

# DEMOCRACY CORPS

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

- From bad to worse – already negative political environment becoming increasingly pessimistic, particularly on the country’s direction and economic measures
- Broad dissatisfaction with government response to Katrina at local, state, and federal levels, but Americans buoyed by response of ordinary citizens and private charities
- Bush ratings continue to fall as dissatisfaction with Katrina response adds to growing anger over Iraq and gas prices
- Less than 1-in-3 voters approve of Congress’ performance as Democratic advantage in congressional vote continues to grow

## AN ANALYSIS OF RECENT PUBLIC POLLING – SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

by  
Karl Agne

As our country continues to struggle with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we face the morbid task of quantifying its terrible toll in terms of lives lost, families displaced, and sheer physical destruction. While it now appears that some of the most dire predictions will not come true, we still do not know the extent of this disaster’s impact and whether it will be possible to rebuild much of what was lost. At the same time, we do not yet know how this disaster will impact our nation’s political environment or how deep the impact will be. But in the first round of national public polls released since Katrina tore through the Gulf Coast, we are beginning to see the shape of things to come, and it is not good for the Bush administration or Republicans in Congress.

Across a broad range of measures, Americans are feeling increasingly pessimistic about the country’s direction, but it is their economic concerns that are most pronounced in the latest polling. Approximately 3-in-4 Americans (74 percent in the *Time* poll and 80 percent in Pew) express concern that Katrina’s impact will drive the country into an economic recession. But Americans’ growing economic concerns are not simply a product of Katrina; these concerns have been growing for some time. Four weeks ago, the ABC News/*Washington Post* Consumer Confidence Index stood at -7, matching its highest level of the year. Rising gas prices and economic uncertainty began to drive it down before Katrina struck, and it has continued to fall sharply in the post-Katrina period. Today it sits at its lowest mark of the year (-20), down 5 points in the last week after drops on all three measures used to calculate the index – ratings of the national economy, personal finances, and the buying climate.

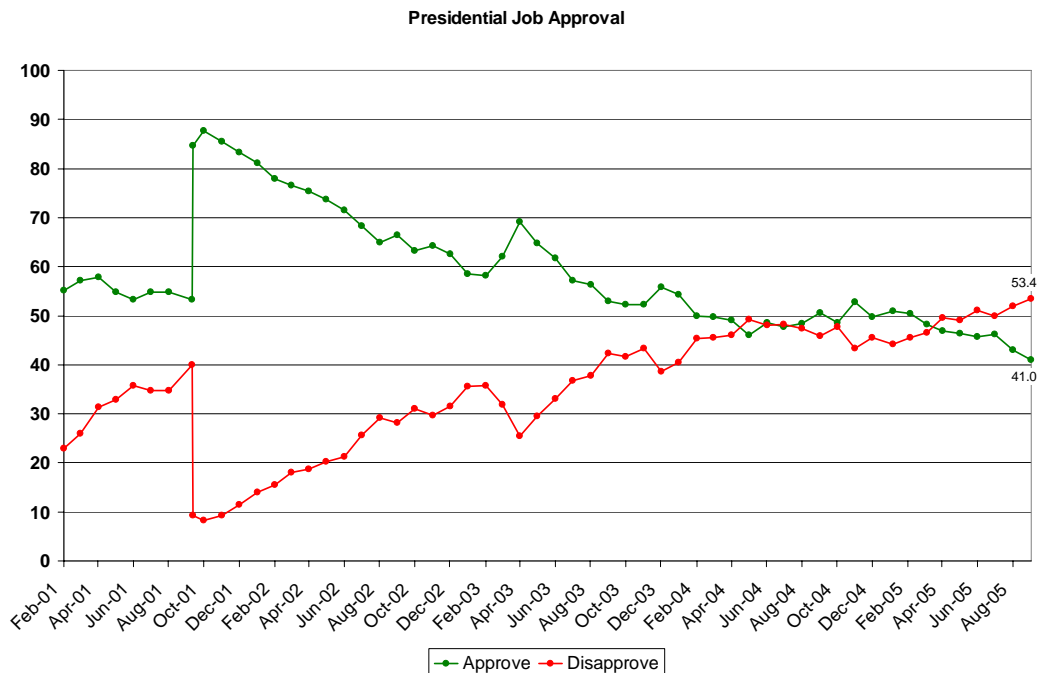
Similarly, doubts about our country’s continued involvement in Iraq – doubts that had been growing stronger for several months amid growing casualties and the continuing lack of

any plan or sign of real progress – have been reinforced by the impact of Katrina. A clear majority in the CBS News survey (including 57 percent of Independents and 42 percent of Republicans) now say it is time to decrease the number of troops (25 percent) or remove them altogether (33 percent). The *Newsweek* poll finds clear skepticism about the prospects for success in Iraq. By a 9-point margin (49 to 40 percent), Americans say we are losing ground in our efforts to establish security and democracy there, and a majority has lost confidence in our ability to establish a stable democratic government in the long term. Furthermore, 7-in-10 now believe the war in Iraq, despite its tremendous cost in lives and resources, has either increased the risk of a future terrorist attack or made no difference.

None of the polls released this week tested the obvious trade-off between continuing to spend more resources on a conflict that most Americans now see as counterproductive or reduce funding and troop levels so we can focus more resources on rebuilding and recovery here at home. However, it seems clear from the trends in this data that Katrina is likely to intensify the growing public momentum for a fundamental rethinking of our open-ended and undefined mission in Iraq.

### Bush Approval Drops to Lowest Levels of Presidency

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, President Bush faces the lowest approval marks of his presidency, with just 41 percent approving of his performance and 53 percent disapproving. In historical context, only one president has suffered such low marks at this stage of a second term – Richard Nixon in the midst of the Watergate scandal.



Once again, it is important to note that this is not simply a by-product of Katrina. Bush's approval had remained steady at 46 percent throughout May, June, and July before dropping 3 points during his long August vacation. The events surrounding Hurricane Katrina have only extended a decline that was well established prior to this disaster. In fact, while the public has clearly been underwhelmed by his handling of Katrina, his approval marks are just as low or even lower on the other issues dominating the political environment at this time. Terrorism is the only issue on which Bush's approval approaches 50 percent; on every other major issue, including Iraq, the economy, Social Security, and the response to Katrina, less than 40 percent approve of Bush's performance.

But the issue where Bush receives his lowest marks (25 percent approve, 72 percent disapprove in this week's ABC News/*Washington Post* poll) is an issue that appears poised to play an increasingly dominant role in our political environment for several months to come – gas prices. Several factors contribute to the importance of gas prices in the current environment:

1. Gas prices have traditionally had a powerful impact on consumer confidence. As the release for the latest ABC News/*Washington Post* CCI notes, “confidence has suffered from higher gasoline prices...[which] remains within sight of its all-time high,” and “positive ratings of the buying climate, often sensitive to gas prices, are their lowest since February 2003.”
2. Even during times of relative political strength for Bush, voters' most consistent doubt about him and his administration was their willingness to put the interests of their corporate supporters – particularly oil companies – ahead of the national interest. Now, in the wake of Katrina, 79 percent believe oil companies are taking advantage of the situation to charge unfair prices, and 71 percent say the Bush administration has failed to do what it could have done to keep prices down.
3. After less than two weeks of these record prices, more than 2-in-3 Americans say gas prices are causing financial hardships for their family. But wait until the weather turns cold across most of the country and families are faced with heating bills that are at least 50 percent higher than last year's exorbitant rates. The combination will pose a tremendous threat to millions of working families already trying to deal with rising health care, education, and housing costs while their incomes remain stagnant.

An incumbent party that is seen to be too closely aligned with oil companies (whose record profits are sure to make bigger news in the future) and failing to do what it can to rein in prices should be very concerned about the price it will pay at the ballot box, particularly if Democrats can offer a consistent critique of Republican energy policy along with a positive vision for the future based on lower energy prices and greater investment in alternative energy sources and American ingenuity, with the goal of achieving energy independence from the Middle East.

This is dangerous territory for Republicans in Congress, who already have plenty to worry about. The AP/Ipsos poll shows Americans disapprove of the performance of the current Congress by more than 2-to-1 (32 percent approve, 65 percent disapprove), with intensity much stronger among those who disapprove (25 percent strongly disapprove) than those who approve

(5 percent strongly approve). And Democrats have expanded their already-large advantage in the generic congressional contest, with *Newsweek* showing Democrats with a 12-point advantage (50 to 38 percent). A little more than one year out, the stage is set for a major change election in 2006.

**Polls included in this analysis:**

**ABC News/Washington Post.** 9/2/2005. 501 Adults.

**ABC News/Washington Post.** 8/4-9/4/2005. 1000 Adults.

**CNN/Gallup/USA Today.** 9/5-6/2005. 609 Adults.

**Time/SRBI.** 9/7/2005. 1000 Adults.

**CBS News.** 9/6-9/7/2005. 725 Adults.

**Zogby.** 9/6-9/7/2005. 1157 Likely Voters.

**Pew Research Center.** 9/6-9/7/2005. 1000 Adults.

**AP/Ipsos.** 9/6-9/8/2005. 1002 Adults.

**Newsweek.** 9/8-9/9/2005. 1009 Adults.

**ABC News/Washington Post.** 8/11-9/11/2005. 1000 Adults.

**ABC News/Washington Post.** 9/8-9/11/2005. 1201 Adults.

## BUSH JOB APPROVAL – POST 9/11/01

		Approve	Disapprove	App – Disapp
<b>Monthly Average – September</b>	<b>Sep-05</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>-12.4</b>
ABC News/Washington Post#	9/11/2005	42	57	-15.0
Pew Research#	9/11/2005	40	52	-12.0
Pew Research#	9/7/2005	40	52	-12.0
Newsweek#	9/9/2005	38	55	-17.0
Time#	9/8/2005	46	47	-1.0
AP/Ipsos#	9/8/2005	39	59	-20.0
CBS News#	9/7/2005	42	52	-10.0
<b>Monthly Average – August</b>	<b>Aug-05</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>52.0</b>	<b>-9.0</b>
CBS News#	8/31/2005	41	51	-10.0
ABC News/Washington Post#	8/28/2005	45	53	-8.0
Harris#	8/16/2005	40	58	-18.0
Gallup#	8/11/2005	45	51	-6.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	8/5/2005	44	51	-7.0
Newsweek#	8/4/2005	42	51	-9.0
AP/Ipsos#	8/3/2005	42	55	-13.0
CBS News#	8/2/2005	45	46	-1.0
<b>Monthly Average – July</b>	<b>Jul-05</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>-3.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – June</b>	<b>Jun-05</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>-5.4</b>
<b>Monthly Average – May</b>	<b>May-05</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average – April</b>	<b>Apr-05</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
<b>Monthly Average – March</b>	<b>Mar-05</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – February</b>	<b>Feb-05</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Monthly Average – January</b>	<b>Jan-05</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – December</b>	<b>Dec-04</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average – November</b>	<b>Nov-04</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average – October</b>	<b>Oct-04</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – September</b>	<b>Sep-04</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – August</b>	<b>Aug-04</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Monthly Average – July</b>	<b>Jul-04</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
<b>Monthly Average – June</b>	<b>Jun-04</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average – May</b>	<b>May-04</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
<b>Monthly Average – April</b>	<b>Apr-04</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Monthly Average – March</b>	<b>Mar-04</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>Monthly Average – February</b>	<b>Feb-04</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>4.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average – January</b>	<b>Jan-04</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>13.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – December</b>	<b>Dec-03</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>17.2</b>
<b>Monthly Average – November</b>	<b>Nov-03</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>8.9</b>
<b>Monthly Average – October</b>	<b>Oct-03</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average – September</b>	<b>Sep-03</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<b>Monthly Average – August</b>	<b>Aug-03</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>37.8</b>	<b>18.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average – July</b>	<b>Jul-03</b>	<b>57.2</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>20.4</b>

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

<b>BUSH JOB APPROVAL – PRE 9/11/01</b>				
		<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>App – Disapp</b>
<b>Monthly Average – Sept.</b>	<b>9/01</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>+13.3</b>
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
<b>Monthly Average – August</b>	<b>8/01</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>+20.1</b>
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
<b>Monthly Average – July</b>	<b>7/01</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>34.8</b>	<b>+20.0</b>
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
<b>Monthly Average – June</b>	<b>6/01</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>+17.5</b>
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
<b>Monthly Average – May</b>	<b>5/01</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>+21.9</b>
<b>Monthly Average – April</b>	<b>4/01</b>	<b>57.9</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>+26.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average – March</b>	<b>3/01</b>	<b>57.1</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>+31.2</b>
<b>Monthly Average – Feb.</b>	<b>2/01</b>	<b>55.2</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>+32.3</b>

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

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Zogby^	7/30/2005	45	55	-10.0
Gallup#	7/28/2005	44	51	-7.0
CNN/Gallup/USA Today#	7/22/2005	49	48	1.0
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
<b>Monthly Average – June</b>	Jun-05	<b>45.6</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>-5.4</b>
<b>Monthly Average – May</b>	May-05	<b>46.4</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
<b>Monthly Average – April</b>	Apr-05	<b>46.9</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
<b>Monthly Average – March</b>	Mar-05	<b>48.3</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – February</b>	Feb-05	<b>50.5</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>5.0</b>
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<b>Monthly Average – November</b>	Nov-04	<b>52.8</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average – October</b>	Oct-04	<b>48.5</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>0.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – September</b>	<b>Sep-04</b>	<b>50.6</b>	<b>45.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Monthly Average – August</b>	<b>Aug-04</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Monthly Average – July</b>	<b>Jul-04</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
<b>Monthly Average – June</b>	<b>Jun-04</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Monthly Average – May</b>	<b>May-04</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
<b>Monthly Average – April</b>	<b>Apr-04</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3.1</b>

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
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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

**POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT**

**Zogby – 9/7/05**

<b>Overall, do you think the U.S. is headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?</b>	
Right	42%
Wrong	53

**AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05**

<b>Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?</b>	
Right direction	32%
Wrong track	65

**Newsweek – 9/9/05**

<b>Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going for the United States at this time?</b>	
Satisfied	28%
Dissatisfied	66

***Priorities***

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
War in Iraq	18%	12%	23%	17%
Hurricane Katrina	18	22	12	20
Economy/Jobs	13	8	18	11
Gas/Heating oil crisis	7	6	6	8
Terrorism (general)	5	8	2	5
The President/George W. Bush	4	0	8	4
Attn. to domestic affairs	3	1	3	4
Poverty/Homelessness	3	3	3	2
Moral values/Family values	2	3	1	2
Education	2	2	1	2
Defense/Military	2	1	2	1

*Economy / Personal finances*

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

Today	-20	2005 low
Last week	-15	
Four weeks ago	-7	
2005 high	-7	March 6, 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	

**Pew Research Center – 9/7/05**

**How concerned are you that the impact of Hurricane Katrina will cause a nationwide economic recession?**

Very concerned	46%
Somewhat concerned	34
Not too concerned	11
Not at all concerned	7

**Time/SRBI – 9/7/05**

**How concerned are you that the damage and disruption caused by the hurricane will lead to an economic recession?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Very concerned	34%	20%	46%	34%
Somewhat concerned	40	42	42	40
Not very concerned	14	20	8	14
Not at all concerned	11	18	4	12

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

**Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?**

Excellent	3%
Good	37
Not so good	37
Poor	22

**Thinking about the next 12 months, would you say you feel optimistic or pessimistic about the state of the national economy?**

Optimistic	51%
Pessimistic	46

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

**Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?**

Excellent	3%
Good	29
Not good	41
Poor	27

**Would you describe the state of your own personal finances these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?**

Excellent	6%
Good	50
Not good	31
Poor	13

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

Excellent	2%
Good	30
Not good	43
Poor	25

**RATINGS OF BUSH**

*Bush Job*

**Zogby – 9/7/05**

<b>Overall, how would you rate President Bush's performance on the job?</b>	
Excellent	15%
Good	26
Fair	22
Poor	38

**Pew Research Center – 9/7/05**

<b>Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?</b>	
Approve	40%
Disapprove	52

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	42%	81%	14%	38%
Disapprove	52	15	80	55

**Time/SRBI – 9/7/05**

<b>To start with, in general, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling his job as president?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	42%	81%	13%	36%
Disapprove	52	15	82	57

**AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05**

<b>Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?</b>	
Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	11
Lean toward approval	8
Still have mixed feelings	1
Lean toward disapproval	14
Somewhat disapprove	5

Newsweek – 9/9/05

<b>Do you approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?</b>	
Approve	38%
Disapprove	55

ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05

<b>Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?</b>	
Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	15
Somewhat disapprove	12
Strongly disapprove	45

*Bush Job – Issues*

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 9/6/05

**Do you think \_\_\_\_\_ has/have done a -- great, good, neither good nor bad, bad, or terrible job - in responding to the hurricane and subsequent flooding (rotated)?**

<b>George W. Bush:</b>	
Great	10%
Good	25
Neither	21
Bad	18
Terrible	24

Zogby – 9/7/05

**I am going to read to you a list of issues. Please rate President Bush's handling of each...**

<b>The war in Iraq:</b>	
Excellent	14%
Good	26
Fair	15
Poor	45
<b>Jobs and the economy:</b>	
Excellent	12%

Good	25
Fair	25
Poor	36
<b>Social Security and Medicare:</b>	
Excellent	8%
Good	23
Fair	28
Poor	39
<b>Education:</b>	
Excellent	11%
Good	28
Fair	27
Poor	32
<b>The environment:</b>	
Excellent	8%
Good	28
Fair	20
Poor	40
<b>The war on terrorism:</b>	
Excellent	24%
Good	27
Fair	18
Poor	30
<b>Taxes:</b>	
Excellent	16%
Good	24
Fair	26
Poor	33
<b>Health care:</b>	
Excellent	7%
Good	23
Fair	27
Poor	40
<b>Foreign policy in general:</b>	
Excellent	13%
Good	26
Fair	25
Poor	34

<b>Hurricane Katrina:</b>	
Excellent	12%
Good	24
Fair	17
Poor	43
<b>Gas prices:</b>	
Excellent	7%
Good	14
Fair	26
Poor	47

**Pew Research Center – 9/7/05**

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

<b>The economy:</b>	
Approve	33%
Disapprove	60
<b>The situation in Iraq:</b>	
Approve	34%
Disapprove	58
<b>Terrorist threats:</b>	
Approve	49%
Disapprove	41
<b>The impact of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast:</b>	
Approve	38%
Disapprove	52

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush has handled the response to Hurricane Katrina?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	38%	70%	12%	39%
Disapprove	58	27	86	57

**Time/SRBI – 9/7/05**

**How would you rate the job that each of the following has done in responding to the hurricane and the destruction it caused?**

<b>President Bush</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Excellent/good	33%	63%	13%	27%
Fair/poor	65	36	86	72

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	35%	70%	13%	31%
Disapprove	60	24	85	64

<b>Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Approve	51%	82%	26%	51%
Disapprove	40	13	64	39

**AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05**

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

<b>Handling the economy:</b>	
Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	14
Lean toward approval	7
Still have mixed feelings	1
Lean toward disapproval	11
Somewhat disapprove	13
Strongly disapprove	33
<b>Handling domestic issues:</b>	
Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	15
Lean toward approval	7
Still have mixed feelings	1
Lean toward disapproval	13
Somewhat disapprove	11

Strongly disapprove	35
<b>Handling foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism:</b>	
Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	10
Lean toward approval	6
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	11
Somewhat disapprove	8
Strongly disapprove	36
<b>Handling the situation in Iraq:</b>	
Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	8
Lean toward approval	7
Still have mixed feelings	1
Lean toward disapproval	8
Somewhat disapprove	8
Strongly disapprove	46
<b>Handling the relief effort for victims of Hurricane Katrina:</b>	
Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	12
Lean toward approval	7
Still have mixed feelings	1
Lean toward disapproval	10
Somewhat disapprove	7
Strongly disapprove	35

**Newsweek – 9/9/05**

**Now we'd like your opinion of the way George W. Bush is handling certain aspects of his job... First, do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling...?(rotated)**

<b>The economy:</b>	
Approve	35%
Disapprove	60
<b>The situation in Iraq:</b>	
Approve	36%
Disapprove	60
<b>Terrorism and homeland security:</b>	
Approve	46%

Disapprove	48
<b>Energy policy:</b>	
Approve	28%
Disapprove	60
<b>Appointments to the Supreme Court:</b>	
Approve	48%
Disapprove	33
<b>Problems caused by impact of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and on the Gulf Coast:</b>	
Approve	37%
Disapprove	57

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

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

<b>The situation with gasoline prices:</b>	
Approve	25%
Disapprove	72
<b>The situation caused by Hurricane Katrina:</b>	
Approve	44%
Disapprove	54
<b>The situation in Iraq:</b>	
Approve	38%
Disapprove	62
<b>The U.S. campaign against terrorism:</b>	
Approve	50%
Disapprove	47
<b>The economy:</b>	
Approve	40%
Disapprove	58

*Bush Priorities*

**Pew Research Center – 9/7/05**

<b>Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on: domestic policy or the war on terrorism?</b>	
Domestic policy	56%
War on terrorism	25
Neither (vol.)	1
Both (vol.)	12

*Bush Favorability*

**Zogby – 9/7/05**

<b>Is your overall opinion of George W. Bush...</b>	
Very favorable	23%
Somewhat favorable	26
Somewhat unfavorable	12
Very unfavorable	38

*Bush Traits*

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>How much confidence do you have in George W. Bush's ability to handle a crisis?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A lot	32%	66%	9%	29%
Some	19	23	16	19
A little	25	8	36	27
None at all	23	4	39	24

<b>Do you think George W. Bush has strong qualities of leadership, or not?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Has	48%	81%	22%	47%
Does not have	49	15	76	48

<b>How much do you think George W. Bush cares about the needs and problems of people like you?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A lot	25%	52%	7%	21%
Some	30	32	22	36
Not much	23	9	34	23
Not at all	20	4	35	19

<b>How much do you think George W. Bush cares about the needs and problems of blacks?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A lot	25%	55%	5%	20%
Some	26	28	17	32
Not much	25	9	37	25
Not at all	21	2	38	19

**Newsweek – 9/9/05**

**Please tell me whether or not you think each of the following phrases describes George W. Bush?**

<b>Has strong leadership qualities:</b>	
Yes, describes	49%
No, does not	47
<b>Is honest and ethical:</b>	
Yes, describes	50%
No, does not	43
<b>Cares about people like you:</b>	
Yes, describes	42%
No, does not	54
<b>Is personally likeable:</b>	
Yes, describes	60%
No, does not	34
<b>Is intelligent and well informed:</b>	
Yes, describes	49%
No, does not	45
<b>Would trust him to make the right decisions during an international crisis:</b>	
Yes, describes	45%

No, does not	52
<b>Would trust him to make the right decisions during a domestic crisis:</b>	
Yes, describes	45%
No, does not	52

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

Please tell me whether the following statement applies to Bush or not.

<b>He understands the problems of people like you:</b>	
Yes	38%
No	61
<b>He is a strong leader:</b>	
Yes	50%
No	50
<b>He can be trusted in a crisis:</b>	
Yes	49%
No	49

<b>Overall, do you think Bush personally cares or does not care about the problems facing black people in this country?</b>	
Cares	59%
Does not care	34
Doesn't care about anyone/no less than other groups (vol.)	4

***Bush Legacy***

**Newsweek – 9/9/05**

<b>As time passes, how do you think history will see George W. Bush as president? Do you think Bush will be seen as an average president, above average, or below average?</b>	
Average	35%
Above average	19
Below average	42

**FOREIGN POLICY/WAR ON TERRORISM**

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to protect its citizens from future terrorist attacks?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A great deal	19%	33%	8%	19%
A fair amount	40	47	35	39
Not very much	30	18	39	31
None at all	10	1	18	8

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

<b>How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to prevent further terrorist attacks against Americans in this country?</b>	
Great deal	14%
Good amount	27
Fair amount	41
None at all	18

***Iraq***

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Iraq, what should the United States do now -- should the U.S. increase the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Iraq as there are now, or decrease the number of U.S. troops in Iraq, or remove all its troops from Iraq?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Increase	11%	12%	10%	12%
Keep the same	23	38	9	25
Decrease	25	28	25	24
Remove all	33	14	50	33

**Newsweek – 9/9/05**

<b>Now turning to the topic of Iraq. All in all, do you think the United States is making progress or losing ground in its efforts to establish security and democracy in Iraq?</b>	
Making progress	40%
Losing ground	49

**How confident are you that the United States will successfully establish a stable democratic form of government in Iraq over the long term?**

Very confident	15%
Somewhat confident	31
Not too confident	23
Not at all confident	29

**From what you know now, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq two years ago, or not?**

Yes	46%
No	49

**Do you think the U.S. military action in Iraq has done more to increase the risk or decrease the risk that large numbers of Americans will be killed or injured in a future terrorist attack - or do you think going to war in Iraq hasn't made much difference either way?**

Increase	36%
Decrease	26
No difference	34

**For how long would you personally support keeping large numbers of U.S. military personnel in Iraq... Less than one more year, one to two years, three to five years, six to 10 years, more than 10 years, or as long as it takes to achieve U.S. goals in Iraq?**

Less than a year/bring home now (vol.)	45%
One to two years	19
Three to five years	6
Six to 10 years	1
More than 10 years	*
As long as it take	25

**DOMESTIC ISSUES (NON-KATRINA)**

*Gas Prices*

**CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 9/6/05**

<b>Which comes closer to your view: the gas companies are charging a fair price given the conditions caused by the hurricane, or the gas companies are taking advantage of the situation and charging unfair prices? (rotated)</b>	
Charging fair price	18%
Taking advantage	79

**Pew Research Center – 9/7/05**

<b>How much of a problem has the rising price of gasoline been for you and your family lately?</b>	
A very serious problem	33%
A somewhat serious problem	36
A minor problem	21
Not a problem at all	10

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>Do you think the Bush administration has done all it could reasonably be expected to do to try and keep the price of gas from rising after Hurricane Katrina, or could they have done more?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Done all it could	22%	44%	7%	20
Could have done more	71	50	88	72

**Time/SRBI – 9/7/05**

<b>Gas prices jumped up after Hurricane Katrina hit. Do you think that the increase in gas prices resulted...?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
More because damage from the hurricane cut oil supplies from the Gulf Coast states	33%	39%	28%	33%
More because the oil companies wanted to make a profit	60	53	66	61

<b>How much do you think a president can do to keep gas prices down?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind

A great deal	39%	24%	47%	42%
Some	36	40	35	31
Not much	18	26	13	20
Not at all	5	7	3	5

**AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05**

<b>Over the next six months, do you expect that increases in the price of gasoline will cause financial hardship for you and your family, or not? If so, do you expect that will be a serious hardship, or not serious?</b>	
Serious hardship	41%
Not a serious hardship	28
Not sure how serious	1
Will not cause hardship	30

**Newsweek – 9/9/05**

<b>Now thinking about gasoline prices these days... Which of the following, if any, do you blame most for the recent rise in gas prices?(rotated)</b>	
Major oil companies	36%
The federal government	22
Oil producing countries	11
Other countries like China buying oil	8
Gas stations	5
All equally/Combination (vol.)	8
None of these to blame/other (vol.)	5

**Please tell me which, if any, of the following things you, yourself, have done in response to the recent increase in gasoline prices.**

<b>Cut back on your driving in any way:</b>	
Yes, have done	71%
No/Doesn't apply	28
<b>Given serious thought to getting a car with better gas mileage the next time you buy or lease a vehicle:</b>	
Yes, have done	57%
No/Doesn't apply	40
<b>Started car pooling, ride sharing, or using mass transit more often:</b>	
Yes, have done	31%
No/Doesn't apply	68

**Prices for other fuels like oil and natural gas have also been going up lately... Aside from your driving, in the past 12 months, have you taken any special steps to conserve energy at home because of rising energy prices?**

Yes, have done	65%
No/doesn't apply	35

**If you were in the market for a new home, would and your family seriously consider a smaller home in order to conserve energy and reduce your heating bills?**

Yes, would consider	47%
No/Doesn't apply	51

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

**Have recent price increases in gasoline caused any financial hardship for you or others in your household, or not? If so, has that been a serious hardship, or not serious?**

Serious	34%
Not serious	30
No hardship	36

***Supreme Court***

**Zogby – 9/7/05**

**How closely are you following the confirmation process of Chief Justice nominee John Roberts?**

Very closely	20%
Somewhat closely	41
Not too closely	23
Not following at all	16

**Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that Roberts is qualified to serve as Chief Justice?**

Strongly agree	33%
Somewhat agree	25
Somewhat disagree	10
Strongly disagree	10

**Do you think President Bush should have nominated someone from outside the Supreme Court, like Roberts, to serve as Chief Justice, or should he have elevated a sitting Supreme Court justice**

Someone from outside	35%
Elevated sitting justice	43

**Some have suggested that, now that there is a second vacancy on the Supreme Court, President Bush should appoint a woman or a minority.**

Strongly agree	36%
Somewhat agree	23
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	16

*Newsweek – 9/9/05*

**On another subject... As you may know, President Bush recently nominated John Roberts to succeed William Rehnquist as the new chief justice of the Supreme Court. From what you've heard or read, do you think Roberts should or should not be confirmed by the Senate to serve as chief justice?**

Should be confirmed	44%
Should not be confirmed	24

**President Bush has not yet announced his choice for the Supreme Court's second vacancy. Do you think Bush should take diversity into account and...?(rotated)**

**Strongly consider naming another woman to serve on the Court:**

Yes, should	66%
No, should not	19

**Strongly consider naming another black or Hispanic to serve on the Court:**

Yes, should	60%
No, should not	21

**Are you concerned that President Bush's appointments will make the Supreme Court too conservative; or concerned that the justices he appoints won't be conservative enough; or are you not too concerned either way?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Concerned will make too conservative	31%	8%	49%	32%
Concerned will not be conservative enough	10	16	6	9
Not too concerned either way	53	71	39	55

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

**As you may know, Bush has nominated federal judge John Roberts to be chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Do you think the U.S. Senate should or should not confirm Roberts' nomination as chief justice?**

Should	55%
Should not	26

## HURRICANE KATRINA

### Zogby – 9/7/05

<b>How would you assess the government response to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath?</b>	
Excellent	10%
Good	22
Fair	24
Poor	43

<b>Who do you think deserves the most credit for the quality of the government's response to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath?</b>	
President Bush	40%
Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco	12
New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin	6
FEMA Director Michael Brown	16
Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff	7

<b>Who do you think deserves the most blame for the quality of the government's response to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath</b>	
President Bush	27%
Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco	15
New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin	8
FEMA Director Michael Brown	22
Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff	8

<b>How would you assess the response of private charities to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath? Would you say it has been excellent, good, fair, or poor?</b>	
Excellent	55%
Good	31
Fair	6
Poor	3

<b>Which has done a better job of reacting to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath -- the federal government or the American Red Cross?</b>	
Federal government	17%
American Red Cross	69

<b>Which has done a better job of reacting to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath -- Louisiana's state and local governments or the American Red Cross?</b>	
State/local government	10%
American Red Cross	72%

**AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05**

**I'm going to read some ways that people have been feeling about the disaster caused by Hurricane Katrina, and I'd like you to tell me whether the statement represents your very deepest feeling, a feeling that was somewhat deep, whether the statement crossed your mind, or whether it never occurred to you.**

<b>Felt angry that relief for the hurricane victims came so slowly:</b>	
Very deepest feeling	51%
Feeling that was somewhat deep	16
Crossed your mind	20
Never occurred to you	12
<b>Felt ashamed that this could happen in our country:</b>	
Very deepest feeling	40%
Feeling that was somewhat deep	15
Crossed your mind	15
Never occurred to you	29
<b>Wondered whether the gov't could really help you if you became a victim of a disaster:</b>	
Very deepest feeling	26%
Feeling that was somewhat deep	17
Crossed your mind	30
Never occurred to you	26
<b>Felt the gov't would have responded faster if the victims weren't mostly black and poor:</b>	
Very deepest feeling	26%
Feeling that was somewhat deep	10
Crossed your mind	18
Never occurred to you	45
<b>Were worried about how this disaster might affect your own life, job, and future:</b>	
Very deepest feeling	19%
Feeling that was somewhat deep	13
Crossed your mind	32
Never occurred to you	35

<b>Felt less safe than you did before Hurricane Katrina:</b>	
Very deepest feeling	16%
Feeling that was somewhat deep	14
Crossed your mind	23
Never occurred to you	46
<b>Wished you didn't have to hear any more news about the disaster:</b>	
Very deepest feeling	13%
Feeling that was somewhat deep	12
Crossed your mind	24
Never occurred to you	50

*Federal Government Performance*

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 9/6/05

Do you think \_\_\_\_\_ has/have done a -- great, good, neither good nor bad, bad, or terrible job - in responding to the hurricane and subsequent flooding (rotated)?

<b>Federal government agencies responsible for handling emergencies:</b>	
Great	8%
Good	27
Neither	20
Bad	20
Terrible	22

Pew Research Center – 9/7/05

<b>How would you rate the job the federal government has been doing responding to Hurricane Katrina?</b>	
Excellent	8%
Good	30
Only fair	29
Poor	29

<b>(If "only fair" or "poor") From what you've seen and read, what was the biggest reason why the federal government did not do a good job responding to this emergency? (rotated)</b>	
Lack of planning for this type of emergency	33%
Lack of coordination among government agencies	29
Poor leadership in Washington	32

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

**As far as you know, do you think federal government officials did a good job or a poor job preparing for Hurricane Katrina before it hit?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Good job	22%	34%	9%	26%
Poor job	69	53	84	68

**Now I'd like to ask you some questions about what happened in the days just after the hurricane hit the Gulf area. Do you think the federal government responded adequately to Hurricane Katrina or could it have done much better?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Adequate	20%	36%	5%	23%
Much better	77	58	95	76

**Do you think the federal government responded as fast as it could have to Hurricane Katrina or could it have moved faster?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Fast as it could	16%	30%	4%	17%
Could have moved faster	80	65	94	78

**Do you think FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, responded adequately to Hurricane Katrina or could it have done much better?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Adequate	24%	31%	15%	27%
Much better	70	61	82	65

**What about now? Do you think that now federal officials are doing all they could reasonably be expected to do to help the situation, or could they be doing more?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
All that could be exp.	60%	73%	49%	60%
Could be doing more	36	25	47	36

**From what you've seen or heard, was George W. Bush's response to Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath too quick, too slow, or was the timing about right?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Too quick	1%	1%	*	2%
Too slow	65	35	90	65
About right	32	62	9	30

**How do you think the federal government's response in the days immediately after the hurricane has affected the United States' image in the rest of the world?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Better	7%	9%	7%	5%
Worse	59	41	74	59
No effect	27	39	14	31

**Time/SRBI – 9/7/05**

**How would you rate the job that each of the following has done in responding to the hurricane and the destruction it caused?**

**Federal government agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency:**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Excellent/good	28%	46%	16%	20%
Fair/poor	69	51	81	79

**Newsweek – 9/9/05**

**Now thinking about the way the federal government -- that is, the government in Washington -- responded to the problems caused by the impact of the hurricane on the city of New Orleans... How would you rate the job the federal government has done in getting help to the people affected by the flooding and storm damage? Would you say the federal government has done...**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
An excellent job	5%	11%	2%	5%
A good job	21	37	11	19
Only a fair job	32	30	33	33
A poor job	40	19	53	42

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

**How would you rate the federal government's overall response to the situation caused by Hurricane Katrina?**

Excellent	5%
Good	32
Not so good	28
Poor	34

**Think about how the federal government is handling specific issues -- how would you rate the federal government's performance on...**

<b>Delivering food, water and medical help:</b>	
Excellent	10%
Good	37
Not so good	24
Poor	28
<b>Recovering and identifying those who lost their lives:</b>	
Excellent	5%
Good	35
Not so good	29
Poor	24
<b>Dealing with the oil supply and rising gasoline prices:</b>	
Excellent	3%
Good	18
Not so good	35
Poor	43
<b>Evacuating and resettling people who've lost their homes:</b>	
Excellent	10%
Good	39
Not so good	24
Poor	26
<b>Clearing and repairing the hurricane and flood damage:</b>	
Excellent	6%
Good	38
Not so good	28
Poor	22

<b>Do you think the Bush administration does or does not have a clear plan for dealing with the hurricane situation?</b>	
Does	33%
Does not	63

**Please tell me if each of the following does or does not describe your own personal feelings about the federal government's response to the hurricane situation.**

<b>Angry:</b>	
Does	45%
Does not	55
<b>Hopeful:</b>	
Does	64%
Does not	35

*Local/State Government Performance*

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 9/6/05

Do you think \_\_\_\_\_ has/have done a -- great, good, neither good nor bad, bad, or terrible job - in responding to the hurricane and subsequent flooding (rotated)?

<b>State and local officials in Louisiana:</b>	
Great	7%
Good	30
Neither	23
Bad	20
Terrible	15

Pew Research Center – 9/7/05

<b>How would you rate the job state and local governments in Louisiana and Mississippi have been doing responding to Hurricane Katrina?</b>	
Excellent	9%
Good	32
Only fair	29
Poor	22

CBS News – 9/7/05

<b>As far as you know, do you think state and local government officials in the affected areas did a good job or a poor job preparing for Hurricane Katrina before it hit?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Good job	20%	18%	20%	21%
Poor job	70	73	67	71

**Do you think the Louisiana state and local government responded adequately to Hurricane Katrina or could it have done much better?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Adequate	24%	23%	25%	24%
Much better	70	72	69	70

**Time/SRBI – 9/7/05**

**How would you rate the job that each of the following has done in responding to the hurricane and the destruction it caused?**

**State and local officials in areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina:**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Excellent/good	32%	32%	37%	26%
Fair/poor	65	65	58	71

**Newsweek – 9/9/05**

**And how would you rate the job state and local governments in Louisiana have done in getting help to people in New Orleans? Would you say the state and local governments have done...**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
An excellent job	5%	5%	4%	5%
A good job	20	18	24	16
Only a fair job	34	29	35	38
A poor job	35	43	30	35

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

**How would you rate the overall response of state and local governments to the situation caused by Hurricane Katrina?**

Excellent	8%
Good	29
Not so good	32
Poor	29
Local good/state wasn't (vol.)	1

*Why Did It Happen / Whose Fault*

**Pew Research Center – 9/7/05**

<b>Do you think the severity of Hurricane Katrina is the result of global climate change, or is Hurricane Katrina just the kind of severe weather event that happens from time to time?</b>	
Result of global climate change	25%
Just happens from time to time	66

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>Living conditions in New Orleans in the days after the hurricane and flooding were very difficult for those who were not able to evacuate. Who do you think is most to blame for the situation in New Orleans in the days after the hurricane? If the government, do you mean the federal government in Washington, or the state and local government in Louisiana?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Federal government	17%	10%	23%	15%
City government (New Orleans)	15	21	15	11
Government (all levels)	14	9	16	15
Residents who stayed	12	15	7	15
State government (Louisiana)	7	9	6	5
The president/George W. Bush	5	0	9	5
Mayor of New Orleans	4	6	3	2
FEMA	4	3	7	3
Governor of Louisiana	2	1	2	1
Nothing	2	2	0	5

<b>Some people say that the fact that some National Guard troops and material are currently in Iraq slowed down the federal government's response to the hurricane and flooding in New Orleans. Do you think that was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in the government's response in New Orleans?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Major factor	23%	12%	28%	26%
Minor factor	34	35	39	28
Not a factor	41	50	30	45

<b>From what you know about the looting and other violence that occurred in New Orleans in the days after the hurricane, which statement comes closer to your opinion: there is absolutely no excuse for that kind of behavior, or it is understandable that this kind of behavior could have happened under the circumstances.</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
No excuse	47%	55%	39%	47%

Understandable	41	31	50	40
Looting okay/violence not (vol.)	8	8	9	7

**Some people say that the federal government's reducing spending on New Orleans' levee system in past years was one of the reasons the flooding was so severe. Others say the flooding would have occurred anyway. Do you think the government's reducing spending on the levee system was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in the flooding?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Major factor	45%	33%	59%	41%
Minor factor	24	28	20	26
Not a factor	21	28	11	25

**Some people have said that because the people left in New Orleans after the hurricane and flooding were mostly African American and poor, help was slow to come, and that if the people left in New Orleans had been mostly white, help would have come faster. Do you think the fact that those left in New Orleans were mostly black and poor was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in the government's response in New Orleans?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Major factor	29%	10%	48%	25%
Minor factor	19	18	23	17
Not a factor	50	71	28	55

**AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05**

**How much blame does each of the following deserve for the problems in the relief effort for Hurricane Katrina?**

<b>The state governments in the affected areas:</b>	
A lot	44%
A good amount	30
Only a little	18
None at all	7
<b>The local governments in the affected areas:</b>	
A lot	42%
A good amount	25
Only a little	25
None at all	7
<b>The U.S. government:</b>	
A lot	38%
A good amount	25
Only a little	28
None at all	9

<b>President Bush:</b>	
A lot	32%
A good amount	22
Only a little	29
None at all	16
<b>Local residents in the affected areas:</b>	
A lot	29%
A good amount	20
Only a little	32
None at all	18

Newsweek – 9/9/05

As I read you some possible reasons the government didn't respond more quickly to the impact of the hurricane on New Orleans, please me tell if you think each is a major reason, a minor reason, or not a reason the government's response was slow.

<b>The amount of destruction was unexpected and overwhelming:</b>	
Major reason	57%
Minor reason	19
Not a reason	21
<b>Poor communication between federal government officials and state and local officials:</b>	
Major reason	66%
Minor reason	17
Not a reason	12
<b>Incompetence by federal officials whose job it is to prepare for and deal with natural disasters:</b>	
Major reason	55%
Minor reason	24
Not a reason	16
<b>Incompetence by state and local officials whose job it is to prepare for and deal with natural disasters:</b>	
Major reason	57%
Minor reason	24
Not a reason	13
<b>It did not have priority because the people affected are mostly African-American:</b>	
Major reason	22%

Minor reason	18
Not a reason	56
<b>It did not have priority because the people affected are mostly poor:</b>	
Major reason	29%
Minor reason	17
Not a reason	49

<b>Which of the following, if any, do you think is most to blame for not getting help to people in New Orleans more quickly?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
State and local government officials in Louisiana	29%	53%	13%	29%
The heads of federal agencies like FEMA and DHS	35	23	43	38
President Bush himself	17	5	26	15
All equally/combination (vol.)	11	6	11	12
None of these to blame/other (vol.)	4	8	2	3

<b>Do you think the commitment of some Louisiana National Guard troops and equipment to the war in Iraq seriously reduced government's ability to deal with the situation in New Orleans, or not?</b>	
Yes, seriously reduced	38%
No, did not	54

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

<b>How much blame if any do you think Bush should get for problems in the federal response to the situation?</b>	
Great deal	24%
Good amount	21
Some	37
None	17

<b>How much blame if any do you think state and local officials should get for problems in the response to the situation?</b>	
Great deal	30%
Good amount	27
Some	34
None	8

**As you may know, New Orleans was a poor city with a large African-American population. Do you think it would have received better flood protection and emergency preparedness resources if it had been a wealthier city with more whites, or do you think race and poverty did not affect its hurricane protection and emergency planning?**

Would have been better prepared	36%
Race and poverty did not affect preparedness	60

**Do you think the federal government would have responded more quickly to rescue people trapped by flood waters if more of them had been wealthier and white rather than poorer and black, or do you think race and poverty did not affect the speed of the rescue effort?**

Would have responded faster	33%
Race and poverty did not affect responsiveness	64

**Overall, do you think problems with the hurricane relief effort are or are not an indication of racial inequality in this country?**

Are	31%
Are not	67

*Preparedness*

AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05

**Which comes closest to your view concerning Hurricane Katrina?**

The federal government should have been better prepared to cope with the effects of a disaster of the magnitude caused by Hurricane Katrina	69%
The federal government was as prepared as it reasonably could have been to cope with a disaster of the magnitude cause by Hurricane Katrina	30

ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05

**Do you think the situation shows serious problems in the federal government's emergency preparedness overall, or do you think this was a special case?**

Serious problems	50%
Special case	47
No problems(vol.)	2

*Taking Responsibility*

CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 9/6/05

<b>Do you think that any of the top officials in the federal agencies responsible for handling emergencies should be fired, or don't you think so?</b>	
Yes, should be fired	29%
No, don't think so	63

Pew Research Center – 9/7/05

<b>In your opinion, did President Bush do all he could to get relief efforts going quickly or do you think he could have done more?</b>	
Did all he could	28%
Could have done more	67

<b>Thinking about the people who stayed in New Orleans during the storm and became stranded by the flooding, do you think _____?(rotated)</b>	
Most stayed behind because they wanted to	29%
Most stayed behind because they didn't have a way to leave the city	62

<b>In your view, did this disaster show that racial inequality remains a major problem in this country, or don't you think this was a particularly important lesson of the disaster?</b>	
Showed that racial inequality remains a major problem	38%
Not a particularly important lesson of the disaster	50

Time/SRBI – 9/7/05

<b>How satisfied are you with the president's explanation of why the government was not able to provide relief to hurricane victims sooner?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Satisfied	36%	65%	15%	28%
Dissatisfied	57	26	81	67

<b>Do you think it is right or wrong for officials in the White House to blame state and local leaders for their slow response to the relief effort?</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Right	30%	45%	20%	26%
Wrong	63	47	73	65

Depends	2	3	3	1
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**Do you think it is right or wrong for state and local leaders to blame officials in the White House for their slow response to the relief effort?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Right	39%	20%	58%	38%
Wrong	55	75	34	56
Depends	2	2	3	1

*Newsweek – 9/9/05*

**Do you feel that someone in the Bush administration should be held accountable and fired from their job because of the slow response to what happened in New Orleans, or do you feel it shouldn't be necessary for anyone to lose their job?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Someone should be fired	45%	24%	58%	48%
Shouldn't be necessary	48	68	35	47

*ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05*

**What do you think was a bigger problem -- that some people could have evacuated before the hurricane hit, but failed to take the warnings seriously; or that some people wanted to evacuate before the hurricane hit but didn't have transportation, and the government didn't provide it?**

People failed to take warning seriously	49%
Government did not provide transportation	48

**Overall, do you think most of the criticism of the federal government's response to the hurricane has been fair, or unfair?**

Fair	56%
Unfair	43

**Do you think the Bush administration is willing to take responsibility for the problems in the hurricane response, or is trying to avoid responsibility for those problems?**

Willing to take responsibility	48%
Trying to avoid responsibility	49

**Do you think Democrats who criticize the way the Bush administration has handled the hurricane response mainly want to find out what went wrong, or mainly want to use the issue for political advantage?**

Find out what went wrong	36%
Use for political advantage	60

***Rebuilding Effort***

**CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 9/6/05**

**Who do you think is most responsible for problems in New Orleans after the hurricane?**

George W. Bush	13%
Federal agencies	18
State/local officials	25
No one to blame	38

**Time/SRBI – 9/7/05**

**The relief and rebuilding effort after the hurricane will cost tens of billions of dollars. Do you favor or oppose each of the following ways to pay for the rebuilding effort?**

**Cut back on the spending in Iraq**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	61%	41%	74%	65%
Oppose	35	56	22	29

**Cut other government programs**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	45%	55%	32%	50%
Oppose	44	37	57	39

**Reinstate estate taxes on the estates of wealthy people who die**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	44%	32%	57%	42%
Oppose	49	63	34	52

**Raise taxes temporarily to pay for the effort**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	30%	33%	32%	24%

Oppose	62	61	62	68
<b>Increase the federal deficit</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Favor	35%	30%	37%	40%
Oppose	62	67	58	57

**ABC News/Washington Post – 9/11/05**

**The Republican leaders of Congress have called for a full-scale congressional investigation of the government's hurricane preparedness and response effort. Apart from this investigation, would you support or oppose an investigation by an independent commission like the one that investigated the 9/11 attacks?**

Support	76%
Oppose	23

**Just your best guess, do you think the congressional investigation will stay focused on the facts, or get bogged down in partisan politics?**

Stay focused on the facts	26%
Get bogged down in partisan politics	71

**The hurricane relief effort may cost well over 100 billion dollars. How do you think the government should pay for this -- by cutting spending on other programs, increasing the federal budget deficit, raising taxes or what?**

Cutting spending on other programs	39%
Increasing the federal budget deficit	17
Raising taxes	16
Something else	17
Pull out of Iraq (vol.)	4

**Some federal lawmakers have proposed 70 billion dollars in tax cuts over the next five years. Do you think those tax cuts should go forward as proposed, or do you think they should be put off for the time being?**

Should go forward as proposed	36%
Should be cut off	59

**How confident are you that the federal government has put in place adequate controls to avoid waste and fraud in the use of federal money in the hurricane relief effort?**

Very	7%
Somewhat	37

Not so	30
Not at all	24

*Future of New Orleans*

**CNN/Gallup/USA Today – 9/6/05**

<b>Do you think the city of New Orleans will ever completely recover from the effects of Hurricane Katrina, or not?</b>	
Yes, will recover	42%
No, will not	56

<b>Just your best guess, how many years will it take for New Orleans to completely recover?</b>	
2 yrs or less	10%
3-5 yrs	33
6-10 yrs	41
11-20 yrs	8
20+ yrs	5

<b>Do you think New Orleans should - or should not - be rebuilt as a major city?</b>	
Yes, should	63%
No, should not	34

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

<b>Which of these do you think is most likely: New Orleans will become a working city again in the next year or two, New Orleans will become a working city again, but it will take longer than a year or two, or New Orleans will probably never become a working city again.</b>				
	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Will, in next year or two	17%	19%	13%	18%
Will, but will take longer	72	67	77	70
Never become working city	10	11	9	9

**AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05**

**As you may know, much of the City of New Orleans was built below sea level. Some people say that New Orleans is an important historic city that should be re-built as it existed before the hurricane, and that existing levee systems can be rebuilt and strengthened to protect the city. Other say that the parts of New Orleans that lie below sea level should be abandoned and should be rebuilt on other sites above sea level, because if they are re-built below sea level, they may be susceptible to damage by future storms, even if the levees are strengthened. Which comes closest to your view?**

New Orleans should be rebuilt as it existed before the hurricane while strengthening the levees, including rebuilding on sites below sea level	42%
The parts of New Orleans that lie below sea level should be abandoned, and should be rebuilt above sea level	54

*Future Disasters*

**CBS News – 9/7/05**

**How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to respond to natural disasters?**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
A great deal	19%	32%	8%	18%
A fair amount	32	44	22	31
Not very much	34	20	46	33
None at all	15	2	24	17

**AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05**

**How confident are you in the federal government's ability to handle a major disaster in the future?**

Very confident	19%
Somewhat confident	37
Not too confident	27
Not at all confident	17

Newsweek – 9/9/05

Please tell me whether or not government's slow response to what happened in New Orleans has made you lose confidence in government's ability to deal with each of the following.

<b>Deal with another major natural disaster:</b>	
Yes, has	57%
No, has not	41
<b>To prevent another major terrorist attack like 9/11:</b>	
Yes, has	47%
No, has not	50

## CONGRESS & OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES

### *2006 Congressional Elections*

#### Newsweek – 9/9/05

<b>(Asked of registered voters) To begin, suppose the elections for U.S. Congress were being held today... Would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?</b>	
Republican	38%
Democratic	50

### *Congress – Job Approval*

#### AP/Ipsos – 9/8/05

<b>Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Congress is handling its job?</b>	
Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	16
Lean toward approval	11
Still have mixed feelings	2
Lean toward disapproval	21
Somewhat disapprove	19
Strongly disapprove	25