

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

**QUESTIONS 1-42 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

Next,

**ASK ALL:**

Q.43 As I read some possible government policies to address America's energy supply, tell me whether you would favor or oppose each. First, would you favor or oppose the government **[INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE]**? Would you favor or oppose the government **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**?

		<b>(VOL.)</b>		
		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Allowing more offshore oil and gas drilling in U.S. waters			
	Mar 7-11, 2012	65	31	4
	Nov 3-6, 2011	58	35	7
	Mar 17-20, 2011	57	37	6
	Oct 13-18, 2010	51	41	7
	Jun 16-20, 2010	44	52	4
	May 6-9, 2010	54	38	8
	Feb 3-9, 2010	63	31	6
	Apr 14-21, 2009	68	27	5
	September, 2008	67	28	5
b.	Increasing federal funding for research on wind, solar and hydrogen technology			
	Mar 7-11, 2012	69	26	5
	Nov 3-6, 2011	68	26	6
	Mar 17-20, 2011	74	21	5
	Oct 13-18, 2010	74	21	6
	Jun 16-20, 2010	75	21	3
	May 6-9, 2010	73	22	5
	Feb 3-9, 2010	78	17	5
	Apr 14-21, 2009	82	15	3
	September, 2008	82	14	4
	Late February, 2008	81	14	5
	February, 2006	82	14	4
c.	Promoting the increased use of nuclear power			
	Mar 7-11, 2012	44	49	7
	Nov 3-6, 2011	39	53	8
	Mar 17-20, 2011	39	52	8
	Oct 13-18, 2010	45	44	11
	Jun 16-20, 2010	47	47	6
	May 6-9, 2010	45	44	11
	Feb 3-9, 2010	52	41	7
	Apr 14-21, 2009	45	48	7
	September, 2008	50	43	7
	Late February, 2008	44	48	8
	February, 2006	44	49	7
	Mid-September, 2005	39	53	8
d.	Giving tax cuts to energy companies to do more exploration for oil and gas			
	Mar 7-11, 2012	46	50	4
	Late February, 2008 <sup>1</sup>	42	53	5
	February, 2006	44	52	4

<sup>1</sup> In late February and earlier the question asked only about oil exploration.

**Q.43 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
	Mid-September, 2005	52	44	4
e.	Requiring better fuel efficiency for cars, trucks and SUVs			
	Mar 7-11, 2012	78	19	3
	Oct 13-18, 2010	79	17	4
	September, 2008	88	10	2
	February, 2008	90	8	2
	February, 2006	86	12	2
	Mid-September, 2005	86	12	2
f.	Spending more on subway, rail and bus systems			
	Mar 7-11, 2012	65	31	4
	Mar 27-20, 2011	61	34	6
	Oct 13-18, 2010	63	29	8
	Jun 16-20, 2010	64	31	5
	May 6-9, 2010	65	28	7
	Feb 3-9, 2010	70	25	4
	Apr 14-21, 2009	70	25	5
	Late-February, 2008	72	23	5
	February, 2006	68	26	6
	Mid-September, 2005	68	27	5

**ASK ALL:**

Q.44 How much, if anything, have you heard about a drilling method called fracking that is used to extract natural gas from underground rock formations? Have you heard **[READ]**

Mar 7-11	
<u>2012</u>	
26	A lot
37	A little
37	Nothing at all
*	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.44=1,2):**

Q.45 From what you've read and heard, do you favor or oppose fracking?

		<b>BASED ON HEARD</b>		
<b>BASED ON TOTAL:</b>		<b>A LOT/LITTLE:</b>		
Mar 7-11		Mar 7-11		
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>		
33		52		Favor
22		35		Oppose
8		13		Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
37		--		<i>Heard nothing/DK/Ref</i>
<b>N 1503</b>		<b>1038</b>		

**NO QUESTIONS 46-54, 57, 62-63**

**QUESTIONS 55-56, 64-75 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**QUESTIONS 58-61 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.76 Right now, which ONE of the following do you think should be the more important priority for addressing America's energy supply? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?**

Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u>		Feb 22-Mar 1 <u>2011</u>
52	Developing alternative sources, such as wind, solar and hydrogen technology	63
39	Expanding exploration and production of oil, coal and natural gas	29
5	Both should be given equal priority <b>(VOL.)</b>	6
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2

**ASK ALL:**

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

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

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

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