

FOR RELEASE JANUARY 7, 2014

In New Year, Half Are Looking Forward to Midterm Elections

More Republicans than Democrats Are Anticipating Midterms

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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In New Year, Half Are Looking Forward to Midterm Elections

More Republicans than Democrats Are Anticipating Midterms

As 2014 begins and the midterm election campaigns heat up, about half of the public (51%) is especially looking forward to November's congressional elections while 49% are not looking forward to them.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 2-5 among 1,005 adults, finds that 58% are looking forward to next month's Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, while 42% are not. A majority (55%) also is looking forward to next month's Super Bowl.

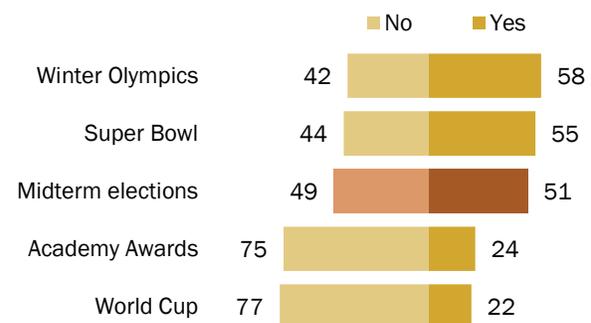
Among other upcoming events, just 24% say they are looking forward to the Academy Awards while a comparable percentage (22%) is anticipating this summer's World Cup soccer tournament.

Overall, the percentage of the public that is looking forward to this fall's midterm election is about the same today (51%) as it was in January 2010 (50%). Currently, 63% of Republicans and 53% of Democrats say they are anticipating the midterm elections; a similar gap was evident four years ago (60% of Republicans vs. 48% of Democrats).

Last month, [a Pew Research survey](#) found that more Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters (53%) than Democrats and Democratic leaners (47%) were "very enthusiastic" about voting in this fall's elections. But the GOP's advantage was narrower than it was a year before the 2010 midterms.

Looking Ahead to Major Events of 2014

% saying they are "especially looking forward to" each

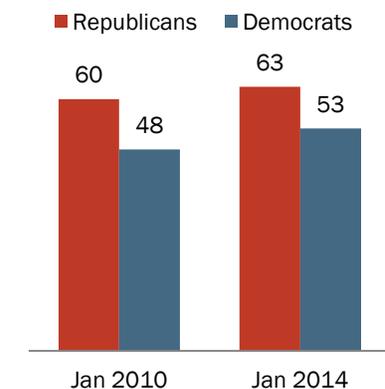


Survey conducted Jan. 2-5, 2014.

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More in GOP Looking Forward to Elections

%



Survey conducted Jan 2-5, 2014.

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When it comes to other events of 2014, partisans largely agree on what they are looking forward to. The Olympics and Super Bowl are high on both parties' lists, while the World Cup ranks much lower; roughly equal shares are looking forward to this summer's international soccer tournament (22% overall). However, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they are especially looking forward to the Academy Awards (36% vs. 20%).

This Week's News

With coverage under the 2010 health care law going into effect Jan. 1, 30% of adults closely followed news about the rollout last week. About three-in-ten (29%) closely followed news about the economy.

Other news stories last week garnered less interest. Fewer than two-in-ten (16%) closely followed news about recreational marijuana shops that opened legally in Colorado, while 13% followed news about a research ship that was trapped in ice off Antarctica. About one-in-ten (11%) followed either violence in Syria or the two terrorist bombings that struck Russia.

In 2014, Majority Looking Forward to Winter Olympics, Super Bowl

% looking forward to ...

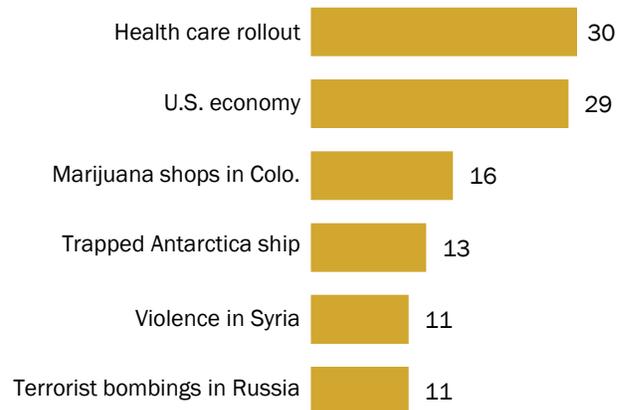
	All %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Midterm elections	51	63	53	48
Winter Olympics	58	61	65	54
Super Bowl	55	62	55	49
Academy Awards	24	20	36	21
World Cup	22	18	23	23

Survey conducted Jan 2-5, 2014.

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Economy, Health Care Draw More Interest than Colo. Marijuana Opening

% following news very closely



Survey conducted Jan 2-5, 2014.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 2-5, 2014 among a national sample of 1,005 adults, 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (500 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 505 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 268 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 and Spanish. 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/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2013 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 among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,005	3.7 percentage points
Republican	249	7.5 percentage points
Democrat	311	6.7 percentage points
Independent	358	6.2 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.

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January 2-5, 2014 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,005

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. News about how the rollout of the 2010 health care law is going					
January 2-5, 2014	30	24	18	27	2
December 12-15, 2013	26	26	22	25	1
November 14-17, 2013	37	28	16	19	*
October 31-November 3, 2013: <i>News about health insurance exchanges opening around the country as part of the 2010 health care law</i>	32	32	19	17	*
October 17-20, 2013	33	28	22	17	*
October 3-6, 2013	33	24	22	20	1
August 29-September 1, 2013: <i>News about parts of the health care law that are about to take effect</i>	23	25	21	30	*
July 18-21, 2013	25	25	19	30	*
June 28-July 1, 2012: <i>The Supreme Court decision on the 2010 health care law</i>	45	21	14	19	*
March 29-April 1, 2012: <i>Supreme Court hearings about the 2010 health care reform law</i>	29	27	17	27	*
November 17-20, 2011: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear legal challenges to last year's health care reform law</i>	18	24	24	33	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>A federal judge ruling that part of the new health care law is unconstitutional</i>	25	28	19	28	1
January 20-23, 2011: <i>News about Republican efforts to repeal last year's health care law</i>	29	29	20	21	1
December 16-19, 2010: <i>A federal judge ruling that parts of the new health care law are unconstitutional</i>	28	24	17	30	1
September 23-26, 2010: <i>News about portions of this year's health care reform law beginning to take effect</i>	37	31	17	14	1
April 16-19, 2010: <i>News about the new health care reform law</i>	40	30	16	14	*
April 9-12, 2010	46	27	15	12	*
April 1-5, 2010	42	27	14	16	*
March 26-29, 2010: <i>Debate over health care reform</i>	49	29	12	10	*
March 19-22, 2010	51	24	11	14	*
March 12-15, 2010	40	31	16	13	*
March 5-8, 2010	42	27	17	15	*
February 26-March 1, 2010	29	29	19	22	*
February 19-22, 2010	33	28	19	19	*
January 29-February 1, 2010	39	27	16	17	*
January 22-25, 2010	41	32	15	11	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January 15-18, 2010	37	27	19	18	*
January 8-11, 2010	39	26	20	15	*
December 18-21, 2009	42	27	16	14	*
December 11-14, 2009	42	30	15	14	*
December 4-7, 2009	42	28	15	14	1
November 20-23, 2009	42	29	14	15	*
November 13-16, 2009	38	26	17	17	1
November 6-9, 2009	35	28	15	22	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	32	26	19	23	*
October 23-26, 2009	40	27	16	17	1
October 16-19, 2009	36	28	15	21	*
October 9-12, 2009	37	29	14	19	1
October 2-5, 2009	39	29	16	16	*
September 25-28, 2009	45	31	12	12	0
September 18-21, 2009	44	26	19	11	*
September 11-14, 2009	44	27	14	15	*
September 3-6, 2009	40	26	16	17	0
August 28-31, 2009	40	28	17	14	1
August 21-24, 2009	49	24	12	15	1
August 14-17, 2009	39	31	15	15	1
August 7-10, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over health care reform</i>	40	27	17	15	1
July 31-August 3, 2009	47	26	14	13	1
July 24-27, 2009	44	28	15	13	*
July 17-20, 2009	33	31	13	21	2
July 10-13, 2009	24	29	20	27	*
June 26-29, 2009	29	26	20	25	1
June 19-22, 2009	28	28	20	23	*
June 12-15, 2009	29	26	18	26	*
May 15-18, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's health care plans</i>	25	30	20	24	*
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
October, 1994: <i>The debate in Congress about health care reform</i>	32	37	18	12	1
September, 1994: <i>The Clinton administration's health care reform proposals</i>	32	41	18	9	*
June, 1994	34	40	19	7	*
May, 1994	37	37	16	9	1
January, 1994	38	38	15	9	*
Early January, 1994	40	40	14	6	*
December, 1993	45	35	12	7	1
October, 1993	44	32	17	6	1
September, 1993	49	34	11	6	*
August, 1993: <i>Reports about the White House task force on health care reform headed by Hillary Clinton</i>	27	32	25	15	1
June, 1993	28	38	19	15	*
May, 1993	30	30	25	14	1
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
January 2-5, 2014	29	31	17	22	1
December 12-15, 2013	26	27	21	24	1
November 14-17, 2013	32	32	17	19	*
October 31-November 3, 2013	31	37	16	15	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October 17-20, 2013	41	31	16	12	*
October 3-6, 2013	34	30	19	16	1
September 25-29, 2013	35	30	16	18	*
September 19-22, 2013	28	33	20	19	1
September 12-15, 2013	28	34	17	20	*
August 1-4, 2013	28	35	19	17	1
July 18-21, 2013	28	29	20	23	1
June 20-23, 2013	28	30	19	22	1
June 13-16, 2013	30	32	15	22	*
June 6-9, 2013	33	31	15	21	*
May 16-19, 2013	30	31	20	19	*
May 9-12, 2013	28	30	21	20	1
March 28-31, 2013	30	30	17	22	1
March 7-10, 2013	35	30	16	19	*
January 31-February 3, 2013	33	33	16	16	1
January 17-20, 2013	36	32	15	16	*
January 3-6, 2013	34	32	18	16	1

SEE TREND FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: <http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/01/NII-Economy-trend.pdf>

- c. Two terrorist bombings in Russia
January 2-5, 2014 11 26 21 40 1

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

September 25-29, 2013: <i>The terrorist attacks at a shopping mall in Nairobi, Kenya</i>	25	32	19	24	*
May 23-26, 2013: <i>The murder of a British soldier in London, in a suspected terrorist attack</i>	18	24	21	35	2
July 28-31, 2011: <i>A bombing and shooting attack in Norway that killed more than 70 people</i>	24	33	20	23	*
July 23-24, 2011: <i>A bombing and shooting attack in Norway that killed over 90 people</i>	26	31	17	26	1
January 27-30, 2011: <i>Suicide bombings at an airport in Russia that killed at least 35 people</i>	14	30	24	31	1
April 1-5, 2010: <i>Suicide bombings in Russia</i>	10	26	24	40	*
July 17-20, 2009: <i>The bombing of two hotels in Indonesia</i>	13	26	23	36	2
December, 2008: <i>The terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India</i>	29	37	20	14	*
September, 2008: <i>A bombing at a Marriott Hotel in Pakistan that killed over 50 people</i>	16	32	23	28	1
July, 2007: <i>The investigation into who was responsible for car bombs that were discovered in London and a car bomb that went off at an airport in Scotland</i>	34	30	19	16	1
July, 2007: <i>British police finding and defusing a car bomb in London</i>	34	31	16	18	1
August, 2006: <i>British officials stopping a terrorist plot to blow up planes flying to the U.S.</i>	54	26	9	9	2
October, 2005: <i>The recent terrorist bombings in Bali, Indonesia</i>	13	31	26	29	1
July, 2005: <i>The terrorist bombings in London, England</i>	48	37	11	4	*
September, 2004: <i>The killing of Russian school children by Chechen rebels</i>	48	30	11	10	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March, 2004: <i>The terrorist bombings in Madrid, Spain</i>	34	35	18	12	1
Late October, 2002: <i>The terrorist bombing of a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia</i>	20	34	25	20	1
d. Political violence in Syria January 2-5, 2014	11	21	27	39	2
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September 19-22, 2013: <i>Diplomatic efforts aimed at getting Syria to give up control of its chemical weapons</i>	33	32	17	17	1
September 12-15, 2013: <i>Possible U.S. airstrikes in Syria and diplomatic efforts to have Syria give up control of its chemical weapons</i>	45	31	12	11	*
August 29-September 1, 2013: <i>Possible U.S. airstrikes in Syria in response to reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons</i>	39	29	15	16	*
June 14-16, 2013: <i>Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups</i>	15	30	20	33	2
June 6-9, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	23	22	42	*
May 9-12, 2013	17	24	25	33	1
April 25-28, 2013: <i>Charges that Syria has used chemical weapons against anti-government groups</i>	18	25	24	33	1
March 28-31, 2013: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	13	22	25	40	1
December 13-16, 2012	14	26	26	33	1
December 6-9, 2012	19	28	23	29	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	15	23	23	39	1
August 16-19, 2012	12	24	26	37	2
July 19-22, 2012	17	24	23	36	1
June 28-July 1, 2012	13	19	26	42	*
June 14-17, 2012	15	24	21	40	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	12	25	25	37	1
April 12-15, 2012: <i>International efforts to stop political violence in Syria</i>	14	23	25	37	1
April 5-8, 2012	15	21	27	37	1
March 15-18, 2012: <i>Political violence in Syria</i>	16	26	27	30	1
March 8-11, 2012	17	23	23	37	1
February 23-26, 2012	18	24	21	35	1
February 9-12, 2012	17	23	23	36	*
January 12-15, 2012	12	17	26	45	1
August 4-7, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	10	19	26	44	1
June 2-5, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	25	25	32	*
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Political violence following uprisings in Syria</i>	14	27	30	28	1
April 28-May 1, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests and violence in some Middle Eastern countries</i>	18	29	25	27	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
February 3-6, 2011: <i>Anti-government protests in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries</i>	32	35	16	18	*
January 27-30, 2011	17	26	21	35	*
e. Recreational marijuana shops opening legally in Colorado					
January 2-5, 2014	16	23	29	31	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June, 2005: <i>The Supreme Court decision upholding the federal government's ban on the use of medical marijuana</i>	19	34	21	25	1
f. A research ship trapped in ice off of Antarctica					
January 2-5, 2014	13	25	22	39	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
January 19-22, 2012: <i>A cruise ship accident off the coast of Italy</i>	30	36	16	18	1
November 11-14, 2010: <i>A cruise ship stranded off the coast of Mexico without power for several days</i>	15	30	26	28	1
October, 1994: <i>The sinking of the Finnish ferry boat in the Baltic Sea</i>	15	31	27	25	2

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 I am going to read you a list of events that will occur in the coming year. As I read each one, please tell me if this is an event you are especially looking forward to, or not. The first one is... **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY ... please tell me if this is something you are especially looking forward to or not.]**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. The 2014 mid-term Congressional elections			
January 2-5, 2014	51	49	1
January 6-10, 2010 ¹	50	47	3
TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
Late December, 2007: <i>The presidential election</i>	70	28	2
January, 1988	74	23	3
b. The Winter Olympics			
January 2-5, 2014	58	42	*
Jan 6-10, 2010	61	38	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:			
Late December, 2007: <i>The Olympics</i>	52	46	2
January, 1988	71	25	4
c. The Super Bowl			
January 2-5, 2014	55	44	1
January 6-10, 2010	58	40	1
Late December, 2007	49	50	1
January, 1988	55	42	3

¹ In January 6-10, 2010, item asked about "2010 mid-term Congressional elections."

PEW.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
d. The World Cup soccer tournament			
January 2-5, 2014	22	77	*
January 6-10, 2010	23	76	1
e. The Academy Awards			
January 2-5, 2014	24	75	1
January 6-10, 2010	31	67	2
Late December, 2007	34	65	1
January, 1988	43	53	4

PEW.3-PEW.8 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE