# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS APRIL 2010 POLITICAL AND FUTURE SURVEY FINAL TOPLINE

April 21-26, 2010 N=1546

# RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2 ASK ALL:

Q.1 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]

	A	Dis-	(VOL.)
	<u>Approve</u>	<u>approve</u>	DK/Ref
Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2
ASK ALL:
Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- Dis	` ,		Satis-		(VOL.)
	fied satisf			<u>fied</u>		DK/Ref
Apr 21-26, 2010	29 66		May, 2004	33	61	6
Apr 1-5, 2010	31 63		Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Mar 11-21, 2010	25 69		Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Mar 10-14, 2010	23 71	7	December, 2003	44	47	9
Feb 3-9, 2010	23 71	6	October, 2003	38	56	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	27 69		August, 2003	40	53	7
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25 67		April 8, 2003	50	41	9
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25 67		January, 2003	44	50	6
Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30 64		November, 2002	41	48	11
Aug 20-27, 2009	28 65		September, 2002	41	55	4
Aug 11-17, 2009	28 65		Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Jul 22-26, 2009	28 66		May, 2002	44	44	12
Jun 10-14, 2009	30 64		March, 2002	50	40	10
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34 58	8	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	23 70	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	20 73	7	June, 2001	43	52	5
December, 2008	13 83	4	March, 2001	47	45	8
Early October, 2008	11 86	3	February, 2001	46	43	11
Mid-September, 2008	25 69	6	January, 2001	55	41	4
August, 2008	21 74	5	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
July, 2008	19 74	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
June, 2008	19 76	5	June, 2000	47	45	8
Late May, 2008	18 76		April, 2000	48	43	9
March, 2008	22 72		August, 1999	56	39	5
Early February, 2008	24 70		January, 1999	53	41	6
Late December, 2007	27 66		November, 1998	46	44	10
October, 2007	28 66		Early September, 1998	54	42	4
February, 2007	30 61	9	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Mid-January, 2007	32 61	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Early January, 2007	30 63		February, 1998	59	37	4
December, 2006	28 65	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
Mid-November, 2006	28 64		September, 1997	45	49	6
Early October, 2006	30 63		August, 1997	49	46	5
July, 2006	30 65	5	January, 1997	38	58	4
May, 2006*	29 65	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
March, 2006	32 63	5	March, 1996	28	70	2
January, 2006	34 61	5	October, 1995	23	73	4
Late November, 2005	34 59		June, 1995	25	73	2
Early October, 2005	29 65	6	April, 1995	23	74	3
July, 2005	35 58		July, 1994	24	73	3
Late May, 2005*	39 57		March, 1994	24	71	5
February, 2005	38 56		October, 1993	22	73	5
January, 2005	40 54		September, 1993	20	75	5
December, 2004	39 54		May, 1993	22	71	7
Mid-October, 2004	36 58		January, 1993	39	50	11
July, 2004	38 55		January, 1992	28	68	4
		•	November, 1991	34	61	5
<sup>1</sup> From September 10-15, 2009 a	and other surveys n	oted with an	Late February, 1991 (Gallup)		31	3
asterisk, the question was wo			August, 1990	47	48	5
dissatisfied with the way thing today?"	gs are going in our	country	May, 1990	41	54	5

<sup>2</sup> 

# Q.2 CONTINUED...

	Satis-	Dis-	(VOL.)
	<u>fied</u>	satisfied	DK/Ref
January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

# ASK ALL:

Thinking about some issues...

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] How about [NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]

		Approve	Dis- approve	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	The economy			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
	Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
	Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
	Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
	Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
	Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
	Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20
b.	Health care policy			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	40	51	9
	Mar 10-14, 2010	39	52	9
	Jan 6-10, 2010	38	52	10
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	43	47	10
	Jul 22-26, 2009	42	43	14
	Apr 14-21, 2009	51	26	23
c.	The nation's immigration poli	icv		
	Apr 21-26, 2010	29	47	24
	Jan 6-10, 2010	30	50	21
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	48	21
d.	The situation in Afghanistan			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	41	42	17
	Mar 10-14, 2010	51	35	15
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	43	12
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	36	49	15
	Jul 22-26, 2009	47	33	19
e.	Dealing with Iran			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	43	19
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	43	40	17
f.	Energy policy			
	Apr 21-26, 2010	43	34	23
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	35	20
	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	50	34	16
	Jul 22-26, 2009	46	31	22
	•			

Q.4 Do you think Barack Obama is too tough, not tough enough or about right in his approach to foreign policy and national security issues?

Apr 21-26		Oct 28-Nov 8	June 10-14
<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>	<u>2009</u>
2	Too tough	3	2
47	Not tough enough	47	38
41	About right	43	51
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.	) 7	8

# **NO QUESTION 5**

# ASK ALL:

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.6 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

			Only		(VOL.)
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	DK/Ref
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2

Q.6 CONTINUED			Only		(VOL.)
	<b>Excellent</b>	Good	Fair	<u>Poor</u>	DK/Ref
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, $2004^2$	2	29	42.	26	1

Q.7 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	D "	<b>X</b> Y	C	(VOL.)
A 01 06 0010	Better 42	Worse	Same 26	DK/Ref
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
January, 2001 Newsweek	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
January, 1984 Newsweek (RVs)	35	13	49	3

<sup>2</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

Q.8 Some people think of American society as divided into two groups, the "haves" and the "have-nots," while others think it's incorrect to think of America that way. Do you, yourself, think of America as divided into haves and have-nots, or don't you think of America that way?

			(VOL.)
	Yes, divided	<u>No</u>	DK/Ref
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	53	5
Mid-April, 2009	35	62	3
Early October, 2008	44	53	3
January, 2008	43	54	3
July, 2007	48	48	4
September, 2006	41	55	4
Early October, 2005	48	50	2
Late March, 2005	38	59	3
Late February, 2004	. 38	59	3
June, 2001	44	53	3
April, 1998 Gallup	39	59	2
July, 1988 Gallup	26	71	3
Aug, 1984 CBS/NY	Times31	61	8

# **ASK ALL:**

Q.9 If you had to choose, which of these groups are you in, the haves or the have-nots?

	Haves	Have-nots	(VOL.) Neither	( <b>VOL.</b> ) DK/Ref
Apr 21-26, 2010	45	36	9	10
Mid-April, 2009	48	36	7	9
Early October, 2008	47	38	8	7
January, 2008	50	34	10	6
July, 2007	45	34	13	8
September, 2006	52	29	10	9
Early October, 2005	47	38	11	4
Late March, 2005	48	34	8	10
Late February, 2004	59	27	7	7
June, 2001	52	32	10	6
April, 1998 Gallup	67	24	6	3
July, 1988 Gallup	59	17	15	9

ASK ALL:
Q.10 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of... [INSERT ITEM;
RANDOMIZE] How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: which party could do a better job (REPEAT ITEM)]

	(KEI EAT TIEWI)			(VOI.)		
		Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Dealing with banks and financial instit					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	36	7	11	11
b.	Improving the job situation					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	37	8	9	10
	September, 2006	29	47	6	5	13
	March, 1998	30	51	7	5	7
	October, 1994	37	42	6	7	8
c.	Reducing the federal budget deficit					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	35	6	11	10
	Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
	Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
	September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
	February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
	Early October, 2005 <sup>3</sup>	29	47	6	10	8
	June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
	July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
	December, 1993	31	36		18	15
d.	Dealing with immigration					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	35	7	11	12
	Aug 27-30, 2009	31	36	6	13	13
	February, 2008	38	43	4	6	9
	October, 2006	35	33	6	8	18
	September, 2006	32	37	5	10	16
	April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13
	February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11
e.	Dealing with the nation's energy problems					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	32	40	8	9	12
	Feb 3-9, 2010	32	44	8	6	10
	Aug 27-30, 2009	25	47	7	9	12
	February, 2008	23	57	5	5	10
	October, 2006	28	44	5	6	17
	September, 2006	27	47	4	7	15
	February, 2006	32	45	6	7	10
	Mid-September, 2005	31	44	6	8	11
	May, 2001	36	34	10	7	13
f.	Making wise decisions about foreign policy					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	39	34	8	8	11
	August 27-30, 2009	31	44	7	8	9
				•	-	

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In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

Q.10 CONTINUED			(VOL.)		
	Republican	Democratic	Both	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Party	<u>Party</u>	<u>equally</u>	Neither	DK/Ref
February, 2008	40	45	4	4	7
July, 2004	38	40	4	4	14
Early September, 2002	40	30	10	6	14
May, 2001	39	34	11	3	13
June, 1999	37	36	7	6	14
March, 1999	42	37	6	4	11
Early September, 1998	40	31	11	5	13
March, 1998	41	33	12	4	10
October, 1994	47	30	7	5	11
July, 1994 <sup>4</sup>	51	31	4	6	8
December, 1993	49	23		10	18
May, 1990	39	28		17	16

Q.11 Thinking about the Republican Party, who do YOU think of as the leader of the Republican Party these days... [SINGLE RESPONSE, DO NOT READ OPTIONS. USE PRECODES AS APPROPRIATE; ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]

Apr 21-26 2010		Dec 9-13 2009	Mar 9-12 2009
8	John McCain	9	11
4	Sarah Palin	2	1
3	Mitt Romney	1	1
2	Rush Limbaugh	3	5
2	Newt Gingrich	1	2
1	Mitch McConnell	1	1
1	George W. Bush	1	*
1	Michael Steele	1	2
1	John Boehner	*	*
1	Mike Huckabee	1	*
*	Glenn Beck	*	*
*	Dick Cheney	1	*
4	Other	4	4
18	Nobody is	22	15
52	Don't know/Refused	55	57

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In July 1994 and May 1990, the item was worded "Making wise decisions about the country's defense policies."

# **NO QUESTIONS 12-22**

# **ASK ALL:**

Now, thinking about foreign policy and national security...

Q.23 In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more, Israel or the Palestinians?

			(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Israel</u>	<b>Palestinians</b>	<b>Both</b>	Neither	DK/Ref
Apr 21-26, 2010	49	16	4	12	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	12	4	14	19
January 7-11, 2009	49	11	5	15	20
May, 2007	49	11	5	17	18
August, 2006	52	11	5	15	17
July, 2006	44	9	5	20	22
May, 2006	48	13	4	14	20
Late October, 2005	43	17	5	16	19
July, 2005	37	12	5	19	27
July, 2004	40	13	7	18	22
Late February, 2004	46	12	8	15	19
Mid-July, 2003	41	13	8	18	20
April, 2002	41	13	6	21	19
Mid-October, 2001	47	10	8	18	17
Early September, 2001	40	17	6	23	14
September, 1997	48	13	5	16	18
September, 1993	45	21	3	18	12
Chicago CFR 1990	34	14	7	26	20
Chicago CFR 1982	40	17	8	19	16
Chicago CFR 1978 <sup>5</sup>	45	14	9	18	15

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.24 Thinking about the situation in the Middle East these days, do you think Barack Obama is... [READ, RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

Apr 21-26		Oct 28-Nov 8	Jun 10-14
<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>	2009
7	Favoring Israel too much	7	6
21	Favoring the Palestinians too much	16	17
47	Striking about the right balance	51	62
25	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	26	14

# **NO QUESTIONS 25-27**

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In the 1978 Chicago Council on Foreign Relations survey conducted by the Gallup Organization, results are based on respondents who said they had "heard or read about the situation in the Middle East", which represented 87% of the public. As a context note, in both the 1978 and 1982 CCFR/Gallup surveys, this question followed a broader question: "In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with Israel or more with the Arab nations?" and in 1982, a question regarding "U.S. military aid and arms sales to Israel".

Q.28 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about Barack Obama's recent decisions regarding nuclear weapons policy? Have you heard... [READ]

Apr 21-26	
<u>2010</u>	
21	A lot
49	A little
29	Nothing at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.29 As I read some recent decisions Barack Obama has made regarding nuclear weapons policy, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of each decision. First, do you approve or disapprove of Obama's decision... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: do you approve or disapprove of Obama's decision (REPEAT ITEM)]

a.	To sign a treaty with Russia reducing	Approve	Dis- approve	( <b>VOL.</b> ) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	the number of nuclear weapons in both countries Apr 21-26, 2010	71	23	6
b.	To declare that the U.S. will not use nuclear weapons against countries that do not have nuclear weapons Apr 21-26, 2010	64	30	6
c.	To stop the U.S. from developing NEW nuclear weapons Apr 21-26, 2010	47	47	6

# **ASK ALL:**

Q.30 Thinking about the economic stimulus passed by Congress last year do you think the stimulus has helped the job situation, or has it NOT helped the job situation?

Apr 21-26	
<u>2010</u>	
33	Helped the job situation
62	Has NOT helped the job situation
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.31 And, thinking about the loans the federal government provided to troubled banks and financial institutions, which statement comes closer to your view? [READ]

Apr 21-26	
<u>2010</u>	
42	The loans HELPED prevent a more severe economic crisis [OR]
49	The loans did NOT help prevent a more severe economic crisis
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Q.32 Since the crisis in the financial markets in the fall of 2008, how much progress has the government made in fixing the problems that caused the crisis [**READ**]?

Apr 21-26		Oct
2010		$2009^{6}$
3	A great deal of progress	2
28	Some progress	26
42	Just a little progress [OR]	46
25	No progress at all	23
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

# **NO QUESTIONS 33-34**

#### **ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about the Supreme Court...

Q.35 In your view, do you think the current Supreme Court is conservative, middle of the road, or liberal?

Apr 21-26		July
<u>2010</u>		2007
24	Conservative	36
36	Middle of the road	35
24	Liberal	14
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	15

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.36 Just your impression...over the past two decades, do you think the Supreme Court has [READ, RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1 & 2, KEEP ITEM 3 LAST]?

Apr 21-26	
<u>2010</u>	
19	Become more conservative
28	Become more liberal [OR]
43	Has it stayed about the same
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

# **ASK ALL:**

Q.37 In making his appointments to the Supreme Court, should President Obama nominate people who will make the court more liberal, people who will make it more conservative, or people who will keep the court about the same as it is now?

		Bush				Clinton
					Late	Gallup
Apr 21-26		Sept	July	June	March	March
<u>2010</u>		<u>2005</u>	$2005^{7}$	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u> 1993</u>
27	More liberal	24	24	28	24	29
28	More conservative	30	27	29	28	29
35	About the same as it is now	39	40	35	41	38
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	9	8	7	4

In October, 2009 the question read: "Since the crisis in the financial markets last fall, how much progress has the government made in fixing the problems that caused the crisis...?"

For March 2005 through July 2005 the question read: "In making his next appointment to the Supreme Court, should President Bush choose someone who will make the court..." March, 1993 asked about President Clinton's next appointment.

ASK ALL:
Q.38 How important is the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally? [READ]

				Bush		
			Mid-			Late
Apr 21-26		Nov	Sept	July	June	March
<u>2010</u>		<u>2005</u>	$2005^{8}$	2005	2005	<u>2005</u>
40	Very important	47	48	47	47	38
32	Somewhat important	28	34	30	29	36
14	Not too important [OR]	13	9	14	14	15
11	Not at all important	11	7	8	8	8
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	1	2	3

Q.39 As I read a list of words and phrases, please tell me what your reaction is to each ... (First,) do you have a positive or negative reaction to the word/phrase... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: do you have a positive or negative reaction to the word/phrase (REPEAT ITEM)]

		<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	( <b>VOL.</b> ) Neither/ <u>Neutral</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Socialism Apr 21-26, 2010	29	59	6	5
b.	Progressive Apr 21-26, 2010	68	23	4	6
c.	Militia Apr 21-26, 2010	21	65	4	11
d.	Libertarian Apr 21-26, 2010	38	37	9	16
e.	States' rights Apr 21-26, 2010	77	15	3	5
NO IT	EM f.				
g.	Capitalism Apr 21-26, 2010	52	37	4	7
h.	Family values Apr 21-26, 2010	89	9	1	1
	FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:				
i.F2	Civil liberties Apr 21-26, 2010	76	14	4	6
	FORM 1 ONLY [N=779]:				
j.F1	Civil rights Apr 21-26, 2010	87	10	1	2

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In mid-September 2005 the question was asked about both choices: "How important are the President's choices of the next Supreme Court Justice to you personally?"

# **NO QUESTIONS 40-44**

#### **ASK ALL:**

Now, I'd like you to think about what things will be like in 2050 [**PRONOUNCED: "twenty-fifty"**], that is, 40 years from now...

Q.45 First, thinking about you and your family... Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic about life for you and your family over the next 40 years?

Apr 21-26		May
2010		1999 <sup>9</sup>
26	Very optimistic	40
38	Somewhat optimistic	41
19	Somewhat pessimistic	10
12	Very pessimistic	5
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.46 And, thinking about the United States... Would you say you are very optimistic, somewhat optimistic, somewhat pessimistic, or very pessimistic about the future of the U.S., over the next 40 years?

Apr 21-26		May
<u>2010</u>		$1999^{10}$
23	Very optimistic	23
38	Somewhat optimistic	47
23	Somewhat pessimistic	20
13	Very pessimistic	7
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3

#### **NO QUESTIONS 47-49**

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.50 Over the next 40 years, do you think that the average American family will see its standard of living... [READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 3, WITH OPTION 2 ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE]

Apr 21-26	
<u>2010</u>	
34	Get better
27	Stay about the same [OR]
36	Get worse
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

# **NO QUESTIONS 51-52**

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In May, 1999 the question asked about: "life for you and your family over the next 50 years."

In May, 1999 the question asked about: "the future of the U.S., over the next 50 years."

Q.53 Still thinking ahead 40 years, as I read the following pairs, please tell me which is more likely to happen here in the U.S... First, do you think . . . [INSERT ITEM PAIRS; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] Next, do you think [NEXT ITEM] [IF NECESSARY: 40 years from now, which is more likely to happen here in the U.S. (REPEAT ITEM)] [DO NOT READ NUMBERS "1" OR "2"]<sup>11</sup>

A	pr 21-26		May	Dec
•	<u>2010</u>		1999 <sup>12</sup>	1996
a.	56	The U.S. economy will be stronger than today	64	53
		OR		
	39	The U.S. economy will be weaker than today	31	42
	1	Neither/No change (VOL.)	2	2
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3
A CITZ	EODM 4	ONLY IN ECEL		
		ONLY [N=767]:		_
A	pr 21-26		May	Dec
	<u>2010</u>		1999 <sup>13</sup>	<u> 1996</u>
b.F2	50	Health care will be MORE affordable than today OR	36	36
	46	Health care will be LESS affordable than today	60	61
	1	Neither/No change (VOL.)	1	1
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	2
Λ.	mm 21 26		More	Dag
A	pr 21-26		May	Dec
	<u>2010</u>		<u>1999</u>	<u>1996</u>
c.F2	68	Race relations will improve	68	54
		OR		
	23	Race relations will get worse	28	40

	The Tellerons will get worse		
4	Neither/No change (VOL.)	3	3
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	3
Apr 21-2	26		
2010			
d.F2 40	The United States will be more important	nt in the world than	it is now
	OR		
53	The United States will be less important	in the world than i	t is now
5	Neither/No change (VOL.)		

# NO ITEM e.F2

3

#### **ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=779]:**

	~ [- · · · · · ] ·	
or 21-26		May
2010		1999
58	The gap between rich and poor will grow OR	69
34	The gap between rich and poor will get smaller	27
3	Neither/No change (VOL.)	2
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2
	58 34	2010 58 The gap between rich and poor will grow OR 34 The gap between rich and poor will get smaller 3 Neither/No change (VOL.)

Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

In May, 1999 the question began: "Thinking ahead over the next 50 years..."

In May, 1999 and before the statements read: "The U.S. economy will be stronger [OR] the U.S. economy will be weaker."

In May, 1999 and before the statements read: "Health care will be MORE affordable [OR] health care will be LESS affordable."

# Q.53 CONTINUED...

#### TREND FOR COMPARISON

A	pr 21-26		May	
	2010		$1999^{14}$	
g.F1		Many more people than now		
	42	will live to be 100 years of age	58	
		OR		
		About as many people		
	50	will live to 100 as do now	40	
	5	Neither/No change (VOL.)	2	
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	
$\mathbf{A}$	pr 21-26		May	Dec
	2010		<u> 1999</u>	1996
h.F1	49	The public education system will improve	66	59
		OR		
	46	The public education system will get worse	30	37
	1	Neither/No change (VOL.)	2	2
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2
Δ	pr 21-26			
П	2010			
i.F1	30	Religion will become less important in the U.S	2	
1.1 1	30	OR	).	
	65	Religion will be about as important in the U.S.	as it is now	
	3	Neither/No change (VOL.)		
	3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)		

# **ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:**

Q.54F2 And 40 years from now, do you think [READ AND RANDOMIZE]?

The world's oceans will be MORE healthy than they are now [OR]
The world's oceans will be LESS healthy than they are now
Neither/No change (VOL.)
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

# **ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=779]:**

Q.55AF1 It's estimated that by 2050 the population of the United States will grow by about 100 million. Do you think this population growth will [READ, RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1 & 2, KEEP ITEM 3 LAST]?

Apr 21-26	
<u>2010</u>	
16	Benefit the country
42	Harm the country [OR]
37	Neither benefit nor harm the country
5	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

In May, 1999 the statements read: "People will live much longer [OR] people will live about as long as they do now."

#### ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:

Q.55BF2 In order to maintain the strength of the U.S. economy over the next 40 years, do you think, that LEGAL immigration will...[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 3, WITH OPTION 2 ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE]

Apr 21-26	
<u>2010</u>	
26	Need to be increased
36	Need to be maintained at current levels [OR]
34	Need to be decreased
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

#### **ASK ALL:**

Q.56 Now I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not happen in the next 40 years. Please tell me how likely you think it is that each will happen. First, How likely do you think it is that [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]... do you think this will definitely happen, will probably happen, will probably NOT happen, or will definitely happen, will probably happen, will probably NOT happen, or will definitely not happen, will probably happen, will probably NOT happen, or will definitely not happen, in the next 40 years?]...<sup>15</sup>

#### FORM 1 ITEMS BASED ON N=779 FORM 2 ITEMS BASED ON N=767

		Will definitely	Will probably	Will probably	Will definitely	(VOL.)
		<u>happen</u>	<u>happen</u>	not happen	not happen	DK/Ref
a.F1	Jesus Christ will return to earth					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	23	18	29	17	13
	May, 1999	22	22	27	17	12
b.F1	There will be another world war					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	16	42	31	6	4
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	There will be a nuclear war					
	May, 1999	9	32	46	11	2
c.F2	There will be a major terrorist attack					
	on the U.S. involving a nuclear weapon					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	10	43	36	7	4
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	There will be a major terrorist attack					
	on the U.S. involving biological or					
	chemical weapons					
	May, 1999	13	51	28	4	4
d.F2	The world will face a major energy crisis					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	21	51	21	4	3
	May, 1999	15	48	30	4	3 3
F1	TDI at 311 a					
e.F1	The earth will get warmer	27	20	21	0	4
	Apr 21-26, 2010	27	39	21	9	4
	May, 1999	28	48	16	3	5

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In May, 1999 the question began: "Now I'm going to read you a list of things that may or may not happen in the next 50 years."

Q.56 CONTINUED
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Q.56 C	CONTINUED	Will definitely	Will probably	Will probably	Will definitely	(VOL.)
f.F2	The quality of the earth's environment	<u>happen</u>	<u>happen</u>	not happen	not happen	DK/Ref
	will improve	9	38	41	9	3
	Apr 21-26, 2010 <b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> We will make progress in	9	36	41	9	3
	improving our environment					
	May, 1999	19	59	18	2	2
g.F1	An asteroid will hit the earth					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	5	26	46	16	7
	May, 1999	6	25	48	14	7
h.F2	We will find evidence of life elsewhere in the universe					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	12	38	33	12	4
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	We will make contact with alien life May, 1999	4	23	42	27	4
	Way, 1999	4	23	72	21	4
i.F1	Ordinary people will travel in space	1.4	20	2.5	10	
	Apr 21-26, 2010	14	39	35	10	2
	May, 1999	12	45	32	9	2
j.F2	Astronauts will land on Mars					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	14	49	27	7	2
	May, 1999 <sup>16</sup>	18	58	17	5	2
k.F2	There will be a cure for cancer					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	18	53	23	4	2
	May, 1999	23	58	16	2	1
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b> There will be a cure for AIDS					
	May, 1999	19	60	16	4	1
1 50	Mark American 2011 by a common described					
1.F2	Most Americans will have computer chipsembedded in their bodies for identification					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	9	39	36	14	2
	•		37	30	11	2
m.F1	China will overtake the U.S.					
	as the world's main superpower Apr 21-26, 2010	12	34	33	16	5
	TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:	12	34	33	10	3
	China will become a rival					
	superpower to the U.S.					
	May, 1999	18	49	24	5	4
	The U.S. will remain the					
	world's only superpower	10	21	42	10	2
	May, 1999	13	31	43	10	3

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In May, 1999 the item read: "A manned spacecraft will land on Mars."

# Q.56 CONTINUED...

Q.56 C	ONTINUED	Will definitely	Will probably	Will probably	Will definitely	(VOL.)
		<u>happen</u>	<u>happen</u>	not happen	not happen	DK/Ref
n.F1	There will be a single global currency in use throughout the world	10	2.1	40	4.5	
	Apr 21-26, 2010	10	31	40	15	4
o.F1	A woman will be elected U.S. president	20	61	7	2	1
	Apr 21-26, 2010 May, 1999	28 27	61 53	7 16	2 3	1 1
	way, 1999	21	33	10	3	1
p.F2	A Hispanic will be elected U.S. president					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	8	61	20	6	4
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	An African American will be					
	elected U.S. president	17	59	17	5	2
	May, 1999	17	39	17	3	2
q.F1	We will clone human beings					
•	Apr 21-26, 2010	12	36	33	16	3
	May, 1999	12	39	32	13	4
r.F1	There will be artificial arms and legs					
1.1 1	that perform better than natural ones					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	20	46	22	9	3
F-2						
s.F2	Almost no one will send personal letters					
	in the mail Apr 21-26, 2010	18	43	30	7	2
	Apr 21-20, 2010	10	43	30	,	2
t.F2	Gasoline powered cars					
	will no longer be made					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	12	42	35	6	4
u.F1	Most of our energy will come from					
<b>u.1</b> 1	sources other than coal, oil, and gas					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	21	53	20	4	2
	_					
v.F1	There will be computers that can carry on					
	a conversation just like a human being Apr 21-26, 2010	28	53	13	5	1
	Apr 21-20, 2010	20	33	13	3	1
w.F2	Most Americans will have to work					
	into their 70s before retiring					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	32	54	10	1	2
x.F2	Scientists will be able to tell what people					
X.1°2	are thinking by scanning their brains					
	Apr 21-26, 2010	7	35	38	17	4
	r -, - 5	•			•	-
y.F1	Most of the U.S. will experience					
	severe shortages of fresh water	1.	20	2.5	-	2
	Apr 21-26, 2010	14	39	36	7	3

# Q.56 CONTINUED...

		Will definitely happen	Will probably happen	Will probably not happen	Will definitely not happen	(VOL.) DK/Ref
z.F1	Paper editions of newspapers will no longer exist Apr 21-26, 2010	19	45	27	7	1
aa.F2	Paper money will no longer exist, all financial transactions will be electronic Apr 21-26, 2010	15	48	27	8	2
bb.F2	Scientists will bring back an extinct animal species by cloning it Apr 21-26, 2010	9	42	36	11	2

**ASK ALL:** 

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? **ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:** 

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)			
				No	Other	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	preference	party	DK/Ref	Rep	<u>Dem</u>
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Apr 8-11, 2010	23	32	38	5	*	2	17	13
Apr 1-5, 2010	24	29	40	3	1	3	17	15
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	9 23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Yearly Totals								
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
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

# PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)			
				No	Other	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	<b>Democrat</b>	<u>Independent</u>	preference	party	DK/Ref	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
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					