

CONGRESS, THE FOLEY FALLOUT AND THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

October 5 - 8, 2006

Americans give Republican Congressional leaders terrible marks for their handling of former Congressman Mark Foley's sexually explicit internet messages sent to male Congressional pages, and eight in 10 think it is a serious matter for the country.

Most think House Republican leaders knew about Congressman Foley's sexually explicit e-mails for some time, but put their own political interests ahead of the safety of the Congressional pages. As for Speaker Dennis Hastert, more than four in 10 think he should step down, while Democrats now outscore the Republican Party even in areas like ethical standards, once a Republican strength.

Still, most voters now say the Foley matter will make little difference in their vote next month, and Democrats are holding on to their large lead as the choice for Congress. Fewer Republican voters now say they are enthusiastic about voting than said so last month, and fewer Republicans expect their party to win the majority of seats this year.

IMPACT ON THE NOVEMBER VOTE

Overall, Democrats hold a sizable lead over Republicans among registered voters, similar to the lead they held last month; 49% of voters say they would vote for the Democratic candidate for U.S. House of Representatives in their district if the election were held today, while 35% would support the Republican candidate. Among likely voters, the results are nearly the same: 50% would vote for the Democrat, and 36% would vote for the Republican.

2006 CONGRESSIONAL VOTE
(Among registered voters)

	Now	9/2006
Democrat	49%	50%
Republican	35	35

While most Americans think the Foley matter should be taken seriously, a majority of registered voters (67%) say the matter will not make a difference in their vote next month. Democrats are more likely than Republicans and Independents to say it will impact their vote. Even though most traditional Republican stalwarts like conservatives and white evangelicals say the Foley situation will not make a difference in how they vote, those who do say it is as likely to make them vote more for Democrats as for Republicans.

HAS THE FOLEY MATTER MADE YOU...

(Among Registered Voters)

	All	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
More likely to vote Republican	3%	8%	0%	3%
More likely to vote Democrat	21	3	44	13
Less likely to vote at all	5	5	4	5
No difference	67	81	51	72

But the Foley scandal may have dampened the enthusiasm of some Republican voters. Although nearly nine in 10 Republicans intend to support their party's candidate (as do a similar percentage of Democrats), just 33% of Republicans feel more enthusiastic about this election than usual, down 13 points from 46% a month ago. Enthusiasm among Democratic and Independent voters has not changed during that period.

MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT VOTING

(Among registered voters)

	Now	9/2006
All voters	39%	43%
Republicans	33%	46%
Democrats	47%	47%
Independents	38%	36%

Some Republicans are clearly expecting their party to fare poorly in November. While most voters expect that Democrats will win the majority of seats in the House in November, among Republicans the percentage that expects that will happen has risen since last month, from 32% then to 41% now.

EXPECT DEMOCRATS TO WIN MORE HOUSE SEATS IN NOVEMBER

(Among registered voters)

	Now	9/2006
All voters	59%	54%
Republicans	41%	32%
Democrats	73%	71%
Independents	61%	58%

EVALUATING THE SCANDAL

An overwhelming majority of Americans - 80% - thinks the revelations about Congressman Foley are a serious matter to the country, including 54% who describe the matter as very serious. Women are more likely than men to say this: 59% of women say the revelations are very serious, compared to 49% of men. Democrats and Independents are also more likely than Republicans to describe the Foley matter as very serious.

HOW SERIOUS IS THE FOLEY MATTER TO THE NATION?

	All	Men	Women
Very	54%	49%	59%
Somewhat	26	29	23
Not too/not at all	15	19	12

62% think members of the House Republican leadership were aware of the sexually explicit e-mails sent by Foley before the public learned about them, and a similar majority thinks they did not take the matter seriously enough when they first learned about it. Among Republicans, 40% think members of the House Republican leadership knew about the sexually-explicit e-mails, while 32% think they did not know.

DID HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP KNOW ABOUT FOLEY'S SEXUALLY EXPLICIT E-MAILS?

	All	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
Yes	62%	40%	77%	67%
No	19	32	11	15

Two in three Americans do not think the Republican leadership in Congress took the report of Foley's e-mails seriously enough when they first learned about it but a majority - 58% - thinks they are taking the matter seriously now. Even most Republicans - 51% - do not think the GOP leadership took the matter of Foley's e-mails seriously enough initially, but 69% say they are doing so now.

DID HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP TAKE REPORTS OF FOLEY'S E-MAILS SERIOUSLY ENOUGH...?

	<u>WHEN THEY FIRST LEARNED ABOUT IT</u>	<u>NOW</u>
Yes, seriously enough	16%	58%
Not, not seriously enough	66	29

Moreover, half the public thinks the House Republican leadership handled the situation improperly, while 27% think it was handled properly. About a quarter is unable to say.

HOW DID THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP HANDLE THE FOLEY SITUATION?

Properly	27%
Improperly	51
Don't know	22

When asked directly whether the House Republican leadership was more concerned with the safety of the Congressional pages or their own political standing, 79% say the leadership's own political standing. Only 10% say they were more concerned with the safety of Congressional pages. Even 61% of Republicans think the GOP leadership put their political standing ahead of the safety of the pages.

WHICH WAS THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP MORE CONCERNED WITH?

Safety of Congressional pages	10%
Their political standing	79

SPEAKER DENNIS HASTERT

In this poll, 46% of Americans (and 45% of voters) think Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, who has been criticized by some for his handling of the Foley matter, should step down from his position as Speaker, while 26%

say he should not. Another three in 10 don't know. 46% of Republicans do not think Hastert should resign, however, most Democrats and a plurality of Independents thinks he should.

SHOULD SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DENNIS HASTERT RESIGN?

	All	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
Should	46%	25%	66%	44%
Should not	26	46	15	20
Don't know	28	29	19	36

Overall opinion of Speaker Hastert is negative - at least among the minority with an opinion. 21% of Americans have an unfavorable opinion of him, while just 8% view him favorably. Despite being second in the line of succession for the presidency (something only 36% of the public know), 70% of Americans are undecided or haven't heard enough about Hastert. Opinion of Hastert was divided last year, but fewer Americans were able to offer an opinion of him at that time.

OPINION OF HASTERT

	Now	4/2005
Favorable	8%	6%
Unfavorable	21	7
Undecided	17	11
Haven't Heard enough	53	75

VIEWS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

More Americans see the Democrats than the Republicans as holding the higher moral and ethical ground now, although to some degree that trend has been in evidence throughout the year.

The Democratic Party has now become the party with higher ethical standards; 37% think the Democrats have higher ethical standards, compared to 32% for the Republicans. In 1998 and 1999, during the Lewinsky scandal, Republicans were seen as having higher ethical standards than Democrats by a wide margin. That margin shrank in 2005 and was non-existent by January 2006.

WHICH PARTY HAS HIGHER ETHICAL STANDARDS?

	Now	1/2006	11/1999	9/1998
Republican	32%	34%	46%	38%
Democratic	37	34	23	23
Both	4	4	4	9
Neither	15	17	13	14

47% think the Democrats are more likely to share Americans' moral values, compared to 38% for the Republicans. By more than two to one, Americans see the Republicans as more corrupt.

WHICH PARTY...?

	Republican	Democratic
Shares your moral values	38%	47
Is more corrupt	36%	17

Throughout 2006, Republicans have been seen as more corrupt than Democrats, and more Americans have viewed the Democrats as sharing their moral values.

The Republicans' advantage on dealing with terrorism has evaporated in this poll; similar percentages of Americans see each party as better at addressing it. Democrats are viewed as more likely to ensure a strong economy, to do a better job handling the war in Iraq, and to make the right decisions about spending taxpayers' money. The latter represents an abrupt change since 2002, when views were more evenly divided; then, 42% thought the Republicans would do a better job at spending taxpayers' money, while 40% thought the Democrats would.

WHICH PARTY IS BETTER AT...?

	Republican	Democratic
Dealing w/ terrorism	41%	40
Ensuring a strong economy	36%	51
Handling the war in Iraq	34%	45
Determining how to spend taxpayers' money	29%	52

Few Americans foresee much difference in the terrorist threat regardless of whether Democrats or Republicans win the election in November. 63% think the terrorist threat would stay the same if Democrats win control of Congress in November, and 65% think it would remain the same if Republicans hold on to control.

TERRORIST THREAT AGAINST U.S. IF...

	Reps. win	Dems. win
Increase	24%	19%
Decrease	8	14
Stay the same	65	63

The matter concerning Congressman Foley has almost no real impact on the overall opinion of the Republican Party. 39% now view the Republican Party favorably, about the same as the 41% found last month. More than half view the Democratic party favorably - the same as last month.

OPINION OF THE PARTIES

	Republican Party		Democratic Party	
	Now	9/2006	Now	9/2006
Favorable	39%	41%	52%	52%
Not favorable	54	52	40	40

VIEWS OF CONGRESS

Many Americans feel a disconnect between their own lives and behavior and that of Congress. Seven in 10 Americans think most members of Congress don't understand their needs and problems; just 26% think they do. About seven in 10 also think most members do not try to follow the same rules of behavior as most Americans; 26% think they do. And 69% believe most members of Congress consider themselves above the law.

VIEWS OF CONGRESS

	Yes	No
Understands their needs/problems	26%	70
Follows same rules of behavior	26%	69
Consider themselves above the law	69%	27
Shares moral values of most Americans	46%	48

46% of Americans think most members of Congress share the moral values most Americans try to live by, and 48% think they don't. More -- 63% -- think their own Representative does.

Overall, Americans' approval rating of Congress remains low, where it has been all year. 27% of Americans now approve of the job Congress is doing, while 64% disapprove. Views among registered voters are much the same. 66% think Congress has accomplished less than it usually does during a typical two year period.

But Americans' (and voters') views of their own Representative are much more positive; this too has been consistently the case. 56% approve of the job their own member of Congress is doing, while 27% disapprove.

CONGRESS APPROVAL

	Overall	Own rep.
Approve	27%	56%
Disapprove	64	27

THE ELECTIONS AND THE PRESIDENT

President George W. Bush continues to be a negative factor in the upcoming elections, and to a degree unprecedented in previous midterm elections. Just 15% of registered voters say they think of their Congressional vote as one in support of the President, while over twice as many, 36%, say theirs will be a vote against him. 43% say their vote will not be about the President.

CONGRESSIONAL VOTE WILL BE:

(Among registered voters)

	Now	9/2006
For Bush	15%	16%
Against Bush	36	35
Not about Bush	43	46

Before previous midterm elections, voters were less likely to say presidents would be factors in their votes than they are this year. And in those earlier elections, voters who said presidents would be a factor said their vote for Congress was either a vote for the president or evenly divided.

PAST PRESIDENTS: WILL YOUR VOTE FOR CONGRESS BE A...

(Among registered voters)

	Now (GW Bush)	9/1998 (Clinton)	10/1990 (GHW Bush)	9/1986 (Reagan)
Vote for the President	15%	17%	19%	26%
Vote against the President	36	14	15	16
Not about the President	43	63	61	51

THE CAMPAIGN

75% of voters now say they are paying at least some attention to the 2006 election campaign, up from 70% last month, including 30% who say they are paying a lot. Attention has increased among Democratic voters (now at 81%, up from 69% in September) and Independents (72%, up from 68%). 71% of Republican voters are now paying attention.

PAYING ATTENTION TO THE CAMPAIGN

(Among registered voters)

	Now	9/2006
All voters	75%	70%
Republicans	71%	74%
Democrats	81%	69%
Independents	72%	68%

Overall, 39% of voters say they are more enthusiastic about voting than usual, while 39% are less so. Republicans have become decidedly less enthusiastic in the last month.

ENTHUSIASM NOW VS. PAST CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

(Among registered voters)

More enthusiastic	39%
Less enthusiastic	39
Same (vol.)	19

When asked why they feel more enthusiastic than usual, 31% of voters say it's because their party is going to win. Those who feel less enthusiastic give as reasons their dislike of the candidates and a general sense that it doesn't matter if they vote. Among Republican voters who specifically say they feel less enthusiastic, 17% say it's because it doesn't matter whether they vote or not, and another 14% say it's because they don't know the candidates.

And more voters say their vote is specifically to put Democrats in control of Congress than say their vote is to keep Republicans in control, although for 39% of voters that won't be an issue in their vote. 70% of Democrats will vote to put their party in control, as will 58% of

Republican voters. By more than three to one, Independents will vote to put Democrats, not Republicans, in control of Congress.

CONGRESSIONAL VOTE WILL BE TO:

(Among registered voters)	
Put Democrats in control	36%
Keep Republicans in control	21
Neither	39

There is a strong current of anti-incumbent sentiment among voters in this poll, but that is not necessarily different from previous elections. 78% think it is time to give new people a chance, while just 13% believe most members of Congress deserve re-election - but that's not much different than in October 2002. 60% of Republican voters think it's time to give new people a chance.

Opinion is divided when it comes to their own representative; 43% of voters think he or she deserves re-election, while 47% want someone new. This is a change in a negative direction. In early October 2002, 50% thought their representative deserved re-election, and 38% thought he or she did not.

OWN REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/2002
Deserves re-election	43%	50%
Give someone new a change	47	38

46% are satisfied with the choices they have in the elections this year in their state, while as many - 49% -- wish there were other choices.

Just 4% of Americans say that the clergyman in their church or synagogue has urged them to vote for a particular candidate or party.

Although many voters would prefer to vote for individuals, not parties, most still support candidates from their own political party. 58% of registered voters would prefer elections in which all the candidates ran without party labels. That said, 80% of Republican voters say they usually or always vote Republican, while 82% of Democratic voters say they usually or always support their own party's candidate. 54% of Independents say they vote equally for both parties.

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 983 adults, interviewed by telephone October 5-8, 2006. The sample included 891 registered voters. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points and plus or minus three points among registered voters. Error for subgroups may be higher.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
Congress, the Foley Fallout & the November Elections
October 5-8, 2006

q1-q6 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	27	41	19	23	25
Disapprove	64	48	75	66	61
DK/NA	9	11	6	11	14

q8 How about the representative in Congress from your district? Do you approve or disapprove of the way your representative is handling his or her job?

Approve	56	65	61	45	53
Disapprove	27	22	30	30	29
DK/NA	17	13	9	25	18

q9-q10 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q11 How likely is it that you will vote in the 2006 election for Congress this November - would you say you will definitely vote, probably vote, probably not vote, or definitely not vote in the election for Congress?

Definitely vote	69	68	74	64
Probably vote	18	25	12	19
Probably not vote	8	4	8	11
Definitely not vote	4	3	4	5
Already voted	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	1	0	2	1

q12 How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2006 election campaign -- a lot, some, not much or no attention so far?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep06a
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	30	31	33	26	25
Some	45	40	48	46	45
Not much	19	20	15	22	25
No attention	5	8	3	5	5
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	-

q13 If the 2006 election for U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate in your district?

Republican	35	86	4	22	35
Democratic	49	6	89	47	50
Other (Vol.)	1	1	1	1	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	1	0	1	1	-
Depends (Vol.)	6	3	3	10	7
DK/NA	8	4	2	19	7

q14 Compared to previous Congressional elections, this year are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep06a
	%	%	%	%	%
More enthusiastic	39	33	47	38	43
Less enthusiastic	39	42	34	42	35
Same (vol.)	19	22	16	18	20
DK/NA	3	3	3	2	2

q15 What's the main reason you're [MORE/LESS] enthusiastic about voting than usual?

More
Enthusiastic
%

Dems/Reps are going to win	31
Civic duty/privilege	13
Races are close/exciting	8
Like a particular candidate	6
Economy	5
Make sure Dems/Reps don't win	4
War/Iraq	3
Dislike a particular candidate	2
Moral/religious values	2
Other	24
DK/NA	2

Less
Enthusiastic
%

Doesn't matter if I vote	18
Don't like candidates	15
Tired of partisan politics	9
Negative campaigning/TV ads	8
Scandals/Mark Foley/Hastert	8
Races aren't close/boring	8
Don't know the candidates	8
Elections are fixed	2
Not a presidential election	2
Other	20
DK/NA	2

q16 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote for George W. Bush, a vote against George W. Bush, or don't you think of your vote this fall as being about George W. Bush's presidency?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

	*** Party ID ***				Sep06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Vote for Bush	15	34	4	9	16
Vote against Bush	36	7	60	38	35
Bush not a factor	43	55	32	44	46
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	1	0	0	0
Don't know/No answer	6	3	4	9	3

q17 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote to help put Democrats in control of Congress, a vote to help keep Republicans in control of Congress, or will your vote be about something else?

Put Dems in	36	4	70	29	34
Keep Reps in	21	58	3	8	19
Something else	39	35	24	56	44
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	4	3	3	7	3

q18 Generally, are you satisfied with the choices you have in the elections this year in your state, or do you wish there were other choices?

					Oct90
Satisfied	46	54	46	38	41
Wish other choices	49	41	50	55	54
Depends on race (vol.)	1	0	1	1	1
DK/NA	4	5	3	6	4

q19 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right -- just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Sep06a
Just about always	2	4	2	2	1
Most of the time	26	47	18	17	26
Some of the time	66	48	74	74	65
Never (vol.)	4	2	5	6	6
DK/NA	2	0	1	1	2

q20-q21 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q22 Is your opinion of Dennis Hastert favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Dennis Hastert yet to have an opinion?

					Apr05a
Favorable	8	17	1	6	6
Not favorable	21	11	34	18	7
Undecided	17	19	16	17	11
Haven't heard enough	53	53	48	59	75
Refused	1	0	1	0	1

q23-q24 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q25 Regardless of how you intend to vote in November, who do you expect will win more seats in this year's election for the House of Representatives -- the Democrats or the Republicans?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Democrats	59	41	73	61	54
Republicans	28	48	21	17	32
DK/NA	13	11	6	22	14

q26 Do you think the representative in Congress from your district has performed his or her job well enough to deserve re-election, or do you think it's time to give a new person a chance?

Deserves re-election	43	52	44	33	42
Time for new person	47	36	48	55	47
Depends on candidates	1	1	0	2	2
DK/NA	9	11	8	10	9

q27 Do you think most members of Congress have done a good enough job to deserve re-election, or do you think it's time to give new people a chance?

Deserve re-election	13	26	6	8	12
Time for new people	78	60	88	84	76
Depends on candidates	3	6	3	2	5
DK/NA	6	8	3	6	7

q28 During 2005 and 2006, do you think Congress has accomplished more or less than it usually does during a typical two year period?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Sep06a
More	16	24	13	12	12
Less	66	53	73	68	68
About the same (vol.)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8
DK/NA	18	23	14	20	12

q29 Do you agree or disagree that the government would work better if all new people were elected this year?

Agree	37	22	45	42	38
Disagree	55	73	47	49	56
DK/NA	8	5	8	9	6

q30 Do you think most members of Congress understand the needs and problems of people like you, or not?

Understands	26	39	22	20	Sep06a* 28
Does not understand	70	56	75	76	68
DK/NA	4	5	3	4	4

*Trend is among registered voters.

q31 Do you think most members of Congress do or do not try to follow the same rules for behavior as average Americans?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Do	26	38	22	20
Do not	69	54	74	76
DK/NA	5	8	4	4

q32 Do you think most members of Congress consider themselves above the law, or don't they?

Above the law	69	60	72	74
Not above the law	27	35	23	23
DK/NA	4	5	5	3

q33 In general, is your opinion of the Republican party favorable or not favorable?

					Sep06a
					%
Favorable	39	85	6	32	41
Not favorable	54	11	91	55	52
DK/NA	7	4	3	13	7

q34 In general, is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	52	27	83	43	52
Not favorable	40	69	13	42	40
DK/NA	8	4	4	15	8

q35 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decisions about the war in Iraq?

Republican	34	76	5	27	37
Democratic	45	12	80	40	42
Both (vol.)	2	1	2	3	2
Neither (vol.)	6	3	5	9	5
DK/NA	13	8	8	21	14

q36 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to ensure a strong economy?

Republican	36	74	9	29	35
Democratic	51	18	83	47	50
Both (vol.)	1	1	1	2	3
Neither (vol.)	3	2	1	6	3
DK/NA	9	5	6	16	9

q37 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decisions when it comes to dealing with terrorism?

Republican	41	82	12	33	42
Democratic	40	8	74	33	37
Both (vol.)	4	3	4	4	6
Neither (vol.)	4	1	3	8	3
DK/NA	11	6	7	22	12

q38 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decisions about how the government should spend taxpayers' money?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan02c
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican	29	70	4	17	42
Democratic	52	18	84	49	40
Both (vol.)	1	1	1	1	4
Neither (vol.)	7	4	5	11	5
DK/NA	11	7	6	22	9

q39 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party comes closer to sharing your moral values?

					May06a
Republican	38	84	5	30	37
Democratic	47	7	83	46	50
Both (vol.)	2	1	2	2	1
Neither (vol.)	6	3	5	10	5
DK/NA	7	5	5	12	7

q40 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party has higher ethical standards?

					Jan06a
Republican	32	69	9	24	34
Democratic	37	10	67	30	34
Both (vol.)	4	6	2	5	4
Neither (vol.)	15	8	12	23	17
DK/NA	12	7	10	18	11

q41 Do you think most members of Congress share the moral values most Americans try to live by or don't they?

					Jan99a
Do	46	55	45	38	40
Do not	48	39	48	54	50
DK/NA	6	6	7	8	10

q42 Does your own Representative in Congress share the moral values most Americans try to live by or not?

Does	63	69	69	51
Does not	19	20	20	18
DK/NA	18	11	11	31

q43 Do you think the Republicans in Congress are more corrupt, or are the Democrats in Congress more corrupt?

					Apr06a
Republicans	36	13	62	30	32
Democrats	17	39	3	11	13
Both (vol.)	27	23	20	36	37
Neither (vol.)	3	5	1	3	n/a
DK/NA	17	20	14	20	18

q44-q50 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q51 How much have you heard or read about Mark Foley, a Congressman from Florida who sent sexually explicit internet and cell phone messages to teen-aged Congressional pages --- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot	51	50	57	47
Some	28	30	26	29
Not much	8	6	7	11
Nothing	11	13	9	13
DK/NA	2	1	1	0

q52 How serious a matter do you think the revelations about Mark Foley are for the nation -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

Very serious	54	44	61	56
Somewhat serious	26	29	22	27
Not too serious	11	16	12	8
Not at all serious	4	6	2	4
DK/NA	5	5	3	5

q53 From what you know, do you think members of the House Republican leadership knew before last week that Mark Foley sent sexually explicit internet and cell phone messages to teen-aged Congressional pages, or didn't they know before last week?

Knew	62	40	77	67
Didn't knew	19	32	11	15
Some did/ some didn't (vol.)	4	4	4	3
DK/NA	15	24	8	15

q54 From what you know, do you think that members of the House Republican leadership acted properly or improperly in their handling of the situation?

Properly	27	42	17	23
Improperly	51	30	71	50
DK/NA	22	28	12	27

q55 From what you know, did the Members of the House Republican leadership take the reports of Mark Foley's emails with teen-aged Congressional pages as seriously as they should have WHEN THEY FIRST LEARNED ABOUT IT, or did they not take the reports seriously enough?

As seriously as they should	16	29	13	9
Didn't take reports seriously	66	51	76	69
DK/NA	17	20	11	22

q88 What about now? Do you think that the Members of the House Republican leadership are NOW taking the reports of Mark Foley's emails with teen-aged Congressional pages as seriously as they should, or are they not taking the reports seriously enough?

As seriously as they should	58	69	51	57
Not taking reports seriously	29	16	41	27
DK/NA	13	15	8	16

q56 When the House Republican leadership learned about the emails sent by Mark Foley to teen-aged Congressional pages, how concerned do you think they were with the safety of the teen-aged pages -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not concerned at all?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	19	27	16	14
Somewhat concerned	32	38	28	32
Not very concerned	23	15	28	24
Not at all concerned	18	9	24	20
DK/NA	8	11	4	10

q57 When the House Republican leadership learned about the emails sent by Mark Foley to teen-aged Congressional pages, how concerned do you think they were about their own political standing -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not concerned at all?

Very concerned	65	49	74	70
Somewhat concerned	21	32	15	17
Not very concerned	5	7	5	5
Not at all concerned	3	4	3	3
DK/NA	6	8	3	5

q58 Which do you think concerned the House Republican leadership MORE, the safety of the teen-aged Congressional pages or the leadership's own political standing?

Safety of pages	10	21	5	6
Political standing	79	61	91	82
Both equal (vol.)	2	5	1	1
DK/NA	9	13	3	11

q59 From what you know so far, do you think Dennis Hastert should or should not step down as Speaker of the House of Representatives?

Should	46	25	66	44
Should not	26	46	15	20
DK/NA	28	29	19	36

q60 Has the scandal involving Mark Foley and the House Republican leadership's response made you: 1. More likely to vote for Republican candidates in November, OR 2. More likely to vote for Democratic candidates in November, OR 3. Less likely to vote at all in November, OR 4. It won't make much difference in how you vote in November?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **			
More likely Republican	3	8	0	3
More likely Democratic	21	3	44	13
Less likely to vote at all	5	5	4	5
No difference	67	81	51	72
Depends (vol.)	2	2	0	3
DK/NA	2	1	1	4

q61-q70 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q71 If the Democrats take control of Congress in November, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Increase	19	47	4	10
Decrease	14	3	27	9
Same	63	47	67	72
DK/NA	4	3	2	9

q72 If the Republicans keep control of Congress in November, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	24	11	40	18
Decrease	8	23	1	3
Same	65	65	57	72
DK/NA	3	1	2	7

q73 Think about past elections in which you have voted, including national and statewide elections. Would you say you always vote Republican, usually vote Republican, vote about equally for both parties, usually vote Democratic, or always vote Democratic?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

Always Republican	7	22	0	2
Usually Republican	21	58	0	10
Equally for both	30	17	17	54
Usually Democrat	25	0	47	23
Always Democrat	14	1	35	2
Never vote (Vol.)	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	3	2	1	9

q74 Has the clergyman of the church or synagogue you attend urged you to vote for a particular candidate or a particular political party during this year's campaign?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

Yes, candidate	2	3	2	1
Yes, party	2	3	3	1
No	86	90	83	85
Do not attend church (vol.)	8	2	9	12
DK/NA	2	2	3	1

q76 Do you happen to know who, according to the law, is next in line to the presidency after Vice President Dick Cheney? IF YES, ASK: Who?

Speaker of the House/Hastert	36	40	31	38
Sec. of State/Rice	10	8	12	10
Pres. of the Senate/Stevens	1	1	1	0
Sec. of Defense/Rumsfeld	1	1	1	2
Other	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	51	49	53	49

q77 If you could choose, which of these would you prefer: Continuing to have elections between Democratic and Republican candidates, OR Having elections in which all the candidates ran without party labels?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Continue two parties	35	45	43	19
All individuals	58	46	51	74
DK/NA	7	9	6	7

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	983	
Total Republicans	298	293
Total Democrats	335	340
Total Independents	350	350
Registered Voters	891	842