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Public's Views on Lame-Duck Issues

Mixed Views on Tax Cuts, Support for START and Allowing Gays to Serve Openly

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With the public giving subpar approval ratings to President Obama and continuing to express negative views of Congress and the political parties, it goes its own way on many of the remaining issues before the lame-duck Congress.

In a survey conducted before Obama and GOP leaders agreed to temporarily extend all Bush-era tax cuts, most Americans (80%) favor preserving at least some of the tax cuts. However, just a third (33%) of Americans say they favor keeping all of the expiring tax cuts; 47% favor keeping just the tax cuts for income below \$250,000, while just 11% want to end all of the tax cuts.

Only about one-in-five Democrats (18%) favor keeping all of the tax cuts, compared with 33% of independents and 53% of Republicans.

On another major pending issue before Congress, most Americans who have heard at least a little about the START treaty favor its ratification by the Senate: 54% favor ratification of the arms control treaty while 24% are opposed. Democrats and independents favor the treaty's ratification by wide margins, while Republicans are evenly split.

And by greater than two-to-one (59% to 23%), the public favors allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. These views are little changed from last month, before the Pentagon released its major study on the impact of repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Those who are aware of the Pentagon's report have about the same opinions as those who heard little about it. (See "[Most Continue to Favor Gays Serving Openly in the Military](#)," Nov. 29.).

Lame Duck's Linger Issues

	Dec 2010
<i>Expiring tax cuts...</i>	%
Keep only for income below \$250k	47
Keep all tax cuts	33
End all tax cuts	11
Don't know	<u>9</u>
	100
<i>Senate ratifying START treaty*...</i>	
Favor	54
Oppose	24
Don't know	<u>22</u>
	100
<i>Gays serving openly in military...</i>	
Favor	59
Oppose	23
Don't know	<u>17</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

* Based on those who heard at least a little about treaty

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Dec. 1-5 among 1,500 adults, finds that 45% approve of Obama's job performance while as many (43%) disapprove. Obama's job ratings have changed little since September.

Obama's job approval ratings among Democrats remain strong (77% approve), and there is little evidence that Democrats think he is going along too much with GOP leaders in Congress. Only about quarter of Democrats (23%) say he is going along too much, while about twice as many (48%) say he is going along the right amount.

However, Obama gets mixed ratings from Democrats and Democratic leaners for how well he stands up for his party's traditional positions on such issues as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy and representing working people. Only about half of Democrats and Democratic leaners (54%) say Obama is doing an excellent or good job of advocating the party's traditional positions, while 43% say he is doing only fair or poor. White Democrats and Democratic leaners are divided over Obama's performance in standing up for the party's traditional positions in these areas (51% excellent/good vs. 47% only fair/poor). By contrast, black Democrats and leaners offer much more positive assessments (70% vs. 29%).

Overall, Democrats and Democratic leaners give Obama only slightly better marks than the party itself for advocating traditional positions. In November, 48% said the party was doing an excellent or good job while 50% said it was doing only fair or poor.

The survey finds that opinions about Congress and the political parties have changed little since before the midterm elections. Just 31% say they have a favorable opinion of Congress, which is little changed from July (33%). Similarly, while 45% say they have a favorable

Few Democrats Say Obama Going Along Too Much with GOP

<i>Obama going along w/GOP leaders...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Too much	16	7	23	15
Too little	33	65	13	34
Right amount	31	14	48	29
Don't know	<u>20</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>22</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Q3a. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Obama's Mixed Ratings from Dems for Standing Up for Party's Positions

(Based on Dems/Dem leaners)

<i>Job each does standing up for traditional Democratic positions...</i>	Dem Party	Obama
	Nov 2010	Dec 2010
	%	%
Excellent/good	48	54
Only fair/poor	50	43
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Q55. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Based on Democrats & independents and other non-partisans who lean Democratic.

impression of the Democratic Party, about the same percentage (41%) has a favorable opinion of the GOP.

Nancy Pelosi, the outgoing speaker of the House, remains broadly unpopular. More than half (55%) say they have an unfavorable opinion of Pelosi while only 29% say they have a favorable opinion.

The balance of opinion is more positive toward John Boehner, who is expected to succeed Pelosi as House speaker next month. About as many say they have a favorable opinion of Boehner (28%) as an unfavorable view (25%). Boehner's favorability ratings have increased in recent months, along with his visibility. In June, nearly twice as many expressed negative as positive views of Boehner (22% vs. 12%). Notably, Boehner's current favorability ratings are about the same as Pelosi's in December 2006, shortly before she became speaker (32% favorable/27% unfavorable).

On foreign policy, the public has become less optimistic that the U.S. will succeed in achieving its goals in Afghanistan. Only about half (49%) say the U.S. will definitely or probably succeed while 39% say it will definitely or probably fail. In June, 59% said success in Afghanistan was at least probable.

Support for maintaining U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan also has slipped since June. Currently, 44% favor keeping troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized while 47% want to remove troops as soon as possible. In July, opinion also was divided, but in June 53% favored keeping U.S. and NATO

Boehner Now Better Known, More Popular

<i>Opinion of ...</i>	Fav %	Unfav %	Can't rate %
John Boehner			
Dec 2010	28	25	46=100
June 2010	12	22	66=100
Dec 2006	--	--	--
Nancy Pelosi			
Dec 2010	29	55	15=100
June 2010	27	50	22=100
Dec 2006	32	27	41=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. PEW2c-d. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Fewer See Success as Likely in Afghanistan

<i>U.S. will succeed/fail in achieving goals in Afghanistan...</i>	June 2010 %	Dec 2010 %	Change
Definitely/probably succeed	59	49	-10
Definitely/probably fail	33	39	+6
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Should U.S./NATO keep troops in Afghanistan?</i>			
Keep troops in until situation has stabilized	53	44	-9
Remove as soon as possible	40	47	+7
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	
	100	100	
<i>U.S. military effort is going...</i>			
Very/fairly well	49	47	-2
Not too/Not at all well	40	43	+3
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	
	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010 Q17-19. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

troops in Afghanistan while 40% wanted them removed as soon as possible.

The recent tensions on the Korean peninsula have drawn a tempered reaction from the public. Half (50%) of those who have heard about the recent North Korean artillery attack on a South Korean island say it is similar to other incidents that have happened from time to time in the past; fewer (41%) say the attack represents a major increase in hostilities.

SECTION 1: ISSUES BEFORE THE LAME-DUCK CONGRESS

Weeks before tax cuts passed during George W. Bush's first term are set to expire, most of the public has heard either a lot (38%) or a little (43%) about the debate in Washington over how to handle these cuts. Much of this debate focuses on whether to extend all of the tax cuts or whether to extend the tax cuts only for annual income below a certain threshold – either \$250,000 or \$1,000,000.

When the threshold is set at \$250,000, nearly half (47%) say they would like to see the cuts extended for income below \$250,000 but allow the tax cuts to expire on income above that. A third (33%) would like to see all of the tax cuts remain in place, while just 11% say that all of the tax cuts should be allowed to sunset.

Public support for keeping some of the tax cuts while ending others declines when the threshold is set at \$1 million; just 36% say they support this option. Support for maintaining all of the tax cuts (34%) or ending all of them (14%) remains nearly the same.

There continue to be substantial partisan differences in views about these tax cuts. About six-in-ten Democrats (61%) say they would like the tax cuts to remain in place for income below \$250,000 but allow other cuts to expire, 18% would like all of the cuts to remain in place and 13% would like them all to expire.

By contrast, a majority of Republicans (53%) favor keeping all of the tax cuts in place; 28% of Republicans support maintaining them only for income below \$250,000, and just 9% say they think all the cuts should be allowed to expire.

Deep Partisan Divisions Over Tax Cut Proposals

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
<i>Congress and Obama should...</i>	%	%	%	%	
Keep all tax cuts	33	53	18	33	+35
Keep for incomes below \$250,000 , end for higher	47	28	61	48	-33
End all tax cuts	11	9	13	11	-4
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<i>Congress and Obama should...</i>					
Keep all tax cuts	34	52	18	34	+34
Keep for incomes below \$1 million , end for higher	36	24	52	37	-28
End all tax cuts	14	12	17	13	-5
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	
	100	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Q13F1-14F2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Mirroring overall public opinion, a plurality of independents (48%) want the cuts to be extended only on income below \$250,000, a third (33%) want all the cuts to be extended, while 11% want all the cuts to end. The partisan patterns are similar when asked about the cuts above and below \$1,000,000, although independent opinion is more divided; 34% favor keeping all of the cuts while 37% favor keeping them just for income below \$1,000,000.

Support for Gays in Military Unchanged

Public support for allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military has been largely unchanged following the release of a Defense Department study on the potential impact of gays serving openly. Currently, 59% favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, while 23% oppose this.

While support for allowing gays to serve openly has remained steady over the last several years, there has been some decline in opposition. Today, just 23% oppose allowing gays to serve openly, down four points from last month. And just 8% now say they strongly oppose allowing gays to serve openly; while that is little changed from November or February, it is the first time strong opposition has fallen below 10%.

Democrats overwhelmingly favor allowing gays to serve openly (74% favor, 13% oppose), while independents also favor this by nearly three-to-one (63% favor, 22% oppose). Republicans, by comparison, are divided (39% favor, 42% oppose). Partisan and demographic differences are little changed over the last month.

Should Gays and Lesbians Be Allowed to Serve Openly in the Military?

	Favor	Oppose	DK
	%	%	%
December 2010	59	23	17=100
November 2010	58	27	16=100
August 2010	60	30	10=100
February 2010	61	27	12=100
March 2009	59	32	9=100
March 2006	60	32	8=100
July 2005	58	32	10=100
July 1994	52	45	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec 1-5, 2010. Q39. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

START Ratification Favored

The START treaty has not registered widely with the public: Just 16% say they have heard a lot about the treaty signed by Obama and the Russian president to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in both countries. Another 52% say they have heard a little about the treaty while nearly a third (31%) heard nothing at all.

Among those who have heard at least a little about START, many more favor than oppose its ratification by the Senate (54% to 24%).

Fully 66% of Democrats and 60% of independents want the Senate to ratify START.

Republicans are divided – as many oppose (37%) as favor (37%) the treaty's ratification. The small proportion who have heard a lot about the treaty are somewhat more likely than those who have heard a little to favor its ratification by the Senate (62% vs. 51%).

Most Who Are Familiar With START Want Senate to Ratify Treaty

<i>Favor/oppose Senate ratifying START?</i>	Favor	Oppose	DK
Total	54	24	22=100
Republican	38	37	25=200
Democrat	66	14	20=100
Independent	60	23	17=100

<i>Heard about START treaty...</i>			
A lot (16%)	62	24	14=100
A little (52%)	51	24	25=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Q41-42. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Based on those who heard a lot or a little about treaty.

SECTION 2: VIEWS OF THE PARTIES, CONGRESS & OBAMA

The public's views of the Republican Party are little changed from September, before the party's gains in the midterm election. Currently, 41% have a favorable opinion of the GOP while 52% have an unfavorable opinion. In September, 43% had a favorable view of the Republican Party and 49% had an unfavorable view.

Views of the Democratic Party have grown somewhat more negative since September – 45% now have a favorable opinion while 51% have an unfavorable opinion. This fall, slightly more held a favorable view than an unfavorable view (50% vs. 44%).

Even among Republicans, views of the GOP are little changed from September.

And more independents continue to view the Republican Party unfavorably rather than favorably (53% vs. 36%).

Opinion about the Democratic Party has changed little since September among Democrats themselves (currently 83% favorable) and Republicans (8%). But opinion among independents has shifted – 54% now have an unfavorable opinion of the Democratic Party, up from 45% in September.

Opinion about Congress and Its Leaders

Views of Congress continue to be very negative. About three-in-ten (31%) have a favorable opinion of Congress, while twice as many (62%) have an unfavorable opinion. Across all partisan groups, more have an unfavorable than favorable view of Congress.

Opinion about Democratic congressional leaders is, on balance, more negative than positive. Only 29% have a favorable opinion of Nancy Pelosi while 55% have an

Independents View Both Parties Unfavorably

	April		July		Sept		Dec	
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav
Democratic Party	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Democratic Party	38	52	44	45	50	44	45	51
Republican	10	88	11	84	11	88	8	92
Democrat	78	19	81	11	87	10	83	15
Independent	27	58	36	49	45	45	36	54
Republican Party	37	53	39	49	43	49	41	52
Republican	79	17	82	13	87	11	82	17
Democrat	12	82	14	78	16	80	15	81
Independent	33	56	35	48	41	49	36	53

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unfavorable opinion. These views are little changed from June (27% favorable, 50% unfavorable).

About a quarter (23%) view Harry Reid favorably, compared with 39% who have an unfavorable view (38% have not heard of him or cannot rate him). Four years ago, opinion about Reid was more divided (17% favorable, 20% unfavorable) and far more had not heard of him or could not rate him (63%).

Opinion about Republican congressional leaders is divided. About three-in-ten (28%) have a favorable opinion of John Boehner, while 25% have an unfavorable opinion; nearly half (47%) have never heard of him or cannot rate him. Views of Boehner have improved since June when only 12% viewed him favorably, 22% unfavorably and 66% had never heard of him or could not provide a rating.

Similarly, about as many view Mitch McConnell favorably (22%) as unfavorably (27%). As is the case with Boehner, roughly half (51%) have never heard of McConnell or cannot rate him.

Independents have mixed views of GOP leaders – and very negative opinions of Democratic leaders. Nearly six-in-ten independents (58%) have an unfavorable opinion of Nancy Pelosi compared with just 20% who express a favorable opinion. More than twice as many independents have an unfavorable opinion of Reid (41%) than a favorable one (16%).

Overall, Hillary Clinton is viewed much more favorably than the Democratic leaders in Congress. About six-in-ten Americans (59%) view her favorably while 34% view her unfavorably. A majority of Democrats (84%) and independents (56%) have a favorable opinion of the Secretary of State, compared with 30% of Republicans.

Views of Congressional Leaders

	Fav	Unfav	Never heard/ Can't rate/DK
	%	%	%
Nancy Pelosi	29	55	16=100
Republican	9	87	4=100
Democrat	54	28	17=100
Independent	20	58	21=100
John Boehner	28	25	47=100
Republican	40	16	44=100
Democrat	21	37	42=100
Independent	26	22	52=100
Harry Reid	23	39	38=100
Republican	13	57	30=100
Democrat	40	23	36=100
Independent	16	41	43=100
Mitch McConnell	22	27	51=100
Republican	31	20	49=100
Democrat	15	37	48=100
Independent	23	22	55=100

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Favorability of the President and First Lady

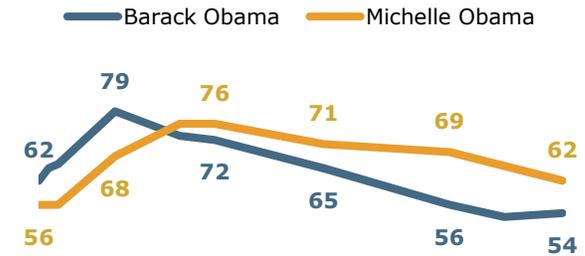
There has been little change in Barack Obama's favorability rating from earlier this year. Currently, 54% have a favorable opinion of the president while 43% have an unfavorable opinion. Views of Obama grew more negative from January 2009 to June of this year, but have been steady since then.

As has been the case over the past year, Michelle Obama's favorable ratings are higher than her husband's. However, her ratings have slipped since the summer. In the current survey, 62% view the first lady favorably, down from 69% in June.

Opinion about Michelle Obama has grown more negative among independents: 57% now have a favorable opinion of her, down from 68% in June.

Michelle Obama's favorability ratings also have declined among women. Currently, 64% of women have a favorable opinion of her, down 12 points from June. And while a majority of non-Hispanic whites (56%) view Michelle Obama favorably, that is down from 66% in November 2009.

Favorability Ratings for the Obamas



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Michelle Obama's Favorability Rating Slips

	Nov 2009		June 2010		Dec 2010	
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	71	16	69	22	62	27
Men	66	20	61	25	59	28
Women	77	13	76	18	64	26
White	66	20	62	27	56	31
Black	96	2	--	--	90	6
18-29	72	13	75	17	75	18
30-49	74	15	71	20	59	26
50-64	70	19	68	22	60	30
65+	69	18	60	29	55	36
Republican	50	36	43	45	38	47
Democrat	91	2	90	6	87	8
Independent	70	16	68	21	57	30

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 2-5, 2010. PEW2b. Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks.

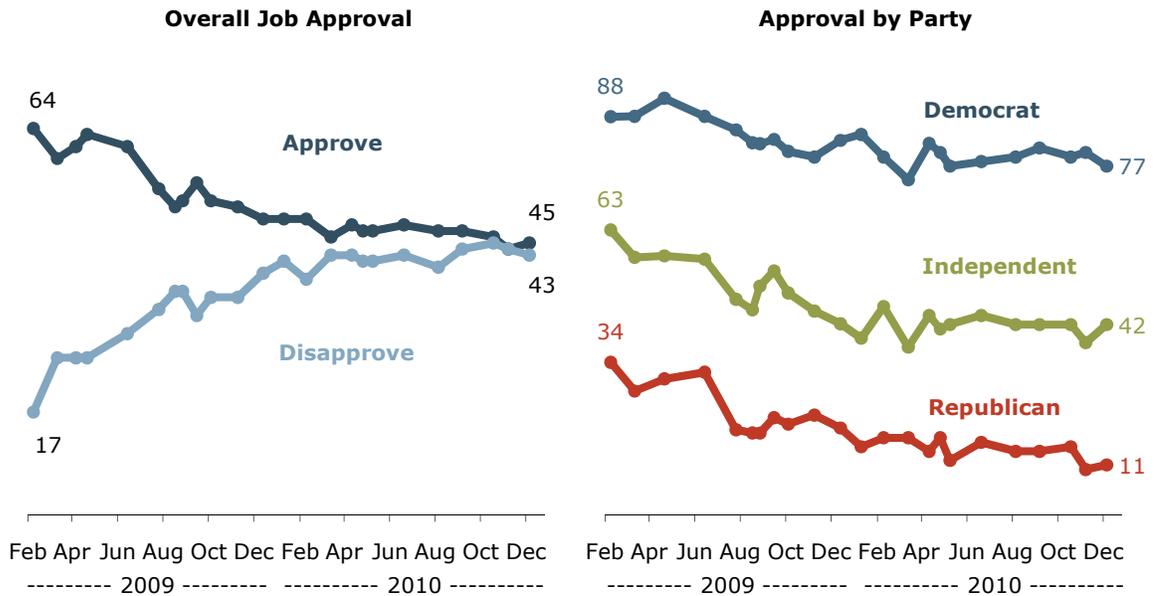
Mixed Job Ratings for Obama

As has been the case for much of 2010, the public is closely divided on Obama’s overall performance as president. Currently 45% approve, while 43% disapprove. His approval rating has ranged between 44% and 49% since last December.

Obama continues to get generally good marks from his own party, with 77% of Democrats currently saying they approve of the job he is doing; just 14% disapprove. Independents are divided, with 42% approving and 43% disapproving. Republicans remain very negative about the president; just 11% approve and 81% disapprove.

The president’s ratings among key segments of his 2008 electoral coalition remain mostly unchanged from earlier in the year. The vast majority of African Americans (87%) say they approve of the job he is doing (just 7% disapprove), while half (50%) of young people ages 18 to 29 approve (32% disapprove).

Obama’s Job Approval Trends



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Q1.

At 45%, Obama's approval rating is slightly higher than two of his predecessors' ratings at a comparable point in their presidencies – that is, a month after their party suffered a serious defeat in the midterm elections. In December of 1994, 41% of Americans approved of Bill Clinton's performance, while 47% disapproved. Similarly, in a December 1982 Gallup poll, 41% approved of Ronald Reagan's performance, while 50% disapproved.

Obama and His Party

Despite complaints from some liberals and Democratic leaders, most Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents do not think that the president is going along too much with Republican leaders in Congress. About a quarter (24%) of Democrats and Democratic leaners express this view; a plurality of Democrats (45%) say Obama is handling relations with GOP leaders about right while 15% say he is going along with Republicans too little.

But a significant minority of Democrats and Democratic leaners give Obama relatively low marks for his overall performance in standing up for the party's traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people.

About half of Democrats and Democratic leaners (54%) say he has done an excellent (17%) or good (37%) job of standing up for the party's traditional positions; 44% say he has done only fair or poor.

Obama's Performance Standing Up For Party's Traditional Positions

<i>Among Democrats and Democratic leaners</i>	Excellent/ Good	Only Fair/ Poor	DK
	%	%	%
Total	54	44	2=100
Men	53	45	2=100
Women	55	43	2=100
White	51	47	2=100
Black	70	29	1=100
18-29	41	59	0=100
30-49	62	37	1=100
50-64	54	43	3=100
65+	57	38	5=100
College grad+	64	34	2=100
Some college	52	47	1=100
High school or less	48	50	2=100
Registered to vote	58	40	2=100
Not registered	36	61	3=100
Democrat	60	39	1=100
Liberal	60	39	1=100
Mod/Conserv	60	39	1=100
Lean Democratic	43	53	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec. 1-5, 2010. Q55. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks.

Those who affiliate with the Democratic Party give Obama higher ratings for standing up for the party's traditional positions than do those who just lean Democratic (60% vs.

43%). Among those who identify as Democrats, there is no difference between liberals and moderate and conservative Democrats.

Obama gets especially low ratings on standing up for the party's positions from young people, a key segment of his 2008 coalition. Among Democrats and Democratic leaners younger than 30, fully 59% rate his performance as only fair or poor, while just 41% say it has been excellent or good.

Obama also gets relatively tepid marks from less educated Democrats, including those with only a high school education or less (50% only fair/poor) and those with only some college education (47% only fair/poor). Among college graduates, 64% rate his performance as excellent or good, while just 34% give him only fair or poor marks.

SECTION 3: AFGHANISTAN AND THE KOREAN CRISIS

Over the past six months, the public's assessments of the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan have changed very little. Currently, 47% of Americans say the military effort there is going very (8%) or fairly well (39%). These perceptions were similar in both June (48% very/fairly well) and July (49%).

However, there has been a sharp decline in this period in the percentage saying the United States will succeed in achieving its goals in Afghanistan. Only about half (49%) now say the United States will definitely succeed (9%) or probably succeed (40%) in achieving its goals in Afghanistan; 39% say the U.S. will definitely (9%) or probably (30%) fail.

This is the most pessimistic the public has been on this question since it was first asked in January of 2009. Six months ago, a clear majority (59%) said the U.S. would achieve its goals, while 34% said it would fail.

Less Optimism about Afghanistan, Declining Support for U.S., NATO Troop Presence

	<i>U.S. will definitely/probably succeed</i>			<i>U.S./NATO should keep troops in Afghanistan</i>		
	June	Dec	Change	June	Dec	Change
Total	59	49	-10	53	44	-9
Republican	64	54	-10	65	59	-6
Democrat	63	49	-14	50	35	-15
Independent	54	48	-6	53	45	-8

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec 1-5, 2010. Q18-19.

The public also is less supportive of keeping U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan until the situation there has stabilized. In the new survey, 44% favor keeping the troops in Afghanistan while about as many (47%) say that the U.S. and NATO should remove their troops as soon as possible. In June, a majority (53%) said troops should remain until Afghanistan had stabilized; 40% said troops should be removed as soon as possible.

Support for keeping troops in Afghanistan has fallen sharply among Democrats. Today, just 35% of Democrats say troops should remain until the situation has stabilized, while a majority (57%) says troops should be removed as soon as possible. As recently as June, half of Democrats (50%) thought troops should stay in Afghanistan until the country had stabilized.

A majority of Republicans (59%) continue to say troops should remain in Afghanistan; just 33% say troops should be removed as soon as possible. Independents are divided (45% keep troops, 47% remove troops).

There are no significant partisan differences in predictions for the success of the U.S. goals in Afghanistan, with about half of Democrats (49%), Republicans (54%) and independents (48%) now saying the U.S. will definitely or probably be successful.

Korean Attack – More of the Same?

Most Americans (78%) say they have heard at least a little about the recent North Korean attack on a South Korea island; 38% say they have heard a lot while 40% say they have heard a little. About one-in-five (22%) heard nothing at all about the attack.

Among those aware of the attack, 50% say it is similar to other incidents that have occurred in the past, while fewer (41%) say this represents a major increase in hostilities.

There are no significant partisan differences in opinions about the seriousness of this incident – roughly half of Republicans (50%), Democrats (47%) and independents (53%) say the attack is similar to other incidents that have occurred from time to time in the past.

People who have heard a lot about the attack are more likely to say it represents a major increase in hostilities between North and South Korea. Nearly half (48%) of those who have heard a lot about the incident express this view, compared with 35% of those who have heard a little about it.

Those More Aware of N. Korean Attack See It as More Serious

	<i>Recent N. Korean attack...</i>		
	Similar to past incidents	Major increase in hostilities	DK
	%	%	%
Total	50	41	9=100
Republican	50	44	6=100
Democrat	47	41	12=100
Independent	53	40	7=100
<i>Heard about attack...</i>			
A lot (38%)	48	48	5=100
A little (40%)	52	35	14=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Dec.1-5, 2010. Q43-44. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted December 1-5, 2010 among a national sample of 1,500 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (1,000 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 500 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 201 who had no landline telephone). Interviewing was conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1500	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	763	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	737	4.5 percentage points
Republican	415	6.0 percentage points
Democratic	481	5.5 percentage points
Independent	499	5.5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

In addition to the main survey, this report is supplemented with results from an omnibus survey. Telephone interviews were conducted December 2-5, 2010 among a national sample of 1,003 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (671 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 332 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 146 who had no landline telephone). Interviewing was conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1003	4.0 percentage points
Republican	265	7.5 percentage points
Democratic	322	7.0 percentage points
Independent	308	7.0 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

About the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director

Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research

Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors

Michael Remez, Senior Writer

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
DECEMBER 2010 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
December 1-5, 2010
N=1500**

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

QUESTIONS 2-3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL DECEMBER 3-5 [N=968]:**

Q.3a In your opinion, do you think President Obama is going along with Republican leaders in Congress too much, too little or about the right amount?

Dec 3-5

2010

16	Too much
33	Too little
31	Right amount
20	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

QUESTIONS 4-5 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 6-8****QUESTION 9 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 10-11****ASK ALL:**

Q.12 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the debate in Washington over the federal income tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president? Have you heard **[READ]**

Dec 1-5

2010

38	A lot
43	A little
17	Nothing at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=763]:

Q.13F1 As you may know, these tax cuts are set to expire at the end of December. Which comes closer to your view about what President Obama and Congress should do now? **[READ IN ORDER; REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF OF SAMPLE]**

	Keep all of the tax cuts in place	Keep the tax cuts only for income below \$250,000, but end the tax cuts for income above that	End all of the tax cuts	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 1-5, 2010	33	47	11	9

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=737]:

Q.14F2 As you may know, these tax cuts are set to expire at the end of December. Which comes closer to your view about what President Obama and Congress should do now? **[READ IN ORDER; REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF OF SAMPLE]**

	Keep all of the tax cuts in place	Keep the tax cuts only for income below \$1 million but end the tax cuts for income above that	End all of the tax cuts	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Dec 1-5, 2010	34	36	14	15

TREND FOR COMPARISON

Which comes closer to your view about the tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president?
[READ IN ORDER]

	All of the tax cuts should remain in place	Tax cuts for the wealthy should be repealed, while others stay in place	All of the tax cuts should be repealed	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Nov 4-7, 2010	34	30	28	8
Sep 9-12, 2010	29	29	28	14
Jul 22-25, 2010	30	27	31	12
Late October, 2008 ¹	23	34	27	16
Mid-October, 2008	25	37	25	13
November, 2007	30	38	22	10
October, 2007	24	31	30	15
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	30	34	22	14
Early October, 2006	26	36	26	12
April, 2006	25	36	28	11
December, 2004	28	35	25	12
Early September, 2004	27	31	28	14

NO QUESTIONS 15-16**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about Afghanistan...

Q.17 How well is the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

Dec 1-5 2010		Jul 8-11 2010	Jun 16-20 2010	Mar 10-14 2010	Dec 9-13 2009	Oct 28-Nov 8 2009	Jan 7-11 2009	Feb 2008
8	Very well	9	8	9	7	4	7	10
39	Fairly well	40	40	43	39	32	38	38
28	Not too well	31	32	22	32	41	34	31
15	Not at all well	9	13	13	11	16	11	10
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	7	13	10	6	10	11

¹ In 2008 and earlier surveys, the question was worded "...tax cuts passed under President Bush over the past few years."

RANDOMIZE Q.18 AND Q.19**ASK ALL:**

Q.18 Regardless of what you think about the original decision to use military force in Afghanistan, do you now believe that the United States will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in achieving its goals in Afghanistan?

Dec 1-5 <u>2010</u>		Jun 16-20 <u>2010</u>	Mar 10-14 <u>2010</u>	Dec 9-13 <u>2009</u>	Jan 7-11 <u>2009</u>
9	Definitely succeed	14	12	11	13
40	Probably succeed	45	46	48	49
30	Probably fail	26	22	25	23
9	Definitely fail	7	7	7	6
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	12	10	9

RANDOMIZE Q.18 AND Q.19**ASK ALL:**

Q.19 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?

	Keep troops in Afghanistan	Remove their troops	(VOL.) DK/Ref
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 (GAP)	48	45	7
Sep 10-15, 2009 (GAP)	50	43	7
June, 2009 (GAP)	57	38	5
Mid-Sept, 2008	61	33	6
April, 2008 (GAP)	50	44	6
Late Feb, 2008	61	32	7
May, 2007 (GAP)	50	42	7

QUESTIONS 20-24 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 25-27****QUESTIONS 28-37 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTION 38****ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.39 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.)
	Total	Strongly favor	Favor	Total	Strongly oppose	Oppose	DK/Ref
Dec 1-5, 2010	59	21	38	23	8	16	17
Nov 4-7, 2010	58	23	35	27	11	16	16
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 ²	60	21	39	30	13	17	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	61	18	43	27	10	17	12
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	19	40	32	13	19	9
March, 2006	60	20	40	32	13	19	8
July, 2005	58	15	43	32	15	17	10
July, 1994	52	16	36	45	26	19	3

² In July 2010, March 2009, March 2006, July 2005, and July 1994 the question was part of a list. The question was not part of a list in February 2010.

ASK ALL:

Q.40 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the release of a Defense Department study on the possibility of gays and lesbians serving openly in the military? Have you heard **[READ]**

Dec 1-5

2010

29	A lot
49	A little
20	Nothing at all
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Thinking about foreign policy...

Q.41 How much, if anything have you heard about the START treaty signed by President Obama and the president of Russia to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in both countries?

Dec 1-5

2010

16	A lot
52	A little
31	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.41=1,2):

Q.42 As you may know, this treaty will only take effect if the U.S. Senate votes to ratify it. Would you favor or oppose the Senate ratifying the START treaty?

BASED ON THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE [N=1085]

Dec 1-5

2010

54	Favor
24	Oppose
22	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.43 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about a recent North Korean artillery attack on a South Korean island? Have you heard **[READ]**

Dec 1-5

2010

38	A lot
40	A little
22	Nothing at all
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.43=1,2):

Q.44 Do you think this attack represents a major increase in hostilities between the two countries, or do you think it is similar to other incidents that have happened from time to time in the past?

BASED ON THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE [N=1236]

Dec 1-5

2010

41	Major increase in hostilities
50	Similar to other incidents from time to time in the past
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 45-48

QUESTIONS 49-54 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

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
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	24	32	39	2	*	2	15	17
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Yearly Totals								
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 DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):

Q.55 How good a job is Barack Obama doing these days in standing up for the Democratic Party's traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people — In general, would you say Obama is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=676]:

Dec 1-5

2009

17	Excellent
37	Good
36	Only fair
7	Poor
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER NEWS INTEREST INDEX
DECEMBER 2-5, 2010 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1003**

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 Is your overall opinion of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [ITEM] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?]** **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	
a. The Republican Party								
Dec 2-5, 2010	41	13	28	52	29	24	*	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	8	35	49	21	28	*	8
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6
b. The Democratic Party								
Dec 2-5, 2010	45	14	31	51	28	23	*	4
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	13	36	44	20	24	*	7
July 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
Dec 2-5, 2010	31	8	23	62	28	34	1	6
July 1-5, 2010	33	6	27	56	23	33	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 And how about [INSERT FIRST NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [NAME] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?]

[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a. Barack Obama								
Dec 2-5, 2010	54	26	29	43	25	18	*	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	53	21	32	43	23	20	*	5
Jun 10-13, 2010	56	27	30	39	20	19	0	4
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	65	33	32	30	16	14	*	5

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Jun 10-14, 2009	72	37	35	25	11	14	*	3
Apr 14-21, 2009	73	38	35	24	10	14	*	3
Jan 7-11, 2009	79	40	39	15	4	11	0	6
Mid-October, 2008	66	33	33	28	13	15	*	6
Late September, 2008	65	33	32	30	11	19	*	5
Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4
Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9
April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6
March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9
Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8
Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10
January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8
Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11
August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13
b. Michelle Obama								
Dec 2-5, 2010	62	30	31	27	15	12	1	10
Jun 10-13, 2010	69	31	38	22	9	12	1	9
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	71	33	38	16	8	8	1	11
Jun 10-14, 2009	76	36	39	14	5	9	1	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	76	36	40	13	4	9	1	10
Jan 7-11, 2009	68	28	40	15	4	11	2	15
Mid-September, 2008	56	23	33	25	11	14	2	17
Late May, 2008	43	14	29	21	8	13	4	32
c. Nancy Pelosi								
Dec 2-5, 2010	29	10	20	55	35	19	9	6
Jun 10-13, 2010	27	5	22	50	28	23	14	8
Jun 10-14, 2009	35	8	28	41	25	16	15	8
December, 2007	25	6	19	38	19	19	20	17
December, 2006	32	9	23	27	13	14	26	15
d. John Boehner								
Dec 2-5, 2010	28	8	20	25	12	14	34	12
Jun 10-13, 2010	12	3	9	22	8	15	54	12
e. Harry Reid								
Dec 2-5, 2010	23	5	18	39	21	18	26	12
December, 2006	17	3	14	20	7	13	45	18
f. Mitch McConnell								
Dec 2-5, 2010	22	5	18	27	11	16	35	15
g. Hillary Clinton								
Dec 2-5, 2010	59	24	35	34	15	20	2	4
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	66	26	40	28	11	17	1	6
Late May, 2008	48	17	31	44	22	22	*	8
April, 2008	49	16	33	47	23	24	0	4
March, 2008	50	16	34	44	23	21	*	6
Late February, 2008	51	19	32	44	23	21	0	5
Early February, 2008	52	20	32	42	24	18	*	6
January, 2008	52	20	32	44	25	19	*	4
Late December, 2007	50	21	29	44	26	18	*	6
August, 2007	55	21	34	39	21	18	2	4
December, 2006	56	22	34	39	21	18	*	5
April, 2006	54	20	34	42	21	21	1	3
Late October, 2005	56	20	36	38	19	19	1	5
Late March, 2005	57	22	35	36	17	19	*	7
December, 2002	47	15	32	44	23	21	1	8

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/ Ref
July, 2001	53	20	33	42	23	19	1	4
January, 2001	60	25	35	35	16	19	*	5
May, 2000	49	15	34	42	22	20	1	8
Early December, 1998	66	32	34	31	15	16	*	3
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	58	24	34	36	18	18	*	6
Early September, 1998	64	24	40	31	13	18	0	5
Late August, 1998	63	25	38	34	13	21	*	3
March, 1998	65	26	39	31	14	17	*	4
January, 1997	57	17	40	40	17	23	*	3
June, 1996	53	13	40	43	17	26	*	4
April, 1996	49	12	37	46	19	27	0	5
February, 1996	42	14	28	54	27	27	0	4
January, 1996	42	10	32	54	26	28	0	4
October, 1995	58	14	44	38	14	24	--	4
August, 1995	49	16	33	47	22	25	*	4
December, 1994	50	17	33	45	20	25	1	4
July, 1994	57	19	38	40	18	22	1	2
May, 1993	60	19	41	29	11	18	1	10

PEW.3 THROUGH PEW.9 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE