

**VIEWS ON THE LEADERS OF THE 110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**  
January 1-3, 2007

As the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress gets underway, the new Democratic leaders of both the House of Representatives and the Senate remain unfamiliar to most Americans.

More than seven in 10 Americans are undecided or haven't heard enough about Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat and the first woman Speaker of the House, to have an opinion of her. Those who do have an opinion are divided: 14% of Americans view her favorably, while 12% view her unfavorably.

As expected, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to view Pelosi favorably. 24% of Democrats have a favorable opinion of the Speaker, while 30% of Republicans hold a negative view of her.

**OPINION OF NANCY PELOSI**

	All	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.	10/2006
Favorable	14%	3%	24%	12%	10%
Not Favorable	12	30	2	9	17
Undecided/haven't heard enough	74	67	74	79	71

Both men and women are divided in their opinions of Pelosi, and most can't evaluate her. Speaker Pelosi, who represents the eighth district of California, gets a 26% favorable rating from Americans residing in the western portion of the country - the highest rating of any region.

In October 2006, just prior to the mid-term elections, Americans were asked about then-Speaker Dennis Hastert. Like Pelosi, he was unfamiliar to most.

The new Senate Majority Leader, Harry Reid, is even more unknown to the public than Speaker Pelosi. 86% of Americans are undecided or haven't heard enough about Reid. Among those with an opinion, 5% have a favorable one, while 8% hold an unfavorable view. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to view Majority Leader Reid unfavorably.

**OPINION OF HARRY REID**

	All	Rep.	Dem.	Ind.
Favorable	5%	3%	8%	5%
Not Favorable	8	16	3	6
Undecided/haven't heard enough	86	81	89	89

In January 1995, when the Republicans took control of both houses of Congress for the first time in 40 years, Americans were somewhat more familiar with the new Congressional leadership than they are today. Newt Gingrich, the new Speaker of the House, had been visible in the 1994 campaign, and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole had been nominated for Vice President in Gerald Ford's losing 1976 campaign.

Back in 1995, Gingrich was viewed favorably by 10% of Americans, but more - 23% - viewed him unfavorably.

**VIEWS OF HOUSE SPEAKERS**

	<u>Pelosi</u>	<u>Gingrich</u>
	Now	1/1995
Favorable	14%	10%
Not Favorable	12	23
Undecided/haven't heard enough	74	65

As for Bob Dole, who became Senate Majority Leader in January 1995 (he also served as Majority Leader from 1985-1987), public opinion was divided: 20% held a favorable opinion of Dole, while 21% viewed him favorably.

**VIEWS OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADERS**

	<u>Reid</u>	<u>Dole</u>
	Now	1/1995
Favorable	5%	20%
Not Favorable	8	21
Undecided/haven't heard enough	86	58

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 993 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone January 1-3, 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.

**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**VIEWS OF THE LEADERS OF THE 110<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS**  
**January 1-3, 2007**

q13 Is your opinion of Nancy Pelosi favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Nancy Pelosi yet to have an opinion?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct06d
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	14	3	24	12	10
Not favorable	12	30	2	9	17
Undecided	15	18	13	14	16
Haven't heard enough	59	49	61	65	55
Refused	0	0	0	0	2

q14 Is your opinion of Harry Reid favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Harry Reid yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	5	3	8	5
Not favorable	8	16	3	6
Undecided	16	18	14	18
Haven't heard enough	70	63	75	71
Refused	1	0	0	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	993	
Total Republicans	287	266
Total Democrats	335	344
Total Independents	371	383