

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
September 4-8, 2013
N=1,506

ASK ALL:

Now, thinking about how Barack Obama is handling some issues...

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

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	The economy			
	Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	43	52	5
	Jun 12-16, 2013	44	50	5
	Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	40	56	4
	Mar 7-11, 2012	43	53	4
	Jan 11-16, 2012	38	59	4
	Nov 9-14, 2011	35	58	6
	Aug 17-21, 2011	34	60	6
	May 2, 2011	40	55	4
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	56	6
	Jan 6-9, 2011	42	51	7
	Jun 16-20, 2010	43	51	5
	May 6-9, 2010	41	51	8
	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

QUESTIONS 3b-c, 10, 15-16, 17a-b HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 2, 3d-e, 3g-h9, 11-14, 18-28
QUESTIONS 1, 3f, 3i, 4-8, 17c-d PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.29 Please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do the better job of **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Which party could do the better job of ITEM?]**

		<u>Republican</u> <u>Party</u>	<u>Democratic</u> <u>Party</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>Both</u> <u>equally</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>Neither</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Dealing with the federal budget deficit					
	Sep 4-8, 2013	43	35	7	9	5
	Jan 9-13, 2013	40	39	7	8	6
	Dec 5-9, 2012	43	38	4	7	9
	Mar 7-11, 2012	42	41	2	7	7
	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	37	4	6	7
	Jul 22-24, 2011	43	37	5	6	8
	May 25-30, 2011 ¹	41	38	4	9	8
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	46	34	8	6	7
	Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	7	16	14
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	36	5	9	7

¹ From February 2006 to May 2011 item read "Reducing the federal budget deficit;" an experiment conducted in July 2011 showed no significant difference between the current wording and this wording. In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a standalone 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.29 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 20-23, 2010	33	30	8	16	12
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	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

ITEMS b,c HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

d.	Dealing with banks and financial institutions					
	Sep 4-8, 2013	41	35	6	10	7
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	36	7	11	11

NO QUESTIONS 30-34**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.35 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 4-8, 2013	2	17	48	32	*
Jul 17-21, 2013	2	15	45	37	1
Jun 12-16, 2013	2	21	47	29	*
Mar 13-17, 2013	1	15	43	40	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	2	11	38	49	1
Dec 5-9, 2012	1	14	50	35	1
Oct 24-28, 2012	1	12	42	44	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	1	12	43	44	1
Jun 7-17, 2012	1	9	47	42	1
Mar 7-11, 2012	1	9	38	51	1
Feb 8-12, 2012	1	10	46	43	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	2	9	42	47	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	*	8	38	53	1
Aug 17-21, 2011	1	6	37	56	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	*	8	45	46	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	1	7	38	53	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	1	11	45	42	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	1	8	44	45	1
Oct 13-18, 2010	1	7	38	54	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	1	7	43	48	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	1	8	48	43	1
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

Q.35 CONTINUED...

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

ASK ALL:

Q.36 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?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 4-8, 2013	28	25	46	1
Jun 12-16, 2013	33	19	47	1
Mar 13-17, 2013	25	32	41	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	25	40	2
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	25	36	2
Sep 12-16, 2012	43	8	42	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	34	11	50	5
Mar 7-11, 2012	44	14	38	4
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	10	42	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	16	46	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	18	50	4
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
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

² Earlier trends available from Gallup.

Q.36 CONTINUED...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 2001	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
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3

ASK ALL:

Q.37 Which of the following national economic issues worries you most? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>The job situation</u>	<u>Rising prices</u>	<u>The federal budget deficit</u>	<u>The condition of the financial and housing markets</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>None/not worried about any</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 4-8, 2013	40	22	24	10	2	1	1
Mar 13-17, 2013 ³	32	29	27	9	2	*	1
Dec 5-9, 2012	40	22	25	10	2	*	1
Sep 12-16, 2012	40	19	27	10	2	1	1
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	22	24	11	2	1	2
Nov 9-14, 2011	47	13	22	12	2	1	2
Sep 1-4, 2011	43	17	22	11	4	2	2
Jul 20-24, 2011	39	15	29	11	3	1	2
May 25-30, 2011	38	20	28	10	2	*	2
Mar 8-14, 2011	34	28	24	10	3	*	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	44	23	19	10	1	1	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	47	15	19	14	1	1	3

³ From March 2010 to March 2013, the financial and housing markets answer choice was worded "Problems in the financial and housing markets."

Q.37 CONTINUED...

	<u>The job situation</u>	<u>Rising prices</u>	<u>The federal budget deficit</u>	<u>The condition of the financial and housing markets</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>None/not worried about any</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	49	15	19	12	2	1	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	41	16	23	13	3	1	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	45	17	22	11	2	*	2

ASK ALL:

Q.38 Overall, which of the following best describes how the recession affected your own personal financial situation? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 3; KEEP OPTION 2 SECOND]**

<u>Sep 4-8 2013</u>		<u>Jan 11-16 2012</u>	<u>Mar 8-14 2011</u>	<u>Feb 2-7 2011</u>
33	It had a major effect, and your finances have not recovered	36	40	36
28	It had a major effect, but your finances have mostly recovered	28	24	25
37	It didn't have a major effect on your finances	33	34	37
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	2	1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=762]:

Q.39F2 Thinking about the U.S. economic system in general, compared with before the 2008 financial crisis, do you think the U.S. economic system is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

<u>Sep 4-8 2013</u>	
33	More secure today than it was before the 2008 economic crisis
63	No more secure today than it was before the 2008 economic crisis
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTION 40**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=744]:**

Q.41F1 Thinking about financial regulation, which comes closer to your view **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**:

<u>Sep 4-8 2013</u>	
43	The government has gone too far regulating financial institutions and markets, making it harder for the economy to grow
49	The government has not gone far enough in regulating financial institutions and markets, leaving the country at risk of another financial crisis
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TREND FOR COMPARISON

In 2010, the President and Congress passed a law that more strictly regulates financial institutions and markets. What worries you more on this issue?

<u>Feb 8-12 2012</u>		<u>May 13-16 2010⁴</u>
42	These regulations go too far, making it harder for the economy to grow	46
42	These regulations do not go far enough, leaving the country at risk of another financial crisis	44
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11

NO QUESTIONS 42-43

⁴ For May 13-16, 2010 the question read: "Thinking about financial regulation, what worries you more...". The response options read "That the government will go too far in regulating financial institutions and markets, making it harder for the economy to grow," or "That the government will not go far enough in regulating financial institutions and markets, leaving the country at risk of another financial crisis."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=744]:

Q.44F1 Thinking about the recession that began in 2008. Please tell me whether you think each of the following has fully recovered from the recession, partially recovered, or hardly recovered at all. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** have/has **[ITEM]** fully recovered from the recession, partially recovered, or hardly recovered at all? What about **[INSERT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Have/has **[ITEM]** fully recovered from the recession, partially recovered, or hardly recovered at all?]**

		Fully <u>recovered</u>	Partially <u>recovered</u>	Hardly recovered <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	Real estate values Sep 4-8, 2013	4	59	33	4
b.F1	The stock market Sep 4-8, 2013	21	53	18	9
c.F1	The job situation Sep 4-8, 2013	2	45	52	1
d.F1	Household incomes Sep 4-8, 2013	2	42	54	2

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=762]:

Q.45F2 Thinking about the federal government's economic policies following the recession that began in 2008. Do you think these policies have helped **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** a great deal, a fair amount, not too much, or not at all? What about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Have the federal government's policies since the recession helped **[ITEM]** a great deal, a fair amount, not too much, or not at all?]**⁵

		A great <u>deal</u>	A fair <u>amount</u>	Not too <u>much</u>	Not at <u>all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F2	Middle-class people Sep 4-8, 2013	6	21	38	33	2
	Jul 15-18, 2010	2	25	43	25	4
b.F2	Poor people Sep 4-8, 2013	8	18	35	37	3
	Jul 15-18, 2010	7	24	37	27	5
c.F2	Wealthy people Sep 4-8, 2013	38	21	20	13	8
	Jul 15-18, 2010	31	26	18	12	12
d.F2	Large banks and financial institutions Sep 4-8, 2013	40	28	17	7	7
	Jul 15-18, 2010	53	21	12	6	8
e.F2	Small businesses Sep 4-8, 2013	6	23	35	32	4
	Jul 15-18, 2010	2	21	39	29	8
f.F2	Large corporations Sep 4-8, 2013	41	26	19	8	7
	Jul 15-18, 2010	44	26	12	8	10

NO QUESTIONS 46-54, 57-59, 62, 68, 70-77

QUESTIONS 55-56, 60-61, 63-67, 69, 78-85 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

⁵ In July 2010, the question was worded "Thinking about the federal government's economic policies since the recession began in 2008. Do you think they have helped ... "

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Sep 4-8, 2013	26	32	38	3	1	1	17	15
Jul 17-21, 2013	19	29	46	3	*	2	19	18
Jun 12-16, 2013	23	33	39	3	*	2	17	15
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Yearly Totals								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REG=1) [N=1,201]:

Q.85 And how often would you say you vote in PRIMARY elections – that is, the elections in which a party selects their nominee to run in a general election. Would you say you vote in PRIMARY elections [READ IN ORDER]?

Sep 4-8 2013		July 17-21 2013
50	Always	46
24	Nearly always	23
13	Part of the time	13
11	Seldom	14
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=657]:

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁶	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
(WP)	Pew Research Center/Washington Post polls

⁶ In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."