

AEI Political Report

Portrait of an Election

Our election dashboard below includes the latest polls on sentiments driving this November's elections. President Obama's approval rating in Gallup's monthly averages has been below 50 percent all year. His marks on handling the economy are even lower. Congress's ratings have been dismal all year. Neither Democratic nor Republican leaders there are popular. On page three, we look at the views of independents who may be poised, for the third election in a row, in Pew's words, "to vote out the party in power." Later in this report we have complete trends from many of the major pollsters on the health care bill and President Obama's handling of the issue. We also look at major pollsters' takes on the Tea Party.

Q: Do you . . . ?

Approve of the way President Obama is handling his job



Note: Monthly averages. In Gallup's latest October poll, 46 percent approved.
Source: The Gallup Organization, latest that of September 2010.

Q: Do you . . . ?

Approve of the way President Obama is handling the economy



Source: CBS, latest that of October 2010.

Q: Generally speaking, would you say . . . ?

Things in this country are headed in the right direction



Source: Ipsos/Reuters, latest that of October 2010.

Q: Would you like to see . . . ?

Q: Regardless of how you feel about your member, would you like to see . . . ?

Would like to see your representative in Congress re-elected



Note: Sample is registered voters.
Source: PSRA, Pew Research Center, latest of that of August-September 2010.

Q: Do you . . . ?

Approve of the job Republican leaders are doing in Congress



Approve of the job Democratic leaders are doing in Congress



Source: Pew Research Center, latest that of September-October 2010.

Q: Now I'm going to read you the names of several public figures, groups and organizations, and I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as . . .

	Positive	Negative
Republican Party		
January	32%	48%
September	31	43
Democratic Party		
January	39	38
September	37	42

Source: NBC/Wall Street Journal, latest that of September 2010.

A Pox on Both Parties

Although views about the Democratic Party's ability to solve the country's problems, bring about needed changes, and manage the federal government effectively are down sharply from 2006, Americans do not rate the Republican Party's abilities highly. An ABC News/Yahoo question shows that people are not confident in either party in Congress to improve the economy. Forty-three percent of Americans say they could do a better job than most current members.

Q: Please tell me whether you think each of the following applies . . . ?

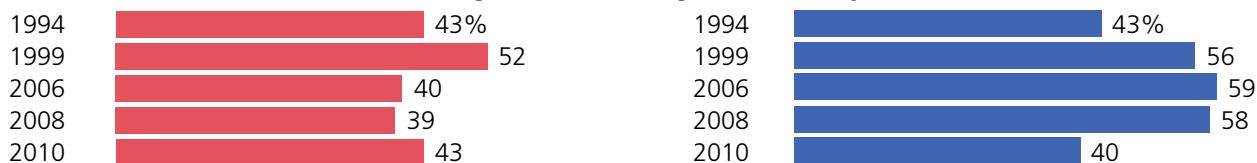
Applies to the Republican Party

Applies to the Democratic Party

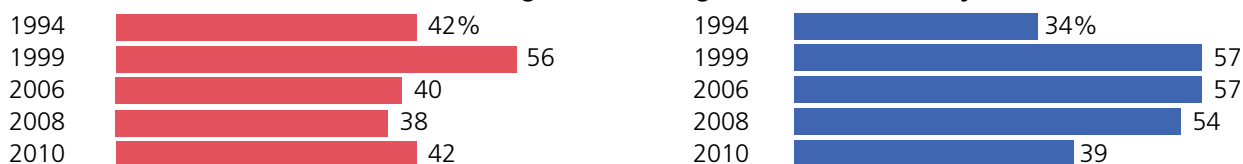
Has a clear plan for solving the country's problems



Can bring about the changes this country needs



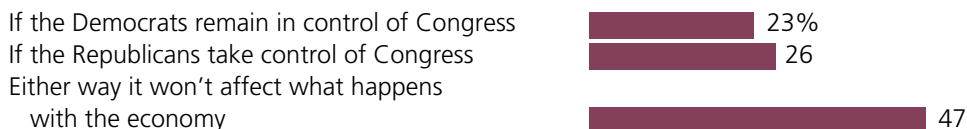
Is able to manage the federal government effectively



Source: The Gallup Organization, latest that of September–October 2010.

Q: Do you think . . . ?

Economy will have a better chance of improving



Source: ABC/Yahoo, September 2010.

Q: Do you think . . . ?

An everyday American could do a better job than most current members of Congress



Could not



You could do a better job than most current members of Congress



Could not

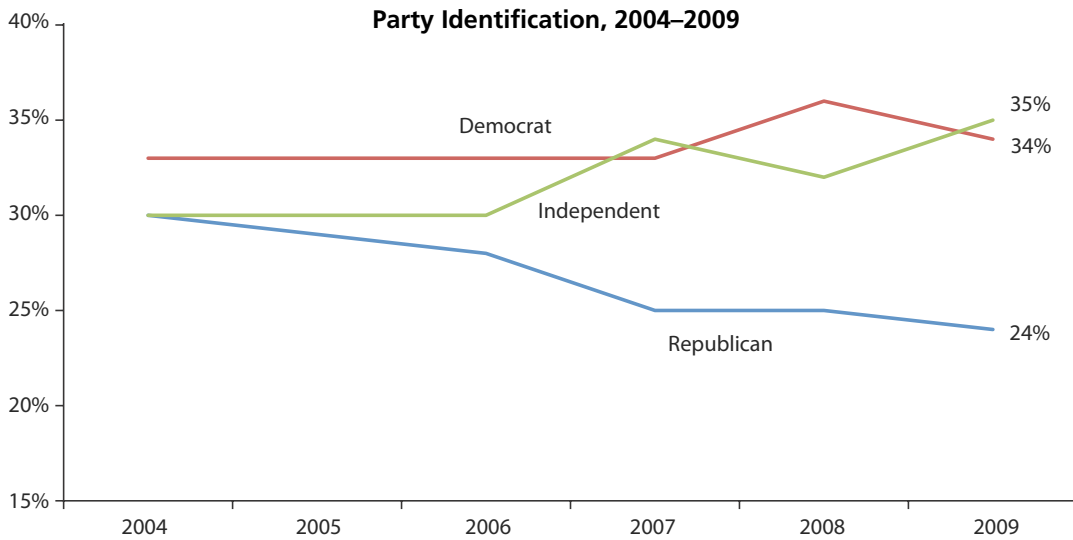


Source: Fox/Opinion Dynamics, October 2010.

Declarations of Independents

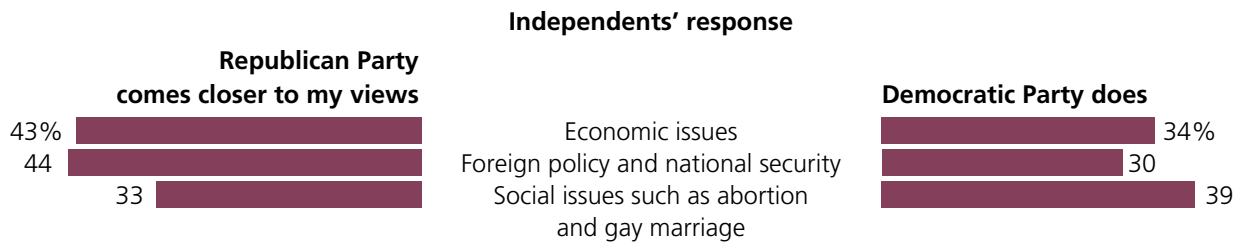
The ranks of self-described independents grew during George W. Bush's second term as some Republicans cast off their party label. In an early 2009, Pew said the number of independents was the highest it had been in 70 years. Today on many issues and on their congressional vote intention, independents are leaning heavily to the GOP. They prefer the GOP on economic and foreign policy issues, but not on social issues.

Q: *In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?*



Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center, latest that of 2009.

Q: *Does the . . . ?*



Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center, August–September 2010.

Q: *Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?*

Of the 18 percent nationally who considered themselves members of the Tea Party movement

- 53% were Republicans
- 41% were independents
- 6% were Democrats

Note: In an April CBS poll, 18 percent of those surveyed said they were supporters of the Tea Party movement. Fifty-four percent were Republicans, 41 percent independents, and 5 percent Democrats.

Source: CBS, October 2010.

How Independents Plan to Vote

	Sept. 27– Oct. 3, 2010	Oct. 11– Oct. 17, 2010
Registered Independent voters	35D 44R	37D 48R
Likely Voters: High Turnout Model	31D 56R	35D 54R
Likely Voters: Low Turnout Model	30D 59R	31D 59R

Source: Gallup.

Election Indicators

Senate

57 Democrats
 41 Republicans
 2 Independents (caucus with Democrats)
 Number of pickups needed to change control: 10
 Average loss in the eleven first midterm since WWII: 2.5 seats

House

255 Democrats
 178 Republicans
 0 Independents
 2 vacancies (IN-3 and NY-29)
 Number of pickups needed to change control: 39
 Average loss in the eleven first midterms since WWII: 25.4 seats

Governors

26 Democrats
 23 Republicans
 1 Independent (FL—Crist)

State Legislatures

25 Democrat
 14 Republican
 8 divided control
 1 non-partisan (NE)

Earliest Poll Closings

6:00 p.m. (EST) Indiana*
 Kentucky*

7:00 p.m. (EST) Florida
 Georgia
 Indiana*
 Kentucky*
 South Carolina
 Vermont
 Virginia

Latest Poll Closings

12:00 a.m. (EST) Alaska
 Hawaii

11:00 p.m. (EST) California
 Oregon
 Washington

* In Indiana and Kentucky, some polls close at 6 p.m. and others at 7 p.m. because these states have two time zones.

- ❖ Since World War II, the House has flipped 6 times (1946, 1948, 1952, 1954, 1994, and 2006). Each time the Senate flipped as well.
- ❖ Three states—Illinois, Delaware, and West Virginia—will seat junior senators in November, as these states are having elections to replace appointed senators. Each of these states is currently represented by a Democrat.
- ❖ Three Senate incumbents—Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Arlen Specter (D-PA), and Bob Bennett (R-UT)—were defeated in their primaries (or convention) this year; the last time that many Senators lost in their primaries was 1980, when four were defeated. Only four senators lost their primaries in the years between 1980 and 2010.
- ❖ This year, five former governors are seeking the office they used to hold—Jerry Brown (D-CA), Roy Barnes (D-GA), Terry Branstad (R-IA), Bob Ehrlich (R-MD), and John Kitzhaber (D-OR).
- ❖ Four-hundred and seven House districts are being contested by the major parties this year, 94 percent of House elections.
- ❖ Since 1945, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has gained an average of 16.2 percent in the year following a mid-term election.
- ❖ [Bill Galston of Brookings](#) writes that in Congress “today, for the first time in modern history—maybe ever—the most conservative Democratic senator is to the left of the most liberal Republican. There is literally no ideological overlap between the parties.”
- ❖ [George Will notes](#) that it is possible for at least 18 new Senators to join that body in January. Senators in their first terms would then compose a majority of the body, a first since the popular election of Senators was instituted in 1913.

Health Care: The Major Trends

President Obama's Handling of Health Care

Q: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care policy? (The Gallup Organization, PSRA/Pew Research Center*, CNN/Opinion Research Corporation); **Q:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling health care? (ABC/Washington Post); **Q:** Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care? (Quinnipiac, CBS/New York Times); **Q:** Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing on the following issues . . . healthcare? (Fox/Opinion Dynamics); **Q:** If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Barack Obama is handling health care?(AP/Gfk-Roper)

	—Gallup—		—ABC/WP—		—PSRA/Pew—		—Quinnipiac—		—CBS/NYT—	
	App	Dis	App	Dis	App	Dis	App	Dis	App	Dis
Jul. 2009	44%	50%	49%	44%	42%	43%	46%	42%	46%	38%
Aug. 2009	43	49	46	50	-	-	39	52	40	47
Sept. 2009	43	52	47	48	-	-	41	51	47	45
Oct. 2009	-	-	48	48	-	-	-	-	47	42
Nov. 2009	40	53	47	49	43	47	41	53	44	48
Dec. 2009	-	-	44	53	-	-	38	56	42	50
Jan. 2010	37	58	45	52	38	52	35	58	40	54
Feb. 2010	36	60	43	54	-	-	35	58	35	55
Mar. 2010	42	54	48	49	39	52	44	50**	47	48
Apr. 2010	-	-	49	49	40	51	40	55	41	51
May 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	51	42	52
Jun. 2010	-	-	-	-	42	50	-	-	-	-
Jul. 2010	-	-	46	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug. 2010	40	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sept. 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oct. 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

	—Fox/OD—		—CNN/ORC—		—AP/Gfk—	
	App	Dis	App	Dis	App	Dis
Jul. 2009	43%	45%	-	-	50%	43%
Aug. 2009	-	-	44%	53%	-	-
Sept. 2009	44	48	51	47	42	52
Oct. 2009	42	50	42	57	48	47
Nov. 2009	-	-	-	-	49	46
Dec. 2009	39	54	-	-	49	46
Jan. 2010	-	-	40	59	48	48
Feb. 2010	37	56	-	-	-	-
Mar. 2010	-	-	45	54	49	46
Apr. 2010*	40	53	-	-	44	52
May. 2010	-	-	-	-	45	51
Jun. 2010	-	-	-	-	49	46
Jul. 2010	41	55	44	54	-	-
Aug. 2010	-	-	-	-	45	53
Sept. 2010	-	-	-	-	50	50
Oct. 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: *The survey dates for the PSRA/Pew Research Center poll labeled "October" were September 30–October 4. The survey dates for the PSRA/Pew Research Center poll labeled "November" were October 28–November 8. **This poll question was asked immediately after the congressional health care vote.

(continued on the next page)

Views on the Health Care Bill

Q: Overall, given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the proposed changes to the health care system being developed by Congress and the Obama administration? (ABC/Washington Post)* **Q:** As of right now, do you generally favor or generally oppose the health care proposals being discussed in Congress? (PSRA/Pew Research Center)** **Q:** From what you have read or heard, do you mostly approve or mostly disapprove of the proposed changes to the health care system under consideration in Congress? (Quinnipiac***, CBS/New York Times^)
Q: As you may know, the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill that would make major changes in the country's health care system. Based on what you have read or heard about that legislation, do you generally favor it or generally oppose it? (CNN/Opinion Research Corporation)^**Q:** Based on what you know about the health care reform legislation being considered right now, do you favor or oppose the plan? (Fox/Opinion Dynamics)^**Q:** In general, do you support, oppose or neither support nor oppose the health care reform plans being discussed in Congress? (AP/GfK-Roper)^* **Q:** President Obama did sign a health reform bill into law last month . . . given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it? (Kaiser)**^

	—ABC/WP—		—PSRA/Pew—		—Quinnipiac—		—CBS/NYT—		—CNN/ORC—	
	Sup	Opp	Fav	Opp	App	Dis	App	Dis	Fav	Opp
Jul. 2009	-	-	38%	44%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug. 2009	45%	50%	39	46	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sep. 2009	46	48	42	44	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oct. 2009	48	48	34	47	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nov. 2009	48	49	42	39	-	-	40%	45%	46%	49%
Dec. 2009	44	51	35	48	36%	53%	-	-	-	-
Jan. 2010	44	51	39	48	34	54	-	-	38	58
Feb. 2010	47	49	38	50	35	54	-	-	-	-
Mar. 2010	48	49	40	47	40	49	37	48	39	59
Apr. 2010	49	49	40	44	39	53	-	-	-	-
May. 2010	-	-	-	-	40	51	43	47	43	56
Jun. 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jul. 2010	45	50	35	47	-	-	36	49	-	-
Aug. 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	56
Sept. 2010	-	-	38	45	-	-	37	49	-	-
Oct. 2010	47	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	—Fox/OD—		—AP/Gfk—		—Kaiser—					
	Fav	Opp	Sup	Opp	Fav	Opp				
Jul. 2009	36%	47%	-	-	-	-				
Aug. 2009	34	49	-	-	-	-				
Sep. 2009	33	53	34%	49%	-	-				
Oct. 2009	35	54	40	40	-	-				
Nov. 2009	35	51	39	45	-	-				
Dec. 2009	34	57	36	44	-	-				
Jan. 2010	39	51	42	42	-	-				
Feb. 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Mar. 2010	35	55	41	43	-	-				
Apr. 2010	39	54	39	50	46%	40%				
May. 2010	-	-	39	46	41	44				
Jun. 2010	-	-	45	42	48	41				
Jul. 2010	-	-	-	-	50	35				
Aug. 2010	-	-	-	-	43	45				
Sept. 2010	-	-	41	46	49	40				
Oct. 2010	-	-	-	-	42	44				

For notes on the changes in question wording, see page 8.

(continued on the next page)

What Now for Health Care?

Q: Thinking about the health care bill that Congress passed earlier this year, which of the following statements best describes your view of what Congress should do in the future? . . . Congress should leave the bill as it is. Congress should make additional changes to increase the government's involvement in the nation's healthcare system. Congress should repeal most of the major provisions in that bill and replace them with a completely different set of proposals.

	Leave as is	Make additional changes to increase government involvement	Repeal and replace
Mar. 2010	23%	27%	47%
Jul. 2010	20	30	48
Sept. 2010	23	26	47

Source: CNN/Opinion Research Corporation, latest that of September 2010.

Q: What do you want to happen with the new health care law: make sure it is implemented as it is, make changes to it, or repeal it all together?

	Implement as is	Make changes	Repeal it
Apr. 2010	12%	47%	36%
Jul. 2010	15	42	36

Note: Sample is registered voters.

Source: Fox/Opinion Dynamics, latest that of September 2010.

Q: Which one of the following comes closest to what you would like to see lawmakers do with the new health care law . . . ?

	Leave it as is	Expand it	Repeal parts of the law	Repeal entirely
Oct. 2010	17%	19%	27%	27%

Note: Asked of registered voters.

Source: Fox/Opinion Dynamics.

Q: Thinking about the health care law that passed earlier this year, would you favor repealing the new law to keep it from going into effect, or would you oppose repealing the new law?

	Registered voters	Responses of		
		Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Favor repealing	46%	24%	72%	44%
Oppose repealing	42	63	20	42

Note: This poll was taken in late September. In mid-September, 44 percent favored repealing the law, and 43 percent opposed repealing it.
Source: Fox/Opinion Dynamics, September 2010.

(continued on the next page)



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Q: Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress in March? If disapprove: What do you think Congress should do about health care now: let the law stand and see how it works, or repeal the law as soon as possible?

	Approve	If disapprove		
		Let stand	Repeal ASAP	Unsure
Jul. 2010	35%	7%	37%	4%
Sept. 2010	38	9	32	4

Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center, latest that of September 2010.

Q: As you may know, a new health reform bill was signed into law earlier this year. Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it? (If unfavorable) Given that you have an unfavorable view of the health reform law, which comes closer to your view of what should happen now? The law should be given a chance to work, with Congress making necessary changes along the way. The law should be repealed as soon as possible.

	Favorable	If unfavorable		
		Give it a chance to work	Repeal as soon as possible	Unsure about approach
Jun. 2010	48%	12%	27%	2%
Jul. 2010	50	7	27	1
Aug. 2010	43	13	31	1
Sept. 2010	49	12	26	1

Source: Kaiser, latest that of September 2010.

Q: Do you think you and your family will be better off or worse under the new health care reform law, or don't you think it will make much difference? (Kaiser)

Q: From what you know of that legislation, do you think you and your family would, in general, be better off, worse off or about the same if it becomes law? (CNN/Opinion Research Corporation)

	Kaiser			CNN/ORC		
	Better	Worse	No Diff	Better	Worse	Same
Mar. 2010	35%	32%	28%	22%	39%	27%
Sept. 2010	32	28	33	18	37	43

Note on question wordings from "Views on the Health Care Bill" on page 6 : *Beginning in March 2010, ABC/Washington Post question wording read: "Given what you know about them, would you say you support or oppose the changes to the health care system that have been enacted by Congress and the Obama administration?" **For April 2010, the PSRA/Pew Research Center question asked about the "legislation passed last month." After April 2010, PSRA/Pew Research Center question wording read: "Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress in March?" ***After March 2010, Quinnipiac wording read: "Do you approve or disapprove of the federal health care overhaul?" ^For March 2010, CBS/New York Times question asked about "the current health care reform bill." After March 2010, CBS/New York Times question read: "From what you've heard or read, do you approve or disapprove of the new health care reform bill?" ^^CNN/Opinion Research Corporation has changed the wording of their questions since the bill passed. Question wording for January 2010 asked about "the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed bills." May 2010 CNN/Opinion Research Corporation question wording was: "Do you approve or disapprove of the passage of the health care bill which became law in April?" Favor is equated with approve and oppose is equated with disapprove. The August and March 2010 CNN/Opinion Research Corporation question read "As you may know, a bill that makes major changes to the country's health care system became law earlier this year. Based on what you have read or heard about that legislation, do you generally favor or generally oppose it?" ^^^Question wording for April 2010 Fox/Opinion Dynamics reads: "Based on what you know, do you favor or oppose the new health care law?" ^*AP/Gfk-Roper question wording after April 2010 reads: "In general, do you support, oppose or neither support nor oppose the health care reforms that were passed by Congress in March?" **^Question wording for Kaiser after April 2010 reads: "As you may know, a new health reform bill was signed into law earlier this year. Given what you know about the new health reform law, do you have a generally favorable or generally unfavorable opinion of it?"

Tea Party Trends

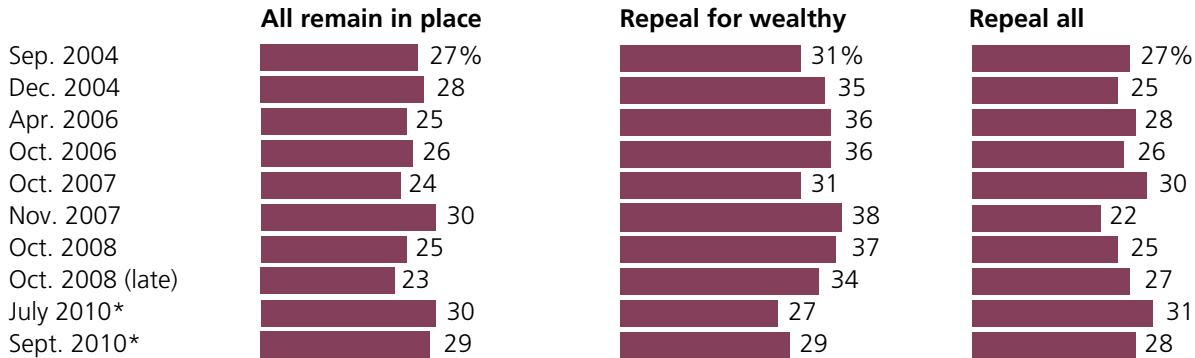
Q: Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not? (CBS/Washington Post) **Q:** From what you know, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way? (PSRA/Pew Research Center) **Q:** Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, an opponent of the Tea Party movement, or neither? (The Gallup Organization) **Q:** Now I'm going to read you the names of several public figures and groups, and I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. (NBC/Wall Street Journal) **Q:** We'd like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these people, or if you have never heard of them. (CNN/Opinion Research Corporation) **Q:** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the political movement known as the Tea Party? (ABC/Washington Post) **Qs:** Do you have a favorable, unfavorable, or neither favorable nor unfavorable opinion of the Tea Party movement? From what you know about the Tea Party movement, would you say generally agree, disagree or neither agree nor disagree on the Tea Party movement's positions on political issues? Do you consider yourself a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or are you not a supporter of the Tea Party movement? (AP/GfK-Roper) **Qs:** Do you consider yourself part of the Tea Party movement or not? Is your opinion of the Tea Party movement favorable, unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about it? (Quinnipiac) **Qs:** Would you describe yourself as a member of the Tea Party? Do you support or oppose the Tea Party movement? (Harris)

	—CBS/WP—		—PSRA/Pew*—		—Gallup/USA—		—NBC/WSJ—		—CNN/ORC—	
	Supp	Not	Agree	Dis	Supp	Opp	Pos	Neg	Fav	Unfav
Feb. 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mar 2010	-	-	35%	20%	28%	26%	29%	28%	-	-
April 2010	18%	62%	-	-	-	-	-	-	38%	36%
May 2010	20	59	33	24	29	28	31	30	-	-
June 2010			34	25	31	30	34	31	-	-
July 2010	27	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aug 2010	29	54	28	24	30	27	30	34	-	-
Sept 2010	19	63	29	26	-	-	30	36	36	40
Oct 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	—ABC/Post—		—AP/GfK—		—AP/GfK—		—AP/GfK—			
	Fav	Unfav	Fav	Unfav	Agree	Dis	Supp	Not		
Feb 2010	35%	40%	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Mar 2010	42	39	-	-	-	-	-	-		
April 2010	-	-	28%	30%	33%	26%	31%	60%		
May 2010	-	-	29	31	35	26	27	68		
June 2010	36	49	33	30	35	27	27	65		
July 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Aug 2010	37	45	31	34	34	30	28	69		
Sept 2010	-	-	29	34	34	31	28	68		
Oct 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	—Quinnipiac—		—Quinnipiac—		—Harris—		—Harris—			
	Part of	Not	Fav	Unfav	Mem	No	Sup	Opp		
Feb 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Mar 2010	13%	80%	28%	23%	-	-	33%	23%		
April 2010	15	79	32	31	-	-	-	-		
May 2010	-	-	-	-	10%	75%	38	18		
June 2010	-	-	-	-	8	77	37	31		
July 2010	12	81	33	31	-	-	-	-		
Aug 2010	12	80	30	31	7	79	38	29		
Sept 2010	-	-	-	-	6	80	39	31		
Oct 2010	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

Note: * Question asked of registered voters. Other questions asked of national adults.

What To Do About the Bush Tax Cuts

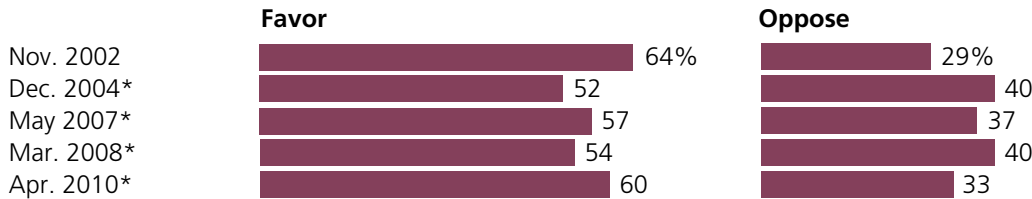
Q: Which comes closer to your view about the tax cuts passed under President Bush over the past few years: all of the tax cuts should remain in place, tax cuts for the wealthy should be repealed while others stay in place, all of the tax cuts should be repealed?



Note: * Question wording was "when George W. Bush was president."

Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center. July and September 2010 polls conducted by Pew and *National Journal*.

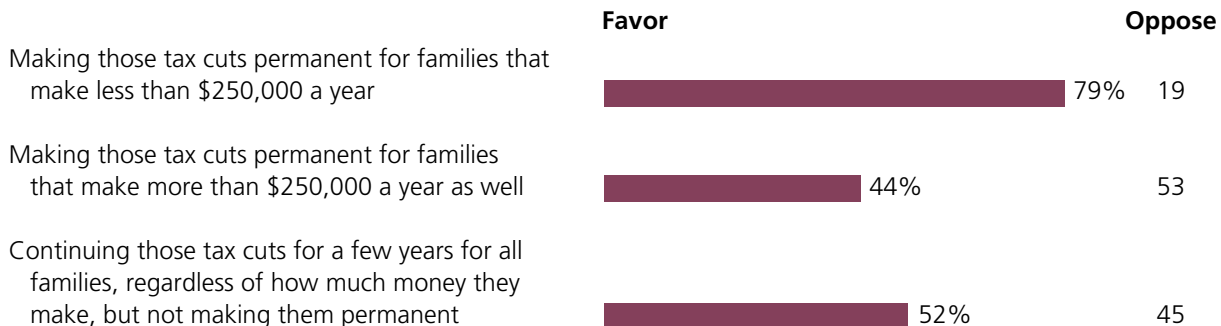
Q: As you may know, the federal income tax cuts passed into law last year are set to expire in 2011. Would you favor or oppose making those tax cuts permanent?



Note: *Question wording was "... tax cuts passed into law since George W. Bush became president are set ..."

Source: Gallup/CNN/USA Today, November 2002 and December 2004. CNN/ORC, May 2007–April 2010.

Q: As you may know, the tax cuts passed into law when George W. Bush was president are set to expire this year. Unless a new bill is passed, federal income tax rates will rise to the level they were at when those cuts were enacted. Please tell me whether you would favor or oppose each of the following:



Source: CNN/Opinion Research Corporation, September 2010.

The Stimulus

Q: So far, do you . . .

Think the government's stimulus package has made the economy better	30%
Worse	20
No impact so far	46

Source: CBS/New York Times, September 2010.

Q: Do you think . . . ?

The money the federal government has spent on the economic stimulus has been mostly spent well	29%
Mostly wasted	68

Source: ABC/Washington Post, September 2010.

Q: Do you think the . . . ?

Government's stimulus package was too large	34%
Not large enough	27
About right	28

Source: CBS/New York Times, September 2010.

Confidence in Banks

Q: How much . . . ?

Confidence you, yourself, have in today's U.S. financial institutions or banks

	Aug. 2010	Feb. 2010	Apr. 2009
A great deal/Quite a lot	18%	20%	18%
Very little	38	40	36

Source: The Gallup Organization, latest that of August 2010.

Q: How much . . . ?

Confidence you, yourself have in your primary or main bank

	Aug. 2010	Feb. 2010	Apr. 2009
A great deal/Quite a lot	61%	58%	58%
Very little	9	9	11

Source: The Gallup Organization, latest that of August 2010.

TARP and 2010

Q: Thinking about the elections for Congress this year, please tell me whether you would be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate with each of the following characteristics, or whether it would make no difference in your vote either way.

If a candidate supported the government providing major loans to banks during the 2008 financial crisis

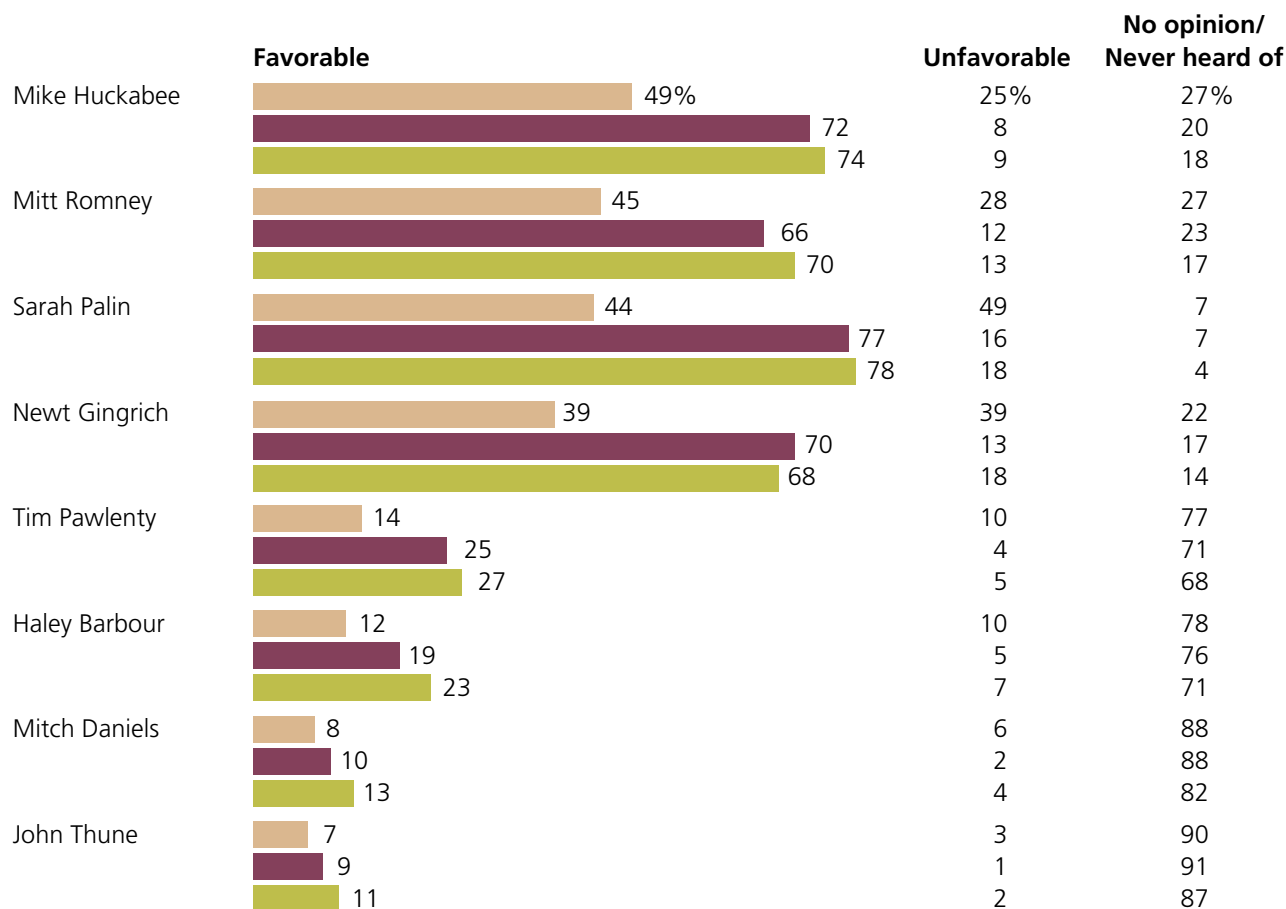
	Sept. 2010	May 2010
More likely to vote for	13%	14%
Less likely to vote for	46	49
No difference either way	36	32

Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center, latest that of September 2010.

2012: Here They Come

Q: As you may already [have] heard, there are likely to be several candidates and organizations that should have a prominent role in the 2010 election. I would like to read you the names of several of these people or organizations. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person or organization and if so, whether you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of that person or organization. If you did not recognize the name, just say so.

- National response (registered "likely" voters)
- Self identified Republicans (registered "likely" voters)
- Those with favorable opinion of Tea Party (registered "likely" voters)



Note: Sample is registered "likely" voters for 2010. Fifty-four percent nationally had a favorable opinion of Barack Obama and 45 percent an unfavorable opinion.

Source: Battleground 2010, a poll conducted by The Tarrance Group (R) and Lake Research Partners (D) for *Politico* and George Washington University, September 2010.

A Gallup poll in late September asked Republicans and those who said they leaned to the Republican Party which of a number of candidates they would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination. Nineteen percent of Republicans and Republican leaners said former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, 16 percent said former Alaskan governor Sarah Palin, 12 percent former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee, 9 percent former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, and 7 percent Texas congressman Ron Paul. Tim Pawlenty, Haley Barbour, Rick Santorum, John Thune, Mitch Daniels, Mike Pence, and Gary Johnson were each mentioned by less than 5 percent of the Republicans surveyed. One percent volunteered Chris Christie.