

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
RESPONSE RATE PROJECT
FINALTOPLINE
June 18 - 22, 1997
N=1,000

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country.

INTRO FOR STANDARD SURVEY: I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. **[IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]**

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>
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
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

Q.1 con't ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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>
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

Q.3 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?
[READ AND ROTATE LIST]

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
a. The trial of Timothy McVeigh convicted of bombing the federal building in Oklahoma City ¹	39	40	14	6	1=100
May, 1997	30	44	18	7	1=100
April, 1997	20	38	25	16	1=100
b. The decision by the Supreme Court that Paula Corbin Jones can move forward with her sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton	16	34	28	21	1=100
May, 1994 ²	15	29	27	27	2=100
c. The debate over whether China should be granted the same trading status as other major nations	10	21	26	42	1=100
d. Competing proposals on ways to cut taxes as part of the recent bipartisan budget agreement	12	26	29	32	1=100
e. First Lieut. Kelly Flinn's general discharge from the Air Force for committing adultery and disobeying orders	23	35	25	16	1=100
f. The withdrawal of General Joseph Ralston's name from consideration for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff because of an adulterous affair	11	23	28	37	1=100
g. The 25 th anniversary of the Watergate break-in	7	16	29	47	1=100

¹ In previous months the story was listed as "The trial of Timothy McVeigh, accused of bombing the federal building in Oklahoma City."

² In this month the story was listed as "Accusations by an Arkansas state worker, Paula Jones, that Bill Clinton sexually harassed her."

Q.3 con't ...

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>(VOL) DK</u>
ITEM ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY [N=769]					
h. The debate in Washington about how to reform the Medicare system	24	27	25	23	1=100
February, 1997	20	27	23	28	2=100
January, 1996 ³	30	36	22	12	*=100
September, 1995	31	40	18	11	*=100

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about taxes...

Q.6 Thinking ahead to the year 2000, as I read the following pair of statements, please tell me which is more likely to happen. Do you think... **(READ)**?

	<u>Nov. 1996</u>
90 The average American will pay MORE in taxes OR	82
7 The average American will pay LESS in taxes	14
1 Neither/no change (VOL)	2
<u>2</u> DK/Refused	<u>2</u>
100	100

Q.7 On the issue of cutting taxes for the middle class, who has the best ideas — Republican Congressional leaders, Democratic Congressional leaders, or Bill Clinton?

	<u>Feb. 1995</u>
30 Republican Congressional leaders	30
23 Democratic Congressional leaders	15
18 Clinton	30
10 None of the above (VOL)	8
<u>19</u> DK/Refused	<u>17</u>
100	100

³

In previous months the story was listed "The debate in Washington over the future of the Medicare system."

ASK Q.8 OF FORM 1 ONLY: [N=500]

Q.8F1 What should be given a higher priority, cutting taxes for the middle class or taking steps to reduce the budget deficit?

		Feb. <u>1995</u>
37	Cutting taxes for the middle class	37
53	Taking steps to reduce the budget deficit	56
5	Both equally (VOL)	4
<u>5</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>3</u> 100

ASK Q.8a OF FORM 2 ONLY: [N=500]

Q.8aF2 Do you think the government can reduce the federal budget deficit and cut taxes for the middle class at the same time, or not?

		--- CBS --- <u>Aug. 1996</u>
47	Yes	42
48	No	51
<u>5</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>7</u> 100

**QUESTION ONLY ASKED OF RESPONDENTS THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY [N=769]
ON A DIFFERENT TOPIC . . .**

M.1 There has been discussion in Washington about how to keep the Medicare program financially sound for future generations. Congress is now considering several proposals to reduce the costs of the program. As I read each, tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose it. First, (**READ AND ROTATE**). *{new}*

		<u>Strongly</u> <u>Favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK</u> <u>Ref.</u>
a.	Gradually raise the age at which one is eligible for Medicare from 65 to 67	13	20	34	31	2=100
b.	Require individual seniors who make more than \$50,000 a year and couples who make more than \$75,000 a year to pay a larger share of their doctors' bills.	26	34	25	12	3=100

Q.21 I'd like your opinion of some people and organizations. As I read from a list, please tell me which category best describes your overall opinion of who or what I name. (First,) would you describe your opinion of **(INSERT ITEM: ROTATE ITEMS)** as very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **(INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")**

		Very Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Favor- <u>able</u>	Mostly Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Very Unfavor- <u>able</u>	Never Heard <u>of</u>	Can't <u>Rate</u>
a.	Congress	4	48	34	8	0	6=100
	May, 1997	5	44	32	10	*	9=100
	February, 1997	6	46	31	9	*	8=100
	January, 1997	6	50	32	8	*	4=100
	June, 1996	6	39	38	12	*	5=100
	April, 1996	6	39	37	13	0	5=100
	January, 1996	4	38	38	16	*	4=100
	October, 1995	4	38	42	13	0	3=100
	August, 1995	5	40	34	13	*	7=100
	June, 1995	8	45	31	11	*	5=100
	February, 1995	10	44	27	10	0	9=100
	July, 1994	7	46	34	9	*	4=100
	May, 1993	8	35	35	13	0	9=100
	November, 1991	7	44	34	9	0	6=100
	May, 1990	6	53	25	9	1	6=100
	May, 1988	8	56	23	5	0	8=100
	January, 1988	6	58	25	4	0	7=100
	May, 1987	10	64	16	4	*	6=100
	January, 1987	7	52	23	8	0	10=100
	June, 1985	9	58	21	5	*	7=100
i.	The Democratic Party	10	51	25	8	*	6=100
	January, 1997	13	47	28	7	*	5=100
	October, 1995	9	40	37	11	-	3=100
	July, 1994	13	49	27	7	*	4=100
	May, 1993	14	43	25	9	0	9=100
	July, 1992	17	44	24	9	*	6=100
j.	The Republican Party	8	43	31	11	1	6=100
	January, 1997	8	44	33	10	*	5=100
	October, 1995	10	42	28	16	*	4=100
	July, 1994	12	51	25	8	*	4=100
	May, 1993	12	42	25	10	0	11=100
	July, 1992	9	37	31	17	*	6=100

Q.22 In general, would you describe your political views as ... **(READ)**

		<u>June</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>April</u> <u>1996</u>	<u>July</u> <u>1994</u>
8	Very conservative	7	7	7
30	Conservative	32	31	32
40	Moderate	38	39	39
14	Liberal, OR	14	14	15
4	Very liberal?	6	5	4
<u>4</u> 100	DK/Refused (DO NOT READ)	<u>3</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>3</u> 100

Q.23 Thinking about the Democratic and Republican Parties, would you say there is a great deal of difference in what they stand for, a fair amount of difference, or hardly any difference at all?

		<u>Oct</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>July</u> <u>1994</u>	<u>May</u> <u>1990</u>	<u>May</u> <u>1987</u>
25	A great deal	34	23	24	25
48	A fair amount	46	51	45	45
25	Hardly any	18	24	27	25
<u>2</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>2</u> 100	<u>2</u> 100	<u>4</u> 100	<u>5</u> 100

Q.24 This year, have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems, OR have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?

		<u>Oct</u> <u>1995</u>	<u>Aug</u> <u>1993</u>
34	Working together more	21	20
49	Opposing each other more	72	57
6	Same as in past (VOL)	3	13
<u>11</u> 100	DK/Refused	<u>4</u> 100	<u>10</u> 100

Q.25 Who would you say is more responsible for things not getting done in Washington, the Republican-controlled Congress or the Clinton Administration?

Sept 1992⁴

41	Congress	46	- Democratically controlled Congress
34	Clinton Administration	40	- Bush Administration
12	Both equally (VOL)	--	
<u>13</u>	DK/Refused	<u>14</u>	
100		100	

⁴

In 1992 the question was asked "... the Democratically controlled Congress or the Bush Administration?"