

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2010 TRUST IN GOVERNMENT SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
March 11-21, 2010
N=2505

ASK ALL:

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	February, 2005	38	56	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	January, 2005	40	54	6
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	December, 2004	39	54	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	July, 2004	38	55	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	May, 2004	33	61	6
Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	December, 2003	44	47	9
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	October, 2003	38	56	6
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	August, 2003	40	53	7
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	<i>April 8, 2003</i>	50	41	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	January, 2003	44	50	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
December, 2008	13	83	4	September, 2002	41	55	4
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	May, 2002	44	44	12
August, 2008	21	74	5	March, 2002	50	40	10
July, 2008	19	74	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
June, 2008	19	76	5	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	June, 2001	43	52	5
March, 2008	22	72	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	February, 2001	46	43	11
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
October, 2007	28	66	6	October, 2000 (<i>RVs</i>)	54	39	7
February, 2007	30	61	9	September, 2000	51	41	8
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	April, 2000	48	43	9
December, 2006	28	65	7	August, 1999	56	39	5
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	January, 1999	53	41	6
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
July, 2006	30	65	5	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
May, 2006*	29	65	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
March, 2006	32	63	5	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
January, 2006	34	61	5	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
July, 2005	35	58	7	August, 1997	49	46	5
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	January, 1997	38	58	4
				July, 1996	29	67	4
				March, 1996	28	70	2
				October, 1995	23	73	4
				June, 1995	25	73	2
				April, 1995	23	74	3

1 From September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

Q.1 CONTINUED...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 1994	24	71	5
October, 1993	22	73	5
September, 1993	20	75	5
May, 1993	22	71	7
January, 1993	39	50	11
January, 1992	28	68	4
November, 1991	34	61	5
Late February, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3
August, 1990	47	48	5
May, 1990	41	54	5
January, 1989	45	50	5
September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:

Q.2F1 And thinking about the state where you live, are you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your state today?

		<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
	Mar 11-21, 2010	38	57	5
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2007 ²	61	38	1
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2005	59	39	2
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2004	53	45	2
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2001	65	33	2
<i>Gallup</i>	July, 1995	50	46	4

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:

Q.3F2 And thinking about the local community where you live, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your local community today?

		<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
	Mar 11-21, 2010	62	34	4
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2007 ³	79	20	1
	March, 2006	66	31	3
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2005	75	24	1
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2004	76	23	1
	February, 2001	73	22	5
<i>Gallup</i>	January, 2001	76	22	2
	March, 1994	68	27	5

ASK ALL:

Q.4 How closely do you follow news about national issues and events in Washington D.C.?

Mar 11-21

2010

31	Very closely
42	Fairly closely
20	Not too closely
6	Not at all closely
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 5-9

² For July 7-9, 1995 through January 15-18, 2007 the Gallup question read, "In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your state at this time?"

³ For January 10-14, 2001 through January 15-18, 2007 the Gallup question read, "All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your local community?"

ASK ALL:

The next congressional elections will be coming up later this year...

Q.10 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE: “the Republican Party’s candidate” OR “the Democratic Party’s candidate”] for Congress in your district?

ASK IF ANSWERED OTHER OR DON’T KNOW (Q.10=3 OR Q.10=9):

Q.11 As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.10. IF NECESSARY: for U.S. Congress in your district]?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2070]:

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	44	44	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	45	13
Jan 6-10, 2010	44	46	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	47	11
Aug 20-27, 2009	44	45	10
2008 Election			
June, 2008	37	52	11
2006 Election			
November, 2006	40	48	12
Late October, 2006	38	49	13
Early October, 2006	38	51	11
September, 2006	39	50	11
August, 2006	41	50	9
June, 2006	39	51	10
April, 2006	41	51	8
February, 2006	41	50	9
Mid-September, 2005	40	52	8
2004 Election			
June, 2004	41	48	11
2002 Election			
Early November, 2002	42	46	12
Early October, 2002	44	46	10
Early September, 2002	44	46	10
June, 2002	44	46	10
February, 2002	46	45	9
Early November, 2001	44	44	12
2000 Election			
Early November, 2000	42	48	10
Early October, 2000	43	47	10
July, 2000	43	47	10
February, 2000	44	47	9
October, 1999	43	49	8
June, 1999	40	50	10
1998 Election			
Late October, 1998	40	47	13
Early October, 1998	43	44	13
Early September, 1998	45	46	9
Late August, 1998	44	45	11
Early August, 1998	42	49	9
June, 1998	44	46	10
March, 1998	40	52	8
February, 1998	41	50	9
January, 1998	41	51	8
August, 1997	45	48	7

Q.10/Q.11 CONTINUED...

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
1996 Election			
November, 1996 ⁴	44	48	8
October, 1996	42	49	9
Late September, 1996	43	49	8
Early September, 1996	43	51	6
July, 1996	46	47	7
June, 1996	44	50	6
March, 1996	44	49	7
January, 1996	46	47	7
October, 1995	48	48	4
August, 1995	50	43	7
1994 Election			
November, 1994	45	43	12
Late October, 1994	47	44	9
Early October, 1994	52	40	8
September, 1994	48	46	6
July, 1994	45	47	8

ASK ALL:

PLANTO1 Thinking ahead to November, do you yourself plan to vote in the Congressional election this November, or not?⁵

IF YES IN PLANTO1, ASK:

PLANTO2 How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain, or not certain?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2070]:

	Yes, plan to vote	Absolutely certain	Fairly certain	Not certain	No, don't plan to	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 11-21, 2010*	91	69	20	2	6	3
2008 Election						
Mid-October, 2008 ⁶	97	92	5	*	2	1
Early October, 2008	97	92	4	1	2	1
Late September, 2008	97	91	6	*	2	1
Mid-September, 2008	97	90	6	1	2	1
August, 2008	97	--	--	--	2	1
July, 2008	97	--	--	--	2	1
June, 2008	95	85	8	2	2	3
2006 Election						
November, 2006*	90	--	--	--	8	2
Late October, 2006*	94	--	--	--	3	3
Early October, 2006*	93	75	17	1	4	3
Early September, 2006*	92	--	--	--	5	3

* Non-Presidential elections

4 November 1996 trends based on likely voters.

5 Question began with "Thinking ahead to November," on March 11-21, 2010 survey. Surveys prior to March, 2010 did not ask specifically about voting in the "Congressional election."

6 In Mid-October 2008 and from Mid-October 2004 to November 2006 and in Early November 2002, the "Yes, Plan to vote" category also includes people who volunteered that they already voted. In November 2006, Early November 2002, Early November, 2000, Late October 1998, November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

PLANTO1/PLANTO2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes, plan to vote</u>	<u>Absolutely certain</u>	<u>Fairly certain</u>	<u>Not certain</u>	<u>No, don't plan to</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
2004 Election						
November, 2004	97	--	--	--	2	1
Mid-October, 2004	98	--	--	--	1	1
Early October, 2004	98	91	6	1	1	1
September, 2004	98	91	6	1	1	1
August, 2004	98	89	8	1	2	*
June, 2004	96	85	10	1	2	2
2002 Election						
Early November, 2002*	90	--	--	--	8	2
Early October, 2002*	95	--	--	--	3	2
2000 Election						
Early November, 2000	96	--	--	--	3	1
Late October, 2000	97	--	--	--	2	1
Mid-October, 2000	96	--	--	--	2	2
Early October, 2000	97	87	9	1	2	1
September, 2000	95	84	10	1	3	2
June, 2000	95	84	10	1	2	3
1998 Election						
Late October, 1998*	91	--	--	--	6	3
Early October, 1998*	92	--	--	--	4	4
Early September, 1998*	95	--	--	--	2	3
Late August, 1998*	93	75	17	1	3	4
June, 1998*	95	74	19	2	3	2
1996 Election						
November, 1996	96	--	--	--	2	2
October, 1996	98	87	10	1	1	1
Late September, 1996	98	89	8	1	1	1
Early September, 1996	96	83	11	2	2	2
July, 1996	95	82	12	1	3	2
June, 1996	96	84	11	1	2	2
1994 Election						
November, 1994*	93	--	--	--	5	2
October, 1994*	95	--	--	--	3	2
1992 Election						
October, 1992	98	91	6	1	1	1
September, 1992	98	85	11	2	1	1
August, 1992	97	89	8	*	1	2
June, 1992	97	88	8	1	1	2
1988 Election						
Gallup: November, 1988	97	87	9	1	2	1
October, 1988	98	--	--	--	1	1

NO QUESTIONS 12 AND 13

ASK ALL:

Q.14 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2070]:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Congressperson <u>not running</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	43	32	1	24
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	31	*	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	52	29	1	18
2008 Election				
Late February, 2008	60	22	1	17
2006 Election				
November, 2006	55	25	1	19
Late October, 2006	55	26	1	18
Early October, 2006	50	27	1	22
September, 2006	53	27	1	19
August, 2006	51	30	*	19
June, 2006	51	32	1	16
April, 2006	57	28	1	14
February, 2006	59	28	1	12
Mid-September, 2005	57	25	1	17
2002 Election				
Early October, 2002	58	19	2	21
June, 2002	58	23	1	18
2000 Election				
Early November, 2000	59	16	2	23
October, 2000	60	17	1	22
July, 1999	66	23	*	11
1998 Election				
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16
Early October, 1998	58	20	2	20
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16
March, 1998	63	21	1	15
January, 1998	66	23	0	11
August, 1997	66	22	0	12
1996 Election				
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21
October, 1996	62	19	2	17
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17
1994 Election				
November, 1994	58	25	1	16
Late October, 1994	55	30	2	13
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20
1990 Election				
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	62	22	2	14

ASK ALL:

Q.15 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2070]:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	27	57	15
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	53	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	34	53	13
2008 Election			
Late February, 2008	36	49	15
2006 Election			
November, 2006	37	46	17
Late October, 2006	34	49	17
Early October, 2006	32	48	20
September, 2006	35	49	16
August, 2006	36	49	15
June, 2006	29	57	14
April, 2006	34	53	13
February, 2006	36	49	15
September, 2005	36	48	16
2002 Election			
Early October, 2002	39	38	23
June, 2002	45	37	18
2000 Election			
October, 2000	40	34	26
July, 1999	41	47	12
1998 Election			
Late October, 1998	41	37	22
Early October, 1998	39	39	22
Early September, 1998	46	37	17
March, 1998	45	41	14
January, 1998	44	43	13
August, 1997	45	42	13
1996 Election			
Early September, 1996	43	43	14
1994 Election			
November, 1994	31	51	18
Late October, 1994	31	56	13
Early October, 1994	28	56	16

NO QUESTIONS 16 AND 17

ASK ALL:

Q.18 Please tell me if you think each of the following is having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going in this country today? First, (is/are) **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** having a positive or negative effect on the way things are going in the country these days? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**
[INTERVIEWER: IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: "Overall do you think (it is/they are) having a POSITIVE or NEGATIVE effect on the way things are going in this country today?" IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]?

		<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	(VOL.) Neither/ No Influence/ <u>Mixed</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:					
a.F1	The federal government Mar 11-21, 2010	25	65	4	5
b.F1	Large corporations Mar 11-21, 2010	25	64	4	8
NO ITEM c.					
d.F1	Small businesses Mar 11-21, 2010	71	19	3	7
e.F1	Labor unions Mar 11-21, 2010	32	49	4	14
f.F1	Churches and religious organizations Mar 11-21, 2010	63	22	7	8
g.F1	Colleges and universities Mar 11-21, 2010	61	26	4	9
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:					
h.F2	Congress Mar 11-21, 2010	24	65	4	8
i.F2	The Obama Administration Mar 11-21, 2010	45	45	4	6
j.F2	The agencies and departments of the federal government Mar 11-21, 2010	31	54	6	10
k.F2	The entertainment industry Mar 11-21, 2010	33	51	8	8
l.F2	Banks and other financial institutions Mar 11-21, 2010	22	69	4	6
m.F2	Technology companies Mar 11-21, 2010	68	18	4	10
n.F2	The national news media Mar 11-21, 2010	31	57	6	6

NO QUESTION 19

ASK ALL:

Q.20 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

Mar 11-21 2010		Early Jan 2007	Early Oct 2006	March 2004	Mid- Nov 2001	June 2000	Feb 2000	Oct 1997
19	Basically content	21	21	32	53	28	33	29
56	Frustrated	58	54	52	34	53	54	56
21	Angry	16	20	13	8	13	10	12
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	5	3	5	6	3	3

ASK ALL:

Q.21 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Only sometimes	(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mar 11-21, 2010	3	19	65	11	2
January, 2007	3	28	63	5	1
February, 2006	4	30	59	6	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	63	4	2
Mid-March, 2004	4	32	59	4	1
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1
November, 1998 ⁷	4	22	61	11	2
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October, 1997	3	36	59	2	*

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:

NES ⁸	2008	5	25	68	2	*
	2004	4	43	52	1	*
	2002	5	51	44	*	0
	2000	4	40	55	1	1
	1998	4	36	58	1	1
	1996	3	30	66	1	*
	1994	2	19	74	3	1
	1992	3	26	68	2	1
	1990	3	25	69	2	1
	1988	4	37	56	2	1
	1986	3	35	57	2	2
	1984	4	40	53	1	2
	1982	2	31	62	2	3
	1980	2	23	69	4	2
	1978	2	27	64	4	3
	1976	4	30	62	1	3
	1974	2	34	61	1	2
	1972	5	48	44	1	2
	1970	7	47	44	*	2

⁷ The November, 1998 survey was conducted October 26-December 1, 1998. The question asked, "How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most the time, or only some of the time?"

⁸ Trends from the American National Election Studies shown for reference. Additional data from Gallup, CBS/NewYork Times, ABC/Washington Post and CNN polls are used to create charts in the report. The full trend data is available on our website.

Q.21 CONTINUED...

	Just about <u>always</u>	Most of <u>the time</u>	Only <u>sometimes</u>	(VOL.) <u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
1968	7	54	36	*	2
1966	17	48	28	2	4
1964	14	62	22	*	2
1958	16	57	23	0	4

NO QUESTION 22

ASK ALL:

- Q.23 Imagine a scale from one to six where ONE represents someone who generally believes that federal government programs should be cut back greatly to reduce the power of government, and SIX represents someone who feels that federal government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems. Where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?

	(1-3) Cut back <u>government</u>	(4-6) Maintain <u>government</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Average Rating</u> ⁹
Mar 11-21, 2010	47	50	3	3.6
October, 1997 ¹⁰	41	57	2	3.8
October, 1995 ¹¹	45	53	2	3.7
August, 1995	45	53	2	3.7

ASK ALL:

- Q.24 All in all, how good a job does the federal government do running its programs? An excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Feb <u>1998</u>	Oct <u>1997</u>
2	Excellent	2	2
21	Good	30	23
46	Only fair	51	53
28	Poor	16	21
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

ASK ALL:

- Q.25 Some people think [criticism of the way the federal government does its job is justified], while others think the [government often does a better job than it is given credit for]. Which comes closer to your view?
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS IN BRACKETS]

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		<i>NPR/Kaiser/Harvard</i> May <u>2000</u> ¹²	Oct <u>1997</u> ¹³
61	Criticism is justified	56	60
30	Government often does better job than given credit for	39	33
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	7

9 Based on those who could rate themselves.

10 In October, 1997 question asked, "If 1 represents someone who generally believes that, on the whole, federal government programs should be cut back greatly to reduce the power of government, and 6 represents someone who feels that federal government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems, where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?"

11 Previously the question asked, "If 1 represents someone who believes that government programs should be cut back very much in order to lower taxes and reduce the power of government, and 6 represents someone who feels that government programs that help needy people and deal with important national problems should be maintained, where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?"

12 Survey by National Public Radio, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

13 In October, 1997 the response options were not randomized.

ASK ALL:

Q.26 And which of these statements comes closest to your view? **[READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]**

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u> ¹⁴
53	The federal government needs very major reform	37
42	The federal government is basically sound and needs only some reform	58
3	The federal government doesn't need much change at all	4
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

ASK ALL:

Q.27 How much effect do you think **[INSERT ITEM]**'s activities – such as the laws passed and so on – have on your day-to-day life? Do they have a great effect, some effect, or no effect? **[IF GREAT OR SOME EFFECT ASK Q.28 BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NEXT ITEM]**

Q.28 **[IF GREAT OR SOME EFFECT ASK IMMEDIATELY:]** In general, is **[INSERT ITEM]**'s effect on your life positive or negative?

	<u>Great effect</u>	<u>Some effect</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Posi- tive</u>	<u>Nega- tive</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>No/DK effect</u>
ASK ALL:									
a. The federal government									
Mar 11-21, 2010	41	48	10	2	38	43	4	4	11
October, 1997	36	54	9	1	50	31	5	4	10
ORC, March 1960	41	43	11	5	--	--	--	--	16

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:

b. Your state government									
Mar 11-21, 2010	35	53	9	2	42	39	3	4	11
October, 1997	31	59	9	1	62	21	5	2	10

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:

c. Your local government									
Mar 11-21, 2010	27	58	13	2	51	29	3	2	15
October, 1997	31	57	11	1	64	18	4	2	12
ORC, March 1960	35	53	10	2	--	--	--	--	12

ASK ALL:

Q.29 What do you personally feel is the bigger problem with government? Government has the wrong priorities, OR government has the right priorities but runs programs inefficiently?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u>
38	Wrong priorities	29
50	Runs programs inefficiently	61
5	Both (VOL.)	5
2	Neither (VOL.)	2
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3

14 In October, 1997 response options were read in same order to all respondents.

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Thinking about people more generally, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Jan 14-27 <u>2010</u> ¹⁵	Oct <u>2006</u>	June <u>2003</u>	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	Nov <u>1998</u>	June <u>1997</u>	Feb <u>1997</u>
36	Most people can be trusted	31	41	35	42	36	42	45
60	Can't be too careful	64	54	58	55	57	54	52
2	Other/Depends (VOL.)	4	3	4	2	6	3	2
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	2	3	1	1	1	1

ASK ALL:

Q.31 In your opinion, which is generally more often to blame if a person is poor? Lack of effort on his or her own part, or circumstances beyond his or her control?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>2007</u>	LAT <u>1992</u>	-----Gallup-----				
32	Lack of effort	39	27	35	38	40	33	34
49	Circumstances beyond control	44	52	45	42	37	34	25
14	Both (VOL.)	14	18	17	17	17	31	38
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3	3	3	6	2	3

NO QUESTIONS 32 THROUGH 40**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.41 Which of the following economic issues do you think should be the highest priority for the federal government? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

IF ANSWER GIVEN (1-6 IN Q.41) ASK:

Q.42 And which would you rate as the second highest priority? [READ AND RANDOMIZE, OMITTING OPTION SELECTED IN Q.41]

Mar 11-21, 2010			
First priority	Second priority	First/second combined	
49	29	78	The job situation
22	27	49	Health care costs [OR]
19	22	40	The budget deficit
8	19	27	Financial regulation
1	1	1	Other (VOL.)
1	1	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
n/a	1	n/a	No first choice

NO QUESTION 43 THROUGH 44

15 Data from Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends Millennial Survey

RANDOMIZE Q.45 AND Q.46**ASK ALL:**

Q.45 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care bills being discussed in Congress?

	Generally <u>favor</u>	Generally <u>oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	40	47	13
Mar 10-14, 2010	38	48	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	50	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	39	48	13
Dec 9-13, 2009	35	48	17
Nov 12-15, 2009	42	39	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	38	47	15
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	34	47	19
Sep 10-15, 2009	42	44	14
Aug 20-27, 2009	39	46	15
Jul 22-26, 2009	38	44	18

RANDOMIZE Q.45 AND Q.46

ASK ALL:

Q.46 All in all, do you think it is a good idea or a bad idea for the government to more strictly regulate the way major financial companies do business?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Feb 3-9 <u>2010</u>	Sep 30-Oct 4 <u>2009</u>	Mar 31-Apr 6 <u>2009</u>
61	Good idea	59	54	60
31	Bad idea	33	38	31
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	8	9

NO QUESTIONS 47 THROUGH 51**ASK ALL:**

Q.52 As I name some federal government agencies and institutions, please tell me if it is your impression that each one is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job. First, would you say [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: would you say [ITEM] is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or a poor job?]

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
a.	Congress Mar 11-21, 2010	2	15	40	40	3	2505
b.	The Obama administration Mar 11-21, 2010	10	30	28	30	3	2505

**ASK EACH RESPONDENT A RANDOM SIX (6)
OF ITEMS C THROUGH S:**

c.	The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI Mar 11-21, 2010	10	48	24	7	11	1034
d.	The Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA Mar 11-21, 2010	7	36	36	16	5	1001
e.	The Postal Service Mar 11-21, 2010	20	50	21	7	2	997
f.	The Social Security Administration Mar 11-21, 2010	4	32	37	24	4	1012
g.	The Veterans Administration, the VA Mar 11-21, 2010	8	33	32	15	12	969
h.	The military Mar 11-21, 2010	39	41	13	3	4	976
i.	The National Aeronautic and Space Administration, NASA Mar 11-21, 2010	16	41	23	6	13	1020

NO ITEM j.

l.	The Internal Revenue Service, the IRS Mar 11-21, 2010	5	35	38	16	6	983
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Q.52 CONTINUED...

		<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
m.	The Department of Education Mar 11-21, 2010	5	28	35	29	2	1032
n.	The Food and Drug Administration, the FDA Mar 11-21, 2010	7	36	35	17	5	963
o.	The Defense Department Mar 11-21, 2010	14	46	26	8	5	1024
p.	The Justice Department Mar 11-21, 2010	4	34	38	20	5	1048
q.	The Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA Mar 11-21, 2010	8	38	29	11	15	997
r.	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC Mar 11-21, 2010	14	48	24	7	7	1028
s.	The Department of Homeland Security Mar 11-21, 2010	9	34	37	16	4	946

NO QUESTIONS 53 THROUGH 59

ASK ALL:

Q.60 On a different subject... Do you think that [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] get(s) more attention from the federal government than (they/it) should, about the right amount of attention, or less attention than (they/it) should? ... How about [NEXT ITEM]? [INTERVIEWER: IF NECESSARY READ: "Do they/it get(s) more attention from the federal government than (they/it) should, about the right amount of attention, or less attention than (they/it) should?"]

		<u>More</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:					
a.F1	Business leaders in this country				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	45	26	20	9
	October, 1997	50	37	9	4
b.F1	Middle class people in this country				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	9	22	66	4
	October, 1997	9	36	54	1
c.F1	Labor unions				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	34	30	26	11
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:					
d.F2	Wall Street				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	50	25	16	9
e.F2	Poor people in this country				
	Mar 11-21, 2010	17	22	56	5
	October, 1997	10	23	65	2

Q.60 CONTINUED...

		<u>More</u>	About <u>right</u>	<u>Less</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
f.F2	Small businesses in this country Mar 11-21, 2010	8	20	69	3

NO QUESTIONS 61 AND 62

ASK ALL:

Q.63 Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

NPR/Kaiser/Harvard

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		May <u>2000</u> ¹⁶	Feb <u>2000</u>	Oct <u>1997</u>
43	More than fair share	55	55	52
3	Less than fair share	2	1	2
50	About the right amount	42	41	45
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	3	1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:

Q.64F1 Considering what you get from your state government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of state taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

NPR/Kaiser/Harvard

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		May <u>2000</u> ¹⁷
39	More than fair share	40
3	Less than fair share	3
51	About the right amount	55
4	Don't pay state taxes (VOL.)	--
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:

Q.65F2 Considering what you get from your local government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

NPR/Kaiser/Harvard

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		May <u>2000</u> ¹⁸
38	More than fair share	39
4	Less than fair share	4
55	About the right amount	55
1	Don't pay local taxes (VOL.)	--
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2

¹⁶ May 2000 survey by National Public Radio, Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. The question read, "Considering what you get from the FEDERAL government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of federal taxes, less than your fair share, or about your fair share?"

¹⁷ In May, 2000 the NPR question read, "Considering what you get from your STATE government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of state taxes, less than your fair share, or about your fair share?"

¹⁸ In May, 2000 the NPR question read, "Considering what you get from your LOCAL government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of local taxes, less than your fair share, or about your fair share?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:

Q.66 As I read a few criticisms people have made of elected officials in Washington, please tell me if YOU think each is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem. (First,) **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. **[PROBE IF NECCESARY: Is this a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem with elected officials in Washington?]**

		<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.F1	They care only about their own political careers Mar 11-21, 2010	81	14	3	3
b.F1	They are influenced by special interest money Mar 11-21, 2010	82	11	2	4
c.F1	They are not willing to work together and compromise Mar 11-21, 2010	78	14	4	4
d.F1	They are not careful with the government's money Mar 11-21, 2010	83	11	3	3
e.F1	They are out of touch with regular Americans Mar 11-21, 2010	76	16	5	4

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:

Q.67 As I read a few criticisms people have made of the federal government in Washington, please tell me if YOU think each is a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem. (First,) **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. **[PROBE IF NECCESARY: Is this a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem with the federal government in Washington?]**

		<u>Major problem</u>	<u>Minor problem</u>	<u>Not a problem</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.F2	The government is too big and powerful Mar 11-21, 2010	52	28	18	2
b.F2	The government is wasteful and inefficient Mar 11-21, 2010	70	20	7	3
c.F2	Government policies unfairly benefit some groups Mar 11-21, 2010	62	27	7	4
d.F2	The government doesn't do enough to help average Americans Mar 11-21, 2010	56	29	12	3
e.F2	The government interferes too much in peoples' lives Mar 11-21, 2010	46	34	18	2

ASK ALL:

Q.68 As I read a few statements some people have made about the federal government, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree. The first one is... **[INSERT ITEMS, RANDOMIZE]** Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely disagree?

		-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
		Net	Comp- <i>letely</i>	<i>Mostly</i>	Net	Comp- <i>letely</i>	<i>Mostly</i>	
a.	The government has gone too far in regulating business and interfering with the free enterprise system							
	Mar 11-21, 2010	58	24	34	37	10	27	5
	<i>NPR/Kaiser/Harvard</i> , May 2000 ¹⁹	60			36			4
	October, 1997	56	14	42	41	5	36	3
	<i>Hart Teeter</i> , March 1995 ²⁰	73			24			3
	<i>CBS/NYT</i> , April 1981 ²¹	65			26			9
	<i>CBS/NYT</i> , Nov. 1980	65			27			8
	<i>CBS/NYT</i> , Jan. 1978	58			31			11
	<i>Gallup</i> , Sept. 1964	43			40			17
b.	The federal government is interfering too much in state and local matters							
	Mar 11-21, 2010	58	21	36	38	8	30	5
	October, 1997	53	12	41	44	5	39	3
	<i>Gallup</i> , Sept. 1964	40			48			12
c.	Americans aren't willing to pay for the things they want government to do							
	Mar 11-21, 2010	56	16	41	39	12	27	5
d.	Government is facing more difficult problems than it did in the past							
	Mar 11-21, 2010	79	37	41	20	5	15	2

NO QUESTIONS 69 THROUGH 71

ASK ALL:

Q.72 Which comes closer to your view of Congress these days? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Mar 11-21

2010

- | | |
|----|--|
| 38 | Most members of Congress have good intentions, it's the political system that is broken [OR] |
| 52 | The political system can work fine, it's the members of Congress that are the problem |
| 3 | Both (VOL.) |
| 1 | Neither (VOL.) |
| 6 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

¹⁹ The NPR/Kaiser/Harvard question was a standalone item.

²⁰ Hart Teeter response categories were: "strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree."

²¹ CBS/NYT and Gallup response categories were "agree" and "disagree".

ASK ALL:

Q.73 Do you think the federal government threatens your own personal rights and freedoms, or not?
[IF YES ASK:] Is this a major threat or a minor threat?

	(Net)	<i>Major</i>	<i>Minor</i>		(VOL.)
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>threat</u>	<u>threat</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	47	30	17	50	2
ABC News/Washington Post, October 2003 ²²	45	18	27	54	1
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard, August 2002 ²³	32	13	18	63	5
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard, November 2001	30	14	14	67	3
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard, June 2000 ²⁴	46	23	23	52	2
Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard, December 1995	42	20	22	54	4
ABC News/Washington Post, May 1995	36	12	24	62	1

ASK ALL:

Q.74 Would you favor or oppose allowing an American state to secede and become independent from the country if a majority of the people from that state wanted to do this?²⁵

Mar 11-21		Oct
<u>2010</u>		<u>1997</u>
25	Favor	23
67	Oppose	73
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

ASK ALL:

Q.75 Do you work for federal, state, or local government—for example, as a public school teacher, police officer, firefighter, or other government job? **[IF YES:]** Is that a federal, state, or local government job?

[IF 'NO' IN Q.75, ASK:]

Q.76 Does anyone in your household work for federal, state, or local government? **[IF YES:]** Is that a federal, state, or local government job?

Mar 11-21		Oct
<u>2010</u>		<u>1997</u>
24	Yes (NET)	28
3	Respondent—federal	4
5	Respondent—state	6
5	Respondent—local	7
*	Respondent—Don't know level	1
4	Not respondent but household member—federal	3
3	Not respondent but household member—state	3
4	Not respondent but household member—local	2
*	Not respondent but household member—Don't know level	2
75	No	72
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

²² For the October 2003 and May 1995 trends, the follow-up question was worded “Is this a major threat or a minor threat to your personal rights and freedoms?”

²³ For the August 2002, November 2001, June 2000 and December 1995 trends, respondents who volunteered “Don't know” or “Refused” to the follow-up question are included with those who said “Minor threat”.

²⁴ The June 2000 trend was asked as part of a list that also included state government and local government.

²⁵ In March, 2010, survey, “secede and” was added to the question wording.

ASK ALL:

Q.77 Do you think you are more patriotic, less patriotic, or about as patriotic as most other people in this country?

Mar 11-21

2010

33	More patriotic
6	Less patriotic
59	About as patriotic
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.78 Do you display the flag at your home, in your office, or on your car, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	58	42	*
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009 ²⁶	59	40	1
January, 2007	62	38	*
Late March, 2005	64	36	*
Mid-July, 2003	69	29	2
August, 2002	75	25	*

ASK ALL:

Q.79 Do you happen to have any guns, rifles or pistols in your home, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Mar 11-21, 2010	33	62	5
Mar 31-Apr 21, 2009 ²⁷	33	63	4
April, 2007	37	61	2
January, 2007	33	64	3
December, 2004	37	60	3
Mid-October, 2004	39	59	2
Mid-July, 2003	34	63	3
August, 2002	35	62	3
April, 2000	35	62	3
June, 1997	40	57	3
December, 1993	45	53	2

NO QUESTIONS 80 THROUGH 83

²⁶ Previously, question asked: "Do you display the flag at your home, in your office, or on your car?" and was part of a list.

²⁷ From 2004 to 2009, question asked "Do you happen to have any guns, rifles or pistols in your home?" and was part of a list except for in April 2007. From 1997 to 2003, the question asked about "guns or revolvers in your home." In 1993, the question asked about "guns in this household."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:

Q.84F1 If you had a son or daughter just getting out of school, would you like to see him or her pursue a career in politics, or not?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u> ²⁹	-----Gallup-----					NORC ²⁸ <u>1943</u>
		<u>1973</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1945</u>		
36	Yes	27	24	36	23	26	21	17
55	No	67	64	54	69	60	68	69
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	13	10	8	14	11	14

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1237]:

Q.85F2 If you had a son or daughter just getting out of school, would you like to see him or her pursue a career in government, or not?

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		NPR/Kaiser/Harvard May <u>2000</u>
56	Yes	43
35	No	51
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1268]:

Q.86F1 Generally speaking, do you think government is a good place to work? **[IF YES:]** What's the main reason you think government is a good place to work? The pay, the benefits, the job security, because the work is challenging, or because the hours are good? **[ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE]**

Mar 11-21 <u>2010</u>		Oct <u>1997</u>
70	Yes (NET)	71
20	Pay	22
30	Benefits	34
21	Job security	22
18	Challenging work	16
7	Good hours	9
3	Make a contribution to society (VOL.)	1
4	Other (VOL.)	6
1	Don't know why (VOL.)	2
24	No	23
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

Figures add to more than 100% because of multiple responses

²⁸ National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago

²⁹ In October 1997, question asked: "If you had a son or daughter, would you like to see him or her go into politics as a life's work when he or she gets out of school?" Gallup and NORC asked only about sons.

ASK ALL:

Q.87 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year? **[READ]**

Mar 11-21

2010

26 A lot
42 A little
30 Nothing at all
1 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (1,2 IN Q.87) ASK:

Q.88 From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Mar 11-21

2010

9 Strongly agree
15 Agree
7 Disagree
7 Strongly disagree
29 No opinion either way
1 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

31 *Not heard of Tea Party*

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?

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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED ...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)			
				No	Other	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<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>
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	--	--	--	--	--