



CBS NEWS POLL

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THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND THE WAR IN IRAQ
June 26-28, 2007

With three quarters of Americans saying that the war in Iraq is going badly, the public more than ever before wants American troops to start coming home. Fewer than one in five Americans thinks that the troop increase is making the situation in Iraq better, and about half of all Americans think that the war in Iraq is creating terrorists planning to attack the U.S.

Moreover, President Bush's job approval rating has reached a new low in this poll - 27% - with new lows in the public's approval of his handling of terrorism and immigration as well. Congress does not fare any better: its job approval has dropped nine points since last month to 27% as well. Only 19% of Americans think the country is on the right track - another new low - and seven in 10 Americans do not think America is respected around the world.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

When assessing the situation in Iraq overall, more Americans than ever before - 77% - say the war is going somewhat or very badly. Nearly half - 47% - say it is going very badly. Positive assessment of the war rose somewhat in March and April, but it is just below its January pre-surge level.

HOW IS THE WAR GOING?

	Now	5/2007	4/2007	1/2007
Well	22%	23%	31%	23%
Badly	77	76	66	75

A slight majority of Republicans (52%) still think the war is going at least somewhat well, while nine in 10 Democrats and eight in 10 Independents say it is going badly.

The springtime surge of additional U.S. troops to Iraq is now complete, but more Americans are calling for the removal of all U.S. troops from Iraq than ever before. Two in three Americans - 66% - say the number of U.S. troops in Iraq should be decreased, with 40% wanting all U.S. troops removed - up seven points from April. 17% of Americans want the number of U.S. troops kept the same, while just 11% think the number should increase - a drop of ten points.

U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ SHOULD...

	Now	4/2007
Increase	11%	21%
Keep the same number	17	13
Decrease	26	27
Remove all troops	40	33

A majority of Americans - 63% - think that the United States should set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq sometime in 2008.

The increasing desire to see American troops removed from Iraq may be a reflection of the continuing pessimism among most Americans about whether or not the troop increase is having a positive effect. Just 17% of Americans thinks the troop surge is making the situation better in Iraq. 24% think it is making the situation worse, and more than half (52%) say it is having no impact whatsoever.

In addition, about half the public thinks U.S. involvement in Iraq is creating more terrorists who are planning to attack the U.S. - only 17% say the war is helping to eliminate terrorists. 24% of Americans do not believe the war in Iraq is doing either. Americans were equally skeptical of the war's impact on reducing terrorism two years ago.

IS U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ...?

	Now	7/2005
Creating more terrorists	51%	52%
Eliminating terrorists	17	17
Not changing number of terrorists	24	22

THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT

President Bush's job approval rating has slipped to 27%, the lowest number yet recorded in the CBS News Poll. His rating is three points lower than last month and one point lower than the previous low of 28% in January. Disapproval is also at an all-time high, now at 65%.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL

	Now	5/2007	1/2007
Approve	27%	30%	28%
Disapprove	65	63	64

More than six in 10 Republicans approve of the job the President is doing, but fewer than one in 10 Democrats do. Among Independents, President Bush has lost ground. Just 18% of Independents approve, down from 25% in May.

Only Presidents Carter (26%), Nixon (24%), and Truman (22%) have had polls showing job approval ratings lower than 27% at any point during their presidencies (according to CBS News and Gallup data).

The President's strongest issue has been terrorism, but the public's approval of the way President Bush is handling it has also dropped to a new low. 39% of Americans now approve of the way he is handling the campaign against terrorism. 23% Americans approve of the way the President is handling the war in Iraq.

The poll was conducted as debate in the Senate on the President's immigration bill, and any chance of its passage, was halted. Among the public, only one in five approve of his handling of immigration (down seven points from last month).

BUSH JOB APPROVALS

	Now	5/2007
Terrorism	39%	42%
Iraq	23%	23%
Immigration	20%	27%

Americans give Vice President Dick Cheney a similarly low overall job approval rating, with 28% of Americans approving of the way he is handling his job and 59% disapproving. When last asked in January 2006, 35% of Americans approved of the way he was handling his job as Vice President. Most Republicans approve.

CHENEY JOB APPROVAL

	Now	1/2006
Approve	28%	35%
Disapprove	59	46

THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY AND THE STANDING OF THE U.S. IN THE WORLD

Only 19% of American believes the country is generally going in the right direction - the lowest number recorded in the CBS News Poll since the question was first asked in 1983 - and five percentage points below last month's previous low. More Americans than ever before - 75% - think the country is off on the wrong track.

DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

	Now	5/2007
Wrong track	75%	72%
Right direction	19	24

As President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin prepare to meet, there is concern about the U.S.'s role in the world. When looking at the standing of the United States in the world at large, seven in 10 Americans say the United States is not respected around the world today. Majorities of Republicans, Democrats, and Independents all agree.

IS THE U.S. RESPECTED WORLDWIDE?

Yes	24%
No	71

Most Americans see the foreign policies of the Bush Administration as contributing to problems the U.S. may be having internationally. 54% of Americans think President Bush's foreign policies have made world leaders less likely to cooperate with the United States - just 10% say the President's foreign policies have made foreign leaders more agreeable.

HAS BUSH'S FOREIGN POLICY MADE WORLD LEADERS...?

More likely to cooperate	10%
Less likely to cooperate	54
No difference	30

The President's diplomatic skills may be put to the test soon, when he meets informally with Russian President Vladimir Putin next week to iron out the growing differences between the two countries. As relations have soured between the two countries, so has the image of Russia to the American people. While 68% of Americans view Russia as a country that is at least friendly to the United States, only 10% view Russia as an ally - down from 20% in February, 2003. Few Americans (6%) view Russia as an enemy, but the number of Americans who view Russia as unfriendly to the United States has more than doubled, to 18% from 8% four years ago.

IMAGE OF RUSSIA

	Now	2/2003	11/2001
Ally	10%	20%	25%
Friendly but not an ally	58	60	55
Unfriendly	18	8	5
Enemy	6	4	5

CONGRESS

Congress's job approval is now as low as the President's. It has dropped nine points since last month and is now at the level it was prior to last fall's mid-term elections. Just 27% of Americans now approve and 60% disapprove. 71% of Republicans disapprove of the job Congress is doing, but so do 49% of Democrats.

CONGRESS JOB RATING

	Now	5/2007	1/2007	10/2006
Approve	27%	36%	33%	29%
Disapprove	60	52	49	56

Moreover, six in ten say this Congress has accomplished less in the past six months than Congress usually does in that timeframe. Two of the three days of interviewing for this poll took place before a bill on immigration reform was defeated on a procedural vote in the Senate. Both Democrats and Republicans say this Congress has accomplished less than Congress usually does in a six-month period.

**HAS THE 110TH CONGRESS ACCOMPLISHED
MORE OR LESS THAN USUAL?**

More	16%
Less	59
Same	6
Don't know	19

Americans disapprove even more than they did last fall of members of Congress adding provisions to legislation that include government spending projects for their own home states and districts, sometimes known as earmarks or "pork." 67% oppose such "pork" legislation; only about one in four say the practice is acceptable.

EARMARKS/"PORK": ACCEPTABLE?

	Now	10/2006
Yes	23%	31%
No	67	61

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 836 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone June 26-28, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

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

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	27	66	8	18	30
Disapprove	65	23	88	71	63
DK/NA	8	11	4	11	7

q3 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?

Right direction	19	44	9	13	24
Wrong track	75	52	86	80	72
DK/NA	6	4	5	7	4

q4 BLANK

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

Approve	23	59	5	17	23
Disapprove	70	33	90	75	72
DK/NA	7	8	5	8	5

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

Approve	39	75	26	27	42
Disapprove	53	17	68	62	52
DK/NA	8	8	6	11	6

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of immigration?

Approve	20	33	13	19	27
Disapprove	65	47	75	67	60
DK/NA	15	20	12	14	13

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	27	22	37	19	36
Disapprove	60	71	49	64	52
DK/NA	13	7	14	17	12

q9 Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does during its first six months?

More	16	6	25	12
Less	59	67	51	62
Same (vol.)	6	6	5	7
Don't know/No answer	19	21	19	19

q10 Members of Congress sometimes add provisions to legislation that include government spending projects for their own home states and districts, sometimes known as "earmarks" or "pork." Do you think this practice is generally acceptable or not acceptable?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Acceptable	23	21	27	20	31
Not acceptable	67	67	64	69	61
It depends (vol.)	3	3	3	3	2
DK/NA	7	9	6	8	6

q11 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dick Cheney is handling his job as Vice President?

					Jan06a
Approve	28	61	14	21	35
Disapprove	59	21	78	64	46
DK/NA	13	18	8	15	19

q12 Do you think the United States is respected around the world today, or not?

Respected	24	38	22	17
Not respected	71	57	74	76
By some/not others (vol.)	3	5	3	3
About the same	0	0	0	1
DK/NA	2	0	1	3

q13 Do you think George W. Bush's foreign policies have made world leaders more likely to cooperate with the United States, less likely to cooperate, or haven't George W. Bush's foreign policies made much of a difference?

More likely	10	27	3	7
Less likely	54	27	68	57
No difference	30	39	24	29
DK/NA	6	7	5	7

q14 Do you consider Russia an ally of the United States, friendly but not an ally, unfriendly, or an enemy of the United States?

					Feb03c
Ally	10	11	9	11	20
Friendly but not an ally	58	62	61	53	60
Unfriendly	18	14	17	20	8
Enemy	6	5	5	9	4
Don't know/No answer	8	8	8	7	8

q15-76 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q77 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?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very well	1	4	0	1	2
Somewhat well	21	48	8	15	21
Somewhat badly	30	29	32	27	29
Very badly	47	17	58	56	47
DK/NA	1	2	2	1	1

q78 Right now, is the U.S. involvement in Iraq creating more terrorists who are planning to attack the U.S., eliminating terrorists who were planning to attack the U.S., or is the U.S. involvement in Iraq not affecting the number of terrorists planning to attack the U.S.?

					Jul05a
Creating more terrorists	51	25	62	57	52
Eliminating terrorists	17	41	9	9	17
Not effecting the number	24	22	21	28	22
Don't know/No answer	8	12	8	6	9

q79 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do now -- should the U.S. 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 remove all its troops from Iraq?

					Apr07a
Increase	11	22	4	11	21
Keep the same	17	38	8	12	13
Decrease	26	19	28	29	27
Remove all troops	40	13	55	42	33
DK/NA	6	8	5	6	6

q80 As you may know, the U.S. has sent more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq. From what you have heard or read, would you say this troop increase is making the situation in Iraq better, making it worse, or is it having no impact on the situation in Iraq so far?

					May07a*
Making it better	17	42	8	11	20
Making worse	24	5	35	25	26
No impact	52	41	54	57	50
DK/NA	7	12	3	7	4

*Varied: As you may know, the U.S. **is sending** more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq.

q81 Do you think the United States should or should not set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2008?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Should	63	39	80	62	63
Should not	34	57	17	36	34
DK/NA	3	4	3	2	3

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	836	
Total Republicans	236	211 (25%)
Total Democrats	308	315 (38%)
Total Independents	292	310 (37%)