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- Major political measures show stability as election year begins
- Bush approval remains in low 40's, while Democrats maintain large advantage in generic congressional vote
- Attitudes toward Iraq remain divided, with Americans expressing greater optimism but frustrated with lack of progress against insurgents and eager for an end game
- Public conflicted on privacy concerns raised by domestic spying revelations but united in rejection of 'culture of corruption' in Washington

AN ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC POLLING – WEEK ENDING JANUARY 20, 2006

by
Karl Agne

As a pivotal election year begins, the political environment in the country remains remarkably stable after some dramatic changes in the final months of the preceding year. Buffeted by the Plame investigation, the pitiful response to Hurricane Katrina, record gas prices, and a continuing lack of progress, both in Iraq and here at home, President Bush's job approval fell from 46 percent in July to a stunning 38 percent in November. At the same time, public attitudes toward Congress continued to fall to near-record levels, opinions of both parties reached all-time lows, and consumer confidence fell precipitously.

Today, a clear majority of Americans (58 percent average across four surveys) feels the country is off on the wrong track, compared to just 35 percent who feel things are headed in the right direction. While this represents an 11-point net gain since November, it still reflects a very pessimistic outlook on the country's direction as we head into a critical election year. By way of contrast, in January 2004, attitudes on the country's direction were evenly split (47 percent right direction, 47 percent wrong track).

President Bush's standing rebounded in December, climbing back to 42 percent for the entire month and an average of 44 percent in the second half of the month (with all polls conducted before Christmas). This month, Bush stands at an average of 42 percent approval across eight surveys conducted since the beginning of this month, signaling that Bush's end-of-year recovery was real but has stalled in the new year.

Similarly, consumer confidence climbed in the final weeks of 2005 as gas prices fell and the holiday season helped usher in some positive economic news. After a 5-point post-holiday drop this week, the ABC News/*Washington Post* Consumer Confidence Index stands at -13, matching its average for 2005, but still up significantly from its post-Katrina level. But with

stocks declining sharply at the end of this week (driven by pessimistic economic projections and weak corporate earnings reports) and gas and heating prices once again on the rise, it will be difficult for these measures to regain their momentum in the weeks ahead.

With less than 10 months now until Election Day, both parties continue to be viewed negatively by voters, but Democrats have maintained their advantage in the generic congressional contest. There have already been four surveys released this year testing the generic congressional contest, showing an average Democratic advantage of 9 points. This is a very significant margin by historical standards and has held stable for six months now, despite improvement in President Bush's marks and attitudes about the country's direction at the end of the year.

Deep Divisions Remain on Iraq

On the question of Iraq, Americans remain sharply divided on what path the U.S. must take. The Pew survey finds the country evenly divided, with 48 percent saying we should 'keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized' and an identical number saying it's time to 'bring the troops home as soon as possible.' Using more difficult wording for both choices, the CBS News poll finds 49 percent who believe troops should 'stay in Iraq as long as it takes to make sure Iraq is a stable democracy, even if it takes a long time,' while 43 percent believe U.S. troops should 'leave Iraq as soon as possible, even if Iraq is not completely stable.'

There is some rare good news in the latest surveys for the Bush administration on the Iraq front. Their end-of-year push, built around the largely successful national elections in Iraq, has given Americans a greater sense of progress on key goals such as training Iraqi security forces, rebuilding the country's infrastructure, and preventing terrorists from using Iraq as a base of operations for attacks on the U.S. and our allies. They have also increased public confidence that the U.S. will ultimately succeed in establishing a stable democratic government in Iraq (66 percent very or somewhat likely in the Pew poll).

While still expressing optimism that the U.S. will ultimately succeed in establishing a stable democratic government in Iraq, Americans are clearly frustrated by the lack of progress in stopping insurgent attacks on both Iraqi civilians and U.S. soldiers alike, a frustration that is reinforced by almost daily news reports of new bombings and American casualties. The Pew poll also finds strong fears of a looming civil war in Iraq between the various religious and ethnic factions now trying to work together within a democratic government.

Regardless of their feelings about the decision to go to war in Iraq or where we go from here, most Americans believe the primary goal of any military action should be to make our country safer. And on this measure, our efforts in Iraq remain a deep source of frustration. Only 36 percent believe our country is safer as a result of our military action in Iraq, while 60 percent say it has made no difference (41 percent) or has made us less safe (19 percent). And even if

Iraq ultimately becomes a stable democracy, 56 percent still believe we will not be any safer from terrorism.

Deep Distrust of Government Colors Views on Corruption, Spying

In addition to gauging the usual political measures and attitudes on Iraq, polling conducted since the start of this year has been dominated by two growing domestic controversies – the indictment of Jack Abramoff and revelations about the warrantless domestic spying program authorized by the White House. These polls reveal the deep distrust that the public harbors toward Congress and the federal government at this time. Some of the most telling data from the latest surveys:

- An astounding 81 percent in the Pew survey feel ‘recent reports of lobbyists bribing Members of Congress’ represent common behavior in Washington, rather than isolated incidents.
- Only slightly fewer – 65 percent in the Fox News poll – go even further, saying ‘*most elected officials in Washington* make policy decisions or take actions as a direct result of money they receive from major campaign contributors.’
- Almost 6-in-10 (58 percent) in the ABC News/*Washington Post* poll see the Abramoff scandal as a sign of ‘widespread corruption in Washington.’ Only 35 percent see widespread corruption in their state government and just 27 percent in their local government.
- Nearly half of Americans say it is very or somewhat likely that their own Member of Congress will be found to have been involved in illegal activities once the Abramoff investigation is complete.

Most importantly for the upcoming elections, among those who see a difference between the two parties, Republicans are seen as more corrupt than Democrats and much more likely to be caught up in the Abramoff investigation. But 72 percent of voters in the *Hotline* poll say corruption and illegal activities are ‘equally a problem among Members of Congress from both parties.’ This is not to say that Democrats should not continue to pursue this issue vigorously and to expose the ‘culture of corruption’ in Washington; we strongly believe they should. However, they must do so with full realization that voters will not automatically make this a Republican problem, despite the fact that Republicans are in control at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, and that Democrats must separate themselves from the current mess in Washington by advancing bold reforms that show how Washington, and the country as a whole, will be different under Democrats.

Polls included in this analysis:

ABC News/Washington Post. Month ending 1/8/2006; 947 adults.

ABC News/Washington Post. 1/5-8/2006; 1,001 adults

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs. 1/3-5/2006; 1,001 adults.

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs. 1/9-12/2006; 1,242 Adults. Subsample A: 312 blacks or African-Americans; Subsample B: 930 non-blacks or African-Americans;

CBS News. 1/5-8/06; 1,151 adults

CNN/Gallup/USA Today. 1/6-8/2006; 1,003 adults.

Ipsos Public Affairs. 1/3-5/2006; 1,001 adults

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics. 1/10-11/2006; 900 registered voters.

Gallup. 1/9-12/2006; 1,003 adults.

Harris. 1/6-9/06; 1,003 adults.

Pew Research Center. 1/4-8/2006; 1,503 adults.

Zogby. 1/9-12/06; 1,031 likely voters.

BUSH JOB APPROVAL – POST 9/11/01				
		Approve	Disapprove	App – Disapp
Monthly Average – January	Jan-06	42.4	53.3	-10.9
Diageo/Hotline^	1/15/06	46	51	-5.0
Gallup	1/12/06	43	55	-12.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	1/11/06	42	49	-7.0
Pew Research	1/8/06	38	54	-16.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	1/8/06	46	52	-6.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	1/8/06	43	54	-11.0
CBS	1/8/06	41	52	-11.0
AP/Ipsos#	1/5/06	40	59	-19.0
Monthly Average – December	Dec-05	42.1	53.5	-11.3
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	12/22/05	43	53	-10.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	12/18/05	41	56	-15.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	12/18/05	47	52	-5.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	12/14/05	42	51	-9.0
Diageo/Hotline^	12/13/05	50	47	3.0
Democracy Corps#	12/12/05	44	53	-9.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	12/12/05	39	55	-16.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	12/11/05	42	55	-13.0
Cook/RT Strategies#	12/11/05	42	55	-13.0
Pew Research #	12/11/05	38	54	-16.0
AP/Ipsos#	12/7/05	42	57	-15.0
CBS News/New York Times#	12/6/05	40	53	-13.0
Democracy Corps#	12/4/05	41	54	-13.0
Quinnipiac University^	12/4/05	40	54	-14.0
Time#	12/1/05	41	53	-12.0
Monthly Average – November	Nov-05	38.4	56.3	-17.9
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	11/30/05	42	48	-6.0
Cook/RT Strategies#	11/20/05	41	52	-11.0
Gallup#	11/20/05	38	57	-19.0
Democracy Corps#	11/20/05	42	56	-14.0
Diageo/Hotline^	11/15/05	39	59	-20.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	11/13/05	37	60	-23.0
Newsweek#	11/11/05	36	58	-22.0
Gallup#	11/10/05	40	55	-15.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	11/9/05	36	53	-17.0
AP/Ipsos#	11/9/05	37	61	-24.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	11/7/05	38	57	-19.0
Pew Research #	11/6/05	36	55	-19.0
Democracy Corps#	11/6/05	42	54	-12.0
AP/Ipsos#	11/2/05	37	59	-22.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	11/2/05	39	60	-21.0
CBS News#	11/1/05	35	57	-22.0

Monthly Average – October	Oct-05	40.1	55.1	-15.1
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	10/30/05	41	56	-15.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	10/29/05	39	58	-19.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	10/26/05	41	51	-10.0
Gallup#	10/26/05	41	56	-15.0
Pew Research #	10/24/05	40	52	-12.0
Democracy Corps#	10/23/05	42	55	-13.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	10/23/05	42	55	-13.0
WNBC/Marist^	10/17/05	41	53	-12.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	10/16/05	39	58	-19.0
Diageo/Hotline^	10/16/05	40	57	-17.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics^	10/12/05	40	51	-11.0
Democracy Corps#	10/10/05	42	54	-12.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	10/10/05	39	54	-15.0
Pew Research #	10/10/05	38	56	-18.0
CBS News#	10/5/05	37	58	-21.0
AP/Ipsos#	10/5/05	39	58	-19.0
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 - January 2006		Jan-06	35.3	58.3	-23.0
Diageo/Hotline	D	1/15/06	33	54	-21
Zogby	D	1/12/06	40	53	-13
Gallup	D	1/12/06	36	61	-25
AP/Ipsos#	D	1/5/06	32	65	-33
Monthly Average - December 2005		Dec-05	33.8	61.3	-27.5
Democracy Corps#	D	12/12/05	34	60	-26
Cook Political Report/RT Strategies#	D	12/11/05	36	61	-25
AP/Ipsos#	D	12/7/05	33	64	-31
Democracy Corps#	D	12/4/05	32	60	-28
Monthly Average - November 2005		Nov-05	30.4	64.6	-34.1
Gallup#	S	11/20/05	36	62	-26
Democracy Corps#	D	11/20/05	31	67	-36
Newsweek#	S	11/11/05	26	68	-42
Gallup#	S	11/10/05	31	66	-35
AP/Ipsos#	D	11/9/05	32	64	-32
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	11/7/05	26	63	-37
Democracy Corps#	D	11/6/05	31	62	-31
Monthly Average - October 2005		Oct-05	32.8	61.3	-28.5
Gallup#	S	10/26/05	35	63	-28
Democracy Corps#	D	10/23/05	31	61	-30
Gallup#	S	10/16/05	31	68	-37
Democracy Corps#	D	10/10/05	34	58	-24
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	10/10/05	28	59	-31
AP/Ipsos#	D	10/5/05	28	66	-38
Newsweek#	S	9/9/05	28	66	-38
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 - January	Jan-06	36.5	45.3	8.8
Diageo/Hotline RV	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
Democracy Corps LV	11/20/2005	41	48	7
Diageo/Hotline RV	11/15/2005	35	41	6
Newsweek RV	11/11/2005	36	53	17
Democracy Corps LV	11/6/2005	40	48	8
ABC/Washington Post RV	11/2/2005	37	52	15
Monthly Average - October	Oct-05	39.0	46.2	7.2
CNN/USA Today/Gallup RV	10/23/2005	43	50	7
Democracy Corps LV	10/23/2005	39	48	9
Diageo/Hotline RV	10/16/2005	31	40	9
GWU Battleground LV	10/12/2005	41	47	6
Democracy Corps LV	10/10/2005	41	46	5
Monthly Average - September	Sep-05	39.8	49.3	9.5
Newsweek RV	9/30/2005	42	47	5
Democracy Corps LV	9/21/2005	39	48	9
Pew RV	9/11/2005	40	52	12
Newsweek RV	9/9/2005	38	50	12

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 1/5/06

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	32%
Wrong track	65

CBS News – 1/8/06

Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Right direction	31%	60%	13%	26%
Wrong track	62	31	81	67

Harris – 1/9/06

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	33%
Wrong track	54

Gallup – 1/12/06

In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?	
Very satisfied	9%
Somewhat satisfied	27
Somewhat dissatisfied	28
Very dissatisfied	33

Zogby – 1/12/06

Overall, do you think the U.S. is headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Right direction	40%	18%	70%	28%
Wrong track	53	78	21	62

Hotline – 1/15/06

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

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Right direction	33%	15%	21%	59%
Wrong track	54	75	62	29

Do you think the State of the Union today is stronger, weaker or about the same as it was a year ago, in January 2005?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Much stronger	6%	3%	7%	9%
Somewhat stronger	18	8	21	27
Somewhat weaker	25	33	22	16
Much weaker	14	22	16	5
About the same	33	30	31	38

Priorities

Pew – 1/8/06

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

War/War in Iraq	23%
Economy (general)	11
Unemployment/Lack of jobs	7
Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	7
Health care/costs	6
Terrorism	6
Dissatisfaction with government/politics	5
Energy crisis/Rising gas/Heating prices	5
Morality/Ethics/Family values	4
Defense issues/Military spending/National and homeland security	3
Education	3
Immigration	3
U.S. foreign policy/International affairs	3
Pay more attention to problems at home	2
Inflation/Difference between wages/costs	2
Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	2
Hurricanes/disaster relief	2
Trade/Jobs moving overseas	2
Crime/Gangs/Justice system	2
Social Security	2
Homelessness	2

And which political party do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you just mentioned – the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

Republican	27%
Democratic	41
No difference	19

FOX News – 1/11/06

What do you think is the most important issue for the federal government to address today? (open-ended)

War/Iraq/Saddam Hussein	27%
Economy/Jobs/Unemployment	16
Health care/Prescription drugs	12
Education/Schools	6
Social Security/Medicare	5
Domestic issues/Take care of U.S.	5
Terrorism -- not Iraq	5
Immigration	3
Defense/Military/Homeland/National Security	3
Taxes	2
Family values/Morals	2
Balanced budget/Deficit	2
Ethics/Corruption in Government	2
Gas prices/Energy	2

And do you trust Democrats or Republicans to do a better job handling that issue?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Trust Democrats	40%	79%	7%	30%
Trust Republicans	31	3	71	23
Both the same (vol.)	9	7	9	11
Neither (vol.)	13	7	10	22

Hotline – 1/15/06

Which of the following do you think should be the top priority for Congress: fighting the war in Iraq or rebuilding the areas hit by Hurricane Katrina?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Fight in Iraq	30%	22%	20%	43%
Rebuild Katrina areas	52	67	58	33
Both (vol.)	13	8	13	18
Neither (vol.)	2	2	3	1

Economy / Personal finances

ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index

Today	-13	
Last week	-8	
2005 high	-7	March 6, July 24, Aug. 14
2005 low	-23	Sept. 18
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	

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 1/5/06

Rate the current state of the economy in your local area using a scale from 1 to 7, where 7 means a very strong economy today and 1 means a very weak economy.

7, very strong economy	6%
6	14
5	32
4	21
3	15
2	4
1, very weak economy	7

Looking ahead six months from now, do you expect the economy in your local area to be much stronger, somewhat stronger, about the same, somewhat weaker, or much weaker than it is now?

Much stronger	5%
Somewhat stronger	19
About the same	57
Somewhat weaker	13
Much weaker	5

Rate your current financial situation, using a scale from 1 to 7, where 7 means your personal financial situation is very strong today and 1 means it is very weak.

7, very strong	8%
6	18
5	30
4	16
3	13
2	5
1, very weak	9

Looking ahead six months from now, do you expect your personal financial situation to be much stronger, somewhat stronger, about the same, somewhat weaker or much weaker than it is now?

Much stronger	13%
Somewhat stronger	25
About the same	51
Somewhat weaker	8
Much weaker	2

Compared to six months ago, are you now more or less comfortable making a major purchase, like a home or car?

More comfortable	35%
Less comfortable	46
No change (vol.)	18

Compared to six months ago, are you now more or less comfortable making other household purchases?

More comfortable	41%
Less comfortable	41
No change (vol.)	18

Compared to six months ago, are you now more or less confident about job security for yourself, your family and other people you know personally?

More comfortable	37%
Less comfortable	44
No change (vol.)	17

Compared to six months ago, are you now more or less confident of your ability to invest in the future, including your ability to save money for your retirement or your children's education?

More comfortable	41%
Less comfortable	42
No change (vol.)	15

Thinking of the last six months, have you, someone in your family or someone else you know personally lost their job as a result of economic conditions?

Yes	40%
No	60

Now look ahead at the next six months. How likely is it that you, someone in your family or someone else you know personally will lose their job in the next six months as a result of economic conditions?

Extremely likely	8%
Very likely	11
Somewhat likely	32
Not very likely	32
Not at all likely	15

Thinking about the next 30 days, do you think it will be a good time or a bad time to invest in the stock market?

Good time	41%
Bad time	49

Thinking of the next 30 days, do you think it will be a good time to buy real estate, such as house, vacation property or investment property?

Yes	39%
No	58

CBS News – 1/8/06

How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very good	6%	17%	0%	4%
Fairly good	48	64	40	45
Fairly bad	32	15	41	36
Very bad	13	4	17	15

Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Better	20%	37%	9%	16%
Worse	37	15	48	43
Same	43	47	41	40

Gallup – 1/12/06

How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?	
Excellent	8%
Good	35
Only fair	37
Poor	18

Right now, do you think that economic conditions in the country as a whole are getting better, or getting worse?	
Getting better	39%
Getting worse	52
Same (vol.)	7

RATINGS OF BUSH

Bush Job

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 1/5/06

Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	11
Lean toward approval	11
Still have mixed feelings	1
Lean toward disapproval	12
Somewhat disapprove	5
Strongly disapprove	41

Pew – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve	38%
Disapprove	54

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve	43%
Disapprove	54

CBS News – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	41%	80%	17%	33%
Disapprove	52	14	76	58

Harris – 1/9/06

How would you rate the job President George W. Bush is doing as president – excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Positive	43%	75%	17%	37%
Negative	56	24	82	58

FOX News – 1/11/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president?	
Approve	42%
Disapprove	49

Gallup – 1/12/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve	43%
Disapprove	53

Zogby – 1/12/06

Overall, how would you rate President Bush's performance on the job?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Excellent	13%	2%	28%	7%
Good	26	8	44	27
Fair	25	28	21	26
Poor	36	61	7	40

Hotline – 1/15/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly approve	23%	6%	13%	47%
Somewhat approve	23	9	23	37
Somewhat disapprove	16	19	21	9
Strongly disapprove	37	64	41	5

Why do you disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president?				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
His economic, tax policies	26%	27%	25%	27%
Gas prices	23	21	21	41
His handling of Hurricane Katrina	21	21	20	29
His conduct of the war on terrorism	21	22	18	22
His handling of the Iraq War	38	43	27	35
Ethical issues	19	20	20	13
His federal court judge nominations	12	13	6	17
His authorization of wiretapping	20	20	20	18
All of the above (vol.)	37	40	33	31
None of the above (vol.)	1	*	1	0
Other (vol.)	6	5	7	5

Bush Job – Issues

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 1/5/06

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	16%
Somewhat approve	15
Lean toward approval	7
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	15
Somewhat disapprove	10
Strongly disapprove	35

Handling domestic issues like health care, education, the environment and energy:	
Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	14
Lean toward approval	9
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	14
Somewhat disapprove	11
Strongly disapprove	38

Handling foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism:	
Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	10
Lean toward approval	7
Still have mixed feelings	1
Lean toward disapproval	14
Somewhat disapprove	8
Strongly disapprove	33

Handling the situation in Iraq:	
Strongly approve	23%
Somewhat approve	9
Lean toward approval	7
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	10
Somewhat disapprove	6
Strongly disapprove	43

Handling Social Security:	
Strongly approve	14%
Somewhat approve	11
Lean toward approval	10
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	15
Somewhat disapprove	12
Strongly disapprove	33

ABC News/Washington Post – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling ethics in government?	
Approve	45%
Disapprove	52

CBS News – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	39%	72%	20%	32%
Disapprove	52	20	75	56

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	37%	75%	16%	28%
Disapprove	58	21	81	65

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	51%	88%	30%	42%
Disapprove	41	7	59	49

Zogby – 1/12/06

I am going to read to you a list of issues. Please rate President Bush's handling of each as excellent, good, fair or poor...

The war in Iraq:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Excellent	12%	3%	25%	7%
Good	22	8	36	21
Fair	21	17	24	21
Poor	45	71	14	50
The war on terrorism:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Excellent	19%	4%	37%	14%
Good	27	15	41	24
Fair	27	37	13	31
Poor	27	44	8	30
Taxes:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Excellent	9%	1%	18%	6%
Good	24	11	43	15
Fair	30	29	25	42
Poor	33	57	11	30
Foreign policy in general:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Excellent	7%	2%	14%	4%
Good	29	13	43	30
Fair	28	31	27	26
Poor	32	49	11	36

Gas prices:

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Excellent	3%	*%	6%	1%
Good	14	5	27	9
Fair	24	19	26	27
Poor	52	72	33	52

Hotline – 1/15/06

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

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly approve	21%	6%	12%	43%
Somewhat approve	22	10	21	37
Somewhat disapprove	13	13	19	9
Strongly disapprove	41	69	45	9

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

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly approve	17%	5%	10%	35%
Somewhat approve	27	16	22	45
Somewhat disapprove	15	19	19	9
Strongly disapprove	35	56	43	8

Bush Favorability

Zogby – 1/12/06

Is your overall opinion of George W. Bush very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable, or you are not familiar enough to form an opinion?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very favorable	20%	5%	41%	12%
Somewhat favorable	29	12	45	32
Somewhat unfavorable	15	22	7	16
Very unfavorable	33	58	4	40

Hotline – 1/15/06

George W. Bush				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly favorable	25%	6%	17%	54%
Somewhat favorable	22	14	20	32
Somewhat unfavorable	13	15	19	6
Strongly unfavorable	36	62	37	7
Heard of but can't rate (vol.)	2	2	2	1

Bush Legacy

Pew – 1/8/06

In the long run, do you think George W. Bush will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?	
Successful	27%
Unsuccessful	37
Too early to tell	32

FOREIGN POLICY/WAR ON TERRORISM

Iraq

Pew – 1/8/06

Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

Right decision	45%
Wrong decision	47

How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going?

Very well	12%
Fairly well	39
Not too well	27
Not at all well	17

Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

Keep troops in Iraq	48%
Bring troops home	48

(If "bring troops home") Should the U.S. remove all troops from Iraq immediately, or should the withdrawal of troops be gradual over the next year or two?

Remove all troops immediately	14%
Gradual withdrawal over the next year or two	32

Do you think the war in Iraq has helped the war on terrorism, or has it hurt the war on terrorism?

Helped	44%
Hurt	38
No effect (vol.)	8

Do you think the U.S. should or should not set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq?

Should set a timetable	50%
Should not set a timetable	42
Should get out now (vol.)	2

Regardless of your feelings about the original decision to use military force, do you now believe that the U.S. will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in establishing a stable democratic government in Iraq?

Definitely succeed	14%
Probably succeed	42
Probably fail	26
Definitely fail	8

As I read a few specific things about Iraq, tell me if you think we are making progress or losing ground in each area. First,...? (rotated)

Training Iraqi security forces so they can replace U.S. troops:

Making progress	65%
Losing ground	22
No change (vol.)	1

Reducing the number of civilian casualties there:

Making progress	32%
Losing ground	54
No change (vol.)	3

Preventing terrorists from using Iraq as a base for attacks against the U.S. and its allies:

Making progress	52%
Losing ground	33
No change (vol.)	2

Establishing democracy in Iraq:

Making progress	62%
Losing ground	26
No change (vol.)	2

Defeating the insurgents militarily:

Making progress	46%
Losing ground	38
No change (vol.)	3

Preventing a civil war between various religious and ethnic groups:

Making progress	34%
Losing ground	48
No change (vol.)	4

Rebuilding roads, power plants and other services in Iraq:

Making progress	59%
Losing ground	22
No change (vol.)	1

In December, Iraq held its first nationwide election to choose officials in the new government. How much have you heard about this: A lot, a little or nothing at all?

A lot	34%
A little	53
Nothing at all	12

All in all, do you think the recent elections in Iraq will lead to a more stable situation, a less stable situation, or will the situation in Iraq not change much?

More stable	43%
Less stable	8
Situation will not change much	42

CBS News – 1/8/06

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	47%	80%	24%	43%
Stayed out	49	15	73	52

How would you say things are going for U.S. in efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very well	8%	17%	4%	5%
Somewhat well	41	62	25	38
Somewhat badly	28	16	36	30
Very badly	21	3	34	24

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	21%	36%	14%	16%
Somewhat likely	42	52	33	41
Not very likely	24	8	34	27
Not at all likely	11	3	17	12

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	49%	78%	34%	43%
Leave as soon as possible	44	17	60	48

(If "leave as soon as possible"), If having U.S. troops leave as soon as possible meant there would be more violence in Iraq or civil war between Iraqis, then would you say U.S. troops should stay in Iraq to try to prevent that, or should U.S. troops still leave Iraq as soon as possible?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Some should remain	15%	27%	11%	17%
Still remove	80	73	82	79

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%	12%	5%	3%
Will, but will take longer	52	68	39	51
Will never become a democracy	39	16	54	41

If the Iraqi people choose to elect an Islamic fundamentalist government that might not cooperate with the United States, should the United States support that choice, or should the United States take action to prevent that kind of government in Iraq?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Support that choice	59%	52%	60%	62%
Take action to prevent it	26	32	25	21

As a result of the United States' military action against Iraq, do you think the United States is more safe from terrorism, less safe from terrorism or hasn't it made any difference?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
More safe	36%	62%	20%	32%
Less safe	19	8	31	16
No difference	41	27	44	47

If Iraq becomes a stable democracy, do you think that will make the United States more safe from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or won't it make any difference?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
More safe	41%	64%	31%	32%
Less safe	5	2	7	6
No difference	51	31	59	58

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

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
The U.S.	36%	60%	25%	29%
Iraqi resistance	9	4	14	8
Neither side	48	33	52	55

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

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Should	54%	38%	68%	54%
Should not	40	59	27	36

War on Terrorism

Pew – 1/8/06

Overall, do you think the ability of terrorists to launch another major attack on the U.S. is greater, the same, or less than it was at the time of the September 11th terrorist attacks?

Greater	17%
The same	39
Less	39

In general, how well do you think the U.S. government is doing in reducing the threat of terrorism?

Very well	16%
Fairly well	50
Not too well	20
Not at all well	9

CBS News – 1/8/06

How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to protect its citizens from future terrorist attacks?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A great deal	21%	31%	14%	20%
A fair amount	48	54	47	43
Not very much	23	12	29	27
None at all	6	2	8	8

DOMESTIC ISSUES

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 1/8/06

How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?	
Just about always	4%
Most of the time	28
Only some of the time	64
Never (vol.)	3

Domestic Spying/Privacy Rights

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 1/5/06

Should the Bush administration be required to get a warrant from a judge before monitoring phone and internet communications between American citizens in the United States and suspected terrorists, or should the government be allowed to monitor such communications without a warrant?	
Should be required to get a warrant	56%
Should be allowed to monitor without a warrant	42

Pew – 1/8/06

How much have you heard or read about the Patriot Act, adopted in 2001, which is now up for renewal in Congress?	
A lot	21%
Some	30
Not much	23
Nothing at all	24

Which comes closer to your view? Is the Patriot Act a necessary tool that helps the government find terrorists or does it go too far and pose a threat to civil liberties?	
Necessary tool	39%
Goes too far	38

What concerns you more about the government's anti-terrorism policies?	
That they have not gone far enough to adequately protect the country	46%
That they have gone too far in restricting the average person's civil liberties	33
Both/Neither/Approve of policies (vol.)	12

Would you favor or oppose the following measures to curb terrorism:

Requiring that all citizens carry a national identity card at all times to show to a police officer on request:	
Favor	57%
Oppose	38
Allowing the U.S. government to monitor your personal telephone calls and e-mails:	
Favor	24%
Oppose	73
Allowing the U.S. government to monitor your credit card purchases:	
Favor	29%
Oppose	68
Allowing airport personnel to do extra checks on passengers who appear to be of Middle-Eastern descent:	
Favor	57%
Oppose	38

Do you think it is generally right or generally wrong for the government to monitor telephone and e-mail communications of Americans suspected of having terrorist ties without first obtaining permission from the courts?	
Generally right	48%
Generally wrong	47

CBS News – 1/8/06

How much have you heard or read about the USA Patriot Act, adopted in 2001, which is now up for renewal in Congress: a lot, some, not much or nothing so far?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A lot	16%	17%	15%	16%
Some	33	41	29	32
Not much	27	24	28	28
Nothing so far	23	17	26	24

Some people say the Patriot Act is a necessary tool that helps the government find terrorists, while others say it goes too far and is a threat to civil liberties. Which comes closer to your view? Is the Patriot Act a necessary tool that helps the government find terrorists or does it go too far and pose a threat to civil liberties?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Necessary tool	53%	90%	27%	43%
Goes too far	42	8	68	46

Which concerns you more right now: that the government will fail to enact strong anti terrorism laws, or that the government will enact new anti terrorism laws which excessively restrict the average person's civil liberties?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Fail to enact laws	38%	62%	25%	33%
Restrict civil liberties	46	24	61	48
Both (vol.)	3	0	3	3
Neither (vol.)	1	2	1	1

Do you think Americans will have to give up some of their personal freedoms in order to make the country safe from terrorist attacks, or not?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	65%	69%	67%	61%
No	31	27	31	34

During wartime, some presidents have either received or assumed special war powers, which give the president more authority to act independently when he feels it is necessary. In the current campaign against terrorism, is it a good idea or a bad idea for the president to have the authority to make changes in the rights usually guaranteed by the Constitution?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Good idea	36%	63%	21%	29%
Bad idea	57	30	75	61

In order to reduce the threat of terrorism, would you be willing or not willing to allow government agencies to monitor the telephone calls and e mails of ordinary Americans on a regular basis?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Willing	28%	46%	22%	22%
Not willing	68	51	76	74

In order to reduce the threat of terrorism, would you be willing or not willing to allow government agencies to monitor the telephone calls and e mails of Americans that the government is suspicious of?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Willing	69%	91%	59%	63%
Not willing	26	7	35	31

Do you think that in order to fight terrorism, the federal government should have more authority to use wiretaps, or would this violate Americans' constitutional rights?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
More authority	40%	67%	24%	34%
Violate rights	53	25	70	57

In general, how much confidence do you have that government agencies are able to correctly tell whose phone calls and emails should be monitored and whose should not?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A great deal	10%	19%	5%	7%
Fair amount	45	63	38	39
Not much	30	11	38	36
None at all	13	5	18	15

How concerned are you about losing some of your civil liberties as a result of the measures enacted by the Bush Administration to fight terrorism?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very concerned	29%	9%	46%	29%
Somewhat concerned	33	23	34	38
Not very concerned	22	35	15	19
Not at all concerned	16	32	5	13

How concerned are you, personally, that the government might choose to monitor your own phone calls or emails?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very concerned	22%	5%	35%	23%
Somewhat concerned	13	9	17	14
Not very concerned	22	24	19	23
Not at all concerned	42	62	28	39

In general, if the government monitors some phone calls and emails made in the U.S., how effective do you think that would be in stopping terrorist threats to the United States?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very effective	15%	21%	13%	13%
Somewhat effective	48	64	41	42
Not very effective	24	11	33	25
Not at all effective	10	2	11	16

In general, when the government conducts screening and searches of passengers who travel on airplanes in the U.S., how effective do you think that is in stopping terrorist threats to the United States?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very effective	24%	25%	27%	21%
Somewhat effective	53	60	48	51
Not very effective	16	12	17	18
Not at all effective	6	3	7	8

After 9/11, President Bush authorized government wiretaps on some phone calls in the U.S. without getting court warrants, saying this was necessary in order to reduce the threat of terrorism. Do you approve or disapprove of the President doing this?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	49%	82%	31%	41%
Disapprove	48	17	67	54

Do you think Congress should hold public hearings to investigate the Bush administration's authorizing wiretaps on some U.S. phone calls, or don't you think it's necessary?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Hold hearings	46%	20%	67%	47%
Not necessary	49	75	29	48

FOX News – 1/11/06

Do you think the absence of a terrorist attack in the United States since 9/11 is more likely because U.S. security measures are working or no attacks were planned?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Measures working	46%	33%	66%	39%
No attacks planned	22	30	16	29
Both (vol.)	20	22	14	25

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Congress passed the Patriot Act which, in part, gives federal officials wider authority to use wiretaps and other surveillance techniques. Some people say the Patriot Act is a necessary and effective tool in preventing terrorist attacks, while others say the act goes too far and could violate the civil liberties of average Americans. Which comes closer to your view -- overall, would you say the Patriot Act is a good thing for America or a bad thing for America?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Good	53%	35%	79%	48%
Bad	30	45	12	32
Mixed (vol.)	13	15	6	16

Do you think the Patriot Act has helped prevent terrorist attacks in the United States or not?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	59%	44%	81%	55%
No	29	41	11	32

Based on what you know, do you support or oppose extending the Patriot Act when it comes up for renewal?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support	57%	40%	85%	51%
Oppose	31	47	11	34

Would you feel the United States would be more vulnerable to terrorism if the Patriot Act expired?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	57%	41%	79%	51%
No	35	48	15	43

Would you be willing to give up some of your personal freedom in order to reduce the threat of terrorism?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	61%	53%	74%	57%
No	27	34	14	33

When you hear of government officials anonymously leaking top-secret national security information to the press, are you more inclined to think of the officials as patriots who are blowing the whistle because they think something illegal might be going on, or traitors who are leaking government secrets and possibly causing harm to the country?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Whistle blowers	27%	34%	20%	25%
Traitors	50	42	62	49

Do you think the president should or should not have the power to authorize the National Security Agency to monitor electronic communications of suspected terrorists without getting warrants, even if one end of the communication is in the United States?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Should	58%	42%	78%	57%
Should not	36	53	16	35

In an effort to identify terrorist activity, do you think the president should or should not have the power to authorize the National Security Agency to do computer searches of large numbers of international phone calls coming in and out of the United States without getting warrants?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Should	60%	42%	80%	59%
Should not	34	50	15	34

How concerned are you that government efforts to track terrorists are harming the civil liberties of Americans?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very concerned	29%	40%	17%	29%
Somewhat concerned	30	33	23	32
Not very concerned	19	15	27	16
Not at all	20	9	32	21

Would you personally mind having the National Security Agency monitor an international telephone call of yours?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	33%	41%	20%	40%
No	60	52	75	51
Not sure	3	2	2	6
Don't call overseas (vol.)	3	5	2	3

Supreme Court

Pew – 1/8/06

From what you've seen and heard so far, do you think the Senate should or should not confirm Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court?	
Should	33%
Should not	19
Don't know/Refused	48

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 1/8/06

As you may know, Samuel Alito is the federal judge nominated to serve on the Supreme Court. Would you like to see the Senate vote in favor of Alito serving on the Supreme Court or not?	
Yes, vote in favor	49%
No, not	30

From what you know about Samuel Alito, as a Supreme Court Justice, do you think he would be too liberal, too conservative or just about right?	
Too liberal	6%
Too conservative	29
About right	49

Based on what you have heard or read about him, do you think Alito's views on important issues are in the mainstream or do you think they are too extreme?	
Mainstream	52%
Too extreme	30

Suppose that after his confirmation hearings you were convinced Samuel Alito would vote to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision on abortion. If that were the case, would you like to see the senate vote in favor of Alito serving on the Supreme Court or not?	
Yes, vote in favor	34%
No, not	56

With respect to the abortion issue, would you consider yourself to be pro-choice or pro-life?

Pro-choice	53%
Pro-life	42
Mixed/Neither (vol.)	1
Don't know what terms mean (vol.)	2

CBS News – 1/8/06

What is your personal feeling about abortion? 1. It should be permitted in all cases; 2. It should be permitted, but subject to greater restrictions than it is now; 3. It should be permitted only in cases such as rape, incest and to save the woman's life; 4. It should only be permitted to save the woman's life.

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Permitted in all cases	27%	11%	36%	30%
Greater restrictions	15	16	15	14
Rape/incest/save woman's life	33	40	29	30
Only to save woman's life	17	20	14	17
Not permitted at all (vol.)	5	9	4	4

What do you think should happen to affirmative action programs? Should they be ended now, should they be phased out over the next few years, or should affirmative action programs be continued for the foreseeable future?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Ended now	12%	18%	10%	10%
Phased out	33	41	29	31
Continued	36	22	43	39

How much confidence do you yourself have in the United States Supreme Court: a great deal, quite a lot, some or very little?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A great deal	22%	27%	18%	21%
Quite a lot	27	33	26	22
Some	37	31	39	38
Very little	13	7	13	16
None (vol.)	1	0	1	1

When the Senate votes on a Supreme Court nominee, should it consider only that person's legal qualifications and background, or along with legal background, should the Senate also consider how that nominee might vote on major issues the Supreme Court decides?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Legal	41%	52%	28%	46%
Issues too	49	42	62	43

When the Senate votes on a Supreme Court nominee, should it consider only that person's legal qualifications and background, or along with legal background, should the Senate also consider that nominee's personal views on major issues the Supreme Court decides?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Legal	32%	45%	19%	33%
Personal views too	61	49	75	58

Do you think a Supreme Court judge's personal views should or should not be a factor in his or her decisions on cases before the court?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Should	25%	24%	26%	25%
Should not	69	71	68	69

Is your opinion of Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Samuel Alito yet to have an opinion?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favorable	16%	33%	8%	10%
Not favorable	7	1	14	6
Undecided	18	11	24	16
Haven't heard enough	59	55	53	66

Before senators vote on whether Samuel Alito should be confirmed as a Justice of the Supreme Court, how important do you think it is for the Senate to know his position on issues such as abortion and affirmative action? Is that very important, somewhat important, not very important or not at all important?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very important	46%	32%	62%	41%
Somewhat important	31	34	26	33
Not very important	9	13	5	10
Not at all important	12	19	6	12

What do you think right now? Should the Senate vote to confirm Samuel Alito as a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, or vote against Alito, or can't you say?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Vote to confirm	17%	36%	6%	14%
Vote against	9	3	15	8
Can't say	70	60	76	73

ABC News/Washington Post – 1/8/06

As you may know, Bush has nominated federal judge Samuel A. Alito to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Do you think the U.S. Senate should or should not confirm Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court?

Should	53%
Should not	27

The Supreme Court legalized abortion 33 years ago in the ruling known as Roe versus Wade. Do you think that if Alito is confirmed to the court, he would vote to overturn Roe versus Wade entirely; vote to keep abortion legal but with greater restrictions; or vote to leave current abortion law as it is? (rotated)

Overturn	18%
Greater restrictions	26
Leave as is	38

(If "overturn," "greater restrictions" or "leave as is") Is that what you would want him to do, or not?

Yes	58%
No	39

FOX News – 1/11/06

President George W. Bush has nominated Samuel Alito to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. If you were voting on Alito's nomination, would you vote to confirm him or not?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	45%	23%	76%	39%
No	30	52	7	28

Abramoff Scandal/Lobbying Reform

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 1/8/06

As you may know, a prominent lobbyist named Jack Abramoff admitted that he provided gifts to members of Congress in exchange for official favors. How closely have you been following the news about this case?	
Very closely	17%
Somewhat closely	34
Not too closely	24
Not at all	25

Do you think the Abramoff case is a major scandal, a minor scandal or not a serious matter?	
Major scandal	53%
Minor scandal	30
Not a serious matter	9

Just your best guess, which party will be hurt the most as the details of the Abramoff case are revealed: the Republicans, the Democrats, or will both parties be hurt equally?	
Republicans	38%
Democrats	6
Both equally	43

CBS News – 1/8/06

How much have you heard or read about the political corruption investigation involving Jack Abramoff, the Washington lobbyist who recently pled guilty to charges of fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy to bribe public officials?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A lot	14%	12%	18%	11%
Some	31	34	28	31
Not much	23	23	17	27
Nothing	32	30	36	31

(If "a lot," "some," or "not much") As part of a broader investigation into political corruption, Jack Abramoff agreed to testify about his business dealings, which may involve government officials in Washington. Based on what you have heard or read, do you think Abramoff's testimony will involve mostly Republicans, mostly Democrats, or will his testimony involve both parties equally?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Mostly Republicans	23%	10%	42%	16%
Mostly Democrats	1	2	0	1
Both equally	62	75	51	63

ABC News/Washington Post – 1/8/06

Do you think it should be legal or illegal for registered lobbyists to...?

Make campaign contributions to members of Congress or congressional candidates	
Legal	29%
Illegal	67
Organize fundraisers on behalf of congressional candidates	
Legal	41%
Illegal	54
Give members of Congress gifts, trips or other things of value	
Legal	8%
Illegal	90

As you may know, a prominent lobbyist in Washington named Jack Abramoff has pleaded guilty to corruption charges allegedly involving a U.S. congressman. Do you think this case is limited to a few corrupt individuals, or do you think it is evidence of widespread corruption in Washington? (rotated)

Limited to a few	34%
Widespread	58
Neither/none (vol.)	2

Now thinking about... -- if it occurs at all, do you think corruption in... is limited to a few corrupt individuals or is widespread? (rotated)

The local government in your area:	
Limited	68%
Widespread	27

Your state government:	
Limited	60%
Widespread	35

FOX News – 1/11/06

Have you heard or read about Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff's guilty plea on federal corruption charges?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	57%	57%	57%	54%
No	40	42	38	43

(Asked of those who have heard about Abramoff) If an elected official from your state took a campaign contribution from Jack Abramoff or organizations that he represented, how much of a factor would that be in deciding whether to vote for him or her in the next election?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Major factor	44%	54%	31%	44%
Minor factor	33	27	41	32
Not a factor at all	16	13	23	16

(Asked of those who have heard about Abramoff) Do you think elected officials who received contributions from Jack Abramoff or the organizations he represented should return the money, donate it to charity, or do you think it is okay to keep the money?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Return	29%	33%	26%	29%
Donate	56	58	55	55
Keep it	7	4	11	6
Depends (vol.)	3	2	4	5

(Asked of those who have heard about Abramoff) Do you think one political party is more closely tied than the other to lobbyist Jack Abramoff? If yes, which party?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes, Democrats	5%	3%	7%	5%
Yes, Republicans	33	52	11	35
Neither (vol.)	40	29	50	44

Hotline – 1/15/06

Jack Abramoff				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly favorable	1%	*	0	2%
Somewhat favorable	3	2	2	4
Somewhat unfavorable	7	7	8	7
Strongly unfavorable	26	31	33	20
Heard of but can't rate (vol.)	10	9	15	9
Haven't heard of	43	42	35	45

As you may know, Jack Abramoff recently pleaded guilty to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy to bribe public officials in a deal that requires him to provide evidence about members of Congress. Once the investigation is complete, how likely do you think it is that each of the following will be found to have been involved in illegal activities?

Your member of Congress:				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Very likely	17%	24%	13%	13%
Somewhat likely	32	27	32	34
Not very likely	23	21	21	26
Not at all likely	13	16	14	12
Republican members of Congress:				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Very likely	29	44	29	13
Somewhat likely	42	33	49	48
Not very likely	10	7	7	19
Not at all likely	3	3	1	4
Democratic members of Congress:				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Very likely	14%	13%	15%	16%
Somewhat likely	49	42	52	54
Not very likely	16	23	11	10
Not at all likely	5	7	7	3

From what you've heard about Jack Abramoff, is he connected most closely to the Republican Party, the Democratic Party or don't you associate him with a particularly political party?				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Republican Party	30%	44%	35%	17%
Democratic Party	2	2	1	4
Don't associate with party	37	29	38	47

CONGRESS & OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES

2006 Congressional Elections

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 1/5/06

And if the election for Congress were held today, would you want to see the Republicans or Democrats win control of Congress?	
Republicans	36%
Democrats	49
Neither (vol.)	12

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 1/8/06

If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your Congressional district -- the Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate? (rotated)	
Democratic candidate	49%
Republican candidate	42

Please tell me whether you think each of the following political office-holders deserves to be reelected or not. How about... (rotated)

The U.S. Representative in your congressional District:	
Yes, deserves	60%
No, does not	27
Most members of Congress:	
Yes, deserves	42%
No, does not	47

Compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual or less enthusiastic?	
More enthusiastic	45%
Less enthusiastic	39
Same (vol.)	14

Harris – 1/9/06

If the election for Congress were being held today, would you be voting for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican	34%	78%	15%	4%
Democratic	43	7	10	83
Other	14	9	39	8
Undecided	9	5	36	4

FOX News – 1/11/06

Do you think it would be better for the country if Democrats or Republicans win control of Congress in this year's election?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Democrats	44%	80%	9%	36%
Republicans	33	5	77	21
Neither (vol.)	16	11	11	28

As of today, which one of the following issues will be the most important in deciding your vote for Congress this fall? (rotated)	
The economy	23%
Iraq	18
Health care	17
Ethics in Washington	12
Terrorism	11
Social Security	10
Other	5

If you were voting in the midterm election today, would you be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports President Bush on the issues, opposes President Bush on the issues, or would President Bush not be a major factor in your vote for Congress this year?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Supports Bush	26%	6%	54%	18%
Opposes Bush	34	62	6	32
Bush not a factor	36	29	38	43

Hotline – 1/15/06

And, in your opinion, do you think the country would be better off if the Republicans controlled Congress or if the Democrats controlled Congress?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Republicans	35%	6%	21%	76%
Democrats	37	75	36	4
Neither (vol.)	18	12	28	12

And, thinking about next election for U.S. Congress, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district where you live?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Republican candidate	33%	4%	17%	80%
Democratic candidate	40	79	37	5
Neither (vol.)	7	3	10	6

Thinking about the next election for U.S. Congress, do you think you will vote to re-elect your member of Congress, will you consider voting for someone else, or do you think you will vote to replace your current member of Congress?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Re-elect current member	31%	37%	24%	34%
Consider someone else	21	13	26	26
Replace current member	25	27	25	19

Congress – Job Approval

Associated Press/Ipsos Public Affairs – 1/5/06

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

Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	17
Lean toward approval	11
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	20
Somewhat disapprove	17
Strongly disapprove	26

Pew – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing?	
Approve	33%
Disapprove	52
Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing?	
Approve	34%
Disapprove	48

CBS News – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	27%	36%	25%	24%
Disapprove	57	52	59	58

ABC News/Washington Post – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is doing its job?	
Approve	41%
Disapprove	55

Harris – 1/9/06

How would you rate the job Congress is doing -- excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Positive	25%	33%	17%	21%
Negative	72	65	80	75

FOX News – 1/11/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Democrats in Congress are doing?	
Approve	39%
Disapprove	41

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Republicans in Congress are doing?	
Approve	37%
Disapprove	49

Gallup – 1/12/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?	
Approve	27%
Disapprove	67

Hotline – 1/15/06

And do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly approve	4%	3%	2%	6%
Somewhat approve	27	26	24	33
Somewhat disapprove	31	33	30	33
Strongly disapprove	28	30	33	22

The Culture of Corruption

Pew – 1/8/06

Do you think recent reports of lobbyists bribing members of Congress are isolated incidents of corruption, or do you think this kind of behavior is common in Congress?	
Isolated incidents	11%
Common behavior	81
Don't know/Refused	8

ABC News/Washington Post – 1/8/06

On another subject, generally, do you think members of Congress are more honest than most people, more dishonest or about the same?	
More honest	2%
More dishonest	44
About the same	52

FOX News – 1/11/06

In general, do you think most elected officials in Washington make policy decisions or take actions as a direct result of money they receive from major campaign contributors?				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	65%	68%	63%	64%
No	21	19	22	20
Not sure	14	14	15	16

Which political party in Washington do you think is more corrupt, Democrats or Republicans?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Democrats	15%	7%	33%	5%
Republicans	33	58	13	23
Both the same (vol.)	40	25	42	57
Neither (vol.)	4	2	5	5

Do you think your own congressional representative has ever taken money or things of value in return for voting a certain way?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	44%	42%	42%	48%
No	33	35	38	27

Who do you think is more at fault for the current corruption and bribery in Washington?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Elected officials	32%	37%	30%	29%
Lobbyists	25	21	30	26
Both equal (vol.)	33	30	31	38
Neither (vol.)	1	1	2	2

Hotline – 1/15/06

If given a choice, which of the following groups of people do you think a member of Congress would be most likely to put first?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Donors	13%	9%	22%	14%
Lobbyists	18	20	18	16
Voters/Constituents	12	14	9	14
Special interests	21	21	15	25
Political party leaders	14	16	17	11
All of the above (vol.)	4	4	5	3
None of the above (vol.)	2	1	2	3

If given a choice, which of the following groups of people do you think your member of Congress would be most likely to put first?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Donors	9%	8%	10%	8%
Lobbyists	8	10	9	7
Voters/Constituents	26	29	15	32
Special interests	17	18	25	11
Political party leaders	16	11	17	22
All of the above (vol.)	2	2	1	2
None of the above (vol.)	2	3	3	1

Generally speaking, please tell me how many of each of the following kinds of public officials you think are corrupt – almost all of them, many, only a few or none?

Local elected officials, such as mayor or city council:

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Almost all	9%	10%	12%	3%
Many	16	14	13	21
Only a few	61	62	56	63
None	10	9	15	10

State elected officials, such as governor or attorney general:

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Almost all	9%	9%	10%	7%
Many	18	16	19	17
Only a few	62	63	62	63
None	5	6	4	5

Appointed government officials, such as cabinet members or members of federal agencies:

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Almost all	8%	6%	13%	6%
Many	26	33	27	20
Only a few	55	51	44	67
None	4	4	9	2

Federal elected officials, such as members of Congress or senators:

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Almost all	11%	15%	13%	5%
Many	35	37	36	31
Only a few	48	43	44	58
None	1	1	0	1

Thinking specifically about members of the U.S. Congress, do you think that corruption and illegal activities are more of a problem among Democrats, more of a problem among Republicans, or equally a problem among members of Congress from both parties? (rotated)

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Democrats	6%	3%	4%	12%
Republicans	17	32	18	3
Both parties	72	62	72	79

Which of the following best describes why you think certain members of the U.S. Congress are corrupt?

	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Most start out as corrupt before they come to Washington	27%	30%	29%	23%
Most become corrupted once they come to Washington	55	56	52	61
Neither (vol.)	3	2	4	3
Both (vol.)	6	5	6	4

Democrats vs. Republicans

Pew – 1/8/06

Please tell me if you think the phrase I read better describes the Republican Party and its leaders or the Democratic Party and its leaders. Which party do you think is better described by the phrase...?

Able to manage the federal government well:

Republican party	34%
Democratic party	40
Both equally (vol.)	4
Neither (vol.)	12

Governs in an honest and ethical way:

Republican party	30%
Democratic party	37
Both equally (vol.)	4
Neither (vol.)	19

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 1/8/06

Do you think the policies being proposed by the Republican leaders in the U.S. House and Senate or the Democratic leaders in the U.S. House and Senate would move the country in the right direction or in the wrong direction? (rotated)

The Republican leaders in the U.S. House and Senate:	
Right direction	40%
Wrong direction	50
The Democratic leaders in the U.S. House and Senate:	
Right direction	44%
Wrong direction	43

Do you think the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress would do a better job of dealing with the issue of corruption in government?	
Republicans	32%
Democrats	44
No difference	19

CBS News – 1/8/06

Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party has higher ethical standards?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	34%	69%	13%	26%
Democratic party	34	8	64	26
Both (vol.)	4	2	4	5
Neither (vol.)	17	15	11	23

Do you think the Republicans in Congress are more financially corrupt, or are the Democrats in Congress more financially corrupt?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republicans	34%	11%	62%	29%
Democrats	18	33	11	13
Same (vol.)	30	35	14	40

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

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republicans	36%	6%	60%	33%
Democrats	16	38	6	12
Same (vol.)	30	37	22	34

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	36%	83%	9%	26%
Democratic party	39	8	75	31
Both (vol.)	2	0	2	4
Neither (vol.)	9	4	6	16

Do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party can do a better job of writing laws which help the government find terrorists without violating the average person's rights?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Republican party	33%	74%	11%	24%
Democratic party	42	9	73	39
Both (vol.)	5	4	3	7
Neither (vol.)	7	4	4	12

ABC News/Washington Post – 1/8/06

When it comes to the level of ethics and honesty among politicians, do you think the Democrats are generally better than the Republicans, the Republicans are generally better than the Democrats, or isn't there much difference between them when it comes to ethics and honesty? (rotated)

Democrats better than Republicans	15%
Republicans better than Democrats	11
Not much difference	73

FOX News – 1/11/06

Which party do you trust to do a better job protecting the country from terrorism, Democrats or Republicans?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Trust Democrats	30%	61%	4%	18%
Trust Republicans	43	15	83	33
Both the same (vol.)	11	11	8	17
Neither (vol.)	9	7	4	18

This year, do you think it is more likely that Democrats and Republicans in Congress will cooperate and compromise to solve problems, or fight and disagree and end up gridlocked?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Compromise	27%	25%	27%	29%
Gridlock	64	67	64	62

In general, which party, Democrats or Republicans, do you think is currently doing a better job reaching out and trying to cooperate with the other?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Democrats	27%	52%	6%	20%
Republicans	27	8	58	16
Both the same (vol.)	7	7	6	8
Neither (vol.)	27	26	20	37

Zogby – 1/12/06

Now, for each of the following issues, please tell me who you feel is better equipped to handle the issue -- Republicans or Democrats.

Health care:

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	31%	6%	62%	20%
Democrats	45	72	17	48
Neither (vol.)	11	11	7	16
Both (vol.)	3	2	3	4

The environment:

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	27%	7%	55%	16%
Democrats	55	78	28	61
Neither (vol.)	6	4	5	9
Both (vol.)	3	3	3	5

Taxes:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	44%	13%	74%	42%
Democrats	37	65	12	32
Neither (vol.)	10	9	7	15
Both (vol.)	3	4	1	4
Integrity:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	35%	8%	66%	27%
Democrats	34	62	12	25
Neither (vol.)	19	18	12	31
Both (vol.)	5	5	5	7
Jobs and the economy:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	40%	10%	73%	36%
Democrats	41	73	11	39
Neither (vol.)	6	5	4	9
Both (vol.)	5	5	5	3
Terrorism:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	47%	15%	81%	42%
Democrats	26	53	6	19
Neither (vol.)	11	14	3	19
Both (vol.)	7	10	5	5
Traditional values, like hard work:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	42%	12%	74%	38%
Democrats	32	63	8	23
Neither (vol.)	8	8	3	14
Both (vol.)	12	11	9	16
Traditional values, like tolerance:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	30%	8%	56%	20%
Democrats	48	74	22	48
Neither (vol.)	7	3	7	12
Both (vol.)	8	8	7	11

Family values:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	43%	15%	76%	36%
Democrats	30	57	6	24
Neither (vol.)	7	8	3	12
Both (vol.)	13	14	10	17
Foreign policy, in general:				
	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
Republicans	40%	10%	74%	36%
Democrats	40	70	11	37
Neither (vol.)	5	4	3	10
Both (vol.)	7	9	5	10

Hotline – 1/15/06

Now I'm going to read you words that people sometimes use to describe political parties. For each word, I want you to tell me which party you think the word describes best.

Honest:				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Republican Party	17%	4%	10%	41%
Democratic Party	15	31	12	1
Both parties equally	27	24	34	24
Neither of them (vol.)	35	37	41	28
Ethical:				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Republican Party	24%	5%	20%	48%
Democratic Party	23	45	16	5
Both parties equally	29	30	33	29
Neither of them (vol.)	18	16	24	13
Corrupt:				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Republican Party	22%	44%	19%	5%
Democratic Party	13	1	8	31
Both parties equally	54	46	69	51
Neither of them (vol.)	5	5	1	8

Immoral:				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Republican Party	22%	39%	20%	6%
Democratic Party	22	10	8	44
Both parties equally	34	33	52	28
Neither of them (vol.)	13	12	10	14

Other Political Figures

CBS News – 1/8/06

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Dick Cheney is handling his job as vice president?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	35%	73%	17%	24%
Disapprove	46	13	66	52

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Rumsfeld is handling his job as secretary of defense?				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	42%	76%	27%	32%
Disapprove	45	15	59	54

Hotline – 1/15/06

Tom DeLay				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly favorable	3%	1%	2%	6%
Somewhat favorable	12	7	10	18
Somewhat unfavorable	17	17	17	18
Strongly unfavorable	30	44	32	16
Heard of but can't rate (vol.)	13	7	17	14
Haven't heard of	19	20	17	18

Hillary Clinton				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly favorable	20%	38%	18%	4%
Somewhat favorable	28	37	31	18
Somewhat unfavorable	17	13	12	21
Strongly unfavorable	27	6	28	50
Heard of but can't rate (vol.)	5	4	7	5
Haven't heard of	1	*	3	*

John McCain				
	All	Dem	Ind	Rep
Strongly favorable	21%	19%	22%	21%
Somewhat favorable	38	35	42	42
Somewhat unfavorable	12	14	10	13
Strongly unfavorable	6	6	5	6
Heard of but can't rate (vol.)	10	10	9	9
Haven't heard of	8	10	9	5