

**HURRICANE KATRINA: SIX MONTHS LATER**  
**February 22-26, 2006**

Six months after Hurricane Katrina devastated much of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, Americans are dissatisfied with the progress that has been made in rebuilding the region. They give the federal government, including President Bush, worse marks than they did last September on handling the situation.

Most Americans think New Orleans will be rebuilt -- but that it will take a while. African Americans are more dissatisfied and negative about the government's response, and most say race has been a major factor in the lack of progress.

**PROGRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE**

Only 5% of Americans say they are pleased about the way things are going with the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Another 26% say they are satisfied. Most, however, are not happy: 43% are dissatisfied, and 16% are angry about the way things are going in rebuilding the region.

**FEELINGS ON THE WAY THE REBUILDING OF THE GULF COAST IS GOING?**

Pleased	5%
Satisfied, but not pleased	26
Dissatisfied, but not angry	43
Angry	16

Two out of three Americans do not think President Bush has responded adequately to the needs of Katrina victims. Only 32% approve of the way President Bush is responding to those needs -- a drop of 12 points from last September's poll, taken just two weeks after the storm made landfall.

**PRES. BUSH'S RESPONSE TO NEEDS OF KATRINA VICTIMS**

	Now	9/2005
Approve	32%	44%
Disapprove	64	48

The President's overall approval rating has dropped 7 points since September, from 41% then to 34% now.

Even fewer Americans think the Administration has a clear plan for finding housing and jobs for people left homeless by Hurricane Katrina. 15% now say they have a clear plan, down 10 points from last month, and lower than it was just weeks after Katrina made landfall.

**DOES BUSH ADMIN. HAVE CLEAR PLAN TO FIND HOMES & JOBS FOR VICTIMS?**

	Now	1/2006	9/2005
Yes	15%	25%	21%
No	72	67	68

Most Republicans approve of the way the President is responding to the needs of those affected by Hurricane Katrina, while most Democrats disapprove. But neither party thinks the Administration has a clear plan for helping those left jobless and homeless by the hurricane.

Just under half have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in the U.S. government's ability to respond to natural disasters, about the same number who had confidence in the week after Hurricane Katrina made landfall. 51% express little or no confidence now in the government's ability to handle natural disasters.

**CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO RESPOND TO NATURAL DISASTERS**

	Now	10/2005	9/2005
Great deal	10%	16%	19%
Fair amount	39	47	32
Not very much	37	32	34
None	14	5	15

Four in ten Americans say at least some progress has been made in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, but just 7% say there has been a lot of progress. 38% say little or no progress has been made.

**HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REBUILDING THE GULF COAST?**

A lot	7%
Some	34
Not much/none	38
Don't know	21

Among those who see little or no progress being made, 32% say they are angry about it.

Majorities of Americans say both federal agencies and Louisiana officials could be doing more to help the people affected by Katrina. 66% say federal agencies like FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Association) could be doing more to help the situation. 40% said that back in September. Six in 10 Americans now say that Louisiana state and local officials could be doing more.

**ARE THEY DOING ALL THEY CAN?**

	<u>Federal Officials</u>		<u>Louisiana Officials</u>	
	Now	9/2005	Now	9/2005
Yes	27%	53%	26%	--
No	66	40	60	--

Americans think the federal government should continue to be involved in addressing the needs of Hurricane Katrina victims. Two-thirds say the federal government should continue to provide housing for all

people left homeless by Katrina. 23% think this is no longer the federal government's responsibility.

**SHOULD THE FEDERAL GOV'T CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HOUSING FOR VICTIMS?**

Yes	67%
No	23

And just as they were shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit, Americans are willing to cut spending on the war with Iraq to help pay for hurricane recovery and rebuilding. 59% say this is an acceptable trade-off, while 33% say such a trade-off is unacceptable.

**CUT IRAQ WAR SPENDING TO HELP PAY FOR HURRICANE RECOVERY?**

	Now	10/2005
Yes	59%	62%
No	33	33

When asked to volunteer who or what was most responsible for the delayed response immediately after Katrina hit which left many in New Orleans without food or water, the federal government tops the list, mentioned by a third. 14% specifically blame FEMA for the delayed response, another 13% say the federal government, and 11% blame President Bush. 11% cite government in general and the same number blame the residents themselves. Back in September, the public cited government at all levels equally as being at fault.

**MOST TO BLAME FOR SITUATION IN NEW ORLEANS**

	Now	9/2005
FEMA/ Michael Brown	14%	11%
Federal government	13	10
The residents themselves	11	12
Government generally/ all levels	11	12
President Bush	11	8
New Orleans city gov't	9	12
New Orleans mayor/ Ray Nagin	8	8
Louisiana state gov't	5	7
LA Gov./ Kathleen Blanco	4	5

**LOOKING AHEAD**

While the public thinks New Orleans will eventually be rebuilt and that most of the people who left will return, a sizable number thinks the city will probably never be rebuilt. Most think that those who left New Orleans may be better off not returning.

Seven in 10 think most of New Orleans will be rebuilt, but most of them - 60% - think rebuilding it will take longer than two years. 27% say most of New Orleans will probably never be rebuilt. These views are more pessimistic than those expressed last October. Then, just 9% of Americans said New Orleans would never be a working city again.

**WILL MOST OF NEW ORLEANS BE REBUILT?**

Yes, within a year or two	11%
Yes, but will take longer than a year or two	60
No, it never will	27

Even though most Americans think former residents of New Orleans - both blacks and whites - will return to the city, they think whites are more likely than blacks to return. 33% say most African Americans who left New Orleans will never return, while 20% say the same about whites who left the city.

**WILL RESIDENTS RETURN TO NEW ORLEANS?**

Most white people will ...	
Return in a year or two	25%
Return but longer than two years	45
Never return	20
Most black people will ...	
Return in a year or two	15%
Return but longer than two years	42
Never return	33

In fact, 57% of Americans think most people who left New Orleans, regardless of race, will be better off in the long run staying in the new cities and towns where they are now.

**HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES WILL BE BETTER OFF...**

Returning to New Orleans	25%
Staying where they are now	57

**MARDI GRAS AND THE RETURN OF TOURISM**

With some Mardi Gras celebrations already underway in New Orleans, the public is evenly divided as to whether holding such festivities is a good idea. 46% think Mardi Gras celebrations should take place now, but the same number think New Orleans should hold off and wait until next year to celebrate.

**SHOULD NEW ORLEANS HOLD MARDI GRAS CELEBRATIONS NOW?**

Yes, hold now	46%
No, should wait another year	46

While half of whites say it's a good idea for New Orleans to hold Mardi Gras celebrations now, seven in 10 African Americans think it would be better to wait another year. 50% of men think Mardi Gras celebrations should take place, compared to just 42% of women. But those who see little progress being made in the rebuilding of New Orleans are less likely than those who see more progress to think Mardi Gras festivities should take place now.

An overwhelming majority say New Orleans is not ready to be a tourism and convention destination again. Just one in ten says it is ready for that.

**IS NEW ORLEANS READY TO RETURN TO A TOURIST DESTINATION?**

Yes	11%
No	78

**THE AFTERMATH OF KATRINA: RACE AS A FACTOR**

Americans are split as to whether race has been a factor in the progress being made by the government in rebuilding New Orleans. 46% say race is at least a minor factor, including 28% who say it is a major factor. However, 49% say the fact that many people forced to leave New Orleans are black is not a factor in the progress of rebuilding that city.

But there are sizable differences on this question by race. 57% of African Americans say the fact that many forced to leave New Orleans are black is a major factor in the rebuilding process, while more than half of white Americans think race is not a factor at all.

**IS THE RACE OF THOSE FORCED TO LEAVE A FACTOR IN REBUILDING PROGRESS?**

	All	Whites	Blacks
Yes, major factor	28%	24%	57%
Yes, minor factor	18	18	17
No, not a factor	49	53	24

African Americans are more pessimistic than white Americans about the rebuilding of New Orleans. 38% of blacks say much of the city will never be rebuilt, compared to 26% of whites who say that. Still, a majority of both groups say New Orleans will eventually be rebuilt.

**WILL MOST OF NEW ORLEANS BE REBUILT?**

	All	Whites	Blacks
Yes, within a year or two	11%	10%	11%
Yes, but will take longer	60	62	50
No, it never will	27	26	38

Also, 57% of African Americans think most black people who were forced to leave New Orleans will eventually return. 42% think most blacks who left will never go back to the city.

**WILL MOST BLACK PEOPLE WHO LEFT NEW ORLEANS RETURN?**

	All	Whites	Blacks
Yes, within a year or two	15%	14%	13%
Yes, but will take longer	42	43	44
No, will never return	33	33	42

African Americans think whites who were forced to leave New Orleans will return sooner than blacks. 33% of African Americans say most

whites who left the city will return in a year or two. Just 13% say the same about black people who left New Orleans.

**WILL MOST WHITE PEOPLE WHO LEFT NEW ORLEANS RETURN?**

	All	Whites	Blacks
Yes, within a year or two	25%	24%	33%
Yes, but will take longer	45	46	41
No, will never return	20	20	23

When it comes to rating the progress being made in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, African Americans are more likely than whites to say not much progress has been made, and they are much more likely to be dissatisfied or even angry about it. 47% of black Americans say little or no progress has been made in rebuilding the Gulf Coast and New Orleans, compared with 36% of whites. 35% of blacks say at least some progress has been made. Among whites, 43% say that.

**HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REBUILDING THE GULF COAST?**

	All	Whites	Blacks
A lot	7%	8%	4%
Some	34	35	31
Not much	32	31	38
None	6	5	9
Don't know	21	21	18

Eight in 10 African Americans are dissatisfied at the least about the progress being made, including 27% who are outright angry about it. Just 15% of whites say they are angry.

**FEELINGS ON THE WAY THE REBUILDING OF THE GULF COAST IS GOING?**

	All	Whites	Blacks
Pleased	5%	5%	1%
Satisfied, but not pleased	26	29	17
Dissatisfied, but not angry	43	41	52
Angry	16	15	27

While neither blacks nor whites approve of the way the President has responded to the needs of Hurricane Katrina victims, black Americans are especially critical. Just 7% of African Americans approve of President Bush's handling of the situation, compared to 36% of white Americans.

**PRES. BUSH'S RESPONSE TO NEEDS OF KATRINA VICTIMS**

	All	Whites	Blacks
Approve	32%	36%	7%
Disapprove	64	60	90

From the start of his presidency, a majority of African Americans have said that President Bush cares little or not at all about the needs and problems of black people. Today, 30% say President Bush cares at least some about the needs and problems of blacks, while 67% say he

does not. This is an improvement, however, from last September, just weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit, when only 18% of African Americans said the President cared about the needs of black people.

**HOW MUCH DOES PRES. BUSH CARE ABOUT NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF BLACK PEOPLE?**

(Among African Americans)

	Now	9/2005	9/2003	3/2001
A lot	7%	1%	1%	6%
Some	23	17	31	29
Not much/none	67	76	63	61

Among Americans overall, 48% say Bush cares about the needs of problems of blacks, while 48% say he does not.

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This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 1018 adults, interviewed by telephone February 22-26, 2006. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. An oversample of African Americans was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 207 interviews among this group. The margin of error for African Americans is plus or minus seven points.

**CBS NEWS POLL**  
**Hurricane Katrina: Six Months Later**  
**February 22-26, 2006**

q13 How much do you think George W. Bush cares about the needs and problems of blacks - a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	Total	**** Party ID ****			Sep05b
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
A lot	18	43	5	12	24
Some	30	42	23	29	30
Not much	26	9	33	34	21
Not at all	22	4	38	19	20
Don't know/No answer	3	3	2	5	4

q24 How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to respond to natural disasters -- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct05a
					%
A great deal	10	20	4	9	16
A fair amount	39	50	30	40	47
Not very much	37	23	44	40	32
None at all	14	7	22	11	5
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

q34 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is responding to the needs of people affected by Hurricane Katrina?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep05b
					%
Approve	32	63	13	27	44
Disapprove	64	33	84	68	48
DK/NA	4	4	3	5	8

q35 Do you think members of the Bush Administration have a clear plan for finding housing and jobs for people left homeless by Hurricane Katrina or don't they have a plan yet?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan06b
					%
Have a clear plan	15	26	8	12	25
Doesn't have a plan	72	51	87	74	67
Don' know/No answer	13	23	5	14	8

q36 In order to pay for Hurricane recovery and rebuilding in the Gulf Coast, would it be acceptable or unacceptable to you to cut spending on the war in Iraq?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct05a
					%
Acceptable	59	47	68	59	62
Unacceptable	33	46	22	35	33
DK/NA	8	7	10	6	5



q37 In New Orleans, after the Hurricane, hundreds of thousands of people were unable to evacuate the flooded city and they lacked food, water and shelter. Who would you say was most to blame for those conditions?

(If Say government, ask:) Do you mean the federal government in Washington, or the state and local government in Louisiana?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep05b
	%	%	%	%	%
FEMA	14	11	19	13	11
Federal gov't	13	3	22	10	10
The President/G.W. Bush	11	8	15	10	8
Government (general)	11	12	9	13	12
Residents of New Orleans	11	16	8	9	12
City gov't (New Orleans)	9	13	6	10	12
Mayor of New Orleans	8	12	4	9	8
State gov't (Louisiana)	5	5	5	4	7
Governor of Louisiana	4	8	1	4	5
Mother nature	2	1	1	3	2
Other	3	3	2	4	4
DK/NA	9	8	8	11	9

q38 From what you have heard or read, how much progress has been made so far in rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast --a lot, some, not much, none at all, or don't you know enough about it yet to say?

A lot	7	10	3	10
Some	34	37	34	32
Not much	32	26	38	31
None at all	6	4	9	5
Don't know enough	21	23	16	22

q39 Which best describes your feelings about the way things are going in the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast? Are you pleased, satisfied but not pleased, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

Pleased	5	6	3	7
Satisfied	26	39	16	26
Dissatisfied	43	38	49	41
Angry	16	5	25	16
Don't know/No answer	10	12	7	9

q40 Do you think the fact that many people forced to leave New Orleans are black is a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in the progress being made by the government in rebuilding New Orleans?

Major factor	28	13	42	26
Minor factor	18	14	20	18
Not a factor	49	68	32	51
Don't know/No answer	5	5	6	5

q41 Right now, do you think that federal agencies like FEMA are doing all they can reasonably be expected to do to help the people affected by Hurricane Katrina, or could they be doing more?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

	**** Party ID ****				Sep05b*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
All that could be expected	27	40	15	29	53
Could be doing more	66	51	79	64	40
Don't know/No answer	7	9	6	7	7

\*Varied wording: What about now? Do you think that now federal agencies like FEMA are doing all they can reasonably be expected to do to help the situation, or could they be doing more?

q42 Right now, do you think Louisiana state and local government officials are doing all they can reasonably be expected to do to help the people affected by Hurricane Katrina, or could they be doing more?

All that could be expected	26	23	26	30
Could be doing more	60	61	62	58
Don't know/No answer	14	16	12	12

q43 Do you think the Federal Government should continue to provide housing for all people left homeless by Hurricane Katrina, or is this no longer the responsibility of the federal government?

Guarantee housing	67	57	75	66
Not responsibility	23	34	17	23
Don't know/No answer	10	10	8	11

q44 From what you've heard or read, do you think New Orleans is ready now to return to being a tourism and convention destination, or is it not ready for that yet?

Ready	11	14	10	10
Not ready yet	78	73	80	81
Some parts ready/some not	3	3	4	3
DK/NA	8	10	6	6

q45 Do you think it is a good idea for New Orleans to hold Mardi Gras celebrations now, or should they wait another year?

Hold now	46	43	43	51
Wait	46	47	48	43
DK/NA	8	10	9	6

q46 Which of these do you think is most likely?...1. Most of New Orleans will be rebuilt in the next year or two. 2. Most of New Orleans will be rebuilt, but it will take longer than a year or two. 3. Most of New Orleans will probably not be rebuilt.

Will, in the next year or two	11	14	9	10
Will, but will take longer	60	61	61	58
Will probably not be rebuilt	27	23	28	29
Don't know/No answer	2	2	2	3

q47 Which of these do you think is most likely?...1. Most black people who left New Orleans will return in the next year or two. 2. Most black people who left New Orleans will return, but it will take longer than a year or two. 3. Most black people who left New Orleans will probably never return.

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	**** Party ID ****			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Will, in the next year or two	15	15	15	15
Will, but will take longer	42	43	43	41
Never return	33	31	34	34
Don't know/No answer	10	11	8	10

q48 Which of these do you think is most likely?...1. Most white people who left New Orleans will return in the next year or two. 2. Most white people who left New Orleans will return, but it will take longer than a year or two. 3. Most white people who left New Orleans will probably never return.

Will, in the next year or two	25	26	27	24
Will, but will take longer	45	42	45	48
Never return	20	23	20	17
Don't know/No answer	10	9	8	11

q49 Which is closer to your view: in the long run, most people who evacuated New Orleans but have not yet returned will be better off if they DO return to New Orleans, OR, in the long run, most people who have left New Orleans but have not yet returned will be better off staying in the new cities and towns where they are now.

Better off returning	25	27	29	20
Better if stay in new place	57	56	54	61
DK/NA	18	17	17	19

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1018	
Total Republicans	272	289
Total Democrats	409	381
Total Independents	337	348
Total African Americans	207	118