

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
NOVEMBER 1998 POST-ELECTION SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
November 6-10, 1998
N = 1,005

Hello, I am _____ calling for Princeton Survey Research Associates in Princeton, New Jersey. We are conducting a telephone opinion survey for leading newspapers and TV stations around the country. I'd like to ask a few questions of the youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home. **[IF NO MALE, ASK: May I please speak with the oldest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home?]**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president? **(IF "DON'T KNOW," ENTER AS CODE 9. IF "DEPENDS," PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president? IF STILL "DEPENDS," ENTER AS CODE 9.)**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
November, 1998	65	29	6=100
September 21-22, 1998	62	33	5=100
September 19-20, 1998	55	36	9=100
Early September, 1998	61	33	6=100
Late August, 1998	62	32	6=100
Early August, 1998	63	28	9=100
June, 1998	59	32	9=100
May, 1998	62	28	10=100
April, 1998	62	28	10=100
March, 1998	65	26	9=100
Early February, 1998	71	26	3=100
January, 1998	61	30	9=100
November, 1997	58	31	11=100
September, 1997	58	29	13=100
August, 1997	59	32	9=100
June, 1997	54	34	12=100
May, 1997	57	34	9=100
April, 1997	55	34	11=100
February, 1997	60	32	8=100
Early February, 1997	57	30	13=100
January, 1997	59	31	10=100
November, 1996	57	34	9=100
July, 1996	54	38	8=100
June, 1996	54	38	8=100
April, 1996	53	39	8=100
March, 1996	55	38	7=100
February, 1996	51	39	10=100
January, 1996	50	43	7=100
October, 1995	48	42	10=100
September, 1995	45	42	13=100
August, 1995	44	44	12=100
June, 1995	50	40	10=100
April, 1995	47	43	10=100
March, 1995	44	44	12=100
February, 1995	44	44	12=100
December, 1994	41	47	12=100

Q.1 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
November, 1994	48	40	12=100
October, 1994	41	47	12=100
Early October, 1994	38	47	15=100
September, 1994	41	52	7=100
July, 1994	45	46	9=100
June, 1994	42	44	14=100
May, 1994	46	42	12=100
March, 1994	45	42	13=100
January, 1994	51	35	14=100
Early January, 1994	48	35	17=100
December, 1993	48	36	16=100
October, 1993	44	42	14=100
September, 1993	49	35	16=100
Early September, 1993	43	43	14=100
August, 1993	39	46	15=100
May, 1993	39	43	18=100
Early May, 1993	45	37	18=100
April, 1993	49	29	22=100
February, 1993	56	25	19=100

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=100
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
June, 1998	42	38	20=100
May, 1998	40	41	19=100
April, 1998	41	40	19=100
March, 1998	43	39	18=100
January, 1998	43	41	16=100
November, 1997	41	43	16=100
August, 1997	42	44	14=100
June, 1997	33	50	17=100
May, 1997	40	44	16=100
April, 1997	40	44	16=100
February, 1997	44	42	14=100
January, 1997	38	47	15=100
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

Q.3 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? **[READ AND ROTATE ITEMS a THRU g, ALWAYS ASK ITEM h LAST]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	(VOL) <u>DK</u>
a. Hurricane Mitch and the rain and mud slides in Central America	36	36	16	11	1=100
b. John Glenn's flight on the space shuttle Discovery	34	35	21	9	1=100
c. The latest Mideast peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians	18	33	28	19	2=100
September, 1995	11	32	29	27	1=100
d. The murder of a New York state doctor who performed abortions	16	32	29	22	1=100
e. News about the outcome of the elections	42	31	14	12	1=100
December, 1994	41	36	13	10	*=100
f. The antitrust trial against the computer software company Microsoft	12	20	31	36	1=100

ASKED SATURDAY THRU TUESDAY ONLY [N=907]

g. Newt Gingrich's decision to step down as Speaker of the House of Representatives	36	32	17	14	1=100
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ALWAYS ASK ITEM 'h' LAST:

h. The election of Jesse Ventura, a former professional wrestler, as governor of Minnesota	20	25	26	27	2=100
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Q.3i Would you like to see MORE people from different walks of life running for high political office, or do you think it's more important to have people with a lot of political experience running for office?

60	Would like to see more
31	Important to have people with experience
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

On another subject...

Q.4 All things considered, how satisfied were you with the outcome of the elections in your state — very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

		Dec	Nov
		<u>1994</u>	<u>1990</u>
29	Very satisfied	29	25
50	Somewhat satisfied	41	48
11	Not very satisfied	16	12
6	Not at all satisfied	10	10
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100

R.1 These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register... Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven't you been able to register so far?

R.2 Are you absolutely certain you are registered to vote, or is there a chance your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

78	Yes, registered		
74	Absolutely certain		
3	Chance registration has lapsed — GO TO Q.17		
1	Don't know/Refused — GO TO Q.17		
21	No, not registered — GO TO Q.17		
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused — GO TO Q.17		
100			

Q.5 During this campaign, did you feel you learned enough about the candidates and the issues to make an informed choice between the candidates, or did you find it difficult to choose because you felt you did not learn enough from the campaign?

		Dec	Nov
		<u>1994</u>	<u>1990</u>
BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=785]			
59	Learned enough to make an informed choice	48	54
38	Did not learn enough from the campaign	50	43
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

Q.6 We are interested in how people got to know about political candidates this fall. Which gave you a better idea of where candidates stood on issues — news reports or TV commercials and advertisements about the candidates?

		Nov
		<u>1990</u>
BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=785]		
60	News reports	63
29	Candidate commercials and advertisements	28
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>
100		100

Q.7 Which gave you a better idea of what the candidates were like PERSONALLY — news reports or candidates' TV commercials and advertisements?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS: [N=785]		---Voters---	
		Nov <u>1990</u>	Nov <u>1996</u>
59	News reports	53	67
30	Candidate commercials and advertisements	38	26
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

Q.8. Students are often given grades A, B, C, D, or Fail to describe the quality of their work. Looking back over the campaign, what grade would you give to each of the following groups for the way they did their jobs in the campaign? First, **(READ AND ROTATE)**

NOTE: 1998 AND 1990 NUMBERS ARE BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=785 FOR 1998]; 1996, 1992 AND 1988 NUMBERS ARE BASED ON VOTERS.

		<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>DK</u>
a.	The press	11	33	31	11	9	5=100
	November, 1990	22	44	22	5	3	4=100
	November, 1996	6	22	33	19	18	2=100
	November, 1992	11	25	29	16	15	4=100
	November, 1988	8	22	33	19	16	2=100
b.	The pollsters	12	28	30	11	6	13=100
	November, 1990	13	32	28	7	4	16=100
	November, 1996	11	23	29	11	10	16=100
	November, 1992	15	31	27	9	6	12=100
	November, 1988	13	29	29	12	11	6=100
c.	The talk show hosts	8	19	24	14	13	22=100
	November, 1996	6	15	25	13	16	25=100
	November, 1992	10	29	25	8	9	19=100
d.	The campaign consultants	5	22	35	12	5	21=100
	November, 1990	7	23	27	10	5	28=100
	November, 1996	4	18	33	11	8	26=100
	November, 1992	7	26	31	7	4	25=100
	November, 1988	5	20	37	14	8	16=100
e.	The Republican Party	7	28	31	18	11	5=100
	November, 1990	10	33	33	10	6	8=100
	November, 1996	4	23	39	18	13	3=100
	November, 1992	4	25	34	18	15	4=100
	November, 1988	11	34	31	12	10	2=100

Q.8 CONTINUED ...

		<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>DK</u>
f.	The Democratic Party	15	35	30	9	7	4=100
	November, 1990	16	34	32	8	3	7=100
	November, 1996	12	36	29	11	9	3=100
	November, 1992	18	40	26	6	6	4=100
	November, 1988	7	26	45	13	7	2=100
g.	The voters	17	29	30	13	6	6=100
	November, 1996	12	27	29	13	10	9=100
	November, 1992	32	29	20	5	5	9=100
	November, 1988	18	31	28	10	7	6=100

Q.9 THRU Q.16 BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=785]

On another subject...

Q.9 How much influence do you feel news organizations had on which candidates won the elections in your state this fall. Do you think they had too much influence, too little influence or about the right amount of influence?

		<u>Nov 1990</u>
42	Too much	31
8	Too little	9
46	Right amount	56
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
100		100

Q.10 How helpful were the candidates' commercials to you in deciding which candidate to vote for? Would you say they were very helpful, somewhat helpful, not too helpful, or not at all helpful?

		<i>--- Voters ---</i>	
		<u>Nov 1996</u>	<u>Nov 1992</u>
10	Very helpful	4	10
30	Somewhat helpful	21	28
23	Not too helpful	27	28
35	Not at all helpful	46	31
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

Q.11 Compared to past elections, would you say there was more discussion of issues in this campaign or less discussion of issues?

		<i>--- Voters ---</i>	
		<u>Nov 1996</u>	<u>Nov 1992</u>
29	More	25	59
61	Less	65	34
7	Same (VOL)	6	4
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

Q.12 Compared to past elections, would you say there was MORE mudslinging or negative campaigning in this campaign or LESS mudslinging or negative campaigning in this campaign?

		--- Voters ---	
		<u>Nov 1996</u>	<u>Nov 1992</u>
68	More	49	68
20	Less	36	16
10	Same (VOL)	12	14
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

Q.13 How did you get most of your news about the election campaigns in your state and district? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from computer on-line sources? (**ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS. IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE**)¹

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' TELEVISION IN Q.13, ASK:

Q.14 Did you get most of your news about the campaign from network TV news, from local TV news, or from cable TV news? (**ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS; DO NOT PROBE**)

		--- Voters ---	
		<u>Nov 1996</u>	<u>Nov 1992</u>
72	Television	72	82
17	Network	36	55
41	Local	23	29
21	Cable	21	29
1	Other (VOL)	4	2
1	Can't say	2	1
72	Newspapers	60	57
23	Radio	19	12
7	Magazines	11	9
6	Online sources	3	--
--	Other	4	6
2	Can't say/Don't know/Refused	1	1

ASK ALL EXCEPT THOSE WHO ANSWERED '5' ONLINE SOURCES IN Q.13

Q.15 Did you happen to get any news or information about the 1998 elections from computer on-line sources, or not?

		--- Voters ---	
		<u>Nov 1996</u>	
9	Yes	7	
85	No	90	
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>*</u>	
94		97	

¹ Specific wording for the additional response probe was mistakenly added to survey ("What other source did you use next most often?") The probe's wording may have resulted in an inflated result for newspapers. Therefore, this question should not be compared with the trend, in which the probe was not asked in such a specific manner.

On a different subject...

Q.16 Did things come up which kept you from voting this week (**FOR SUNDAY AND MONDAY READ:** “last week”), or did you have the opportunity to vote?

		Nov <u>1990</u>
85	Yes, voted	82
<u>15</u>	No, did not vote	<u>18</u>
100		100

BASED ON THOSE WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED OR DID NOT VOTE. [N=329]

Q.17 Which one of these statements best describes you...? (**READ**)

		<u>Nov 1990</u>
35	I wish I had voted in the elections this past week	36
13	I'm glad I didn't vote	13
40	I have mixed feelings about not voting	45
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>
100		100

BASED ON VOTERS [N=673]

Q.18 Did you vote for a Republican candidate for Congress for your district, or a Democratic candidate?

		<u>Nov 1990</u>
41	Republican	39
43	Democrat	47
5	Other	3
1	Don't remember	9
2	Did not vote for Congress	2
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>--</u>
100		100

ASK ONLY OF THOSE WHO ANSWERED '1' REPUBLICAN IN Q.18 [N=272]

Q.19 Would you say your vote for the Republican from your district was mostly a vote for him or her personally, for the Republican Party, or was it a vote to try to control President Clinton's power?

		<u>Nov 1996</u>
62	Personally	53
22	Party	21
10	Control Clinton's power	22
3	None of the above (VOL)	3
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

ASK ONLY THOSE WHO ANSWERED '2' DEMOCRATIC IN Q.18 [N=290]

Q.20 Would you say your vote for the Democrat from your district was mostly a vote for him or her personally, for the Democratic Party, or was it a vote to try to control the Republicans' power in Congress?

51	Personally
24	Party
24	Control Republicans' power
1	None of the above (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY: [N=508]

Q.21F1 Are you happy or unhappy that the Republican Party maintained control of the U.S. Congress?

		<u>Dec 1994</u> ²	<i>Voters</i> <u>Nov 1996</u>
47	Happy	57	65
32	Unhappy	31	27
<u>21</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY: [N=497]

Q.22F2 Are you happy or unhappy that the Democratic Party gained seats in the House of Representatives?

56	Happy
26	Unhappy
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.23 Who in Washington do you think should take the lead in solving the nation's problems — President Clinton, or the Republican congressional leaders?

		<u>Sept 1998</u>	<u>Feb 1997</u>	<u>Nov 1996</u> ³	<u>March 1996</u>	<u>April 1995</u>	<u>March 1995</u>	<u>Feb 1995</u>	<u>Dec 1994</u>
49	President Clinton	47	48	45	47	48	40	40	39
26	Republican Congressional leaders	32	29	30	36	36	40	38	43
16	Both (VOL)	12	14	19	9	12	10	16	10
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

² In December 1994 question was worded "Generally, are you happy or unhappy that the Republican party won control of the U.S. Congress?"

³ November 1996 trend is based on voters.

Q.24 Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be impeached and removed from office?

Based on Registered Voters

		Late Oct	Early Oct
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
23	Should be impeached	28	32
70	Should not	66	62
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100

Q.25 Which party do you have the most confidence in to make the right decision about whether or not President Clinton should be impeached and removed from office — the Republicans or the Democrats?

29	Republicans
44	Democrats
19	Neither (VOL)
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.26 Do you think Congress should proceed with impeachment hearings or drop the whole matter?

		<i>Exit Poll</i>
		<u>Nov 1998</u>
31	Proceed with impeachment hearings	39
64	Drop matter	58
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100		100