

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
1998 ELECTION WEEKEND SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
October 28-31, 1998
N= 1,714 Registered Voters

NOTE: ALL RESULTS, INCLUDING TREND FIGURES, ARE BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS.

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 How much thought have you given to Tuesday's election — quite a lot, or only a little?

	Quite <u>A lot</u>	(VOL) <u>Some</u>	Only a <u>Little</u>	None/DK/ <u>Refused</u>
Late October, 1998	49	11	35	5=100
Early October, 1998	42	8	43	7=100
November, 1994	56	7	32	5=100
October, 1994	45	7	45	3=100
October, 1994	44	2	50	4=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990 ¹	43	7	46	4=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1982	29	22	37	12=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1978	23	22	39	17=100
<i>Gallup</i> : September, 1978	21	18	44	18=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?

IF YES, ASK:

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?

100	Yes, registered
97	Yes, absolutely certain
3	Chance registration may have lapsed — GO TO D.1
*	DK/Refused — GO TO D.1
0	No, not registered — GO TO D.1
<u>0</u>	DK/Refused — GO TO D.1
100	

¹

Gallup trends based on total respondents.

Q.2 How closely have you followed news about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district?
Have you followed it 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>
Late October, 1998	26	45	20	9	*=100
Early October, 1998	21	43	24	11	1=100
Early September, 1998	20	35	28	17	*=100
Early August, 1998	16	35	25	24	*=100
June, 1998	12	31	32	25	*=100
April, 1998 ²	19	37	23	21	*=100
November, 1994	23	49	21	7	*=100
October, 1994	18	43	28	10	1=100
Early October, 1994	28	37	21	14	*=100
September, 1994	22	37	28	13	*=100
November, 1990 ³	44	36	13	7	*=100
October, 1990 ⁴	18	32	28	22	*=100

Q.3 Have you ever voted in your precinct or election district?

		Early Oct <u>1998</u>	Nov <u>1996</u>	Sept <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>
86	Yes	87	85	85	91
14	No	13	15	15	9
*	Don't know/Refused	*	*	*	*
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q.4 Do you happen to know where people in your neighborhood go to vote?

		Early				-- Gallup --	
		Oct <u>1998</u>	Nov <u>1996</u>	Oct <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>	Nov <u>1988</u>	Oct <u>1988</u>
90	Yes — gives answer	87	88	85	93	89	88
<u>10</u>	No/Don't know/Refused/No Answer	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

2 In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state."

3 In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

4 October 1990 trend based on total respondents.

Q.5 Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then or hardly at all?

	<u>Most of The Time</u>	<u>Some of the Time</u>	<u>Only Now and Then</u>	<u>Hardly at All</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
Late October, 1998	57	29	10	4	*=100
Early October, 1998	51	33	11	5	*=100
Early September, 1998	52	33	11	4	*=100
June, 1998	42	33	18	7	*=100
November, 1997	47	35	14	4	*=100
November, 1996	52	32	12	4	*=100
October, 1996	43	37	13	6	1=100
October, 1995	52	33	11	4	*=100
April, 1995	49	34	13	4	*=100
November, 1994	57	30	10	3	*=100
October, 1994	52	34	10	4	0=100
July, 1994	51	32	13	4	*=100
May, 1990	43	36	15	6	*=100
October, 1988	52	33	12	3	*=100
May, 1988	42	37	15	4	2=100
January, 1988	42	35	17	5	1=100
May, 1987	47	35	13	4	1=100

Q.6 How often would you say you vote... always, nearly always, part of the time or seldom?

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Nearly Always</u>	<u>Part of The time</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>(VOL) Other</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
Late October, 1998	56	28	10	5	*	1	*=100
Early October, 1998	50	32	11	5	1	1	*=100
Early September, 1998	53	33	9	4	1	0	*=100
Late August, 1998	48	35	13	4	0	*	*=100
June, 1998	49	33	12	5	1	0	0=100
November, 1997	42	44	10	3	*	1	*=100
September, 1997	62	26	8	3	*	1	*=100
June, 1996	52	33	9	4	1	1	*=100
February, 1996	42	41	11	4	1	1	*=100
October, 1995	53	35	7	4	*	1	*=100
April, 1995	53	34	9	4	*	*	*=100
November, 1994	58	28	8	5	1	*	0=100
October, 1994	55	32	10	3	*	*	*=100
July, 1994	52	34	10	4	*	*	*=100
June, 1992	60	29	7	3	1	*	*=100
May, 1992	50	35	10	4	*	1	*=100
November, 1991	46	41	9	4	0	*	*=100
May, 1990	42	42	11	4	*	1	1=100
May, 1988	43	41	11	3	1	2	*=100
January, 1988	49	39	9	2	*	1	*=100
May, 1987	43	43	9	3	1	1	*=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q.7 If the 1998 elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

Q.8 If the 1998 elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

IF '3' OTHER, '8' DON'T KNOW, OR '9' REFUSED IN Q.7, ASK:

Q.9 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

IF '3' OTHER, '8' DON'T KNOW, OR '9' REFUSED IN Q.8, ASK:

Q.10 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Democrat or the Republican?

	Republican/ <u>Lean Rep.</u>	Democrat/ <u>Lean Dem.</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
Late October, 1998	40	47	13=100
Early October, 1998	43	44	13=100
Early September, 1998	45	46	9=100
Late August, 1998	44	45	11=100
Early August, 1998	42	49	9=100
June, 1998	44	46	10=100
March, 1998	40	52	8=100
February, 1998	41	50	9=100
January, 1998	41	51	8=100
August, 1997	45	48	7=100
Early November, 1996 ⁵	44	48	8=100
October, 1996	42	49	9=100
Late September, 1996	43	49	8=100
Early September, 1996	43	51	6=100
July, 1996	46	47	7=100
June, 1996	44	50	6=100
March, 1996	44	49	7=100
January, 1996	46	47	7=100
October, 1995	48	48	4=100
August, 1995	50	43	7=100
November, 1994	45	43	12=100
October, 1994	47	44	9=100
Early October, 1994	52	40	8=100
September, 1994	48	46	6=100
July, 1994	45	47	8=100

5

Early November 1996 trend based on likely voters.

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' OR '2' IN Q.7 OR Q.8, ASK:

Q.11 Do you support the (INSERT: Democratic/Republican) candidate strongly or only moderately?

		<u>Nov 1996</u>	<u>Nov 1994</u>
40	Republican/Lean Rep	41	45
	19 Strongly	18	19
	21 Moderately	23	26
	-- Don't know/Refused	*	--
47	Democrat/Lean Dem	48	43
	24 Strongly	22	17
	23 Moderately	25	26
	-- Don't know/Refused	1	--
<u>13</u>	Other/Undecided	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.12 Do you, yourself, plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?

	<u>Yes, Plan To Vote</u>	<u>No, Don't Plan To</u>	<u>Can't Say/DK</u>
Late October, 1998	91	6	3=100
Early October, 1998	92	4	4=100
Early September, 1998†	95	2	3=100
Late August, 1998†	93	3	4=100
June, 1998†	95	3	2=100
November, 1996	96	2	2=100
October, 1996	98	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	98	1	1=100
Early September, 1996	96	2	2=100
July, 1996	95	3	2=100
June, 1996	96	2	2=100
November, 1994†	93	5	2=100
Late October, 1994†	95	3	2=100
Early October, 1992	98	1	1=100
September, 1992	98	1	1=100
August, 1992	97	1	2=100
June, 1992	97	1	2=100
Gallup: November, 1988	97	2	1=100
Gallup: October, 1988	98	1	1=100

† Non-Presidential elections

Q.13 Next, I'd like you to rate your chances of voting in Tuesday's election on a scale of 10 to 1. If 10 represents a person who DEFINITELY will vote and 1 represents a person who definitely will NOT vote, where on this scale of 10 to 1 would you place yourself?

	Definitely will vote										Definitely will not vote
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 1998	70	6	7	4	1	4	1	1	1	4	1=100
Early October, 1998	64	9	10	4	2	4	1	2	1	2	1=100
November, 1996	77	7	7	2	1	2	*	1	*	2	1=100
October, 1996	77	9	7	2	2	2	*	*	*	1	*=100
September, 1996	78	10	6	2	1	1	*	*	*	1	1=100
November, 1994	67	9	8	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	2=100
October, 1994	66	10	9	4	2	4	1	1	*	2	1=100
Gallup: September, 1992	77	5	4	3	2	4	*	1	*	4	*=100
Gallup: November, 1988	77	7	6	2	1	3	*	*	*	2	2=100
Gallup: October, 1988	73	8	7	3	2	3	1	*	*	1	2=100

Q.14 What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress in your district — national issues, local or state issues, the candidate's political party, or the candidate's character or experience? (IF MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Well, which is most important?)

	National Issue		State/Local Issue		Political Party	Character/Experience	Other	DK/None	Ref
	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Experience</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Ref</u>
Late October, 1998	20	39			5	27	3	2	4=100
Early October, 1998	23	36			7	28	1	*	5=100
Early September, 1998	22	34			5	33	2	*	4=100
Early August, 1998	20	38			5	31	2	*	4=100
June, 1998	22	37			4	32	1	1	3=100
March, 1998	18	37			6	35	1	1	2=100
November, 1996	23	38			6	25	2	*	6=100
October, 1996	19	45			7	26	1	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	25	38			6	24	2	*	5=100
Early September, 1996	18	42			6	30	1	*	3=100
November, 1994	22	38			5	30	1	*	4=100
Late October, 1994	22	38			3	29	3	1	4=100
Early October, 1994	22	27			5	39	2	1	4=100
CBS/NYT: 10/24-28, 1986	22	25			6	40	1	1	5=100
CBS/NYT: 9/28-10/1, 1986	20	23			9	41	3	*	4=100

ROTATE Q.15 AND Q.16

Q.15 Thinking about your vote for Congress this Tuesday, will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote, or not?

		Early Oct	Early Sept	Early Aug	June
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>
46	Yes, will be a factor	47	41	44	45
50	No, will not	49	56	53	51
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.16 Do you think of your vote for Congress this Tuesday as a vote for Bill Clinton, or as a vote against Bill Clinton, or isn't Bill Clinton much of a factor in your vote?

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	Not a <u>Factor</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
Late October, 1998	20	17	58	5=100
Early October, 1998	19	23	52	6=100
Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3=100
Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2=100
Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4=100
June, 1998	20	18	57	5=100
March, 1998	21	15	59	5=100
September, 1996	24	18	51	7=100
November, 1994	17	21	55	7=100
October, 1994	17	21	57	5=100
Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6=100
<i>CBS/NYT (BUSH): 10/28-31, 1990</i>	19	15	61	6=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/24-28, 1986</i>	26	12	55	7=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 9/28-10/1, 1986</i>	26	16	51	7=100
<i>CBS/NYT (REAGAN): 10/23-28, 1982</i>	23	21	51	5=100

A FEW MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ELECTION...

Q.17 Would you like to see your Representative in Congress be re-elected on Tuesday, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Congressman is <u>not running</u>	NO <u>Opinion</u>
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16=100
Early October, 1998	58	20	2	20=100
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16=100
March, 1998	63	21	1	15=100
January, 1998	66	23	0	11=100
August, 1997	66	22	0	12=100
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21=100
October, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26=100
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
November, 1994	58	25	1	16=100
October, 1994	55	30	2	13=100
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20=100
<i>Gallup: October, 1990</i>	62	22	2	14=100

Q.18 Regardless of how you feel about your own Representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected on Tuesday, or not?

		Early <u>Oct</u> <u>1998</u>	Early <u>Sept</u> <u>1998</u>	March <u>1998</u>	Jan <u>1998</u>	Aug <u>1997</u>	Early <u>Sept</u> <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>	Late <u>Oct</u> <u>1994</u>	Early <u>Oct</u> <u>1994</u>
41	Yes	39	46	45	44	45	43	31	31	28
37	No	39	36	41	43	42	43	51	56	56
<u>22</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>22</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.19 Do you happen to know the name of your current Representative in Congress or not?

		<i>Gallup</i>	
		Nov	Oct 25-28
		<u>1994</u>	<u>1990</u>
59	Yes	63	61
37	No	34	39
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>*</u>
100		100	100

On another subject...

Q.20 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>
Late October, 1998	65	30	5=100
Early October, 1998	62	34	4=100
Early September, 1998	59	36	5=100
Late August, 1998	63	33	4=100
Early August, 1998	64	30	6=100
June, 1998	59	33	8=100
May, 1998	59	31	10=100
April, 1998	63	30	7=100
March, 1998	65	27	8=100
Early February, 1998	71	27	2=100
January, 1998	61	33	6=100

Q.21 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>
Late October, 1998	42	46	12=100
Early October, 1998	42	48	10=100
Early September, 1998	45	39	16=100
Late August, 1998	50	38	12=100
Early August, 1998	46	39	15=100
June, 1998	42	41	17=100
May, 1998	40	42	18=100
April, 1998	42	43	15=100
March, 1998	44	41	15=100
January, 1998	44	44	12=100

Q.21a Now I'm going to read some things that have been in news recently. Please tell me how important each item is for the country... very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important. First, how important for the country is (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE)? Is this very important, fairly important, not too important or not at all important? **INTERVIEWER: OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES. [FORM 1 N=848; FORM 2 N=866]**

		Very <u>Important</u>	Fairly <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	Not at all <u>Important</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a.F1	Government efforts to regulate the sale of tobacco products	38	25	20	14	3=100
	Early October, 1998	37	21	25	16	1=100
	June, 1998	41	28	18	11	2=100
b.F2	Reforming the campaign finance laws	49	31	11	4	5=100
	Early October, 1998	48	35	12	2	3=100
	June, 1998	51	33	12	3	1=100
c.F1	The debate in Washington about regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	68	21	6	2	3=100
	Early October, 1998	66	23	6	3	2=100
	June, 1998	69	24	4	3	0=100
d.F2	The investigation into the relationship between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky	18	12	18	49	3=100
	Early October, 1998	19	13	22	44	2=100
	June, 1998	18	16	18	47	1=100
e.F1	The debate in Congress about whether President Clinton should be impeached and removed from office	35	14	18	30	3=100
ASK ALL:						
f.	The outcome of the 1998 congressional elections and specifically which party controls Congress	54	29	10	4	3=100
	Early October, 1998	55	29	10	3	3=100
	June, 1998	52	32	12	3	1=100
g.F2	The debate in Washington over whether to use the federal budget surplus for tax cuts or to insure the financial stability of the Social Security system	76	18	3	1	2=100
	Early October, 1998	77	19	1	2	1=100
h.F1	Proposals in Congress to cut taxes for middle class Americans	62	25	8	3	2=100
	Early October, 1998	63	27	7	2	1=100
i.F2	U.S. efforts to ease the global economic crisis and keep the U.S. economy strong	76	18	3	1	2=100
	Early October, 1998	74	21	2	2	1=100
j.F1	Improving the quality of education in public schools	88	9	2	*	1=100

Q.22 Now a few questions about the allegations against Bill Clinton...
Thinking about the decision by Congress to begin an impeachment inquiry against President Clinton, how do you feel about the members who voted in FAVOR of this? Is your opinion of them **(READ)**?

		Early Oct
		<u>1998</u>
20	Very favorable	21
20	Mostly favorable	26
23	Mostly Unfavorable OR	24
31	Very unfavorable	25
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>4</u>
100		100

Q.23 Based on what you know at this point, do you think that Bill Clinton should or should not be impeached and removed from office?

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

Now, just one final question about the upcoming elections...

Q.24 Some people who plan to vote can't always get around to it on election day. With your own personal daily schedule in mind, rate the chances that you will vote in the U.S. House of Representatives election this Tuesday. Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, less than 50-50, or don't you think you will vote in the House of Representatives election this Tuesday?

		Early Oct	Early Sept	June	-- ABC/Wash. Post --
		<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>July 1990</u> ⁶
75	Absolutely certain to vote	68	70	63	53
12	Will probably vote	19	19	19	21
7	Chances 50-50	7	8	14	15
2	Less than 50-50	2	1	2	4
4	Don't think will vote	3	2	2	6
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.25 Compared to past elections, would you say there has been MORE mud slinging or negative campaigning this year, or LESS mud slinging or negative campaigning this year?

		--- Presidential Elections ⁷ ---	
		Nov 1996	Nov 1992
52	More	49	68
23	Less	36	16
20	Same (VOL)	12	14
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

⁶ The ABC/Washington Post trend is based on total respondents. The question was worded "Some people have busier schedules than others. Because of this, some people who plan to vote can't always get around to it on election day. With your own personal daily schedule in mind, I'd like to rate the chances that you will vote in the U.S. House of Representatives election in November in the Congressional district where you live: are you absolutely certain to vote ..."

⁷ Trends for 1996 and 1992 are based on voters. The question was worded "Compared to past presidential elections, would you say there has been MORE mud slinging or negative campaigning in this campaign or LESS mud slinging or negative campaigning in this election?"