



CBS NEWS POLL
For release: April 13, 2007
6:30 PM EDT

THE WAR IN IRAQ: THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION VS. CONGRESS
April 9-12, 2007

Even though most Americans believe the recent political stalemate between the President and Congress over the war funding bill is having a negative impact on the morale of U.S. troops in Iraq, most Americans agree with the Democrats in Congress that the U.S. should set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq sometime next year.

Republicans remain optimistic about President Bush's deployment of additional troops to Iraq and about the prospects for success there. However, a majority of Americans overall believes that the war is going badly, the troop increase is not helping, and that the prospects for success in Iraq are dim. And a record number cite the war as the country's most important problem.

THE STAND-OFF: TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND IRAQ WAR FUNDING

Most Americans think Congress is doing the right thing in drafting legislation that would tie timetables for the removal of combat troops from Iraq to continued funding for the war. 58% of Americans believe that Congress should allow funding for the Iraq war only for a finite period of time. Another 9% want all funding for the war blocked no matter what, while three out of 10 say Congress should allow all funding for the war in Iraq without any time limit.

WHAT SHOULD CONGRESS DO ABOUT IRAQ WAR FUNDING?

Allow all funding	29%
Set a time limit	58
Block all funding	9

Most Republicans believe funding for the Iraq war should be continued without restrictions, while most Democrats and Independents believe that funding should only be continued for a limited period of time.

Although most Americans want a time limit for the removal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq, 63% of Americans say the disagreement over it is having a negative impact on the morale of U.S. troops in Iraq. Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all agree that the political conflict is harmful to troop morale.

HOW IS THE FUNDING DEBATE AFFECTING THE MORALE OF U.S. TROOPS?

A negative impact	63%
A positive impact	9
No impact	19

But a large majority of Americans believes Congress should be involved in decisions about what to do in Iraq. 83% say the Bush Administration should take the views of Congress into account at least somewhat, including 44% who think the views of Congress should be considered a lot. While it remains high, the number of Americans who think the President should consider the views of Congress at least somewhat has dropped 10 points since February.

**HOW MUCH SHOULD BUSH ADMIN. CONSIDER CONGRESS
WHEN MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT IRAQ?**

	Now	2/2007
A lot	44%	51%
Some	39	42
Not much/at all	13	6

Americans are closely divided about who should have the final say about the number of troops in Iraq. 44% say the President should, while 49% say Congress should.

WHO SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY ABOUT U.S. TROOPS IN IRAQ?

The President	44%
The Congress	49

78% of Republicans believe the President should have the final say, while 73% of Democrats believe the final decision should rest with Congress. Among Independents, 38% give final authority to the President, while 53% give it to the Congress.

President Bush has threatened to veto any funding bills that would set a timetable for the removal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq, but most Americans believe that such timetables are necessary. 57% of Americans say the U.S. should set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq sometime in 2008, while 38% say it should not. A majority of Americans has supported some form of timetable for troop withdrawal since July 2005.

**SHOULD U.S. SET TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWING
U.S. TROOPS FROM IRAQ BY 2008?**

Yes	57%
No	38

In fact, six in 10 Americans believe the number of U.S. troops in Iraq should be decreased or that U.S. troops should be completely removed. And when confronted with the argument that a U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq would increase the threat of terrorism against the U.S., most remain skeptical. Only three in 10 Americans say the threat of terrorism would increase if the U.S. withdrew its troops from Iraq. Most - 59% - think the threat of terrorism would stay the same, while 8% believe it would make the U.S. safer.

IF U.S. WITHDREW FROM IRAQ NOW, TERROR THREAT TO U.S. WOULD...

	Now	10/2006
Increase	30%	35%
Stay same	59	46
Decrease	8	18

Only a quarter of Americans thinks the ongoing deployment of more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq is making the situation in Iraq better. Another one in four Americans say the troop increase is making the situation worse, while 43% believe the increase in U.S. troops is having no impact at all.

THE TROOP INCREASE IS MAKING THE SITUATION IN IRAQ...

Better	25%
Worse	26
No impact	43

ASSESSING THE WAR

A record 36% of Americans now believes that the war in Iraq is the country's most important problem, far outstripping the economy and jobs (9%), immigration (5%), and health care (5%). Iraq has dominated the list throughout the year, though never by this large a margin.

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

	Now	3/2007
War in Iraq	36%	29%
Economy & jobs	9	8
Immigration	5	5
Health care	5	8

Two out of three Americans say the war is going at least somewhat badly, including 36% Americans who say it is going very badly. 31% of Americans believe the war is going at least somewhat well, but only 2% would characterize the war as going very well.

HOW IS THE WAR GOING?

	Now	3/2007	4/2006
Very well	2%	4%	5%
Somewhat well	29	25	36
Somewhat badly	30	30	27
Very badly	36	39	31

Americans overall are also pessimistic about Iraq when looking ahead to the future. Less than half of all Americans think success in Iraq is even somewhat likely, and only 12% that it is very likely. Most Americans - 53% - say success in Iraq is not very likely. Only 40% felt that way a year ago.

WILL THE U.S. SUCCEED IN IRAQ?

	Now	3/2007	4/2006
Very likely	12%	11%	17%
Somewhat likely	33	34	41
Not very/at all likely	53	53	40

Republicans have a much more positive assessment of both the way the war in Iraq is going and in its likelihood of success. 62% of Republicans characterize the war as going at least somewhat well, 55% believe the troop increase is making the situation in Iraq better, and 72% say the U.S. is at least somewhat likely to succeed in Iraq.

Looking back, Americans remain divided over whether or not going to war with Iraq was the right thing to do in the first place. While half of all Americans believe the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq, 44% maintain that going to war with Iraq was the right thing to do, an increase of 5 points from last month. The country has not been so closely divided on this issue since last October. 76% of Republicans stand by the decision to go to war with Iraq, while nearly as many Democrats - 74% - believe the U.S. should have stayed out. A slight majority of Independents agree with most Democrats on this issue.

DID U.S. DO THE RIGHT THING GOING TO WAR WITH IRAQ?

	Now	3/2007	10/2006
Right thing	44%	39%	44%
Should have stayed out	51	56	51

When asked specifically about removing Saddam Hussein from power, 64% answer that the U.S. should have removed Saddam Hussein, but only 32% now say it was right to remain in Iraq to help the country build a new government there. 32% believe the U.S. should have removed Hussein and then left Iraq soon after that, and 34% that the U.S. should never have gotten involved in Iraq in the first place.

WHAT SHOULD THE U.S. HAVE DONE...?

	Now	6/2006
Remove Saddam AND stay to rebuild Iraq	32%	39%
Remove Saddam, then left Iraq	32	25
Never gotten involved in Iraq	34	35

THE INFLUENCE OF IRAN AND SYRIA

In the wake of a high profile trip to Syria by a delegation of Congressional legislators headed by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi - and in the wake of the seizure of fifteen British sailors by Iranian forces - Americans are divided as to whether the U.S. should request the support of Syria and Iran for help in providing stability to Iraq, a strategy encouraged by the Iraq Study Group. Now 47% of Americans believe the U.S. should request the support of Iraq's neighbors, while 45% believe it should not.

SHOULD THE U.S. REQUEST THE SUPPORT OF IRAN AND SYRIA?

	Now	3/2007
Yes	47%	51%
No	45	40

PELOSI AND CONGRESS

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's first two months in office, and her recent trip to the Middle East (including Syria), may have brought her to the attention of more Americans, but in the last two months opinion about her has become more negative. Most Americans are still undecided or haven't heard enough about Pelosi to have an opinion. And while 16% of Americans have a favorable impression of Pelosi, more, 21% have an unfavorable view of her. In January, 15% had an unfavorable opinion of her.

OPINION OF NANCY PELOSI

	Now	1/2007
Favorable	16%	15%
Unfavorable	21	15
Undecided/haven't heard enough	62	69

Not surprisingly, views of the Speaker are highly partisan. 44% of Republicans have a negative view of her, while 30% of Democrats are favorable.

Approval of Congress has remained about the same since January. 34% approve of the job the Democratic-controlled Congress is doing, and 54% disapprove.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

The President's job approval rating is 31% in this poll, about the same as last month.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL RATING

	Now	3/2007
Approve	31%	30%
Disapprove	61	64

The President's approval ratings on handling specific issues are also similar to last month's evaluations. 45% now approve of his handling of terrorism, and 36% approve of how he is handling the economy. 30% approve of how he is dealing with Iraq.

BUSH JOB APPROVALS

	Now	3/2007
Terrorism	45%	45%
Economy	36%	38%
Foreign policy	32%	32%
Iraq	30%	28%

THE ECONOMY

Despite bad news in the housing market and rising gas prices, Americans are pretty positive about the condition of the economy. 59% of Americans think the economy is in good shape now; 39% think it is in bad shape. These views have not changed much in the past six months.

But falling housing prices and rising gas prices may be taking their toll; there are signs that Americans are becoming more pessimistic about the future. 44% think the economy is getting worse, up 9 percentage points since February.

ECONOMY IS GETTING..		
	Now	2/2007
Better	11%	11%
Worse	44	35
Same	44	51

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 994 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone April 9-12, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

CBS NEWS POLL

The War in Iraq: The Bush Administration vs. Congress
 April 9-12, 2007

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar07b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	31	70	6	21	30
Disapprove	61	23	90	66	64
DK/NA	8	7	4	13	6

q3 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

					Mar07a
War in Iraq	36	27	48	34	29
Economy / jobs	9	6	10	10	8
Immigration	5	9	1	4	5
Health Care	5	4	4	6	8
Foreign Policy	4	2	6	3	3
Terrorism (general)	4	11	1	2	4
Gas/Heating Oil Crisis	3	3	1	5	2
The President/G.W. Bush	3	0	6	3	3
Moral Values/Family Values	2	3	0	2	2
Environment	2	1	2	2	0
Defense / Military	2	2	1	4	2
Poverty / Homelessness	2	2	2	2	2
Politicians/Government	2	1	2	4	2
Budget Deficit /National D	2	2	1	2	1
Other	14	21	12	12	26
DK/NA	5	6	3	5	3

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

Approve	32	67	7	27	32
Disapprove	59	26	87	60	60
DK/NA	9	7	6	13	8

q5 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	36	66	13	33	38
Disapprove	57	27	79	60	53
DK/NA	7	7	8	7	9

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	30	64	9	21	28
Disapprove	66	30	90	74	66
DK/NA	4	6	1	5	6

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	45	79	18	42	45
Disapprove	47	17	74	45	48
DK/NA	8	4	8	13	7

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	34	24	43	33	31
Disapprove	54	66	42	57	53
DK/NA	12	10	15	10	16

q9 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days?
Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	8	19	1	5	8
Fairly good	51	61	44	48	47
Fairly bad	28	15	38	30	33
Very bad	11	4	15	15	11
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	1

q10 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

					Feb07b
Better	11	24	4	7	11
Worse	44	23	59	47	35
Same	44	52	36	45	51
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	3

q11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q12 BLANK

q13 Is your opinion of Nancy Pelosi favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Nancy Pelosi yet to have an opinion?

					Jan07c
Favorable	16	4	30	14	15
Not favorable	21	44	5	17	15
Undecided	13	9	12	18	22
Haven't heard enough	49	43	53	51	47
Refused	1	0	0	0	1

q14-15 BLANK

q16-q50 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q51 BLANK

q53 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the US have stayed out?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Right thing	44	76	21	38	39
Stayed out	51	20	74	56	56
Don't know/No answer	5	4	5	6	5

q54 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

Very well	2	6	0	1	4
Somewhat well	29	56	13	22	25
Somewhat badly	30	24	30	36	30
Very badly	36	12	55	38	39
Don't know/No answer	3	2	2	3	2

q55 Regardless of whether you think taking military action in Iraq was the right thing to do -- would you say that the U.S. is very likely to succeed in Iraq, somewhat likely to succeed, not very likely to succeed, or not at all likely to succeed in Iraq?

Very likely	12	25	6	4	11
Somewhat likely	33	47	21	32	34
Not very likely	29	19	35	32	34
Not at all likely	24	7	35	28	19
DK/NA	2	2	3	4	2

q56 Which comes closer to your view about the Iraq war? 1. The US was right to remove Saddam Hussein and stay in Iraq to help build a new government there OR 2. The US was right to remove Saddam Hussein, but then should have left Iraq soon after that OR 3. The US should never have gotten involved in Iraq in the first place.

					Jun06a
Right to remove and stay	32	62	11	26	39
Remove Saddam and left	32	24	38	33	25
Never gotten involved	34	12	50	38	35
Don't know/No answer	2	2	1	3	1

q57 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do now -- should the U.S. increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?

					Mar07a
Increase	21	43	6	17	22
Keep the same number	13	23	7	11	17
Decrease	27	21	35	23	28
Remove all troops	33	10	46	42	28
DK/NA	6	3	6	7	5

q58 As you may know, the U.S. is sending more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq. From what you have heard or read, would you say this troop increase is making the situation in Iraq better, making it worse, or is it having no impact on the situation in Iraq so far?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Making it better	25	55	6	18
Making worse	26	8	40	27
No impact	43	32	48	48
DK/NA	6	5	6	7

q59 Do you think the United States should or should not set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq sometime in 2008?

Should	57	34	75	61
Should not	38	62	19	36
DK/NA	5	4	6	3

q60 If the US withdrew its troops from Iraq, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

					Oct06d
Increase	30	56	15	23	35
Decrease	8	5	11	7	18
Stay about the same	59	37	72	66	46
Don't know/No answer	3	2	2	4	1

q61 When deciding what to do about Iraq, how much do you think the Bush Administration should take into account the views of Congress -- a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Feb07a
A lot	44	19	63	48	51
Some	39	59	26	35	42
Not much	8	11	5	8	3
Not at all	5	8	3	5	3
Don't know/No answer	4	3	3	4	1

q62 Which of these comes closest to your opinion? 1. Congress should block all funding for the war in Iraq no matter what OR 2. Congress should allow funding only for a limited period of time OR 3. Congress should allow all funding for the war in Iraq without a time limit.

***** HALF SAMPLE A *****

Block all funding	6	0	9	9
Allow only w/time limit	61	43	76	62
Should allow all funding	30	54	13	28
Don't know/No answer	3	3	2	1

q63 Which of these comes closest to your opinion? 1. Congress should allow all funding for the war in Iraq without a time limit OR 2. Congress should allow funding only for a limited period of time OR 3. Congress should block all funding for the war in Iraq no matter what.

***** HALF SAMPLE B *****
 *** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Should allow all funding	28	58	5	24
Allow only w/time limit	55	34	72	59
Block all funding	12	7	16	11
Don't know/No answer	5	1	7	6

q62&63 (Combined) Which of these comes closest to your opinion? 1. Congress should block all funding for the war in Iraq no matter what OR 2. Congress should allow funding only for a limited period of time OR 3. Congress should allow all funding for the war in Iraq without a time limit.

Which of these comes closest to your opinion? 1. Congress should allow all funding for the war in Iraq without a time limit OR 2. Congress should allow funding only for a limited period of time OR 3. Congress should block all funding for the war in Iraq no matter what.

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

Block all funding	9	4	13	10
Allow only w/time limit	58	38	74	60
Should allow all funding	29	56	10	26
Don't know/No answer	4	2	3	4

q64 Currently, President Bush and Congress disagree about what to do about U.S. troop levels in Iraq. Who do you think should have the final say about troop levels in Iraq, the President or Congress?

President	44	78	20	38
Congress	49	17	73	53
Both (vol.)	3	1	5	3
DK/NA	4	4	2	6

q65 1. Do you think the debate between the President and Congress over the Iraq war is having any impact on the morale of US troops who are in Iraq, or not?

IF YES, ASK: Do you think the debate is having a positive or a negative impact on the morale of US troops?

Yes, positive	9	7	12	7
Yes, negative	63	67	59	63
No impact	19	21	18	17
DK/NA	9	5	11	13

q66 In order to help provide stability in Iraq, do you think the U.S. should request the support of neighboring countries in the Middle East, such as Iran and Syria, even if the governments in those countries have been unfriendly or hostile to the U.S. in the past?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	47	43	51	48	51
No	45	52	41	44	40
DK/NA	8	5	8	8	9

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	994	
Total Republicans	300	310
Total Democrats	358	360
Total Independents	336	325
Half Sample A	497	488
Half Sample B	497	506