more concerned that the U.S. will take too long to act in dealing with Iran's nuclear program, while 35% are concerned that it will act too quickly. This is similar to public opinion in 2006 and 2007.

This view also is consistent with the [finding of a February survey](#) in which 58% of the public said that preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons is more important even if it means taking military action; 30% said preventing military conflict is more important even if it means Iran develops nuclear weapons.

There is a strong partisan divide in concerns about how to deal with Iran's nuclear program.

Democrats are about equally divided—44% say their concern is that the U.S. will act too quickly, 42% are more concerned the U.S. will wait too long. In contrast, 75% of Republicans express concern that the U.S. will take too long to act, while just 17% say their greater concern is that the U.S. will act too quickly. Among Republicans, 81% of conservatives worry that the U.S. will wait too long; 64% of moderate and liberal Republicans share this concern. By a 52% to 37% margin, independents express more concern that the U.S. will wait too long.

The partisan divide extends to views on Obama's handling of the Iran issue. While 47% of the public approves of his handling of Iran and 40% disapproves, Republicans disapprove by 66% to 23%. Democrats overwhelmingly approve of Obama's handling of the issue – 70% to 19% – while independents are almost evenly divided. (See ["Romney Leads GOP Contest, Trails in Matchup with Obama," March 14, 2012](#)).

Sharp Partisan Divide in Concerns about Iran Nuclear Program

<i>Greater concern in dealing w/ Iran nuclear program ...</i>	Act too quickly	Wait too long	DK
	%	%	%
Total	34	54	12=100
18-29	38	52	10=100
30-49	35	55	10=100
50-64	32	56	13=100
65+	32	48	20=100
Republican	17	75	9=100
Conservative Rep	8	81	11=100
Mod/Lib Rep	33	64	3=100
Independent	37	52	11=100
Democrat	44	42	14=100
Cons/Mod Dem	40	45	15=100
Liberal Dem	50	38	12=100

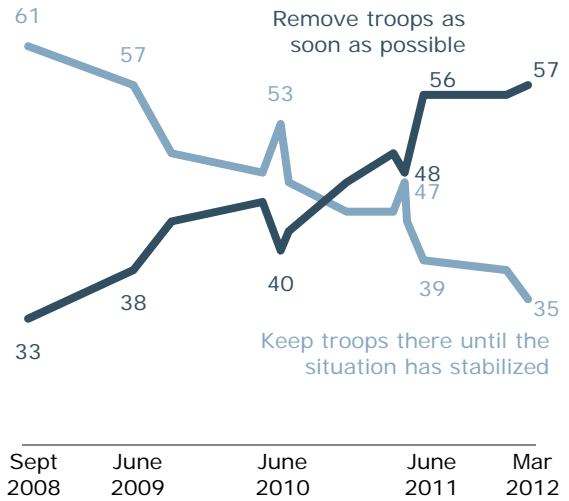
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q69. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Continued Support for Afghan Troop Pullout

A majority (57%) of Americans favor removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan as soon as possible, while 35% say that U.S. troops should remain until the situation there is stabilized. These opinions are little changed since June 2011, but support for an immediate troop withdrawal continues to be much higher than it was two years ago (40% in June 2010). (Note: This survey was conducted before the killing of 16 Afghanistan civilians by a U.S. Army soldier was reported on March 11.)

Majorities of Democrats (69%) and independents (58%) continue to favor removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan as soon as possible. About half of Republicans (53%) favor keeping U.S. forces there until the situation is stabilized while 41% support removing the troops as soon as possible. Republican support for maintaining U.S. forces in Afghanistan has remained fairly steady over the past year. As was the case last June, moderate and liberal Republicans are more likely to favor an expeditious troop withdrawal than are conservative Republicans (51% vs. 35%).

Most Favor Quick Withdrawal of U.S. Troops from Afghanistan



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q39.

Republicans Divided over Afghan Troop Withdrawal

U.S. troops in Afghanistan...

	Keep until stable (%)	Remove quickly (%)	DK (%)	N
Total	35	57	7=100	1503
Republican	53	41	7=100	412
Conserv Rep	57	35	9=100	273
Mod/Lib Rep	45	51	4=100	134
Independent	33	58	9=100	507
Democrat	25	69	6=100	518
Con/Mod Dem	27	68	5=100	319
Liberal Dem	25	69	7=100	185

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q39. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Israel Support Seen as Appropriate

A plurality (46%) of Americans believe the level of U.S. support for Israel is about right, with 22% saying the U.S. is too supportive and 20% that it is not supportive enough. But as in past surveys on Israel, there are wide partisan and ideological differences.

Nearly four-in-ten Republicans (38%) – and 48% of conservative Republicans – say that the United States is not supportive enough of Israel. Among other political groups, no more than about one-in-five say the U.S. is insufficiently supportive.

White evangelical Protestants are far more likely than other religious groups to say that the U.S. has not been supportive enough of Israel. Four-in-ten (40%) say the U.S. is not supportive enough while

about as many (39%) say the level of support is about right. Among other religious groups, majorities of pluralities say U.S. support for Israel is about right.

Partisan differences over Israel were evident in a February survey that asked whether the U.S. should support Israel if it decided to attack Iranian nuclear facilities. The possibility of Israel launching such an attack was reported to be a matter of discussion when Obama met with Israeli President Benjamin Netanyahu on March 5.

While 51% of Americans overall said [in the February survey](#) the U.S. should remain neutral if Israel launched an attack, 62% of Republicans said the administration should support such an action while just 34% preferred neutrality. A third of Democrats and independents said the U.S. should support Israel in such an instance.

In Relationship with Israel, U.S Has Been ...

	Too supportive	Not supportive enough	About right	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	22	20	46	12=100
Republican	12	38	43	8=100
Conservative Rep	10	48	35	8=100
Mod/Lib Rep	16	18	58	8=100
Independent	24	18	46	12=100
Democrat	26	8	53	12=100
Cons/Mod Dem	24	10	54	12=100
Liberal Dem	32	4	56	8=100
Protestant	18	26	46	11=100
White evangelical	13	40	39	8=100
White mainline	22	17	50	11=100
Catholic	23	14	49	13=100
White Catholic	26	16	52	7=100
Unaffiliated	33	9	44	14=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q42. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites are non-Hispanic.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 7-11, 2012, among a national sample of 1,503 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (900 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 603 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 310 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 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 and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), 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	1,503	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	766	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	737	4.5 percentage points
Republicans	412	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	518	5.0 percentage points
Independents	507	5.5 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
March 7-11, 2012
N=1503

QUESTIONS 1-2, 4-6, 12-14, 18-21, 23-24, 27-30, 32-34 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3, 7-11, 15-17, 25-26, 31, 35-37

QUESTION 22 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Thinking about Afghanistan...

Q.38 How well is the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 7-11, 2012	13	38	25	16	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	10	45	26	11	8
Jun 15-19, 2011	10	43	28	12	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	43	29	15	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	8	39	28	15	10
Jul 8-11, 2010	9	40	31	9	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	8	40	32	13	7
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	43	22	13	13
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	39	32	11	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	4	32	41	16	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	7	38	34	11	10
February, 2008	10	38	31	10	11

ASK ALL:

Q.39 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should remove troops as soon as possible?

	<u>Keep troops in Afghanistan</u>	<u>Remove troops</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	57	7
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	56	6
Jun 15-19, 2011	39	56	4
May 5-8, 2011	43	49	8
May 2, 2011	47	48	4
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 ¹	44	50	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	44	47	8
Jul 8-11, 2010	47	42	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	53	40	6
Apr 15-May 5, 2010 (GAP)	48	45	7
Sep 10-15, 2009 (GAP)	50	43	7
June, 2009 (GAP)	57	38	5
Mid-Sept, 2008	61	33	6
April, 2008 (GAP)	50	44	6
Late Feb, 2008	61	32	7
May, 2007 (GAP)	50	42	7

NO QUESTIONS 40-41

¹ In surveys conducted March 30-April 3, 2011 and before, the question was worded "Do you think the U.S. and NATO should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. and NATO should remove their troops as soon as possible?"

ASK ALL:

Q.42 Thinking about the relationship between the United States and Israel. Is the U.S. **[RANDOMIZE: too supportive of Israel, not supportive enough of Israel]**, or is U.S. support of Israel about right?

Mar 7-11

2012

22	Too supportive of Israel
20	Not supportive enough
46	About right
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

QUESTIONS 43-45, 58-61 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 46-54, 57, 62-63****QUESTIONS 55-56 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****RANDOMIZE Q.64-Q.67 AS A BLOCK WITH Q.68/Q.69 AS A BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.64 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about recent political violence in Syria? Have you heard...**[READ]**

Mar 7-11

2012

36	A lot
39	A little
25	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.65 Do you think the United States has a responsibility to do something about the fighting in Syria between government forces and anti-government groups, or doesn't the United States have this responsibility?

	<u>U.S. has responsibility</u>	<u>U.S. doesn't have responsibility</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 7-11, 2012	25	64	11
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:			
Mar 10-13, 2011: <i>Fighting in Libya</i>	27	63	10
June, 2007: <i>Ethnic genocide in Darfur</i>	49	34	17
December, 2006: <i>Ethnic genocide in Darfur</i>	51	36	13
March, 1999: <i>Fighting between ethnic groups in Kosovo, a province of Serbia</i>	47	46	7
June, 1995: <i>Fighting between Serbs and Bosnians in what used to be Yugoslavia</i>	30	64	6

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:

Q.66F1 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. and its allies bombing Syrian military forces to protect anti-government groups in Syria?

Mar 7-11

2012

25	Favor
62	Oppose
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=737]:

Q.67F2 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. and its allies sending arms and military supplies to anti-government groups in Syria?

Mar 7-11

2012

29	Favor
63	Oppose
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.66F1 AND Q.67F2 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Would you favor or oppose the United States and its allies doing each of the following with respect to Libya. (First,) [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Bombing Libyan air defenses Mar 10-13, 2011	16	77	7
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sending arms and military supplies to anti-government groups in Libya ² Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	66	9
Mar 10-13, 2011	23	69	8

RANDOMIZE Q.64-Q.67 AS A BLOCK WITH Q.68/Q.69 AS A BLOCK**ASK ALL:**

Q.68 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the dispute over Iran's nuclear program? Have you heard...[READ]?

Mar 7-11		Feb 8-12	Jan 11-16	Sep 30- Oct 4	Sep 2006	Feb 2006
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u> ³	<u>2009</u>		
41	A lot	38	42	41	41	32
38	A little	39	41	41	44	46
21	Nothing at all	23	15	18	14	21
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2	*	1	1

ASK ALL:

Q.69 Which is your greater concern when it comes to dealing with Iran's nuclear program ... that we will take action TOO QUICKLY, or that we will wait TOO LONG?

Mar 7-11		Nov	Sept	May	Feb
<u>2012</u>		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
34	Take action too quickly	35	35	34	34
54	Wait too long	52	51	53	53
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13	14	13	13

NO QUESTIONS 70-71**QUESTIONS 72-75 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTION 76 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

² Not asked in a list Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011. For March 10-13, 2011 question was worded "sending arms and supplies to anti-government groups in Libya."

³ In June 11-16, 2012, the question read: "...recent tensions between the U.S. and Iran over Iran's nuclear program and disputes in the Persian Gulf." In February 2006, question read: "The Iranian government recently said it will resume research on nuclear technology, despite opposition from other countries. How much, if anything, have you read or heard about this?"

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.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Yearly Totals								
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 ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/DK
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--

TEAPARTY2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁴	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

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."