

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
September 10-15, 2009
N=1,006

QUESTION 1 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PP1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama 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 Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
August 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
August, 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
July, 2009	54	34	12
June, 2009	61	30	9
Mid-April, 2009	63	26	11
Early April, 2009	61	26	13
March, 2009	59	26	15
February, 2009	64	17	19

QUESTIONS 2 THROUGH 4 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
August 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	October, 2007	28	66	6
August, 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	February, 2007	30	61	9
July, 2009	28	66	6	Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7
June, 2009	30	64	5	Early January, 2007	30	63	7
May, 2009	34	58	8	December, 2006	28	65	7
April, 2009	23	70	7	Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8
January, 2009	20	73	7	Early October, 2006	30	63	7
December, 2008	13	83	4	July, 2006	30	65	5
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	May, 2006*	29	65	6
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	March, 2006	32	63	5
August, 2008	21	74	5	January, 2006	34	61	5
July, 2008	19	74	7	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
June, 2008	19	76	5	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	July, 2005	35	58	7
March, 2008	22	72	6	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	February, 2005	38	56	6

¹ In most prior surveys, the question was worded "All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?" Prior uses of the current wording are noted with an asterisk.

	<u>Satis-</u>	<u>Dis-</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u>		<u>Satis-</u>	<u>Dis-</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u>
	<u>fied</u>	<u>satisfied</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>fied</u>	<u>satisfied</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
January, 2005	40	54	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
December, 2004	39	54	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
May, 2004	33	61	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	February, 1998	59	37	4
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
December, 2003	44	47	9	September, 1997	45	49	6
October, 2003	38	56	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
August, 2003	40	53	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9</i>	July, 1996	29	67	4
January, 2003	44	50	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
November, 2002	41	48	11	October, 1995	23	73	4
September, 2002	41	55	4	June, 1995	25	73	2
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	April, 1995	23	74	3
May, 2002	44	44	12	July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 2002	50	40	10	March, 1994	24	71	5
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	October, 1993	22	73	5
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
June, 2001	43	52	5	May, 1993	22	71	7
March, 2001	47	45	8	January, 1993	39	50	11
February, 2001	46	43	11	January, 1992	28	68	4
January, 2001	55	41	4	November, 1991	34	61	5
October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7	Late February, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3
September, 2000	51	41	8	August, 1990	47	48	5
June, 2000	47	45	8	May, 1990	41	54	5
April, 2000	48	43	9	January, 1989	45	50	5
August, 1999	56	39	5	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

QUESTION 6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.US8 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of Barack Obama so far. (First,) does Barack Obama impress you as... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
a.	64	Trustworthy [OR]	76
	30	NOT trustworthy	15
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
b.	78	Warm and friendly [OR]	87
	16	Cold and aloof	8
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
c.	83	A good communicator [OR]	92
	13	NOT a good communicator	6
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	*
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
d.	58	Able to get things done [OR]	70
	31	NOT able to get things done	15
	3	Neither particularly (VOL.)	2
	8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
e.	70	Well informed [OR]	79
	23	NOT well informed	15
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5

Sept 10-15			Feb 2009
		<u>2009</u>	
f.	69	Well organized [OR]	81
	22	NOT well organized	12
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

NO ITEM g

QUS8 CONTINUED...

Sept 10-15			<u>Feb 2009</u>
<u>2009</u>			
h.	68	Someone who cares about people like me [OR]	81
	25	Someone who doesn't care about people like me	14
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

Sept 10-15			<u>Feb 2009</u>
<u>2009</u>			
i.	65	A strong leader [OR]	77
	29	NOT a strong leader	13
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

NO ITEM j

Sept 10-15			<u>Feb 2009</u>
<u>2009</u>			
k.	44	Liberal,	38
	36	Middle of the road [OR]	40
	9	Conservative	13
	2	None particularly (VOL.)	2
	9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

ASK ALL:

Q.US9 Do you think that **[READ AND ROTATE]:**

Sept 10-15			Mid-April	Feb
<u>2009</u>			<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>
	63	Barack Obama has a new approach to politics in Washington [OR]	63	66
	30	Barack Obama's approach to politics in Washington is 'business as usual'?	27	25
	7	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	10	9

QUESTIONS US10 AND US11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

H1 How much, if anything, have you heard about the bills in Congress to overhaul the health care system?
[READ]

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	July <u>2009</u>
60	A lot	53	41
34	A little [OR]	40	47
5	Nothing at all	7	10
1	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1	1

ASK ALL:

H2 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

ASK IF H2 =1,2:

H3 Do you (favor/oppose) these health care proposals very strongly, or not so strongly?

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		Aug 20-27 <u>2009</u>	July <u>2009</u>
42	Generally favor	39	38
29	Very strongly	25	--
11	Not so strongly	13	--
2	Don't know (how strongly)	1	--
44	Generally oppose	46	44
34	Very strongly	34	--
10	Not so strongly	12	--
*	Don't know (how strongly)	1	--
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	15	18

QUESTIONS 23 THROUGH 51 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

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

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5, 8 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>DK/</u>	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
September 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	2	13	17
August 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
August 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
July, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2	12	14
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--