

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
DECEMBER 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
December 7-11, 2011
N=1521

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]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19

QUESTIONS 2, 4-9, 12-13, 15 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 3, 10-11, 14, 16-17****ASK ALL:**

REGIST 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?

[INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY ARE IN NORTH DAKOTA AND DON'T HAVE TO REGISTER, PUNCH 1 FOR REGIST AND REGICERT]

ASK IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN REGIST:

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

Dec 7-11

2011

76	Yes, Registered
72	Absolutely certain
4	Chance registration has lapsed
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
23	No, not registered
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

QUESTIONS 18-19 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 20-24**

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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Yearly Totals								
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 ONLY REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1 AND (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1)):

Q.25 As I name some possible Republican candidates for president in 2012, please tell me which one, if any, you would most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE] [PROBE IF NECESSARY: As of today, who would you say you LEAN toward?]**

IF NAMED CANDIDATE GIVEN (1 thru 7 in Q.25) ASK:

Q.25a Do you support **[INSERT LAST NAME OF CANDIDATE FROM Q.25]** strongly or only moderately?

BASED ON REP/REP-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=504]:

Dec 7-11 2011		Nov 9-14 2011	Sep 22-Oct 4 2011	Jul 20-24 2011	Mar 8-14 2011	Nov 4-7 2010
33	Newt Gingrich	16	7	3	11	9
10	Strongly					
24	Only moderately/DK					
21	Mitt Romney	23	21	21	21	17
7	Strongly					
14	Only moderately/DK					
8	Ron Paul	8	11	9	8	10
2	Strongly					
6	Only moderately/DK					
6	Michele Bachmann	5	4	11	--	--
3	Strongly					
2	Only moderately/DK					
4	Rick Perry	8	16	12	--	--
2	Strongly					
3	Only moderately/DK					
3	Rick Santorum	2	2	1	2	2
1	Strongly					
1	Only moderately/DK					
3	Jon Huntsman	1	1	2	--	--
1	Strongly					
1	Only moderately/DK					
*	Other (VOL.) ¹	*	1	1	1	5
--	Herman Cain	22	12	8	--	--
--	Sarah Palin	--	9	11	13	16
--	Tim Pawlenty	--	--	3	3	5
--	Mike Huckabee	--	--	--	20	19
--	Mitch Daniels	--	--	--	2	--
--	Haley Barbour	--	--	--	2	2
--	Chris Christie	--	--	--	2	--
10	None (VOL.)	4	5	5	5	4
4	Too early to tell (VOL.)	5	5	7	3	--
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	8	7	10

¹ Cain, Palin, Pawlenty, Huckabee, Daniels and Barbour were explicitly asked in some previous surveys. Chris Christie was never asked in any surveys. In surveys in which they received less than 1% support, these responses are included in other. Dashes indicate that candidates were not explicitly asked about and received less than 1% support.

ASK ONLY REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS WHO CHOSE A CANDIDATE IN Q25 (REGICERT=1 AND Q25=1-7 AND (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1)):

Q.26 If [INSERT NAME CHOSEN IN Q25] were not in the race, is there a chance that you would vote for [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE] in your state's Republican primary or caucus, or not? What about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: Is there a chance that you would vote for [NAME] in your state's Republican primary, or not?]²

ASK ONLY REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS WHO DID NOT CHOOSE A CANDIDATE IN Q25 (REGICERT=1 AND Q25=9-99 (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1)):

Q.27 Is there a chance that you would vote for [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE] in your state's Republican primary or caucus, or not? What about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: Is there a chance that you would vote for [NAME] in your state's Republican primary, or not?]

BASED ON REP/REP-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=504]:

		<u>Yes, a chance</u>	<u>No, not a chance</u>	<u>(VOL.) Not planning to vote in primary</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Candidate was first choice</u>
a.	Mitt Romney Dec 7-11, 2011	39	26	*	14	21
b.	Newt Gingrich Dec 7-11, 2011	34	20	*	13	33
NO ITEM c						
d.	Rick Perry Dec 7-11, 2011	32	46	*	18	4
e.	Ron Paul Dec 7-11, 2011	23	51	*	18	8
f.	Michele Bachmann Dec 7-11, 2011	28	51	*	15	6
g.	Jon Huntsman Dec 7-11, 2011	19	51	*	27	3
h.	Rick Santorum Dec 7-11, 2011	23	46	*	28	3

ASK ONLY REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1 AND (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1)):

Q.28 If there is a Republican primary election or caucus in your state early next year, how likely is it that you will vote? Are you very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely to vote in the Republican primaries?

BASED ON REP/REP-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=504]:

	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Somewhat likely</u>	<u>Not too likely</u>	<u>Not at all likely</u>	<u>(VOL.) No primary</u>	<u>(VOL.) Not eligible</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Dec 7-11, 2011	75	14	4	3	0	3	1

² Respondents were not asked about the candidate they picked in Q.25; they were asked this question about all other candidates. Respondents who did not pick a named candidate in Q.25 were asked Q.27 about all candidates.

ASK ONLY REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1 AND (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1)):

Q.29 Apart from who you would like to see nominated, which Republican candidate do you think has the best chance of defeating Barack Obama next November? [OPEN END; RECORD FIRST MENTION ONLY.] [IF PERSON OFFERS MULTIPLE CANDIDATES, PROBE WITH: Which of those do you think has the best chance of defeating Obama?]

BASED ON REP/REP-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=504]:

Dec 7-11 2011		Nov 9-14 2011	Aug 17-21 2011 ³
35	Newt Gingrich	13	4
28	Mitt Romney	30	22
2	Rick Perry	6	28
2	Ron Paul	2	3
1	Jon Huntsman	*	1
1	Michele Bachmann	1	7
1	Rick Santorum	0	1
0	Herman Cain	18	3
0	Sarah Palin	0	9
*	Other	2	1
1	All	1	0
4	None	4	3
25	Don't know/Refused	21	19

**QUESTIONS 30-36, 41-46, 48-52 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 37-40, 47**

ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁴	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

³ In August 2011, question began "Apart from your opinions about the Republican candidates, which one..."

⁴ 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 through October, 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 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."