



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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Partisans Differ in Views of Elections and Coverage 2010 Vote Seen as More Important Than Most

About two-thirds of the public sees coverage of this year's elections as focused primarily on strategy and conflict rather than candidate positions, while a comparable percentage says the 2010 congressional elections are more important than most.

Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say news coverage of politics makes them angry. Still, few (36%) say election news makes them feel depressed. More than half (55%) say this year's elections have been "pretty interesting," according to the latest News Interest Index survey of 1,005 adults conducted Sept. 16-19 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

Partisan differences in responses to these questions provide further evidence of greater engagement and enthusiasm among Republicans this year. For example, though the public is divided on whether they feel "burned out" about politics and elections (48% agree, 49% disagree), Democrats are much more likely to agree with this statement (54%) than are Republicans (40%).

While election news dominated media coverage last week, the public continued to show relatively modest interest. According to a separate analysis by the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, midterm news made up 30% of the newshole. Just more than one-in-ten (11%) say this was the news they followed most closely. Nearly a quarter (23%) say they followed election news *very* closely.

How Do You Feel About This Year's Congressional Elections?

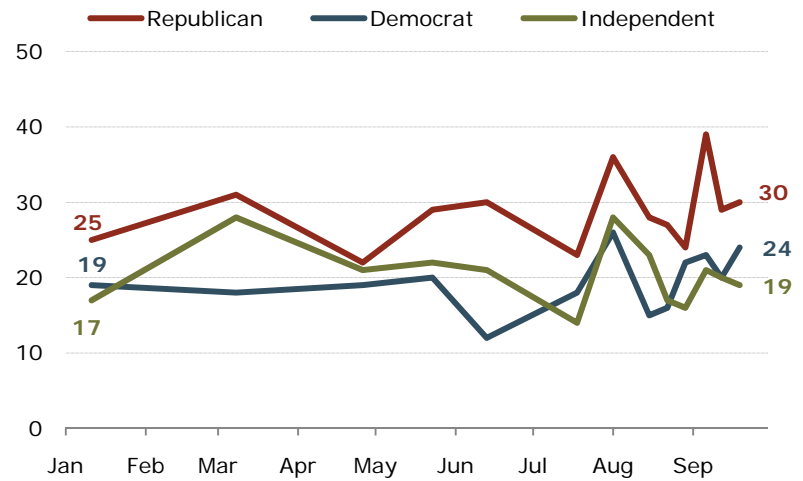
	Agree %	Dis-agree %	DK/Ref %
News coverage is all about strategy and conflict, not what candidates stand for	67	27	6=100
This year's elections are more important than most	65	31	4=100
I am optimistic that my candidates will win	59	30	11=100
News coverage of politics these days makes me angry	58	38	4=100
This year's elections have been pretty interesting	55	40	5=100
I'm feeling burned out about politics and elections	48	49	3=100
I follow presidential elections but not Congressional ones	45	50	5=100
Election news coverage makes me feel depressed	36	61	4=100
It's too early to really pay attention	31	66	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 16-19, 2010.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Three-in-ten Republicans say they followed election news very closely last week, not much different from the 24% of Democrats that say this. Two-in-ten independents (19%) say they followed election news very closely.

Republicans have recorded generally higher levels of interest than Democrats or independents during a primary season that included a number of intense fights between more mainstream members of their party and those more closely aligned with the Tea Party movement.

Following Election News Very Closely



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Republicans More Likely to See Election as Important, Interesting

Three-quarters of Republicans say this year's elections are more important than most, higher than the 66% of Democrats and 58% of independents that concur.

But Republicans are also more likely to agree that news coverage of politics these days makes them angry. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans say this (64%), compared with 53% of Democrats. Nearly six-in-ten independents (57%) agree.

Republicans also are more upbeat about their candidates' chances in November. About seven-in-ten (71%) say they are optimistic that their candidates will win; 61% of Democrats say this, as do 54% of independents.

Just two-in-ten Republicans (21%) agree that it is too early to really pay attention to this year's elections. Nearly four-in-ten Democrats (37%) say this, a possible indication that Democrats will more closely follow the general election campaigns. Independents mirror Democrats on this; 36% say it is too early to really pay attention.

Perhaps a reflection of Democratic enthusiasm in the presidential election of 2008, more than half of Democrats (54%) agree with the statement: "I follow presidential elections pretty closely, but not Senate and House elections." Just more than a third of Republicans (35%) say this, a 19 point difference.

There is little difference between partisans in the percentages agreeing with several of the statements. For example, 70% of Democrats say news coverage emphasizes strategy and conflict more than the candidates' policy positions; 63% of Republicans and 67% of independents agree.

Significant minorities among each group also agree that election news coverage can make them feel depressed; 36% of Democrats say this, as do 37% of independents and 31% of Republicans.

Partisans' Differing Perceptions of Midterms and Election News

	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	R-D Diff
<i>% saying they agree that...</i>				
News coverage of politics these days makes me angry	64	53	57	+11
I am optimistic that my candidates will win	71	61	54	+10
This year's elections are more important than most	75	66	58	+9
This year's elections have been pretty interesting	65	58	48	+7
Election news coverage makes me feel depressed	31	36	37	-5
News coverage is all about strategy and conflict, not what candidates stand for	63	70	67	-7
I'm feeling burned out about politics and elections	40	54	48	-14
It's too early to really pay attention	21	37	36	-16
I follow presidential elections but not Congressional ones	35	54	45	-19

PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 16-19, 2010.

Tea Party Enthusiasm

Those who say the Tea Party best reflects their views right now are much more likely than others to see this year's elections as important and interesting – and to say that news coverage of politics makes them angry. They also are the most optimistic about the prospects for their candidates.

According to findings from this survey released Sept. 20 as part of the weekly Pew Research/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll, about a third of Americans say the Democratic Party (32%) best reflects their views right now; 20% say the Republican Party does, while one-in-seven (15%) say the Tea Party does. (See [Americans Even Disagree About Compromising](#))

Among those who say the Tea Party best reflects their views right now, 85% say these elections are more important than most. Among those who say the Republican Party or the Democratic Party best reflects their views, about two thirds say this (67% and 65%, respectively).

Close to eight-in-ten (78%) of those who say the Tea Party reflects their views are optimistic their candidates will win in November. That drops to 61% among those more aligned with Republicans and 62% among those more aligned with Democrats.

Nearly three-quarters (74%) of those who say the Tea Party best reflects their views say news coverage of politics these days makes them angry. That drops to 60% among those who say they agree more with the Republican Party and 51% among those more aligned with Democrats.

Just 13% of those who say the Tea Party best reflects their views say it is too early to pay attention to the elections. About three-in-ten among those more aligned with Republicans (28%) or Democrats (34%) say this.

Tea Partiers More Engaged in 2010 Elections

	<i>Current views best reflected by...</i>			
	Dem Party %	Rep Party %	Tea Party %	Other/DK %
<i>% saying they agree that...</i>				
This year's elections are more important than most	65	67	85	54
I am optimistic that my candidates will win	62	61	78	48
This year's elections have been pretty interesting	58	57	76	42
News coverage of politics these days makes me angry	51	60	74	56
News coverage is all about strategy and conflict, not what candidates stand for	67	71	68	64
I'm feeling burned out about politics and elections	47	49	36	56
Election news coverage makes me feel depressed	30	33	32	44
I follow presidential elections but not Congressional ones	56	43	24	47
It's too early to really pay attention	34	28	13	40

PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 16-19, 2010.

Republicans Interested in Elections Nationwide

Republicans are more likely than Democrats or independents to say they are watching the election landscape across the country, not just in their home districts.

Close to six-in-ten Republicans (56%) say they are interested in elections taking place across the country, while 38% say they are most interested in the elections they get to vote in. Democrats are more evenly divided: 47% say they are interested in elections around the country, while 46% say they are mostly interested in elections in which they can cast votes. Independents show a similar split: 39% are interested in what is happening in other elections, while 40% say they are mostly interested in local contests.

Which Elections Are You Tracking?

<i>Are you interested in elections around the country or mostly in elections you can vote in?</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Elections around the country	46	56	47	39
Elections you get to vote in	41	38	46	40
Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 9-12, 2010.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

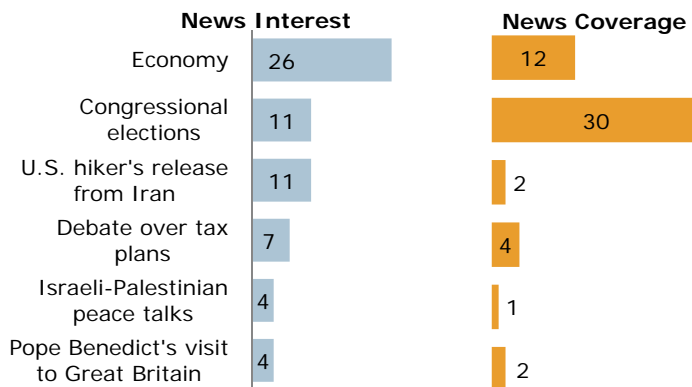
The Week's News

While the elections dominated media coverage last week, the public continued to focus on news about the economy. Nearly four-in-ten (37%) say they followed news about the economy very closely.

About a quarter (26%) say they followed news about the economy more closely than other major stories. News about the economy accounted for 12% of the newshole measured by PEJ.

That does not include 4% of coverage devoted to the debate over whether to extend expiring Bush-era tax cuts. The tax debate was the most closely followed story for 7%; about two-in-ten (21%) say they followed this story very closely.

News Interest



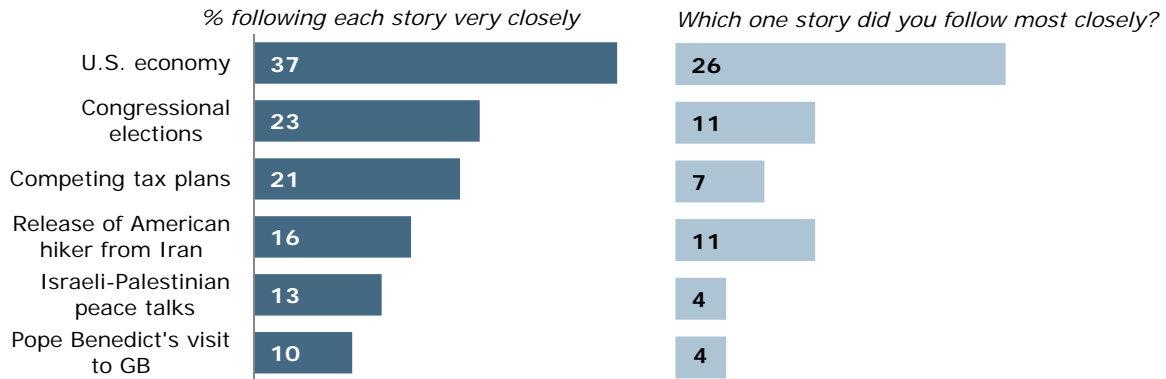
News interest shows the percentage of people who say they followed this story most closely, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, September 16-19, 2010. News coverage shows the percentage of news coverage devoted to each story, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, September 13-19, 2010.

While 11% say they followed news about the elections most closely, the same percentage say they followed news about the release of a jailed American hiker held in Iran that closely. Nearly a quarter (23%) say they followed election news very closely, while 16% say they followed news about the released hiker that closely. Her release accounted for 2% of coverage.

Another 4% say they followed news about Israeli-Palestinian peace talks most closely, while 13% say they followed this news very closely. The talks accounted for 1% of coverage.

And 4% say they most closely followed the visit by Pope Benedict to Great Britain and his comments on the Catholic Church's sex-abuse scandal; 10% say they followed this news very closely. The pope's visit accounted for 2% of coverage.

News Interest



PEW RESEARCH CENTER September 16-19, 2010.

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 September 13-19, and survey data measuring public interest in the top news stories of the week were collected September 16-19, from a nationally representative sample of 1,005 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 Thursday through Sunday 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 1,005 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from September 16-19, 2010 (673 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 332 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 128 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	1,005	4.0 percentage points
Republicans	271	7.5 percentage points
Democrats	326	7.0 percentage points
Independents	341	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:

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

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
 SEPTEMBER 16-19, 2010 OMNIBUS
 FINAL TOPLINE
 N=1005**

ASK ALL:

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

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
September 16-19, 2010	37	30	16	16	1
September 2-6, 2010	43	31	13	12	*
August 19-22, 2010	39	31	14	15	1
August 5-8, 2010	39	33	14	13	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	51	33	11	5	*
July 22-25, 2010	46	33	14	6	1
July 15-18, 2010	37	33	14	15	1
July 8-11, 2010	36	33	15	16	*
July 1-5, 2010	48	30	13	8	*
June 24-27, 2010	37	37	15	11	1
June 17-20, 2010	38	34	15	13	*
June 10-13, 2010	39	35	17	9	*
June 3-6, 2010	35	33	16	14	1
May 27-30, 2010	43	29	13	15	*
May 20-23, 2010	40	35	13	11	*
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

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
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	*
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

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
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	*
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. News about this year's congressional elections					
September 16-19, 2010	23	26	23	27	1
September 9-12, 2010	22	23	21	34	1
September 2-6, 2010	26	24	23	26	1
August 26-29, 2010	20	27	23	28	1
August 19-22, 2010	19	23	24	33	1
August 12-15, 2010	20	22	19	38	1
July 29-August 1, 2010	29	34	22	14	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
July 15-18, 2010	17	23	26	33	1
June 10-13, 2010	20	29	24	27	1
May 20-23, 2010	23	25	24	27	*
April 23-26, 2010	20	25	19	35	*
March 5-8, 2010	25	27	21	26	1
January 8-11, 2010	20	24	26	29	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
October 24-27, 2008: <i>News about candidates for local and statewide elections</i>	20	35	24	20	1
Early November, 2006: <i>News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district</i>	27	37	18	17	1
Late October, 2006 (RVs)	27	45	17	11	*
Early October, 2006	21	38	25	15	1
Early September, 2006	16	32	28	23	1
August, 2006	20	29	28	22	1
June, 2006	18	30	29	21	2
May, 2006	18	28	30	23	1
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	27	46	18	9	*
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	28	34	24	13	1
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	21	46	22	10	1
Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1
Late October, 1998 (RVs)	26	45	20	9	*
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	21	43	24	11	1
Early September, 1998	17	32	28	23	*
Early August, 1998	13	30	28	23	1
June, 1998	9	27	33	30	1
April, 1998 ¹	16	33	24	27	*
November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*
Late October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1
Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1
September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*
November, 1990	38	34	17	11	*
October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*
c. The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans					
September 16-19, 2010	21	24	21	34	*
September 9-12, 2010	16	19	22	42	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
May 8-11, 2009: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal budget</i>	22	28	19	31	*
March 27-30, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's budget proposal</i>	28	34	18	19	1
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs</i>	47	34	9	10	*
February, 2002: <i>Debate in Congress over G.W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*
February, 2001: <i>G.W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1

¹ In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state." In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
d. The release of a jailed American hiker held in Iran					
September 16-19, 2010	16	28	27	29	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
August 7-10, 2009: <i>Bill Clinton securing the release of two American journalists held by North Korea</i>	28	35	20	15	1
April, 2001: <i>The release of the U.S. air crew held in China</i>	55	31	9	5	*
January, 1992: <i>The release of the last American hostages being held in Lebanon</i>	44	40	11	5	0
January, 1991: <i>The release of American hostages and other Westerners from Iraq and Kuwait</i>	51	37	8	3	1
e. Israeli-Palestinian peace talks					
September 16-19, 2010	13	21	26	40	*
September 2-6, 2010: <i>Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Washington</i>	14	24	27	35	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 18-21, 2008: <i>George Bush's recent trip to the Middle East and news about renewed efforts at peace in the region</i>	17	30	25	28	*
January 11-14, 2008: <i>News about President Bush attending peace talks in Israel</i>	16	30	23	30	1
November 30-December 3, 2007: <i>The Middle East peace summit in Annapolis, MD</i>	11	25	24	39	1
June, 2003: <i>President Bush's summit meeting with world leaders and with the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority</i>	20	36	24	19	1
January, 2001: <i>Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East</i>	21	32	29	17	1
July, 2000: <i>The Middle East peace summit at Camp David</i>	15	30	24	31	*
November, 1998: <i>The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i>	18	33	28	19	2
Early October, 1998 (RVs): <i>Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East</i>	21	40	27	12	*
September, 1995: <i>The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i>	11	32	29	27	1
Late September, 1993: <i>The peace accords between Israel and the PLO</i>	23	33	24	19	1
Early September, 1993: <i>Talks between Israel and the PLO about Arab self-rule for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho</i>	19	31	23	26	1
f. Pope Benedict's visit to Great Britain and his comments on the Catholic Church's handling of sex-abuse scandals					
September 16-19, 2010	10	16	26	47	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
April 23-26, 2010: <i>Reports about the Vatican's handling of sex-abuse scandals in the Catholic Church</i>	14	28	29	29	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 26-29, 2010	17	24	28	30	*
March 19-22, 2010	8	18	31	42	1
April 18-21, 2008: <i>Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S.</i>	13	32	27	27	1
June, 2002: <i>Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests</i>	38	36	17	8	1
May, 2002: <i>The Pope and American cardinals meeting in Rome about sexual abuse by Catholic priests</i>	27	33	21	18	1
Early April, 2002: <i>Reports of sexual abuses by Catholic priests</i>	27	34	25	13	1
December, 1993	18	32	31	18	1

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 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.]**

- 26 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
- 11 News about this year's congressional elections
- 11 The release of a jailed American hiker held in Iran
- 7 The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans
- 4 Israeli-Palestinian peace talks
- 4 Pope Benedict's visit to Great Britain and his comments on the Catholic Church's handling of sex-abuse scandals
- 13 Some other story **(VOL.)**
- 23 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Thinking about this year's congressional elections, would you say that you are interested in what's happening in elections around the country, or are you mostly just interested in the elections you get to vote in?

Sep 16-19
2010

- 46 Interested in elections around the country
- 41 Elections you get to vote in
- 13 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 And as I read a few statements some people have made about the elections this year, please tell me if you agree or disagree with each. First **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?** Next **[NEXT ITEM]**. **[IF NECESSARY: Do you agree or disagree?]**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. It's too early to really pay attention to this year's elections September 16-19, 2010	31	66	3
b. I'm feeling burned out when it comes to following politics and elections September 16-19, 2010	48	49	3

PEW.4 CONTINUED...

		<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
c.	News coverage of the election this year makes me feel depressed September 16-19, 2010	36	61	4
d.	I follow presidential elections pretty closely, but not Senate and House elections September 16-19, 2010	45	50	5
e.	This year's congressional elections have been pretty interesting September 16-19, 2010	55	40	5
f.	This year's congressional elections are more important than most September 16-19, 2010	65	31	4
g.	News coverage is all about strategy and conflict, and not about what the candidates stand for September 16-19, 2010	67	27	6
h.	I am optimistic that the candidates I support will win September 16-19, 2010	59	30	11
i.	News coverage of politics these days makes me feel angry September 16-19, 2010	58	38	4

PEW.5 THROUGH PEW.7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED