

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MAY 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**May 1-5, 2013**  
**N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-5, 9, 14, 17c, 18-20, 25-27, 29-30 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**QUESTIONS 17a-b, 36-38 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**  
**NO QUESTIONS 6-8, 10-13, 15-16, 21-24, 28, 31-35, 39**

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject ...

Q.40 What do you think is more important – to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

	Protect right of Americans <u>to own guns</u>	Control <u>gun ownership</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
May 1-5, 2013	48	50	2
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	46	50	4
Jan 9-13, 2013	45	51	5
Dec 17-19, 2012	42	49	9
July 26-29, 2012	46	47	6
Apr 4-15, 2012	49	45	6
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	47	49	5
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	47	6
Jan 13-16, 2011	49	46	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	46	50	4
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	46	7
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	45	49	6
April, 2008	37	58	5
November, 2007	42	55	3
April, 2007	32	60	8
February, 2004	37	58	5
June, 2003	42	54	4
May, 2000	38	57	5
April, 2000	37	55	8
March, 2000	29	66	5
June, 1999	33	62	5
May, 1999	30	65	5
December, 1993	34	57	9

**ASK ALL:**

Q.41 In your opinion, how likely is it that the president and Congress will pass significant new gun control laws this year [**READ IN ORDER**]?

May 1-5 <u>2013</u>		May <u>2000</u>
15	Very likely	14
27	Somewhat likely	34
32	Not too likely	25
24	Not at all likely	21
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	6

**ASK IF OPINION GIVEN (1-4) IN Q.40**

Q.42 Would you vote for a candidate who DISAGREES with you about gun policy, if they AGREE with you on most other issues?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

May 1-5 <u>2013</u>		Feb <u>2004</u> <sup>1</sup>
53	Yes, would	54
35	No, would not	33
6	Depends <b>(VOL.)</b>	5
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3
2	No opinion on gun ownership <b>(FROM Q.40)</b>	5

**NO QUESTIONS 43-45****ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Please tell me if you favor or oppose the following proposals about gun policy. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you favor or oppose [ITEM]?**

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks			
	May 1-5, 2013	81	17	3
	Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	83	15	2
	Jan 9-13, 2013	85	12	3
b.	A ban on assault style weapons			
	May 1-5, 2013	54	42	4
	Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	56	41	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	55	40	5

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:**

c.F1	More teachers and school officials having guns in schools			
	May 1-5, 2013	34	63	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	40	57	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=764]:**

d.F2	Creating a federal government database to track all gun sales			
	May 1-5, 2013	66	31	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	67	30	3

<sup>1</sup> In 2004, the question asked about voting for a candidate who disagrees with you about gun ownership.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.47 Have you ever **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or not? And, have you ever **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**, or not?

**ASK OF THOSE WHO SAID 'YES' TO EACH IN Q.47a-d:**

Q.48 Thinking about just the past six months or so, Have you **[INSERT ITEM IN SAME ORDER AS Q47]** in the past six months, or not? And, have you **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]** in the past six months, or not?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

	Yes, <u>ever</u>	----- <i>Last six months</i> -----			No, <u>never</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>		
a. Contacted a public official to express your opinion on gun policy						
May 1-5, 2013	13	10	3	*	86	*
Jan 9-13, 2013	11	--	--	--	89	*
b. Contributed money to an organization that takes a position on gun policy						
May 1-5, 2013	15	7	8	*	84	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	13	--	--	--	86	1
c. Expressed your opinion on gun policy using Facebook, Twitter, or another social network						
May 1-5, 2013	18	15	2	*	82	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	17	--	--	--	83	1
d. Signed a petition about gun policy						
May 1-5, 2013	15	9	6	*	84	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	11	--	--	--	88	1

**ASK IF YES-IN Q.48a (Q48a=1) [N=172]:**

Q.48aa In the past six months, have you contacted a public official about the issue of background checks for gun purchases, or only about other issues related to gun policy?

May 1-5

2013

53	Yes, about background checks
44	No
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.49 How much, if at all, would the passage of stricter gun laws affect you personally? **[READ IN ORDER]**

May 1-5

2013

20	A great deal
22	Somewhat
19	Not too much
37	Not at all
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.50 Do you think the National Rifle Association has too much influence, too little influence or the right amount of influence over gun control laws in this country?

May 1-5 <u>2013</u>		ABC/WP			Time/CNN	
		Jan 10-13 <u>2013</u>	Dec 17-19 <u>2012</u>	Apr <u>2000</u>	Dec <u>1993</u>	Aug <u>1993</u>
39	Too much	38	36	42	45	39
18	Too little	24	19	17	15	15
35	Right amount	30	28	28	27	33
9	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	8	17	13	13	13

**ASK ALL:**

Q.51 As you may know, a few weeks ago a bill that would have expanded background checks on gun purchases did not receive enough votes in the Senate to pass. The bill's sponsors plan to ask for another vote on this bill in the next few months. Do you think Congress should pass this background check bill into law, or not?

May 1-5 <u>2013</u>	
73	Yes, should
20	No, should not
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK IF SHOULD NOT PASS (Q.51=2) AND FAVOR BACKGROUND CHECKS (Q.46a=1) [N=151]:**

Q.52 Why do you NOT want to see the background check bill pass? [OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]

May 1-5 <u>2013</u>	
20	Flaws of bill (general)/More than background checks
17	Worries about rights/inconveniences to law-abiding citizens
17	Will not deter criminals/solve gun violence
16	Too much federal government power/Slippery slope
8	Not necessary/Enough laws on the books
7	Not aware of bill's details
2	Waste of money
2	Already failed/Don't think it will pass
15	Other <b>(VOL.)</b>
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.*

**ASK ALL:**

Q.53 Do you, or does anyone in your household, own a gun, rifle or pistol? [IF YES: Is that you or someone else in your household?]

May 1-5 <u>2013</u>		Feb 13-18 <u>2013</u>
18	Yes, respondent	17
14	Yes, someone else	13
8	Yes, both <b>(VOL.)</b>	8
54	No, nobody in household owns a gun	57
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	6
27	NET: Respondent owns gun	24
41	NET: Gun in household	37

**NO QUESTIONS 54-55, 64-68, 73-74, 76-77, 81-83**  
**QUESTIONS 56-63, 69-72, 75, 78-80, 84 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

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

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb.13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=600]:**

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

May 1-5		Mar 13-17	Feb 13-18	Jan 9-13
<u>2013</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>
28	Agree	43	36	35
8	Disagree	7	9	10
61	No opinion either way	47	52	51
2	Haven't heard of <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1	2
1	Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	3	2

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**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

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