



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL

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LOOKING AHEAD TO THE ELECTION AND THE 110TH CONGRESS

October 27-31, 2006

The war in Iraq is not just the dominant national issue for American voters this election season, but it is also the one issue Americans expect the next Congress - whether controlled by Republicans or Democrats - to deal with as its first priority. But the voters have very different perceptions of what the Democrats and Republicans would do in Iraq, and voters want something in between the two.

The issue of Iraq, as well as the continued low approval rating for President George W. Bush, continues to give Democrats a sizable overall lead among likely voters in their election choice. If the election for U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, 52% of likely voters would support the Democratic candidate in their district, while just 34% would vote for the Republican, an 18-point lead for the Democrats, the largest margin in CBS News/New York Times pre-election polls.

2006 CONGRESSIONAL VOTE

(Among Likely Voters)

	Now	10/2006
Democrat	52%	50%
Republican	34	36

Half of likely voters - about the same percentage in both political parties -- are paying a lot of attention to the campaign. Another 40% are paying some. This is a big increase in just a few weeks.

ATTENTION TO CAMPAIGN

(Among Likely Voters)

	Now	10/2006
A lot	51%	37%
Some	40	45
Not much/none	10	18

Overall, six in 10 voters say they are basing their choice on their candidates' position on issues, with the war in Iraq dominating that list. 27% volunteer the war as the most important issue in their vote. The economy and jobs comes in second, with 13%, followed by illegal

immigration (8%) and terrorism (7%). Among Democrats, the war in Iraq is mentioned by 37%.

MAIN REASON SUPPORTING CANDIDATE?

(Among Likely Voters)

Position on issues	61%
Party ID	27
Personal qualities	8

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE IN VOTE?

(Among Likely Voters)

Iraq	27%
Economy/jobs	13
Illegal immigration	8
Terrorism	7

Democrats also benefit from strong partisan feelings. Democrats (40%) are more apt than Republicans (19%) to say they made their choice mostly because of party. And more voters overall say their vote will be to put Democrats in control of Congress (34%) than say they will vote to keep Republicans running Congress (20%).

CONGRESSIONAL VOTE WILL BE TO:

(Among Likely Voters)

Put Democrats in control	34%
Keep Republicans in control	20
Something else	42

But this is as much an anti-Bush vote as an anti-Republican one. By a wide margin, voters say theirs will be a vote against President Bush rather than for him. Among Democrats, fully seven in 10 say they will voting against the President. In previous midterm elections, Presidential influence has typically been either neutral (Presidents Clinton and George H. W. Bush), or positive (President Reagan).

CONGRESSIONAL VOTE WILL BE:

(Among Likely Voters)

For Bush	14%
Against Bush	40
Not about Bush	41

About half of voters (47%) say they are more enthusiastic than usual about this election. Democrats remain more enthusiastic than Republicans about the upcoming elections (as they were last month), but enthusiasm on both sides of the political divide has risen since early October. Now, 53% of Democrats and 42% of Republicans report feeling more enthusiastic about voting than usual.

MORE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT VOTING

(Among Likely Voters)

	Now	10/2006
All voters	47%	42%
Republicans	42%	35%
Democrats	53%	50%
Independents	43%	43%

One reason for Democratic enthusiasm could be that 61% of voters expect Democrats to win more seats in November than Republicans. Some Republicans expect this may happen as well; 38% of Republican voters think Democrats will win more seats, while 47% think their own party will win more seats.

WHO IS VOTING FOR WHOM?

Nine in 10 Democratic voters support their party's candidate, as would over eight in 10 Republican voters. Independents fall heavily for the Democratic candidate; 50% would vote Democratic, while 23% would vote Republican.

There is a sizable gender gap in this election; among women, Democrats have the edge over Republicans by 21 points. Among men, the Democratic lead is just 15 points. And while Republicans intend to vote for their party's candidate, one in four conservatives and three in ten white evangelicals will support the Democratic candidate. The Democrats also receive support from most moderates. This poll also shows some attrition from the ranks of Republican support since the presidential election; 17% of voters who said they voted for President Bush in 2004 will vote Democratic in this election.

CONGRESSIONAL VOTE - DEMOGRAPHICS

(Among Likely Voters)

	Democrat	Republican
Men	51%	36
Women	53%	32
Age		
18-29	69%	26
30-44	50%	38
45-64	50%	36
65+	47%	31
Republicans	6%	84
Democrats	90%	3
Independents	50%	23
Liberals	84%	8
Moderates	57%	27
Conservatives	25%	62
White Evangelicals	31%	52
2004 Presidential Vote:		
Kerry Voters	89%	3
Bush Voters	17%	67

Absentee voting continues to rise. In this poll, 21% of likely voters say they already have or plan to vote early or vote absentee. 11% already have.

HOW WILL YOU CAST A BALLOT IF YOU VOTE?

(Among Likely Voters)

Plan to vote absentee	9%
Already voted absentee	9
Plan to vote early	1
Already voted early	2
Will vote on Election Day	78

Voters in the West are much more likely to have already voted: states in those regions tend to have fewer restrictions on absentee voting. More than half of voters in the West are either planning to vote absentee, or already have. Nine in ten Northeast voters, by contrast, plan to vote on Election Day.

The Pacific West tends to be Democratic, and voters who've already voted say they back Democrats for the House. Those planning to vote absentee also back Democrats.

VOTE METHOD AND CONGRESSIONAL VOTE CHOICE

(Among Likely Voters)

House vote choice:

	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>
Already voted absentee/early	60%	32
Planning to vote absentee/early	49%	32
Will vote on Election Day	51%	35

THE IRAQ ISSUE

Optimism about the outcome in Iraq has waned. Fewer Americans now than earlier this year think the U.S. is very likely to succeed in Iraq - only one in ten now thinks so. Another four in ten think the U.S. is somewhat likely to succeed. More today than ever before thinks the U.S. is not at all likely to succeed in the end.

WILL U.S. ULTIMATELY SUCCEED IN IRAQ?

	Now	6/2006	7/2005
Very likely	10%	19%	22%
Somewhat likely	42	41	40
Not very likely	26	24	25
Not at all likely	19	13	10

And fewer Americans today than ever before think the U.S. is winning in Iraq. As recently as January, 36% thought the U.S. was winning.

WHO IS WINNING IN IRAQ?

	Now	7/2006	1/2006
The U.S.	20%	27%	36%
Iraqi resistance	17	13	9

Neither side 59 58 48
 A large majority - 67% - continue to say the war is going badly.

About half of Americans would like to see at least some troop reductions now, including the one-quarter who want all of them removed. These sentiments have not changed much over the last year.

U.S. TROOP LEVELS IN IRAQ SHOULD BE...?

	Now	10/2006	4/2006
Increased	16%	17%	12%
Keep same number	27	21	25
Decreased	26	26	30
Remove them all	24	30	27

Voters overwhelmingly believe that Democrats would start bringing troops home sooner than Republicans would. The vast majority of voters - 82% - believe that if they controlled Congress, the Democrats would try to decrease or remove all troops from Iraq, while only 24% believe this will be the goal of Republicans. Seven in 10 believe the Republicans would try to maintain or increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, while only 13% believe this is a goal of the Democrats.

WHAT WILL THEY TRY TO DO IN IRAQ IF THEY CONTROL CONGRESS?

(Among Likely Voters)

	Republicans	Democrats
Increase troop levels	29%	3%
Keep troop levels the same	42	10
Decrease troop levels	20	41
Remove all troops	4	41

Just over half of Americans would like to see a time-table set for bringing the troops home.

SHOULD U.S. SET A TIMETABLE FOR REMOVING TROOPS?

Yes	54%
No	42

This is the case even though half of Americans think withdrawing U.S. troops now would mean the U.S. will have lost the war.

WILL WITHDRAWING TROOPS NOW MEAN A LOSS IN IRAQ?

	Now	10/2006	9/2006
Yes	51%	45%	42%
No	41	48	52

There is one justification Americans would accept as a reason for increasing troop strength. 55% support sending more troops to Iraq if that meant the U.S. would finally gain control over Baghdad and stabilize the country.

Their own desires aside, most Americans expect the troops to remain at least two more years, including a quarter that thinks they will be

there five years or more. One in three thinks troops will be back in the U.S. within two years or less. These feelings were about the same as earlier this year.

HOW LONG WILL TROOPS HAVE TO STAY IN IRAQ?

	Now	1/2006	4/2004
Less than one year	9%	8%	8%
1-2 years	22	26	27
2-5 years	35	37	33
5+ years	27	22	25

Americans continue to be doubtful of the long term payoff from the war. A 46% plurality think the war has left the terror threat to the U.S. unchanged, but 35% think it has actually increased the threat, and 18% say it has decreased it.

Views on Iraq are strongly associated with this year's vote - particularly among those opposed to the war. Those who think the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq are voting overwhelmingly for the Democrat in their district - 74% are - and most, 54%, consider their ballot an effort to give control of Congress to the Democrats.

Likely voters who support the Iraq war are voting for Republican House candidates, but one-quarter of them are voting for Democrats.

VIEWS ON IRAQ AND THE CONGRESSIONAL VOTE

(Among Likely Voters)

	<u>Iraq was right thing</u>	<u>U.S. should have stayed out</u>
House vote:		
Republican	61%	12%
Democrat	25	74

As they have throughout this year, more Americans say that the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq (51%) than say going to war was the right thing to do (44%). Republicans continue to call the war the right thing; Democrats disagree.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE 110th CONGRESS

Iraq is the dominant problem for the next Congress. Four in ten name it, far ahead of illegal immigration (9%) and the economy and jobs (7%).

WHAT SHOULD THE NEW CONGRESS CONCENTRATE ON FIRST?

(Among Likely Voters)

War/Iraq	39%
Illegal immigration	9
Economy & jobs	7
Health Care	5
Terrorism	5

Democrats (53%) believe Iraq is the most important priority, while only about 1 in 4 Republicans and 1 in 3 Independents think so. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to name terrorism and immigration, while Democrats are more likely to cite the economy and health care.

WHAT SHOULD THE NEW CONGRESS CONCENTRATE ON FIRST?
(Among Likely Voters)

	Total	Reps	Dems	Ind
War/Iraq	39%	25%	53%	36%
Illegal immigration	9	15	3	10
Economy & jobs	7	4	7	10
Health Care	5	2	8	5
Terrorism	5	10	1	4

But most voters believe the next Congress will focus on Iraq no matter who wins control in November. 13% believe fighting terrorism would be the Republicans' top priority, as opposed to just 3% who believe it would top the Democrats' priorities. 9% believe Democrats would focus on the economy, as opposed to 7% for Republicans.

PARTY PRIORITIES IF THEY CONTROL CONGRESS
(Among Likely Voters)

	Republicans	Democrats
War/Iraq	31%	41%
Terrorism	13	3
Economy & jobs	7	9

Voters don't foresee much change in the threat of terrorism based on which party controls Congress. While 24% believe the terrorist threat will increase with a Democratic-controlled Congress, 27% believe the threat would increase under a Republican-controlled Congress. Most think the threat of terrorism will remain the same no matter who controls the Congress.

IF THEY CONTROL CONGRESS, TERRORISM WILL...
(Among Likely Voters)

	Republicans	Democrats
Increase	27%	24%
Decrease	15	19
Stay the same	56	55

Voters do see clear differences on a number of economic issues depending on which party controls Congress. If the Democrats control Congress, voters are more likely to believe the economy will get better, and that the minimum wage will go up. A majority of voters (55%) believes that health care costs will go up under the Republicans, and a third says prescription drug costs will increase as well. More voters believe that taxes will increase under a Democratic Congress than a Republican one.

IF THEY CONTROL CONGRESS...

(Among Likely Voters)

		Republicans	Democrats
The economy will...	get better	19%	33%
	get worse	35	23
	stay the same	43	41
Taxes will...	go up	34%	47%
	go down	6	7
	stay the same	59	43
The minimum wage will...	go up	15%	58%
	go down	2	1
	stay the same	81	39
Health care costs will...	go up	55%	33%
	go down	3	14
	stay the same	40	48
RX drug costs will...	go up	36%	15%
	go down	6	31
	stay the same	53	50

But a majority of likely voters don't think either party has a clear plan for the country.

WILL THEY HAVE A CLEAR PLAN FOR THE COUNTRY?

(Among Likely Voters)

	Democrats	Republicans
Clear plan	37%	39%
No clear plan	54%	55

Americans do not have firm opinions of Dennis Hastert or Nancy Pelosi, the potential Speakers of the House of Representatives in the 110th Congress. Those who are familiar are more likely to have a negative opinion than a positive opinion of each of them. More than 7 in 10 Americans don't know enough about either to say. Among likely voters, more than 6 in 10 are undecided or haven't heard enough about them.

OPINION OF THE PARTY LEADERS IN CONGRESS

	Hastert	Pelosi
Favorable	6%	10%
Not Favorable	15	17
Undecided/haven't heard enough	76	71

EVALUATING THE PRESIDENT

Although George W. Bush is traveling across the country campaigning for Republican candidates, a third 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 11% would be more likely to support

that candidate. Still, 53% of voters say the President's support of a local political candidate would not affect how they voted.

IF BUSH BACKED A CANDIDATE, WOULD YOU BE...

(Among Likely Voters)

More likely to vote for candidate	11%
Less likely to vote for candidate	34
Wouldn't make a difference	53

Voters' perceptions are that the President's campaigning for candidates has actually hurt those candidates. 56% think those candidates have general been hurt by the President's campaigning, while 26% think they have been helped.

As expected, Republicans think candidates are helped by the President's campaigning, while Democrats think they are hurt by it.

Just 34% of Americans approve of the job George W. Bush is doing as President; the same approval rating as last month.

In late October 2002, just before the mid-term elections in which the Republicans gained seats and before the war in Iraq, 62% of the public approved of the job he was doing as President. Heading into the Presidential election of 2004, 49% of Americans approved of his job performance.

BUSH JOB RATING

	Now	10/2006	10/2004	10/2002
Approve	34%	34%	49%	62%
Disapprove	58%	60	44	28

The president's job approval is currently lower than President Bill Clinton's was in October 1994 before the mid-term election that led to the Republican takeover of Congress.

PRESIDENT'S JOB APPROVAL AND MID-TERM ELECTIONS

	<u>G.W. Bush</u>		<u>Bill Clinton</u>		<u>Ronald Reagan</u>	
	Now	10/2002	10/1998	10/1994	10/1986	10/1982
Approve	34%	62%	65%	43%	67%	46%
Disapprove	58%	28	30	48	25	43

Approval ratings on specific issues have changed little since early October. The President receives his highest ratings - 44% - on his handling of terrorism and the situation with North Korea. Just 29% approve of Bush's handling of Iraq - his lowest rating among the issues asked about in this poll. There has been a slight bump on his handling of the economy. 38% now approve of his handling it, compared to 34% a month ago.

BUSH'S APPROVAL RATINGS

	Now	10/2006
Terrorism	44%	46%
North Korea	44%	--
Economy	38%	34%
Foreign policy	31%	32%
Iraq	29%	30%

Criticism of the President's Iraq policy is strong. Six in 10 want the U.S. to change its strategy and tactics in Iraq. Just 8% thinks the U.S. should stay with its current strategy. One-quarter would simply remove all troops.

WHAT SHOULD U.S. DO IN IRAQ NOW?

	All	Likely voters			
	Americans	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Keep fighting with SAME strategy	8%	9%	21%	1%	6%
Keep fighting but CHANGE strategy	61	64	66	62	66
Remove all troops	27	23	8	34	25

Majorities of both Republican and Democratic likely voters say the U.S. needs a new strategy. Democratic voters are more likely than Republicans to say the U.S. should remove all its troops.

Despite their call for a new strategy, Americans overwhelmingly feel President Bush does not have a plan for dealing with Iraq now. Over the last year, the President has not changed Americans' views on this.

DOES BUSH HAVE A PLAN FOR IRAQ?

	Now	7/2005
Yes	26%	28%
No	69	62

And eight in ten believe that the President's recent decision to stop using the phrase "stay the course" reflects more of a rhetorical change than a change of policy.

Most - 53% - do support the President's call for benchmarks to be imposed on the Iraqi government. Nearly two-thirds think the Iraqi government is not doing all it can to help secure the country.

Overwhelmingly Americans believe the U.S. is on the wrong track, 64% say so. The most salient issue appears to be the war in Iraq, but there are other concerns: 83% view immigration as a serious problem; 63% say protecting the environment is so important, continuing improvements must be made, regardless of cost; and 72% think North Korea can be contained. One positive note: 59% believe the economy is good.

EVALUATING CONGRESS

Americans continue to give Congress low approval ratings: 29% now approve of the job Congress is doing, while 56% disapprove. Opinions of voters are much the same.

Views of their own Representative are much more positive than those of Congress overall. 58% of Americans approve of the job their own member of Congress is doing, while 26% disapprove.

CONGRESS JOB APPROVAL

	Overall	Own Representative
Approve	29%	58%
Disapprove	56	26

Assessments of Congress' job were more positive just prior the mid-term elections of 2002; then 45% of Americans approved of the way Congress was handling its job. In October 1994, just before the Republicans took control of Congress, evaluations were even worse. Then, only 20% approved of the job Congress was doing.

APPROVAL OF CONGRESS: NOW VS. PAST MID-TERMS

	Now	10/2002	10/1994
Approve	29%	45%	20%
Disapprove	56	40	73

There is a strong anti-incumbent sentiment among the electorate as a majority does not think most members of Congress deserve reelection. Seven in 10 likely voters think it is time to give new people a chance, while just 16% believe most members of Congress deserve to be reelected. Opinion is more divided when it comes to voters' own representatives; 49% think he or she deserves re-election, while 42% want someone new.

THE 109TH CONGRESS

(Among Likely Voters)

	Most Members	Own Representative
Deserves re-election	16%	49%
Time for new people	69	42

The anti-incumbent sentiment may stem from the fact that 58% of registered voters say that corruption in Washington, DC is widespread, while 39% say it is limited to only a few isolated incidents. Democrats and Independents are more likely than Republicans to say corruption in Washington is widespread.

HOW COMMON IS CORRUPTION IN WASHINGTON?

(Among Registered Voters)

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Widespread	58%	46%	63%	62%
Limited	39	50	35	33

Among likely voters who say corruption is widespread, 58% plan to vote for the Democratic candidate next week. Likely voters who say corruption is limited are more divided in their support.

2006 CONGRESS VOTE AND CORRUPTION

(Among Likely Voters)

	Corruption is Widespread	Corruption is Limited
Republican	28%	42%
Democrat	58	44

When asked which political party has more corrupt politicians, more than twice as many voters choose the Republican Party than the Democratic Party. Still, 37% of voters say the parties are equally corrupt.

WHICH PARTY HAS MORE CORRUPT POLITICIANS?

(Among Registered Voters)

Republicans	35%
Democrats	15
Both equal	37

OTHER ISSUES

59% of Americans say the economy is good today - essentially unchanged from last month, and the second-highest rating for the economy since the spring of 2002. On Oct. 19th, the stock market's Dow Jones industrial average crossed 12,000 for the first time in history.

VIEWS OF THE ECONOMY

	Now	10/2006	9/2006	8/2006	5/2002
Good	59%	60%	56%	52%	66%
Bad	39	39	43	47	34

Belief that the economy is getting better, though, stands at 16% - down 3 points from last month, when 19% said so. 44% think it is holding steady, down 5 points from last month.

54% describe illegal immigration as a very serious problem - up from 48% in May, but not as high as it was in April when 62% viewed said so.

63% agree that protecting the environment is so important that requirements and standards cannot be too high and improvements must be made, regardless of cost.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS MUST BE MADE, REGARDLESS OF COST

	Now	11/2002
Agree	63%	57%
Disagree	33	36

Most Americans - 84% - have heard at least something about the test-launching of missiles conducted by North Korea. Americans overwhelmingly see the situation as one that can be handled without involving the military for now. 72% say there is a threat from North Korea, but it is one that can be contained. These views are similar to earlier this year.

NORTH KOREA...

	Now	7/2006
Can be contained	72%	69%
Requires action now	13	16
Is not a threat	10	10

VOTING AND VOTE COUNTING

The increase in e-voting this year, challenges to voter registration or voter identification requirements in some areas, and residual feelings about the 2000 and 2004 presidential election may have increased worry about the upcoming election. 33% of registered voters are concerned about encountering problems that might prevent them from voting or prevent their vote from being counted accurately. That's a slight increase from the 29% who felt that way just before the 2004 election.

CONCERN ABOUT VOTE COUNT

(Among Registered Voters)

	Now	10/2004
Very concerned	16%	10%
Somewhat concerned	17	19
Not very/not at all concerned	67	70

Democrats are much more concerned than Republicans about possible voting or vote count irregularities. 13% of Republicans are very or somewhat concerned; that rises to 45% among Democrats. And African American voters are similarly much more concerned than white voters.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1084 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone October 27-31, 2006. The sample included 932 registered voters. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points and three points for results based on registered voters. Each registered voter is assigned a probability of voting, which is used to calculate the likely voter results. The sum of these probabilities is the effective number of likely voters. The effective number of likely voters is 598. The error due to sampling for likely voters could be plus or minus four points.

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Looking Ahead to the Election and the 110th Congress
October 27-31, 2006

q1 How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2006 election campaign -- a lot, some, not much or no attention so far?

	***** LIKELY VOTERS *****				Oct06a*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	51	52	56	43	30
Some	40	40	33	47	45
Not much	8	6	9	9	19
No attention	2	1	2	2	
	5				
DK/NA	0	1	0	0	1

*Trend is among registered voters

q2 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?

	*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***				Oct06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Definitely vote	72	79	70	67	69%
Probably vote	19	14	20	23	18
Probably not vote	2	2	4	1	8
Definitely not vote	2	0	1	5	4
Already voted	4	4	6	3	0
DK/NA	1	1	0	1	1

q3 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?

	***** LIKELY VOTERS *****				Oct06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Republican	34	84	3	23	36
Democratic	52	6	90	50	50
Other (Vol.)	1	1	1	1	1
Won't Vote (Vol.)	-	-	-	-	1
Depends (Vol.)	5	5	2	10	5
DK/NA	8	4	4	16	7

q4 Compared to previous Congressional elections, this year are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?

More enthusiastic	47	42	53	43	42
Less enthusiastic	30	31	27	33	35
Same (vol.)	22	25	19	21	20
DK/NA	1	2	1	3	3

q5 What's the main reason you're supporting your candidate: 1. His or her personal qualities, or 2. His or her stands on the issues, or 3. Because he or she is a Republican/Democrat?

LIKELY VOTERS WHO WILL VOTE FOR
A REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT IN Q3

	**** Party ID ****			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Personal qualities	8	10	7	6
Issues	61	67	49	71
Party ID	27	19	40	16
DK/NA	4	4	4	7

q6 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?

	** LIKELY VOTERS **				Oct06a*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Vote for Bush	14	34	1	11	15
Vote against Bush	40	5	72	36	36
Bush not a factor	41	56	23	47	43
Won't vote (Vol.)	1	2	1	0	0
Don't know/No answer	4	3	3	6	6

*Trend is among registered voters

q7 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?

	** LIKELY VOTERS **				Oct06a*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Put Dems in	34	4	69	22	36*
Keep Reps in	20	50	2	11	21
Something else	42	41	27	60	39
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	4	4	2	6	4

*Trend is among registered voters

q8 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?

	*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***				Oct06a*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Satisfied	54	62	55	46	46
Wish other choices	43	33	41	52	49
Depends on race (vol.)	1	2	1	0	1
DK/NA	2	3	3	2	4

q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				Oct06a*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Approve	34	78	7	28	34
Disapprove	58	13	91	60	60
DK/NA	8	9	2	12	6

q10 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?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				Aug06b
	***** Party ID *****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	29	62	11	23	29
Wrong track	64	30	87	67	67
DK/NA	7	8	2	10	4

q11 Of all the problems facing this country today, which one do you most want the new Congress to concentrate on first?

	***** LIKELY VOTERS *****				Jan99a*
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
War in Iraq	39	25	53	36	-
Illegal Immigration	9	15	3	10	-
Economy and jobs	7	4	6	10	11
Defense / Military	5	8	4	5	2
Health Care	5	2	8	5	6
Terrorism (general)	5	10	1	4	-
Education	2	1	2	2	7
Foreign Policy	2	1	2	2	4
Taxes/IRS	2	2	1	1	3
Environment	2	3	1	1	1
Other	15	22	14	15	51
DK/NA	7	7	5	9	15

*Trend is among total respondents

q12 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?

	***** TOTAL RESPONDENTS *****				Oct06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
Approve	31	70	8	25	32
Disapprove	58	22	84	60	61
DK/NA	11	8	8	15	7

q13 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	38	78	16	30	34
Disapprove	54	17	80	58	57
DK/NA	8	5	4	12	8

q14 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	29	68	7	21	30
Disapprove	64	26	90	67	66
DK/NA	7	6	3	12	4

q15 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	44	84	17	39	46
Disapprove	48	12	78	46	48
DK/NA	8	4	5	15	6

q16 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with North Korea?

***** TOTAL RESPONDENTS *****

***** Party ID *****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	44	72	25	42	40
Disapprove	36	14	56	35	35
DK/NA	20	14	19	23	25

q17 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

					Oct06a
Approve	29	47	23	22	27
Disapprove	56	42	66	58	64
DK/NA	15	11	11	20	9

q18 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	58	70	58	49	56
Disapprove	26	19	28	28	27
DK/NA	16	11	14	23	17

q19 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	9	22	2	5	7
Fairly good	50	64	40	48	53
Fairly bad	26	8	36	30	28
Very bad	13	3	19	14	11
DK/NA	2	3	3	3	1

q20 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	16	34	7	13	19
Worse	38	15	50	44	31
Same	44	51	43	41	49
DK/NA	2	0	0	2	1

q21 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?

***** LIKELY VOTERS *****

Democrats	61	38	82	58	59*
Republicans	26	47	8	25	28
DK/NA	13	15	10	17	13

*Trend is among registered voters

q22 Think for a minute about issues and problems facing the COUNTRY. Which ONE would you say will be most important in your vote for Congress?

***** LIKELY VOTERS *****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
War in Iraq	27	17	37	24
Economy and jobs	13	9	15	13
Immigration	8	11	3	11
Terrorism (general)	7	12	6	4
Health Care	4	3	4	6
Foreign Policy	4	0	5	6
Defense / Military	3	5	2	4
Education	2	1	3	3
Other	17	18	14	14
DK/NA	15	22	11	15

q23 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?

					Oct06a*
Deserves re-election	49	63	43	43	43
Time for new person	42	27	49	47	47
Depends on candidates	2	2	2	1	1
DK/NA	7	8	6	8	9

q24 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	16	34	6	12
Time for new people	70	45	82	78
Depends on candidates	7	8	7	5
DK/NA	7	13	5	5

q25 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q26 Is your opinion of Dennis Hastert favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Dennis Hastert yet to have an opinion?

***** TOTAL RESPONDENTS *****

Favorable	6	16	2	3	8
Not favorable	15	7	25	13	21
Undecided	15	16	10	19	17
Haven't heard enough	61	60	63	61	53
Refused	3	1	0	4	1

q27 Is your opinion of Nancy Pelosi favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Nancy Pelosi yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	10	3	19	8
Not favorable	17	37	4	15
Undecided	16	14	19	14
Haven't heard enough	55	45	57	62
Refused	2	1	1	1

q28 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?

	***** LIKELY VOTERS *****				May06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
More likely	11	29	2	5	8
Less likely	34	5	58	34	36
Wouldn't affect vote	53	65	37	60	54
Don't know/No answer	2	1	3	1	2

q29 Presidents usually campaign for candidates during midterm elections, even though they aren't on the ballot themselves. This year, do you think President Bush's campaigning for candidates has generally helped or generally hurt those candidates?

Generally helped	26	52	12	18
Generally hurt	56	29	74	59
Depends/varies/both (Vol.)	5	5	4	6
DK/NA	13	14	10	17

q30 In general, is your opinion of the Republican party favorable or not favorable?

	***** TOTAL RESPONDENTS *****				Oct06a
Favorable	36	83	8	29	39
Not favorable	56	12	91	57	54
DK/NA	8	5	1	14	7

q31 In general, is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	49	14	83	43	52
Not favorable	40	77	13	38	40
DK/NA	10	8	4	18	8

q32 If the Democrats control Congress after the election in November, what do you think will be their top priority?

	***** LIKELY VOTERS *****				Sep06a*
War in Iraq	41	34	50	38	28
Economy and Jobs	9	4	12	13	12
Taxes/IRS	7	18	0	3	2
Health Care	3	2	3	4	2
Terrorism (general)	3	3	4	2	5
Change Previous Congress	2	2	2	3	-
Investigate/Impeach GWBush	2	4	1	1	2
Other	14	14	12	14	24
DK/NA	19	19	16	22	25

*Trend is among registered voters

q33 If the Republicans continue to control Congress after the election in November, what do you think will be their top priority?

	***** LIKELY VOTERS *****				Oct06a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
War/Iraq	31	33	29	31	22
Terrorism (general)	13	21	11	9	18
Economy	7	10	5	6	6
Illegal Immigration	3	5	1	5	6
Taxes/IRS	3	3	3	2	2
Health Care	2	2	1	2	1
Other	21	18	24	21	19
DK/NA	20	8	26	24	26

q34 If the Democrats take control of Congress in November, what do you think they will try to do in Iraq -- increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq or would the Democrats try to remove all troops from Iraq?

Increase	3	2	4	4
Keep the same number	10	7	12	11
Decrease	41	33	46	43
Remove all troops	41	54	34	35
Don't know/No answer	5	4	4	7

q35 BLANK

q36 Regardless of how you intend to vote, do you think the Democrats have a clear plan for the country if they gain control of Congress in November, or don't the Democrats have a clear plan for the country?

					Sep06a*
Have clear plan	37	19	57	32	38
Do not have clear plan	54	74	33	58	49
DK/NA	9	7	10	9	13

*Trend is among registered voters

q37 If the Democrats take control of Congress in November, do you think your taxes will go up, go down or stay about the same?

Go up	47	74	21	52
Go down	7	3	14	4
Stay about the same	43	21	62	41
DK/NA	3	2	3	3

q38 If the Democrats take control of Congress in November, do you think the cost of prescription drugs for senior citizens will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	15	22	7	16
Go down	31	12	51	25
Stay about the same	50	58	41	53
DK/NA	4	8	1	6

q39 If the Democrats take control of Congress in November, do you think the minimum wage will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

	***** LIKELY VOTERS *****			
	**** Party ID ****			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Go up	58	51	66	55
Go down	1	1	1	1
Stay about the same	39	45	33	41
DK/NA	2	3	0	3

q40 If the Democrats take control of Congress in November, do you think the cost of health care will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	33	49	17	37
Go down	14	6	24	12
Stay about the same	48	40	55	47
DK/NA	5	5	4	4

q41 If the Democrats take control of Congress in November, do you think the nation's economy will get better, worse, or stay about the same?

Better	33	5	63	26
Worse	23	50	3	19
Stay about the same	41	40	34	51
DK/NA	3	5	0	4

q42 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?

Increase	24	52	4	20
Decrease	19	2	37	13
Same	55	44	58	64
DK/NA	2	2	1	3

q43 If the Republicans keep control of Congress in November, what do you think they will do in Iraq -- increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq or would the Republicans try to remove all troops from Iraq?

Increase	29	15	40	30
Keep the same number	42	42	43	40
Decrease	20	33	9	19
Remove all troops	4	2	4	6
Don't know/No answer	5	8	4	5

q44 BLANK

q45 Regardless of how you intend to vote, do you think the Republicans have a clear plan for the country if they keep control of Congress in November, or don't the Republicans have a clear plan for the country?

	** LIKELY VOTERS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Have clear plan	39	67	19	37	45
Do not have clear plan	55	27	76	56	45
DK/NA	6	6	5	7	10

*Trend is among total respondents

q46 If the Republicans keep control of Congress in November, do you think your taxes will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	34	8	54	34
Go down	6	11	2	4
Stay about the same	59	78	41	61
DK/NA	1	3	3	1

q47 If the Republicans keep control of Congress in November, do you think the cost of prescription drugs for senior citizens will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	36	14	53	37
Go down	6	11	2	7
Stay about the same	53	69	40	52
DK/NA	5	6	5	

q48 If the Republicans keep control of Congress in November, do you think the minimum wage will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	15	24	4	18
Go down	2	1	2	2
Stay about the same	81	71	92	78
DK/NA	2	4	2	2

q49 If the Republicans keep control of Congress in November, do you think the cost of health care will go up, go down, or stay about the same?

Go up	55	38	68	58
Go down	3	3	1	4
Stay about the same	40	55	29	37
DK/NA	2	4	2	1

q50 If the Republicans keep control of Congress in November, do you think the nation's economy will get better, worse, or stay about the same?

Better	19	45	3	14
Worse	35	6	60	33
Stay about the same	43	45	35	50
DK/NA	3	4	2	3

q51 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?

***** LIKELY VOTERS *****					
**** Party ID ****					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Increase	27	6	42	30	25
Decrease	15	30	4	12	8
Same	56	62	51	56	65
DK/NA	2	2	3	2	2

q52 Who's more responsible for the negative campaigning there has been this year --- the Democrats or the Republicans?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **				
Democrats	22	45	6	21
Republicans	32	7	57	27
Both (Vol.)	35	40	27	38
Neither (Vol.)	1	1	0	2
DK/NA	10	7	10	12

q53 Do you want the next Congress to hold hearings to investigate the Bush Administration's handling of the war in Iraq or don't you think it's necessary?

Want hearings	39	12	60	40
Not necessary	59	87	37	58
DK/NA	2	1	3	2

q54 How concerned are you that you will encounter problems that might prevent you from voting or prevent your vote from being counted accurately -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

					Oct04f
Very concerned	16	6	23	15	10
Somewhat concerned	17	7	22	19	19
Not very concerned	22	19	24	22	25
Not at all concerned	45	67	31	42	45
DK/NA	0	1	0	2	1

q55 How common do you think corruption is in Washington DC -- is it widespread, or is it limited to a few isolated incidents?

Widespread	58	46	63	62
Limited	39	50	35	33
DK/NA	3	4	2	5

q56 Which political party do you think has more corrupt politicians -- the Republican party or the Democratic party?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Republican	35	5	66	27
Democratic	15	37	2	10
Both equal (vol.)	37	41	26	46
Neither (vol.)	1	1	0	1
DK/NA	12	16	6	16

q57 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q58 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 RESPONDENTS **				Oct06a
Right thing	44	77	26	38	40
Stayed out	51	20	71	54	55
DK/NA	5	3	3	8	5

q59 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

Very well	2	5	1	1	3
Somewhat well	28	51	13	26	28
Somewhat badly	32	32	32	33	30
Very badly	35	10	53	37	36
DK/NA	3	2	1	3	3

q60 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?

					Jun06a
Very likely	10	23	5	7	19
Somewhat likely	42	51	34	43	41
Not very likely	26	16	34	25	24
Not at all likely	19	5	25	22	13
Don't know/No answer	3	5	2	3	3

q61 How much longer do you think the United States troops will have to remain in Iraq -- for less than a year, one to two years, two to five years, or will U.S. troops have to stay in Iraq for longer than five years?

					Jul06a
Less than a year	9	4	11	10	5
One to two years	22	26	21	19	23
Two to five years	35	40	32	35	36
Longer than five years	27	24	27	30	31
Don't know/No answer	7	6	9	6	5

q62 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do now--should the U.S. increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Increase	16	21	13	15	17
Keep the same number	27	46	18	21	21
Decrease	26	18	29	30	26
Remove all troops	24	7	35	27	30
Don't know/No answer	7	8	5	7	6

q63 Who do you think is currently winning the war in Iraq -- the United States, or the Iraqi resistance and insurgents, or neither side?

					Jul06a
The U.S.	20	39	10	14	27
Iraq resistance	17	7	21	21	13
Neither side	59	49	65	62	58
Don't know/No answer	4	5	4	3	2

q64 So far, do you think George W. Bush has developed a clear plan for dealing with the situation in Iraq, or hasn't he developed one?

					Jul05a
Has developed a clear plan	26	56	7	22	28
Has not developed one	69	38	91	70	62
Don't know/No answer	5	6	2	8	10

q65 Recently, George W. Bush said he was no longer going to use the phrase 'stay the course' when he talks about strategy in Iraq. Do you think he has changed his policy about the war in Iraq, or has he only changed the language he uses to describe his policy?

Changed policy	15	23	9	14
Changed language	80	69	89	79
DK/NA	5	8	2	7

q66 Would you favor or oppose sending more U.S. troops to Iraq, if that would help the U.S. to gain control of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad and stabilize the country?

Favor	55	76	47	49
Oppose	37	18	48	42
DK/NA	8	6	5	9

q67 BLANK

q68 Do you think the United States should or should not set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq?

					Jul06a
Should	54	36	66	57	56
Should not	42	61	29	40	40
DK/NA	4	3	5	3	4

q69 If they are in control of Congress, which party do you think is more likely to bring U.S. troops back from Iraq more quickly -- the Democratic party or the Republican party?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Democratic	76	67	92	67
Republican	12	21	3	12
Neither (vol.)	3	2	1	5
Both (Vol.)	1	1	0	1
DK/NA	8	9	4	15

q70 George W. Bush has said he wants to set benchmarks for the Iraqi people to meet in their efforts to bring order and stability to Iraq. Some people say this is a good idea because it would set clear goals and measure progress in Iraq. Other people say it is a bad idea because the benchmarks will not mean anything and will put too much pressure on the Iraqis. What do you think -- should George W. Bush set benchmarks for the Iraqis to meet, or not?

Yes, set benchmarks	53	73	39	52
No, no benchmarks	36	19	49	37
DK/NA	11	8	12	11

q71 Do you think the Iraqi government is or is not doing all IT can realistically be expected to do in order to bring about stability in Iraq?

Is	26	35	19	26
Is not	64	53	71	65
DK/NA	10	12	10	9

q72 If the U.S. withdrew its troops from Iraq now, then do you think the U.S. will have lost the war in Iraq, or not?

Yes, will have lost	51	64	45	47	Oct06a 45
No, will not have lost	41	29	50	41	48
DK/NA	8	7	5	12	7

q73 Which comes closest to your view - 1. The U.S. should continue fighting the war in Iraq using the same military strategy and tactics it is using now; OR 2. The U.S. should continue fighting the war in Iraq, but needs to change its strategy and tactics; OR 3. U.S. should remove all its troops from Iraq.

Continue w/same strategy	8	19	1	6
Continue w/changed strategy	61	68	58	59
Remove all troops	27	9	38	31
DK/NA	4	4	3	4

q74 As a result of the United States' military action against Iraq, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

Increased	35	21	46	34	34
Decreased	18	38	11	11	12
Stayed about the same	46	39	42	55	52
Don't know/No answer	1	2	1	0	2

q75 How much have you heard or read about reports of North Korea testing a nuclear device -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot	45	45	47	43
Some	39	42	38	39
Not much	12	10	12	12
Nothing at all	4	3	4	6
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

q76 Which of these comes closest to your opinion ..1. North Korea's development of weapons is a threat to the United States that requires military action right now. 2. North Korea's development of weapons is a threat that can be contained for now. 3. North Korea's development of weapons is not a threat to the United States at all.

					Jul06a
Requires action now	13	14	11	14	16
Can be contained	72	77	72	69	69
Not a threat	10	5	13	11	10
DK/NA	5	4	4	6	5

q77 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?

					May06b
Very serious	54	66	45	53	48
Somewhat serious	29	26	31	28	37
Not too serious	12	7	17	12	12
Not at all serious	5	1	6	6	2
DK/NA	0	0	1	1	1

q78 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Protecting the environment is so important that requirements and standards cannot be too high and continuing environmental improvements must be made regardless of cost.

					Nov02d
Agree	63	48	76	62	57
Disagree	33	49	21	32	36
DK/NA	4	3	3	6	7

q79 Do you or does any member of your immediate family now serve in the U.S. armed forces or in the U.S. reserves?

Yes, self	1	1	0	3
Yes, other	23	20	25	23
No	75	76	75	74
DK/NA	1	3	0	0

q80 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 ****

***** Party ID *****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct06a
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, candidate	1	1	2	1	2
Yes, party	2	3	2	1	2
No	91	91	91	90	86
Do not attend church or sy	5	4	5	6	8
DK/NA	1	1	0	2	2

q81 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	6	18	0	1	7
Usually Republican	20	55	1	12	21
Equally for both	33	24	17	59	30
Usually Democrat	22	0	46	15	25
Always Democrat	15	1	35	5	14
Never vote (Vol.)	1	1	0	0	0
DK/NA	3	1	1	8	3

q82 If you do vote in the November 7th election, will you vote by mail or by turning in an absentee ballot, OR will you vote at your precinct polling place on Election Day?
IF ABSENTEE, ASK: As of today, have you already returned your absentee ballot or are you still planning to vote absentee?

**** LIKELY VOTERS ****

Mail/absentee - Returned	9	10	11	6
Mail/absentee - planning to	9	8	7	12
Precinct voter	78	78	77	81
Early voter - already voted	2	2	4	1
Early voter - planning to	1	2	1	0
DK/NA	1	0	0	0

q83 Think about your household income, would say that it is more than enough so that you can save and buy some extras, just enough to meet your bills and obligations, or it is not enough to meet your bills and obligations?

**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****

More than enough	38	49	35	32	36
Just enough	44	41	44	47	46
Not enough	17	9	20	20	17
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1084	
Total Republicans	334	298
Total Democrats	372	379
Total Independents	378	407
Registered Voters	932	836
*Likely Voters		598