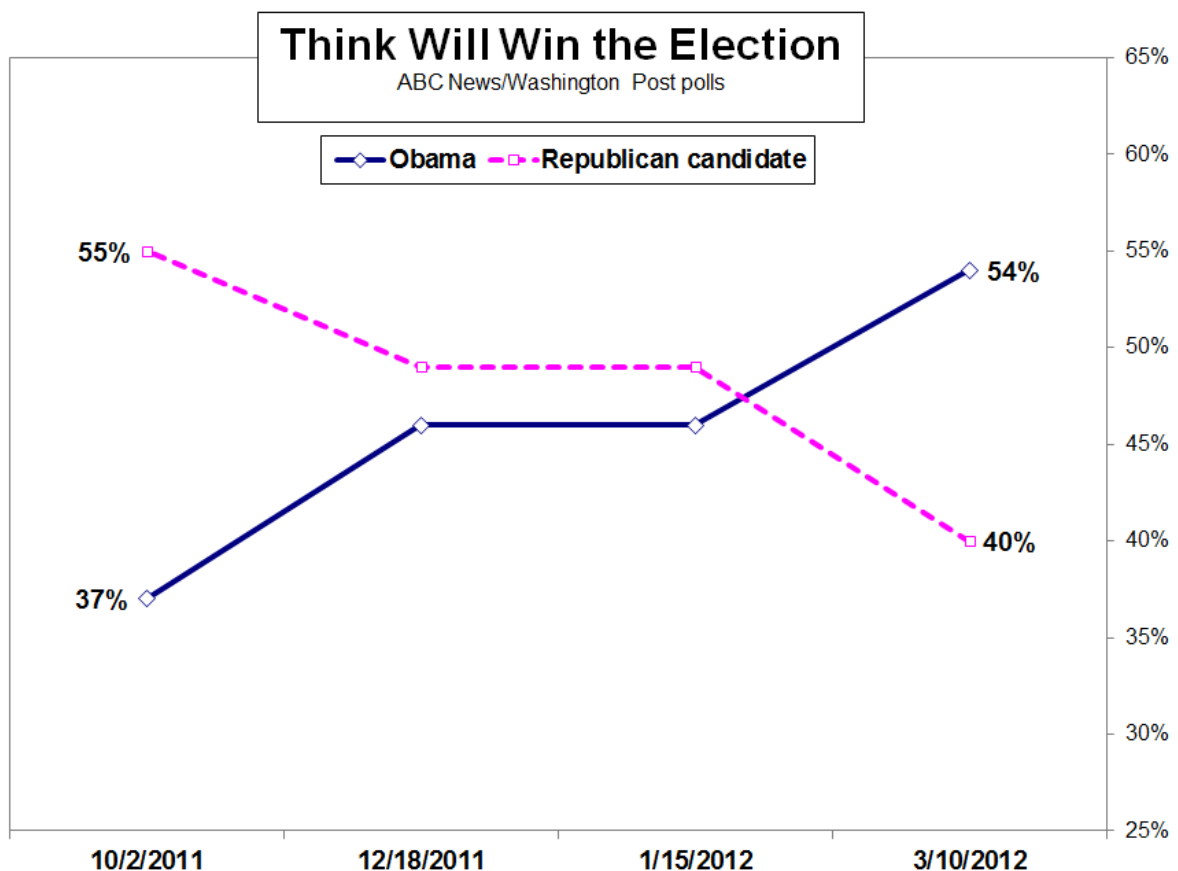


## **Election Expectations Move Obama's Way; Yet Rising Gas Prices Fuel GOP Pushback**

More than half of Americans for the first time expect Barack Obama to be re-elected – but that won't make it easy: Even as expectations have moved his way, rising gas prices have dented the president's rating on handling the economy, his overall job approval has slipped back under 50 percent and he's reverted to a dead heat in public preferences against Mitt Romney.

The results of the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll mark two political realities: One, the sharp division of public attitudes for and against Obama, with continued greater intensity of sentiment among his critics. And two, the damaging political effects of rising gasoline prices, which have surpassed the federal budget deficit as Obama's single weakest issue.



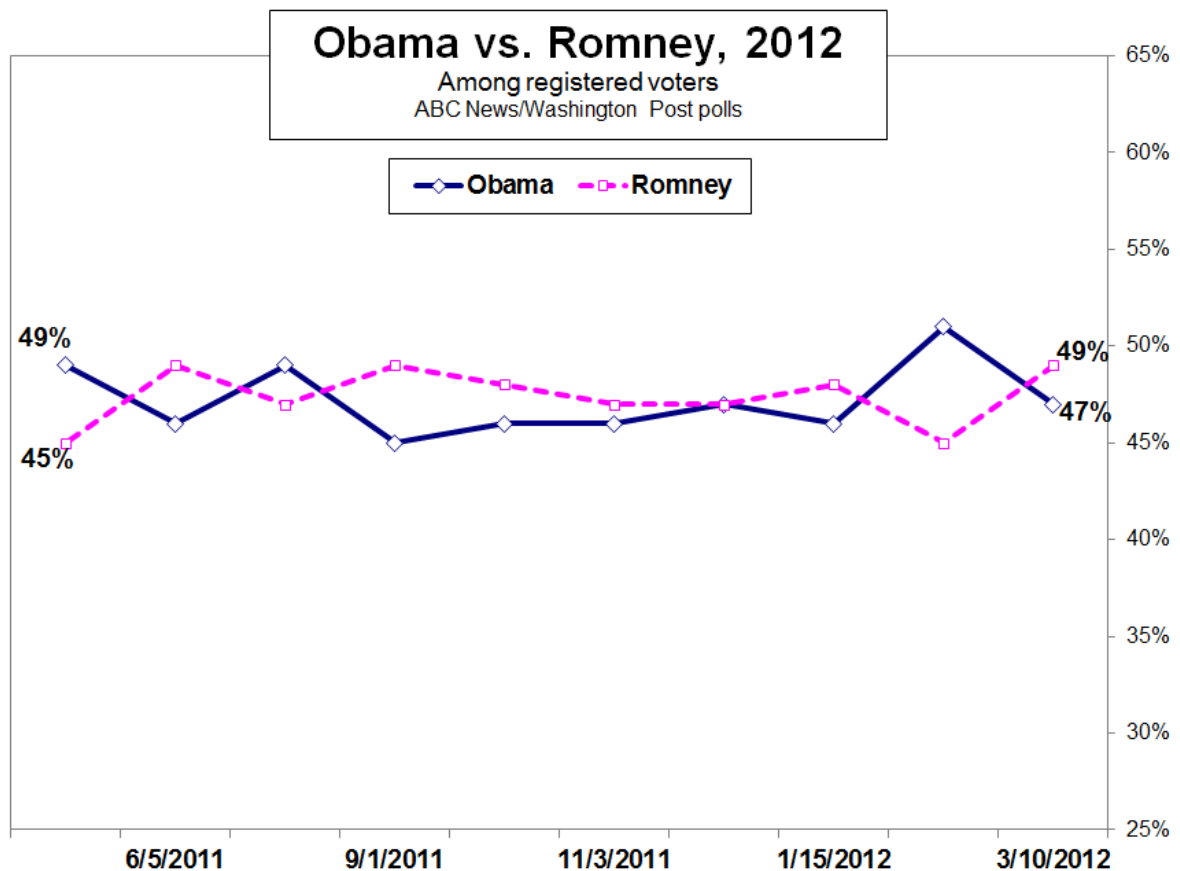
Americans by a broad 65-26 percent disapprove of how the president is handling the price of gas, which has gained 49 cents a gallon this year to an average \$3.79. Strong critics outnumber strong

approvers by nearly 4-1. And it's important: A vast 89 percent are concerned about the recent run-up in gas prices; 66 percent are "very" concerned about it.

The survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), shows a broader impact, underscoring the risk to Obama. His approval rating on handling the economy overall has lost 6 points in a month, to 38 percent, a mere 3 points from his career low in October. Intensity again is highly negative: Fifty percent strongly disapprove of the president's work on the economy, up 9 points to a new high in his presidency.

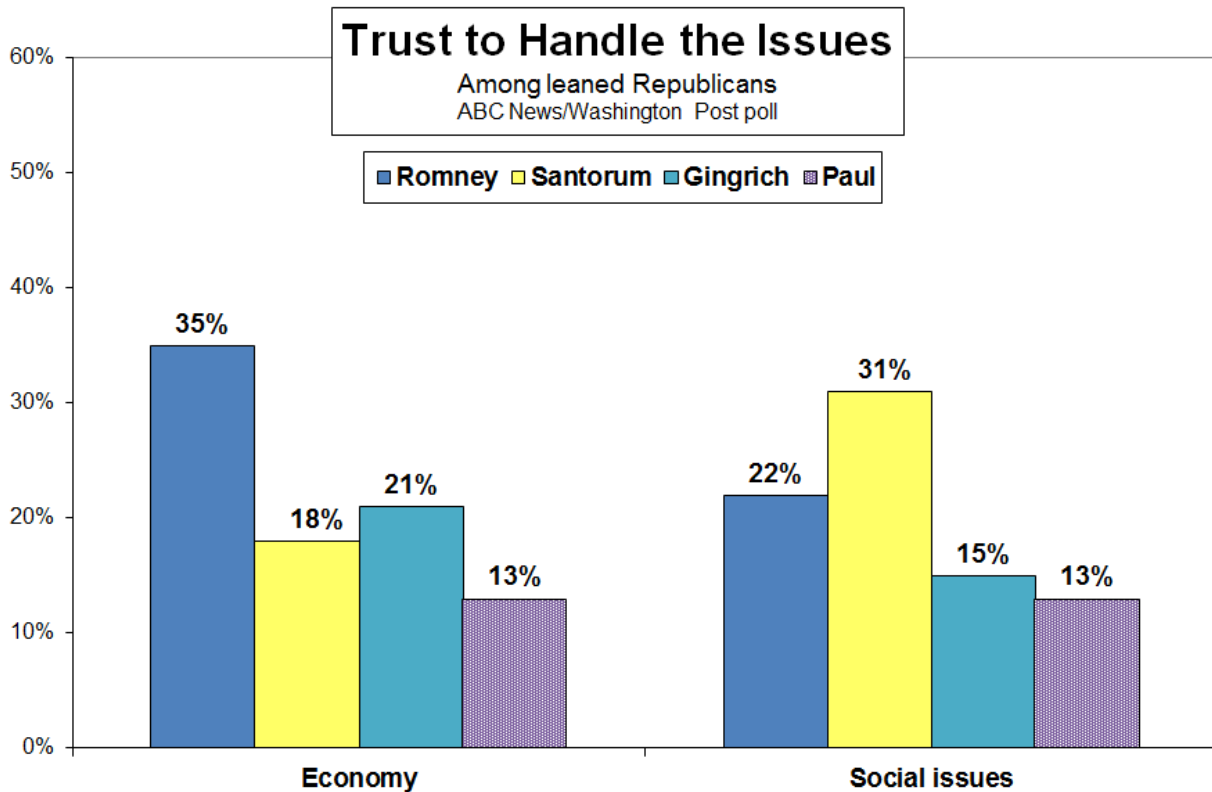
Challenging as that is for Obama, perceived weakness in his Republican opposition counteracts some of these views. Fifty-four percent of Americans now expect the president to win a second term, up by 8 points from January and by a sharp 17 points from October, before employment gains breathed new life into his then-dim prospects.

Yet the hurdles for Obama remain serious. His overall approval rating has slipped to 46 percent. His support against Romney has pulled back: After a 51-45 percent reading last month, Obama and Romney now stand at 47-49 percent among registered voters. And it's 49-46 percent matching Obama against Rick Santorum. Those mark a scant 4-point gain in support for Romney vs. Obama, and a 5-point gain for Santorum.



GOP – The gap between expectations for Obama in November and his current support is yet more pronounced in comparable results for Romney within his own party. Seventy-four percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents expect Romney to be the nominee. But far fewer favor that outcome: Thirty-one percent would like to see him win the nomination, essentially no more than the 29 percent who prefer Santorum. Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich trail with 15 and 14 percent, respectively.

That result marks continuing compunctions about Romney within the GOP ranks. While he leads easily in trust to handle the economy, and especially in views of his electability, he falls short in two other key areas. Leaned Republicans by 31-22 percent trust Santorum over Romney to handle contentious social issues such as abortion and gay marriage, a 12-point gain for Santorum from last month. And Romney only runs evenly with Santorum, 25 to 27 percent, on who best reflects core GOP values.



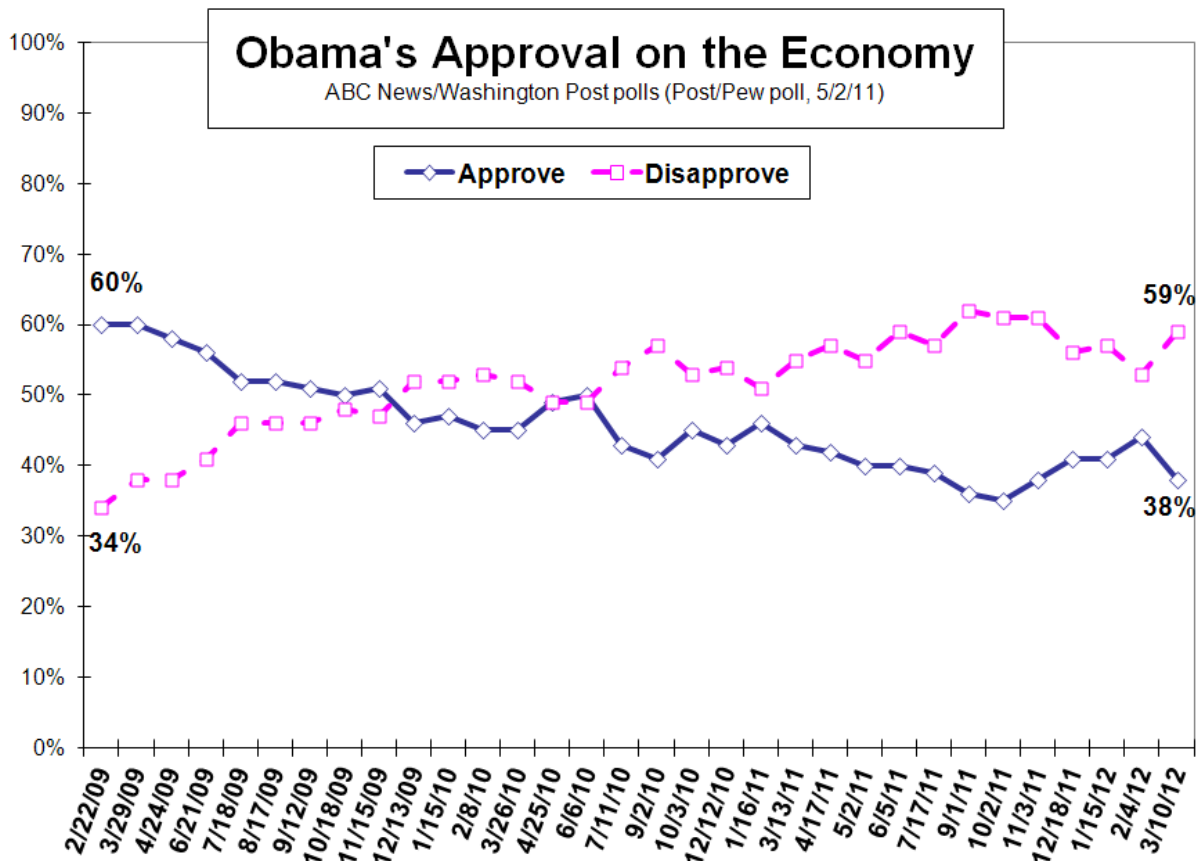
Differences among groups largely reflect those seen in the Republican primaries to date. Evangelicals prefer Santorum over Romney by a broad 49-19 percent. Santorum leads among those focused on a candidate who shares their religious beliefs, by 39-27 percent, and among very conservatives, by 38 to 21 percent. Romney, in turn, leads among non-evangelicals, matches Santorum among somewhat conservatives and leads among moderates and the few liberals in this population.

While nearly seven in 10 Republicans and Republican leaning independents prefer someone else as the party's nominee, Romney scores reasonably as second choice: Twenty-seven percent of current non-Romney supporters pick him as their No. 2. That's identical to the number of leaned Republicans who name either Santorum or Gingrich as their second preference.

In the end, similar numbers of leaned Republicans say they'd be satisfied with either Romney as their nominee – 66 percent – or Santorum, 69 percent. But that's lower than it might be; in an ABC/Post poll in March 2004, by contrast, 88 percent of leaned Democrats said they'd be satisfied with John Kerry as their nominee.

**GAS/ECONOMY** – As is fitting after the longest and deepest downturn since the Great Depression, economic attitudes remain the linchpin of the 2012 election. A serious challenge for Obama is that just 31 percent of Americans say his economic policies have made the economy better – his key argument for re-election.

That's moved his way, up sharply from a low of 17 percent in September. But the change has come almost exclusively among Democrats. And as many Americans overall, 30 percent, instead say his policies have made things worse, while 37 percent say they've had no real effect – hardly the sort of economic review Obama wants to bring to the voters in November.



On gasoline, the public is divided on whether prices will go up and stay up, or gyrate up and down. The latter view may be tempering the impact of the increase this time; people who see rising gas prices as an ongoing, cyclical condition are much less apt to see it as a very serious problem, as well as more apt to approve of Obama and to support him for re-election.

Obama's approval, meanwhile, has taken a hit especially among Americans who are less financially secure, and therefore more likely to be affected by higher gas prices: Compared with last month his job rating is down by 17 points among whites with incomes less than \$50,000, and by a similar 15 points among non-college-educated whites. His rating drops to 37 percent among people who report financial hardship from gas prices, vs. 60 percent of those who don't.

Even while most Americans criticize Obama's handling of gas prices, the public divides on whether there's anything he can actually do about it. That's a shift from 2005-6, when six in 10 or more thought the Bush administration could do something to counter the problem.

Despite the impact of gas prices, 66 percent of Americans express optimism about their personal finances in the year ahead, providing Obama with some pushback. However, the public divides evenly in optimism or pessimism about the national economy more broadly. And the latter is more important: As the literature on the subject suggests, optimism about the economy overall significantly predicts intention to vote for Obama; views on personal finances do not.

**WOMEN** – One recent focus has been the notion of a movement toward the Democratic Party among women, on the basis of recent controversies including the debate over Obama administration policy on insurance coverage of women's birth control.

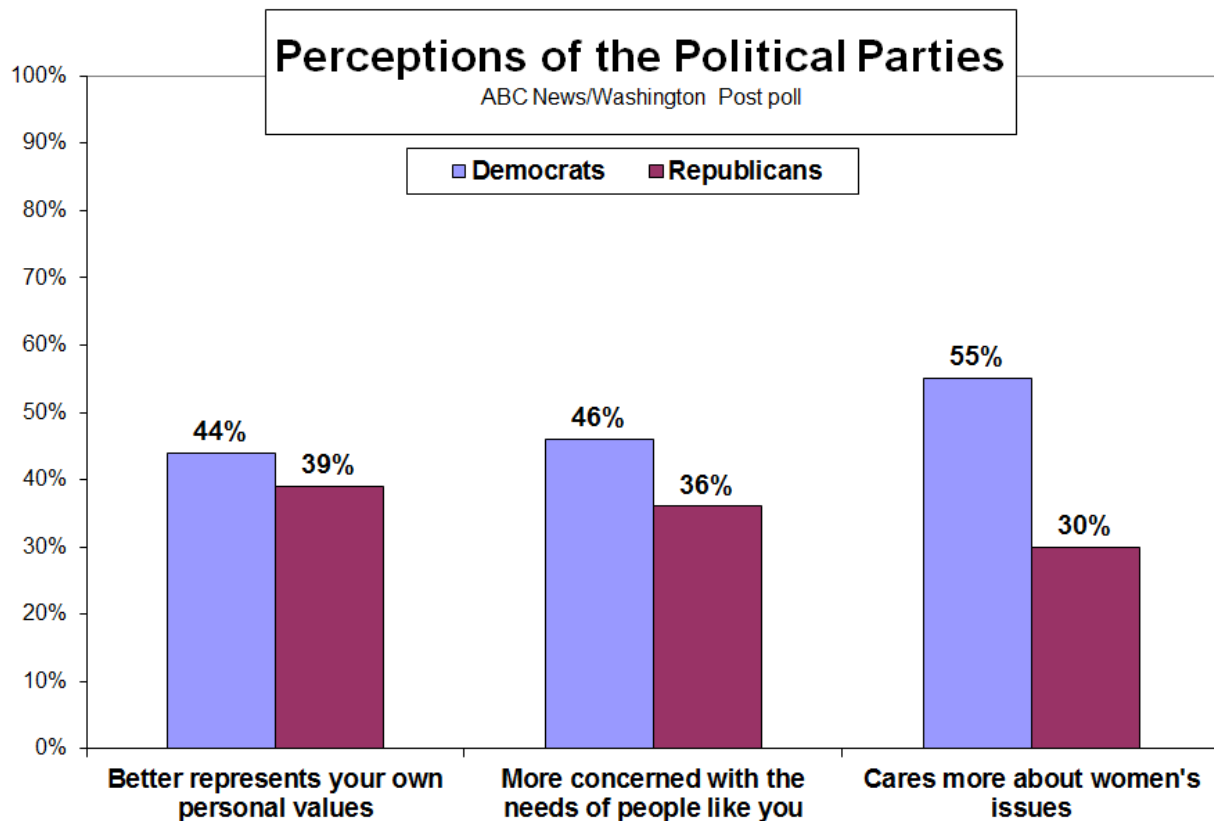
This poll shows the possibility of Democratic gains among women, but no measurable effect at this point. While women are 12 points more apt than men to identify themselves as Democrats, that essentially matches the long-term norm. Largely because of that partisan gap, Obama's approval rating is 9 points higher among women than men, but again this is typical.

Compared with last month, disapproval of Obama's job performance is up slightly among men, and there's no increase in approval among women. And on vote preference vs. Romney, Obama did better among men and women alike last month, and has lost ground slightly among both sexes this month. In the latest results Romney has a 12-point lead among men who are registered voters; among women, it's Obama +6.

On the latest point of contention, Americans by 61-35 percent say insurance companies should be required to cover the full cost of birth control for women, including majorities of women and men alike (65 and 57 percent, respectively). (Young people, in particular, favor such coverage.) If the insurance is provided through a religiously affiliated employer that objects to birth control, however, support for this requirement drops to 49 percent (52 percent of women, 45 percent of men).

More generally, Democrats have a broad 25-point margin over the Republicans as the party that's more in tune with women's issues, 55 percent to 30 percent – a view held essentially

equally by men and women alike. But again the recent jousting may not have changed much, since if anything this view was even more broadly held, by 58-24 percent, in an ABC/Post poll a dozen years ago.



Beyond its advantage on women’s issues, the Democratic Party has a 10-point lead in being seen as “more concerned with the needs of people like you” and a scant 5-point edge as the party that “better represents your own personal values.” As befits their partisan preferences, women are more likely than men to pick the Democrats, by 9 points on values and by 7 points on empathy.

While these are essentially unchanged since last measured in 2010, there’s one group worth noting: Women who are political independents. They’ve shifted from an 11-point margin in favor of the GOP as better representing their personal values in September 2010 to a narrow +5 margin for the Democratic Party now. They’ve also moved away from the GOP, albeit more slightly, on which party is more concerned with their needs, from +8 GOP to +2 Democrats. While other shifts counteracted these in overall results, the finding suggests that independent women will be a group to watch as the campaign progresses.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone March 7-10, 2012, among a random national sample of 1,003 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 4.0 points for the full sample. The

survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

Media contacts: [David Ford](#), (212) 456-7243, and [Julie Townsend](#), (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

\*= 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
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
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
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
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
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
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
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
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 held for release.

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
11/2/05	56	33	1	9	1

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-				
	NET	Strong	Weak	Has not	No opinion
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
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
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

13-16 held for release.

17-19 previously released.

20-24 held for release.

25/26. (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

\* Bachmann and Huntsman on 1/15 and 2/4, and Perry on 2/4, include those who voted for them in previous primaries or caucuses. Huntsman supporters on 1/15 who had yet to vote were re-allocated to their second choice.

28/29. (IF NAMED A CANDIDATE) Who would your second choice be? Which candidate would you lean toward as your second choice?

	Romney	Santorum	Gingrich	Paul	Other (vol.)	None (vol.)	No opinion
3/10/12	27	27	27	12	2	3	2

30. (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

Compare to:

(ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Suppose that John Kerry wins the Democratic nomination for president. Overall, how satisfied would you be with Kerry as the nominee: Very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied or not satisfied at all?

	---- Satisfied ---			----- Not satisfied ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
3/7/04	88	49	39	11	9	3	1

31. (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
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	5
Newt Gingrich	4	15	7	35
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	*	2
Ron Paul	3	6	4	6
Rick Perry	NA	NA	5	3
Mitt Romney	74	71	72	40
Rick Santorum	11	*	2	0
Other (vol.)	*	1	*	*
No opinion	7	7	9	8

32. (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
Newt Gingrich	21	15
Ron Paul	13	13
Mitt Romney	35	22
Rick Santorum	18	31
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
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	7	4	5
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	NA	19	4
Newt Gingrich	21	23	17	25	13	7
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	3	3	2	*
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	11
Ron Paul	13	17	14	13	7	8
Rick Perry	NA	NA	8	7	10	22
Mitt Romney	35	37	35	31	22	22
Rick Santorum	18	11	8	1	1	2
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
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	13
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	NA
Newt Gingrich	15	22	15	15
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	3	3
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ron Paul	13	13	10	12
Rick Perry	NA	NA	9	7
Mitt Romney	22	25	25	26
Rick Santorum	31	19	14	4
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

33. (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
Newt Gingrich	20	11
Ron Paul	11	6
Mitt Romney	25	52
Rick Santorum	27	15
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
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	13	5	10	11
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	NA	13	3	4
Newt Gingrich	20	26	25	23	19	6	9
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	3	3	1	1	1
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	20
Ron Paul	11	11	9	10	4	6	8
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Rick Perry	NA	NA	10	7	10	19	7
Mitt Romney	25	30	26	23	20	18	19
Rick Santorum	27	20	13	5	3	4	3
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
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	NA	3	1	4	7
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	NA	21	1	2
Newt Gingrich	11	22	10	28	5	5	6
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	1	3	*	1	2
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	14
Ron Paul	6	7	7	9	3	4	3
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2
Rick Perry	NA	NA	5	3	11	30	6
Mitt Romney	52	56	57	38	33	20	32
Rick Santorum	15	2	5	0	0	1	1
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

34/35. 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

36. 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

37 held for release.

38. 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

39. 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

40. (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

39/40 NET:

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

41. 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	No
			(vol.)	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

42-45 held for release.

46. 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
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
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

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