



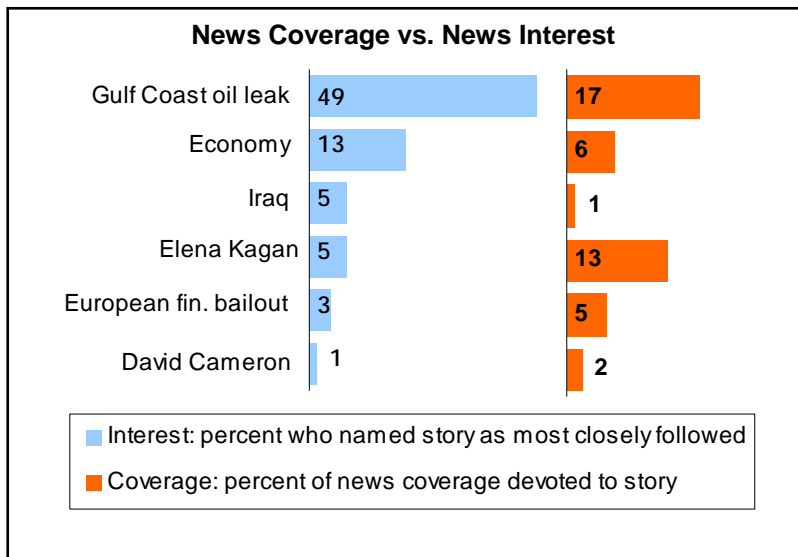
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Few Want Media to Focus on Court Nominees' Personal Lives
GULF OIL LEAK DOMINATES PUBLIC'S NEWS INTERESTS

As oil from an undersea well continued to flow into the Gulf of Mexico last week, Americans tracked the worsening environmental disaster much more closely than any other major news story.

About half (49%) say this was the story they followed most closely. Press coverage was divided between the oil leak (17% of coverage) and Elena Kagan's nomination to the Supreme Court (13%); just 5% of the public cited Kagan's nomination as their top story of the week.



The latest News Interest Index survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted May 13-16 among 1,002 adults, finds that the public wants the news media to give a lot of attention to a Supreme Court nominee's professional background (65%), education (61%) and views on issues that might come before the court (61%). By contrast, just 19% say the news media should focus a lot of attention on a nominee's religion while 17% say the media should focus a lot on a nominee's personal life and family.

Public Wants Media Focus on Nominee's Credentials

Media should give "a lot" of attention to nominee's...	%
Professional background	65
Views on issues that may come before the court	61
Educational background	61
Involvement in politics	50
Writings and speeches	45
Religion and religious beliefs	19
Personal life and family	17

Pew Research Center May 13-16
Q10a-g.

Interest in Kagan Nomination

About two-in-ten (22%) say they followed news about Elena Kagan's nomination very closely, putting interest in the range of other recent Supreme Court nominations. Slightly more (29%) said they followed Sotomayor's nomination very closely last year (May 29-June 1); 21% said they followed Samuel Alito's nomination very closely in November 2005 and 22% said they followed the nomination of Harriet Miers very closely one month earlier. Miers' nomination was withdrawn after questions were raised about her qualifications for the post.

There has been somewhat less coverage initially for Kagan than there was for Sotomayor. According to an analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism (PEJ), news about Sotomayor accounted for 24% of the news hole shortly after Obama announced her nomination to the Supreme Court last May; news about Kagan last week accounted for 13% of all news coverage, according to PEJ.

Most Have Learned Little or Nothing about Kagan

	Sotomayor	Kagan
<i>Learned about nominee...</i>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
	%	%
A lot	18	13
Some	33	28
Just a little	24	27
Nothing at all	25	30
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100
<i>Press coverage has been...</i>		
Too critical	17	11
Not critical enough	20	18
Fair	45	41
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>30</u>
	100	100

Pew Research Center May 13-16 Q9&8.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

And somewhat fewer say they have learned at least some about Kagan (41% a lot or some) than said that about Sotomayor a year ago (51% a lot or some). More than half (57%) say they have heard either just a little about Kagan (27%) or nothing at all (30%). That compares with 49% who heard little or nothing about Sotomayor last year.

About four-in-ten (41%) say press coverage of Kagan has been fair, while 18% say it has not been critical enough and 11% say it has been too critical; a relatively large minority (30%) offered no opinion of the coverage. A year ago, about as many (45%) said coverage of Sotomayor was fair, while fewer (17%) expressed no opinion.

As expected, there are wide partisan differences in opinions about coverage of Kagan. Most Democrats (54%) say the coverage has been fair, while 15% say it has been too critical and just 8% say it has not been critical enough. Among Republicans, about as many say the press has not been critical enough of Kagan (30%) as say it has been fair (31%). A plurality of independents (40%) say the coverage has been fair while 20% say it has not been critical enough.

Pluralities of both men and women say the press has treated Kagan fairly, but men are more likely to say the press has not been sufficiently critical of her (23%) than are women (13%).

A majority of those who oppose Kagan’s confirmation (53%) say the press has not been sufficiently critical of her, a view shared by just 7% of those who support her joining the Supreme Court. Those who favor her appointment are far more likely to say the press has been fair (64% vs. 35%) or too critical (21% vs. 6%).

The Pew Research Center/National Journal *Congressional Connection Poll*, sponsored by SHRM, found that 33% favor Kagan’s nomination to the Supreme Court, 21% are opposed, while nearly half (46%) have no opinion. Initial reactions to Sotomayor’s confirmation were much more positive: In June 2009, 50% favored her confirmation, 25% were opposed while 25% had no opinion. (See [Public’s Priorities, Financial Regs](#), May 18, 2010.)

How Has the Press Treated Kagan?				
	<u>Too</u> <u>critical</u> %	<u>Not</u> <u>critical</u> <u>enough</u> %	<u>Fair</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	11	18	41	30=100
Men	9	23	43	25=100
Women	12	13	39	36=100
Republican	10	30	31	29=100
Democrat	15	8	54	24=100
Independent	8	20	40	32=100
<i>Senate should:</i>				
Confirm Kagan	21	7	64	9=100
Not confirm Kagan	6	53	35	6=100
Pew Research Center May 13-16 Q8. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.				

Public Wants Media to Focus on Credentials, Not Personal Lives

Sizeable majorities say the press should pay a lot of attention to a nominee's professional background (65%), views on issues that may come before the court (61%) and educational background (61%).

Many also say a nominee's involvement in politics (50%) and writings and speeches (45%) deserve a lot of attention. Far fewer say the same about a nominee's religion and religious views (19%) or personal life and family (17%).

Most Say News Media Should Give Little or No Attention to Court Nominee's Personal Life				
<i>How much attention should media give to nominee's...</i>	<u>A lot</u> %	<u>Some</u> %	<u>Little/None</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Professional background	65	25	9	2=100
Views on issues that may come before the court	61	25	10	4=100
Educational background	61	28	9	2=100
Involvement in politics	50	32	14	3=100
Writings and speeches	45	35	16	4=100
Religion and religious beliefs	19	25	54	2=100
Personal life and family	17	28	53	2=100

Pew Research Center May 13-16 Q10a-g.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

More than half (54%) say that a nominee's religion or religious beliefs should receive just a little attention from the news media (20%) or no attention at all (34%). Similarly, most (53%) say a nominee's personal life and family should get little (24%) or no attention (29%).

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say that many of the characteristics of court nominees warrant a lot of attention, though partisans are about equally likely to say a lot of coverage should be devoted to writings and speeches and personal life and family. In addition, those who do not want Kagan confirmed are more likely than those who support her confirmation to say most of these issues should get a lot of press attention.

The Week's News

The percentage of Americans who say they followed news about the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico very closely has grown sharply – along with the scope and potential impact of the crisis – since the initial explosion on an off-shore oil rig on April 20 that left 11 dead.

Increasing Interest in Gulf Oil Leak					
	<u>April 23-26</u>	<u>April 30-May 3</u>	<u>May 7-10</u>	<u>May 13-16</u>	<u>Change*</u>
<i>Following leak...</i>	%	%	%	%	
Very closely	21	44	46	58	+37
Less closely	80	56	54	42	-38
Don't know	*	*	*	*	
	100	100	100	100	

Pew Research Center May 13-16 Q5b.
* Change from April 23-26 to May 13-16.

About six-in-ten (58%) say they followed this story very closely last week, up from 46% one week earlier. The week of April 23-26, about two-in-ten (21%) said they followed news about the initial rig explosion very closely. Interest is high across demographic and political groups.

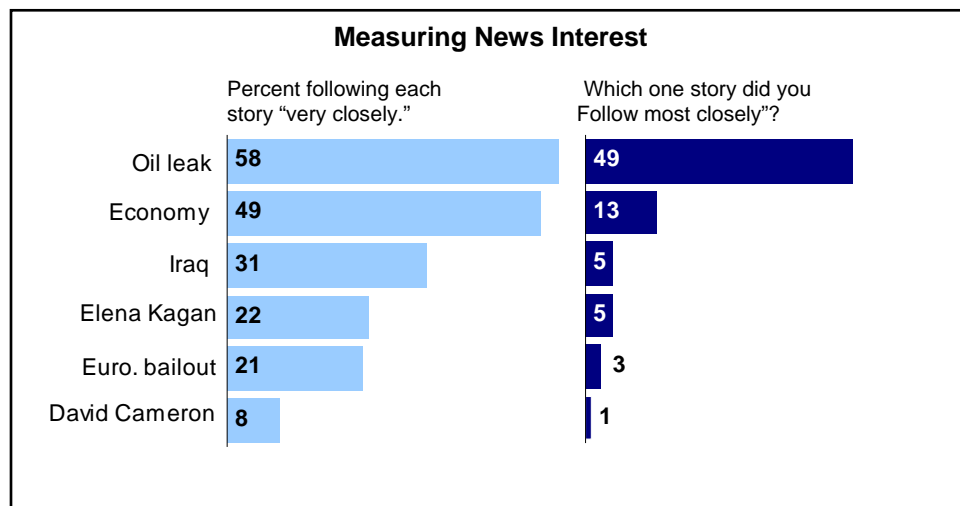
About half of the public (49%) say this was the story they followed most closely. News about the leak and the crisis in the gulf made up 17% of the newshole, according to PEJ. The story has been among the top five in terms of coverage for the last four weeks.

Fully 49% say they followed news about the economy very closely last week, while 13% say this was the news they followed most closely. According to PEJ, news about the economy accounted for 6% of coverage, not including news about the European financial bailout.

About three-in-ten (31%) say they very closely followed news about the current situation and events in Iraq; 5% say this was the news they followed most closely. News about Iraq accounted for 1% of the newshole.

About two-in-ten (21%) say they very closely followed news about the European financial bailout, just about matching the 22% that say they followed Kagan’s nomination very closely. Just 3% say the European bailout was the news they followed most closely; this story made up 5% of coverage.

Fewer than one-in-ten (8%) say they very closely followed news about David Cameron, leader of Great Britain’s Conservative Party, becoming the nation’s prime minister; 1% say this was the story they followed most closely. News about the change in power in Britain accounted for 2% of the newshole.



These findings are based on the most recent installment of the weekly News Interest Index, an ongoing project of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The index, building on the Center's longstanding research into public attentiveness to major news stories, examines news interest as it relates to the news media's coverage. The weekly survey is conducted in conjunction with The Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, which monitors the news reported by major newspaper, television, radio and online news outlets on an ongoing basis. In the most recent week, data relating to news coverage were collected May 10-16, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected May 13-16, from a nationally representative sample of 1,002 adults.

About the News Interest Index

The *News Interest Index* is a weekly survey conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press aimed at gauging the public's interest in and reaction to major news events. This project has been undertaken in conjunction with the Project for Excellence in Journalism's *News Coverage Index*, an ongoing content analysis of the news. The News Coverage Index catalogues the news from top news organizations across five major sectors of the media: newspapers, network television, cable television, radio and the internet. Each week (from Monday through Sunday) PEJ compiles this data to identify the top stories for the week. (For more information about the Project for Excellence in Journalism's News Coverage Index, go to www.journalism.org.) The News Interest Index survey collects data from Friday through Monday to gauge public interest in the most covered stories of the week.

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 1,002 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from May 13-16, 2010 (670 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 332 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 117 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,002	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	277	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	305	7.0 percentage points
Independents	334	6.5 percentage points

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

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

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

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

Andrew Kohut, Director, Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research,
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors, Michael Remez, Senior Writer
Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf, Leah Christian, Jocelyn Kiley and Alec Tyson, Research Associates
Jacob Poushter, Research Analyst

For more information about the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index, go to www.people-press.org.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
May 13-16, 2010 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,002

PEW.1-PEW.4 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

PEW.5 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
May 13-16, 2010	49	32	11	8	1
May 7-10, 2010	42	34	11	12	*
April 30-May 3, 2010	32	37	17	14	1
April 23-26, 2010	42	31	13	14	*
April 16-19, 2010	40	32	14	14	0
April 9-12, 2010	40	32	15	13	*
April 1-5, 2010	33	34	14	19	*
March 19-22, 2010	41	32	14	13	*
March 12-15, 2010	41	35	12	12	*
March 5-8, 2010	40	34	12	13	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	31	33	17	19	*
February 19-22, 2010	38	34	15	12	*
February 12-15, 2010	35	34	15	16	*
February 5-8, 2010	43	36	13	9	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	45	32	13	10	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	34	14	10	*
January 15-18, 2010	37	38	14	11	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	33	15	12	*
December 18-21, 2009	45	31	14	10	0
December 11-14, 2009	42	31	14	13	*
December 4-7, 2009	41	36	13	9	1
November 13-16, 2009	38	33	14	15	*
October 30-November 2, 2009	34	32	17	16	*
October 23-26, 2009	44	30	15	10	1
October 9-12, 2009	41	29	16	13	*
October 2-5, 2009	44	30	15	11	0
September 25-28, 2009	44	37	10	10	*
September 18-21, 2009	44	34	15	7	*
September 11-14, 2009	45	32	14	9	*
September 3-6, 2009	41	31	15	13	*
August 28-31, 2009	45	30	13	12	1
August 21-24, 2009	50	27	13	10	1
August 14-17, 2009	41	37	11	12	*
August 7-10, 2009	42	34	13	10	*
July 31-August 3, 2009	46	34	11	8	*
July 24-27, 2009	45	35	12	8	*
July 17-20, 2009	43	35	11	11	1
July 10-13, 2009	37	38	13	11	*
July 2-5, 2009	38	35	15	12	*
June 19-22, 2009	42	33	15	10	*
June 12-15, 2009	41	35	12	12	*

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
June 5-8, 2009	41	34	11	14	*
May 29-June 1, 2009	43	37	11	8	*
May 21-24, 2009	44	35	13	9	*
May 15-18, 2009	44	35	12	8	*
May 8-11, 2009	42	34	12	12	*
May 1-4, 2009	47	36	11	5	1
April 17-20, 2009	52	30	10	7	1
April 9-13, 2009	48	29	13	10	0
March 27-30, 2009	48	32	10	10	*
March 20-23, 2009	52	34	8	6	*
March 13-16, 2009	48	33	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	56	30	8	6	*
February 13-16, 2009	55	29	10	6	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	52	31	12	5	*
January 23-26, 2009	57	30	8	5	0
January 16-19, 2009	43	35	13	9	*
January 2-4, 2009	42	36	15	7	*
December 12-15, 2008	51	33	9	7	*
December 5-8, 2008	42	38	13	7	*
November 21-24, 2008	59	24	9	8	*
November 14-17, 2008	56	29	9	6	*
November 7-10, 2008	54	31	8	7	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	63	27	6	4	*
October 24-27, 2008	52	35	7	5	1
October 17-20, 2008	62	29	6	3	*
October 10-13, 2008	65	25	7	3	*
October 3-6, 2008	69	23	5	3	*
September 26-29, 2008	70	22	5	3	*
September 19-22, 2008	56	27	12	5	*
September 5-8, 2008	44	33	16	7	*
August 29-31, 2008	41	34	13	11	1
August 15-18, 2008	39	36	15	10	*
August 8-11, 2008	39	35	16	10	*
August 1-4, 2008	47	34	11	8	0
July 25-28, 2008	46	32	10	12	*
July 18-21, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
July 11-14, 2008	44	33	12	10	1
June 27-30, 2008	49	31	12	7	1
June 13-16, 2008	42	33	14	11	*
May 9-12, 2008	45	31	13	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	43	31	15	10	1
April 18-21, 2008	41	35	13	10	1
April 4-7, 2008	39	37	12	12	*
March 28-31, 2008	42	36	14	8	*
March 20-24, 2008	45	33	13	9	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	38	35	15	11	1
February 15-18, 2008	37	36	11	16	8
February 1-4, 2008	40	37	14	8	1
January 18-21, 2008	42	31	16	11	*
January 11-14, 2008	36	32	15	16	1
November 2-5, 2007	27	37	16	19	1
October 19-22, 2007	25	34	20	21	*
August 10-13, 2007	28	36	18	18	*

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
Mid-November, 2006	31	40	17	11	1
December, 2005	35	35	18	11	1
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1

b. An oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the coast of several states

May 13-16, 2010	58	29	9	4	*
May 7-10, 2010	46	33	11	10	*

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
April 30-May 3, 2010: <i>Oil leaking into the ocean near the Louisiana coast after an off-shore oil rig explosion</i>	44	35	11	10	*
April 23-26, 2010: <i>An explosion on an off-shore oil rig near the coast of Louisiana</i>	21	35	22	23	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 1-5, 2010: <i>President Obama's proposal to allow offshore oil and gas drilling</i>	20	24	21	33	1
July 25-28, 2008: <i>A major oil spill into the Mississippi River</i>	14	19	25	41	1
December 4-8, 2002: <i>The large oil spill polluting the coast of Spain</i>	15	29	28	27	1
May 4-7, 1989: <i>The Alaska oil spill</i>	52	37	7	4	--
c. The current situation and events in Iraq					
May 13-16, 2010	31	34	21	13	2
March 12-15, 2010	22	36	28	14	*
March 5-8, 2010	26	34	20	20	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	23	33	27	17	*
January 15-18, 2010	20	35	28	17	*
October 16-19, 2009	23	30	24	23	*
September 11-14, 2009	21	33	30	16	*
August 21-24, 2009	25	35	22	18	1
August 14-17, 2009	19	38	23	18	*
TREND FOR COMPARISON¹:					
July 2-5, 2009	25	34	20	21	0
April 24-27, 2009	21	35	25	19	*
March 20-23, 2009	25	37	21	17	*
February 27-March 2, 2009	40	37	13	9	1
December 12-15, 2008	24	35	25	16	*
November 21-24, 2008	32	31	24	13	0
November 14-17, 2008	24	33	27	16	*
October 31-November 3, 2008	30	35	22	12	1
October 24-27, 2008	29	35	25	11	*
October 10-13, 2008	23	34	30	13	*
October 3-6, 2008	29	33	28	10	*
September 5-8, 2008	24	37	26	13	*
August 29-31, 2008	22	32	29	16	1
August 22-25, 2008	26	31	27	15	1
August 1-4, 2008	27	40	23	10	*
July 25-28, 2008	28	33	22	17	*
July 18-21, 2008	33	35	20	12	*
July 11-14, 2008	24	35	24	16	1
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	25	15	*
June 20-23, 2008	25	36	24	15	*

¹ July 2-5, 2009 asked about: "U.S. troops withdrawing from Iraqi cities." February 27-March 2, 2009 asked about "Barack Obama's plan to withdraw most U.S. troops from Iraq by August 2010." From March 20-23, 2009 to April 24-27, 2009 and from March 30-April 2, 2007 through December 12-15, 2008 the story was listed as "The current situation and events in Iraq." From May, 2003 to March 23-26, 2007, the story was listed as "News about the current situation in Iraq." From March 20-24, 2003 to April 11-16, 2003, the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq." From Early October, 2002, to March 13-16, 2003, the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq." In Early September, 2002, the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
May 9-12, 2008	29	35	21	14	1
May 2-5, 2008	26	35	25	13	1
April 25-28, 2008	29	35	23	12	1
April 18-21, 2008	29	39	20	11	1
April 11-14, 2008	25	39	20	15	1
April 4-7, 2008	25	37	23	15	*
March 28-31, 2008	29	40	19	11	1
March 20-24, 2008	30	38	19	13	*
March 14-17, 2008	29	38	23	10	*
March 7-10, 2008	28	39	18	15	*
February 29-March 3, 2008	28	40	19	13	*
February 8-11, 2008	24	35	25	16	*
February 1-4, 2008	28	39	22	11	*
January 25-28, 2008	23	35	26	16	*
January 18-21, 2008	31	33	20	15	1
January 11-14, 2008	25	38	21	16	*
January 4-7, 2008	27	38	20	15	*
December 14-17, 2007	26	32	24	18	*
December 7-10, 2007	28	37	21	14	*
November 23-26, 2007	25	37	21	16	1
November 16-19, 2007	31	37	19	12	1
November 9-12, 2007	29	38	19	13	1
November 2-5, 2007	31	35	18	15	1
October 26-29, 2007	28	37	21	13	1
October 19-22, 2007	28	37	20	15	*
October 12-15, 2007	26	36	18	19	1
October 5-8, 2007	29	33	22	16	*
September 28 – October 1, 2007	30	41	18	11	*
September 21-24, 2007	32	38	17	13	*
September 14-17, 2007	31	36	18	15	0
September 7-10, 2007	32	34	20	14	*
August 30 – September 2, 2007	31	34	18	16	1
August 24-27, 2007	34	36	18	12	*
August 17-20, 2007	33	34	18	15	*
August 10-13, 2007	36	37	14	13	*
August 3-6, 2007	29	40	19	12	*
July 27-30, 2007	28	36	19	16	1
July 20-23, 2007	28	34	21	16	1
July 13-16, 2007	25	41	17	16	1
July 6-9, 2007	36	34	18	12	*
June 29-July 2, 2007	32	35	19	13	1
June 22-25, 2007	30	36	18	15	1
June 15-18, 2007	30	37	20	13	*
June 8-11, 2007	32	38	15	14	1
June 1-4, 2007	30	36	20	13	1
May 24-27, 2007	33	36	18	12	1
May 18-21, 2007	36	34	15	14	1
May 11-14, 2007	30	34	18	17	1
May 4-7, 2007	38	37	15	10	*
April 27-30, 2007	27	35	21	16	1
April 20-23, 2007	28	35	22	15	*
April 12-16, 2007	34	33	20	13	*
April 5-9, 2007	33	39	16	11	1

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
March 30-April 2, 2007	34	37	16	13	*
March 23-March 26, 2007	31	38	18	12	1
March 16-19, 2007	34	34	17	15	*
March 9-12, 2007	34	37	16	13	*
March 2-5, 2007	37	37	16	9	1
February 23-26, 2007	36	36	15	13	*
February 16-19, 2007	30	36	19	14	1
February 9-12, 2007	37	34	18	11	*
February 2-5, 2007	38	38	17	7	*
January 26-29, 2007	36	38	15	11	*
January 19-22, 2007	37	34	18	10	1
January 12-15, 2007	38	36	17	8	1
January, 2007	46	40	8	5	1
January 5-8, 2007	40	32	16	12	0
December, 2006	42	39	12	7	*
November 30-December 3, 2006	40	36	13	11	*
Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1
March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1
February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1
January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1
December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1
Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*
April 11-16, 2003	47	40	10	2	1
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1

PEW.5 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1
March 13-16, 2003	62	27	6	4	1
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2
d. A trillion dollar bailout package for European governments facing debt problems					
May 13-16, 2010	21	26	24	28	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
May 7-10, 2010: <i>The financial crisis in Greece and violent protests there</i>	19	23	26	31	*
April 30-May 3, 2010: <i>The financial crisis in Greece</i>	6	15	28	51	1
October, 1998: <i>Financial instability around the world</i>	32	40	19	9	*
September, 1998: <i>Economic and political instability in Russia</i>	18	30	28	24	*
Late August, 1998: <i>Economic problems in Russia</i>	8	22	29	41	*
January, 1998: <i>The deepening financial crisis in many Asian countries</i>	15	25	27	33	*
March, 1995: <i>The financial and political instability in Mexico</i>	12	28	30	29	1
e. The nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court					
May 13-16, 2010	22	28	23	24	3
May 29-June 1, 2009: <i>Sonia Sotomayor</i>	29	29	19	23	1
January, 2006 <i>Samuel Alito</i>	14	23	25	36	2
December, 2005	14	20	31	32	3
Early November, 2005	21	28	24	25	2
Early October, 2005 <i>Harriet Miers</i>	22	33	21	23	1
Early September, 2005 <i>John Roberts</i>	18	26	25	29	2
August, 1993 <i>Ruth Bader Ginsburg</i>	18	30	27	24	1
October, 1991 <i>Clarence Thomas</i>	28	35	18	18	1
July, 1991 <i>Clarence Thomas</i>	33	33	19	14	1
August, 1990 <i>David Souter</i>	16	27	27	29	1
September, 1987 <i>Robert Bork</i>	17	23	29	29	2
f. Conservative Party leader David Cameron becoming the prime minister of Britain					
May 13-16, 2010	8	19	29	43	2
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
May 11-14, 2007: <i>British Prime Minister Tony Blair's announcement that he will step down</i>	12	29	23	35	1
January 3-6, 1991: <i>The resignation of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the election of her successor</i>	20	40	25	14	1

PEW.6 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? [DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]

May 13-16

2010

49	An oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico threatening the coast of several states
13	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
5	The current situation and events in Iraq
5	The nomination of Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court
3	A trillion dollar bailout package for European governments facing debt problems
1	Conservative Party leader David Cameron becoming the prime minister of Britain
13	Some other story (VOL.)
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

PEW.7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

PEW.8 Would you say the press has been too critical, not critical enough or fair in the way it has covered Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan?

May 13-16

2010

11	Too critical
18	Not critical enough
41	Fair
30	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Sonia Sotomayor

May 30-June 1

2009

17
20
45
18

PEW.9 How much, if anything, would you say you have learned about Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan since she was nominated? [READ]

May 13-16

2010

13	A lot
28	Some
27	Just a little
30	Nothing at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Sonia Sotomayor

May 30-June 1

2009

18
33
24
25
1

PEW.10 In covering nominees for the Supreme Court, how much attention do you think the news media should give to [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? Should they give [ITEM] a lot of attention, some attention, just a little attention or no attention at all? What about [NEXT ITEM]. [REPEAT ANSWER CHOICES AS NECESSARY]

		A <u>lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	Just a <u>little</u>	No attention <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>Don't know</u>
a.	A nominee's personal life and family May 13-16, 2010	17	28	24	29	2
b.	A nominee's writings and speeches May 13-16, 2010	45	35	11	5	4
c.	A nominee's religion and religious beliefs May 13-16, 2010	19	25	20	34	2
d.	A nominee's views on issues that may come before the Court May 13-16, 2010	61	25	6	4	4
e.	A nominee's professional background May 13-16, 2010	65	25	6	3	2
f.	A nominee's involvement in politics May 13-16, 2010	50	32	10	4	3
g.	A nominee's educational background May 13-16, 2010	61	28	6	3	2

PEW.11 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED