



CBS NEWS POLL
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THE WAR IN IRAQ, THE PRESIDENT AND THE COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE
 August 8-12, 2007

Americans today are more willing to credit the surge of troops in Iraq as making the situation better there than they have been in the past - however, they still want troops to come home, and they continue to criticize the President's handling of the war.

For the first time, more Americans say the surge is making the situation better in Iraq than believe it is making things worse, and by a margin of nearly two to one. However, many don't yet see any impact of the surge.

IMPACT OF TROOP SURGE IN IRAQ

| | Now | 7/2007 |
|------------------|-----|--------|
| Making it better | 29% | 19% |
| Making it worse | 15 | 20 |
| No impact | 46 | 53 |

The change in assessing the surge hasn't improved the public's overall view of the war or how it's going. Just 29% say the U.S. efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq are going well; more than two-thirds say things are still going badly.

HOW ARE THINGS GOING IN IRAQ?

| | Now | 7/2007 |
|----------------|-----|--------|
| Very well | 3% | 3% |
| Somewhat well | 26 | 29 |
| Somewhat badly | 29 | 31 |
| Very badly | 38 | 35 |

Neither has it dramatically changed the majority's opinion about what the United States should do now in Iraq, although support for the removal of all U.S. troops there has dropped six points since last month. Six in ten Americans want to start decreasing troop numbers there (and three in ten want to remove all U.S. troops). 30% would increase troop levels or keep them at the same level as they are today.

WHAT SHOULD U.S. DO NOW IN IRAQ?

| | Now | 7/2007 | 4/2007 |
|-----------------------|-----|--------|--------|
| Increase troop levels | 13% | 12% | 21% |
| Keep same | 17 | 15 | 13 |
| Reduce troop levels | 31 | 30 | 27 |
| Remove all troops | 30 | 36 | 33 |

For many of those who want to reduce U.S. troop levels in Iraq, it matters little what the impact on al-Qaeda might be. Half of those who want the troop levels reduced say they would still favor that even if that would strengthen al-Qaeda's base in Iraq. 40% would then oppose troop reductions.

WHAT IF TROOP REDUCTION STRENGTHENED AL-QAEDA'S BASE IN IRAQ?

(Among those who want to reduce or remove U.S. troop levels)

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Favor troop reductions | 50% |
| Oppose troop reductions | 40 |

Many adults believe the damage has already been done. Nearly half the public (46%) thinks the U.S. presence in Iraq is creating more terrorists who want to attack the U.S. Among those who want to reduce troop levels, that figure rises to 59%.

By a margin of 49% to 41%, Americans think the better way to be safe from terrorism is to stay out of other countries' affairs in the Middle East, as opposed to confronting countries and groups that promote terrorism.

THE PRESIDENT AND IRAQ

Iraq continues to be the focus of Americans - 34% call it the country's most important problem - and it continues to hurt the President. Just 26% of Americans approve of how George W. Bush is handling Iraq, nearly unchanged since last month.

There has also been little change in the President's overall approval rating, or his rating on handling the economy. 29% in this poll approve of the way he is doing his job, and 65% disapprove. More -- 34% -- approve of his handling of the economy, but that is also not much changed from previous months.

But the President has improved in the public's assessment of his handling of the campaign against terrorism. For the last two months, he had been at an all-time low of 39% on this issue. This month, 44% say they approve. 48% disapprove.

EVALUATING THE PRESIDENT

| | Approve | Disapprove |
|-----------|---------|------------|
| Overall | 29% | 65 |
| Economy | 34% | 55 |
| Iraq | 26% | 69 |
| Terrorism | 44% | 48 |

Even though the President gets low ratings, Congress gets even lower marks. In this poll, just 25% of Americans say they approve of the way Congress is handling its job, lower than assessments of the Republican-led Congress just before the 2006 election that changed party control.

EVALUATING CONGRESS

| | Now | 10/2006 |
|------------|-----|---------|
| Approve | 25% | 29% |
| Disapprove | 63 | 56 |

Congress historically gets lower approval ratings than any president does. Even at the start of this year, after Congress's turnover from Republican to Democrat, only 33% approved of the way the new Congress was handling its job. Approval of the legislative body last rose above 50% - and only for a brief period -- after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

IMPROVING THE INFRASTRUCTURE

In the wake of the Minneapolis bridge collapse, most Americans want more federal spending on infrastructure rebuilding and repair, and 56% would be willing to increase taxes to do that.

Support for increased spending (although not necessarily increasing taxes) crosses party lines. Overall, 64% want increased spending on rebuilding and repairing roads and bridges. 55% of Republicans agree.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON ROADS AND BRIDGES

| | All | Republicans | 1/1992 |
|-----------|-----|-------------|--------|
| Increase | 64% | 55% | 38% |
| Decrease | 2 | 1 | 7 |
| Keep same | 30 | 41 | 54 |

Support for increased government spending on bridge and road repair is much higher today than it was 15 years ago. Then, just 38% favored increasing spending.

Republicans are only slightly less willing to increase taxes to fix any infrastructure problems. 50% of Republicans favor increasing taxes for infrastructure repair, as do 56% of all adults.

WILLING TO PAY MORE IN TAXES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING

| | All | Republicans |
|-----|-----|-------------|
| Yes | 56% | 50% |
| No | 40 | 49 |

Americans don't necessarily think that there are serious infrastructure problems in their own areas - seven in ten believe that the condition of bridges and roads where they live is at least good, although only 13% say the condition is very good.

CONDITION OF BRIDGES AND ROADS IN YOUR AREA

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Very good | 13% |
| Fairly good | 57 |
| Fairly bad | 18 |
| Very bad | 10 |

Concern about infrastructure is greatest in the Northeast - nearly four in ten of those living in that part of the country (39%) say that their local infrastructure is in bad shape. However, support for increasing spending (and taxes) on repairing and rebuilding crosses regional lines.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1214 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone August 8-12, 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. An oversample of African Americans was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 169 interviews among this group. The results were then weighted in proportion to the racial composition of the adult population in the U.S. Census. The margin of error for African Americans is plus or minus 8 percentage points.

CBS NEWS POLL

**The War in Iraq, The President, and The Country's Infrastructure
August 8-12, 2007**

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 | Jul07b |
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| Approve | 29 | 64 | 8 | 25 | 30 |
| Disapprove | 65 | 29 | 90 | 65 | 62 |
| DK/NA | 6 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 8 |

q2 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

| | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind | Jul07a |
|----------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| War in Iraq | 34 | 23 | 48 | 26 | 27 |
| Economy / jobs | 8 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 8 |
| Health Care | 8 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Immigration | 7 | 9 | 3 | 10 | 8 |
| Terrorism (general) | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| The President/G.W. Bush | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 4 |
| Gas/Heating Oil Crisis | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| Poverty / Homelessness | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Budget Deficit /Natl. Debt | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Environment | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Moral Values/Family Values | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Other | 17 | 25 | 13 | 17 | 24 |
| DK/NA | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 5 |

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

| | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Approve | 34 | 66 | 14 | 32 | 37 |
| Disapprove | 55 | 25 | 78 | 53 | 55 |
| DK/NA | 11 | 9 | 8 | 15 | 8 |

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

| | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind | Jul07b |
|------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Approve | 26 | 62 | 7 | 21 | 25 |
| Disapprove | 69 | 34 | 90 | 70 | 69 |
| DK/NA | 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 6 |

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

| | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Approve | 44 | 79 | 23 | 42 | 39 |
| Disapprove | 48 | 17 | 70 | 45 | 53 |
| DK/NA | 8 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 8 |

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

| | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind | Jul07b |
|------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| Approve | 25 | 24 | 28 | 23 | 26 |
| Disapprove | 63 | 66 | 59 | 66 | 61 |
| DK/NA | 12 | 10 | 13 | 11 | 13 |

q7 BLANK

q8 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days?
Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

| | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind | Jul07a |
|-------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Very good | 7 | 15 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Fairly good | 45 | 54 | 39 | 45 | 46 |
| Fairly bad | 32 | 25 | 40 | 30 | 30 |
| Very bad | 14 | 5 | 18 | 17 | 13 |
| DK/NA | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |

q9-67 HELD FOR SEPARATE RELEASE

q68 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 | Jul07b |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Right thing | 43 | 75 | 23 | 41 | 42 |
| Stayed out | 51 | 20 | 71 | 52 | 51 |
| Don't know/No answer | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 |

q69 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 | Rep | Dem | Ind | Jul07a |
|----------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Very well | 3 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Somewhat well | 26 | 49 | 11 | 26 | 29 |
| Somewhat badly | 29 | 30 | 32 | 25 | 31 |
| Very badly | 38 | 10 | 55 | 42 | 35 |
| DK/NA | 4 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 |

q70 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 troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?

| | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind | Jul07a |
|-------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Increase | 13 | 23 | 6 | 14 | 12 |
| Keep the same | 17 | 34 | 7 | 16 | 15 |
| Decrease | 31 | 20 | 40 | 28 | 30 |
| Remove all troops | 30 | 13 | 40 | 31 | 36 |
| DK/NA | 9 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 7 |

q71 What if reducing the number of troops in Iraq would strengthen al Qaeda's base in Iraq, then would you favor or oppose reducing the number of U.S. troops in Iraq?

(AMONG THOSE WHO SAID "DECREASE" OR "REMOVE" IN Q70)

| | *** Party ID *** | | | |
|--------|------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind |
| | % | % | % | % |
| Favor | 50 | 36 | 52 | 51 |
| Oppose | 40 | 51 | 38 | 37 |
| DK/NA | 10 | 13 | 10 | 12 |

q72 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?

| | ** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ** | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind | Jul07b |
| | | | | | % |
| Making it better | 29 | 50 | 14 | 28 | 19 |
| Making it worse | 15 | 7 | 22 | 14 | 20 |
| No impact | 46 | 33 | 55 | 46 | 53 |
| DK/NA | 10 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 8 |

q73 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.?

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Creating more terrorists | 46 | 25 | 61 | 47 | 44 |
| Eliminating terrorists | 18 | 37 | 8 | 15 | 18 |
| Not affecting the number | 27 | 29 | 24 | 29 | 27 |
| DK/NA | 9 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 11 |

q74 BLANK

q75-q76 HELD FOR SEPARATE RELEASE

q77 Which comes closer to your view?...In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it confronts the countries and groups that promote terrorism. OR, In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it stays out of other countries' affairs.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Confronts countries | 41 | 64 | 26 | 42 | 38 |
| Stays out of affairs | 49 | 29 | 66 | 45 | 54 |
| Don't know/No answer | 10 | 7 | 8 | 13 | 8 |

q78 Overall, how would you rate the condition of the system of roads and bridges in the area where you live? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|
| Very good | 13 | 18 | 8 | 14 |
| Fairly good | 57 | 59 | 57 | 56 |
| Fairly bad | 18 | 16 | 22 | 16 |
| Very bad | 10 | 6 | 11 | 10 |
| DK/NA | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 |

q79 Should federal spending on rebuilding and maintaining roads and bridges be increased, decreased, or kept the same?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

| | Total | Rep | Dem | Ind | Jan92c |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| | % | % | % | % | % |
| Increased | 64 | 55 | 71 | 64 | 38 |
| Decreased | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Kept the same | 30 | 41 | 24 | 29 | 54 |
| Don't know/No answer | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 1 |

q80 Would you be willing to pay more in taxes to improve roads, bridges, and public structures?

| | | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Yes | 56 | 50 | 62 | 54 |
| No | 40 | 49 | 35 | 39 |
| Don't know/No answer | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 |

| | <u>UNWEIGHTED</u> | <u>WEIGHTED</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Total Respondents | 1214 | |
| Republicans | 302 | 308 (25%) |
| Democrats | 472 | 459 (38%) |
| Independents | 440 | 446 (36%) |