

# DEMOCRACY CORPS

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**Date:** February 5, 2007  
**To:** Friends of Democracy Corps  
**From:** Karl Agne

## **BUSH, DEMOCRATS MOVING IN OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS**

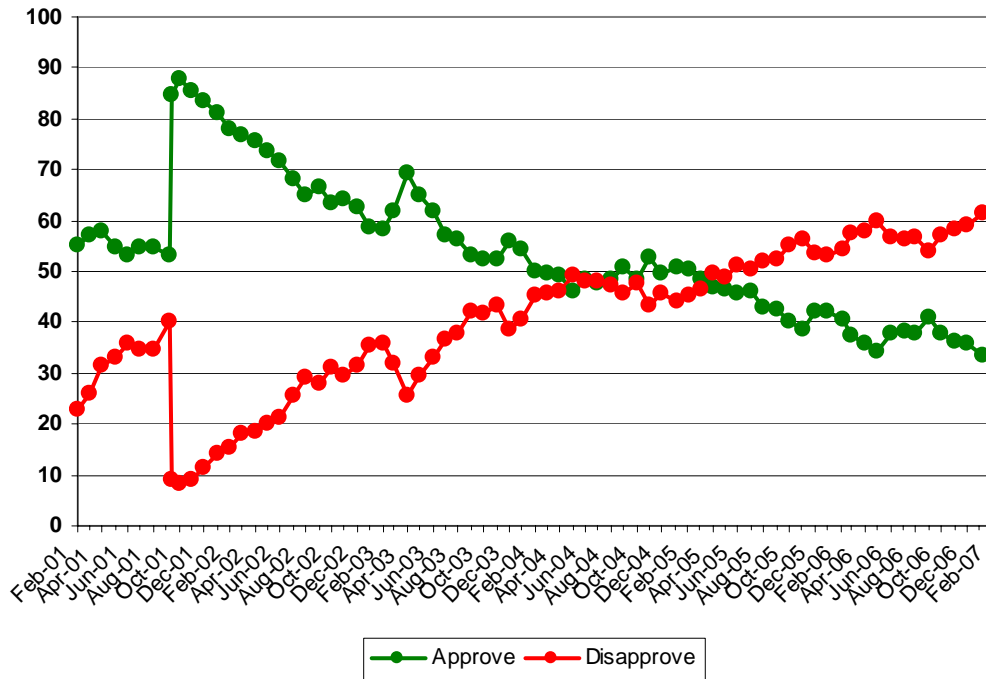
*Bush Still Dropping as Democrats  
Continue to Ride Election Momentum*

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The new year has brought nothing but more bad news for President Bush and his increasingly tenuous political standing. There was some hope in Republican circles that Bush would be able to use the bully pulpit to shift the political environment onto more friendly terrain in January, but after both a prime-time address to the country on Iraq and the State of the Union address, attitudes toward Bush and the war in Iraq are more negative than at any previous point. Ratings of the economy have gradually climbed over the last several months, along with consumer confidence – the ABC/*Washington Post* Consumer Confidence Index is unchanged this week at -3, and the last three months represent its highest sustained level since a rally in Spring 2002 – but this has had no impact on the President’s political standing.

President Bush’s overall job approval continues to drop, with disapproval rising for the fourth straight month in January. This month’s approval mark was the lowest of his presidency – 34 percent approve, 61 percent disapprove – and his personal favorability, measured differently across many polling outlets, is at or near its lowest point in virtually every national poll conducted in January.

Presidential Job Approval



The war in Iraq continues to dominate the broader political environment, as well as attitudes toward President Bush. Americans oppose Bush’s troop surge proposal by a margin of approximately 2-to-1 across several polls conducted after his address to the nation on the issue, and disapproval of Bush’s handling of the situation in Iraq recently reached 70 percent in a *Newsweek* poll and 65 percent in a *Los Angeles Times*/Bloomberg survey – both completed just before the State of the Union. The 2-to-1 margin opposing Bush is reflected in many measures of the war in Iraq across national polls, including whether it has been worth the cost and whether the war has made us safer. By an even larger margin (67 to 24 percent in the aforementioned *Newsweek* poll), Americans say we are losing ground rather than making progress in Iraq – a figure that has been remarkably stable for nearly four months now.

Tom Friedman and other commentators have recently advanced the notion that the country effectively ‘fired’ George W. Bush in the mid-term elections of 2006 and is now essentially looking beyond his administration – to a new Democratic Congress and, in two years, to a new president – for the changes they seek. The most recent *Newsweek* poll (conducted entirely after the State of the Union) supports this analysis, with 58 percent of Americans (including 59 percent of Independents and more than 1-in-5 Republicans) saying they wish that Bush’s presidency was already over and 71 percent expressing the belief that he “will not have enough support over the next two years to make a difference in getting things done in Washington.”

In sharp contrast to President Bush and the Republican Party, attitudes toward Democrats have increased significantly since the 2006 election. In 1994, attitudes toward Republicans grew increasingly positive as they attacked the Democratic majority and positioned themselves as the

alternative. In 2006, ratings of Democrats remained near historic lows, even as public attitudes toward Republicans continued to plummet and the election neared. However, since the election, ratings of the Democratic Party and Democrats in Congress have spiked – a net gain of 13 points in the mid-December NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll (the last media poll measuring favorability toward the two parties) and 18 points in our own Democracy Corps polling since the election – up to 46 percent favorable, 33 percent unfavorable for the Democratic Party and 45 percent favorable, 28 percent unfavorable for the Democratic Congress in the latest survey. These shifts represent a clear signal of continuing public approval of the election results and support for the early steps taken by the new Democratic Congress.

It is important to note the historical context of the current situation. Democrats' current favorability is essentially equal to the Republicans' standing after their victory in 1994, and there are obvious parallels between the recent success of House Democrats' 100 Hours effort and the early efforts of the Gingrich Congress to advance their Contract With America. But the Republicans' subsequent failure to transform their historic victory into electoral gains in the presidential election in 1996 or to create a sustainable governing majority serves as a warning for the current Democratic leadership. Fortunately for today's Democrats, they face a president and a Republican Party (35 percent favorable, 45 percent unfavorable in last week's Democracy Corps poll) with much lower ratings from voters than President Clinton or even the beleaguered Democratic Party faced after 1994.

**BUSH JOB APPROVAL**

		<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>App – Disapp</b>
<b>Monthly Average – January 2007</b>	Jan-07	<b>34.0</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>-27.9</b>
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	1/31/2007	38	54	-23.0
Zogby	1/26/2007	32	68	-36.0
Newsweek	1/25/2007	30	64	-34.0
Time^	1/23/2007	37	59	-22.0
CNN/Opinion Research	1/21/2007	34	63	-29.0
CBS	1/21/2007	28	64	-36.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal	1/20/2007	35	60	-25.0
ABC News/Washington Post	1/19/2007	33	65	-32.0
Newsweek	1/18/2007	31	62	-31.0
AP/AOL	1/18/2007	36	61	-25.0
Gallup	1/18/2007	36	61	-25.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	1/17/2007	35	58	-23.0
Democracy Corps	1/16/2007	40	57	-17.0
LA Times/Bloomberg	1/16/2007	33	59	-26.0
Pew	1/15/2007	33	59	-26.0
USA Today/Gallup	1/14/2007	34	63	-29.0
Diageo/Hotline^	1/14/2007	35	62	-18.0
CNN/Opinion Research	1/11/2007	35	62	-27.0
AP-Ipsos	1/10/2007	32	65	-33.0
USA Today/Gallup	1/7/2007	37	59	-22.0
CBS	1/3/2007	30	63	-33.0
<b>Monthly Average – December</b>	Dec-07	<b>35.6</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>-24.2</b>
<b>Monthly Average – November</b>	Nov-06	<b>36.6</b>	<b>58.1</b>	<b>-21.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average – October</b>	Oct-06	<b>37.7</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>-19.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average – September</b>	Sep-06	<b>41.3</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>-12.7</b>
<b>Monthly Average – August</b>	Aug-06	<b>37.9</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>-18.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – July</b>	Jul-06	<b>38.1</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>-18.1</b>
<b>Monthly Average – June</b>	Jun-06	<b>37.8</b>	<b>56.6</b>	<b>-18.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – May</b>	May-06	<b>34.4</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>-25.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average – April</b>	Apr-06	<b>35.9</b>	<b>58.0</b>	<b>-22.1</b>
<b>Monthly Average – March</b>	Mar-06	<b>37.5</b>	<b>57.4</b>	<b>-19.9</b>
<b>Monthly Average – February</b>	Feb-06	<b>40.6</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>-13.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – January</b>	Jan-06	<b>42.2</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>-10.9</b>
<b>Monthly Average – December</b>	Dec-05	<b>42.1</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>-11.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average – November</b>	Nov-05	<b>38.4</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>-17.9</b>
<b>Monthly Average – October</b>	Oct-05	<b>40.1</b>	<b>55.1</b>	<b>-15.1</b>
<b>Monthly Average – September</b>	Sep-05	<b>42.4</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>-10.0</b>
<b>Monthly Average – August</b>	Aug-05	<b>43.0</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>-9.0</b>
<b>Monthly Average – July</b>	Jul-05	<b>46.1</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>-4.1</b>
<b>Monthly Average – June</b>	Jun-05	<b>45.6</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>-5.4</b>
<b>Monthly Average – May</b>	May-05	<b>46.4</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average – April</b>	Apr-05	<b>46.9</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
<b>Monthly Average – March</b>	Mar-05	<b>48.3</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – February</b>	Feb-05	<b>50.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>

Public Polling Report — February 5, 2007

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

COUNTRY DIRECTION					
Poll	Direction/Satisfied	Date	Right	Wrong	Right-Wrong
<b>Monthly Average - January 2007</b>		<b>Jan-07</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>-31.9</b>
Newsweek	S	1/25/2007	30	61	-31
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	1/20/2007	28	57	-29
AP/Ipsos#	D	1/18/2007	29	66	-37
Newsweek	S	1/18/2007	30	62	-32
Gallup#	S	1/18/2007	35	63	-28
Democracy Corps#	D	1/16/2007	30	62	-32
LA Times/Bloomberg	D	1/16/2007	31	61	-30
Pew Research Center#	S	1/15/2007	32	61	-29
AP/Ipsos#	D	1/10/2007	28	67	-39
<b>Monthly Average - December 2006</b>		<b>Dec-06</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>-35.4</b>
<b>Monthly Average - November 2006</b>		<b>Nov-06</b>	<b>31.4</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>-30.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average - October 2006</b>		<b>Oct-06</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>-33.0</b>
<b>Monthly Average - September 2006</b>		<b>Sep-06</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>-28.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average - August 2006</b>		<b>Aug-06</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>-37.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average - July 2006</b>		<b>Jul-06</b>	<b>29.5</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>-34.0</b>
<b>Monthly Average - June 2006</b>		<b>Jun-06</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>-35.9</b>
<b>Monthly Average - May 2006</b>		<b>May-06</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>-44.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average - April 2006</b>		<b>Apr-06</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>-41.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average - March 2006</b>		<b>Mar-06</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>-34.1</b>
<b>Monthly Average - February 2006</b>		<b>Feb-06</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>-24.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average - January 2006</b>		<b>Jan-06</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>-22.9</b>
<b>Monthly Average - December 2005</b>		<b>Dec-05</b>	<b>33.2</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>-27.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average - November 2005</b>		<b>Nov-05</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>-33.0</b>
<b>Monthly Average - October 2005</b>		<b>Oct-05</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>-28.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average - September 2005</b>		<b>Sep-05</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>-28.0</b>
<b>Monthly Average - August 2005</b>		<b>Aug-05</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>-21.0</b>
<b>Monthly Average - July 2005</b>		<b>Jul-05</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>-18.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average - June 2005</b>		<b>Jun-05</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>-20.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average - June 2005</b>		<b>Jun-05</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>-18.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average - May 2005</b>		<b>May-05</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>-19.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average - April 2005</b>		<b>Apr-05</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>-17.7</b>
<b>Monthly Average - March 2005</b>		<b>Mar-05</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>-15.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average - February 2005</b>		<b>Feb-05</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>-10.7</b>
<b>Monthly Average - January 2005</b>		<b>Jan-05</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>Monthly Average - December 2004</b>		<b>Dec-04</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>-7</b>
<b>Monthly Average - November 2004</b>		<b>Nov-04</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>-6</b>
<b>Monthly Average - October 2004</b>		<b>Oct-04</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>-12.7</b>
<b>Monthly Average - September 2004</b>		<b>Sep-04</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>-9.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average - September 2004</b>		<b>Sep-04</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>-9.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average - August 2004</b>		<b>Aug-04</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>-13.4</b>
<b>Monthly Average - July 2004</b>		<b>Jul-04</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>-15.2</b>
<b>Monthly Average - June 2004</b>		<b>Jun-04</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>-15.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average - May 2004</b>		<b>May-04</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>-24</b>

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