

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER/WASHINGTON POST**  
**June 9-12, 2011 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,002**

**PEW.1 –PEW.3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

**PEWWP.1** In recent years, there have been a number of sex scandals involving elected officials. Why is this? Do you think **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** or do you think **[NEXT]**? **[IF "NEITHER/SOME OTHER REASON" AND RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS REASON, RECORD. IF RESPONDENT DOES NOT VOLUNTEER REASON, PROBE WITH: What do you think the main reason is? RECORD FIRST MENTION. PROBE FOR CLARITY, BUT NOT FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS]**

**IF LOWER MORAL STANDARDS (PEWWP.1=1) ASK:**

**PEWWP.2** Why do you think elected officials have lower moral standards? Is it mostly that **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** or is it mostly that **[NEXT]**?<sup>1</sup>

Jun 9-12

2011

19	Elected officials have lower moral standards than ordinary Americans
4	Politics attracts the kind of people who have low moral standards
13	When people get into positions of power they lose their moral standards
*	Neither/Some other reason <b>(VOL.)</b>
*	Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
57	Elected officials just get caught more often because they are under greater scrutiny
12	Neither/Some other reason <b>(VOL.)</b>
4	Both equally <b>(VOL.)</b>
9	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**PEW.4 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

---

<sup>1</sup> PEWWP.1 and PEWWP.2 asked in conjunction with *The Washington Post*.

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted June 9-12, 2011, among a national sample of 1,002 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (672 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 330 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 122 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/detailed>.

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 2010 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2010 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 sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,002	4.0 percentage points
Men	443	6.0 percentage points
Women	559	5.0 percentage points
18-29	124	11.0 percentage points
30-49	243	8.0 percentage points
50-64	281	7.5 percentage points
65+	319	7.0 percentage points
Republicans	288	7.0 percentage points
Democrats	309	7.0 percentage points
Independents	324	7.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.