

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS/  
PEW GLOBAL ATTITUDES PROJECT  
SEPTEMBER 2009 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
September 10-15, 2009  
N=1,006**

**QUESTION 1 RELEASED BY PEW GLOBAL ATTITUDES**

**ASK ALL:**

PP1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
September 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
August 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
August, 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
July, 2009	54	34	12
June, 2009	61	30	9
Mid-April, 2009	63	26	11
Early April, 2009	61	26	13
March, 2009	59	26	15
February, 2009	64	17	19

**QUESTIONS 2 THROUGH 4 RELEASED BY PEW GLOBAL ATTITUDES**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.5 Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
September 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7				
August 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
August, 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
July, 2009	28	66	6	October, 2007	28	66	6
June, 2009	30	64	5	February, 2007	30	61	9
May, 2009	34	58	8	Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7
April, 2009	23	70	7	Early January, 2007	30	63	7
January, 2009	20	73	7	December, 2006	28	65	7
December, 2008	13	83	4	Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	Early October, 2006	30	63	7
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	July, 2006	30	65	5
August, 2008	21	74	5	May, 2006*	29	65	6
July, 2008	19	74	7	March, 2006	32	63	5
June, 2008	19	76	5	January, 2006	34	61	5
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
March, 2008	22	72	6	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
				July, 2005	35	58	7

<sup>1</sup> In most prior surveys, the question was worded "All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?" Prior uses of the current wording are noted with an asterisk.

## Q.5 CONTINUED...

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	August, 1999	56	39	5
February, 2005	38	56	6	January, 1999	53	41	6
January, 2005	40	54	6	November, 1998	46	44	10
December, 2004	39	54	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
May, 2004	33	61	6	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
December, 2003	44	47	9	August, 1997	49	46	5
October, 2003	38	56	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
August, 2003	40	53	7	July, 1996	29	67	4
<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9</i>	March, 1996	28	70	2
January, 2003	44	50	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
November, 2002	41	48	11	June, 1995	25	73	2
September, 2002	41	55	4	April, 1995	23	74	3
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	July, 1994	24	73	3
May, 2002	44	44	12	March, 1994	24	71	5
March, 2002	50	40	10	October, 1993	22	73	5
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	September, 1993	20	75	5
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
June, 2001	43	52	5	January, 1993	39	50	11
March, 2001	47	45	8	January, 1992	28	68	4
February, 2001	46	43	11	November, 1991	34	61	5
January, 2001	55	41	4	Late February, 1991 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	66	31	3
October, 2000 ( <i>RVs</i> )	54	39	7	August, 1990	47	48	5
September, 2000	51	41	8	May, 1990	41	54	5
June, 2000	47	45	8	January, 1989	45	50	5
April, 2000	48	43	9	September, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	50	45	5

## QUESTION 6 RELEASED BY PEW GLOBAL ATTITUDES

### ASK ALL:

**Q.US8** As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of Barack Obama so far. (First,) does Barack Obama impress you as... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>			<u>Feb 2009</u>		
a.	64	Trustworthy [OR]		76	
	30	NOT trustworthy		15	
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)		1	
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)		8	
Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>			<u>Feb 2009</u>		
b.	78	Warm and friendly [OR]		87	
	16	Cold and aloof		8	
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)		2	
	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)		3	

**Q.US8 CONTINUED...**

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		<u>Feb 2009</u>	
c.	83	A good communicator [OR]	92
	13	NOT a good communicator	6
	1	Neither particularly ( <b>VOL.</b> )	*
	3	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	2

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		<u>Feb 2009</u>	
d.	58	Able to get things done [OR]	70
	31	NOT able to get things done	15
	3	Neither particularly ( <b>VOL.</b> )	2
	8	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	13

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		<u>Feb 2009</u>	
e.	70	Well informed [OR]	79
	23	NOT well informed	15
	2	Neither particularly ( <b>VOL.</b> )	1
	4	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	5

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		<u>Feb 2009</u>	
f.	69	Well organized [OR]	81
	22	NOT well organized	12
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6

**NO ITEM g**

Sept 10-15			
	<u>2009</u>		<u>Feb 2009</u>
h.	68	Someone who cares about people like me [OR]	81
	25	Someone who doesn't care about people like me	14
	1	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		<u>Feb 2009</u>	
i.	65	A strong leader [OR]	77
	29	NOT a strong leader	13
	2	Neither particularly (VOL.)	1
	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

**NO ITEM j**

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		<u>Feb 2009</u>	
k.	44	Liberal,	38
	36	Middle of the road [OR]	40
	9	Conservative	13
	2	None particularly (VOL.)	2
	9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

**ASK ALL:**Q.US9 Do you think that **[READ AND ROTATE]:**

Sept 10-15 2009		Mid-April 2009	Feb 2009
63	Barack Obama has a new approach to politics in Washington [OR]	63	66
30	Barack Obama's approach to politics in Washington is 'business as usual'?	27	25
7	Don't know/Refused <b>[VOL. DO NOT READ]</b>	10	9

**ASK ALL:**

Q.US10 Thinking about some countries around the world...Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of **(INSERT)**? How about **(NEXT ITEM)**?  
**[IF NECESSARY: "Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of (ITEM)?"]**

	<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. Iran					
September 10-15, 2009	1	10	25	52	12
Spring, 2009 (GAP)	4	17	28	35	15
Spring, 2008 (GAP)	5	15	27	37	16
Spring, 2007 (GAP)	2	12	26	45	14
Spring, 2006 (GAP)	8	17	26	31	18
b. France					
September 10-15, 2009	16	46	17	8	14
Spring, 2007 (GAP)	11	37	18	12	21
Spring, 2006 (GAP)	15	37	18	12	19
May, 2005 (GAP)	11	35	19	14	21
March, 2004 (GAP)	8	25	25	24	19
May, 2003 (GAP)	8	21	24	36	10
c. Germany					
September 10-15, 2009	21	45	14	5	16
Spring, 2007 (GAP)	15	46	11	5	23
Spring, 2006 (GAP)	20	46	9	4	21
May, 2005 (GAP)	15	45	13	4	23
March, 2004 (GAP)	8	42	19	9	23
May, 2003 (GAP)	8	36	27	15	14
d. Great Britain					
September 10-15, 2009	37	40	7	3	14
Spring, 2007 (GAP)	32	42	6	3	17
May, 2005 (GAP)	31	42	7	2	19
March, 2004 (GAP)	33	40	9	3	15
May, 2003 (GAP)	49	32	6	4	8
e. Japan					
September 10-15, 2009	21	46	13	7	13
Spring, 2008 (GAP)	25	45	8	3	18
Spring, 2006 (GAP)	22	44	9	4	21
May, 2005 (GAP)	17	46	12	5	21
f. Saudi Arabia					
September 10-15, 2009	3	21	35	26	16

**Q.US10 CONTINUED ...**

		<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat favorable</u>	<u>Somewhat unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
g.	Pakistan					
	September 10-15, 2009	2	14	37	31	15
	Spring, 2008 (GAP)	10	27	26	13	24
h.	India					
	September 10-15, 2009	10	46	16	8	19
	Spring, 2008 (GAP)	18	45	11	3	22
i.	Canada					
	September 10-15, 2009	42	42	4	2	10
	Spring, 2007 (GAP)	35	43	6	2	13
	May, 2005 (GAP)	32	44	7	2	14
	May, 2003 (GAP)	25	40	16	8	11
	Summer, 2002 (GAP)	48	35	3	1	13
j.	Mexico					
	September 10-15, 2009	9	35	28	17	11
	Spring, 2007 (GAP)	9	38	23	14	16
k.	Brazil					
	September 10-15, 2009	11	46	13	4	26

**ASK ALL:**

Q.US11 Which of the following two statements best describes you: “I follow INTERNATIONAL news closely ONLY when something important is happening” OR “I follow INTERNATIONAL news closely most of the time, whether or not something important is happening”?

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		April <u>2008<sup>2</sup></u>	April <u>2006</u>	April <u>2004</u>	April <u>2002</u>	April <u>2000</u>	March <u>1999</u>	April <u>1998</u>
34	Follow INTERNATIONAL news closely ONLY when something important is happening	56	58	47	61	64	44	63
62	Follow INTERNATIONAL news closely MOST of the time	39	39	52	37	33	53	34
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	3	1	2	3	3	3

**ASK ALL:**

H1 How much, if anything, have you heard about the bills in Congress to overhaul the health care system?  
[READ]

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		Aug 11-17 <u>2009</u>	July <u>2009</u>
60	A lot	53	41
34	A little [OR]	40	47
5	Nothing at all	7	10
1	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1	1

2 In April 2008, 2006, 2004, 2002, 2000 and 1998 this question was randomized in a series that also asked about “national” and “local community” news

**ASK ALL:**

H2 As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress?

**ASK IF H2 =1,2:**

H3 Do you (favor/oppose) these health care proposals very strongly, or not so strongly?

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		Aug 20-27 <u>2009</u>	July <u>2009</u>
42	Generally favor	39	38
29	Very strongly	25	--
11	Not so strongly	13	--
2	Don't know (how strongly)	1	--
44	Generally oppose	46	44
34	Very strongly	34	--
10	Not so strongly	12	--
*	Don't know (how strongly)	1	--
14	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	15	18

**QUESTIONS 23 THROUGH 48 RELEASED BY PEW GLOBAL ATTITUDES****ASK ALL:**

Q.49 Do you think the U.S. and NATO should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. and NATO should remove their troops as soon as possible?

Sept 10-15 <u>2009</u>		-GAP- June <u>2009</u>	Mid- Sept <u>2008</u>	-GAP- April <u>2008</u>	Feb <u>2008</u>	-GAP- May <u>2007</u>
50	Keep troops in Afghanistan	57	61	50	61	50
43	Remove their troops	38	33	44	32	42
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	6	6	7	7

**ASK ALL:**

Q.50 I'd like your opinion about some possible international concerns for the U.S. What (INSERT), would this be a major threat, a minor threat or not a threat to the well being of the U.S.?

		Major <u>threat</u>	Minor <u>threat</u>	Not a <u>threat</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	if Islamic extremists took control of Pakistan	64	19	6	10
b.	if Iran developed nuclear weapons	82	12	2	3
c.	if the Taliban regained control of Afghanistan	76	17	3	4

**ASK ALL:**

Q.US51 Thinking specifically about Afghanistan, please tell me if you think we are making progress or losing ground in each area. First, are we making progress or losing ground in **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY:** Do you think we are making progress or losing ground in this area?]

		<u>Making progress</u>	<u>Losing ground</u>	<u>No change</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Training Afghan security forces	51	28	1	20
b.	Reducing the number of civilian casualties there	37	43	2	17
c.	Establishing democracy in Afghanistan	42	41	2	15
d.	Defeating the Taliban militarily	41	42	2	15
e.	Promoting economic development	44	35	2	19

**ASK ALL:**

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

**IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5, 8 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:**

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

				<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Other</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/</u>	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
September 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
August 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
August 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15
July, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
June, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
May, 2009	23	39	29	4	*	4	9	14
April, 2009	22	33	39	3	*	3	13	18
March, 2009	24	34	35	5	*	2	12	17
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2	12	14
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
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

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED ...**

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