**News Interest Index**

**Question:** I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely....

- Cold winter weather and storms in the Northeast and Midwest
  - Very closely: 42%
  - Fairly closely: 31%

- Reports about the condition of the US economy
  - Very closely: 32%
  - Fairly closely: 38%

- George W. Bush's Cabinet choices and other high-level appointments
  - Very closely: 26%
  - Fairly closely: 32%

- Renewed efforts at reaching a peace agreement in the Middle East
  - Very closely: 21%
  - Fairly closely: 32%


**Question:** Here are a number of events that have happened in the past several months. For each one, please tell me how much this has affected you personally—a great deal, quite a bit, just some, or not at all.

- The price of gasoline
  - A great deal: 41%
  - Quite a bit: 21%

- The rise in the price of heating oil and natural gas
  - A great deal: 39%
  - Quite a bit: 18%

- The decline in the stock market
  - A great deal: 16%
  - Quite a bit: 13%

- The slowdown in the economy
  - A great deal: 12%
  - Quite a bit: 12%


**Health News Index**

**Question:** I'm going to read you a list of some stories covered by news organizations in the last month or so. As I read each one, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely....

- The escape and capture of seven convicts from a Texas prison
  - Very closely: 38%
  - Fairly closely: 35%

- The energy crisis in California
  - Very closely: 31%
  - Fairly closely: 34%

- George W. Bush's Cabinet nominees and their Senate confirmation hearings
  - Very closely: 30%
  - Fairly closely: 32%

- Bush's nomination of John Ashcroft to a Cabinet position
  - Very closely: 31%
  - Fairly closely: 27%

- George W. Bush's executive order on US funding of international family planning groups
  - Very closely: 21%
  - Fairly closely: 21%

- The ongoing concerns about the possible spread of mad cow disease
  - Very closely: 13%
  - Fairly closely: 24%

- The Supreme Court's decision to hear tobacco companies' case against a Massachusetts state law limiting cigarette advertisements
  - Very closely: 14%
  - Fairly closely: 22%

- Bush's nomination of Tommy Thompson to a Cabinet position
  - Very closely: 10%
  - Fairly closely: 20%

- The Clinton Administration's decision about a program to re-import US made prescription drugs
  - Very closely: 7%
  - Fairly closely: 16%

- Possible health risks to NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo and Bosnia from weapons containing depleted uranium
  - Very closely: 7%
  - Fairly closely: 17%

- The government report on the effectiveness and safety of popular weight-loss diets
  - Very closely: 5%
  - Fairly closely: 18%

- Scientists create the first genetically altered monkey
  - Very closely: 5%
  - Fairly closely: 18%

**Source:** Survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health, Health News Index, January 25-28, 2001.
Changing of the Guard

**Question:** In general, do you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush’s choices to fill Cabinet-level positions in his new administration?

**Bush Cabinet selections**

- **Approve:** 59%
- **Disapprove:** 29%
- **Don’t know:** 12%


**Note:** Asked of registered voters.

**Question:** Do you think President-elect George W. Bush’s Cabinet selections are too conservative, too liberal, or pretty much in the mainstream?

**Bush Cabinet selections**

- **Too conservative:** 21%
- **Too liberal:** 3%
- **Pretty much in the mainstream:** 49%
- **Too soon, don’t know enough to tell (vol.)**: 15%
- **Not sure:** 12%

**Source:** Survey by Opinion Dynamics for Fox News, January 10-11, 2001.

**Question:** Do you think the scrutiny of President-elect George W. Bush’s Cabinet nominees is being done fairly, and with sincere concern for the high level of office the nominees will hold, or is it being done in a partisan fashion in an effort to gain political advantage and harm Bush?

**Scrutiny of Bush Cabinet nominees**

- **Being done fairly:** 39%
- **Being done in a partisan fashion:** 39%
- **Not sure:** 22%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Newsweek*, January 10-12, 2001.

**Note:** Asked of registered voters.

**Question:** Do you think the Democrats in Washington have been too partisan in their early opposition to Bush appointments or that they have been correctly representing the views of half the public that did not support Bush for president?

**Democrats have been**

- **Correctly representing views:** 40%
- **Too partisan:** 42%
- **Don’t know:** 18%

**Source:** Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for *Newsweek*, January 10-12, 2001.

**Note:** Asked of registered voters.

**Question:** Do you think that as President, Bill Clinton has made the United States a better place, or a worse place, or didn’t he make it much different?

**Clinton made US**

- **Better place:** 53%
- **Worse place:** 11%
- **Not much different:** 33%
- **Don’t know/ No answer:** 3%

**Source:** Survey by CBS News, January 15-17, 2001.

**Question:** How do you think Bill Clinton will go down in history—as an outstanding president, above average, below average, or poor?