PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX MAY 26-29, 2011 OMNIBUS FINAL TOPLINE N=1,000

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?"]

		Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
a.	Discussions in Washington about how to					
	address the federal budget deficit	25	26	20	29	*
	May 26-29, 2011 May 12-15, 2011	25 21	26 26	20 24	29 28	1
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:	21	20	24	20	T
	May 5-8, 2011: Discussions in Washington	29	28	22	20	1
	about how to address the federal budget	29	20	22	20	T
	deficit and national debt					
	April 21-25, 2011	30	31	18	21	*
	April 14-17, 2011	36	27	18	19	1
	April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a</i>	50	27	10	19	1
	government shutdown because of budget					
	disagreements in Washington	47	26	15	12	*
	March 31-April 3, 2011: Discussions in	.,	20	10		
	Washington about how to address the					
	federal budget deficit	30	27	21	22	*
	March 17-20, 2011	24	25	24	26	1
	March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
	February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
	December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
	November 11-14, 2010: Proposals made by					
	leaders of the federal budget deficit					
	commission	15	21	21	41	1
	January 9-12, 2009: Projections of a record					
	high federal budget deficit this year	35	30	19	16	*
	November, 1990: Congressional and					
	administration efforts to reach a budget					
	deficit agreement	34	33	20	11	2
	October, 1990: Attempts by Congress and					
	the administration to find ways to reduce					
	the budget deficit	34	37	17	12	*
b.	News about state and local budget problems			10		-1-
	May 26-29, 2011	26	29	19	26	*
	March 17-20, 2011	26	29	22	23	1
	February 17-20, 2011	28	31	17	23	1
	January 6-9, 2011	24	37 35	18 22	20	1 1
	June 24-27, 2010 March 5-8, 2010	26 31	35	19	15 18	1 *
	April 9-13, 2009	28	30	21	21	*
	April 9-15, 2009	20	30	21	21	·
c.	Deadly tornadoes in the Midwest					
0.	May 26-29, 2011	45	33	13	9	*
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				-	
	May 5-8, 2011: Tornadoes and flooding in					
	the South and Midwest	41	37	15	7	*
	April 28-May 1, 2011: Deadly storms in the	45	29	14	12	1
	South					

PE	W.1 CONTINUED					
		Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	April 21-25, 2011: <i>Deadly storms in the South and Midwest</i> June 13-16, 2008: <i>A tornado that killed</i>	29	33	18	20	*
	four Boy Scouts at a camp in Iowa	32	35	17	16	*
	May 30-June 2, 2008: <i>Midwest</i> ¹	30	33	21	15	1
	February 8-11, 2008: South and Midwest	25	42	19	13	1
	May 11-14, 2007: Tornadoes and floods in					
	the Midwest	22 33	35 38	23 18	19 11	1 *
	March 2-5, 2007: <i>South and Midwest</i> May, 1999: <i>Oklahoma and Kansas</i>	38	40	15	6	1
	May, 1999. Okianonna and Kansas	50	40	15	0	T
d.	President Barack Obama's trip to Europe May 26-29, 2011	11	21	27	40	1
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:			_;		-
	November 11-14, 2010: President Obama's					
	trip to Asia	18	26	21	33	2
	November 4-7, 2010	14	21	23	40	1
	November 20-23, 2009	11	19	29	41	*
	November 13-16, 2009	8	19	28	44	1
	August 14-17, 2009: President Obama's					
	trip to Mexico	9	20	26	44	*
	July 10-13, 2009: President Obama's trip					
	to Russia and the G-8 Summit in Italy	14	30	24	30	1
	April 17-20, 2009: Trip to Mexico and Latin					
	America	17	26	25	32	*
	April 9-13, 2009: Visit to Turkey and Iraq	23	29	22	26	*
	April 3-6, 2009: Trip to Europe and	25	25	71	10	*
	meetings with foreign leaders	25	35	21	19	4
e.	News about possible candidates for the 2012					
	presidential elections	20	27	24	28	*
	May 26-29, 2011 May 19-22, 2011	20 15	27	24 24	32	1
	May 12-15, 2011	15	27	24	35	1
	May 12-13, 2011 May 5-8, 2011	16	22	20	32	1
	April 21-25, 2011	18	24	23	32	1
	April 14-17, 2011	20	23	29	27	1
	March 24-27, 2011	13	19	26	41	1
	March 10-13, 2011	15	21	26	38	0
	February 10-13, 2011	16	19	24	40	*
	February 3-6, 2011	15	20	23	42	*
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
	October 24-27, 2008: 2008 Presidential					
	Election	44	36	11	8	1
	October 17-20, 2008	61	28	7	4	*
	October 10-13, 2008	52	31	12	5	*
	October 3-6, 2008	57	31	8	4	*
	September 26-29, 2008	56	29	10	5	*
	September 19-22, 2008	47	33	14	6	*
	September 12-15, 2008	40	38	14	7	1
	September 5-8, 2008	45	39	12	4	*
	August 29-31, 2008	45	32	15	8	*
	August 22-25, 2008	31	36	22	11	*
	August 15-18, 2008	25	41	19	14	1
	August 8-11, 2008	27	38	22	13	*
	August 1-4, 2008	30	42	19	9	*

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."

W.1 CONTINUED					
	Very	Fairly	Not too	Not at all	(VOL.)
	<u>closely</u>	closely	<u>closely</u>	closely	DK/Ref *
July 25-28, 2008	30	34	21	15	*
July 18-21, 2008	30	35	21	14	
July 11-14, 2008	28	34	22	15	1 *
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	23	17	
June 27-30, 2008	39	33	18	10	*
June 20-23, 2008	28	38	22	12	*
June 13-16, 2008	35	35	20	10	*
June 6-9, 2008	38	35	17	10	*
May 30-June 2, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
May 22-25, 2008	32	37	20	11	*
May 16-19, 2008	33	37	19	10	1
May 9-12, 2008	35	36	18	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	27	35	23	14	1
April 25-28, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
April 18-21, 2008	29	41	19	10	1
April 11-14, 2008	31	37	22	10	*
April 4-7, 2008	33	36	17	14	*
March 28-31, 2008	31	41	18	10	*
March 20-24, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
March 14-17, 2008	40	37	16	7	*
March 7-10, 2008	39	36	15	9	1
February 29-March 3, 2008	43	34	14	9	*
February 22-25, 2008	42	37	13	8	*
February 15-18, 2008	44	36	10	10	*
February 8-11, 2008	39	37	15	9	0
February 1-4, 2008	37	35	16	12	*
January 25-28, 2008	36	37	14	12	1
January 18-21, 2008	36	34	18	12	*
January 11-14, 2008 ²	32	31	19	17	1
January 4-7, 2008	33	36	19	11	1
December 14-17, 2007	25	34	22	19	*
December 7-10, 2007	24	35	22	19	*
November 30 – December 3, 2007	23	35	23	19	*
November 23-26, 2007	20	33	26	20	1
November 16-19, 2007	26	33	21	19	1
November 9-12, 2007	21	33	25	21	*
November 2-5, 2007	27	30	21	21	1
October 26-29, 2007	21	34	26	19	*
October 19-22, 2007	23	32	22	23	*
October 12-15, 2007	13	31	26	30	*
October 5-8, 2007	22	30	24	24	*
September 28 – October 1, 2007	21	34	25	20	*
September 21-24, 2007	24	31	22	23	*
September 14-17, 2007	22	31	24	23	*
September 7-10, 2007	18	34	26	22	*
August 30-September 2, 2007	19	35	21	25	*
August 24-27, 2007	22	28	24	26	*
August 17-20, 2007	19	27	24	30	*
August 10-13, 2007	23	32	21	24	*
August 3-6, 2007	19	31	25	25	*
July 27-30, 2007	19	32	22	26	1
July 20-23, 2007	16	26	30	27	1
July 13-16, 2007	17	29	27	27	*
July 6-9, 2007	24	29	24	22	1
June 29-July 2, 2007	20	32	25	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	18	31	21	30	*
June 15-18, 2007	17	32	26	25	Ť

2

January 11-14, 2008 asked about: "News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign."

V.1 CONTINUED					
	Very	Fairly	Not too	Not at all	(VOL.)
	<u>closely</u>	<u>closely</u>	<u>closely</u>	<u>closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
June 8-11, 2007	19	30	24	26	1
June 1-4, 2007	16	27	32	24	1
May 24-27, 2007	22	33	23	22	*
May 18-21, 2007	18	31	24	27	*
May 11-14, 2007	18	30	23	28	1
May 4-7, 2007	23	34	21	21	1
April 27-30, 2007	14	30	29	26	1
April 20-23, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 12-16, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 5-9, 2007	25	30	26	19	*
March 30-April 2, 2007	20	29	27	23	1
March 23-26, 2007	20	32	22	26	*
March 16-19, 2007	15	28	29	27	1
March 9-12, 2007	24	30	23	23	*
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1
February 23-26, 2007	22	33	24	21	*
February 16-19, 2007	18	32	22	27	1
February 9-12, 2007	24	30	24	21	1
February 2-5, 2007	24	36	22	18	*
January 26-29, 2007	24	33	23	20	*
January 19-22, 2007 ³	24	27	22	26	1
November, 2004 (RVs): 2004 Presidential		_ /		20	-
Election	52	36	8	4	*
Mid-October, 2004	46	30	12	11	1
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*
Late February, 2004	24	40	23	12	1
Early February, 2004 ⁴	29	37	20	13	1
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	1
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1
January, 2003	14	28	29	28	1
Early November, 2000 (<i>RVs</i>): 2000	14	20	25	20	1
Presidential Election	39	44	12	5	*
Mid-October, 2000 (<i>RVs</i>)	40	37	12	8	*
Early October, 2000 (<i>RVs</i>)	42	36	15	6	1
September, 2000	22	42	21	15	*
July, 2000	21	38	20	20	
June, 2000	21	32	20	20	1 1
May, 2000	18	33	25	23	1 *
April, 2000	18	39	20	20	1
March, 2000	26	41	19	13	1
February, 2000	26	36	21	13	1 *
i Cordal y, 2000	20	50	~1	±/	

3

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

^{2008.&}quot; 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."

PE	W.1 CONTINUED					
		Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1
	December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1
	October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1
	September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1
	July, 1999	15	38	24	22	1
	June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1
	November, 1996 (RVs): 1996 Presidential					
	Election	34	45	15	6	*
	October, 1996	31	39	18	12	*
f.	Debate about how to resolve the Israeli- Palestinian dispute					
	May 26-29, 2011	18	23	24	34	*
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	September 30-October 3, 2010: Israeli-					
	Palestinian peace talks	11	26	29	24	1
	September 16-19, 2010	13	21	26	40	*
	September 2-6, 2010: Israeli-Palestinian					
	peace talks in Washington	14	24	27	35	1
	March 26-29, 2010: <i>Reports about tensions</i> between Israel and the United States	20	27	21	21	1
	March 19-22, 2010: Reports about tensions	20	27	21	31	1
	in the Middle East between Israelis and					
	Palestinians	15	28	27	30	1
	June 19-22, 2009: The situation between	10	20	27	50	-
	Israelis and Palestinians	15	26	30	29	1
	January 23-26, 2009: Conflict between the					
	Israeli military and Hamas forces in Gaza	31	31	18	20	*
	January 16-19, 2009	24	31	22	22	1
	January 9-12, 2009	34	35	18	13	0
	January 2-4, 2009	28	32	22	18	*
	March 7-10, 2008: Continued violence in					
	the Middle East between the Palestinians					
	and the Israelis	20	33	26	21	*
	January 11-14, 2008: News about					
	President Bush attending peace talks in	10	20	22	20	
	Israel	16	30	23	30	1
	Nov. 30-Dec. 3, 2007: The Middle East Peace Summit in Annapolis, Maryland	11	25	24	39	1
	August, 2006: The military conflict between	11	25	24	29	T
	Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon	40	34	14	10	2
	September, 2003: Continued violence in					_
	the Middle East between the Palestinians					
	and the Israelis	31	36	20	13	*
	June, 2003: President Bush's summit					
	meeting with world leaders and with the					
	prime ministers of Israel and the					
	Palestinian Authority	20	36	24	19	1
	Early June, 2003: Continued violence in the					
	Middle East between the Palestinians and	26	10	20	10	
	the Israelis	26	40	20	13	1
	December, 2002	29	36	22	12	1
	Early October, 2002	32	39	20	8	1
	June, 2002	38	33	18	10	1
	April, 2002 Early April, 2002	38 44	37 33	14 13	10 9	1 1
	Early April, 2002 December, 2001	44 31	33 40	13	9	1
	Early September, 2001	21	33	25	20	1
		<u> </u>	55	25	20	Ŧ

V.1 CONTINUED					
	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
April, 2001: <i>Continued violence in the Middle East</i> January, 2001: <i>Renewed efforts at</i>	22	34	24	19	1
Finally, 2001. Renewed enots at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East Mid-October, 2000: Continued violence in	21	32	29	17	1
<i>the Middle East between the Palestinians</i> <i>and the Israelis</i> Early October, 2000: <i>Renewed violence in</i>	30	38	18	13	1
<i>the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis</i> July, 2000: <i>The Middle East peace summit</i>	21	30	27	21	1
at Camp David November, 1998: The latest Mideast peace	15	30	24	31	*
agreement between Israel and the Palestinians Early October, 1998 (RVs): Renewed	18	33	28	19	2
efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East January, 1997: Renewed tensions between	21	40	27	12	*
Israelis and Palestinians over Hebron October, 1996: Renewed violence between	12	23	29	35	1
<i>Israelis & Palestinians on the West Bank and in Jerusalem</i> September, 1995: <i>The latest Mideast peace</i>	17	34	26	23	*
<i>agreement between Israel and the Palestinians</i> Late September, 1993: <i>The peace accords</i>	11	32	29	27	1
between Israel and the PLO Early September, 1993: Talks between Israel and the PLO about Arab self-rule for	23	33	24	19	1
the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho January, 1993: Israel's expulsion of 400 Moslem fundamentalists following the	19	31	23	26	1
murder of an Israeli soldier in the West Bank October, 1991: President Bush's decision to	10	25	31	33	1
postpone loan guarantees to Israel June, 1990: The incident in Gaza in which a	15	25	30	29	1
deranged Israeli killed seven Palestinians and the West Bank riots that followed May, 1988: The conflict in the Middle East	11	28	30	30	1
between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories	18	37	34	9	2

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

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]**

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	Nothing <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The end of Oprah Winfrey's daytime talk show May 26-29, 2011 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:	36	37	26	1
	May 19-22, 2011: Katie Couric stepping down from her role as anchor of the CBS Evening News	8	47	44	1
	July 1-5, 2010: Larry King announcing he will retire from his CNN talk show in the fall	15	45	39	1
	November 20-23, 2009: <i>Oprah Winfrey announcing that she will end her daytime talk show in 2011</i> November 9-12, 2007: <i>Possible abuse of students at</i>	33	45	21	1
	<i>Oprah Winfrey's school for disadvantaged girls in South</i> <i>Africa</i>	23	50	27	*
	September 14-17, 2007: Oprah Winfrey's decision to support Barack Obama for president	16	46	38	*
b.	Allegations that Lance Armstrong used performance- enhancing drugs during his cycling career May 26-29, 2011 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:	19	44	37	*
	January 15-18, 2010: <i>Retired baseball player Mark</i> McGwire admitting he used steroids during his career	30	55	15	*
c.	A judge ruling that Jared Loughner is not mentally competent to stand trial for the Arizona shooting rampage that injured Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords May 26-29, 2011	23	43	33	*
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON: January 13-16, 2011: Barack Obama's speech at the memorial for victims of the Arizona shooting	37	38	25	1
	January 13-16, 2011: Sarah Palin's comments on the Arizona shooting	19	39	40	1

PEWWP.1, PEW.4a-PEW.4e TO BE RELEASED SEPARATELY