

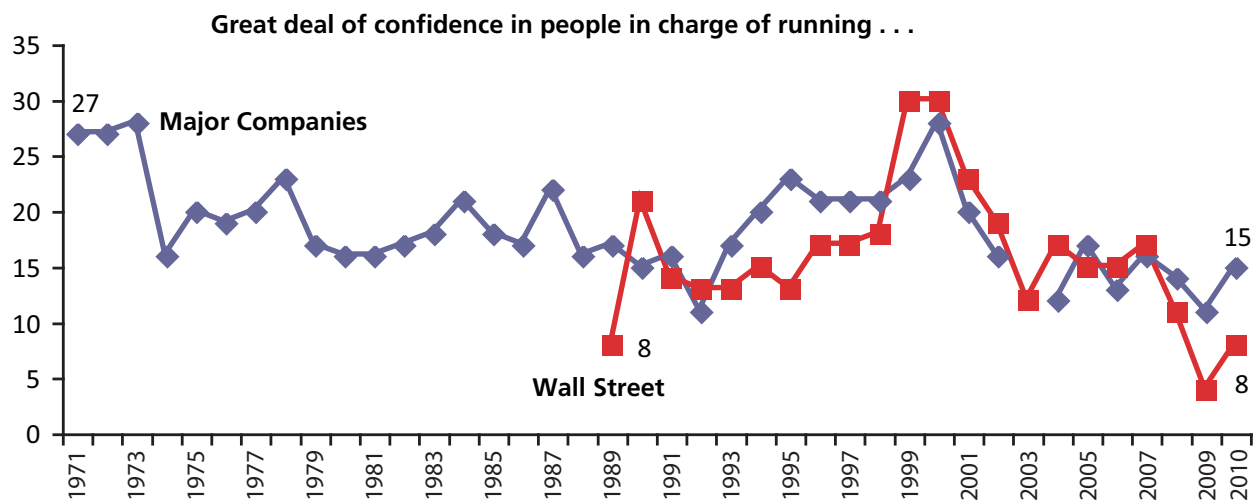
# AEI Political Report

## The Business Edition

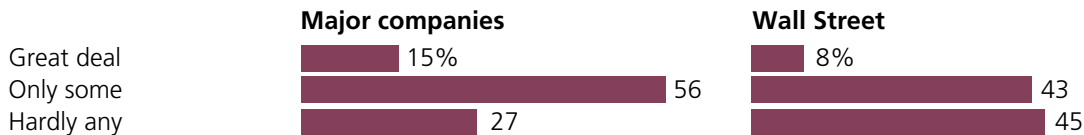
Confidence in business took a hit in 2008, although it has not been especially high in the past 40 years. In Harris's polling, only 11 percent in 2008 said they had a great deal of confidence in the people in charge of running major companies. It rose slightly to 15 percent in early 2010. Those in charge of running Wall Street are even less popular.

Even with the financial crisis, however, people are wary of greater government regulation of business in general. A question asked by Bloomberg shows that a slight plurality believes "government" has gone too far in addressing the financial crisis. In a separate question, however, a solid majority, 58 percent, said "Wall Street" has done too little to avoid a future meltdown. And, an overwhelming majority (81 percent) think government should limit the pay of executives of companies getting federal funds.

*Q: As far as people in charge of running major companies are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?*

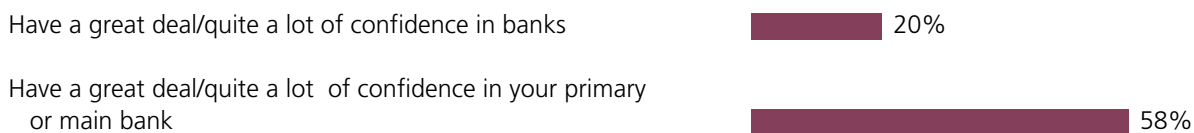


### Confidence in the people in charge of running . . . (2010)



Source: Harris Interactive, latest that of February 2010.

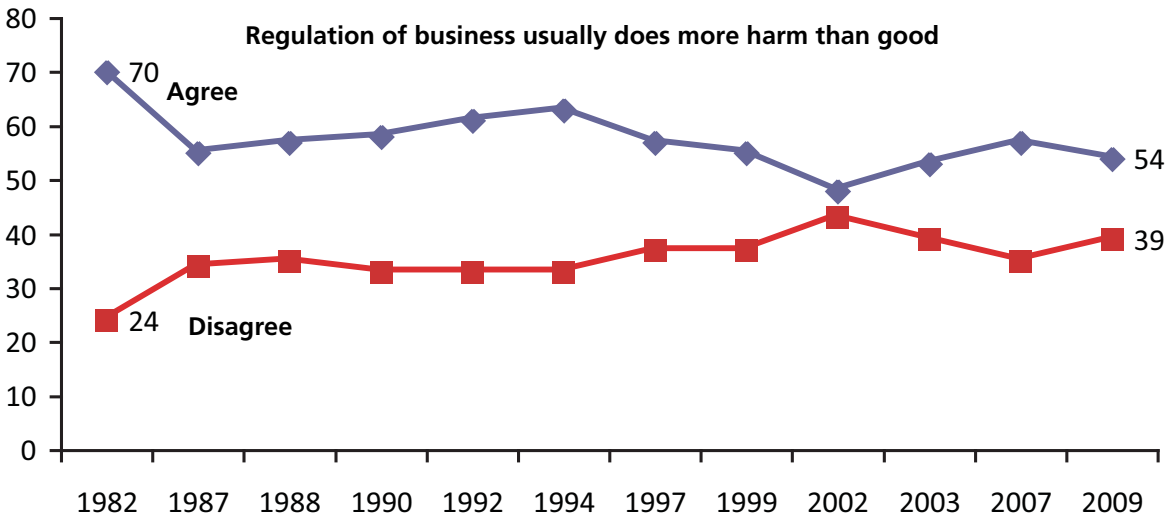
*Q: Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself . . .*



Note: These are two separate questions.  
Source: The Gallup Organization, March 2010.

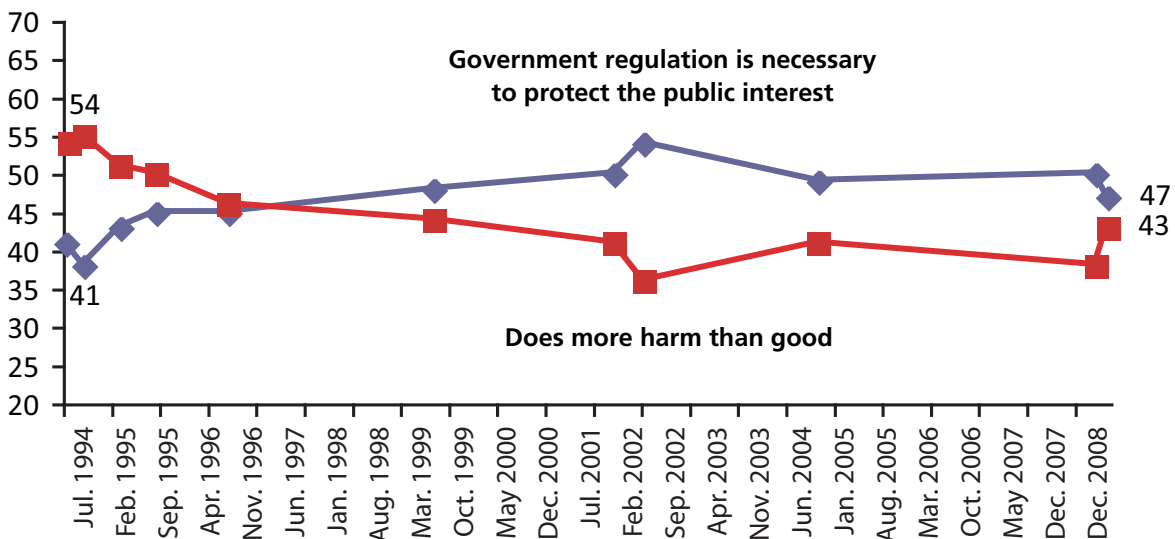
## Of Two Minds About Regulation

Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statements . . . ?



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

Q: I'm going to read you some pairs of statements that will help us understand how you feel about a number of things. As I read each pair, tell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is . . . government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest, or government regulation of business usually does more harm than good.



Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center, latest that of December 2008.

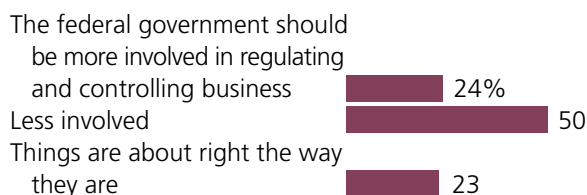
## But Worried About Greater Regulation of Business in General

Q: Which worries you more?



Source: The Gallup Organization, January 2010.

Q: Which of the following do you agree with . . . ?



Source: The Gallup Organization, January 2010.



Q: What do you think is the . . . ?



Source: Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, April 2010.

Q: Which of these industries do you think should be more regulated by government—for example for health, safety or environmental reasons—than they are now?

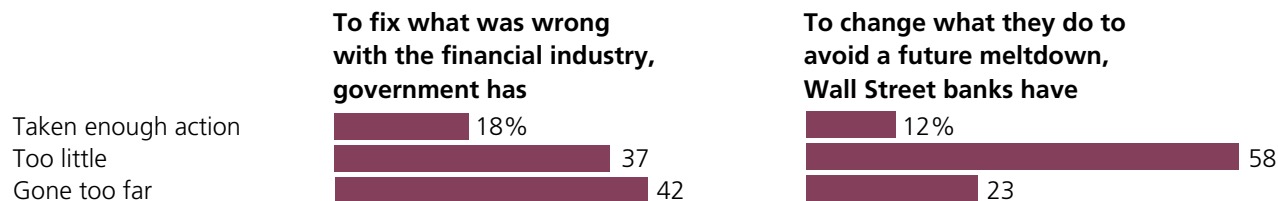
	2005	2009
Oil companies	55%	47%
Pharmaceutical and drug companies	51	47
Health insurance companies	46	45
<b>Banks</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>40</b>
Managed health care companies, such as HMOs	43	36

Note: Only industries that had a 2009 rating above 30 percent are shown. Source: Harris Interactive, latest that of 2009.

## Now Turning to Wall Street

Q: When President Obama took office, he said he was determined to address the roots of the financial crisis so that another meltdown would not happen. Do you believe the government has taken enough action to fix what was wrong in the financial industry, has taken too little action, or do you think the government has gone too far and taken action that will be harmful down the road?

Q: What about Wall Street banks themselves? Do you think banks have taken enough action to change what they do to avoid a future meltdown, have taken too little action, or do you think they've gone too far and made changes that will be harmful down the road?



Source: Selzer & Company/Bloomberg, March 2010.

### AEI POLITICAL REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

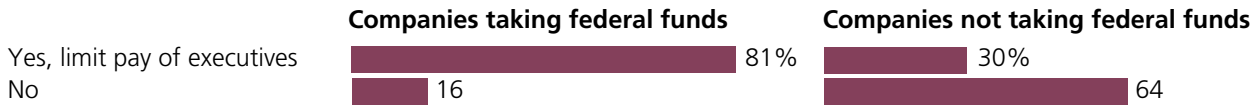
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## Executive Compensation

Q: Do you think the government should limit the amount of money that companies that are taking federal funds pay their executives?

Q: Do you think the government should limit the amount of money that companies not taking federal funds pay their executives?



Source: Quinnipiac, March 2009.

Q: Do you think individuals in Wall Street banks whose actions helped cause the financial crisis should be punished by the federal government by limiting their compensation or banning them from working in the industry, or do you think the banks are best able to address individual issues and government should not be dictating what happens at this level?



Source: Selzer & Company/Bloomberg, March 2010.

## Questions About Financial Reforms

Q: Congress is considering a proposal to increase oversight of consumer credit, including mortgages and credit cards. To best serve consumers, do you think this should be a new, separate agency, with complete independence and its own authority to make rules for consumer credit, or would it be better to enhance the existing system to make sure bank regulators do more to protect consumers?



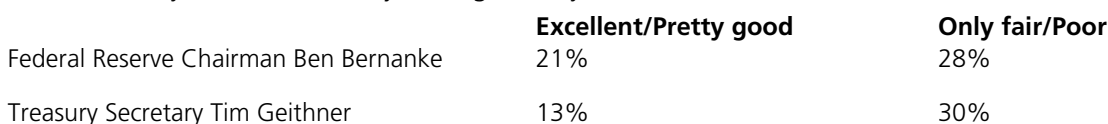
Source: Selzer & Company/Bloomberg, March 2010.

Q: Currently there is no government agency with the sole mission of overseeing financial products sold to consumers and small businesses, like mortgages, bank loans, and credit cards. Congress and President Obama are currently discussing creating an agency to create and enforce rules for financial products. Now I'd like to read you two viewpoints about this proposed agency. Please tell me which one comes closest to your own. Some people say this agency represents one of the worst trends in politics today—Congress failing to take tough choices about regulations and instead giving this job to unaccountable federal bureaucrats. We do not need another federal agency wasting more of our hard earned tax dollars to do work that Congress should be doing. Other people say that we need a Consumer Financial Protection Agency to create and enforce fair, affordable, understandable, and transparent rules for financial products and stop banks and credit card companies from tricking people with teaser rates, hidden fees, and small print. Which viewpoint is closest to your own?



Source: The Tarrance Group/Lake Research Partners, April 2010.

Q: How would you rate the overall job being done by . . . ?



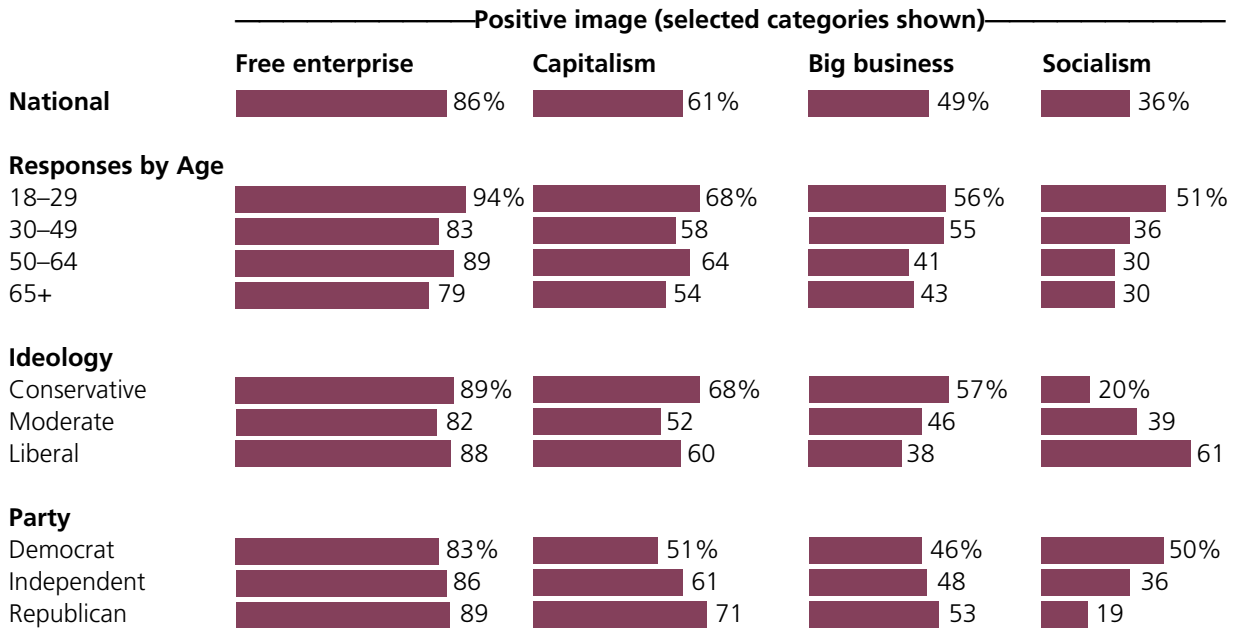
Note: Fifty-one percent didn't recognize Bernanke's name; 30 percent didn't recognize Geithner's.

Source: Harris Interactive, March 2010.

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Q: Just off the top of your head, would you say you have a positive or negative image of each of the following. How about . . . ?



Source: The Gallup Organization, January 2010.

## The Economy

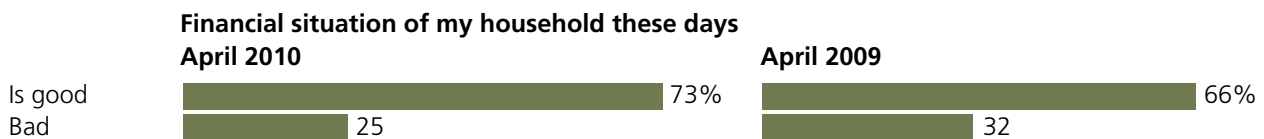
Most recent polls indicate that people are feeling a little better about the economy and their own financial situations. A Selzer & Company/Bloomberg March 2010 poll shows that large majorities believe persistently high unemployment and chronically high budget deficits pose the greatest economic threats to the United States over the next two years.

Q: Do you think the economy is . . . ?



Source: CBS News/*New York Times*, latest that of April 2010.

Q: How would you rate the . . . ?



Note: In the 2010 poll, 9 percent said the financial situation of their household was very good and 64 percent fairly good.

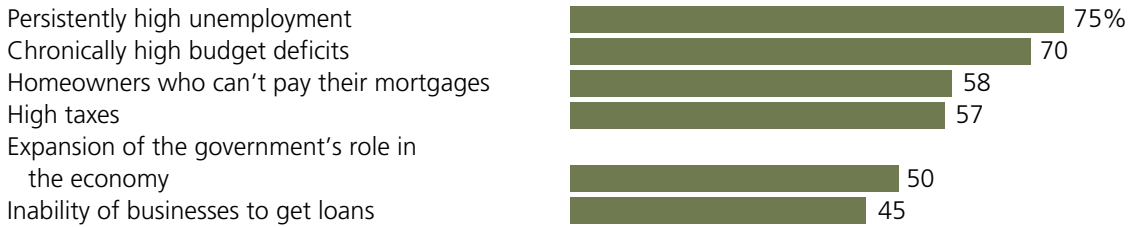
Source: CBS News/*New York Times*, latest that of April 2010.

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Q: For each of the following, please indicate how much threat the situation poses . . . ?

**Poses a high threat to economic performance in the United States over the next two years**



Source: Selzer & Company/Bloomberg, March 2010.

Q: As you may know, the federal income tax cuts passed into law in 2001 are set to expire next year. Would you . . . ?

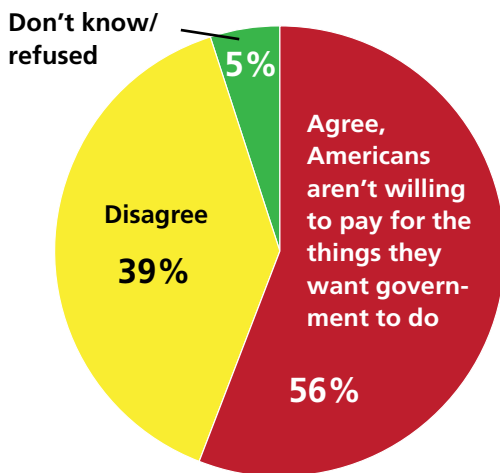


Note: Fifty-seven percent in May 2007 favored making "the federal income taxes passed into law since George W. Bush became president" permanent, and 37 percent were opposed. In 2008, those responses were 54 and 40 percent, respectively.  
Source: CNN/Opinion Research Corporation, April 2010.

## Deficit Dilemmas

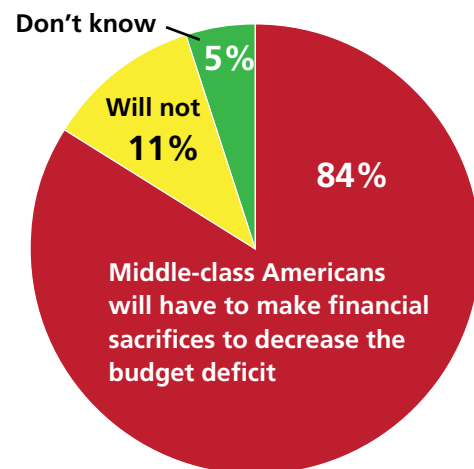
Concern about the deficit is rising. A March Pew poll not included here found "the highest percentage volunteering the deficit as a top national problem in nearly two decades." People think middle-class Americans will have to sacrifice to deal with the deficit, but raising income taxes on the middle class gets a thumbs down.

Q: As I read a few statements some people have made about the federal government, please tell me if you . . .



Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center, March 2010.

Q: Do you believe . . . ?



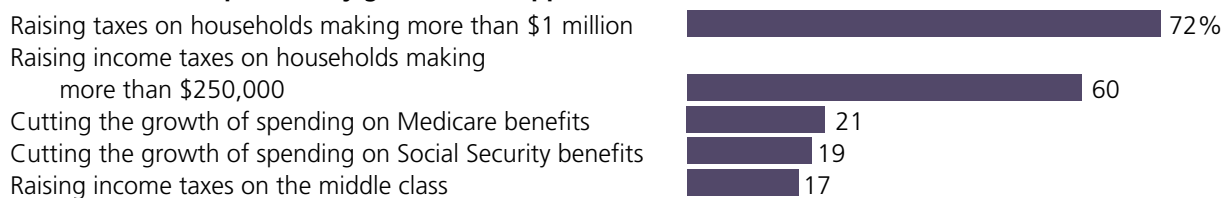
Note: A Selzer & Company/Bloomberg poll found that 90 percent believed middle-class people would have to make sacrifices.  
Source: Quinnipiac, March 2010.

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Q: Do you think . . . ?

**Should be a main part of any government approach to the deficit**



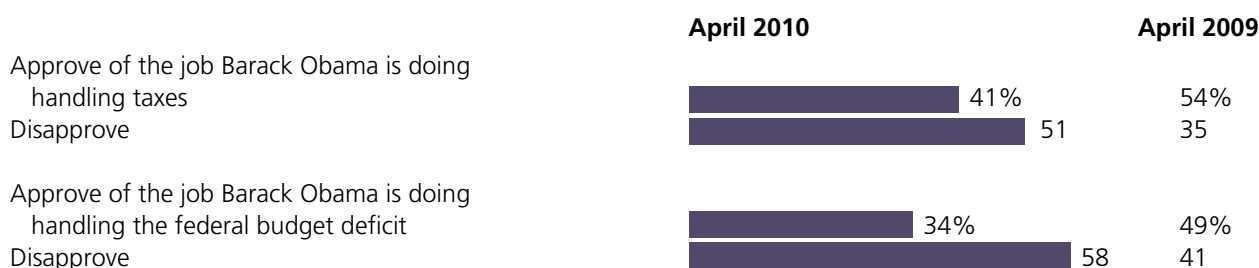
Note: Sample is registered voters.  
Source: Quinnipiac, March 2010.

Q: I'm going to mention some general approaches that could be considered to help decrease the deficit—some of which may mean a sacrifice for you and your household. For each, please tell me if you think this approach should be . . . ?

	Strongly considered	Just considered	Taken off the table
Remove the cap on the Social Security tax so that wage-earners who make more than \$107,000 continue to pay into Social Security	36%	42%	18%
Allow the tax rate for highest income earners to go back to where it was ten years ago	36	32	26
Add a penny an ounce tax on sugar-sweetened drinks	29	28	42
Reduce annual cost of living increases for Social Security participants	17	35	47
Cut federal spending on roads, bridges, and public transportation	16	38	45
Raise the age at which people become eligible for Medicare from 65 to 67	14	32	53
Eliminate the income tax deduction for home mortgages	13	30	55
Continue to provide basic coverage for people on Medicare but require them to pay more for health services beyond basic care	12	35	52
Raise the income tax rate on middle class Americans by 2 percent	9	25	65

Source: Selzer & Company/Bloomberg, March 2010.

Q: And please tell me if you . . . ?



Source: GfK-Roper/Associated Press, latest that of April 2010.

## The Public on a Potential Supreme Court Nominee

Q: Next, as you may know, President Obama will announce later this year a nominee to the Supreme Court. Do you think . . . ?

Q: And, just your best guess, do you think . . . ?

	Obama should nominate someone who is	Obama will nominate someone who is
Very liberal	8%	33%
Somewhat liberal	17	28
Moderate	37	21
Somewhat conservative	19	9
Very conservative	17	7

Source: CNN/Opinion Research Corporation, April 2010.

Q: Do you think . . . ?

### The Supreme Court is

Too liberal	29%
Too conservative	19
About right	40

Note: Fifty-three percent of Republicans said it was too liberal, 7 percent too conservative, and 31 percent about right. Those responses for Democrats were 8, 32, and 46 percent, respectively. For independents, they were 30, 19, and 41 percent.

Source: Quinnipiac, April 2010.

Q: Who do you trust more to . . . ?

Trust President Obama more to make the right decisions about who should sit on the United States Supreme Court	46%
Trust the Republicans in the U.S. Senate more	43

Source: Quinnipiac, April 2010.

## Health Care Postmortem

Q: As you may know, Congress recently passed legislation that restructures the nation's health care system. All in all, do you think . . . ?

Passage of legislation to restructure the health system was a good thing	45%
Bad thing	49

Note: Eighty-one percent of Democrats, 41 percent of independents, and 10 percent of Republicans thought it was a good thing. In March, 47 percent nationally said it was a good thing and 50 percent a bad thing.

Source: The Gallup Organization, April 2010.

Q: In the long run, do you think \_\_\_ will increase as a result of these changes to the health care system, decrease, or remain about the same?

	Increase	Decrease	Remain same
Your health care costs	55%	11%	30%
The overall costs of health care in this country	60%	16%	21%

Source: ABC News/Washington Post, March 2010.

Q: In the long run, do you think . . . ?

	Will get better in the long run	Will get worse
The overall health care system in this country	37%	44%
The quality of the health care you receive	18	44
Your health insurance coverage	17	42
Your ability to get health insurance	48	25

Source: ABC News/Washington Post, March 2010.

Q: Who do you . . . ?

	April 2010	January 2010
Trust President Obama to do a better job handling health care	42%	42%
Trust Republicans in Congress	39	41

Source: Quinnipiac, latest that of April 2010.

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Q: What do you want to happen with the new health care law . . . ?

	National	Responses of		
		Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Implement it as it is	12%	2%	27%	6%
Make changes to it	47	34	56	54
Repeal it altogether	36	62	12	35

Source: Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, April 2010.

Q: Attorneys general from several states have said they will sue to block the recently passed health care overall plan. Do you think . . . ?

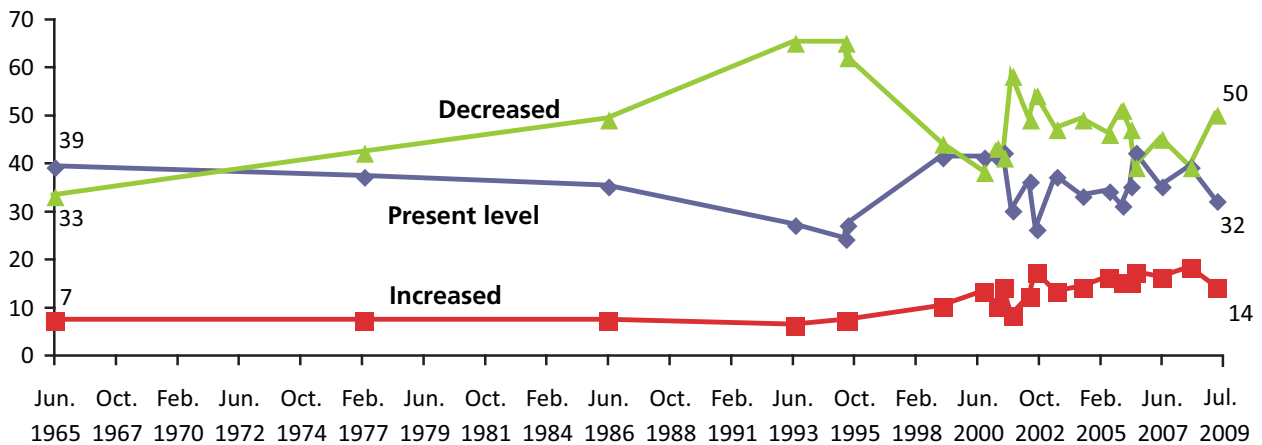
	National	Responses of		
		Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Filing a lawsuit to stop the plan from taking effect is a good idea	40%	67%	9%	46%
Bad idea	53	24	85	47

Source: Quinnipiac, April 2010.

## Immigration: Waiting on Deck?

Immigration came back into the news recently when Senator Harry Reid announced but then pulled back from plans to try to move a comprehensive immigration bill to the Senate floor this session. Then Arizona Governor Jan Brewer signed into law a measure designed to crack down on illegal immigration which President Obama called “misguided.” The President asked the Justice Department to examine “the civil rights and other implications” of the new law. In a new CBS News/*New York Times* poll, 60 percent said that illegal immigration was a very serious problem for the country right now.

Q: In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?

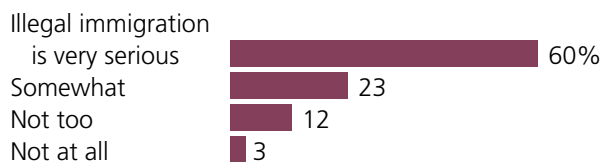


Source: The Gallup Organization, latest that of July 2009.

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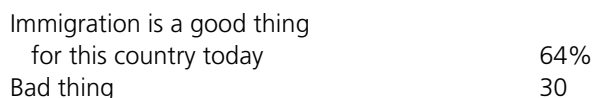
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Q: How serious a problem do think the issue of illegal immigration is for the country right now . . . ?



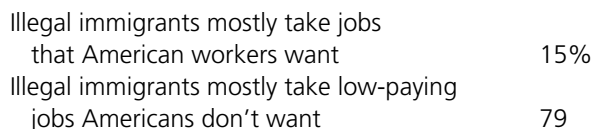
Note: Eighty-two percent of self-identified Tea Party supporters said it was a very serious problem, 15 percent somewhat serious, 2 percent not too serious, and 1 percent not at all serious.  
Source: CBS News/*New York Times*, April 2010.

Q: On the whole, do you think . . . ?



Source: The Gallup Organization, July 2008.

Q: Which comes closer to your view . . . ?

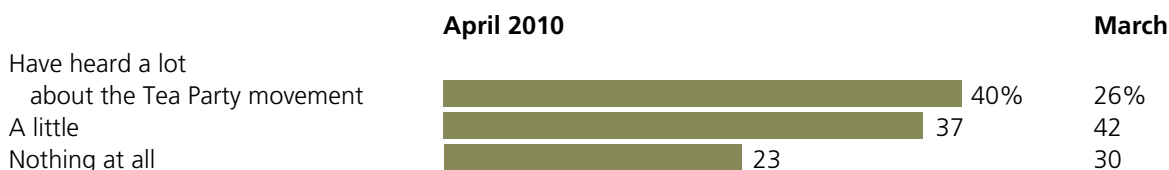


Source: The Gallup Organization, July 2008.

## Tea Party Trends

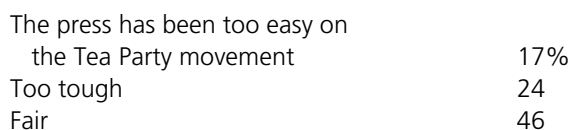
In terms of support for the Tea Party movement, different question wording produces different results as we can see on the next page. Pew reports that awareness of the movement is growing.

Q: How much if anything, have you heard . . . ?



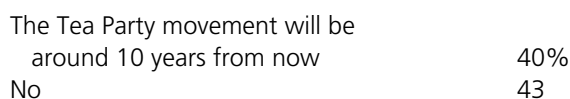
Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center, latest that of April 2010.

Q: Would you say . . . ?



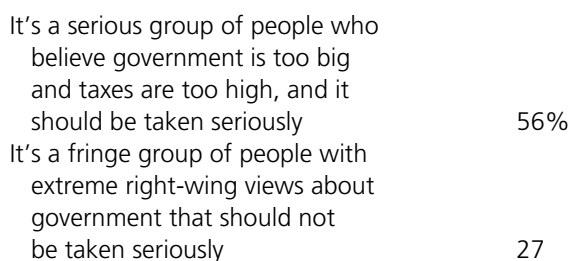
Source: PSRA/Pew Research Center, April 2010.

Q: Do you think . . . ?



Source: Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, April 2010.

Q: Which of the following do you think better describes the Tea Party movement . . . ?



Source: Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, April 2010.

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Q: Do you consider yourself a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or are you not a supporter? (AP-GfK-Roper, April 2010)

Q: Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, an opponent of the Tea Party movement, or neither (Gallup/USA Today, March 2010)

Q: Do you support or oppose the Tea Party movement? (Harris Interactive, March 2010)

Q: Do you consider yourself part of the Tea Party movement or not? (Quinnipiac)

Q: Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement or not? (CBS News/New York Times)

Q: Regardless of whether you've attended a Tea Party rally or event, do you consider yourself to be part of the Tea Party movement, or not? (Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, April 2010)

<b>AP-GfK-Roper</b>	<b>Gallup/USA Today</b>	<b>Harris</b>
<b>Supporter/not</b>	<b>Supporter/opponent/neither</b>	<b>Support/oppose/not sure</b>
31%    60%	28%    26%    38%	33%    23%    20%

<b>Quinnipiac</b>	<b>CBS/NYT</b>	<b>Fox/OD</b>
<b>Part of it/not</b>	<b>Supporter/not</b>	<b>Yes/no</b>
15%    79% (April)	18%    62% (April)	17%    77%
13    80 (March)	20    56 (March)	

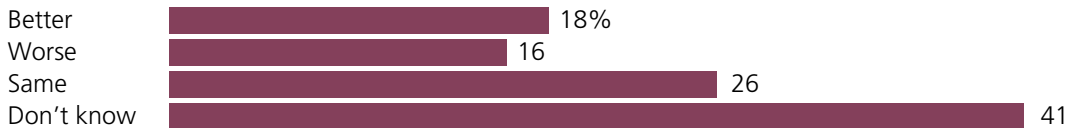
Q: Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the political movement known as the Tea Party? (ABC News/Washington Post)

Q: Is your opinion of the Tea Party movement favorable, unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about it? (Quinnipiac)

<b>ABC/Wash Post</b>	<b>Quinnipiac</b>
<b>Favorable/unfavorable</b>	<b>Favorable/unfavorable</b>
41%    39% (March)	32%    31% (April)
35    40 (February)	28    23 (March)

## Petraeus's Potential

Q: If General David Petraeus were president, do you think he would be doing a better job, a worse job or about the same kind of job as President Obama?



Note: Democrats responded 4 percent better, 29 percent worse, 21 percent same, and 35 percent don't know. Republicans responded 33 percent better, 2 percent worse, 21 percent same, and 43 percent don't know. Independents responded 18 percent better, 12 percent worse, 23 percent same, and 47 percent don't know.

Source: Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, April 2010.

## Poll Potpourri

### Throwing an Unpopular Party

Gallup recently reported that the party affiliation gap is the narrowest it's been since 2005 and that the advantage Democrats built up during the Bush years has almost disappeared. In its first quarter 2010 sounding, 46 percent identified themselves as Democrats or leaning to the Democratic Party, while 45 percent identified themselves as Republicans or leading to the GOP. Neither party is particularly popular. In the question shown below, the favorable rating for the Democratic Party is the lowest it has been in 18 years.

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

Republican or lean to the Republican Party	45%
Democrat or lean to the Democratic Party	46

Source: The Gallup Organization, January–March 2010

*Q: Please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of . . . ?*

	Favorable opinion	Unfavorable opinion
Republican Party	42%	51%
Democratic Party	41%	54%

Source: Gallup/USA Today, March 2010.

### Media Content

*Q: Thinking about recent news coverage, would you say the press . . .*

	Barack Obama	Tiger Woods	Pope Benedict
Has been too easy on	29%	14%	24%
Too tough on	21	38	10
Fair	42	39	44

Source: Pew Research Center, April 2010.

### Utopian Notions on Nuclear Weapons

*Q: Do you . . . ?*

Agree the total elimination of nuclear weapons is possible	25%
Is not	74

Source: CNN/Opinion Research Corporation, April 2010.

*Q: Do you . . . ?*

Approve of President Obama announcing that the United States won't use nuclear weapons in certain situations	44%
Oppose	49

Source: Quinnipiac, April 2010.

### Restricted Access

*Q: If you were given the opportunity to get an all-access pass to one of the following workplaces for a week, which one would you choose?*

	National	Men	Women
The White House	30%	24%	35%
CIA Headquarters	20	23	17
NASA's Mission Control	19	23	14
Buckingham Palace	15	11	20
Google's offices	9	8	10
Osama Bin Laden's bunker	3	5	1

Source: 60 Minutes/Vanity Fair, February–March 2010.