

IMMIGRATION, SECURITY AND THE PRESIDENT

May 16-17, 2006

George W. Bush addressed the country on Monday night on the issue of immigration -- and most Americans support the proposals he talked about. They are also more concerned about the issue than they were earlier this month - and somewhat optimistic that legislation addressing the issue of illegal immigration will be passed by year's end.

Although the President's overall approval rating remains low - 35% in this poll, that is a marginal increase from before the speech. He has gained more in the evaluation of his handling of the issue of immigration, though a majority still disapproves. Earlier this month, only 26% approved of his handling of immigration; now 38% do.

Immigration now ranks among the top issues when Americans are asked to volunteer the most important problem facing the country; it trails only the war in Iraq and the economy and jobs. 12% mention immigration - the highest ever in the CBS News Poll.

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

	Now	5/4-8/2006	4/2006
War in Iraq	28%	23%	23%
Economy/jobs	15	12	12
Immigration	12	5	8
Gas and oil prices	6	14	13

Iraq continues to be far and away the top issue of concern. Earlier this month, high gas prices far surpassed immigration in mentions as the country's most important problem. That situation is now reversed. In addition, 85% say illegal immigration is a serious problem for the country, including 48% who describe the problem as very serious.

IMMIGRATION: THREE PROPOSALS

62% of Americans favor the President's proposal of stationing 6,000 National Guard troops at the U.S.-Mexico border, while 32% oppose it. Six in 10 also support the idea of allowing foreign workers to work in the U.S. on a temporary basis and then return to their home country - a guest worker program. Majorities of Democrats and Independents, as well as Republicans support both these proposals.

PROPOSALS ADDRESSING ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

	Favor	Oppose
National Guard troops at the border	62%	32
Allow foreign workers to work in U.S. temporarily and then return home	61%	36
Let illegal immigrants already here for 5 years stay & work if they learn English, pay back taxes and a fine, and have no criminal record	77%	19

Most Americans - 77% - accept a pathway to citizenship for some illegal immigrants - at least for those who have been in the U.S. for at least five years -- if the following criteria are met: they pay a fine, pay any back taxes owed, can speak English, and have no criminal record. Views on this question are similar to what they were in April.

Americans are split as to whether this proposal would encourage more people to try to come to the U.S. illegally. They are also divided on the effectiveness of a temporary worker program. 46% think that would help reduce the number of illegal immigrants to the U.S. but 49% say it would not be effective. Among those who support the temporary worker program, more than a third says it would NOT be effective.

WOULD TEMPORARY WORKER PROGRAM BE EFFECTIVE?

		Favor temporary work program	Oppose it
Yes	All 46%	57%	29%
No	49	37	69

Most, however, think stationing National Guard troops at the southern border would be effective in reducing the number of illegal immigrants to the U.S. Even a third of those who oppose using the Guard for border patrols say it would be effective in controlling illegal immigration.

WOULD NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS AT THE BORDER BE EFFECTIVE?

		Favor Nat'l Guard idea	Oppose it
Yes	All 68%	84%	37%
No	25	10	56

Still, there is some concern about stationing National Guard troops at the U.S.-Mexico border. 46% say it would reduce their ability to help fight the Iraq war and assist in state emergencies and natural disasters.

WILL STATIONING NATIONAL GUARD AT THE BORDER REDUCE THEIR ABILITY TO ASSIST IN OTHER AREAS?

Yes	46%
No	48

A majority - 57% - say it is at least somewhat likely that the President and Congress will pass legislation concerning immigration before the end of the year. 40% do not think it is likely that legislation will pass.

LIKELY THE PRESIDENT & CONGRESS WILL PASS IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION THIS YEAR?

Very likely	13%
Somewhat likely	44
Not very likely	27
Not at all likely	13

President Bush's rating on his handling of immigration has improved from before he delivered his speech on Monday evening. Today, 38% approve of his handling of immigration, compared to just 26% who approved earlier this month.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S HANDLING OF IMMIGRATION

	Now	5/4-8/2006	10/2005
Approve	38%	26%	21%
Disapprove	53	58	53

The President now has the approval of a majority of Republicans on his handling of immigration. 55% approve of his handling of the issue today, compared to just 41% who approved earlier this month. Majorities of Democrats and Independents continue to disapprove of his handling of the issue. In early May, a majority of conservatives disapproved of the President's handling of immigration. They are now evenly divided.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S HANDLING OF IMMIGRATION

(Among Republicans)

	Now	5/4-8/2006
Approve	55%	41%
Disapprove	37	42

(Among Conservatives)

Approve	48%	34%
Disapprove	43	52

40% of Americans report having heard or watched President Bush's speech on Monday night. Among those watchers, 54% said they generally approved of the proposals he laid out in his speech, while 33% disapproved. More Republicans than Democrats viewed the speech.

PHONE RECORDS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

More than six in ten Americans have heard or read at least some about recent reports that the government has been collecting Americans' phone call records in order to examine calling patterns, including a quarter who have read a lot about it. There is narrow support for the government collecting this information to reduce the threat of terrorism: 51% approve of it, while 44% disapprove.

GOVERNMENT COLLECTING PHONE RECORDS

Approve	51%
Disapprove	44

Immediately before this question, respondents were told that there were reports that since 9/11 the government has been collecting records of millions of phone calls made in the United States from U.S. telephone companies in order to examine calling patterns that it says could help reduce the threat of terrorism.

There is a partisan element to views on this issue; a majority of Republicans approve, while most Democrats disapprove. A bare majority of Independents approve.

Opinion is divided about the effectiveness of such a program in fighting terrorism. 46% think it will be effective in reducing the threat of terrorism, while 43% think it will not.

WILL IT BE EFFECTIVE IN REDUCING TERRORISM?

Yes	46%
No	43

Partisanship enters into views here as well; Republicans think it will be effective, while Democrats think it won't be.

Although a slim majority supports the program, opinions about whether the phone companies should be sharing such information are one-sided in the other direction. 60% of Americans don't think the phone companies should be sharing this information with the government, while 32% think they should.

SHOULD PHONE COMPANIES SHARE DATA WITH GOVT.?

Yes	32%
No	60

Americans are even more disapproving about credit card companies sharing information with the government; only 25% think those companies ought to share information, while 70% think they should not.

One reason for the narrow support for the calling records database may be that few people are concerned that their own

information might be in that database. 25% are somewhat or very concerned the government might have their phone records, 74% are not very or not at all concerned. About a third of Democrats and liberals are concerned.

CONCERNED GOVT. MIGHT HAVE YOUR PHONE RECORDS?

Very	8%
Somewhat	17
Not very/not at all	74

When it comes to government monitoring of personal communications in general, the public clearly differentiates between ordinary Americans and those who the government is suspicious of. Most are willing to allow the government to monitor the communications of the latter - but oppose that level of surveillance for "ordinary Americans" even in order to reduce the threat of terrorism. This has not changed much in the past few years.

WILLING TO ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR PHONE CALLS OF ...

	Yes	No
Ordinary Americans	30%	68
Americans the gov't suspects	69%	26

However, general concern about civil liberties has risen slightly since earlier this year, and it has changed quite a bit since late 2001. Now, 51% say they are more concerned that the government will enact anti-terrorism laws that restrict civil liberties; while 36% are concerned the government's anti-terrorism laws won't be strong enough. From December 2001 through this January, opinion was more evenly divided.

ANTI-TERROR LAWS: MORE CONCERNED THAT GOVERNMENT WILL ...

	Now	1/2006	11/2002	12/2001
Not make laws strong enough	36%	40%	40%	43%
Restrict civil liberties	51	48	44	45

Those who are worried about civil liberties disapprove of the government collecting Americans' phone call records.

IMPACT ON THE PRESIDENT

The events of the last week, including President George W. Bush's Monday night address to the nation, may have helped his overall image - although perhaps not significantly. The President's overall job approval stands at 35% in this poll. In early May it was 31%. His handling of the Iraq war is 31% today, compared to 29% earlier this month. Americans still say the war there is going badly, and the U.S. should not have gotten militarily involved there. Bush's highest ratings come up for his handling of terrorism, but that evaluation remains below the 50% mark, where it has been since February.

BUSH JOB APPROVAL

	Now	5/4-8/2006
Overall	35%	31%
Iraq	31%	29%
Economy	34%	28%
Terrorism	46%	46%

Today 36% say Bush has the same priorities for the nation as they do. In early May only 28% said so.

DOES BUSH HAVE SAME PRIORITIES AS YOU?

	Now	5/4-8/2006	10/2005	5/2005
Yes	36%	28%	32%	34%
No	61	68	65	61

49% say they have heard at least something about the investigation involving the possible leak of a CIA officer's name in 2003. This is down from 64% who said so in the fall of 2005. 81% say the matter is of at least some importance to the nation; this is mostly unchanged from last fall.

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 636 adults, interviewed by telephone May 16-17, 2006. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus four percentage points. Error for subgroups may be higher.

CBS NEWS POLL
Immigration, Security and the President
May 16-17, 2006

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

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				5/4-8/2006
	*** Party ID ***				May06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	35	74	6	26	31
Disapprove	60	24	89	66	63
DK/NA	5	2	5	8	6

q2 BLANK

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

War in Iraq	28	25	33	25	23
Economy / jobs	15	8	16	23	12
Immigration	12	18	9	8	5
Gas/Heating Oil Crisis	6	4	6	8	14
Terrorism (general)	5	11	2	4	3
Health Care	4	4	4	3	4
Defense / Military	3	5	0	3	2
The President/G.W. Bush	3	0	4	5	3
Environment	2	1	4	1	1
Foreign Policy	2	0	3	3	2
Other	16	20	14	14	27
DK/NA	4	4	5	3	4

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

Approve	34	62	9	32	28
Disapprove	57	30	83	57	66
DK/NA	9	8	8	11	6

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	31	62	6	27	29
Disapprove	64	31	91	68	67
DK/NA	5	7	3	5	4

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	46	77	21	41	46
Disapprove	47	19	71	49	48
DK/NA	7	4	8	10	6

q7 BLANK

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of immigration?

Approve	38	55	27	33	26
Disapprove	53	37	61	58	58
DK/NA	9	8	12	9	16

q9 BLANK

q10 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				5/4-8/2006
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	26	27	26	25	23
Disapprove	59	62	59	57	64
DK/NA	15	11	15	18	13

q11 Do you think George W. Bush has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

Has	36	69	11	28	28
Does not have	61	29	88	65	68
DK/NA	3	2	1	7	4

q12 BLANK

q13 Which concerns you more right now - that the government will fail to enact strong anti-terrorism laws, or that the government will enact new anti-terrorism laws which excessively restrict the average person's civil liberties?

					Jan06b
Fail to enact laws	36	53	23	34	40
Restrict civil liberties	51	35	62	55	48
Both (vol.)	2	1	3	1	2
Neither (vol.)	1	2	1	1	2
DK/NA	10	9	11	9	8

q14 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?

					5/4-8/2006
					May06a
Right thing	43	70	23	39	39
Stayed out	53	26	75	57	56
Don't know/No answer	4	4	2	4	5

q15 How would you say things are going for the US 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	5	9	2	2	5
Somewhat well	36	55	20	35	34
Somewhat badly	29	23	34	29	33
Very badly	28	9	43	31	27
Don't know/No answer	2	4	1	3	1

q16 BLANK

q17 In order to reduce the threat of terrorism, would you be willing or not willing to allow government agencies to monitor the telephone calls and emails of ordinary Americans on a regular basis?

					Jan06b
Willing	30	44	17	30	28
Not willing	68	54	81	68	70
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	2

q18 In order to reduce the threat of terrorism, would you be willing or not willing to allow government agencies to monitor the telephone calls and emails of Americans that the government is suspicious of?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Willing	69	82	58	69	68
Not willing	26	13	35	29	29
DK/NA	5	5	7	2	3

q19 BLANK

q20 As you may know, it has been reported that since 9/11 the government has been collecting records of millions of phone calls made in the United States from U.S. telephone companies in order to examine calling patterns that it says could help reduce the threat of terrorism. How much have you heard or read about this -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

A lot	25	30	25	21
Some	39	43	38	37
Not much	24	18	22	31
Nothing at all	12	9	14	12
DK/NA	0	0	1	0

q21 Do you approve or disapprove of the government collecting the phone call records of people in the U.S. in order to reduce the threat of terrorism?

Approve	51	71	31	52
Disapprove	44	24	63	43
DK/NA	5	5	6	5

q22 Do you think collecting the records of phone calls made in the United States will or will not be effective in reducing the threat of terrorism?

Yes	46	62	28	48
No	43	22	62	45
DK/NA	11	16	10	7

q23-q24 BLANK

q25 Not all major telephone companies have agreed to share this information with the government. Do you think phone companies should share information about the calling patterns of their customers with the government, or is that an invasion of privacy?

Should	32	57	14	27
No, should not	60	36	79	64
DK/NA	8	7	7	9

q26 Do you think credit card companies should share information about the buying patterns of their customers with the government, or is that an invasion of privacy?

Should	25	30	16	29
No, should not	70	65	79	65
DK/NA	5	5	5	6

q27 How concerned are you, personally, that the government might have your own phone call records -- are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	*** Party ID ***		
	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	8	3	13	8
Somewhat concerned	17	13	24	13
Not very concerned	21	18	27	19
Not at all concerned	53	63	36	59
DK/NA	1	3	0	1

q28 BLANK

q29 How much have you heard or read about changing the laws regarding immigration in the United States -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

					5/4-8/2006
					May06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
A lot	38	41	33	39	31
Some	39	44	38	34	47
Not much	21	13	25	23	17
Nothing at all	3	1	3	3	5
DK/NA	0	1	1	1	0

q30 Did you watch or listen to President George W. Bush's speech on immigration reform Monday night?

Yes	40	44	30	47
No	60	55	70	53
DK/NA	0	1	0	0

q31 In general, do you approve or disapprove of the proposals the President made in his speech Monday night?

	* AMONG SPEECH WATCHERS *			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	54	71	32	54
Disapprove	33	23	47	33
DK/NA	13	6	21	13

q32 How serious a problem do you think the issue of ILLEGAL immigration is for the country right now -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				5/4-8/2006
					May06a*
Very serious	48	54	42	49	59
Somewhat serious	37	37	44	31	30
Not too serious	12	7	13	17	9
Not at all serious	2	2	1	4	2
Don't know/No answer	1	0	0	0	0

*Asked with intro "What about ILLEGAL immigration?"

q33 Would you favor or oppose allowing illegal immigrants who have done the following to stay and work in the United States: paid a fine, been in the U.S. for at least five years, paid any back taxes they owe, can speak English, and have no criminal record?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	77	76	75	80	74
Oppose	19	20	20	17	23
DK/NA	4	4	5	3	3

q34 Do you think such a program would encourage more people to try to come to the U.S. illegally, or wouldn't it do that?

Would	43	39	41	47
Would not	45	51	47	38
DK/NA	12	10	12	15

q35 Would you favor or oppose a new program allowing foreign workers to work in the U.S. on a temporary basis and then return to their home country?

Favor	61	62	58	62
Oppose	36	35	39	35
DK/NA	3	3	3	3

q36 Do you think that such a program would be effective in reducing the number of illegal immigrants to the US, or not?

Yes, effective	46	42	49	46
No	49	50	46	51
DK/NA	5	8	5	3

q37 Would you favor or oppose stationing 6,000 National Guard troops in a support capacity at the U.S.-Mexico border to try to stop illegal immigration?

Favor	62	76	51	58
Oppose	32	21	37	37
DK/NA	6	3	12	5

q38 Do you think stationing National Guard troops at the U.S.-Mexico border would be effective in reducing the number of illegal immigrants to the US, or not?

Yes, effective	68	77	63	64
No	25	16	28	30
DK/NA	7	7	9	6

q39 Do you think that stationing National Guard troops at the border will reduce the ability of National Guard troops to help fight the war in Iraq and assist in state emergencies and natural disasters, or not?

Yes, reduce ability	46	39	51	49
No, will not reduce	48	55	44	45
DK/NA	6	6	5	6

q40-q41 BLANK

q42 How likely do you think it is that Congress and the President will pass legislation addressing the issue of illegal immigration by the end of this year -- is that very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very likely	13	13	16	11
Somewhat likely	44	48	45	38
Not very likely	27	25	25	31
Not at all likely	13	12	10	18
DK/NA	3	2	4	2

q43 How much have you heard or read about the special investigation into the possible leak of an undercover CIA officer's identity to reporters in 2003? Would you say you have heard or read a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

					Oct05d
					%
A lot	18	15	24	15	27
Some	31	35	25	34	37
Not much	23	30	18	21	22
Nothing	28	20	33	31	14
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

q44 A special prosecutor has been investigating whether a crime was committed when a CIA officer's identity was revealed to reporters. How important do you think the matter is to the nation -- of great importance, some importance, or very little importance?

Great importance	39	30	44	43	51
Some importance	42	43	42	42	35
Very little importance	14	18	10	13	12
No importance (vol.)	4	8	2	2	0
DK/NA	1	1	2	0	2

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	636	
Total Republicans	213	204
Total Democrats	216	217
Total Independents	207	216