

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MAY 2011 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**May 25-30, 2011**  
**N=1509**

**QUESTIONS 1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:**

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]**

May 25-30 2011		Jan <u>11</u>	Aug <u>10</u> <sup>1</sup>	Feb <u>10</u>	Aug <u>09</u>	Feb <u>09</u>	Oct <u>08</u>	Jul <u>08</u>	Jan <u>08</u>	Sep <u>07</u>	Jan <u>07</u>
28	Economy (general)	27	35	24	27	53	55	39	20	10	5
26	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	35	27	31	19	31	9	5	5	3	5
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced										
10	budget/Gov't spending	11	3	11	6	4	1	1	2	1	1
7	Energy costs	2	--	--	--	--	5	19	3	2	2
6	Health care/costs/accessibility	9	4	13	20	3	4	3	10	7	8
5	War/War in Iraq/War in Afghan.	3	3	4	5	3	11	17	27	37	42
5	Finances/money	2	2	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	--
	Dissatisfaction with gov't/politics/										
4	Obama	9	9	5	5	5	4	3	6	7	8
	Education/schools/affording										
2	education	3	1	1	2	1	--	4	4	3	4
2	Inflation	2	1	--	--	2	5	6	3	1	--
1	Morality/Ethics/Family values	2	4	3	3	1	1	3	2	3	3
1	U.S. foreign policy/U.S. image	*	*	*	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
1	Medicare	*	--	1	*	--	--	--	*	*	*
1	Social Security	*	--	*	1	*	1	*	1	1	1
1	Immigration	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	6	6	5
1	Too much foreign aid/Spend at home	*	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	1	*
1	Taxes	1	1	1	--	--	1	--	2	1	--
1	Crime/Violence	1	--	1	1	1	--	1	1	2	2
1	Jobs moving overseas/Trade	1	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	--	--
1	Terrorism	1	--	2	1	1	2	3	3	6	5
1	Recession/slowing economy	--	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	--	--
1	Housing market/foreclosures	1	2	--	--	--	5	--	--	--	--
1	National security	1	--	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	1
1	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3
9	Other										
7	Don't know/No answer	5	7	6	5	3	4	4	5	5	7
	<b>(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/</b>										
<b>9</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL</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>68</b>	<b>(NET) ECONOMIC</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>

<sup>1</sup> Complete trend for Q2.F1 not shown; trends available to 1987.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.3 Right now, which is more important for President Obama to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

	<u>Domestic policy</u>	<u>Foreign policy</u>	<b>(VOL.) Neither</b>	<b>(VOL.) Both</b>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
<b>Obama</b>					
May 25-30, 2011	77	9	1	9	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	78	11	1	7	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	73	12	1	10	3
January 7-11, 2009 <sup>2</sup>	71	11	*	14	4
<b>Next President</b>					
September, 2008 <sup>3</sup>	60	21	*	15	4
May, 2008	61	22	*	15	4
<b>G.W. Bush</b>					
January, 2008	56	31	1	8	4
January, 2007	39	40	1	15	5
August, 2006	50	32	1	12	5
January, 2006	57	25	1	13	4
October, 2005	64	20	1	12	3
Early January, 2005	53	27	1	16	3
January, 2002	52	34	*	11	3
<b>Clinton</b>					
Early September, 1998	56	30	0	11	3
January, 1997	86	7	*	5	2
December, 1994	85	7	2	4	2
October, 1993	76	13	*	7	4

**NO QUESTIONS 4-14****QUESTION 15-20 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about foreign policy...

Q.21 As I read a list of possible LONG-RANGE foreign policy goals which the United States might have, tell me how much priority you think each should be given. (First,) **[READ AND RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**, do you think this should have top priority, some priority, or no priority at all? What about **[INSERT ITEM]**? **[READ THE ANSWER CHOICES AS NECESSARY AFTER THE FIRST TIME]**

	<u>Top priority</u>	<u>Some priority</u>	<u>No priority</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:</b>				
a.F1 Taking measures to seek out and destroy terrorist groups in other countries				
May 25-30, 2011	44	41	13	3
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:</b>				
b.F2 Taking measures to protect the U.S. from terrorist attacks				
May 25-30, 2011	81	17	1	1
October 28-November 8, 2009	85	13	1	1
Mid-September, 2008	82	16	1	1
Late October, 2005	86	12	1	1
July, 2004	88	10	1	1
Mid-October, 2001	93	6	*	1
Early September, 2001	80	16	3	1

<sup>2</sup> January 7-11, 2009, survey asked about "president-elect Obama."

<sup>3</sup> September and May 2008 surveys asked about priorities for the "next president."

**Q.21 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Top</u> <u>priority</u>	<u>Some</u> <u>priority</u>	<u>No</u> <u>priority</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:</b>				
c.F1 Promoting democracy in other nations				
May 25-30, 2011	13	58	27	2
October 28-November 8, 2009	21	54	22	3
Late October, 2005	24	54	19	3
July, 2004	24	57	15	4
Mid-October, 2001	24	61	12	3
Early September, 2001	29	52	16	3
September, 1997	22	57	18	3
June, 1995	16	57	24	3
September, 1993	22	52	24	2
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:</b>				
d.F2 Promoting and defending human rights in other countries				
May 25-30, 2011	24	56	18	2
October 28-November 8, 2009	29	54	14	3
Mid-September, 2008	25	58	15	2
Late October, 2005	37	50	11	2
July, 2004	33	53	12	2
Mid-October, 2001	27	61	10	2
Early September, 2001	29	54	14	3
September, 1997	27	56	15	2
June, 1995	21	56	20	3
September, 1993	22	54	22	2
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:</b>				
e.F1 Reducing our dependence on imported energy sources				
May 25-30, 2011	67	24	6	2
October 28-November 8, 2009	64	28	3	5
Mid-September, 2008	76	20	2	2
Late October, 2005	67	28	2	3
July, 2004 <sup>4</sup>	63	30	4	3
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:</b>				
f.F2 Dealing with global climate change				
May 25-30, 2011	29	43	23	4
October 28-November 8, 2009	40	39	19	3
Mid-September, 2008	43	41	14	2
Late October, 2005	43	43	10	4
July, 2004 <sup>5</sup>	36	46	12	6
Mid-October, 2001	31	51	13	5
Early September, 2001	44	39	12	5
September, 1997	50	42	6	2
June, 1995	56	36	6	2
September, 1993	56	37	6	1
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:</b>				
g.F1 Improving relationships with our allies				
May 25-30, 2011	46	48	5	1
September, 2008	54	42	2	2
July, 2004	54	40	4	2

<sup>4</sup> In July 2004, the item referred to "imported oil sources."

<sup>5</sup> In 2004 and 2001, the item was worded "Dealing with global warming" and in September 1993, June 1995 and September 1997 the item was worded "Improving the global environment."

**Q.21 CONTINUED...**

		Top <u>priority</u>	Some <u>priority</u>	No <u>priority</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:</b>					
h.F2	Reducing U.S. military commitments overseas				
	May 25-30, 2011	46	43	8	3
	September, 2008	45	45	7	3
	July, 2004	35	51	10	4
	Early September, 2001	26	58	14	2
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=742]:</b>					
i.F1	Finding a solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians				
	May 25-30, 2011	23	47	27	3
	September, 2008	25	50	22	3
	July, 2004	28	46	22	4
	January, 2003 <sup>6</sup>	38	40	19	3
	March, 1999	35	42	19	4
	September, 1993	34	45	19	2
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=767]:</b>					
j.F2	Protecting the jobs of American workers				
	May 25-30, 2011	84	13	2	1
	October 28-November 8, 2009	85	13	1	1
	Mid-September, 2008	82	16	1	1
	Late October, 2005	84	14	1	1
	July, 2004	84	13	2	1
	Mid-October, 2001	74	24	1	1
	Early September, 2001	77	19	3	1
	September, 1997	77	20	2	1
	June, 1995	80	17	2	1
	September, 1993	85	13	2	*

**NO QUESTIONS 22-23****ASK ALL:**

Q.24 As you may know, there have been protests and calls for change in a number of Middle Eastern countries recently. From what you have read and heard, do you think these events will lead to lasting improvements for people living in these countries, or not?

May 25-30 <u>2011</u>		Mar 30-Apr 3 <u>2011</u>	
37	Yes, lasting improvements	42	
45	No, no lasting improvements	43	
5	Depends/Too soon to tell (VOL.)	3	
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	

<sup>6</sup> In January 2003 and earlier the question was worded "Bringing about a permanent settlement between Israel and the Arabs."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.25 Do you think the anti-government protests and changes in the Middle East will end up being **[RANDOMIZE: good for the United States, bad for the United States]** or won't have much effect on the United States?

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

May 25-30		Mar 30-Apr 3	<i>Egypt</i> Feb 2-7
<u>2011</u>		<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u> <sup>7</sup>
23	Good	24	15
26	Bad	35	28
36	Won't have much effect	28	36
4	Depends/Too soon to tell <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	5
11	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	9	7

**NO QUESTION 26-28, 32, 34-35,40-44**  
**QUESTIONS 29-39 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.45 In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more, Israel or the Palestinians?

	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Palestinians</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 25-30, 2011	48	11	4	15	21
Apr 21-26, 2010	49	16	4	12	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	12	4	14	19
January 7-11, 2009	49	11	5	15	20
May, 2007	49	11	5	17	18
August, 2006	52	11	5	15	17
July, 2006	44	9	5	20	22
May, 2006	48	13	4	14	20
Late October, 2005	43	17	5	16	19
July, 2005	37	12	5	19	27
July, 2004	40	13	7	18	22
Late February, 2004	46	12	8	15	19
April, 2002	41	13	6	21	19
Mid-October, 2001	47	10	8	18	17
Early September, 2001	40	17	6	23	14
September, 1997	48	13	5	16	18
September, 1993	45	21	3	18	12
<i>Chicago CFR</i> 1990	34	14	7	26	20
<i>Chicago CFR</i> 1982	40	17	8	19	16
<i>Chicago CFR</i> 1978 <sup>8</sup>	45	14	9	18	15

<sup>7</sup> In February 2011, the question read "From what you've read and heard, do you think the anti-government protests and calls for political change in Egypt will end up being good for the United States, bad for the United States, or won't have much effect on the United States?"

<sup>8</sup> In the 1978 Chicago Council on Foreign Relations survey conducted by the Gallup Organization, results are based on respondents who said they had "heard or read about the situation in the Middle East", which represented 87% of the public. As a context note, in both the 1978 and 1982 CCFR/Gallup surveys, this question followed a broader question: "In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with Israel or more with the Arab nations?" and in 1982, a question regarding "U.S. military aid and arms sales to Israel".

**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Thinking about the situation in the Middle East these days, do you think Barack Obama is **[RANDOMIZE: favoring Israel too much; favoring the Palestinians too much]** or striking about the right balance?

May 25-30 <u>2011</u>		Apr 21-26 <u>2010</u>	Oct 28-Nov 8 <u>2009</u>	Jun 10-14 <u>2009</u>
6	Favoring Israel too much	7	7	6
21	Favoring the Palestinians too much	21	16	17
50	Striking about the right balance	47	51	62
24	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	25	26	14

**NO QUESTION 47-48****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 REGISTERED (REGIST=1):**

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?

May 25-30 <u>2011</u>	
77	Yes, Registered
74	Absolutely certain
3	Chance registration has lapsed
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
22	No, not registered
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
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
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Jan 5-9, 2011	27	32	35	4	*	2	15	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	25	33	34	5	1	2	13	14
Nov 4-7, 2010	26	30	37	4	*	2	17	13
Oct 27-30, 2010	25	34	31	6	1	4	13	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	25	31	36	4	*	3	16	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	24	32	39	2	*	2	15	17
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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

## PARTY/PARTLY CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
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
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>9</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>9</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 through October, 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 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
MAY 26-29, 2011 OMNIBUS  
FINAL TOPLINE  
N=1,000**

**PEW.1-PEWWP.1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

Now a few questions about America's place in the world...

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.4 Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The United States should cooperate fully with the United Nations			
May 26-29, 2011	58	36	6
November 12-15, 2009	51	38	11
December, 2006	57	35	8
October, 2005	54	39	7
August, 2004	60	30	10
December, 2002	67	28	5
Early September, 2001	58	31	11
March, 1999	65	26	9
September, 1997	59	30	11
June, 1995	62	30	8
February, 1995	65	29	6
October, 1993	64	28	8
April, 1993	71	22	7
Gallup: 1991 <sup>10</sup>	77	17	6
Gallup: 1985	56	35	9
Gallup: 1980	59	28	13
Gallup: 1976	46	41	13
Gallup: 1972	63	28	9
Gallup: 1968	72	21	7
Gallup: 1964	72	16	12
b. In deciding on its foreign policies, the U.S. should take into account the views of its major allies			
May 26-29, 2011	79	16	5
Nov 12-15, 2009	78	14	8
December, 2006	82	12	6
October, 2005	79	16	5
August, 2004	76	14	10
December, 2002	85	10	5
Early September, 2001	80	11	9
March, 1999	82	12	6
September, 1997	72	18	10
June, 1995	74	18	8
April, 1993	80	13	7
Gallup: 1991	86	10	4
Gallup: 1985	82	12	6
Gallup: 1980	79	13	8
Gallup: 1976	72	18	10
Gallup: 1972	80	12	8
Gallup: 1968	84	9	7
Gallup: 1964	81	7	12

<sup>10</sup> Trends for this series in 1991 and earlier are from public opinion surveys conducted by Potomac Associates, The Gallup Organization and the Institute for International Social Research.

**PEW.4 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
c. Since the U.S. is the most powerful nation in the world, we should go our own way in international matters, not worrying too much about whether other countries agree with us or not			
May 26-29, 2011	35	62	3
November 12-15, 2009	44	51	5
December, 2006	28	68	4
October, 2005	32	63	5
August, 2004	28	65	7
December, 2002	25	72	3
Early September, 2001	32	62	6
March, 1999	26	69	5
September, 1997	32	62	6
June, 1995	34	60	6
April, 1993	34	63	3
Gallup: 1991	29	66	5
Gallup: 1985	26	70	4
Gallup: 1980	26	66	8
Gallup: 1976	29	62	9
Gallup: 1972	22	72	6
Gallup: 1968	23	72	5
Gallup: 1964	19	70	11
d. The U.S. should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along the best they can on their own			
May 26-29, 2011	46	50	4
November 12-15, 2009	49	44	7
December, 2006	42	53	5
October, 2005	42	51	7
August, 2004	34	59	7
December, 2002	30	65	5
Early September, 2001	37	55	8
March, 1999	35	57	8
September, 1997	39	54	7
June, 1995	41	51	8
April, 1993	37	58	5
Gallup: 1991	33	60	7
Gallup: 1985	34	59	7
Gallup: 1980	30	61	9
Gallup: 1976	41	49	10
Gallup: 1972	35	56	9
Gallup: 1968	27	66	7
Gallup: 1964	18	70	12
e. We should not think so much in international terms but concentrate more on our own national problems and building up our strength and prosperity here at home			
May 26-29, 2011	76	21	3
November 12-15, 2009	76	19	4
December, 2006	69	26	5
October, 2005	71	23	6
August, 2004	69	25	6
December, 2002	65	31	4
Early September, 2001	68	25	7
March, 1999	68	27	5
September, 1997	72	24	4
June, 1995	78	18	4
April, 1993	79	18	3
Gallup: 1991	78	16	6
Gallup: 1985	60	34	6

**PEW.4 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>Gallup: 1980</i>	61	30	9
<i>Gallup: 1976</i>	73	22	5
<i>Gallup: 1972</i>	73	20	7
<i>Gallup: 1968</i>	60	31	9
<i>Gallup: 1964</i>	55	32	13