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For The People & The Press

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Most Continue to Say He Brings “New Approach” to Politics
OBAMA APPROVAL RATINGS STEADY, PERSONAL IMAGE REMAINS POSITIVE

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Most Continue to Say He Brings “New Approach” to Politics **OBAMA APPROVAL RATINGS STEADY, PERSONAL IMAGE REMAINS POSITIVE**

Following his nationally televised address to Congress, opinion of President Barack Obama has taken a more favorable turn. Obama’s job approval ratings, which had declined in the summer, have remained essentially unchanged over the past month. And the balance of opinion regarding the health care reform proposals before Congress has become a bit more positive than it was in late August, though the public is about evenly divided over those proposals.

Obama’s job approval rating, currently 55%, has changed little since late July. Nonetheless, it remains well below his rating at the 100-day mark of his presidency (63%). The president’s personal image also has slipped since the early weeks of his administration, but continues to be very strong.

Currently, 83% say Obama is a good communicator, while 78% say he is warm and friendly. Obama’s ratings on these and other personal dimensions, while overwhelmingly positive, have declined somewhat since February. In most cases, the falloff in positive views mirrors the decline in his job approval rating – from 64% in February to 55% today.

However, Obama has seen double-digit declines in positive views on several traits, including whether he cares about people like them (13 points), is a strong leader (12 points), trustworthy (12 points) and able to get things done (12 points). In February, 70% said Obama was able to get things done while just 15% said he was not. The margin is much closer in the current survey (58% to 31%).

Obama’s Image: Less Glittering But Still Positive			
	Feb 2009	Sept 2009	Change
	%	%	
A good communicator	92	83	-9
Not a good communicator	6	13	+7
Neither/Don’t know	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	
Warm and friendly	87	78	-9
Cold and aloof	8	16	+8
Neither/Don’t know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	
Well-informed	79	70	-9
Not well-informed	15	23	+8
Neither/Don’t know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	
Well-organized	81	69	-12
Not well-organized	12	22	+10
Neither/Don’t know	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	
	100	100	
Cares about people like me	81	68	-13
Doesn’t care	14	25	+11
Neither/Don’t know	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	
	100	100	
A strong leader	77	65	-12
Not a strong leader	13	29	+16
Neither/Don’t know	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	
	100	100	
Trustworthy	76	64	-12
Not trustworthy	15	30	+15
Neither/Don’t know	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	
Able to get things done	70	58	-12
Not able to get things done	15	31	+16
Neither/Don’t know	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>	
	100	100	

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Still, far more people now say Obama is able to get things done than said that about former President Clinton at a comparable point in his first year in office. In August 1993, when Clinton's job approval stood at 39%, just 36% said he was able to get things done while 54% said he was not.

Personal Traits: Comparing Obama and Recent Presidents			
	Clinton	Bush	Obama
	<u>Aug 1993</u>	<u>Sept 2003</u>	<u>Sept 2009</u>
<i>Job approval:</i>	%	%	%
Approve	39	55	55
Disapprove	46	36	33
Well-informed	63	59	70
Not well informed	30	36	23
Trustworthy	56	62	64
Not trustworthy	37	32	30
Able to get things done	36	68	58
Not able to get things done	54	26	31

Obama's 58% positive rating on his ability to get things done is below former President Bush's mark of 68% in September 2003; at the time, Bush's overall approval rating was the same as Obama's today (55%). Yet Obama's trustworthy rating is similar to Bush's in September 2003, and somewhat more people see Obama as well-informed (70%) than said that about Bush then (59%).

Opinions about Obama's ideology have changed modestly since February. Currently, 44% say Obama is liberal, 36% say he is middle of the road and 9% say he is conservative. In February, somewhat fewer said Obama was liberal (38%), while 40% said he was middle of the road and 13% viewed him as conservative.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Sept. 10-15 among 1,006 adults reached on landlines and cell phones, also finds that nearly eight months into Obama's presidency most Americans continue to say he has brought a new approach to politics in Washington.

Currently, 63% say that Obama has a new approach to politics in Washington while 30% say his approach is "business as usual." That is nearly identical to opinion in April and largely unchanged from February. The view that Obama has a new approach to politics is widely shared among Democrats (76%) and independents (62%), but half of Republicans (50%) also express this opinion.

Most Continue to Say Obama Has "New Approach" to Politics			
	<u>Feb</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Sept</u>
	%	%	%
Obama has a new approach to politics	66	63	63
Obama's approach is 'business as usual'	25	27	30
Don't know	9	10	7
	100	100	100

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The survey finds that the number of Americans attuned to the health care debate has grown steadily since July. Six-in-ten now say they are hearing a lot about the health care proposals in Congress, up from 53% in August and 41% in July.

The public is now evenly divided over the health care proposals being discussed in Congress: 42% generally favor them while 44% are generally opposed. In both July and August, there was more opposition than support for the proposals; in August, 39% said they generally favored the proposals while 46% were opposed.

Health Care Reform Opinion Now Evenly Divided			
<i>Heard about health care reform bills...</i>	<u>July</u> %	<u>Aug</u> %	<u>Sept</u> %
A lot	41	53	60
Little/nothing	57	47	39
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Generally favor/oppose?</i>			
Favor	38	39	42
<i>Very strongly</i>	--	25	29
Oppose	44	46	44
<i>Very strongly</i>	--	34	34
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

There is little difference in opinion between those who are most attentive to the health care debate and those who are less attentive; both groups are evenly divided. This stands in contrast to surveys in July and August, when those who heard a lot about the proposals opposed them by wide margins.

Republicans Now Highly Critical of Obama's Leadership

After months of partisan battles and a summer of intense political rhetoric, Republicans have become much more critical of key Obama leadership traits than they were shortly after he took office. The changes among independents and Democrats have been far less pronounced; majorities of independents – and overwhelming proportions of Democrats – continue to view Obama positively on all of the personal traits mentioned.

Currently, just 36% of Republicans say Obama is a strong leader, while 57% say he is not. That is a stark reversal from February, when 56% said he was a strong leader and 31% said he was not. The shift among Republicans in views of Obama's trustworthiness is similar. Today, 61% say he is not trustworthy, up 26 percentage points from 35% in February. A third of Republicans now view him as trustworthy (33%), down from half (51%) seven months ago.

In February, nearly two-thirds of Republicans said they thought of Obama as someone who cared about people like them (65%), while 28% said he did not. Today, more say he does

Republicans Criticize Obama's Trustworthiness, Leadership, Effectiveness and Empathy									
	Republicans			Democrats			Independents		
	Feb %	Sept %	Chg	Feb %	Sept %	Chg	Feb %	Sept %	Chg
A good communicator	85	74	-11	96	93	-3	93	85	-8
Not a good communicator	12	21	+9	2	4	+2	5	13	+8
Warm and friendly	74	63	-11	95	93	-2	88	80	-8
Cold and aloof	19	27	+8	2	5	+3	8	15	+7
Well-informed	59	52	-7	92	89	-3	81	70	-11
Not well-informed	36	41	+5	4	7	+3	12	25	+13
Well-organized	64	54	-10	93	85	-8	83	72	-11
Not well-organized	26	36	+10	4	8	+4	11	24	+13
Cares about people like me	65	40	-25	95	91	-4	80	71	-9
Doesn't care	28	51	+23	4	6	+2	14	24	+10
A strong leader	56	36	-20	93	90	-3	78	65	-13
Not a strong leader	31	57	+26	2	6	+4	12	29	+17
Trustworthy	51	33	-18	95	91	-4	74	63	-11
Not trustworthy	35	61	+26	2	4	+2	15	31	+16
Able to get things done	48	35	-13	86	81	-5	71	57	-14
Not able to get things done	33	55	+22	4	11	+7	12	34	+22
Liberal	58	63	+5	31	33	+2	37	47	+10
Middle of the Road	23	23	0	46	45	-1	47	38	-9
Conservative	12	5	-7	16	11	-5	10	10	0
New approach to politics	51	50	-1	80	76	-4	65	62	-3
Business as usual	40	44	+4	13	16	+3	28	34	+6
QUS8-9.									

not empathize with people like them (51%) than say he does (40%). The drop in the percentage of Republicans saying Obama cares about people like them is 25 points. And far fewer Republicans than in February now say that Obama is able to get things done (48% then, 35% today).

Impressions of Obama among independents also have slipped, but in many cases the declines have not been as great as among Republicans. About six-in-ten independents now say Obama is able to get things done (57%), down from 71% in February; 34% say he is not able to get things done, up from just 12% then. There also have been substantial increases in the proportions of independents who say Obama is not a strong leader (from 12% to 29%) and not trustworthy (from 15% to 31%), though solid majorities continue to rate Obama positively on both traits.

In contrast to the Republicans, there has been only a modest decline in the proportion of independents who describe Obama as someone who cares about people like them. Currently, 71% of independents say Obama cares about people like them, down from 80% in February.

Democrats, meanwhile, remain largely confident in Obama's abilities and skills. Nine-in-ten say he is a strong leader, little changed from the 93% that said the same in February. A similar share (91%) says he cares about people like them, not much different from the 95% that agreed with that statement earlier in the year. And there has been no significant shift in the percentage that sees him as trustworthy: 95% did so in February and 91% say they do today.

Perceptions of Obama's Ideology

Partisan views of Obama's political ideology have shifted only slightly since February, though independents see the president as more liberal than they did then. Close to half (47%) of independents now say Obama is liberal, compared with 37% earlier in the year. Another 38% describe Obama as middle of the road, down from 47%. Just as in February, 10% of independents say Obama is conservative.

Republicans' views of Obama's ideology have changed little since early this year: 63% see Obama as a liberal. Another 23% see him as middle of the road, the same percentage as in February. Just 5% say he is conservative, down from 12% in the earlier survey. Among Democrats, there has been virtually no change in perceptions: 33% see him as liberal, 45% see him as middle of the road and 11% see him as conservative.

Comparisons with Bush, Clinton

For the most part, Obama's ratings on personal traits compare favorably with those of his most recent predecessors. In September 2003, 68% said Bush was a strong leader and 62% viewed him as trustworthy; about the same percentages currently give Obama positive ratings on those traits (65% strong leader, 64% trustworthy). Somewhat more said Bush was able to get things done (68%) than say that about Obama today (58%). Yet compared with Obama, fewer saw Bush as well-informed or said he cared about people like them.

Obama's Personal Image Compares Favorably to His Predecessors

	----- <i>Bill Clinton</i> -----				----- <i>George W. Bush</i> -----						<i>Barack Obama</i>	
	Jan 1993	Aug 1993	Dec 1993	Jul 1994	Feb 2001	Sept 2003	Jul 2005	Oct 2005	Mar 2006	Aug 2006	Feb 2009	Sept 2009
		%	%									
A good communicator	84	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	92	83
Not a good communicator	11	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6	13
Neither/Don't know	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	4
Warm and friendly	90	87	87	85	67	70	57	--	--	--	87	78
Cold and aloof	7	8	6	11	21	23	37	--	--	--	8	16
Neither/Don't know	3	5	7	4	12	7	6	--	--	--	5	6
Well-informed	79	63	69	57	62	59	52	--	38	46	79	70
Not well-informed	14	30	22	38	27	36	42	--	54	46	15	23
Neither/Don't know	7	7	9	5	11	5	6	--	8	8	6	6
Well-organized	--	47	59	42	66	--	--	--	--	--	81	69
Not well-organized	--	46	32	53	22	--	--	--	--	--	12	22
Neither/Don't know	--	7	9	5	12	--	--	--	--	--	6	8
Cares about people like me	--	--	--	--	--	56	48	45	42	41	81	68
Doesn't care	--	--	--	--	--	38	49	51	51	53	14	25
Neither/Don't know	--	--	--	--	--	6	3	4	7	6	5	7
A strong leader	--	--	--	--	--	68	55	51	44	43	77	65
Not a strong leader	--	--	--	--	--	29	41	46	51	52	13	29
Neither/Don't know	--	--	--	--	--	3	4	3	5	5	10	7
Trustworthy	63	56	56	46	60	62	49	49	40	41	76	64
Not trustworthy	29	37	35	49	28	32	46	46	52	52	15	30
Neither/Don't know	8	7	9	5	12	6	5	5	8	7	9	6
Able to get things done	--	36	63	40	60	68	50	51	43	42	70	58
Not able to get things done	--	54	27	56	18	26	42	43	50	51	15	31
Neither/Don't know	--	10	10	4	22	6	8	6	7	7	15	11
Liberal	--	38	32	37	7	9	9	9	10	8	38	44
Middle of the Road	--	44	49	47	39	34	26	27	31	30	40	36
Conservative	--	11	12	13	44	51	57	55	48	48	13	9
Neither/DK	--	7	7	3	10	6	8	9	11	14	9	11

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. QUS8a-k.

Bush's ratings on these and other personal traits declined subsequently along with his overall job approval. In August 2006, fewer than half rated Bush positively on each of five personal characteristics asked about in that survey.

Clinton's ratings for effectiveness and other traits fluctuated during the first two years of his presidency. In December 1993, following the passage of NAFTA and other accomplishments, fully 63% said he was able to get things done, up from just 36% four months earlier. But in July 1994, less than a year later, just 40% said he was able to get things done, and his ratings for trustworthiness as well as for being well-organized and well-informed also declined markedly.

Public Divided on Health Care Legislation

Following President Obama's speech on health care reform, the public is narrowly split over the legislative proposals under discussion by Congress. Nearly as many (42%) favor the proposals as oppose them (44%). In July and August, more Americans opposed the health care legislation than supported it (July: 38% favor/44% oppose; August: 39% favor/46% oppose).

Opinions about health care reform continue to be highly partisan, and there have been only slight changes since August. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Republicans say they oppose the legislation, while 68% of Democrats support the proposals. Independents, on balance, remain skeptical. A narrow majority of independents (51%) oppose the legislation, while 37% favor the proposals.

The percentage of Democrats who say they support the proposals *very strongly* has risen from 44% in August to 52% now. A higher proportion of Republicans (63%) say they oppose the health care legislation very strongly, but there has been no increase in the intensity of GOP opposition since August.

	Republicans		Democrats		Independents	
	Aug	Sept	Aug	Sept	Aug	Sept
<i>Health care proposals...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	13	17	64	68	37	37
<i>Very strongly</i>	8	10	44	52	21	24
Oppose	78	73	21	18	48	51
<i>Very strongly</i>	63	63	11	12	34	35
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. QH2/QH3

Most Aware Now Evenly Divided

Fully 60% of the public now says it is hearing a lot about the debate in Congress to overhaul the health care system. That is up from 53% last month and just 41% in July.

In July and August, majorities of those who heard a lot about the health care proposals were opposed to them. But in the current survey, people who say they have heard a lot about the bills are evenly divided in their views – 46% generally favor them while 46% are opposed.

That is roughly the same balance of opinion as among those who have heard less about the proposals: among the less attentive group, 38% are generally in favor of the proposals while 39% are opposed and 23% offer no opinion.

Attentiveness Gap in Health Care Opinions Disappears				
	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>N</u>
<i>Among those who heard a lot</i>	%	%	%	
September	46	48	7=100	653
August	38	55	6=100	1183
July	36	56	8=100	712
<i>Heard a little/Nothing</i>				
September	38	39	23=100	343
August	41	36	23=100	792
July	40	35	24=100	777
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. QH1/QH2				

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,006 adults, 18 years of age or older, from September 10-15, 2009 (754 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 252 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 103 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. 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/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2008 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also 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 2008 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.

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

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,006	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	250	7.0 percentage points
Democrats	353	6.0 percentage points
Independents	327	6.0 percentage points

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.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
September 10-15, 2009
N=1,006

QUESTION 1 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PP1 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- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
August 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
August, 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
July, 2009	54	34	12
June, 2009	61	30	9
Mid-April, 2009	63	26	11
Early April, 2009	61	26	13
March, 2009	59	26	15
February, 2009	64	17	19

QUESTIONS 2 THROUGH 4 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
August 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	October, 2007	28	66	6
August, 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	February, 2007	30	61	9
July, 2009	28	66	6	Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7
June, 2009	30	64	5	Early January, 2007	30	63	7
May, 2009	34	58	8	December, 2006	28	65	7
April, 2009	23	70	7	Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8
January, 2009	20	73	7	Early October, 2006	30	63	7
December, 2008	13	83	4	July, 2006	30	65	5
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	May, 2006*	29	65	6
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	March, 2006	32	63	5
August, 2008	21	74	5	January, 2006	34	61	5
July, 2008	19	74	7	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
June, 2008	19	76	5	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	July, 2005	35	58	7
March, 2008	22	72	6	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	February, 2005	38	56	6

¹ In most prior surveys, the question was worded "All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?" Prior uses of the current wording are noted with an asterisk.

	<u>Satis-</u> <u>fied</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis-</u> <u>fied</u>	<u>Dis-</u> <u>satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2005	40	54	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
December, 2004	39	54	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
May, 2004	33	61	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
December, 2003	44	47	9	September, 1997	45	49	6
October, 2003	38	56	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
August, 2003	40	53	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9</i>	July, 1996	29	67	4
January, 2003	44	50	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
November, 2002	41	48	11	October, 1995	23	73	4
September, 2002	41	55	4	June, 1995	25	73	2
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	April, 1995	23	74	3
May, 2002	44	44	12	July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 2002	50	40	10	March, 1994	24	71	5
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	October, 1993	22	73	5
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
June, 2001	43	52	5	May, 1993	22	71	7
March, 2001	47	45	8	January, 1993	39	50	11
February, 2001	46	43	11	January, 1992	28	68	4
January, 2001	55	41	4	November, 1991	34	61	5
October, 2000 (<i>RVs</i>)	54	39	7	Late February, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3
September, 2000	51	41	8	August, 1990	47	48	5
June, 2000	47	45	8	May, 1990	41	54	5
April, 2000	48	43	9	January, 1989	45	50	5
August, 1999	56	39	5	September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5

QUESTION 6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.US8 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of Barack Obama so far. (First,) does Barack Obama impress you as... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
a.	64	Trustworthy [OR]	76
	30	NOT trustworthy	15
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
b.	78	Warm and friendly [OR]	87
	16	Cold and aloof	8
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
c.	83	A good communicator [OR]	92
	13	NOT a good communicator	6
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	*
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
d.	58	Able to get things done [OR]	70
	31	NOT able to get things done	15
	3	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2
	8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
e.	70	Well informed [OR]	79
	23	NOT well informed	15
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
f.	69	Well organized [OR]	81
	22	NOT well organized	12
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

NO ITEM g

QUS8 CONTINUED...

Sept 10-15			<u>Feb 2009</u>
		<u>2009</u>	
h.	68	Someone who cares about people like me [OR]	81
	25	Someone who doesn't care about people like me	14
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

Sept 10-15			<u>Feb 2009</u>
		<u>2009</u>	
i.	65	A strong leader [OR]	77
	29	NOT a strong leader	13
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

NO ITEM j

Sept 10-15			<u>Feb 2009</u>
		<u>2009</u>	
k.	44	Liberal,	38
	36	Middle of the road [OR]	40
	9	Conservative	13
	2	None particularly (VOL.)	2
	9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

ASK ALL:

Q.US9 Do you think that [READ AND ROTATE]:

Sept 10-15			Mid-April	Feb
		<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>
	63	Barack Obama has a new approach to politics in Washington [OR]	63	66
	30	Barack Obama's approach to politics in Washington is 'business as usual'?	27	25
	7	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	10	9

QUESTIONS US10 AND US11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

H1 How much, if anything, have you heard about the bills in Congress to overhaul the health care system?
[READ]

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	July <u>2009</u>
60	A lot	53	41
34	A little [OR]	40	47
5	Nothing at all	7	10
1	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1	1

ASK ALL:

H2 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

ASK IF H2 =1,2:

H3 Do you (favor/oppose) these health care proposals very strongly, or not so strongly?

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		Aug 20-27 <u>2009</u>	July <u>2009</u>
42	Generally favor	39	38
29	Very strongly	25	--
11	Not so strongly	13	--
2	Don't know (how strongly)	1	--
44	Generally oppose	46	44
34	Very strongly	34	--
10	Not so strongly	12	--
*	Don't know (how strongly)	1	--
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	15	18

QUESTIONS 23 THROUGH 51 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

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

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5, 8 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>DK/</u>	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
September 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	2	13	17
August 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
August 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
July, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2	12	14
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--