

AMERICANS LOOK AHEAD TO THE 110TH CONGRESS

November 12-13, 2006

Many Americans think the new Democratic Congress and Republican President George W. Bush could have a rocky relationship ahead - just about half the public thinks they will be able to work together, while 40% don't think they can.

CAN PRES. BUSH AND CONGRESSIONAL DEMS WORK TOGETHER?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	50%	46%	53%	50%
No	40	46	39	38

Republicans are the most skeptical, and are evenly divided between thinking Congress and the President will work together and saying they won't. More Democrats and Independents foresee cooperation.

WHAT WILL THE NEW CONGRESS DO?

Americans are still dubious that the Democrats have a clear plan for the country. 43% say they have one but 48% say they don't. Before the election, 37% of likely voters thought Democrats had one, and today about the same number of those who actually voted still think so.

DO DEMOCRATS HAVE A CLEAR PLAN FOR THE COUNTRY?

Yes	43%
No	48

There is near unanimity on what the Democrats will do about Iraq - a war that 56% of Americans now think the U.S. should not have become involved in. 72% say the Democrats will reduce the number of U.S. troops now in Iraq, including one in four who thinks the Democrats will try to withdraw all troops.

WHAT WILL DEMS TRY TO DO WITH U.S. TROOPS IN IRAQ?

Increase troop levels	7%
Keep troop levels same	12
Decrease troops	47
Remove all troops	25

On economic issues, 66% of Americans see the Democratic Congress as increasing the minimum wage, as do even more of those who actually voted (74%). Expectations on other economic concerns are less clear among Americans. Majorities say health care costs and prescription drug costs will remain the same, although a third

believe that prescription drug costs will go down. As for taxes, most don't see them changing either, although most Republicans say their taxes will increase.

Most say the threat of terrorism against the U.S. will not change.

NOW THAT DEMS CONTROL CONGRESS...

The minimum wage will...	go up	66%
	go down	1
	stay the same	30
The economy will...	get better	33%
	get worse	16
	stay the same	47
Taxes will...	go up	32
	go down	9
	stay the same	54
Health care costs will...	go up	26%
	go down	14
	stay the same	56
RX drug costs will...	go up	11%
	go down	33
	stay the same	51
Threat of terrorism will...	Increase	19%
	Decrease	16
	stay the same	62

DIVIDED GOVERNMENT

The voters gave the country divided government last week, and Americans tend to believe divided government is a good thing, although the belief is not overwhelming. 42% say it's better for the country when one party controls the Presidency and the other the Congress, while 33% (and even more Republicans) favor one party government. Independents are particularly happy with divided control.

IS IT BETTER TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS...

	All	Rep.	Dem.	Ind
From the same party	33%	51%	34%	20%
From different parties	42	27	43	51

But, by nearly three to one, Americans say they are pleased with the outcome of last week's election. Even one in four Republicans are pleased.

The number who say they are now pleased is higher than after the 2002 midterms, when 37% of Americans said they were pleased. In 2002, 31% said they did not care much, far more than the 15% who say that today.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS...

	All	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	11/2002
Pleased	58%	23%	89%	57%	37%
Disappointed	22	54	6	12	26
Don't care much	15	18	3	24	31

As for the President, he gets a 34% approval rating, exactly what it was before the election. 61% disapprove.

PRESIDENT OVERALL JOB APPROVAL

	Now	10/2006
Approve	34%	34%
Disapprove	61	58

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 721 adults, interviewed by telephone on November 12-13, 2006. They had first been interviewed October 27-31, 2006. The error due to sampling could be plus or minus four percentage points for results based on the entire sample. The sampling error will be higher on results based on subgroups.

CBS NEWS POLL
Americans Look Ahead to the 110th Congress
November 12-13, 2006

rq7 In general, are you pleased or disappointed with the outcome of the November elections for Congress, or don't you care much one way or the other?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Nov02d
	%	%	%	%	%
Pleased	58	23	89	57	37
Disappointed	22	54	6	12	26
Don't care much	15	18	3	24	31
DK/NA	5	5	2	7	6

rq8 Do you think it is better for the country to have a President who comes from the same political party that controls Congress, or do you think it is better to have a President from one political party and the Congress controlled by another?

					May06a
Better when same party	33	51	34	20	29
Better when different party	42	27	43	51	49
DK/NA	25	22	23	29	22

rq9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

					Oct06d
Approve	34	81	3	27	34
Disapprove	61	16	95	63	58
DK/NA	5	3	2	10	8

rq13 Over the coming year, do you think President George W. Bush and the Democrats in Congress will or will not be able to work together?

					Jan02d
Will be able	50	46	53	50	68
Will not be able to	40	46	39	38	22
DK/NA	10	8	8	12	10

rq14 With the Democrats in control of Congress now, what do you think they will try to do in Iraq -- 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 will the Democrats try to remove all troops from Iraq?

Increase	7	6	5	9
Keep the same number	12	9	8	17
Decrease	47	47	52	42
Remove all troops	25	34	23	21
Don't know/No answer	9	4	12	11

rq15 Regardless of how you voted, do you think the Democrats have a clear plan for the country, or don't the Democrats have a clear plan for the country?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***			
	**** Party ID ****			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Have clear plan	43	21	65	40
Do not have clear plan	48	74	26	48
DK/NA	9	5	9	12

rq16 With the Democrats in control of Congress now, do you think your taxes will go up, go down or stay about the same?

Go up	32	67	12	25
Go down	9	8	18	3
Stay about the same	54	23	67	64
DK/NA	5	2	3	8

rq17 With the Democrats in control of Congress now, do you think the cost of prescription drugs for senior citizens will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	11	20	4	9
Go down	33	23	54	24
Stay about the same	51	52	40	59
DK/NA	5	5	2	8

rq18 With the Democrats in control of Congress now, do you think the minimum wage will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	66	55	86	58
Go down	1	1	2	2
Stay about the same	30	44	13	34
DK/NA	3	0	0	6

rq19 With the Democrats in control of Congress now, do you think the cost of health care will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	26	38	17	24
Go down	14	12	19	12
Stay about the same	56	46	62	58
DK/NA	4	4	2	6

rq20 With the Democrats in control of Congress now, do you think the nation's economy will get better, worse, or stay about the same?

Better	33	13	58	27
Worse	16	37	2	13
Stay about the same	47	46	39	54
DK/NA	4	4	1	6

rq21 With the Democrats in control of Congress now, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	19	45	5	13
Decrease	16	3	32	12
Same	62	51	62	71
DK/NA	3	1	1	4

rq23 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	Oct06d
	%	%	%	%	%
Right thing	40	77	20	30	44
Stayed out	56	17	78	64	51
Don't know/No answer	4	6	2	6	5

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	721	
Total Republicans	221	197
Total Democrats	246	231
Total Independents	254	292