

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
BUSH FACES FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC ISSUES
February 24-28, 2005

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	Jan05b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	49	91	21	42	49
Disapprove	44	6	74	45	46
DK/NA	7	3	5	13	5

q2 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	42	77	18	37	39
Wrong track	52	16	77	56	56
DK/NA	6	7	5	7	5

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

Economy and jobs	20	16	22	21	17
War in Iraq	19	17	22	16	21
Terrorism (general)	6	12	5	4	8
Social Security	5	4	7	5	3
Health Care	5	6	5	4	6
Budget Deficit	4	2	6	3	2
Moral Values/Family Values	4	8	1	4	4
Education	3	3	2	3	3
Foreign Policy	3	1	4	2	5
Foreign aid	3	0	3	5	1
The President	3	2	5	2	1
Poverty / Homelessness	2	0	3	3	3
Defense / Military	2	4	2	1	2
Crime	2	1	2	1	1
Other	14	20	9	18	18
DK/NA	5	4	2	8	5

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

Approve	44	81	17	40	42
Disapprove	46	12	75	46	49
DK/NA	10	7	8	14	9

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

Approve	38	72	14	33	42
Disapprove	54	22	77	56	52
DK/NA	8	6	9	11	7

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the federal budget deficit?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	29	56	11	23
Disapprove	60	30	79	65
DK/NA	11	14	10	12

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

					Jan05b
					%
Approve	45	81	19	42	40
Disapprove	50	15	77	52	55
DK/NA	5	4	4	6	5

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with North Korea?

					Mar03b
Approve	39	62	26	32	45
Disapprove	34	13	48	36	35
DK/NA	27	25	26	32	20

q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iran?

Approve	44	71	24	42
Disapprove	40	14	58	42
DK/NA	16	15	18	16

q10 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

					Jan05b
Approve	61	91	43	55	56
Disapprove	33	6	50	39	38
DK/NA	6	3	7	6	6

q11 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	41	54	36	36	44
Disapprove	44	34	50	45	39
DK/NA	15	12	14	19	17

q12 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	4	10	1	2	5
Fairly good	53	75	37	51	52
Fairly bad	29	12	40	32	31
Very bad	13	2	22	13	11
DK/NA	1	1	0	2	1

q13 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan05b
	%	%	%	%	%
Better	23	46	10	17	25
Worse	30	11	43	33	29
Same	46	43	46	49	45
DK/NA	1	0	1	1	1

q14 If you had to say, which of these domestic issues do you think is MOST important right now -- 1) the budget deficit, 2) health care, 3) prescription drugs, 4) social security, OR 5) jobs? (ITEMS ROTATED)

Budget deficit	14	15	15	12
Health care	29	29	31	28
Prescription drugs	5	6	3	5
Social Security	19	17	18	22
Jobs	32	32	30	33
DK/NA	1	1	3	0

q15 When it comes to domestic issues, do you think the Bush Administration has the same priorities as most Americans do or do they have different priorities?

Same priorities	31	60	11	26
Different priorities	63	33	83	67
DK/NA	6	7	6	7

q16 If you had to say, which of the following foreign policy issues is MOST important right now -- 1) North Korea, 2) Iraq, 3) Israel and the Palestinians, 4) China, or 5) Iran? (ITEMS ROTATED)

North Korea	18	18	19	18
Iraq	54	54	57	50
Israel and the Palestinians	10	9	8	12
China	4	4	4	5
Iran	8	11	6	7
DK/NA	6	4	6	8

q17 When it comes to foreign policy issues do you think the Bush Administration has the same priorities as most Americans do or do they have different priorities?

Same priorities	37	70	18	30
Different priorities	58	26	78	63
DK/NA	5	4	4	7

q18 Should the United States try to change a dictatorship to a democracy where it can, or should the United States stay out of other countries' affairs?

					Apr04d
Try to change	27	51	13	22	22
Stay out	59	33	78	61	62
Depends (vol.)	10	13	6	12	9
DK/NA	4	3	3	5	7

q19 Do you have confidence in George W. Bush's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				Nov04a
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Confident	47	88	21	39	47
Uneasy	51	11	78	57	51
DK/NA	2	1	1	3	2

q22 Which of these comes closest to your view -- abortion should be generally available to those who want it, OR abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now, OR abortion should not be permitted?

					Jan05b
Should be generally available	35	18	48	35	36
Available w/stricter limits	40	42	37	41	35
Should not be permitted	23	37	13	22	26
DK/NA	2	3	2	2	3

q23 Regardless of how you usually vote, which party comes closer to sharing your view on abortion, the Democratic party or the Republican party?

					Jan98a*
Democratic party	45	16	75	39	28
Republican party	35	74	11	27	36
Both (Vol.)	1	0	1	1	2
Neither (Vol.)	5	1	2	11	7
DK/NA	14	9	11	22	27

*Varied wording: "Which party comes closer to your view on abortion - the Republican Party, or the Democratic Party?"

q24 Which comes closest to your view? Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

	**** HALF SAMPLE A ****				Nov04a
Allowed to legally marry	23	8	29	30	21
Civil unions	34	37	35	29	32
No legal recognition	41	54	34	37	44
DK/NA	2	1	2	4	3

q25 Which comes closest to your view? Same sex couples should be allowed to legally marry, or same sex couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a same sex couple's relationship?

	**** HALF SAMPLE B ****			
Allowed to legally marry	25	8	32	33
Civil unions	28	32	23	29
No legal recognition	42	59	38	32
DK/NA	5	1	7	6

q26 Regardless of how you usually vote, which party comes closer to sharing your view on the legal recognition of gay couples, the Democratic party or the Republican party?

q27 Regardless of how you usually vote, which party comes closer to sharing your view on the legal recognition of same sex couples, the Democratic party or the Republican party?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Republican party	43	16	68	39
Democratic party	36	72	12	31
Both (vol.)	1	1	0	1
Neither (vol.)	3	2	2	4
DK/NA	17	9	18	25

q33 Many of the tax cuts passed in 2001 were temporary and are set to expire this year. Should those tax cuts be made permanent or should they be allowed to expire?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan05b
Made permanent	43	62	30	41	47
Allowed to expire	40	25	53	40	40
Depends (vol.)	4	3	4	5	4
DK/NA	13	10	13	14	9

q34 How serious a problem do you think the budget deficit is for the country right now -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar04a
Very serious	52	30	69	53	50
Somewhat serious	38	51	28	37	36
Not too serious	8	16	2	8	9
Not at all serious	1	1	1	1	2
DK/NA	1	2	0	1	3

q35 How much have you heard or read about George W. Bush's proposed budget plan -- a lot, some, or not much so far?

A lot	16	18	19	11
Some	44	46	43	43
Not much so far	38	35	37	43
Nothing (Vol.)	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	1	0	0	2

q36 Compared to last year's budget, do you think the Bush Administration's proposed budget for next year would result in a larger deficit, a smaller deficit, or about the same size deficit as last year?

Larger	42	29	52	43
Smaller	10	17	7	6
Same size as last year	36	40	32	35
DK/NA	12	14	9	16

q39 How much does reducing the cost of prescription drugs for the elderly matter to you personally -- a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct02d
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	64	53	67	69	67
Some	26	31	25	22	18
Not much	7	11	5	5	10
Not at all	4	4	3	4	3
DK/NA	0	1	0	0	2

q40 Do you think the Medicare program should pay for drugs like Viagra, or should Medicare recipients pay for these types of drugs themselves?

Medicare should pay	16	9	21	18
Recipients should pay	78	87	73	77
DK/NA	5	4	6	5

q41 Under the new prescription drug plan passed by Congress, Medicare will do more to help senior citizens pay for their prescription drugs. The bill originally allocated \$400 billion dollars over ten years for this program. Now, the government has said the cost will exceed that amount by \$350 billion, making it a total of \$750 billion. What should happen now? 1. Should the additional cost be financed by new taxes and fees, OR 2. should benefits to people participating in the program be cut, or 3. should Medicare just absorb the higher costs?

New taxes or fees	19	19	21	16
Benefit cuts	16	24	10	14
Just absorb costs	48	38	53	50
DK/NA	17	19	16	20

q42 How concerned are you about the availability and cost of health care -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	69	59	79	67
Somewhat concerned	26	34	19	27
Not very concerned	3	5	1	3
Not at all concerned	2	2	1	2
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q43 Which of the following three statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the health care system in the United States? ... 1. On the whole, the health care systems works pretty well and only minor changes are necessary to make it work better. 2. There are some good things in our health care system, but fundamental changes are needed. 3. Our health care system has so much wrong with it that we need to completely rebuild it?

					Jul03b
Minor changes	13	18	10	12	13
Fundamental changes	59	66	54	57	56
Completely rebuild	27	16	35	29	30
DK/NA	1	0	1	2	1

q65 How much have you heard or read about North Korea's announcement that they have been developing nuclear weapons -- a lot, some, or not much so far?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar03b
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	28	34	29	24	34
Some	47	44	46	50	45
Not much so far	22	22	22	24	21
Nothing (Vol.)	2	1	4	2	0
DK/NA	1	0	0	0	0

q66 From what you have heard or read, do you believe North Korea has developed nuclear weapons or not?

Has developed	81	83	81	80
Has not	9	10	8	9
DK/NA	10	7	11	11

q67 How serious a threat is North Korea's nuclear weapons program to the security of the United States -- is the threat very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

Very serious	32	41	28	29
Somewhat serious	38	38	38	38
Not too serious	8	3	12	9
Not at all serious	2	0	3	2
DK/NA	1	1	0	2
No weapons/DK in q66	19	17	19	20

q68 How much have you heard or read about charges that Iran is developing nuclear weapons -- a lot, some, or not much so far?

A lot	23	30	21	20
Some	43	43	43	42
Not much so far	33	26	35	36
DK/NA	1	1	1	2

q69 From what you have heard or read, do you believe Iran is developing nuclear weapons or not?

Is developing	69	78	62	70
Is not	16	13	20	16
DK/NA	15	9	18	14

q70 How serious a threat is Iran's nuclear weapons program to the security of the United States -- is the threat very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

Very serious	31	44	24	27
Somewhat serious	30	28	29	32
Not too serious	7	4	7	8
Not at all serious	2	0	2	3
DK/NA	1	2	0	0
No weapons/DK in q69	31	22	38	30

q72 In its dealings with North Korea, do you think the Bush Administration is trying hard enough to reach a diplomatic solution or is it not trying hard enough to reach a diplomatic solution?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Trying hard enough	47	73	30	44
Not trying hard enough	40	18	57	40
DK/NA	13	9	13	16

q73 The Bush Administration has said that North Korea has or is close to having nuclear weapons. Looking back, do you think the Bush Administration should have made dealing with North Korea more of a priority than dealing with Iraq, or not?

Should have	42	20	58	45
Should not have	45	70	31	38
DK/NA	13	10	11	17

q74 If the United States is not able to use diplomatic means to get North Korea to stop developing nuclear weapons, would you approve or disapprove of the United States taking military action against North Korea?

Approve	33	49	24	27	52
Disapprove	59	42	68	62	36
DK/NA	8	9	8	11	11

q75 Do you think the United States should continue its strategy of negotiating with North Korea only if Asian nations are involved or should the United States negotiate one on one with North Korea?

If Asian nations are involved	48	46	47	50
Negotiate one on one	43	43	48	39
DK/NA	9	11	5	11

q76 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the U.S. have stayed out?

Right thing	46	76	26	42	45
Stay out	50	21	72	52	49
Don't know/No answer	4	3	2	6	6

q77 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	10	22	2	7	5
Somewhat well	43	62	27	42	36
Somewhat badly	29	11	43	29	28
Very badly	18	3	26	20	29
DK/NA	0	2	2	2	2

q78 So far, do you think that George W. Bush has developed a clear plan for getting American troops out of Iraq, or hasn't he developed one yet?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan05b
	%	%	%	%	%
Has clear plan	21	42	10	14	18
Hasn't developed one yet	71	49	85	76	75
DK/NA	8	9	5	10	7

q79 Should the United States troops stay in Iraq as long as it takes to make sure Iraq is a stable democracy, even if it takes a long time, or should U.S. troops leave Iraq as soon as possible, even if Iraq is not completely stable?

Stay as long as it takes	55	76	46	46	51
Leave as soon as possible	40	19	50	47	42
DK/NA	5	5	4	7	7

q80 Which of these do you think is most likely? 1) Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two, OR 2) Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two, OR 3) Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy?

					Dec03c
Will in the next year or two	9	20	4	4	7
Will, but will take longer	55	62	48	56	59
Will never become democracy	34	17	46	36	31
DK/NA	2	1	2	4	3

q82 Would you say you attend religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

	*** PARTIAL SAMPLE ***			
Every week	25	31	22	22
Almost every week	9	16	7	5
Once or twice a month	17	16	22	13
A few times a year	29	24	32	29
Never	19	13	17	27
DK/NA	1	0	0	4

q93 Some people think of themselves as evangelical or born again Christians. Do you ever think of yourself in either of these ways?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	29	45	26	20
No	69	54	73	78
DK/NA	2	1	1	2

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1111	
Total Republicans	355	329
Total Democrats	387	401
Total Independents	369	385
Half Sample A	559	553
Half Sample B	552	558