

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MARCH 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**March 7-11, 2012**  
**N=1503**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 4-6, 12-14, 18-21, 23-24, 27-30, 32-34 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 3, 7-11, 15-17, 25-26, 31, 35-37**

**QUESTION 22 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about Afghanistan...

Q.38 How well is the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Mar 7-11, 2012	13	38	25	16	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	10	45	26	11	8
Jun 15-19, 2011	10	43	28	12	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	43	29	15	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	8	39	28	15	10
Jul 8-11, 2010	9	40	31	9	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	8	40	32	13	7
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	43	22	13	13
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	39	32	11	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	4	32	41	16	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	7	38	34	11	10
February, 2008	10	38	31	10	11

**ASK ALL:**

Q.39 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should remove troops as soon as possible?

	<u>Keep troops in Afghanistan</u>	<u>Remove troops</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	57	7
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	56	6
Jun 15-19, 2011	39	56	4
May 5-8, 2011	43	49	8
May 2, 2011	47	48	4
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011 <sup>1</sup>	44	50	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	44	47	8
Jul 8-11, 2010	47	42	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	53	40	6
Apr 15-May 5, 2010 <b>(GAP)</b>	48	45	7
Sep 10-15, 2009 <b>(GAP)</b>	50	43	7
June, 2009 <b>(GAP)</b>	57	38	5
Mid-Sept, 2008	61	33	6
April, 2008 <b>(GAP)</b>	50	44	6
Late Feb, 2008	61	32	7
May, 2007 <b>(GAP)</b>	50	42	7

**NO QUESTIONS 40-41**

<sup>1</sup> In surveys conducted March 30-April 3, 2011 and before, the question was worded "Do you think the U.S. and NATO should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. and NATO should remove their troops as soon as possible?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.42 Thinking about the relationship between the United States and Israel. Is the U.S. **[RANDOMIZE: too supportive of Israel, not supportive enough of Israel]**, or is U.S. support of Israel about right?

Mar 7-11

2012

22	Too supportive of Israel
20	Not supportive enough
46	About right
12	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**QUESTIONS 43-45, 58-61 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 46-54, 57, 62-63****QUESTIONS 55-56 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****RANDOMIZE Q.64-Q.67 AS A BLOCK WITH Q.68/Q.69 AS A BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.64 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about recent political violence in Syria? Have you heard...**[READ]**

Mar 7-11

2012

36	A lot
39	A little
25	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.65 Do you think the United States has a responsibility to do something about the fighting in Syria between government forces and anti-government groups, or doesn't the United States have this responsibility?

	<u>U.S. has responsibility</u>	<u>U.S. doesn't have responsibility</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Mar 7-11, 2012	25	64	11
<b>TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:</b>			
Mar 10-13, 2011: <i>Fighting in Libya</i>	27	63	10
June, 2007: <i>Ethnic genocide in Darfur</i>	49	34	17
December, 2006: <i>Ethnic genocide in Darfur</i>	51	36	13
March, 1999: <i>Fighting between ethnic groups in Kosovo, a province of Serbia</i>	47	46	7
June, 1995: <i>Fighting between Serbs and Bosnians in what used to be Yugoslavia</i>	30	64	6

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.66F1 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. and its allies bombing Syrian military forces to protect anti-government groups in Syria?

Mar 7-11

2012

25	Favor
62	Oppose
13	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=737]:**

Q.67F2 Would you favor or oppose the U.S. and its allies sending arms and military supplies to anti-government groups in Syria?

Mar 7-11

2012

29	Favor
63	Oppose
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**Q.66F1 AND Q.67F2 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**

*Would you favor or oppose the United States and its allies doing each of the following with respect to Libya. (First,)* **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Bombing Libyan air defenses Mar 10-13, 2011	16	77	7
			(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sending arms and military supplies to anti-government groups in Libya <sup>2</sup>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	66	9
Mar 10-13, 2011	23	69	8

**RANDOMIZE Q.64-Q.67 AS A BLOCK WITH Q.68/Q.69 AS A BLOCK****ASK ALL:**

Q.68 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the dispute over Iran's nuclear program? Have you heard...**[READ]**?

Mar 7-11		Feb 8-12	Jan 11-16	Sep 30- Oct 4	Sep 2006	Feb 2006
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u> <sup>3</sup>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
41	A lot	38	42	41	41	32
38	A little	39	41	41	44	46
21	Nothing at all	23	15	18	14	21
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	2	*	1	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.69 Which is your greater concern when it comes to dealing with Iran's nuclear program ... that we will take action TOO QUICKLY, or that we will wait TOO LONG?

Mar 7-11		Nov	Sept	May	Feb
<u>2012</u>		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
34	Take action too quickly	35	35	34	34
54	Wait too long	52	51	53	53
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13	14	13	13

**NO QUESTIONS 70-71****QUESTIONS 72-75 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTION 76 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>2</sup> Not asked in a list Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011. For March 10-13, 2011 question was worded "sending arms and supplies to anti-government groups in Libya."

<sup>3</sup> In June 11-16, 2012, the question read: "...recent tensions between the U.S. and Iran over Iran's nuclear program and disputes in the Persian Gulf." In February 2006, question read: "The Iranian government recently said it will resume research on nuclear technology, despite opposition from other countries. How much, if anything, have you read or heard about this?"

**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
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
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
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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:**

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

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Not
	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	Haven't heard of	Refused	heard of/ DK
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--

## TEAPARTY2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
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 <sup>4</sup>	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

<sup>4</sup> 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."