

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
SEPTEMBER 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
TOPLINE
September 12-16, 2012
N=3,019

QUESTIONS THOUGHT-Q.16 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 1-4, 6, 10

Q.11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REG=1):

Q.17 In making your decision about who to vote for this fall, will the issue of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?
 How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: How important will the issue of [ITEM] be to you in making your decision about who to vote for this fall?]** **[INTERVIEWER: PLEASE RE-READ RESPONSE OPTIONS AS NECESSARY TO REMIND RESPONDENTS OF OPTIONS. IF RESPONDENT VOICES THEIR SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION TO AN ISSUE, CLARIFY: "this question is not about your position on each issue, just how important each issue will be to your vote."]**

		Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK ITEMS a-f OF FORM 1 REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY [N=1,161]:						
a.F1	Jobs					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	83	13	2	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	84	13	1	1	*
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 ¹	88	9	1	1	*
	Mid-October, 2008	80	15	2	2	1
	Late May, 2008	78	17	3	1	1
	October, 2007	71	23	3	2	1
	Mid-October, 2004	76	19	4	1	*
b.F1	Health care					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	74	20	3	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	74	19	5	2	*
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	78	17	3	1	*
	Mid-October, 2008	77	19	2	1	1
	August, 2008	73	21	5	1	*
	Late May, 2008	78	17	3	2	*
	October, 2007	76	18	4	1	1
	June, 2007	71	23	4	2	*
	Mid-October, 2004	73	22	4	1	*
	August, 2004	72	21	5	2	*
c.F1	Abortion					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	46	24	13	14	3
	Apr 4-15, 2012	39	25	14	18	4
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	43	24	13	17	3
	Mid-October, 2008	41	29	16	12	2
	August, 2008	39	26	17	15	3
	Late May, 2008	40	27	15	15	3
	October, 2007	39	26	17	13	5
	June, 2007	40	30	13	14	3
	Mid-October, 2004	47	27	12	11	3
	August, 2004	45	25	13	14	3

¹ In all 2010 trends, the question read "As you think about the elections for Congress this November, how important are each of the following issues to you. Is the issue of [INSERT ITEM] very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: As you think about the elections for Congress this November, is the issue of [ITEM] very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important to you? "

Q. 17 CONTINUED...

		<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
d.F1	Foreign policy					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	60	31	5	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	52	38	6	2	2
e.F1	Taxes					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	66	26	5	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	61	28	8	2	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	68	24	6	2	1
	Mid-October, 2008	71	24	3	1	1
	Late May, 2008	68	24	5	2	1
	October, 2007	63	28	6	1	2
	June, 2007	62	29	7	2	*
	Mid-October, 2004	59	31	7	2	1
f.F1	The federal budget deficit					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	68	23	6	2	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	74	19	4	2	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	69	22	5	2	2
	Late May, 2008	69	21	4	3	3
	October, 2007	61	28	8	1	2
	Mid-October, 2004	57	32	7	3	1
	August, 2004	55	35	7	3	*

ASK ITEMS g-I OF FORM 2 REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY [N=1,263]:

g.F2	The economy					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	87	11	1	1	*
	Apr 4-15, 2012	86	11	1	1	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	90	9	1	*	*
	Mid-October, 2008	91	7	2	*	*
	August, 2008	87	12	1	*	*
	Late May, 2008	88	9	1	1	1
	October, 2007	79	18	1	1	1
	June, 2007	74	22	2	1	1
	Mid-October, 2004	78	18	3	1	*
	August, 2004	76	22	1	1	*
h.F2	Energy					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	55	33	9	3	1
	Apr 4-15, 2012	61	30	6	1	1
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	62	30	5	2	1
	Mid-October, 2008	78	18	3	1	*
	August, 2008	77	19	2	1	1
	Late May, 2008	77	20	2	*	1
	October, 2007	65	28	3	2	2
	June, 2007	61	32	4	2	1
	Mid-October, 2004	54	37	6	2	1
	August, 2004	53	40	6	*	1
i.F2	Medicare					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	65	26	6	2	*
	Apr 4-15, 2012	66	24	7	2	*
j.F2	Education					
	Sep 12-16, 2012	69	23	5	3	*
	Apr 4-15, 2012	72	21	5	2	*
	Mid-October, 2008	73	21	4	2	*
	August, 2008	73	20	5	1	1
	Late May, 2008	78	17	3	1	1

Q.17 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October, 2007	75	21	2	1	1
Mid-October, 2004	75	20	3	2	*
August, 2004	70	26	3	1	*
k.F2 Terrorism					
Sep 12-16, 2012	60	27	7	4	2
Apr 4-15, 2012	59	25	9	5	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	71	18	6	3	1
Mid-October, 2008	69	20	7	3	1
August, 2008	72	20	5	2	1
Late May, 2008	68	23	6	2	1
October, 2007	69	22	5	3	1
June, 2007	69	24	4	2	1
Mid-October, 2004	77	17	3	2	1
August, 2004	75	19	3	2	1
l.F2 Immigration					
Sep 12-16, 2012	41	37	13	6	2
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	35	15	6	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	58	29	8	4	1
Mid-October, 2008	49	32	13	5	1
August, 2008	52	33	10	4	1
Late May, 2008	54	32	9	3	2
October, 2007	56	31	7	4	2
June, 2007	54	34	7	3	2

NO QUESTIONS 18-20**QUESTIONS 21-38 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****Q.39 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1564]:**

Q.40F2 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 12-16, 2012	51	40	4	6
Jan 4-8, 2012	52	39	2	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	48	41	2	8
Mar 8-14, 2011	50	42	3	5
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	42	3	5
Apr 1-5, 2010	50	39	4	8
Feb 3-9, 2010	50	40	3	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	51	40	4	6
Mar 9-12, 2009	48	40	3	9
Late October 2008	42	43	4	11
November 2007	47	42	4	7
January 2007	45	43	4	8
<i>LA Times/Bloomberg: January 2006</i>	49	38	--	13
<i>LA Times: January 2005</i>	52	36	--	12
<i>ABC/Wash Post: June 2004</i>	50	46	--	4
<i>CBS/NYT: November 2003</i>	45	42	4	9
<i>CBS/NYT: July 2003</i>	48	40	5	7
<i>ABC: November 2002 (Likely voters)</i>	60	35	--	5
<i>Wash Post: September 2002</i>	54	39	--	7
<i>ABC/Wash Post: July 2002</i>	53	42	--	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post: January 2002</i>	54	41	--	5
<i>CBS/NYT: January 2002</i>	46	40	3	11

Q.40F2 CONTINUED...

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>LA Times</i> : November 2001	48	41	--	11
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 2001	48	39	3	11
<i>LA Times</i> : March 2001	59	29	--	12
<i>CBS</i> : January 2001	51	36	5	8
<i>CBS</i> : November 2000	54	31	5	10
<i>CBS</i> : October 2000	57	32	5	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : October 2000 (RV)	58	32	--	10
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : Early October 2000 (RV)	58	33	--	9
<i>LA Times</i> : September 2000 (RV)	59	26	--	15
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 2000	59	34	--	7
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : April 2000	56	38	--	7
<i>CBS</i> : September 1999	46	43	5	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : August 1998	59	35	--	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : August 1996	63	32	--	5
<i>LA Times</i> : April 1996	62	28	--	10
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : February 1996	61	30	4	5
<i>LA Times</i> : October 1995	68	23	--	9
<i>LA Times</i> : September 1995	62	27	--	11
<i>LA Times</i> : January 1995	63	27	--	10
<i>LA Times</i> : June 1993	60	29	--	11
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : February 1993	67	30	--	2
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1992	55	38	--	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1991	42	43	7	8
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : January 1989 ²	41	48	4	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1988 (Likely voters)	47	37	7	9
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1988	49	45	--	6
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : May 1988	43	44	5	8
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1984	49	43	--	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : March 1980	54	32	--	14
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : June 1978	53	36	--	11
<i>Wash Post</i> : January 1978	40	39	--	21
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : November 1976	42	45	--	13
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1976 (RV)	49	37	--	14
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : September 1976 (RV)	48	41	--	11
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : June 1976	42	43	--	15
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : May 1976	41	43	--	16
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : April 1976	40	44	--	16

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,455]:

Q.41F1 In your view, what is the best way to reduce the federal budget deficit? Should we mostly focus on [RANDOMIZE: Cutting major programs / Increasing taxes] mostly focus on [increasing taxes / cutting major programs] or should we do a combination of both?

Sep 12-16		Nov 9-14	Jul 20-24	Apr 7-10	Dec 1-5
<u>2012</u>		<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
16	Cutting major programs	17	19	20	16
6	Increasing taxes	8	8	6	4
69	Combination of both	62	60	64	65
1	Deficit is not a priority/Don't focus on deficit (VOL.)	1	1	*	1
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	12	9	13

NO QUESTION 42

² In 1989 and earlier, CBS/NYT question read, "In general, government grows bigger as it provides more services. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing less services or a bigger government providing more services?"

**Q.43-Q.44 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTION 45
Q.46, Q.49 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 47-48**

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?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2,424]:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Sep 12-16, 2012	28	37	31	1	*	2	14	13
Jul 16-26, 2012	25	38	33	2	1	2	15	12
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	27	36	34	1	*	2	15	15
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	35	35	1	*	1	17	14
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	28	35	31	2	*	3	13	12
Apr 4-15, 2012	28	34	35	1	*	1	16	12
Mar 7-11, 2012	28	38	31	1	1	1	15	14
Feb 8-12, 2012	32	34	31	1	*	1	13	15
Jan 11-16, 2012	24	33	38	2	*	2	17	14
Jan 4-8, 2012	31	32	32	3	*	2	15	12

BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Yearly Totals								
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

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

QUESTIONS TEAPARTY2–SCALE10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED