

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS TRENDS  
TOPLINE**

Thinking about the 2020 presidential election...

Q.16 How closely have you been following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election? [**READ IN ORDER**]

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL) DK/Ref</b>
<b>2020 Presidential Election</b>					
July 10-15, 2019* <sup>1</sup>	31	32	21	16	*
<b>2016 Presidential Election</b>					
October 20-25, 2016*	48	34	12	6	*
September 15-18, 2016	42	27	13	18	1
August 9-16, 2016*	42	34	16	7	1
June 15-26, 2016*	44	34	17	5	1
April 7-10, 2016	38	31	15	15	*
September 3-7, 2015	27	32	21	19	1
August 20-23, 2015	27	27	23	22	1
April 30-May 3, 2015	16	25	23	34	1
<b>2012 Presidential Election</b>					
November 1-4, 2012	47	25	15	12	1
October 31-November 3, 2012*	48	31	11	9	1
October 25-28, 2012	52	23	13	11	1
October 24-28, 2012*(RVs)	61	27	8	3	*
October 18-21, 2012	48	28	12	11	1
October 12-14, 2012	45	26	13	14	1
October 4-7, 2012 <sup>2</sup>	45	23	15	17	*
October 4-7, 2012*	40	34	15	10	1
September 27-30, 2012	40	30	14	14	1
September 20-23, 2012	38	29	16	17	*
September 13-16, 2012	42	25	18	15	1
September 12-16, 2012*	37	34	17	12	*
September 7-9, 2012	31	31	18	19	1
August 31-September 3, 2012	29	29	20	20	1
August 23-26, 2012	27	31	19	22	1
August 16-19, 2012	32	27	19	22	1
August 9-12, 2012	27	27	21	24	1
August 2-5, 2012	31	25	19	23	1
July 26-29, 2012	25	28	21	25	1
July 19-22, 2012	35	22	17	25	1
July 12-15, 2012	33	24	20	23	*
July 5-8, 2012	29	26	20	25	*
June 28-July 1, 2012	32	24	19	25	*
June 21-24, 2012	27	30	17	25	1
June 14-17, 2012	31	30	15	24	*
Jun 7-17, 2012	32	33	20	15	1
June 7-10, 2012	30	29	16	25	1
May 31-June 3, 2012	29	28	19	23	1
May 24-27, 2012	32	28	16	24	1
May 17-20, 2012	31	26	19	23	*
May 10-13, 2012	34	23	18	24	*
May 3-6, 2012	29	27	19	24	*
April 26-29, 2012	29	29	18	23	1

<sup>1</sup> Surveys denoted with an asterisk were asked as standalone questions. Surveys without asterisks were asked as part of a list.

<sup>2</sup> Two different surveys were fielded during the October 4-7, 2012 period.

**TRENDS CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
April 19-22, 2012	29	29	20	20	1
April 12-15, 2012	32	28	16	23	1
April 5-8, 2012	31	27	18	23	*
March 29-April 1, 2012	23	29	21	27	*
March 22-25, 2012	28	28	18	25	1
March 15-18, 2012	28	31	17	24	*
March 8-11, 2012	28	27	21	23	*
March 1-4, 2012	31	24	20	24	1
February 23-26, 2012	28	29	18	24	1
February 16-20, 2012	25	29	19	25	2
February 9-12, 2012	35	25	18	20	1
February 2-5, 2012	30	27	20	21	1
January 26-29, 2012	28	30	21	21	1
January 19-22, 2012	28	30	17	24	*
January 12-15, 2012	29	29	18	23	1
January 5-8, 2012	29	30	16	25	*
December 15-18, 2011	26	24	20	29	1
December 8-11, 2011	27	27	18	28	*
December 1-4, 2011	25	28	20	26	1
November 17-20, 2011	24	31	21	23	1
November 3-6, 2011	22	31	20	26	1
October 27-30, 2011	21	26	21	30	1
October 20-23, 2011	21	28	22	28	1
October 13-16, 2011	26	29	22	23	1
October 6-9, 2011	25	25	23	27	1
September 29-October 2, 2011	27	26	21	25	*
September 22-25, 2011	25	26	23	25	1
September 15-18, 2011	24	28	21	27	1
September 8-11, 2011	22	26	21	31	*
September 1-4, 2011	22	23	22	32	1
August 25-28, 2011	22	22	22	33	1
August 18-21, 2011	27	26	19	28	1
August 11-14, 2011	19	24	20	36	1
August 4-7, 2011	18	21	22	37	1
July 28-31, 2011	17	27	21	35	1
July 21-24, 2011	17	22	28	32	*
July 14-17, 2011	18	26	27	28	1
July 7-10, 2011	16	23	27	33	1
June 30-July 3, 2011	21	28	24	25	2
June 23-26, 2011	19	26	24	31	*
June 16-19, 2011	23	29	23	25	*
June 9-12, 2011	18	30	22	30	1
June 2-5, 2011	21	31	22	26	*
May 26-29, 2011	20	27	24	28	*
May 19-22, 2011	15	27	24	32	1
May 12-15, 2011	15	22	26	35	1
May 5-8, 2011	16	24	27	32	1
April 21-25, 2011	18	26	23	32	1
April 14-17, 2011	20	23	29	27	1
March 24-27, 2011	13	19	26	41	1
March 10-13, 2011	15	21	26	38	*
February 10-13, 2011	16	19	24	40	*
February 3-6, 2011	15	20	23	42	*
<b>2008 Presidential Election</b>					
October 31-November 3, 2008	57	29	9	5	*
October 29-November 1, 2008*	50	34	10	6	1

## TRENDS CONTINUED ...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
October 23-26, 2008*	48	33	11	7	1
October 24-27, 2008 <sup>3</sup>	44	36	11	8	1
October 17-20, 2008	61	28	7	4	*
October 16-19, 2008*	48	35	10	7	1
October 10-13, 2008	52	31	12	5	*
October 3-6, 2008	57	31	8	4	*
September 26-29, 2008	56	29	10	5	*
September 19-22, 2008	47	33	14	6	*
September 12-15, 2008	40	38	14	7	1
September 9-14, 2008*	44	38	12	6	*
September 5-8, 2008	45	39	12	4	*
August 29-31, 2008	45	32	15	8	*
August 22-25, 2008	31	36	22	11	*
August 15-18, 2008	25	41	19	14	1
August 8-11, 2008	27	38	22	13	*
August 1-4, 2008	30	42	19	9	*
July 25-28, 2008	30	34	21	15	*
July 18-21, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
July 11-14, 2008	28	34	22	15	1
July 3-7, 2008	25	35	23	17	*
June 27-30, 2008	39	33	18	10	*
June 20-23, 2008	28	38	22	12	*
June 13-16, 2008	35	35	20	10	*
June 6-9, 2008	38	35	17	10	*
May 30-June 2, 2008	30	35	21	14	*
May 22-25, 2008	32	37	20	11	*
May 16-19, 2008	33	37	19	10	1
May 9-12, 2008	35	36	18	11	*
May 2-5, 2008	27	35	23	14	1
April 25-28, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
April 18-21, 2008	29	41	19	10	1
April 11-14, 2008	31	37	22	10	*
April 4-7, 2008	33	36	17	14	*
April 30-June 1, 2008	41	33	16	9	1
March 28-31, 2008	31	41	18	10	*
March 20-24, 2008	34	37	18	11	*
March 14-17, 2008	40	37	16	7	*
March 7-10, 2008	39	36	15	9	1
February 29-March 3, 2008	43	34	14	9	*
February 22-25, 2008	42	37	13	8	*
February 15-18, 2008	44	36	10	10	*
February 8-11, 2008	39	37	15	9	*
February 1-4, 2008	37	35	16	12	*
January 25-28, 2008	36	37	14	12	1
January 18-21, 2008	36	34	18	12	*
January 11-14, 2008 <sup>4</sup>	32	31	19	17	1
January 4-7, 2008	33	36	19	11	1
December 14-17, 2007	25	34	22	19	*
December 7-10, 2007	24	35	22	19	*
November 30 - December 3, 2007	23	35	23	19	*
November 23-26, 2007	20	33	26	20	1
November 16-19, 2007	26	33	21	19	1

<sup>3</sup> From January 26-29, 2007 to January 4-7, 2008 and from January 18-21, 2008 to October 27-31, 2008 the story was listed as "News about candidates for the 2008 presidential election."

<sup>4</sup> January 11-14, 2008 asked about: "News about the New Hampshire primaries and the presidential campaign."

**TRENDS CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
November 9-12, 2007	21	33	25	21	*
November 2-5, 2007	27	30	21	21	1
November 20-26, 2007*	19	42	29	10	*
October 26-29, 2007	21	34	26	19	*
October 19-22, 2007	23	32	22	23	*
October 12-15, 2007	13	31	26	30	*
October 5-8, 2007	22	30	24	24	*
September 28 – October 1, 2007	21	34	25	20	*
September 21-24, 2007	24	31	22	23	*
September 14-17, 2007	22	31	24	23	*
September 7-10, 2007	18	34	26	22	*
August 30-September 2, 2007	19	35	21	25	*
August 24-27, 2007	22	28	24	26	*
August 17-20, 2007	19	27	24	30	*
August 10-13, 2007	23	32	21	24	*
August 3-6, 2007	19	31	25	25	*
July 27-30, 2007	19	32	22	26	1
July 20-23, 2007	16	26	30	27	1
July 13-16, 2007	17	29	27	27	*
July 6-9, 2007	24	29	24	22	1
June 29-July 2, 2007	20	32	25	23	*
June 22-25, 2007	18	31	21	30	*
June 15-18, 2007	17	32	26	25	*
June 8-11, 2007	19	30	24	26	1
June 1-4, 2007	16	27	32	24	1
May 24-27, 2007	22	33	23	22	*
May 18-21, 2007	18	31	24	27	*
May 11-14, 2007	18	30	23	28	1
May 4-7, 2007	23	34	21	21	1
April 27-30, 2007	14	30	29	26	1
April 20-23, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 12-16, 2007	18	28	27	27	*
April 5-9, 2007	25	30	26	19	*
March 30-April 2, 2007	20	29	27	23	1
March 23-26, 2007	20	32	22	26	*
March 16-19, 2007	15	28	29	27	1
March 9-12, 2007	24	30	23	23	*
March 2-5, 2007	19	31	26	23	1
February 23-26, 2007	22	33	24	21	*
February 16-19, 2007	18	32	22	27	1
February 9-12, 2007	24	30	24	21	1
February 2-5, 2007	24	36	22	18	*
January 26-29, 2007	24	33	23	20	*
January 19-22, 2007 <sup>5</sup>	24	27	22	26	1
<b>2004 Presidential Election</b>					
November, 2004 (RVs)	52	36	8	4	*
Mid-October, 2004	46	30	12	11	1
August, 2004	32	38	16	14	*
July, 2004	29	37	18	15	1
April, 2004	31	33	19	16	1
Mid-March, 2004	35	34	18	13	*
Late February, 2004	24	40	23	12	1

<sup>5</sup> January 19-22, 2007 asked about: "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2008."

## TRENDS CONTINUED ...

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	(VOL) DK/Ref
Early February, 2004 <sup>6</sup>	29	37	20	13	1
Mid-January, 2004	16	30	27	26	1
Early January, 2004	14	32	30	23	1
December, 2003	16	26	27	30	1
November, 2003	11	26	34	28	1
October, 2003	12	27	28	32	1
September, 2003	17	25	30	27	1
Mid-August, 2003	12	27	27	33	1
May, 2003	8	19	31	41	1
January, 2003 <sup>7</sup>	14	28	29	28	1
<b>2000 Presidential Election</b>					
Early November, 2000 (RVs)	39	44	12	5	*
Mid-October, 2000 (RVs)	40	37	15	8	*
Early October, 2000 (RVs)	42	36	15	6	1
September, 2000 <sup>8</sup>	22	42	21	15	*
July, 2000	21	38	20	20	1
June, 2000	23	32	23	21	1
May, 2000	18	33	26	23	*
April, 2000	18	39	22	20	1
March, 2000	26	41	19	13	1
February, 2000	26	36	21	17	*
January, 2000	19	34	28	18	1
December, 1999	16	36	24	23	1
October, 1999	17	32	28	22	1
September, 1999	15	31	33	20	1
July, 1999	15	37	24	22	1
June, 1999	11	25	29	34	1
<b>1996 Presidential Election</b>					
November, 1996 (RVs)	34	45	15	6	*
October, 1996	31	39	18	12	*
Early September, 1996	24	36	23	17	*
July, 1996	22	40	23	14	1
March, 1996	26	41	20	13	*
January, 1996 <sup>9</sup>	10	34	31	24	1
September, 1995	12	36	30	22	*
August, 1995	13	34	28	25	*
June, 1995	11	31	31	26	1
<b>1992 Presidential Election</b>					
October, 1992 (RVs)	55	36	7	2	*
September, 1992 (RVs)	47	36	11	6	*
August, 1992 (RVs) <sup>10</sup>	36	51	11	2	*
July, 1992*	20	45	26	9	*
May, 1992	32	44	16	8	*
March, 1992	35	40	16	9	*
January, 1992	11	25	36	27	1
December, 1991	10	28	32	30	*
October, 1991	12	27	31	29	2

<sup>6</sup> From May 2003 to Early February 2004, the story was listed as "The race for the Democratic nomination."

<sup>7</sup> In January 2003, the story was listed as "Recent announcements by prominent Democrats about plans to run for president in 2004."

<sup>8</sup> In September 2000, early September 1996, and July 1996, the question asked about "the presidential election campaign."

<sup>9</sup> From June 1995 to March 1996, the story was listed as "News about the Republican presidential candidates."

<sup>10</sup> In July and August 1992, the story was listed as "News about the presidential election." From October 1991 to March 1992, the story was listed as "News about the Democratic candidates for the presidential nomination." In 1988, the story was introduced as being from "this past year" and was listed as "News about the presidential campaign in 1988."

**TRENDS CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b><i>1988 Presidential Election</i></b>					
October, 1988 (RVs)	43	44	11	2	*
August, 1988 (RVs)	39	45	13	3	*
May, 1988 (RVs)	22	46	23	6	3
November, 1987	15	28	35	21	1
September, 1987	14	34	37	14	1