

# Washington Post-ABC News Poll

This Washington Post-ABC News poll was conducted by telephone March 7 to 10, 2012, among a random national sample of 1,003 adults, including landline and cell phone-only respondents. The results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus four percentage points. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York.

\*= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	46	28	18	50	11	39	4
2/4/12	50	29	22	46	11	36	3
1/15/12	48	25	23	48	11	37	4
12/18/11	49	25	24	47	13	34	4
11/3/11	44	22	22	53	15	37	3
10/2/11	42	21	21	54	14	40	4
9/1/11	43	21	22	53	16	38	3
8/9/11*	44	18	26	46	9	37	10
7/17/11	47	25	22	48	14	35	5
6/5/11	47	27	20	49	13	37	4
5/2/11**	56	29	27	38	14	24	6
4/17/11	47	27	21	50	12	37	3
3/13/11	51	27	24	45	12	33	4
1/16/11	54	30	23	43	15	28	3
12/12/10	49	24	25	47	15	32	4
10/28/10	50	27	23	45	11	34	5
10/3/10	50	26	24	47	13	34	3
9/2/10	46	24	22	52	14	38	3
7/11/10	50	28	22	47	12	35	3
6/6/10	52	30	22	45	12	33	4
4/25/10	54	31	23	44	11	33	3
3/26/10	53	34	20	43	8	35	3
2/8/10	51	29	22	46	12	33	3
1/15/10	53	30	24	44	13	32	2
12/13/09	50	31	18	46	13	33	4
11/15/09	56	32	23	42	13	29	2
10/18/09	57	33	23	40	11	29	3
9/12/09	54	35	19	43	12	31	3
8/17/09	57	35	21	40	11	29	3
7/18/09	59	38	22	37	9	28	4
6/21/09	65	36	29	31	10	22	4
4/24/09	69	42	27	26	8	18	4
3/29/09	66	40	26	29	9	20	5
2/22/09	68	43	25	25	8	17	7

\*Washington Post

\*\*Washington Post/Pew Research Center

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling [ITEM]? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

3/10/12 - Summary Table\*

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
a. The economy	38	20	18	59	9	50	2
b. The possibility of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons	36	19	17	52	14	38	13
c. The federal budget deficit	32	16	16	63	11	51	5
d. The situation in Afghanistan	46	26	20	47	17	29	7
e. The situation with gas prices	26	14	12	65	13	52	9
f. Energy policy	38	21	18	48	13	35	14

\*Half sample asked items a,b,c; other half sample asked items d,e,f.

Trend:

a. The economy

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	38	20	18	59	9	50	2
2/4/12	44	23	22	53	11	41	3
1/15/12	41	19	22	57	11	46	2
12/18/11	41	17	24	56	13	43	2
11/3/11	38	18	20	61	13	48	2
10/2/11	35	17	19	61	13	48	4
9/1/11	36	15	21	62	15	47	2
7/17/11	39	18	22	57	15	43	3
6/5/11	40	20	20	59	10	49	2
5/2/11*	40	18	22	55	16	39	4
4/17/11	42	23	19	57	11	46	2
3/13/11	43	22	21	55	13	41	2
1/16/11	46	22	24	51	13	38	2
12/12/10	43	21	22	54	15	39	3
10/28/10 RV	44	21	23	54	15	39	3
10/3/10	45	22	23	53	13	41	2
9/2/10	41	20	21	57	13	44	2
7/11/10	43	20	23	54	13	41	4
6/6/10	50	26	24	49	12	37	2
4/25/10	49	24	25	49	10	39	2
3/26/10	45	23	22	52	12	40	3
2/8/10	45	22	23	53	15	38	2
1/15/10	47	22	24	52	13	39	1
12/13/09	46	23	24	52	12	40	2
11/15/09	51	26	25	47	12	36	2

10/18/09	50	29	22	48	13	35	1
9/12/09	51	28	24	46	13	33	2
8/17/09	52	27	25	46	13	33	2
7/18/09	52	29	23	46	10	35	3
6/21/09	56	28	28	41	13	27	3
4/24/09	58	31	28	38	13	25	4
3/29/09	60	34	25	38	12	26	3
2/22/09	60	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	6

\*Washington Post/Pew Research Center

b. The possibility of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	36	19	17	52	14	38	13
1/15/12	33	15	18	48	11	37	19

c. The federal budget deficit

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	32	16	16	63	11	51	5
2/4/12	38	18	20	58	14	44	4
1/15/12	35	15	20	58	11	48	7
9/1/11	36	18	18	60	14	46	4
7/17/11	38	22	16	60	14	45	2
6/5/11	33	16	17	61	12	49	6
4/17/11	39	21	18	58	11	47	3
3/13/11	39	18	20	55	13	42	6
1/16/11	43	21	22	52	11	41	6
12/12/10	38	16	22	55	19	36	7
9/2/10	39	18	20	58	13	45	3
7/11/10	40	20	20	56	11	45	4
6/6/10	39	22	17	56	13	42	6
4/25/10	40	20	20	55	14	42	5
3/26/10	43	22	21	52	14	38	5
2/8/10	40	17	23	56	16	40	4
1/15/10	38	18	20	56	15	41	6
12/13/09	37	16	21	56	12	44	6
11/15/09	42	19	23	53	10	43	5
10/18/09	45	20	25	51	14	37	4
9/12/09	39	17	22	55	13	42	6
8/17/09	41	19	22	53	12	41	5
7/18/09	43	19	24	49	11	38	8
6/21/09	48	22	26	48	13	35	5
4/24/09	51	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	7
3/29/09	52	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	5

d. The situation in Afghanistan

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	46	26	20	47	17	29	7
7/17/11	53	24	29	43	14	29	5
6/5/11	52	23	29	41	15	26	7
5/2/11*	60	28	32	29	15	14	11
4/17/11	44	17	27	49	17	31	7
1/16/11	49	19	30	41	17	24	10
12/12/10	45	17	28	46	16	30	10
7/11/10	45	20	25	45	14	31	10
4/25/10	56	20	36	36	16	20	7
3/26/10	53	25	29	35	15	20	12
1/15/10	50	22	28	45	18	27	6
12/13/09	52	24	28	44	13	32	4
11/15/09	45	23	23	48	16	32	6
10/18/09	45	22	23	47	17	31	7
9/12/09	55	23	33	37	17	21	7
8/17/09	60	25	35	33	14	19	7
7/18/09	62	33	29	30	13	17	8
4/24/09	63	NA	NA	26	NA	NA	11

\*Washington Post/Pew Research Center poll

e. The situation with gas prices

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	26	14	12	65	13	52	9

George W. Bush\*:

5/15/06	20	NA	NA	76	NA	NA	4
4/9/06	23	NA	NA	74	NA	NA	3
11/2/05	26	NA	NA	68	NA	NA	5
9/11/05	25	NA	NA	72	NA	NA	3
8/28/05	22	NA	NA	73	NA	NA	6

\*\*"Gasoline" instead of "gas."

f. Energy policy

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	38	21	18	48	13	35	14
8/17/09	55	24	31	30	9	21	15

George W. Bush:

4/24/05	35	NA	NA	54	NA	NA	10
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3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way [ITEM] are doing their job?

3/10/12 - Summary Table

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
a. The Democrats in Congress	34	60	6
b. The Republicans in Congress	23	71	6

Trend:

a. The Democrats in Congress

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
3/10/12	34	60	6
1/15/12	33	62	5
12/18/11	27	66	7
4/17/11	36	60	4
10/3/10	36	61	3
7/18/09	47	48	5
4/24/09	45	49	6
2/22/09	50	44	6
7/13/08	35	57	8
2/1/08	39	54	7
12/9/07	40	53	6
11/1/07	36	58	6
9/30/07	38	57	5
7/21/07	46	51	2
6/1/07	44	49	6
4/15/07	54	44	2
10/8/06	48	50	3
5/15/06	39	58	4
11/2/05	41	54	5
6/5/05	42	56	3
6/6/99	51	42	7
3/14/99	51	42	7
7/8/97	45	49	6
4/5/95	36	60	4
10/31/94	39	53	8
10/23/94	36	59	5
9/11/94	41	53	6

b. The Republicans in Congress

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
3/10/12	23	71	6
1/15/12	21	75	4
12/18/11	20	72	7
9/1/11	28	68	3
4/17/11	34	63	3
10/3/10	30	67	3
7/18/09	36	58	6
4/24/09	30	64	6
2/22/09	38	56	6
7/13/08	25	69	6
2/1/08	30	63	7
12/9/07	32	63	5
11/1/07	32	63	6
9/30/07	29	67	4
7/21/07	34	64	2
6/1/07	36	58	6
4/15/07	39	59	2
10/8/06	35	63	2
5/15/06	33	64	3
11/2/05	35	61	4
6/5/05	42	56	2
6/6/99	41	52	7
3/14/99	40	56	4
7/8/97	40	54	6
9/15/96 RV	46	48	6
6/30/96	38	56	6
4/5/95	45	50	5
10/31/94	33	59	7
10/23/94	31	64	5
9/11/94	35	59	6

4. Which political party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans), do you think [ITEM]?

3/10/12 - Summary Table

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. Better represents your own personal values	44	39	2	12	3
b. Is more concerned with the needs of people like you	46	36	1	13	3

Trend:

a. Better represents your own personal values

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	44	39	2	12	3
10/28/10 RV	48	42	2	7	1
9/2/10	45	42	2	10	1
11/15/09	49	39	2	9	2
11/4/06 RV	48	44	1	6	2
10/8/06	53	37	2	7	1
11/2/05	50	40	1	7	1
4/24/05	47	38	2	10	2
3/14/99	47	39	3	8	3

b. Is more concerned with the needs of people like you

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	46	36	1	13	3
10/28/10 RV	49	38	2	8	3
9/2/10	48	39	2	11	1
11/15/09	51	36	2	9	3
10/8/06	58	30	2	9	1
8/6/06	56	30	1	12	2

5. Thinking about the next 12 months, would you say you feel (optimistic) or (pessimistic) about (ITEM)? Is that very optimistic/pessimistic or somewhat optimistic/pessimistic?

3/10/12 - Summary Table

	--- Optimistic ---			--- Pessimistic ---			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Smwt.	Very	
a. The state of the national economy	49	18	30	48	20	28	3
b. Your own family's financial situation	66	28	39	30	16	14	4

Trend:

a. The state of the national economy

	---- Optimistic ----			---- Pessimistic ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
3/10/12	49	18	30	48	20	28	3
12/18/11	44	14	30	52	25	27	5
4/24/09	55	NA	NA	42	NA	NA	3
2/22/09	48			50			2
12/14/08	48			50			3
9/29/08	43			53			4
4/13/08	40			58			2
2/1/08	45			51			4
12/9/07	45			52			3
12/11/06	64			33			3
5/15/06	52			46			1
12/18/05	55			44			1
9/11/05	51			46			2
6/5/05	59			40			1
12/19/04	58			40			2
6/20/04	64			34			2
1/18/04	63	"	"	35	"	"	2

b. Your own family's financial situation

	---- Optimistic ----			---- Pessimistic ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
3/10/12	66	28	39	30	16	14	4
12/18/11	61	23	38	35	19	16	4
4/24/09	66	NA	NA	31	NA	NA	3
2/22/09	66			31			3
12/14/08	68			29			2
9/29/08	61			34			5
4/13/08	66			31			3
2/1/08	67			30			3
12/9/07	72			25			3
12/11/06	82			16			2
5/15/06	79			20			1
12/18/05	73			26			1
12/19/04	75	"	"	23	"	"	2

6. Regardless of whether or not the recession is over, in terms of your own personal experience, do you feel the economy has or has not begun to recover?

	Has	Has not	No opinion
3/10/12	49	49	2
1/15/12	45	54	1
11/3/11	36	63	1
6/5/11	42	57	1
3/13/11	46	53	1
12/12/10	41	57	2
10/5/10*	34	63	2
2/8/10	45	53	1
12/13/09**	50	49	1
11/15/09	44	54	1

\*ABC News/Yahoo! News

\*\*Add "Regardless of whether or not the recession is over..."

7. (IF ECONOMY HAS BEGUN TO RECOVER) Do you think the economy's recovery so far has been a strong one or a weak one?

	Strong	Weak	No opinion
3/10/12	24	74	2
1/15/12	21	77	2
11/3/11	19	77	3
6/5/11	17	81	2
2/8/10	25	75	1
12/13/09	24	73	3

6/7 NET:

	-Recovery's begun-			Has not	No opinion
	NET	Strong	Weak		
3/10/12	49	12	37	49	2
1/15/12	45	9	36	54	1
11/3/11	36	7	29	63	1
6/5/11	42	7	34	57	1
2/8/10	45	11	34	53	1
12/13/09	50	12	36	49	1

8. Do you think Obama's economic program is making the economy (better), making it (worse) or having no real effect?

	Better	Worse	No effect	No opinion
3/10/12	31	30	37	2
9/1/11	17	34	47	2
2/9/11*	27	28	38	7
1/16/11	35	24	39	2

9/2/10	30	33	36	1
4/25/10	39	26	32	2
1/15/10	35	23	41	2
10/18/09	41	22	35	2
8/17/09	43	23	32	2

\*Washington Post/Kaiser/Harvard

9. How would you describe your feelings about the recent rise in gasoline prices -- are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not so concerned or not concerned at all?

	----- Concerned -----			----- Not Concerned -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	
3/10/12	89	66	23	10	5	5	*

10. Just your best guess, do you think gas prices will (go higher and stay high), or do you think they will (go up and down)?

	Go higher and stay high	Go up and down	No opinion
3/10/12	46	51	2

11. Have recent price increases in gasoline caused any financial hardship for you or others in your household, or not? (IF YES) Has that been a serious hardship, or not serious?

	----- Yes -----			No	No opinion
	NET	Serious	Not serious		
3/10/12	63	36	27	37	*
4/17/11	71	43	29	28	*
3/13/11	71	44	26	29	1
7/28/08	72	45	27	28	*
6/15/08	77	51	25	23	0
5/11/08	63	34	29	37	*
4/13/08	67	38	29	32	1
5/21/07	58	27	30	42	*
4/15/07	67	36	31	33	*
7/19/06	60	29	30	39	1
5/15/06	57	31	26	43	*
4/9/06	70	44	26	30	*
9/11/05	64	34	30	36	*
8/28/05	66	36	30	34	*
8/21/05	53	26	27	47	*
4/24/05	64	34	30	36	*
3/20/05	57	29	28	43	*
5/23/04	64	37	27	36	0
4/18/04	54	31	23	46	0
4/28/02	53	20	33	47	*
4/29/01	48	17	30	52	*
6/25/00*	44	NA	NA	56	*
5/24/00	36			64	*
4/2/00	39			61	*
3/12/00	41			59	*
2/15/00	40	"	"	60	*

\*6/25/00 and previous by Gallup; slightly different wordings.

12. Do you think there's anything the Obama administration reasonably can do to reduce gasoline prices, or do you think gas prices have risen because of factors beyond the administration's control?

	Can do something	Beyond their control	No opinion
3/10/12	50	45	6

Bush administration:

5/15/06	62	35	3
8/28/05	60	36	4

13. Changing topics: Overall, do you support or oppose the federal law making changes to the health care system? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	41	24	17	52	11	41	7

Compare to: Overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by (Cong

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/16/11	45	25	20	50	14	36	5
12/12/10	43	22	21	52	14	37	6
10/3/10	47	26	21	48	13	35	5
3/26/10	46	32	13	50	10	40	4
2/8/10*	46	22	25	49	11	38	5
1/15/10	44	22	22	51	12	39	5
12/13/09	44	25	19	51	11	40	5
11/15/09	48	30	18	49	10	39	3
10/18/09	45	26	19	48	12	36	7
9/12/09	46	30	16	48	12	36	6
8/17/09	45	27	18	50	10	40	5

\*2/8/10 and prior: "proposed changes...that are being developed by"

14. Have the things you've heard about this law recently been mainly (positive) or mainly (negative)?

	Mainly positive	Mainly negative	Mixed (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	19	70	5	6

15. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear arguments about the health care law later this month. Of these three options, which would you prefer to have the Supreme Court do: 1) (uphold the entire law), 2) throw out the part of the law that requires individuals to have coverage and keep the rest of the law, or 3) (throw out the entire law)?

	Uphold entire law	Throw out part of the law	Throw out entire law	No opinion
3/10/12	26	25	42	7

16. (IF THROW OUT PART OF THE LAW) What if removing the coverage requirement forces the rest of the law to be dropped because there's no way to pay for it. In that case would you prefer to – (keep the mandate to save the rest of the law), or (throw out the entire law)?

	Keep the mandate	Throw out entire law	No opinion
3/10/12	44	52	4

15/16 NET:

	-- Uphold entire law --			- Throw out entire law -			No
	NET	At first	Now do	NET	At first	Now do	opin.
3/10/12	37	26	11	55	42	13	8

17. On another subject: All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war in Afghanistan has been worth fighting, or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Worth fighting -----			--- Not worth fighting ---			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/10/12	35	17	18	60	16	44	5
6/5/11	43	23	20	54	15	40	3
3/13/11	31	17	14	64	16	49	5
12/12/10	34	18	16	60	18	43	5
7/11/10	43	24	19	53	15	38	4
6/6/10	44	26	18	53	13	41	3
4/25/10	45	26	19	52	15	38	3
12/13/09	52	33	19	44	10	35	4
11/15/09	44	30	14	52	14	38	4
10/18/09*	47	28	19	49	13	36	4
9/12/09	46	28	18	51	14	37	3
8/17/09	47	31	15	51	10	41	3
7/18/09	51	34	18	45	11	34	4
3/29/09	56	37	19	41	12	28	4
2/22/09	50	34	17	47	9	37	3
12/14/08	55	NA	NA	39	NA	NA	5
7/13/08	51			45			4
2/25/07	56	"	"	41	"	"	3

\*10/18/09 "was" and "has been" wording half sampled. Previous "was."

18. Do you think the United States should (keep its military forces in Afghanistan until it has trained the Afghan army to be self-sufficient); OR, do you think the United States should (withdraw its military forces even if the Afghan army is not adequately trained)?

	Keep forces	Withdraw forces	No opinion
3/10/12	43	54	3

19. Considering everything, do you think most Afghans support or oppose what the United States is trying to do in Afghanistan?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
3/10/12	30	55	15

Compare to: Considering everything, do you think most of the Iraqi people support or oppose what the United States is trying to do in Iraq?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
3/13/05	54	39	7

20. On another subject, based on what you've heard or read, do you think Iran is or is not trying to develop nuclear weapons?

	Is	Is not	No opinion
3/10/12	84	9	8
10/18/09	87	8	4

21. To try to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, would you support or oppose [ITEM]? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

3/10/12 – Summary Table

	---- Support ----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strgly.	Smwt.	NET	Smwt.	Strgly.	op.
a. The United States bombing Iran's nuclear development sites	41	27	14	53	18	35	6
b. Increasing international economic sanctions against Iran	74	54	20	21	9	11	5
c. Direct diplomatic talks between the United States and Iran to try to resolve the situation	81	60	21	16	5	12	2

Trend:

a. The United States bombing Iran's nuclear development sites

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/10/12	41	27	14	53	18	35	6
10/18/09	42	NA	NA	54	NA	NA	4
1/26/06*	42	NA	NA	54	NA	NA	4

\* "Iran says it is refining uranium to use in nuclear power plants. Other countries are concerned Iran may also use this uranium in nuclear weapons..."

b. Increasing international economic sanctions against Iran

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/10/12	74	54	20	21	9	11	5
10/18/09*	78	NA	NA	18	NA	NA	4

1/26/06\* 71 NA NA 26 NA NA 3  
 \*"Imposing international..."

c. Direct diplomatic talks between the United States and Iran to try to resolve the situation

	Support			Oppose			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	81	60	21	16	5	12	2
10/18/09	82	NA	NA	18	NA	NA	1

22. Would you support or oppose Israel bombing Iran's nuclear development sites?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
3/10/12	42	51	7

23. If Israel were to bomb Iran's nuclear development sites, do you think it would or would not risk starting a larger war in the Middle East? (IF RISK) Do you think that would be a major risk; or a risk, but not major?

	Risk		Not a risk	No opinion
	NET	Major		
3/10/12	88	76	12	9

24. Do you think it's a better idea to (attack Iran soon, before its nuclear program progresses any further, even if that means not waiting to see if economic sanctions work); or a better idea to (see first if economic sanctions against Iran work, even if that allows more time for its nuclear program to progress)?

	Attack Iran soon	See if economic sanctions work	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	26	64	4	6

25. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Who would you like to see win the Republican nomination for president this year – (Newt Gingrich), (Ron Paul), (Mitt Romney) or (Rick Santorum)? Which candidate are you leaning toward?

	Romney	Santorum	Gingrich	Paul	Other (vol.)	None (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	31	29	14	15	2	6	4
3/10/12 RV	33	29	14	12	2	6	4

Compare to:

(ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) If the Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state was being held today, and the candidates were (Newt Gingrich), (Ron Paul), (Mitt Romney), (Rick Santorum). For whom would you vote? Which candidate would you lean toward?\*

	Among gen pop							
	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3	10/2	9/1	7/17	
Mitt Romney	39	35	30	24	25	25	30	
Newt Gingrich	23	17	30	12	7	6	6	
Rick Santorum	16	13	3	1	2	3	3	
Ron Paul	15	16	15	8	11	10	11	
Michele Bachmann*	0	0	7	4	7	8	16	
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	23	16	4	7	
Jon Huntsman*	0	*	3	1	1	1	3	
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	
Rick Perry	*	9	7	13	16	29	8	
Other (vol.)	1	1	*	*	2	2	1	
None of them (vol.)	1	2	1	2	5	5	2	
Would not vote (vol.)	*	1	*	3	1	2	1	
No opinion	5	6	4	9	7	5	8	

	Among RVs							
	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3	10/2	9/1	7/17	
Mitt Romney	38	36	30	25	25	25	30	
Newt Gingrich	24	16	30	12	9	5	6	
Rick Santorum	18	13	4	1	2	3	3	
Ron Paul	14	16	15	9	9	10	10	
Michele Bachmann*	0	0	7	4	7	9	17	
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	23	17	5	7	
Jon Huntsman*	0	*	2	1	1	1	3	
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	
Rick Perry	*	9	6	14	17	30	8	
Other (vol.)	1	1	*	0	2	2	1	
None of them (vol.)	*	1	1	2	4	4	2	
Would not vote (vol.)	0	1	1	1	1	1	*	
No opinion	5	7	4	8	7	5	9	

\*Michele Bachmann and Jon Huntsman vote in 1/15 and 2/4 and Rick Perry 2/4 includes those who said they voted for them in previous primary/caucus. Those who chose Huntsman in 1/15 who have yet to vote were re-allocated to their second choice candidate.

26. (IF NAMED A CANDIDATE) Who would your second choice be? Which candidate would you lean toward as your second choice?

3/10/12 - NET LEANED SECOND CHOICE

	Gen. pop	RV
Newt Gingrich	27	26
Mitt Romney	27	27
Rick Santorum	27	27
Ron Paul	12	12
Other (vol.)	2	2
No one/None (vol.)	3	4
No opinion*	2	2

\*No opinion includes "would not vote (vol.)"

27. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Suppose that [ITEM] wins the Republican nomination for president. Overall, how satisfied would you be with [ITEM] as the nominee: Very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied or not satisfied at all?

3/10/12 – Summary Table

	---- Satisfied ----			--- Not Satisfied ---			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	At all	
a. Romney	66	26	40	29	17	12	5
b. Santorum	69	29	40	26	13	13	5

28. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Just your best guess, who do you think will win the Republican nomination for president?

	3/10/12	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11
Mitt Romney	74	71	72	40
Rick Santorum	11	*	2	0
Newt Gingrich	4	15	7	35
Ron Paul	3	6	4	6
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	*	2
Rick Perry	NA	NA	5	3
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	5
Other (vol.)	*	1	*	*
No opinion	7	7	9	8

29. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Regardless of who you may support, which of the Republican candidates do you trust most to handle (ITEM)?

Full item wording:

- a. The economy
- b. Social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage

3/10/12 – Summary Table

	Economy	Social issues
Mitt Romney	35	22
Rick Santorum	18	31
Newt Gingrich	21	15
Ron Paul	13	13
Other (vol.)	*	*
All of them (vol.)	*	*
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	1	*
No one/None of them (vol.)	5	6
No opinion	6	13

Trend:

- a. The economy

	3/10	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3*	9/1
Mitt Romney	35	37	35	31	22	22
Rick Santorum	18	11	8	1	1	2
Newt Gingrich	21	23	17	25	13	7
Ron Paul	13	17	14	13	7	8
Rick Perry	NA	NA	8	7	10	22
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	3	3	2	*
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	7	4	5
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	NA	19	4
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	11
Other (vol.)	*	1	1	*	0	2
All of them (vol.)	*	1	1	*	1	0
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	1	1	1	*	2	2
No one/None of them (vol.)	5	7	3	6	2	4
No opinion	6	4	9	7	17	12

\*11/3 and previous, "which of the Republican candidates do you think would do the best job handling the economy"

- b. Social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage

	3/10/12	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11
Rick Santorum	31	19	14	4
Mitt Romney	22	25	25	26
Newt Gingrich	15	22	15	15
Ron Paul	13	13	10	12
Rick Perry	NA	NA	9	7
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	3	3
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	13
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	NA
Other (vol.)	*	1	1	0
All of them (vol.)	*	*	1	*
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	*	1	*	*
No one/None of them (vol.)	6	6	6	6
No opinion	13	12	16	12

30. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Again, regardless of who you may support, which of the Republican candidates do you think [ITEM]? (IF NEEDED) I can repeat the list. Is it (Newt Gingrich), (Ron Paul), (Mitt Romney), or (Rick Santorum)?

Full item wording:

- a. Best reflects the core values of the Republican Party
- b. Has the best chance to defeat Barack Obama in the general election

3/10/12 – Summary Table

	Values	Defeat
Rick Santorum	27	15
Mitt Romney	25	52
Newt Gingrich	20	11
Ron Paul	11	6
Other (vol.)	0	0
All of them (vol.)	1	3
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	2	1
No one/None of them (vol.)	4	6
No opinion	9	6



Trend:

a. Best reflects the core values of the Republican Party

	3/10	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3	9/1	7/17
Rick Santorum	27	20	13	5	3	4	3
Mitt Romney	25	30	26	23	20	18	19
Newt Gingrich	20	26	25	23	19	6	9
Ron Paul	11	11	9	10	4	6	8
Rick Perry	NA	NA	10	7	10	19	7
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	3	3	1	1	1
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	13	5	10	11
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	3	4
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	20
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Other (vol.)	0	1	0	0	0	*	1
All of them (vol.)	1	*	1	1	1	1	*
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	2	2	1	1	2	5	1
No one/None of them (vol.)	4	1	4	4	2	2	1
No opinion	9	10	10	11	20	14	14

b. Has the best chance to defeat Barack Obama in the general election

	3/10	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3	9/1	7/17
Mitt Romney	52	56	57	38	33	20	32
Rick Santorum	15	2	5	0	0	1	1
Newt Gingrich	11	22	10	28	5	5	6
Ron Paul	6	7	7	9	3	4	3
Rick Perry	NA	NA	5	3	11	30	6
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	1	3	*	1	2
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	3	1	4	7
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	NA	21	1	2
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	14
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2
Other (vol.)	0	0	0	*	0	1	1
All of them (vol.)	3	2	5	3	6	4	7
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	1	3	1	2	2	5	2
None of them (vol.)	6	4	2	4	3	4	4
No opinion	6	4	7	8	13	10	11

31. If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Barack Obama, the Democrat) and ([ITEM], the Republican), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Obama) or toward [ITEM]?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - GEN POP

3/10/12 - Summary Table

	Obama	Rep.	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
a. Mitt Romney	46	47	*	2	3	2
b. Rick Santorum	48	45	1	2	2	2

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - REG VOTERS

3/10/12 - Summary Table

	Obama	Rep.	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
a. Mitt Romney	47	49	*	1	2	2
b. Rick Santorum	49	46	1	2	1	1

Trend:

a. Mitt Romney

	Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	46	47	*	2	3	2
2/4/12	52	43	*	1	2	2
1/15/12	46	47	*	2	3	2
12/18/11	49	46	*	2	2	1
11/3/11	48	45	*	3	2	1
10/2/11	47	46	*	3	1	2
9/1/11	46	47	*	2	3	2
7/17/11	51	44	*	2	1	2
6/5/11	47	47	*	2	1	2
4/17/11	49	45	*	3	1	2
3/10/12 RV	47	49	*	1	2	2
2/4/12 RV	51	45	*	1	1	1
1/15/12 RV	46	48	*	2	2	2
12/18/11 RV	47	47	*	2	2	1
11/3/11 RV	46	47	*	3	2	1
10/2/11 RV	46	48	*	2	1	2
9/1/11 RV	45	49	*	2	2	2
7/17/11 RV	49	47	*	2	1	1
6/5/11 RV	46	49	*	2	1	2
4/17/11 RV	49	45	*	3	1	1

b. Rick Santorum

	Obama	Santorum	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	48	45	1	2	2	2
1/15/12	52	39	*	3	3	2
3/10/12 RV	49	46	1	2	1	1
1/15/12 RV	52	41	*	2	2	2

32. Just your best guess, who do you think will win the presidential election this year - (Obama) or (the Republican candidate)?

	Obama	Rep. candidate	No opinion
3/10/12	54	40	6
1/15/12	46	49	5
12/18/11	46	49	5
10/2/11	37	55	8

33. Organizations known as Super-PACS can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money on behalf of candidates they support. (Supporters say this is a form of free speech) while (opponents say this allows groups or wealthy individuals to have unfair influence.) Do you think it should be legal or illegal for these Super-PACS to operate?

	---- Should be legal ----			--- Should be illegal ---			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/10/12	25	9	16	69	16	52	6

34. On another subject, which political party would you say cares more about issues that are especially important to women - the (Democrats) or the (Republicans)?

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	55	30	3	5	7
4/2/00	58	24	5	4	9

35. Do you think health insurance companies should or should not be required to cover the full cost of birth control for women? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	-- Should be required ---			- Should not be required -			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/10/12	61	50	12	35	8	27	3

36. (IF SHOULD BE REQUIRED) What if the insurance is provided through an employer who is affiliated with a religious institution that opposes birth control. This could be a religious-affiliated university or hospital, for example. In this case do you think health insurance companies should or should not be required to cover the full cost of birth control for women? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	-- Should be required ---			- Should not be required -			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/10/12	79	67	12	18	9	9	3

35/36 NET:

	Should be required	- Should not be required -	No opinion
	NET	At first If affil.	
3/10/12	49	46 35 11	5

37. Do you think a political leader should or should not rely on his or her religious beliefs in making policy decisions?

	Should	Should not	Depends (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	31	63	3	3
9/1/11	29	66	3	1
12/9/07	27	66	6	1
10/8/06	35	61	2	2
4/24/05	40	55	4	2

38. How much does it matter to you that a candidate for president shares your religious beliefs – does it matter a great deal, somewhat, not so much, or not at all?

	---- Matters ----			-- Does not matter ---			
	NET	Great deal	Smwt	NET	Not so much	Not at all	No opinion
3/10/12	42	17	24	58	17	41	1
2/4/12	38	18	20	62	16	46	*

39. In your view, has the country gone too far in keeping religion and government separate, gone too far in mixing religion and government, or has it struck a good balance in the area of the separation of church and state?

	Gone too far in keeping separate	Gone too far in mixing	Struck a good balance	No opinion
3/10/12	36	25	34	4
7/26/94*	36	18	40	6

\*NBC/Wall St. Journal

40. On another subject, do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

	----- Legal -----			----- Illegal -----			No
	NET	All cases	Most cases	NET	Most cases	All cases	opinion
3/10/12	54	21	33	43	25	17	3
7/17/11	54	19	35	44	30	15	2
3/26/10	53	17	35	45	27	18	2
11/23/09	54	19	35	43	28	16	2
6/21/09	55	20	35	43	26	17	2
9/7/08	RV 57	19	38	39	24	15	4
8/22/08	54	22	32	44	26	18	3
6/15/08	53	18	35	44	28	16	3
1/12/08	57	21	36	40	25	15	3
12/9/07	53	18	35	44	27	17	3
11/1/07	55	19	36	43	27	16	2
7/21/07	56	23	34	41	28	14	2
2/25/07	56	16	39	42	31	12	2
12/18/05	56	17	40	41	27	13	3
4/24/05	56	20	36	42	27	14	3
12/19/04	55	21	34	42	25	17	3
5/23/04	54	23	31	44	23	20	2
1/20/03	57	23	34	42	25	17	2

8/12/01	49	22	27	48	28	20	3
6/24/01	52	22	31	43	23	20	4
1/15/01	59	21	38	39	25	14	1
9/6/00	RV 55	20	35	42	25	16	3
7/23/00	53	20	33	43	26	17	4
9/2/99	56	20	37	42	26	15	2
3/14/99	55	21	34	42	27	15	3
7/12/98	54	19	35	42	29	13	4
8/5/96	56	22	34	41	27	14	3
6/30/96	58	24	34	40	25	14	2
10/1/95	60	26	35	37	25	12	3
9/21/95	60	24	36	36	25	11	4
7/17/95	59	27	32	40	26	14	1

41. Do you think it should be legal or illegal for gay and lesbian couples to get married? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Legal -----			----- Illegal -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	52	36	17	43	7	36	5
7/17/11	51	32	19	45	9	36	4
3/13/11	53	36	17	44	9	35	3
2/8/10	47	31	16	50	9	42	3
4/24/09*	49	31	18	46	7	39	5
6/4/06	36	24	13	58	7	51	5
8/28/05	39	NA	NA	58	NA	NA	3
8/29/04	RV 32	18	14	62	10	52	5
3/7/04	38	24	14	59	11	48	3
2/22/04	39	25	13	55	6	49	6
1/18/04	41	NA	NA	55	NA	NA	4
9/7/03	37	NA	NA	55	NA	NA	7

\*2009 "gay and lesbian" and "homosexual" wordings half sampled. 2005 "gay and lesbian", others "homosexual".

42. On another subject, what is your view of the Tea Party political movement - would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat or oppose it strongly?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
3/10/12	44	15	29	43	17	26	13
2/4/12	43	12	31	45	20	25	12
1/15/12	40	13	28	50	23	27	10
12/18/11	42	13	28	45	20	26	13
11/3/11	43	14	29	44	20	24	13
10/2/11	42	12	30	47	20	27	11
9/1/11	47	13	35	45	18	27	8
7/17/11	44	13	31	46	23	24	10
6/5/11	46	13	33	44	21	24	10
4/17/11	42	16	26	49	21	27	10

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	31	27	36	3	3
2/12/12	34	23	37	5	1
1/15/12	32	25	36	5	2

908a. Would you say your views on most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Don't think in those terms (vol.)		No opinion
3/10/12	23	37	37	2	1	
2/12/12	21	39	37	1	2	
1/15/12	19	42	37	1	2	

\*\*\*END\*\*\*