

CBS NEWS POLL
Problems in Iraq Take a Toll on the
President's Popularity and Election Prospects
May 20-23, 2004

q1 How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2004 Presidential campaign -- a lot, some, not much, or no attention so far?

	*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr04d
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	45	49	44	41	41
Some	41	34	44	45	40
Not much	11	13	8	13	13
No attention so far	4	4	5	2	6
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

q2 Is your opinion of John Kerry favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John Kerry yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	32	7	55	29	27
Unfavorable	32	65	6	31	33
Undecided	25	17	30	29	26
Haven't heard enough	10	11	9	9	14
DK/NA	1	0	0	2	0

q3 Is your opinion of George W. Bush favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about George W. Bush yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	36	77	11	25	38
Unfavorable	47	11	74	51	43
Undecided	15	11	13	22	18
Haven't heard enough	1	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	1	0	1	1	0

q5 If the 2004 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were John Kerry, the Democrat, and George W. Bush, the Republican, would you vote for John Kerry or George W. Bush? [CANDIDATE NAMES WILL ROTATE]

John Kerry	49	11	80	51	46
George W. Bush	41	84	11	35	44
Other (Vol.)	1	0	1	2	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	1	1	1	1	0
Depends (Vol.)	2	1	2	3	1
DK/NA	6	3	5	8	8

q7 Would you describe your support for George W. Bush as strongly favoring him, or do you like him but with reservations, or do you support him because you dislike the other candidates?

*** BUSH VOTERS ***					
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr04d
	%	%	%	%	%
Strongly favor	57	70	--	34	55
Like but with reservations	36	26	--	54	35
Dislike other candidates	6	5	--	10	8
DK/NA	1	0	--	2	2

q8 Would you describe your support for John Kerry as strongly favoring him, or do you like him but with reservations, or do you support him because you dislike the other candidates?

*** KERRY VOTERS ***					
Strongly favor	29	--	37	16	32
Like but with reservations	35	--	32	40	28
Dislike other candidates	34	--	29	41	38
DK/NA	2	--	2	3	2

q11 If the 2004 Presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were John Kerry, the Democrat, and George W. Bush, the Republican, and Ralph Nader, would you vote for John Kerry, George W. Bush, or Ralph Nader?

*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***					
John Kerry	47	9	78	47	41
George W. Bush	41	83	12	33	43
Ralph Nader	5	3	2	10	5
Other (vol.)	1	0	1	1	0
Won't vote (vol.)	2	1	2	2	0
Depends (vol.)	1	0	0	1	2
DK/NA	3	4	5	6	9

q15 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***					
Approve	41	77	18	36	May04a
Disapprove	52	16	79	55	44
DK/NA	7	7	3	9	49

q16 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?

					Apr04d
Right direction	30	63	7	25	36
Wrong track	65	31	91	68	55
DK/NA	5	6	2	7	9

q17 Which ONE issue would you most like to hear the candidates for president discuss during the 2004 presidential campaign?

*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr04d
	%	%	%	%	%
War in Iraq	26	24	25	27	21
Economy and jobs	25	18	30	26	25
Health Care/Medicare	8	6	10	7	8
Education	4	4	5	4	5
Gas Crisis	4	6	3	4	1
Taxes/IRS	3	6	3	2	3
Terrorism (general)	3	5	1	2	2
Foreign Policy	2	2	2	3	1
Defense / Military	2	4	1	1	3
Budget Deficit /National Debt	2	1	2	2	2
Same-sex Marriage	2	4	0	3	1
Other	12	12	12	11	19
DK/NA	7	8	5	8	9

q18 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

Approve	37	71	15	29	40
Disapprove	56	24	80	60	51
DK/NA	7	5	5	11	9

q19 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

					May04a
Approve	36	71	13	30	34
Disapprove	57	23	83	60	60
DK/NA	7	6	4	10	6

q20 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	34	64	14	30	39
Disapprove	61	32	83	64	58
DK/NA	5	4	3	6	3

q21 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	51	79	32	48	51
Disapprove	42	17	60	44	39
DK/NA	7	4	8	8	10

q22 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Rumsfeld is handling his job as Secretary of Defense?

Approve	40	63	24	37	43
Disapprove	46	25	61	48	45
DK/NA	14	12	15	15	12

q23 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr04d
	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	5	9	1	4	4
Fairly good	47	69	29	47	51
Fairly bad	31	14	42	35	30
Very bad	16	5	26	14	15
DK/NA	1	3	2	0	0

q24 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	23	45	8	20	30
Worse	32	18	42	33	26
Same	43	35	48	44	44
DK/NA	2	2	2	3	0

q26 Do you think the United States made a mistake getting involved in the current war with Iraq, or not?

Made a mistake	50	23	70	52	48
Did not make a mistake	46	74	28	40	46
DK/NA	4	3	2	8	6

q31 Do you think John Kerry has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***

Has	43	20	63	42	37
Does not have	40	71	18	38	45
DK/NA	17	9	19	20	18

q32 Do you think John Kerry says what he really believes most of the time, or does he say what he thinks people want to hear?

Says what he believes	33	15	46	35	29
Says what people want to h	58	79	44	54	61
DK/NA	9	6	10	11	10

q33 Do you think John Kerry shares the moral values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

Shares moral values	59	33	78	61	58
Does not	25	50	7	20	23
DK/NA	16	17	15	19	19

q34 Do you think George W. Bush has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

Has	41	78	16	35	42
Does not have	55	18	81	61	55
DK/NA	4	4	3	4	3

q35 Do you think George W. Bush says what he really believes most of the time, or does he say what he thinks people want to hear?

*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr04d
	%	%	%	%	%
Says what he believes	50	79	31	44	53
Says what people want to h	45	20	62	51	43
DK/NA	5	1	7	5	4

q36 Do you think George W. Bush shares the moral values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

Shares moral values	62	87	45	59	68
Does not	30	8	48	32	25
DK/NA	8	5	8	8	7

q44 If John Kerry is elected President in November, do you think gasoline prices will go lower, go higher, or stay about the same?

Go lower	21	11	29	23
Go higher	13	21	5	15
Stay about the same	51	51	53	49
DK/NA	14	17	13	12

q45 If John Kerry is elected President in November do you think the situation in Iraq will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

Get better	32	11	47	33
Get worse	24	48	8	21
Stay about the same	35	30	37	37
DK/NA	9	11	8	9

q46 If George W. Bush is re-elected President in November, do you think gasoline prices will go lower, go higher, or stay about the same?

Go lower	14	20	7	14
Go higher	30	10	46	32
Stay about the same	46	55	39	44
DK/NA	10	15	8	9

q47 If George W. Bush is re-elected President in November do you think the situation in Iraq will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

Get better	27	55	9	21
Get worse	33	6	53	35
Stay about the same	37	36	35	39
DK/NA	3	3	3	5

q49 Do you think the policies of the Bush Administration have made the United States safer from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or have the policies of the Bush Administration not affected the U.S.' safety from terrorism?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr04d
	%	%	%	%	%
Safer	50	76	36	42	49
Less safe	26	7	39	30	25
No effect	19	12	21	23	21
DK/NA	5	5	4	5	5

q50 Do you think the policies of the Bush Administration have increased the number of jobs in the United States, decreased the number of jobs, or have the policies of the Bush Administration not affected the number of jobs in the U.S.?

Mar04a					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar04a
Increased	20	39	6	18	14
Decreased	49	19	70	51	47
No effect	25	31	18	27	27
DK/NA	6	11	6	4	12

q70 Do you think the result of the war with Iraq was worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not worth it?

May04a					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May04a
Worth it	33	63	16	25	29
Not worth it	60	29	80	67	64
DK/NA	7	8	4	8	7

q71 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?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Right thing	49	80	28	44	49
Stay out	46	15	68	49	45
Don't know/No answer	5	5	4	7	6

q73 Should the United States troops stay in Iraq as long as it takes to make sure Iraq is a stable democracy, even if that takes a long time, or should U.S. troops turn over control to Iraqis as soon as possible, even if Iraq is not completely stable?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Stay as long as it takes	45	62	33	43	38
Turn over control	49	32	62	51	55
DK/NA	6	6	5	6	7

q76 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?

Apr04d					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr04d
Very well	3	6	2	2	4
Somewhat well	34	56	18	31	34
Somewhat badly	38	27	45	40	31
Very badly	22	8	32	24	29
DK/NA	3	3	3	3	2

q77 Do you think the June 30th handover of power to Iraq probably will or probably will not happen on June 30th?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Will happen	29	40	18	30
Will not happen	63	50	74	62
DK/NA	9	10	8	8

q78 Do you think the handover of power to Iraq should or should not happen on June 30th?

Should happen	57	64	58	49
Should not happen	34	30	34	38
DK/NA	9	6	8	13

q79 Do you think the Bush Administration has developed a clear plan for the transfer of power in Iraq on June 30th or hasn't it developed one?

					Apr04d
					%
Has developed a clear plan	24	47	10	20	31
Has not developed one	60	36	76	63	57
DK/NA	16	17	14	17	12

q81 How serious a problem do you think the abuse of Iraqi prisoners is for U.S. progress in Iraq right now -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

					May04a
Very serious	55	38	66	59	60
Somewhat serious	27	34	23	25	23
Not too serious	11	20	5	10	10
Not at all serious	5	6	4	4	4
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	3

q82 Do you think the media have spent too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time on the stories about Iraqi prisoners being abused by U.S. soldiers?

Too much time	61	76	52	56	49
Too little	6	2	10	6	6
Right amount	32	21	36	36	41
Don't know/No answer	1	1	2	1	4

q85 Which comes closer to your opinion: 1. What happened to the Iraqi prisoners was justified because the U.S. is at war with Iraq and that is what can happen to prisoners of war, or 2. What happened to the Iraqi prisoners was NOT justified because U.S. soldiers should be held to a higher standard?

Justified	12	13	14	10
Not justified	81	80	80	83
DK/NA	7	7	6	7

q86 Based on what you've heard or read, do you think this behavior is probably more widespread among the U.S. troops who guard Iraqi prisons, or is this behavior probably limited to the few soldiers involved in these incidents?

*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May04a
	%	%	%	%	%
Behavior is widespread	34	20	40	42	27
Limited to few soldiers	59	76	54	51	65
DK/NA	7	4	6	7	8

q88 Do you think officials at the Pentagon tried to cover up reports of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, or did they try to investigate what happened as quickly as possible?

Cover up	51	27	67	54	43
Investigate what happened	39	61	26	33	39
Both (vol.)	2	2	2	3	3
DK/NA	8	10	5	10	15

q89 Should people higher up in the military chain of command be held responsible for the acts of the soldiers involved in the abuse even if they didn't know about it, or should only the soldiers involved be held responsible?

People higher up held resp.	44	31	49	50	40
Only soldiers involved	45	55	41	40	46
Both (Vol.)	7	7	6	6	9
DK/NA	4	7	4	4	6

q96 How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you or someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job --- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned?

	Apr04d				
Very concerned	31	13	48	29	33
Somewhat concerned	29	26	29	31	25
Not at all concerned	40	61	23	40	41
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	1

	<u>UWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1,113	
Total Republicans	346	330
Total Democrats	390	401
Total Independents	377	381
Registered Voters	923	883