

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
LATE OCTOBER 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
October 24-28, 2012
N=2,008

NO QUESTIONS 1-4

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

Q.5 If the presidential election were being held TODAY, would you vote for **[READ AND RANDOMIZE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC TICKETS FIRST AND RANDOMIZE JOHNSON AND STEIN LAST WHERE APPLICABLE]** for the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, for the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, for the Libertarian Party ticket headed by Gary Johnson or the Green Party ticket headed by Jill Stein¹?

ASK IF OTHER OR DK (Q.5=5,8,9):

Q.5a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to **[READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.5]?**

ASK ALL NON-VOTERS (REGFINAL=2):

Q.8 If the presidential election were being held TODAY, who would you like to see win **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?**

ASK IF OTHER OR DK (Q.8=3,9):

Q.8a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to **[READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.8]?**

| GENERAL PUBLIC | REGISTERED VOTERS | LIKELY VOTERS | |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Oct 24-28 2012 | Oct 24-28 2012 | Oct 24-28 2012 | |
| 39 | 45 | 47 | Mitt Romney, the Republican |
| 51 | 47 | 47 | Barack Obama, the Democrat |
| 4 | 4 | 3 | Other candidate (VOL.) |
| 7 | 4 | 3 | Don't know/Refused/Refused to lean (VOL.) |

[N=2,008]

[N=1,678]

[N=1,495]

NO QUESTIONS , 9-14, 17-19, 22-24, 27-29, 33-34, 37-39, 41-44, 47

THOUGHT, REG, NREG, STATEREG, PLANREG, CAMPNII, PRECINCT, OFTVOTE, WHERE, Q.5b-7 PLAN1, EARLY1, PLAN2, PLAN3, QUESTIONS 15-16, 20-21, 25-26, 30-32, 40, FOLGOV, QUESTIONS 48-50 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ALL:

And thinking about some issues...

Q.45 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

| | -----Favor----- | | | -----Oppose----- | | | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------|
| | Total | Strongly favor | Favor | Total | Strongly oppose | Oppose | |
| Oct 24-28, 2012 | 49 | 22 | 27 | 40 | 19 | 21 | 11 |
| Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012 ² | 48 | 23 | 25 | 44 | 24 | 20 | 8 |
| Jun 7-17, 2012 | 48 | 23 | 25 | 44 | 23 | 21 | 9 |
| Apr 4-15, 2012 | 47 | 22 | 25 | 43 | 22 | 21 | 11 |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 | 46 | -- | -- | 44 | -- | -- | 9 |
| Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011 | 45 | 20 | 25 | 46 | 25 | 21 | 9 |
| Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 | 43 | 16 | 27 | 47 | 26 | 22 | 10 |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 41 | 17 | 24 | 48 | 24 | 24 | 10 |
| Aug 11-17, 2009 | 39 | 14 | 25 | 53 | 31 | 22 | 8 |

¹ Each respondent was asked about the candidates on the ballot in his or her state.

² In Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012, Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011, July 21-Aug 5, 2010, Aug 11-17, 2009, August 2008, August 2007, Early January 2007, Early November 2006, March 2006, July 2005, December 2004, Early February 2004, November 2003, Mid-July 2003, March 2001 and June 1996 the question was asked as part of a list of items. In Jun 7-17, 2012, Apr 4-15, 2012, August 2009, April 2009, May 2008 and June 2008, the question read "allowing gay and lesbian couples;" all other instances read "allowing gays and lesbians."

Q.45 CONTINUED...

| | -----Favor----- | | | -----Oppose----- | | | (VOL.) DK/Ref |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|------------------|--------------------|--------|------------------|
| | Total | Strongly favor | Favor | Total | Strongly oppose | Oppose | |
| Mid-April, 2009 | 35 | 14 | 21 | 54 | 31 | 23 | 11 |
| August, 2008 | 39 | 13 | 26 | 52 | 30 | 22 | 9 |
| June, 2008 | 40 | 15 | 25 | 52 | 31 | 21 | 8 |
| Late May, 2008 | 38 | 15 | 23 | 49 | 29 | 20 | 13 |
| November, 2007 | 36 | 12 | 24 | 54 | 29 | 25 | 10 |
| August, 2007 | 36 | 13 | 23 | 55 | 31 | 24 | 9 |
| Early January, 2007 | 37 | 13 | 24 | 55 | 33 | 22 | 8 |
| Early November, 2006 (RVs) | 30 | 10 | 20 | 57 | 31 | 26 | 13 |
| July, 2006 | 35 | 12 | 23 | 56 | 31 | 25 | 9 |
| June, 2006 | 33 | 13 | 20 | 55 | 32 | 23 | 12 |
| March, 2006 | 39 | 10 | 29 | 51 | 28 | 23 | 10 |
| July, 2005 | 36 | 13 | 23 | 53 | 31 | 22 | 11 |
| December, 2004 | 32 | 14 | 18 | 61 | 38 | 23 | 7 |
| August, 2004 | 29 | 8 | 21 | 60 | 35 | 25 | 11 |
| July, 2004 | 32 | 10 | 22 | 56 | 33 | 23 | 12 |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 32 | 10 | 22 | 59 | 35 | 24 | 9 |
| Early February, 2004 | 30 | 9 | 21 | 63 | 42 | 21 | 7 |
| November, 2003 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 62 | 41 | 21 | 8 |
| October, 2003 | 30 | 9 | 21 | 58 | 33 | 25 | 12 |
| Mid-July, 2003 | 38 | 10 | 28 | 53 | 30 | 23 | 9 |
| March, 2001 | 35 | 8 | 27 | 57 | 34 | 23 | 8 |
| June, 1996 | 27 | 6 | 21 | 65 | 41 | 24 | 8 |

ASK ALL:

Q.46 Do you think abortion should be **[READ] [PLEASE READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]**

| | Legal in all cases | Legal in most cases | Illegal in most cases | Illegal in all cases | (VOL.) DK/Ref | NET Legal in all/most | NET Illegal in all/most |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Oct 24-28, 2012 | 23 | 32 | 25 | 13 | 7 | 55 | 39 |
| Apr 4-15, 2012 | 23 | 31 | 23 | 16 | 7 | 53 | 39 |
| Nov 9-14, 2011 | 20 | 31 | 26 | 17 | 6 | 51 | 43 |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 | 19 | 35 | 25 | 16 | 5 | 54 | 41 |
| Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011 | 18 | 36 | 26 | 16 | 4 | 54 | 42 |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 17 | 33 | 27 | 17 | 7 | 50 | 44 |
| August 11-27, 2009 | 16 | 31 | 27 | 17 | 8 | 47 | 45 |
| April, 2009 | 18 | 28 | 28 | 16 | 10 | 46 | 44 |
| Late October, 2008 | 18 | 35 | 24 | 16 | 7 | 53 | 40 |
| Mid-October, 2008 | 19 | 38 | 22 | 14 | 7 | 57 | 36 |
| August, 2008 | 17 | 37 | 26 | 15 | 5 | 54 | 41 |
| June, 2008 | 19 | 38 | 24 | 13 | 6 | 57 | 37 |
| November, 2007 | 18 | 33 | 29 | 15 | 5 | 51 | 44 |
| October, 2007 | 21 | 32 | 24 | 15 | 8 | 53 | 39 |
| August, 2007 | 17 | 35 | 26 | 17 | 5 | 52 | 43 |
| AP/Ipsos-Poll: February, 2006 | 19 | 32 | 27 | 16 | 6 | 51 | 43 |
| ABC/WaPo: December, 2005 | 17 | 40 | 27 | 13 | 3 | 57 | 40 |
| ABC/WaPo: April, 2005 | 20 | 36 | 27 | 14 | 3 | 56 | 41 |
| ABC/WaPo: December, 2004 | 21 | 34 | 25 | 17 | 3 | 55 | 42 |
| ABC/WaPo: May, 2004 | 23 | 31 | 23 | 20 | 2 | 54 | 43 |
| ABC/WaPo: January, 2003 | 23 | 34 | 25 | 17 | 2 | 57 | 42 |
| ABC/WaPo: August, 2001 | 22 | 27 | 28 | 20 | 3 | 49 | 48 |
| ABC/BeliefNet: June, 2001 | 22 | 31 | 23 | 20 | 4 | 53 | 43 |
| ABC/WaPo: January, 2001 | 21 | 38 | 25 | 14 | 1 | 59 | 39 |
| ABC/WaPo: September, 2000 (RVs) | 20 | 35 | 25 | 16 | 3 | 55 | 41 |
| ABC/WaPo: July, 2000 | 20 | 33 | 26 | 17 | 4 | 53 | 43 |
| ABC/WaPo: September, 1999 | 20 | 37 | 26 | 15 | 2 | 57 | 41 |
| ABC/WaPo: March, 1999 | 21 | 34 | 27 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 42 |
| ABC/WaPo: July, 1998 | 19 | 35 | 29 | 13 | 4 | 54 | 42 |
| ABC/WaPo: August, 1996 | 22 | 34 | 27 | 14 | 3 | 56 | 41 |

Q.46 CONTINUED...

| | Legal in all <u>cases</u> | Legal in most <u>cases</u> | Illegal in most <u>cases</u> | Illegal in all <u>cases</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> | NET <i>Legal in all/most</i> | NET <i>Illegal in all/most</i> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>ABC/WaPo: June, 1996</i> | 24 | 34 | 25 | 14 | 2 | 58 | 39 |
| <i>ABC/WaPo: October, 1995</i> | 26 | 35 | 25 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 37 |
| <i>ABC/WaPo: September, 1995</i> | 24 | 36 | 25 | 11 | 4 | 60 | 36 |
| <i>ABC/WaPo: July, 1995</i> | 27 | 32 | 26 | 14 | 1 | 59 | 40 |

ASK ALL:

Q.51 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

| Oct 24-28 <u>2012</u> | | Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u> | Feb 22-Mar 1 <u>2011</u> |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 47 | Developing alternative sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology | 52 | 63 |
| 39 | Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas | 39 | 29 |
| 9 | Both should be given equal priority (VOL.) | 5 | 6 |
| 5 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | 4 | 2 |

NO QUESTIONS 52-54**ASK ALL:**

Q.55 Which of the following do you think would be better for the nation's economy? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

| Oct 24-28 <u>2012</u> | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 52 | Option [ONE/TWO] - Keeping current tax rates on income under \$250,000 while raising taxes on income over \$250,000 |
| 39 | Option [TWO/ONE] - Lowering tax rates for all Americans by 20% while cutting back on tax deductions people can take |
| 9 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

NO QUESTIONS 56-57**ASK ALL:**

Q.58 All in all, do you think the country would be better off if the 2010 health care law **[READ OPTIONS; RANDOMIZE]**?

| Oct 24-28 <u>2012</u> | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 43 | Is repealed |
| 44 | Remains in place |
| 13 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

ASK ALL:

Q.59 Thinking about changes in our society over the last 50 years, all in all, do you think **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE a-b]** has been a change for the better, a change for the worse, or hasn't this made much difference? How about... **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[READ IF NECESSARY: Has this been a change for the better, a change for the worse, or hasn't this made much difference?]**³

| | Change for <u>the better</u> | Change for <u>the worse</u> | Hasn't made much <u>difference</u> | (VOL.) Mixed <u>changes</u> | (VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. A growing population of immigrants | | | | | |
| Oct 24-28, 2012 | 28 | 35 | 31 | 2 | 5 |
| Sep 1-15, 2011 (<i>Pew SDT</i>) | 27 | 37 | 29 | 3 | 4 |
| b. More people of different races marrying each other | | | | | |
| Oct 24-28, 2012 | 36 | 6 | 52 | 1 | 5 |
| Sep 1-15, 2011 (<i>Pew SDT</i>) | 43 | 11 | 44 | 1 | 2 |

ATTEND, QUESTIONS 60-61 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**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 LIKELY VOTERS [N=1,495]:

| | <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> |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Oct 24-28, 2012 | 34 | 35 | 27 | 2 | * | 1 | 14 | 12 |
| Oct 4-7, 2012 | 36 | 31 | 30 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 14 |
| Sep 12-16, 2012 | 29 | 39 | 30 | 1 | * | 2 | 14 | 13 |

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,678]:

| | <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> |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Oct 24-28, 2012 | 33 | 34 | 29 | 2 | * | 1 | 13 | 13 |
| Oct 4-7, 2012 | 33 | 32 | 31 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 14 |
| 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:

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|
| 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 |
| Jul 16-26, 2012 | 22 | 33 | 38 | 4 | * | 3 | 14 | 15 |

³

In September 2011, question wording began with "I'm going to read a list of some changes that have taken place over the last 50 years in our society. Please tell me if you think each one has been a change for the better, a change for the worse, or hasn't made much difference."

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

| | | | | (VOL.) No | (VOL.) Other | (VOL.) DK/Ref | Lean Rep | Lean Dem |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> | <u>preference</u> | <u>party</u> | | | |
| BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC: | | | | | | | | |
| 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 |
| 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 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |

PVOTE08-SCALE10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED