

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
SEPTEMBER 2018 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
SEPTEMBER 18-24, 2018
N=1,754**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 7-8, 11-13, 28, 33, 44-46, 50-51, 58-59 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3-6, 9-10, 14-27, 29-32, 34-43, 47-49, 52-57, 60-63

On a different topic,

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=867]:

Q.64F1 In your opinion, which is generally more often to blame if a person is poor? Lack of effort on his or her own part, or circumstances beyond his or her control?

	Lack of <u>effort</u>	Circumstances <u>beyond control</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 18-24, 2018	31	52	12	5
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	34	53	10	3
Dec 8-13, 2015	37	48	11	3
Jan 23-Feb 9, 2014	39	50	8	3
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	35	50	11	4
Apr 4-15, 2012	38	46	11	5
Mar 11-21, 2010	32	49	14	5
October, 1997	39	44	14	3
CBS/NYT: 1995	35	42	18	4
CBS/NYT: 1994	44	34	18	4
LAT: 1992	27	52	18	3
NYT: December, 1990	30	48	20	2
Gallup: May, 1990	35	45	17	3
Gallup: 1989	38	42	17	3
Gallup: 1988	40	37	17	6
Gallup: 1984	33	34	31	2
CBS/NYT: 1982	37	39	17	7
Gallup: 1967	42	19	36	3
Gallup: 1965	40	29	28	3
Gallup: November, 1964	31	31	34	5
Gallup: September, 1964	34	25	38	3
Gallup: March, 1964	34	29	32	6

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=887]:

Q.65F2 In your opinion, which generally has more to do with why a person is rich **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Sep 18-24 <u>2018</u>		Apr 5-11 <u>2017</u>	Dec 8-13 <u>2015</u>	(U) Jan 15-19 <u>2014</u>
43	Because he or she worked harder than most other people	45	40	38
42	Because he or she had more advantages in life than most other people	43	49	51
10	Both (VOL.)	9	8	7
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	4	4

Q.65F2 CONTINUED...

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

	Most rich people today are wealthy mainly because of their hard work, ambition or <u>education</u>	Most rich people today are wealthy mainly because they know the right people or were born into <u>wealthy families</u>	(VOL.) Neither/ Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 6-19, 2011 (SDT)	43	46	8	*	3
Jan 24-Feb 19, 2008 (SDT)	42	46	8	*	4

ASK ALL:

Q.66 As I read some pairs of statements, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR, EXCEPT FOR ITEMS B AND C WHICH SHOULD HAVE STATEMENTS RANDOMIZED WITHIN PAIR]. [IF NECESSARY: Next/How about/And], [NEXT PAIR]. [IF NECESSARY: "Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?"]**

ASK ALL:

a.	Government regulation of business is necessary to <u>protect the public interest</u>	Government regulation of business usually does <u>more harm than good</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 18-24, 2018	49	43	8
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	50	45	5
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	45	48	7
Aug 9-16, 2016	44	51	5
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	45	50	5
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	47	47	5
Feb 8-12, 2012 ¹	40	52	7
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	47	45	8
December, 2008	47	43	10
October, 2008	50	38	12
January, 2008	41	50	9
December, 2004	49	41	10
July, 2002	54	36	10
February, 2002	50	41	9
August, 1999	48	44	8
October, 1996	45	46	9
October, 1995	45	50	5
April, 1995	43	51	6
October, 1994	38	55	7
July, 1994	41	54	5

¹ In Feb 8-12, 2012 survey, question was asked as a stand-alone item.

Q.66 CONTINUED...

ASK ALL:	The economic system in this country unfairly favors powerful interests	The economic system in this country is generally fair to most Americans	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
b.			
Sep 18-24, 2018	63	33	4
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	65	32	3
Mar 17-26, 2016	66	31	2
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	65	31	3
Feb 18-22, 2015	62	33	4
Jan 29-Feb 9, 2014	62	34	4

ASK ALL:	America's openness to people from all over the world is essential to who we are as a nation	If America is too open to people from all over the world, we risk losing our identity as a nation	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
c.			
Sep 18-24, 2018	68	26	6
Jun 27-Jul 9, 2017	68	29	3

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=867]:

	In foreign policy, the U.S. should take into account the interests of its allies even if it means making compromises with them	In foreign policy, the U.S. should follow its OWN national interests even when its allies strongly disagree	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
d.F1			
Sep 18-24, 2018	55	38	7
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	59	36	5
Apr 12-19, 2016	51	42	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011 ²	53	36	11
December, 2004	53	37	10

ASK ALL:	Our country has made the changes needed to give blacks equal rights with whites	Our country needs to continue making changes to give blacks equal rights with whites	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
e.			
Sep 18-24, 2018	35	59	6
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	35	61	4
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	37	57	6
Feb 29-May 8, 2016 (SDT)	30	61	9
Jul 14-20, 2015	32	59	8
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	49	46	5
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	49	45	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	48	45	8
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	47	43	10

² In Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011 and before, item was asked as part of a list with follow-up asking whether respondents felt strongly or not strongly about their position.

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=887]:

f.F2	Other countries generally treat the United States about as fairly as we treat <u>them</u>	Other countries often take unfair advantage of the <u>United States</u>	(VOL.) Neither/ DK/Ref
Sep 18-24, 2018	42	51	7
September, 1999	24	70	6
July, 1994	19	78	3

NO QUESTIONS 67-72**QUESTION 73 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTION 74 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.75 What should be the priority for dealing with illegal immigration in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE; (one) better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws; OR (two) creating a way for immigrants already here illegally to become citizens if they meet certain requirements] OR should BOTH be given equal priority?**

	Better border security and stronger enforcement of our <u>immigration laws</u>	Creating a way for immigrants already here illegally to become citizens if they meet <u>certain requirements</u> ³	Both should be given equal priority	(VOL.) None of <u>these</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Sep 18-24, 2018	19	33	46	1	1
Aug 9-16, 2016	24	29	45	*	1
Aug 20-24, 2014	33	23	41	1	2
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	25	25	47	1	2
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	27	42	1	2
Nov 9-14, 2011	29	24	43	2	2
Feb 2-7, 2011	35	21	42	1	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	30	23	44	1	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	33	22	42	1	3

Next,

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=867]:

Q.76F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the tax law passed by Donald Trump and Congress last year?

Sep 18-24 <u>2018</u>		Jan 10-15 <u>2018</u> ⁴
36	Approve	37
46	Disapprove	46
18	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	17

³ In August 2014 and earlier surveys, response option was worded "(two) creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements."

⁴ In January 2018, question was worded "Do you approve or disapprove of the tax law passed by Donald Trump and Congress last month?"

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=887]:

Q.77F2 As you may know, the Trump administration recently increased tariffs or fees on imported goods from a number of countries. In response, some of these countries, including China and Canada, have increased tariffs on American goods. Overall, do you think these increased tariffs between the U.S. and its trading partners will be good or bad for the United States?

Sep 18-24

2018

38 Good for the United States
53 Bad for the United States
9 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Overall, do you think these increased tariffs between the U.S. and its trading partners will be good or bad for the United States?

Jul 11-15

2018⁵

40 Good for the United States
49 Bad for the United States
11 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)

ASK ALL:

Q.78 Do you think abortion should be **[READ IN ORDER TO RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE, IN REVERSE ORDER TO OTHER HALF OF SAMPLE]**?

	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</i> <u>all/most</u>	NET <i>Illegal in</i> <u>all/most</u>
Sep 18-24, 2018	25	34	22	15	5	58	37
Jun 8-18, 2017	25	33	24	16	3	57	40
Oct 20-25, 2016	22	36	23	14	4	59	37
Mar 17-26, 2016	24	33	24	16	3	56	41
Sep 22-27, 2015	20	31	25	18	6	51	43
Sep 2-9, 2014	22	34	26	14	5	55	40
Jul 17-21, 2013	20	34	24	15	7	54	40
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

⁵ In July 2018, question was preceded by the following question, "As you may know, the Trump administration recently increased tariffs or fees on imported goods from a number of countries. In response, some of these countries, including China and Canada, have increased tariffs on American goods. How much, if anything, have you heard about these tariffs between the U.S. and some of its trading partners?"

Q.78 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</i> <u>all/most</u>	NET <i>Illegal in</i> <u>all/most</u>
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
ABC/WaPo: June, 1996	24	34	25	14	2	58	39
ABC/WaPo: October, 1995	26	35	25	12	3	61	37
ABC: September, 1995	24	36	25	11	4	60	36
ABC/WaPo: July, 1995	27	32	26	14	1	59	40

QUESTION 79, 98-99 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 80-82, 85-92, 94-95****QUESTIONS 83-84, 93, 96-97, 100-101 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?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Sep 18-24, 2018	25	32	37	3	1	2	15	18
Jun 5-12, 2018	25	31	38	3	1	2	15	18
Apr 25-May 1, 2018	27	28	38	4	1	2	14	19
Mar 7-14, 2018	26	28	41	3	*	1	17	18
Jan 10-15, 2018	26	33	34	3	1	3	12	18
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	20	32	40	4	1	3	13	19
Oct 25-30, 2017	22	32	41	3	1	2	17	19
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	25	31	39	3	1	2	16	18
Yearly Totals								
2017	23.6	31.4	39.4	3.3	.6	1.7	15.8	18.7
2016	25.4	32.0	36.5	3.4	.5	2.2	14.6	17.0
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
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	--	--	--	--	--

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(SDT)	Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends
(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls