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- Deeply pessimistic political environment turns even darker
- Bush job approval remains mired below 40 percent, disapproval up to 58 percent
- Democrats maintain double-digit margin in generic congressional contest, but new data holds several important lessons
- Public attitudes on immigration don't match battle lines drawn in Congress

AN ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC POLLING – APRIL 24, 2006

by
Karl Agne

For nearly eight months now, we have been detailing the increasingly negative tone of the political environment in the country and the emergence of an unmistakable ‘change’ dynamic in the electorate. The latest public polls reveal that attitudes about the country’s direction continue to trend even further negative, with barely 1-in-4 Americans now saying the country is moving in the right direction and more than 2-in-3 now feeling that the country is headed in the wrong direction. This represents the lowest ratings of the country’s direction in more than a decade in virtually every poll, and the lowest in history for many polls.

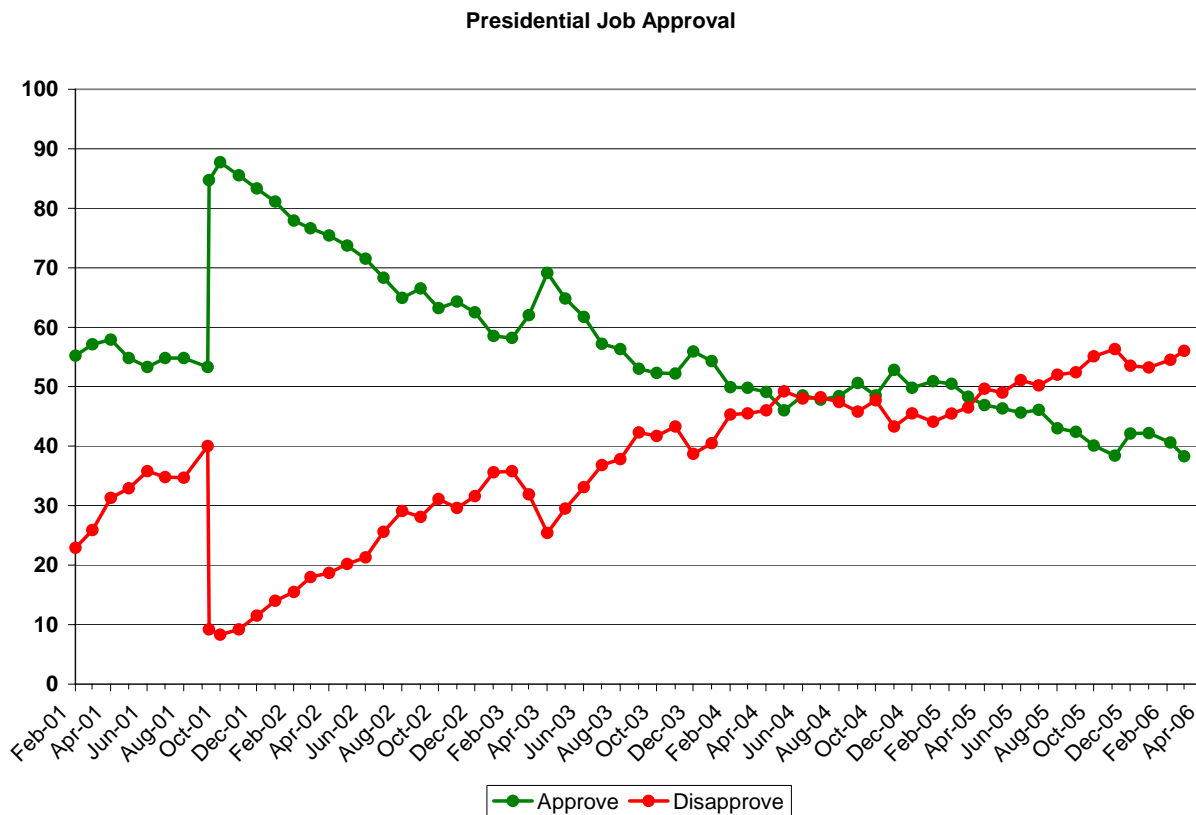
There are many factors contributing to this broad pessimism, but Iraq remains the most powerful determinant of public attitudes. Americans continue to question the decision to go to war in Iraq in increasing numbers (58 percent in both the ABC News/*Washington Post* and *L.A. Times*/Bloomberg polls now say the war was not worth fighting), and they see little hope for positive change in the short term. An incredible 78 percent in the CBS poll believe Iraq is already engaged in a civil war, and President Bush – whose personal integrity and persona as a straight shooter were his greatest political assets for much of the last four years – is no longer seen as a credible messenger on Iraq; 56 percent in the *L.A. Times*/Bloomberg poll say they no longer believe the President’s depictions of progress in Iraq, and 63 percent in the CBS survey believe Bush is ‘making things in Iraq sound better than they really are.’

The one bright spot in the most recent data has been evaluations of the current economy. Majorities in both the CBS and *L.A. Times*/Bloomberg polls now rate the national economy positively, and consumer confidence has defied recent spikes in gasoline prices. This week, the ABC News/*Washington Post* Consumer Confidence Index actually rose 2 points to -7, just above its 21-year average and matching its highest level of the year. While most voters’ personal finances have not reflected the strong growth in macroeconomic indicators, recent strength in the stock market, continuing low interest rates, and low unemployment are clearly contributing to a greater sense of optimism on the economy. Whether those factors will be enough to maintain

consumer confidence in the face of the record gas prices we are once again experiencing as summer approaches is an open question. Either way, with the economy ranking as the number one issue deciding voters' choices for Congress this fall in the FOX News poll, the issue remains a critical part of the 2006 debate.

Bush Approval Reaches New Low (Again)

For the second straight month, President Bush's job approval remains stuck below 40 percent. In eight polls released this month measuring approval, Bush's approval is now just 36 percent (down a little more than a point since last month) while disapproval has inched up to 58 percent, a point higher than last month's previous high.



Approval for Bush's handling of most domestic issues has been well below 40 percent for months now, and those numbers are not moving. Despite some positive notes on broad measures of the nation's economy, approval of Bush's handling of the economy remains low. Last month, we highlighted the most important trend in attitudes toward Bush – the decline of public support for his handling of the two key security measures – the war in Iraq and terrorism, driven in large

part by his fumbling response to the Dubai Ports World controversy. While his numbers on these issues are no longer declining, Bush has not regained his footing on either issue and faces a growing credibility and competence gap on his signature issue. Perhaps most striking is the fact that, with a nuclear Iran looming as a growing security threat, a clear majority of Americans do not trust Bush to make the right decision about whether we go to war with Iran (42 percent trust Bush to do the right thing, 54 percent do not trust him).

Translating a Change Environment Into a Change Election

The strong desire for change in the electorate is reflected in a wide range of political and electoral measures, most notably the generic congressional contest, where Democrats continue to enjoy double-digit advantages. It is also important to note that, in surveys which push undecided voters to indicate toward which party they lean at this time, Democrats are at or above 50 percent in virtually every survey completed over the last month and a half. This is a critical barrier. Favorable impressions of Democrats continue to lag, and voters remain unclear as to what direction Democrats would take the country; but as their frustration with the current direction grows and Republicans fail to steer a new course, the growing number of Americans who indicate a likelihood of voting for a Democratic candidate for Congress is a clear signal of the potential for 2006 to become a major change election.

Of course, there is tremendous debate about the relevance of the generic congressional measure. A decade ago, there was little doubt that a double-digit advantage in the generic vote would have translated into major gains, but after the hyper-partisan redistricting at the beginning of this decade, there are fewer competitive House seats than ever. Republicans argue that the generic vote and other national political measures are relatively meaningless in predicting the outcome of races in individual districts around the country; once their incumbents return to their districts, define the election around local issues rather than the broad national debate that currently exists, and bring their tremendous financial advantages to bear, the power of incumbency will prevail. While there is certainly more than a trace of desperation and spin to this argument, two trends in the most recent polls suggest there could be some substance to it as well.

- In the latest CBS release, only 27 percent of Americans approve of the way Congress is handling its job; among Independents, the figure is just 19 percent. Yet less than 1-in-3 Americans (32 percent), and just 30 percent of Independents, believe Congress would do a better job if Democrats were in control. The vast majority say Congress would perform about the same (48 percent overall, 53 percent among Independents) or even worse (13 percent overall, 8 percent among Independents) under Democratic control.
- Two surveys this month have tested not only overall congressional job approval, but also approval for the job being done by each individual's own representative, and the contrast is striking.

JOB APPROVAL – CONGRESS VS. ‘YOUR REPRESENTATIVE				
	Congress		Representative	
	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Disapprove</i>	<i>Approve</i>	<i>Disapprove</i>
CBS News	27	61	60	23
ABC News/ <i>Washington Post</i>	35	62	59	34

Similarly, FOX did not ask overall congressional job approval but measured approval for voters’ own representative at 57 percent approve, 21 percent disapprove.

Finally, Pew found that only 34 percent of Americans would like to see ‘most members of Congress’ re-elected, while 53 percent would not – a net drop of 7 points since September of last year. But 57 percent would like to see their own member of Congress re-elected (unchanged since September), compared to just 28 percent who would like to see their current representative replaced with someone new.

The problem with this Republican argument is that it doesn’t take into account differences in attitudes toward Republican and Democratic incumbents. Fortunately, the Democracy Corps database offers a unique resource for resolving this debate. In national polls, Democracy Corps uses the actual candidate names in each congressional race (and generic language in cases where there is no clear nominee), providing a level of specificity lacking from any other national measure of the congressional contest. Looking at the combined results of three national surveys (including more than 3,000 likely voters), it shows a tremendous disparity between seats held by incumbent Democrats and Republicans.

- In contests where a Democratic incumbent is running for re-election (199 House seats in this database), the Democratic candidates enjoy a 26-point advantage and claim a strong majority of the votes (57 to 31 percent)
- In open seats with no incumbent running in this cycle (20 House seats), the Democratic advantage is even higher – a remarkable 63 to 28 percent
- Most importantly, in races where a Republican incumbent is running for re-election (217 House seats), the Republican candidate leads by just 4 points (42 to 46 percent) and fails to claim majority support – a sharp contrast from the strong position of Democratic incumbents.

These numbers clearly reinforce the notion of a change election and suggest that Democratic candidates should continue their strategy of linking Republican candidates across the country to the failed leadership in Washington. But they also reinforce the lesson that Democratic challengers must make this election a clear choice between the direction that President Bush and the Republican Congress have taken our country or a new direction AND they must define that new direction with a clear vision and agenda that speak directly to the many challenges facing our country.

Immigration Not An Either/Or Debate

Much of the public polling released over the last two weeks as focused on the growing debate over immigration in our country. Most of the major findings have already been reported ad nauseum, and there is far too much data to detail every nuance in this debate. However, we believe it is important to highlight several of the broad themes that emerge across the various surveys and serve as a critical foundation for understanding Americans' complex views on an issue that clearly has the potential to transform our national political environment, much as it did in California a decade ago.

1. Americans believe illegal immigration is a major problem facing our country (60 percent very serious, 90 percent serious in the FOX poll), but according to the ABC/*Post* survey, it ranks below Iraq, the war on terrorism, the economy, health care, and corruption in Washington as an electoral issue.
2. While the legislative debate in Washington has been portrayed as a choice between get-tough security measures and go-easy guest worker programs that grease the skids to citizenship, the public rejects any approach that doesn't include tougher security and a reasonable means for those already in this country and playing by the rules to earn citizenship. The key tenets of any solution are:
 - Security – we must address the flow of illegal immigrants into the country before we can decide what to do with those already here; increased border patrols, including use of the military, and severe penalties for employers who bring illegal immigrants into the country and avoid paying taxes on them are viewed as better solutions than a security fence or deportation
 - Citizenship – should remain an option for illegal immigrants, but it must be earned through work and taxes, payment of fines, health screenings, adherence to the law, and...language
 - Language – 77 percent believe it should be a requirement that anyone applying to become a U.S. citizen must speak English
3. While issues of language and culture, jobs, and security all play a part in Americans' concerns over illegal immigration, it is the threat of overburdening government programs and services that really sticks in the collective craw of American voters.
4. Americans overwhelmingly believe that illegal immigrants largely take jobs that Americans don't want (68 percent) rather than taking jobs that Americans would otherwise seek (29 percent).
5. While this issue is clearly still very dynamic, Democrats hold a solid advantage over Republicans as the party trusted by voters to deal with immigration concerns.

Polls included in this analysis:

ABC News/*Washington Post*. 4/6-9/06; 1,027 adults.

ABC News/*Washington Post*. Month ending April 16, 2006; 1,000 adults.

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs. 4/3-4/06; 615 adults.

CBS News. 4/6-9/06; 899 adults.

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics. 4/4-5/06; 900 registered voters.

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics. 4/18-19; 900 registered voters.

Gallup. 4/10-13/06; 1,005 adults.

Gallup/*USA Today*. 4/7-9/06; 1,004 adults.

Harris. 4/7-10/06; 1,008 adults;

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg. 4/8-11/06; 1,357 adults.

Pew Research Center. 4/7-16/06; 1,501 adults.

BUSH JOB APPROVAL – POST 9/11/01				
		Approve	Disapprove	App – Disapp
Monthly Average – April	Apr-06	36.4	57.5	-21.1
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	4/19/2006	33	57	-24.0
Pew Research	4/16/2006	35	55	-20.0
Gallup#	4/13/2006	36	59	-23.0
LA Times/Bloomberg	4/11/2006	39	57	-18.0
Gallup/USA Today#	4/9/2006	37	60	-23.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	4/9/2006	38	60	-22.0
CBS	4/9/2006	37	56	-19.0
Cook/RT Strategies#	4/9/2006	37	56	-19.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	4/5/2006	36	53	-17.0
AP/Ipsos#	4/5/2006	38	62	26.0
Monthly Average – March	Mar-06	37.5	57.4	-19.9
Time#	3/30/06	37	57	-20.0
Time#	3/23/06	39	56	-17.0
Democracy Corps#	3/20/06	40	57	-17.0
Newsweek#	3/17/06	36	58	-22.0
Gallup#	3/16/06	37	59	-22.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	3/15/06	39	51	-12.0
NPR^	3/14/06	39	58	-19.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	3/13/06	37	58	-21.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	3/12/06	36	60	-24.0
CBS	3/12/06	34	57	-23.0
Pew Research	3/12/06	33	57	-24.0
AP/Ipsos#	3/8/06	37	60	-23.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	3/5/06	41	58	-17.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	3/1/06	39	54	-15.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	3/1/06	38	60	-22.0
LA Times/Bloomberg	3/1/06	38	58	-20.0
Monthly Average – February	Feb-06	40.6	54.5	-13.8
Quinnipiac University^	2/28/06	36	58	-22.0
Democracy Corps#	2/27/06	42	55	-13.0
Cook/RT Strategies#	2/26/06	40	54	-14.0
CBS	2/26/06	34	59	-25.0
Diageo/Hotline^	2/19/06	45	52	-7.0
Time#	2/16/06	40	54	-14.0
WNBC/Marist^	2/15/06	40	57	-17.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	2/12/06	39	56	-17.0
Gallup#	2/9/06	42	55	-13.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	2/8/06	44	47	-3.0
AP/Ipsos#	2/8/06	40	57	-17.0
Pew Research#	2/5/06	40	52	-12.0
Democracy Corps#	2/2/06	46	52	-6.0

Monthly Average – January	Jan-06	42.2	53.2	-10.9
Monthly Average – December	Dec-05	42.1	53.5	-11.3
Monthly Average – November	Nov-05	38.4	56.3	-17.9
Monthly Average – October	Oct-05	40.1	55.1	-15.1
Monthly Average – September	Sep-05	42.4	52.4	-10.0
Monthly Average – August	Aug-05	43.0	52.0	-9.0
Monthly Average – July	Jul-05	46.1	50.2	-4.1
Monthly Average – June	Jun-05	45.6	51.1	-5.4
Monthly Average – May	May-05	46.4	49.0	-2.6
Monthly Average – April	Apr-05	46.9	49.6	-2.7
Monthly Average – March	Mar-05	48.3	46.5	1.8
Monthly Average – February	Feb-05	50.5	45.5	5.0
Monthly Average – January	Jan-05	50.9	44.1	6.8
Monthly Average – December	Dec-04	49.8	45.5	4.3
Monthly Average – November	Nov-04	52.8	43.3	9.5
Monthly Average – October	Oct-04	48.5	47.7	0.8
Monthly Average – September	Sep-04	50.6	45.8	4.8
Monthly Average – August	Aug-04	48.4	47.4	1
Monthly Average – July	Jul-04	47.8	48.2	-0.4
Monthly Average – June	Jun-04	48.5	48	0.5
Monthly Average – May	May-04	46	49.2	-3.2
Monthly Average – April	Apr-04	49.1	46	3.1
Monthly Average – March	Mar-04	49.8	45.5	4.3
Monthly Average – February	Feb-04	49.9	45.3	4.6
Monthly Average – January	Jan-04	54.3	40.5	13.8
Monthly Average – December	Dec-03	55.9	38.7	17.2
Monthly Average – November	Nov-03	52.2	43.3	8.9
Monthly Average – October	Oct-03	52.3	41.7	10.6
Monthly Average – September	Sep-03	53	42.3	10.7
Monthly Average – August	Aug-03	56.3	37.8	18.5
Monthly Average – July	Jul-03	57.2	36.8	20.4
Monthly Average – June	Jun-03	61.7	33.1	28.6
Monthly Average – May	May-03	64.8	29.5	35.3
Monthly Average – April	Apr-03	69.1	25.4	43.7
Monthly Average – March	Mar-03	62	31.9	30.1
Monthly Average – February	Feb-03	58.2	35.8	22.4
Monthly Average – January	Jan-03	58.5	35.6	22.9
Monthly Average – December	Dec-02	62.5	31.6	30.9
Monthly Average – November	Nov-02	64.3	29.6	34.7
Monthly Average – October	Oct-02	63.2	31.1	32.1
Monthly Average – September	Sep-02	66.5	28.1	38.4
Monthly Average – August	Aug-02	64.9	29.1	35.8
Monthly Average – July	Jul-02	68.3	25.6	42.7
Monthly Average – June	Jun-02	71.5	21.3	50.2
Monthly Average – May	May-02	73.7	20.2	53.5
Monthly Average – April	Apr-02	75.4	18.7	56.7
Monthly Average – March	Mar-02	76.6	18	58.6
Monthly Average – February	Feb-02	77.9	15.5	62.4

Monthly Average – January	Jan-02	81.1	14	67.1
Monthly Average – Dec.	Dec-01	83.3	11.5	71.8
Monthly Average – Nov.	Nov-01	85.5	9.2	76.3
Monthly Average – Oct.	Oct-01	87.7	8.3	79.4
Monthly Average – Sept.	Sep-01	84.7	9.2	75.5
Monthly Average – Sept.	Sep-01	53.3	40	13.3
Monthly Average – August	Aug-01	54.8	34.7	20.1
Monthly Average – July	Jul-01	54.8	34.8	20
Monthly Average – June	Jun-01	53.3	35.8	17.5
Monthly Average – May	May-01	54.8	32.9	21.9
Monthly Average – April	Apr-01	57.9	31.3	26.6
Monthly Average – March	Mar-01	57.1	25.9	31.2
Monthly Average – Feb.	Feb-01	55.2	22.9	32.3

Key: # - Adults, * - Registered Voters, ^ - Likely Voters, ~ - Nov. 2 Voters

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

Poll	COUNTRY DIRECTION		Right Wrong Right-Wrong		
	Direction/Satisfied	Date			
Monthly Average - April 2006		Apr-06	27.0	68.3	-41.3
Gallup#	S	4/13/06	27	71	-44
LA Times^	D	4/11/06	26	65	-39
Harris#	D	4/10/06	27	65	-38
AP/Ipsos#	D	4/5/06	28	69	-41
Monthly Average - March 2006		Mar-06	29.9	64.0	-34.1
Time^	D	3/23/06	34	60	-26
Democracy Corps#	D	3/20/06	30	63	-33
Gallup#	S	3/16/06	29	68	-39
NPR^	D	3/14/06	30	64	-34
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	3/13/06	26	62	-36
AP/Ipsos#	D	3/8/06	30	67	-37
LA Times^	D	3/1/06	30	64	-34
Monthly Average - February 2006		Feb-06	35.5	59.8	-24.3
Democracy Corps#	D	2/27/06	32	62	-30
WNBC/Marist	D	2/19/06	34	61	-27
Zogby^	D	2/15/06	42	53	-11
Gallup	S	2/9/06	35	62	-27
AP/Ipsos#	D	2/8/06	35	61	-26
Democracy Corps#	D	2/2/06	35	60	-25
Monthly Average - January 2006		Jan-06	35.0	57.9	-22.9
Monthly Average - December 2005		Dec-05	33.8	61.3	-27.5
Monthly Average - November 2005		Nov-05	30.4	64.6	-34.1
Monthly Average - October 2005		Oct-05	32.8	61.3	-28.5
Monthly Average - September 2005		Sep-05	33.5	61.5	-28.0
Monthly Average - August 2005		Aug-05	36.7	57.7	-21.0
Monthly Average - July 2005		Jul-05	37.8	56.4	-18.6
Monthly Average - June 2005		Jun-05	37.1	55.9	-18.8
Monthly Average - May 2005		May-05	36.1	55.4	-19.3
Monthly Average - April 2005		Apr-05	36.9	54.6	-17.7
Monthly Average - March 2005		Mar-05	40.3	55.5	-15.3
Monthly Average - February 2005		Feb-05	41.2	51.8	-10.7
Monthly Average - January 2005		Jan-05	42.0	51.0	-9
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 - September 2004		Sep-04	42.4	51.7	-9.3
Monthly Average - August 2004		Aug-04	40.0	53.4	-13.4

Monthly Average - July 2004	Jul-04	39.1	54.3	-15.2
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	39.0	54.8	-15.8
Monthly Average - February 2004	Feb-04	42.0	53.5	-11.5
Monthly Average - January 2004	Jan-04	46.9	47.2	-0.3
Monthly Average - December 2003	Dec-03	46.0	45.9	0.1
Monthly Average - November 2003	Nov-03	40.7	52.0	-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	46.0	1.2
Monthly Average - May 2003	May-03	51.0	42.2	8.8
Monthly Average - April 2003	Apr-03	56.5	35.0	21.5
Monthly Average - March 2003	Mar-03	46.6	46.6	0
Monthly Average - February 2003	Feb-03	40.0	52.8	-12.8
Monthly Average - January 2003	Jan-03	38.6	52.0	-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	46.0	47.0	-1
Monthly Average - July 2002	Jul-02	46.2	48.3	-2.2
Monthly Average - June 2002	Jun-02	49.6	39.0	10.6
Monthly Average - May 2002	May-02	52.0	40.2	11.8
Monthly Average - April 2002	Apr-02	55.5	34.3	21.3
Monthly Average - March 2002	Mar-02	56.0	36.3	19.8
Monthly Average - February 2002	Feb-02	63.0	31.5	31.5
Monthly Average - January 2002	Jan-02	63.5	28.0	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	67.0	29.0	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	37	16.5
Yearly Average - 1999	1999	52	39	12.5
Yearly Average - 1998	1998	54	38	15.4
Yearly Average - 1997	1997	46	46	0.2

GENERIC CONGRESSIONAL BALLOT				
	Date	Republicans	Democrats	D-R
Monthly Average - April	Apr-06	38.3	50.0	11.7
Pew RV	4/16/2006	41	51	10
ABC/Washington Post RV	4/9/2006	40	55	15
CBS RV	4/9/2006	34	44	10
Monthly Average - March	Mar-06	38.4	51.1	12.7
Time RV	3/23/2006	41	50	9
Democracy Corps LV	3/20/2006	40	50	10
Newsweek RV	3/17/2006	39	50	11
NPR LV	3/14/2006	37	52	15
CNN/USA Today/Gallup RV	3/12/2006	39	55	16
CNN/USA Today/Gallup RV	3/1/2006	39	53	14
FOX/Opinion Dynamics RV	3/1/2006	34	48	14
Monthly Average - February	Feb-06	39.2	48.4	9.2
Democracy Corps LV	2/27/2006	40	48	8
Diageo/Hotline RV	2/19/2006	31	46	15
CNN/USA Today/Gallup RV	2/12/2006	43	50	7
Pew RV	2/5/2006	41	50	9
Democracy Corps LV	2/2/2006	41	48	7
Monthly Average - January	Jan-06	37.0	46.7	9.7
ABC/Washington Post RV	1/26/2006	38	54	16
Democracy Corps LV	1/25/2006	41	49	8
CBS/New York Times RV	1/25/2006	34	43	9
Diageo/Hotline	1/15/2006	33	40	7
Harris	1/9/2006	34	43	9
CNN/USA Today/Gallup RV	1/8/2006	43	49	6
AP/Ipsos	1/5/2006	36	49	13
Monthly Average - December	Dec-05	37.1	46.7	9.6
ABC/Washington Post RV	12/18/2005	41	51	10
NPR LV	12/18/2005	37	45	8
Diageo/Hotline RV	12/13/2005	33	43	10
Democracy Corps LV	12/12/2005	41	49	8
CBS/New York Times RV	12/6/2005	33	42	9
Democracy Corps LV	12/4/2005	39	49	10
Time RV	12/1/2005	36	48	12
Monthly Average - November	Nov-05	37.8	48.4	10.6
Monthly Average - October	Oct-05	39.0	46.2	7.2
Monthly Average - September	Sep-05	39.8	49.3	9.5

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 4/5/06

Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?	
Right direction	28%
Wrong track	69

Harris – 4/10/06

Generally speaking, would you say things in the country are going in the right direction or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?	
Right direction	27%
Wrong track	65

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Right direction	26	25	7	22	52
Wrong track	65	67	88	63	39

Gallup – 4/13/06

In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?	
Satisfied	27%
Dissatisfied	71

Priorities

CBS News – 4/9/06

What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?				
	<i>All</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>
War in Iraq	27%	23%	34%	23%
Economy/Jobs	13	10	17	14
Immigration	7	13	3	7
Terrorism (general)	6	9	4	6
Health care	5	4	6	4
The President/G.W. Bush	4	1	6	5
Gas/Heating oil crisis	4	5	3	5
Poverty/Homelessness	4	1	3	6
Education	3	2	5	3
Moral values/Family values	2	2	0	2

Environment	2	0	1	4
Defense/Military	2	3	1	1
Budget deficit/National debt	2	2	2	2

Economy / Personal finances

ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index

Today	-7	
Last week	-9	
2006 high	-7	
2006 low	-13	
2005 average	-13	
2004 average	-11	
2003 average	-19	
2002 average	-11	
2001 average	+4	
2000 average	+29	Best full year
1992 average	-44	Worst full year
Record high	+38	Jan. 16, 2000
Record low	-50	Feb. 9, 1992
Average since 12/85	-9	

CBS News – 4/9/06

How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very good	7%	15%	2%	4%
Fairly good	45	57	38	42
Fairly bad	30	18	36	36
Very bad	17	10	23	17

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Generally speaking, do you think the nation's economy these days is doing very well, or fairly well, or fairly badly, or very badly?					
	All	Reg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Very well	10	11	2	3	23
Fairly well	42	42	29	40	54
Fairly badly	30	29	43	32	18
Very badly	16	17	24	21	5

Gallup – 4/13/06

How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?	
Excellent	5%
Good	33
Only fair	40
Poor	23

Do you consider the amount of federal income tax you have to pay as too high, about right or too low?	
Too high	48%
About right	44
Too low	2

Do you regard the income tax which you will have to pay this year as fair?	
Yes, fair	60%
No, not fair	34

As I read off some different groups, please tell me if you think they are paying their fair share in federal taxes, paying too much or paying too little? First, how about...?

Lower-income people:	
Fair share	36%
Too much	46
Too little	12
Middle-income people:	
Fair share	50%
Too much	43
Too little	5
Upper-income people:	
Fair share	21%
Too much	8
Too little	67
Corporations:	
Fair share	18%
Too much	5
Too little	70

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/16/06

Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as...	
Excellent	4%
Good	37
Not good	35
Poor	24

Would you describe the state of your own personal finances these days as...	
Excellent	7%
Good	54
Not good	25
Poor	14

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	35
Not good	43
Poor	20

FOX News – 4/19/06

On a scale of excellent, good, only fair and poor, how would you rate economic conditions today?					
	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	(Don't know)
All	6%	22	42	30	1
Democrats	1%	12	42	43	2
Republicans	14%	36	37	12	1
Independents	5%	19	46	30 -	

How would you rate your personal financial situation -- excellent, good, only fair or poor?					
	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	(Don't know)
All	10%	36	35	17	2
Democrats	7%	33	38	22	1
Republicans	14%	44	32	8	3
Independents	10%	36	33	18	4

For you and your family, does it feel like the economy is getting better or worse?				
	Better	Worse	(Same)	(Don't know)
All	21%	56	20	3
Democrats	10%	70	18	2
Republicans	38%	36	22	5
Independents	20%	58	19	2

(If better: n=192, ±7%) Why do you say it feels like the economy is getting better?	
	All
More jobs	49%
Pay increase	23
General sense	14
Stock market	12
Stores busier/business improving	11
Other	2

(If worse: n=504, ±4%) Why do you say it feels like the economy is getting worse?	
	All
Gas prices increasing	59%
No jobs	28
Grocery prices	15
Cost of living/Pay not keeping up	12
General sense	11
Prescription/Health care costs	7
Iraq/War	4
Stock market	3
Taxes	1
Immigration	1
Other	5

When you think about the condition of the national economy, how important are each of the following in deciding whether the economy is in good or bad shape.

	Extmly	Vry	Smwht	Not
The availability of good jobs	34	55	7	3
The price of gasoline	40	43	12	4
The amount of money you are saving for the future	28	49	13	7
The general direction of the country	28	49	17	2
The price of food and clothes	22	51	22	5
The amount you pay in taxes	24	44	23	6
The stock market	12	39	26	15
The news coverage	8	29	37	23

As far as you know, has the U.S. stock market gone up in the last year, gone down, or has it stayed about the same?

	Gone up	Gone down	Stay the same	(Don't know)
All	44%	10	25	21
Democrats	36%	14	25	24
Republicans	51%	8	25	16
Independents	51%	7	24	17

As far as you know, has the total number of jobs in the United States gone up in the last year, gone down, or has it stayed about the same?

	Gone up	Gone down	Stay the same	(Don't know)
All	45%	28	15	12
Democrats	37%	34	16	12
Republicans	57%	21	13	9
Independents	46%	27	16	11

As far as you know, has the real disposable income of U.S. workers, that is, money left over after paying taxes, gone up in the last year, gone down, or has it stayed about the same?

	Gone up	Gone down	Stay the same	(Don't know)
All	28%	30	28	15
Democrats	23%	32	29	16
Republicans	37%	22	26	15
Independents	26%	34	29	10

RATINGS OF BUSH

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Would you say the country is better off because of George W. Bush's policies and should proceed in the direction he set out, or do you think the country is not better off and needs to move in a new direction?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Continue policies of G.W. Bush	29	29	4	21	61
Needs a new direction	64	65	93	63	33

Which one of the following statements comes closest to the way you feel about George W. Bush: "I like George W. Bush as a person and I also like most of his policies," or "I like George W. Bush as a person but I don't like most of his policies," or "I don't like George W. Bush as a person but I do like most of his policies," or "I don't like George W. Bush as a person and I also don't like most of his policies"?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Like Bush, like policies	34	33	2	28	72
Like Bush, don't like policies	28	29	37	23	19
Don't like Bush, like policies	2	3	2	3	3
Don't like Bush, don't like policies	34	34	58	37	6

Bush Job

FOX News – 4/5/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	36%	8%	74%	30%
Disapprove	53	84	15	58

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 4/5/06

Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	8
Lean toward approval	10
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	12
Somewhat disapprove	8
Strongly disapprove	42

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 4/9/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve	37%
Disapprove	60

CBS News – 4/9/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	37%	77%	12%	24%
Disapprove	56	18	81	64

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve, strongly	20%
Approve, somewhat	18
Disapprove, somewhat	13
Disapprove, strongly	47

Harris – 4/10/06

How would you rate the overall job President George W. Bush is doing as president -- excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?				
	All	Rep	Ind	Dem
Positive	35%	71%	27%	8%
Negative	63	29	72	89

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?					
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind	Rep
Approve strongly	19	19	2	11	42
Approve somewhat	20	21	4	25	37
Disapprove somewhat	15	15	18	17	10
Disapprove strongly	42	43	75	38	7

Gallup – 4/13/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve	36%
Disapprove	59

Pew – 4/16/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve, very strongly	23%
Approve, not so strongly	11
Disapprove, very strongly	45
Disapprove, not so strongly	10

FOX News – 4/19/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president?			
	Approve	Disapprove	(DK)
All	33%	57	10
Democrats	11%	81	8
Republicans	66%	23	11
Independents	27%	62	12

Bush Job – Issues

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 4/5/06

And when it comes to _____ do you approve or disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling that issue?

Handling the economy:	
Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	13
Lean toward approval	8
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	13
Somewhat disapprove	13
Strongly disapprove	34

Handling domestic issues like health care, education, the environment and energy:	
Strongly approve	13%
Somewhat approve	15
Lean toward approval	9
Still have mixed feelings	3
Lean toward disapproval	10
Somewhat disapprove	12
Strongly disapprove	38

Handling foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism:	
Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	8
Lean toward approval	6
Still have mixed feelings	2

Lean toward disapproval	11
Somewhat disapprove	11
Strongly disapprove	36

Handling the situation in Iraq:	
Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	8
Lean toward approval	6
Still have mixed feelings	1
Lean toward disapproval	8
Somewhat disapprove	8
Strongly disapprove	47

Handling the relief effort for victims of Hurricane Katrina:	
Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	14
Lean toward approval	8
Still have mixed feelings	3
Lean toward disapproval	11
Somewhat disapprove	10
Strongly disapprove	38

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 4/9/06

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

The economy:	
Approve	39%
Disapprove	58
The situation in Iraq:	
Approve	32%
Disapprove	65
Terrorism:	
Approve	45%
Disapprove	51
Health care policy:	
Approve	30%
Disapprove	63
Immigration:	
Approve	29%
Disapprove	62
Energy policy:	
Approve	29%
Disapprove	61

CBS News – 4/9/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	36%	71%	12%	27%
Disapprove	57	26	82	60

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	33%	67%	12%	23%
Disapprove	61	28	85	68

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	47%	79%	30%	37%
Disapprove	46	19	63	54

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling the issue of immigration?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	26%	42%	18%	20%
Disapprove	53	41	63	55

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling _____?

The situation in Iraq:	
Approve, strongly	21%
Approve, somewhat	16
Disapprove, somewhat	11
Disapprove, strongly	51
The U.S. campaign against terrorism:	
Approve, strongly	32%
Approve, somewhat	18
Disapprove, somewhat	15
Disapprove, strongly	34
The economy:	
Approve, strongly	20%
Approve, somewhat	21
Disapprove, somewhat	18
Disapprove, strongly	41
Prescription drug benefits for the elderly:	
Approve, strongly	13%
Approve, somewhat	24
Disapprove, somewhat	18
Disapprove, strongly	35
Immigration issues:	
Approve	33%
Disapprove	61

Health care:	
Approve	33%
Disapprove	62
The situation with gasoline prices:	
Approve	23%
Disapprove	74

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation in Iraq?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Approve strongly	21	21	3	20	43
Approve somewhat	16	16	4	13	32
Disapprove somewhat	12	12	13	10	9
Disapprove strongly	48	49	79	49	13

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the war on terrorism?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Approve strongly	25	25	4	26	52
Approve somewhat	17	19	9	15	27
Disapprove somewhat	17	15	22	15	9
Disapprove strongly	36	37	62	36	8

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Approve strongly	17	17	2	9	38
Approve somewhat	22	21	7	29	37
Disapprove somewhat	19	20	25	13	13
Disapprove strongly	38	39	64	43	8

Bush Traits

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Do you think George W. Bush generally shows good judgment in a crisis, or not?				
	<i>All</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Yes, shows good judgment	46%	11%	47%	85%
No, does not show good judgment	49	82	48	11

Censure/Impeachment

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

As you may know, Bush authorized wiretaps on telephone calls and e-mails of people suspected of involvement with terrorism, without first getting court approval to do so. Democratic Senator Russ Feingold has called for Congress to censure or officially reprimand Bush for doing this. Do you think Congress should or should not censure or officially reprimand Bush for authorizing these wiretaps?	
Yes, should	45%
No, should not	53

Do you think Feingold is calling for censuring Bush mainly to use the issue for political advantage, or mainly because he believes it is the right thing to do?	
Political advantage	56%
Right thing to do	35
Both (vol.)	4

Democratic Congressman John Conyers has called for creation of a committee to look into impeaching Bush and removing him from office. Do you think Congress should or should not impeach Bush and remove him from office?	
Should impeach	33%
Should not impeach	66

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

As you may know, George W. Bush authorized federal government agencies to use electronic surveillance to monitor phone calls and emails within the United States without first getting a court warrant to do so. Do you consider this an acceptable or unacceptable way for the federal government to investigate terrorism?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Strongly acceptable	34	34	15	30	60
Not strongly acceptable	14	14	12	19	13
Not strongly unacceptable	9	9	15	6	5
Strongly unacceptable	38	39	54	38	17

As you may also know, a U.S. Senator has called for a Senate resolution to censure George W. Bush, which is a formal expression of disapproval, but does not carry any legal consequences. The Senator claims it was illegal for Bush to authorize government agencies to use electronic surveillance to monitor American citizens without a court warrant. What do you think? Do you think that George W. Bush should be censured by the Senate for this, or not?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Yes, censure	46	46	65	53	19
No, don't censure	45	45	23	38	75

If George W. Bush broke the law when he authorized government agencies to use electronic surveillance to monitor American citizens without a court warrant, do you think that is an impeachable offense, or not an impeachable offense?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Impeachable offense	36	36	53	37	14
Not an impeachable offense	56	56	36	53	80

2004 Revisited

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Regardless of how you may have voted in the presidential election in November 2004, knowing what you know today, would you vote for George W. Bush or John Kerry if the presidential election was being held today?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
George W. Bush	40	39	6	37	79
John Kerry	47	49	83	38	13
Someone else (vol.)	6	6	3	15	3
Would not vote (vol.)	4	4	5	4	3

FOREIGN POLICY/WAR ON TERRORISM

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 4/9/06

Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

The U.S. should mind its own business internationally and let other countries get along as best they can on their own:	
Agree	46%
Disagree	51

We shouldn't think so much in international terms but concentrate more on our own national problems and building up our strength and prosperity here at home:	
Agree	70%
Disagree	27

When it comes to making decisions on treaties and other policies about the role of the U.S. in the world today, do you think President Bush should pay more attention or should pay less attention to the views of other countries? (rotated)	
Pay more attention	56%
Pay less attention	38
Paying right amount (vol.)	3

Do you believe increased trade between the United States and other countries mostly helps or mostly hurts _____? (rotated)

American workers:	
Mostly helps	30%
Mostly hurts	65
American companies:	
Mostly helps	44%
Mostly hurts	50

Iraq

FOX News – 4/5/06

Which one of the following do you think is most likely to happen if the United States were to pull out of Iraq immediately?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Things would get better	14%	19%	8%	12%
Civil war would break out	41	43	39	44
Would become a terrorist haven	32	21	46	29

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 4/9/06

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	57%
No, not	42

Which comes closest to your view about what the U.S. should now do about the number of U.S. troops in Iraq -- the U.S. should send more troops to Iraq, the U.S. should keep the number of troops as it is now, the U.S. should withdraw some troops from Iraq, or the U.S. should withdraw all of its troops from Iraq? (rotated)	
Send more troops	8%
Keep as now	25
Withdraw some troops	36
Withdraw all troops	28

Which comes closer to your view about the war in Iraq -- you think the U.S. will definitely win the war in Iraq, you think the U.S. will probably win the war in Iraq, you think the U.S. can win the war in Iraq, but you don't think it will win, or you do not think the U.S. can win the war in Iraq? (rotated)	
Definitely win	20%
Probably win	19
Can win, but don't think will win	21
Do not think it can win	36

CBS News – 4/9/06

Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the U.S. have stayed out?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Right thing	43%	79%	15%	37%
Stayed out	53	17	83	58

How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very well	5%	9%	3%	4%
Somewhat well	36	61	19	31
Somewhat badly	27	20	29	29
Very badly	31	8	49	35

Should the United States troops stay in Iraq as long as it takes to make sure Iraq is a stable democracy, even if it takes a long time, or should U.S. troops leave Iraq as soon as possible, even if Iraq is not completely stable?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Stay as long as it takes	47%	70%	31%	41%
Leave as soon as possible	47	26	64	51

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?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very likely	17%	30%	9%	14%
Somewhat likely	41	52	34	37
Not very likely	23	13	31	24
Not at all likely	17	5	24	22

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?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Increase	12%	15%	12%	10%
Keep the same number	25	41	17	19
Decrease	30	25	30	35
Remove all troops	27	12	37	32

Which of these do you think is most likely? 1. Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two. 2. Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two. 3. Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Will in the next year or two	6%	11%	2%	5%
Will, but will take longer	45	62	35	39
Will never be a democracy	47	24	60	54

Do you think the Bush administration has clearly explained what the U.S.'s goals are in Iraq, or haven't they done that yet?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Clearly explained	34%	59%	20%	25%
Haven't done that yet	63	36	77	73

When George W. Bush talks about how things are going for the United States in Iraq today, do you think he is making things in Iraq sound better than they really are, making things sound worse than they really are, or is he describing the situation in Iraq accurately?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Sound better	63%	32%	84%	69%
Sound worse	5	4	5	6
Describing accurately	26	56	7	18

Would you say there is a civil war going on in Iraq among different groups of Iraqis right now, or not?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	78%	66%	86%	81%
No	18	29	10	15

Do you think a civil war in Iraq is likely or not likely to occur in the near future?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Likely	9%	9%	9%	10%
Not likely	9	18	2	6
Civil war now	78	66	86	81

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not?	
Worth fighting, strongly	30%
Worth fighting, somewhat	11
Not worth fighting, somewhat	10
Not worth fighting, strongly	48

Do you think the war with Iraq has or has not contributed to the long-term security of the United States?	
Contributed, great deal	32%
Contributed, somewhat	20
Has not	46

Do you think the number of U.S. military forces in Iraq should be increased, decreased or kept about the same?	
Increased	13%
Decreased	54
Kept about the same	31

(If "decreased") Should all U.S. forces in Iraq be withdrawn immediately, or should they be decreased but not all withdrawn immediately?	
Withdrawn immediately	28%
Decreased but not withdrawn immediately	72

Would you describe Iraq as currently in a civil war, not in a civil war but close to one, or is the situation less severe than that?	
Currently in a civil war	30%
Not in a civil war, but close to one	49
Situation less severe than that	18

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

There has been discussion of whether George W. Bush deliberately exaggerated the threat of Iraq having weapons of mass destruction in order to bolster support for going to war with Iraq. Bush says that he acted in good faith on the intelligence he was given about Iraq having weapons of mass destruction. What do you think? Do you think the president deliberately exaggerated the threat, or that he acted in good faith?				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Bush deliberately exaggerated the threat	46%	77%	37%	13%
Bush acted in good faith	49	15	57	85

All in all, do you think the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, or not?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Yes, worth going to war	38	38	9	38	69
No, not worth going to war	58	58	87	59	26

Do you believe George W. Bush when he says that the U.S. military is making a lot of progress in making Iraq a safe, democratic country, or do you not believe him?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Believe Bush	37	38	8	37	70
Do not believe Bush	56	56	88	49	23

Over the next year, do you expect the situation in Iraq will get better, get worse or remain about the same?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Better	23	23	6	25	44
Worse	30	30	50	21	10
Same	44	44	42	49	43

Do you think the war in Iraq has stabilized the situation in the Middle East, or do you think it has destabilized that region, or do you think it has not had an effect on the stability of the region one way or the other?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Stabilized	18	18	5	17	35
Destabilized	43	44	59	41	24
No effect	30	29	29	30	31

Do you think Iraq is currently engaged in a civil war, or do you not think Iraq is currently engaged in a civil war?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Yes, in a civil war	56	57	67	58	43
No, not in a civil war	33	32	19	27	51

Whether you think Iraq is in a civil war or not, if the sectarian violence there were to turn into a nationwide civil war, what do you think the United States should do: Should the U.S. choose a side and fight with that group, or should the U.S. keep troops in Iraq but remain neutral and mediate a cease fire, or should the U.S. withdraw its troops, or should the U.S. intervene to stop the fighting?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
U.S. choose sides	6	6	4	8	7
U.S. remain neutral and mediate	33	34	30	36	36
U.S. withdraw its troops	32	32	44	37	15
U.S. intervene to stop fighting	19	20	14	7	31

Do you think that George W. Bush should set a definite date for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq while he is still in office, or do you not think he should set a definite date for the withdrawal of all U.S. troops from Iraq while he is still in office?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Definite date while in office	45	46	62	39	26
No definite date	49	49	32	52	67

Do you think it is likely or unlikely that Iraq will be able to maintain a democratic government after the U.S. and its allies leave?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Very likely	10	10	3	6	19
Somewhat likely	26	25	19	30	35
Somewhat unlikely	22	22	27	19	18
Very unlikely	30	31	40	30	15

Pew – 4/16/06

In general, do you think news reports are making the situation in Iraq seem worse than it really is or better than it really is, or are reports showing the situation about the way it really is?

Worse	37%
Better	17
About the way it really is	35

Iran

FOX News – 4/5/06

How confident are you in the ability of the United Nations to handle the situation with Iran?

Very confident	8%
Somewhat confident	28
Not very confident	25
Not at all confident	34

Do you think Iran is deliberately trying to provoke war with the United States?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Ind</i>
Yes	49%	47%	58%	45%
No	37	38	27	45

Ultimately, do you think the United States will end up in war with Iran or do you think the situation will be solved diplomatically?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Ind</i>
War	36%	37%	36%	32%

Diplomacy	42	41	43	47
Neither (vol.)	10	8	9	11

If Iran backs terrorist attacks in the United States, do you think the United States should respond with large and aggressive military action, respond with more limited and specific targeted attacks, or should the U.S. try to negotiate to stop the terrorist attacks?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Large military action	32%	22%	43%	35%
Targeted military action	29	27	28	32
Negotiate	30	40	21	24

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Generally speaking, do you trust George W. Bush to make the right decision about whether we should go to war with Iran, or not?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Trust him	42%	8%	40%	82%
Do not trust him	54	89	54	15

Overall, taking into consideration everything you have heard or read about the situation with Iran, do you think Iran will be stopped from getting nuclear weapons through diplomatic solutions, or only through military action, or do you think Iran will eventually get nuclear weapons?

	All	Reg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Iran stopped through diplomatic solutions	15	15	19	12	13
Iran stopped only through military action	12	13	5	12	20
Iran will eventually get nuclear weapons	61	61	64	65	54

If Iran continues to produce material that can be used to develop nuclear weapons, would you support or oppose the U.S. taking military action against Iran?

	All	Reg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Support strongly	28	27	16	28	41
Support somewhat	20	21	21	16	24
Oppose somewhat	17	16	18	19	14
Oppose strongly	23	25	34	23	10

Suppose George W. Bush decides to order military action against Iran, would you support the use of U.S. ground troops against Iran, or would you support air strikes, but oppose the use of ground troops?

	All	Reg	Dem	Ind	Rep
No military action (vol.)	20	20	32	17	6
Ground troops	6	6	6	5	8
Air strike, but oppose ground troops	44	45	42	46	46
Combination of air strikes and ground troops (vol.)	19	18	8	20	28

Would you say that what has happened over the past three years with the war in Iraq has influenced the way you feel about the U.S. taking military action against Iran, or has it not influenced the way you feel? (IF INFLUENCED) Has the war in Iraq made you more or less supportive of U.S. military action against Iran?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Influenced: much more supportive	6	6	3	4	11
Influenced: somewhat more supportive	11	10	8	6	18
Influenced: somewhat less supportive	17	18	21	16	14
Influenced: much less supportive	23	23	37	24	4
No influence	38	38	25	46	49

FOX News – 4/19/06

Last week the president of Iran announced that Iran has begun enriching uranium and said his country had “joined the club” of nuclear nations. The current U.S. position is to try to find diplomatic solutions, but to keep military action as an option. Do you agree or disagree with this position?			
	Agree	Disagree	(Don't know)
All	62%	27	12
Democrats	52%	35	13
Republicans	75%	17	8
Independents	61%	27	12

Do you think the United States currently has the military strength to defeat Iran?			
	Yes	No	(Don't know)
All	56%	34	10
Democrats	49%	42	9
Republicans	66%	23	10
Independents	54%	37	9

Do you think it would be responsible or irresponsible for the United States to have war plans for Iran already prepared?			
	Responsible	Irresponsible	(Don't know)
All	67%	26	7
Democrats	59%	32	9
Republicans	80%	14	6
Independents	65%	30	6

Do you think the United States could co-exist with a nuclear Iran or not?			
	Yes	No	(Don't know)
All	44%	40	16
Democrats	50%	35	15
Republicans	34%	51	15
Independents	51%	34	15

If the United Nations fails to get involved and take a hard line with Iran about nuclear weapons, do you think the United States should stop paying dues to the United Nations?			
	Yes	No	(Don't know)
All	36%	49	15
Democrats	29%	58	13
Republicans	48%	37	14
Independents	34%	49	16

Do you think the United States will eventually have to take military action against Iran?			
	Yes	No	(Don't know)
All	47%	37	17
Democrats	43%	41	16
Republicans	55%	30	16
Independents	45%	40	16

Dubai Ports World

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Generally speaking, should foreign countries be allowed to invest in all areas of the U.S. economy, or some areas, or no areas of the U.S. economy?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
All areas	10	10	8	11	10
Some areas	67	67	62	68	72
No areas	16	16	21	15	12

Generally speaking, should Arab countries be allowed to invest in all areas of the U.S. economy, or some areas, or no areas of the U.S. economy?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
All areas	8	8	5	12	8
Some areas	56	55	50	52	65
No areas	31	31	37	30	25

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "Restrictions on foreign companies are more important than the job creation that these companies could bring to the United States"?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Strongly agree	23	24	17	28	27
Somewhat agree	27	27	24	32	30
Somewhat disagree	20	20	23	16	20
Strongly disagree	12	10	17	10	6

China

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

As you may know, Congress and the Bush administration have been pressuring China to revalue its currency as a way of reducing the U.S. trade deficit. Some argue that this pressure would harm U.S. and China relations. What do you think is more important: Forcing China to move to a market based currency that will help reduce the trade deficit, or allowing China to reform its exchange rate at its own pace in order to maintain good economic relations?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Forcing China to move to a market based currency	26	27	18	25	37
Allowing China to reform it's exchange rate at own pace	50	50	58	56	37

DOMESTIC ISSUES

Plame Leak Investigation

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 4/9/06

How closely have you been following the news about George W. Bush's possible involvement with the leaking of certain intelligence information to reporters?	
Very closely	25%
Somewhat closely	39
Not too closely	22
Not at all	14

Which of the following statements best describes your view of George W. Bush in these matters -- he did something illegal, he did not do anything illegal, but did something unethical, or he did not do anything seriously wrong?	
Illegal	21%
Unethical	42
Nothing wrong	28

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

As you may know, a former senior White House aide testified that George W. Bush authorized a leak of classified information to support the case for war in Iraq. Do you believe that Bush authorized the leak, or not?				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Yes	46%	64%	37%	28%
No	22	14	19	35

Regardless of whether or not you believe George W. Bush authorized a leak of classified information to support the case for war in Iraq, do you think it was an appropriate or inappropriate action for the president to take?				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Appropriate	22%	5%	23%	43%
Not appropriate	66	90	58	43

Energy

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

Have recent price increases in gasoline caused any financial hardship for you or others in your household, or not? (If "yes") Has that been a serious hardship, or not serious?	
Yes, serious	44%
Yes, not serious	26
No	30

Immigration

FOX News – 4/5/06

Do you favor or oppose passing a law making English the official language of the United States?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	78%	68%	89%	79%
Oppose	16	23	8	13

In general, do you think immigrants who come to the United States today help the country and make it a better place to live or hurt the country and make it a worse place to live?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Help	42%	45%	39%	42%
Hurt	30	28	34	30
Depends	20	17	21	22

How serious a problem do you believe the illegal immigration situation is in the United States today?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very serious	60%	58%	65%	56%
Somewhat serious	30	31	27	31
Not very serious	6	6	4	10
Not serious	3	4	3	2

How serious a problem do you believe the illegal immigration situation is in your community?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very serious	23%	22%	28%	19%
Somewhat serious	24	21	26	25
Not very serious	26	28	25	24
Not serious	24	26	19	27

In dealing with the issue of illegal immigrants, do you think the United States should be more focused on: 1. Securing the borders and preventing illegal immigrants from entering the country? 2. Dealing with the millions of illegal immigrants who are already in the country? 3. Combination/All? 4. Don't know/Refused?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Securing borders	35%	34%	40%	31%
Dealing w/already here	24	29	20	21
Combination/All	36	31	38	42

I'm going to read a list of possible concerns some people have expressed over illegal immigration. For each one, please tell me if you are ...

Change the culture of the country:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very concerned	29%	29%	31%	28%
Somewhat concerned	25	21	30	27
Not very concerned	23	26	21	21
Not concerned	21	23	18	22
Lead to an increase in crime:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very concerned	39%	36%	43%	39%
Somewhat concerned	36	33	39	37
Not very concerned	14	18	9	14
Not concerned	10	12	9	9
Lead to an increase in terrorism:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very concerned	34%	32%	41%	30%
Somewhat concerned	32	30	34	33
Not very concerned	17	18	14	17
Not concerned	15	18	11	19
Take jobs away from U.S. citizens:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very concerned	37%	41%	32%	36%
Somewhat concerned	29	24	36	25
Not very concerned	19	20	17	19
Not concerned	15	14	14	20
Overburden government programs and services:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very concerned	61%	56%	66%	63%
Somewhat concerned	26	32	21	22
Not very concerned	5	5	4	7
Not concerned	6	5	7	5

Overall, do you think illegal immigrants provide more benefits to the nation by doing work many U.S. citizens don't want to do, or do they cost the country more because they don't pay taxes and use public services like schools and emergency rooms?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
More benefits	22%	26%	16%	23%
More costs	65	62	73	60

Some people say that illegal immigrants are mainly doing low-paying jobs that U.S. citizens don't want. Other people say that illegal immigrants are taking jobs away from U.S. citizens. Which is closer to how you feel?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Doing unwanted jobs	47%	48%	45%	49%
Taking jobs away	34	36	34	32
Combination/Depends	16	14	18	18

There have been several proposals regarding how to deal with the issue of illegal immigration. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each of the following.

Building a wall or security fence along the U.S.-Mexico border to stop illegal immigration:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	50%	49%	58%	45%
Oppose	43	46	36	45
Depends (vol.)	3	1	2	4
Building a wall or security fence along the U.S.-Canada border to stop illegal immigration:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	36%	37%	39%	34%
Oppose	57	57	53	57
Depends (vol.)	3	1	3	3
Increasing the number of federal agents patrolling the border to stop illegal immigration?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	80%	77%	83%	81%
Oppose	15	18	13	15
Depends (vol.)	2	2	1	3
Using the U.S. military to stop illegal immigrants at the borders?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	55%	56%	61%	49%
Oppose	38	41	32	40
Depends (vol.)	3	1	3	7
Imposing fines and criminal charges against employers who hire illegal immigrants:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	73%	69%	79%	73%
Oppose	19	22	15	16
Depends (vol.)	4	4	3	5
Trying to send as many illegal immigrants back to their home countries as possible:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	57%	54%	63%	58%
Oppose	31	34	27	28
Depends (vol.)	7	6	7	11
Allowing illegal immigrants who have jobs in the United States to apply for legal, temporary worker status?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	69%	71%	69%	68%
Oppose	25	23	26	27
Depends (vol.)	3	4	3	3
Do you think it should be a requirement of those applying to become U.S. citizens that they speak English?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	77%	73%	81%	78%
No	20	24	15	20

Is it more important to you for illegal immigrants to learn English or to pay their fair share of taxes?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Learn English	12%	12%	13%	9%
Pay taxes	45	47	48	38
Both equal (vol.)	40	38	37	48
Neither (vol.)	2	1	2	4

Do you think most illegal immigrants have a greater allegiance to their home countries or to the United States?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Home countries	57%	55%	65%	54%
United States	18	19	18	16
Depends (vol.)	11	10	8	18

Do you think most illegal immigrants really want to become citizens or do you think they just want to make money in the United States and go home?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Become U.S. citizens	33%	33%	34%	31%
Make money and go home	51	53	54	48

Do you think it is fair or unfair to grant rights to illegal immigrants while thousands of people wait each year to come to the United States legally?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Fair	12%	15%	9%	10%
Unfair	81	77	86	80

Based on what you know, how common is it for people in your community to hire illegal immigrants to perform jobs such as childcare, house cleaning or lawn work?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very common	27%	30%	26%	23%
Somewhat common	23	21	23	25
Not very common	20	19	23	17
Not common	18	18	14	26

Under current law, any child born in the United States is a citizen of the United States. If an illegal immigrant has a baby while living in the United States, do you think the child should automatically become a U.S. citizen or not?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes, citizen	45%	56%	36%	41%
No	49	37	59	53

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 4/9/06

In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?

Present level	35%
Increased	15
Decreased	47

Do you think that illegal immigration to the United States is out of control, or not?	
Yes, out of control	81%
No, not	16

How important is it to you that the government takes steps this year to deal with each of the following....

Controlling U.S. borders to halt the flow of illegal immigrants into the U.S.:	
Extremely important	43%
Very important	36
Moderately important	17
Not that important	4

Developing a plan to deal with the large number of illegal immigrants who are already living in the United States:	
Extremely important	34%
Very important	41
Moderately important	20
Not that important	5

Which comes closest to your view about what government policy should be toward illegal immigrants currently residing in the United States? Should the government -- deport all illegal immigrants back to their home country, allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States in order to work, but only for a limited amount of time, or allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States and become U.S. citizens, but only if they meet certain requirements over a period of time? (rotated)	
Deport all	18%
Remain in the U.S. in order to work	17
Remain in the U.S. and become citizens	63

Which comes closer to your view -- if the U.S. government took the right steps, it could prevent almost all illegal immigration to the U.S., or no matter what the U.S. government does, a sizeable number of illegal immigrants will still be able to get into the U.S.? (rotated)	
Could prevent almost all	36%
A sizeable number will still get in	61

(Asked of half-sample) Do you think the United States government should -- or should not -- make illegal immigration a crime?	
Yes, should	61%
No, should not	35

(Asked of half-sample) Do you think the government should -- or should not -- make it a crime for U.S. citizens to provide assistance to people they know are illegal immigrants?	
Yes, should	52%
No, should not	43

(Asked of half-sample) Suppose the government does allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States legally and permanently if they meet certain requirements. For each of the following, please say whether it should or should not be a requirement.

Must have a job:	
Yes, should	90%
No, should not	9
Must pass a health screening:	
Yes, should	85%
No, should not	13
Must learn to speak English:	
Yes, should	85%
No, should not	14
Must pay the IRS taxes owed on all past income earned in the U.S.:	
Yes, should	84%
No, should not	15
Must have lived in the United States for at least five years:	
Yes, should	67%
No, should not	30
Must pay a fine for coming into the United States illegally:	
Yes, should	64%
No, should not	34
Must have a family member living in the United States legally:	
Yes, should	53%
No, should not	44

(Asked of half-sample) How effective do you think each of the following would be as a way to reduce illegal immigration to the United States...

Building a wall along the border with Mexico:	
Very effective	18%
Somewhat effective	30
Not too effective	19
Not at all effective	30
Not allowing illegal immigrants to use American Schools and hospitals:	
Very effective	30%
Somewhat effective	30
Not too effective	20
Not at all effective	17
Significantly increasing the number of officers patrolling U.S. borders:	
Very effective	37%
Somewhat effective	44
Not too effective	13
Not at all effective	5
Instituting tough penalties for businesses that employ illegal immigrants:	
Very effective	52%
Somewhat effective	32
Not too effective	9
Not at all effective	5

Taking action to raise the standard of living in other countries:	
Very effective	28%
Somewhat effective	39
Not too effective	16
Not at all effective	15

Next, thinking about people who come to the U.S. from other countries on temporary work visas, what do you think the government should do about the work opportunities available for those people? Should the government: expand those work opportunities, keep them about the same, or reduce those work opportunities?	
Expand	16%
Keep the same	53
Reduce	27

CBS News – 4/9/06

Should legal immigration into the United States be kept at its present level, increased, or decreased?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Present level	33%	29%	35%	36%
Increased	16	18	19	12
Decrease	45	48	39	47

What about illegal immigration? How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for the country right now?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very serious	62%	66%	57%	63%
Somewhat serious	25	29	26	21
Not too serious	9	3	12	12
Not at all serious	3	2	2	4

(Asked of half-sample) Do you think legal immigrants coming to this country today take jobs away from American citizens, or do they mostly take jobs Americans don't want?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Take jobs away	29%	30%	27%	30%
Take jobs Americans don't want	55	54	60	52
Both (vol.)	7	8	6	6

(Asked of half-sample) Do you think illegal immigrants coming to this country today take jobs away from American citizens, or do they mostly take jobs Americans don't want?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Take jobs away	34%	30%	36%	34%
Take jobs Americans don't want	53	55	57	46
Both (vol.)	11	11	4	18

(Asked of half-sample) Would you favor or oppose allowing immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally to apply for work permits which would allow them to stay and work in the U.S.?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	49%	48%	50%	49%
Oppose	43	42	42	44
Depends (vol.)	4	5	5	4

(Asked of half-sample) Would you favor or oppose allowing illegal immigrants who have done the following to stay and work in the U.S.: paid a fine, been in the U.S. for at least five years, paid any back taxes they owe, can speak English, and have no criminal record?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	74%	71%	73%	78%
Oppose	23	27	23	18

Would you favor or oppose building a 700-mile-long security fence along the U.S.-Mexico border to try to stop illegal immigration?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	48%	58%	46%	41%
Oppose	48	37	51	54

Do you think a 700-mile-long security fence along the U.S.-Mexico border would be effective in stopping illegal immigrants from crossing the border into the U.S., or not?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes, effective	35%	42%	29%	35%
No	60	52	66	61

Do you think it should or should not be a criminal offense if a U.S. citizen provides food, shelter or medical care to an illegal immigrant?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Should	27%	35%	24%	22%
Should not	67	60	69	71

Religious leaders often take positions on public issues. Do you think it's appropriate or not appropriate for religious leaders to take a public position on the issue of immigration?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Appropriate	46%	49%	43%	46%
Not appropriate	47	43	49	49

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

On another subject, do you think the United States is, or is not, doing enough to keep illegal immigrants from coming into this country?

Doing enough, strongly	7%
Doing enough, somewhat	14
Not doing enough, somewhat	19
Not doing enough, strongly	56

Which if any of the following do you see as the biggest concern about illegal immigrants?	
They broke the law to get here	18%
They take jobs from legal residents	14
They threaten national security	9
They use more public services than they pay for in taxes	34
Something else	4
All equally (vol.)	14

Overall do you think illegal immigrants take jobs that other people want, or take jobs that other people don't want? (rotated)	
Take jobs that other people want	29%
Take jobs that other people don't want	68

I'll read three proposals for illegal immigrants who currently live and work in the United States. Please tell me which you prefer. One: Let immigrants who have lived here a certain number of years apply for legal status and eventually become permanent citizens if they meet 23 specific conditions, like paying a fine and back taxes. Two: Let them pay a fee and work here for a limited number of years after which they'd have to leave the country. Three: Declare all illegal immigrants to be felons and not allow them to work here legally. Which of these would you prefer -- a program that may lead to legal status and permanent citizenship, a program allowing them to work here for a limited number of years but not remain permanently, or no temporary work program and felony status?	
Program that may lead to legal status and permanent citizenship	63%
Program allowing them to work here but not remain permanently	14
No temporary work program and felony status	20

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Compared to other problems facing the country, how big a problem is illegal immigration?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
One of the most important	31	33	26	24	39
Important, but not most	53	52	58	45	51
Not all that important	10	9	12	14	7
Not important at all	4	4	3	12	2

Do you support or oppose the following illegal immigration proposals that are currently being debated in the Congress:

One proposal is to create a "guest worker" program that would give a temporary visa to non-citizens who want to work legally in the United States. The program would provide a path to permanent resident status if certain requirements were met. Do you support or oppose this, or haven't you heard enough about it to say?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Support strongly	28	29	24	29	31
Support somewhat	26	25	24	31	25
Oppose somewhat	8	8	7	5	11
Oppose strongly	13	14	11	17	13
Haven't hear enough	23	22	32	15	18

One proposal would allow undocumented immigrants who have been living and working in the United States for a number of years, and who do not have a criminal record, to start on a path to citizenship by registering that they are in the country, paying a fine, getting fingerprinted, and learning English, among other requirements. Do you support or oppose this, or haven't you heard enough about it to say?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Support strongly	37	38	33	37	38
Support somewhat	29	29	26	34	29
Oppose somewhat	6	6	8	5	6
Oppose strongly	12	12	11	7	14
Haven't heard enough	14	13	20	16	9

One proposal is to fence off hundreds of miles of the border between the United States and Mexico, and to toughen immigration laws by making it a felony to be in the United States illegally. Do you support or oppose this, or haven't you heard enough about it to say?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Support strongly	29	30	25	22	34
Support somewhat	13	14	13	10	16
Oppose somewhat	15	14	16	15	13
Oppose strongly	20	20	22	26	15
Haven't heard enough	21	20	22	25	20

Now that you have heard some of the immigration legislation proposed by some members of Congress, which would you prefer: An approach that only focuses on tougher enforcement of immigration laws, or an approach that includes both tougher enforcement of immigration laws and also creates a guest worker program that allows undocumented workers to work legally in the U.S. on temporary visas?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Only tougher enforcement of laws	30	30	26	29	33
Tougher enforcement and guest worker program	63	63	63	65	64

FOX News – 4/19/06

Have the immigration protests and demonstrations made you more or less likely to support easing immigration laws in the United States?

	More likely	Less likely	(No difference)	(Don't know)
All	20%	47	25	8
Democrats	27%	36	28	9
Republicans	18%	55	21	6
Independents	14%	54	23	9

Health Care

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

As you may know, a new law in Massachusetts would require all residents to have health insurance. Low-income residents would get state subsidies to help pay insurance premiums, but everyone would pay something for health services. The plan would penalize people without any insurance and charge fees to employers who don't provide coverage.	
Support	55%
Oppose	41

Medicare/Prescription Drugs

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

As you may know, there's a new prescription drug benefit as part of Medicare, the government health insurance program for people 65 and over. How much do you feel you know about the new Medicare prescription drug program?		
	All	Seniors
Great deal	8%	15%
Good amount	13	23
Only some	26	22
Hardly anything	45	35
Nothing (vol.)	7	5

Based on what you know, do you approve or disapprove of the Medicare prescription drug program?		
	All	Seniors
Strongly approve	13%	26%
Somewhat approve	28	24
Strongly disapprove	23	12
Somewhat disapprove	22	29

(If "approve") Who would you say deserves most of the credit for the program: Bush and the Republicans in Congress, or the Democrats in Congress?		
	All	Seniors
Bush and the Republicans in Congress	56%	54%
Democrats in Congress	32	30
Both (vol.)	3	6
Neither (vol.)	3	3

(If "disapprove") Who would you say deserves most of the blame for the program: Bush and the Republicans in Congress, or the Democrats in Congress?		
	All	Seniors
Bush and the Republicans in Congress	73%	67%
Democrats in Congress	11	11
Both (vol.)	12	15

If you knew a candidate for Congress had voted for the new Medicare prescription drug package, would that make you more likely to support that candidate for Congress, more likely to oppose that candidate, or wouldn't it make much difference in your vote?

	All	Seniors
Support	16%	23%
Oppose	11	14
No difference	70	54

(Asked of respondents age 65 or older) Do you currently take prescription drugs on a regular basis, or not?

Yes	86%
No	14

(Asked of respondents age 65 or older) Have you signed up or been enrolled for the Medicare prescription drug program, or not?

Yes	38%
No	62

(If "no") Would you say you've looked into the program and you're thinking about signing up, you've looked into it and decided not to sign up, or you have not looked into it at this time?

Thinking about signing up	10%
Decided not to sign up	46
Have not looked into it	43

(Asked of seniors who are not enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug program) What's the main reason you have not signed up for the Medicare drug program at this time?

Too confusing	7%
Too limiting	*
Don't need it, already have coverage	69
Don't think it will save money	5
Not eligible	3
Don't take prescription medications	5
Other	10

(Asked of seniors who are enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug program) Would you say you had an easy time or a difficult time enrolling in the program?

Very easy	50%
Somewhat easy	24
Somewhat difficult	13
Very difficult	12

(Asked of seniors who are enrolled in the Medicare prescription drug program) Compared to what you were paying for prescription drugs before, do you think you're saving money in the new program, or not? (If "yes") Are you saving a lot of money, or just some?

Saving, a lot	31%
Saving, some	32

Not saving money	26
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(Asked of respondents age 65 or older) Do you think the costs that you would have to pay in the new prescription program are reasonable or too high? (rotated)	
Reasonable	37%
Too high	44

(Asked of respondents age 65 or older) May 15th is the deadline for joining the program this year, after which people without existing drug coverage would have to pay a penalty to join. Do you think this deadline should or should not be extended?	
Yes, should	71%
No, should not	26

Separation of Church and State

CBS News – 4/9/06

In general, do you think that teaching the Bible in a public school does or does not violate the Constitution and the separation of church and state?	
Does violate	46%
Does not violate	46
Depends (vol.)	2

Do you think public schools should or should not be allowed to teach the Bible as a piece of literature, in classes like English or social studies?	
Should	64%
Should not	29

Would you like to see religious and spiritual values have more influence in the schools than they do now, less influence or about the same influence as they do now?	
More	49%
Less	16
Same	32

Abortion

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

As you may know, South Dakota adopted a law that would ban all abortions, except to save the life of the mother. Do you approve or disapprove of the South Dakota abortion law?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Approve strongly	24	24	13	22	41
Approve somewhat	10	10	11	5	11
Disapprove somewhat	15	14	16	19	14
Disapprove strongly	43	45	53	48	28

Which comes closest to your view on abortion: Abortion should always be legal, or should be legal most of the time, or should be made illegal except in cases of rape, incest and to save the mother's life, or abortion should be made illegal without any exceptions?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Always legal	27	28	34	31	18
Legal most of the time	19	18	22	16	15
Illegal, with exceptions	41	42	35	43	49
Always illegal	2	2	1	6	1

Gay Marriage

FOX News – 4/5/06

Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Favor	33%	45%	16%	38%
Oppose	55	43	77	47

CONGRESS & OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES

2006 Congressional Elections

FOX News – 4/5/06

As of today, which one of the following issues will be the most important in deciding your vote for Congress this fall?	
The economy	20%
Iraq	19
Health care	17
Immigration	13
Social Security	9
Terrorism	9
Ethics in Washington	6
Other (vol.)	4

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 4/5/06

And if the election for Congress were held today, would you want to see the Republicans or Democrats win control of Congress?	
Republicans	33%
Democrats	49
Neither (vol.)	15

CBS News – 4/9/06

(Asked of registered voters) 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?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican	34%	80%	4%	19%
Democratic	44	4	87	42
Other (vol.)	1	0	0	2
Won't vote (vol.)	0	0	0	1
Depends (vol.)	13	10	7	22

If the Democrats were in control of Congress now, do you think Congress would do a better job than it has with the Republicans in control, a worse job than it has with the Republicans in control, or about the same job as it has with the Republicans in control?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Better	32%	6%	61%	30%
Worse	13	30	3	8
Same	48	58	34	53

(Asked of Form A half-sample) 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?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Vote for Bush	14%	39%	0%	4%
Vote against Bush	35	8	65	28
Bush not a factor	45	47	28	61

(Asked of Form B half-sample) Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote for George W. Bush's policies, a vote against George W. Bush's policies, or don't you think of your vote this fall as being about George W. Bush's policies?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Vote for Bush's policies	18%	34%	2%	15%
Vote against Bush's policies	35	8	63	36
Bush not a factor	40	51	28	41

(Asked of registered voters) 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?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
More likely	10%	25%	2%	3%
Less likely	31	6	54	35
Wouldn't affect vote	57	67	40	62

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2006 were being held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your congressional district?

Democratic candidate	55%
Republican candidate	40

For each item, please tell me how important it will be in your vote for Congress this year.

The situation in Iraq:

One of the most important issues	20%
Very important	63
Somewhat important	15
Less important	2

The U.S. campaign against terrorism:

One of the most important issues	17%
Very important	62
Somewhat important	17
Less important	3

Prescription drug benefits for the elderly:

One of the most important issues	11%
Very important	48
Somewhat important	30
Less important	10

The economy:	
One of the most important issues	16%
Very important	64
Somewhat important	18
Less important	2
Health care:	
One of the most important issues	16%
Very important	60
Somewhat important	20
Less important	4
Immigration issues:	
One of the most important issues	12%
Very important	48
Somewhat important	32
Less important	8
Local issues where you live:	
One of the most important issues	9%
Very important	53
Somewhat important	31
Less important	6
Corruption in Washington:	
One of the single most important issues	14%
Very important	52
Somewhat important	24
Less important	8

Harris – 4/10/06

If the election for Congress were being held today, would you be voting for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate?	
Republican	37%
Democrat	41
Other	15

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

If the election for Congress was being held today, which party would you like to see win in your congressional district: the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democratic	49	49	90	39	9
Republican	35	35	4	13	86
Other party (Vol.)	3	3	1	6	1
Neither	5	6	4	12	1

As you may know, this November all seats of the U.S. House of Representatives and a third of the seats in the United States Senate are up for election. After the election in November, would you like to see the Democrats take control of Congress, or would you like to see the Republicans continue to be in control of Congress?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats in control	50	51	90	45	7
Republicans keep control of Congress	37	38	3	16	89
Each party control one house of Congress (vol.)	2	2	2	3	1

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate in your congressional district this November if you knew he or he supported most of George W. Bush's policies and was endorsed by the president, or would knowing this not be a factor in your vote?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Much more likely	11	10	3	8	22
Somewhat more likely	7	8	3	4	15
Somewhat less likely	6	6	9	5	3
Much less likely	28	30	49	27	6
Not a factor	44	44	33	49	52

Pew – 4/16/06

If the 2006 elections for U.S. Congress were being held today, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district? As of today, do you lean more to the Republican or the Democrat?

Republican/Lean Republican	41%
Democrat/Lean Democrat	51

(Asked of registered voters) Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

Yes	57%
No	28

(Asked of registered voters) Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

Yes	34%
No	53

(Asked of registered voters) Will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote for Congress this year, or not?

Yes, will be a factor	56%
No, will not	39

(Asked of registered voters) Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote for George W. Bush, as a vote against George W. Bush, or isn't George W. Bush much of a factor in your vote?

For	17%
Against	34
Not a factor	46

Congress – Job Approval

FOX News – 4/5/06

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

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	29%	44%	14%	26%
Disapprove	51	36	69	50

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

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	29%	13%	58%	18%
Disapprove	53	74	23	59

Do you approve or disapprove of the job your own representative is doing in the U.S. House of Representatives?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	57%	56%	63%	52%
Disapprove	21	22	18	23

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 4/5/06

Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Congress is handling its job?

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	15
Lean toward approval	11
Still have mixed feelings	3
Lean toward disapproval	17
Somewhat disapprove	17
Strongly disapprove	33

CBS News – 4/9/06

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

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	27%	34%	29%	19%
Disapprove	61	54	59	68

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?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	60%	65%	66%	51%
Disapprove	23	21	20	28

During 2005 and 2006, do you think Congress is accomplishing more or less than it usually does during a typical two-year period?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
More	15%	23%	11%	11%
Less	67	58	73	68
About the same (vol.)	9	11	6	9

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is doing its job?	
Approve	35%
Disapprove	62

Do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?	
Approve	59%
Disapprove	34

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?					
	All	Reg	Dem	Ind	Rep
Approve strongly	5	4	4	2	8
Approve somewhat	23	24	19	12	30
Disapprove somewhat	29	29	35	26	25
Disapprove strongly	32	34	31	44	27

Gallup – 4/13/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?	
Approve	23%
Disapprove	70

Pew – 4/16/06

(Asked of registered voters) Compared to recent Congresses, would you say this Congress has accomplished more, accomplished less or accomplished about the same amount?	
More	7%
Less	41
Same	47

(If "less") Who do you think is most to blame for this? (rotated)	
Republican leaders in Congress	58%
Democratic leaders in Congress	13
Both/Neither/Someone else (vol.)	24

FOX News – 4/19/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?			
	Approve	Disapprove	(Don't know)
All	25%	52	23
Democrats	24%	53	23
Republicans	28%	50	22
Independents	22%	57	21

Some people have started calling the current Congress a “do nothing” Congress because they are expected to be in Washington fewer than 130 days this year. Others say that it is not the number of days Congress spends in Washington, but how much has gotten done. Do you agree or disagree with calling this Congress is a “do nothing” Congress?			
	Agree	Disagree	(Don't know)
All	54%	31	15

Democrats vs. Republicans

FOX News – 4/5/06

Which party do you think would do a better job handling the issue of immigration -- Democrats or Republicans?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Democrats would	34%	68%	7%	19%
Republicans would	24	6	56	12
Both (vol.)	6	4	5	11
Neither (vol.)	20	10	19	34

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 4/5/06

Who do you trust to do a better job of protecting the country?	
Democrats	41%
Republicans	41
Both equally (vol.)	4
Neither (vol.)	11

Who do you trust to do a better job of handling the situation in Iraq?	
Democrats	42%
Republicans	39
Both equally (vol.)	3
Neither (vol.)	12

CBS News – 4/9/06

Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to make the right decisions when it comes to dealing with immigration issues?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	31%	60%	10%	24%
Democratic party	43	17	70	41
Both (vol.)	4	4	4	4
Neither (vol.)	8	7	4	13

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

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favorable	48%	23%	81%	41%
Not favorable	43	72	16	42

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

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favorable	40%	83%	16%	25%
Not favorable	53	13	82	59

Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to make the right decisions about the war in Iraq?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	33%	74%	6%	21%
Democratic party	44	10	75	45
Both (vol.)	2	1	3	2
Neither (vol.)	8	2	7	14

Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to ensure a strong economy?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	36%	72%	11%	28%
Democratic party	46	16	74	46
Both (vol.)	2	1	4	1
Neither (vol.)	5	2	2	10

Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decisions when it comes to dealing with terrorism?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	45%	82%	18%	36%
Democratic party	31	4	57	30
Both (vol.)	6	5	7	5
Neither (vol.)	5	1	2	11

Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to make the right decisions when it comes to dealing with immigration issues?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	31%	60%	10%	24%
Democratic party	43	17	70	41
Both (vol.)	4	4	4	4
Neither (vol.)	8	7	4	13

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

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	57%	90%	30%	54%
Democratic party	24	4	49	20
Both (vol.)	7	2	11	7
Neither (vol.)	3	1	1	6

Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party would do a better job handling a national security crisis?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	42%	82%	16%	32%
Democratic party	35	6	64	33
Both (vol.)	6	3	7	7
Neither (vol.)	6	3	2	11

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

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republicans	32%	15%	50%	31%
Democrats	13	25	7	8
Same (vol.)	37	38	25	46

ABC News/Washington Post – 4/9/06

Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years? (rotated)

Democrats	51%
Republicans	37
Both (vol.)	1

Which political party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job handling _____?

The situation in Iraq:

Democrats	49%
Republicans	42
Both (vol.)	1
Neither (vol.)	6

(Asked of Form A half-sample) Prescription benefits for the elderly:	
Democrats	59%
Republicans	31
Both (vol.)	1
Neither (vol.)	5
(Asked of Form A half-sample) The economy:	
Democrats	49%
Republicans	43
Both (vol.)	1
Neither (vol.)	4
(Asked of Form A half-sample) Immigration issues:	
Democrats	50%
Republicans	38
Both (vol.)	1
Neither (vol.)	7
(Asked of Form B half-sample) The U.S. campaign against terrorism:	
Democrats	46%
Republicans	45
Both (vol.)	1
Neither (vol.)	6
(Asked of Form B half-sample) Health care:	
Democrats	61%
Republicans	29
Both (vol.)	*
Neither (vol.)	6
(Asked of Form B half-sample) Corruption in Washington:	
Democrats	52%
Republicans	27
Both (vol.)	2
Neither (vol.)	18

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg – 4/11/06

What is your impression of the Democrats in Congress?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Very favorable	4	4	8	–	1
Somewhat favorable	37	38	55	34	16
Somewhat unfavorable	25	26	13	26	40
Very unfavorable	13	14	3	7	29
Haven't heard enough	17	16	20	26	10

What is your impression of the Republicans in Congress?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Very favorable	5	5	3	3	9
Somewhat favorable	33	34	11	19	63
Somewhat unfavorable	28	28	37	28	18
Very unfavorable	22	22	38	22	3
Haven't heard enough	10	10	11	25	4

Which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, comes closer to representing the values that you, yourself, hold important?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	44	45	84	34	5
Republicans	38	38	4	25	87
Both equally (vol.)	4	4	3	3	2
Neither (vol.)	7	8	5	17	3

Which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you think listens more to the needs of lobbyists and special interests than to the needs of their own constituents?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	26	26	28	19	30
Republicans	35	36	48	26	28
Both equally (vol.)	17	18	10	22	20
Neither (vol.)	7	7	5	6	10

Which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you think has more honesty and integrity?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	30	30	59	19	4
Republicans	29	29	3	14	68
Both equally (vol.)	6	7	7	8	5
Neither (vol.)	26	26	25	38	19

Which party do you think can do a better job handling the major problems facing the country?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	39	40	75	36	4
Republicans	30	30	2	16	70
Both equally (vol.)	6	7	5	6	8
Neither (vol.)	13	12	9	19	10

Which party do you think can do a better job of handling Social Security?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	45	47	77	37	14
Republicans	22	23	2	9	54
Both equally (vol.)	3	3	3	3	2
Neither (vol.)	15	14	10	16	18

Which party do you think can do a better job of handling the budget deficit?					
	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	46	47	79	31	18
Republicans	20	20	3	14	43
Both equally (vol.)	5	5	4	7	5
Neither (vol.)	17	18	10	23	22

Which party do you think will do a better job of keeping America prosperous in the years to come?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	40	41	77	35	5
Republicans	32	32	4	11	76
Both equally (vol.)	6	7	4	12	6
Neither (vol.)	11	10	6	22	7

Which party do you think can do a better job of handling national security and the war on terrorism?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	29	29	57	19	3
Republicans	39	41	10	26	82
Both equally (vol.)	7	8	9	9	5
Neither (vol.)	13	12	11	25	7

Which party do you think can do a better job of helping seniors receive better prescription drug coverage under Medicare?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	50	52	79	38	23
Republicans	17	17	4	6	38
Both equally (Vol.)	4	5	3	4	6
Neither (Vol.)	13	12	5	19	19

Which party do you think can do a better job of handling immigration issues?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	29	29	51	28	6
Republicans	25	26	9	14	51
Both equally (vol.)	5	5	5	6	3
Neither (vol.)	21	22	17	21	25

Which party do you think can do a better job of handling taxes?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	41	42	74	27	11
Republicans	29	29	4	16	64
Both equally (vol.)	4	4	3	7	5
Neither (vol.)	14	14	11	22	12

Which party do you think can do a better job of handling the situation in Iraq?

	<i>All</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Dem</i>	<i>Ind</i>	<i>Rep</i>
Democrats	33	33	58	29	6
Republicans	34	36	5	19	77
Both equally (vol.)	3	4	3	6	2
Neither (vol.)	17	16	18	25	10

Pew – 4/16/06

The Republican Party:	
Very favorable	10%
Mostly favorable	30
Very unfavorable	21
Mostly unfavorable	29

The Democratic Party:	
Very favorable	12%
Mostly favorable	35
Very unfavorable	14
Mostly unfavorable	28

Thinking about the Democratic and Republican parties, would you say there is a great deal of difference in what they stand for, a fair amount of difference or hardly any difference at all?	
A great deal	33%
A fair amount	42
Hardly any	21

(Asked of half-sample) Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of the Republican Party. Tell me just the one best word that comes to mind. (open-ended)	
Conservative	53%
Fair	22
Good	19
Greedy	17
Rich	15
Business	14
Crooks	10
Corrupt	9
Money	9
Confused	7
For rich people	7
Dishonest	6
Great	6
Liars	6
Okay	6
Suck	6
Disappointed	5
Lousy	5
Out of touch	5
Poor	5
Arrogant	4
Bad	4
Disorganized	4
Moral	4

Realistic	4
Stinks	4
Untruthful	4
Weak	4

(Asked of half-sample) Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of the Democratic Party. Tell me just the one best word that comes to mind. (open-ended)

Liberal	57%
Fair	31
Good	20
Weak	18
Too liberal	13
Okay	11
Confused	7
Disorganized	7
Favorable	7
Crooks	6
Hopeful	6
Poor	6
People	5
Socialist	5
Stupid	5
Communists	4
Conservative	4
Dishonest	4
Great	4
Hypocritical	4
Slow	4
Struggling	4
Unorganized	4
Untruthful	4

Some people say we should have a third major political party in this country in addition to the Democrats and Republicans. Do you agree or disagree?

Agree	53%
Disagree	40