

CBS NEWS POLL
Congress and the Parties
July 29 - August 2 2005

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

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul05a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	33	40	33	27	33
Disapprove	52	49	54	54	50
Don't know/No answer	15	11	13	19	17

q12 What is the main reason why you approve of the way Congress is handling its job?

AMONG THOSE WHO APPROVE OF CONGRESS' JOB				
Getting things done/effective	21	26	20	16
Standing up to Bush/Admin.	8	3	12	11
Fighting for my issues	7	8	7	7
Working together/compromise	5	6	4	6
Helping Bush Administration	3	4	1	2
Like the Republicans	2	3	2	1
Issue: Jobs/economy	2	1	4	0
Just like them (general)	2	3	1	3
Other	9	9	6	13
Nothing	1	0	1	1
DK/NA	40	37	42	40

q13 What is the main reason why you disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

AMONG THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF CONGRESS' JOB				
Too much partisanship	20	28	13	20
Wrong priorities	14	9	16	16
Don't care about people	9	10	6	12
Don't stand up to Bush/Admin.	6	3	11	5
Don't get anything done	5	6	3	5
Waste taxpayers money	4	5	5	3
Specific issue - other	4	5	3	4
Going along with the pres.	4	5	6	2
Don't work hard/lazy	3	2	2	5
Dislike the Republicans	3	2	5	2
Dislike the Democrats	3	8	3	1
Issue: Jobs/economy	3	0	6	2
Don't like people in Congress	2	1	3	4
Other	8	6	5	7
DK/NA	12	10	13	12

q15 Do you think Congress has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
Has	25	28	26	22	Jun05a
Does not have	61	57	60	66	71
DK/NA	14	15	14	12	10

q16 In general, do you think most members of Congress work hard, or not?

Work hard	53	53	60	48	Oct94b
Don't work hard	38	40	34	40	47
DK/NA	9	7	6	12	5

q17 Think about the things Congress has done during the past year. Is there any one thing that Congress has done in the past year that stands out in your mind?

IF YES, ASK: What is that?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Terri Schiavo case	3	2	2	3
Confirm judges/appointments	3	6	1	3
Patriot Act/Privacy/	2	1	2	2
Bickered/argued/stonewalled	2	4	2	1
Social Security	1	0	1	1
Troop funding/military money	1	1	1	1
Iraq War - related	1	1	1	2
Energy Bill/ANWAR	1	1	1	1
Stem cell research	1	0	1	1
CAFTA / trade /	1	1	1	1
Other	6	6	6	7
They have done nothing	3	3	3	2
Nothing	66	63	69	65
DK/NA	9	9	9	10

q18 When Congress cannot agree, do you think it is mostly because of disagreement about policy or is it mostly because of political reasons?

Disagreement about policy	6	6	8	6
Political reasons	88	91	87	87
Both (vol.)	3	2	4	4
Don't know/No answer	3	1	1	3

q19 Is your opinion of the Republicans in Congress favorable or not favorable?

					May05b
					%
Favorable	43	80	18	34	41
Not favorable	46	14	77	45	48
Refused	11	6	5	21	11

q20 Is your opinion of the Democrats in Congress favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	44	21	75	36	44
Not favorable	45	73	21	42	43
Refused	11	6	4	22	13

q21 How much difference does it make to the country whether Democrats or Republicans control Congress -- a great deal, some, not much, or no difference?

A great deal	42	49	50	29
Some	31	32	32	30
Not much	10	8	6	15
No difference	14	10	11	21
DK/NA	3	1	1	5

q22 Regardless of your overall opinion of them, do you think most Republicans in Congress are too extreme in their political views, or do you think they're not too extreme in their political views?

Too extreme	46	22	66	48
Not too extreme	47	74	31	39
DK/NA	7	4	3	13

q23 Regardless of your overall opinion of them, do you think most Democrats in Congress are too extreme in their political views, or do you think they're not too extreme in their political views?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Too extreme	35	58	15	34
Not too extreme	58	37	80	54
DK/NA	7	5	5	12

q24 Thinking about the Republicans in Congress.
Do their views, or the things they do, ever make you pleased?

Yes	64	88	47	58
No	30	8	48	32
DK/NA	6	4	5	10

q25 (Thinking about the Republicans in Congress.)
Do their views, or the things they do, ever make you angry?

Yes	77	65	89	77
No	20	33	10	17
DK/NA	3	2	1	6

q26 (Thinking about the Republicans in Congress.)
Do their views, or the things they do, ever make you confident?

Yes	54	83	35	46
No	43	16	62	48
DK/NA	3	1	3	6

q27 (Thinking about the Republicans in Congress.)
Do their views, or the things they do, ever make you scared?

Yes	60	35	77	64
No	38	63	22	32
DK/NA	2	2	1	4

q28 Thinking about the Democrats in Congress. Do their views,
or the things they do, ever make you pleased?

Yes	66	56	80	63
No	29	40	18	30
DK/NA	5	4	2	7

q29 (Thinking about the Democrats in Congress.)
Do their views, or the things they do, ever make you angry?

Yes	75	85	68	75
No	22	15	31	19
DK/NA	3	0	1	6

q30 (Thinking about the Democrats in Congress.)
Do their views, or the things they do, ever make you confident?

Yes	53	38	72	49
No	42	60	24	44
DK/NA	5	2	4	7

q31 (Thinking about the Democrats in Congress.)

Do their views, or the things they do, ever make you scared?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	53	68	39	54
No	44	32	60	41
DK/NA	3	0	1	5

q87 Thinking for a moment about people who consider themselves Republicans, which of these comes closer to your views about them: people who consider themselves Republicans feel differently than I do about politics, but they probably share many of my other values and goals; OR people who consider themselves Republicans feel differently than I do about politics, and they probably don't share many of my other values and goals, either.

	AMONG DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Probably share	50	-	47	54
Probably don't share	40	-	49	31
DK/NA	10	-	4	15

q88 Thinking for a moment about people who consider themselves Democrats, which of these comes closer to your views about them: people who consider themselves Democrats feel differently than I do about politics, but they probably share many of my other values and goals; OR people who consider themselves Democrats feel differently than I do about politics, and they probably don't share many of my values and goals, either.

	AMONG REPUBLICANS AND INDEPENDENTS			
Probably share	56	56	-	56
Probably don't share	34	40	-	29
DK/NA	10	4	-	15

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1222	
Total Republicans	391	373
Total Democrats	397	402
Total Independents	434	447

