

Topline Report

Annenberg Institutions of Democracy: General Public and Presidential Appointees

Prepared by Princeton Survey Research Associates International
for the Annenberg Foundation Sunnylands Trust

11.21.2003

General Public

n = 1,300 GP (with 210 African Americans, 330 Hispanics and 283 18-29 year olds)

Field Dates: 8.19.03-11.4.03

Margin of Error = $\pm 3\%$ for results based on full sample

Presidential Appointees

n = 501 (with 104 in George W. Bush Admin., 190 in Clinton Admin., 132 in George H. Bush Sr. Admin., 75 in second Reagan Admin.)

Field Dates: 8.25.03-11.10.03

Margin of Error = $\pm 4\%$ for results based on full sample

Questions asked of public only or of both public and presidential appointees

GPQ1 All in all, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country today?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	40%	52	9

GPQ2 Now I'd like your opinion of some organizations and institutions. The first one is (Insert). How much do you trust (Insert) to operate in the best interests of the American people. Do you trust (Insert) a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all to operate in the best interest of the American people. How about (Insert)?

List items were rotated.

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	DK/Ref
a large private businesses					
PUBLIC	5	30	35	25	5
b the news media					
PUBLIC	9	37	32	21	1

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	DK/Ref
c the federal government in Washington					
PUBLIC	11	43	27	15	3
d religious groups, churches and other faith-based organizations					
PUBLIC	22	39	20	14	6
e trade unions					
PUBLIC	9	35	27	16	13
f Congress					
PUBLIC	8	46	29	12	4
g non-profit organizations that advocate on various issues such as the League of Women Voters, the National Rifle Association and the Children's Defense Fund					
PUBLIC	17	47	20	7	8
h your state government					
PUBLIC	10	45	26	16	4

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GPQ3 When you hear the words “the federal government in Washington” what comes to mind?

Accepted up to three responses. Open-end.

PUBLIC

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- 21** Groups within the executive branch
 - 19 President/Bush/Administration/White House/Executive branch
 - 2 Cheney/Cabinet/Other members of the administration
 - 2 Agencies/FBI/FDA etc
- 10** Groups other than the executive branch
 - 10 Congress/Senate/House of Rep./Legislative branch
 - 1 Supreme Court/Judicial branch
- 9** Neutral description of government
 - 2 Government
 - 2 Power/control
 - 5 Other neutral description of government
- 9** Negative aspects of process
 - 6 Bureaucracy
 - 1 Red tape/Regulations/Paperwork
 - 1 Waste
 - 3 Other negative aspects of the process
- 4** Process and players
 - 4 “Politics”/Politicians/Republicans/Democrats
- 17** Negative description of government practices
 - 4 Dishonest/liars
 - 5 Corruption/Greed/”Crooks”
 - 3 Untrustworthy
 - 2 Special interest groups/Lobbyists/Big business
 - 6 Other negative description of government practices
- 2** Patriots/Public Servants
 - * Freedom/Democracy
- 11** Government financial functions
 - 5 Taxes
 - 1 Budget/Deficit
 - 4 Money/Overspending
 - 2 Other government financial function
- 3** War/Situation in Iraq
- 2** Defense/National/Homeland Security
- 1** The Economy/Unemployment
- 8** Not happy/satisfied/Other negative comment
- 2** Good job/satisfied/Other positive comment
- 12** Other
- 2** Nothing
- 11** DK/Ref

GPQ4 Now imagine you had a grown son or daughter who had two job offers, one to work in the federal government and one to work in private business, which job would you recommend he or she take?

	Gov't	Private business	Depends (VOL)	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	37	44	13	7
OCT 2001 ¹	39	42	13	6
JULY2001 ²	30	53	11	6

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¹ Trend data for October 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 2001; n=1033.

² Trend data for July 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; June 18-July 18, 2001; n=1003.

GPO5 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Only some of the time	Never	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	8	31	56	3	2
MAY 2002 ³	8	32	53	4	3
OCT 2001 ⁴	15	42	39	2	2
2000 ⁵	4	40	55	1	1
1998	4	36	58	1	1
1996	3	30	66	1	0
1994	2	19	74	3	1
1992	3	26	68	2	1
1990	3	25	69	2	1
1988	4	36	56	2	1
1986	3	35	57	2	2
1984	4	40	53	1	2
1982	2	31	62	3	3
1980	2	23	69	4	2
1978	2	27	64	4	3
1976	3	30	62	1	3
1974	2	34	61	1	2
1972	5	48	44	1	2
1970	6	47	44	0	2
1968	7	54	36	0	2
1966	17	48	28	2	4
1964	14	62	22	0	1
1958	16	57	23	0	4

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GPO6 In your opinion, how well do the following words describe the federal government in Washington? Does (Insert) describe the federal government very well, somewhat well, not too well or not well at all?

List items were rotated.

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not well at all	DK/Ref
a well-run					
PUBLIC	13	42	24	17	3

³ Trend data for May 2002 from "Trust in Government," The Brookings Institution; May 2-11, 2002; n=986.

⁴ Trend data for October 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 2001; n=1033.

⁵ Trend data for 1958-2000 from American National Election Study Guide to Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior.

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not well at all	DK/Ref
b hard working					
PUBLIC	21	42	19	15	3
c slow and inefficient					
PUBLIC	24	39	20	12	5
d removed from “real” life					
PUBLIC	25	39	17	12	7

GPQ7/GOVQ10 How much effect do the federal government’s activities—the programs it runs and so on—have on your day-to-day life? Do they have a great effect, some effect, or no effect?

	Great effect	Some effect	No effect	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	30	51	17	2
FALL 1997 ⁶	36	54	9	1
MARCH 1960 ⁷	41	43	11	5
GOV’T	52	47	*	*

GPQ8/GOVQ11 In general, is the federal government’s effect on your day-to-day life positive or negative?

Based on those who said the federal government’s activities have a great or some effect on their day-to-day lives.

	Positive	Negative	Neither	Both	DK/Ref	n
PUBLIC	52	33	4	8	3	1050
GOV’T	83	11	1	3	2	499

⁶ Trend data from “Trust in Government Survey,” Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

⁷ Trend data for March 1960 from ORC as reported in “Trust in Government Survey,” Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

GPQ9 How much trust and confidence do you have in the federal government when it comes to handling (Insert)? A great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all? And how about in (Insert)?

List items were rotated.

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None at all	DK/Ref
a economic problems					
PUBLIC	9	44	32	15	1
b social problems					
PUBLIC	6	41	35	16	2
c international problems					
PUBLIC	20	39	24	15	3
FALL 1997 ⁸	22	54	19	4	1
JUNE 1976 ⁹	8	48	33	7	4
APRIL 1974	24	49	18	4	5
MAY 1972	20	55	20	2	3

GPQ10 I'd like your opinion of some other organizations and institutions. The first one is (Insert). How much do you trust (Insert) to operate in the best interests of the American people. Do you trust (Insert) a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all to operate in the best interest of our society. How about (Insert)?

List items were rotated.

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None at all	DK/Ref
a the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI					
PUBLIC	26	44	20	7	3
b the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA					
PUBLIC	20	45	21	11	4
c the Social Security Administration					
PUBLIC	15	44	27	11	3
d the Food and Drug Administration, the FDA					
PUBLIC	22	51	18	7	2

⁸ Trend data from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

⁹ Trend data for May 1972-June 1976 from Gallup as reported in "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None at all	DK/Ref
e the Defense Department					
PUBLIC	33	45	12	7	3
f the Department of Homeland Security					
PUBLIC	23	42	17	9	8

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GPQ11/GOVQ8 Which one of the following statements comes closest to your views about governmental power today? Federal government today has too much power, federal government using right amount of power for meeting today's needs, or federal government should use powers more vigorously to promote the well-being of all segments of the people?

	Too much power	Right amount of power	Should use power more	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	32	28	35	5
FALL 1997 ¹⁰	33	32	33	2
1964 ¹¹	26	38	29	7
GOV'T	27	47	24	1

GPQ12/GOVQ12 Generally speaking, how much do you trust (Insert) to operate in the best interest of the American people? Do you trust (Insert) a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or not at all to operate in the best interest of the American people? How about (Insert)?

List items were rotated.

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None at all	DK/Ref
a members of Congress					
PUBLIC	8	54	26	9	2
GOV'T	13	55	26	5	3
b religious or spiritual leaders					
PUBLIC	17	43	20	15	5
GOV'T	21	44	22	9	4

¹⁰ Trend data from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

¹¹ Trend data for 1964 from Gallup as reported in "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not very much	None at all	DK/Ref
c the Supreme Court					
PUBLIC	25	51	14	8	2
GOV'T	52	35	8	3	2
d executives of large private businesses					
PUBLIC	5	33	35	25	3
GOV'T	4	38	43	11	3
e leaders of non-profit organizations that advocate on various issues such as the League of Women Voters, the National Rifle Association and the Children's Defense Fund					
PUBLIC	15	51	20	9	5
GOV'T	5	44	38	6	8
f cabinet members and high-level federal officials in Washington who run the different departments and agencies of the government					
PUBLIC	10	51	26	10	3
GOV'T	39	44	12	2	3
g President George W. Bush					
PUBLIC	33	32	13	20	2
GOV'T	49	19	18	12	3
h state and local government officials					
PUBLIC	10	52	26	10	3
GOV'T	21	66	11	*	2

GPQ13/GOVQ17 In general, how well do you think high-level government officials in Washington understand what the public thinks about the issues facing the country? Very well, somewhat well, not too well or not well at all?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not well at all	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	11	39	30	18	1
WINTER 2001 ¹²	11	38	32	17	2
GOV'T	20	57	18	3	2

¹² Trend data for Winter 2001 from "Polling and Democracy," Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; Dec. 21 2000-March 30, 2001; n=1206.

GPQ14/GOVQ19 Sometimes officials in Washington make a decision that isn't supported by a majority of Americans. Do you think that (Insert) is a major reason, a minor reason or not a reason at all for their decision?

List items were rotated.

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason at all	DK/Ref
a officials doing what they personally think is right				
PUBLIC	45	35	14	6
GOV'T	8	58	30	4
b officials not believing the public is informed enough on the issues				
PUBLIC	37	38	18	7
GOV'T	47	38	10	5
c officials choosing to follow what special interests want				
PUBLIC	51	33	11	6
GOV'T	43	46	6	4
d officials doing what they believe is ultimately in the best interest of the public				
PUBLIC	33	42	20	5
GOV'T	71	22	3	4

GPQ15 Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated, and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

	Basically content	Frustrated	Angry	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	32	50	14	3
FALL 1997 ¹³	29	56	12	3

GPQ16 In general, government grows bigger as it provides more services. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Smaller gov't fewer services	Bigger gov't more services	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	46	46	8

¹³ Trend data from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

GPQ17/GOVQ5 All in all, how good a job does the federal government do (Insert)—a very good, somewhat good, not too good or not at all good job?

List items were rotated.

	Very good	Somewhat good	Not too good	Not at all good	DK/Ref
a running its programs and services					
PUBLIC	10	54	25	9	2
GOV'T	25	63	11	1	1
b helping people who need assistance					
PUBLIC	11	47	27	12	1
GOV'T	33	50	9	1	7
c being fair in its decisions					
PUBLIC	10	54	23	11	3
GOV'T	44	47	5	1	3
d spending its money wisely					
PUBLIC	5	26	37	30	2
GOV'T	19	53	23	2	3

GPQ18/GOVQ13 What kind of job has the federal government done of (Insert)? A very good, somewhat good, somewhat poor or very poor job? [If respondent volunteers that the federal government should not be responsible for a particular item, follow up with: Regardless of whose responsibility you think it is, what kind of a job has the federal government done of...]

List items were rotated.

	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat poor	Very poor	DK/Ref
a conserving the country's natural resources					
PUBLIC	12	45	24	14	4
GOV'T	17	54	19	7	3
b ensuring every American has access to affordable health care					
PUBLIC	7	25	28	38	2
GOV'T	4	29	41	22	3
c providing a decent standard of living for the elderly					
PUBLIC	10	37	29	20	4
GOV'T	22	58	14	3	3
d promoting greater honesty and stronger morals among people					
PUBLIC	10	32	29	23	5
GOV'T	7	38	35	12	7

	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat poor	Very poor	DK/Ref
e ensuring that food and medicines are safe					
PUBLIC	29	49	12	7	3
GOV'T	58	35	4	1	2
f reducing poverty					
PUBLIC	7	28	34	27	3
GOV'T	10	51	25	12	2
g managing the economy to prevent another recession or depression					
PUBLIC	11	39	25	21	3
GOV'T	15	43	24	15	2
h protecting against terrorist attacks					
PUBLIC	26	47	13	11	4
GOV'T	24	50	19	5	2

GPQ19/GOVQ14 Is this the government's fault or is it because the issue is too difficult or too complex?

List items were rotated.

Based on those who said the federal government has done a somewhat or very poor job.

	Government's fault	Too difficult/complex	Both (VOL)	Not their role/responsibility (VOL)	DK/Ref	n
a conserving the country's natural resources						
PUBLIC	62	32	3	*	3	493
GOV'T	80	12	8	0	1	130
b ensuring every American has access to affordable health care						
PUBLIC	56	34	5	2	3	848
GOV'T	50	35	13	1	2	313
c providing a decent standard of living for the elderly						
PUBLIC	65	27	5	1	2	629
GOV'T	62	26	8	3	0	84
d promoting greater honesty and stronger morals among people						
PUBLIC	45	41	7	3	5	679
GOV'T	36	47	6	11	1	240
e ensuring that food and medicines are safe						
PUBLIC	58	31	4	1	6	256
GOV'T	61	35	4	0	0	25

		Government's fault	Too difficult/complex	Both (VOL)	Not their role/ responsibility (VOL)	DK/Ref	n
f	reducing poverty						
	PUBLIC	51	37	8	1	3	801
	GOV'T	51	33	13	1	1	183
g	managing the economy to prevent another recession or depression						
	PUBLIC	61	29	6	*	4	605
	GOV'T	70	18	9	1	2	196
h	protecting against terrorist attacks						
	PUBLIC	57	30	8	1	5	327
	GOV'T	57	33	10	0	0	119

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GPO20 What **one** thing could the federal government do to improve the way it runs its programs and services?

Open-end.

PUBLIC

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- 10** Clean up politics
 - 5 Be honest/moral/fair to all/Honor commitments
 - 1 Be accountable
 - 4 Remove the politics/lobbyists/special interest groups/Be non-partisan
- 20** Improved responsiveness
 - 2 Better communication
 - 11 Listen to people
 - 6 Connect to the common man/Be informed
 - 2 Be responsive to state/local needs/More local control
- 14** Improved management and issues with workers
 - 6 Better management/More oversight/Efficient
 - 6 New leadership/Qualified/Experienced workers
 - 2 Improve screening processes/Encourage self-reliance
 - 1 Sharing of information/resources (including private charities/corporations)
- 10** Provide more services
 - 3 Help senior citizens/veterans/children/the poor etc
 - 2 Provide health care/prescription medicine
 - 2 Create jobs/Hire more minorities/Boost the economy
 - 3 Take care of the American people (non-specific)/Put domestic issues first
- 8** Improved efficiency
 - 2 Less red tape/bureaucracy
 - 3 Streamline/Cut unnecessary programs/Eliminate duplication
 - 2 Do better/Try harder/Use common sense
- 9** Use money wiser
 - 4 Be fiscally responsible/Use money wisely/Better allocation of resources
 - 1 Keep a balanced budget
 - 3 Cut waste/overspending
 - 2 Economic/Financial – other
- 8** Other
- 22** DK/Ref

GPO21 How likely is it that the federal government will do this—very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely?

Based on those who responded to the previous question.

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	DK/Ref	n
PUBLIC	4	18	38	35	4	1063

GPO22/GOVQ9 What do you personally feel is the bigger problem with the federal government? The federal government has the wrong priorities, OR The federal government has the right priorities but runs programs inefficiently?

	Wrong priorities	Runs programs inefficiently	Both (VOL)	Neither (VOL)	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	31	56	5	3	5
MAY 2002 ¹⁴	29	56	5	3	7
OCT 2001 ¹⁵	20	63	4	4	9
JULY2001 ¹⁶	28	61	3	2	6
OCT 1997 ¹⁷	29	61	5	2	3
GOVERNMENT	37	43	4	12	3
1997 ¹⁸	9	64	8	12	7

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GPO23 Do you think people will mistrust the federal government no matter what, or do you think there are things the government could do to increase the public's trust?

	Mistrust no matter what	Can increase trust	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	27	69	4
FALL 1997 ¹⁹	23	75	2

¹⁴ Trend data for May 2002 from "Trust in Government," The Brookings Institution; May 2-11, 2002; n=986.

¹⁵ Trend data for October 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 2001; n=1033.

¹⁶ Trend data for July 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; June 18-July 18, 2001; n=1003.

¹⁷ Trend data for October 1997 from "Trust in Government," The Brookings Institution.

¹⁸ Trend data for 1997 from "Trust in Government," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Oct. 1997-Feb. 1998; n=98.

¹⁹ Trend data for Fall 1997 from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

GPO24 What do you think the federal government can do to increase public trust?

Accepted up to three responses. Open-end.

Based on those who think government could be trusted more.

PUBLIC

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- 28** Honest and honor commitments
- 15** Better communication
- 13** Be responsive
- 5** Use money/resources wisely/Cut waste
- 2** Be efficient
- 2** Change leadership
- 17** Address specific issue(s): healthcare/taxes/education/unemployment etc
- 4** More concern for the problems at home (than foreign aid)
- 8** Act in the best interest of the people
- 3** Get rid of special interest groups/lobbyists
- 2** Tighten homeland security
- 1** Bring soldiers home
- 10** Other
- *** Nothing
- 16** DK/Ref

922 n

GPO25 Now thinking about the high-level people the president selects to help him run the government, such as the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense. How big of a role do you think (Insert) plays in a person's decision to serve in the government – a very big role, a moderate role, a small role, or no role at all?

GOVQ6 Now thinking about the many high-level people the president selected to help him run the government|when you were serving in government. How big of a role do you think (Insert) plays|played in others' decision to serve the president – a very big role, a moderate role, a small role, or no role at all?

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List items were rotated.

	A very big role	A moderate role	A small role	No role at all	DK/Ref
a the desire to make America a better place to live					
PUBLIC	45	35	12	5	3
OCT 2001 ²⁰	61	30	6	2	1
JULY2001 ²¹	44	35	14	4	3
GOV'T	75	20	2	1	2
b the desire to have power and make important decisions²²					
PUBLIC	54	30	9	3	3
OCT 2001	52	37	7	1	2
JULY2001	52	35	7	2	3
GOV'T	29	48	16	3	4
c the chance to make a difference through working in the government					
PUBLIC	37	42	13	3	4
OCT 2001	44	42	8	2	3
JULY2001	31	43	18	4	4
GOV'T	74	21	2	1	2
d the desire to meet important people and get ahead professionally					
PUBLIC	48	32	12	4	3
OCT 2001	44	33	14	5	4
JULY2001	55	30	8	4	3
GOV'T	16	43	33	5	4

²⁰ Trend data for October 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 2001; n=1033.

²¹ Trend data for July 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; June 18-July 18, 2001; n=1003.

²² Item B: "the desire to have power and make important decisions" is a modified trend. In October 2001 and July 2001 surveys, question wording was "the desire to have *influence* and make important decisions".

GPO26 In general, do you think presidents are always, sometimes, rarely or never honest with the American people?

	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	7	70	15	5	4

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GPO27 To what extent do you think it is justified that a president is not honest with the American people—is it very justified, somewhat justified, not too justified or not justified at all?

Based on those who think presidents are sometimes, rarely, or never honest.

	Very justified	Somewhat justified	Not too justified	Not justified at all	DK/Ref	n
PUBLIC	7	49	19	23	3	1176

GPO28 Now thinking about federal employees in general, not the ones selected by the president to help him run the government. Do you think most federal government workers choose to work in government because (Insert first phrase) or because (Insert second phrase)?

GOVQ7 Now thinking about the junior and mid-level federal employees you work with|worked with when you were serving in government. Do you think most of these federal government workers choose|chose to work in government because (Insert first phrase) or because (Insert second phrase)?

List items were rotated.

	First item	Second item	DK/Ref
a	of the job security the government provides/they want to help the public		
PUBLIC	76	16	8
OCT 2001 ²³	68	26	7
JULY2001 ²⁴	70	22	7
GOV'T	32	52	16

²³ Trend data for October 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 2001; n=1033.

²⁴ Trend data for July 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; June 18-July 18, 2001; n=1003.

	First item	Second item	DK/Ref
b	of the salary and benefits the government provides/they get the chance to make a difference		
PUBLIC	75	19	6
OCT 2001	64	31	6
JULY2001	68	24	8
GOV'T	25	63	12

GPQ29 Which best describes your view of the people who work for the federal government? Federal government workers do good job, federal government workers try to do good job but bureaucracy makes it hard, or federal government workers don't do good job because they know that their jobs are secure?

	Good job	Try but bureaucracy makes it hard	Not a good job	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	13	63	20	4

GPQ30/GOVQ21 Do you think the federal government is bound to be inefficient no matter what, or can it become more efficient?

	Bound to be inefficient	Can become more efficient	Depends (VOL)	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	10	86	1	4
FALL 1997 ²⁵	7	92	*	1
GOV'T	16	79	3	1

GPQ31 Considering what you get from the federal government, do you think you pay more than your fair share of taxes, less than your fair share, or about the right amount?

	More than fair share	Less than fair share	About the right amount	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	47	2	47	4
FALL 1997 ²⁶	52	2	45	1

²⁵ Trend data for Fall 1997 from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

²⁶ Trend data for Fall 1997 from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

GPQ32/GOVQ20 Generally, how would you rate the ethical and moral practices of (Insert)?
Would you give them a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad rating?

List items were rotated.

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	Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Ref
a federal government officials					
PUBLIC	7	59	23	8	3
GOV'T	48	45	5	*	3
b state and local government officials					
PUBLIC	8	60	21	8	4
GOV'T	20	61	12	0	7
c leaders of large private business					
PUBLIC	3	48	30	14	5
GOV'T	9	61	22	5	4
d journalists					
PUBLIC	9	51	24	12	4
GOV'T	10	56	23	7	3

GPQ33 Now, I'm going to read you a few statements some people have made about the federal government. The first one is (Insert). Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree? How about (Insert)?

List items were rotated.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/Ref
a People can make a difference in what happens in Washington					
PUBLIC	34	43	14	7	1
b Sometimes the federal government seems so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what is going on					
PUBLIC	31	39	15	14	1

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	DK/Ref
c People like me don't have any say about what the federal government does					
PUBLIC	29	33	20	15	2
SUMMER 1999 ²⁷	16	31	35	17	1
NOV 1997 ²⁸	15	31	35	18	1
JULY 1994	22	32	31	15	*
MAY 1993	15	37	31	16	1
JUNE 1992	14	36	32	17	1
NOV 1991	22	28	28	21	1
MAY 1990	19	38	31	11	1
FEB 1989	22	40	29	8	1
MAY 1988	16	39	33	11	1
MAY 1987	14	38	34	12	2
	Agree		Disagree		
1984 ²⁹	32		68		0
1982	45		52		3
1980	39		59		2
1978	45		53		2
1976	41		56		3
1974	40		57		3
1972	40		59		1
1970	36		64		1
1968	41		58		0
1966	34		60		6
1964	29		70		1
1960	27		72		1
1956	28		71		1
1952	31		68		1
d Most federal government officials are trustworthy					
PUBLIC	9	47	28	14	2

²⁷ Modified trend for Summer 1999 from "Political Typology Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; July 14-Sept. 9, 1999; n=3973. Response set differs slightly, "completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, and completely disagree".

²⁸ Modified trend for May 1987-Nov. 1997 reported in "Political Typology Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. Response set differs slightly, "completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, and completely disagree".

²⁹ Modified trend data for 1958-1986 from American National Election Study Guide to Public Opinion and Electoral Behavior. Original response categories were "agree, disagree".

GPO34 In your opinion, who should be primarily responsible for (Insert)? The federal government, state and local government, private industry, or individuals, community and religious groups? How about (Insert)?

List items were rotated.

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	Federal government	State and local government	Private industry	Individuals, community, religious groups	DK/Ref
a conserving the country's natural resources					
PUBLIC	63	22	3	7	6
FALL 1997 ³⁰	52	21	5	18	4
JAN 1962 ³¹	65	27	4	4	0
b ensuring every American has access to affordable health care					
PUBLIC	66	20	3	5	6
FALL 1997	58	22	8	10	2
c providing a decent standard of living for the elderly					
PUBLIC	58	24	1	11	6
FALL 1997	46	30	2	19	3
JAN 1962	55	31	7	7	0
d promoting greater honesty and stronger morals among people					
PUBLIC	32	14	2	44	8
FALL 1997	16	9	1	71	3
JAN 1962	13	10	1	76	0
e ensuring that food and medicines are safe					
PUBLIC	80	12	2	2	4
FALL 1997	73	14	6	5	2
f reducing poverty					
PUBLIC	53	25	3	13	7
FALL 1997	34	27	6	26	7

³⁰ Modified trend data for Fall 1997 from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

³¹ Trend data for January 1962 from ORC as reported in "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. In 1962 the question was worded, "In your personal opinion, is this a matter each individual person should handle for himself primarily? Or is it a matter voluntary agencies or community groups should handle primarily? Or private industry or companies? Or state and local governments? Or is this a matter the federal government should handle primarily? [item was inserted here]".

	Federal government	State and local government	Private industry	Individuals, community, religious groups	DK/Ref
g managing the economy to prevent another recession or depression					
PUBLIC	76	11	5	2	6
FALL 1997	68	13	7	7	5
JAN 1962	81	8	6	4	1
h protecting against terrorist attacks					
PUBLIC	88	5	*	2	5

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GPQ35/GOVQ15 If 1 represents someone who generally believes that, on the whole, federal government programs should be cut back greatly to reduce the power of government, and 6 represents someone who feels that federal government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems, where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?

	Cutback Programs (1-3)	Maintain Programs (4-6)	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	31	63	6
MAY 2002 ³²	35	62	5
OCT 2001 ³³	30	64	6
JULY2001 ³⁴	38	57	4
FALL 1997 ³⁵	41	57	2
OCT 1997 ³⁶	41	59	0
OCT 1995 ³⁷	45	53	2
AUG 1995	45	53	2
GOV'T	35	63	2
1997 ³⁸	9	88	3

³² Trend data for May 2002 from "Trust in Government," The Brookings Institution; May 2-11, 2002; n=986.

³³ Trend data for October 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 2001; n=1033.

³⁴ Trend data for July 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; June 18-July 18, 2001; n=1003.

³⁵ Trend data from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans). Trend data for October 1995 and August 1995 were taken from the same study.

³⁶ Trend data for October 1997 is from "Trust in Government," The Brookings Institution.

³⁷ Modified trend: October 1995 question wording was "If 1 represents someone who believes that government programs should be cut back very much in order to lower taxes and reduce the power of government, and 6 represents someone who feels that government programs that help the needy people and deal with important national problems should be maintained, where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?"

³⁸ Trend data for 1997 from "Trust in Government," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Oct. 1997-Feb. 1998; n=98.

GPQ36/GOVQ16 Some people think criticism of the way the federal government does its job is justified; others think the government often does a better job than it is given credit for. Which comes closer to your views?

	Criticism justified	Often better job	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	48	44	8
MAY 2002 ³⁹	47	43	10
OCT 1997 ⁴⁰	60	33	7
GOV'T	20	75	5
1997 ⁴¹	4	85	1

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GPQ37/GOVQ25 How much corruption do you think occurs today in (Insert)—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or none at all?

List items were rotated.

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	None at all	DK/Ref
a large private businesses					
PUBLIC	36	47	12	2	3
GOV'T	7	28	59	1	3
b the news media					
PUBLIC	28	46	20	4	3
GOV'T	5	18	64	6	7
c federal agencies in Washington					
PUBLIC	25	48	20	3	4
GOV'T	*	8	77	12	3
d Congress					
PUBLIC	27	50	17	2	4
GOV'T	5	21	66	5	3
e state and local government					
PUBLIC	22	55	19	2	2
GOV'T	4	27	61	1	7

³⁹ Trend data for May 2002 from "Trust in Government," The Brookings Institution; May 2-11, 2002; n=986.

⁴⁰ Trend data for October 1997 from "Trust in Government," The Brookings Institution.

⁴¹ Modified trend data for 1997 from "Trust in Government," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Oct. 1997-Feb. 1998; n=98. In the 1997 survey 9% of respondents volunteered the response "Both".

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	None at all	DK/Ref
f universities					
PUBLIC	16	42	30	3	8
GOV'T	2	13	68	10	7

GPQ38 Now I would like to ask about where you got your news during the past week. Please tell me how many days in the past week, if any, you did each of the following. How many days in the past week, if any, did you (Insert)?

List items were rotated.

	None	1-2	3-5	6-7	DK/Ref	Mean
a watch the national network news on TV—by national network news, I mean Peter Jennings on ABC, Dan Rather on CBS, or Tom Brokaw on NBC						
PUBLIC	36	18	23	21	1	2.7
2000 ⁴²	28	19	30	23	*	3.1
b watch cable news, such as CNN, Fox News Channel or MSNBC						
PUBLIC	29	16	26	28	1	3.2
2000	41	18	22	20	*	2.5
c watch the local TV news—for example, “Eyewitness News” or “Action News”						
PUBLIC	18	15	27	39	1	4.1
2000	18	13	30	39	*	4.1
d read a daily newspaper						
PUBLIC	23	21	17	38	*	3.6
2000	22	19	20	39	*	3.8

GPQ39 How often, if at all, do you (Insert)—every week, twice a month, once a month or never?

List items were rotated and Item A was asked first

	Every week	Twice a month	Once a month	Never	DK/Ref
a listen to radio shows that invite listeners to call in to discuss current events, public issues or politics					
PUBLIC	32	8	14	45	1
b listen to Rush Limbaugh					
PUBLIC	10	3	7	78	1
c listen to National Public Radio, or NPR					
PUBLIC	26	4	11	57	1

⁴² Trend data for 2000 from Annenberg 2000 National Election Study; n=14,884.

		Every week	Twice a month	Once a month	Never	DK/Ref
d	watch West Wing					
	PUBLIC	7	4	7	82	1
e	watch Leno					
	PUBLIC	16	8	12	63	1
f	watch Letterman					
	PUBLIC	11	9	14	66	1
g	watch The Daily Show on Comedy Central					
	PUBLIC	10	6	8	76	*

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GPQ40 Which talk radio hosts did you listen to the past week?

Multiple mentions recorded. Open-end.

Based on those who listen to political talk radio every week.

PUBLIC

1	Art Bell
0	Jim Bohannon
1	Bob Brinker
0	Dr. Joy Browne
0	Ken and Daria Dolan
*	Dr. Dean Edell
*	Bob Grant
7	Sean Hannity
1	Don Imus
1	John and Ken
2	Tom Joyner
*	Tom Leykis
1	G. Gordon Liddy
15	Rush Limbaugh
1	Michael Reagan
1	Dr. Laura Schlessinger
0	Doug Stephan
2	Howard Stern
*	Bruce Williams
4	Bill O'Reilly
2	Paul Harvey
2	Diane Rehm
3	Michael Savage
36	Other
37	DK/Ref

414 n

GPQ41 Do you have access to the Internet or the World Wide Web at home, at work or someplace else?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	73	27	*
2000 ⁴³	68	32	*

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GPQ42 How many days in the past week did you use a computer to go online to get information about current events, public issues, or politics?

Based on those who have Internet access.

	None	1-2	3-5	6-7	DK/Ref	Mean	n
PUBLIC	41	21	15	22	*	2.5	939

GPQ43 What has most influenced your impression of the federal government... what you've heard, read or seen in the media, or things you've personally experienced? [If respondent volunteers "both" probe once with: well, what has most influenced your impression...]

	Media	Personal experiences	Both (VOL)	Something else	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	55	27	12	*	7
FALL 1997 ⁴⁴	62	20	14	*	4

GPQ44 How much attention do you pay to news stories and articles about what federal government officials are doing in Washington DC—a great deal, a fair amount, not too much or none at all?

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not too much	None at all	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	27	49	19	4	1

⁴³ Trend data for 2000 from Annenberg 2000 National Election Study; n=14,884.

⁴⁴ Trend data from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

GPQ45 How much would you say you know about how the federal government works—would you say you know a great deal about how the federal government works, a fair amount, not too much or nothing at all?

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not too much	Nothing at all	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	11	57	27	5	1

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GPQ46 How interested are you in what happens in the federal government—very interested, somewhat interested, not too interested or not interested at all?

	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Not too interested	Not interested at all	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	48	43	6	2	1

GPQ47 Now we have a couple of questions some people can answer and some people cannot so just tell me if you don't know the answer. Do you know if (Randomly choose from: Colin Powell, John Ashcroft, Donald Rumsfeld) is Secretary of State, the Attorney General or Secretary of Defense?

Items were rotated; each respondent was only asked about one item.

	Secretary of State	Attorney General	Secretary of Defense	DK/Ref	N
a Colin Powell					
PUBLIC	49	2	30	19	429
OCT 2001 ⁴⁵	37	6	34	24	357
JULY2001 ⁴⁶	36	4	35	25	343
b John Ashcroft					
PUBLIC	12	30	13	45	440
OCT 2001	8	40	16	36	351
JULY2001	8	33	11	49	325
c Donald Rumsfeld					
PUBLIC	11	5	49	36	431
OCT 2001	6	3	40	52	325
JULY2001	7	9	20	65	335

⁴⁵ Trend data for October 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; Sept. 27-Oct. 6, 2001; n=1033.

⁴⁶ Trend data for July 2001 from "Presidential Appointee Survey IV," The Brookings Institution; June 18-July 18, 2001; n=1003.

GPQ48 Do you happen to know which party has the most members in the House of Representatives in Congress—the Democrats or Republicans?

	Democrats	Republicans	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	12	68	20

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GPQ49 How often would you say you vote? Always, nearly always, part of the time, or seldom?

	Always	Nearly always	Part of the time	Seldom	Other (VOL)	Never (VOL)	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	43	22	10	13	*	11	*
SUMMER 1999 ⁴⁷	41	27	14	10	7	1	*
FALL 1997 ⁴⁸	51	23	11	10	*	5	*
JUNE 1996 ⁴⁹	41	30	12	12	1	4	*
APRIL 1995	42	29	12	11	*	6	*
JULY 1994	40	30	14	11	*	5	*
JUNE 1992	47	26	10	11	1	5	*
NOV 1991	38	37	13	9	0	3	*
MAY 1990	33	35	12	10	1	8	1
FEB 1989	45	30	10	8	1	6	*
JAN 1988	39	33	12	8	1	6	1
MAY 1987	34	37	11	6	2	9	1

⁴⁷ Trend data from "Political Typology Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Jul. 14-Sept. 9, 1999; n=3973.

⁴⁸ Trend data from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

⁴⁹ Trend data for May 1987-June 1996 as reported in "Values Update Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

GPQ50 When you vote do you usually get a feeling of satisfaction from it, or do you only do it because it's your duty?

Based on those who vote always, nearly always, part of the time, or seldom.

		Usually get a feeling of satisfaction	Do it only out of duty	Both/Neither (VOL)	DK/Ref	n
PUBLIC		57	32	9	2	1146
	2000 ⁵⁰	66	30	-	4	11,240
	FALL 1997 ⁵¹	63	29	7	1	

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GPQ51/GOVQ28 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

	Repub- lican	Demo- crat	Indepen- dent	No party/not interested (VOL)	Other party (VOL)	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	29	33	31	4	*	3
GOV'T	51	31	16	*	*	1

GPQ52/GOVQ29 As of today do you lean more toward the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

Based on those who not Republican or Democrat.

	Republican	Democrat	Neither (VOL)	DK/Ref	n
PUBLIC	36	32	23	9	490
GOV'T	36	29	23	11	91

GPD1/GOVD1 Record sex

	Male	Female
PUBLIC	48	52
GOV'T	82	18

⁵⁰ Trend data for 2000 from Annenberg 2000 National Election Study; n=14,884.

⁵¹ Trend data from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans).

GPD2/GOVD2 What is your age?

	18-29	30-49	50-64	55 and older	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	20	42	21	16	1
	Under 50	50 and older	DK/Ref		
GOV'T	13	85	1		

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GPD3/GOVD3 Are you working full or part time? (If no, probe for correct category)

For government, based on those not working for the current administration.

PUBLIC	GOV'T	
54	82	Working full time
15	11	Working part time
5	0	Temporarily laid off or unemployed
15	6	Retired
4	0	Permanently disabled
4	0	Homemaker
2	0	Student
1	*	Other
*	0	DK/Ref
-	426	n

GPD4 Are you employed by a federal, state or local government, the military, or aren't you employed by government?

Based on those who are working either full-time or part-time.

PUBLIC	
3	Federal
7	State
6	Local government
2	Military
81	Not employed by government
1	DK/Ref
891	n

GPD5 Does anyone in your household belong to a labor union?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	16	83	*

GPD6 Are you, yourself, of Hispanic origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Spanish background?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	12	87	1

GPD7 What is your race? Are you white, black, Asian or some other race?

	White	Black	Asian	Other or mixed race	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	77	11	2	8	2

GPD8 Are you married, living as married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

	Married	Living as married	Widowed	Divorced	Separated	Never been married	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	52	4	8	13	2	21	1

GPD9 How many children under age 18 now live in your household?

	None	1	2	3	4 or more	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	58	16	16	7	4	*

GPD10 Are you a citizen of the United States or not?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	94	6	*

GPD11 How often do you attend religious services, apart from special events like weddings and funerals?

Responses were read.

	More than once a week	Once a week	Once or twice a month	A few times a year	Never	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	14	24	16	26	19	*

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GPD12 Do you mostly attend a place of worship that is...?

Based on those who attend religious services.

PUBLIC

66	Protestant, (include Baptist, Christian, Episcopal, Jehovah's Witness, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian etc.)
26	Roman Catholic
2	Jewish
2	Mormon
1	Orthodox Church
*	Muslim
2	Some other religion
2	DK/Ref

1055 n

GPD13 Has anyone in your household ever served in the US military? This includes the National Guard and the Reserves

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	39	60	*

GPD14 Does your home have either cable or satellite television?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	85	15	*

GPD15 What is the last grade or class you completed in school?

PUBLIC

- 4** Grade 8 or lower
- 10** Some high school, no diploma
- 33** High school diploma or equivalent
- 2** Technical or vocational school after high school
- 18** Some college, no degree
- 6** Associate's or two-year college degree
- 14** Four-year college degree
- 2** Graduate or professional school after college, no degree
- 9** Graduate or professional degree
- *** DK/Ref

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GPD17 Last year, that is 2002, did you pay federal income taxes?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	82	16	1

GPD18 Last year, that is 2002, did you pay Social Security payroll taxes?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
PUBLIC	74	23	2

GPD19 Last year, that is 2002, what was your total household income before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

PUBLIC

- 9** Less than \$10,000
- 7** \$10,000 to less than \$15,000
- 11** \$15,000 to less than \$25,000
- 12** \$25,000 to less than \$35,000
- 15** \$35,000 to less than \$50,000
- 16** \$50,000 to less than \$75,000
- 8** \$75,000 to less than \$100,000
- 6** \$100,000 to less than \$150,000
- 4** \$150,000 or more
- 11** DK/Ref

Questions asked of presidential appointees only

GOVN1 First, to confirm, did you serve in the Reagan, George H. Bush, Clinton administration? Are you currently serving or have you served in the current Bush administration as a government official or not? Are you currently serving in this administration or was this service in the past?

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	Yes, currently	Yes, in past
GOV'T	14	86

GOVQ1 What is|was the most challenging aspect of your job? (open-end)

GOV'T

21	Management aspects
6	Personnel/Developing staff/Managing career civil servants
1	Program management
5	Securing/Allocating resources/Budget
3	Being efficient/effective/responsive to need/Focused on priorities
4	Time management/constraints
2	Management – other
3	Communication/Getting our message out
37	Negotiating the political system
14	Working with Congress
6	Balancing/Reconciling the political and the substantive aspects
8	Forging consensus/Working with differing multiple stakeholders
9	Learning/Negotiating my agency/the interagency/bureaucratic processes
7	Implementing meaningful change/Making a difference/Getting it done
26	The job itself
10	Specific/Named job assignment/task
9	The Job
6	Scale/Responsibility/Pace
1	Survival
1	Confirmation
5	Other
2	DK/Ref

GOVQ2 All in all, are|were you satisfied or dissatisfied with your job?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	DK/Ref
GOV'T	96	2	2

GOVQ3 How do you feel about [When you were serving in government, how did you feel about] (Insert)? Are|Were you satisfied or dissatisfied with (Insert)?

List items were rotated.

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	DK/Ref
a your ability to affect change			
GOV'T	79	16	5
b your salary			
GOV'T	58	38	5
c your ability to attend to your personal life			
GOV'T	57	39	4
d the level of public scrutiny			
GOV'T	70	20	10
e the quality of the professional staff that worked for you			
GOV'T	95	3	2
f the quality of the support staff that worked for you			
GOV'T	89	9	2
g the quality of news media coverage of the government overall			
GOV'T	39	56	4

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GOVQ4 In your job, how difficult do|did you find it to master (Insert)? Is|Was it very difficult, somewhat difficult, not too difficult or not difficult at all to master this part of your job?

List items were rotated.

	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not too difficult	Not difficult at all	DK/Ref
a the substantive details of the policies you dealt with					
GOV'T	5	28	35	32	1
WINTER 2000 ⁵²	5	26	39	28	2
b the decision making procedures of your department or agency					
GOV'T	5	28	41	25	1
WINTER 2000	9	31	35	24	1

⁵² Trend data from "Presidential Appointee Survey, 1999-2000," The Presidential Service Initiative; Dec. 10, 1999-Feb. 28, 2000; n=435 adults who have served as a Senate confirmed presidential appointee.

	Very difficult	Somewhat difficult	Not too difficult	Not difficult at all	DK/Ref
c the federal budget process					
GOV'T	18	37	23	19	2
WINTER 2000	19	32	24	20	4
d dealing successfully with Congress					
GOV'T	17	40	30	12	1
WINTER 2000	11	38	32	16	3
e dealing successfully with the White House					
GOV'T	8	26	35	29	2
WINTER 2000	8	28	32	25	7
f managing a large government organization or program					
GOV'T	8	35	37	18	2
WINTER 2000	9	34	32	23	3

GOVQ18 Do you think top government officials pay too much attention to what the public thinks, the right amount of attention, or not enough attention to what the public thinks?

	Too much attention	Right amount of attention	Not enough attention	DK/Ref
GOV'T	12	57	28	3
1997 ⁵³	14	53	27	4

GOVQ22 Do you think the American public knows enough about the issues faced by senior people in government to form wise opinions about what should be done about these issues?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
GOV'T	33	63	4
1997 ⁵⁴	13	77	3

⁵³ Modified trend data for 1997 from "Trust in Government," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Oct. 1997-Feb. 1998; n=98. In the 1997 survey 2% of respondents volunteered the response "Not my/their job".

⁵⁴ Modified trend data for 1997 from "Trust in Government," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Oct. 1997-Feb. 1998; n=98. In the 1997 survey 7% of respondents volunteered the response "Maybe/Depends".

GOVQ23 Do you think the typical American basically trusts the federal government or not?

	Yes	No	DK/Ref
GOV'T	51	44	5
1997 ⁵⁵	30	62	3
PUBLIC FALL 1997 ⁵⁶	39	57	4

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GOVQ24 How would you rate each of the following as reasons for why the public might distrust the government? First, how about (Insert)? Is that a very important reason, a somewhat important reason, not too important reason, or not at all important reason the public distrusts government? Next, what about (Insert)

List items were rotated.

	A very important reason	A somewhat important reason	Not too important	Not at all important	DK/Ref
a the belief that government has the wrong priorities					
GOV'T	18	54	23	2	3
b the belief that government is too powerful					
GOV'T	17	54	23	3	3
c the belief that government is unresponsive					
GOV'T	26	60	10	1	2
d events such as Vietnam and Watergate					
GOV'T	38	42	14	3	2
e because the news media exaggerate government failures					
GOV'T	49	37	10	2	2
f because politicians promise too much					
GOV'T	36	48	13	2	2
g because criticizing government is a popular campaign theme					
GOV'T	40	40	15	4	2

⁵⁵ Modified trend data for 1997 from "Trust in Government," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Oct. 1997-Feb. 1998; n=98. In the 1997 survey 3% of respondents volunteered the response "Depends".

⁵⁶ Modified trend data from "Trust in Government Survey," Pew Research Center for the People and the Press; Sept. 25-Oct. 31, 1997; n=1762 (200 over-sample of African-Americans). Original question was worded, "Would you say you basically trust the federal government in Washington or not?"

GOVQ26 Overall, how would you rate the media's coverage of (Insert) – Very good, somewhat good, not too good or not good at all?

List items were rotated.

	Very good	Somewhat good	Not too good	Not at all good	DK/Ref
a the federal government in general					
GOV'T	3	45	41	10	*
b government workers in general					
GOV'T	2	35	45	15	3
c federal departments and agencies					
GOV'T	2	42	43	12	*

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GOVQ27 How much, if at all, do you think the media exaggerates the amount of waste in the federal government – a great deal, a fair amount, not too much, or not at all?

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	DK/Ref
GOV'T	24	44	28	3	1

GOVQ30b Besides the (Insert name from sample variable) administration, which, if any, other presidents have you served under as a presidential appointee?

Multiple responses accepted.

Based on those interviewed after August 28 when question was added.

GOV'T	
59	None
5	the current, George W. Bush administration
5	the Clinton administration
14	the George H. Bush administration
14	the Reagan administration
9	the Carter administration
6	the Ford administration
8	the Nixon administration
2	the Johnson administration
0	DK/Ref
495	n