

DEMOCRACY CORPS

JAMES CARVILLE ♦ STANLEY GREENBERG ♦ ROBERT SHRUM

10 G ST., NE SUITE 400 WASHINGTON, DC 20002 WWW.DEMOCRACYCORPS.COM

- Large and stable majority sees country moving in wrong direction, with Iraq emerging as the dominant concern
- Conflicting attitudes on Iraq emerging – even as support for decision to go to war declines, growing majorities oppose withdrawal and say America must stay the course
- Congressional approval ratings approaching historic lows, with Democrats maintaining small but stable advantage for 2006
- Public sees high stakes in Supreme Court nomination, looking for a moderate who will not radically change current direction of Court or restrict individual liberties

AN ANALYSIS OF RECENT PUBLIC POLLING – JULY 19, 2005

by
Karl Agne

With the first Supreme Court nomination in more than a decade upon us, the political environment in this country will present unique challenges in the coming months. The country remains in a pessimistic mood, with clear majorities saying the country is headed in the wrong direction and consumer confidence tumbling back below its 20-year average after some small gains in June. President Bush's job approval remains well below 50 percent, and concerns over the extreme partisanship in Washington have driven congressional approval near its lowest levels ever. While Americans recognize the importance of the current vacancy (85 percent say Court decisions affect their personal lives), a protracted partisan battle that prevents Congress from addressing the issues of greatest concern to most voters – including Iraq, the economy, health care, and retirement security – could inflame public anger toward Washington even further and have a significant impact on the congressional elections of 2006.

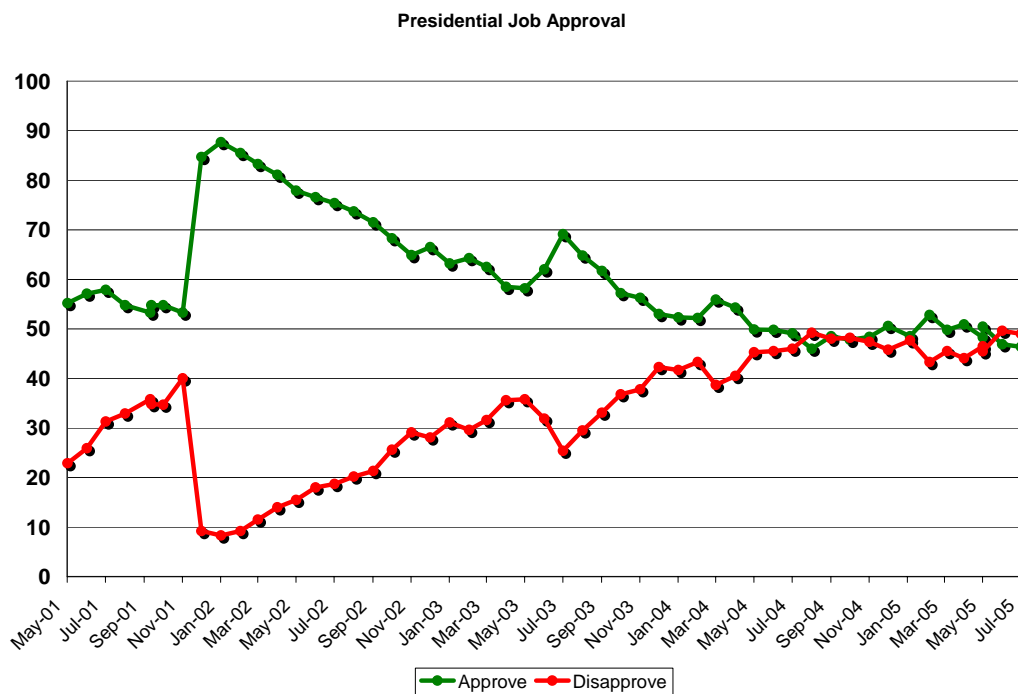
Growing concerns over the situation in Iraq – and more specifically, the lack of a plan, the lack of any sense of real progress, and the mounting cost in U.S. lives and dollars – are driving the current mood of the country. While economic uncertainty remains deep-rooted, Iraq is the number one concern at this time.

As concerns over Iraq grow, we see a complex set of sometimes incongruous attitudes emerging. On the one hand, support for the decision to go to war is declining and a growing number of Americans believe the war has not been worth the cost (44 percent worth it, 53 percent not worth it). Majorities say the war has made both the U.S. (54 percent) and the world in general (52 percent) less safe from terrorism. And by an 18-point margin (36 percent agree, 54 percent disagree), they reject the argument that a withdrawal from Iraq would bring more terrorist attacks here at home.

On the other hand, a full 57 percent in the NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll say it is extremely important (31 percent) or very important (26 percent) that ‘America maintain its military and economic commitment there until Iraq is able to fully govern and police itself.’ Similarly, in the FOX poll, 51 percent say U.S. troops should stay in Iraq ‘as long as it takes to establish a stable, free government in Iraq.’ And the number of Americans who see Iraq as part of the larger war on terrorism is now up to 61 percent. So, while opposition to the war and frustration with its progress continue to grow, Americans nonetheless believe we are now committed to finishing the job, despite the fact that neither the Bush administration nor the American public seem to have a detailed idea of what benchmarks must be achieved before we reach that goal.

Bush Approval Stable, But Doubts Growing On Key Personal Qualities

In June, disapproval of President Bush’s performance in office exceeded 50 percent for the first time in his presidency. This month, his approval remains mired at 46 percent while disapproval has just barely slipped back below 50 percent.



These marks remain historically low for a second term president and are reflected in his anemic approval figures on virtually every major issue facing the country, including the economy (42 percent in AP/Ipsos, 39 percent in NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*), Iraq (40

percent in AP/Ipsos, 39 percent in NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*), and Social Security (36 percent in AP/Ipsos). The NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* survey finds 45 percent approval for his handling of ‘foreign policy,’ while AP/Ipsos finds 51 percent approval for his work on ‘foreign policy and the war on terrorism’ – the only measure where Bush reaches majority approval.

However, low approval on his handling of a wide range of issues is nothing new for Bush, who has secured slim victories in the last two elections by dividing the electorate and winning decisive margins among voters who prioritized a candidate’s personal character over his positions on specific issues. However, the latest NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* survey finds Bush slipping dangerously low on key measures of his personal character, particularly ‘honest and straightforward,’ a foundation of his personal political strength throughout his time in office.

BUSH PERSONAL QUALITIES			
<i>How would you rate George W. Bush on the following qualities, using a five-point scale, on which a "5" means a very good rating, a "1" means a very poor rating, and a "3" means a mixed rating?*</i>			
	4-5: Positive Rating	3: Mixed Rating	1-2: Poor Rating
Representing traditional American values	56	19	24
Being easygoing and likable	50	22	26
Having the strong leadership qualities needed to be president	48	18	33
Being smart and intelligent	43	22	34
Being honest and straightforward	41	13	45
Being a world leader in dealing with other countries	41	21	38
Being compassionate enough to understand average people	40	18	41
Working effectively with Congress to get results	31	34	34
Willing to work with people whose viewpoints are different from his own	29	26	44

*NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* survey, completed 7/11/05

As has been the case for several months now, the depth of the country’s frustration with the current direction and the failed leadership in Washington is most powerfully seen in attitudes toward Congress. The NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll has congressional job approval falling to just 28 percent, compared to 55 percent disapproval. AP/Ipsos has approval at 35 percent and disapproval at 60 percent, a slight uptick after 5 months of steady decline but still a remarkably poor number. With Republicans wielding expanded power in both houses, the public is holding them to task for the lack of progress, and Democrats are favored by 7 points as the party that should control Congress after 2006 (45 to 38 percent). However, as we have noted

previously, the current Democratic margin reflects Republican slippage but no subsequent gains for Democrats, who have not yet defined themselves or what changes they would bring.

The Plame Investigation and the Supreme Court Take Center Stage

While Iraq has been the focus of public attention for much of the last two months, revelations about the role of presidential advisor Karl Rove in leaking the identity of a CIA operative and questions about the White House's shifting position on the controversy have dominated media coverage over the last week. Only one survey, released by ABC News, has explored this dynamic situation since then, and its findings are very straightforward:

- A majority of Americans (53 percent) say they are closely following what was once believed to be an inside-the-Beltway story.
- Three-in-four Americans feel this is a serious matter (down just slightly from late 2003 when the story first broke), and the same number say Rove should lose his job if he is found to have leaked classified information.
- By a margin of almost 2-to-1, Americans believe the White House is not fully cooperating with the investigation (24 percent cooperating, 47 percent not cooperating), a significant shift from October 2003, when the public was split on the question.

It is important to note that the NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* poll showing significant slippage for Bush on the measure of 'honest and straightforward' was completed before this story developed, indicating that Bush's credibility could be falling even further.

Not a moment too soon for the White House and nervous Republicans in Congress seeking to divert media attention away from the Rove controversy, President Bush will tonight announce his choice for the Supreme Court seat left vacant by the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. As the Senate prepares to do its duty in giving the nominee a full and fair hearing, the American public is clear in the type of judge they would like to see succeed O'Connor, as seen in the NBC News/*Wall Street Journal* release:

- They clearly want a more moderate judge who does not lean too strongly toward either side of the ideological spectrum.
- They want a judge who protects past Supreme Court rulings protecting individual rights on issues such as affirmative action (55 to 14 percent), abortion (65 to 29 percent), and allowing references to God in our public life (63 to 14 percent).
- They *do not* want a judge who will be less strict about the separation of church and state, who would explicitly oppose legalizing gay marriage, or who is advanced by religious and conservative groups.

At the same time, they expect Senators not to vote on a nominee based on a single issue but rather on a comprehensive analysis of the nominee's experience, qualifications, and issue positions.

The tenor of this debate over the next two months will largely be determined by how closely the nominee chosen by President Bush matches the moderate, middle-of-the-road profile offered by the American public.

Polls included in this analysis:

Pew Research Center. 7/7-10/2005. 964 Adults.

CNN/Gallup/USA Today. 7/7-10/2005. 1006 Adults.

NBC News/Wall Street Journal. 7/8-11/2005. 1,009 Adults.

AP/Ipsos. 7/11-13/2005. 1000 Adults.

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics. 7/12-13/2005. 900 registered voters.

ABC News. 7/13-17, 2005. 1000 Adults.

BUSH JOB APPROVAL – POST 9/11/01				
		Approve	Disapprove	App – Disapp
Monthly Average – July	Jul-05	46.4	49.2	-2.8
AP/Ipsos#	7/13/2005	43	56	-13.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics#	7/13/2005	47	47	0.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	7/11/2005	46	49	-3.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	7/10/2005	49	48	1.0
Pew Research#	7/10/2005	47	46	1.0
Monthly Average – June	Jun-05	45.6	51.1	-5.4
Gallup#	6/30/2005	46	51	-5.0
Zogby^	6/29/2005	43	56	-13.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	6/26/2005	45	53	-8.0
Democracy Corps	6/26/2005	48	50	-2.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	6/26/2005	48	51	-3.0
Zogby^	6/22/2005	44	56	-12.0
American Research Group#	6/22/2005	42	53	-11.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	6/19/2005	47	51	-4.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics#	6/15/2005	48	43	5.0
CBS News/New York Times#	6/15/2005	42	51	-9.0
Pew Research#	6/12/2005	42	49	-7.0
Harris#	6/12/2005	45	55	-10.0
Westhill/Hotline*	6/5/2005	51	44	7.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	6/5/2005	48	52	-4.0
Monthly Average – May	May-05	46.4	49.0	-2.6
Gallup#	5/26/2005	48	47	1.0
Zogby^	5/25/2005	46	53	-7.0
CBS News#	5/24/2005	46	48	-2.0
Quinnipiac University*	5/23/2005	44	50	-6.0
Democracy Corps^	5/22/2005	49	49	0.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	5/22/2005	46	50	-4.0
American Research Group#	5/18/2005	43	51	-8.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	5/16/2005	47	47	0.0
Pew Research#	5/15/2005	43	50	-7.0
Time#	5/12/2005	46	47	-1.0

AP/Ipsos#	5/4/2005	46	52	-6.0
Gallup#	5/5/2005	50	45	5.0
Westhill/Hotline*	5/1/2005	47	48	-1.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	5/1/2005	48	49	-1.0
Monthly Average – April				
	Apr-05	46.9	49.6	-2.7
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	4/26/2005	47	43	4.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	4/24/2005	47	51	-4.0
Marist College	4/21/2005	47	49	-2.0
Gallup#	4/21/2005	48	49	-1.0
Democracy Corps	4/19/2005	48	49	-1.0
American Research Group#	4/19/2005	44	50	-6.0
Zogby^	4/19/2005	47	54	-7.0
Gallup	4/7/2005	50	45	5.0
AP/Ipsos#	4/6/2005	44	54	-10.0
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	4/3/2005	48	46	2.0
Westhill/Hotline*	4/3/2005	45	51	-6.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	4/2/2005	48	48	0.0
Monthly Average – March				
	Mar-05	48.3	46.5	1.8
FOX News/Opinion Dynamics#	3/30/2005	49	46	3.0
Time#	3/24/2005	48	46	2.0
Gallup#	3/23/2005	45	49	-4.0
Democracy Corps^	3/21/2005	51	47	4.0
Pew Research#	3/21/2005	45	46	-1.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	3/20/2005	52	44	8.0
Newsweek#	3/18/2005	45	48	-3.0
American Research Group#	3/17/2005	47	48	-1.0
Gallup#	3/10/2005	52	44	8.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	3/10/2005	50	48	2.0
AP/Ipsos#	3/9/2005	47	50	-3.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	3/2/2005	48	48	0.0
Quinnipiac University*	3/2/2005	45	48	-3.0
FOX News/Opinion Dynamics#	3/2/2005	52	39	13.0
Monthly Average – February				
	Feb-05	50.5	45.5	5.0
CBS News/New York Times#	2/28/2005	49	44	5.0

Westhill/Hotline*	2/27/2005	52	46	6.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	2/27/2005	52	45	7.0
Pew Research#	2/21/2005	46	47	-1.0
NPR^	2/17/2005	50	47	3.0
Democracy Corps^	2/17/2005	52	46	6.0
Zogby^	2/17/2005	49	50	-1.0
Marist*	2/16/2005	51	45	6.0
NBC/Wall Street Journal#	2/14/2005	50	45	5.0
Harris#	2/13/2005	48	51	-3.0
Gallup#	2/10/2005	49	48	1.0
FOX News/Opinion Dynamics#	2/9/2005	51	43	8.0
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics*	2/9/2005	51	43	8.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	2/6/2005	57	40	17.0
Newsweek#	2/4/2005	50	42	8.0
Monthly Average – January		50.9	44.1	6.8
ABC News/Washington Post#	1/31/2005	50	45	5
Quinnipiac University*	1/31/2005	48	45	3
Westhill/Hotline*	1/27/2005	51	46	5
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics*	1/26/2005	50	40	10
Democracy Corps^	1/20/2005	51	46	5
CBS News/New York Times#	1/18/2005	49	46	3
American Research Group#	1/17/2005	51	44	7
NBC/Wall Street Journal#	1/17/2005	50	44	6
ABC News/Washington Post#	1/16/2005	52	46	6
Annenberg#	1/16/2005	53	43	10
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	1/16/2005	51	46	5
Time#	1/13/2005	53	43	10
Fox News/Opinion Dynamics*	1/12/2005	52	41	11
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	1/9/2005	52	44	8
Pew Research#	1/9/2005	50	43	7
Gallup#	1/5/2005	52	44	8
Monthly Average – December		49.8	45.5	4.3
Monthly Average – November		52.8	43.3	9.5
Monthly Average – October		48.5	47.7	0.8
Monthly Average – September		4-Sep	50.6	45.8

Monthly Average – August	4-Aug	48.4	47.4	1
Monthly Average – July	4-Jul	47.8	48.2	-0.4
Monthly Average – June	4-Jun	48.5	48	0.5
Monthly Average – May	4-May	46	49.2	-3.2
Monthly Average – April	4-Apr	49.1	46	3.1
Monthly Average – March	4-Mar	49.8	45.5	4.3
Monthly Average – February	4-Feb	49.9	45.3	4.6
Monthly Average – January	4-Jan	54.3	40.5	13.8
Monthly Average – December	3-Dec	55.9	38.7	17.2
Monthly Average – November	3-Nov	52.2	43.3	8.9
Monthly Average – October	3-Oct	52.3	41.7	10.6
Monthly Average – September	3-Sep	53	42.3	10.7
Monthly Average – August	3-Aug	56.3	37.8	18.5
Monthly Average – July	3-Jul	57.2	36.8	20.4
Monthly Average – June	3-Jun	61.7	33.1	28.6
Monthly Average – May	3-May	64.8	29.5	35.3
Monthly Average – April	3-Apr	69.1	25.4	43.7
Monthly Average – March	3-Mar	62	31.9	30.1
Monthly Average – February	3-Feb	58.2	35.8	22.4
Monthly Average – January	3-Jan	58.5	35.6	22.9
Monthly Average – December	2-Dec	62.5	31.6	30.9
Monthly Average – November	2-Nov	64.3	29.6	34.7
Monthly Average – October	2-Oct	63.2	31.1	32.1
Monthly Average – September	2-Sep	66.5	28.1	38.4
Monthly Average – August	2-Aug	64.9	29.1	35.8
Monthly Average – July	2-Jul	68.3	25.6	42.7
Monthly Average – June	2-Jun	71.5	21.3	50.2
Monthly Average – May	2-May	73.7	20.2	53.5
Monthly Average – April	2-Apr	75.4	18.7	56.7
Monthly Average – March	2-Mar	76.6	18	58.6
Monthly Average – February	2-Feb	77.9	15.5	62.4
Monthly Average – January	2-Jan	81.1	14	67.1
Monthly Average – Dec.	1-Dec	83.3	11.5	71.8
Monthly Average – Nov.	1-Nov	85.5	9.2	76.3
Monthly Average – Oct.	1-Oct	87.7	8.3	79.4
Monthly Average – Sept.	9/11-9/30	84.7	9.2	75.5

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

COUNTRY DIRECTION					
Poll	Direction/Satisfied	Date	Right	Wrong	Right-Wrong
Monthly Average – July 2005			35	55.5	-20.5
AP/Ipsos#	D	7/13/2005	36	59	-23
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	7/11/2005	34	52	-18
Monthly Average - June 2005			37.1	55.9	-18.8
Zogby^	D	6/29/2005	38	53	-15
Democracy Corps^	D	6/26/2005	36	56	-20
Zogby^	D	6/22/2005	43	53	-10
MSNBC#	S	6/21/2005	35	58	-23
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	S	6/19/2005	42	56	-14
Harris#	D	6/15/2005	38	55	-17
CBS News/New York Times#	D	6/15/2005	33	61	-28
Ispos#	D	6/8/2005	35	59	-24
Westhill/Hotline*	D	6/5/2005	34	52	-18
Monthly Average - May 2005			36.1	55.4	-19.3
Zogby^	D	5/25/2005	40	50	-10
Democracy Corps^	D	5/22/2005	37	55	-18
CBS News#	D	5/16/2005	34	60	-26
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	5/16/2005	35	52	-17
Gallup#	S	5/5/2005	39	58	-19
AP/Ipsos#	D	5/4/2005	36	59	-23
Westhill/Hotline*	D	5/1/2005	32	54	-22
Monthly Average - April 2005			36.9	54.6	-17.7
Marist College	D	4/21/2005	38	56	-18
Zogby^	D	4/19/2005	46	48	-2
Democracy Corps^	D	4/19/2005	34	56	-22
Gallup#	S	4/7/2005	38	59	-21
AP/Ipsos#	D	4/6/2005	38	56	-18
Westhill/Hotline*	D	4/3/2005	30	56	-26
NBC News/Wall Street Journal#	D	4/3/2005	34	51	-17
Monthly Average - March 2005			40.3	55.5	-15.3
Gallup#	S	3/23/2005	38	59	-21
Democracy Corps^	D	3/21/2005	41	52	-11
Gallup#	S	3/10/2005	42	56	-14
AP/Ipsos#	D	3/9/2005	40	55	-15
Monthly Average - February 2005			41.2	51.8	-10.7
Westhill/Hotline	D	2/27/2005	38	50	-12
Democracy Corps^	D	2/17/2005	41	52	-11
NPR^	D	2/17/2005	42	51	-9

Monthly Average - January 2005		Jan-05	42	51	-9
Democracy Corps^	D	1/20/2005	42	51	-9
CBS/New York Times#	D	1/18/2005	39	56	-17
LA Times#	D	1/17/2005	40	48	-8
NBC/Wall St Journal#	D	1/17/2005	40	47	-7
Annenberg#	D	1/16/2005	41	50	-9
Time#	D	1/13/2005	46	49	-3
Pew Research Center#	S	1/9/2005	40	54	-14
AP/Ipsos#	D	1/5/2005	44	51	-7
Gallup#	S	1/5/2005	46	53	-7
Monthly Average - December 2004		Dec-04	42.5	49.5	-7
Monthly Average - November 2004		Nov-04	44.5	50.5	-6
Monthly Average - October 2004		Oct-04	40.9	53.6	-12.7
Monthly Average - September 2004		Sep-04	42.4	51.7	-9.3
Monthly Average - September 2004		Sep-04	42.4	51.7	-9.3
Monthly Average - August 2004		Aug-04	40	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	54.8	-15.8
Monthly Average - February 2004		Feb-04	42	53.5	-11.5
Monthly Average - January 2004		Jan-04	46.9	47.2	-0.3
Monthly Average - December 2003		Dec-03	46	45.9	0.1
Monthly Average - November 2003		Nov-03	40.7	52	-11.3
Monthly Average - October 2003		Oct-03	40.3	53.4	-13.1
Monthly Average - September 2003		Sep-03	38.2	54.8	-16.6
Monthly Average - August 2003		Aug-03	40.8	52.8	-12
Monthly Average - July 2003		Jul-03	43.5	49.3	-5.8
Monthly Average - June 2003		Jun-03	47.2	46	1.2
Monthly Average - May 2003		May-03	51	42.2	8.8
Monthly Average - April 2003		Apr-03	56.5	35	21.5
Monthly Average - March 2003		Mar-03	46.6	46.6	0
Monthly Average - February 2003		Feb-03	40	52.8	-12.8
Monthly Average - January 2003		Jan-03	38.6	52	-13.4
Monthly Average - December 2002		Dec-02	43.4	48.2	-4.8
Monthly Average - November 2002		Nov-02	46.8	46.5	0.3
Monthly Average - October 2002		Oct-02	42.8	48.3	-5.5
Monthly Average - September 2002		Sep-02	46.2	45.3	0.8
Monthly Average - August 2002		Aug-02	46	47	-1
Monthly Average - July 2002		Jul-02	46.2	48.3	-2.2
Monthly Average - June 2002		Jun-02	49.6	39	10.6
Monthly Average - May 2002		May-02	52	40.2	11.8
Monthly Average - April 2002		Apr-02	55.5	34.3	21.3
Monthly Average - March 2002		Mar-02	56	36.3	19.8

Monthly Average - February 2002	Feb-02	63	31.5	31.5
Monthly Average - January 2002	Jan-02	63.5	28	35.5
Monthly Average - December 2001	Dec-01	67.7	22.7	45
Monthly Average - November 2001	Nov-01	63.7	27.3	36.3
Monthly Average - October 2001	Oct-01	67	29	38
Average - September 11-30, 2001	9/11- 30/2001	59.3	32.7	26.7
Average - January 1-September 10, 2001	1/1- 9/11/2001	48.1	43.2	5
Yearly Average - 2000	2000	53.3	36.8	16.5
Yearly Average - 1999	1999	51.5	39	12.5
Yearly Average - 1998	1998	53.6	38.1	15.4
Yearly Average - 1997	1997	45.8	45.6	0.2

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

All in all, do you think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?	
Headed in the right direction	34%
Off on the wrong track	52
Mixed (vol.)	12

AP/Ipsos – 7/13/05

Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?						
	7/11-13/05	6/6-8/05	5/2-4/05	4/4-6/05	3/7-9/05	2/7-9/05
Right direction	36	35	36	38	40	38
Wrong track	59	59	59	56	55	58

Priorities

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 7/10/05

What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? (open-ended)	
Economic problems (net)	27%
Economy in general	10
Unemployment/Jobs	8
Fuel/Oil prices	6
High cost of living/Inflation	2
Unemployment/Jobs	8
Non-economic problems (net)	82
Situation in Iraq/War	25
Terrorism	17
Poor health care/Hospitals; High cost of health care	7
Dissatisfaction with govt/ Congress/Politicians/Candidates; Poor leadership; Corruption	6
Ethics/Moral/Religious/Family decline; Dishonesty; Lack of integrity	6
Poverty/Hunger/Homelessness	5
Social Security	4
Immigration/Illegal aliens	4
National security	4
Education/Poor education/Access to education	3
Judicial systems/Courts/Laws	3
Foreign aid/Focus overseas	2
Drugs	2
International issues/Problems	2

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

And which of these issues do you think should be the next priority for the federal government to address? (select two choices)	
The war in Iraq	40%
Job creation and economic growth	34
Terrorism and homeland security	31
Health care and prescription drugs	28
Illegal immigration	19
Social Security	21

FOX News – 7/13/05

Are you more concerned about surviving a future terrorist attack or having enough money in your retirement savings?	
Surviving a future terrorist attack	24%
Having enough money in retirement savings	59

Economy / Personal finances

ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index – 7/10

Today	-11	
Last week	-9	
2005 high	-7	March 6, 2005
2005 low	-19	May 1, 2005
2005 average	-12	
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	

FOX News – 7/13/05

Where do you think is the safest place to put your long-term investment funds today?	
A government or company pension plan	7%
A 401(k) or similar private savings plan	22
Real estate	21
Stocks	7
Bonds	4
Savings accounts	9

RATINGS OF BUSH

Bush Job

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 7/10/05

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve	49%
Disapprove	48

Pew Research Center – 7/10/05

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?	
Approve	47%
Disapprove	46

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing as president?	
Approve	46%
Disapprove	49

AP/Ipsos – 7/13/05

Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?	<i>7/11-13/05</i>	<i>6/6-8/05</i>	<i>5/2-4/05</i>	<i>4/4-6/05</i>	<i>3/7-9/05</i>	<i>2/7-9/05</i>
Strongly approve	21	22	24	21	25	24
Somewhat approve	12	11	11	11	12	11
Lean toward approval	10	10	11	12	10	10
Mixed feelings	1	1	2	1	2	1
Lean toward disapproval	15	13	13	15	13	15
Somewhat disapprove	6	7	7	6	6	7
Strongly disapprove	35	35	32	34	31	32

FOX News – 7/13/05

Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president?	
Approve	47%
Disapprove	47

Bush Job – Issues

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling the economy?	
Approve	39%
Disapprove	54

(Asked of Form A half sample) In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling our foreign policy?	
Approve	45%
Disapprove	51

(Asked of Form B half sample) In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling the situation in Iraq?	
Approve	39%
Disapprove	55

AP/Ipsos – 7/13/05

And when it comes to (READ ISSUE) do you approve or disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling that issue?						
Handling the economy						
	<i>7/11-13/05</i>	<i>6/6-8/05</i>	<i>5/2-4/05</i>	<i>4/4-6/05</i>	<i>3/7-9/05</i>	<i>2/7-9/05</i>
Strongly approve	19	20	18	16	22	18
Somewhat approve	15	17	15	17	16	14
Lean toward approval	8	6	10	8	10	10
Mixed feelings	2	2	2	3	2	1
Lean toward disapproval	14	11	12	11	11	14
Somewhat disapprove	12	13	12	9	10	10
Strongly disapprove	30	30	31	35	29	33
Handling domestic issues like health care, education, the environment and energy						
	<i>7/11-13/05</i>	<i>6/6-8/05</i>	<i>5/2-4/05</i>	<i>4/4-6/05</i>	<i>3/7-9/05</i>	<i>2/7-9/05</i>
Strongly approve	15	17	16	15	17	15
Somewhat approve	15	13	16	12	16	14
Lean toward approval	11	10	9	11	11	12
Mixed feelings	1	2	2	3	3	1
Lean toward disapproval	15	10	15	12	10	12
Somewhat disapprove	8	10	10	10	11	9
Strongly disapprove	34	37	31	36	32	37

Handling foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism						
	<i>7/11-13/05</i>	<i>6/6-8/05</i>	<i>5/2-4/05</i>	<i>4/4-6/05</i>	<i>3/7-9/05</i>	<i>2/7-9/05</i>
Strongly approve	31	29	31	29	32	31
Somewhat approve	12	11	10	14	11	10
Lean toward approval	8	6	8	6	9	6
Mixed feelings	2	1	2	2	2	2
Lean toward disapproval	15	13	13	12	11	15
Somewhat disapprove	7	9	9	8	8	8
Strongly disapprove	25	30	26	29	27	28
Handling the situation in Iraq						
	<i>7/11-13/05</i>	<i>6/6-8/05</i>	<i>5/2-4/05</i>	<i>4/4-6/05</i>	<i>3/7-9/05</i>	<i>2/7-9/05</i>
Strongly approve	24	23	25	22	29	25
Somewhat approve	8	10	10	12	9	9
Lean toward approval	8	8	8	9	7	8
Mixed feelings	1	2	2	1	2	1
Lean toward disapproval	11	9	8	8	9	10
Somewhat disapprove	7	5	7	9	7	9
Strongly disapprove	41	42	40	39	37	38
Handling Social Security						
	<i>7/11-13/05</i>	<i>6/6-8/05</i>	<i>5/2-4/05</i>	<i>4/4-6/05</i>	<i>3/7-9/05</i>	<i>2/7-9/05</i>
Strongly approve	18	19	17	15	17	19
Somewhat approve	8	11	12	9	9	9
Lean toward approval	10	7	8	11	11	11
Mixed feelings	2	2	2	4	4	5
Lean toward disapproval	11	12	11	10	10	15
Somewhat disapprove	11	9	9	9	8	7
Strongly disapprove	39	38	40	40	38	34

Bush Favorability

Pew Research Center – 7/10/05

George W. Bush	
Very favorable	23%
Mostly favorable	30
Very unfavorable	26
Mostly unfavorable	19

FOX News – 7/13/05

George W. Bush:	
Favorable	48%
Unfavorable	45

Bush Traits

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

How would you rate George W. Bush on the following qualities, using a five-point scale, on which a "5" means a very good rating, a "1" means a very poor rating, and a "3" means a mixed rating?

Representing traditional American values:	
5	35%
4	21
3	19
2	9
1	15
Being easygoing and likable:	
5	29%
4	21
3	22
2	13
1	13
Having the strong leadership qualities needed to be president:	
5	29%
4	19
3	18
2	10
1	23
Being smart and intelligent:	
5	20%
4	23
3	22
2	11
1	23
Being honest and straightforward:	
5	26%
4	15
3	13
2	13
1	32
Being a world leader in dealing with other countries:	
5	18%
4	23
3	21
2	13
1	25

Being compassionate enough to understand average people:	
5	21%
4	19
3	18
2	13
1	28
Working effectively with Congress to get results:	
5	10%
4	21
3	34
2	17
1	17
Willing to work with people whose viewpoints are different from his own:	
5	11%
4	18
3	26
2	13
1	31

FOREIGN POLICY/WAR ON TERRORISM

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 7/10/05

How likely is it that there will be further acts of terrorism in the United States over the next several weeks?	
Very likely	12%
Somewhat likely	43
Not too likely	35
Not at all likely	9

Who do you think is currently winning the war against terrorism -- the U.S. and its allies, neither side, or the terrorists?	
U.S. and its allies	34%
Neither side	44
The terrorists	21

How much confidence do you have in the Bush administration to protect U.S. citizens from future acts of terrorism?	
Great deal	23%
Moderate amount	38
Not much	24
None at all	14

Pew Research Center – 7/10/05

How worried are you that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the United States?	
Very worried	25%
Somewhat worried	44
Not too worried	19
Not at all worried	11

Do you think that the terrorist attacks over the past few years are a part of a major conflict between the people of America and Europe versus the people of Islam, or is it only a conflict with a small, radical group? (If "conflict with a small radical group," ask:) Do you think this conflict is going to grow into a major world conflict, or do you think it will remain limited to a small, radical group?	
Major conflict	28%
Conflict with a radical group	62
Is going to grow into a major world conflict	25
Will remain limited to a small, radical group	33

AP/Ipsos – 7/13/05

How concerned are you about the chance that you or your family might be the victim of a terrorist attack?	
A great deal	9%
Somewhat	29
Not too much	36
Not at all	26

(If "a great deal" or "somewhat concerned") How much does this concern affect how you live your life?	
A great deal	17%
Somewhat	39
Not too much	25
Not at all	19

Do you think that a terrorist attack on buses, trains or subways in the United States can be prevented or do you think such an attack is inevitable?	
Can be prevented	36%
Inevitable	57

FOX News – 7/13/05

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the government is doing to protect the country from terrorism?	
Approve	56%
Disapprove	33

Do you think the United States is safer or less safe today than before 9/11?	
Safer	48%
Less safe	34
Same	14

Do you think the next major terrorist attack is more likely to take place in the United States or in another country?	
United States	31%
Another country	44

How likely do you think it is that another terrorist attack causing large numbers of American lives to be lost will happen in the near future?	
Very likely	33%
Somewhat likely	42
Not very likely	12
Not likely at all	5

How safe do you think public transportation systems are in the United States?	
Very safe	16%
Somewhat safe	48
Not very safe	19
Not at all safe	11

Do you think public transportation systems in the United States are safer or less safe than those in Britain?	
Safer	30%
Less safe	22
Same	24

If the United States gets hit by another major terrorist attack, do you think it will strengthen the nation's resolve to be even tougher in going after terrorists and nations harboring terrorists or do you think it will hurt the nation's resolve and Americans will back down?	
Be even tougher	81%
Back down	7

Iraq

CNN/USA Today/Gallup – 7/10/05

All in all, do you think it was worth going to war in Iraq, or not?	
Worth it	44%
Not worth it	53

(Asked of half-sample A) Do you think the war with Iraq has made the U.S. safer – or less safe – from terrorism?	
Safer	40%
Less safe	54

(Asked of half-sample B) Do you think the war with Iraq has made the world safer or less safe from terrorism?	
Safer	40%
Less safe	52

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

(Asked of Form B half sample) Based on the events and conditions in Iraq, how important is it that America maintain its military and economic commitment there until Iraq is able to fully govern and police itself?	
Extremely important	31%
Very important	26
Only somewhat important	27
Not important	15

The war in Iraq is part of the larger war against terrorism:	
Agree	61%
Disagree	34

We should set a deadline for withdrawing our troops from Iraq:	
Agree	49%
Disagree	47

Having elections in Iraq has helped to spread democracy to other countries in the Middle East:	
Agree	46%
Disagree	42

The United States fulfilled its mission in Iraq by getting rid of Saddam Hussein:	
Agree	37%
Disagree	59

If the United States withdraws its troops from Iraq there will be more terrorist attacks in the United States:	
Agree	36%
Disagree	54

Iraq is ungovernable and will never be a unified country:	
Agree	35%
Disagree	57

FOX News – 7/13/05

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The Iraqi people are better off today because of the military action taken in Iraq by the U.S.-led coalition.	
Strongly agree	43%
Somewhat agree	21
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	16

Do you think U.S. troops should stay in Iraq only for a specified length of time or should troops stay as long as it takes to establish a stable, free government in Iraq?	
Specified length of time	40%
As long as it takes	51

In general, do you think most Iraqi people are glad that the United States removed Saddam Hussein from power or do they wish the United States troops had stayed home?	
Glad U.S. removed Saddam	66%
Wish U.S. troops stayed home	20

London Bombings

Pew Research Center – 7/10/05

British Prime Minister Tony Blair	
Very favorable	23%
Mostly favorable	43
Very unfavorable	3
Mostly unfavorable	7
Never heard of (vol.)	5
Can't rate (vol.)	19

FOX News – 7/13/05

Which of the following comes closest to your view?	
The London bombings show the Iraq war is a diversion from the war on terrorism making the nations fighting there less safe	26%
The London bombings show it is necessary to fight the war against the terrorists in Iraq and everywhere else?	56

Do you think the recent terrorist attacks in London were caused more by Britain's involvement in the Iraq war or more by Britain's support of freedom and democracy in general?	
Involvement in Iraq war	32%
Support of freedom and democracy	38
Both	12

Given the terrorist attacks in London, do you think the British are more or less likely to support the war in the Iraq?	
More likely	62%
Less likely	20
No difference	8

China

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

Today, in general do you think of China as more of an ally or more of an adversary?	
Ally	26%
Adversary	49

Which one of the following statements comes closer to your point of view on our relationship with China?

(Asked of Form A half sample) Statement A: We should maintain good trade relations with China, despite disagreements we might have with its human rights policies. OR Statement B: We should demand that China improve its human rights policies if China wants to continue to enjoy its current trade status with the United States.	
Statement A	39%
Statement B	53

(Asked of Form B half sample) Statement A: We should maintain good trade relations with China, despite disagreements we might have with its military policies. OR Statement B: We should demand that China improve its military policies if China wants to continue to enjoy its current trade status with the United States.	
Statement A	44%
Statement B	47

In the new global economy, American companies sometimes buy foreign companies, such as Ford buying Volvo, and foreign companies sometimes buy American companies, such as Daimler Benz buying Chrysler. In general do you approve or disapprove of this?	
Approve	54%
Disapprove	33

Recently a Chinese company that is mostly owned by the Chinese government bid to purchase Union Oil of California, also called Unocal, which is the ninth largest oil company in the United States. Do you favor or oppose a Chinese company purchasing Unocal?	
Favor	16%
Oppose	73

DOMESTIC ISSUES

The Plame Investigation

FOX News – 7/13/05

If a court order requires a journalist to either reveal the name of a confidential source as part of a criminal case or possibly be sent to jail, what do you think the journalist should do – keep the promise even if it means going to jail or obey the court order and reveal the source's name?	
Keep the promise and go to jail	47%
Obey the court and reveal the source	35

ABC News – 7/17/05

As you may know, a federal prosecutor is investigating whether someone in the White House may have broken the law by identifying an undercover CIA agent to some news reporters. One reporter has gone to jail rather than reveal her source. How closely are you following this issue?				
	<i>Very closely</i>	<i>Somewhat closely</i>	<i>Not too closely</i>	<i>Not at all closely</i>
7/17/2005	21	32	18	29

Do you think this is a very serious matter, somewhat serious, not too serious or not serious at all?				
	<i>Very serious</i>	<i>Somewhat serious</i>	<i>Not too serious</i>	<i>Not at all serious</i>
7/17/2005	42	33	11	8
10/13/2003	46	36	9	4
9/30/2003	48	34	7	9

Do you think the White House is or is not fully cooperating with this investigation?		
	<i>Is cooperating</i>	<i>Is not cooperating</i>
7/17/2005	24	47
10/13/2003	39	41
9/30/2003	47	37

It's been reported that one of George W. Bush's closest advisers, Karl Rove, spoke briefly with a reporter about this CIA agent. If investigators find that Rove leaked classified information, do you think he should or should not lose his job in the Bush administration?		
	<i>Should</i>	<i>Should not</i>
7/17/2005	75	15
Compare to: If the investigation finds that someone in the White House leaked classified information, do you think that person should or should not lose their job?		
	<i>Should</i>	<i>Should not</i>
9/30/2003	91	5

Do you think the reporter who has gone to jail is doing the right thing or the wrong thing in not identifying her confidential source in this case?

	<i>Right thing</i>	<i>Wrong thing</i>
7/17/2005	60	26

Social Security

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

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

Good idea	33%
Bad idea	57

(If "good idea" or "bad idea") When it comes to allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security contributions in the stock market, would you say that your position is completely firm and unlikely to change, or would you say that you are open to changing your mind on this issue?

Good idea	
Position is firm/unlikely to change	37%
Open to changing mind	62
Bad idea	
Position is firm/unlikely to change	62%
Open to changing mind	36

Supreme Court

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

I'm going to mention several things that President Bush could do in naming a new justice to the Supreme Court. For each one, please tell me whether you think that this is a step in the right direction, a step in the wrong direction, or if this is not important to you.

(Asked of Form B half sample) Appointing a judge who favors continuing to allow references to God in our public life such as allowing displays of the Ten Commandments on government property:

Right direction	63%
Wrong direction	14
Not important to me	9

Appointing a woman to the Court:	
Right direction	60%
Wrong direction	2
Not important to me	23
(Asked of Form B half sample) Appointing a judge who would uphold affirmative action laws and policies	
Right direction	55%
Wrong direction	14
Not important to me	11
Appointing the first Hispanic Supreme Court justice:	
Right direction	42%
Wrong direction	7
Not important to me	29
(Asked of Form B half sample) Appointing a strong conservative to the Court:	
Right direction	41%
Wrong direction	30
Not important to me	11
(Asked of Form B half sample) Taking into consideration the views of secular and liberal groups in deciding whom to appoint:	
Right direction	40%
Wrong direction	25
Not important to me	13
(Asked of Form A half sample) Appointing a judge who would oppose legalizing gay marriage:	
Right direction	36%
Wrong direction	35
Not important to me	13
(Asked of Form A half sample) Appointing a judge who would be less strict about the separation between church and state:	
Right direction	36%
Wrong direction	41
Not important to me	9
(Asked of Form A half sample) Taking into consideration the views of religious and conservative groups in deciding whom to appoint:	
Right direction	29%
Wrong direction	39
Not important to me	15
(Asked of Form A half sample) Changing the balance of the Court so that the Roe versus Wade decision that legalized abortion could be overturned:	
Right direction	27%

Wrong direction	50
Not important to me	8

The Supreme Court's 1973 Roe versus Wade decision established a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Would you like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn its Roe versus Wade decision, or not?

Yes, overturn	29%
Feel strongly	24
Do not feel strongly	5
No, do not overturn	65
Do not feel strongly	14

FOX News – 7/13/05

Sandra Day O'Connor:

Favorable	57%
Unfavorable	11

William Rehnquist:

Favorable	35%
Unfavorable	16

Overall, how much do you think the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court affect your life?

A lot	52%
Some, but not a lot	33
Not much	9
Not at all	3

Do you think it is acceptable or unacceptable for a U.S. Senator to base his or her vote on a Supreme Court nominee solely on the nominee's political ideology -- that is, solely because the nominee is a conservative or a liberal?

Acceptable	19%
Unacceptable	69

Do you think it is acceptable or unacceptable for a U.S. Senator to base his or her vote on a Supreme Court nominee solely on the nominee's position on abortion?

Acceptable	20%
Unacceptable	73

Do you think it is acceptable or unacceptable for a U.S. Senator to base his or her vote on a Supreme Court nominee solely on the nominee's position on affirmative action?

Acceptable	18%
Unacceptable	69

Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court are given lifetime appointments, which means it is completely up to the individual justice when he or she retires. Do you think justices should continue to be allowed to serve as long as they want, or should there be a mandatory retirement age for Supreme Court justices?

Should serve as long as they want	28%
Should be a mandatory retirement age	66

When a Supreme Court justice retires, do you think the president has an obligation to replace the retiring justice with another justice with similar legal and political views?

Yes	25%
No	67

Do you think President Bush has an obligation to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor with another woman?

Yes	28%
No	65

When President Bush nominates the next justice to the U.S. Supreme Court, do you want him to nominate someone who is more of a liberal or someone who is more of a conservative?

A liberal	25%
A conservative	39
Not consider ideology	8
Nominate a moderate	12

Regardless of how you usually vote, which political party do you think is more likely to play politics with the Supreme Court justice nomination process?

Democrats	33%
Republicans	27
Both	26

If Senate Democrats strongly oppose the person President Bush nominates to be the next Supreme Court justice, do you think they should:

Allow an up or down vote on the nominee, even if they might lose?	51%
Draw out the debate to prevent a vote and keep the nominee from being confirmed?	24

If the person President Bush nominates to the U.S. Supreme Court is a well-qualified strong conservative, do you think Senate Democrats should vote to confirm the nominee?

Yes	62%
No	22

Who do you think should have the strongest voice in selecting Supreme Court justices -- the president or the U.S. Senate?

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
President	31%	14%	56%	25%
Senate	37	56	19	37
Both	24	23	21	29

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: The U.S. Supreme Court has no right to make laws, only elected officials can make laws.	
Agree	57%
Disagree	33

Is it more important to you that the next Supreme Court justice have the right expertise and ability or the right political point of view?	
Expertise and ability	62%
Political point of view	10
Both	20

CONGRESS & OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES

2006 Congressional Elections

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

What is your preference for the outcome of the 2006 congressional elections -- a Congress controlled by Republicans or a Congress controlled by Democrats?	
Republican-controlled Congress	38%
Democrat-controlled Congress	45

Congress – Job Approval

NBC News/Wall St. Journal – 7/11/05

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that Congress is doing?	
Approve	28%
Disapprove	55

AP/Ipsos – 7/13/05

Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Congress is handling its job?						
	<i>7/11-13/05</i>	<i>6/6-8/05</i>	<i>5/2-4/05</i>	<i>4/4-6/05</i>	<i>3/7-9/05</i>	<i>2/7-9/05</i>
Strongly approve	7	5	7	5	7	6
Somewhat approve	14	16	15	22	20	21
Lean toward approval	14	10	12	10	14	17
Mixed feelings	4	3	3	3	5	3
Lean toward disapproval	19	17	20	19	20	21
Somewhat disapprove	19	20	17	17	14	15
Strongly disapprove	22	27	24	22	18	16