

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
March 29-April 1, 2012 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,000

ASK ALL:

PEW.1 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past week, please tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE;]** **[IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Reports about the condition of the					
U.S. economy					
March 29-April 1, 2012	34	33	15	18	1
March 22-25, 2012	36	29	16	18	1
March 15-18, 2012	40	35	11	14	1
March 8-11, 2012	37	32	14	17	*
March 1-4, 2012	41	27	15	17	1
February 23-26, 2012	37	33	14	15	1
February 16-20, 2012	33	32	16	17	1
February 9-12, 2012	42	30	14	13	1
February 2-5, 2012	38	32	16	13	1
January 26-29, 2012	35	31	16	19	*
January 19-22, 2012	35	30	16	19	1
January 12-15, 2012	33	32	14	20	1
January 5-8, 2012	39	31	15	15	*
December 15-18, 2011	36	32	14	16	1
December 8-11, 2011	41	29	13	16	1
December 1-4, 2011	40	33	13	13	1
November 17-20, 2011	35	33	16	15	1
November 10-13, 2011	39	31	15	14	*
November 3-6, 2011	37	31	15	17	1
October 27-30, 2011	38	33	14	15	1
October 20-23, 2011	38	32	14	16	1
October 13-16, 2011	39	32	14	14	*
October 6-9, 2011	43	28	14	14	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	46	26	14	14	*
September 22-25, 2011	44	33	11	11	*
September 8-11, 2011	40	30	15	14	1
September 1-4, 2011	44	30	11	15	*
August 25-28, 2011	44	28	14	13	1
August 18-21, 2011	44	29	12	14	1
August 4-7, 2011	46	30	11	13	1
July 28-31, 2011	43	30	13	13	*
July 21-24, 2011	41	32	13	13	1
July 14-17, 2011	41	30	14	14	1
July 7-10, 2011	36	30	15	18	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	38	32	13	16	1
June 23-26, 2011	37	29	15	19	*
June 16-19, 2011	39	33	14	13	*
June 9-12, 2011	39	30	15	16	1
June 2-5, 2011	35	34	17	14	*
May 19-22, 2011	33	34	17	16	*
May 12-15, 2011	32	32	17	18	2
May 5-8, 2011	40	35	15	9	1
April 21-25, 2011	41	33	12	14	*
April 14-17, 2011	44	30	14	12	1
April 7-10, 2011	46	30	14	10	*
March 31-April 3, 2011	42	31	16	11	0
March 24-27, 2011	36	32	17	15	*

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
March 17-20, 2011	38	32	17	13	*
March 10-13, 2011	40	30	16	13	*
March 3-6, 2011	37	31	17	13	1
February 24-27, 2011	49	29	11	10	*
February 17-20, 2011	35	33	14	17	*
February 10-13, 2011	36	34	13	16	*
February 3-6, 2011	35	37	14	14	*
January 20-23, 2011	37	33	14	15	1
January 13-16, 2011	37	29	15	18	1
January 6-9, 2011	39	37	11	12	1
SEE TRENDS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS: http://www.people-press.org/files/2011/11/NII-Economy-Trends.pdf					
b. Pope Benedict's visit to Cuba and Mexico					
March 29-April 1, 2012	5	15	23	57	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
September 16-19, 2010: <i>Pope Benedict's visit to Great Britain and his comments on the Catholic Church's handling of sex-abuse scandals</i>	10	16	26	47	1
April 18-21, 2008: <i>Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S.</i>	13	32	27	27	1
c. Supreme Court hearings about the 2010 health care reform law					
March 29-April 1, 2012	29	27	17	27	*
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
November 17-20, 2011: <i>The U.S. Supreme Court agreeing to hear legal challenges to last year's health care reform law</i>	18	24	24	33	1
February 3-6, 2011: <i>A federal judge ruling that part of the new health care law is unconstitutional</i>	25	28	19	28	1
January 20-23, 2011: <i>News about Republican efforts to repeal last year's health care law</i>	29	29	20	21	1
December 16-19, 2010: <i>A federal judge ruling that parts of the new health care law are unconstitutional</i>	28	24	17	30	1
September 23-26, 2010: <i>News about portions of this year's health care reform law beginning to take effect</i>	37	31	17	14	1
d. Controversy over the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an African American teen in Florida					
March 29-April 1, 2012	30	35	15	20	*
March 22-25, 2012	35	24	15	26	1
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
July 31-August 3, 2009: <i>Reports about the arrest of Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates and President Obama's response to the incident</i>	25	26	22	25	2
July 24-27, 2009: <i>The arrest of Henry Louis Gates, a black Harvard professor, at his home after a dispute with a police officer</i>	30	31	17	21	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April 25-28, 2008: <i>The acquittal of three New York City police officers in the shooting of an unarmed man on his wedding day</i>	13	24	24	38	1
September 21-24, 2007: <i>Demonstrations in Jena, Louisiana, about six black teenagers involved in a schoolyard fight</i>	18	27	25	30	*
April 2001: <i>Rioting in Cincinnati after an unarmed black man was shot by police</i>	24	32	23	20	1
July 2000: <i>The video showing Philadelphia police kicking and beating a carjacking suspect</i>	22	32	22	23	1
March 2000: <i>The acquittal of four New York policemen who shot and killed Amadou Diallo, an African immigrant</i>	28	35	20	17	0
February 1999: <i>The Texas murder trial of a man accused of dragging a black man behind a pickup truck</i>	24	41	20	14	1
May 1993: <i>The Rodney King trial and verdict in Los Angeles</i>	47	34	13	6	*
May 1992: <i>The verdict in the Rodney King case and the riots and disturbances that followed</i>	70	22	5	2	1
March 1991: <i>The videotaped beating by Los Angeles police of a suspect they apprehended in an auto chase</i>	46	30	13	10	1
e. The NCAA basketball tournament					
March 29-April 1, 2012	13	12	18	57	*
March 31-April 3, 2011	13	13	17	57	*
April 1-5, 2010	18	13	13	56	*
April 3-6, 2009	15	12	15	58	*
March 28-31, 2008	13	14	13	59	1
March, 1998	20	13	19	47	1
April, 1990	24	16	14	46	*
f. News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections					
March 29-April 1, 2012	23	29	21	27	*
March 22-25, 2012	28	28	18	25	1
March 15-18, 2012	28	31	17	24	*
March 8-11, 2012	28	27	21	23	*
March 1-4, 2012	31	24	20	24	1
February 23-26, 2012	28	29	18	24	1
February 16-20, 2012	25	29	19	25	2
February 9-12, 2012	35	25	18	20	1
February 2-5, 2012	30	27	20	21	1
January 26-29, 2012	28	30	21	21	1
January 19-22, 2012	28	30	17	24	*
January 12-15, 2012	29	29	18	23	1
January 5-8, 2012	29	30	16	25	*
December 15-18, 2011	26	24	20	29	1
December 8-11, 2011	27	27	18	28	*
December 1-4, 2011	25	28	20	26	1
November 17-20, 2011	24	31	21	23	1
November 3-6, 2011	22	31	20	26	1
October 27-30, 2011	21	26	21	30	1
October 20-23, 2011	21	28	22	28	1
October 13-16, 2011	26	29	22	23	1

PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
October 6-9, 2011	25	25	23	27	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	27	26	21	25	*
September 22-25, 2011	25	26	23	25	1
September 15-18, 2011	24	28	21	27	1
September 8-11, 2011	22	26	21	31	*
September 1-4, 2011	22	23	22	32	1
August 25-28, 2011	22	22	22	33	1
August 18-21, 2011	27	26	19	28	1
August 11-14, 2011	19	24	20	36	1
August 4-7, 2011	18	21	22	37	1
July 28-31, 2011	17	27	21	35	1
July 21-24, 2011	17	22	28	32	*
July 14-17, 2011	18	26	27	28	1
July 7-10, 2011	16	23	27	33	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	21	28	24	25	2
June 23-26, 2011	19	26	24	31	*
June 16-19, 2011	23	29	23	25	*
June 9-12, 2011	18	30	22	30	1
June 2-5, 2011	21	31	22	26	*
May 26-29, 2011	20	27	24	28	*
May 19-22, 2011	15	27	24	32	1
May 12-15, 2011	15	22	26	35	1
May 5-8, 2011	16	24	27	32	1
April 21-25, 2011	18	26	23	32	1
April 14-17, 2011	20	23	29	27	1
March 24-27, 2011	13	19	26	41	1
March 10-13, 2011	15	21	26	38	0
February 10-13, 2011	16	19	24	40	*
February 3-6, 2011	15	20	23	42	*

[SEE TRENDS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS:](http://www.people-press.org/files/2011/11/NII-Election-Trends.pdf) <http://www.people-press.org/files/2011/11/NII-Election-Trends.pdf>

ASK ALL:

PEW.2 Which ONE of the stories I just mentioned have you followed most closely, or is there another story you've been following MORE closely? **[DO NOT READ LIST. ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.]**

Mar 29-Apr 1

2012

30	Controversy over the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, an African American teen in Florida
15	Supreme Court hearings about the 2010 health care reform law
14	News about candidates for the 2012 presidential elections
13	Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy
8	The NCAA basketball tournament
1	Pope Benedict's visit to Cuba and Mexico
5	Some other story (VOL.)
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.3 Do you think news organizations are giving too much coverage, too little coverage or the right amount of coverage to each of the following? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Supreme Court hearings about the health reform law				
March 29-April 1, 2012	9	34	48	9
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
April 1-5, 2010: <i>News about the new health care reform law</i>	17	30	46	7
March 12-15, 2010: <i>Debate over health care reform</i>	14	36	46	4
January 22-25, 2010	11	38	47	3
October 16-19, 2009	16	36	46	2
October 2-5, 2009	21	35	40	4
July 17-20, 2009: <i>Debate in Washington over health care reform</i>	6	45	44	6
b. The 2012 presidential elections				
March 29-April 1, 2012	39	10	45	6
January 12-15, 2012: <i>News about candidates for the 2012 elections</i>	36	16	36	11
January 5-8, 2012	37	16	39	8
September 8-11, 2011: <i>Possible candidates for the 2012 presidential elections</i>	25	20	44	12
June 30-July 3, 2011	29	16	41	14
April 21-25, 2011	22	31	39	8
February 10-13, 2011	20	29	40	12
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:				
2008 Election				
June 20-23, 2008: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>	44	10	44	2
April 25-28, 2008	51	7	38	4
January 25-28, 2008	36	9	52	3
January 18-21, 2008	33	11	51	5
January 11-14, 2008: <i>The campaign</i>	40	11	44	5
January 4-7, 2008	40	11	43	6
December 14-17, 2007: <i>News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election</i>	32	16	48	4
November 16-19, 2007	32	13	51	4
July 20-23, 2007	32	18	43	7
June 1-4, 2007	33	12	47	8
2004 Election				
February, 2004: <i>The 2004 presidential campaign</i>	28	8	61	3
October, 2003	23	17	51	9
April, 2003: <i>The race for the Democratic presidential nomination</i>	15	38	38	9
2000 Election				
June, 2000: <i>The 2000 presidential campaign</i>	19	16	60	5
March, 2000	25	10	61	4
February, 2000	22	10	63	5
September, 1999	28	14	49	9
July, 1999	18	13	59	10
1996 Election				
March, 1996: <i>The 1996 presidential campaign</i>	29	10	58	3
October, 1995	18	18	60	4
1992 Election				
September, 1992: <i>The 1992 presidential campaign</i>	22	11	62	5
February, 1992	19	15	62	4
October, 1991	12	22	58	8
1988 Election				
May, 1988: <i>The 1988 presidential campaign</i>	24	7	62	7
November, 1987	21	16	58	5

PEW.3 CONTINUED...

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
c. The killing of Trayvon Martin March 29-April 1, 2012	37	14	40	9
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
April 25-28, 2008: <i>The acquittal of three New York city police officers in the shooting of an unarmed man on his wedding day</i>	14	32	41	1

NO PEW.4-PEW.9**ASK ALL:**

PEWWP.1 Thinking about the Supreme Court hearings on the 2010 health care law this past week, has what you've seen and heard given you a MORE favorable opinion of **[INSERT, RANDOMIZE]**, a LESS favorable opinion of **[INSERT]**, or hasn't your opinion of **[INSERT]** changed?¹

	<u>More favorable</u>	<u>Less favorable</u>	<u>Opinion has not changed</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The Supreme Court March 29-April 1, 2012	7	21	65	7
b. The health care law March 29-April 1, 2012	7	23	63	7

ASK ALL:

PEW.10 Thinking about where the political parties stand on important issues, please tell me whether you think **[RANDOMIZE: the Republican Party OR the Democratic Party; KEEP PARTIES IN SAME ORDER FOR ALL ITEMS]** is generally more supportive of each of the following. Which party is generally more supportive of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? **Next, [INSERT NEXT ITEM] [IF NECESSARY: "Which political party is generally more supportive of this?"]**

PERCENTAGE OFFERING A CORRECT ANSWER HIGHLIGHTED BELOW

	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Democratic Party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Reducing the size and scope of the federal government March 29-April 1, 2012	53	25	22
b. Repealing the 2010 health care reform law March 29-April 1, 2012	61	25	14
c. Increasing taxes on higher income people to reduce the federal budget deficit March 29-April 1, 2012	20	67	13
d. Restricting access to abortion March 29-April 1, 2012	61	19	20
e. Creating a way for immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally to eventually become citizens March 29-April 1, 2012	17	63	21
f. Reducing the size of the defense budget March 29-April 1, 2012	24	58	18
g. Expanding the rights of gays and lesbians March 29-April 1, 2012	12	66	22

¹ PEWWP.1a-b asked in conjunction with *The Washington Post*.

PEW.10 CONTINUED...

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
h.	Allowing drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge March 29-April 1, 2012	60	18	23

RANDOMIZE PEW.11-PEW.12**ASK ALL:**

PEW.11 Which political party uses the donkey as its mascot or symbol? Is it the... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Mar 29-Apr 1

2012

22	The Republican Party
65	The Democratic Party (<i>Correct</i>)
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

RANDOMIZE PEW.11-PEW.12**ASK ALL:**

PEW.12 The initials "G-O-P" are usually associated with... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Mar 29-Apr 1

2012

68	The Republican Party (<i>Correct</i>)
13	The Democratic Party
18	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

PEW.13 And as I read the names of a few current and past political leaders, please tell me whether each one is a **[RANDOMIZE: Republican OR a Democrat; KEEP PARTIES IN SAME ORDER FOR ALL ITEMS]** First, is/was **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** a [Republican or a Democrat]?

PERCENTAGE OFFERING A CORRECT ANSWER HIGHLIGHTED BELOW

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Bill Clinton March 29-April 1, 2012	10	84	6
b.	Franklin Roosevelt March 29-April 1, 2012	25	58	17
c.	Ronald Reagan March 29-April 1, 2012	85	8	7
d.	John Boehner March 29-April 1, 2012	55	13	32
e.	Nancy Pelosi March 29-April 1, 2012	20	61	19
f.	John F. Kennedy March 29-April 1, 2012	16	78	6
g.	Abraham Lincoln March 29-April 1, 2012	55	28	17

ASK ALL:

PEW.14 Overall, which party is considered to be the more conservative party on most political issues?

[READ AND RANDOMIZE]

Mar 29-Apr 1

2012

71	The Republican Party (<i>Correct</i>)
22	The Democratic Party
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

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>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
March 29-April 1, 2012	21	33	36	4	*	5	12	16