

Survey Questions

Civic Engagement Tracking Survey 2012

Final Topline

08/14/2012

Data for July 16–August 7, 2012

Princeton Survey Research Associates International for
the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project

Sample: n=2,253 national adults, age 18 and older, including 900 cell phone interviews
Interviewing dates: 07.16.2012 – 08.07.2012

Margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points for results based on Total [n=2,253]

Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on internet users [n=1,873]

Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on cell phone owners [n=2,032]

Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on cell phone owners who text message
[n=1,409]

Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on SNS or Twitter users [n=1,209]

Q1 Overall, how would you rate your community as a place to live? Would you say it is excellent, good, only fair or poor?

	<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>JANUARY 2011</u>	<u>DECEMBER 2010</u>	<u>KNIGHT 2002</u>	<u>KNIGHT 1999</u>
%	39	Excellent	38	38	37	36
	43	Good	43	45	47	46
	13	Only fair	14	13	13	15
	4	Poor	4	4	3	3
	*	Don't know	*	1	*	*
	*	Refused	1	*	--	--

Q2 How much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live — a big impact, a moderate impact, a small impact, or no impact at all?

	<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>JANUARY 2011</u>	<u>DECEMBER 2010</u>	<u>AUGUST 2008</u>	<u>KNIGHT 2002</u>	<u>KNIGHT 1999</u>
%	32	Big	31	30	29	33	28
	43	Moderate	41	34	39	40	46
	16	Small	18	22	19	19	18
	7	No impact at all	7	10	10	5	7
	2	Don't know	2	2	3	3	2
	1	Refused	1	1	--	--	--

REG 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?

	YES, REGISTERED	NO, NOT REGISTERED	(VOL.) DON'T NEED TO REGISTER	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
Current	75	24	*	*	*
Nov 2010	79	20	*	*	*
Nov 2008	85	15	0	*	*
August 2008	80	19	1	1	*
May 2008	79	19	n/a	1	*
Nov 2006	78	22	*	1	--
Nov 2004	82	18	n/a	1	--
July 2004	81	18	*	1	--
June 2004	76	23	n/a	1	--
March 2004	75	23	n/a	2	--
Nov 2002	76	24	n/a	*	--
Oct 2002	75	23	n/a	1	--
Nov 2000	78	19	n/a	2	--

Vote01 If the 2012 presidential election were being held TODAY and the candidates were [ROTATE: (Barack Obama, the Democrat,) and (Mitt Romney, the Republican,)] who would you vote for?

Based on registered voters [N=1,826]

<u>CURRENT</u>		
%	45	Obama, the Democrat
	33	Romney, the Republican
	1	Other candidate (VOL.)
	6	Would not vote/Neither (VOL.)
	9	Don't know
	6	Refused

Q3 Now I am going to read you a series of statements that will help us understand how you feel about a number of things. For each statement, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree. (First/Next), [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]. [READ FOR FIRST ITEM THEN IF NECESSARY: Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree?]

	STRONGLY AGREE	SOME- WHAT AGREE	SOME- WHAT DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	(VOL.) NO OPINION	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
a. The government should see to it that everybody who wants to work can find a job.	48	24	13	13	*	1	1
b. Most elected officials care about what people like me think.	9	33	26	30	1	1	1
c. There is plenty of opportunity for hardworking people to get ahead in America.	33	33	18	14	*	*	1
d. The government should work to substantially reduce the income gap between rich and poor.	42	24	13	17	1	1	2
e. The economy works best when the government stays out of the way and lets people get ahead on their own.	32	30	19	13	2	2	1

Q4a Some people think that the government should provide fewer services, even in areas such as health care and education, in order to reduce spending. Others feel that it is important to provide more services even if it means increases in spending. What do you think? Should the government... [READ 1-3; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]

<u>CURRENT</u>		
%	34	Reduce spending, even if it means fewer services
	24	Keep spending at current levels
	36	Provide more services, even if it means increased spending
	3	(VOL.) Don't know
	3	(VOL.) Refused

Q5 Do you think abortion should be [READ 1-4; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]?

<u>CURRENT</u>		
%	22	Legal in all cases
	31	Legal in most cases
	23	Illegal in most cases
	17	Illegal in all cases
	3	(VOL.) Don't know
	4	(VOL.) Refused

Q6 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?

	<u>CURRENT</u>	
%	26	Strongly favor
	22	Favor
	18	Oppose
	25	Strongly oppose
	5	Don't know
	4	Refused

Q14 How often do you discuss politics and public affairs with others in person, by phone call, or by letter? Would you say every day, at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, or never?

	<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>AUGUST 2008</u>
%	15	Every day	19
	27	At least once a week	36
	20	At least once a month	13
	15	Less than once a month	11
	23	Never	20
	*	Don't know	*
	1	Refused	*

Q15 How often do you discuss politics and public affairs with others ONLINE – such as by e-mail, on a social networking site or by text message? Would you say every day, at least once a week, at least once a month, less than once a month, or never?

Based on all internet users or cell phone owners who text message

	<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>AUGUST 2008</u>
%	5	Every day	4
	13	At least once a week	13
	12	At least once a month	8
	14	Less than once a month	10
	56	Never	65
	0	Don't know	0
	*	Refused	*
	[n=1,937]		[n=1,655]

Q16 Here's a list of activities some people might do. For each, please tell me if you have done this in the past 12 months or not. (First,) In the past 12 months, have you...
[INSERT ITEMS IN ORDER]?

	YES, HAVE DONE THIS	NO, HAVE NOT DONE THIS	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
a. Attended a political rally or speech				
Current	10	90	*	*
August 2008	12	88	*	*
b. Attended an organized protest of any kind				
Current	6	94	0	*
August 2008	4	96	*	*
c. Attended a political meeting on local, town or school affairs				
Current	22	78	*	*
August 2008	24	76	*	*
d. Worked or volunteered for a political party or candidate				
Current	7	93	*	0
August 2008	8	92	*	*
e. Been an active member of any group that tries to influence public policy or government, not including a political party				
Current	13	86	*	*
August 2008	15	85	*	*
f. Worked with fellow citizens to solve a problem in your community				
Current	35	65	*	*
August 2008	28	71	*	*

Q17 We're interested in the different ways you may have been contacted by groups or individuals asking you to do things like work for a candidate, give money to a cause, go to a meeting, or get in touch with a public official. Do you ever [INSERT ITEMS IN ORDER] to get involved in a political activity? [IF YES: Would you say that happens daily, every few days, about once a week, or less often?]

	YES, DAILY	YES, EVERY FEW DAYS	YES, ONCE A WEEK	YES, LESS OFTEN	NO, NEVER	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
<i>Item A: Based on all internet users</i>							
a. Receive email asking you...							
Current [N=1,873]	6	6	9	15	63	1	*
August 2008 [N=1,580]	5	7	9	21	57	1	*
b. Receive a phone call asking you...							
Current	2	4	7	23	65	*	*
August 2008	1	3	7	29	59	1	1
c. Receive a letter in the mail asking you...							
Current	1	4	7	30	56	1	*
August 2008	1	3	7	30	57	1	1
<i>Item D: Based on cell phone owners who text message</i>							
d. Receive a text message asking you...							
Current [N=1,409]	*	1	1	4	93	*	0
e. Get asked in person...							
Current	*	1	2	19	77	*	*
August 2008	1	1	3	20	74	1	1
<i>Item F: Based on SNS users</i>							
f. Get asked on a social networking site...							
Current [N=1,196]	3	4	7	13	73	*	0
<i>Item G: Based on Twitter users</i>							
g. Get asked on Twitter...							
Current [N=256]	1	*	6	8	85	0	0

Q18 Have you contributed money to a political candidate or party, or any other political organization or cause in the past 12 months, or have you not done this?

	<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>AUGUST 2008</u>
%	16	Yes, have done this	18
	84	No, have not done this	81
	*	Don't know	*
	*	Refused	*

Q19 Thinking about the political contributions you have made in the past 12 months... Did you make those contributions ONLINE... or did you make those contributions OFFLINE, say, in person, by phone call or through the mail... or have you made contributions both online and offline?

Based on those who contributed money to a political candidate, party, organization or cause in the past 12 months

	<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>AUGUST 2008</u>
%	23	Online	15
	60	Offline	69
	16	Both ways	15
	1	Don't know	*
	0	Refused	*
	[n=453]		[n=499]

Q20 In the last 12 months, about how much have you contributed to political candidates and campaigns ONLINE? Was it... [READ] [IF NECESSARY: Just your best guess is fine.]

Based on those who contributed money ONLINE to a political candidate, party, organization or cause in the past 12 months

	<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>AUGUST 2008</u>
%	29	\$50 or less	35
	27	\$51 to \$100	26
	22	\$101 to \$250	24
	10	\$251 to \$500	6
	5	\$501 to \$1,000	2
	3	\$1,001 to \$2,500	0
	0	\$2,501 to \$5,000	1
	0	More than \$5,000	--
	2	(VOL.) Don't know	2
	2	(VOL.) Refused	5
	[n=147]		[n=130]

Q21 And in the last 12 months, about how much have you contributed to political candidates

and campaigns OFFLINE, say in person, by phone call or through the mail? Was it...[READ] [IF NECESSARY: Just your best guess is fine.]

Based on those who contributed money OFFLINE to a political candidate, party, organization or cause in the past 12 months

	<u>CURRENT</u>		<u>AUGUST 2008</u>
%	37	\$50 or less	35
	21	\$51 to \$100	27
	16	\$101 to \$250	17
	8	\$251 to \$500	5
	3	\$501 to \$1,000	4
	2	\$1,001 to \$2,500	2
	1	\$2,501 to \$5,000	2
	1	More than \$5,000	--
	4	(VOL.) Don't know	3
	7	(VOL.) Refused	6
	[n=371]		[n=429]

Q22 Now, here is another list of activities some people do and others do not. For each, please tell me if you have done this in the past 12 months or not. (First,) In the past 12 months, have you... [INSERT ITEMS IN ORDER]?

	<u>YES, DID THIS</u>	<u>NO, DID NOT</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>	<u>REFUSED</u>
a. Contacted a national, state or local government official in person, by phone call or by letter about an issue that is important to you				
Current	21	78	*	0
August 2008	24	75	*	*
<i>Item B: Based on all internet users or cell phone owners who text message</i>				
b. Contacted a national, state or local government official ONLINE, by email or by text message about an issue that is important to you				
Current [N=1,937]	20	80	*	*
August 2008 [N=1,580]	25	75	*	*
c. Signed a paper petition				
Current	22	77	*	0
August 2008	25	75	1	*

Q22 continued...

Q22 continued...

	YES, DID THIS	NO, DID NOT	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
<i>Item D: Based on all internet users</i>				
d. Signed a petition ONLINE				
Current [N=1,873]	20	80	*	0
August 2008 [N=1,655]	19	80	*	*
e. Sent a "letter to the editor" by regular mail to a newspaper or magazine				
Current	3	97	0	*
August 2008	5	95	*	*
<i>Item F: Based on all internet users or cell phone owners who text message</i>				
f. Sent a "letter to the editor" to a newspaper or magazine ONLINE, by email or by text message				
Current	5	95	0	*
August 2008	10	90	0	*
g. Called into a live radio or TV show to express an opinion				
Current	7	93	*	*
August 2008	8	92	*	*
<i>Item H: Based on all internet users</i>				
h. Commented on an online news story or blog post to express an opinion about a political or social issue				
Current	21	79	*	0
<i>Item I: Based on all internet users</i>				
i. Posted PICTURES or VIDEO online related to a political or social issue				
Current	11	89	*	0
<i>Item J: Based on cell phone owners who text message</i>				
j. Sent text messages to others about a political or social issue				
Current [N=1,409]	18	82	*	0

[READ TO ALL SNS OR TWITTER USERS:] Now thinking about how you use Twitter, or social networking sites such as Facebook and Google Plus...

SNS1 Do you currently [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?

Based on SNS or Twitter users [N=1,209]

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
a. Belong to a group on a social networking site that is involved in political or social issues, or that is working to advance a cause	21	79	*	*
b. Follow any elected officials, candidates for office or other political figures on a social networking site or on Twitter	20	80	0	0

SNS2 Do you ever use social networking sites or Twitter to... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? (Next,) do you ever use social networking sites or Twitter to...[INSERT ITEM]?

Based on SNS or Twitter users [N=1,209]

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	REFUSED
a. Post links to political stories or articles for others to read	28	72	*	0
b. Post your own thoughts or comments on political or social issues	34	66	0	*
c. Encourage other people to take action on a political or social issue that is important to you	31	69	0	*
d. Encourage other people to vote	35	65	0	0
e. Repost content related to political or social issues that was originally posted by someone else	33	67	*	*
f. "Like" or promote material related to political or social issues that others have posted	38	61	*	*

SNS3a In the last 12 months, has there been a time when you decided to LEARN MORE about a political or social issue because of something you read on a social networking site or Twitter? [IF YES: Did you find out about that issue from someone you know personally, from someone you don't know personally — like a public figure or organization, or both?]

Based on SNS or Twitter users [N=1,209]

	<u>CURRENT</u>	
%	12	Yes, someone know personally
	7	Yes, public figure or organization
	22	Yes, both
	2	Yes, can't remember source or refused to tell source (VOL.)
	56	No
	1	Don't know
	*	Refused

SNS3b And in the last 12 months, has there been a time when you decided to TAKE ACTION involving a political or social issue because of something you read on these sites? [IF YES: Were you encouraged to take action by someone you know personally, from someone you don't know personally — like a public figure or organization, or both?]

Based on SNS or Twitter users [N=1,209]

	<u>CURRENT</u>	
%	5	Yes, someone know personally
	4	Yes, public figure or organization
	8	Yes, both
	1	Yes, can't remember source or refused to tell source (VOL.)
	82	No
	*	Don't know
	*	Refused

Q24 These days, many people have been feeling a financial strain. Over the last 12 months, have you or anyone in your household had to [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] to make ends meet?

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DON'T KNOW</u>	<u>REFUSED</u>
a. Put off medical or dental treatment	38	62	*	*
b. Delay paying your rent or making a house payment	25	75	*	*
c. Cut back on the amount or quality of food you purchase	46	53	*	*

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

	<u>CURRENT</u>	
%	22	Republican
	32	Democrat
	37	Independent
	6	No party/No preference/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
	1	Other party (VOL.)
	2	Don't know
	2	Refused

IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal or very liberal?

	<u>CURRENT</u>	
%	7	Very conservative
	28	Conservative
	33	Moderate
	17	Liberal
	6	Very liberal
	6	Don't know
	3	Refused

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

	<u>CURRENT</u>	
%	15	Agree
	24	Disagree
	54	No opinion either way
	3	Haven't heard of (VOL.)
	2	Don't know
	2	Refused

OWS From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Occupy Wall Street movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>CURRENT</u>	
%	14	Agree
	25	Disagree
	55	No opinion either way
	3	Haven't heard of (VOL.)
	2	Don't know
	1	Refused

Methodology

This report is based on the findings of a survey on Americans' use of the Internet. The results in this report are based on data from telephone interviews conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International from July 16 to August 7, 2012, among a sample of 2,253 adults, age 18 and older.

Telephone interviews were conducted in English and Spanish by landline (1,353) and cell phone (900, including 469 without a landline phone). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2.3 percentage points. For results based Internet users (n=1,873), the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting telephone surveys may introduce some error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

A combination of landline and cellular random digit dial (RDD) samples was used to represent all adults in the United States who have access to either a landline or cellular telephone. Both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International, LLC (SSI) according to PSRAI specifications. Numbers for the landline sample were selected with probabilities in proportion to their share of listed telephone households from active blocks (area code + exchange + two-digit block number) that contained three or more residential directory listings. The cellular sample was not list-assisted, but was drawn through a systematic sampling from dedicated wireless 100-blocks and shared service 100-blocks with no directory-listed landline numbers.

New sample was released daily and was kept in the field for at least five days. The sample was released in replicates, which are representative subsamples of the larger population. This ensures that complete call procedures were followed for the entire sample. At least 7 attempts were made to complete an interview at a sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making contact with a potential respondent. Each number received at least one daytime call in an attempt to find someone available. For the landline sample, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult male or female currently at home based on a random rotation. If no male/female was available, interviewers asked to speak with the youngest adult of the other gender. For the cellular sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone. Interviewers verified that the person was an adult and in a safe place before administering the survey. Cellular sample respondents were offered a post-paid cash incentive for their participation. All interviews completed on any given day were considered to be the final sample for that day.

Weighting is generally used in survey analysis to compensate for sample designs and patterns of non-response that might bias results. A two-stage weighting procedure was used to weight this dual-frame sample. The first-stage corrected for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns. This weighting also adjusts for the overlapping landline and cell sample frames and the relative sizes of each frame and each sample.

The second stage of weighting balances sample demographics to population parameters. The sample is balanced to match national population parameters for sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density, and telephone usage. The Hispanic origin was split out based on nativity: U.S. born and non-U.S. born. The White, non-Hispanic subgroup is also balanced on age, education and region. The basic weighting parameters came from a special analysis of the Census Bureau's 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) that included all households in the United States. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2000 data. The cell phone usage parameter came from an analysis of the July-December 2011 National Health Interview Survey.

Following is the full disposition of all sampled telephone numbers:

Sample Disposition		
Landline	Cell	
33,411	22,498	Total Numbers Dialed
1,226	341	Non-residential
1,269	51	Computer/Fax
2	---	Cell phone
16,637	8,624	Other not working
2,714	317	Additional projected not working
11,563	13,166	Working numbers
34.6%	58.5%	Working Rate
905	106	No Answer / Busy
2,548	4,225	Voice Mail
54	15	Other Non-Contact
8,056	8,820	Contacted numbers
69.7%	67.0%	Contact Rate
499	1,392	Callback
6,091	5,953	Refusal
1,466	1,475	Cooperating numbers
18.2%	16.7%	Cooperation Rate
59	55	Language Barrier
---	500	Screen-out - Child's cell phone
1,407	920	Eligible numbers
96.0%	62.4%	Eligibility Rate
54	20	Break-off
1,353	900	Completes
96.2%	97.8%	Completion Rate
12.2%	11.0%	Response Rate

The disposition reports all of the sampled telephone numbers ever dialed from the original telephone number samples. The response rate estimates the fraction of all eligible respondents in the sample that were ultimately interviewed. At PSRAI it is calculated by taking the product of three component rates:

- Contact rate – the proportion of working numbers where a request for interview was made
- Cooperation rate – the proportion of contacted numbers where a consent for interview was at least initially obtained, versus those refused
- Completion rate – the proportion of initially cooperating and eligible interviews that were completed

Thus the response rate for the landline sample was 12 percent. The response rate for the cellular sample was 11 percent.