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For The People & The Press

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Public Favors Tough U.S. Stance on Iran, China

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## On Eve of Foreign Debate, Growing Pessimism about Arab Spring Aftermath

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## Public Favors Tough U.S. Stance on Iran, China

# On Eve of Foreign Debate, Growing Pessimism about Arab Spring Aftermath

As next week's third and final presidential debate on foreign policy approaches, a national survey by the Pew Research Center finds increasing public pessimism about developments in the Middle East and more support for tough policies to deal with Iran's nuclear program and economic issues with China. However, there is no change in the consensus in support for ending U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan.

Doubts have spread about the political direction of countries swept up in the Arab Spring protests that began almost two years ago. Nearly six-in-ten Americans (57%) do not believe the changes in the Middle East will lead to lasting improvements for people living in the affected countries, up sharply from 43% in April 2011.

And a majority of Americans (54%) continue to say it is more important to have stable governments in the Middle East, even if there is less democracy in the region. Just 30% say democratic governments are more important, even if there is less stability.

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### Public Skeptical that Arab Spring Will Benefit Middle East or U.S.

<i>Changes in political leadership in Middle Eastern countries such as Libya, Egypt will ...</i>	<b>Apr 2011</b> %	<b>Oct 2012</b> %
Lead to lasting improvements for people living in those countries	42	25
Will not lead to lasting improvements	43	57
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100
<i>These changes in leadership will:</i>		
Be good for the United States	24	14
Be bad for the United States	35	36
Won't have much of an effect	28	38
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100
<i>Which is more important in the Middle East?</i>		
Democratic governments, even if there is less stability in the region	37	30
Stable governments, even if there is less democracy in the region	52	54
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 4-7, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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The public has long favored tough measures to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, and 56% now say it is more important to take a firm stand against Iran's nuclear program, while 35% say it is more important to avoid a military conflict. In January, 50% favored taking a firm stand against Iran and 41% said it was more important to avoid a confrontation.

When it comes to China, 49% of Americans want the U.S. to get tougher with China on economic issues, compared with 42% who say it is more important to build a stronger relationship. In March 2011, the balance of opinion was the reverse: 53% said building a stronger relationship was more important while 40% advocated tougher policies.

The national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Oct. 4-7, 2012 among 1,511 adults, including 1,201 registered voters, finds that Barack Obama and Mitt Romney run about even on most foreign policy issues. On the question of who can do a better job making wise decisions about foreign policy, 47% of voters favor Obama and 43% Romney. This represents a substantial gain for Romney, who trailed Obama by 15 points on foreign policy issues in September. Romney gained on several domestic issues as well, including the deficit and jobs. (For more, see [“Romney's Strong Debate Performance Erases Obama's Lead,”](#) Oct. 8, 2012.)

Romney holds a nine-point lead over Obama on dealing with China's trade policies (49% to 40%). Among independent voters, Romney holds a 16-point advantage (50% to 34%).

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### Support for Tough U.S. Approach Toward Iran, China

	Jan 2012 %	Oct 2012 %
<i>In dispute over Iran's nuclear program, what's more important?</i>		
Take a firm stand	50	56
Avoid military conflict with Iran	41	35
Other/ Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100
<i>Which is more important in dealing with China on economic issues?</i>	<b>Mar 2011</b>	<b>Oct 2012</b>
Building a stronger relationship	53	42
Getting tougher	40	49
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 4-7, 2012. Q52 & Q56.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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### Obama, Romney Tied on Foreign Policy, Romney Leads on China

	Obama %	Romney %	Neither/ DK %
<i>Who can do the better job ...</i>			
Making wise decisions about foreign policy	47	43	10=100
China's trade policies	40	49	11=100
Iran's nuclear program	45	44	11=100
Political instability in Egypt, Libya	47	42	12=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 4-7, 2012. Q27e, Q66a-c.  
Based on registered voters.

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On dealing with other issues – Iran’s nuclear program and political instability in countries like Egypt and Libya – neither candidate has a clear advantage.

A separate survey finds that the public is divided over the Obama administration’s handling of last month’s terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya, which killed U.S. ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. The administration’s handling of the attack became a major point of contention in the Oct. 16 debate between Obama and Romney.

About four-in-ten (38%) Americans disapprove of the Obama administration’s handling of the deadly terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate, while 35% approve. About a quarter (27%) express no opinion.

### Skepticism about Changes in Middle East

A majority of Americans (54%) say it is more important to have stable governments in the Middle East, even if there is less democracy in the region, while 30% say it is more important to have democratic governments, even if there is less stability. The percentage prioritizing democracy in the region has slipped over the past year and a half. In March 2011, in the early days of the Arab Spring, 37% said democracy in the region was more important than stability.

There is little partisan difference on this question; both Republicans and

#### Bipartisan Agreement That Stability Is More Important than Democracy in Middle East

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	R-D diff
<i>Which is more important in the Middle East?</i>					
Democratic governments, even if there is less stability in the region	30	31	39	27	-8
Stable governments, even if there is less democracy in the region	54	51	51	62	0
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<i>Changes in political leadership in Middle Eastern countries such as Libya, Egypt will...</i>					
Lead to lasting improvements for people living in those countries	25	16	37	23	-21
Not lead to lasting improvements	57	68	45	60	+23
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
Be good for the United States	14	13	16	15	-3
Be bad for the United States	36	49	21	37	+28
Won't have much of an effect	38	30	48	37	-18
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	
	100	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 4-7, 2012. Q57, Q58, Q60. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Democrats place a higher priority on stability. Independents also prioritize stability over democracy in the Middle East (62% vs. 27%).

By more than two-to-one (57% to 25%), the public does not think changes in political leadership in Middle Eastern countries such as Libya and Egypt will lead to lasting improvements for the people living there. Wide majorities of Republicans (68%) and independents (60%) do not anticipate lasting improvements for the people living in these countries. Democrats are more divided: 37% say they will lead to lasting improvements, 45% say they will not.

While there is no public consensus on how changes in the Middle East are likely to affect the United States, few think the effects will be positive. Just 14% believe the leadership transitions in the region will be good for the United States, down from 24% in April 2011. More than twice as many (36%) say these changes will be bad for the United States, while 38% say they will have little effect.

Nearly half (49%) of Republicans say changes in the Middle East will end up being bad for the United States, while the plurality view among Democrats (48%) is that the effect for the U.S. will be minimal.

## Public Favors Less U.S. Involvement in Region

More than six-in-ten (63%) say they think the U.S. should be less involved with changes of leadership in the Middle East, compared with just 23% who say the U.S. should be more involved.

Although Republicans are more likely than Democrats or independents to favor greater involvement, just 34% of Republicans advocate this (compared with 20% of Democrats and 19% of independents).

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### Most Want U.S. Less Involved in Middle East Political Change

<i>How involved should U.S. be in Middle East leadership changes?</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
	%	%	%	%
More involved	23	34	20	19
Less involved	63	53	65	72
Neither/As involved as we are (Vol.)	4	2	7	3
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	749	198	255	254

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 4-7, 2012. Q59. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Mixed Approval of Administration's Handling of Libya Attack

A separate survey, conducted Oct. 12-14 among 1,006 adults, finds that 38% disapprove of the Obama administration's handling of the terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya, while 35% approve. About a quarter (27%) express no opinion.

The administration gets lower ratings from those who followed news about investigations into the embassy attack very or fairly closely. Among this group, 36% approve of the administration's handling of the situation and 52% disapprove.

More Republicans (67%) followed news about the Libya investigations than did Democrats (53%) or independents (55%). However, looking only at independents, those who followed news about the Libya investigations disapprove of the administration's handling of the situation by two-to-one (59% disapprove vs. 29% approve).

### Obama Draws Lower Ratings on Libya from Attentive Public

<i>Obama Admin's handling of Libya situation</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
	%	%	%	%
Approve	35	12	60	28
Disapprove	38	73	14	40
Don't know	<u>27</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>31</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Percent following news about Libya*</i>				
	56	67	53	55
<b>Among those who followed news</b>				
Approve	36	10	70	29
Disapprove	52	86	18	59
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct 12-14, 2012 Omnibus. PEW13.  
\*Followed news about investigations into last month's attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya very or fairly closely.

The survey finds particularly large partisan differences in attentiveness to specific aspects of the Libya situation. Republicans (47%) are far more likely than Democrats (19%) to say they heard a lot about reports that the U.S. embassy in Libya had requested more security prior to the attacks but did not receive it; about a third of independents (32%) heard a lot about this.

And 41% of Republicans say they heard a lot about incorrect statements by the administration that there were protests outside the embassy at the time of the attacks; that compares with just 17% of Democrats and 28% of independents.

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### Partisan Gap in Attentiveness to Libya Controversies

<i>Heard that ...</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
U.S. embassy in Libya requested more security, did not get it	%	%	%	%
A lot	30	47	19	32
A little	34	30	42	32
Nothing at all	33	21	38	33
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
Obama administration said incorrectly there were protests at time of attacks				
A lot	26	41	17	28
A little	34	31	42	30
Nothing at all	37	25	39	40
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct 12-14, 2012 Omnibus.  
PEW14. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## More Want to Get Tougher on China

Since last year, the public's priorities have shifted when it comes to economic and trade policy toward China.

Currently, 49% say it is more important to get tougher with China on economic issues, while 42% say it is more important to build a stronger relationship with China on economic issues. In March 2011, more favored building stronger economic ties (53%) than getting tougher with China (40%).

Independents and Republicans now are much more supportive of getting tougher with China than they were a year and a half ago. Nearly half of independents (47%) now say it is more important to get tougher with

China on economic issues, up from just 30% in March 2011. The percentage of Republicans favoring a tougher stance has increased by 11 points (from 54% to 65%) over this period.

There has been less change in opinions among Democrats, and more Democrats continue to prioritize building stronger economic relations with China (53%) over getting tough with China (39%).

This partisan divide is reflected in the vastly different views of Obama and Romney voters. By 51% to 42%, Obama voters favor building a stronger economic relationship with China. By contrast, Romney voters say it is more important to get tough with China on economic issues, by 67% to 26%.

### Independents, Republicans Increasingly Support Tougher Economic Policy Toward China

<i>In economic &amp; trade policy w/ China, which is more important ...</i>	March 2011		October 2012	
	Stronger relations w/ China	Getting tougher w/ China	Stronger relations w/ China	Getting tougher w/ China
	%	%	%	%
Total	53	40	42	49
White	48	45	35	56
Black	64	30	60	30
Hispanic	69	23	57	30
18-29	70	23	62	28
30-49	52	42	41	51
50-64	47	47	36	56
65+	41	48	29	59
College grad+	55	42	44	48
Some college	48	43	39	53
High school or less	55	37	42	46
Republican	40	54	28	65
Democrat	59	33	53	39
Independent	55	30	44	47
<i>Among RVs</i>				
Obama voters	--	--	51	42
Romney voters	--	--	26	67

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct 4-7, 2012. Q56. Figures read across. Don't know not shown. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic; Hispanics may be of any race.



## China Concerns: Economics Trump Security Issues

A survey earlier this year by the Pew Global Attitudes Project found that far more Americans are concerned about economic issues than security issues in U.S.-China relations. (For more, see [“U.S. Public, Experts Differ on China Policies,”](#) Sept. 18, 2012.)

Fully 78% said the large amount of American debt held by China is a very serious

problem for the United States, while 71% said the loss of U.S. jobs to China is a very serious problem. About six-in-ten (61%) viewed the U.S. trade deficit with China as a very serious problem.

Fewer Americans (49%) viewed China’s growing military power as a very serious problem for the United States. Comparable percentages were highly concerned about cyber attacks from China (50% very serious problem), China’s impact on the global environment (50%), and China’s human rights policies (48%).

Despite partisan differences over the seriousness of some of these issues, substantial percentages of Republicans, Democrats and independents viewed the large amount of U.S. debt held by China and the loss of U.S. jobs to China as very serious problems for the United States.

More Republicans (71%) and independents (66%) than Democrats (54%) said the U.S. trade deficit with China is a very serious problem. About half of Democrats (54%) and independents (53%) viewed China’s impact on the global environment as very serious, compared with 41% of Republicans.

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### Debt Held by China, Job Losses Viewed as Top U.S.-China Problems

<i>Very serious problem for the U.S. ...</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
	%	%	%	%
Large amount of American debt held by China	78	87	75	80
Loss of U.S. jobs to China	71	76	67	76
U.S. trade deficit with China	61	71	54	66
Cyber attacks from China	50	55	47	51
China’s impact on global environment	50	41	54	53
China’s growing military power	49	47	48	51
China’s human rights policies	48	43	50	50
Tensions between China and Taiwan	27	29	29	24

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Global Attitudes Project. April 30-May 13, 2012.

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## Consistent Support for Firm Stance Against Iran

Since 2009, the public has maintained that it is more important to take a strong stand against Iran's nuclear program than to avoid a military conflict with Iran. In the current survey, 56% say it is more important to take a firm stand against Iranian actions, while just 35% say it is more important to avoid a military conflict with Iran.

There are wide partisan and ideological differences in priorities for dealing with Iran. Fully 84% of conservative Republicans favor taking a firm stand against Iran's nuclear program. Fewer than half as many liberal Democrats (38%) agree. There also is a sizable age gap in these opinions. Just 44% of those younger than 30 favor taking a strong stand against Iran; clear majorities in older age categories support a firm stance.

Among registered voters, 78% of those who support Romney say it is more important to take a firm stand against Iran; just 17% say it is more important to avoid a military conflict with Iran.

Obama supporters are divided – 48% say it is more important to avoid a military conflict, while 43% say it is more important to take a firm stand against Iran.

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### Sharp Ideological Divide in Priorities for Dealing with Iran

<i>In dispute over Iran's nuclear program, more important to ...</i>	<b>Take firm stand</b>	<b>Avoid military conflict</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Total	56	35	10=100
18-29	44	49	7=100
30-49	60	33	8=100
50-64	56	33	10=100
65+	62	24	14=100
Conserv Rep	84	13	3=100
Mod/Lib Rep	65	30	5=100
Independent	53	39	8=100
Cons/Mod Dem	49	43	8=100
Liberal Dem	38	51	11=100
<i>Among RVs</i>			
Obama voters	43	48	9=100
Romney voters	78	17	5=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct 4-7, 2012. Q52. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Deep Partisan Divide over Israel

Overall, Americans are split in their views about the level of U.S. support for Israel. While a 41% plurality say that the level of American support for Israel is about right, 22% say the U.S. is too supportive, and about as many (25%) say it is not supportive enough.

Views on U.S. support for Israel are deeply divided along partisan lines. Nearly half (46%) of Republicans say the U.S. is not supportive enough of Israel, compared with just 9% of Democrats and 24% of independents.

### Plurality Says U.S. Support of Israel is "About Right"

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>U.S. support of Israel:</i>	%	%	%	%
Too supportive	22	13	25	26
Not supportive enough	25	46	9	24
About right	41	34	55	39
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100

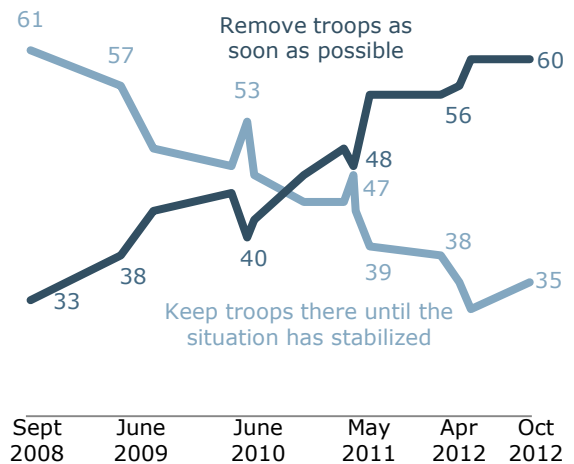
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct 4-7, 2012. Q39. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Majority Support for Quick Troop Withdrawal from Afghanistan

As was the case earlier in the year, six-in-ten Americans (60%) now say U.S. troops should be removed from Afghanistan as soon as possible. Just 35% currently say troops should remain in the country until the situation there has stabilized.

By more than three-to-one, Democrats say U.S. troops should be removed as soon as possible (73%), rather than remain in Afghanistan until the situation stabilizes (22%). A smaller majority of independents supports a quick withdrawal (58% vs. 38% remain until stable). Republicans are evenly divided on this question: 48% say the troops should be removed as soon as possible, and an identical proportion says they should remain in place. These partisan differences are little changed from the spring.

### Most Continue to Favor Quick Troop Pullout from Afghanistan



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 4-7, 2012. Q.42.

Most Democrats (66%) say Barack Obama is handling the removal of troops from Afghanistan about right, as do 46% of independents (33% say he is not removing U.S. troops quickly enough, 14% say he is removing them too quickly).

Just 25% of Republicans believe Obama is removing troops from Afghanistan at the right pace. Instead, 42% of Republicans believe he is removing troops too quickly, while 25% say he is removing them too slowly.

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### Republicans Have Mixed Views about Pace of Troop Removal in Afghanistan

<i>How well is U.S. military effort in Afghanistan going?</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>R-D diff</b>
	%	%	%	%	
Very/Fairly well	41	41	42	41	-1
Not too/Not at all well	54	54	52	56	+2
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<i>Should the U.S...</i>					
Keep troops until the situation has stabilized	35	48	22	38	+26
Remove troops as soon as possible	60	48	73	58	-25
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<i>Is Barack Obama removing troops ...</i>					
Too quickly	17	42	2	14	+40
Not quickly enough	28	25	29	33	-5
About right	46	25	66	46	-41
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	
	100	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Oct. 4-7, 2012. Q40,Q42,Q43.

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## About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted October 4-7, 2012, among a national sample of 1,511 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (906 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 605 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 291 who had no landline telephone). Data collection was managed by Princeton Survey Research Associates International and conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source. 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 2010 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 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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total	1,511	2.9 percentage points
Republican	440	5.4 percentage points
Independent	500	5.1 percentage points
Democrat	493	5.1 percentage points
Form 1	762	4.1 percentage points
Form 1 Republican	242	7.3 percentage points
Form 1 Democrat	238	7.4 percentage points
Form 1 Independent	246	7.3 percentage points
Form 2	749	4.2 percentage points
Form 2 Republican	198	8.1 percentage points
Form 2 Democrat	255	7.1 percentage points
Form 2 Independent	254	7.1 percentage points
Registered voters	1,201	3.3 percentage points
<i>Among registered voters</i>		
Obama supporters	552	4.8 percentage points
Romney supporters	567	4.8 percentage points

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted October 12-14, 2012 among a national sample of 1,006 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (605 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 401 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 197 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/>.

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<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,006	3.7 percentage points
Republican	249	7.2 percentage points
Democrat	317	6.4 percentage points
Independent	383	5.8 percentage points
Followed news about attack investigations very/ fairly closely	631	4.5 percentage points
Reps who followed	183	8.4 percentage points
Dems who followed	181	8.5 percentage points
Inds who followed	237	7.4 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.

One question included in this analysis was from a Pew Global Attitudes Project survey conducted April 30-May 13, 2012, among 1,004 adults. Details of that poll's methodology are available at: <http://www.pewglobal.org/2012/09/18/survey-methods-38/>.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**EARLY OCTOBER 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**TOPLINE**  
**October 4-7, 2012**  
**N=1,511**

**QUESTIONS 5-Q5b, 7-8, 15, 20-22, 26-28, 34-35 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 1-4, 6, 9-14, 16-19, 23-25, 29-33, 36-38**

**ASK ALL:**

Turning again to foreign policy...

Q.39 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?

Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>		Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u>
22	Too supportive of Israel	22
25	Not supportive enough	20
41	About right	46
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	12

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=762]:**

Thinking about Afghanistan...

Q.40F1 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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 4-7, 2012	8	32	35	18	5
Apr 4-15, 2012	7	31	31	18	12
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

**NO QUESTION 41**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=762]:**

Q.42F1 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>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 4-7, 2012	35	60	5
Apr 4-15, 2012	32	60	8
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

**Q.42F1 CONTINUED...**

	Keep troops in Afghanistan	Remove troops	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 <sup>1</sup>	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-Sep, 2008	61	33	6
April, 2008 (GAP)	50	44	6
Late Feb, 2008	61	32	7
May, 2007 (GAP)	50	42	7

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=749]:**

Thinking about Afghanistan...

Q.43F2 From what you've read and heard, do you think Barack Obama is removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan too quickly, not quickly enough or is he handling this about right?

Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>		Feb 8-12 <u>2012</u>	Jun 23-26 <u>2011</u> <sup>2</sup>	Feb 22-Mar 1 <u>2011</u>
17	Too quickly	20	14	12
28	Not quickly enough	22	29	30
46	About right	53	44	50
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	13	9

**NO QUESTIONS 44-51****ASK ALL:**

Q.52 Thinking about the dispute over Iran's nuclear program, which is more important in your opinion [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>	
56	To take a firm stand against Iranian actions
35	To avoid a military conflict with Iran
*	Neither (VOL.)
1	Both (VOL.)
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

*In your opinion, which is more important [READ AND RANDOMIZE]*

Jan 11-16 <u>2012</u> <sup>3</sup>	
50	To take a firm stand against Iranian actions
41	To avoid a military conflict with Iran
1	Neither (VOL.)
2	Both (VOL.)
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

<sup>1</sup> 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?"

<sup>2</sup> For June 23-26, 2011 and earlier the question asked "...do you think Barack Obama will remove U.S. combat troops..."

<sup>3</sup> In January 2012, respondents were asked "How much, if anything, have you heard about recent tensions between the U.S. and Iran over Iran's nuclear program and disputes in the Persian Gulf-A lot, a little, or nothing at all?" before this question.



**Q.52 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON, CONTINUED...**

*In your opinion, which is more important [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?*

Feb 8-12 <u>2012</u>	Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	
58	61	To prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, even if it means taking military action
30	24	To avoid a military conflict with Iran, even if it means they may develop nuclear weapons
2	4	Neither <b>(VOL.)</b>
1	1	Both <b>(VOL.)</b>
10	10	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 53-55****ASK ALL:**

Now,

Q.56 Thinking about our economic and trade policy toward China, which is more important **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?**

Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>		Mar 8-14 <u>2011</u>
42	Building a stronger relationship with China on economic issues	53
49	Getting tougher with China on economic issues	40
9	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	7

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=762]:**

Q.57F1 As you may know, recent protests and uprisings in Middle Eastern countries, such as Egypt and Libya, have led to major changes in political leadership. From what you have read and heard, do you think these changes will lead to lasting improvements for people living in these countries, or not?

Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>	
25	Yes, will lead to lasting improvements
57	No, will not lead to lasting improvements
18	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*As you may know, there have been protests and calls for change in a number of Middle Eastern countries recently. From what you have read and heard, do you think these events will lead to lasting improvements for people living in these countries, or not?*

May 25-30 <u>2011</u>		Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>
37	Yes, lasting improvements	42
45	No, no lasting improvements	43
5	Depends/Too soon to tell <b>(VOL.)</b>	3
13	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	12

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=762]:**

Q.58F1 Do you think these changes in political leadership in the Middle East will end up being **[RANDOMIZE: good for the United States, bad for the United States]** or won't have much effect on the United States?

Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>	
14	Will be good for the United States
36	Will be bad for the United States
38	Won't have much of an effect on the United States
12	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**Q.58 TREND FOR COMPARISON...**

*Do you think the anti-government protests and changes in the Middle East will end up being [RANDOMIZE: good for the United States, bad for the United States] or won't have much effect on the United States?*

May 25-30 <u>2011</u>		Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>	<b>Egypt</b> Feb 2-7 <u>2011</u> <sup>4</sup>
23	Good	24	15
26	Bad	35	28
36	Won't have much effect	28	36
4	Depends/Too soon to tell (VOL.)	4	5
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	7

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=749]:**

Q.59F2 When it comes recent changes in political leadership in Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt and Libya, do you think the United States should be [RANDOMIZE: more involved OR less involved] than it currently is?

Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>	
23	More involved
63	Less involved
4	Neither/As involved as we should be (VOL.)
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=749]:**

Q.60F2 Thinking about the political situation in the Middle East, which is more important [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

Oct 4-7 <u>2012</u>		Mar 8-14 <u>2011</u> <sup>5</sup>
30	Democratic governments, even if there is less stability in the region	37
54	Stable governments, even if there is less democracy in the region	52
15	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11

**QUESTIONS 61-65 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REG=1):**

Q.66 Thinking about a few specific foreign policy issues... do you think [RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CANDIDATES: Mitt Romney or Barack Obama **BUT KEEP IN SAME ORDER FOR ALL THREE ITEMS**] would do the better job dealing with the issue of [INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? And who would do the better job dealing with [INSERT NEXT ITEM]? [IF RESPONDENT MENTIONS ANYONE OTHER THAN ROMNEY OR OBAMA PROBE ONCE: "If you had to choose between (READ IN SAME ORDER: Romney or Obama)"]?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,201]:**

	Mitt <u>Romney</u>	Barack <u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Iran's nuclear program Oct 4-7, 2012	44	45	3	8
b. Political instability in Middle Eastern countries such as Egypt and Libya Oct 4-7, 2012	42	47	4	8

<sup>4</sup> In February 2011, the question read "From what you've read and heard, do you think the anti-government protests and calls for political change in Egypt will end up being good for the United States, bad for the United States, or won't have much effect on the United States?"

<sup>5</sup> In March 2011, question began "Thinking about recent events in the Middle East..."

**Q.66 CONTINUED...**

	Mitt <u>Romney</u>	Barack <u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
c. China's trade policies Oct 4-7, 2012	49	40	3	8

**QUESTIONS 67-69 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?

**BASED ON LIKELY VOTERS [N=1,112]:**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Oct 4-7, 2012	36	31	30	1	1	1	14	14
Sep 12-16, 2012	29	39	30	1	*	2	14	13

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,201]:**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Oct 4-7, 2012	33	32	31	1	1	1	14	14
Sep 12-16, 2012	28	37	31	1	*	2	14	13
Jul 16-26, 2012	25	38	33	2	1	2	15	12
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	27	36	34	1	*	2	15	15
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	35	35	1	*	1	17	14
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	28	35	31	2	*	3	13	12
Apr 4-15, 2012	28	34	35	1	*	1	16	12
Mar 7-11, 2012	28	38	31	1	1	1	15	14
Feb 8-12, 2012	32	34	31	1	*	1	13	15
Jan 11-16, 2012	24	33	38	2	*	2	17	14
Jan 4-8, 2012	31	32	32	3	*	2	15	12

**BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC:**

Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
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
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

## BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC:

	<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>
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 <i>Post-Sept 11</i>	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 <i>Pre-Sept 11</i>	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	--	--	--	--	--

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**October 12-14, 2012 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,006**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE;] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
October 12-14, 2012	42	28	14	15	1
October 4-7, 2012	40	29	13	17	*
September 27-30, 2012	34	37	13	15	1
September 20-23, 2012	36	32	17	15	*
September 13-16, 2012	38	32	17	12	1
September 7-9, 2012	36	31	17	15	2
August 31-September 3, 2012	33	31	20	16	1
August 23-26, 2012	38	30	15	16	1
August 16-19, 2012	33	32	16	19	*
August 9-12, 2012	30	31	20	18	1
August 2-5, 2012	33	29	20	17	1
July 26-29, 2012	32	30	20	19	*
July 19-22, 2012	39	29	16	16	*
July 12-15, 2012	32	33	18	17	1
July 5-8, 2012	34	28	18	19	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	38	28	15	18	1
June 21-24, 2012	33	32	17	17	*
June 14-17, 2012	39	28	15	17	*
June 7-10, 2012	35	32	15	18	*
May 31-June 3, 2012	37	34	13	14	1
May 24-27, 2012	33	31	19	16	1
May 17-20, 2012	35	30	16	19	*
May 10-13, 2012	40	26	16	17	*
May 3-6, 2012	38	29	13	20	*
April 26-29, 2012	34	32	17	16	1
April 19-22, 2012	35	35	13	14	2
April 12-15, 2012	39	28	16	17	1
April 5-8, 2012	37	31	16	16	1
March 29-April 1, 2012	34	33	15	18	1
March 22-25, 2012	36	29	16	18	1
March 15-18, 2012	40	35	11	14	1
March 8-11, 2012	37	32	14	17	*
March 1-4, 2012	41	27	15	17	1
February 23-26, 2012	37	33	14	15	1
February 16-20, 2012	33	32	16	17	1
February 9-12, 2012	42	30	14	13	1
February 2-5, 2012	38	32	16	13	1
January 26-29, 2012	35	31	16	19	*
January 19-22, 2012	35	30	16	19	1
January 12-15, 2012	33	32	14	20	1
January 5-8, 2012	39	31	15	15	*
December 15-18, 2011	36	32	14	16	1
December 8-11, 2011	41	29	13	16	1
December 1-4, 2011	40	33	13	13	1
November 17-20, 2011	35	33	16	15	1
November 10-13, 2011	39	31	15	14	*
November 3-6, 2011	37	31	15	17	1

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
October 27-30, 2011	38	33	14	15	1
October 20-23, 2011	38	32	14	16	1
October 13-16, 2011	39	32	14	14	*
October 6-9, 2011	43	28	14	14	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	46	26	14	14	*
September 22-25, 2011	44	33	11	11	*
September 8-11, 2011	40	30	15	14	1
September 1-4, 2011	44	30	11	15	*
August 25-28, 2011	44	28	14	13	1
August 18-21, 2011	44	29	12	14	1
August 4-7, 2011	46	30	11	13	1
July 28-31, 2011	43	30	13	13	*
July 21-24, 2011	41	32	13	13	1
July 14-17, 2011	41	30	14	14	1
July 7-10, 2011	36	30	15	18	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	38	32	13	16	1
June 23-26, 2011	37	29	15	19	*
June 16-19, 2011	39	33	14	13	*
June 9-12, 2011	39	30	15	16	1
June 2-5, 2011	35	34	17	14	*
May 19-22, 2011	33	34	17	16	*
May 12-15, 2011	32	32	17	18	2
May 5-8, 2011	40	35	15	9	1
April 21-25, 2011	41	33	12	14	*
April 14-17, 2011	44	30	14	12	1
April 7-10, 2011	46	30	14	10	*
March 31-April 3, 2011	42	31	16	11	0
March 24-27, 2011	36	32	17	15	*
March 17-20, 2011	38	32	17	13	*
March 10-13, 2011	40	30	16	13	*
March 3-6, 2011	37	31	17	13	1
February 24-27, 2011	49	29	11	10	*
February 17-20, 2011	35	33	14	17	*
February 10-13, 2011	36	34	13	16	*
February 3-6, 2011	35	37	14	14	*
January 20-23, 2011	37	33	14	15	1
January 13-16, 2011	37	29	15	18	1
January 6-9, 2011	39	37	11	12	1

[SEE TRENDS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS:](http://www.people-press.org/files/2011/11/NII-Economy-Trends.pdf) <http://www.people-press.org/files/2011/11/NII-Economy-Trends.pdf>

b. Investigations into last month's attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya

October 12-14, 2012	28	28	19	23	1
October 4-7, 2012: <i>Investigations into the attack on the U.S. embassy in Libya earlier this month</i>	27	24	20	28	1
September 13-16, 2012: <i>Attacks on American embassies and consulates in the Middle East and the killing of the U.S. ambassador in Libya</i>	43	24	15	17	1

c. News about candidates for the 2012 presidential election

October 12-14, 2012	45	26	13	14	1
October 4-7, 2012	45	23	15	17	*
September 27-30, 2012	40	30	14	14	1
September 20-23, 2012	38	29	16	17	*
September 13-16, 2012	42	25	18	15	1
September 7-9, 2012	31	31	18	19	1

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
August 31-September 3, 2012	29	29	20	20	1
August 23-26, 2012	27	31	19	22	1
August 16-19, 2012	32	27	19	22	1
August 9-12, 2012	27	27	21	24	1
August 2-5, 2012	31	25	19	23	1
July 26-29, 2012	25	28	21	25	1
July 19-22, 2012	35	22	17	25	1
July 12-15, 2012	33	24	20	23	*
July 5-8, 2012	29	26	20	25	*
June 28-July 1, 2012	32	24	19	25	*
June 21-24, 2012	27	30	17	25	1
June 14-17, 2012	31	30	15	24	*
June 7-10, 2012	30	29	16	25	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	29	28	19	23	1
May 24-27, 2012	32	28	16	24	1
May 17-20, 2012	31	26	19	23	*
May 10-13, 2012	34	23	18	24	*
May 3-6, 2012	29	27	19	24	*
April 26-29, 2012	29	29	18	23	1
April 19-22, 2012	29	29	20	20	1
April 12-15, 2012	32	28	16	23	1
April 5-8, 2012	31	27	18	23	*
March 29-April 1, 2012	23	29	21	27	*
March 22-25, 2012	28	28	18	25	1
March 15-18, 2012	28	31	17	24	*
March 8-11, 2012	28	27	21	23	*
March 1-4, 2012	31	24	20	24	1
February 23-26, 2012	28	29	18	24	1
February 16-20, 2012	25	29	19	25	2
February 9-12, 2012	35	25	18	20	1
February 2-5, 2012	30	27	20	21	1
January 26-29, 2012	28	30	21	21	1
January 19-22, 2012	28	30	17	24	*
January 12-15, 2012	29	29	18	23	1
January 5-8, 2012	29	30	16	25	*
December 15-18, 2011	26	24	20	29	1
December 8-11, 2011	27	27	18	28	*
December 1-4, 2011	25	28	20	26	1
November 17-20, 2011	24	31	21	23	1
November 3-6, 2011	22	31	20	26	1
October 27-30, 2011	21	26	21	30	1
October 20-23, 2011	21	28	22	28	1
October 13-16, 2011	26	29	22	23	1
October 6-9, 2011	25	25	23	27	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	27	26	21	25	*
September 22-25, 2011	25	26	23	25	1
September 15-18, 2011	24	28	21	27	1
September 8-11, 2011	22	26	21	31	*
September 1-4, 2011	22	23	22	32	1
August 25-28, 2011	22	22	22	33	1
August 18-21, 2011	27	26	19	28	1
August 11-14, 2011	19	24	20	36	1
August 4-7, 2011	18	21	22	37	1
July 28-31, 2011	17	27	21	35	1
July 21-24, 2011	17	22	28	32	*
July 14-17, 2011	18	26	27	28	1
July 7-10, 2011	16	23	27	33	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	21	28	24	25	2
June 23-26, 2011	19	26	24	31	*

**PEW.1 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
June 16-19, 2011	23	29	23	25	*
June 9-12, 2011	18	30	22	30	1
June 2-5, 2011	21	31	22	26	*
May 26-29, 2011	20	27	24	28	*
May 19-22, 2011	15	27	24	32	1
May 12-15, 2011	15	22	26	35	1
May 5-8, 2011	16	24	27	32	1
April 21-25, 2011	18	26	23	32	1
April 14-17, 2011	20	23	29	27	1
March 24-27, 2011	13	19	26	41	1
March 10-13, 2011	15	21	26	38	0
February 10-13, 2011	16	19	24	40	*
February 3-6, 2011	15	20	23	42	*

[SEE TRENDS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS:](http://www.people-press.org/files/2011/11/NII-Election-Trends.pdf) <http://www.people-press.org/files/2011/11/NII-Election-Trends.pdf>

**NO QUESTIONS PEW.2-PEW.4****QUESTIONS PEW.5-PEW.10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS PEW.11-PEW.12****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya last month in which a U.S. ambassador was killed...

PEW.13 From what you've seen and heard, do you approve or disapprove of how the Obama administration has handled this situation?

Oct 12-14

2012

35	Approve
38	Disapprove
27	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.14 How much, if anything, have you heard about each of the following? **[INSERT ITEM;**

**RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. That the U.S. embassy in Libya had requested more security prior to the attacks but did not receive it Oct 12-14, 2012	30	34	33	2
b. That the Obama Administration incorrectly said there were public protests outside the embassy at the time of the attacks Oct 12-14, 2012	26	34	37	2

**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?

**BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC:**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>No preference</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Other party</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Oct 12-14, 2012	21	33	40	3	1	2	16	14