**An Upbeat Public**

**Question:** How well do you think things are going in the country these days?

![Chart showing positive ratings from 1998 to 1999]


**Question:** All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

![Chart showing right direction and wrong track from 1998 to 1999]


**Question:** Compared to members of your family in the 1950s, would you say your life today is generally better, worse, or about the same?

![Pie chart showing responses to the question]


**Question:** Would you describe yourself as optimistic or pessimistic about the long-term future of the country? Is that very optimistic/pessimistic or only somewhat optimistic/pessimistic?

![Pie chart showing responses to the question]

Spending the Surplus

**Question:** As you may know, there is likely to be a budget surplus over the next 10 years. Which do you support more—using the surplus for a tax cut or using the budget surplus to stabilize Social Security?

- **To stabilize Social Security:** 74%
- **For a tax cut:** 21%
- **Not sure:** 5%

**Source:** Survey by Yankelovich Partners for Time/CNN, July 14-15, 1999.

**Question:** Which of these do you think should be the top priority for any surplus money in the federal budget—cut federal income taxes, put it toward reducing the national debt, strengthen the Social Security system, or increase spending on other domestic programs?

- **Cut taxes**
  - All: 22%
  - Democrats: 17%
  - Republicans: 31%
  - Independents: 16%

- **Strengthen Social Security**
  - All: 47%
  - Democrats: 53%
  - Republicans: 41%
  - Independents: 45%

**Source:** Survey by ABC News, July 21-25, 1999.

**Question:** Who do you think the Democrats in Congress are most interested in benefiting with their proposed tax cuts—the rich, the middle class, or both about equally?

- **Both equally:** 32%
- **The middle class:** 33%
- **The rich:** 26%
- **No opinion:** 6%
- **Neither (vol.):** 3%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 16-18, 1999.

**Question:** Who do you think the Republicans in Congress are most interested in benefiting with their proposed tax cuts—the rich, the middle class, or both about equally?

- **Both equally:** 30%
- **The middle class:** 31%
- **The rich:** 51%
- **No opinion:** 5%
- **Neither (vol.):** 1%

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 16-18, 1999.

It's All in How You Ask

**Questions:** As you may know, the federal government is currently running a budget surplus, meaning it is taking in more money than it spends. President Clinton and Republicans in Congress both plan to use much of the surplus money for Social Security, but they disagree over what to do with the rest. How would you prefer to see the rest of the budget surplus used...

- **...to increase spending on other government programs, or to cut taxes?**
  - **To increase spending on other government programs:** 61%
  - **To cut taxes:** 33%
  - **No opinion:** 1%
  - **Neither/other (vol.):** 5%

- **...to increase spending on education, defense, Medicare, and other programs, or to cut taxes?**
  - **To increase spending on education, defense, Medicare and other programs:** 61%
  - **To cut taxes:** 33%
  - **No opinion:** 1%
  - **Neither/other (vol.):** 5%

**Note:** Items asked of separate split samples.

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization, July 16-18, 1999.
**Question:** Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

- Yes: 66%
- No: 23%
- No opinion: 11%


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**Question:** Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

- Yes: 41%
- No: 47%
- Don't know/Refused: 12%


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**Questions:** Suppose a member of Congress.... Do you think this member should be re-elected, or not?

- ... voted for a limit on the amount of money political parties can raise and spend.
  - Should be: 74%
  - Shouldn't be: 17%

- ... voted against a limit on the amount of money political parties can raise and spend.
  - Should be: 52%
  - Shouldn't be: 36%

**Note:** Items asked of separate split samples.


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... voted for gun control.

- Should be: 69%
- Shouldn't be: 25%

... voted against gun control.

- Should be: 35%
- Shouldn't be: 55%

**Note:** Items asked of separate split samples.


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... voted for impeaching and trying President Clinton.

- Should be: 57%
- Shouldn't be: 31%

... voted against impeaching and trying President Clinton.

- Should be: 52%
- Shouldn't be: 38%

**Note:** Items asked of separate split samples.


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**Question:** Suppose a member of Congress said he or she would only serve three terms but has now decided to run for a fourth term. Do you think this member should be re-elected or not?

- Should be: 36%
- Shouldn't be: 57%

A Green Light for the First Lady

**Question:** Do you think Hillary Rodham Clinton... is knowledgeable about the important issues?

- **Yes:** 81%
- **No:** 4%
- **Don't know/Refused:** 14%

**Source:** Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, July 15-20, 1999.

**Question:** Do you think Hillary Rodham Clinton... has the experience necessary to be a US Senator?

- **Yes:** 64%
- **No:** 7%
- **Don't know/Refused:** 29%

**Source:** Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, July 15-20, 1999.

**Question:** Do you think Hillary Rodham Clinton... has the personal qualities and character needed to be a senator?

- **Yes:** 68%
- **No:** 26%
- **Don't know/Refused:** 5%

**Source:** Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, July 15-20, 1999.

**Question:** Do you think Hillary Rodham Clinton... tells people the truth?

- **Yes:** 50%
- **No:** 38%
- **Don't know/Refused:** 12%

**Source:** Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, July 15-20, 1999.

Third Party Call Growing Fainter?

**Question:** As it's shaping up so far, what's your opinion of the likely presidential candidates for next year? Would you say that you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the likely choices?

**1999**

- **Very/Fairly satisfied:** 53%
- **Not too/Not at all satisfied:** 35%
- **Don't know/Refused:** 12%


**Question:** What's your opinion of the presidential candidates this year [1992]? Would you say that you are very satisfied, fairly satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied with the choices?

**1992**

- **Very/Fairly satisfied:** 37%
- **Not too/Not at all satisfied:** 61%
- **Don't know/Refused:** 2%