## PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX MAY 26-29, 2011 OMNIBUS <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> $\mathbf{N}=\mathbf{1 , 0 0 0}$

## 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?"]
a. Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit

May 26-29, 2011
May 12-15, 2011
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:
May 5-8, 2011: Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt
April 21-25, 2011
April 14-17, 2011
April 7-10, 2011: The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington
March 31-April 3, 2011: Discussions in
Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit
March 17-20, 2011
March 3-6, 2011
February 17-20, 2011

| Very <br> closely | Fairly <br> closely | Not too <br> closely | Not at all <br> closely | DK/ <br> Refused |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25 | 26 | 20 | 29 | $*$ |
| 21 | 26 | 24 | 28 | 1 |
| 29 | 28 | 22 | 20 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 30 | 31 | 18 | 21 | $*$ |
| 36 | 27 | 18 | 19 | 1 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 47 | 26 | 15 | 12 | $*$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 30 | 27 | 21 | 22 | $*$ |
| 24 | 25 | 24 | 26 | 1 |
| 26 | 29 | 19 | 26 | 1 |
| 27 | 30 | 17 | 25 | 1 |
| 35 | 25 | 21 | 17 | 2 |

November 11-14, 2010: Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission
January 9-12, 2009: Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year November, 1990: Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement
October, 1990: Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit
b. News about state and local budget problems
May 26-29, 2011

March 17-20, 2011
February 17-20, 2011
January 6-9, 2011
June 24-27, 2010
March 5-8, 2010
April 9-13, 2009


35


30
21
19

41
1
16
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34

3

Deadly tornadoes in the Midwest
May 26-29, 2011
45
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:
May 5-8, 2011: Tornadoes and flooding in the South and Midwest 4
April 28-May 1, 2011: Deadly storms in the 41

## South

PEW. 1 CONTINUED...

|  | Very <br> closely | Fairly <br> closely | Not too <br> closely | Not at all <br> closely |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | | (VOL.) |
| :--- |
| AK/Ref |

April 21-25, 2011: Deadly storms in the South and Midwest
June 13-16, 2008: A tornado that killed four Boy Scouts at a camp in Iowa May 30-June 2, 2008: Midwest ${ }^{1}$ February 8-11, 2008: South and Midwest May 11-14, 2007: Tornadoes and floods in the Midwest
March 2-5, 2007: South and Midwest
May, 1999: Oklahoma and Kansas
d. President Barack Obama's trip to Europe

May 26-29, 2011
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:
November 11-14, 2010: President Obama trip to Asia
November 4-7, 2010

| 29 | 33 | 18 | 20 | $*$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 32 | 35 | 17 | 16 | $*$ |
| 30 | 33 | 21 | 15 | 1 |
| 25 | 42 | 19 | 13 | 1 |
| 22 | 35 | 23 |  | 19 |
| 33 | 38 | 18 | 11 | 1 |
| 38 | 40 | 15 | 6 | $*$ |
|  |  |  |  | 1 |

November 20-23, 2009
November 13-16, 2009
August 14-17, 2009: President Obama's trip to Mexico
July 10-13, 2009: President Obama's trip
to Russia and the G-8 Summit in Italy
April 17-20, 2009: Trip to Mexico and Latin America
April 9-13, 2009: Visit to Turkey and Iraq
April 3-6, 2009: Trip to Europe and
meetings with foreign leaders

| 11 | 21 | 27 | 40 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | 26 | 21 | 33 | 2 |
| 14 | 21 | 23 | 40 | 1 |
| 11 | 19 | 29 | 41 | $*$ |
| 8 | 19 | 28 | 44 | 1 |
| 9 | 20 | 26 | 44 | $*$ |
| 14 | 30 | 24 | 30 | 1 |
| 17 | 26 | 25 | 32 | $*$ |
| 23 | 29 | 22 | 26 | $*$ |
| 25 | 35 | 21 | 19 | $*$ |

e. News about possible candidates for the 2012
presidential elections
May 26-29, 2011
May 19-22, 2011
May 12-15, 2011
May 5-8, 2011
April 21-25, 2011
April 14-17, 2011
March 24-27, 2011
March 10-13, 2011
February 10-13, 2011
February 3-6, 2011

| 20 | 27 | 24 | 28 | $*$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 15 | 27 | 24 | 32 | 1 |
| 15 | 22 | 26 | 35 | 1 |
| 16 | 24 | 27 | 32 | 1 |
| 18 | 26 | 23 | 32 | 1 |
| 20 | 23 | 29 | 27 | 1 |
| 13 | 19 | 26 | 41 | 1 |
| 15 | 21 | 26 | 38 | 0 |
| 16 | 19 | 24 | 40 | $*$ |
| 15 | 20 | 23 | 42 | $*$ |

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:
October 24-27, 2008: 2008 Presidential
Election 44

| 44 | 36 | 11 | 8 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 61 | 28 | 7 | 4 | $*$ |
| 52 | 31 | 12 | 5 | $*$ |
| 57 | 31 | 8 | 4 | $*$ |
| 56 | 29 | 10 | 5 | $*$ |
| 47 | 33 | 14 | 6 | $*$ |
| 40 | 38 | 14 | 7 | 1 |
| 45 | 39 | 12 | 4 | $*$ |
| 45 | 32 | 15 | 8 | $*$ |
| 31 | 36 | 22 | 11 | $*$ |
| 25 | 41 | 19 | 14 | 1 |
| 27 | 38 | 22 | 13 | $*$ |
| 30 | 42 | 19 | 9 | $*$ |

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## PEW. 1 CONTINUED...

July 25-28, 2008
July 18-21, 2008
July 11-14, 2008
July 3-7, 2008
June 27-30, 2008
June 20-23, 2008
June 13-16, 2008
June 6-9, 2008
May 30-June 2, 2008
May 22-25, 2008
May 16-19, 2008
May 9-12, 2008

| Very | Fairly | Not too |  | (VOL.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| closely | closely | closely | closely | DK/Ref |
| 30 | 34 | 21 | 15 |  |
| 30 | 35 | 21 | 14 | * |
| 28 | 34 | 22 | 15 | 1 |
| 25 | 35 | 23 | 17 | * |
| 39 | 33 | 18 | 10 | * |
| 28 | 38 | 22 | 12 | * |
| 35 | 35 | 20 | 10 | * |
| 38 | 35 | 17 | 10 | * |
| 30 | 35 | 21 | 14 | * |
| 32 | 37 | 20 | 11 | * |
| 33 | 37 | 19 | 10 | 1 |
| 35 | 36 | 18 | 11 | * |
| 27 | 35 | 23 | 14 | 1 |
| 34 | 37 | 18 | 11 | * |
| 29 | 41 | 19 | 10 | 1 |
| 31 | 37 | 22 | 10 | * |
| 33 | 36 | 17 | 14 | * |
| 31 | 41 | 18 | 10 | * |
| 34 | 37 | 18 | 11 | * |
| 40 | 37 | 16 | 7 | * |
| 39 | 36 | 15 | 9 | 1 |
| 43 | 34 | 14 | 9 | * |
| 42 | 37 | 13 | 8 | * |
| 44 | 36 | 10 | 10 | * |
| 39 | 37 | 15 | 9 | 0 |
| 37 | 35 | 16 | 12 | * |
| 36 | 37 | 14 | 12 | 1 |
| 36 | 34 | 18 | 12 | * |
| 32 | 31 | 19 | 17 | 1 |
| 33 | 36 | 19 | 11 | 1 |
| 25 | 34 | 22 | 19 | * |
| 24 | 35 | 22 | 19 | * |
| 23 | 35 | 23 | 19 | * |
| 20 | 33 | 26 | 20 | 1 |
| 26 | 33 | 21 | 19 | 1 |
| 21 | 33 | 25 | 21 | * |
| 27 | 30 | 21 | 21 | 1 |
| 21 | 34 | 26 | 19 | * |
| 23 | 32 | 22 | 23 | * |
| 13 | 31 | 26 | 30 | * |
| 22 | 30 | 24 | 24 | * |
| 21 | 34 | 25 | 20 | * |
| 24 | 31 | 22 | 23 | * |
| 22 | 31 | 24 | 23 | * |
| 18 | 34 | 26 | 22 | * |
| 19 | 35 | 21 | 25 | * |
| 22 | 28 | 24 | 26 | * |
| 19 | 27 | 24 | 30 | * |
| 23 | 32 | 21 | 24 | * |
| 19 | 31 | 25 | 25 | * |
| 19 | 32 | 22 | 26 | 1 |
| 16 | 26 | 30 | 27 | 1 |
| 17 | 29 | 27 | 27 | * |
| 24 | 29 | 24 | 22 | 1 |
| 20 | 32 | 25 | 23 | * |
| 18 | 31 | 21 | 30 | * |
| 17 | 32 | 26 | 25 | * |

[^1]
## PEW. 1 CONTINUED...

June 8-11, 2007
June 1-4, 2007
May 24-27, 2007
May 18-21, 2007
May 11-14, 2007
May 4-7, 2007
April 27-30, 2007
April 20-23, 2007
April 12-16, 2007
April 5-9, 2007
March 30-April 2, 2007
March 23-26, 2007
March 16-19, 2007
March 9-12, 2007
March 2-5, 2007
February 23-26, 2007
February 16-19, 2007
February 9-12, 2007
February 2-5, 2007
January 26-29, 2007
January 19-22, 2007³

| Very closely | Fairly closely | Not too closely | Not at all closely | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 19 | 30 | 24 | 26 | 1 |
| 16 | 27 | 32 | 24 | 1 |
| 22 | 33 | 23 | 22 | * |
| 18 | 31 | 24 | 27 | * |
| 18 | 30 | 23 | 28 | 1 |
| 23 | 34 | 21 | 21 | 1 |
| 14 | 30 | 29 | 26 | 1 |
| 18 | 28 | 27 | 27 | * |
| 18 | 28 | 27 | 27 | * |
| 25 | 30 | 26 | 19 | * |
| 20 | 29 | 27 | 23 | 1 |
| 20 | 32 | 22 | 26 | * |
| 15 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 1 |
| 24 | 30 | 23 | 23 | * |
| 19 | 31 | 26 | 23 | 1 |
| 22 | 33 | 24 | 21 | * |
| 18 | 32 | 22 | 27 | 1 |
| 24 | 30 | 24 | 21 | 1 |
| 24 | 36 | 22 | 18 | * |
| 24 | 33 | 23 | 20 | * |
| 24 | 27 | 22 | 26 | 1 |
| 52 | 36 | 8 | 4 | * |
| 46 | 30 | 12 | 11 | 1 |
| 32 | 38 | 16 | 14 | * |
| 29 | 37 | 18 | 15 | 1 |
| 31 | 33 | 19 | 16 | 1 |
| 35 | 34 | 18 | 13 | * |
| 24 | 40 | 23 | 12 | 1 |
| 29 | 37 | 20 | 13 | 1 |
| 16 | 30 | 27 | 26 | 1 |
| 14 | 32 | 30 | 23 | 1 |
| 16 | 26 | 27 | 30 | 1 |
| 11 | 26 | 34 | 28 | 1 |
| 12 | 27 | 28 | 32 | 1 |
| 17 | 25 | 30 | 27 | 1 |
| 12 | 27 | 27 | 33 | 1 |
| 8 | 19 | 31 | 41 | 1 |
| 14 | 28 | 29 | 28 | 1 |
| 39 | 44 | 12 | 5 | * |
| 40 | 37 | 15 | 8 | * |
| 42 | 36 | 15 | 6 | 1 |
| 22 | 42 | 21 | 15 | * |
| 21 | 38 | 20 | 20 | 1 |
| 23 | 32 | 23 | 21 | 1 |
| 18 | 33 | 26 | 23 | * |
| 18 | 39 | 22 | 20 | 1 |
| 26 | 41 | 19 | 13 | 1 |
| 26 | 36 | 21 | 17 | * |

[^2]
## PEW. 1 CONTINUED...

January, 2000
December, 1999
October, 1999
September, 1999
July, 1999
June, 1999
November, 1996 (RVs): 1996 Presidential
Election
October, 1996
f. Debate about how to resolve the Israeli-
Palestinian dispute
May 26-29, 2011

## TREND FOR COMPARISON:

September 30-October 3, 2010: Israeli-
Palestinian peace talks
September 16-19, 2010
September 2-6, 2010: Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Washington
March 26-29, 2010: Reports about tensions between Israel and the United States
March 19-22, 2010: Reports about tensions
in the Middle East between Israelis and Palestinians
June 19-22, 2009: The situation between
Israelis and Palestinians
January 23-26, 2009: Conflict between the
Israeli military and Hamas forces in Gaza
January 16-19, 2009
January 9-12, 2009

| Very <br> closely | Fairly <br> closely | Not too <br> closely | Not at all <br> closely | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 16 | 34 | $\frac{28}{18}$ | $\frac{18}{}$ | 1 |
| 17 | 36 | 24 | 23 | 1 |
| 15 | 32 | 28 | 22 | 1 |
| 15 | 31 | 33 | 20 | 1 |
| 11 | 25 | 24 | 22 | 1 |
|  |  | 29 | 34 | 1 |
| 34 | 45 | 15 | 6 | $*$ |
| 31 | 39 | 18 | 12 | $*$ |

January 2-4, 2009
18
23
24
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11

March 7-10, 2008: Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis
January 11-14, 2008: News about President Bush attending peace talks in Israel
Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2007: The Middle East Peace Summit in Annapolis, Maryland August, 2006: The military conflict between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon
September, 2003: Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis
June, 2003: President Bush's summit meeting with world leaders and with the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority 36

24
19
1
Early June, 2003: Continued violence in the
Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis
December, 2002
Early October, 2002
June, 2002
April, 2002
Early April, 2002
December, 2001
Early September, 2001

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## PEW. 1 CONTINUED...

April, 2001: Continued violence in the Middle East
January, 2001: Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East
Mid-October, 2000: Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis
Early October, 2000: Renewed violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis
July, 2000: The Middle East peace summit at Camp David
November, 1998: The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians
Early October, 1998 (RVs): Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East
January, 1997: Renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians over Hebron October, 1996: Renewed violence between Israelis \& Palestinians on the West Bank and in Jerusalem
September, 1995: The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians
Late September, 1993: The peace accords between Israel and the PLO
Early September, 1993: Talks between Israel and the PLO about Arab self-rule for the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho
January, 1993: Israel's expulsion of 400 Moslem fundamentalists following the murder of an Israeli soldier in the West Bank
October, 1991: President Bush's decision to postpone loan guarantees to Israel
June, 1990: The incident in Gaza in which a deranged Israeli killed seven Palestinians and the West Bank riots that followed May, 1988: The conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories
\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{ccccc}\begin{array}{c}\text { Very } \\
\text { closely }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Fairly } \\
\text { closely }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Not too } \\
\text { closely }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Not at all } \\
\text { closely }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { (VOL.) } \\
\text { DK/Ref }\end{array}
$$ <br>

22 \& 34 \& 24 \& 19 \& 1\end{array}\right]\)|  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 21 | 32 | 29 | 17 |

## 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.]

May 26-29
$\underline{2011}$
48 Deadly tornadoes in the Midwest
8 Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit
7 News about state and local budget problems
5 News about possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections
5 Debate about how to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute
3 President Barack Obama's trip to Europe
10 Some other story (VOL.)
13 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

## ASK ALL:

PEW. 3 How much if anything, have you heard about each of the following? Have you heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE WITH ITEM d ALWAYS LAST]
a. The end of Oprah Winfrey's daytime talk show
May 26-29, 2011
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

May 19-22, 2011: Katie Couric stepping down from her role as anchor of the CBS Evening News
July 1-5, 2010: Larry King announcing he will retire from his CNN talk show in the fall
November 20-23, 2009: Oprah Winfrey announcing that she will end her daytime talk show in 2011
November 9-12, 2007: Possible abuse of students at Oprah Winfrey's school for disadvantaged girls in South Africa
September 14-17, 2007: Oprah Winfrey's decision to support Barack Obama for president

| A lot <br> 36 | A little <br> 37 | Nothing <br> at all | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 8 | 47 | 44 | 1 |
| 15 | 45 | 39 | 1 |
| 33 | 45 | 21 | 1 |
| 23 | 50 | 27 | $*$ |
| 16 | 46 | 38 | $*$ |
| 19 | 44 | 37 | $*$ |
| 30 | 55 | 15 | $*$ |
| 23 | 43 | 33 | $*$ |
| 19 | 39 | 40 | 1 |


[^0]:    1 March 2-5, 2007 through May 30-June 2, 2008 asked about "Violent storms and tornadoes" in each region. May, 1999 asked about "Tornadoes in Oklahoma and Kansas."

[^1]:    2 January 11-14, 2008 asked about: "News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign."

[^2]:    3 January 19-22, 2007 asked about: "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."

    4 From May 2003 to Early February 2004 and in March 1992, the story was listed as "The race for the Democratic nomination." In January 2003, the story was listed as "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004." In September 2000, Early September and July 1996, and May 1992, the question asked about "the presidential election campaign." In January, March and April 1996, the story was listed as "News about the Republican presidential candidates." In August 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential election." In July 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential campaign." In January 1992, the story was listed as "News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination." In 1988, the story was introduced as being from "this past year" and was listed as "News about the presidential campaign in 1988."

