

CBS NEWS POLL
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PRESIDENT BUSH'S 2006 STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
January 31, 2006

Americans who watched President George W. Bush's State of the Union Address tonight approve of the proposals he made and think they will make their lives better, but few think he will be able to accomplish the goals he set out. Opinions about the war in Iraq - and the President himself - improved, though not dramatically.

77% of speech watchers approve of the proposals the President laid out in his speech - about the same number of watchers who approved of his plans in last year's State of the Union address.

VIEWS OF THE SPEECH'S PROPOSALS

(Among speech viewers)

	Now	1/2005
Approve	77%	80%
Disapprove	23	20

However, viewers are doubtful Bush will be able to accomplish all the goals he set out in his speech. Just 32% say he will accomplish them. Last year, 41% said Bush would be able to accomplish his goals. Even after tonight's speech, nearly seven in 10 think he will not be able to.

Nearly all Republicans who watched the speech approve of the proposals Bush presented in his speech, and over half of Democratic viewers approve. Republicans are also confident that Bush will be able to accomplish all the goals outlined tonight, while Democrats are not.

WILL BUSH BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THE GOALS HE SET OUT IN HIS SPEECH?

(Among speech viewers)

	Now	1/2005
Yes	32%	41%
No	68	59

A majority of speech viewers are hopeful about how Bush's proposals would affect them. About six in 10 think the proposals Bush laid out in his speech would make their own life better, a third say they will have no effect.

WOULD BUSH'S PROPOSALS MAKE YOUR LIFE ...

(Among speech viewers)

Better	59%
Worse	9
No effect	33

When asked to pick from a list of issues Bush addressed, speech watchers choose terrorism as the most important issue today, followed closely by health care. Tied for third are the economy and energy.

WHICH ISSUE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TODAY?

(Among speech viewers)

Terrorism	26%
Health care	22
The economy	16
Energy	16
Iraq	12
Education	6
Taxes	2

President Bush said that his budget cutting reforms would cut the deficit in half by 2009. But when asked about the federal budget deficit, almost half of speech watchers expect the deficit to be bigger at the end of President Bush's second term than it is now. Another 27% say it will be smaller and the same number say the deficit will be the same.

BY THE END OF BUSH'S SECOND TERM, WILL THE BUDGET DEFICIT BE...?

(Among speech viewers)

Bigger	46%
Smaller	27
The same	27

TERRORISM

President Bush said tonight that "We remain on the offensive against terrorist networks." And among those who watched the speech, over half say the U.S. is winning the war on terrorism, although 38% think neither the U.S. nor the terrorists are winning.

WHO IS WINNING THE WAR ON TERRORISM?

(Among speech viewers)

U.S.	55%
The terrorists	8
Neither side	38

When President Bush discussed the ongoing war on terrorism, including his wiretapping program, he called for the renewal of the Patriot Act. When interviewed last week, 54% of speech watchers were concerned the government would fail to enact strong anti-terrorism laws. A similar number had the same view after the speech.

ANTI-TERROR LAWS: CONCERN THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL...

(Among speech viewers)

	After speech	Last week
Not make laws strong enough	58%	54%
Restrict civil liberties	42	45

Americans overall have been mostly divided on this issue since the attacks of September 11th, 2001.

Tonight's speech watchers do think the President will protect their civil liberties. 59% say he will, but 41% say he will not.

WILL BUSH PROTECT YOUR CIVIL LIBERTIES?

(Among speech viewers)

Yes	59%
No	41

THE WAR IN IRAQ

Tonight, the President said that the brutality in Iraq has not stopped the progress of a new democracy.

Last week, 45% of speech viewers said the results of the war in Iraq had been worth the costs, including the loss of life. Following the speech, 52% feel that way - an increase of seven points.

HAS THE IRAQ WAR BEEN WORTH THE COSTS?

(Among speech viewers)

	After speech	Last week
Worth it	52%	45%
Not worth it	48	54

After last year's State of the Union speech, the number of viewers who said the Iraq war was worth the costs rose 12 points from opinions the week before.

WHO IS WINNING THE WAR IN IRAQ?

(Among speech viewers)

	After speech	Last week
U.S.	52%	40%
Insurgents	8	8
Neither side	40	52

More viewers now think the U.S. is winning the war in Iraq. Last week, four in 10 said the U.S. was winning but after the speech 52% of viewers were convinced the U.S. is winning in Iraq.

In early January, 48% of American nationwide said neither side was winning the war in Iraq.

In his speech, President Bush said that "we are on the offensive in Iraq, with a clear plan for victory."

Tonight, more speech watchers say Bush has a clear plan for Iraq than said so last week, but almost as many watchers say he doesn't have a plan.

DOES BUSH HAVE A CLEAR PLAN FOR IRAQ?

(Among speech viewers)

	After speech	Last week
Yes	51%	44%
No	49	56

More than half of speech watchers say going into Iraq was the right thing to do - a similar number said so last week.

IRAN

Tonight, the President addressed the issue of Iraq's neighbor, Iran. 69% of speech watchers view Iran as a threat that can be contained through diplomacy, as the President suggested, while just 15% think that country is a threat that requires immediate military action. Another 15% say Iran is not a threat.

IRAN IS...

(Among speech viewers)

A threat requiring military action now	15%
A threat that can be contained for now	69
Not a threat	15

DOMESTIC ISSUES: HEALTH CARE AND ENERGY

56% of speech viewers say Bush will make the right decisions about reforming the health care system in the U.S. - a turnaround from last week when fewer than half thought he would make the right decisions.

WILL BUSH MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS ON HEALTH CARE?

(Among speech viewers)

	After speech	Last week
Yes	56%	45%
No	44	54

President Bush also announced a plan called the Advanced Energy Initiative which would increase funding for research in alternative energy sources. Tonight's viewers seemed to like what the President had to say on energy. 64% think he will make the right decisions when it comes to energy conservation and consumption.

WILL BUSH MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS ON ENERGY?

(Among speech viewers)

Yes	64%
No	35

OTHER EVALUATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT

Last week, about half of the State of the Union speech watchers said the President shared their priorities for the country. Now, 56% say that he does.

The President mentioned the commitment the government has made to help the people of the Gulf Coast and New Orleans devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Tonight, just 39% of viewers think Bush has a clear plan for finding housing and jobs for Hurricane Katrina victims, but that is up 11 points from last week.

VIEWS OF PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH..

(Among speech viewers)

	After Speech	Last Week
Shares your priorities	56%	49%
Has a clear plan for dealing with Katrina	39%	28%

SPEECH VIEWERS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Americans who watched the speech tonight are more Republican than the nation as a whole. That is not surprising; historically, a President's supporters are more likely than his opponents to watch State of the Union addresses. 36% of speech viewers in this poll are Republican and 28% are Democrat. In the most recent CBS News/New York Times poll of all Americans, conducted January 20-25, 2006, the breakdown is much more even between the parties: 34% Democrat and 29% Republican.

SPEECH VIEWERS AND AMERICANS' PARTY AFFILIATION

	Viewers	All Americans
Republican	36%	29%
Democrat	28	34
Independent	36	37

This CBS News Poll was conducted online by Knowledge Networks among a nationwide random sample of 734 State of the Union viewers. Knowledge Networks, a Silicon Valley company, conducted the poll among a sample of adult members of its household panel who said in recent days that they intended to watch the speech. The Knowledge Networks panel is a nationally representative sample given access to the Internet via Web TV. This is a scientifically representative poll of viewers' reaction to the speech. The margin of sampling error could be plus or minus 4 percentage points for the entire sample of speech watchers.

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State of the Union
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Q2. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the proposals the President made in his speech tonight?

	SPEECH WATCHERS
	After
	Speech
Approve	77%
Disapprove	23
No Answer	0

Q3. Do you think President Bush will or will not be able to accomplish all the goals he set out in his speech tonight?

Will be able to	32
Will not be able to	68
No Answer	0

Q4. In general, do you think the proposals the President made tonight would make your own life:

Better	59
Worse	9
Not much different	33

Q5. By the end of George W. Bush's second term in office, do you think the federal budget deficit will be:

Bigger than it is now	46
Smaller than it is now	27
About the same as it is now	27
No Answer	0

Q6. Some of the issues the President addressed in his speech are listed below. Which ONE of these issues do you think is most important today?

Terrorism	26
Health care	22
Energy	16
The Economy	16
Iraq	12
Education	6
Taxes	2
None of the above	1
No Answer	0

Q7. Who do you think is currently winning the war against terrorism?

The U.S. and its allies	55
The terrorists	8
Neither side	38
No Answer	0

Q8. 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?

	SPEECH WATCHERS	
	After Speech	Last Week
Government will fail to enact strong laws	58%	54%
Government will restrict civil liberties	42	45
No Answer	0	1

Q9. 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?

Right thing	56	52
Stayed out	44	46
No Answer	0	2

Q10. Do you think the results of the war with Iraq have been worth the loss of American life and other costs of attacking Iraq, or not worth it?

Worth it	52	45
Not worth it	48	54
No Answer	0	1

Q11. Who do you think is currently winning the war in Iraq?

The United States	55	40
The Iraqi resistance and insurgents	8	8
Neither side	38	52
No Answer	0	0

Q12. Now, thinking about Iran -
Which comes closer to your opinion - Iran is:?

A threat to the U.S. that requires military action now	15
A threat to the U.S. that can be contained with diplomacy now	69
Not a threat to the U.S. at this time	15
No Answer	1

Q13a. Do you think George W. Bush has the same priorities for the country as you have?

Yes	56	49
No	44	51
No Answer	0	0

Q13b. Do you think George W. Bush will make the right decisions about reforming the health care system in the U.S.?

	SPEECH WATCHERS	
	After Speech	Last Week
Yes	56%	45%
No	44	54
No Answer	0	1

Q13c. Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for dealing with the situation in Iraq?

Yes	51	44
No	49	56
No Answer	0	0

Q13d. Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for finding housing and jobs for Hurricane Katrina victims?

Yes	39	28
No	61	72
No Answer	0	0

Q13e. Do you think George W. Bush will make the right decisions about energy conservation and consumption in the U.S.?

Yes	64
No	35
No Answer	1

Q13f. Do you think George W. Bush will protect your civil liberties?

Yes	59
No	41
No Answer	0

*Some numbers do not add up to 100 due to rounding.

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Viewers	734	
Total Republicans	292	256
Total Democrats	206	196
Total Independents	236	252