

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
February 8-12, 2012
N=1501

QUESTIONS 1-6a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.6 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
b. Newt Gingrich								
Feb 8-12, 2012	25	6	19	57	29	28	7	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	31	9	23	48	23	25	11	10
Jun 10-14, 2009	35	8	27	38	16	22	16	10
October, 1998	41	8	33	49	23	26	1	9
Early September, 1998	42	7	35	48	20	28	3	7
Late August, 1998	43	5	38	52	19	33	2	3
March, 1998	36	6	30	49	20	29	6	9
November, 1997	30	6	24	59	24	35	4	7
August, 1997	30	6	24	62	27	35	2	6
April, 1997	28	5	23	64	28	36	3	5
January, 1997	28	4	24	65	26	39	2	5
August, 1995	30	9	21	54	25	29	4	12
February, 1995	41	12	29	37	15	22	10	12
December, 1994	25	7	18	28	13	15	30	17
July, 1994	14	2	12	12	4	8	65	9
c. Mitt Romney								
Feb 8-12, 2012	32	7	25	49	20	29	6	13
Jan 11-16, 2012	31	7	24	45	17	27	9	14
Nov 9-14, 2011	36	7	29	42	16	26	9	12
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	35	11	25	21	9	13	25	18
Jun 10-14, 2009	40	9	31	28	8	20	19	13
Early February, 2008	30	6	24	44	15	29	8	18
January, 2008	31	7	24	43	13	30	8	18
Late December, 2007	29	4	25	35	11	24	17	19
August, 2007	28	5	23	24	7	17	29	19
d. Rick Santorum								
Feb 8-12, 2012	33	10	23	36	16	20	14	17
e. Ron Paul								
Feb 8-12, 2012	31	7	24	43	17	26	10	17

ASK ALL:

REGIST These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

[INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY ARE IN NORTH DAKOTA AND DON'T HAVE TO REGISTER, PUNCH 1 FOR REGIST AND REGICERT]

ASK IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN REGIST:

REGICERT Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote, or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

Feb 8-12

2012

74 Yes, registered
 70 Absolutely certain
 4 Chance registration has lapsed
 * Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 26 No, not registered
 * Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the 2012 presidential election...

Q.7 How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates running for president in 2012? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	25	16	13	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	27	19	16	1
Jan 4-8, 2012	31	30	18	19	1
Nov 9-14, 2011 ¹	36	26	21	15	1
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	29	29	22	19	2
Aug 17-21, 2011	27	30	23	18	1
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	29	27	23	1
May 25-30, 2011	23	30	27	19	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>2008 Presidential Election</i>					
February, 2008	48	29	10	11	2
January, 2008	44	32	11	11	2
December, 2007	35	33	13	18	1
November, 2007	34	35	16	14	1
October, 2007	30	37	17	14	2
September, 2007	27	33	21	17	2
July, 2007	30	38	16	15	1
June, 2007	29	34	20	16	1
April, 2007	26	34	21	17	2
March, 2007	24	36	20	18	2
February, 2007	24	34	22	18	2
December, 2006	23	36	20	20	1

¹ In 2011 question read "How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2012?" In 2006 and 2007, question read "How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2008?"

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Would you say you are looking forward to the presidential election this fall or not?

		TREND FOR COMPARISONS			
Feb 8-12		Apr	Late Dec	Jan	
<u>2012</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007²</u>	<u>1988</u>	
62	Yes	68	70	74	
35	No	30	28	23	
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	3	

NO QUESTIONS 9-10**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.11 As I name some possible Republican candidates for president in 2012, please tell me which one, if any, you would most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE] [PROBE IF NECESSARY: As of today, who would you say you LEAN toward?]**

BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=552]:

Feb		Jan	Jan	Dec	Nov	Sep 22-	Jul	Mar	Nov
8-12		11-16	4-8	7-11	9-14	Oct 4	20-24	8-14	4-7
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
30	Rick Santorum	14	16	3	2	2	1	2	2
28	Mitt Romney	31	27	21	23	21	21	21	17
17	Newt Gingrich	16	16	33	16	7	3	11	9
12	Ron Paul	15	12	8	8	11	9	8	10
1	Other (VOL.) ³	2	1	*	*	1	1	1	5
--	Rick Perry	5	6	4	8	16	12	--	--
--	Jon Huntsman	2	2	3	1	1	2	--	--
--	Michele Bachmann	--	--	6	5	4	11	--	--
--	Herman Cain	--	--	--	22	12	8	--	--
--	Sarah Palin	--	--	--	--	9	11	13	16
--	Tim Pawlenty	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
--	Mike Huckabee	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	19
--	Mitch Daniels	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
--	Haley Barbour	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2
--	Chris Christie	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
4	None (VOL.)	4	4	10	4	5	5	5	4
3	Too early to tell (VOL.)	6	5	4	5	5	7	3	--
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	10	7	5	5	8	7	10

NO QUESTION 12

² In late December 2007 and January 1988, this question was asked as part of a list and in late December 2007 the presidential election appeared first. The introductions read: "I am going to read you a list of events that will occur in the coming year. As I read each one, please tell me whether or not this is an event you are especially looking forward to. The first one is..."

³ Perry, Huntsman, Bachmann, Cain, Palin, Pawlenty, Huckabee, Daniels and Barbour were explicitly asked in some previous surveys. Chris Christie was never asked in any surveys. In surveys in which they received less than 1% support, these responses are included in other. Dashes indicate that candidates were not explicitly asked about and received less than 1% support.

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.13-Q.13a/Q.14-Q.14a/Q.16-Q.16a IN BLOCKS**ASK BEFORE FIRST BLOCK:**

Now, suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held TODAY and...

ASK BEFORE SECOND AND THIRD BLOCK:

If the election were TODAY and...

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.13/14/16 You had to choose between, [READ AND RANDOMIZE], who would you vote for?

ASK IF OTHER OR DK (Q.13/14/16=3,9):

Q.13a/14a/16a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.13/14/16]?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1172]:

Q.13 Mitt Romney

	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	52	1	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	45	50	2	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	47	49	1	3
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	48	48	1	4

Q.14 Rick Santorum

	<u>Santorum</u>	<u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	43	53	1	3

NO QUESTION 15

Q.16 Newt Gingrich

	<u>Gingrich</u>	<u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	39	57	2	3
Nov 9-14, 2011	42	54	1	3

Q.13-Q.13a/Q.14-Q.14a/Q.16-Q.16a TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:**

	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Nader</u>	<u>Barr</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
November, 2008	39	50	1	1	9
Late October, 2008	36	52	3	1	8
Mid-October, 2008	38	52	n/a	n/a	10
Early October, 2008	40	50	n/a	n/a	10
Late September, 2008	42	49	n/a	n/a	9
Mid-September, 2008 ⁴	44	46	n/a	n/a	10
August, 2008	43	46	n/a	n/a	11
July, 2008	42	47	n/a	n/a	11
June, 2008	40	48	n/a	n/a	12
Late May, 2008	44	47	n/a	n/a	9
April, 2008	44	50	n/a	n/a	6

⁴ After August 2008, June 2004, July 2000, July 1996, June 1992 and June 1988 the question specified vice presidential candidates.

Q.13-Q.13a/Q.14-Q.14a/Q.16-Q.16a TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Nader</u>	<u>Barr</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
March, 2008	43	49	n/a	n/a	8
Late February, 2008	43	50	n/a	n/a	7
	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Kerry</u>	<u>Nader</u>		(VOL.) <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
November, 2004	45	46	1		8
Mid-October, 2004	45	45	1		9
Early October, 2004	48	41	2		9
September, 2004	49	43	1		7
August, 2004	45	47	2		6
July, 2004	44	46	3		7
June, 2004	46	42	6		6
May, 2004	43	46	6		5
Late March, 2004	44	43	6		7
Mid-March, 2004	42	49	4		5
<i>Two-way trial heats:</i>					
June, 2004	48	46	n/a		6
May, 2004	45	50	n/a		5
Late March, 2004	46	47	n/a		7
Mid-March, 2004	43	52	n/a		5
Late February, 2004	44	48	n/a		8
Early February, 2004	47	47	n/a		6
Early January, 2004	52	41	n/a		7
October, 2003	50	42	n/a		8
	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Nader</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
November, 2000	41	45	4	1	9
Late October, 2000	45	43	4	1	7
Mid-October, 2000	43	45	4	1	7
Early October, 2000	43	44	5	*	8
September, 2000	41	47	2	1	9
July, 2000	42	41	6	2	9
Late June, 2000	42	35	2	2	19
Mid-June, 2000	41	42	4	3	10
January, 2000	51	39	n/a	4	6
September, 1999	49	35	n/a	10	6
<i>Two-way trial heats:</i>					
July, 2000	48	46	n/a	n/a	6
Mid-June, 2000	45	46	n/a	n/a	9
May, 2000	46	45	n/a	n/a	9
March, 2000	43	49	n/a	n/a	8
February, 2000	46	45	n/a	n/a	9
December, 1999	55	40	n/a	n/a	5
October, 1999	54	39	n/a	n/a	7
September, 1999	54	39	n/a	n/a	7
July, 1999	53	42	n/a	n/a	5
March, 1999	54	41	n/a	n/a	5
January, 1999	50	44	n/a	n/a	6
Early September, 1998	53	40	n/a	n/a	7

Q.13-Q.13a/Q.14-Q.14a/Q.16-Q.16a TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:				(VOL.) Other/ DK/Ref
	<u>Dole</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Perot</u>	
November, 1996	32	51	9	8
October, 1996	34	51	8	7
Late September, 1996	35	51	7	7
Early September, 1996	34	52	8	6
July, 1996	34	44	16	6
March, 1996	35	44	16	5
September, 1995	36	42	19	3
July, 1994	36	39	20	5
<i>Two-way trial heats:</i>				
July, 1996	42	53	n/a	5
June, 1996	40	55	n/a	5
April, 1996	40	54		6
March, 1996	41	53		6
February, 1996	44	52		4
January, 1996	41	53		6
July, 1994	49	46		5
	<u>Bush Sr.</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Perot</u>	<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 1992	34	44	19	3
Early October, 1992	35	48	8	9
June, 1992	31	27	36	6
<i>Two-way trial heats:</i>				
September, 1992	38	53	n/a	9
August, 1992	37	57	n/a	6
June, 1992	46	41	n/a	13
May, 1992	46	43	n/a	11
Late March, 1992	50	43	n/a	7
	<u>Bush Sr.</u>	<u>Dukakis</u>		<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
October, 1988	50	42		8
September, 1988	50	44		6
May, 1988	40	53		7

NO QUESTIONS 17-18

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.19 If Mitt Romney wins the Republican nomination, do you think the Republican Party will unite solidly behind him or do you think disagreements within the party will keep many Republicans from supporting Romney?

BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=552]:

Feb 8-12

2012

57	Solidly unite
32	Keep many from supporting
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:**Rep/Rep Leaning Registered Voters***John McCain**Bob Dole*

	May <u>2008</u> ⁵	Mar <u>2008</u>	Late Feb <u>2008</u>	Jul <u>1996</u>
Solidly unite	63	64	58	46
Keep many from supporting	26	22	32	39
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	14	10	15

Dem/Dem Leaning Registered Voters*Barack Obama**John Kerry**Bill Clinton*

	May <u>2008</u> ⁶	Mar <u>2008</u>	Jul <u>2004</u>	Jul <u>1992</u>
Solidly unite	61	66	71	45
Keep many from supporting	31	25	15	38
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	9	14	17

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.20 Do you think the fact that the Republican primary contest has not yet been decided and is still going on is a good thing or a bad thing for the Republican Party?

BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=552]:

Feb 8-12

2012

55	Good thing
36	Bad thing
4	Neither/Still early (VOL.)
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

⁵ From February-May 2008 the question read: "Do you think the Republican Party will unite solidly behind John McCain or do you think that differences and disagreements within the party will keep many Republicans from supporting McCain." This question was asked about Bob Dole after the Republican nomination had been settled.

⁶ In May 2008, the question read: "If Barack Obama is the Democratic candidate, do you think the Democratic Party will solidly unite behind him or do you think that differences and disagreements within the party will keep many Democrats from supporting Obama." In March 2008, the question began: "If Barack Obama wins the Democratic nomination..." but otherwise has the same language as May 2008. These questions were asked about John Kerry and Bill Clinton after the Democratic nominations had been settled.

Q.20 CONTINUED...

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	Dem/Dem Leaning Registered Voters <i>Democratic Primary Contest (Clinton/Obama)</i>			
	May <u>2008</u> ⁷	Apr <u>2008</u>	Mar <u>2008</u>	Late Feb <u>2008</u>
Good thing	38	35	44	57
Bad thing	48	51	41	27
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14	14	15	16

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.21 As I read some phrases, please tell me whether you think each one describes Mitt Romney. First, [INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE], does this describe Mitt Romney, or not? How about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT IF NECESSARY: does this describe Romney, or not]?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1172]:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. A strong conservative			
Feb 8-12, 2012	39	49	12
Nov 9-14, 2011	48	35	17
b. Honest and trustworthy			
Feb 8-12, 2012	42	45	13
Nov 9-14, 2011	52	32	16
c. Takes consistent positions on issues			
Feb 8-12, 2012	30	55	15
Nov 9-14, 2011	37	43	20
d. Understands the needs of people like you			
Feb 8-12, 2012	29	61	10
Nov 9-14, 2011	37	47	16
e. Well-qualified to be president			
Feb 8-12, 2012	48	42	10
Nov 9-14, 2011	54	33	13

NO QUESTIONS 22-31

QUESTIONS 32-75 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

7

In May 2008, the question read: "Do you think the fact that the contest between Clinton and Obama is still going on is a good thing or a bad thing for the Democratic Party." In April 2008 and earlier, the question read: "Do you think the fact that the contest between Clinton and Obama has not yet been decided is"

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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
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
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
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	--	--	--	--	--

ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁸	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

⁸ In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."