

CBS NEWS POLL
One Week Before the First Debate
September 20-22, 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 **				9/12-16/04
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	%
A lot	50	59	48	42	52
Some	41	35	42	46	35
Not much	7	5	8	9	10
No attention so far	2	1	1	4	3
DK/NA	0	0	1	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	8	61	25	31
Unfavorable	44	79	11	42	42
Undecided	18	12	20	21	22
Haven't heard enough	6	1	8	9	5
Refused	0	0	0	3	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	46	86	12	41	47
Unfavorable	38	9	68	37	38
Undecided	14	6	18	18	14
Haven't heard enough	1	0	1	1	1
Refused	1	0	1	3	0

q4 How likely is it that you will vote in the 2004 election for President this November -- would you say you will definitely vote, probably vote, probably not vote, or definitely not vote in the election for President?

Definitely vote	91	93	90	88
Probably vote	8	6	8	10
Probably not vote	1	0	1	1
Definitely not vote	0	1	0	0
DK/NA	0	0	1	1

q5 If the 2004 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were John Kerry for President and John Edwards for Vice-President, the Democrats, and George W. Bush for President and Dick Cheney for Vice-President, the Republicans, would you vote for John Kerry and John Edwards or George W. Bush and Dick Cheney?

John Kerry	41	8	76	38	42
George W. Bush	49	89	14	44	50
Other (Vol.)	1	0	0	2	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	1	1	0	1	1
Depends (Vol.)	2	0	3	4	2
DK/NA	6	2	7	11	4

q7 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **			
	Total	Kerry Supporters	Bush Supporters	9/12-16/04
	%	%	%	%
Mind made up	85	81	89	80
Too early to say for sure	15	19	11	20
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

q8 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 SUPPORTERS				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	
Strongly favor	68	78	--	52	63
Like but with reservations	20	14	--	33	27
Dislike other candidates	10	6	--	15	9
DK/NA	2	2	--	0	1

q9 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 SUPPORTERS				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Strongly favor	42	--	47	37	40
Like but with reservations	27	--	25	33	27
Dislike other candidates	29	--	26	27	31
DK/NA	2	--	2	3	2

q10 If the 2004 Presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were John Kerry for President and John Edwards for Vice-President, the Democrats; George W. Bush for President and Dick Cheney for Vice-President, the Republicans, and Ralph Nader for President and Peter Camejo for Vice-President, would you vote for John Kerry and John Edwards; George W. Bush and Dick Cheney; or Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
John Kerry	41	8	76	39	41
George W. Bush	49	89	14	45	50
Ralph Nader	2	0	3	4	3
Other (vol.)	0	0	0	1	0
Wouldn't vote (vol.)	1	1	1	2	1
Depends (vol.)	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know/No answer	4	1	5	8	4

q14 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Approve	48	88	19	42	50
Disapprove	44	10	74	45	42
DK/NA	8	2	7	13	8

q15 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?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **
 ***** Party ID *****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	9/12-16/04
	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	41	74	17	35	41
Wrong track	54	20	80	58	51
DK/NA	5	6	3	7	8

q16 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	43	81	15	37	43
Disapprove	51	15	78	56	50
DK/NA	6	4	7	7	7

q17 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	45	80	15	43	46
Disapprove	50	16	78	53	49
DK/NA	5	4	7	4	5

q18 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	56	89	31	50	59
Disapprove	38	8	61	42	35
DK/NA	6	3	8	8	6

q19 Is your opinion of John Edwards favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John Edwards yet to have an opinion?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

Favorable	33	12	53	35	28
Unfavorable	23	44	6	20	22
Undecided	12	13	12	12	16
Haven't heard enough	30	30	29	31	33
Refused	2	1	0	2	1

q20 Is your opinion of Dick Cheney favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Dick Cheney yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	36	67	10	32	32
Unfavorable	32	8	57	29	33
Undecided	15	12	13	19	16
Haven't heard enough	17	12	19	19	18
Refused	0	1	1	1	1

q21 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?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	9/12-16/04
	%	%	%	%	%
Increased	22	42	5	19	20
Decreased	45	15	74	44	46
No effect	21	27	13	22	26
DK/NA	12	16	8	15	8

q22 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?

Safer	59	86	34	58	55
Less safe	23	5	40	25	24
No effect	14	9	20	12	17
DK/NA	4	0	6	5	4

q23 Do you think the Bush Administration has made a lot of progress, some progress, not much progress, or no progress at all in making sure Social Security and Medicare are there for future generations?

					Jan04a
A lot	8	15	3	6	4
Some	29	48	12	28	30
Not much	19	15	25	18	21
No progress at all	32	11	53	32	36
DK/NA	12	11	7	16	9

q24 Do you think George W. Bush has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

					9/12-16/04
Has	48	83	15	45	47
Does not have	50	15	81	53	51
DK/NA	2	2	4	2	2

q25 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?

Says what he believes	55	83	30	51	55
What people want to hear	42	15	63	47	43
DK/NA	3	2	7	2	2

q26 Do you think George W. Bush has strong qualities of leadership, or not?

Has	61	91	32	61	63
Does not have	37	8	66	36	35
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	2

q27 Whether or not you approve of his policies, do you think of George W. Bush as someone you would like personally?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	9/12-16/04
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	59	89	36	53	60
No	34	9	55	38	34
DK/NA	7	2	9	9	6

q28 Do you think John Kerry has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

Has	38	11	67	34	44
Does not have	50	80	20	51	48
DK/NA	12	9	13	15	8

q29 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	30	10	50	29	30
What people want to hear	65	84	46	65	63
DK/NA	5	6	4	6	7

q30 Do you think John Kerry has strong qualities of leadership, or not?

Has	48	21	75	47	50
Does not have	45	72	17	46	42
DK/NA	7	7	8	7	8

q31 Whether or not you approve of his policies, do you think of John Kerry as someone you would like personally?

Yes	49	24	73	49	50
No	40	58	20	41	39
DK/NA	11	18	7	10	11

q33 If George W. Bush is re-elected President in November, how much confidence do you have that he would make the right decisions when it comes to protecting the country from terrorist attacks -- a lot, some, not much, or none at all?

A lot	50	82	21	48	50
Some	24	13	36	22	26
Not much	12	3	18	15	12
None at all	13	2	24	14	12
DK/NA	1	0	1	1	0

q34 How much confidence do you have in George W. Bush's ability to make right decisions about the ongoing conflict in Iraq -- a lot, some, not much, or none at all?

					Aug04a
A lot	37	69	11	29	32
Some	24	20	23	29	24
Not much	19	5	29	24	22
None at all	20	5	36	18	21
DK/NA	0	1	1	0	1

q35 Do you think George W. Bush has made it clear what he wants to accomplish in the next four years as president?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	9/12-16/04
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	54	79	31	53	50
No	42	18	63	43	44
DK/NA	4	3	6	4	6

q36 If George W. Bush is re-elected President in November, do you think he is likely or not likely to make sure Social Security benefits are there for people like you?

					Mar04a
Likely	42	71	16	40	47
Not likely	49	21	77	49	43
DK/NA	9	8	7	11	10

q37 What do you think George W. Bush has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking John Kerry?

					9/12-16/04
Explaining	48	78	24	42	47
Attacking	44	14	71	47	45
DK/NA	8	8	5	11	8

q39 If John Kerry is elected President in November, how much confidence do you have that he would make the right decisions when it comes to protecting the country from terrorist attacks -- a lot, some, not much, or none at all?

A lot	25	6	45	23	26
Some	35	29	42	34	37
Not much	22	37	6	23	19
None at all	16	28	5	16	16
DK/NA	2	0	2	4	2

q40 How much confidence do you have in John Kerry's ability to make the right decisions about the ongoing conflict in Iraq -- a lot, some, not much, or none at all?

					Aug04a
A lot	21	4	41	16	26
Some	30	18	42	31	37
Not much	28	42	11	31	20
None at all	20	36	6	18	14
DK/NA	1	0	0	4	3

q41 Do you think John Kerry has made it clear what he wants to accomplish in the next four years as president?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	9/12-16/04
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	37	17	58	34	38
No	57	77	36	60	57
DK/NA	6	6	6	6	5

q42 If John Kerry is elected President in November, do you think he is likely or not likely to make sure Social Security benefits are there for people like you?

					Mar04a
Likely	57	36	78	54	63
Not likely	30	46	13	30	20
DK/NA	13	18	9	16	17

q43 What do you think John Kerry has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking George W. Bush?

					9/12-16/04
Explaining	33	13	55	29	37
Attacking	61	82	37	63	54
DK/NA	6	5	8	8	9

q45 Do you think either of these candidates for President -- John Kerry or George W. Bush -- has attacked the other unfairly? IF YES, ASK: Who attacked unfairly?

					Mar04b
Kerry	27	48	10	23	21
Bush	19	3	36	17	12
Both equal (vol.)	28	23	27	34	21
No, neither	19	20	20	18	31
DK/NA	7	6	7	8	15

q46 Would you like to see the presidential candidates debate each other this fall?

					Sep00a
Yes	89	90	92	83	88
No	10	7	7	16	9
DK/NA	1	3	1	1	3

q47 Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion? The presidential debates will have a great deal of influence on my vote, or I will vote mostly on other things, not on how the candidates perform in a debate?

					Sep00d
Debates matter	27	20	28	34	24
Mostly other things	70	77	69	62	71
DK/NA	3	3	3	4	5

q49 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 RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	9/12-16/04
	%	%	%	%	%
Right thing	51	83	24	49	54
Stay out	44	13	69	47	39
DK/NA	5	4	7	4	7

q50 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	5	10	2	2	4
Somewhat well	37	58	16	39	42
Somewhat badly	25	23	27	25	26
Very badly	31	8	52	32	25
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	3

q51 So far, do you think the Bush Administration has developed a clear plan for rebuilding Iraq, or hasn't it developed one?

					Apr04d
Has developed clear plan	33	57	13	30	32
Has not developed one	53	28	76	54	58
DK/NA	14	15	11	16	10

q52 So far, do you think John Kerry has developed a clear plan for rebuilding Iraq, or hasn't he developed one?

Has developed clear plan	10	3	15	11
Has not developed one	73	81	66	73
DK/NA	17	16	19	16

q65 Have you yourself ever served in the U.S. armed forces or the U.S. reserves?

Yes	19	19	16	21
No	81	81	84	79

q66 Do you or does someone in your household belong to a labor union?

No	81	86	77	80
Yes, self	10	8	12	10
Yes, other	8	5	9	9
Yes, self and other	1	0	2	1
DK/NA	0	1	0	0

q67 Would you say you attend religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Every week	29	38	23	28
Almost every week	12	13	13	9
Once or twice a month	15	14	18	12
A few times a year	27	21	28	32
Never	16	14	17	18
DK/NA	1	0	1	2

	UNWEIGHTED	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1083	
Total Republicans	377	339
Total Democrats	376	381
Total Independents	330	364
Registered Voters	931	898
Reg. Voters -- Republicans	343	323
Reg. Voters -- Democrats	324	332
Reg. Voters -- Independents	264	246