

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1999, 4:00 P.M.

**Too Much Hillary News**  
**THIRD PARTY CHANCES LIMITED**

**Also Inside ...**

- \* The Voters' Agenda
- \* Medicare Reforms Worry Seniors
- \* Term Limit Reversal and Guns Matter
- \* Impeachment Anger Eases
- \* Bush War Chest Not an Issue
- \* Much More E-Mail

*FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:*

Andrew Kohut, Director  
Kim Parker, Research Director  
Molly Sonner & Greg Flemming, Survey Directors  
Scott Nolde & Pam Hunter, Survey Analysts  
Beth Donovan, Editor  
Pew Research Center for The People & The Press  
202/293-3126  
<http://www.people-press.org>

## Too Much Hillary News

### **THIRD PARTY CHANCES LIMITED**

The prospects for a third party presidential candidate appear dim. Americans are reasonably satisfied with the existing field of candidates for the 2000 presidential election, and overwhelming numbers say they would not consider voting for outsiders Jesse Ventura or Ross Perot.

Three-in-four people say they would be satisfied with a contest between Texas Governor George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore, both still well ahead of the competition for their party nominations. Dissatisfaction with the field of major party candidates (35%) is comparable to September 1996. This is nowhere near the June 1992 level, when support for an independent candidacy ran very high (61%).

#### **Judging the Field**

|  | June<br><u>1992</u> | July<br><u>1999</u> |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Satisfaction with<br/>Candidates...</i> | %                   | %                   |
| Very Satisfied                             | 6                   | 11                  |
| Fairly Satisfied                           | 31                  | 42                  |
| Not Satisfied                              | 61                  | 35                  |
| Don't know                                 | <u>2</u>            | <u>12</u>           |
|  | 100                 | 100                 |

Two-in-three voters who have heard of Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura say they would not consider voting for him. A comparable number rule out a ballot for two-time third party presidential contender Ross Perot. Far fewer people know of former Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker, and two-thirds of them say there is no chance they would vote for him.

Voters see a Republican-Democrat match-up between Bush and Gore as a substantive choice, with a plurality saying that the two take different positions on the issues. At the same time, no single issue jumps to the top of the public's agenda to drive a third party bid. The top issues voters want the candidates to talk about are health care, Social Security and Medicare, though none is volunteered by even one-in-five people.

In a general election test, Bush continues to lead Gore by 53% to 42%, numbers virtually unchanged over four Pew Research Center surveys dating back to September 1998. Bush has a sizable four-to-one lead over Elizabeth Dole, his nearest competitor for the Republican nomination, and Gore holds a two-to-one lead over his only challenger, Bill Bradley.

Two-thirds of voters (65%) say that a candidate's ability to raise money is not a good measure of his or her ability to get things done. Not surprisingly, then, awareness of Bush's fund raising prowess has no impact on his standing with voters. Bush runs equally well among voters who are aware that he has raised significantly more money than other candidates as he does among those unaware of this.

The new Pew Research Center telephone survey conducted July 13-18, 1999 also finds that while just 15% of Americans are paying very close attention to election news, a solid six-in-ten majority says the media is paying about the right amount of attention to the 2000 presidential campaign. By contrast, 40% say the media is paying *too much* attention to first lady Hillary Clinton's possible Senate campaign. The survey also finds President Clinton's approval rating up a few points to 58%.

***The Voters' Agenda***

The public appears ready to extend the congressional debate concerning the regulation of health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to the presidential campaign. When asked to name the one issue they most want to hear the presidential candidates discuss, nearly one-in-five people mention issues related to health care. An additional 14% cite Social Security; one-in-ten name Medicare.

Americans' interest in Social Security and Medicare is new to their 2000 campaign agenda. One-in-five now mention an interest in hearing presidential candidates speak about one of these entitlement programs, which were absent in earlier years. Also new to the campaign agenda is gun control, now listed by 7% of the public but previously unnamed.

| <b>Issues for the Presidential Candidates to Discuss</b> |                           |                           |                            |                            |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | <u>Oct</u><br><u>1991</u> | <u>Oct</u><br><u>1995</u> | <u>Sept</u><br><u>1996</u> | <u>July</u><br><u>1999</u> |
|  | %                         | %                         | %                          | %                          |
| Health care/Health care regulation                       | 8                         | 20                        | 14                         | 18                         |
| Social Security  | -                         | -                         | -                          | 14                         |
| Medicare   | -                         | -                         | -                          | 11                         |
| Education/Education reform                               | 11                        | 6                         | 11                         | 9                          |
| Cutting taxes/Taxes                                      | 6                         | 8                         | 16                         | 9                          |
| Budget/Debt/Surplus                                      | 8                         | 14                        | 10                         | 8                          |
| Crime/Drugs  | 5                         | 9                         | 6                          | 7                          |
| Gun control  | -                         | -                         | -                          | 7                          |
| Foreign Policy   | -                         | 5                         | 4                          | 6                          |
| The moral crisis in this country                         | -                         | 8                         | 5                          | 6                          |
| The economy  | 43                        | 14                        | 13                         | 4                          |
| Welfare reform   | -                         | 8                         | 12                         | 2                          |

Gone from the public's top-of-the-mind concerns are the economy and welfare reform. Only 4% of the public wants to hear candidates talk about the economy, down from 13% who said so in 1996 and 43% who named economic issues in 1991.

Similarly, only 2% of the public now says they are interested in hearing candidates speak about welfare reform, a drop from 12% who said so in 1996. Americans are also less interested in hearing candidates talk about cutting taxes than they were three years ago. Just 9% name taxes as an issue they'd like to hear about, compared to 16% who said so in 1996.

**Priorities**

Although violent crime is at its lowest point since 1973 and fewer than one-in-ten Americans mention it as an issue candidates should discuss, 76% of the public still considers reducing crime to be a top national priority, when asked to rate a list of issues. Improving education and shoring up Medicare and Social Security are close behind, with almost equal numbers placing these issues at the top of their list of national priorities.<sup>1</sup>

Smaller but still substantial majorities of Americans place top priority on other issues ranging from social justice to taxes. Roughly six-in-ten say that dealing with the problems of the poor and addressing the concerns of families with children should be top priorities. The same number place protecting the environment, regulating health maintenance organizations, and reducing middle class taxes at the top of the national agenda.

Many of the issues emphasized by various elected officials draw only tepid endorsements from the public. Just over a quarter (28%) say that reforming campaign finance laws should be a top priority; support for emphasizing cuts in the capital gains tax is similarly anemic. Limiting access to abortions is a top priority for 26% of Americans, and providing access to the Internet is such for only 11%.

Women place a higher priority on most issues than do men. The greatest difference is on gun control: 62% of women think that this should be a top priority, compared to 39% of men.

| <b>Top Priorities for the Nation</b>                        |            |              |             |
|---|------------|--------------|-------------|
|   | <u>All</u> | <u>Reps.</u> | <u>Dem.</u> |
|   | %          | %            | %           |
| Reducing crime  | 76         | 80           | 77          |
| Improving educational system                                | 74         | 66           | 80          |
| Securing Social Security                                    | 73         | 68           | 77          |
| Securing Medicare   | 71         | 66           | 79          |
| Dealing with problems of poor                               | 60         | 50           | 68          |
| Protecting the environment                                  | 59         | 48           | 66          |
| Dealing with problems of families with children             | 58         | 52           | 66          |
| Regulating HMOs   | 57         | 47           | 65          |
| Reducing middle class taxes                                 | 57         | 60           | 55          |
| Dealing with moral breakdown                                | 55         | 65           | 51          |
| Improving the job situation                                 | 54         | 50           | 64          |
| Strengthening gun control laws                              | 51         | 41           | 65          |
| Working to reduce racial tensions                           | 49         | 35           | 60          |
| Paying off the national debt                                | 45         | 48           | 49          |
| Developing a policy for the use of American military forces | 42         | 42           | 45          |
| Reforming campaign finance                                  | 28         | 32           | 29          |
| Cutting capital gains tax                                   | 28         | 34           | 22          |
| Limiting access to abortions                                | 26         | 32           | 28          |
| Providing Internet access                                   | 11         | 11           | 16          |

<sup>1</sup> The question about issues in the 2000 presidential campaign asks people to say in their own words what they are interested in hearing about. The national priorities questions asks individuals to respond to a list of issues. The open-ended question captures the most salient issue, while the priority rating taps into broader concerns that may not be at the top of an individual's mind.

Fewer young Americans give top priority to bolstering the Social Security system than do older people. Just over half (55%) of those 18-29 say it should be a top priority, compared to 71% of 30-49 year-olds and 85% of those over age 50. Conversely, overwhelming numbers (85%) of young adults cite education as a top national priority, a rating that falls off among older Americans.

While solid majorities of Democrats, Republicans and Independents agree about how much emphasis to place on reducing crime, this consensus breaks down across other issues. For example, Republicans place a somewhat lower priority on dealing with the problems of the poor and needy, regulating HMOs, strengthening gun control laws, and working to reduce racial tensions than do Democrats. Democrats place a lower priority on dealing with moral breakdown and cutting the capital gains tax.

***Current Washington Issues***

Americans continue to prefer spending on specific programs rather than tax cuts when asked what to do with the federal budget surplus. After reserving two-thirds of the surplus for Social Security, 69% of the public wants the remainder spent on specific programs: “education, the environment, health care, crime-fighting and military defense.”

The rhetoric of this debate, however, matters. Strong support for spending the surplus disappears when the alternative is “new federal programs.” The two-thirds who back spending on education, the environment, health care, crime-fighting and military defense drops to a meager 25% for new programs. Instead, support for a tax cut soars to 60%.

| <b>Spending on the Specifics</b>                        |          |
|---|----------|
| <i>Surplus should be used for:</i>                      | <u>%</u> |
| Tax cut   | 22       |
| Education, environment, health care, crime, and defense | 69       |
| Some other purpose (VOL.)                               | 6        |
| Don't know  | <u>3</u> |
|   | 100      |
| Tax cut   | 60       |
| Fund new programs                                       | 25       |
| Some other purpose (VOL.)                               | 11       |
| Don't know  | <u>4</u> |
|   | 100      |

A mere 51% majority of those following the news of Clinton’s Medicare plan favor it; the remainder divide evenly between opposition and no opinion. Democrats support Clinton’s proposal 63%-to-16%, while Republicans divide 38%-to-34% on the issue. Support for changing Medicare is lower among senior citizens than among those under the age of 65 (43% vs. 54%, respectively).

Backing for the specific components of Clinton’s plan varies from a high of 82% for spending part of the budget surplus to make Medicare financially secure to a low of 42% for a cost-of-living increase in the deductible seniors pay.

In general, senior citizens are more reluctant to favor changes to Medicare. For instance, while 59% of those over age 65 support providing low-cost prescription drug coverage to Medicare recipients, 83% of those younger endorse the idea.

Two-thirds of the public supports eliminating the co-payments and deductibles that Medicare recipients pay for preventative services. Just half (51%) of the public backs the proposal to allow those ages 62 to 65 to purchase Medicare coverage. On this, support is again weakest among those age 65 and older (30% support the expansion, compared to 56% of those younger).

Americans of all ages are divided on whether or not to increase the deductible Medicare recipients pay: 42% favor it; 51% oppose this proposal.

A 54%-37% majority of Americans continue to say that the laws should be changed to allow patients to sue their insurance companies when medical treatment is denied or delayed. This opinion changed little over the past year.

Support for the right to sue is particularly strong among those who have followed reports about the American Medical Association's decision to unionize doctors (63%) as well as among Democrats (59%). Support is weaker among Republicans (47%), people living in rural areas (45%) and the less affluent (44%).

***Term Limit Reversal and Guns Matter***

Two issues stand out as potentially powerful themes in the upcoming elections: gun control and term limits. Two-thirds of voters say incumbents who voted *for* gun control should be re-elected. A strong 57% majority says that representatives who did not keep their term-limit pledges should go. And just seven months after the House of Representatives impeached President Clinton, the historic vote appears unlikely to have much bearing on the campaign.

| <b>Clinton's Medicare Proposals</b>                    |            |              |            |
|--|------------|--------------|------------|
|  | <u>All</u> | <u>18-64</u> | <u>65+</u> |
| <i>Spend surplus on Medicare</i>                       | %          | %            | %          |
| Favor  | 82         | 83           | 82         |
| Oppose   | 13         | 13           | 11         |
| Don't know   | <u>5</u>   | <u>4</u>     | <u>7</u>   |
|  | 100        | 100          | 100        |
| <i>Prescription drug coverage</i>                      |            |              |            |
| Favor  | 79         | 83           | 59         |
| Oppose   | 15         | 13           | 29         |
| Don't know   | <u>6</u>   | <u>4</u>     | <u>12</u>  |
|  | 100        | 100          | 100        |
| <i>Eliminate deductibles for preventative services</i> |            |              |            |
| Favor  | 67         | 70           | 51         |
| Oppose   | 27         | 27           | 33         |
| Don't know   | <u>6</u>   | <u>3</u>     | <u>16</u>  |
|  | 100        | 100          | 100        |
| <i>Allow 62-65 year-olds to buy Medicare coverage</i>  |            |              |            |
| Favor  | 51         | 56           | 30         |
| Oppose   | 37         | 34           | 50         |
| Don't know   | <u>12</u>  | <u>10</u>    | <u>20</u>  |
|  | 100        | 100          | 100        |
| <i>Cost-of-living increase in deductible</i>           |            |              |            |
| Favor  | 42         | 44           | 32         |
| Oppose   | 51         | 51           | 52         |
| Don't know   | <u>7</u>   | <u>5</u>     | <u>16</u>  |
|  | 100        | 100          | 100        |

Gun control is the most explosive issue tested in this survey. Among registered voters, 69% say that members who have voted for gun control should be re-elected. This attitude runs especially strong among women: 77%.

Term limits also generate strong feelings among most voters, with the notable exception of those under age 30. A 57% majority of registered voters say that a member of Congress who has pledged to serve three terms and then decides to run for a fourth term should not be re-elected. Just 48% of young voters agree. While men feel more strongly than women that members of Congress should keep their promise, there is little difference among Democrats, Republicans and Independents.

Incumbents who support limiting “soft” money in campaigns may get a boost from such a stance, but the issue won’t hurt those who vote against it. If a member votes to limit the amount of money political parties can raise and spend, 74% of voters say the politician should be re-elected. But, when asked about a member who votes against such a measure, 52% said he or she should be re-elected anyway.

### ***Impeachment Anger Softens***

Majorities favor the re-election of members who voted both for and against impeachment. Support for those who voted *for* impeachment is slightly stronger, with 57% of voters saying these representatives should be re-elected; 52% say the same of members who voted against impeachment.

There are other indications in the survey that criticism of Congress for impeaching Clinton may be softening. A greater number now thinks that the House did the right thing in impeaching him than supported the decision in December (44% vs. 35%). Moreover, a slightly larger number believes that Clinton should have resigned than did so just after the impeachment vote (35% vs. 30%).

| <b>Who Deserves Re-election?</b>           |                    |                       |                |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| <i>Re-elect if Member of Congress...</i>   | <u>Should</u><br>% | <u>Shouldn't</u><br>% | <u>DK</u><br>% |
| Reneged on term limits                     | 36                 | 57                    | 7=100          |
| For gun control                            | 69                 | 25                    | 6=100          |
| Against gun control                        | 35                 | 55                    | 10=100         |
| For limiting amounts parties can raise     | 74                 | 17                    | 9=100          |
| Against limiting amounts parties can raise | 52                 | 36                    | 12=100         |
| For impeachment                            | 57                 | 31                    | 12=100         |
| Against impeachment                        | 52                 | 38                    | 10=100         |

Based on Registered Voters

| <b>Doing the Right Thing</b>                 |                            |                            |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | <u>Dec.</u><br><u>1998</u> | <u>July</u><br><u>1999</u> |
| <i>Percent thinking the right thing was:</i> | %                          | %                          |
| House vote for impeachment                   | 35†                        | 44                         |
| Clinton resignation                          | 30                         | 35                         |

† Princeton Survey Research Associates

Overall, two-thirds of voters want their representative re-elected. But when asked about re-electing most members of Congress, 47% say they should not be sent back to Washington; one-in-four say they should.

Job approval of the Republican leaders in Congress remains low at 36%, and disapproval stands at 45%. While these numbers are basically unchanged over several months, disapproval is particularly strong among older Americans. About half of those over age 50 disapprove of the GOP congressional leaders, compared to slightly more than one-third of those under age 30.

***Presidential Politics***

A significant number of Americans (46%) know that at this point in the cycle, the 2000 presidential candidates have raised more money than previous contenders. Nearly one-in-three (29%) can name George W. Bush as the candidate with the biggest war chest.

Bush campaign’s fund raising success itself, however, is not likely to be helpful with voters. Two-thirds (65%) of them say that a candidate’s ability to raise money is not a good measure of his or her ability to get things done. This opinion is particularly strong among Independents (72%) and those who know of Bush’s large coffers (75%).

Only 14% of the public is able to name a presidential candidate who has been trying to reform the way election campaigns are financed: 3% specifically name John McCain (for whom campaign finance reform is a principal theme); the same number mention Gore; 2% cite Bush.

Among the GOP candidates, George W. Bush continues to be the heavy favorite in the primaries: 60% of registered Republicans say he is their first choice for the nomination, roughly the same as in December 1998. A distant second, Elizabeth Dole garners just 13% of the Republican primary vote. Fewer than one-in-ten registered Republicans support any one of the other GOP hopefuls.

Similarly, little has changed in the race between Al Gore and former New Jersey Senator Bill Bradley for the Democratic nod. Support for the candidates among Democratic voters continues to run better than two-to-one in Gore’s favor — 65% say they would like to see Gore as their nominee for president, compared with 29% who prefer

| <b>The Republican Primary Race</b>              |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
|   | First Choice/<br><u>Lean</u><br>% |
| George W. Bush                                  | 60                                |
| Elizabeth Dole                                  | 13                                |
| Dan Quayle                                      | 9                                 |
| John McCain                                     | 4                                 |
| Patrick Buchanan                                | 4                                 |
| Steve Forbes                                    | 3                                 |
| Gary Bauer                                      | 2                                 |
| Orrin Hatch                                     | 1                                 |
| Lamar Alexander                                 | 1                                 |
| Based on Registered Republicans/Lean Republican |                                   |



Bradley.

Gore leads Bradley in nearly every demographic group, and he does particularly well among African Americans and the less affluent. Bradley’s strongest support among Democrats comes from those who disapprove of Clinton and those who think he should have resigned.

Looking ahead to the general election, Bush performs strongly against both Democratic contenders. Bush continues to lead Gore 53% to 42% in a hypothetical match-up, little changed from his 54%-to-41% advantage in March. Bush bests Bradley by an even wider 57%-to-36% margin.

***Bush-Gore Race Okay***

In general, Americans are satisfied with the current field of presidential contenders. A 53% majority of voters say they are satisfied with the candidates. Contentment is higher among Republicans, 70% of whom say they are satisfied with the likely candidates. Only 45% of Democrats and 47% of Independents share this opinion.

The prospect of a Bush-Gore contest appeals to voters — 76% say they would be satisfied with this match-up. A 46% plurality says this match-up would make them less interested in a third party candidate, although 40% say that a presidential contest between Bush and Gore would make them more interested in a third party candidate.

There is little indication, however, that more conservative members of the GOP might defect if faced with a Bush nomination. Fully 87% of Republicans say they would be satisfied with a contest between Bush and Gore. Among Republicans, exceptions are hard to find. Only 16% of white evangelicals and 28% of Republicans supporting Quayle, Bauer or Buchanan say they would not be satisfied with the selection of candidates in a Bush-Gore contest. By contrast, 47% of Democrats who prefer Bradley over Gore express dissatisfaction with a Bush-Gore match-up, and

|  | <u>Total</u> | <u>Reps.</u> | <u>Dems.</u> | <u>Ind.</u> |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
|  | %            | %            | %            | %           |
| <i>Satisfaction...</i>                   |              |              |              |             |
| Very                                     | 26           | 33           | 28           | 18          |
| Fairly                                   | 50           | 54           | 47           | 49          |
| Not                                      | 22           | 12           | 24           | 30          |
| Don't know                               | <u>2</u>     | <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u>     | <u>3</u>    |
|  | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100         |
| <i>Candidates' positions would be...</i> |              |              |              |             |
| Different                                | 47           | 61           | 42           | 39          |
| Same                                     | 24           | 17           | 29           | 28          |
| Don't know                               | <u>29</u>    | <u>22</u>    | <u>29</u>    | <u>33</u>   |
|  | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100         |
| <i>Third party candidate would be...</i> |              |              |              |             |
| More appealing                           | 40           | 29           | 41           | 53          |
| Less appealing                           | 46           | 57           | 47           | 33          |
| Neither/DK                               | <u>14</u>    | <u>14</u>    | <u>12</u>    | <u>14</u>   |
|  | 100          | 100          | 100          | 100         |

Based on registered voters.

54% say it would make them more interested in a third party candidate.

Moreover, there is relatively little support for any of the third party candidates tested. Neither Jesse Ventura nor Reform Party candidate Ross Perot — both of whom have high name recognition — generate much support among the electorate. Only 13% of those who have heard of Ventura say there is a good chance they would vote for him, and only 11% of those who know Perot would vote for him. Former Connecticut Governor Weicker fares even worse. Fewer than one-in-four registered voters say they have heard of Weicker, of whom only 5% say there is a good chance they would vote for him.

***Kosovo Top News Story***

The situation in Kosovo kept the attention of the public in the aftermath of the air strikes on Yugoslavia. On the domestic front, President Clinton’s proposals to change Medicare garnered modest interest, and slightly more people followed stories about the presidential campaign and Hillary Clinton than did a month ago. Regardless, large numbers complained that the media was giving too much coverage to the first lady’s bid for a Senate seat from New York.

Nearly one-third (32%) are paying very close attention to Kosovo this month, unchanged since May, and 19% are keeping a very close eye on the changes the president is proposing for Medicare. Furthermore, interest in both the presidential campaign and in Hillary Clinton’s Senate bid is increasing somewhat: 21% are paying very close attention to Mrs. Clinton’s possible run and 15% are giving that much attention to the 2000 presidential contest.

While most Americans are paying some attention to these news reports, 40% nonetheless say the media is paying too much

| <b>Potential for Third Party Defection</b> |  |                      |
|--|--|----------------------|
|  | Backers of<br>Quayle, Bauer<br>or Buchanan | Other<br>Republicans |
| <i>Satisfied with<br/>Bush-Gore</i>        | %  | %                    |
| Very                                       | 19   | 32                   |
| Fairly                                     | 52   | 53                   |
| Not  | 28   | 14                   |
| Don't know                                 | <u>1</u>                                   | <u>1</u>             |
|  | 100  | 100                  |
|  | Backers of<br>Bill Bradley                 | Other<br>Democrats   |
| <i>Satisfied with<br/>Bush-Gore</i>        | %  | %                    |
| Very                                       | 8  | 31                   |
| Fairly                                     | 45   | 48                   |
| Not  | 47   | 18                   |
| Don't know                                 | <u>*</u>                                   | <u>3</u>             |
|  | 100  | 100                  |

| <b>Enough Press Coverage?</b>            |           |
|--|-----------|
| <i>2000 presidential<br/>campaign...</i> | %         |
| Too much                                 | 18        |
| Too little                               | 13        |
| Right amount                             | 59        |
| Don't know                               | <u>10</u> |
|  | 100       |
| <i>Hillary Clinton's<br/>campaign...</i> |           |
| Too much                                 | 40        |
| Too little                               | 7         |
| Right amount                             | 45        |
| Don't know                               | <u>8</u>  |
|  | 100       |

attention to Hillary Clinton; 45% say the amount of coverage has been about right. Older men are most likely to consider the coverage too heavy. Coverage of the presidential campaign, however, is considered about right by almost six-in-ten Americans.

Women's World Cup soccer was followed very closely by 18% of Americans, the same share that closely tracked the Mark McGwire/Sammy Sosa home run race last summer and similar to the 1998 NCAA basketball tournament which registered 20%. The soccer tournament garnered more attention than either news about the large budget surplus (13%) or the decision by the American Medical Association to unionize physicians (9%).

### ***More E-mail***

Use of e-mail grew significantly over the past seven months, with the number of users sending or receiving e-mail everyday up 13 percentage points this year to 46%. The number of people going online for news, however, remains virtually unchanged, with 21% saying they get news online everyday, compared to 25% who said so in December.

Communicating online poses a familiar problem: junk mail. More than one-third (36%) of those who use e-mail report receiving a lot of unwanted messages, a majority of which are sales solicitations (72%). Junk e-mail, however, is a frustration for just 15% who say the extra messages make it difficult to get to the mail they want to read.

Despite the influx of junk e-mail, many users rely on the Internet as an important medium for communication. A solid majority (58%) of users say they turn to e-mail for important messages; 41% use it only for routine messages. Fully 67% of Internet users who have been online for at least two years use e-mail for important messages.

Nearly half of all e-mail users (43%) say that communicating online has improved their relationships with family and friends. Only 1% say e-mail has worsened their relationships while 56% say their personal relationships have been unaffected.

| <b>Online Trends</b>        |             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                             | Dec         | July        |
| <b>All Adults</b>           | <u>1998</u> | <u>1999</u> |
| <i>Goes Online ...</i>      | %           | %           |
| Yes                         | 42          | 49          |
| No                          | <u>58</u>   | <u>51</u>   |
|                             | 100         | 100         |
| <b>Online Users</b>         |             |             |
| <i>Gets News Online ...</i> |             |             |
| Everyday                    | 25          | 21          |
| 3-5 days per Week           | 17          | 15          |
| 1-2 days per Week           | 22          | 22          |
| Less Often                  | 28          | 33          |
| Never/Don't Know            | <u>8</u>    | <u>9</u>    |
|                             | 100         | 100         |
| <i>Uses E-mail ...</i>      |             |             |
| Everyday                    | 33          | 46          |
| 3-5 days per Week           | 22          | 17          |
| 1-2 days per Week           | 17          | 14          |
| Less Often                  | 13          | 12          |
| Never/Don't Know            | <u>15</u>   | <u>11</u>   |
|                             | 100         | 100         |

**PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH  
NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"**

|                  | Situation in<br>Kosovo | Reports of<br>Hillary Clinton's<br>Senate Run | Women's<br>World<br>Cup Soccer | Clinton's<br>Medicare<br>Proposals | (N)    |
|------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|
|                  | %                      | %   | %                              | %                                  |        |
| <i>Total</i>     | 32                     | 21  | 18                             | 19                                 | (1200) |
| <i>Sex</i>       |                        |   |                                |                                    |        |
| Male             | 36                     | 19  | 21                             | 17                                 | (582)  |
| Female           | 27                     | 23  | 16                             | 22                                 | (618)  |
| <i>Race</i>      |                        |   |                                |                                    |        |
| White            | 32                     | 20  | 18                             | 19                                 | (965)  |
| Nonwhite         | 30                     | 26  | 19                             | 24                                 | (216)  |
| Black            | 29                     | 30  | 15                             | 28                                 | (145)  |
| <i>Age</i>       |                        |   |                                |                                    |        |
| Under 30         | 26                     | 14  | 19                             | 12                                 | (255)  |
| 30-49            | 30                     | 19  | 18                             | 15                                 | (518)  |
| 50-64            | 35                     | 21  | 20                             | 23                                 | (214)  |
| 65+              | 40                     | 35  | 16                             | 38                                 | (188)  |
| <i>Education</i> |                        |   |                                |                                    |        |
| College Grad.    | 41                     | 29  | 29                             | 22                                 | (361)  |
| Some College     | 28                     | 22  | 17                             | 17                                 | (331)  |
| High School Grad | 29                     | 17  | 16                             | 20                                 | (404)  |
| < H. S. Grad.    | 30                     | 18  | 10                             | 21                                 | (95)   |
| <i>Region</i>    |                        |   |                                |                                    |        |
| East             | 34                     | 26  | 23                             | 19                                 | (219)  |
| Midwest          | 31                     | 20  | 16                             | 19                                 | (306)  |
| South            | 30                     | 19  | 15                             | 21                                 | (454)  |
| West             | 33                     | 21  | 21                             | 18                                 | (221)  |
| <i>Party ID</i>  |                        |   |                                |                                    |        |
| Republican       | 36                     | 20  | 16                             | 18                                 | (347)  |
| Democrat         | 31                     | 25  | 22                             | 24                                 | (396)  |
| Independent      | 31                     | 19  | 17                             | 17                                 | (366)  |

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely.

**Continued...**

**PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH  
NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"**

|                                    | News about Candidates<br>for 2000<br>Presidential Election | Reports of<br>Large<br>Budget Surplus | AMA's<br>Decision to Form<br>Labor Union | (N)    |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--------|
|                                    | %  | %                                     | %  |        |
| <i>Total</i>                       | 15   | 13                                    | 9  | (1200) |
| <i>Sex</i>                         |  |                                       |  |        |
| Male                               | 15   | 15                                    | 9  | (582)  |
| Female                             | 16   | 13                                    | 9  | (618)  |
| <i>Race</i>                        |  |                                       |  |        |
| White                              | 15   | 13                                    | 8  | (965)  |
| Nonwhite                           | 19   | 16                                    | 12                                       | (216)  |
| Black                              | 20   | 16                                    | 15                                       | (145)  |
| <i>Age</i>                         |  |                                       |  |        |
| Under 30                           | 13   | 6                                     | 5  | (255)  |
| 30-49                              | 12   | 10                                    | 8  | (518)  |
| 50-64                              | 15   | 18                                    | 10                                       | (214)  |
| 65+                                | 29   | 29                                    | 16                                       | (188)  |
| <i>Education</i>                   |  |                                       |  |        |
| College Grad.                      | 22   | 20                                    | 12                                       | (361)  |
| Some College                       | 18   | 13                                    | 7  | (331)  |
| High School Grad.<br>< H. S. Grad. | 11   | 12                                    | 9  | (404)  |
|                                    | 13   | 10                                    | 8  | (95)   |
| <i>Region</i>                      |  |                                       |  |        |
| East                               | 13   | 12                                    | 7  | (219)  |
| Midwest                            | 17   | 17                                    | 5  | (306)  |
| South                              | 16   | 12                                    | 11                                       | (454)  |
| West                               | 15   | 15                                    | 12                                       | (221)  |
| <i>Party ID</i>                    |  |                                       |  |        |
| Republican                         | 19   | 14                                    | 8  | (347)  |
| Democrat                           | 17   | 15                                    | 11                                       | (396)  |
| Independent                        | 11   | 12                                    | 7  | (366)  |

## PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEAT

(Based on Registered Voters)

|                      | <u>Gore/<br/>Lean Gore</u> | <u>Bush/<br/>Lean Bush</u> | <u>Don't<br/>Know</u> | <u>Bradley/<br/>Lean Bradley</u> | <u>Bush/<br/>Lean Bush</u> | <u>Don't<br/>Know</u> | <u>(N)</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
|                      | %                          | %                          | %                     | %                                | %                          | %                     |            |
| <b>Total</b>         | 42                         | 53                         | 5=100                 | 36                               | 58                         | 6=100                 | (875)      |
| <b>Sex</b>           |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| Male                 | 37                         | 58                         | 5=100                 | 35                               | 57                         | 8=100                 | (418)      |
| Female               | 46                         | 50                         | 4=100                 | 37                               | 58                         | 5=100                 | (457)      |
| <b>Race</b>          |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| White                | 38                         | 58                         | 4=100                 | 35                               | 60                         | 5=100                 | (727)      |
| Non-white            | 67                         | 25                         | 8=100                 | 47                               | 41                         | 12=100                | (138)      |
| Black                | 73                         | 20                         | 7=100                 | 50                               | 36                         | 14=100                | (99)       |
| <b>Age</b>           |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| Under 30             | 46                         | 47                         | 7=100                 | 29                               | 61                         | 10=100                | (129)      |
| 30-49                | 40                         | 57                         | 3=100                 | 37                               | 58                         | 5=100                 | (384)      |
| 50-64                | 41                         | 55                         | 4=100                 | 42                               | 54                         | 4=100                 | (180)      |
| 65+                  | 43                         | 51                         | 6=100                 | 35                               | 56                         | 9=100                 | (169)      |
| <b>Education</b>     |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| College Grad.        | 43                         | 51                         | 6=100                 | 41                               | 53                         | 6=100                 | (294)      |
| Some College         | 43                         | 53                         | 4=100                 | 39                               | 58                         | 3=100                 | (256)      |
| H.S. Grad            | 38                         | 58                         | 4=100                 | 32                               | 61                         | 7=100                 | (279)      |
| < H.S.               | 45                         | 47                         | 8=100                 | 36                               | 54                         | 10=100                | (44)       |
| <b>Family Income</b> |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| \$75,000+            | 42                         | 55                         | 3=100                 | 36                               | 61                         | 3=100                 | (149)      |
| \$50,000-\$74,999    | 38                         | 59                         | 3=100                 | 38                               | 58                         | 4=100                 | (167)      |
| \$30,000-\$49,999    | 38                         | 58                         | 4=100                 | 31                               | 64                         | 5=100                 | (200)      |
| \$20,000-\$29,999    | 45                         | 51                         | 4=100                 | 40                               | 53                         | 7=100                 | (110)      |
| <\$20,000            | 48                         | 48                         | 4=100                 | 42                               | 53                         | 5=100                 | (110)      |
| <b>Region</b>        |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| East                 | 47                         | 47                         | 6=100                 | 49                               | 47                         | 4=100                 | (158)      |
| Midwest              | 33                         | 61                         | 6=100                 | 28                               | 62                         | 10=100                | (238)      |
| South                | 41                         | 57                         | 2=100                 | 34                               | 61                         | 5=100                 | (321)      |
| West                 | 49                         | 44                         | 7=100                 | 39                               | 54                         | 7=100                 | (158)      |

Question: Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore/Bill Bradley, the Democrat and George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for? As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore/Bradley, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

**Continued...**

**CONTINUED ...**

|                                   | <u>Gore/<br/>Lean Gore</u> | <u>Bush/<br/>Lean Bush</u> | <u>Don't<br/>Know</u> | <u>Bradley/<br/>Lean Bradley</u> | <u>Bush/<br/>Lean Bush</u> | <u>Don't<br/>Know</u> | <u>(N)</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Total</b>                      | 42                         | 53                         | 5=100                 | 36                               | 58                         | 6=100                 | (875)      |
| <b>Religious Affiliation</b>      |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| Total White Protestant            | 33                         | 64                         | 3=100                 | 28                               | 67                         | 5=100                 | (433)      |
| White Prot. Evangelical           | 25                         | 73                         | 2=100                 | 21                               | 76                         | 3=100                 | (230)      |
| White Prot. Non-Evangel.          | 42                         | 54                         | 4=100                 | 37                               | 56                         | 7=100                 | (203)      |
| White Catholic                    | 39                         | 55                         | 6=100                 | 38                               | 57                         | 5=100                 | (171)      |
| <b>Community Size</b>             |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| Large City                        | 51                         | 42                         | 7=100                 | 41                               | 51                         | 8=100                 | (192)      |
| Suburb                            | 41                         | 55                         | 4=100                 | 39                               | 56                         | 5=100                 | (219)      |
| Small City/Town                   | 43                         | 52                         | 5=100                 | 37                               | 56                         | 7=100                 | (282)      |
| Rural Area                        | 30                         | 66                         | 4=100                 | 29                               | 68                         | 3=100                 | (172)      |
| <b>Party ID</b>                   |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| Republican                        | 6                          | 93                         | 1=100                 | 3                                | 95                         | 2=100                 | (272)      |
| Democrat                          | 78                         | 19                         | 3=100                 | 66                               | 29                         | 5=100                 | (313)      |
| Independent                       | 34                         | 58                         | 8=100                 | 36                               | 56                         | 8=100                 | (246)      |
| <b>Clinton Approval</b>           |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| Approve                           | 62                         | 34                         | 4=100                 | 53                               | 41                         | 6=100                 | (505)      |
| Disapprove                        | 8                          | 88                         | 4=100                 | 10                               | 86                         | 4=100                 | (292)      |
| <b>GOP Congressional Approval</b> |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| Approve                           | 20                         | 77                         | 3=100                 | 16                               | 80                         | 4=100                 | (318)      |
| Disapprove                        | 58                         | 37                         | 5=100                 | 52                               | 42                         | 6=100                 | (435)      |
| <b>1996 Presidential Vote</b>     |                            |                            |                       |                                  |                            |                       |            |
| Clinton                           | 68                         | 29                         | 3=100                 | 58                               | 37                         | 5=100                 | (375)      |
| Dole                              | 2                          | 96                         | 2=100                 | 6                                | 93                         | 1=100                 | (168)      |

## **ABOUT THIS SURVEY**

Results for the main survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,200 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period July 13-18, 1999. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=607) or Form 2 (N=593), the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points. For results based on registered voters (N=875), the sampling error is plus or minus 4 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.



## **SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL**

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone numbers in the U.S. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing three or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. The use of replicates also insures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the sample.

At least five attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home." If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who is at home." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 1998). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**JULY 1999 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**JULY 13-18, 1999**  
**N=1,200**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton 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 Bill Clinton is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

|                       | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| July, 1999            | 58             | 31                | 11=100            |
| June, 1999            | 55             | 35                | 10=100            |
| May, 1999             | 56             | 34                | 10=100            |
| April, 1999           | 56             | 38                | 6=100             |
| March, 1999           | 62             | 31                | 7=100             |
| February, 1999        | 64             | 30                | 6=100             |
| Mid-January, 1999     | 66             | 29                | 5=100             |
| January, 1999         | 63             | 30                | 7=100             |
| Late December, 1998   | 71             | 27                | 2=100             |
| Early December, 1998  | 61             | 32                | 7=100             |
| November, 1998        | 65             | 29                | 6=100             |
| September 21-22, 1998 | 62             | 33                | 5=100             |
| September 19-20, 1998 | 55             | 36                | 9=100             |
| Early September, 1998 | 61             | 33                | 6=100             |
| Late August, 1998     | 62             | 32                | 6=100             |
| Early August, 1998    | 63             | 28                | 9=100             |
| June, 1998            | 59             | 32                | 9=100             |
| May, 1998             | 62             | 28                | 10=100            |
| April, 1998           | 62             | 28                | 10=100            |
| March, 1998           | 65             | 26                | 9=100             |
| Early February, 1998  | 71             | 26                | 3=100             |
| January, 1998         | 61             | 30                | 9=100             |
| November, 1997        | 58             | 31                | 11=100            |
| September, 1997       | 58             | 29                | 13=100            |
| August, 1997          | 59             | 32                | 9=100             |
| June, 1997            | 54             | 34                | 12=100            |
| May, 1997             | 57             | 34                | 9=100             |
| April, 1997           | 55             | 34                | 11=100            |
| February, 1997        | 60             | 32                | 8=100             |
| Early February, 1997  | 57             | 30                | 13=100            |
| January, 1997         | 59             | 31                | 10=100            |
| November, 1996        | 57             | 34                | 9=100             |
| July, 1996            | 54             | 38                | 8=100             |
| June, 1996            | 54             | 38                | 8=100             |
| April, 1996           | 53             | 39                | 8=100             |
| March, 1996           | 55             | 38                | 7=100             |
| February, 1996        | 51             | 39                | 10=100            |
| January, 1996         | 50             | 43                | 7=100             |
| October, 1995         | 48             | 42                | 10=100            |
| September, 1995       | 45             | 42                | 13=100            |

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

|                       | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| August, 1995          | 44             | 44                | 12=100            |
| June, 1995            | 50             | 40                | 10=100            |
| April, 1995           | 47             | 43                | 10=100            |
| March, 1995           | 44             | 44                | 12=100            |
| February, 1995        | 44             | 44                | 12=100            |
| December, 1994        | 41             | 47                | 12=100            |
| November, 1994        | 48             | 40                | 12=100            |
| October, 1994         | 41             | 47                | 12=100            |
| Early October, 1994   | 38             | 47                | 15=100            |
| September, 1994       | 41             | 52                | 7=100             |
| July, 1994            | 45             | 46                | 9=100             |
| June, 1994            | 42             | 44                | 14=100            |
| May, 1994             | 46             | 42                | 12=100            |
| March, 1994           | 45             | 42                | 13=100            |
| January, 1994         | 51             | 35                | 14=100            |
| Early January, 1994   | 48             | 35                | 17=100            |
| December, 1993        | 48             | 36                | 16=100            |
| October, 1993         | 44             | 42                | 14=100            |
| September, 1993       | 49             | 35                | 16=100            |
| Early September, 1993 | 43             | 43                | 14=100            |
| August, 1993          | 39             | 46                | 15=100            |
| May, 1993             | 39             | 43                | 18=100            |
| Early May, 1993       | 45             | 37                | 18=100            |
| April, 1993           | 49             | 29                | 22=100            |
| February, 1993        | 56             | 25                | 19=100            |

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

|                       | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| July, 1999            | 36             | 45                | 19=100            |
| June, 1999            | 37             | 46                | 17=100            |
| May, 1999             | 38             | 44                | 18=100            |
| March, 1999           | 38             | 47                | 15=100            |
| February, 1999        | 37             | 51                | 12=100            |
| Mid-January, 1999     | 36             | 51                | 13=100            |
| January, 1999         | 38             | 50                | 12=100            |
| Late December, 1998   | 39             | 56                | 5=100             |
| Early December, 1998  | 38             | 49                | 13=100            |
| November, 1998        | 41             | 48                | 11=100            |
| September 21-22, 1998 | 44             | 44                | 12=100            |
| September 19-20, 1998 | 46             | 41                | 13=100            |
| Early September, 1998 | 44             | 37                | 19=100            |
| Late August, 1998     | 48             | 36                | 16=100            |
| Early August, 1998    | 43             | 37                | 20=100            |
| June, 1998            | 42             | 38                | 20=100            |
| May, 1998             | 40             | 41                | 19=100            |

**Q.2 CONTINUED ...**

|                 | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>Don't Know</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| April, 1998     | 41             | 40                | 19=100            |
| March, 1998     | 43             | 39                | 18=100            |
| January, 1998   | 43             | 41                | 16=100            |
| November, 1997  | 41             | 43                | 16=100            |
| August, 1997    | 42             | 44                | 14=100            |
| June, 1997      | 33             | 50                | 17=100            |
| May, 1997       | 40             | 44                | 16=100            |
| April, 1997     | 40             | 44                | 16=100            |
| February, 1997  | 44             | 42                | 14=100            |
| January, 1997   | 38             | 47                | 15=100            |
| November, 1996  | 40             | 43                | 17=100            |
| July, 1996      | 38             | 48                | 14=100            |
| June, 1996      | 36             | 50                | 14=100            |
| April, 1996     | 39             | 46                | 15=100            |
| March, 1996     | 35             | 51                | 14=100            |
| February, 1996  | 33             | 53                | 14=100            |
| January, 1996   | 36             | 54                | 10=100            |
| October, 1995   | 36             | 51                | 13=100            |
| September, 1995 | 36             | 50                | 14=100            |
| August, 1995    | 38             | 45                | 17=100            |
| June, 1995      | 41             | 45                | 14=100            |
| April, 1995     | 44             | 43                | 13=100            |
| March 1995      | 43             | 39                | 18=100            |
| December, 1994  | 52             | 28                | 20=100            |

Now I would like to ask you about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them....

Q.3 As you may know, the House of Representatives recently voted on a bill to require 24-hour background checks on people buying guns at gun shows. As far as you know, did this bill pass or not?

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 16        | Yes, it did pass   |
| 32        | No, it didn't pass |
| <u>52</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100       |                    |

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:**

Q.4F1 In your opinion, over the past few years have we made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

|           |                    | <u>Feb</u><br><u>1999</u> | <u>May</u><br><u>1997</u> | <u>Dec</u><br><u>1994</u> | <u>Feb</u><br><u>1989</u> |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 59        | Yes                | 61                        | 29                        | 26                        | 15                        |
| 29        | No                 | 29                        | 59                        | 65                        | 77                        |
| <u>12</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>10</u>                 | <u>12</u>                 | <u>9</u>                  | <u>8</u>                  |
| 100       |                    | 100                       | 100                       | 100                       | 100                       |

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:**

Q.5F2 In your opinion, over the past few years have we made significant progress in paying down the national debt, or not?

50 Yes  
 37 No  
13 Don't know/Refused  
 100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS]**

|                                | Very<br><u>Closely</u> | Fairly<br><u>Closely</u> | Not too<br><u>Closely</u> | Not at all<br><u>Closely</u> | DK<br><b>(VOL)</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| a. The situation in Kosovo     | 32                     | 42                       | 16                        | 10                           | *=100              |
| June, 1999 <sup>2</sup>        | 32                     | 42                       | 15                        | 10                           | 1=100              |
| May, 1999                      | 32                     | 38                       | 19                        | 10                           | 1=100              |
| Late April, 1999               | 41                     | 39                       | 13                        | 7                            | *=100              |
| April, 1999                    | 41                     | 37                       | 16                        | 6                            | 0=100              |
| March, 1999 <sup>3</sup>       | 43                     | 32                       | 15                        | 9                            | 1=100              |
| February, 1999 <sup>4</sup>    | 11                     | 30                       | 28                        | 30                           | 1=100              |
| Mid-January, 1999 <sup>5</sup> | 9                      | 21                       | 24                        | 44                           | 2=100              |
| March, 1998 <sup>6</sup>       | 5                      | 12                       | 26                        | 55                           | 2=100              |

**[NO ITEM b]**

|  |    |    |    |    |       |
|--|----|----|----|----|-------|
| c. The American Medical Association's decision to form a labor union for doctors | 9  | 19 | 25 | 46 | 1=100 |
| d. Reports about a surprisingly large federal budget surplus                     | 13 | 28 | 25 | 33 | 1=100 |
| e. President Clinton's proposals to change the Medicare system                   | 19 | 35 | 25 | 20 | 1=100 |
| June, 1997 <sup>7</sup>  | 24 | 27 | 25 | 23 | 1=100 |
| February, 1997   | 20 | 27 | 23 | 28 | 2=100 |
| January, 1996 <sup>8</sup>   | 30 | 36 | 22 | 12 | *=100 |
| September, 1995  | 31 | 40 | 18 | 11 | *=100 |

**Q.6 CONTINUED ...**

Very Fairly Not too Not at all DK

- 
- 2 In April, May and June, 1999, the story was listed as "NATO air strikes against Serbian forces."
- 3 In March, 1999, the story was listed as "NATO air strikes against Serbian forces in Kosovo."
- 4 In February, 1999, the story was listed as "NATO efforts to end ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."
- 5 In Mid-January, 1999, the story was listed as "The massacre of 45 people in Kosovo, Serbia."
- 6 In March, 1998, the story was listed as "Ethnic conflict in Kosovo, Serbia."
- 7 In June and February, 1997, the story was listed as "The debate in Washington about how to reform the Medicare system."
- 8 In January 1996 and September 1995, the story was listed "The debate in Washington over the future of the Medicare system."

|    |  | <u>Closely</u> | <u>Closely</u> | <u>Closely</u> | <u>Closely</u> | <b>(VOL)</b> |
|----|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| f. | Women's World Cup soccer                                   | 18             | 26             | 21             | 35             | *=100        |
| g. | News about candidates for the 2000 presidential election   | 15             | 38             | 24             | 22             | 1=100        |
|    | June, 1999   | 11             | 25             | 29             | 34             | 1=100        |
| h. | Reports that Hillary Clinton might run for the U.S. Senate | 21             | 37             | 26             | 15             | 1=100        |
|    | June, 1999   | 14             | 32             | 31             | 22             | 1=100        |
|    | February, 1999   | 19             | 35             | 24             | 21             | 1=100        |

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:**

N.1F1 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to the 2000 presidential campaign, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

|           |                    | <u>March</u> | <u>Oct</u>  | <u>Sept</u> | <u>Feb</u>  | <u>Oct</u>  | <u>May</u>  | <u>Nov</u>  |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|           |                    | <u>1996</u>  | <u>1995</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1991</u> | <u>1988</u> | <u>1987</u> |
| 18        | Too much           | 29           | 18          | 22          | 19          | 12          | 24          | 21          |
| 13        | Too little         | 10           | 18          | 11          | 15          | 22          | 7           | 16          |
| 59        | Right amount       | 58           | 60          | 62          | 62          | 58          | 62          | 58          |
| <u>10</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>3</u>     | <u>4</u>    | <u>5</u>    | <u>4</u>    | <u>8</u>    | <u>7</u>    | <u>5</u>    |
| 100       |                    | 100          | 100         | 100         | 100         | 100         | 100         | 100         |

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:**

N.2F2 So far, do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage to Hillary Clinton's possible Senate campaign in New York, too little coverage to the campaign, or the right amount of coverage?

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| 40       | Too Much           |
| 7        | Too little         |
| 45       | Right amount       |
| <u>8</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100      |                    |

**ASK ALL:**

P.1 As it's shaping up so far, what's your opinion of the likely presidential candidates for next year? Would you say that you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the likely choices?

-- Registered Voters--

| <u>Total</u> | <u>RVs</u> |                      | <u>Late</u>             | <u>Late</u> | <u>June</u> | <u>Oct</u>  | <u>Aug</u>  | <u>June</u> |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|              |            |                      | <u>Oct</u>              | <u>Sept</u> | <u>1996</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> | <u>1992</u> |
|              |            |                      | <u>1996<sup>9</sup></u> | <u>1996</u> |             |             |             |             |
| 11           | 13         | Very satisfied       | 11                      | 11          | 9           | 10          | 11          | 6           |
| 42           | 40         | Fairly satisfied     | 48                      | 50          | 37          | 41          | 42          | 31          |
| 22           | 25         | Not too satisfied    | 27                      | 26          | 31          | 33          | 31          | 35          |
| 13           | 12         | Not at all satisfied | 11                      | 10          | 19          | 14          | 15          | 26          |
| <u>12</u>    | <u>10</u>  | Don't know/Refused   | <u>3</u>                | <u>3</u>    | <u>4</u>    | <u>2</u>    | <u>1</u>    | <u>2</u>    |
| 100          | 100        |                      | 100                     | 100         | 100         | 100         | 100         | 100         |

(N=875)

<sup>9</sup>

In previous years the question was worded "What's your opinion of the presidential candidates for next year? Would you say that you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the choices?"

**ROTATE Q.7 AND Q.8; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF NAMES:**

On a different subject...

Q.7 Now I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the Republican nomination for President in 2000. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, would you tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican party's candidate for President? **(READ AND ROTATE)**

Q.7a And who would be your SECOND choice? **(READ LIST AGAIN IF NEEDED) — IF RESPONDENT GIVES SECOND CHOICE, SKIP Q.7b.**

Q.7b Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

**BASED ON REGISTERED REPUBLICANS/LEAN REPUBLICAN [N=372]:**

|                             | <u>July<br/>1999</u> | <u>Dec<br/>1998<sup>10</sup></u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dan Quayle                  |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean Quayle    | 9                    | 8                                |
| Second Choice               | 14                   | 15                               |
| George W. Bush              |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean Bush      | 60                   | 57                               |
| Second Choice               | 19                   | 17                               |
| Elizabeth Dole              |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean Dole      | 13                   | N/A                              |
| Second Choice               | 27                   | N/A                              |
| Steve Forbes                |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean Forbes    | 3                    | 9                                |
| Second Choice               | 11                   | 14                               |
| Patrick Buchanan            |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean Buchanan  | 4                    | 5                                |
| Second Choice               | 6                    | 11                               |
| John McCain                 |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean McCain    | 4                    | 4                                |
| Second Choice               | 8                    | 6                                |
| Gary Bauer                  |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean Bauer     | 2                    | 1                                |
| Second Choice               | 2                    | 3                                |
| Lamar Alexander             |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean Alexander | 1                    | 2                                |
| Second Choice               | 2                    | 6                                |
| Orrin Hatch                 |                      |                                  |
| First Choice/Lean Hatch     | 1                    | N/A                              |
| Second Choice               | 4                    | N/A                              |
| None of them (VOL.)         |                      |                                  |
| First Choice                | 1                    | 5                                |
| Second Choice               | 5                    | 15                               |
| Don't know/Refused (VOL.)   |                      |                                  |
| First Choice                | 2                    | 5                                |
| Second Choice               | 2                    | 8                                |

---

<sup>10</sup>

In December 1998, Elizabeth Dole and Orrin Hatch were not included in list of possible candidates; John Kasich was.

Q.8 There are now two candidates for the Democratic nomination for President in 2000, Al Gore and Bill Bradley. Please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic party's candidate for President?

Q.8a Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?

**BASED ON REGISTERED DEMOCRATS/LEAN DEMOCRAT [N=432]:**

65 Al Gore/Lean Gore  
 29 Bill Bradley/Lean Bradley  
 2 None of them (VOL.)  
 4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)  
 100

**ASK ALL:**

**(ROTATE Q.9 AND Q.10)**

Q.9 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

**IF '3' OTHER, '8' DON'T KNOW, OR '9' REFUSED, ASK:**

Q.9a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Gore, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]:**

|     |                 | March<br>1999 <sup>11</sup> | January<br>1999 | Early Sept<br>1998 |
|-----|-----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 42  | Gore/Lean Gore  | 41                          | 44              | 40                 |
| 53  | Bush/Lean Bush  | 54                          | 50              | 53                 |
| 5   | Undecided/Other | 5                           | 6               | 7                  |
| 100 |                 | 100                         | 100             | 100                |

**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Bill Bradley, the Democrat and George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for?

**IF '3' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW/REFUSED, ASK:**

Q.10a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to Bradley, the Democrat or Bush, the Republican?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]:**

36 Bradley/Lean Bradley  
 57 Bush/Lean Bush  
 7 Undecided/Other  
 100

---

<sup>11</sup> In previous months, the question asked: "Suppose the 2000 presidential election were being held TODAY, and the candidates were Al Gore, the Democrat and Texas governor George W. Bush, the Republican. Who would you vote for?"



**ASK ALL:**

- Q.11 Next, I'm going to read you a list of some people who have been in the news lately. Not everyone will have heard of them. For each one that I name, please tell me whether or not you have heard of this person. (First, **(INSERT NAME; ROTATE ITEMS)**, have you heard of this person or not? **(IF YES, ASK Q.12; IF NO, DK, SKIP TO NEXT ITEM.)**)
- Q.12 How much of a chance is there that you would vote for **(INSERT NAME)** if he is a candidate for president in 2000 — is there a good chance, some chance, or no chance?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]**

|    |                |              |              | <i>-- Based on those who have heard --</i> |               |               |               |             |
|----|----------------|--------------|--------------|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
|    |                | Have         | Have not     | DK/  | Good          | Some          | No            | DK/         |
|    |                | <u>Heard</u> | <u>Heard</u> | <u>Ref.</u>                                | <u>Chance</u> | <u>Chance</u> | <u>Chance</u> | <u>Ref.</u> |
| a. | Jesse Ventura  | 79           | 20           | 1=100                                      | 13            | 19            | 67            | 1=100       |
| b. | Lowell Weicker | 24           | 75           | 1=100                                      | 5             | 25            | 66            | 4=100       |
| c. | Ross Perot     | 96           | 4            | *=100                                      | 11            | 19            | 70            | 0=100       |

**ASK ALL:**

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

- Q.13 What one issue would you most like to hear presidential candidates talk about next year? **(OPEN-ENDED; ACCEPT UP TO THREE MENTIONS)**

| July        |  | Sep         | Oct         | Oct         |
|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>1999</u> |  | <u>1996</u> | <u>1995</u> | <u>1991</u> |
| 18          | Health care reform/Health care in general  | 14          | 20          | 8           |
| 14          | Social Security  | -           | -           | -           |
| 11          | Medicare   | -           | -           | -           |
| 9           | Education/Education reform   | 11          | 6           | 11          |
| 9           | Cutting taxes/Taxes  | 16          | 8           | 6           |
| 8           | Balancing the budget/Budget deficit/National debt                                  | 10          | 14          | 8           |
| 7           | Crime/Drugs  | 6           | 9           | 5           |
| 7           | Gun control  | -           | -           | -           |
| 6           | Foreign Policy   | 4           | 5           | -           |
| 6           | The moral crisis in this country   | 5           | 8           | -           |
| 4           | The economy  | 13          | 14          | 43          |
| 2           | Welfare reform   | 12          | 8           | -           |
| 2           | The job situation/Unemployment/Protecting US jobs                                  | 8           | 6           | 15          |
| 1           | Abortion   | 4           | -           | -           |
| 1           | Race relations   | *           | 2           | -           |
| 1           | Reforming/Cleaning up the political system/Term limits/<br>Campaign finance reform | 3           | 4           | -           |
| 10          | Other ( <b>SPECIFY</b> )   | 16          | 10          | 27          |
| 13          | Don't know/Refused   | 6           | 6           | 13          |
| -           | None   | 2           | 3           | -           |

- Q.13a If George W. Bush becomes the Republican candidate for President and Al Gore the Democratic candidate for President, how satisfied would you be with the choices.... very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>RVs</u> |                      |
|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| 26           | 26         | Very satisfied       |
| 50           | 50         | Fairly satisfied     |
| 14           | 15         | Not too satisfied    |
| 7            | 7          | Not at all satisfied |
| <u>3</u>     | <u>2</u>   | Don't know/Refused   |
| 100          | 100        |                      |

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607] [REGISTERED VOTERS N=455]**

Q.13b

F1 What's your impression, do George W. Bush and Al Gore take different positions on the issues or are they pretty similar in their positions on the issues?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>RVs</u> |                    |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| 43           | 47         | Different          |
| 25           | 24         | Same               |
| <u>32</u>    | <u>29</u>  | Don't know/Refused |
| 100          | 100        |                    |

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593] [REGISTERED VOTERS N=420]**

Q.13c

F2 If George W. Bush becomes the Republican candidate for President and Al Gore the Democratic candidate for President, would that make you more interested in seeing a third party candidate run for President or would that make you less interested in seeing a third party candidate run for President?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>RVs</u> |                                       |
|--------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 41           | 40         | More interested                       |
| 45           | 46         | Less interested                       |
| 9            | 10         | Neither ( <b>VOL. — DO NOT READ</b> ) |
| <u>5</u>     | <u>4</u>   | Don't know/Refused                    |
| 100          | 100        |                                       |

**ASK ALL:**

M.1 Do you think a candidate's ability to raise money is a good measure of his or her ability to get things done or don't you think this is a good measure?

| <u>Total</u> | <u>RVs</u> |                    |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|
| 36           | 30         | Good measure       |
| 58           | 65         | Not a good measure |
| <u>6</u>     | <u>5</u>   | Don't know/Refused |
| 100          | 100        |                    |

Q.14 Now a few questions about national issues. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)**)?<sup>12</sup>

| <b>ASK FORM 1 [N=607]</b> |  | <u>Top</u><br><u>Priority</u> | <u>Important</u><br><u>But lower</u><br><u>Priority</u> | <u>Not too</u><br><u>Important</u> | <u>Should</u><br><u>Not be</u><br><u>Done</u> | <u>DK/</u><br><u>Refused</u> |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| a.                        | Improving the job situation  | 54                            | 30  | 10                                 | 3   | 3=100                        |
|                           | January, 1999  | 50                            | 34  | 10                                 | 2   | 4=100                        |
|                           | January, 1998  | 54                            | 32  | 10                                 | 3   | 1=100                        |
|                           | January, 1997  | 66                            | 26  | 5                                  | 2   | 1=100                        |
|                           | December, 1994   | 64                            | 27  | 5                                  | 2   | 2=100                        |
| b.                        | Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans | 57                            | 29  | 7                                  | 4   | 3=100                        |
| c.                        | Cutting the capital gains tax  | 28                            | 42  | 18                                 | 5   | 7=100                        |
|                           | January, 1999  | 24                            | 40  | 18                                 | 5   | 13=100                       |
|                           | January, 1998  | 25                            | 40  | 20                                 | 7   | 8=100                        |
|                           | January, 1997  | 29                            | 38  | 17                                 | 8   | 8=100                        |
|                           | December, 1994   | 27                            | 38  | 16                                 | 7   | 12=100                       |
| d.                        | Reducing crime   | 76                            | 20  | 2                                  | 1   | 1=100                        |
|                           | January, 1999  | 70                            | 24  | 3                                  | 1   | 2 =100                       |
|                           | January, 1998  | 71                            | 25  | 2                                  | 1   | 1=100                        |
|                           | January, 1997  | 70                            | 25  | 3                                  | 2   | *=100                        |
|                           | December, 1994   | 78                            | 17  | 2                                  | 1   | 2=100                        |
| e.                        | Paying off the national debt   | 45                            | 41  | 10                                 | 2   | 2=100                        |
|                           | January, 1999  | 42                            | 43  | 10                                 | 1   | 4=100                        |
|                           | January, 1998  | 46                            | 40  | 9                                  | 3   | 2=100                        |
| f.                        | Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class                               | 57                            | 30  | 8                                  | 4   | 1=100                        |
|                           | January, 1999  | 52                            | 33  | 8                                  | 3   | 4=100                        |
|                           | January, 1998  | 54                            | 33  | 8                                  | 3   | 2=100                        |
|                           | January, 1997  | 42                            | 38  | 10                                 | 8   | 2=100                        |
|                           | December, 1994   | 53                            | 32  | 9                                  | 3   | 3=100                        |
| g.                        | Reforming the campaign finance system  | 28                            | 37  | 23                                 | 7   | 5=100                        |
|                           | January, 1999  | 29                            | 36  | 21                                 | 6   | 8=100                        |
|                           | January, 1998  | 32                            | 34  | 24                                 | 5   | 5=100                        |
|                           | January, 1997  | 31                            | 37  | 23                                 | 5   | 4=100                        |

<sup>12</sup>

In previous surveys the question was worded: "Now a few questions about priorities for President Clinton and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a priority. (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)**)?"

**Q. 14 CONTINUED ...**

|                            |   | <u>Top<br/>Priority</u> | <u>Important<br/>But lower<br/>Priority</u> | <u>Not too<br/>Important</u> | <u>Should<br/>Not be<br/>Done</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Refused</u> |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| h.                         | Dealing with the problems of families with children               | 58                      | 28  | 6                            | 4                                 | 4=100                  |
|                            | January, 1999   | 58                      | 30  | 5                            | 3                                 | 4=100                  |
|                            | January, 1998   | 55                      | 30  | 9                            | 4                                 | 2=100                  |
| i.                         | Strengthening gun control laws                                    | 51                      | 23  | 11                           | 12                                | 3=100                  |
| j.                         | Providing Internet access for everyone who wants or needs it      | 11                      | 22  | 40                           | 22                                | 5=100                  |
| <b>ASK FORM 2 [N=593]:</b> |   |                         |   |                              |                                   |                        |
| k.                         | Improving the educational system                                  | 74                      | 19  | 4                            | 1                                 | 2=100                  |
|                            | January, 1999   | 74                      | 22  | 2                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1998   | 78                      | 17  | 3                            | 2                                 | *=100                  |
|                            | January, 1997   | 75                      | 20  | 3                            | 2                                 | *=100                  |
| l.                         | Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound | 73                      | 23  | 3                            | *                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1999   | 71                      | 24  | 3                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1998   | 71                      | 24  | 4                            | 1                                 | *=100                  |
|                            | January, 1997   | 75                      | 20  | 2                            | 2                                 | 1=100                  |
| m.                         | Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound        | 71                      | 24  | 3                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1999   | 62                      | 33  | 2                            | 1                                 | 2=100                  |
|                            | January, 1998   | 64                      | 31  | 3                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1997   | 64                      | 31  | 3                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
| n.                         | Working to reduce racial tensions                                 | 49                      | 37  | 8                            | 4                                 | 2=100                  |
|                            | January, 1999   | 49                      | 35  | 11                           | 3                                 | 2=100                  |
|                            | January, 1998   | 41                      | 38  | 13                           | 7                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1997   | 50                      | 34  | 9                            | 5                                 | 2=100                  |
| o.                         | Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people                | 60                      | 33  | 5                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1999   | 57                      | 37  | 4                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1998   | 57                      | 34  | 6                            | 2                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1997   | 57                      | 35  | 6                            | 2                                 | *=100                  |
| p.                         | Protecting the environment  | 59                      | 32  | 7                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1999   | 52                      | 39  | 7                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1998   | 53                      | 37  | 8                            | 1                                 | 1=100                  |
|                            | January, 1997   | 54                      | 35  | 8                            | 2                                 | 1=100                  |
| q.                         | Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country                   | 55                      | 28  | 8                            | 5                                 | 4=100                  |
|                            | January, 1999   | 50                      | 31  | 10                           | 5                                 | 4=100                  |
|                            | January, 1998   | 48                      | 31  | 13                           | 6                                 | 2=100                  |
|                            | January, 1997   | 52                      | 29  | 10                           | 6                                 | 3=100                  |

**Q. 14 CONTINUED ...**

|    |  | <u>Top<br/>Priority</u> | <u>Important<br/>But lower<br/>Priority</u> | <u>Not too<br/>Important</u> | <u>Should<br/>Not be<br/>Done</u> | <u>DK/<br/>Refused</u> |
|----|--|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| r. | Developing a policy about the use of American military forces in other countries | 42                      | 34  | 12                           | 8                                 | 4=100                  |
| s. | Limiting access to abortions   | 26                      | 26  | 18                           | 26                                | 4=100                  |

**[NO QUESTION 15]**

**ASK ALL:  
ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.16 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N= 875]:**

|           |                                      | Oct<br>1998 | Sept<br>1998 | March<br>1998 | Jan<br>1998 | Aug<br>1997 | Early<br>Nov<br>1996 | Late<br>Oct<br>1996 | Early<br>Sept<br>1996 | Early<br>Sept<br>1996 | Early<br>Nov<br>1994 | Early<br>Oct<br>1994 | Early<br>Oct<br>1994 | --Gallup--<br>Oct 25-28<br>1990 |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 66        | Yes                                  | 58          | 63           | 63            | 66          | 66          | 60                   | 62                  | 55                    | 62                    | 58                   | 55                   | 49                   | 62                              |
| 23        | No                                   | 20          | 20           | 21            | 23          | 22          | 16                   | 19                  | 17                    | 19                    | 25                   | 30                   | 29                   | 22                              |
| *         | Congressperson is not running (VOL.) | 2           | 1            | 1             | 0           | 0           | 3                    | 2                   | 2                     | 2                     | 1                    | 2                    | 2                    | 2                               |
| <u>11</u> | No opinion                           | <u>20</u>   | <u>16</u>    | <u>15</u>     | <u>11</u>   | <u>12</u>   | <u>21</u>            | <u>17</u>           | <u>26</u>             | <u>17</u>             | <u>16</u>            | <u>13</u>            | <u>20</u>            | <u>14</u>                       |
| 100       |                                      | 100         | 100          | 100           | 100         | 100         | 100                  | 100                 | 100                   | 100                   | 100                  | 100                  | 100                  | 100                             |

Q.17 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]:**

|           |                    | Oct<br>1998 | Sept<br>1998 | March<br>1998 | Jan<br>1998 | Aug<br>1997 | Early<br>Sept<br>1996 | Nov<br>1994 | Late<br>Oct<br>1994 | Early<br>Oct<br>1994 |
|-----------|--------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 41        | Yes                | 39          | 46           | 45            | 44          | 45          | 43                    | 31          | 31                  | 28                   |
| 47        | No                 | 39          | 36           | 41            | 43          | 42          | 43                    | 51          | 56                  | 56                   |
| <u>12</u> | Don't know/Refused | <u>22</u>   | <u>18</u>    | <u>14</u>     | <u>13</u>   | <u>13</u>   | <u>14</u>             | <u>18</u>   | <u>13</u>           | <u>16</u>            |
| 100       |                    | 100         | 100          | 100           | 100         | 100         | 100                   | 100         | 100                 | 100                  |

Q.18 Suppose a member of Congress said he or she would only serve three terms but has now decided to run for a fourth term. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=875]:**

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| 36       | Should be          |
| 57       | Shouldn't be       |
| <u>7</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100      |                    |

**ROTATE Q.19/20, Q.21/22 AND Q.23/24 IN BLOCKS:**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:**

Q.19F1

Suppose a member of Congress voted FOR impeaching and trying President Clinton. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=455]:**

57      Should be  
31      Shouldn't be  
12     Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:**

Q.20F2 Suppose a member of Congress voted AGAINST impeaching and trying President Clinton. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=420]:**

52      Should be  
38      Shouldn't be  
10     Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:**

Q.21F1 Suppose a member of Congress voted AGAINST gun control. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=455]:**

35      Should be  
55      Shouldn't be  
10     Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:**

Q.22F2 Suppose a member of Congress voted FOR gun control. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=420]:**

69      Should be  
25      Shouldn't be  
6      Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK FORM 1 (WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY) ONLY [N=492]:**

Q.23F1 Suppose a member of Congress voted FOR a limit on the amount of money political parties can raise and spend. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=365]:**

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| 74       | Should be          |
| 17       | Shouldn't be       |
| <u>9</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100      |                    |

**ASK FORM 2 (WEDNESDAY THRU SUNDAY) ONLY [N=458]:**

Q.24F2 Suppose a member of Congress voted AGAINST a limit on the amount of money political parties can raise and spend. Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=319]:**

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 52        | Should be          |
| 36        | Shouldn't be       |
| <u>12</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100       |                    |

**[NO QUESTION 25]**

**ASK ALL:**

**NOW, THINKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES AGAIN...**

Q.26 Based on what you've heard or read, have the candidates for president raised more money, less money, or about the same amount as in past presidential elections?

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 46        | More               |
| 5         | Less               |
| 24        | Same               |
| <u>25</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100       |                    |

**IF MORE "1" IN Q.26, ASK [N=579]:**

Q.27 Has any one candidate raised significantly more money than the others?

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 35        | Yes                |
| 3         | No                 |
| <u>62</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100       |                    |

**IF YES (1) IN Q.27, ASK:**

Q.28 Do you happen to know who has raised significantly more money than the others?(**OPEN-END, PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY**)

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 29        | George W. Bush     |
| 1         | Al Gore            |
| 0         | Bill Bradley       |
| 0         | Elizabeth Dole     |
| 0         | John McCain        |
| *         | Steve Forbes       |
| *         | Dan Quayle         |
| 0         | Patrick Buchanan   |
| *         | Other              |
| <u>70</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100       |                    |

**ASK ALL:**

Q.29 Do you happen to know which candidates for president, if any, have been trying to reform the way election campaigns are financed? (**OPEN-END, PROBE FOR CLARITY ONLY. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR THEM. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES**)

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 2         | George W. Bush     |
| 3         | Al Gore            |
| 1         | Bill Bradley       |
| *         | Elizabeth Dole     |
| 3         | John McCain        |
| 1         | Steve Forbes       |
| *         | Dan Quayle         |
| 1         | Patrick Buchanan   |
| 3         | Other              |
| <u>86</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100       |                    |

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT....**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=607]:**

Q.30F1 President Clinton has proposed setting aside approximately two-thirds of an expected budget surplus to fix the Social Security system. What do you think the leaders in Washington should do with the remainder of the surplus? Should the money be used for a tax cut, OR should it be used to fund new government programs?

|          | February          |
|----------|-------------------|
| 60       | <u>1999</u><br>53 |
| 25       | 34                |
| 11       | 9                 |
| <u>4</u> | <u>4</u>          |
| 100      | 100               |



**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=593]:**

Q.31F2 President Clinton has proposed setting aside approximately two-thirds of an expected budget surplus to fix the Social Security system. What do you think the leaders in Washington should do with the remainder of the surplus? Should the money be used for a tax cut, OR should it be spent on programs for education, the environment, health care, crime-fighting and military defense?

|          |  | February<br><u>1999</u> |
|----------|--|-------------------------|
| 22       | Should be used for a tax cut                 | 27                      |
| 69       | Should be spent on programs                  | 65                      |
| 6        | Should be used for some other purpose (VOL.) | 5                       |
| <u>3</u> | Don't know/Refused                           | <u>3</u>                |
| 100      |  | 100                     |

**NO QUESTION 32/32a**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.32b Do you think the laws should be changed to allow patients to sue insurance companies which deny or delay medical treatments, OR do you think this would increase the cost of insurance too much?

|          |                               | September<br><u>1998</u> | Early Aug<br><u>1998</u> |
|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 54       | Laws should be changed        | 57                       | 53                       |
| 37       | Would increase costs too much | 35                       | 35                       |
| <u>9</u> | Don't know/Refused            | <u>8</u>                 | <u>12</u>                |
| 100      |                               | 100                      | 100                      |

**NOW A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICARE...**

**IF FOLLOWING NEWS ABOUT MEDICARE PROPOSALS (1,2,3) IN Q.6e, ASK [N=977]:**

Q.33 Generally, do you favor or oppose President Clinton's plan to change the Medicare system?

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 51        | Favor              |
| 24        | Oppose             |
| <u>25</u> | Don't know/Refused |
| 100       |                    |

**ASK ALL:**

Q.34 President Clinton has proposed a number of specific changes to the Medicare system. As I read each proposal, please tell me whether you favor or oppose it. How about (INSERT ITEM), do you favor or oppose this proposal? (READ AND ROTATE ITEMS)

|    |  | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | DK<br><u>(VOL.)</u> |
|----|--|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| a. | Allowing Medicare recipients to buy prescription drug coverage for \$24 a month  | 79           | 15            | 6=100               |
| b. | Increasing the deductible that patients pay for doctor visits by the cost of living                                    | 42           | 51            | 7=100               |
| c. | Eliminating co-payments and deductibles for preventative services, such as pelvic exams and prostate cancer screenings | 67           | 27            | 6=100               |

**Q. 34 CONTINUED ...**

|   | <u>Favor</u> | <u>Oppose</u> | (VOL.)<br><u>DK</u> |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------------|
| d. Allowing those age 62-65 to now purchase Medicare benefits for \$300 per month | 51           | 37            | 12=100              |
| e. Using part of the projected budget surplus to make Medicare financially secure | 82           | 13            | 5=100               |

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.35 Do you use a computer at your workplace, at school, or at home on at least an occasional basis?

|                       | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Don't know</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| July, 1999            | 68         | 32        | *=100             |
| June, 1999            | 64         | 35        | 1=100             |
| May, 1999             | 66         | 33        | 1=100             |
| April, 1999           | 71         | 29        | *=100             |
| March, 1999           | 68         | 32        | *=100             |
| February, 1999        | 68         | 32        | *=100             |
| January, 1999         | 69         | 31        | *=100             |
| Early December, 1998  | 64         | 36        | *=100             |
| Early September, 1998 | 64         | 36        | *=100             |
| Early August, 1998    | 66         | 34        | *=100             |
| April, 1998           | 61         | 39        | *=100             |
| January, 1998         | 65         | 35        | *=100             |
| November, 1997        | 66         | 34        | *=100             |
| June, 1997            | 60         | 40        | 0=100             |
| Early September, 1996 | 56         | 44        | *=100             |
| July, 1996            | 56         | 44        | *=100             |
| April, 1996           | 58         | 42        | *=100             |
| March, 1996           | 61         | 39        | *=100             |
| February, 1996        | 60         | 40        | 0=100             |
| January, 1996         | 59         | 41        | 0=100             |

**IF YES (USE A COMPUTER) IN Q.35, ASK:**

Q.36 Do you ever go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email?

**BASED ON TOTAL RESPONDENTS:**

|                             | <u>June 1999</u> | <u>May 1999</u> | <u>April 1999</u> | <u>March 1999</u> | <u>Feb 1999</u> | <u>Jan 1999</u> | <u>Dec 1998</u> | <u>Nov 1998</u> | <u>Sept 1998</u> | <u>Aug 1998</u> | <u>Nov 1997</u> | <u>July 1996</u> | <u>June 1995</u> <sup>13</sup> |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 49 Goes online              | 50               | 48              | 51                | 49                | 49              | 47              | 42              | 37              | 42               | 43              | 36              | 23               | 14                             |
| 51 Does not go online       | 50               | 52              | 49                | 51                | 51              | 53              | 58              | 63              | 58               | 57              | 63              | 77               | 86                             |
| <u>0</u> Don't know/Refused | <u>*</u>         | <u>0</u>        | <u>*</u>          | <u>*</u>          | <u>*</u>        | <u>*</u>        | <u>0</u>        | <u>*</u>        | <u>*</u>         | <u>*</u>        | <u>1</u>        | <u>0</u>         | <u>*</u>                       |
| 100                         | 100              | 100             | 100               | 100               | 100             | 100             | 100             | 100             | 100              | 100             | 100             | 100              | 100                            |

13

The 1995 figure combines responses from two separate questions:

(1) Do you or anyone in your household ever use a modem to connect to any computer bulletin boards, information services such as CompuServe or Prodigy, or other computers at other locations? (IF YES, PROBE: Is that you, someone else or both?)

(2) Do you, yourself, ever use a computer at (work) (school) (work or school) to connect with computer bulletin boards, information services such as America Online or Prodigy, or other computers over the Internet?

**IF YES (GO ONLINE) IN Q.36, ASK [N=643]:**

Q.37 When did you first start going online, was it within the last 6 months, a year ago, two or three years ago, or more than three years ago?

|          |                       | Dec<br><u>1998</u> | Oct<br><u>1996</u> |
|----------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 17       | Within last 6 months  | 20                 | 26                 |
| 23       | 1 year ago            | 26                 | 38                 |
| 32       | 2-3 years ago         | 34                 | 24                 |
| 28       | More than 3 years ago | 19                 | 12                 |
| <u>*</u> | Don't know/Refused    | <u>1</u>           | <u>*</u>           |
| 100      |                       | 100                | 100                |

Q.38 How frequently do you go online to get NEWS... would you say every day, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, or less often?

|          |                      | June<br><u>1999</u> | Dec<br><u>1998</u> | Nov<br><u>1998</u> | April<br><u>1998</u> | June<br><u>1995</u> |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 21       | Everyday             | 22                  | 25                 | 10                 | 18                   | 6                   |
| 15       | 3-5 days per week    | 18                  | 17                 | 11                 | 17                   | 9                   |
| 22       | 1-2 days per week    | 22                  | 22                 | 16                 | 20                   | 15                  |
| 14       | Once every few weeks | 14                  | 10                 | 13                 | 15                   | 13                  |
| 19       | Less often           | 18                  | 18                 | 20                 | 21                   | 28                  |
| 9        | No/Never (VOL.)      | 7                   | 8                  | 30                 | 9                    | 29                  |
| <u>0</u> | Don't know/Refused   | <u>0</u>            | <u>*</u>           | <u>*</u>           | <u>*</u>             | <u>*</u>            |
| 100      |                      | 100                 | 100                | 100                | 100                  | 100                 |

Q.39 Do you ever send or receive e-mail or electronic mail? (IF YES, ASK: Is this everyday, 3 to 5 days per week, 1 or 2 days per week, once every few weeks, or less often?)

|          |                      | Dec<br><u>1998</u> | Oct<br><u>1996</u> | June<br><u>1995</u> |
|----------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 46       | Everyday             | 33                 | 26                 | 23                  |
| 17       | 3-5 days per week    | 22                 | 19                 | 15                  |
| 14       | 1-2 days per week    | 17                 | 19                 | 15                  |
| 8        | Once every few weeks | 9                  | 13                 | 12                  |
| 4        | Less often           | 4                  | 6                  | 7                   |
| 11       | No/never             | 15                 | 17                 | 28                  |
| <u>*</u> | Don't know/Refused   | <u>*</u>           | <u>0</u>           | <u>*</u>            |
| 100      |                      | 100                | 100                | 100                 |

**IF YES (USE E-MAIL) IN Q.39 ASK [N=574]:**

Q.39a Do you only use e-mail for routine messages, or do you also use it for more important messages?

|          |                        |
|----------|------------------------|
| 41       | Routine messages only  |
| 58       | Important messages too |
| <u>1</u> | Don't know/Refused     |
| 100      |                        |

Q.40 Do you get a lot of unwanted e-mail messages, or isn't this a problem for you?

36 Get a lot of unwanted e-mail  
64 Not a problem -- **GO TO Q.42**  
0 Don't know/Refused -- **GO TO Q.42**  
100

**IF GET A LOT OF JUNK E-MAIL (1) IN Q.40 ASK [N=204]:**

Q.40a Are the unwanted e-mail messages sales solicitations, listserv messages, or e-mails from other people?

72 Sales solicitations  
9 Listserv messages  
18 E-mails from other people  
1 Don't know/Refused  
100

Q.41 Do you get so many unwanted e-mail messages that it's hard to get to the ones you want to read, or not?

40 Yes  
59 No  
1 Don't know/Refused  
100

**IF YES (USE E-MAIL) IN Q.39 ASK [N=574]:**

Q.42 All in all, has having e-mail improved your relationships with your family and friends, worsened your relationships with them, or hasn't it affected your relationships with them?

43 Improved relationships  
1 Worsened relationships  
56 Hasn't affected relationships  
\* Don't know/Refused  
100

**ASK ALL:**

**ON ANOTHER SUBJECT...**

Q.43 Looking back, do you think Bill Clinton made the right decision to remain in office during the investigation into his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, OR do you think Clinton should have resigned?

60 Made right decision to remain in office  
35 Clinton should have resigned  
5 Don't know/Refused  
100

Q.44 Do you think the House of Representatives made the right decision to impeach Bill Clinton, OR do you think the House should not have impeached Clinton?

44 Made right decision to impeach Clinton  
51 Should not have impeached Clinton  
5 Don't know/Refused  
100