

PUBLIC OPINION WOES: THE PRESIDENT, HIS PARTY AND CONGRESS
May 4-8, 2006

The President's difficulties are now shared by his party and the Republican-controlled Congress - all have nearly record low evaluations, and voters say they would like to see a change in Congressional control. In this poll, only 31% approve of the way President George W. Bush is handling his job, continuing the slow decline in presidential support seen in recent months.

PRESIDENTIAL JOB APPROVAL

Approve	31%
Disapprove	63

Americans continue to have a pessimistic view of the state of the country -- 70% think things in this country are pretty seriously off on the wrong track. Nearly as many, 68%, say things are worse today than they were six years ago before George W. Bush became president. Even with President Bush's name omitted from the question, a similar number still say things are worse today.

U.S. TODAY VS. BEFORE GEORGE W. BUSH BECAME PRESIDENT

Better	14%
Worse	68
Same	16

Americans even voice limited satisfaction with their Congressional representative: just 53% approve of the job their representative is doing - a low not seen since 1992, when 52% approved. It is lower even than in the fall 1994, just before voters gave control of Congress to the Republicans. Then 56% approved of the job their own representative was doing. The highest approval rating was reached in 1998, when 69% approved of the job their Congressperson was doing, the lowest rating was in 1990, when 51% approved.

OWN REPRESENTATIVE'S JOB APPROVAL

	Now	High 9/1998	10/1994	7/1992	Low 10/1990
Approve	53%	69%	56%	52%	51%
Disapprove	31	16	33	30	30

Overall Congressional job approval is at its lowest in ten years. 23% of Americans now approve of the job Congress is doing, while 64% disapprove.

CONGRESS' JOB APPROVAL

	Now	High 10/2001	6/1996	10/1994	Low 3/1992
Approve	23%	67%	19%	20%	17%
Disapprove	64	24	71	73	75

Congress has received poor assessments from the public before, although the last time approval was lower than it is today was in June 1996, when 19% approved. In the months leading up to the 1994 elections, when control of Congress changed hands, Congress' approval was in the low 20s. Congress' highest rating came in October 2001, just after the 9/11 attacks, when 67% approved; its lowest rating was in 1992, with 17%.

Frustration over Congress's inability to challenge the President may account for some of these low ratings. 67% think Congress is not asking enough questions about President Bush's policies, while a quarter think Congress is asking the right amount or too many questions.

Perhaps as a result, many Americans express an appetite for change in Congress. 39% think that if the Democrats were in control of Congress it would do a better job than it has with Republicans in charge, up from 32% a month ago. Only 14% think a Democratic Congress would be worse than today's Republican-led legislature. And by a larger margin than has been the case recently, more Americans prefer a president and Congress from different parties rather than the same party.

IF DEMOCRATS IN CONTROL, CONGRESS WOULD BE:

	Now	4/2006
Better	39%	32%
Worse	14	13
Same	41	48

Six months before the 2006 elections, this dissatisfaction translates to a sizable Democratic edge. If the midterm elections were held today, 44% of registered voters say they would support the Democratic candidate in their district, while just 33% would support the Republican candidate. (Note that the poll question on the Congressional vote reflects a national vote, whereas elections this Fall will be individual district races.)

2006 CONGRESSIONAL VOTE

(Among registered voters)

Democrats	44%
Republicans	33

The preference for a Democratic Congress likely reflects both the recent corruption scandals involving Republican members of Congress and dissatisfaction with the President. In this poll, 40% of Americans think the Republicans are the more financially corrupt

members of Congress, up from 34% in January. 30% say both parties' members of Congress are equally corrupt, while just 15% think the Democrats are more corrupt.

And the impact of President Bush may be very different than it was in 2002 and than it was for his immediate predecessors in midterm elections. This year, 49% of voters say that President Bush will be a factor in their vote, and by nearly three to one those people will be voting against him. That's a reversal from 2002, when 31% of voters said their Congressional vote was a vote for George W. Bush, and 19% said they were voting against him.

VOTE IN NOVEMBER WILL BE:

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/2002
Vote for Bush	13%	31%
Vote against Bush	36	19
Not about Bush	45	40

Fewer voters said President Bush's immediate predecessors would be factors in their midterm elections. In those years, more voters said Presidents Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Reagan were not factors in their vote for Congress. Those who said they would be factors were either generally positive or evenly divided.

VOTE IN NOVEMBER WILL BE:

(Among registered voters)

	Now	9/1994	10/1990	10/1982
	(GW Bush)	(Clinton)	(GHW Bush)	(Reagan)
Vote for President	13%	17%	19%	23%
Vote against President	36	18	15	21
Not about President	45	59	61	51

Many voters this year would respond negatively to President Bush's campaigning with their local candidates. 36% of voters say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate in their area if President Bush supported him or her, while only 8% would be more likely to support that candidate.

THE PARTY GAP

55% of Americans today hold a favorable view of the Democratic Party - many more than the 37% who hold a favorable view of the Republicans. This gap of 18 points in favor of the Democrats is more than twice the eight-point gap that the GOP held over the Democrats just before the 2002 midterms, and is larger than the ten point GOP lead just before the 1994 elections -- both of which saw Republicans make historic gains. In December 1998, just after the Democrats had made gains in those midterm elections, Democrats held a 27-point edge on this favorability measure.

VIEWS OF THE PARTIES

	Now	10/2002	12/1998	10/1994
<u>Republican Party</u>				
Favorable	37%	54%	36%	54%
Unfavorable	57	35	59	39
<u>Democratic Party</u>				
Favorable	55%	46%	63	44%
Unfavorable	37	39	32	48

This poll also finds lowered public perceptions of the Republicans' ability, relative to the Democrats, to handle some issues that have usually been among GOP strong suits. Today the GOP holds a 5-point edge in dealing with terrorism, 40% to 35% -- but just last month, the GOP held a 14-point edge on this, 45% to 31%. In October 2002, the GOP held a 25-point lead over the Democrats, 48% to 23%.

And it is the Democrats who today hold a large edge on which party Americans say shares their moral values, by 50% to 37%. In March the Democrats held a 4-point edge, and they held a 3-point edge in July 2003. But the GOP still holds its large lead on keeping the military strong.

WHICH PARTY IS BETTER AT...

	Republican	Democratic
Dealing w/ terrorism	40%	35
Keeping military strong	55%	29
Shares your moral values	37%	50

The war in Iraq remains the nation's number one problem in the eyes of most Americans, with 23% naming it. In second place on the list, 14% say the increase in gas prices is the biggest problem. These findings are about the same as last month.

The Democrats are seen as better able to handle those top two problems. Democrats have had an advantage on the war in Iraq since the summer of 2004, but the current gap between parties on this measure is the largest it has ever been. From July 2004 to March 2006, the gap never exceeded 11 points for the Democrats; today it is 18.

Meanwhile, by a 5 to 1 margin the Democratic Party is seen as better able to keep gas prices low. This may be in part because the Republican Party is overwhelmingly seen as being more influenced by oil companies.

WHICH PARTY IS BETTER AT...

	Republican	Democratic
Handling Iraq war	30%	48
Keeping gas prices low	11%	57
Is more influenced by Oil companies	66%	9

The Democrats also hold substantial leads over the GOP on handling many domestic issues such as prescription drug costs (by 61% to 18%, despite the fact that the new Medicare benefit was enacted under a GOP administration and Congress), improving health care (62% to 19%) and keeping the tax system fair (55% to 27%). 45% give the Democrats the nod on dealing with immigration, while 29% favor the Republicans on this issue. Meanwhile, though many critics have accused the Democrats of not having a clear policy agenda, the party holds a 45% to 21% edge over the Republicans for having more new ideas.

VIEWS OF PARTY LEADERS

Although overall views of the Democratic Party are positive, some of its most prominent figures do not fare as well. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton receives mixed views from the public overall, while its two most recent Presidential nominees, Senator John Kerry and former Vice-President Al Gore garner mostly negative views. All three get mostly unfavorable ratings from Independents, and very negative ones from Republicans.

On the Republican side, President Bush's unfavorable ratings are much higher than his favorable ratings, and the same is true of Vice President Dick Cheney. Meanwhile, Senator and possible presidential candidate John McCain is far less known, but gets very positive views overall, and from across the partisan spectrum. Republicans, Independents, and Democrats familiar with McCain all rate him positively.

VIEWS OF...

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Undecided/ no opinion
Hillary Clinton	34%	35	32
John Kerry	26%	38	34
Al Gore	28%	39	33
George W. Bush	29%	55	16
Dick Cheney	20%	49	31
John McCain	31%	15	53

GEORGE W. BUSH

Personal evaluations of George W. Bush are now at their lowest of his presidency. Half of Americans have confidence in the President's ability to handle a crisis - a number that has been on the decline since Hurricane Katrina hit last year. During the President's first term and throughout his re-election campaign, majorities viewed him as a strong leader, but today, just 42% say the President has strong qualities of leadership. Just 28% now thinks President Bush shares their priorities for the country.

EVALUATIONS OF THE PRESIDENT: THEN AND NOW

	<u>Now</u>	<u>Previous low</u>	<u>Previous high</u>
Confident in ability to handle a crisis	50%	51% (9/2005)	90% (9/2001)
Strong qualities of leadership	42%	45% (10/2005)	83% (9/2001)
Has <u>more</u> integrity than others in public life	38%	39% (10/2005)	53% (9/2003)
Shares your priorities	28%	32% (10/2005)	59% (1/2002)

Americans also express concern about the President's focus. 55% think President Bush is spending too much time on foreign policy problems, just three in 10 say he is spending his time about right. After the Persian Gulf War, the president's father, President George H. W. Bush, was also seen as spending too much time on foreign policy problems. That perception increased through the election year of 1992.

IS THE PRESIDENT SPENDING HIS TIME...

	<u>G.W. Bush</u>	<u>G.H.W. Bush (10/1991)</u>
Too much on foreign policy	55%	58%
Too much at home	3	1
About right	30	35

The President's overall approval rating stands at 31% - the lowest in the CBS News Poll. This rating matches the lowest job approval of his father, George H. W. Bush, in a July 1992 CBS News/New York Times Poll conducted shortly after the 1992 Democratic convention.

His ratings on specific issues remain low as well. Fewer than 3 in 10 approve of Bush's handling of the economy, foreign policy and the war in Iraq. Fighting terrorism remains the President's strongest area, and is the only issue where his approval rating is not at an all-time low. 46% approve of his handling of that issue today. Until last October, majorities approved of the President's handling of terrorism, and back in December 2001, 90% approved.

APPROVAL RATINGS OF THE PRESIDENT: THEN AND NOW

	<u>Now</u>	<u>Previous low</u>	<u>Previous high</u>
Overall	31%	33% (4/2006)	90% (10/2001)
Terrorism	46%	43% (2/2006)	90% (12/2001)
War in Iraq	29%	30% (4/2006)	79% (4/2003)
Economy	28%	31% (4/2006)	71% (10/2001)
Foreign policy	27%	30% (3/2006)	75% (12/2001)

Today, few Americans are confident that President Bush will be able to successfully end the war in Iraq. Only 30% have a lot or some confidence that he will be able to successfully end the war - down 21 points from November 2004, right after his re-election.

CONFIDENT PRES. BUSH WILL BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY END IRAQ WAR

	Now	11/2004
A lot	9%	22%
Some	21	29
Not much	28	21
None	39	25

The President also receives low approval ratings on his handling of immigration (26%) and gas prices (13%) -- two issues that have ranked high recently among the public's concerns for the country. His approval ratings on these have never been high.

PRES. BUSH'S RATINGS ON IMMIGRATION AND GAS PRICES

	Now	4/2006
Immigration	26%	28%
Gas prices	13%	17%

Most Americans also think the price of gas is something the President (as well as Congress) can do something about. However, only 4% think the Bush administration has a clear plan for keeping down the price of gasoline.

DOES BUSH ADMIN. HAVE CLEAR PLAN FOR KEEPING GAS PRICES DOWN?

	Now	4/2006
Yes	4%	8%
No	89	82

While 53% say the economy is in good shape now, the public's outlook is less optimistic than it has been in recent months. 47% think the economy is getting worse, and only 14% say it is getting better. 39% say it is staying the same. The percentage who says the economy is getting worse is the highest since last October.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

Americans continue to hold negative views of the situation in Iraq. Six in 10 say things are going badly for the U.S. there and 56% now think the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq - the highest number since the start of the war.

DID U.S. DO THE RIGHT THING GOING TO WAR WITH IRAQ?

	Now	3/2006	3/2003
Should have stayed out	56%	54%	25%
Right thing	39	41	69

A majority - 60% - want the U.S. to set a time-table for troop withdrawal from Iraq. This has been the case since last summer.

Nearly half of Americans do not think the U.S. government is giving U.S. troops in Iraq enough resources and equipment to succeed. Regardless, 55% say the U.S. is ultimately likely to succeed there.

47% say the U.S. has made at least some progress in the training of Iraqi troops, 26% say little or no progress has been made.

As for Iran, seven in 10 Americans say they've heard or read about its nuclear weapons program, about the same percentage as in early 2005. 58% think Iran represents a threat that can be contained by diplomacy now, the same as last month. Those who have heard or read a lot about the situation are slightly more apt to think it requires military action now, although most still think diplomacy is the correct course of action.

GAS PRICES

An overwhelming 87% of Americans say the increase in gas prices has had at least some impact on their lives, including 58% who say it has had a lot of impact. As a result of those costs, and the overwhelming expectation that prices will go even higher, most have changed their driving and household spending habits, and many have changed their vacation plans for the summer.

BECAUSE OF HIGHER GAS PRICES, HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR...

	Yes	No
Driving habits	63%	36
Other household spending	56%	44
Summer vacation plans	49%	49

92% of Americans pin at least some of the blame for the rising prices on oil companies trying to increase their own profits.

There is little optimism about the direction of gas prices now - 76% think they will continue to rise. 12% expect them to remain as they are and only 10% say they will go down. And most Americans - 69% - put at least some of the blame for the increase on the Iraq war.

Perhaps as a result of the gas price increases, Americans are now more willing than they were four years ago to drill for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Most Republicans favor it and most Democrats oppose it.

DRILL IN ANWAR?

	Now	11/2002
Yes	48%	39%
No	45	55

On other environmental issues, 78% of Americans have heard something about global warming. Among those who have heard of it, most - 66% - think it is having an impact on the environment right now, while 30% say it is not seriously affecting the environment today.

IMMIGRATION

Americans continue to be concerned about the issue of illegal immigration, although it is ranked far behind Iraq and gas prices as the country's most important problem. 59% of Americans believe that illegal immigration is a very serious problem, another 30% think it is somewhat serious, and only 11% of Americans believe the issue of illegal immigration is not very or not at all serious.

Seven out of ten Americans think that illegal immigrants do more to weaken the national economy through the use of social services and lost tax revenue than they do to strengthen the economy by spending money and providing low-cost labor.

HOW DO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AFFECT THE U.S. ECONOMY?

Strengthen the economy	22%
Weaken the economy	70

But Americans are skeptical of one of the proposed solutions to stem illegal immigration into the U.S. - a 700-mile-long fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. 66% of Americans oppose the idea as being too costly and ineffective.

The public is far less concerned about Americans competing with illegal immigrants for jobs. Over half the country - 53% - believes that illegal immigrants take jobs that Americans don't want. And when asked what should happen to most illegal immigrants who have worked in the United States for at least two years, 61% of Americans believe that such workers should be allowed to keep their jobs and apply for legal status, rather than being deported back to their native country.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WHO HAVE WORKED IN THE U.S. FOR 2 YEARS SHOULD...

Be allowed to apply for legal status	61%
Be deported to their native country	35

Americans support maintaining or increasing the level of *legal* immigration by higher numbers than ever before. 61% of Americans think that legal immigration into the United States should at least be kept at its current level, including a record 1 out of 5 Americans who think legal immigration should be increased. A little more than a third of Americans (34%) believes that legal immigration into the U.S. should be decreased, down 11 points from last month. Ten years ago, half of all Americans believed legal immigration should be reduced, and only 8% said it should be increased.

LEGAL IMMIGRATION INTO THE U.S. SHOULD BE...

	Now	4/2006	10/1996
Kept at present level	39%	33%	35%
Increased	22	16	8
Decreased	34	45	50

Americans with close ties to immigrants in the United States are more likely to support maintaining or increasing the level of legal immigration than are Americans overall. Among those who have a close friend or relative in this country who is an immigrant, 43% support maintaining legal immigration at its present level, and 31% favor having the level of legal immigration into the U.S. increased.

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 1,241 adults, interviewed by telephone May 4-8, 2006. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. An oversample of people age 65 and over was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 500 interviews among this group. Their results were then weighted in the total sample to represent the proper proportion of the adult population. The margin of error for people 65 and older is plus or minus four points.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL

Public Opinion Woes: The President, His Party and Congress

May 4-8, 2006

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

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Apr06b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	31	69	8	28	33
Disapprove	63	26	89	62	58
DK/NA	6	5	3	10	9

q2 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	23	47	7	23	24
Wrong track	70	45	91	68	71
DK/NA	7	8	2	9	5

q3 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

War in Iraq	23	14	29	23	23
Gas/Heating Oil Crisis	14	20	14	11	13
Economy / jobs	12	11	12	14	12
Immigration	5	9	2	5	8
Health Care	4	4	5	2	3
Education	3	2	3	4	2
The President/G.W. Bush	3	1	4	4	3
Terrorism (general)	3	5	0	3	3
Moral Values/Family Values	3	4	2	4	2
Poverty / Homelessness	2	1	0	3	3
Foreign Policy	2	1	3	3	1
Defense / Military	2	4	2	1	2
Budget Deficit /National Debt	2	2	3	1	1
Other	18	18	18	18	20
DK/NA	4	4	3	4	4

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

					Mar06a
Approve	27	56	8	27	30
Disapprove	63	33	83	64	60
DK/NA	10	11	9	9	10

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

					Apr06b
Approve	28	57	7	29	31
Disapprove	66	36	91	63	58
DK/NA	6	7	2	8	11

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	29	62	8	29	30
Disapprove	67	31	91	67	64
DK/NA	4	7	1	4	6

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	46	78	24	45	45
Disapprove	48	20	66	49	45
DK/NA	6	2	10	6	10

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of gasoline prices?

Approve	13	26	4	11	17
Disapprove	79	63	90	78	74
DK/NA	8	11	6	11	9

q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of immigration?

Approve	26	41	18	24	28
Disapprove	58	42	69	57	56
DK/NA	16	17	13	19	16

q10 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

					Apr06a
Approve	23	24	22	24	27
Disapprove	64	64	65	62	61
DK/NA	13	12	13	14	12

q11 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	53	51	54	52	60
Disapprove	31	35	26	33	23
DK/NA	16	14	20	15	17

q12 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

					Apr06b
Very good	6	16	0	6	8
Fairly good	47	57	38	48	49
Fairly bad	31	18	40	32	27
Very bad	15	9	22	14	14
DK/NA	1	0	0	0	2

q13 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

					Mar06a
Better	14	29	5	13	13
Worse	47	30	57	48	39
Same	39	41	38	38	47
DK/NA	0	0	0	1	1

q14 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?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

	*** Party ID ***				Apr06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	
Republican	33	82	2	28	34
Democratic	44	6	80	36	44
Other (Vol.)	1	0	0	3	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	0	0	1	-
Depends (vol.)	13	8	12	18	13
DK/NA	9	4	6	14	8

q15 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?

					Apr06a
Vote FOR Bush	13	30	5	8	14
Vote AGAINST Bush	36	13	57	33	35
Bush not a factor	45	52	33	51	45
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	1	0	0	0
Don't know/No answer	6	4	5	8	6

q16 If George W. Bush supported a candidate for political office in your area, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it affect how you voted one way or another?

					Apr06a
More likely	8	23	0	4	10
Less likely	36	11	61	31	31
Wouldn't affect vote	54	65	36	63	57
DK/NA	2	1	3	2	2

q17 Do you think it is better for the country to have a President who comes from the same political party that controls Congress or do you think it is better to have a President from one political party and the Congress controlled by another?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Jan06b
Better when same party	29	48	18	28	32
Better when different party	49	30	61	49	44
DK/NA	22	22	21	23	24

q18 If the Democrats were in control of Congress now, do you think Congress would do a better job than it has with the Republicans in control, a worse job than it has with the Republicans in control, or about the same job as it has with the Republicans in control?

					Apr06a
Better	39	13	68	28	32
Worse	14	35	2	12	13
Same	41	46	24	53	48
Don't know/No answer	6	6	6	7	7

q19 Is your opinion of George W. Bush favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about George W. Bush yet to have an opinion?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	*** Party ID ***				Feb06b
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	29	70	5	24	29
Not favorable	55	18	80	55	53
Undecided	13	10	10	17	14
Haven't heard enough	3	1	5	2	3
Refused	0	1	0	2	1

q20 Is your opinion of Dick Cheney favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Dick Cheney yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	20	50	5	16	18
Not favorable	49	17	67	53	46
Undecided	19	23	16	18	20
Haven't heard enough	12	9	12	13	15
Refused	0	1	0	0	1

q21 Is your opinion of Hillary Rodham Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Hillary Rodham Clinton yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	34	11	54	28	40
Not favorable	35	62	13	37	32
Undecided	23	20	22	24	21
Haven't heard enough	9	5	11	10	7
Refused	0	2	0	1	0

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

Favorable	31	33	24	37	35
Not favorable	15	16	14	15	12
Undecided	25	25	28	23	24
Haven't heard enough	28	25	34	25	29
Refused	1	1	0	0	0

q23 Is your opinion of John Kerry favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John Kerry yet to have an opinion?

					RVS*
					Nov04a
Favorable	26	8	46	20	40
Not favorable	38	64	14	44	39
Undecided	21	15	25	22	13
Haven't heard enough	13	12	15	12	7
Refused	2	1	0	2	1

*Trend is among registered voters.

q24 Is your opinion of Al Gore favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Al Gore yet to have an opinion?

					Dec03b
Favorable	28	10	46	24	31
Not favorable	39	62	16	46	46
Undecided	25	20	29	24	20
Haven't heard enough	8	8	10	6	3
Refused	0	0	0	0	0

q25 I'd like you to compare the way things are going in the United States today to the way they were going six years ago. Generally, would you say things are going better today, worse today, or about the same as they were going six years ago?

*** HALF SAMPLE A ***

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Better	16	31	10	10
Worse	62	42	75	66
About the same	19	24	14	20
DK/NA	3	3	1	4

q26 I'd like you to compare the way things are going in the United States today to the way they were going six years ago before George W. Bush became president. Generally, would you say things are going better today, worse today, or about the same as they were going before George W. Bush became president?

*** HALF SAMPLE B ***

Better	14	31	2	15
Worse	68	27	94	66
About the same	16	35	3	17
DK/NA	2	7	1	2

q27 Overall, is Congress asking too many questions about George W. Bush's policies, or isn't Congress asking enough questions?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

Too many	16	35	5	14
Not enough	67	34	86	69
Depends (Vol.)	1	3	0	1
Right amount (Vol.)	8	12	2	10
DK/NA	8	16	7	6

q59 In deciding how to spend their time, Presidents have to weigh the importance of foreign policy problems and problems here at home. Given the importance of each, do you think George W. Bush has been spending too much of his time on foreign policy problems, or too much time on problems here at home, or has he been spending his time about right?

					Oct02a
					%
Too much on foreign	55	36	68	55	41
Too much on problems at home	3	3	3	4	2
About right	30	53	15	28	52
DK/NA	12	8	14	13	5

q28 How much confidence do you have in George W. Bush's ability to handle a crisis -- a lot, some, a little, or none at all?

					Dec05a
A lot	25	58	6	22	31
Some	25	25	24	26	26
A little	21	9	27	24	23
None at all	28	8	42	28	19
DK/NA	1	0	1	0	1

q29 Do you think George W. Bush has strong qualities of leadership, or not?

					Jan06b
Has	42	82	17	40	53
Does not have	55	16	80	55	45
DK/NA	3	2	3	5	2

q30 Do you think George W. Bush has more honesty and integrity than most people in public life? IF NO, ASK: Do you think George W. Bush has less honesty and integrity than most people in public life or about the same honesty and integrity as most people in public life?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	Dec05a %
Yes, has more	38	73	14	38	41
Less	27	7	44	25	22
Same	28	17	33	31	29
Don't know/No answer	7	3	9	6	8

q31 Do you think George W. Bush has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

					Oct05a
Has	28	60	8	26	32
Does not have	68	36	90	70	65
DK/NA	4	4	2	4	3

q32 How much confidence do you have that George W. Bush will be able to successfully end the war in Iraq -- a lot, some, not much, or none at all?

					Nov04a
A lot	9	19	1	9	22
Some	21	39	8	21	29
Not much	28	18	34	30	21
None at all	39	19	55	38	25
Can't end successfully (vol.)	1	0	2	1	1
DK/NA	2	5	0	1	2

q33 Is the price of gasoline something a president can do a lot about, or is that beyond any president's control?

					Sep06b
Yes	63	54	71	61	64
No	30	37	24	30	29
DK/NA	7	9	5	9	7

q34 Is the price of gasoline something Congress can do a lot about, or is that beyond Congress' control?

Yes	66	61	65	69
No	26	30	25	23
DK/NA	9	9	9	8

q35 In general, is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable or not favorable?

					Apr06a
Favorable	55	25	89	43	48
Not favorable	37	68	9	43	43
DK/NA	8	7	2	14	9

q36 In general, is your opinion of the Republican party favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	37	83	8	33	40
Not favorable	57	13	90	56	53
DK/NA	6	4	2	11	7

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 about the war in Iraq?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	*** Party ID ***				Apr06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican party	30	71	2	29	33
Democratic party	48	9	80	42	44
Both (Vol.)	3	3	2	4	2
Neither (Vol.)	5	4	4	8	8
DK/NA	14	13	12	17	13

q38 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make sure the tax system is fair?

					May03a
Republican party	27	57	5	28	36
Democratic party	55	23	85	48	46
Both (Vol.)	2	2	1	3	3
Neither (Vol.)	8	8	6	10	6
DK/NA	8	10	3	11	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?

					Mar06a
Republican party	37	80	8	35	41
Democratic party	50	11	85	43	45
Both (Vol.)	1	2	1	1	1
Neither (Vol.)	5	3	2	9	6
DK/NA	7	4	4	12	7

q40 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make prescription drugs for the elderly more affordable?

					RVS*
					Jul04c
Republican party	18	38	7	15	21
Democratic party	61	38	80	57	63
Both (vol.)	2	3	0	4	1
Neither (vol.)	5	5	6	5	4
DK/NA	14	14	7	19	11

*Trend is among registered voters.

q41 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think oil companies have more influence on the Republican party or the Democratic party?

Republican party	66	51	83	60
Democratic party	9	11	6	11
Both (vol.)	8	12	3	11
Neither (vol.)	2	5	0	2
DK/NA	15	21	8	16

q42 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to improve the health care system?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	*** Party ID ***				May03a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican party	19	42	4	18	29
Democratic party	62	35	87	57	51
Both (Vol.)	2	4	0	3	3
Neither (Vol.)	6	5	4	9	6
DK/NA	11	14	5	13	11

q43 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?

					Apr06a
Republican party	40	78	10	44	45
Democratic party	35	8	64	26	31
Both (Vol.)	6	4	6	7	6
Neither (Vol.)	4	3	3	6	5
DK/NA	15	7	17	17	13

q44 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 immigration issues?

Republican party	29	58	10	28	31
Democratic party	45	17	69	42	43
Both (Vol.)	4	4	2	5	4
Neither (Vol.)	5	7	3	6	8
DK/NA	16	13	16	18	14

q45 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make sure U.S. military defenses are strong?

Republican party	55	85	34	55	57
Democratic party	29	4	50	26	24
Both (Vol.)	7	5	6	8	7
Neither (Vol.)	2	1	1	3	3
DK/NA	7	5	9	8	9

q46 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to see to it that gasoline prices are low?

					Apr06b
Republican party	11	24	4	10	20
Democratic party	57	34	78	53	47
Both (Vol.)	3	4	1	5	2
Neither (Vol.)	14	17	9	16	12
DK/NA	15	21	8	16	19

q47 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to improve education?

					May03a
Republican party	25	54	6	25	38
Democratic party	53	25	77	49	44
Both (Vol.)	7	8	8	6	6
Neither (Vol.)	4	3	2	6	5
DK/NA	11	10	7	14	7

q48 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to protect your civil liberties?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Republican party	22	50	4	20
Democratic party	62	32	85	58
Both (Vol.)	5	4	3	8
Neither (Vol.)	3	5	2	4
DK/NA	8	9	6	10

q49 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party has more new ideas?

					Mar06a
					%
Republican party	21	42	10	18	25
Democratic party	45	26	65	39	44
Both (Vol.)	4	4	3	3	2
Neither (Vol.)	13	11	9	19	11
DK/NA	17	17	13	21	18

q50 Do you think the Republicans in Congress are more financially corrupt, or are the Democrats in Congress more financially corrupt?

					Jan06a
Republicans	40	17	66	32	34
Democrats	15	27	6	16	18
Same (Vol.)	30	38	17	38	30
DK/NA	15	18	11	14	18

q51 Do you think members of the Bush Administration have a clear plan for keeping down the price of gasoline or haven't they developed one yet?

					Apr06b
Have a plan	4	9	1	4	8
Haven't developed one yet	89	81	95	89	82
DK/NA	7	10	4	7	10

q52 In the next few months, do you expect that the price of gasoline will go up, stay the same, or go down?

					Oct05a
Go up	76	67	77	81	61
Stay the same	12	16	13	9	21
Go down	10	16	8	7	15
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	3

q53 How much do higher prices for gasoline affect you personally -- a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Sep05b
A lot	58	50	58	62	57
Some	29	35	30	25	29
Not much	9	12	7	9	9
Not at all	3	2	5	3	5
DK/NA	1	1	0	1	0

q54 As a result of the recent increase in gas prices, have you cut down on the amount of driving you do?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct05a
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	63	53	69	64	64
No	36	46	29	35	33
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	3

q55 As a result of the recent increase in gas prices, have you cut back on household spending on other things?

					Sep05b
Yes	56	46	61	57	62
No	44	54	38	42	38
DK/NA	0	0	1	1	0

q56 Do you expect to change your vacation plans this summer because of the cost of gasoline?

					Apr05a
Yes	49	44	52	49	34
No	49	54	45	49	63
DK/NA	2	2	3	2	3

q57 How much of the blame for the increase in gas prices do you put on the war in Iraq -- a great deal, some, not much, or none at all?

					May04b
A great deal	34	17	47	32	34
Some	35	36	33	35	37
Not much	17	23	13	17	14
None at all	13	24	5	15	13
DK/NA	1	0	2	1	2

q58 How much of the blame for the increase in gas prices do you put on oil companies trying to increase their profits by raising prices -- a great deal, some, not much, or none at all?

					Apr06b
A great deal	71	69	74	69	64
Some	21	17	23	20	24
Not much	5	6	2	6	6
None at all	4	7	1	4	4
DK/NA	0	1	0	1	2

q60-61 BLANK

q62 How much have you heard or read about changing the laws regarding immigration in the United States -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

A lot	31	41	24	32
Some	47	39	53	46
Not much	17	16	18	17
Nothing at all	5	3	4	5
DK/NA	0	1	1	0

q63 Should LEGAL immigration into the United States be kept at its present level, increased, or decreased?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Apr06a
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	Rep	Dem	Ind		
	%	%	%	%	
Present level	39	38	42	36	33
Increased	22	20	14	31	16
Decreased	34	37	38	27	45
Don't know/No answer	5	5	6	6	6

q64 What about ILLEGAL immigration? How serious a problem do you think the issue of ILLEGAL immigration is for the country right now -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

Very serious	59	70	53	58	62
Somewhat serious	30	25	33	30	25
Not too serious	9	5	12	9	9
Not at all serious	2	0	1	3	3
Don't know/No answer	0	0	1	0	1

q65 Do you think ILLEGAL immigrants coming to this country today take jobs away from American citizens, or do they mostly take jobs Americans don't want?

Take jobs away	36	40	31	37	34
Take jobs Amer. don't want	53	51	56	52	53
Both (vol.)	9	6	10	9	11
Don't know/No answer	2	3	3	2	2

q66 If you had to choose, what do you think should happen to most illegal immigrants who have lived and worked in the United States for at least two years: They should be given a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status, OR they should be deported back to their native country?

Offered chance to keep job	61	55	64	63
Deported	35	40	33	32
Don't know/No answer	4	5	3	5

q67 Some people favor building a 700-mile-long fence along the U.S.-Mexico border because they say it would stop illegal immigrants from crossing the border into the U.S. Other people oppose the 700-mile-long fence because they say it would cost too much money and people would still find a way to get around it. What do you think, do you favor or oppose building a 700-mile-long fence along the U.S.-Mexico border?

Favor	29	35	27	27
Oppose	66	58	70	67
DK/NA	5	7	3	6

q68 BLANK

q69 Do you think illegal immigrants do more to strengthen the U.S. economy because they provide low-cost labor and they spend money or do illegal immigrants do more to weaken the U.S. economy because they don't all pay taxes but use public services?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Strengthen	22	17	26	22
Weaken	70	77	67	67
DK/NA	8	6	7	11

q70 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the US have stayed out?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Right thing	39	66	20	39	44
Stayed out	56	29	76	54	51
Don't know/No answer	5	5	4	7	5

q71 How would you say things are going for the US 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	Apr06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Very well	5	12	1	4	5
Somewhat well	34	53	20	34	36
Somewhat badly	33	24	39	32	29
Very badly	27	10	38	29	26
Don't know/No answer	1	1	2	1	4

q72 Regardless of whether you think taking military action in Iraq was the right thing to do -- would you say that the U.S. is very likely to succeed in Iraq, somewhat likely to succeed, not very likely to succeed, or not at all likely to succeed in Iraq?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	11	20	5	9	17
Somewhat likely	44	51	37	47	41
Not very likely	29	24	35	26	23
Not at all likely	15	4	21	16	17
Don't know/No answer	1	1	2	2	2

q73 From what you have heard or read, how much progress has the United States made in training Iraqi troops to take over from the U.S. -- a lot, some, not much, none at all, or don't you know enough about it yet to say?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar06a
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	12	25	4	12	11
Some	35	39	30	36	30
Not much	20	11	25	22	19
None at all	6	4	7	6	5
Don't know enough	25	21	30	22	35
DK/NA	2	0	4	2	

q74 From what you know, do you think the U.S. government is giving US troops in Iraq enough resources and military equipment to succeed, or not?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	*** Party ID ***				Mar06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	37	54	30	33	37
No	48	33	55	51	50
DK/NA	15	13	15	16	13

q75 Do you think the United States should or should not set a time-table for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq?

					Jan06a
Should	60	48	71	57	54
Should not	36	49	24	40	40
DK/NA	4	3	5	3	6

q76 Currently, drilling for oil and natural gas is prohibited in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Do you approve or disapprove of the proposal to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska for oil and natural gas drilling?

					Nov05d
Approve	48	67	35	49	39
Disapprove	45	27	56	45	55
DK/NA	7	6	9	6	6

q77 Now on another subject. Global warming is a term used to describe changes in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere which could result in changes in the environment. How much have you heard or read about global warming -- a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?

					Sep03a
A lot	41	43	34	47	27
Some	37	39	36	36	39
Not much	16	13	23	11	23
Nothing	6	4	6	6	10
DK/NA	0	1	1	0	1

q78 Do you think global warming is an environmental problem that is causing a serious impact now, or do you think global warming isn't having a serious impact?

* THOSE WHO HAVE READ A LOT OR SOME ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING *

Impact now	66	53	75	66	59
No serious impact	30	43	19	29	37
DK/NA	4	4	6	5	4

q79 Thinking now about IRAN. How much have you heard or read about IRAN's nuclear weapons program -- a lot, some, not much or nothing so far?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

A lot	26	35	19	27
Some	43	40	41	47
Not much	21	18	25	18
Nothing so far	10	7	15	8
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

q80 BLANK

q81 Which comes closer to your opinion -- Iran is a threat to the United States that requires military action now, Iran is a threat that can be contained with diplomacy now, or Iran is not a threat to the United States at this time?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr06b
	%	%	%	%	%
Threat requiring action now	11	20	8	9	18
Threat that can be contained	58	53	59	60	58
Not a threat at this time	22	18	25	22	16
DK/NA	9	9	8	9	8

q89 In a typical week, how many tanks of gas do you use?

None	4	4	7	3
Less than one	20	21	18	20
One	34	35	32	35
Two	25	23	24	27
Three	7	8	5	8
Four	3	4	2	2
Five	2	1	4	1
More than 5	2	4	2	1
DK/NA	3	0	6	3

q90 Do you have a close friend or family member who is an immigrant to the United States? IF NO, ASK: Do you personally encounter any immigrants on a regular basis?

Close friend/family	32	31	27	36
Know immigrant	19	25	15	18
No	49	42	57	45
DK/NA	0	2	1	0

q91 Do you or does any member of your immediate family now serve in the U.S. armed forces or in the U.S. reserves?

No	72	78	73	68
Yes, self	1	1	1	2
Yes, other	26	20	25	30
DK/NA	1	1	1	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1241	
Total Republicans	344	313
Total Democrats	433	453
Total Independents	464	475
Total Registered Voters	1124	1048
Total Half Sample A	638	621
Total Half Sample B	603	620