

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
December 11-14, 2014 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,001

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.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. A Senate committee report about the CIA's detainee interrogation program in the years after the September 11 th terrorist attacks December 11-14, 2014	23	26	21	29	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
August 28-31, 2009: <i>Reports about CIA interrogation methods and an investigation into alleged abuse of terrorism suspects</i>	21	22	23	33	1
August 21-24, 2009: <i>The CIA reportedly hiring contractors to assassinate Al Qaeda leaders</i>	11	17	24	44	3
July 17-20, 2009: <i>Reports about a CIA program to kill Al Qaeda leaders that was hidden from Congress</i>	12	19	20	47	3
b. Congress negotiating a new budget agreement December 11-14, 2014	18	25	23	33	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
March 6-9, 2014: <i>Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year</i>	17	23	22	37	2
December 12-15, 2013: <i>Congress negotiating a new budget agreement</i>	17	26	23	33	1
October 17-20, 2013: <i>Congress reaching an agreement to end the government shutdown and raise the debt limit</i>	49	30	12	9	*
October 3-6, 2013: <i>The shutdown of the federal government</i>	43	30	15	11	*
September 25-29, 2013: <i>Congress working on a budget agreement to avoid a government shutdown at the end of September</i>	36	25	16	23	*
September 19-22, 2013	25	24	21	30	1
March 28-31, 2013: <i>Automatic government spending cuts that began on March 1st</i>	24	24	19	32	1
March 14-17, 2013: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	24	26	20	29	1
March 7-10, 2013: <i>Automatic government spending cuts that began on March 1st</i>	31	26	18	25	1
February 21-24, 2013: <i>News about automatic cuts to federal spending that will take effect next week, unless the president and Congress act</i>	25	26	19	29	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
January 24-27, 2013: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	23	28	19	29	1
January 3-6, 2013: <i>Congress and the president passing legislation to avoid the Fiscal Cliff</i>	38	26	16	21	1
December 13-16, 2012: <i>The debate in Washington over automatic spending cuts and tax increases that would take effect in January unless the President and Congress act</i>	37	28	16	18	1
December 6-9, 2012	37	26	17	20	1
November 29-December 2, 2012	40	26	14	20	1
November 15-18, 2012	33	24	16	25	1
November 8-11, 2012	38	20	20	20	*
July 19-22, 2012	23	21	22	33	1
November 3-6, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	24	31	21	24	1
October 27-30, 2011	25	28	21	25	1
October 13-16, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit</i>	29	32	15	24	1
September 29-October 2, 2011: <i>Congress working on a budget extension to avoid a government shutdown</i>	31	26	20	22	*
September 22-25, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over jobs and the deficit</i>	35	26	19	19	1
September 15-18, 2011: <i>The debate in Washington over President Obama's jobs legislation</i>	31	28	19	21	2
September 8-11, 2011: <i>Barack Obama's speech about jobs to a joint session of Congress</i>	28	18	17	36	1
July 28-31, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	41	27	15	17	*
July 21-24, 2011	38	28	17	17	*
July 14-17, 2011	34	29	18	19	*
June 16-19, 2011: <i>Debate in Washington over whether to raise the federal debt limit</i>	24	26	22	28	*
June 2-5, 2011	23	24	22	31	*
May 26-29, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	25	26	20	29	*
May 12-15, 2011	21	26	24	28	1
May 5-8, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit and national debt</i>	29	28	22	20	1
April 21-25, 2011	30	31	18	21	*
April 14-17, 2011	36	27	18	19	1
April 7-10, 2011: <i>The threat of a government shutdown because of budget disagreements in Washington</i>	47	26	15	12	*
March 31-April 3, 2011: <i>Discussions in Washington about how to address the federal budget deficit</i>	30	27	21	22	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March 17-20, 2011	24	25	24	26	1
March 3-6, 2011	26	29	19	26	1
February 17-20, 2011	27	30	17	25	1
December 2-5, 2010	35	25	21	17	2
December 2-5, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal income tax cuts passed when George W. Bush was president</i>	39	26	17	17	1
November 11-14, 2010: <i>Proposals made by leaders of the federal budget deficit commission</i>	15	21	21	41	1
September 16-19, 2010: <i>The debate in Washington over competing Democratic and Republican tax plans</i>	21	24	21	34	*
September 9-12, 2010	16	19	22	42	1
May 8-11, 2009: <i>The debate in Washington over the federal budget</i>	22	28	19	31	*
March 27-30, 2009: <i>Debate over Barack Obama's budget proposal</i>	28	34	18	19	1
March 6-9, 2009: <i>Obama proposing a \$630 billion fund for overhauling health care</i>	41	32	13	14	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>Barack Obama's budget proposal for next year that raises taxes on wealthy Americans and increases spending on health care, education and other programs</i>	47	34	9	10	*
February 27-March 2, 2009: <i>The Obama administration's plan to help homeowners facing foreclosure which could cost as much as \$275 billion</i>	31	36	19	13	1
February 20-23, 2009: <i>The \$780 billion economic stimulus legislation approved by Congress and signed into law by President Obama</i>	41	37	14	8	*
February 13-16, 2009: <i>Congress passing Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i>	50	32	13	5	*
February 6-9, 2009: <i>The debate in Congress over Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan</i>	41	33	15	11	*
January 30-February 2, 2009	36	29	22	13	*
January 16-19, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over what the government should do about the nation's economic problems</i>	35	33	17	15	*
January 9-12, 2009: <i>Projections of a record high federal budget deficit this year</i>	35	30	19	16	*
December 19-22, 2008: <i>The Bush administration's plan to provide billions in emergency loans to U.S. automakers</i>	37	33	16	13	1
December 12-15, 2008: <i>The debate over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i>	40	33	18	9	*
December 5-8, 2008: <i>The debate in Congress over a government bailout for the U.S. auto industry</i>	34	38	17	11	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
November 21-24, 2008	41	26	17	15	1
October 3-6, 2008: <i>The debate in Washington over a plan to use government funds to stabilize financial markets</i>	62	26	7	5	*
September 26-29, 2008	60	22	10	8	*
September 12-15, 2008: <i>The federal government taking control of the mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac</i>	28	35	19	17	1
March 20-24, 2008: <i>The buyout of Wall Street investment bank Bear Stearns</i>	21	26	21	32	*
February 8-11, 2008: <i>President Bush and Congress agreeing on an economic Stimulus plan</i>	22	33	23	21	1
January 25-28, 2008	24	36	19	21	*
February, 2003: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut and economic stimulus plan</i>	26	33	23	16	2
February, 2003	26	33	23	16	2
January, 2003	28	34	21	15	2
February, 2002: <i>The debate in Congress over George W. Bush's budget and tax cut plan</i>	17	31	28	23	1
April, 2001	24	38	20	18	*
February, 2001: <i>George W. Bush's tax cut plan</i>	31	35	19	14	1
August, 1997: <i>The debate in Washington about the federal budget</i>	14	34	25	26	1
May, 1997	16	38	23	22	1
February, 1997	19	28	22	29	2
March, 1996	24	35	23	18	*
January, 1996	32	42	17	9	*
September, 1995	20	35	27	18	*
August, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the federal budget</i>	18	34	27	20	1
February, 1995: <i>The debate in Congress over the Balanced Budget Amendment</i>	12	31	28	28	1
August, 1993: <i>The debate in Congress over Bill Clinton's budget bill</i>	30	36	21	13	*
June, 1993	12	38	31	18	1
February, 1993: <i>Bill Clinton's economic plan</i>	49	36	10	5	*
September, 1992 (RV): <i>George Bush's plan to improve the economy by cutting government spending and cutting taxes</i>	28	44	18	9	1
November, 1990: <i>Congressional and administration efforts to reach a budget deficit agreement</i>	34	33	20	11	2
October, 1990: <i>Attempts by Congress and the administration to find ways to reduce the budget deficit</i>	34	37	17	12	*
August, 1989: <i>Passage of a bill to bailout ailing savings and loan institutions</i>	26	30	20	23	1
c. Protests around the country in response to recent cases of police-related violence					
December 11-14, 2014	35	31	18	14	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
December 4-7, 2014: Reactions following a grand jury decision not to charge a police officer in the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri	41	31	14	14	1
December 4-7, 2014: Reactions to a New York City grand jury's decision not to charge a police officer in the choking death of Eric Garner	33	28	16	22	2
November 20-23, 2014: Developments in Ferguson, Missouri in the shooting death of Michael Brown	25	29	20	25	2
August 14-17, 2014: The police shooting of an African American teen and protests in Ferguson, Missouri	27	30	18	23	2
July 11-14, 2013: The trial of George Zimmerman for the shooting death of Florida teen Trayvon Martin	26	28	24	21	1
June 27-30, 2013	22	29	23	25	1
June 13-16, 2013	15	26	24	35	1
April 26-29, 2012: Developments in the case against George Zimmerman in the shooting death of Trayvon Martin	24	28	22	25	1
April 20-22, 2012	27	29	21	21	1
April 12-15, 2012: George Zimmerman being charged with second-degree murder in the death of Trayvon Martin	35	31	16	17	1
April 5-8, 2012: Controversy over the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an African American teen in Florida	34	30	18	18	*
March 29-April 1, 2012	30	35	15	20	*
March 22-25, 2012	35	24	15	26	1
July 31-August 3, 2009: Reports about the arrest of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates and President Obama's response to the incident	25	26	22	25	2
July 24-27, 2009: The arrest of Henry Louis Gates, a black Harvard professor, at his home after a dispute with a police officer	30	31	17	21	1
April 25-28, 2008: The acquittal of three New York City police officers in the shooting of an unarmed man on his wedding day	13	24	24	38	1
September 21-24, 2007: Demonstrations in Jena, Louisiana, about six black teenagers involved in a schoolyard fight	18	27	25	30	*
April, 2001: Rioting in Cincinnati after an unarmed black man was shot by police	24	32	23	20	1
July, 2000: The video showing Philadelphia police kicking and beating a carjacking suspect	22	32	22	23	1
March, 2000: The acquittal of four New York policemen who shot and killed Amadou Diallo, an African immigrant	28	35	20	17	0

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	(VOL.) DK/Ref
February, 1999: <i>The Texas murder trial of a man accused of dragging a black man behind a pickup truck</i>	24	41	20	14	1
May, 1993: <i>The Rodney King trial and verdict in Los Angeles</i>	47	34	13	6	*
May, 1992: <i>The verdict in the Rodney King case and the riots and disturbances that followed</i>	70	22	5	2	1
March, 1991: <i>The videotaped beating by Los Angeles police of a suspect they apprehended in an auto chase</i>	46	30	13	10	1
d. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy					
December 11-14, 2014	26	29	20	23	1
December 4-7, 2014	28	31	20	19	1
November 6-9, 2014	31	35	21	12	2
October 16-19, 2014	26	33	22	18	1
September 25-28, 2014	25	33	22	19	1
July 31-August 3, 2014	27	29	23	21	1
June 5-8, 2014	26	28	20	24	1
March 20-23, 2014	30	34	18	17	2
March 6-9, 2014	27	31	19	22	1
February 27-March 2, 2014	27	32	16	24	1
February 6-9, 2014	28	29	20	22	1
January 30-February 2, 2014	29	31	17	23	*
January 9-12, 2014	28	29	19	23	1
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	*
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					
e. News about sexual assault on college campuses					
December 11-14, 2014	16	29	26	27	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
June 6-9, 2013: <i>Reports about sexual assaults in the military</i>	18	28	19	35	1

QUESTIONS PEW2-PEW3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject ...

PEW.4 Overall, do you think the CIA's interrogation methods in the period following the September 11th terrorist attacks were justified or do you think they were not justified?

Dec 11-14

2014

51	Justified
29	Not justified
20	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 Regardless of whether or not you think the CIA's interrogation methods were justified, do you think they provided intelligence that helped prevent terrorist attacks, or don't you think so?

Dec 11-14

2014

56	Yes
28	No
16	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.6 Thinking about the Senate committee's report about the CIA's interrogation program, do you think it was the right decision or the wrong decision to publicly release this report?

Dec 11-14

2014

42	Right decision
43	Wrong decision
15	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
December 11-14, 2014	26	27	37	6	*	4	13	15