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Tough Stance on Iran Endorsed

Public Priorities: Deficit Rising, Terrorism Slipping

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Public Priorities: Deficit Rising, Terrorism Slipping

As the 2012 State of the Union approaches, the public continues to give the highest priority to economic issues. Fully 86% say that strengthening the economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress this year, and 82% rate improving the job situation as a top priority. None of the other 20 issues tested in this annual survey rate as a top priority for more than 70% of Americans.

More generally, the public's concerns rest more with domestic policy than at any point in the past 15 years; 81% say Obama should be focused on domestic policy, just 9% say foreign policy. In keeping with this, defending against terrorism and strengthening the military are given less priority today than over the course of the past decade.

Nonetheless, the public is keeping a wary eye on Iran. It is now seen as the country that represents the greatest danger to the U.S., and more Americans prioritize taking a firm stand against Iran over avoiding military conflict. And with respect to restructuring America's national security policy, the public is evenly divided as to whether a smaller military can be just as effective as a larger one in facing future security challenges.

Top Policy Priorities for 2012

% considering each as a "top priority" for the president and Congress this year	Five years ago Jan 2007 %	One year ago Jan 2011 %	Today Jan 2012 %	Five year chg
Economy	68	87	86	+18
Jobs	57	84	82	+25
Terrorism	80	73	69	-11
Budget deficit	53	64	69	+16
Social Security	64	66	68	
Education	69	66	65	
Medicare	63	61	61	
Tax fairness	--	--	61	
Health care costs	68	61	60	-8
Energy	57	50	52	
Help poor and needy	55	52	52	
Crime	62	44	48	-14
Moral breakdown	47	43	44	
Environment	57	40	43	-14
Lobbyist influence	35	37	40	
Illegal immigration	55	46	39	-16
Strengthening military	46	43	39	-7
Global trade	34	34	38	
Transportation	--	33	30	
Lower military spending	--	--	29	
Campaign finance	24*	--	28	
Global warming	38	26	25	-13

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012.
* Campaign finance reform trend from Jan. 2004.

Shifting GOP Priorities

The new poll finds that the federal budget deficit stands out as the fastest growing policy priority for Americans, largely because of growing Republican concerns about the issue. In the national survey, conducted Jan. 11-16 among 1,502 adults, 69% rate reducing the budget deficit as a top priority – the most in any of the Pew Research Center's annual policy priority updates going back to 1994.

Republicans More Focused on Deficit, Less on Terrorism

Rate as a top priority	2007	2011	2012	Five year change
Budget deficit	%	%	%	
Total	53	64	69	+16
Republican	42	68	84	+42
Democrat	57	61	66	+9
Independent	53	65	62	+9
Terrorism				
Total	80	73	69	-11
Republican	93	83	72	-21
Democrat	74	72	71	-3
Independent	77	67	66	-11

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q35b,i.

The number of Republicans rating the budget deficit as a top priority has spiked to 84% from 68% a year ago and just 42% five years ago. Meanwhile Republicans are placing far less emphasis on terrorism, which was their top priority in every year between 2002 and 2008. Today 72% rate it as a top priority, down from 83% a year ago and 93% five years ago. By contrast, the emphasis Democrats and independents give to terrorism and the budget deficit has changed far less.

Parties Divide on Medicare, Health Care

Making the Social Security and Medicare systems financially sound continue to be top-tier issues for Americans, with 68% and 61% rating them as top priorities, respectively. There is a substantially larger partisan divide over Medicare, which Democrats view as higher priority than do Republicans, than over Social Security. Reducing health care costs remains one of the more divisive issues politically, as it was even before the recent battle over health care reform. Currently, 71% of Democrats rate it as a top priority, compared with just 49% of Republicans.

Partisan Agreement on Social Security's Importance

Rate as a top priority	Social Security	Medicare	Reducing health care costs
	%	%	%
Total	68	61	60
Republican	71	56	49
Democrat	73	71	71
Independent	64	55	56
Rep-Dem Diff	-2	-15	-22

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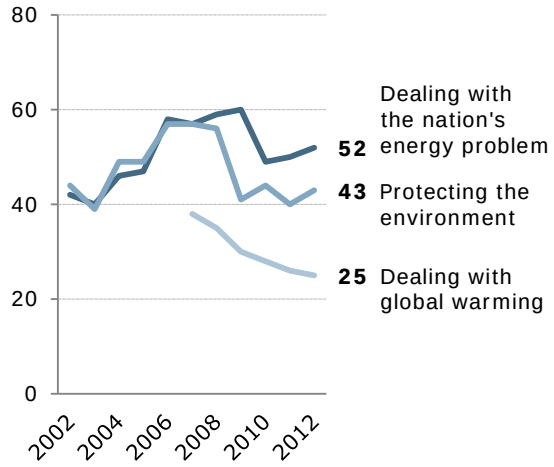
Energy and Environment

No issue divides partisans more than the importance of environmental protection – 58% of Democrats say it is a top priority, compared with just 27% of Republicans. Of the 22 items tested, environmental protection is one of the lowest GOP priorities, along with such issues as improving transportation infrastructure and campaign finance reform. Dealing with the nation's energy problems, by contrast, is of equal importance to both Republicans (55% top priority) and Democrats (57%), though other recent surveys suggest that partisans have very different solutions in mind.

Energy Higher Priority than Environment, Global Warming

Percent rating each as a top priority



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q35e,t,u.

Since it was first tested on the annual policy priorities list in 2007, the share of Americans who view dealing with global warming as a top priority has slipped from 38% to 25%. Democrats (38%) are far more likely than Republicans (11%) to rate this as a top priority. But the decline has occurred across party lines: In 2007, 48% of Democrats rated dealing with global warming as a top priority, as did 23% of Republicans.

Money and Politics

Despite a recent focus on the issue of money in politics, including the role of Super PACs in the 2012 Republican primaries, the issue remains on the back burner for most Americans. Just 28% say reforming the campaign finance system is a top priority for the president and Congress in 2012, and it is one of the lowest ranked issues across party lines. Somewhat more (40%) say reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington is a top priority. There has been little change in the public's focus on either issue compared with previous years.

Declining Focus on Immigration

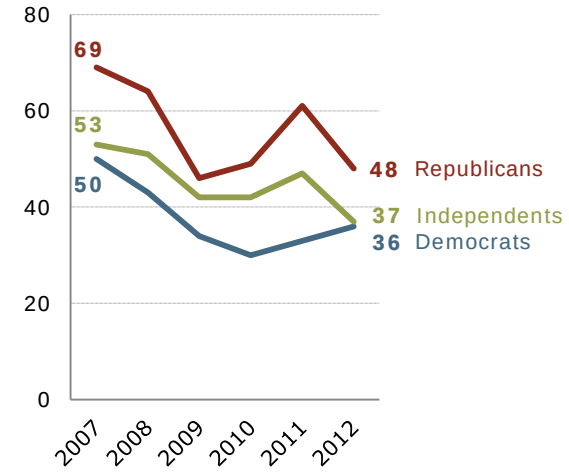
The share of Americans ranking illegal immigration as a top priority has fallen to 39% from 46% a year ago and 55% in 2007. This decline has occurred across party lines, with a notable drop among Republicans. In 2007, illegal immigration was the second-highest priority after terrorism for Republicans, with 69% rating it as a top priority. Today, 48% of Republicans rate it as a top priority, placing it behind 11 other priorities.

Tax Fairness a Low GOP Priority

About six-in-ten Americans (61%) say that making the tax system more fair should be a top priority for the president and Congress this year. It ranks among the top 10 issue priorities, well above items like immigration or the environment, and nearly on par with perennially top-tier issues like education (65% top priority). Democrats and independents rate this as a more critical issue than do Republicans, but half of Republicans say this should be a top priority in 2012. About two-thirds of Americans with household incomes under $75,000 rate this as a top priority, compared with about half of those earning $75,000 or more.

Fewer Say Illegal Immigration is a Top Priority

Percent rating as a top priority



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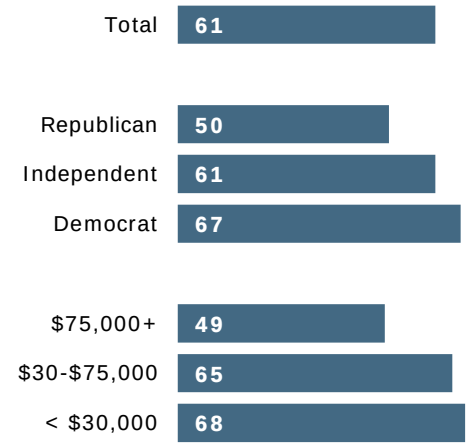
Making the Tax System More Fair

Percent rating as a top priority



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Iran a Top Concern

The recent tensions over Iran's nuclear program and disputes between the U.S. and Iran in the Persian Gulf have garnered a good deal of public attention. Roughly four-in-ten (42%) say they have heard a lot about this, and 41% have heard a little. The percentage naming Iran as the country posing the greatest danger to the U.S. has more than doubled to 28% from 12% a year ago, and it now ranks slightly higher than China. Of those following the Iran situation, 54% say the U.S. should take a firm stand against Iran's actions, while 39% say it is more important to avoid a military conflict with Iran.

Iran Seen as Top Danger to the U.S.

Country representing "greatest danger" to U.S.	Jan 2011	Jan 2012
	%	%
Iran	12	28
China	20	22
North Korea	18	8
Iraq	8	7
Afghanistan	10	5
The U.S. itself	4	3
Mexico	1	2
Russia	2	2

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On Afghanistan, the public favors removing U.S. troops as soon as possible by a wide 56% to 38% margin. Obama continues to receive highly favorable marks for his handling of Afghanistan, and more approve than disapprove of his handling of Iran as well. (*For more, see "Obama: Weak Job Ratings, But Positive Personal Image" Jan. 19, 2012*).

The State of the Union

As President Obama prepares for his third State of the Union speech Tuesday evening, 36% say this address will be more important than previous years' speeches; 14% say it will be less important and 46% say it will be about as important as past State of the Union addresses. This is about the same balance of opinion offered before each of Obama's previous two addresses.

President Should Focus on…

	Domestic policy	Foreign policy	Both / DK
	%	%	%
2012	81	9	10=100
2011	78	11	11=100
2010	73	12	14=100
2009	71	11	18=100
2008	56	31	13=100
2007	39	40	21=100

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Not surprisingly, far more Democrats (53%) than independents (29%) or Republicans (27%) view Obama's speech as more important than usual. However, there is considerably more agreement that Obama should focus his energies on domestic issues, rather than foreign policy: Currently, 81% want the president to focus domestically, much more than said this prior to George W. Bush's last two State of the Unions, in 2007 and 2008.

SECTION 1: THE PUBLIC'S POLICY PRIORITIES

With the nation's economy still struggling and unemployment still high, economic concerns continue to top the public's policy agenda for President Obama and Congress. More than eight-in-ten cite strengthening the economy (86%) and improving the job situation (82%) as top priorities. These numbers have fluctuated only slightly since the start of 2009.

Public's Agenda for President and Congress 2001-2012

% considering each as a "top priority"	Jan 2001 %	Jan 2002 %	Jan 2003 %	Jan 2004 %	Jan 2005 %	Jan 2006 %	Jan 2007 %	Jan 2008 %	Jan 2009 %	Jan 2010 %	Jan 2011 %	Jan 2012 %	11-12 change
Strengthening nation's economy	81	71	73	79	75	66	68	75	85	83	87	86	-1
Improving job situation	60	67	62	67	68	65	57	61	82	81	84	82	-2
Defending against terrorism	--	83	81	78	75	80	80	74	76	80	73	69	-4
Reducing budget deficit	--	35	40	51	56	55	53	58	53	60	64	69	+5
Securing Social Security	74	62	59	65	70	64	64	64	63	66	66	68	+2
Improving education	78	66	62	71	70	67	69	66	61	65	66	65	-1
Securing Medicare	71	55	56	62	67	62	63	60	60	63	61	61	0
Making tax system more fair	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	61	
Reducing health care costs	--	--	--	--	--	--	68	69	59	57	61	60	-1
Dealing with nation's energy problem	--	42	40	46	47	58	57	59	60	49	50	52	+2
Dealing with problems of the poor and needy	63	44	48	50	59	55	55	51	50	53	52	52	0
Reducing crime	76	53	47	53	53	62	62	54	46	49	44	48	+4
Dealing with moral breakdown in country	51	45	39	45	41	47	47	43	45	45	43	44	+1
Protecting environment	63	44	39	49	49	57	57	56	41	44	40	43	+3
Reducing influence of lobbyists	--	--	--	--	--	--	35	39	36	36	37	40	+3
Dealing with illegal immigration	--	--	--	--	--	--	55	51	41	40	46	39	-7
Strengthening the military	48	52	48	48	52	42	46	42	44	49	43	39	-4
Dealing with global trade	37	25	--	32	32	30	34	37	31	32	34	38	+4
Improving roads, bridges, and public transportation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	30	-3
Reducing military spending	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	29	
Reforming campaign finance	37	23	--	24	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	28	
Dealing with global warming	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	35	30	28	26	25	-1

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q35.

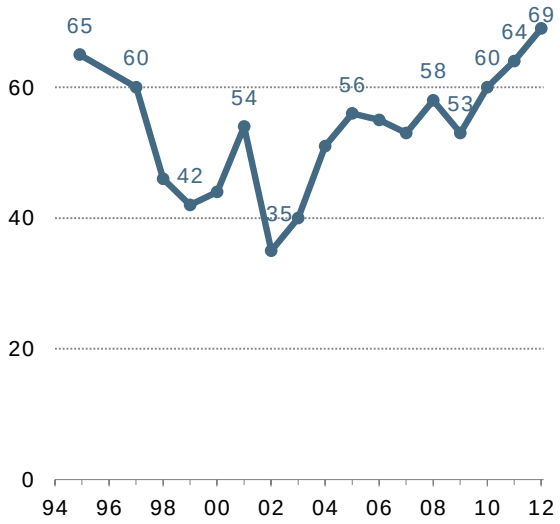
Nearly seven-in-ten (69%) say protecting the nation from terrorism should be a top priority, not much different from one year ago (73%) but down from 80% at the start of 2010. Still, terrorism has been at or near the top of the annual priorities list since it was first included in 2002, shortly after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Concern about the nation's budget deficit, on the other hand, has been increasing in recent years. Currently, 69% say reducing the deficit is a top priority. In January 2009, only about half (53%) rated this as a top priority. The proportion citing the deficit as a top priority is now on par with the number that said this in December 1994 (65%), during Bill Clinton's second year in office.

Reducing the deficit or paying off the national debt became less of a priority in the late 1990s as the nation – and the federal government – benefited from a strong economy. Concern was also modest in the early years of the Bush administration, especially in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. But concern about deficits has increased steadily since 2009.

Deficit Concerns Climb

% who say reducing budget deficit is "top priority"



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q35b. From 1998 to 2001 question asked about "paying off the national debt" rather than "reducing the budget deficit."

Still, strengthening entitlement programs continues to be important for most Americans: 68% say securing Social Security is a top priority, while 61% say this about the Medicare system. In both cases, those numbers are little changed in recent years. In addition, nearly two-thirds (65%) cite improving education as a top priority, again little changed in recent years. About six-in-ten cite making the tax system more fair (61%) or reducing health care costs (60%) as top priorities.

Dealing with illegal immigration remains a lower priority and concerns have fluctuated in recent years. Currently, 39% say dealing with illegal immigration should be a top priority, down from 46% in 2011; it stood at 40% in 2010. In 2007, a majority (55%) said dealing with illegal immigration should be a top priority.

A Spike in GOP Deficit Concerns

More than eight-in-ten Republicans (84%) say reducing the federal budget deficit is a top priority, up 16 points since last January and the highest percentage in a Pew Research Center survey.

During the Bush administration, at most only about half of Republicans viewed reducing the budget deficit as a top policy priority. In January 2009, shortly before George W. Bush left office, 51% of Republicans rated reducing the deficit as a top priority. That percentage jumped 17 points (to 68%) by January 2011 and has increased by about the same amount (16 points) in the last year alone.

Democrats' concerns over the deficit also have risen in recent years, though less sharply than Republicans'. Currently, 66% of Democrats say reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority for the president and Congress, up from 52% in January 2009.

Republicans and Democrats Trade Places – Again – on Deficit

% rating deficit "top priority"	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
	%	%	%	
Jan 2012	84	66	62	+18
Jan 2011	68	61	65	+7
Jan 2010	61	60	60	+1
Jan 2009	51	52	57	-1
Jan 2008	52	64	57	-12
Jan 2007	42	57	53	-15
Jan 2006	45	62	56	-17
Jan 2005	48	64	54	-16
Jan 2004	44	57	55	-13
Jan 2003	38	48	33	-10
Jan 2002	27	41	38	-14
Jan 2001*	49	55	58	-6
Jan 2000*	39	41	50	-2
Jan 1999*	42	42	43	0
Jan 1998*	54	38	47	+16
Jan 1997	66	54	62	+12
Dec 1994	65	61	68	+4

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* From 1998 to 2001 question asked about "paying off the national debt" rather than "reducing the budget deficit."

Nonetheless, Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to rate the deficit as a top priority. It is often the case that members of the party out of power express greater concern over the deficit than do members of the party in control of the White House. Throughout most of the Bush administration, more Democrats than Republicans rated reducing the budget deficit (or paying off the national debt) as a top priority. In 1997 and 1998, during Bill Clinton's second term, more Republicans than Democrats viewed these issues as top priorities.

Familiar Partisan Divides

There continue to be substantial partisan differences over other policy goals as well. Nearly six-in-ten Democrats (58%) say protecting the environment should be a top priority for the president and the Congress, compared with just 27% of Republicans and 40% of independents.

Wide Partisan Gaps Over Environment, Education, Poverty, Budget Deficit

% considering each as a "top priority"	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	R-D diff
Protecting the environment	27	58	40	-31
Improving educational system	51	79	60	-28
Dealing with problems of the poor	39	66	46	-27
Dealing with global warming	11	38	21	-27
Improving roads, bridges, transportation	16	42	27	-26
Reducing military spending	16	39	26	-23
Reducing health care costs	49	71	56	-22
Making tax system more fair	50	67	61	-17
Securing Medicare	56	71	55	-15
Improving job situation	77	89	81	-12
Reducing crime	47	55	45	-8
Dealing with global trade	35	42	36	-7
Reforming campaign finance	25	31	28	-6
Dealing with nation's energy problem	55	57	46	-2
Securing Social Security	71	73	64	-2
Defending against terrorism	72	71	66	+1
Strengthening nation's economy	90	86	84	+4
Reducing the influence of lobbyists	42	38	43	+4
Strengthening the military	46	37	36	+9
Dealing with moral breakdown	53	42	40	+11
Dealing with illegal immigration	48	36	37	+12
Reducing budget deficit	84	66	62	+18

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q35.

Democrats also are far more likely than Republicans to view improving the education system (28-point partisan gap), dealing with the problems of the poor and needy (27 points) and dealing with global warming (27 points) as top priorities. Nearly four-in-ten Democrats (38%) say dealing with global warming should be a top priority, compared with just 11% of Republicans and 21% of independents.

Republicans, on the other hand, are more likely than Democrats to say that reducing the budget deficit (18-point partisan gap) and dealing with moral breakdown in the country (11 points) are top priorities for the president and Congress.

Republicans are less likely to view illegal immigration as a top priority than did so last year and the gap with Democrats has narrowed. About half of Republicans (48%) view dealing with illegal immigration as a top policy priority, down from 61% in 2011. Among independents, the number saying this is a top priority also fell, from 47% to 37%. Democrats' views are largely unchanged (36% today, 33% last year).

Nearly identical percentages of Republicans (72%) and Democrats (71%), along with 66% of independents, say that defending the country from future terrorist attacks should be a top priority for the president and Congress.

There was a wide partisan gap over the importance of this issue during much of the Bush administration. And as recently as last year, Republicans were more likely than Democrats to rate defending against future attacks as a top priority (83% vs. 72%).

No Partisan Gap Over Defending U.S. From Future Terrorism

% rating defending against terrorism as "top priority"	Rep	Dem	Ind	R-D diff
	%	%	%	
Jan 2012	72	71	66	+1
Jan 2011	83	72	67	+11
Jan 2010	89	80	76	+9
Jan 2009	79	71	81	+8
Jan 2008	86	75	65	+11
Jan 2007	93	74	77	+19
Jan 2006	86	76	79	+10
Jan 2005	84	66	75	+18
Jan 2004	88	70	78	+18
Jan 2003	87	74	80	+13
Jan 2002	90	82	79	+8

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SECTION 2: IRAN, AFGHANISTAN, MILITARY POLICY, U.S. GLOBAL IMAGE

In the wake of Iran's recent threats to block the Strait of Hormuz and the tightening of economic sanctions by Western nations, most Americans say they have heard a lot (42%) or a little (41%) about the recent tensions. And Iran has now risen to the top of the nations the public says represent the greatest danger to the U.S.: Nearly three-in-ten (28%) volunteer Iran when asked this question.

Among those who are aware of the recent tensions between the U.S. and Iran over Iran's nuclear program and disputes in the Persian Gulf, a majority say that it is more important to take a firm stand against Iranian actions (54%) than to avoid a military conflict with Iran (39%). More than seven-in-ten Republicans (72%) say taking a firm stand is more important, as do a smaller majority (52%) of independents.

Democrats are more evenly split: 45% say taking a firm stand, 47% say avoiding a military conflict. This reflects a division of opinion within Democrats; while 52% of conservative and moderate Democrats say taking a firm stand is more important, that falls to 36% among liberal Democrats.

There also is a sizable age gap in opinions about how to deal with Iran. Among those under 30 who have heard about recent U.S.-Iran tensions, 56% say it is more important to avoid a military conflict with Iran. Majorities in older age groups – including 61% of those 65 and older –say it is more important to take a firm stand against Iranian actions.

Wide Partisan Divide Over How to Deal With Iran

On Iran, more important to…

Based on those who heard a lot/little about Iran tensions	**Take firm stand**	**Avoid military conflict**	**Other/ DK**
	%	%	%
Total	54	39	7=100
Men	58	36	6=100
Women	49	42	9=100
18-29	40	56	4=100
30-49	54	40	6=100
50-64	59	34	8=100
65+	61	26	13=100
Republican	72	22	5=100
Democrat	45	47	8=100
Independent	52	41	7=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q65. Based on those who have heard a lot/or a little about tensions between the U.S. and Iran.

More Perceive Iran as Greatest Danger

When asked which country represents the greatest danger to the U.S., more Americans volunteer Iran (28%) than name any other country, though nearly as many (22%) name China. North Korea (8%), Iraq (7%) and Afghanistan (5%) are mentioned by smaller proportions of the public.

The percentage naming Iran has more than doubled since last January (from 12% then to 28% today); opinions today are on par with those in 2006 and 2007. Compared with last year, fewer now cite North Korea as the most dangerous nation (8% today, 18% then), while about as many say China as did so last January (22% today, 20% last year).

Republicans view Iran as the country that poses the greatest danger to the United States: 42% name Iran, compared with 23% who name China and 9% who say North Korea
By contrast, Iran and China are cited about equally by Democrats (24% and 20%, respectively) and independents (25% each).

Far More View Iran as "Greatest Danger" Than in 2011

Country representing "greatest danger" to U.S.	Mar 1990 %	Feb 1992 %	Sept 1993 %	Sept 2001 %	Oct 2005 %	Feb 2006 %	Feb 2007 %	Sept 2008 %	Nov 2009 %	Jan 2011 %	Jan 2012 %
Iran	6	4	7	5	9	27	25	21	21	12	28
China	8	8	11	32	16	20	14	16	11	20	22
North Korea	--	--	1	1	13	11	17	6	10	18	8
Iraq	--	12	18	16	18	17	19	13	14	8	7
Afghanistan	--	--	--	--	2	1	2	5	14	10	5
The U.S. itself	4	3	--	2	7	5	5	4	5	4	3
Mexico	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	2
Russia/U.S.S.R.	32	13	8	9	2	3	2	14	2	2	2
Pakistan	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	1	3	4	1
Israel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1
Japan	8	31	11	3	1	1	1	1	--	1	1

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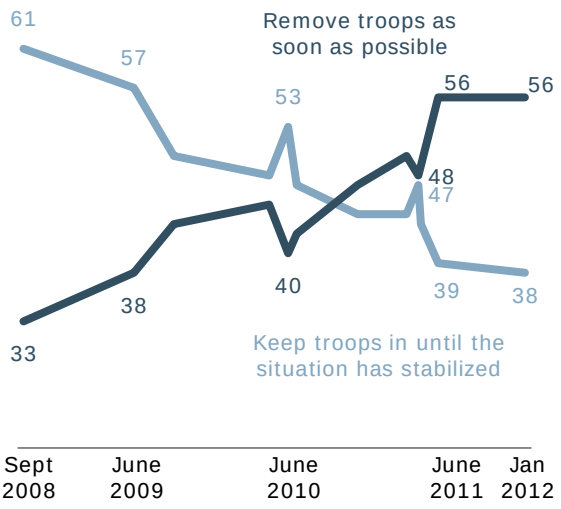
Little Change in Views of Afghanistan

A majority (56%) says U.S. troops should be brought home from Afghanistan as soon as possible; 38% say troops should remain there until the situation has stabilized. Public views about the draw-down of U.S. forces are nearly identical to June, although this represented a stark shift from past years.

The public also continues to say the effort in Afghanistan is going at least fairly well (55%), with Republicans (62%) and Democrats (55%) about equally likely to say it is going well. Independents offer less positive assessments (51% very or fairly well, 42% less well).

There continue to be wide partisan differences over whether to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized or bring them home as soon as possible. A majority of Republicans (57%) say troops should remain in the country until the situation has stabilized. Two-thirds of Democrats (66%) and 56% of independents say troops should be removed as soon as possible. These patterns are little changed from June.

Majority Favors Removing Troops from Afghanistan



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Most Republicans Still Favor Keeping Troops in Afghanistan

How well is the U.S. military effort going?	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Very/Fairly well	55	62	55	51
Not too/Not at all well	38	34	34	42
Don't know	8	4	10	6
	100	100	100	100
Should U.S.				
Keep troops in until situation has stabilized	38	57	28	38
Remove troops as soon as possible	56	39	66	56
Don't know	6	4	6	6
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q68-69. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Can a Smaller Military Do The Job?

Following the Defense Department's recent response to cuts to its budget, including plans to scale down the size of the armed forces, Americans are divided in their views about the effectiveness of a smaller military: 44% say a smaller military will reduce effectiveness, while 45% say a smaller military can be just as effective in facing future challenges.

Public Divided Over Whether Smaller Military Can Be As Effective

	Smaller military …		
	Will reduce effectiveness	**Can be as effective**	**Depends/ DK**
	%	%	%
Total	44	45	11=100
18-29	40	54	7=100
30-49	48	43	9=100
50-64	47	44	9=100
65+	38	40	22=100
Republican	65	29	6=100
Conservative Rep	70	23	7=100
Mod/Lib Rep	53	45	2=100
Independent	46	45	10=100
Democrat	31	57	12=100
Cons/Mod Dem	39	49	12=100
Liberal Dem	19	73	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q43. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Roughly two-thirds of Republicans (65%) say troop cuts will reduce effectiveness, compared with 46% of independents and just 31% of Democrats. There are substantial differences within partisan groups: While nearly three-quarters of liberal Democrats (73%) say a smaller military would be just as capable, conservative and moderate Democrats are more evenly split (39% less effective, 49% as effective).

Conversely, while moderate and liberal Republicans are split on the question, seven-in-ten conservative Republicans (70%) say downsizing military will diminish its effectiveness.

America's Image Abroad

A 56% majority of Americans say the U.S. is less respected now than it was in the past. This is unchanged from November of 2009, and remains a more positive assessment of foreign impressions than throughout the later years of George W. Bush's administration. At the same time, the percentage saying the U.S. is more respected than in the past has declined over the last two years (from 21% to 13%), with a comparable rise in the proportion saying the country is as respected as it had been (from 20% to 27%).

Fewer Say U.S. Is "Less Respected" Than During Bush Years

Compared to the past, U.S. is…	Jul 2004	Oct 2005	Aug 2006	May 2008	Sep 2008*	Nov 2009	Jan 2012
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
More respected	10	9	7	7	5	21	13
Less respected	67	66	65	71	70	56	56
Major problem	43	43	48	56	48	38	40
Minor/Not a problem	23	22	16	14	21	18	16
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	*	*
As respected as in past	20	21	23	18	22	20	27
Don't know	3	4	5	4	3	3	3
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q37/38F1. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. *Based on registered voters.

As was the case in 2009, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say the U.S. is now less respected abroad (66% vs. 50%). But these evaluations shift with administrations; while George W. Bush was president, Democrats were far more likely to say the U.S. had lost respect. Today, 56% of independents say the U.S. is less respected than in the past, similar to the proportion who said this in 2009; fewer now say this than did so from 2004 to 2008.

Partisan Views of Global Respect for the U.S. Change with Administrations

% less respected	Jul 2004	Oct 2005	Aug 2006	May 2008	Sep 2008*	Nov 2009	Jan 2012
Republican	47	50	48	60	55	68	66
Democrat	80	74	76	81	81	49	50
Independent	74	73	73	72	72	59	56
R-D diff	**+33D**	**+24D**	**+28D**	**+21D**	**+26D**	**+19R**	**+16R**

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q37F1. *Based on registered voters.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 11-16, 2012 among a national sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (902 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 600 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 293 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://people-press.org/methodology/

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,502	3.5 percentage points
Republicans	370	6.5 percentage points
Democrats	468	5.5 percentage points
Independents	586	5.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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JANUARY 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
January 11-16, 2012
N=1502

QUESTION 1-2, 4-5, 8-9 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3, 6-7

ASK ALL:
Q.10 As you may know, Barack Obama will give his annual State of the Union address in a few weeks … Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

	More important	Less important	Same	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Obama				
Jan 11-16, 2012	36	14	46	5
Jan 20-23, 2011[1]	28	11	53	8
Jan 5-9, 2011	34	11	49	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	39	9	45	7
Bush				
January, 2008	19	27	46	8
January, 2007	32	16	43	9
January, 2006	30	14	47	9
January, 2005	34	9	47	10
Mid-January, 2004	34	9	49	8
January, 2003	52	6	35	7
January, 2002	54	4	36	6
Clinton				
January, 2000	16	22	53	9
January, 1999	27	16	51	6

ASK ALL:
Q.11 Right now, which is more important for President Obama to focus on… domestic policy or foreign policy?

	Domestic policy	Foreign policy	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Obama					
Jan 11-16, 2012	81	9	1	5	4
May 25-30, 2011	77	9	1	9	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	78	11	1	7	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	73	12	1	10	3
January 7-11, 2009[2]	71	11	*	14	4
Next President					
September, 2008[3]	60	21	*	15	4
May, 2008	61	22	*	15	4
G.W. Bush					
January, 2008	56	31	1	8	4
January, 2007	39	40	1	15	5
August, 2006	50	32	1	12	5
January, 2006	57	25	1	13	4
October, 2005	64	20	1	12	3
Early January, 2005	53	27	1	16	3
January, 2002	52	34	*	11	3

[1] In 1999-2007 and 2010-2011, question began "Now thinking about Barack Obama's/George W. Bush's/Bill Clinton's upcoming State of the Union address…" In 2008, question began "As you may know, George W. Bush will give his annual State of the Union address in a few weeks…"
[2] January 7-11, 2009, survey asked about "president-elect Obama."
[3] September and May 2008 surveys asked about priorities for the "next president."

Q.11 CONTINUED …

	Domestic policy	Foreign policy	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Clinton					
Early September, 1998	56	30	0	11	3
January, 1997	86	7	*	5	2
December, 1994	85	7	2	4	2
October, 1993	76	13	*	7	4

NO QUESTIONS 12, 17

QUESTIONS 13-16 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?
ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	*Lean Rep*	*Lean Dem*
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
Feb 2-7, 2011	24	31	39	3	*	2	16	16
Yearly Totals								
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	*30.9*	*31.8*	*27.9*	*5.2*	*.6*	*3.6*	*11.7*	*9.4*
2001 Pre-Sept 11	*27.3*	*34.4*	*30.9*	*5.1*	*.6*	*1.7*	*12.1*	*13.5*
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED…

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	*Lean Rep*	*Lean Dem*
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

NO QUESTIONS 18-19, 21-22, 24-28, 32-34

QUESTIONS 20, 23, 29-31 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.35 I'd like to ask you about priorities for President Obama and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done. (First,) should **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about… [**INSERT ITEM]**?) **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY TO BE SURE RESPONDENT UNDERSTANDS SCALE:** should this be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?**]**

	SUMMARY TABLE	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
m.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	86	11	1	1	2
a.F1	Improving the job situation	82	14	1	2	1
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	69	25	5	1	*
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	69	21	5	2	3
o.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	68	26	2	2	1
n.F2	Improving the educational system	65	27	4	3	1
p.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	61	31	5	1	1
d.F1	Changing the federal income tax system to make it more fair	61	29	5	2	3
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	60	30	4	5	1
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	52	38	6	2	2
q.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	52	36	8	2	2
c.F1	Reducing crime	48	37	11	2	2
r.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	44	30	11	10	5
e.F1	Protecting the environment	43	39	15	3	*
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	40	31	18	5	6
s.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	39	36	15	8	2
h.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	39	38	17	4	2
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	38	40	14	4	4
l.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems	30	52	15	2	1
k.F1	Reducing military spending	29	39	12	18	3
g.F1	Reforming the campaign finance system	28	35	24	6	7
u.F2	Dealing with global warming	25	35	20	16	4

Q.35 CONTINUED…

FULL TREND:

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
ASK ITEMS a THRU k OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:						
a.F1	Improving the job situation					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	82	14	1	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	84	13	*	1	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	81	15	1	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	82	15	1	1	1
	January, 2008	61	31	4	2	2
	January, 2007	57	30	10	1	2
	January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2
	January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1
	January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1
	January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	69	21	5	2	3
	Jan 5-9, 2011	64	27	3	2	4
	Jan 6-10, 2010	60	29	5	2	4
	Jan 7-11, 2009	53	33	7	2	4
	January, 2008	58	33	5	1	3
	January, 2007	53	34	7	2	4
	January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4
	January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3
	January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2
	January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3
	January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	Paying off the national debt					
	January, 2001	54	32	8	2	4
	January, 2000	44	38	11	3	4
	July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2
	January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4
	January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2
c.F1	Reducing crime					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	48	37	11	2	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	44	43	10	2	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	8	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	46	41	9	2	2
	January, 2008	54	36	7	1	2
	January, 2007	62	31	5	1	1
	January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2
	January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1
	January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2
	January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2
	January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1

Q.35 CONTINUED…

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2
d.F1	Changing the federal income tax system to make it more fair					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	61	29	5	2	3
e.F1	Protecting the environment					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	43	39	15	3	*
	Jan 5-9, 2011	40	44	12	3	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	44	42	11	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	42	12	3	2
	January, 2008	56	34	8	1	1
	January, 2007	57	32	9	1	1
	January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*
	January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1
f.F1	Reducing health care costs					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	60	30	4	5	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	28	4	4	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	57	31	5	4	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	59	30	5	4	2
	January, 2008	69	24	3	3	1
	January, 2007	68	24	4	3	1
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: *Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans*					
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2
	January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3
g.F1	Reforming the campaign finance system					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	28	35	24	6	7
	January, 2004	24	38	23	8	7
	January, 2002	23	35	28	6	8
	Early September, 2001	29	35	23	8	5
	January, 2001	37	32	18	6	7
	January, 2000	32	34	20	6	8
	July, 1999	28	37	23	7	5
	January, 1999	29	36	21	6	8
	January, 1998	32	34	24	5	5

Q.35 CONTINUED…

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	January, 1997	31	37	23	5	4
h.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	39	38	17	4	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	38	12	3	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	40	41	14	2	3
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	36	18	3	2
	January, 2008	51	32	11	3	3
	January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	69	25	5	1	*
	Jan 5-9, 2011	73	22	3	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	80	17	2	*	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	76	18	3	1	2
	January, 2008	74	22	2	*	2
	January, 2007	80	16	2	1	1
	January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1
	January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	38	40	14	4	4
	Jan 5-9, 2011	34	44	13	3	5
	Jan 6-10, 2010	32	46	12	4	7
	Jan 7-11, 2009	31	49	11	2	7
	January, 2008	37	45	11	2	5
	January, 2007	34	46	12	2	6
	January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6
	January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7
k.F1	Reducing military spending					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	29	39	12	18	3
ASK ITEMS l THRU v FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:						
l.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges, and public transportation systems					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	30	52	15	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	33	48	16	2	2
m.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	86	11	1	1	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	87	11	1	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	83	14	1	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	85	12	*	1	1
	January, 2008	75	20	2	1	2
	January, 2007	68	25	4	2	1
	January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2
	January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1
	January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1

Q.35 CONTINUED…

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Early September, 2001[4]	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1
n.F2	Improving the educational system					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	65	27	4	3	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	5	2	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	65	28	4	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	61	30	5	2	2
	January, 2008	66	26	4	2	2
	January, 2007	69	25	4	1	1
	January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1
	January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2
	January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*
o.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	68	26	2	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	4	1	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	66	28	3	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	63	31	3	1	2
	January, 2008	64	28	4	2	2
	January, 2007	64	28	5	2	1
	January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
	January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1
	January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1
p.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	61	31	5	1	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	31	4	2	3
	Jan 6-10, 2010	63	30	4	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
	January, 2008	60	33	4	1	2
	January, 2007	63	31	3	1	2
	January, 2006	62	30	4	2	2
	January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*
	January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1

[4] In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

Q.35 CONTINUED…

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1
q.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	52	36	8	2	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	52	36	8	2	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	53	38	6	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	50	39	6	3	2
	January, 2008	51	37	7	2	3
	January, 2007	55	36	6	2	1
	January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2
	January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1
	January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1
	January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*
r.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	44	30	11	10	5
	Jan 5-9, 2011	43	30	12	9	6
	Jan 6-10, 2010	45	31	13	7	4
	Jan 7-11, 2009	45	29	16	6	4
	January, 2008	43	31	13	8	5
	January, 2007	47	30	12	8	3
	January, 2006	47	26	14	9	4
	January, 2005	41	32	14	10	3
	January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2
	January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3
s.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	39	36	15	8	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	43	35	14	6	3
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	35	10	5	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	44	39	8	4	5
	January, 2008	42	38	12	5	3
	January, 2007	46	35	10	5	4
	January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3
	January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2
	January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3

Q.35 CONTINUED…

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	52	38	6	2	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	50	39	7	2	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	7	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
	January, 2008	59	32	6	1	2
	January, 2007	57	35	6	1	1
	January, 2006	58	33	6	1	2
	January, 2005	47	42	7	1	3
	January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3
	Early September, 2001[5]	46	41	6	2	5
u.F2	Dealing with global warming					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	25	35	20	16	4
	Jan 5-9, 2011	26	35	21	14	4
	Jan 6-10, 2010	28	36	20	14	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	30	37	19	10	4
	January, 2008	35	38	15	7	5
	January, 2007	38	34	16	8	4
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington					
	Jan 11-16, 2012	40	31	18	5	6
	Jan 5-9, 2011	37	31	19	6	7
	Jan 6-10, 2010	36	34	18	7	6
	Jan 7-11, 2009	36	34	18	5	7
	January, 2008	39	32	16	4	9
	January, 2007	35	30	23	4	8

[5] In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

ASK ALL:
Thinking about foreign policy…
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=748]:
Q.36F2 What country in the world, if any, represents the greatest danger to the United States? **[OPEN END; DO NOT READ ITEMS; DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION. IF MULTIPLE MENTIONS ONLY RECORD EXPLANATION IF NECESSARY FOR CLARIFICATION. IF RESPONDENT SAYS "KOREA" PROBE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY MEAN NORTH OR SOUTH KOREA]**

Jan 11-16 2012		Jan 5-9 2011	Oct 28-Nov 8 2009	Mid-Sep 2008	Feb 2007	Feb 2006	Late Oct 2005	Early Sep 2001	Sep 1993	Apr 1993	Jan 1993	Feb 1992	Mar 1990
28	Iran	12	21	21	25	27	9	5	7	7	6	4	6
22	China	20	11	16	14	20	16	32	11	7	9	8	8
8	North Korea	18	10	6	17	11	13	1	1	--	--	--	--
7	Iraq	8	14	13	19	17	18	16	18	14	17	12	--
5	Afghanistan	10	14	5	2	1	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
3	United States	4	5	4	5	5	7	2	--	6	6	3	4
2	Mexico	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Russia[6]	2	2	14	2	3	2	9	8	16	13	13	32
1	Pakistan	4	3	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	South Korea	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Israel	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Japan	1	--	1	1	1	1	3	11	9	8	31	8
4	Other	4	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4	None/Not just one country	3	4	5	3	2	8	2	6	12	9	5	6
13	Don't know/Refused	17	16	14	13	10	17	20	24	17	21	13	13

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:
Q.37F1 Compared with the past, would you say the U.S. is MORE respected by other countries these days, LESS respected by other countries, or AS respected as it has been in the past?
ASK IF LESS RESPECTED (Q.37F1=2):
Q.38F1 Do you think less respect for America is a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

Jan 11-16 2012		Nov 12-15 2009	**(RV)** Mid-Sep 2008	May 2008	Aug 2006	Late Oct 2005	July 2004	May 1987[7]	*Newsweek* Jan 1984
13	More respected	21	5	7	7	9	10	19	27
56	Less respected	56	70	71	65	66	67	55	36
40	Major problem	38	48	56	48	43	43	--	--
12	Minor problem	14	19	11	14	18	19	--	--
4	Not a problem	4	2	3	2	4	4	--	--
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	*	1	1	1	1	1	--	--
27	As respected as in the past	20	22	18	23	21	20	23	29
3	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	3	3	4	5	4	3	3	8

NO QUESTION 39

[6] In November 2009 and before, Russia also included mentions of the former Soviet Union.
[7] In May 1987 the question asked "Compared to five years ago, would you say the U.S. is more respected by other countries, less respected by other countries, or as respected as it was five years ago by other countries?" In January 1984, the Newsweek question asked "Compared to four years ago…"

QUESTIONS 40-42 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.43 Thinking about the future of the U.S. military, do you think a smaller military will reduce effectiveness, or do you think a smaller military can be just as effective in facing future challenges?

Jan 11-16
2012

44	Smaller military reduces effectiveness
45	Smaller military can be just as effective
3	Depends **(VOL.)**
8	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

NO QUESTIONS 44-49

QUESTIONS 50-61 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 62-63

Thinking about IRAN…

ASK ALL:

Q.64 How much, if anything, have you heard about recent tensions between the U.S. and Iran over Iran's nuclear program and disputes in the Persian Gulf? **[READ]**

Jan 11-16
2012

42	A lot
41	A little
15	Nothing at all
2	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

*How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the dispute about Iran's nuclear program? Have you heard…**[READ]***

Sep 30-Oct 4 2009		Sep 2006	Feb 2006[8]
41	A lot	41	32
41	A little	44	46
18	Nothing at all	14	21
*	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1

[8] In February 2006, question was worded "The Iranian government recently said it will resume research on nuclear technology, despite opposition from other countries. How much, if anything, have you read or heard about this …"

ASK ALL:
Q.65 In your opinion, which is more important **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

Jan 11-16
2012

50	To take a firm stand against Iranian actions [OR]
41	To avoid a military conflict with Iran
1	Neither **(VOL.)**
2	Both **(VOL.)**
7	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

TREND FOR COMPARISON:
*In your opinion, which is more important **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]?***

Sep 30-Oct 4
2009

61	To prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, even if it means taking military action
	[OR]
24	To avoid a military conflict with Iran, even if it means they may develop nuclear weapons
4	Neither **(VOL.)**
1	Both **(VOL.)**
10	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

NO QUESTIONS 66-67

ASK ALL:
Thinking about Afghanistan
Q.68 How well is the U.S. military effort in Afghanistan going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	Very well	Fairly well	Not too well	Not at all well	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 11-16, 2012	10	45	26	11	8
Jun 15-19, 2011	10	43	28	12	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	7	43	29	15	7
Dec 1-5, 2010	8	39	28	15	10
Jul 8-11, 2010	9	40	31	9	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	8	40	32	13	7
Mar 10-14, 2010	9	43	22	13	13
Dec 9-13, 2009	7	39	32	11	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	4	32	41	16	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	7	38	34	11	10
February, 2008	10	38	31	10	11

ASK ALL:

Q.69 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Afghanistan until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should remove troops as soon as possible?

	Keep troops in Afghanistan	Remove troops	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	56	6
Jun 15-19, 2011	39	56	4
May 5-8, 2011	43	49	8
May 2, 2011	47	48	4
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011[9]	44	50	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	44	47	8
Jul 8-11, 2010	47	42	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	53	40	6
Apr 15-May 5, 2010 **(GAP)**	48	45	7
Sep 10-15, 2009 **(GAP)**	50	43	7
June, 2009 **(GAP)**	57	38	5
Mid-Sept, 2008	61	33	6
April, 2008 **(GAP)**	50	44	6
Late Feb, 2008	61	32	7
May, 2007 **(GAP)**	50	42	7

[9] In surveys conducted March 30-April 3, 2011 and before, the question was worded "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?"