

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
March 18-21, 2010
N=1,002

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=530]:

Q.1 In your own words, what do you see as the BIGGEST problem with elected officials in Washington D.C. these days? [**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”.**
ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].

- 18 Influenced by special interest money
- 14 Care only about their political careers
- 12 Out of touch with regular Americans
- 12 Not willing to work together and compromise
- 7 Liars /Dishonest /Don’t keep promises/Personal morality
- 5 Health care
- 4 The economy/Jobs
- 4 Do nothing/All talk/Don’t do their jobs
- 4 General members are the problem/not qualified/bad managers/idiots
- 3 Not careful with the government’s money
- 3 Obama/Democrats/Liberal agenda/Violating the Constitution
- 3 They’ve been there too long/Term limits /They’re too old
- 2 Government is too big/too powerful/Personal liberty
- 2 Too focused on wars & foreign problems
- 2 Don’t turn to faith/religion enough
- 1 Republicans/Conservative agenda
- 1 No major problems
- 6 Other
- 9 Don’t know

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=472]:

Q.2 In your own words, what do you see as the BIGGEST problem with the federal government in Washington D.C. these days? [**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”.**
ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].

- 25 Congress and Politics
- 9 Debt/Overspending/Fiscal responsibility
- 8 Health care
- 7 The economy/Jobs
- 7 The government is too big and powerful
- 6 Obama/Democrats/Liberal/Socialist agenda
- 5 Wars & foreign problems
- 4 The government doesn’t do enough to help average Americans
- 4 Out of touch (unspecified)
- 3 Corruption (unspecified)
- 3 The government interferes too much in peoples’ lives
- 3 Government policies unfairly benefit some groups
- 2 Nothing gets done
- 2 Republicans/Conservative/Right-wing/Religious agenda
- 1 The government is wasteful and inefficient
- 1 Incompetence (unspecified)
- 1 Bureaucracy / Red tape
- 1 Lies (unspecified)
- 1 Budget cuts hurting people
- 12 Other
- 8 Don’t know

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Thinking more generally ... Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE ITEMS a. THROUGH c. FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS d THROUGH p; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [ITEM] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN “NEVER HEARD OF” AND “CAN’T RATE.”]

	---- Favorable ----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
ASK ALL:								
a. The Republican Party								
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
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6

Q.3 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
b. The Democratic Party								
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
c. Congress								
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8

Q.3 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=530]:

d.F1	The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI							
Mar 18-21, 2010	67	16	51	14	8	7	*	19
July, 2001	61	16	45	29	9	20	*	10
June, 1999	71	17	54	20	7	13	*	9
October, 1997	67	13	54	25	8	17	*	8
May, 1997	60	12	48	28	7	21	0	12
August, 1995	64	16	48	28	9	19	*	8

Q.3 CONTINUED...

		----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
	<i>ABC/Wash. Post, May 1995</i> ¹	82	34	48	9	6	3	*	9
	<i>Roper, August 1987</i> ²	78	28	50	17	3	14		5
	<i>Roper, August 1986</i>	75	25	50	17	4	13		8
	<i>Roper, August 1985</i>	72	24	48	20	5	15		8
	<i>Roper, August 1984</i>	77	30	47	19	5	14		4
	<i>Roper, August 1983</i>	75	29	46	19	5	14		6
e.F1	The Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	57	11	46	32	12	20	1	10
	October, 1997	69	14	55	27	7	20	1	3
	<i>Roper, August 1987</i>	62	19	43	30	7	23		8
	<i>Roper, August 1986</i>	59	18	41	31	7	24		10
	<i>Roper, August 1985</i>	58	19	39	31	11	20		11
	<i>Roper, August 1984</i>	68	27	41	26	9	17		6
	<i>Roper, August 1983</i>	56	21	35	34	12	22		10
f.F1	The Postal Service								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	83	30	53	14	6	8	1	3
	October, 1997	89	28	61	11	3	8	0	*
	<i>Roper, April 1987</i>	76	33	43	22	8	14		2
	<i>Roper, April 1986</i>	74	27	47	24	8	16		2
	<i>Roper, April 1985</i>	70	23	47	27	11	16		3
	<i>Roper, April 1984</i>	69	24	45	28	10	18		3
	<i>Roper, April 1983</i>	70	25	45	27	10	17		3
g.F1	The Social Security Administration								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	49	9	40	39	17	22	0	12
	October, 1997	62	11	51	34	10	24	0	4
h.F1	The Defense Department								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	67	21	46	21	8	13	*	12
	Late October, 2005	56	14	42	32	13	19	1	11
	October, 1997	76	18	58	19	4	15	*	5
	<i>Roper, April 1987</i>	57	16	41	36	14	22		7
	<i>Roper, April 1986</i>	66	22	44	29	10	19		5
	<i>Roper, April 1985</i>	54	15	39	37	15	22		9
	<i>Roper, April 1984</i>	54	15	39	39	15	24		7
	<i>Roper, April 1983</i>	54	14	40	38	15	23		8
i.F1	The Department of Education								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	53	22	31	6	8
	October, 1997	61	12	49	37	11	26	0	2
	<i>Roper, April 1987</i>	60	14	46	35	11	24		5
	<i>Roper, April 1986</i>	63	16	47	32	10	22		5
	<i>Roper, April 1985</i>	61	14	47	34	11	23		5

¹ Question was worded: "Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of...the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)...Is that a very favorable/unfavorable impression, or just somewhat favorable/unfavorable?"

² Question wording for all favorability trends from the ends from the Roper Organization was: "Let me ask you about a few specific federal agencies [ITEM]—Is your opinion of them highly favorable, or moderately favorable, or not too favorable, or rather unfavorable?" In these surveys, those who could not rate were not distinguished from those who had never heard of the agency; both were entered as "don't know" and are shown here as "can't rate".

Q.3 CONTINUED...

		----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>		
<i>Roper</i> , April 1984		56	14	42	38	13	25		6
<i>Roper</i> , April 1983		49	10	39	45	18	27		6
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=472]:									
j.F2	The National Aeronautic and Space Administration, NASA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	61	19	41	17	5	12	1	21
	February, 1998	73	23	50	20	5	15	1	6
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	66	23	43	24	5	19		10
	<i>Roper</i> , March 1986	61	23	38	30	11	19		9
k.F2	The Food and Drug Administration, the FDA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	58	10	48	30	10	20	1	11
	October, 1997	75	12	63	22	4	18	*	3
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	74	23	51	20	4	16		6
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	75	25	50	18	3	15		7
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	74	27	47	19	5	14		7
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	78	32	46	17	4	13		5
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1983	73	31	42	20	5	15		7
l.F2	The Veterans Administration, the VA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	57	19	38	22	5	17	2	20
	February, 1998	59	15	44	26	7	19	1	14
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	75	30	45	15	4	11		9
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	68	26	42	22	6	16		10
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	77	37	40	15	4	11		9
m.F2	The Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	52	11	42	21	8	13	2	25
	June, 1999	49	9	40	33	10	23	1	17
	February, 1998	51	7	44	32	7	25	1	16
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	52	12	40	38	9	29		10
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	61	14	47	26	6	20		13
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	53	15	38	33	11	22		15
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	58	17	41	30	8	22		11
n.F2	The Internal Revenue Service, the IRS								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	47	6	41	40	17	23	10	13
	October, 1997	38	5	33	60	25	35	*	2
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1987	49	10	39	46	19	27		5
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1986	51	10	41	45	19	26		4
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1985	48	8	40	47	19	28		5
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1984	60	13	47	34	11	23		6
	<i>Roper</i> , August 1983	50	12	38	44	16	28		6

Q.3 CONTINUED...

		----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>heard of</u>	<u>Ref</u>
o.F2	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	67	15	52	16	5	10	2	15
	February, 1998	79	20	59	11	2	9	1	9
p.F2	The Justice Department								
	Mar 18-21, 2010	51	6	44	33	11	23	1	15
	February, 1998	56	7	49	39	12	27	0	5
	Roper, April 1987	53	10	43	39	15	24		8
	Roper, April 1986	52	10	42	39	15	24		8
	Roper, April 1985	53	10	43	39	17	22		9

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the U.S. Congress as a whole...

Q.4 Do you think Congress is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job in... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Dealing with the important issues facing the country					
	Mar 18-21, 2010	2	13	33	48	5
	Mid-March, 2005	2	21	42	30	5
b.	Acting ethically and honestly					
	Mar 18-21, 2010	2	11	31	50	6
	Mid-March, 2005	1	22	43	29	5
c.	Working across party lines to reach compromises					
	Mar 18-21, 2010	2	8	24	60	7
	Mid-March, 2005	1	17	38	37	7
d.	Understanding the needs of people like yourself					
	Mar 18-21, 2010	2	10	30	55	3
	Mid-March, 2005	2	18	38	38	4

ASK ALL:

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

ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED ...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)			
				No	Other	(VOL.)	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
Mar 9-12, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
<i>Yearly Totals</i>								
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
<i>2001 Post-Sept 11</i>	<i>30.9</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>.6</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>9.4</i>
<i>2001 Pre-Sept 11</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>34.6</i>	<i>29.5</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>.5</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>11.7</i>	<i>12.5</i>
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--