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- [Bush faces lowest public opinion numbers of his presidency, with majority now disapproving of his performance in office](#)
- [Increasing pessimism about country's direction and sharp declines in consumer confidence](#)
- [Bush and Republicans in Congress paying the price for overwhelming public opposition to their actions on Social Security, intervention in Schiavo case, and continuing failure to make progress in Iraq or with U.S. economy](#)

AN ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC POLLING – WEEK ENDING APRIL 8, 2005

by
Karl Agne

While media coverage has been saturated over the past few weeks with the tragic case of Terri Schiavo and the death and burial of Pope John Paul II, American politics has not stood still. Public polling released over the last two weeks show unmistakable movement on a number of fronts, and the news is almost uniformly bad for the White House and Republicans in Congress. After a series of mixed results in mid-March, it is now clear that George W. Bush has reached the lowest point of his presidency on fundamental measures including overall job approval, personal favorability, and his handling of the two issues that have dominated his time in office – Iraq and the economy.

Over the first three months of this year, key indicators of the political environment showed virtually no change, as consumer confidence and attitudes about the country's direction and economy in particular remained essentially unchanged from the previous fall and winter. Far from the post-election bounce one would have expected for a re-elected president, this dynamic reflected how little the campaign and Bush's narrow victory had impacted the deep partisan and ideological divides in the country. But these same indicators now reveal an unmistakable decline to the lowest levels of Bush's time in office, indicating that even weak Bush supporters are now losing confidence in the country's supposed economic recovery and Bush's leadership.

There is no data that pinpoints the cause of these declines on any specific issue. Polls have consistently shown overwhelming public opposition to the intervention of President Bush and the Republican Congress into the Schiavo case, and this certainly did not help his fragile standing. Spiraling gas prices are now clearly having an impact on middle class families, and economic concerns are rising. There have been no significant signs of progress in Iraq as American casualties continue to climb. All of these factors have likely contributed to Bush's troubles. But there is no doubt that the Social Security debate has had a tremendous impact on

Bush. There were strong doubts about Bush's privatization plans from the outset, and his failure to consolidate political support within his own party or allay public concerns about his plans has made the issue even more damaging. As a result, Democrats continue to be favored on the issue by double digits over both President Bush and Republicans in Congress.

Growing Dissatisfaction with Economy, Country Direction

The steady but significant concern about the country's direction that has been seen in public polling for the past several months has increased markedly over the last few weeks. Looking at the two most recent surveys measuring attitudes toward the country's direction completed in the last week, less than 1-in-3 Americans now say the country is generally headed in the right direction, while a clear majority says things are seriously off on the wrong track. These are truly dramatic numbers, demonstrating a clear sense that the country is either dangerously adrift or declining, with no near-term expectations for a significant improvement. As usual, the most recent surveys point to Iraq and the economy as the dominant issues of concern for most Americans.

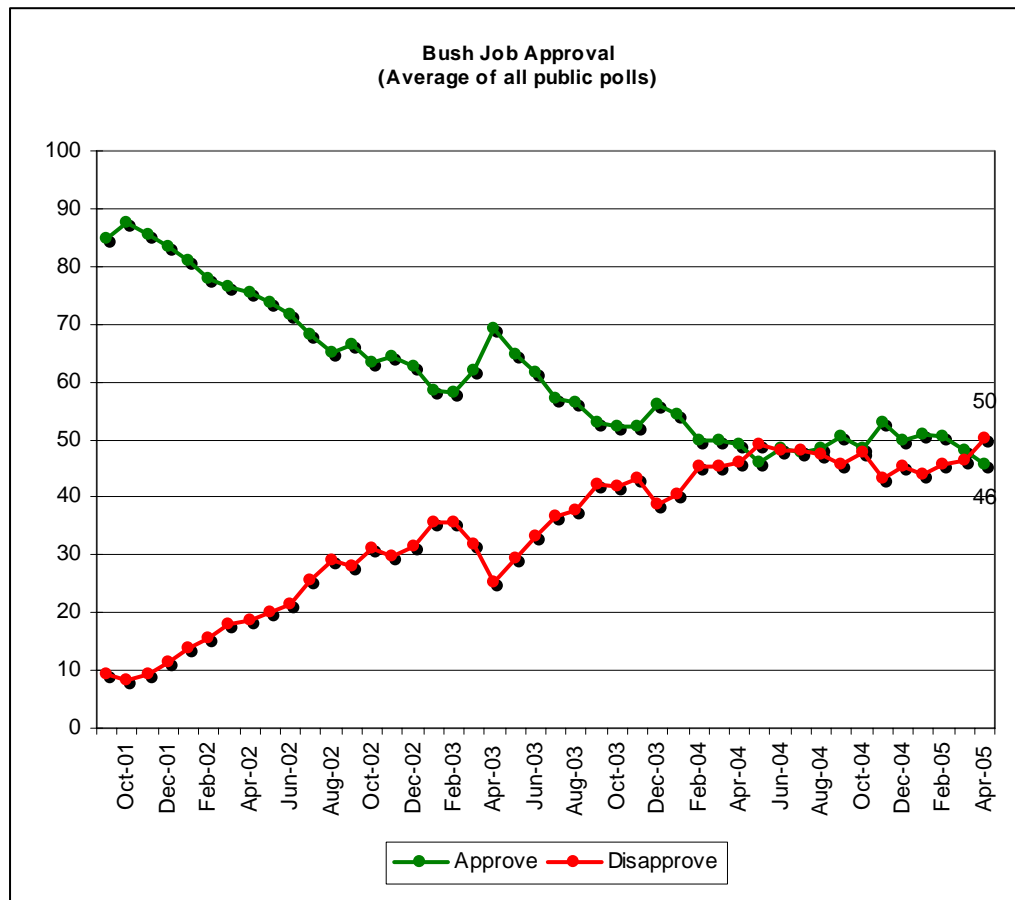
The recent downward trends have been most evident in measures of consumer confidence. The ABC News/*Washington Post* Consumer Comfort Index has dropped 8 points in the last two weeks and now stands at -17, its lowest mark in more than 9 months. A decline of this degree over two weeks has been seen only 11 previous times in the Index's 20-year history, and the most recent losses have been driven by declining views of the economy as a whole and the national buying climate. Reinforcing these numbers, the Gallup survey finds less than 1-in-3 Americans now rate the economy as 'excellent' or 'good,' yet nearly 60 percent feel economic conditions in the country are still getting worse.

While a weak job market, volatile stock market, concern about record deficits, and spiraling health-care costs have undoubtedly all contributed to Americans' growing economic pessimism, the issue of gas prices was the focus of several polls in late March and actually tied with unemployment as the top economic concern facing the country in the Gallup poll. Indeed, consumer confidence has historically tracked closely with gas prices, and this week's releases suggest climbing fuel costs are affecting Americans' checkbooks, as well as their broader quality of life, with 69 percent of Americans saying rising gas prices are affecting their driving habits. As experts continue to forecast even higher prices as the summer approaches, there is reason to believe that recent declines in attitudes about the country's economy, as well as its overall direction, could continue.

Bush Reaches New Lows On Key Measures

After not receiving the customary post-election bounce — and surprisingly little movement on most measures in the four months following the election — President Bush's job approval has dropped relatively rapidly over the last six weeks, falling five points from an

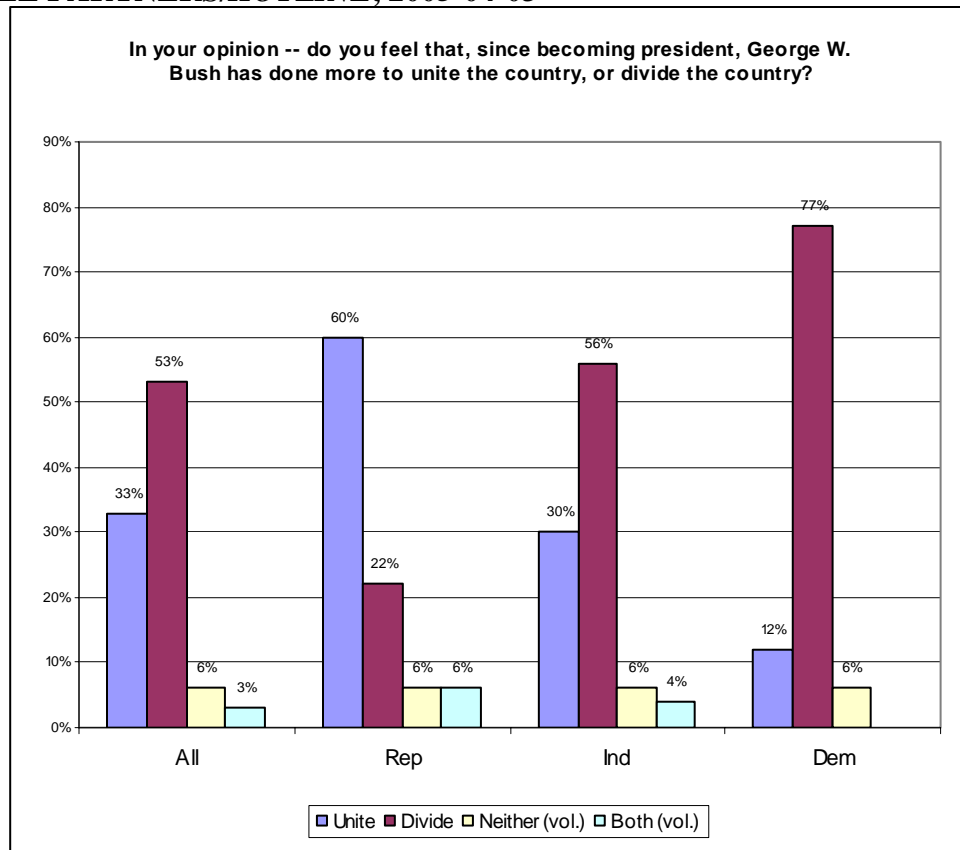
average of 51 percent in February to an average of less than 46 percent in the three polls completed in April. Disapproval of Bush's job performance has reached 50 percent for the first time. Both of these are the worst marks of Bush's term in office.



In looking specifically at the first 100 days of his current term, only 38 percent of voters and 30 percent of Independents say Bush has done an excellent or good job, and you can look in virtually any direction for an explanation. On the economy, approval of Bush's performance has dropped below 40 percent. On Iraq, approval is down to 40 percent, an average drop of 5 points in the last three weeks. On Social Security, Bush's approval now stands at just 31 percent. As usual, terrorism remains the only issue where a majority of Americans feel Bush has done a satisfactory job

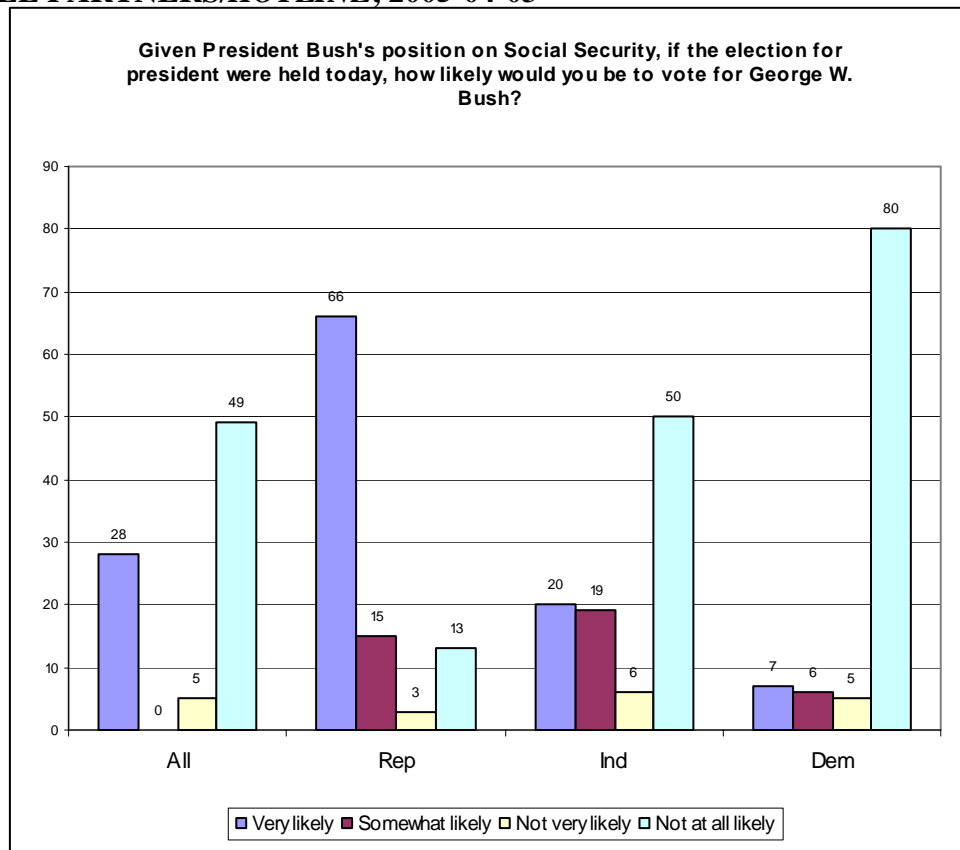
The *Hotline* survey completed on April 3rd includes a fascinating question that speaks to the polarizing effect Bush continues to have on most Americans. Even as the country is headed in the wrong direction and concern continues to build around the dual pillars of Iraq and the economy, a majority says Bush is dividing the country rather than uniting it in the face of these threats.

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03



And if anyone still doubts the power of the Social Security issue, another *Hotline* question shows the political price Bush is already paying for his efforts to sell a plan that has inspired broad skepticism among most Americans.

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03



Social Security, Other Domestic Issues Hurting GOP, Congress

Political consequences for the growing public frustration over the current direction of the country and the lack of effective leadership being provided for the primary challenges facing the country are not limited to the White House. Republicans in Congress are also paying a heavy price, facing growing public disapproval on a number of issues:

- **Social Security** – Americans remain strongly opposed to Social Security privatization, and 40 percent in the *Hotline* poll trust Democrats to protect Social Security, compared to 16 percent for President Bush and just 13 percent for Republicans in Congress.
- **Taxes and budget** – A significant majority in the NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* survey (54 percent) agree that ‘federal tax cuts have not been worth it because they have increased the deficit and caused cuts in government programs,’ while only 38 percent feel ‘federal tax cuts have been worth it, because they have helped strengthen the economy by allowing Americans to keep more of their own money.’

- **Prescription drugs** – We have previously documented the lack of support for the Medicare reforms pushed through Congress last year, and the *USA Today* release reaffirms these views, with 62 percent of Americans saying they prefer ‘a single government plan that covers the same medications and costs the same for everybody,’ compared to 34 percent who prefer ‘a choice of plans from HMO’s and other private companies that vary in what medications they cover and how much they cost.’
- **Terri Schiavo and government intervention** – In several polls, overwhelming majorities rejected Congress’ decision to intervene in the Schiavo case and called for government to stay out of family decisions about the end of life and the right to die. Furthermore, they attributed the decisions of President Bush and Republicans in Congress to interject themselves into this case to their desire to advance their own political agenda, not concern for Terri Schiavo or her family.
- **Judicial nomination and ‘the nuclear option’** – While this is a very complex issue that few Americans will understand without some education through the media or advocates on either side, *Newsweek* finds a clear majority (57 percent) opposed to the suspension of the filibuster for judicial nominees, including 60 percent of Independents and 1-in-3 Republicans. With less background information, the NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll finds a 10-point advantage for maintaining the filibuster (50 to 40 percent).

Given these powerful doubts on virtually every issue facing the Congress right now, Democrats in Congress have an excellent opportunity to rebuild their own sagging approval marks by providing voters with a powerful and consistent message that demonstrates not only opposition to a dangerous Republican agenda but commitment to a set of values and an agenda that promotes those values.

Polls included in this analysis:

AARP, 3/16–3/22. 1000 AARP members.
ABC News, 3/22.
ABC News, 3/20. 501 adults.
ABC News/*Washington Post*, month ending 4/03. 1000 adults.
ABC News/*Washington Post*, month ending 3/27. 1000 adults.
ABC News/*Washington Post*, month ending 3/20. 1000 adults.
American Research Group, 3/14–3/17. 1100 adults.
AOL/AP/Ipsos, 4/01–4/03. 1001 adults.
AP/Ipsos, 4/01–4/03. 1001 adults.
AP/Ipsos, 3/21–3/23. 1000 adults.
CBS News, 3/21–3/22. 737 adults.
CNN/Gallup/*USA Today*, 4/01–4/02. 1040 adults.
CNN/Gallup/*USA Today*, 3/21–3/23. 1001 adults.
CNN/Gallup/*USA Today*, 3/22. 620 adults.
CNN/Gallup/*USA Today*, 3/18–3/20. 909 adults.
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics, 3/29–3/30. 900 registered voters.

Gallup, 3/21–3/23. 1001 adults.
Le Moyne College/Zogby, 4/3/2005. 888 Roman Catholics.
NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*, 3/31–4/03. 1002 adults.
Newsweek, 3/17–3/18. 1010 adults.
Pew Research Center, 3/17–3/21. 1505 adults.
Time, 3/22–3/24. 1010 adults.
Time, 3/15–3/17. 1010 adults.
Westhill Partners/*Hotline*, 3/31–4/03. 800 registered voters.
Zogby, 3/30–4/02. 1019 likely voters.

BUSH JOB APPROVAL – POST 9/11/01				
		Approve	Disapprove	App – Disapp
Monthly Average – April		45.7	50.3	-4.7
AP/Ipsos#	4/6/2005	44	54	-10.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	4/3/2005	48	46	2.0
Westhill/Hotline*	4/3/2005	45	51	-6.0
Monthly Average – March		48.1	46.5	1.6
FOX News/Opinion Dynamics#	3/30/2005	49	46	3.0
Time#	3/24/2005	48	46	2.0
Gallup#	3/23/2005	45	49	-4.0
Pew Research#	3/21/2005	45	46	
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	3/20/2005	52	44	8.0
Newsweek#	3/18/2005	45	48	-3.0
American Research Group#	3/17/2005	47	48	-1.0
Gallup#	3/10/2005	52	44	8.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	3/10/2005	50	48	2.0
AP/Ipsos#	3/9/2005	47	50	-3.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	3/2/2005	48	48	0.0
Quinnipiac University*	3/2/2005	45	48	-3.0
FOX News/Opinion Dynamics#	3/2/2005	52	39	13.0
Monthly Average – February		50.5	45.5	4.9
CBS News/New York Times#	2/28/2005	49	44	5.0
Westhill/Hotline*	2/27/2005	52	46	6.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	2/27/2005	52	45	7.0
Pew Research#	2/21/2005	46	47	-1.0
NPR^	2/17/2005	50	47	3.0
Democracy Corps^	2/17/2005	52	46	6.0
Zogby^	2/17/2005	49	50	-1.0
Marist*	2/16/2005	51	45	6.0
NBC/Wall Street Journal#	2/14/2005	50	45	5.0
Harris#	2/13/2005	48	51	-3.0
Gallup#	2/10/2005	49	48	1.0
FOX News/Opinion Dynamics#	2/9/2005	51	43	8.0

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics*	2/9/2005	51	43	8.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	2/6/2005	57	40	17.0
Newsweek#	2/4/2005	50	42	8.0
Monthly Average – January		50.9	44.1	6.8
ABC News/Washington Post#	1/31/2005	50	45	5
Quinnipiac University*	1/31/2005	48	45	3
Westhill/Hotline*	1/27/2005	51	46	5
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics*	1/26/2005	50	40	10
Democracy Corps^	1/20/2005	51	46	5
CBS News/New York Times#	1/18/2005	49	46	3
American Research Group#	1/17/2005	51	44	7
NBC/Wall Street Journal#	1/17/2005	50	44	6
ABC News/Washington Post#	1/16/2005	52	46	6
Annenberg#	1/16/2005	53	43	10
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	1/16/2005	51	46	5
Time#	1/13/2005	53	43	10
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics*	1/12/2005	52	41	11
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	1/9/2005	52	44	8
Pew Research#	1/9/2005	50	43	7
Gallup#	1/5/2005	52	44	8
Monthly Average – December		49.8	45.5	4.3
Monthly Average – November		52.8	43.3	9.5
Monthly Average – October		48.5	47.7	0.8
Monthly Average – September	4-Sep	50.6	45.8	4.8
Monthly Average – August	4-Aug	48.4	47.4	1
Monthly Average – July	4-Jul	47.8	48.2	-0.4
Monthly Average – June	4-Jun	48.5	48	0.5
Monthly Average – May	4-May	46	49.2	-3.2
Monthly Average – April	4-Apr	49.1	46	3.1
Monthly Average – March	4-Mar	49.8	45.5	4.3
Monthly Average – February	4-Feb	49.9	45.3	4.6
Monthly Average – January	4-Jan	54.3	40.5	13.8
Monthly Average – December	3-Dec	55.9	38.7	17.2

Monthly Average – November	3-Nov	52.2	43.3	8.9
Monthly Average – October	3-Oct	52.3	41.7	10.6
Monthly Average – September	3-Sep	53	42.3	10.7
Monthly Average – August	3-Aug	56.3	37.8	18.5
Monthly Average – July	3-Jul	57.2	36.8	20.4
Monthly Average – June	3-Jun	61.7	33.1	28.6
Monthly Average – May	3-May	64.8	29.5	35.3
Monthly Average – April	3-Apr	69.1	25.4	43.7
Monthly Average – March	3-Mar	62	31.9	30.1
Monthly Average – February	3-Feb	58.2	35.8	22.4
Monthly Average – January	3-Jan	58.5	35.6	22.9
Monthly Average – December	2-Dec	62.5	31.6	30.9
Monthly Average – November	2-Nov	64.3	29.6	34.7
Monthly Average – October	2-Oct	63.2	31.1	32.1
Monthly Average – September	2-Sep	66.5	28.1	38.4
Monthly Average – August	2-Aug	64.9	29.1	35.8
Monthly Average – July	2-Jul	68.3	25.6	42.7
Monthly Average – June	2-Jun	71.5	21.3	50.2
Monthly Average – May	2-May	73.7	20.2	53.5
Monthly Average – April	2-Apr	75.4	18.7	56.7
Monthly Average – March	2-Mar	76.6	18	58.6
Monthly Average – February	2-Feb	77.9	15.5	62.4
Monthly Average – January	2-Jan	81.1	14	67.1
Monthly Average – Dec.	1-Dec	83.3	11.5	71.8
Monthly Average – Nov.	1-Nov	85.5	9.2	76.3
Monthly Average – Oct.	1-Oct	87.7	8.3	79.4
Monthly Average – Sept.	9/11-9/30	84.7	9.2	75.5

BUSH JOB APPROVAL – PRE 9/11/01				
		Approve	Disapprove	App – Disapp
Monthly Average – Sept.	9/01	53.3	40.0	+13.3
CNN/USA Today/Gallup#	9/10/01	51	39	+12
ABC News/Wash Post#	9/9/01	55	41	+14
Democracy Corps^	9/6/01	54	40	+14
Monthly Average – August	8/01	54.8	34.7	+20.1
CBS News#	8/31/01	50	38	+12
CNN/USA Today/Gallup#	8/26/01	55	36	+19
CNN/USA Today/Gallup#	8/19/01	57	34	+23
CNN/USA Today/Gallup#	8/12/01	57	35	+22
Bloomberg#	8/5/01	55	30	+25
CNN/USA Today/Gallup#	8/5/01	55	35	+20
Monthly Average – July	7/01	54.8	34.8	+20.0
ABC News/Wash Post#	7/30/01	59	38	+21
Harris#	7/25/01	56	39	+17
Gallup#	7/22/01	56	33	+23
Time/CNN#	7/18/01	55	35	+20
Pew#	7/12/01	52	27	+25
American Research Group#	7/12/01	51	37	+14
CNN/USA Today/Gallup#	7/11/01	57	35	+22
CNN/USA Today/Gallup#	7/1/01	52	34	+18
Monthly Average – June	6/01	53.3	35.8	+17.5
NBC News/WSJ	6/25/01	50	35	+15
Harris#	6/18/01	50	46	+4
CBS/NYTimes#	6/18/01	53	34	+19
Pew#	6/17/01	50	33	+17
Gallup#	6/17/01	55	33	+22
Democracy Corps^	6/13/01	58	35	+23
CNN/USA Today/Gallup#	6/10/01	55	35	+20
ABC News/Wash Post#	6/3/01	55	40	+15
Bloomberg#	6/3/01	54	31	+23
Monthly Average – May	5/01	54.8	32.9	+21.9
Monthly Average – April	4/01	57.9	31.3	+26.6
Monthly Average – March	3/01	57.1	25.9	+31.2
Monthly Average – Feb.	2/01	55.2	22.9	+32.3

Key: # - Adults, * - Registered Voters, ^ - Likely Voters

COUNTRY DIRECTION					
Poll	Direction/Satisfied	Date	Right	Wrong	Right-Wrong
Monthly Average - April 2005	D	Mar-05	32	53.5	-21.5
Westhill/Hotline*	D	4/3/2005	30	56	-26
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	4/3/2005	34	51	-17
Monthly Average - March 2005	D	Mar-05	40	56.67	-16.7
Gallup#	D	3/23/2005	38	59	-21
Gallup#	D	3/10/2005	42	56	-14
AP/Ipsos#	D	3/9/2005	40	55	-15
Monthly Average - February 2005		Feb-05	41.2	51.8	-10.7
Westhill/Hotline	D	2/27/2005	38	50	-12
Democracy Corps^	D	2/17/2005	41	52	-11
NPR^	D	2/17/2005	42	51	-9
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	2/14/2005	42	48	-6
Gallup#	D	2/10/2005	46	52	-6
AP/Ipsos#	D	2/9/2005	38	58	-20
Monthly Average - January 2005		Jan-05	42	51	-9
Democracy Corps^	D	1/20/2005	42	51	-9
CBS/New York Times#	D	1/18/2005	39	56	-17
LA Times#	D	1/17/2005	40	48	-8
NBC/Wall St Journal#	D	1/17/2005	40	47	-7
Annenberg#	D	1/16/2005	41	50	-9
Time#	D	1/13/2005	46	49	-3
Pew Research Center#	S	1/9/2005	40	54	-14
AP/Ipsos#	D	1/5/2005	44	51	-7
Gallup#	S	1/5/2005	46	53	-7
Monthly Average - December 2004		Dec-04	42.5	49.5	-7
Monthly Average - November 2004		Nov-04	44.5	50.5	-6
Monthly Average - October 2004		Oct-04	40.9	53.6	-12.7
Monthly Average - September 2004		Sep-04	42.4	51.7	-9.3
Monthly Average - August 2004		Aug-04	40	53.4	-13.4
Monthly Average - June 2004		Jun-04	38.6	54.4	-15.8
Monthly Average - May 2004		May-04	34.6	58.6	-24
Monthly Average - April 2004		Apr-04	38.8	56.8	-18
Monthly Average - March 2004		Mar-04	39	54.8	-15.8
Monthly Average - February 2004		Feb-04	42	53.5	-11.5
Monthly Average - January 2004		Jan-04	46.9	47.2	-0.3
Monthly Average - December 2003		Dec-03	46	45.9	0.1
Monthly Average - November 2003		Nov-03	40.7	52	-11.3
Monthly Average - October 2003		Oct-03	40.3	53.4	-13.1
Monthly Average - September 2003		Sep-03	38.2	54.8	-16.6
Monthly Average - August 2003		Aug-03	40.8	52.8	-12

Monthly Average - July 2003	Jul-03	43.5	49.3	-5.8
Monthly Average - June 2003	Jun-03	47.2	46	1.2
Monthly Average - May 2003	May-03	51	42.2	8.8
Monthly Average - April 2003	Apr-03	56.5	35	21.5
Monthly Average - March 2003	Mar-03	46.6	46.6	0
Monthly Average - February 2003	Feb-03	40	52.8	-12.8
Monthly Average - January 2003	Jan-03	38.6	52	-13.4
Monthly Average - December 2002	Dec-02	43.4	48.2	-4.8
Monthly Average - November 2002	Nov-02	46.8	46.5	0.3
Monthly Average - October 2002	Oct-02	42.8	48.3	-5.5
Monthly Average - September 2002	Sep-02	46.2	45.3	0.8
Monthly Average - August 2002	Aug-02	46	47	-1
Monthly Average - July 2002	Jul-02	46.2	48.3	-2.2
Monthly Average - June 2002	Jun-02	49.6	39	10.6
Monthly Average - May 2002	May-02	52	40.2	11.8
Monthly Average - April 2002	Apr-02	55.5	34.3	21.3
Monthly Average - March 2002	Mar-02	56	36.3	19.8
Monthly Average - February 2002	Feb-02	63	31.5	31.5
Monthly Average - January 2002	Jan-02	63.5	28	35.5
Monthly Average - December 2001	Dec-01	67.7	22.7	45
Monthly Average - November 2001	Nov-01	63.7	27.3	36.3
Monthly Average - October 2001	Oct-01	67	29	38
Average - September 11-30, 2001	9/11-30/2001	59.3	32.7	26.7
Average - January 1-September 10, 2001	1/1-9/11/2001	48.1	43.2	5
Yearly Average - 2000	2000	53.3	36.8	16.5
Yearly Average - 1999	1999	51.5	39	12.5
Yearly Average - 1998	1998	53.6	38.1	15.4
Yearly Average - 1997	1997	45.8	45.6	0.2

GENERIC CONGRESSIONAL BALLOT				
		Dem.	Rep.	Dem – Rep
Monthly Average – February		44	40	+4
Democracy Corps^	2/17/2005	46	44	+2
NPR^	2/17/2005	42	36	+6
Monthly Average – January		48	43	+5
Democracy Corps^	1/20/05	48	43	+5
Monthly Average- November		44	47	-3
GWU Battleground^	11/1/04	44	47	-3
Monthly Average- October		46.9	44.5	+2.4
CNN/USA Today/Gallup^	10/31/04	48	47	+1
Democracy Corps^	10/31/04	48	46	+2
Newsweek^	10/29/04	44	49	-5
Democracy Corps^	10/28/04	48	45	+3
GWU Battleground^	10/28/04	44	44	0
Democracy Corps^	10/25/04	51	42	+9
CNN/USA Today/Gallup^	10/24/04	50	47	+3
Newsweek^	10/22/04	46	47	-1
Democracy Corps^	10/21/04	49	44	+5
GWU Battleground^	10/21/04	46	42	+4
Democracy Corps^	10/18/04	48	46	+2
CBS News/New York Times^	10/17/04	45	39	+6
Democracy Corps^	10/16/04	49	45	+4
Newsweek^	10/15/04	44	46	-2
GWU Battleground^	10/14/04	44	40	+4
Democracy Corps^	10/11/04	48	45	+3
GWU Battleground^	10/7/04	43	42	+1
Democracy Corps^	10/5/04	49	45	+4
Monthly Average- September		45.8	43.5	+2.2
GWU Battleground^	9/30/04	46	42	+4
Democracy Corps^	9/28/04	47	46	+1
GWU Battleground^	9/23/04	44	43	+1
Democracy Corps^	9/21/04	49	44	+5
CBS News/New York Times*	9/16/04	41	39	+2
GWU Battleground^	9/16/04	45	41	+4
Democracy Corps^	9/14/04	48	44	+4
Democracy Corps^	9/9/04	46	45	+1
CNN/USA Today/Gallup^	9/5/04	46	48	-2
Monthly Average- August		48	43.7	+4.3
Battleground/GWU^	8/17/04	46	43	+3
Democracy Corps^	8/5	51	41	+10
CNN/USA Today/Gallup^	8/1	47	47	0

Monthly Average- July		48.7	40	+8.7
Newsweek*	7/30	51	41	+10
CBS News/New York Times*	7/15	46	37	+9
Democracy Corps^	7/13	49	42	+7
Monthly Average – April-June	4/04-6/04	49.0	42.3	+6.7
George Washington University^	6/23/04	49	41	+8
Democracy Corps^	6/17/04	48	44	+4
Time#	6/4/04	53	40	+13
Democracy Corps^	5/13/04	46	44	2
Monthly Average- March	3/04	46.0	41.7	+4.3
Democracy Corps^	3/21/04	47	45	+2
Newsweek#	3/19/04	49	42	+7
CBS/New York Times#	3/14/04	42	38	+4
Monthly Average – February	2/04	49.0	42.0	+7.0
Monthly Average – January	1/04	44.0	41.0	+3.0
Monthly Average – Sept.-Dec.	9/03-12/03	45.5	42.0	+3.5
Monthly Average – Jan - August	1/03-8/03	43.0	42.0	+1.0
Monthly Average – November	11/02	46.3	47.7	-1.4
Monthly Average – October	10/02	45.9	43.4	+2.5
Monthly Average – September	9/02	42.7	43.0	-0.3
Monthly Average – August	8/02	47.3	40.3	+7.0
Monthly Average – July	7/02	41.5	38.8	+2.7
Monthly Average – June	6/02	42.9	40.4	+2.5
Monthly Average – May	5/02	42.3	40.6	+1.7
Monthly Average – April	4/02	40.9	39.3	+1.6
Monthly Average – March	3/02	38.5	38.8	-0.3
Monthly Average – February	2/02	41.6	41.8	-0.2
Monthly Average – January	1/02	40.9	42.9	-2.0
Monthly Average – December	12/01	41.0	39.5	+1.5
Monthly Average – November	11/01	43.0	41.7	+1.3
Monthly Average – Aug-Sept 11th	8/01-9/01	39.0	34.0	+5.0
Monthly Average – June	6/01	44.3	39.0	+5.3
Monthly Average – May	5/01	29.0	25.0	+4.0
Monthly Average – April	4/01	37.7	35.3	+2.4

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

GALLUP, 2005-03-23

In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

Satisfied	38%
Dissatisfied	59

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

I'd like to get your opinion about the way that things are going in the country today. Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction, or do you think things are seriously off on the wrong track?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Right direction	30%	55%	28%	11%
Wrong track	56	30	58	77
Neither (vol.)	9	10	9	7

NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2005-04-03

All in all, do you think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

Headed in the right direction	34%
Off on the wrong track	51
Mixed (vol.)	12

Priorities

CBS NEWS, 2005-03-22

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

	All	Men	Women
War in Iraq	26%	19%	31%
Economy/jobs	15	16	13
Terrorism (general)	6	8	3
Social Security	6	4	7
Health care	4	3	6
Budget deficit/national debt	4	5	3
Poverty/homelessness	3	4	2
Moral values/family values	3	4	2
Education	2	1	4
Defense/military	2	3	1
Foreign aid	2	1	2
The President/G.W. Bush	2	3	2
Crime	2	2	2

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Of the following issues, which ONE do you think should be the highest priority for the federal government right now?

The economy and jobs	16%
Health care	13
War on terrorism	12
The situation in Iraq	11
Social Security	10
Education	9
Gas prices	6
All equal	21

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

And what is the most important issue facing the U.S. today? (open-ended)

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Economy in general	19%	13	21%	21%
Unemployment/jobs	4	4	4	5
High cost of living/inflation	2	1	3	2
Taxes	2	1	2	1
Social Security	9	8	6	13
Moral values	5	14	3	2
Outsourcing of jobs/jobs sent overseas	2	3	3	1
War in Iraq - Support	6	10	7	3
War in Iraq - Oppose	13	6	13	19
Fuel/oil prices	4	3	4	2
Terrorism	6	9	5	5
Poor healthcare/hospitals; high cost of health care	5	3	6	6
Ethics/moral/religious/ family decline; dishonesty; lack of integrity	3	6	2	2

Economy / Personal finances

ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index – 4/3

Today	-17	
Last week	-13	
Two weeks ago	-9	
2005 average	-10	
2004 average	-11	
2003 average	-19	
2002 average	-11	
2001 average	+4	
2000 average	+29	Best full year
1992 average	-44	Worst full year
Jan. 16, 2000	+38	Record high
Feb. 9, 1992	-50	Record low
Average since 12/85	-9	

GALLUP, 2005-03-23

How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?

Excellent	2%
Good	30
Only fair	43
Poor	24

Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better or getting worse?

Getting better	33%
Getting worse	59
Same (vol.)	6

What is the most important economic problem facing the country today? (open-ended)

Fuel/oil prices	17%
Unemployment/Jobs/Wages	17
War in Iraq	11
Social Security	10
Health care/Health insurance costs	7
Federal budget deficit	7
Outsourcing of jobs	7
Lack of money	3
Inflation/Rising prices	3
Illegal immigrants	2
Education reform	2
Credit cards/overspending	2
Taxes	2

What is the most important financial problem facing your family today? (open-ended)

Health care costs	14%
Energy costs	10
Lack of money/Low wages	10
Not enough money to pay debts/Too much debt	8
Retirement savings	7
Unemployment/Loss of job	7
Cost of owning/renting a home	6
College expenses	6
High cost of living/inflation	5
Taxes	4
Social Security	2
Interest rates	1

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

To what extent do rising gas prices affect your driving habits?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Great deal	34%	21%	30%	47%
Somewhat	35	36	40	28
Not very much	13	16	14	12
Not at all	15	21	14	9
Don't drive(vol.)	3	5	2	2

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST, 2005-04-03

Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as...

Excellent	2%
Good	32
Not good	42
Poor	24

Would you describe the state of your own personal finances these days as...

Excellent	5%
Good	51
Not good	32
Poor	12

Considering the cost of things today and your own personal finances, would you say now is an excellent time, a good time, a not so good time or a poor time to buy the things you want and need?

Excellent	2%
Good	33
Not good	42
Poor	23

RATINGS OF BUSH

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

How would you rate the job President Bush has done in the first 100 days of his second term?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Excellent job	15%	44%	6%	2%
Good job	23	33	24	11
Only a fair job	23	15	28	27
A poor job	35	6	41	56

Bush Job

NEWSWEEK, 2005-03-18

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

Approve	45%
Disapprove	48

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

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

Approve	52%
Disapprove	44

PEW RESEARCH CENTER, 2005-03-21

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

Approve	45%
Disapprove	46

CBS NEWS, 2005-03-22

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

	All	Men	Women
Approve	43%	45%	41%
Disapprove	48	47	50

GALLUP, 2005-03-23

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

Approve	45%
Disapprove	49

TIME, 2005-03-24

Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling his job as president?

Approve	48%
Disapprove	46

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president?

Approve	49%
Disapprove	46

(If "approve") Why do you approve of the job he is doing?

Doing a good job -- general	51%
Agree with him on issues	18
Fighting/war on terrorism	14
Like him personally	9
Honesty/character	7
Economy is improving	5
Religion/Christian morals	5
Social Security	3
Tax cuts	2
Middle East	2
Education reform/No Child Left Behind	2
Pro-life/anti-abortion	2
He's Republican	2

(If disapprove) Why do you disapprove of the job he is doing?

War in Iraq	40%
Do not agree with him on issues	20
Doing a bad job -- general	16
Economy/jobs	14
Doesn't care about average people	12
Don't like him	10
Social Security	8
Not doing good job fighting terrorism	4
Tax cuts for the rich	4
He's not smart	3
Health care issues	3
Terri Schiavo	2
Gas prices	2

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

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

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly approve	25%	56%	20%	7%
Somewhat approve	20	28	22	11
Somewhat disapprove	13	6	13	17
Strongly disapprove	38	8	41	62

NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2005-04-03

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing as president?

Approve	48%
Disapprove	46

Bush Job – Issues

NEWSWEEK, 2005-03-18

We're interested in your opinion of the way George W. Bush is handling certain aspects of his job...

The economy

Approve	42%
Disapprove	51

The situation in Iraq

Approve	41%
Disapprove	54

Terrorism and homeland security

Approve	57%
Disapprove	35

Health care, including Medicare

Approve	34%
Disapprove	56

Education

Approve	46%
Disapprove	43

The federal budget deficit

Approve	29%
Disapprove	60

Energy policy

Approve	35%
Disapprove	45

The environment

Approve	41%
Disapprove	45

Social Security

Approve	33%
Disapprove	59

CBS NEWS, 2005-03-22

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

	All	Men	Women
Approve	36%	39%	33%
Disapprove	53	49	56

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

	All	Men	Women
Approve	39%	44%	35%
Disapprove	53	47	58

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

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

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly approve	18%	44%	14%	2%
Somewhat approve	20	32	22	11
Somewhat disapprove	13	7	16	13
Strongly disapprove	43	12	44	70

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

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly approve	24%	57%	18%	3%
Somewhat approve	17	18	22	11
Somewhat disapprove	9	4	10	13
Strongly disapprove	45	15	48	67

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling Social Security?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly approve	14%	35%	8%	3%
Somewhat approve	15	23	19	5
Somewhat disapprove	12	14	12	10
Strongly disapprove	46	10	50	73

NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2005-04-03

Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling the economy?

Approve	41%
Disapprove	53

Bush Favorability

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

I'm going to read the names of some people. Please tell me whether you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of each. If you've never heard of one, please just say so.

George W. Bush:

Favorable	49%
Unfavorable	43

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

George W. Bush:

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly favorable	31%	67%	25%	7%
Somewhat favorable	17	18	21	10
Somewhat unfavorable	11	5	14	12
Strongly unfavorable	37	7	37	65

Bush/GOP vs. Democrats

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

(Asked of half sample) 'Governs with the interests of individual Americans in mind.'

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Bush	24%	45%	21%	11%
Republican Party	13	25	12	4
Democratic Party	37	7	39	67
All (vol.)	4	5	4	2
None (vol.)	12	8	15	10

(Asked of half sample) 'Governs with the interests of businesses and corporations in mind.'

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Bush	28%	25%	33%	27%
Republican Party	37	39	39	39
Democratic Party	16	18	14	17
All (vol.)	5	6	5	3
None (vol.)	4	2	4	5

(Asked of half sample) 'Will restore the country's reputation globally.'

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Bush	23%	45%	22%	7%
Republican Party	15	26	14	5
Democratic Party	39	8	36	73
All (vol.)	3	4	5	1
None (vol.)	9	6	12	6

(Asked of half sample) 'Will adopt more progressive solutions to national issues.'

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Bush	18%	38%	15%	5%
Republican Party	18	33	18	8
Democratic Party	42	13	42	69
All (vol.)	4	2	5	2
None (vol.)	7	4	8	8

Other Bush Measures

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

In your opinion -- do you feel that, since becoming president, George W. Bush has done more to unite the country, or divide the country?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Unite	33%	60%	30%	12%
Divide	53	22	56	77
Neither (vol.)	6	6	6	6
Both (vol.)	3	6	4	-

(Asked of half sample) Do you think that the Bush Administration's positions on social issues are too extreme, not extreme enough, or about right?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Too extreme	36%	12%	39%	60%
Not extreme enough	12	9	11	16
About Right	35	61	35	11
Depends on the specific issue	8	14	8	5

(Asked of half sample) Do you think the Bush Administration's positions on social issues – in particular, the recent case involving Terri Schiavo – are...

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Too extreme	48%	23%	60%	61%
Not extreme enough	7	9	6	7
About Right	31	55	27	14

IRAQ/FOREIGN POLICY

Iraq

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Iraq, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq, or not?

Yes, a mistake	46%
No, not	51

(Asked of form B only) Do you favor or oppose the U.S. war with Iraq?

Favor	47%
Oppose	47

In general, how would you say things are going for the U.S. in Iraq?

Very well	8%
Moderately well	44
Moderately badly	24
Very badly	21

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States military is handling the post-war situation in Iraq?

Approve	64%
Disapprove	25

How confident are you that U.S. policies in Iraq will be successful?

	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very confident	7%	32%	20%
Somewhat confident	22	49	29
Not very confident	35	10	22
Not at all confident	33	7	21

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The United States and the world are safer today without Saddam Hussein in power.

	Dem	Rep	Ind
Agree strongly	30%	67%	46%
Agree somewhat	23	24	24
Disagree somewhat	15	3	9
Disagree strongly	26	3	17

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

(Asked of half-sample) Do you think the Bush Administration does or does not have a clear plan for eventually withdrawing most U.S. troops from Iraq?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Does	29%	61%	23%	10%
Does not	59	26	67	82

(Asked of half-sample) Do you think it is important that the Bush Administration have a clear plan today for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Yes	69%	62%	69%	79%
No	24	27	25	19

Middle East

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Do you agree or disagree that current U.S. policies are leading to democracy in the Middle East?

	Dem	Rep	Ind
Agree	33%	77%	47%
Disagree	50	14	35

Immigration

NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2005-04-03

As you may know, President Bush has proposed to allow foreigners who have jobs but are staying illegally in the United States to apply for legal, temporary-worker status. Do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this proposal?

Strongly favor	14%
Somewhat favor	29
Somewhat oppose	20
Strongly oppose	33
Depends (vol.)	2

SOCIAL SECURITY

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

Given President Bush's position on Social Security, if the election for president were held today, how likely would you be to vote for George W. Bush?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Very likely	28%	66%	20%	7%
Somewhat likely	13	15	19	6
Not very likely	5	3	6	5
Not at all likely	49	13	50	80

Public Understanding

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

Would you say you understand the current debate over the future of the Social Security system very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not at all?

Very well	31%
Somewhat well	50
Not too well	13
Not at all	5

Trust on Social Security

NEWSWEEK, 2005-03-18

Who do you trust more on the issue of Social Security...?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
President Bush	33%	72%	8%	28%
Democrats in Congress	44	11	76	40
Both equally (vol.)	3	2	4	4
Neither (vol.)	12	10	8	17

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

Whom do you trust the most to protect Social Security: President Bush, or the Democrats in Congress, or the Republicans in Congress?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
President Bush	16%	38%	12%	3%
Democrats in Congress	40	5	44	70
Republicans in Congress	13	30	10	3
None (vol.)	12	7	18	8
All same (vol.)	8	8	6	6

Privatization

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

(Asked of form A only) As you may know, one idea to address concerns with the Social Security system would allow people who retire in future decades to invest some of their Social Security taxes in the stock market and bonds, but would reduce the guaranteed benefits they get when they retire. Do you think this is a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea	33%
Bad idea	59

(Asked of form B only) As you may know, a proposal has been made that would allow workers to invest part of their Social Security taxes in the stock market or in bonds, while the rest of those taxes would remain in the Social Security system. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Favor	45%
Oppose	47

PEW RESEARCH CENTER, 2005-03-21

How much, if anything, have you heard about a proposal which would allow younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in private retirement accounts, which might include stocks or mutual funds?

A lot	46%
A little	32
Nothing at all	22

Generally, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Favor	44%
Oppose	40

(If "Favor") Do you feel strongly about this, or do you think you could change your mind?

Feel strongly/won't change mind	24%
Could change mind/don't feel strongly	19

(If "Oppose") Do you feel strongly about this, or do you think you could change your mind?

Feel strongly/won't change mind	28%
Could change mind/don't feel strongly	11

AARP, 2005-03-22

Some people propose allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security payroll taxes in the stock market through private retirement accounts. For the average worker, this portion could be up to \$1,300 per year that they could invest. In general, do you favor or oppose this approach? Is that strongly or somewhat?

Strongly favor	15%
Somewhat favor	14
Somewhat oppose	13
Strongly oppose	46
Undecided/Don't know	11

Do you think allowing workers to invest some Social Security payroll taxes in the stock market will strengthen or weaken the Social Security System?

Strengthen	20%
Weaken	63
Undecided/Don't know	16

(Asked of those strongly or somewhat favoring private accounts) Now let me read you some statements that people have made about proposals to allow workers to invest part of their Social Security payroll taxes. After hearing the statement, please let me know if you still favor or now oppose proposals for private accounts.

If creating private accounts out of Social Security funds will put more of your retirement savings at risk would you still favor or now oppose proposals for private accounts?

Favor	46%
Oppose	48

If creating private accounts out of Social Security will create losers as well as winners, and the losers may need additional help from the government would you still favor or now oppose proposals for private accounts?

Favor	47%
Oppose	45

If creating private accounts will require the creation of a new government agency to administer the accounts, would you still favor or now oppose proposals for private accounts?

Favor	45%
Oppose	49

If creating private accounts drain money out of Social Security and require the federal government to borrow large sums of money to pay the Social Security benefits for current retirees, would you still favor or now oppose proposals for private accounts?

Favor	38%
Oppose	56

If creating private accounts would require each worker to pay brokerage firms management fees for their account, would you still favor or now oppose proposals for private accounts?

Favor	44%
Oppose	48

If creating private accounts could mean changes in the way Social Security benefits are calculated, which could mean cuts in everyone's Social Security benefits and not just the people who choose the private account, would you still favor or now oppose proposals for private accounts?

Favor	38%
Oppose	54

For each of the following pairs of statements please tell me which one you agree with more:

Even though it will cost more than 900 billion dollars to set up private accounts, I still think that's a good investment if it lets me invest part of my Social Security taxes in the stock market	16%
---	-----

-OR-

Even though private accounts let me invest part of my Social Security taxes in the stock market, I do not think that they are a good investment if it will cost more than 900 billion dollars to set them up	70
--	----

Social Security should remain a program that provides a predictable benefit without investment risk	75%
---	-----

-OR-

Social Security should be more like an investment account with people taking an investment risk for the possibility of greater returns	19
--	----

If a candidate for Congress from your Congressional district supported legislation that would use Social Security funds to create private accounts, would you be more likely to vote for that candidate in the 2006 election, less likely, or wouldn't it make any difference?

More likely	12%
Wouldn't make a difference	21
Less likely	59

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Do you favor or oppose giving individuals the choice to invest a portion of their Social Security contributions in stocks or mutual funds?

	Total	Under 30	30-45	46-55	Under 55	55+
Favor	60%	76%	65%	54%	64%	56%
Oppose	28	16	24	33	26	31
Not sure	12	9	10	13	11	14

NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2005-04-03

In general, do you think that it is a good idea or a bad idea to change the Social Security system to allow workers to invest their Social Security contributions in the stock market?

Good idea	35%
Bad idea	55

The Bush Plan

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

Based on what you have heard or read, in general, do you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's approach to addressing the Social Security system?

Approve	40%
Disapprove	53

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Based on what you know about the Social Security proposal for personal or private investment accounts, is it your understanding that individuals would have the choice to participate or that everyone would be required to participate, or haven't you heard enough about these accounts to say how they would work?

Individuals would have the choice	39%
Everyone would be required	12
Haven't heard enough	43

How Big A Problem

AARP, 2005-03-22

Which of the following statements comes closest to your opinion about the Social Security program?

The Social Security program has no serious problems, certainly none that require changing the current system	21%
--	-----

Social Security has minor problems that can be fixed with slight changes to the current system	24
Social Security's problems are serious and can be fixed only with substantial changes to the current system	26
Social Security's problems are so bad that the current system should be replaced	25

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

How soon do you think changes to the Social Security system need to be made to avert a crisis?

Immediately	32%
In the next year or two	14
In the next 2-5 years	18
In the next 6-10 years	11
More than 10 years from now	7
Or do you think changes don't need to be made	9

How concerned are you that the Social Security system will not have enough money to pay you your full benefits when you retire?

	Under 30	30-45	46-55	Under 55	55+
Very concerned	53%	48%	43%	47%	18%
Somewhat concerned	31	29	31	30	10
Not very concerned	5	10	11	9	13
Not at all concerned	4	12	9	9	15
Already retired/ receive	2	0	4	2	42

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

Do you think the Social Security system in this country works pretty well and requires only minor changes, do you think it needs major changes, or do you think it needs to be completely rebuilt?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Requires only minor changes	41%	27%	42%	52%
It needs major changes	37	49	38	26
Needs to be completely rebuilt	16	19	14	16

DOMESTIC ISSUES

Judicial Nominations – The Nuclear Option

NEWSWEEK, 2005-03-18

On another subject...U.S. Senate rules allow 41 Senators to mount a filibuster -- refusing to end debate and agree to vote -- to block judicial nominees. In the past, this tactic has been used by both Democrats and Republicans to prevent certain judicial nominees from being confirmed. Senate Republican leaders, whose party is now in the majority, want to take away this tactic by changing the rules to require only 51 votes, instead of 60, to break a filibuster. Would you approve or disapprove of changing Senate rules to take away the filibuster and allow all of George W. Bush's judicial nominees to get voted on by the Senate?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	32%	55%	15%	31%
Disapprove	57	33	78	60

Senate Democratic leaders have threatened to slow down or stop almost all but the most essential legislative business if Republicans take away their ability to use the filibuster to stop judicial nominees they consider to be conservative extremists. Would you approve or disapprove of the Democrats responding in this way if the Republicans take away the filibuster?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	40%	15%	65%	36%
Disapprove	46	72	26	47

NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2005-04-03

As you may know, in the last term of Congress some senators used a procedure called a filibuster when it came to some of President Bush's judicial nominees. When this happens, it takes the votes of sixty senators instead of fifty-one to end debate and hold a confirmation vote for a nominee. In your opinion, should the Senate maintain the filibuster rule or eliminate the filibuster for judicial nominations?

Should maintain the filibuster	50%
Should eliminate the filibuster	40

Terry Schiavo – Government Intervention

ABC NEWS, 2005-03-20

Regardless of your preferences in the Schiavo case, do you think it is appropriate or inappropriate for Congress to get involved in this way?

Strongly appropriate	14%
Somewhat appropriate	13
Somewhat inappropriate	12
Strongly inappropriate	58

Do you think political leaders who are trying to keep Schiavo alive are concerned about her and the principles involved or more concerned with using her case for political advantage?

Her and principles	19%
Political advantage	67
Both (vol.)	4
Other (vol.)	3

CBS NEWS, 2005-03-22

Do you think Congress and the president should be involved in deciding what happens to Terri Schiavo, or is this a matter Congress and the president should stay out of?

	All	Men	Women
Should be involved in	13%	12%	14%
Should stay out of	82	81	82

Regardless of your opinion about the Terri Schiavo case in general, do you think the federal government should decide whether it is legal for family members to remove a patient from life support, or should each state government decide, or are these issues something the government should stay out of?

	All	Men	Women
Federal	9%	10%	9%
State	13	16	9
Government stay out of	75	72	78

Congress has passed a bill that would require Terri Schiavo's case to be heard in U.S. federal court. Do you think Congress passed this bill because they really care about what happens in this case, or do you think they passed the bill to advance a political agenda?

	All	Men	Women
Really care	13%	13%	13%
Advance political agenda	74	75	73
Both (vol.)	3	5	1
Neither (vol.)	1	-	1

Do you think that Congress' actions in this case would make it easier for Congress to intervene in the lives of individual Americans in the future? If yes: Are you concerned about that, or not?

	All	Men	Women
Yes, concerned	68%	66%	69%
Yes, not concerned	9	11	7
No, not concerned	17	17	18

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-22

Do you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following has handled the case involving Terri Schiavo?

George W. Bush

Approve	31%
Disapprove	52

The Democrats in Congress

Approve	28%
Disapprove	42

The Republicans in Congress

Approve	26%
Disapprove	47

TIME, 2005-03-24

Congress met in a special session this past weekend to pass legislation moving the Schiavo case from the Florida state courts, which have repeatedly ruled to remove the feeding tube, to the federal court system. Regardless of your opinion on the Schiavo case, do you think it was right for Congress to intervene in this matter, or not?

Yes, it was right for Congress to intervene	20%
No, it was not right	75

How about President Bush, who signed the legislation this weekend moving jurisdiction to the federal courts. Was it right for him to intervene, or not?

Yes, it was right for him to intervene	24%
No, it was not right	70

Do you think that Congress and the president's intervention had more to do with their values and principles, or more to do with politics?

More to do with values	25%
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More to do with politics	65
Both	4
Neither	1

If your congressman voted to move the Schiavo case to the federal courts, would this make you more likely to vote for him or less likely?

Much more likely to vote for	9%
Somewhat more likely to vote for	12
Much more likely to vote against	25
Somewhat more likely to vote against	29
Doesn't matter	18

NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2005-04-03

When it comes to social and moral issues facing the country, do you think that the federal government should generally be more active or less active?

Should be more active	35%
Should be less active	54
Depends (vol.)	9

In thinking about how they dealt with the Terri Schiavo case, did you gain respect or lose respect for each of the following people or groups, or did it have no effect on your level of respect for them?

The media:

Gained respect	13%
Lost respect	51

(Asked of half sample A) Congress:

Gained respect	15%
Lost respect	50

The courts:

Gained respect	26%
Lost respect	46

President Bush:

Gained respect	21%
Lost respect	35

Religious leaders:

Gained respect	21%
Lost respect	26

The Republicans in Congress:

Gained respect	13%
Lost respect	37

The Democrats in Congress:

Gained respect	10%
Lost respect	31

Budget and Tax Cuts

NBC NEWS/WALL STREET JOURNAL, 2005-04-03

Please tell me which of the following statements comes closer to your point of view when it comes to tax cuts. Statement A: Federal tax cuts have been worth it, because they have helped strengthen the economy by allowing Americans to keep more of their own money. Statement B: Federal tax cuts have NOT been worth it because they have increased the deficit and caused cuts in government programs.

Statement A/tax cuts worth it	38%
Statement B/tax cuts not worth it	54
Depends/some of both (vol.)	4

Medicare/Prescription Drugs

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

Thinking now about different ways the government could help pay for prescription drugs for older Americans, which would you prefer – a single government plan that covers the same medications and costs the same for everybody or a choice of plans from HMOs and other private companies that vary in what medications they cover and how much they cost?

Single government plan	62%
Choice of private plans	34

Health Care

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

Suppose you took a job and had to make a decision about paying for health care. Would you prefer to pay for health care through an insurance plan that your employer provides, or pay for health care through a tax-free savings account that you set up and contribute money to?

Employer insurance plan	64%
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Savings account 30

Abortion

CBS NEWS, 2005-03-22

Which of these comes closest to your view – abortion should be generally available to those who want it, or abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now, OR abortion should not be permitted?

	All	Men	Women
Generally available	35%	39%	32%
Available but with limits	37	35	39
Should not be permitted	25	23	27

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-23

Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?

Legal under any circumstances	23%
Legal only under certain circumstances	55
Illegal in all circumstances	20

(If "certain circumstances") Do you think abortion should be legal in most circumstances or only in a few circumstances?

Legal under most circumstances	14%
Legal only in a few circumstances	39

Right to Die Issues

CBS NEWS, 2005-03-22

Suppose a patient is in a coma, doctors say brain activity has stopped and the patient is getting food and water through a feeding tube. Should a close family member have the right to tell the doctor to take away the feeding tube and let the person die, or not?

	All	Men	Women
Allow feed tube removal	73%	77%	69%
Not allow	17	13	21

Suppose a patient is in a coma or vegetative state, and there is no legal document stating what the patient would like done for them medically. If members of the family do not agree about what to do, who do you think ought to have the final decision -- the patient's spouse, the patient's parents, or the patient's adult children if there are any?

	All	Men	Women
Spouse	62%	64%	61%
Parents	15	17	14
Adult children	10	6	14
Doctor (vol.)	1	1	1

In your opinion, is a doctor injecting a terminally ill person with a lethal dose of drugs at the person's request the same thing as murder, or not?

	All	Men	Women
Same as murder	28%	23%	32%
Not the same	63	67	60
Depends (vol.)	4	5	3

***TIME*, 2005-03-24**

Under Oregon law, terminally-ill adults may request that a physician administer a lethal dose of medication to end their life. Do you agree or disagree with this Oregon law?

Agree	52%
Disagree	41

Have you personally been in a situation with a parent or other loved one in which you had to make a choice about using extraordinary measures to keep them alive?

Yes	33%
No	66

Death Penalty

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of premeditated murder?

Favor	69%
Oppose	24

Gay Marriage/Civil Unions

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

(Asked of Form A) Do you think marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

Should be valid	28%
Should not be valid	68

(Asked of Form B) Which of the following arrangements between gay or lesbian couples do you think should be recognized as legally valid?

Same-sex marriages	20%
Civil unions	27
Neither	45

Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as being between a man and a woman, thus barring marriages between gay or lesbian couples?

Favor	57%
Oppose	37

ANWR

PEW RESEARCH CENTER, 2005-03-21

(Asked of Form 1) Would you favor or oppose allowing oil and gas drilling in the Alaska Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?

Favor	42%
Oppose	46

(Asked of Form 2) Right now, which one of the following do you think should be a more important priority for this country...

Protecting the environment [or]	42%
Developing new sources of energy	49

CONGRESS & OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES

Congress – Job Approval

PEW RESEARCH CENTER, 2005-03-21

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing?

Approve	39%
Disapprove	44

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing?

Approve	37%
Disapprove	44

Do you think Congress is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job in...Dealing with the important issues facing the country

Excellent	2%
Good	21
Only fair	42
Poor	30

Acting ethically and honestly

Excellent	1%
Good	22
Only fair	43
Poor	29

Working across party lines to reach compromises

Excellent	1%
Good	17
Only fair	38
Poor	37

Understanding the needs of people like yourself

Excellent	2%
Good	18
Only fair	38
Poor	38

CBS NEWS, 2005-03-22

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

	All	Men	Women
Approve	34%	34%	35%
Disapprove	49	50	49

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?

Approve	40%
Disapprove	36

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

The U.S. Congress:

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly favorable	13%	22%	8%	8%
Somewhat favorable	32	36	30	33
Somewhat unfavorable	21	15	25	23
Strongly unfavorable	19	15	25	19

And do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly approve	8%	15%	6%	3%
Somewhat approve	32	46	26	27
Somewhat disapprove	24	15	28	30
Strongly disapprove	26	15	31	33

Republicans vs. Democrats

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Republican Party:

Favorable	48%
Unfavorable	38

Democratic Party:

Favorable	46%
Unfavorable	38

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

(Asked of half-sample) The Democratic Party:

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly favorable	24%	6%	19%	52%
Somewhat favorable	29	16	35	37
Somewhat unfavorable	17	31	18	4
Strongly unfavorable	18	39	17	1

(Asked of half-sample) The Republican Party:

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly favorable	18%	52%	7%	4%
Somewhat favorable	24	31	32	12
Somewhat unfavorable	14	4	18	18
Strongly unfavorable	32	6	33	57

Other Political Figures

CNN/GALLUP/USA TODAY, 2005-03-20

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Condoleezza Rice is handling her job as Secretary of State?

Approve	61%
Disapprove	24

TIME, 2005-03-24

Condoleezza Rice:

Favorable	54%
Unfavorable	20

FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS, 2005-03-30

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Kofi Annan is doing as secretary general of the United Nations?

Approve	26%
Disapprove	36

WESTHILL PARTNERS/HOTLINE, 2005-04-03

Jeb Bush:

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly favorable	15%	33%	12%	7%
Somewhat favorable	17	22	20	11
Somewhat unfavorable	12	7	15	15
Strongly unfavorable	27	5	28	44

Howard Dean:

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly favorable	9%	6%	8%	12%
Somewhat favorable	21	9	26	29
Somewhat unfavorable	14	19	16	8
Strongly unfavorable	17	30	15	11

Tom DeLay:

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly favorable	7%	14%	4%	3%
Somewhat favorable	9	14	9	7
Somewhat unfavorable	8	7	9	8
Strongly unfavorable	19	9	22	26

The AARP:

	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Strongly favorable	30%	24%	23%	42%
Somewhat favorable	25	14	37	27
Somewhat unfavorable	9	17	9	5
Strongly unfavorable	10	19	9	5