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**For The People & The Press**

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Gas Prices Offset Good News about Jobs

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Romney Leads GOP Contest, Trails in  
Matchup with Obama

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Andrew Kohut**

President, Pew Research Center

**Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock**

Associate Directors

**Scott Keeter**

Director of Survey Research

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-4350

Fax (202) 419-4399

[www.peoplepress.org](http://www.peoplepress.org)

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Gas Prices Offset Good News about Jobs

## Romney Leads GOP Contest, Trails in Matchup with Obama

Mitt Romney has retaken a significant lead nationally in the race for the Republican presidential nomination, even as he has fallen further behind Barack Obama in a general election matchup. Moreover, Obama's own job approval rating has reached 50% for the first time since last May, shortly after the killing of Osama bin Laden.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted March 7-11 among 1,503 adults, including 1,188 registered voters and 538 Republican and Republican-leaning voters, finds that Romney leads Rick Santorum, 33% to 24%, in the GOP nomination contest. A month ago, the two men were in a virtual tie (28% Romney, 30% Santorum).

But both GOP frontrunners are running well behind Barack Obama in general election matchups. Among all voters, Obama leads Romney by 12 points (54% to 42%) and Santorum by 18 points (57% to 39%). Obama's advantage among women voters, while largely unchanged from a month ago, remains substantial – 20 points over Romney and 26 points over Santorum.

Obama also holds an enthusiasm advantage over both of his main GOP rivals. In a matchup with Romney, 41% say they support Obama strongly, compared with only 28% who strongly support the former Massachusetts governor. Obama holds a commanding 45% to 28% lead over Santorum in strong support.

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### Romney Pulls Ahead in Primary, Loses Ground to Obama in General

Rep/Lean Rep RVs	Jan 11-16	Feb 8-12	Mar 7-11
<i>GOP nomination preference ...</i>	%	%	%
Mitt Romney	31	28	33
Rick Santorum	14	30	24
Newt Gingrich	16	17	20
Ron Paul	15	12	14
Other/None/ Too early DK	<u>25</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100
<b>All voters</b>	<b>Jan 11-16</b>	<b>Feb 8-12</b>	<b>Mar 7-11</b>
<i>If 2012 election is between ...</i>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50	52	54
<i>Strongly</i>	--	--	41
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	45	44	42
<i>Strongly</i>			28
Other/ DK	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100
<b>Barack Obama</b>	--	53	57
<i>Strongly</i>	--	--	45
<b>Rick Santorum</b>	--	43	39
<i>Strongly</i>	--		28
Other/ DK	<u>--</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
		100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Republicans have a modest lead in engagement; 71% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters say they have given quite a lot of thought to the presidential election, compared with 64% of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters. However, this is far short of the engagement advantage the GOP held in pre-election polls in the 2010 midterm campaign.

Obama is widely viewed as likely to defeat either Romney or Santorum in November.

Nearly six-in-ten registered voters (59%) say that Obama is likely to prevail if the election is between Obama and Romney; just 32% expect Romney to win. About seven-in-ten (68%) say that Obama is likely to beat Santorum, if he becomes the GOP nominee.

While overwhelming majorities of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters think that Obama will win against Romney or Santorum, Republicans are far less confident in their parties' candidates. Just 60% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters say Romney is likely to defeat Obama. In an Obama-Santorum matchup, even fewer GOP voters (46%) predict victory; about as many expect Obama to best Santorum (43%).

### Majorities See Obama Defeating Either Romney or Santorum

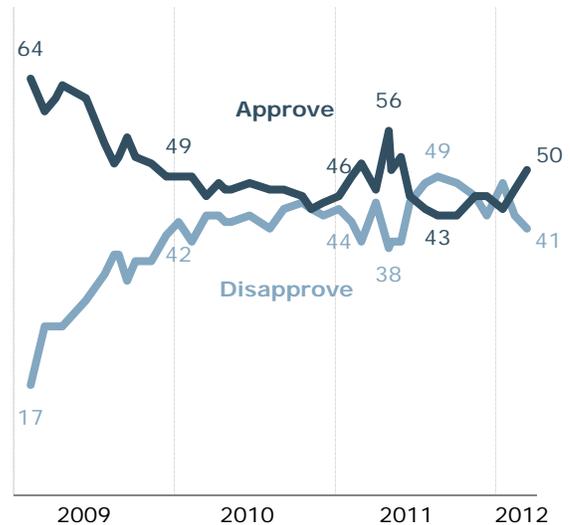
<i>Who is most likely to win general election between ...</i>	<b>All voters</b>	<b>Rep/Lean Rep RVs</b>	<b>Dem/Lean Dem RVs</b>
	%	%	%
Obama	59	30	83
Romney	32	60	10
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
Obama	68	43	89
Santorum	24	46	7
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q20-Q21. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The poll includes other positive signs for Obama, as well some potential vulnerabilities. For the first time since last May, significantly more approve (50%) than disapprove (41%) of his overall job performance. That is little changed from a month ago (47% approve, 43% disapprove), but in January 44% approved of the way Obama is handling his job as president, while 48% disapproved.

Obama's approval rating for handling the economy also has improved over the past several months. Currently, 43% approve of his handling of the economy, while 53% disapprove. In November, 35% gave him positive marks on the economy and 58% disapproved.

### Obama Back at 50% Job Approval



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q1.

### Gas Prices Offset Good News about Jobs

The public's view of overall economic news – as well as news about the job situation – has shown decided improvement since last summer. Yet perceptions of news about gas prices have taken a sharp turn for the worse.

Fully 85% say the news they are hearing about gas prices is mostly bad, which is up from 47% last November. In contrast, the percentage saying they are hearing mostly bad news about the

### Public Hearing Better News about Jobs, Worse News about Gas Prices

	Mar 2011	Aug 2011	Nov 2011	Mar 2012	Nov-Mar change
<i>News about <u>nation's economy</u>...</i>					
Mostly bad	38	67	48	24	-24
Mix of good and bad	53	30	48	62	+14
Mostly good	7	1	3	11	+8
<i>News about <u>job situation</u> ...</i>					
Mostly bad	50	74	64	38	-26
Mix of good and bad	37	21	28	42	+14
Mostly good	10	4	5	17	+12
<i>News about <u>gas prices</u> ...</i>					
Mostly bad	90	66	47	85	+38
Mix of good and bad	7	26	36	12	-24
Mostly good	1	4	9	2	-7

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 8-11, 2012 Omnibus. PEW3 & PEW4d-e.

job situation has fallen 26 points since November – from 64% to 38% – and stands at one of its lowest points in a measure dating back nearly three years.

The mixed perceptions of economic news have had little effect on underlying opinions about the state of the economy. The public's rating of current economic conditions remains stubbornly negative. Nearly nine-in-ten (89%) say economic conditions are only fair or poor, a figure that has changed little over the last four years.

Economic optimism increased sharply between December and February and is unchanged since last month. Currently, 44% say they expect economic conditions in the country to be better a year from now, 14% say conditions will be worse and 38% say they will be the same.

### Economic Optimism Stalls

	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012
<i>View of current economic conditions...</i>	%	%	%	%
Excellent/Good	8	11	11	10
Only fair/Poor	91	89	89	89
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>A year from now, economy will be ...</i>				
Better	28	34	44	44
Worse	18	16	10	14
Same	50	46	42	38
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012 Q32-Q33. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Views of Candidates, Parties

The survey finds that the contentious Republican primary has taken a toll on the image of the leading GOP candidates. In the current survey, just 29% of Americans say they have a favorable view of Romney, while 51% say they have an unfavorable impression. In November, opinions about Romney were more closely divided (36% favorable vs. 42% unfavorable). Santorum's image has grown much more negative in the past month alone: 27% say they have a favorable view of Santorum, while 44% view him unfavorably. In February, about as many said they had a favorable opinion as an unfavorable one (33% vs. 36%).

Obama's personal image remains much more favorable than either Romney's or Santorum's. Currently, 56% of Americans say they have a favorable impression of Obama while 41% have an unfavorable view.

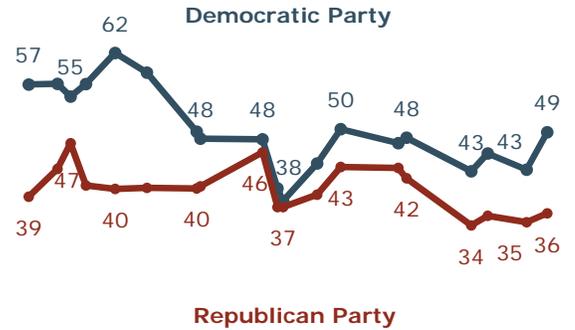
Moreover, while the Democratic Party is viewed more favorably than it was a few months ago, the Republican Party's image is little changed – and remains much more negative than positive. Just 36% have a favorable opinion of the GOP, compared with 56% who have an unfavorable opinion. That is largely unchanged from January (35% favorable vs. 58% unfavorable).

Currently, 49% say they have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party, while 43% view the party unfavorably. In January, 43% viewed the Democratic Party favorably and 51% had an unfavorable impression.

The Democratic Party has opened a slim 44% to 39% advantage as the party better able to improve the job situation. The Democrats also are viewed as better able to represent people's views on abortion (by 16 points), and to deal with health care (14 points), Medicare (13 points) and the nation's energy problems (11 points). The two parties run about even on dealing with the federal budget deficit (41% Democrats, 42% Republicans).

Half of Americans (50%) say the Republican Party is more extreme in its positions; just 35% say that phrase better describes the Democratic Party. Those opinions have changed little since July. Still, about as many say the Republican Party (39%) as the Democratic Party (42%) can better manage the federal government.

## Democratic Party Viewed More Favorably



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 7-11, 2012. Q4.

## Health Care Law: Two Years Later

The survey also finds that, two years after the passage of comprehensive health care legislation, the public is evenly divided over the law. Overall, 47% approve of the law, while 45% disapprove. In January 2011, 41% approved and 48% disapproved.

### Public Divided Over 2010 Health Care Law

	Apr 2010	Sept 2010	Jan 2011	Mar 2012
<i>Health care law passed by Obama and Congress ...</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	40	44	41	47
Disapprove	44	46	48	45
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q72. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

About half of Americans (53%) say that Congress should either expand the health care law (33%) or leave it as it is (20%); 38% favor its repeal. However, substantially more disapprove (56%) than approve (41%) of a key provision in the law that requires individuals to have health insurance by 2014 or pay a penalty. This provision is at the heart of a constitutional challenge to the law, which will be heard before the U.S. Supreme Court in late March.

### Most Oppose Individual Mandate

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>What should Congress do w/ health care law?</i>	%	%	%	%
Expand it	33	10	50	33
Leave as is	20	10	31	18
Repeal it	38	74	12	40
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Opinion about individual health insurance mandate</i>				
Approve	41	15	66	36
Disapprove	56	83	31	60
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q73-Q75. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Opinion on health care legislation is sharply divided along partisan lines.

Republicans overwhelmingly disapprove of the 2010 law (84%) and the individual mandate (83%). About three-quarters of Democrats (76%) approve of the law and 66% approve of the individual mandate. Independents are divided over the health care law (44% approve, 47% disapprove), but 60% disapprove of the individual mandate.

## SECTION 1: THE GOP PRIMARY

Mitt Romney has regained the lead in the support for his party's presidential nomination, as conservative backing for Rick Santorum has declined. Romney currently holds a 33% to 24% lead over Santorum among registered Republican and Republican-leaning independent voters, with 20% backing Newt Gingrich and 14% favoring Ron Paul.

In mid-February, Santorum was tied with Romney overall (30% vs. 28%), and held an 11-point lead over Romney among conservative Republican and Republican-leaning voters (36% vs. 25%). Today, 25% of conservative Republicans favor Santorum for the nomination, while 31% support Romney and 22% back Gingrich.

Moderate and liberal Republicans have not changed their primary preferences over the past month, with Romney holding a consistent lead among these voters.

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### Romney Regains Lead; Santorum's Conservative Support Wanes

Rep/Lean Rep RVs	Jan 11-16	Feb 8-12	Mar 7-11	Feb- Mar change
<i>GOP nomination preference ...</i>	%	%	%	
Mitt Romney	31	28	33	+5
Rick Santorum	14	30	24	-6
Newt Gingrich	16	17	20	+3
Ron Paul	15	12	14	+2
Other/None/Don't know	<u>25</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>	
	100	100	100	
<b>Conservative</b>				
Mitt Romney	29	25	31	+6
Rick Santorum	18	36	25	-11
Newt Gingrich	20	17	22	+5
Ron Paul	14	11	13	+2
<b>Moderate/Liberal</b>				
Mitt Romney	37	34	36	+2
Rick Santorum	7	20	21	+1
Newt Gingrich	6	16	18	+2
Ron Paul	18	14	16	+2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q14. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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As has been the case in most of the state exit polls, Romney garners substantially less support from less educated and Tea Party Republican and Republican-leaning voters. College graduates favor Romney over Santorum by a 40% to 22% margin, while those without a college degree are more divided: 29% back Romney, 25% Santorum, and 23% Gingrich.

Tea Party Republicans split their support between Gingrich (29%), Romney (26%) and Santorum (24%), while Romney holds a double-digit lead among the roughly half of Republican and Republican-leaning voters who do not identify with the Tea Party.

Republican men are divided in their support, with 30% backing Romney, 26% Gingrich, and 21% Santorum. Among women, 36% favor Romney for the nomination, compared with 27% who back Santorum and just 15% who back Gingrich.

Religion remains a deep divide within the Republican electorate; white evangelical Republicans are less likely than white mainline Protestants and Catholics to favor Romney for the nomination.

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## GOP Primary Preferences

	Rom- ney	San- torum	Gin- grich	Paul	N
Rep/Lean Rep RVs	%	%	%	%	
Rep/Lean Rep RVs	33	24	20	14	538
Men	30	21	26	14	280
Women	36	27	15	13	258
18-49	31	24	17	20	188
50-64	32	26	23	9	194
65+	39	19	24	8	149
College grad+	40	22	15	13	225
Some coll or less	29	25	23	14	313
South	29	26	21	13	207
Non-South	35	23	20	14	331
Tea Party	26	24	29	13	252
Non-Tea Party	39	24	13	13	275
Protestant	25	27	23	14	340
White evangelical	19	33	25	13	187
White mainline	37	16	22	15	128
Catholic	43	19	17	10	109

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q14. Figures read across. Whites are non-Hispanic.

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## More Worry about Extended GOP Race

A growing number of Republican and Republican-leaning voters are concerned that the unresolved campaign will be a bad thing for the Republican Party this year. A month ago, 55% said the fact that the contest was undecided and still going on was a good thing for the party, while 36% said it was a bad thing. Opinion is now divided almost evenly, with 47% saying it is good and 43% bad. Mitt Romney's supporters are more likely to say the long campaign is a bad thing for the party (52%), than are Gingrich's (36%) or Santorum's (30%) supporters.

### More Republicans Say Ongoing Primary is Bad For the Party

*The GOP contest still going on is...*

Rep/Lean Rep RVs	Good for party %	Bad for party %	Neither/DK %
March 7-11	47	43	10=100
Feb 8-12	55	36	9=100

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*Current views among Reps who support...*

Rep/Lean Rep RVs	Good for party %	Bad for party %	Neither/DK %
Romney	39	52	9=100
Santorum	59	30	11=100
Gingrich	53	36	11=100

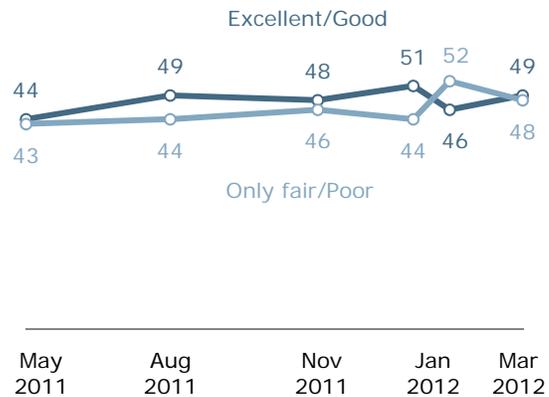
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q23. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. There are too few Paul supporters to report separately.

Republican evaluations of the quality of the GOP field have changed little over the course of the campaign. About half (49%) say the candidates for the party's nomination are excellent (6%) or good (43%), while 48% say they are only fair (39%) or poor (9%). In February 2008, a few weeks after Super Tuesday, 60% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters said the field was excellent or good, while 38% said it was only fair or poor. Democrats also were more enthusiastic about their field in 2008 – fully 80% said they had excellent or good candidates.

Conservative Republicans are somewhat more satisfied with the quality of candidates than are moderates and liberals (55% excellent or good vs. 43%). Similarly, 60% of Tea Party supporters say the candidates are excellent or good compared with 41% of Republicans who do not agree with the Tea Party.

### Republicans Maintain Mixed View of Field

*As a group, the Republican candidates are ...*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q13. Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.

## Republican Views of Romney, Santorum

When asked about the candidates' positions on the issues, roughly half of Republican voters say Romney's and Santorum's positions are about right. More say Santorum is too conservative (23%) than say he is not conservative enough (14%). By contrast, more see Romney as not conservative enough (33%) than as too conservative (11%).

More than four-in-ten (44%) conservative Republicans say that Romney is not conservative enough in his positions on issues. An equal number of white evangelical Republicans think Romney is not conservative enough, as do 56% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters who back Rick Santorum for the nomination. Men are significantly more likely than women to say Romney is not conservative enough in his position on the issues (38% vs. 27%).

The impression that Santorum is too conservative is less common among GOP voters overall, but held by 44% of those who back Mitt Romney, and 35% of moderate and liberal Republicans. This view is also more prevalent among Republicans with family incomes of \$75,000 or more (28%) than among those earning \$30,000 or less (13%).

### Republican Views of Leading Candidates' Positions on Issues

	Mitt Romney	Rick Santorum
<i>Positions on issues are ...</i>	%	%
Too conservative	11	23
Not conservative enough	33	14
About right	49	54
Don't know	7	9
	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q27. Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Ideological Divide on GOP Candidate Positions

	Romney is not conservative enough	Santorum is too conservative
<b>Rep/Lean Rep RVs</b>	%	%
Men	38	23
Women	27	22
<i>Family income</i>		
\$75k or more	34	28
\$30-75k	33	23
Less than \$30k	37	13
South	36	19
Non South	30	25
Conservative	44	15
Moderate/Lib	15	35
Tea Party	47	14
Non-Tea Party	22	29
Protestant	38	19
White evang	44	14
White mainline	29	24
Catholic	27	21
<i>Support...</i>		
Romney	12	44
Santorum	56	4

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q27. Whites are non-Hispanic.

There is far more consensus among GOP voters about whether the candidates understand the needs of people like them. About seven-in-ten Republican and Republican-leaning independent voters say that Santorum (70%) and Romney (69%) understand the needs of people like them very or fairly well.

There is little difference across most groups within the Republican electorate. Broad majorities of men and women, those with high and low incomes, and Southern and non-Southern Republican voters say each candidate understands the needs of people like them.

Conservative Republicans give Santorum higher marks than do moderates and liberals on this question (78% vs. 59%). While 78% of white evangelical Republicans say Santorum understands the needs of people like them, fewer (66%) say the same about Romney.

## Republicans Say Both Romney and Santorum Understand Their Needs

<i>How well does ___ understand the needs of people like you?</i>	<i>Mitt Romney</i>		<i>Rick Santorum</i>	
	<b>Very/ Fairly well</b>	<b>Not too/Not at all well</b>	<b>Very/ Fairly well</b>	<b>Not too/Not at all well</b>
<b>Rep/Lean Rep RVs</b>	69	24	70	21
Men	68	27	71	23
Women	71	22	70	20
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75k or more	71	24	73	21
\$30-75k	70	26	68	27
<\$30k	67	25	73	13
South	65	28	70	21
Non South	72	22	71	22
Conservative	73	23	78	17
Moderate/Lib	64	25	59	27
Tea Party	72	24	80	14
Non-Tea Party	67	26	64	27
Protestant	65	27	72	21
White evang	66	29	78	17
White mainline	63	26	62	26
Catholic	76	19	76	20
<i>Support...</i>				
Romney	83	13	58	32
Santorum	62	33	94	4

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q24b-c. Whites are non-Hispanic.

## Voters' Knowledge of Candidates' Religious Preferences

The percentage of all registered voters who know that Mitt Romney is Mormon has increased from 48% in November to 58%. A majority of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters (55%) know Romney's religion, as do 65% of Republicans and Republican-leaners.

Only about three-in-ten voters (29%) can identify Rick Santorum as a Catholic. This includes 32% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters and 27% of Democrats and Democratic-leaners. Another 15% identify Santorum as either Protestant (10%) or volunteer that he is Christian (5%). About half (53%) of voters say they don't know his religion.

In a follow-up question, about a third of those who identify Santorum as a Christian – 16% of voters overall – say they believe he is an evangelical or born-again Christian.

Among Republican and Republican-leaning voters, 42% of Catholics know that the former Pennsylvania senator is Catholic compared with 29% of Protestants.

About a third (35%) of white evangelical Protestant Republicans say Santorum is evangelical; this contrasts with just 9% of white mainline Protestants and 11% of Catholics. In fact, as many white evangelical Republicans believe Santorum is an evangelical Christian (35%) as know that he is Catholic (34%).

### More Know Romney is Mormon than Know Santorum is Catholic

<i>Do you happen to know what religion _____ is...</i>	<b>Romney</b> %	<b>Santorum</b> %
Protestant	2	10
Catholic	2	29
Mormon	58	2
Christian (Vol.)	1	5
Other	1	1
Don't know	<u>35</u>	<u>53</u>
	100	100
<i>Evangelical or born-again Christian?*</i>	7	16

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q29-Q30.

Based on registered voters.

Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

\* Asked of those who identified candidate as Protestant, Catholic, Mormon or other Christian; based on total.

### Many Evangelical Republicans Think Santorum is Evangelical

	<i>Santorum is...</i>		N
	<b>Catholic</b> %	<b>Evan-gelical</b> %	
All voters	29	16	1188
Rep/Lean Rep	32	18	538
Dem/Lean Dem	27	15	595
<i>Among Reps and Rep leaners</i>			
Protestant	29	23	340
White evangelical	34	35	187
White mainline	22	9	128
Catholic	42	11	109

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q29-Q30.

## SECTION 2: THE GENERAL ELECTION

With rising job approval and favorability ratings, Barack Obama also holds a growing advantage in voter preferences as they look toward November. Among registered voters, he currently leads Mitt Romney by 12 points and Rick Santorum by 18 points.

The difference between Romney and Santorum at the head of the GOP ticket mainly affects independents. While independent voters are divided in a race between Obama and Romney (47% vs. 43%), they would favor Obama by a 53% to 39% margin if Santorum is his opponent.

Some moderate and liberal Republican voters would also balk if Santorum becomes the nominee; 23% say they would vote for Obama, compared with 12% who would favor Obama over Romney.

### Obama Holds Wide Lead in General Election Matchups

	Sep 22- Oct 4	Nov 9-14	Jan 11-16	Feb 8-12	Mar 7-11
	%	%	%	%	%
Obama	48	49	50	52	54
Romney	48	47	45	44	42
Advantage	even	O+2	O+5	O+8	O+12
Obama	--	--	--	53	57
Santorum	--	--	--	43	39
Advantage	--	--	--	O+10	O+18

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q18/18a/19/19a. Based on registered voters. Percent other and don't know not shown.

### Santorum Candidacy Unappealing to Some Independents and Moderate Republicans

	Obama	Romney	Obama	Santorum	Santorum-Romney difference
	%	%	%	%	
All voters	54	42	57	39	-3
Republican	8	91	11	85	-6
Conservative	6	93	6	91	-2
Moderate/Liberal	12	87	23	74	-13
Independent	47	44	53	39	-5
Democrat	93	5	93	5	0
Moderate/Conserv	91	7	91	7	0
Liberal	98	2	98	1	-1

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q18/18a/19/19a. Based on registered voters.

Barack Obama's lead over Romney is attributable in large part to his wide advantage among women, younger voters, and nonwhites. Women favor Obama over Romney by 20 points – virtually unchanged from a month ago – while men are divided almost evenly (49% Obama, 46% Romney). This gender gap is particularly wide among voters under age 50. Women ages 18-49 favor Obama over Romney by nearly two-to-one (64% to 33%), while men the same age are split (50% Obama, 46% Romney).

Non-Hispanic whites – who make up roughly three-quarters of the registered voters surveyed – favor Romney over Obama by a 52% to 44% margin. Meanwhile, nonwhites back Obama by 83% to 13%, including 99% of African Americans who support Obama for reelection.

Education remains a substantial divide among white voters; 53% of white college graduates back Obama over Romney, compared with 39% of those without a college degree.

Not only does Obama lead Romney, but more of his supporters back him strongly. Fully 77% of Obama

supporters say they back him strongly in a matchup with Romney, representing 41% of voters overall. By comparison, 68% of Romney's supporters – or 28% of all voters – back him strongly.

Among women, not only do 58% favor Obama, but 47% back him strongly, meaning that more women support Obama strongly than support Romney strongly or moderately (38%).

### Obama Has More Strong Supporters

	Obama %	Strongly %	Romney %	Strongly %	N
All voters	54	41	42	28	1188
Men	49	36	46	31	586
Women	58	47	38	26	602
18-29	63	40	35	19	125
30-49	54	43	42	27	297
50-64	55	44	41	29	433
65+	48	38	48	37	319
18-49 Men	50	33	46	29	234
18-49 Women	64	51	33	20	188
50+ Men	49	39	47	33	345
50+ Women	54	44	41	31	407
White	44	32	52	35	945
NET: Nonwhite	83	70	13	9	223
Black	99	92	1	*	117
<i>Among whites</i>					
Men	40	28	55	37	479
Women	48	36	48	34	466
College graduate+	53	42	44	33	432
Some college or less	39	26	56	36	513

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q18/18a/18b. Based on registered voters. Figures read across. White and black are non-Hispanic only. NET Nonwhite includes all nonwhites and Hispanics. There are too few Hispanic registered voters in the survey to report separately.

## The GOP Enthusiasm Gap

As voters look toward the fall election, Democrats express more enthusiasm for Obama than Republicans do for either of their party's leading candidates. To be sure, however, this reflects the internal divisions within the party over who would be the best nominee, with each candidate receiving tepid support from those who would prefer to see the other candidate win.

If the general election is between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, 75% of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters say they would back Obama strongly, compared with 63% of Republicans and Republican leaners who say they would back Romney strongly.

### Romney, Santorum Backers Show Limited Enthusiasm if Other Wins Nomination

<i>If race is between...</i>	All voters %	Dem/ lean D %	Rep/ lean R %	<i>Rep/Lean R who support _____ in GOP primary...</i>	
				Romney %	Santorum %
Obama	54	93	9	8	11
<i>Strongly</i>	41	<b>75</b>	4	3	3
Romney	42	5	88	92	86
<i>Strongly</i>	28	2	<b>63</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>55</b>
Other/DK	4	2	2	1	4
	100	100	100	100	100
Obama	57	94	13	20	*
<i>Strongly</i>	45	<b>80</b>	7	11	0
Santorum	39	5	83	72	100
<i>Strongly</i>	28	3	<b>61</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>83</b>
Other/DK	4	1	4	7	0
	100	100	100	100	100
N	1188	595	538	187	128

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012 Q18/18a/18b/19/19a/19b. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

If Santorum is the GOP nominee, 80% of Democratic voters say they would support Obama strongly, compared with 61% strongly backing Santorum among Republican voters.

Much of this reflects the tepid support among Republican voters who back the other candidate in the primaries. For example, 75% of Romney's primary supporters say they would back him strongly in the fall – equal to the share of Democrats who strongly back Obama. But just 55% of Santorum's primary supporters say they would be strong Romney supporters in the fall.

Again, this gap within the GOP is even wider if Santorum is the nominee. Fully 83% of Santorum's primary supporters would back him strongly in the fall – comparable to the 80% of Democrats who would back Obama strongly over Santorum. But just 47% of Romney's primary supporters would back Santorum as enthusiastically. In fact, one-in-

five (20%) Romney supporters say that, if Santorum is the nominee, they will likely switch sides and support Obama.

## Most Predict Obama Victories in the Fall

By a 59% to 32% margin, most Americans think Barack Obama will win the election if Mitt Romney is the Republican nominee. That margin far wider if Rick Santorum is the GOP nominee: 68% think Obama would win, just 24% Santorum.

Confidence among Democratic voters is high regardless of the outcome of the GOP primary – 83% of Democrats and Democratic

leaners expect Obama to prevail over Romney, 89% believe he would win over Santorum.

But Republican voters are less confident – particularly if Santorum wins the primary contest. By a modest 60% to 30% margin most Republican and Republican leaning voters think Romney would win in the fall if nominated. But if Santorum is the nominee, about as many Republican voters think Obama would win (43%) as think Santorum would win (46%).

This difference is driven by the views of Romney's primary backers, most of whom (59%) think Obama would win if Santorum becomes the nominee. By contrast, Santorum's primary supporters are mostly optimistic about beating Obama regardless of whether Romney (61%) or Santorum (64%) becomes the nominee.

### Romney Supporters Doubt Santorum Can Win

<i>Who would win if race is between...</i>	All voters	Dem/lean D	Rep/lean R	<i>Rep/Lean R who support _____ in GOP primary...</i>	
				Romney	Santorum
	%	%	%	%	%
Obama	<b>59</b>	<b>83</b>	30	29	31
Romney	32	10	<b>60</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>61</b>
Other/DK	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
Obama	<b>68</b>	<b>89</b>	43	<b>59</b>	24
Santorum	24	7	46	30	<b>64</b>
Other/DK	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
N	1188	595	538	187	128

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012 Q20/21. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Views of Obama, Romney and Santorum

More than half of the public (56%) holds a favorable view of Obama, while 41% have an unfavorable view of the president. This is largely unchanged from last month, but reflects a modest improvement from the start of the year. Impressions of Republican candidates Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum are much more negative, and have grown more negative in recent months.

By a 51% to 29% margin, more Americans hold an unfavorable than a favorable opinion of Mitt Romney. As recently as November, assessments of Romney were more evenly divided (42% unfavorable, 36% favorable), but since then, Romney's favorable rating has declined seven points while his unfavorable rating has risen nine. Independents, in particular, have developed a more negative view of Romney. In November, 36% of independents viewed Romney favorably, 42% unfavorably. In the current survey, the balance of opinion has slipped to 27% favorable, 49% unfavorable.

More Americans also hold an unfavorable (44%) than favorable (27%) view of Rick Santorum. Just a month ago, about as many held a favorable (33%) as unfavorable (36%) view of the former Pennsylvania senator. Santorum's favorability has declined across the political spectrum. Currently, more independents view Santorum negatively than positively by roughly two-to-one (47% unfavorable, 23% favorable), compared with a 40% unfavorable, 29% favorable margin last month. And even among Republicans, barely half (53%) view Santorum favorably, down from 61% a month ago, while the share who view him unfavorably rose from 17% to 25%.

### Favorability of Romney, Santorum Declines

	Nov	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov-Mar change
	%	%	%	%	
<b>Barack Obama</b>					
Favorable	52	51	54	56	+4
Unfavorable	45	45	42	41	-4
DK/Can't rate	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<b>Mitt Romney</b>					
Favorable	36	31	32	29	-7
Unfavorable	42	45	49	51	+9
DK/Can't rate	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<b>Rick Santorum</b>					
Favorable	--	--	33	27	-6
Unfavorable	--	--	36	44	+8
DK/Can't rate	--	--	<u>31</u>	<u>28</u>	
			100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q5.  
Based on general public. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

These low ratings for the GOP candidates in 2012 stands in sharp contrast to assessments of the major candidates four years ago. In March of 2008, John McCain was viewed favorably by 45% of Americans, including 49% of independents. Notably, 74% of Republicans felt favorably toward McCain four years ago, compared with 58% and 53% who say the same about Romney and Santorum today.

At 56%, Barack Obama's overall favorability rating matches public opinion in March 2008. But, not surprisingly, views of him are far more partisan today. Just 13% of Republicans view him favorably, compared with 31% in March 2008. Meanwhile, 89% of Democrats now view him favorably, compared with 76% four years ago. Independent views of Obama today are virtually identical to March of 2008 (53% vs. 56% favorable).

A majority of voters say Obama understands the needs of people like them, while far fewer say this about Romney or Santorum. About six-in-ten voters (58%) say Obama understands their needs either very or fairly well; 44% say this about Romney and Santorum, respectively.

Obama receives lower marks for his positions on the issues, though Romney and Santorum perform slightly worse than does Obama. About four-in-ten (42%) say Obama's positions on the issues are about right, but about as many (41%) say they are too liberal; 12% say they are not liberal enough. More independents call Obama's issue positions too liberal (45%) than say they are about right (33%).

Roughly a third of voters say Romney's positions on the issues are about right (35%), with criticism of his positions divided between those who say he is too conservative (29%) and those who say he is not conservative enough (23%). Among Republican voters, just 49% say his issue positions are about right, while 34% say they are not conservative enough. Among independents, a 40%-plurality says his stance on issues is

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### Candidate Favorability: 2008 and 2012

<i>% Favorable</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
<b>March 2012</b>	%	%	%	%
Barack Obama	56	13	89	53
Mitt Romney	29	58	12	27
Rick Santorum	27	53	14	23
<b>March 2008</b>				
Barack Obama	56	31	76	56
Hillary Clinton	50	20	73	47
John McCain	45	74	27	49

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q5.  
Based on general public.

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### Understands the Needs of People Like You

<i>Understands needs of people like you ...</i>	<b>Very/ Fairly well</b>	<b>Not too/at all well</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%
Obama	58	41	2=100
Romney	44	50	7=100
Santorum	44	47	9=100

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about right, 27% say too conservative, 20% not conservative enough.

More voters describe Santorum's positions on issues as too conservative (40%) than say they are about right (33%); just 15% say they are not conservative enough. A 57%-majority of Republicans say his issue positions are about right. However, among independents more say his positions are too conservative (45%) than about right (30%).

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## Views of Issue Positions

<i>Positions on issues are ...</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
<b>Obama</b>	%	%	%	%
Too liberal	41	80	8	45
Not liberal enough	12	7	15	14
About right	42	8	74	33
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Romney</b>				
Too conservative	29	9	46	27
Not conserv enough	23	34	17	20
About right	35	49	20	40
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b>Santorum</b>				
Too conservative	40	21	50	45
Not conserv enough	15	11	18	14
About right	33	57	17	30
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	1,188	358	438	358

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q27 & Q28.  
Based on registered voters.

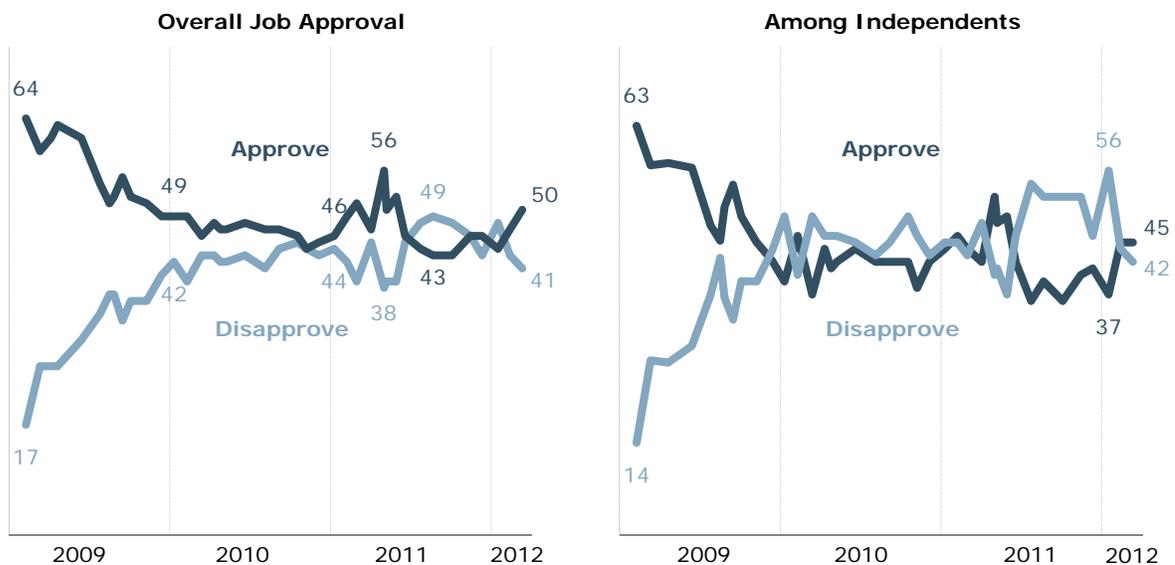
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## SECTION 3: OBAMA JOB APPROVAL

For the first time since shortly after the killing of Osama bin Laden, half of all Americans (50%) say they approve of Barack Obama's job performance, while just 41% disapprove. Over the course of 2012, Obama's job approval has improved from 44% in January to 47% in February to 50% today.

For the second month in a row, about as many independents say they approve of how Obama is handling his job as president as disapprove (45% vs. 42%, virtually unchanged from 45% vs. 44% in February). This is a substantial improvement from the previous seven months. From July 2011 through January 2012, significantly more independents consistently disapproved than approved of Obama's job performance.

### Obama Job Approval Ratings Improve



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There also has been a recovery in Obama's job ratings among Democrats – fully 85% approve of his performance today. While this is little changed from February (84%) it represents an improvement from January (79%) and a recent low of 77% in August. Just 11% of Republicans approve of the job Obama is doing, with no significant change in recent months.

While modest, the improvement in Obama's job approval rating has spanned most demographic groups.

His approval has risen significantly among Americans age 50 and older, from 40% in January to 50% today – closing what had been a substantial age gap. Among those 18-49, there has been little shift in overall job approval (48% in January, 50% today).

Obama's job approval also has risen notably among white college graduates, from 42% in January to 53% today. Whites without a college degree remain, on balance, critical of Obama's job performance, with just 35% offering a positive assessment.

## Obama Job Approval

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jan-Mar change
	%	%	%	
Total	44	47	50	+6
Men	43	44	48	+5
Women	46	51	52	+6
White	34	38	40	+6
Black	88	85	91	+3
Hispanic	53	53	62	+9
18-29	44	51	50	+6
30-49	50	47	49	-1
50-64	40	50	52	+12
65+	38	40	48	+10
College grad+	50	51	57	+7
Not coll grad	42	46	47	+5
\$75k or more	44	44	47	+3
\$30-\$74,999	43	44	51	+8
Less than \$30k	48	52	53	+5
Republican	13	11	11	-2
Democrat	79	84	85	+6
Independent	37	45	45	+8
Conserv Rep	4	7	5	+1
Mod/Lib Rep	34	20	22	-12
Cons/Mod Dem	74	80	83	+9
Liberal Dem	87	89	91	+4
<i>Among whites</i>				
Men	31	33	38	+7
Women	36	42	43	+7
18-49	38	37	39	+1
50+	30	38	42	+12
College grad+	42	46	53	+11
Not coll grad	30	33	35	+5

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q1.  
Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

## Obama's Handling of Issues

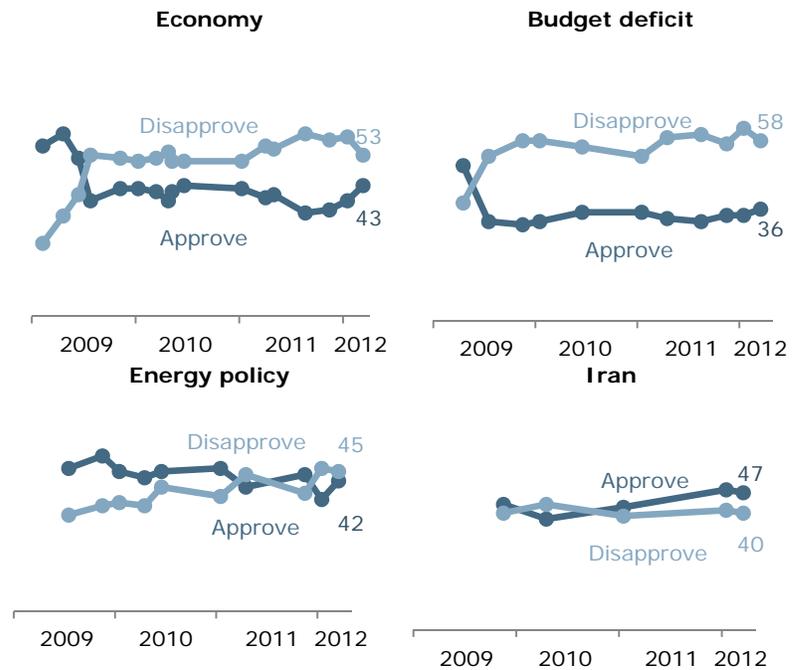
On the key issue of the economy, more Americans continue to disapprove (53%) than approve (43%) of Obama's job performance. But evaluations have improved in recent months, with approval rising from 35% in November to 38% in January and reaching 43% today.

Democrats continue to support Obama's handling of the economy, though at 73%, his approval on this issue is significantly lower than Democratic job approval ratings overall. Republicans continue to be highly critical of Obama's economic job performance (90% disapprove). Notably, fewer independents now disapprove (54%) of his handling of the economy than in January (67%).

Currently, 49% approve of how Obama is handling the situation in Afghanistan, down from 56% in January and 60% in May 2011 following bin Laden's killing. The number of independents who approve of Obama's job on Afghanistan has slipped from 52% in January to 43% today, and fallen among Republicans from 42% to 29%.

The president's approval rating on Iran, by contrast, is largely unchanged from January. About half (47%) approve of the way Obama is dealing with Iran, while 40% disapprove.

### Obama's Job Handling...



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### Obama on Afghanistan

Obama's handling of Afghanistan...	May 2011	Jan 2012	Mar 2012
%	%	%	%
Approve	60	56	49
Disapprove	29	37	42
Don't know	11	7	9
	100	100	100
<i>Approval among:</i>			
Republicans	43	42	29
Democrats	79	75	68
Independents	56	52	43

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q6dF2. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The federal budget deficit continues to be a point of weakness for the president. Majorities have disapproved of his handling of the deficit going back to July 2009. Currently, 58% disapprove of his handling of the deficit, while 36% approve.

About as many now approve as disapprove of Barack Obama's job on energy policy (42% vs. 45%). The president's rating on energy has rebounded from the start of the year. In January, more disapproved (46%) than approved (36%) of his policies.

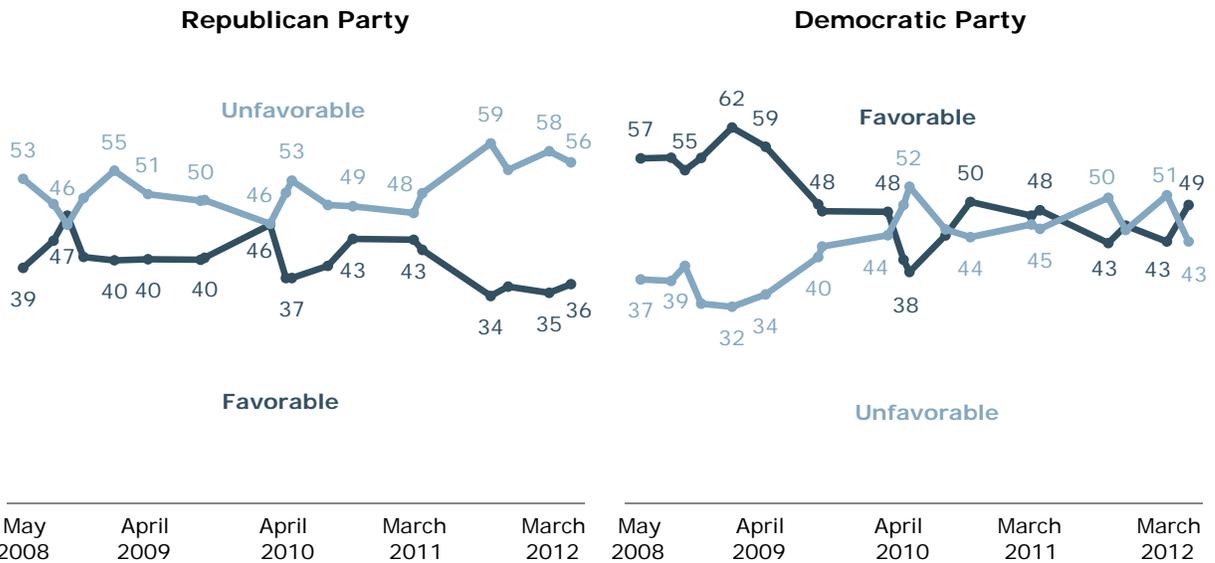
## SECTION 4: VIEWS OF THE PARTIES

The Democratic Party’s image has improved in recent months while impressions of the Republican Party have remained negative. The public also views the Democratic Party as better able to deal with the nation’s energy problems and Medicare. Despite offering a mixed assessment of the health care legislation passed in 2010, the public has more confidence in the Democratic Party than the Republican Party when it comes to health care. On a number of other issues and traits, Democrats run even with Republicans, while the GOP does not hold an advantage on any of eight areas tested.

About half (49%) now have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party, up from 43% in January. This represents a significant recovery from an all-time low favorability rating of 38% in April 2010, just after the passage of the health care bill. However, impressions of the Democratic Party are still far lower than they were in January 2009 as Obama was taking office, when 62% viewed the party favorably.

Views of the Republican Party continue to be negative – just 36% have a positive impression of the GOP while 56% have an unfavorable opinion. This is little changed from earlier this year and matches the equally low ratings the GOP received in April 2010 (37%).

### Views of the Democratic Party Improve

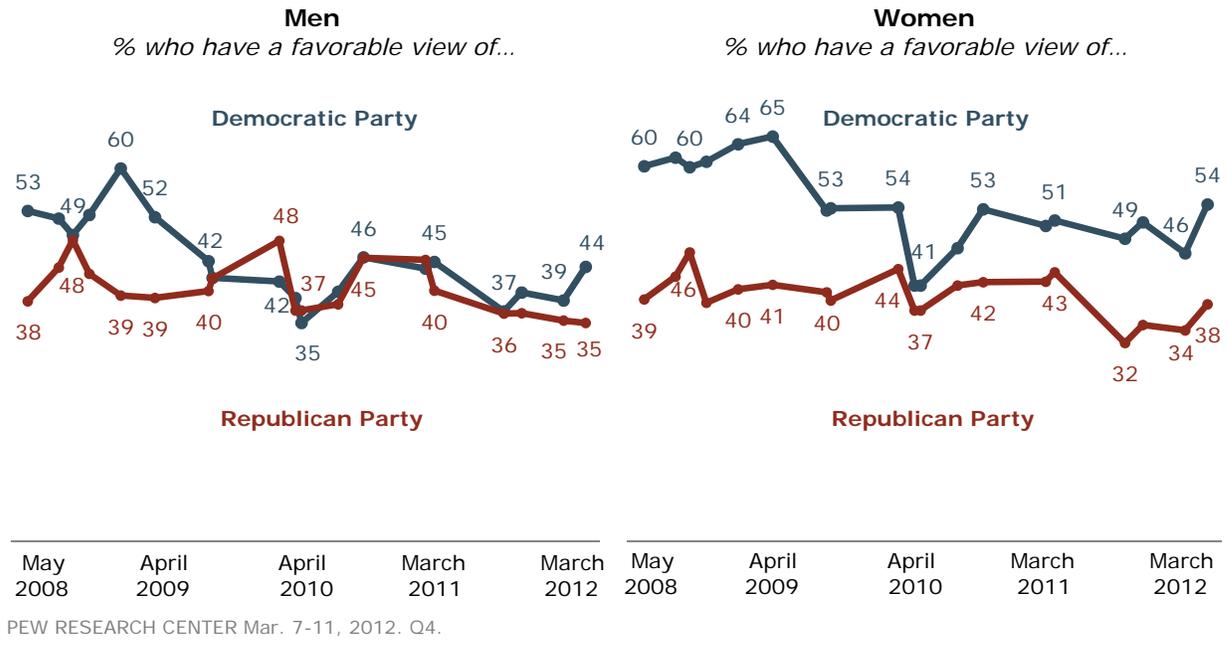


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A majority of women (54%) now have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party, up eight points over the last two months, while 40% have an unfavorable impression. Women’s views of the Republican Party are far more negative – 38% have a favorable opinion while 56% have an unfavorable one; these opinions are little changed from January. Throughout the past four years, with the exception of the spring and summer of 2010, women have viewed the Democratic Party more favorably than the GOP.

For the first time since 2009, more men have a favorable view of the Democratic Party than the Republican Party; 44% have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party while 47% have an unfavorable view. By comparison, 35% have a positive view of the GOP while 56% have a negative view.

**Women View Democratic Party More Favorably**



Opinions of the Democratic Party have also improved among older Americans. About half (49%) of those 50 and older have a positive view of the Democratic Party while 45% have a negative impression. In January, just 37% had a favorable opinion while 57% had an unfavorable one. College graduates also view the Democratic Party more favorably than they did two months ago – 55% now have a favorable impression of the Democratic Party, up from 41% in January. There has been little change among those without a college degree.

Although the Democratic Party is viewed more favorably than the Republican Party, opinions of the parties are about even among non-Hispanic whites; 43% have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party while 41% view the GOP favorably. Far more African Americans and Hispanics have a positive view of the Democratic Party than the Republican Party.

Democrats also are viewed more favorably than Republicans among all age groups except those 65 and older. (Majorities in every age group view the Republican Party unfavorably.) College graduates view the Democratic Party far more favorably than the GOP (55% vs. 31%) as do those in households earning less than \$75,000 annually.

While independents take a dim view of both parties, the GOP fares far worse than the Democratic Party. About four-in-ten independents (39%) have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party while 48% have an unfavorable view (in January

just 32% had a favorable opinion and 60% an unfavorable view). By nearly two-to-one, more have an unfavorable impression of the Republican Party than a favorable one (58% to 31%).

### Democratic Party Viewed More Favorably Across Many Demographic Groups

	Democratic Party		Republican Party		Dem adv in fav
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	
<i>Views of the parties</i>	%	%	%	%	
Total	49	43	36	56	+13
Men	44	47	35	56	+9
Women	54	40	38	56	+16
White	43	51	41	52	+2
Black	83	12	15	75	+68
Hispanic	56	31	30	60	+26
18-29	54	35	34	53	+20
30-49	47	46	37	56	+10
50-64	50	43	36	59	+14
65+	47	48	40	54	+7
College grad+	55	42	31	66	+24
Some college	48	46	41	51	+7
HS or less	47	42	37	52	+10
\$75,000 or more	47	50	40	58	+7
\$30,000-74,999	50	45	35	58	+15
Less than \$30,000	52	37	34	56	+18
Republican	13	85	81	15	-68
Democrat	89	9	11	86	+78
Independent	39	48	31	58	+8

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q4. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

## Republican Party Seen as More Extreme

Throughout the past year, the public has been mostly divided over who can better manage the government. Currently, 42% say the Democratic Party can better manage the federal government while 39% think the Republican Party would do better. Still, there has been a consistent perception that the Republican Party is more extreme in its positions than the Democratic Party. Half (50%) say the GOP is more extreme in its positions while just 35% say the Democratic Party is more extreme, a balance of opinion largely unchanged since July of last year.

The Democratic Party has opened a slim 44% to 39% advantage as the party better able to improve the job situation, which remains the public's top economic concern. Over the past year, the parties have been tied on this issue. Democrats also now run even with Republicans on who can better deal with the federal budget deficit (42% Republicans, 41% Democrats). In October, Republicans had a nine-point lead on this issue.

On health care and energy, Democrats lead the Republican Party; 46% say the Democratic Party can better handle the nation's energy problem while 35% choose the Republican Party. By a 49% to 35% margin, more say the Democratic Party can better deal with health care; Democrats have a similar advantage on dealing with the Medicare system.

## Democrats Tied on Deficit, Lead on Other Issues

<i>Which party... Is more extreme in its positions</i>	Rep Party %	Dem Party %	Both/ Neither/ DK %	Dem adv
March 2012	50	35	15=100	-15
December 2011	53	33	14=100	-20
October 2011	50	38	11=100	-12
July 2011	50	35	15=100	-15
<b>Can better manage the government</b>				
March 2012	39	42	19=100	+3
December 2011	35	41	25=100	+6
July 2011	40	38	23=100	-2
April 2011	41	39	19=100	-2
<i>Can do a better job ...</i>				
<b>Improving job situation</b>				
March 2012	39	44	18=100	+5
October 2011	42	42	16=100	0
July 2011	39	39	21=100	0
April 2011	39	39	22=100	0
<b>Dealing with the deficit</b>				
March 2012	42	41	16=100	-1
October 2011	46	37	17=100	-9
July 2011	43	37	19=100	-6
April 2011	46	34	21=100	-12
<b>Dealing with energy</b>				
March 2012	35	46	18=100	+11
April 2011	37	42	21=100	+5
<b>Dealing with health care</b>				
March 2012	35	49	16=100	+14
October 2011	38	49	13=100	+11
April 2011	40	42	18=100	+2
<b>Dealing with Medicare</b>				
March 2012	35	48	17=100	+13
May 2011	34	44	22=100	+10
<b>Representing your views on abortion</b>				
March 2012	31	47	22=100	+16
October 2011	36	44	20=100	+8

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q55-56.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The Democratic Party also is seen as better representing people's views on abortion – 47% say Democrats better represent their views on abortion while 31% say the Republican Party.

## Independents Rate the Parties

Among independents, about as many say the Democratic Party can handle most issues as say the Republican Party. The parties run even among independents on who can better manage the federal government and on nearly all issues tested, including improving the job situation, dealing with health care and the Medicare system and handling the nation's energy problems.

However, independents view the Republican Party as better able to deal with the federal budget deficit; 46% of independents say the Republican Party can better handle the deficit while just 27% say the Democratic Party.

But by a 46%-29% margin, more independents say the Democratic Party rather than the Republican Party better represents their views on abortion. About half of independents (49%) say the Republican Party is more extreme in its positions while a third (33%) name the Democratic Party.

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### Independents Favor GOP on Deficit, But Say It's More Extreme

<i>Which party...</i>	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/ Neither/ DK
	%	%	%
Is more extreme in its positions	49	33	18=100
Can better manage the federal government	38	34	28=100
<i>Can do a better job...</i>			
Dealing with the deficit	46	27	27=100
Improving the job situation	38	35	27=100
Dealing with health care	37	43	20=100
Dealing with energy	36	42	22=100
Dealing with Medicare	36	38	26=100
Representing your views on abortion	29	46	24=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q55-56.  
Based on independents. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

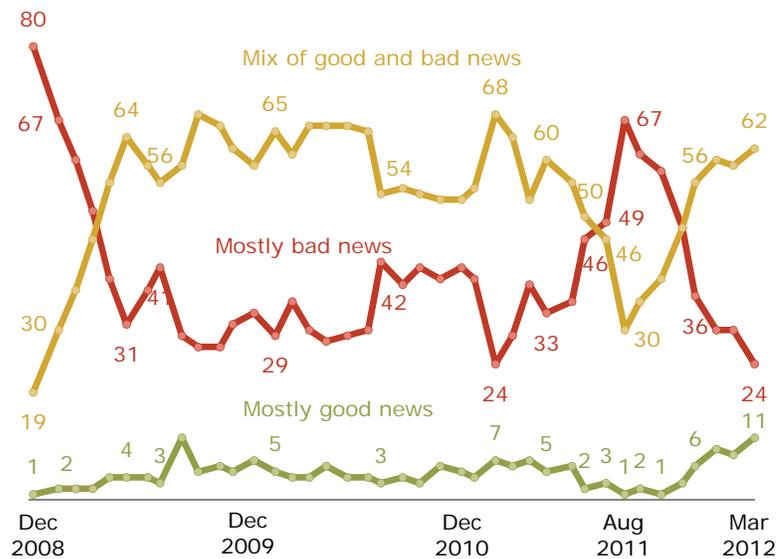
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## SECTION 5: VIEWS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Perceptions of economic news have improved sharply since last summer, a time many feared the nation could be slipping back into recession. However, opinions about national economic conditions remain overwhelmingly negative.

The percentage saying they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy has fallen from 67% last summer to 24% in the current survey. Over this period, the proportion saying that economic news is a mix of good and bad has more than doubled, from 30% in August to 62% today. The percentage hearing mostly good news now stands at 11%, up from just 1% last August.

### More Hearing Mixed News about Economy



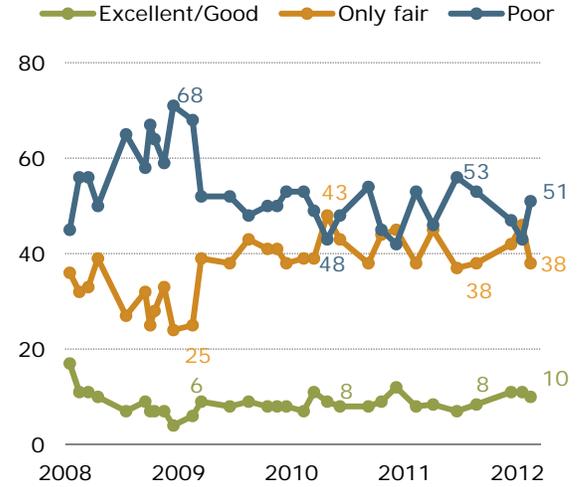
PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 8-11, 2012 Omnibus. PEW3.

Perceptions of news about several sectors of the economy – including the job situation, the financial markets and real estate values – also have become much less negative. Still, news about gas prices is viewed much more negatively. More than eight-in-ten (85%) say they are hearing mostly bad news about gas prices, up from 47% in November.

Public views of current economic conditions remain stubbornly negative. Just 10% describe the economy as excellent or good, while about nine-in-ten (89%) say conditions are only fair (38%) or poor (51%). Taken together, the negative assessments have changed little in many months.

In addition, optimism about the economy, which had increased in recent months, has leveled off. Overall, 44% say they expect economic conditions to be better a year from now, 14% say conditions will be worse, and 38% say they will be the same. That is about the same as last month. From December to February, the percentage saying they expected economic conditions to improve rose 16 points (from 28% to 44%).

### No Improvement in Views of Current Economic Conditions



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### Economic Optimism Levels Off

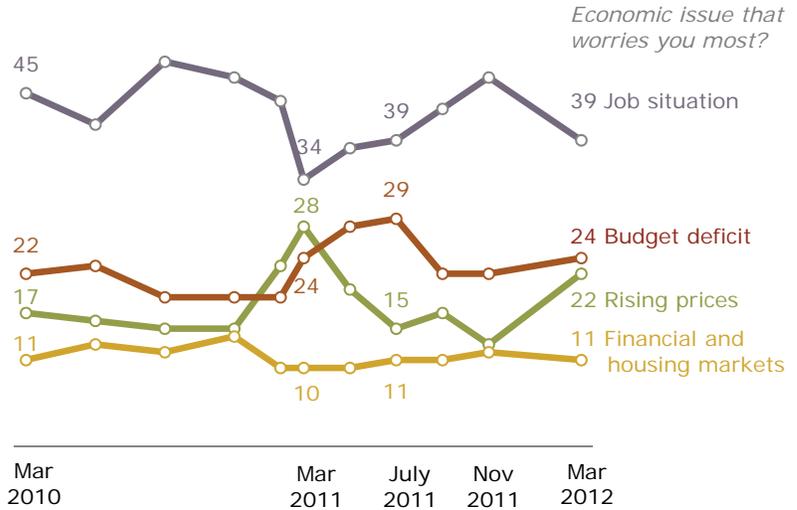
Economic conditions a year from now will be...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q33.

Growing concern over gas prices may be reflected in the public's changing economic concerns. As has been the case for the past two years, a plurality of Americans (39%) say the job situation is the national economic issue that worries them most. But the percentage citing jobs has declined by eight points since November (from 47%), while the share citing rising prices has risen, from 13% then to 22% today.

### Job Concerns Ease, But More Worry about Rising Prices



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In the current survey, about as many view rising prices as the top economic concern as cite the federal budget deficit (24%). Last July, nearly twice as many viewed the budget deficit than jobs as their top economic worry (29% vs. 15%).

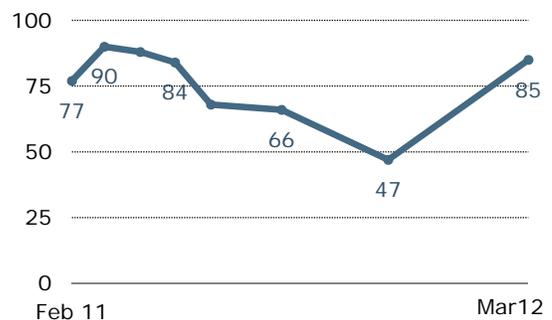
### Shifting Perceptions of Economic News

Though the public has seen more of a mix of good and bad news about the overall economy in recent months, the news about gas prices is now seen as overwhelmingly bad.

Currently, 85% say news about gas prices has been mostly bad, rivaling the percentage saying this during the run-up in fuel prices in early 2011. Just 12% now say they are hearing a mix of news about gas prices; 2% say they are hearing mostly good news.

Last March, 90% said news about gas prices had been mostly bad. But by last November,

### Large Majority Hearing Mostly Bad News About Gas Prices



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that had dropped to 47%.

Negative perceptions of news about gas prices stand in contrast with views of news about other sectors of the economy. There have been substantial declines in the percentages hearing mostly bad news about the job situation, financial markets and real estate values. In fact, the percentages hearing mostly bad news about those sectors are among the lowest since many of these questions were first asked in 2009.

About as many now say they are hearing mixed news as mostly bad news about the job situation (42% vs. 38%); 17% say they are hearing mostly good news about jobs. That is the lowest percentage saying they are hearing mostly bad news about jobs – and the highest percentage hearing mostly good news – since the question was first asked in June 2009.

As recently as last November, 64% said the news they were hearing about the job situation was mostly bad, 28% said it was mixed and just 5% said the news was mostly good.

Views of news about financial markets also are notably more upbeat. Currently, 29% say they are hearing mostly bad news about financial markets, down from 50% in November and 69% in August. Perceptions of news about real estate values have followed a similar trajectory: 39% now say they are hearing mostly bad news about real estate values, compared with 55% in November and 63% in August.

There has been less improvement in perceptions of news about prices for food and consumer goods. In the current survey, 50% say they are hearing mostly bad news about consumer prices, 38% say the news has been mixed and just 7% say the news has been good. That is largely unchanged from November (52% mostly bad). In August, 62% said news about prices for food and consumer goods was mostly bad.

### Hearing Mostly Bad News About...



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PEW3a-d.

There continue to be partisan differences in perceptions of economic news generally, as well as in views of news about economic sectors. But since last fall, the percentages of both Republicans and Democrats who say economic news is mostly bad has fallen across partisan lines.

In the current survey, 30% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say they are hearing mostly bad news about the economy, down from 58% last November and 72% in October. The decline has been comparable among Democrats and Democratic leaners: Just 17% now say the news is mostly bad; last October, 50% expressed this view.

### Improved Views of Economic News Cross Partisan Lines

<i>News about the economy is ...</i>	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Rep/Lean Rep</b>						
Mostly bad	72	58	45	33	39	30
Mix of good/bad	26	41	52	60	55	62
Mostly good	1	1	3	6	4	6
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<b>Dem/Lean Dem</b>						
Mostly bad	50	44	29	23	21	17
Mix of good/bad	48	50	62	65	64	64
Mostly good	1	4	8	12	12	18
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 8-11, 2012 Omnibus. PEW3. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Partisan Differences in Views of Economy

Large majorities of Democrats (82%), independents (92%) and Republicans (96%) rate current economic conditions negatively, describing them as either only fair or poor. But Republicans are far more likely to see conditions as poor: 68% say this, compared with 54% of independents and just 35% of Democrats.

Partisans also offer sharply different assessments of how the economy is likely to fare over the next year. About half of Republicans (49%) expect economic conditions will be about the same a year from now. Nearly three-in-ten (28%) say conditions will be better, while 18% expect conditions to be worse.

Democrats are much more upbeat: 62% expect conditions to be better, 29% say they will be about the same and 7% say conditions will be worse. Among independents, 42% say

### Democrats Far More Optimistic about Economy

<i>Economic conditions a year from now ...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Better	44	28	62	37
Worse	14	18	7	17
Same	38	49	29	42
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q33. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

conditions will be about the same, 37% say they will be better and 17% say they will be worse.

In terms of the most worrisome economic issue, Democrats and independents are most likely to cite the jobs situation (47%, 36%), while Republicans are most likely to cite the federal budget deficit (39%).

Last November, about as many Republicans cited jobs (39%) as the deficit (36%) as their top economic worry. But the percentage of Republicans citing the job situation has declined by 10 points since then while the percentage citing the deficit is unchanged. The proportion of independents citing the job situation as their top economic worry also has fallen 10 points (from 46% to 36%) since November.

Democrats' concerns over the job situation have remained fairly steady, but their concerns over the budget deficit have fallen since last summer. In July, 24% cited the budget deficit as their top economic worry, double the percentage in the current survey (12%).

Rising prices are of particular concern to those with low family incomes. Among those with family incomes of less than \$30,000, 28% cite rising prices as their top economic worry, compared with 21% among those earning between \$30,000 and \$74,999 and 16% among those earning \$75,000 or more. Still, jobs are the top concern across all income categories.

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### Republicans See Budget Deficit as Biggest Economic Worry

<i>Which economic issue worries you most?</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>
	%	%	%	%
Job situation	39	29	47	36
Budget deficit	24	39	12	26
Rising prices	22	22	21	22
Markets	11	6	14	12
Other/DK	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q34. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## SECTION 6: OPINION ABOUT HEALTH CARE

Less than two weeks before the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the 2010 health care law, the public is evenly divided about the legislation. Overall, 47% approve of the law, while 45% disapprove. The 47% approval represents an uptick in support since January 2011 (41% approve vs. 48% disapprove). Since the bill became law on March 23, 2010, disapproval of the legislation has been fairly steady, ranging from 44% in April 2010 to 48% in January 2011. Approval has shown somewhat more movement, from a low of 35% in July 2010, to a high of 47% in the current survey.

Republicans are unified in opposition to the law, with 84% disapproving and only 11% approving. By a wide margin (76% to 17%), Democrats approve of the measure. Independents are divided (44% approve, 47% disapprove).

Younger adults are somewhat more likely to approve of the law than are older adults, while upper income adults are more likely to disapprove than are the least affluent. A large majority of blacks (83%) approve of the law, as do 66% of Hispanics; far fewer whites approve (37%).

### Health Care Law Divides the Public

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %
Total	47	45	8=100
Men	47	46	7=100
Women	46	44	10=100
White	37	55	8=100
Black	83	9	8=100
Hispanic	66	25	9=100
18-29	56	36	9=100
30-49	45	46	8=100
50-64	45	48	7=100
65+	40	51	9=100
College grad+	52	43	5=100
Some college	42	47	10=100
HS or less	46	45	9=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000 or more	43	53	4=100
\$30,000-\$74,999	47	46	7=100
Less than \$30,000	50	39	11=100
Republican	11	84	6=100
Democrat	76	17	7=100
Independent	44	47	9=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q72. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Given the division in overall opinion of the health care law, it is not surprising that there is no consensus about what Congress should do about it. Overall, 38% favor repealing the law, while 33% favor expanding it and 20% favor leaving it as is. Opinion about what to do with the law is essentially unchanged since the fall of 2010.

Most of those who disapprove of the law favor repealing it (76%). Among those who approve of the law, 54% would like to see it expanded, while 34% favor leaving it as is.

Support for repeal reaches 50% or higher only among Republicans (74%), including conservative Republicans (82%), and higher income adults (52% among those with family incomes of \$100,000 or more).

### What Should Congress Do With the Health Care Law?

	Expand it %	Leave it as is %	Repeal it %	DK %	N
Total	33	20	38	9=100	1503
<i>Opinion of health care law:</i>					
Approve	54	34	7	5=100	671
Disapprove	13	6	76	6=100	724
Men	32	20	42	6=100	762
Women	34	20	35	11=100	741
White	28	19	46	8=100	1133
Black	44	33	12	10=100	141
Hispanic	49	20	23	8=100	132
18-29	40	20	31	10=100	237
30-49	38	15	40	7=100	400
50-64	32	20	41	7=100	490
65+	17	31	40	12=100	358
College grad+	37	19	38	6=100	593
Some college	31	19	40	9=100	440
HS or less	31	22	37	10=100	466
<i>Family income</i>					
\$75,000 or more	30	15	50	5=100	452
\$30,000-\$74,999	36	19	39	6=100	482
Less than \$30,000	33	27	30	10=100	419
Republican	10	10	74	6=100	412
Conservative	5	8	82	5=100	273
Moderate/Liberal	17	15	60	7=100	134
Independent	33	18	40	9=100	507
Democrat	50	31	12	7=100	518
Conservative/Moderate	45	34	14	6=100	319
Liberal	59	26	9	6=100	185

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q73. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

## Opposition to the “Individual Mandate”

A 56% majority of the public disapproves of the health care law’s requirement that all individuals be covered by health insurance or face a penalty; 41% approve of the mandate. The provision, which will take effect in 2014, includes financial subsidies for people who cannot afford the cost of coverage.

Not surprisingly, opposition to the mandate follows the same contours as overall opinion about the health care law, with Republicans much more opposed than Democrats and independents, and blacks and young people more supportive than other groups. In addition, college graduates are divided over the individual mandate (49% approve, 49% disapprove) but are more supportive of it than are people with less education.

A close examination of patterns of response to the question suggests that opinions on this issue, which is at the heart of the case before the Supreme Court, may not be especially firm. The survey question mentioned both the financial penalty to be assessed for failure to purchase

insurance and the financial assistance the government will provide to those who cannot afford a policy. But levels of approval of the provision were highly sensitive to which aspect of the law was mentioned last.

Among those for whom the question ended with the reference to financial help, opinion is evenly divided

(47% approve of the mandate vs. 49% who disapprove). But among those who heard about the penalty last, most disapprove of the provision (63% disapprove vs. 34% approve).

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### Opinion of Health Care Law’s Individual Mandate

	Approve %	Disapprove %	DK %
<b>Total</b>	41	56	3=100
If “ <i>people who cannot afford it will receive financial help from the government</i> ” is mentioned last	47	49	3=100
If “ <i>people who do not buy it will pay a penalty</i> ” is mentioned last	34	63	3=100

Full question text: As you may know, by 2014 nearly all Americans will be required to have health insurance. People [who do not buy insurance will pay a penalty] while people [who cannot afford it will receive financial help from the government]. Do you approve or disapprove of this policy?

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 7-11, 2012. Q74f1, Q75f2.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## About the Surveys

Most of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 7-11, 2012, among a national sample of 1,503 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (900 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 603 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 310 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 nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 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:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,503	3.0 percentage points
Form 1	766	4.5 percentage points
Form 2	737	4.5 percentage points
Men	762	4.5 percentage points
Women	741	4.5 percentage points
Republicans	412	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	518	5.0 percentage points
Independents	507	5.5 percentage points
Registered voters	1188	3.5 percentage points
Republican voters	358	6.0 percentage points
Democratic voters	438	5.5 percentage points
Independent voters	358	6.0 percentage points
Rep/Rep-leaning voters	538	5.0 percentage points
Dem/Dem-leaning voters	595	5.0 percentage points

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 8-11, 2012, among a national sample of 1,005 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United

States (602 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 403 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 199 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/>.

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 March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population 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 2011 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	1,005	4.0 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep	390	6.0 percentage points
Democratic/Lean Dem	464	5.5 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.

## PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEATS

Q.18/19 Now suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney/Rick Santorum, the Republican, who would you vote for?/Q.18a/Q19a As of today, who do you lean more to?

	Obama %	Romney %	Other/ DK/Ref %	Obama %	Santorum %	Other/ DK/Ref %	N
<b>ALL VOTERS</b>	54	42	4	57	39	4	1188
<b>SEX</b>							
Men	49	46	4	53	42	5	586
Women	58	38	4	61	35	3	602
<b>AGE</b>							
18-49	57	40	3	60	36	3	422
50+	52	44	4	55	41	4	752
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>							
18-29	63	35	1	68	32	0	125
30-49	54	42	4	57	39	5	297
50-64	55	41	4	56	40	4	433
65+	48	48	5	53	42	5	319
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>							
Men 18-49	50	46	4	53	42	5	234
Men 50+	49	47	4	53	43	4	345
Women 18-49	64	33	3	68	30	2	188
Women 50+	54	41	5	56	39	5	407
<b>RACE</b>							
White, non-Hispanic	44	52	4	48	48	5	945
Black, non-Hispanic	99	1	0	99	0	0	117
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
College grad+	59	39	2	63	35	2	519
Some college	53	43	4	56	40	4	357
High school or less	51	44	5	53	41	6	312
<b>FAMILY INCOME</b>							
\$75,000+	50	48	2	54	45	2	406
\$30,000-\$74,999	55	41	4	58	38	3	390
Less than \$30,000	60	34	6	61	34	5	272
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>							
Total White NH Prot.	33	63	4	36	61	4	506
White NH evang. Prot.	25	72	2	28	70	2	259
White NH mainline Prot.	42	52	6	45	49	6	245
Total Catholic	53	44	4	56	39	5	233
White NH Cath.	45	51	4	50	45	6	189
Unaffiliated	75	22	3	78	20	2	193
<b>ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>							
Weekly or more	48	48	4	51	45	4	472
Less than weekly	58	38	4	61	35	4	702
<b>REGION</b>							
Northeast	62	35	2	63	34	3	202
Midwest	52	44	4	53	40	7	301
South	52	44	4	56	41	3	421
West	52	42	6	58	38	3	264

**PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEATS (CONT.)**

Q.18/19 Now suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney/Rick Santorum, the Republican, who would you vote for?/Q.18a/Q19a As of today, who do you lean more to?

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Santorum</u>	<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>PARTY ID</b>							
Republican	8	91	1	11	85	3	358
Democrat	93	5	1	93	5	2	438
Independent	47	44	9	53	39	7	358
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>							
Rep/Lean Rep	9	88	2	13	83	4	538
Dem/Lean Dem	93	5	2	94	5	1	595
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>							
Conservative	26	71	3	27	69	4	434
Moderate	62	34	4	67	29	4	488
Liberal	90	9	1	92	7	1	236
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>							
Conservative Republican	6	93	1	6	91	3	240
Mod/Lib Republican	12	87	1	23	74	3	114
Mod/Cons Democrat	91	7	2	91	7	2	267
Liberal Democrat	98	2	0	98	1	1	162
<b>TEA PARTY (REP/LEAN REP)</b>							
Agree	2	95	3	2	96	2	252
Disagree/No opinion	15	83	2	21	74	5	275
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>							
Men	40	55	5	45	50	5	479
Women	48	48	4	51	45	4	466
18-49	45	51	4	50	46	5	318
50+	44	52	4	47	49	4	619
College grad+	53	44	2	58	40	2	432
Some college or less	39	56	5	42	52	6	513
\$75,000+	44	53	2	48	50	2	341
\$30,000-\$74,999	46	50	4	50	47	4	318
Less than \$30,000	45	49	6	48	47	5	196
Republican	6	93	1	9	87	3	329
Democrat	89	9	3	89	8	3	292
Independent	41	51	8	48	45	7	301
Northeast	55	42	3	56	40	4	161
Midwest	46	49	5	49	44	7	262
South	34	62	3	40	57	3	306
West	47	48	5	51	45	5	216

**PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE**

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
	%		%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	50	41	9	1503
<b>SEX</b>				
Men	48	44	8	762
Women	52	39	9	741
<b>AGE</b>				
18-49	50	40	10	637
50+	50	43	7	848
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>				
18-29	50	36	14	237
30-49	49	43	8	400
50-64	52	41	7	490
65+	48	46	6	358
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>				
Men 18-49	46	43	11	360
Men 50+	52	45	4	392
Women 18-49	54	36	10	277
Women 50+	49	42	9	456
<b>RACE</b>				
White, non-Hispanic	40	50	9	1133
Black, non-Hispanic	91	6	3	141
Hispanic	62	28	10	132
<b>EDUCATION</b>				
College grad+	57	37	6	593
Some college	45	46	9	440
High school or less	49	41	10	466
<b>FAMILY INCOME</b>				
\$75,000+	47	48	5	452
\$30,000-\$74,999	51	41	8	482
Less than \$30,000	53	36	11	419
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>				
Total White NH Prot.	29	63	8	597
White NH evang. Prot.	21	72	6	305
White NH mainline Prot.	37	53	10	290
Total Catholic	49	42	9	302
White NH Cath.	41	50	9	219
Unaffiliated	64	25	10	269
<b>ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>				
Weekly or more	46	47	7	569
Less than weekly	53	38	9	912
<b>REGION</b>				
Northeast	59	30	11	250
Midwest	48	39	13	373
South	47	48	5	539
West	49	42	8	341

**PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TABLE (CONT.)**

Q1: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handing his job as president?

	<u>Approve</u> %	<u>Disapprove</u> %	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u> %	<u>N</u>
<b>REGISTERED VOTER</b>				
Yes, certain	51	43	6	1188
Not registered	46	38	16	315
<b>PARTY ID</b>				
Republican	11	84	5	412
Democrat	85	10	5	518
Independent	45	42	13	507
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>				
Rep/Lean Rep	15	79	6	642
Dem/Lean Dem	80	14	6	754
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>				
Conservative	26	69	5	522
Moderate	58	32	10	618
Liberal	74	20	7	308
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>				
Conservative Republican	5	89	5	273
Mod/Lib Republican	22	73	5	134
Mod/Cons Democrat	83	12	6	319
Liberal Democrat	91	6	3	185
<b>TEA PARTY (REP/LEAN REP)</b>				
Agree	6	91	3	275
Disagree/No opinion	21	70	8	352
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>				
Men	38	54	9	572
Women	43	47	10	561
18-49	39	49	11	438
50+	42	51	7	685
College grad+	53	42	5	475
Some college or less	35	54	11	657
\$75,000+	40	54	5	371
\$30,000-\$74,999	43	48	9	377
Less than \$30,000	41	47	12	281
Republican	9	87	4	370
Democrat	81	12	7	332
Independent	37	48	14	389
Northeast	49	39	12	185
Midwest	43	44	13	322
South	31	64	5	370
West	45	46	9	256

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MARCH 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**March 7-11, 2012**  
**N=1503**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 7-11, 2012	50	41	9	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
May 2, 2011	56	38	6	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12				

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:**

Q.2F1 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

Mar									Early				
7-11		Dec	May	Jan	Aug	Feb	Aug	Feb	Oct	Jul	Jan	Sep	Jan
<u>2012</u>		<u>11</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>09</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>08</u>	<u>07</u>	<u>07</u>
31	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	21	26	35	27	31	19	31	9	5	5	3	5
24	Economy (general)	19	28	27	35	24	27	53	55	39	20	10	5
8	Energy costs	1	7	2	--	--	--	--	5	19	3	2	2
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced												
8	budget/Gov't spending	9	10	11	3	11	6	4	1	1	2	1	1
5	Health care/costs/accessibility	4	6	9	4	13	20	3	4	3	10	7	8
	Dissatisfaction with gov't/politics/												
4	Obama	10	4	9	9	5	5	5	4	3	6	7	8
3	Partisanship/Parties/Gridlock	4	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	War/War in Iraq/War in Afghan.	4	5	3	3	4	5	3	11	17	27	37	42
3	Finances/money	2	5	2	2	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--
2	Immigration	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	6	6	5
2	Taxes	2	1	1	1	1	--	--	1	--	2	1	--
2	Defense/national security	1	1	1	--	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1
2	Housing market/foreclosures	1	1	1	2	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--
	Oil dependence/Energy policy and												
1	alternatives	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	1	2	--
1	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3
1	Inflation	1	2	2	1	--	--	2	5	6	3	1	--
1	Recession/Slowing economy	--	1	--	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	--	--
	Education/schools/affording												
1	education	3	2	3	1	1	2	1	--	4	4	3	4
1	Jobs moving overseas/Trade	1	1	1	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	--
1	Crime/Violence	1	1	1	--	1	1	1	--	1	1	2	2
1	Distribution of wealth/inequality	2	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--
1	Greed	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Welfare abuse/Gov't dependency	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Medicare	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Morality/Ethics/Family values	2	1	2	4	3	3	1	1	3	2	3	3
1	Too much foreign aid/Spend at home	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	--
1	Race relations/Racism	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--
13	Other												
8	Don't know/No answer	6	7	5	7	6	5	3	4	4	5	5	7
	<b>(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/</b>												
<b>5</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>66</b>	<b>(NET) ECONOMIC</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

**NO QUESTION 3**

<sup>1</sup> Complete trend for Q2F1 not shown; trends available to 1987.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.4 Is your overall opinion of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [ITEM] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?]** **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a. The Republican Party								
Mar 7-11, 2012	36	7	30	56	27	29	*	8
Jan 11-16, 2012	35	7	27	58	28	30	*	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	36	7	29	55	27	28	*	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	5	29	59	27	32	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	42	9	32	51	22	28	1	7
Feb 2-7, 2011	43	8	35	48	19	29	*	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	8	35	49	21	28	*	8
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11

## Q.4 CONTINUED...

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/ <u>Ref</u>
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6
b. The Democratic Party								
Mar 7-11, 2012	49	14	36	43	18	25	*	7
Jan 11-16, 2012	43	13	29	51	23	28	*	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	13	32	45	19	26	*	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	9	34	50	21	29	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	14	34	45	18	27	*	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	47	13	35	46	17	29	*	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	13	36	44	20	24	*	7
July 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6

**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 And how about, **[INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE]**? Is your overall opinion of **[INSERT NAME]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT NAME]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
<b>a. Barack Obama</b>								
Mar 7-11, 2012	56	24	32	41	25	16	*	3
Feb 8-12, 2012	54	22	32	42	26	16	*	5
Jan 11-16, 2012	51	23	28	45	24	21	0	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	52	21	31	45	24	21	*	3
Mar 8-14, 2011	58	22	36	39	20	19	*	3
Dec 2-5, 2010	54	26	29	43	25	18	*	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	53	21	32	43	23	20	*	5
Jun 10-13, 2010	56	27	30	39	20	19	0	4
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	65	33	32	30	16	14	*	5
Jun 10-14, 2009	72	37	35	25	11	14	*	3
Apr 14-21, 2009	73	38	35	24	10	14	*	3
Jan 7-11, 2009	79	40	39	15	4	11	0	6
Mid-October, 2008	66	33	33	28	13	15	*	6
Late September, 2008	65	33	32	30	11	19	*	5
Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4
Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9
April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6
March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9
Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8
Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10
January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8
Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11
August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13
<b>b. Mitt Romney</b>								
Mar 7-11, 2012	29	6	23	51	21	30	5	15
Feb 8-12, 2012	32	7	25	49	20	29	6	13
Jan 11-16, 2012	31	7	24	45	17	27	9	14
Nov 9-14, 2011	36	7	29	42	16	26	9	12
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	35	11	25	21	9	13	25	18
Jun 10-14, 2009	40	9	31	28	8	20	19	13
Early February, 2008	30	6	24	44	15	29	8	18
January, 2008	31	7	24	43	13	30	8	18
Late December, 2007	29	4	25	35	11	24	17	19
August, 2007	28	5	23	24	7	17	29	19
<b>c. Rick Santorum</b>								
Mar 7-11, 2012	27	6	21	44	23	21	11	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	33	10	23	36	16	20	14	17

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=737]:**

Now, thinking about how Barack Obama is handling some issues...

Q.6F2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT INTRODUCTION AS NECESSARY]**

			(VOL.)
	Approve	Disapprove	DK/Ref
<b>a. The economy</b>			
Mar 7-11, 2012	43	53	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	59	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	35	58	6

## Q.6F2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	60	6
May 2, 2011	40	55	4
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	56	6
Jan 6-9, 2011	42	51	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	43	51	5
May 6-9, 2010	41	51	8
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	54	8
Mar 10-14, 2010	41	52	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	42	51	7
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	52	5
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	53	9
Jun 10-14, 2009	52	40	8
Apr 14-21, 2009	60	33	7
Feb 4-8, 2009	56	24	20
<b>b. Energy policy</b>			
Mar 7-11, 2012	42	45	13
Jan 11-16, 2012	36	46	18
Nov 9-14, 2011	44	38	18
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	44	16
Jan 6-9, 2011	46	37	18
Jun 16-20, 2010	45	40	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	43	34	23
Jan 6-10, 2010	45	35	20
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	50	34	16
Jul 22-26, 2009	46	31	22
<b>c. Dealing with Iran</b>			
Mar 7-11, 2012	47	40	14
Jan 11-16, 2012	48	41	11
Jan 6-9, 2011	42	39	19
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	43	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	43	40	17
<b>d. The situation in Afghanistan</b>			
Mar 7-11, 2012	49	42	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	56	37	7
May 2, 2011	60	29	11
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	43	45	11
Jan 6-9, 2011	44	42	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	45	46	9
Apr 21-26, 2010	41	42	17
Mar 10-14, 2010	51	35	15
Jan 6-10, 2010	45	43	12
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	36	49	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	47	33	19
<b>e. The federal budget deficit</b>			
Mar 7-11, 2012	36	58	7
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	62	5
Nov 9-14, 2011	34	57	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	32	60	9
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	33	59	8
Jan 6-9, 2011	35	53	12
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	56	9
Jan 6-10, 2010	32	58	11
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	31	58	11
Jul 22-26, 2009	32	53	15
April 14-21, 2009	50	38	12

## NO QUESTIONS 7-11

## ASK ALL:

THOUGHT How much thought have you given to the coming presidential election . . . Quite a lot or only a little?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1188]:

	Quite a lot	(VOL.) Some	Only a little	(VOL.) None	(VOL.) DK/Ref
<b>2012 Election</b>					
Mar 7-11, 2012	66	2	30	1	1
<b>2008 Election</b>					
November, 2008	81	3	13	2	1
Late October, 2008	81	3	13	2	1
Mid-October, 2008	81	3	13	3	*
Early October, 2008	81	2	14	2	1
Late September, 2008	80	3	14	2	1
Mid-September, 2008	78	4	14	3	1
August, 2008	74	6	17	2	1
July, 2008	74	2	20	3	1
June, 2008	72	2	23	2	1
Late May, 2008	75	4	17	3	1
April, 2008	77	7	13	2	1
March, 2008	78	3	15	3	1
Late February, 2008	74	3	19	2	2
<b>2004 Election</b>					
November, 2004	82	3	12	2	1
Mid-October, 2004	76	5	15	3	1
Early October, 2004	74	4	19	2	1
September, 2004	71	3	22	3	1
August, 2004	69	2	26	2	1
July, 2004	67	2	28	2	1
June, 2004	58	3	36	2	1
May, 2004	59	6	30	4	1
Late March, 2004	60	4	31	4	1
Mid-March, 2004	65	2	31	2	*
<b>2000 Election</b>					
November, 2000	72	6	19	2	1
Late October, 2000	66	6	24	4	*
Mid-October, 2000	67	9	19	4	1
Early October, 2000	60	8	27	4	1
September, 2000	59	8	29	3	1
July, 2000	46	6	45	3	*
June, 2000	46	6	43	5	*
May, 2000	48	4	42	5	1
April, 2000	45	7	41	7	*
<b>1996 Election</b>					
November, 1996	67	8	22	3	*
October, 1996	65	7	26	1	1
Late September, 1996	61	7	29	2	1
Early September, 1996	56	3	36	4	1
July, 1996	55	3	41	1	*
June, 1996	50	5	41	3	1
<b>1992 Election</b>					
Early October, 1992	77	5	16	1	1
September, 1992	69	3	26	1	1
August, 1992	72	4	23	1	*
June, 1992	63	6	29	1	1
<b>1988 Election</b>					
Gallup: November, 1988	73	8	17	2	0
Gallup: October, 1988	69	9	20	2	0

## THOUGHT CONTINUED...

	Quite <u>a lot</u>	(VOL.) <u>Some</u>	Only a <u>little</u>	(VOL.) <u>None</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>Gallup: August, 1988</i>	61	10	27	2	0
<i>Gallup: September, 1988</i>	57	18	23	2	0

## ASK ALL:

Q.12 Over the course of the campaign, are you getting more interested or less interested in the outcome of the election this November?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1188]:

Mar 7-11

2012

72	More interested [OR]
22	Less interested
4	Neither/no change (VOL.)
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

## ASK ALL:

REGIST These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

**[INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY ARE IN NORTH DAKOTA AND DON'T HAVE TO REGISTER, PUNCH 1 FOR REGIST AND REGICERT]**

## ASK IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN REGIST:

REGICERT Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote, or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

Mar 7-11

2012

76	Yes, registered
72	Absolutely certain
4	Chance registration has lapsed
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
23	No, not registered
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

## ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.13 Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the REPUBLICAN presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1188]:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2012 Election</b>					
Mar 7-11, 2012	4	25	34	34	3
Jan 26-29, 2012	4	21	37	34	5
Jan 4-8, 2012	3	27	35	27	7
Nov 9-14, 2011	5	23	36	28	7
Aug 17-21, 2011	4	22	38	26	9
May 25-30, 2011	3	22	35	27	13

## Q.13 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON ...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>SELECTED TRENDS FOR COMPARISON<sup>2</sup>:</b>					
<b>2008 Election</b>					
October, 2007 ( <i>Republican</i> )	3	28	40	19	10
October, 2007 ( <i>Democratic</i> )	9	35	33	17	6
<b>2004 Election</b>					
September, 2003 ( <i>Democratic</i> )	3	29	39	15	14
<b>1996 Election</b>					
October, 1995 ( <i>Republican</i> )	3	30	44	19	4
<b>1992 Election</b>					
October, 1991 ( <i>Democratic</i> )	2	19	39	16	24
<b>1988 Election</b>					
January, 1988 ( <i>Republican</i> )	4	36	41	11	8
January, 1988 ( <i>Democratic</i> )	2	29	44	17	8

## Q.13 FULL TREND:

*Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the REPUBLICAN presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?*

## BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=538]:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 7-11, 2012	6	43	39	9	2
Jan 26-29, 2012	8	38	40	12	2
Jan 4-8, 2012	5	46	34	10	6
Nov 9-14, 2011	10	38	39	7	6
Aug 17-21, 2011	9	40	38	6	7
May 25-30, 2011	5	39	36	7	13
February, 2008	10	50	31	7	2
January, 2008	11	57	28	3	1
November, 2007	9	47	34	7	3
October, 2007	5	46	36	7	6
September, 2007	8	41	36	8	6
October, 1995	5	46	40	6	3
January, 1988 ( <i>GP</i> )	6	50	35	4	5

*Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the DEMOCRATIC presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, only fair candidates or poor candidates?*

## BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
February, 2008	30	50	16	2	2
January, 2008	28	50	18	2	2
November, 2007	16	51	28	2	3
October, 2007	16	48	26	5	5
September, 2007	15	49	29	2	5
January, 2004	8	39	41	6	8
December, 2003	5	40	39	7	9
September, 2003	4	40	39	5	12
February, 1992	6	39	47	4	5

<sup>2</sup>

Before October 2007, answer choice read "Fair" not "Only fair." In October 2007 the question was asked both ways and no difference was found. As a result, October 2007 numbers combine both versions of the question. In 1988, 1991 and 1993 question asked about "men running for the [party] presidential nomination."

## Q.13 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
October, 1991	3	24	38	11	23
January, 1988 (GP)	4	33	45	11	7

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.14 As I name some Republican candidates for president in 2012, please tell me which one, if any, you would most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**  
**[PROBE IF NECESSARY: As of today, who would you say you LEAN toward?]**

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=538]:**

Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u>		Feb 8-12 <u>2012</u>	Jan 11-16 <u>2012</u>	Jan 4-8 <u>2012</u>	Dec 7-11 <u>2011</u>	Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>	Sep 22- Oct 4 <u>2011</u>	Jul 20-24 <u>2011</u>	Mar 8-14 <u>2011</u>	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>
33	Mitt Romney	28	31	27	21	23	21	21	21	17
24	Rick Santorum	30	14	16	3	2	2	1	2	2
20	Newt Gingrich	17	16	16	33	16	7	3	11	9
14	Ron Paul	12	15	12	8	8	11	9	8	10
*	Other (VOL.) <sup>3</sup>	1	2	1	*	*	1	1	1	5
	Rick Perry	--	5	6	4	8	16	12	--	--
	Jon Huntsman	--	2	2	3	1	1	2	--	--
	Michele Bachmann	--	--	--	6	5	4	11	--	--
	Herman Cain	--	--	--	--	22	12	8	--	--
	Sarah Palin	--	--	--	--	--	9	11	13	16
	Tim Pawlenty	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
	Mike Huckabee	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	19
	Mitch Daniels	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
	Haley Barbour	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2
	Chris Christie	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
4	None (VOL.)	4	4	4	10	4	5	5	5	4
3	Too early to tell (VOL.)	3	6	5	4	5	5	7	3	--
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	6	10	7	5	5	8	7	10

**NO QUESTIONS 15-17**

<sup>3</sup> Perry, Huntsman, Bachmann, Cain, Palin, Pawlenty, Huckabee, Daniels and Barbour were explicitly asked in some previous surveys. Chris Christie was never asked in any surveys. In surveys in which they received less than 1% support, these responses are included in other. Dashes indicate that candidates were not explicitly asked about and received less than 1% support.

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.18-Q.18b/Q.19-Q.19b IN BLOCKS****ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):****ASK BEFORE FIRST BLOCK:**

Now, suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held TODAY and...

**ASK BEFORE SECOND BLOCK:**

If the election were TODAY and...

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.18 / Q.19 You had to choose between, [READ AND RANDOMIZE], who would you vote for?

**ASK IF OTHER OR DK (Q.18 / Q.19=3,9):**

Q.18a / Q.19a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.18 / Q.19]?

**ASK IF NAMED A CANDIDATE (Q.18 / Q.19=1,2):**

Q.18b / Q.19b Would you support [INSERT LAST NAME OF CANDIDATE CHOSEN IN Q.18 / Q.19] over [INSERT LAST NAME OF CANDIDATE NOT CHOSEN IN Q.18 / Q.19] strongly, or only moderately? <sup>4</sup>

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1188]:**

Q.18 Mitt Romney

	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Only mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Only mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
Mar 7-11, 2012	42	28	13	*	54	41	12	*	1	3
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	--	--	--	52	--	--	--	1	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	45	--	--	--	50	--	--	--	2	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	47	--	--	--	49	--	--	--	1	3
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	48	--	--	--	48	--	--	--	1	4

Q.19 Rick Santorum

	<u>Santorum</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Only mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Only mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	28	11	0	57	45	11	*	1	3
Feb 8-12, 2012	43	--	--	--	53	--	--	--	1	3

**Q.18-Q.18b/Q.19-Q.19b TREND FOR COMPARISON:****BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:**

	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Only mod<sup>5</sup></u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Only mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Nader</u>	<u>Barr</u>	<u>Other/DK/Ref</u>
November, 2008	39	21	18	*	50	35	14	1	1	1	9
Late October, 2008	36	20	15	1	52	39	12	1	3	1	8
Mid-October, 2008	38	21	16	1	52	36	16	*	n/a	n/a	10
Early October, 2008	40	21	18	1	50	36	14	*	n/a	n/a	10
Late September, 2008	42	23	19	*	49	33	15	1	n/a	n/a	9
Mid-September, 2008 <sup>6</sup>	44	25	19	*	46	30	15	1	n/a	n/a	10
August, 2008	43	17	26	*	46	27	19	*	n/a	n/a	11
July, 2008	42	17	24	1	47	24	22	1	n/a	n/a	11
June, 2008	40	14	26	*	48	28	19	1	n/a	n/a	12
Late May, 2008	44				47				n/a	n/a	9
April, 2008	44				50				n/a	n/a	6
March, 2008	43				49				n/a	n/a	8
Late February, 2008	43				50				n/a	n/a	7

	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Only mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Kerry</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>Only mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Nader</u>	<u>Other/DK/Ref</u>
November, 2004	45	34	11	*	46	29	16	1	1	8
Mid-October, 2004	45	32	13	*	45	28	16	1	1	9
Early October, 2004	48	35	12	1	41	24	17	*	2	9

<sup>4</sup> Those who lean to a candidate are included in "Only moderately."

<sup>5</sup> Includes those who say they lean to the Republican or Democratic candidate.

<sup>6</sup> After August 2008, June 2004, July 2000, July 1996, June 1992, and June 1988 the question specified vice presidential candidates.

## Q.18-Q.18b/Q.19-Q.19b TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	<u>Bush</u>	<i>Only</i>			<u>Kerry</u>	<i>Only</i>			<u>Nader</u>	<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
		<i>Strongly</i>	<i>mod</i>	<i>DK</i>		<i>Strongly</i>	<i>mod</i>	<i>DK</i>		
September, 2004	49	33	15	1	43	22	20	1	1	7
August, 2004	45	32	13	*	47	28	19	*	2	6
July, 2004	44				46				3	7
June, 2004	46				42				6	6
May, 2004	43				46				6	5
Late March, 2004	44				43				6	7
Mid-March, 2004	42				49				4	5
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>										
June, 2004	48				46				n/a	6
May, 2004	45				50				n/a	5
Late March, 2004	46				47				n/a	7
Mid-March, 2004	43				52				n/a	5
Late February, 2004	44				48				n/a	8
Early February, 2004	47				47				n/a	6
Early January, 2004	52				41				n/a	7
October, 2003	50				42				n/a	8

	<u>Bush</u>	<i>Only</i>			<u>Gore</u>	<i>Only</i>			<u>Nader</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
		<i>Strongly</i>	<i>mod</i>	<i>DK</i>		<i>Strongly</i>	<i>mod</i>	<i>DK</i>			
November, 2000	41	26	15	*	45	25	19	1	4	1	9
Late October, 2000	45	29	16	*	43	24	19	*	4	1	7
Mid-October, 2000	43	25	18	*	45	22	23	*	4	1	7
Early October, 2000	43	26	17	*	44	22	22	*	5	*	8
September, 2000	41	21	19	1	47	25	21	1	2	1	9
July, 2000	42				41				6	2	9
Late June, 2000	42				35				2	2	19
Mid-June, 2000	41				42				4	3	10
January, 2000	51				39				n/a	4	6
September, 1999	49				35				n/a	10	6
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>											
July, 2000	48				46				n/a	n/a	6
Mid-June, 2000	45	20	25	*	46	18	27	1	n/a	n/a	9
May, 2000	46				45				n/a	n/a	9
March, 2000	43				49				n/a	n/a	8
February, 2000	46	19	27	*	45	18	26	1	n/a	n/a	9
December, 1999	55				40				n/a	n/a	5
October, 1999	54				39				n/a	n/a	7
September, 1999	54				39				n/a	n/a	7
July, 1999	53				42				n/a	n/a	5
March, 1999	54				41				n/a	n/a	5
January, 1999	50				44				n/a	n/a	6
Early September, 1998	53				40				n/a	n/a	7

	<u>Dole</u>	<i>Only</i>			<u>Clinton</u>	<i>Only</i>			<u>Perot</u>	<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
		<i>Strongly</i>	<i>mod</i>	<i>DK</i>		<i>Strongly</i>	<i>mod</i>	<i>DK</i>		
November, 1996	32	17	15	*	51	26	24	1	9	8
October, 1996	34	17	16	1	51	25	26	*	8	7
Late September, 1996	35	16	18	1	51	26	25	*	7	7
Early September, 1996	34	17	17	*	52	26	26	0	8	6
July, 1996	34				44				16	6
March, 1996	35				44				16	5
September, 1995	36				42				19	3
July, 1994	36				39				20	5
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>										
July, 1996	42	11	30	*	53	20	31	1	n/a	5
June, 1996	40	13	23	1	55	22	29	1	n/a	5
April, 1996	40				54					6
March, 1996	41				53					6
February, 1996	44				52					4

## Q.18-Q.18b/Q.19-Q.19b TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	<i>Only</i>				<i>Only</i>				<b>Other/ DK/Ref</b>	
	<u>Dole</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Perot</u>	
January, 1996	41				53					6
July, 1994	49				46					5
	<i>Only</i>				<i>Only</i>				<b>Other/ DK/Ref</b>	
	<u>Bush Sr.</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Perot</u>	
Late October, 1992	34	20	14	--	44	26	18	--	19	3
Early October, 1992	35	14	21	--	48	23	25	--	8	9
June, 1992	31				27				36	6
<b>Two-way trial heats:</b>										
September, 1992	38	14	21	--	53	25	28	--	n/a	9
August, 1992	37	14	23	--	57	24	33	--	n/a	6
June, 1992	46	13	33	--	41	9	32	--	n/a	13
May, 1992	46	15	31	--	43	10	33	--	n/a	11
Late March, 1992	50	19	31	--	43	9	34	--	n/a	7
	<i>Only</i>				<i>Only</i>				<b>Other/ DK/Ref</b>	
	<u>Bush Sr.</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>mod</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>Dukakis</u>	<u>Strongly</u>	<u>mod</u>	<u>DK</u>		
October, 1988	50	24	26	--	42	20	22	--		8
September, 1988	50	26	24	--	44	19	25	--		6
May, 1988	40	12	28	--	53	14	39	--		7

## RANDOMIZE Q.20 AND Q.21

## ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

- Q.20 Regardless of who you might support, who do you think is most likely to win the presidential election if it is between [RANDOMIZE: Barack Obama and Mitt Romney]?
- Q.21 Regardless of who you might support, who do you think is most likely to win the presidential election if it is between [RANDOMIZE: Barack Obama and Rick Santorum]?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1188]:

	<u>Republican</u>		<u>Democrat</u>		<b>(VOL.) Other/DK</b>
Q.20 Mar 7-11, 2012	32	<i>Romney</i>	59	<i>Obama</i>	9
Q.21 Mar 7-11, 2012	24	<i>Santorum</i>	68	<i>Obama</i>	8

## TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

Regardless of who you might support, who do you think is most likely to win the presidential election?

	<u>Republican</u>		<u>Democrat</u>		
<b>2008 Election</b>					
Mid-October, 2008	17	<i>McCain</i>	61	<i>Obama</i>	22
Mid-September, 2008	39	<i>McCain</i>	39	<i>Obama</i>	22
June, 2008	27	<i>McCain</i>	53	<i>Obama</i>	20
April, 2008 <sup>7</sup>	42	<i>McCain</i>	47	<i>Obama</i>	11
April, 2008	46	<i>McCain</i>	45	<i>Clinton</i>	9
March, 2008	38	<i>McCain</i>	50	<i>Obama</i>	12
March, 2008	46	<i>McCain</i>	42	<i>Clinton</i>	12
<b>2004 Election</b>					
November, 2004	48	<i>Bush</i>	27	<i>Kerry</i>	25
Mid-October, 2004	54	<i>Bush</i>	27	<i>Kerry</i>	19
Early October, 2004	61	<i>Bush</i>	27	<i>Kerry</i>	12
September, 2004	60	<i>Bush</i>	22	<i>Kerry</i>	18
August, 2004	44	<i>Bush</i>	37	<i>Kerry</i>	19
July, 2004	42	<i>Bush</i>	38	<i>Kerry</i>	20
June, 2004	51	<i>Bush</i>	35	<i>Kerry</i>	14

7

In March and April 2008, this question was asked both about John McCain/Barack Obama and John McCain/Hillary Clinton, and read: "Regardless of who you might support, who do you think is most likely to win the presidential election if it is between..."

**Q.20/Q.21 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**

	<u>Republican</u>		<u>Democrat</u>		
May, 2004	52	<i>Bush</i>	31	<i>Kerry</i>	17
Early February, 2004	56	<i>Bush</i>	32	<i>Dem Candidate</i>	12
Mid-January, 2004	61	<i>Bush</i>	21	<i>Dem Candidate</i>	18
September, 2003	47	<i>Bush</i>	34	<i>Dem Candidate</i>	19
June, 2003	66	<i>Bush</i>	22	<i>Dem Candidate</i>	12
<b>2000 Election</b>					
November, 2000	43	<i>Bush</i>	32	<i>Gore</i>	25
Late October, 2000	48	<i>Bush</i>	38	<i>Gore</i>	14
Early October, 2000	33	<i>Bush</i>	46	<i>Gore</i>	21
June, 2000	51	<i>Bush</i>	33	<i>Gore</i>	16
October, 1999	70	<i>Bush</i>	23	<i>Gore</i>	7
<b>1996 Election</b>					
Late September, 1996 <sup>8</sup>	12	<i>Dole</i>	79	<i>Clinton</i>	9
Early September, 1996	16	<i>Dole</i>	75	<i>Clinton</i>	9
July, 1996	19	<i>Dole</i>	72	<i>Clinton</i>	9
<b>1992 Election</b>					
October, 1992	30	<i>Bush, Sr.</i>	61	<i>Clinton</i>	9
March, 1992	72	<i>Bush, Sr.</i>	20	<i>Dem Candidate</i>	8
February, 1992	66	<i>Bush, Sr.</i>	25	<i>Dem Candidate</i>	9
October, 1991	78	<i>Bush, Sr.</i>	11	<i>Dem Candidate</i>	11

**QUESTION 22 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.23 Do you think the fact that the Republican primary contest has not yet been decided and is still going on is a good thing or a bad thing for the Republican Party?

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=538]:**

Mar 7-11		Feb 8-12	
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>	
47	Good thing	55	
43	Bad thing	36	
3	Neither/Still early (VOL.)	4	
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.24 Just in general, how well do you think [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] understands the needs of people like you? Very well, fairly well, not too well, or not at all well? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1188]:**

		<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a.	Barack Obama Mar 7-11, 2012	29	29	16	25	2
b.	Mitt Romney Mar 7-11, 2012	12	32	23	27	7
c.	Rick Santorum Mar 7-11, 2012	14	30	19	28	9

**NO QUESTIONS 25-26**

<sup>8</sup> In 1996 and October 1992, the question also asked about Ross Perot. Results here are included in the "Other/DK" category.

**RANDOMIZE Q.27 AND Q.28****ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.27 In general, do you think [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] positions on the issues are too conservative, not conservative enough, or about right? And do you think [NEXT ITEM] positions on the issues are too conservative, not conservative enough, or about right?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1188]:**

		Too <u>conservative</u>	Not conservative <u>enough</u>	About <u>right</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Mitt Romney's Mar 7-11, 2012	29	23	35	14
b.	Rick Santorum's Mar 7-11, 2012	40	15	33	13

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

		Too <u>conservative</u>	Not conservative <u>enough</u>	About <u>right</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	John McCain February, 2008	26	22	37	15

**RANDOMIZE Q.27 AND Q.28****ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.28 In general, do you think Barack Obama's positions on the issues are [READ IN ORDER]:

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1188]:**

		Too <u>liberal</u>	Not liberal <u>enough</u>	About <u>right</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	Mar 7-11, 2012	41	12	42	5
	February, 2008	33	7	48	12

**ASK ALL:**

Q.29 Do you happen to know if [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE] is Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, atheist, agnostic, or some other religion? How about [INSERT NEXT NAME]? Is he Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, atheist, agnostic, or some other religion?

**[INTERVIEWERS: IF R SAYS "MULTIPLE FAITHS/ALL OF THE ABOVE," RECORD AS "8-SOME OTHER RELIGION" AND RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE]**

a.	Mitt Romney Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u>		Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>
	2	Protestant	3
	3	Catholic	3
	48	Mormon	39
	1	Jewish	*
	*	Muslim	1
	*	Atheist	*
	*	Agnostic	*
	0	Some other religion	0
	1	Christian (VOL.)	1
	42	Don't know (VOL.)	51
	1	Refused (VOL.)	1

**Q.29 CONTINUED...**

b. Rick Santorum

Mar 7-11

2012

9	Protestant
24	Catholic
3	Mormon
1	Jewish
*	Muslim
*	Atheist
*	Agnostic
*	Some other religion
4	Christian (VOL.)
58	Don't know (VOL.)
1	Refused (VOL.)

**ASK Q.30a-b IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.29a-b IF RESPONSE IS PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC/MORMON/CHRISTIAN OR OTHER (Q.29a=1,2,3,8,9 / Q.29b=1,2,3,8,9):**

Q.30 And, do you happen to know if [INSERT NAME; OBSERVE FILTERS] is an evangelical or "born again" Christian, or not?

**ASK IMMEDIATELY AFTER Q.29a IF PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC/MORMON/CHRISTIAN (Q.29a=1,2,3,8,9):**

a. Mitt Romney

**BASED ON TOTAL:****BASED ON FILTER:**

Mar 7-11

Mar 7-11

20122012

6

11

Yes, evangelical or "born again" Christian

22

41

No, not evangelical or "born again" Christian

27

49

Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

45

--

*Don't know/Refused or Non-Christian religion in Q29a***N 1503****949****ASK IMMEDIATELY AFTER Q.29b IF PROTESTANT/CATHOLIC/MORMON/CHRISTIAN (Q.29b=1,2,3,8,9):**

b. Rick Santorum

**BASED ON TOTAL:****BASED ON FILTER:**

Mar 7-11

Mar 7-11

20122012

14

35

Yes, evangelical or "born again" Christian

9

22

No, not evangelical or "born again" Christian

17

44

Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

60

--

*Don't know/Refused or Non-Christian religion in Q29b***N 1503****709****NO QUESTION 31**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking now about the nation's economy...

Q.32 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 7-11, 2012	1	9	38	51	1
Feb 8-12, 2012	1	10	46	43	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	2	9	42	47	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	*	8	38	53	1
Aug 17-21, 2011	1	6	37	56	1
Jun 15-19, 2011	*	8	45	46	1
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	1	7	38	53	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	1	11	45	42	1
Dec 1-5, 2010	1	8	44	45	1
Oct 13-18, 2010	1	7	38	54	1
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	1	7	43	48	1
Jun 3-6, 2010	1	8	48	43	1
Apr 21-26, 2010	*	11	39	49	1
Mar 10-14, 2010	1	6	39	53	1
Feb 3-9, 2010	1	7	38	53	1
Dec 9-13, 2009	1	7	41	50	1
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	*	8	41	50	1
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	1	8	43	48	1
Aug 11-17, 2009	*	8	38	52	2
Jun 10-14, 2009	1	8	39	52	1
Mar 9-12, 2009	*	6	25	68	1
Feb 4-8, 2009	*	4	24	71	1
December, 2008	*	7	33	59	1
November, 2008	1	6	28	64	1
Late October, 2008	*	7	25	67	1
Early October, 2008	1	8	32	58	1
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2
Late February, 2004 <sup>9</sup>	2	29	42	26	1

<sup>9</sup> Earlier trends available from Gallup.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.33 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	Better	Worse	Same	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 7-11, 2012	44	14	38	4
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	10	42	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	34	16	46	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	18	50	4
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	18	50	2
Jun 15-19, 2011	29	23	46	2
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	16	45	4
Apr 21-26, 2010	42	19	36	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	16	40	3
Dec 9-13, 2009	42	17	38	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	39	19	39	2
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	45	15	38	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	45	19	33	3
Jun 10-14, 2009	48	16	34	2
Mar 9-12, 2009	41	19	37	3
Feb 4-8, 2009	40	18	38	4
December, 2008	43	17	36	4
Early October, 2008	46	16	30	8
July, 2008	30	21	41	8
March, 2008	33	22	39	6
January, 2008	20	26	48	6
September, 2007	19	23	53	5
June, 2007	16	24	55	5
February, 2007	17	20	58	5
December, 2006	22	18	56	4
September, 2006	16	25	55	4
January, 2006	20	22	55	3
Early October, 2005	20	32	45	3
Mid-September, 2005	18	37	43	2
Mid-May, 2005	18	24	55	3
January, 2005	27	18	52	3
August, 2004	36	9	47	8
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8
September, 2003	37	17	43	3
May, 2003	43	19	35	3
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7
January, 2003	30	20	44	6
January, 2002	44	17	36	3
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 2001	18	33	44	5
June, 2000	15	24	55	6
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4
May, 1990	18	31	45	6
February, 1989	25	22	49	4
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9
May, 1988	24	20	46	10
January, 1988	22	26	45	7
<i>Newsweek</i> : January, 1984 (RVs)	35	13	49	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.34 Which of the following national economic issues worries you most? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>The job situation</u>	<u>The federal budget deficit</u>	<u>Rising prices</u>	<u>Problems in the financial and housing markets</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Other</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>None/not worried about any</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	24	22	11	2	1	2
Nov 9-14, 2011	47	22	13	12	2	1	2
Sep 1-4, 2011	43	22	17	11	4	2	2
Jul 20-24, 2011	39	29	15	11	3	1	2
May 25-30, 2011	38	28	20	10	2	*	2
Mar 8-14, 2011	34	24	28	10	3	*	1
Feb 2-7, 2011	44	19	23	10	1	1	3
Dec 1-5, 2010	47	19	15	14	1	1	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	49	19	15	12	2	1	2
Jun 3-6, 2010	41	23	16	13	3	1	2
Mar 10-14, 2010	45	22	17	11	2	*	2

**NO QUESTIONS 35-37, 40-41, 46-54**

**QUESTIONS 38-39, 42-45 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

Thinking about the political parties ...

**ASK ALL:**

Q.55 Please tell me if you think each phrase I read better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders (First.) which party do you think is better described by the phrase... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE.]** Which party **[NEXT ITEM]?**

	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both equally</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>NO ITEM a.</b>					
<b>b.</b> Can better manage the federal government					
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	42	1	9	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	35	41	3	13	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	38	2	14	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	41	39	2	8	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	43	36	2	11	8
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	41	41	3	8	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	41	37	3	12	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	40	40	4	9	8
Aug 27-30, 2009	34	38	4	14	10
October, 2007	32	44	5	9	10
March, 2007	31	47	3	8	11
Early October, 2006	34	44	3	9	10
April, 2006 <sup>10</sup>	35	39	3	15	8
January, 2006	34	40	4	12	10
Early October, 2005	35	41	3	13	8
July, 2004	37	40	4	9	10
Early September, 1998	37	32	8	12	11
August, 1997	39	33	4	16	8
July, 1996	45	32	4	12	7
April, 1995	49	30	3	13	5
July, 1994	43	31	4	17	5
May, 1993	36	32	2	17	13
July, 1992	30	36	1	23	10
May, 1990	28	20	12	31	9

<sup>10</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Able to manage the federal government well."

## Q.55 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 1988	33	30	10	17	10
January, 1988	30	28	12	20	10
May, 1987	24	25	13	28	10
c. Is more extreme in its positions					
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	35	5	1	9
Dec 7-11, 2011	53	33	4	1	9
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	50	38	3	1	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	50	35	4	2	9

## ASK ALL:

Q.56 And which party could do a better job of [INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Which party could do a better job of ITEM?]

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Improving the job situation					
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	44	3	6	9
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	42	42	3	6	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	39	39	5	7	9
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	39	39	10	6	6
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	31	8	13	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	39	41	6	8	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	36	37	8	9	10
September, 2006	29	47	6	5	13
March, 1998	30	51	7	5	7
October, 1994	37	42	6	7	8
b. Representing your views on abortion					
Mar 7-11, 2012	31	47	1	6	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	36	44	2	5	13
Aug 27-30, 2009	33	41	3	9	14
September, 2006	33	44	2	6	15
January, 1992 <sup>11</sup>	29	39	--	11	21
August, 1990	30	40	--	12	18

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=766]:

c.F1 Dealing with health care					
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	49	1	7	8
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	38	49	3	4	6
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	42	6	5	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	32	39	5	11	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	36	46	5	7	6

## TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

*Reforming the U.S. health care system*

Feb 3-9, 2010	32	45	6	10	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	27	46	4	14	9
February, 2008	26	56	3	8	7
October, 2006	25	46	4	8	17
September, 2006	24	48	5	10	13
February, 2006	27	49	6	9	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7

<sup>11</sup> In January 1992 and August 1990, the item was worded, "Which political party - the Republican Party or the Democratic party do you think could do a better job of: representing your views on abortion?"

## Q.56 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13
Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15
<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
January, 2002	20	45	--	6	29
January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16
January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12
March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8
October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10
July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8
<i>Reforming health care</i>					
December, 1993	25	47	--	10	18
<i>Improving health care in the U.S.</i>					
January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15
May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14
d.F1	Dealing with the nation's energy problems				
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	46	2	6	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	37	42	7	5	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	28	38	8	11	15
May 20-23, 2010	28	35	10	12	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	32	40	8	9	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	44	8	6	10
Aug 27-30, 2009	25	47	7	9	12
February, 2008	23	57	5	5	10
September, 2006	27	47	4	7	15
February, 2006	32	45	6	7	10
Mid-September, 2005	31	44	6	8	11
May, 2001	36	34	10	7	13
October, 2006	28	44	5	6	17
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=737]:</b>					
e.F2	Dealing with the federal budget deficit				
Mar 7-11, 2012	42	41	2	7	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	37	4	6	7
Jul 22-24, 2011	43	37	5	6	8
May 25-30, 2011 <sup>12</sup>	41	38	4	9	8
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	46	34	8	6	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	7	16	14
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	36	5	9	7
May 20-23, 2010	33	30	8	16	12
Apr 21-26, 2010	38	35	6	11	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
Early October, 2005	29	47	6	10	8
June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15

<sup>12</sup> From February 2006 to May 2011 item read "Reducing the federal budget deficit;" and the experiment conducted in July 2011 showed no significant difference between the current wording and this wording. In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

## Q.56 CONTINUED...

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
f.F2	Dealing with the Medicare system					
	Mar 7-11, 2012	35	48	3	7	7
	May 25-30, 2011	34	44	5	8	9
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	<i>Reforming the Medicare system</i>					
	Sep 16-19, 2010	33	38	7	9	12

## NO QUESTION 57, 62-63, 70-71

## QUESTIONS 58-61, 64-69 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

## ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.72 Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010?

Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u>		Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u> <sup>13</sup>	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>	Sep 9-12 <u>2010</u>	Aug 25- Sep 6 <u>2010</u>	Jul 8-11 <u>2010</u>	Apr 1-5 <u>2010</u>
47	Approve	41	43	38	44	35	40
45	Disapprove	48	47	45	46	47	44
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	10	17	10	17	16

## ASK ALL:

Q.73 What, if anything, do you think Congress should do with the health care law? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u>		Sep 22-Oct 4 <u>2011</u> <sup>14</sup>	Jan 5-9 <u>2011</u>	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>
33	Expand it	31	35	30
20	Leave it as is	22	20	22
38	Repeal it	38	37	40
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9	8	8

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY:

Q.74F1 As you may know, by 2014 nearly all Americans will be required to have health insurance. People who do not buy insurance will pay a penalty while people who cannot afford it will receive financial help from the government. Do you approve or disapprove of this policy?

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY:

Q.75F2 As you may know, by 2014 nearly all Americans will be required to have health insurance. People who cannot afford insurance will receive financial help from the government while people who do not buy it will pay a penalty. Do you approve or disapprove of this policy?

## BASED ON TOTAL

Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u>	
41	Approve
56	Disapprove
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

## QUESTION 76 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

<sup>13</sup> In January 2011 the question asked about legislation passed "last year," and in November 2010 it read "earlier this year." In September, August and July the question asked about legislation passed "in March." In April, the question asked about the legislation passed "last month."

<sup>14</sup> In October 2011, question did not follow the approval question and began: "Thinking about the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress last year..."

**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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
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
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK ALL:**

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/DK
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--

## TEAPARTY2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>15</sup>	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

<sup>15</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
MARCH 8-11, 2012 OMNIBUS  
FINAL TOPLINE  
N=1,005**

**PEW.1-PEW.2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking about recent economic news...

PEW.3 Are you hearing mostly good news about the economy these days, mostly bad news about the economy or a mix of both good and bad news?

	<u>Hearing mostly good news</u>	<u>Hearing mostly bad news</u>	<u>A mix of good and bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
March 8-11, 2012	11	24	62	2
February 2-5, 2012	8	30	59	3
January 5-8, 2012	9	30	60	1
December 1-4, 2011	6	36	56	1
November 10-13, 2011	3	48	48	1
October 6-9, 2011	1	58	39	2
September 1-4, 2011	2	61	35	1
August 4-7, 2011	1	67	30	2
July 7-10, 2011	3	49	46	2
June 2-5, 2011	2	46	50	1
May 12-15, 2011	6	35	56	2
March 31-April 3, 2011	5	33	60	2
March 3-6, 2011	7	38	53	2
February 3-6, 2011	6	29	64	1
January 6-9, 2011	7	24	68	1
December 2-5, 2010	4	39	55	1
November 11-14, 2010	5	41	53	2
October 7-10, 2010	6	39	53	2
September 2-6, 2010	3	41	54	2
August 5-8, 2010	4	38	55	3
July 1-5, 2010	3	42	54	1
June 10-13, 2010	4	30	65	1
May 7-10, 2010	4	29	66	1
April 1-5, 2010	6	28	66	*
March 5-8, 2010	4	30	66	1
February 5-8, 2010	4	35	61	*
January 8-11, 2010	5	29	65	1
December 4-7, 2009	7	33	59	1
October 30-November 2, 2009	5	31	62	2
October 9-12, 2009	6	27	66	1
September 3-6, 2009	5	27	68	1
August 7-10, 2009	11	29	59	1
July 2-5, 2009	3	41	56	*
June 12-15, 2009	4	37	59	*
May 8-11, 2009	4	31	64	1
April 9-13, 2009	4	39	56	1
March 13-16, 2009	2	51	46	1
February 13-16, 2009	2	60	37	1
January 16-19, 2009	2	67	30	1
December 5-8, 2008	1	80	19	*

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.4 Thinking about some specific aspects of the nation's economy... Please tell me if you are hearing mostly good news, mostly bad news or a mix of both good and bad news about each of the following. **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The financial markets				
March 8-11, 2012	15	29	48	8
November 10-13, 2011	4	50	41	5
August 4-7, 2011	2	69	25	4
June 2-5, 2011	5	40	45	9
May 12-15, 2011	11	33	45	11
March 31-April 3, 2011	13	30	51	6
March 3-6, 2011	12	33	47	8
February 3-6, 2011	17	31	46	6
December 2-5, 2010	13	38	44	4
September 2-6, 2010	9	43	40	8
July 1-5, 2010	4	46	44	6
May 7-10, 2010	6	41	49	3
April 1-5, 2010	15	30	50	6
March 5-8, 2010	11	26	59	4
January 8-11, 2010	16	32	47	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	33	48	7
August 7-10, 2009	20	31	43	6
June 12-15, 2009	9	43	45	3
b. Real estate values				
March 8-11, 2012	9	39	42	10
November 10-13, 2011	6	55	32	7
August 4-7, 2011	4	63	27	6
June 2-5, 2011	7	56	28	9
May 12-15, 2011	9	45	35	11
March 31-April 3, 2011	6	48	38	8
March 3-6, 2011	8	46	36	10
February 3-6, 2011	8	51	34	7
December 2-5, 2010	6	62	28	4
September 2-6, 2010	6	57	32	5
July 1-5, 2010	9	49	35	7
May 7-10, 2010	12	41	42	5
April 1-5, 2010	12	44	38	6
March 5-8, 2010	8	45	42	5
January 8-11, 2010	11	43	40	5
October 30-November 2, 2009	13	43	37	6
August 7-10, 2009	11	40	41	7
June 12-15, 2009	11	45	40	3
c. Prices for food and consumer goods				
March 8-11, 2012	7	50	38	6
November 10-13, 2011	5	52	36	7
August 4-7, 2011	4	62	28	5
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	30	6
May 12-15, 2011	3	58	32	6
March 31-April 3, 2011	3	59	34	4
March 3-6, 2011	7	62	26	5
February 3-6, 2011	7	49	39	5
December 2-5, 2010	16	41	39	5
September 2-6, 2010	12	35	42	10
July 1-5, 2010	9	32	48	10
May 7-10, 2010	8	37	46	9
April 1-5, 2010	10	35	46	9

**PEW.4 CONTINUED...**

	Hearing mostly <u>good news</u>	Hearing mostly <u>bad news</u>	A mix of good and <u>bad news</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
March 5-8, 2010	9	34	50	7
January 8-11, 2010	12	37	45	6
October 30-November 2, 2009	12	39	42	7
August 7-10, 2009	10	36	46	9
June 12-15, 2009	9	39	46	6
d. The job situation				
March 8-11, 2012	17	38	42	3
December 1-4, 2011	10	51	37	2
November 10-13, 2011	5	64	28	2
August 4-7, 2011	4	74	21	2
June 2-5, 2011	5	58	34	3
May 12-15, 2011	9	51	37	3
March 31-April 3, 2011	12	43	42	2
March 3-6, 2011	10	50	37	3
February 3-6, 2011	9	52	37	2
December 2-5, 2010	6	66	27	1
September 2-6, 2010	5	65	28	2
July 1-5, 2010	5	64	30	1
May 7-10, 2010	9	52	38	2
April 1-5, 2010	9	56	33	2
March 5-8, 2010	5	59	35	1
January 8-11, 2010	6	61	31	2
October 30-November 2, 2009	3	68	27	2
August 7-10, 2009	6	61	32	1
June 12-15, 2009	1	71	27	1
e. Gas prices				
March 8-11, 2012	2	85	12	2
November 10-13, 2011	9	47	36	8
August 4-7, 2011	4	66	26	4
June 2-5, 2011	8	68	23	2
May 12-15, 2011	1	84	14	1
March 31-April 3, 2011	1	88	10	1
March 3-6, 2011	1	90	7	2
February 3-6, 2011	2	77	18	3

**PEW.5-PEW.8 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**