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For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
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FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006, 2:00 PM

Gay Marriage, Inheritance Tax Among the Lowest Public Priorities
DEMOCRATS MORE EAGER TO VOTE, BUT UNHAPPY WITH PARTY

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Gay Marriage, Inheritance Tax Among the Lowest Public Priorities
DEMOCRATS MORE EAGER TO VOTE, BUT UNHAPPY WITH PARTY

With less than five months to go before Election Day, Democrats hold two distinct advantages in the midterm campaign that they have not enjoyed for some time. First, Americans continue to say they favor the Democratic candidate in their district, by a 51% to 39% margin. Second, the level of enthusiasm about voting among Democrats is unusually high, and is atypically low among Republicans. In fact, Democrats now hold a voter enthusiasm advantage that is the mirror image of the GOP's edge in voter zeal leading up to the 1994 midterm election.

Public anger with Congress continues to rise, and anti-incumbent sentiment has reached new highs, according to the latest survey of 1,501 Americans conducted June 14-19 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. The sour public mood currently favors the minority party, as 46% of Democratic voters say they are more enthusiastic about voting than usual, compared with just 30% of Republicans. In October 1994, Republicans held a comparable advantage on this measure (by 45%-30%).

But Democratic zeal is mostly driven by anger toward President Bush and Republican leaders, not support for Democratic leaders. Just half of Democrats approve of the job performance of Democratic leaders in Congress; by contrast, 58% of Republicans give positive ratings to GOP leaders. And 64% of Democrats say their party is doing only a fair or poor job in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities and helping the poor.

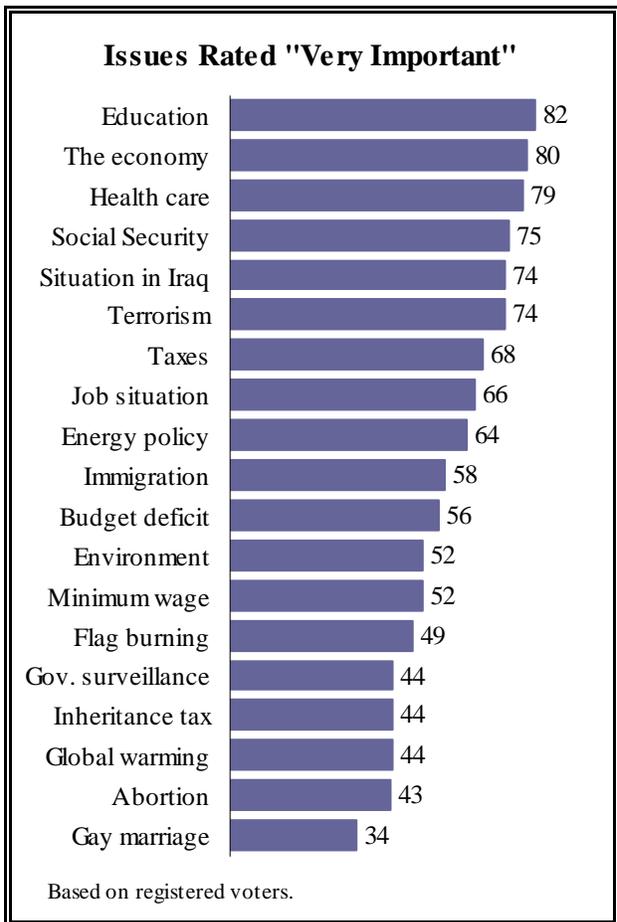
The question of which party controls Congress has the potential to be a major factor in the 2006 midterms. Fully 58% of voters say this issue will factor in their vote, up from 47% in 2002 and 45% in 1998. Partisan control of Congress is a major issue for Democrats, but nearly half of independent voters – who in past midterms have given less regard to party control – say the makeup of Congress matters to them. And most independents who say this plan to vote for the Democrat in their district.

Democrats Retain Midterm Lead...				
	Sept 2005	Feb 2006	Apr 2006	June 2006
<i>If the election were today, would you...</i>	%	%	%	%
Vote Democratic	52	50	51	51
Vote Republican	40	41	41	39
Other/Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
And Hold Sizable Enthusiasm Advantage				
	Oct 1994 [^]	June 1998	June 2002	June 2006
<i>More enthusiastic about voting than usual</i>	%	%	%	%
Total	34	38	41	38
Democrats	30	38	40	46
Republicans	45	42	44	30
Independents	29	35	39	37

Based on registered voters.
[^] Oct. 1994 figures from Gallup/CNN/USA Today.

Public anger with Congress and its leaders has not abated despite Republican efforts to make progress on various policy issues. The proportion saying the current Congress has achieved less than previous ones has climbed to 45%, double the number who said this in the 2002 or 1998 midterms, and higher than the number who expressed frustration with Congress in 1994 (38%). Republican leaders in Congress are blamed for this failure, but Democratic leaders in Congress are not benefitting from this criticism. More Americans disapprove than approve of the job GOP leaders are doing by a 53% to 30% margin; dissatisfaction with Democratic leaders is nearly as high (50% disapprove, 32% approve.)

Education, the economy and health care are the leading concerns for voters this year – roughly eight-in-ten say each is very important to them personally. By contrast, many of the issues that have recently gotten attention – either on Capitol Hill or in the media – rank among the least important to voters. Barely a third (34%) say the issue of gay marriage is very important, and only somewhat more rank abortion, global warming, ending the inheritance tax, and government surveillance programs as very important. While gay marriage is more important to Republican voters than Democratic voters, even here it comes far down the list below such issues as terrorism and homeland security, the economy, and immigration.



Democratic Voters Motivated

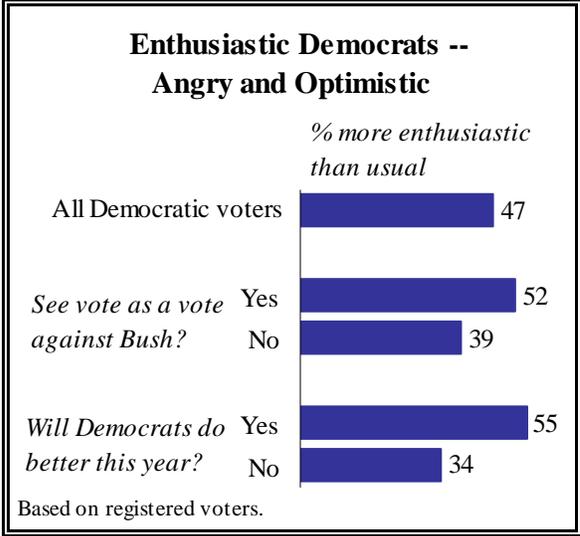
Democrats are more enthusiastic about the upcoming election than was the case in 2002, 1998 or especially 1994, when they were particularly ambivalent about going to vote. By comparison, far fewer Republicans say they are looking forward to voting this November than in recent midterms. Just 30% of Republicans say they are more enthusiastic about voting this year than usual, down from 44% four years ago; 41% in June 1998; and 45% prior to the 1994 midterm election.

The heightened Democratic enthusiasm is particularly notable among liberal Democrats, 53% of whom are more interested in voting this year than usual. The partisan gap in enthusiasm is even visible among independents – those who lean Democratic are considerably more eager to vote than those who lean Republican. Overall, 47% of voters who plan to vote Democratic this fall say they are more enthusiastic about voting than usual, compared with just 30% of voters who plan to vote Republican.

% more enthusiastic about voting	Among those who plan to...	
	Vote <u>Dem</u> %	Vote <u>Rep</u> %
June 2006	47	30
June 2002	42	44
June 1998	40	41
Oct 1994 [^]	29	41

Based on registered voters.
[^] Oct. 1994 figures from Gallup/CNN/USA Today.

The higher level of enthusiasm among Democratic voters is linked to two underlying attitudes: anger at the president and optimism about Democrats chances in the fall. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of those who plan to vote for the Democratic candidate in their district think of their vote this fall as a vote *against* George W. Bush. These anti-Bush voters are significantly more motivated to vote – 52% say they are more eager to vote this year than usual, compared with 39% among those who say Bush is not a factor in their vote.



Democratic voters also have an optimistic outlook for the fall – 64% think the party will do better in this year’s congressional elections than

it has in other recent elections. The heightened expectations among Democrats are strongly linked with increased interest in voting. More than half (55%) of Democratic voters who expect the party to make progress in the fall say they are more enthusiastic about voting this year, compared with just 34% who see the party doing about the same – or worse – as in recent elections.

Republicans, by contrast, have modest expectations for the fall elections. Just 19% think the GOP will do better in this year’s midterms than in recent elections; 18% expect the party to fare worse; and 58% say the Republican Party will do about the same as it has in recent elections.

How Democratic And Republican Voters Differ

Anti-incumbent sentiment is a significant factor among voters who are favoring the Democrats this fall. They are nearly twice as likely as Republican voters to say the member from their district should *not* be reelected (39% vs. 22%). More broadly, two-thirds of Democratic voters say they want to see most members lose their reelection bids this fall. But frustration with incumbents is high even among GOP voters, 43% of whom say that most members do not deserve reelection.

Among those favoring the Democratic candidate in their district, 68% say they are considering party control of Congress as they make up their mind. A slimmer majority (55%) of Republican voters say the same. The 2006 midterm is a more nationalized election in the eyes of Democratic voters – 34% say that national issues weight most heavily in their vote compared with just 26% of those who plan to vote Republican. In contrast, Republican voters are more focused on candidate character and experience (38%) than their Democratic counterparts (28%).

Voters' Views on the Election & Congress		
	<i>Plan to vote...</i>	
	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Rep</u>
	%	%
<i>Biggest effect on vote</i>		
National issues	34	26
Local & state issues	28	24
Character & experience	28	38
Other/DK	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100
<i>Like to see your member reelected</i>		
Yes	46	63
No	39	22
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100
<i>Like to see most members reelected</i>		
Yes	22	41
No	66	43
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100
<i>Is party control of congress a factor in your vote?</i>		
Yes	68	55
No	29	43
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100
<i>Is your vote a vote...</i>		
For Bush	3	34
Against Bush	64	6
Bush not much of a factor	30	57
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100
<i>Republican leaders</i>		
Approve	11	56
Disapprove	79	31
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100
<i>Democratic leaders</i>		
Approve	46	17
Disapprove	41	70
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100
<i>This Congress has...</i>		
Accomplished more	4	12
Accomplished less	57	30
About the same	34	52
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100
Based on registered voters		
Number of cases	(606)	(487)

Voters who lean Democratic are also nearly twice as likely as Republican voters to say that this Congress has accomplished less than other recent Congresses (57% vs. 30%). But Democratic voters are hardly enthusiastic about their party's leaders in Congress. Just 46% of voters who favor the Democratic candidate approve of the job Democratic Party leaders are doing, while 41% disapprove. Republican voters, by comparison, have a somewhat more positive view of their party's Congressional leaders (56% approve, 31% disapprove).

Anti-Incumbency: Shades of 1994?

Anti-incumbent sentiment has risen since April, and is on par with surveys taken on the eve of the critical 1994 midterm twelve years ago. Nearly a third of voters (32%) say they do not want to see the representative in their district reelected, up from 28% two months ago. And 57% say they would like to see *most* members of Congress replaced this fall, up from 53% in April.

While criticism of Congress is hardly unusual, the level of explicit anti-incumbent sentiment – against both individual members and Congress as a whole – is substantially higher than in most previous midterms. In 1998 and 2002, just 20% and 23%, respectively, wanted to see their member of Congress not returned to office, well below the 32% who take that view today. In those elections only about four-in-ten said they did not want to see most members reelected; currently, 57% of voters express that sentiment.

Among recent midterms, only in 1994 was voter anger at incumbents about as high. On the eve of the 1994 election, 29% of voters said they did not want their member to be reelected, and 56% wanted most members of Congress replaced. The comparable figures today are 32% and 57%, respectively.

	Oct 1990 [^]	Oct 1994	Oct 1998	June 2002	Apr 2006	June 2006
<i>Like to see your member reelected</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	62	49	58	58	57	51
No	22	29	20	23	28	32
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Like to see most members reelected</i>						
Yes	--	28	39	45	34	29
No	--	56	39	37	53	57
Don't know	--	<u>16</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
		100	100	100	100	100

Based on registered voters. [^] Oct 1990 trend from Gallup Poll

If anything, partisan polarization in attitudes toward incumbents may be greater than was the case in October 1994. Currently, Democrats are nearly twice as likely as Republicans to say their member should be voted out of office (36% vs 20%). In 1994, when Democrats held a majority in both the House and the Senate, 34% of Republicans did not want their member returned to office, while 27% of Democrats said the same.

What is particularly notable this year is the anti-incumbent sentiment expressed by independent voters. Fully 38% of independents want their member of Congress to be replaced, significantly more than said the same in 1994 (29%).

In addition, two-thirds of Democrats (66%) want most members replaced, compared with 40% of Republicans (in 1994 it was 62% of Republicans and 41% of Democrats.) Independents share the Democrats' frustration with the current Congress, just as they shared GOP's frustration in 1994. Currently, 63% of independents want most members of Congress replaced; 65% of independent voters said that on the eve of the 1994 election.

Partisan Control a Factor

The question of which party controls Congress is a factor for more voters this year than in the past, particularly Democrats and independents. Fully 72% of Democrats say that party control of Congress is a factor in their vote this year, up from 59% in June 2002 and 53% in June 1998. Just 54% of Republicans see the issue of who controls Congress as a factor in their vote, unchanged from the past two midterms. (This question was not asked in the lead-up to the 1994 midterm.)

The percentage of independents who see party control as a factor in their vote also is up sharply – roughly half (48%) of independents say this will be a factor in their vote. In the past two midterms, barely a quarter of independents (28%) said this issue

Democrats and Independents Looking for Change				
<i>% do <u>not</u> want their US representative</i>	Oct 1994	Sept 1998	June 2002	June 2006
<i>re-elected</i>	%	%	%	%
Republican	34	18	20	20
Democrat	27	19	26	36
Independent	29	23	26	38
<i>% do <u>not</u> want most in Congress re-elected</i>				
Republican	62	27	32	40
Democrat	41	40	38	66
Independent	65	43	42	63
Based on registered voters.				

Party More of A Factor			
<i>Is party control of Congress a factor in your vote?</i>	June 1998	June 2002	June 2006
	%	%	%
Yes	45	47	58
No	51	50	39
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
<i>More of a factor for...</i>			
Republicans	53	50	54
Democrats	53	59	72
Independents	28	28	48
Based on registered voters.			

mattered to them. Independent voters who take this view favor the Democratic candidate over the Republican in their district by a wide 57% to 34% margin.

Bush Hurting GOP Prospects

As was the case four years ago, George W. Bush is playing a more central role in the minds of midterm voters than most recent presidents. In fall 2002, about a year after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, a greater number of voters described their congressional vote as a vote in support of the president than in any prior midterm election going back to 1982. By roughly two-to-one (29% to 15%) more said they were voting for, not against, Bush in the 2002 midterm.

Today, Bush remains a pivotal figure in the midterm election, but in a different way. Fully 38% say their vote this fall is a vote *against* George W. Bush. This is up from 15% four years ago, and is far more than ever measured during the Reagan administration, the presidency of Bush's father, or the Clinton administration. In the polarized election of 1994, just 23% described their vote as a vote against Bill Clinton.

The drag that Bush places on Republican prospects has only increased since the beginning of the year. In February, 31% described their midterm vote as a vote against Bush, compared with 38% today. Roughly two-thirds of Democrats (65%) say they are voting against Bush as they cast their ballot this fall, up from 55% in February. The percentage of independent voters who say the same has increased from 31% to 39% since February. In the meantime, the number of Republicans who see their midterm vote as a vote in support of the president has fallen from 43% to 37%.

Unprecedented Number Voting Against Bush

	Oct 82 [^]	Oct 86 [^]	Oct 90 [^]	Oct 94	Jun 98	Sep 02	Jun 06
<i>Think of vote as...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Vote for president	23	26	19	17	20	29	15
Vote against president	21	12	15	23	18	15	38
President not a factor	51	55	61	54	57	51	44
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Based on registered voters.
[^] 1982 thru 1990 data from CBS/New York Times

Voters Views on the Election & Congress

	Feb	Apr	June
<i>Is your vote a vote...</i>	%	%	%
For Bush	18	17	15
Against Bush	31	34	38
Bush not much of a factor	47	46	44
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Democrats</i>			
For Bush	4	5	3
Against Bush	55	58	65
Bush not much of a factor	38	34	29
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Republicans</i>			
For Bush	43	42	37
Against Bush	7	7	5
Bush not much of a factor	48	49	55
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Independents</i>			
For Bush	8	5	9
Against Bush	31	38	39
Bush not much of a factor	57	54	49
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100

Based on registered voters.

Frustration with Congress

Despite efforts to address immigration, taxes, Iraq, and other issues in the past few months, voters' impressions of Congress' effectiveness are trending negative. The share who say Congress has accomplished less than other recent Congresses stands at 45% today, up slightly from 41% in April, and double the number who felt this way about Congress in June of 2002. In October 1994, 38% of voters believed Congress was underachieving, somewhat fewer than the percentage saying that today.

Democrats, not surprisingly, are the most critical of Congress – 59% say the institution has done less than usual this year. But nearly half of independents (48%) share this opinion, as well as 27% of Republicans. The partisan nature of the criticism of Congress' achievements marks a clear difference with the election of 1994. During that campaign, Democrats, Republicans and independents were largely in agreement in their view that Congress had accomplished less than usual.

Both Parties Seen Negatively

The blame for Congress' lack of productivity falls squarely on the Republican leadership. Among voters who say this Congress is underperforming, 56% blame Republican leaders, 17% Democratic leaders. But the Democratic leadership is receiving little praise despite GOP troubles.

Public views of the job performance of Republican leaders has grown more negative; just 30% of Americans approve, while 53% disapprove. But approval of Democratic leaders has tracked slightly downward as well and stands at 32% today.

Widespread Discontent With Congress

	Oct 1994	Aug 1998	June 2002	---2006--- Apr	June
<i>Congress has accomplished...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Less than usual	38	15	22	41	45
About the same	50	62	57	47	42
More than usual	9	18	16	7	7
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>If "less", who is more to blame?</i>					
				%	%
Republican leaders	--	--	--	56	56
Democratic leaders	--	--	--	14	17
Both/Other (Vol)	--	--	--	26	24
Don't know	--	--	--	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
				100	100

Based on registered voters.

Polarized Views of Congress

Percent saying Congress has accomplished less than usual

	1994	1998	2002	2006
	%	%	%	%
Total	38	15	22	45
Republicans	36	11	13	27
Democrats	34	18	28	59
Independents	42	15	27	48

Based on registered voters.

Independents disapprove of the performance of both party's leaders by margins of more than two-to-one. Job approval is even limited within each party's base. Just 50% of Democrats approve of the Democratic leaders in Congress, while somewhat more Republicans (58%) approve of the job their leaders are doing.

In general, Democrats remain largely dissatisfied with the direction of their political party – just 34% of Democrats or independents who lean

toward the Democratic Party believe that the party is doing a good job these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people. Nearly two-thirds (64%) say the Democratic Party is doing only a fair or poor job in this regard. Democrats' evaluations of their party has been decidedly negative for nearly two years.

Republicans, too, have grown more critical of their party's performance in recent years, though they remain more satisfied than the Democrats. Currently, 42% of Republicans and independents who lean Republican say the party is doing an excellent or good job in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values. This is down from 47% in April, and 61% two years ago during the 2004 campaign.

Ideology plays a role in how people evaluate their parties. Conservative Republicans remain more satisfied with the party's stand on key principles than moderates in the party. Nearly half of conservative Republicans (48%) feel the party is doing an excellent or good job standing up for traditional party positions, compared with 34% of moderates. And it is the conservatives within the Democratic party who are more satisfied as well. Nearly half of

	Mar	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Jan	Mar	Jun
Job approval	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>06</u>
<i>Republican leaders</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	39	35	36	32	33	33	32	30
Disapprove	44	50	49	52	50	52	50	53
Don't know	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Democratic leaders</i>								
Approve	37	39	36	32	36	34	34	32
Disapprove	44	41	45	48	44	48	46	50
Don't know	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

	<i>Republican Party*</i>		<i>Democratic Party**</i>	
	Excel- lent/ Good	Only fair/ Poor	Excel- lent/ Good	Only fair/ Poor
	%	%	%	%
June 2006	42	54	34	64
April 2006	47	51	40	59
Sept 2005	48	49	35	63
Mar 2005	51	45	33	65
July 2004	61	37	49	48
Aug 2003	57	42	38	60
May 2002	55	43	44	53
May 2001	60	37	47	47
Sept 2000	49	49	63	36

* Based on Republicans and Republican leaners
 ** Based on Democrats and Democratic leaners

conservatives who identify more with the Democratic Party (46%) see the party as doing an excellent or good job standing up for core principles, compared with just 30% of both moderates and liberals within the party.

Voter Priorities

Education, the economy, health care, Social Security, Iraq, and terrorism rank as the most important issues for voters this year, with roughly three-quarters or more saying each of these is personally very important to them. Taxes, the job situation, and energy policy were not far behind, with roughly two-thirds picking these issues.

By contrast, government surveillance programs, the inheritance tax, abortion, global warming, and gay marriage rank as much less important priorities, with gay marriage in particular mentioned by only one-third of voters (34%) as very important to them. About as many (33%) say the issue of gay marriage is “not at all important.”

While the top tier of issues is important to voters across the demographic and political spectrum, other issues matter more to certain voters than to others. Education is a major factor in views of the importance of many issues, including raising the minimum wage, Social Security, and a constitutional amendment to ban flag burning.

Increasing the minimum wage is a high priority for voters with a high school education or less (68%), especially in comparison with voters who have a college degree (33%). Nearly all voters with less education rate Social Security as very important

	Rating the Importance of Issues			
	<i>How important to you personally?</i>			
	<u>Very</u>	<u>Some-</u>	<u>Not too/</u>	
	<u>%</u>	<u>what</u>	<u>at all</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%	%
Education	82	15	3	*=100
The nation's economy	80	17	2	1=100
Health care	79	16	5	*=100
Social Security	75	21	4	*=100
The situation in Iraq	74	20	4	2=100
Terrorism & security	74	19	6	1=100
Taxes	68	23	8	1=100
Job situation	66	23	10	1=100
Energy policy	64	29	5	2=100
Immigration	58	29	12	1=100
Federal budget deficit	56	30	12	2=100
Minimum wage hike	52	26	22	*=100
Environmental policy	52	36	11	1=100
Flag burning amend.	49	18	32	1=100
Global warming	44	31	21	4=100
Gov. surveillance progs.	44	29	24	3=100
End inheritance tax	44	25	26	5=100
Abortion	43	26	27	4=100
Gay marriage	34	17	45	4=100

Based on registered voters.

	Education And Issue Priorities		
	<u>College grad</u>	<u>Some college</u>	<u>HS or less</u>
<i>Rate as very important</i>	%	%	%
Flag burning amendment	28	43	67
Minimum wage hike	33	48	68
Social Security	60	75	86

Based on registered voters.

(86%); fewer college graduates do so (60%).

But there is an even larger gap in views of the importance of a constitutional amendment to ban flag burning; 67% of voters with a high school education or less believe this is very important, compared with just 28% among college graduates.

Voter priorities also differ by religion and age. For example, about as many white evangelical Christians regard abortion (67%) and a ban on flag burning (64%) as very important as say that about taxes (68%) and the job situation (66%). Compared with older voters, younger voters are much more concerned about increasing the minimum wage and far less concerned about flag burning, eliminating the inheritance tax, and the federal budget deficit.

Politically, the priorities of Democratic and Republican voters diverge dramatically on some issues. The issue of terrorism and homeland security tops the list of issues that are important to Republicans (with 84% saying it is very important), whereas it ranks seventh on the list of top priorities for Democrats (at 69% very important). Conversely, health care is the top issue for Democrats, but is seventh on the list for Republicans.

Both Republican and Democratic voters agree that the economy and education are important issues, and both place Iraq near the top of their lists (though a somewhat greater number of Democrats than Republicans – 78% vs. 72% – rate it as very important).

Democrats place much higher priority on environmental issues and global warming than do Republicans. In contrast, Republicans rate a constitutional ban on flag burning, elimination of the inheritance tax, and abortion much higher than do Democrats.

Issues That Stand Out for Republicans				
<i>% Who Rate Each Issue "Very Important"</i>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<i>R-D Diff.</i>
	%	%	%	
End inheritance tax	54	37	45	+17
Flag burning amend.	60	44	44	+16
Terrorism & security	84	69	72	+15
Immigration	64	52	57	+12
Gay marriage	43	31	28	+12
Abortion	50	39	41	+11
Issues That Stand Out for Democrats				
Environmental policy	30	64	58	-34
Global warming	23	56	49	-33
Minimum wage hike	36	67	48	-31
Job situation	52	78	63	-26
Health care	69	89	79	-20
Gov. surveillance progs	33	52	47	-19
Federal budget deficit	47	62	55	-15
Education	75	86	83	-11
Energy policy	56	66	67	-10
Issues With Small Differences				
The nation's economy	80	80	78	0
Taxes	74	66	63	+8
Social Security	72	79	71	-7
Situation in Iraq	72	78	72	-6
Based on registered voters.				

Immigration and Other Issues

The issues of Iraq, immigration, and gay marriage have attracted a great deal of attention from Congress over the past several months and all three are thought to be potentially influential in the fall elections. Iraq, in particular, is a top-tier issue with the public (74% very important). As reported by Pew on June 20 (“[Iraq Views Improve, Small Bounce for Bush](#)”), the survey finds that the public remains closely divided on the question of whether to keep troops in Iraq (50%) or bring them home as soon as possible (45%).

Not only does the Iraq war divide the public, but the same number of voters on each side of the question see it as very important. Among those who favor keeping troops in Iraq, 74% call this a very important issue; among those who think the U.S. should bring the troops home as soon as possible, 75% say the issue is very important.

The pattern in opinions of the importance of immigration is quite different, however. Asked which of two policy options they favor, a majority of the poll’s respondents – 56% – support increasing border protection and also creating a way for illegal immigrants to become citizens. Fewer (40%) favor focusing mostly on border protection and stiffer penalties for people who enter the U.S. illegally.

However, voters who emphasize enforcement and penalties rate the issue as more important than voters who also favor a “path to citizenship” for some illegal immigrants. Among those who want policy to focus mostly on border protection, 72% say the immigration issue is very important; among

Opinion on Immigration Policy*			
	Focus mostly on border security	Border security & path to citizenship	DK
	%	%	%
Total	40	56	4=100
Conservative Rep	52	45	3=100
Mod/Lib Rep	45	53	2=100
Independent	41	55	4=100
Cons/Mod Dem	39	57	4=100
Liberal Dem	21	73	6=100
<i>2006 House vote</i>			
Republican	50	47	3=100
Democrat	34	62	4=100

*Which proposal do you favor? (ROTATED)
 – Focusing MOSTLY on strong border protection and stiffer penalties on people who enter the U.S. illegally
 OR
 – Increasing border protection and ALSO creating a way for some illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements

Intensity Gap on Immigration, Gay Marriage	
	<i>Importance of immigration</i>
<i>Among those who favor...</i>	%
Border security & penalties	72
Border security plus path to citizenship	48
	<i>Importance of Iraq</i>
<i>Among those who say we should...</i>	%
Keep troops in Iraq	74
Bring troops home	75
	<i>Importance of gay marriage</i>
<i>Among those who...</i>	%
Favor gay marriage	27
Oppose gay marriage	45

* Percent rating issue as “very important.”
Based on registered voters.

voters who favor enforcement plus the creation of a way for some illegal immigrants to become citizens, just 48% say the issue is very important.

On gay marriage, another issue that has been the focus of congressional attention, there is also a difference in the priority placed on it by people on different sides of the question, with those opposing gay marriage assigning it greater importance. Nearly half of those who oppose gay marriage (45%) call it a very important issue. Supporters of gay marriage put even less priority on it, with just 27% saying it is very important.

Overall support for allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally has declined significantly since March. In the current poll, 33% favor gay marriage and 55% are opposed; four months ago, 39% were in favor and 51% opposed. Opponents of gay marriage were asked if they thought a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage is a good or bad idea; of the total sample, 33% said it was a good idea and 19% said it was a bad idea.

	Mar <u>2004</u>	July <u>2004</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Mar <u>2006</u>	June <u>2006</u>
<i>Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	32	32	29	36	39	33
Oppose	59	56	60	53	51	55
Pro-amendment	36	31	35	29	--	33
Against amendment	21	22	22	22	--	19
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

2006 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION, GENERIC CANDIDATE PREFERENCE

(Based on Registered Voters)

	<u>Republican /</u> <u>Lean Republican</u> %	<u>Democrat /</u> <u>Lean Democrat</u> %	<u>Other /</u> <u>Undecided</u> %	<u>Number</u> <u>of cases</u>
Total	39	51	10=100	(1,215)
Sex				
Male	42	47	11	(589)
Female	36	55	9	(626)
Race				
White	43	46	11	(1024)
Non-white	20	73	7	(180)
Black	5	89	6	(111)
Race and Sex				
White Men	46	42	12	(496)
White Women	41	50	9	(528)
Age				
Under 30	36	56	8	(128)
30-49	41	50	9	(395)
50-64	37	51	12	(366)
65+	38	52	10	(311)
Sex and Age				
Men under 50	42	47	11	(262)
Women under 50	37	56	7	(261)
Men 50+	41	47	12	(323)
Women 50+	34	56	10	(354)
Education				
College Grad.	42	50	8	(462)
Some College	41	52	7	(304)
H.S. Grad or less	35	53	12	(446)
Family Income				
\$75,000+	43	48	9	(331)
\$50,000-\$74,999	45	46	9	(178)
\$30,000-\$49,999	38	53	9	(244)
\$20,000-\$29,999	36	54	10	(129)
<\$20,000	26	64	10	(178)

Question: If the 2006 elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

	Republican / <u>Lean Republican</u>	Democrat / <u>Lean Democrat</u>	Other / <u>Undecided</u>	Number <u>of cases</u>
	%	%	%	
Total	39	51	10=100	(1,215)
Region				
Northeast	33	55	12	(219)
Midwest	40	51	9	(290)
South	43	49	8	(438)
West	36	53	11	(268)
Religious Affiliation				
Total Protestant	43	49	8	(702)
- White Evangelical	58	35	7	(289)
- White Non-Evangelical	40	49	11	(297)
- Black Protestant	5	91	4	(88)
Total Catholic	41	47	12	(293)
- White Non-Hispanic	43	45	12	(239)
Secular	20	67	13	(127)
Party ID				
Republican	92	5	3	(385)
Democrat	2	96	2	(421)
Independent	32	47	21	(354)
Party and Ideology				
Conservative Republican	94	4	2	(271)
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	86	10	4	(110)
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	3	94	3	(257)
Liberal Democrat	1	98	1	(144)
Presidential Approval				
Approve	81	12	7	(456)
Disapprove	11	80	9	(658)
Use of Force in Iraq				
Right Decision	66	25	9	(587)
Wrong Decision	11	80	9	(558)

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES

*Percent saying the issue is “very important” to them personally**

	<u>Education</u>	<u>Economy</u>	<u>Health</u> <u>care</u>	<u>Social</u> <u>Security</u>	<u>Iraq</u>	<u>Terrorism/</u> <u>Security</u>	<u>Taxes</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
	%	%	%	%		%	%	%
Total	82	80	79	75	74	74	68	66
Sex								
Male	79	80	73	72	74	70	68	62
Female	85	79	86	78	74	78	68	70
Age								
Under 50	84	81	81	71	72	74	68	64
50+	79	79	78	80	78	73	69	69
Education								
College grad.	80	78	72	60	73	67	63	55
Some college	83	81	77	75	74	69	63	65
H.S. or less	84	81	86	86	76	81	75	74
Family Income								
\$75,000+	74	82	70	61	67	65	65	52
\$30,000-\$74,999	86	83	81	77	79	80	74	71
<\$30,000	84	72	84	87	74	73	62	74
Party ID								
Republican	75	80	69	72	72	84	74	52
Democrat	86	80	89	79	78	69	66	78
Independent	83	78	79	71	72	72	63	63
‘06 Cong. Vote								
Rep./Lean Rep.	76	80	68	70	70	83	72	52
Dem./Lean Dem.	87	81	88	81	78	67	67	76
Religious Affiliation								
Total Protestant	82	77	78	75	74	76	66	66
- White Evangelical	78	78	79	76	75	80	68	66
- White Mainline	82	78	72	70	71	71	59	62
Total Catholic	82	84	84	82	76	76	79	69
- White Non-Hispanic	82	84	87	81	79	77	78	64
Religious Attendance								
Weekly or more	85	80	80	78	77	81	68	70
Monthly or yearly	86	82	78	74	73	72	72	64
Less often or never	73	76	79	72	72	65	64	62

Survey form – see third page for sample size

* Based on registered voters.

Figures in **BOLD** are significantly higher than the lowest figure in the demographic grouping. For religious affiliation, “Total Protestant” is compared only with “Total Catholic” and the three sub-groups are compared only with each other.

Question: As I name some issues that are in the news these days, please tell me how important the issue is to you personally. First, is [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE] an issue that is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you?

Continued on next page...

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (continued)

	<i>Percent saying the issue is "very important" to them personally*</i>							
	Energy <u>Policy</u>	Immi- <u>gration</u>	Budget <u>deficit</u>	Environ. <u>policy</u>	Minimum <u>wage</u>	Flag <u>burning</u>	Gov't <u>surveillance</u>	Inheritance <u>tax</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	64	58	56	52	52	49	44	44
Sex								
Male	65	58	50	52	44	48	46	45
Female	62	57	61	53	59	49	42	42
Age								
Under 50	60	55	50	49	56	44	42	38
50+	67	60	62	58	48	53	47	50
Education								
College grad.	63	49	52	48	33	28	39	34
Some college	66	60	52	55	48	43	49	40
H.S. or less	64	63	61	54	68	67	45	53
Family Income								
\$75,000+	62	50	51	45	32	35	37	37
\$30,000-\$74,999	64	61	56	53	53	53	49	46
<\$30,000	62	58	59	58	70	55	42	49
Party ID								
Republican	56	64	47	30	36	60	33	54
Democrat	66	52	62	64	67	44	52	37
Independent	67	57	55	58	48	44	47	45
'06 Cong. Vote								
Rep./Lean Rep.	57	64	48	33	38	56	33	51
Dem./Lean Dem.	70	52	63	65	64	43	55	38
Religious Affiliation								
Total Protestant	64	58	55	48	51	53	45	46
- White Evangelical	56	60	55	42	50	64	38	47
- White Mainline	67	58	50	53	36	43	45	42
Total Catholic	67	61	51	51	51	56	46	45
- White Non-Hispanic	66	60	54	48	44	58	37	49
Religious Attendance								
Weekly or more	60	60	56	51	51	57	46	46
Monthly or yearly	70	58	55	50	49	45	46	41
Less often or never	63	54	57	59	57	41	39	44

Survey form – see third page for sample size

Figures in **BOLD** are significantly higher than the lowest figure in the demographic grouping. For religious affiliation, "Total Protestant" is compared only with "Total Catholic" and the three sub-groups are compared only with each other.

* Based on registered voters.

Continued on next page...

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES (continued)

	<i>Percent saying the issue is “very important” to them personally*</i>			Sample Size for issues asked on...		
	<u>Abortion</u>	<u>Global warming</u>	<u>Gay marriage</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Form 1</u>	<u>Form 2</u>
	%	%	%	1,215	588	627
Total	44	44	34			
Sex				589	283	306
Male	38	41	33	626	305	321
Female	48	46	34			
Age						
Under 50	43	45	35	523	255	268
50+	44	42	32	677	323	354
Education						
College grad.	32	44	29	462	229	233
Some college	52	40	37	304	142	162
H.S. or less	47	45	35	446	217	229
Family Income						
\$75,000+	35	39	32	331	163	168
\$30,000-\$74,999	45	44	35	422	199	223
<\$30,000	48	46	32	307	156	151
Party ID						
Republican	50	23	43	385	171	214
Democrat	39	56	31	421	223	198
Independent	41	49	28	354	168	186
‘06 Cong. Vote						
Rep./Lean Rep.	50	26	41	487	218	269
Dem./Lean Dem.	40	56	30	606	306	300
Religious Affiliation						
Total Protestant	47	37	38	702	334	368
- White Evangelical	67	30	50	289	140	149
- White Mainline	27	40	25	297	143	154
Total Catholic	39	50	29	293	137	156
- White Non-Hispanic	42	44	31	239	110	129
Religious Attendance						
Weekly or more	56	39	45	526	239	287
Monthly or yearly	29	45	25	383	193	190
Less often or never	42	49	27	295	152	143
Survey form	Form 2	Total	Total			

Figures in **BOLD** are significantly higher than the lowest figure in the demographic grouping. For religious affiliation, “Total Protestant” is compared only with “Total Catholic” and the three sub-groups are compared only with each other.

* Based on registered voters.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, from June 14-19, 2006. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on form 1 (N=749) and form 2 (N=752) the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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JUNE 2006 NEWS INTEREST/BELIEVABILITY
FINAL TOPLINE
June 14 - 19, 2006
N=1,501

ROTATE Q.3 AND Q.4

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
June, 2006	30	53	17=100	January, 1998	43	41	16=100
March, 2006	32	50	18=100	November, 1997	41	43	16=100
January, 2006	33	52	15=100	August, 1997	42	44	14=100
Early November, 2005	33	50	17=100	June, 1997	33	50	17=100
Early October, 2005	32	52	16=100	May, 1997	40	44	16=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15=100	April, 1997	40	44	16=100
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15=100	February, 1997	44	42	14=100
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17=100	January, 1997	38	47	15=100
Early February, 2004	41	42	17=100	November, 1996	40	43	17=100
January, 2003	48	37	15=100	July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 2002	50	34	16=100	June, 1996	36	50	14=100
May, 2002	49	34	17=100	April, 1996	39	46	15=100
February, 2002	56	24	20=100	March, 1996	35	51	14=100
Early September, 2001	43	39	18=100	February, 1996	33	53	14=100
June, 2001	40	40	20=100	January, 1996	36	54	10=100
May, 2001	45	36	19=100	October, 1995	36	51	13=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=100	September, 1995	36	50	14=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100	August, 1995	38	45	17=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100	June, 1995	41	45	14=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100	April, 1995	44	43	13=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100	March, 1995	43	39	18=100
February, 2000	40	43	17=100	December, 1994	52	28	20=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100				
December, 1999	38	42	20=100				
October, 1999	34	50	16=100				
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100				
August, 1999	40	44	16=100				
July, 1999	36	45	19=100				
June, 1999	37	46	17=100				
May, 1999	38	44	18=100				
March, 1999	38	47	15=100				
February, 1999	37	51	12=100				
January, 1999	38	50	12=100				
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100				
November, 1998	41	48	11=100				
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100				
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100				
June, 1998	42	38	20=100				
May, 1998	40	41	19=100				
April, 1998	41	40	19=100				
March, 1998	43	39	18=100				

Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
June, 2006	32	50	18=100
March, 2006	34	46	20=100
January, 2006	34	48	18=100
Early November, 2005	36	44	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	48	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19=100
Early February, 2004	38	42	20=100
June, 2002	47	36	17=100
May, 2002	42	37	21=100
February, 2002	49	30	21=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

On a different subject...

Q.10 If the 2006 elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

IF ANSWERED '3' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW IN Q.10, ASK:

Q.10a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

	<u>Rep/ Lean Rep</u>	<u>Dem/ Lean Dem</u>	<u>Other/ Undecided</u>		<u>Rep/ Lean Rep</u>	<u>Dem/ Lean Dem</u>	<u>Other/ Undecided</u>
June, 2006	39	51	10=100	June, 1998	44	46	10=100
April, 2006	41	51	8=100	March, 1998	40	52	8=100
February, 2006	41	50	9=100	February, 1998	41	50	9=100
Mid-September, 2005	40	52	8=100	January, 1998	41	51	8=100
2004 Election				August, 1997	45	48	7=100
June, 2004	41	48	11=100	1996 Election			
2002 Election				November, 1996 ¹	44	48	8=100
Early November, 2002	42	46	12=100	October, 1996	42	49	9=100
Early October, 2002	44	46	10=100	Late September, 1996	43	49	8=100
Early September, 2002	44	46	10=100	Early September, 1996	43	51	6=100
June, 2002	44	46	10=100	July, 1996	46	47	7=100
February, 2002	46	45	9=100	June, 1996	44	50	6=100
Early November, 2001	44	44	12=100	March, 1996	44	49	7=100
2000 Election				January, 1996	46	47	7=100
Early November, 2000	42	48	10=100	October, 1995	48	48	4=100
Early October, 2000	43	47	10=100	August, 1995	50	43	7=100
July, 2000	43	47	10=100	1994 Election			
February, 2000	44	47	9=100	November, 1994	45	43	12=100
October, 1999	43	49	8=100	Late October, 1994	47	44	9=100
June, 1999	40	50	10=100	Early October, 1994	52	40	8=100
1998 Election				September, 1994	48	46	6=100
Late October, 1998	40	47	13=100	July, 1994	45	47	8=100
Early October, 1998	43	44	13=100				
Early September, 1998	45	46	9=100				
Late August, 1998	44	45	11=100				
Early August, 1998	42	49	9=100				

¹ November 1996 trend based on likely voters.

ASK ALL:

Q.11 What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress in your district – national issues, local or state issues, the candidate’s political party, or the candidate’s character or experience? **[IF MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Well, which is most important?]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

	National <u>Issues</u>	State/Local <u>Issues</u>	Political <u>Party</u>	Character/ <u>Experience</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
June, 2006	30	26	6	33	2	*	3=100
Early November, 2002	23	38	7	26	2	*	4=100
Early October, 2002	28	35	5	25	2	1	4=100
June, 2002	26	30	5	33	2	1	3=100
Early October, 2000	21	42	9	21	1	1	5=100
July, 2000	18	40	6	32	1	1	2=100
Late October, 1998	20	39	5	27	3	2	4=100
Early October, 1998	23	36	7	28	1	*	5=100
Early September, 1998	22	34	5	33	2	*	4=100
Early August, 1998	20	38	5	31	2	*	4=100
June, 1998	22	37	4	32	1	1	3=100
March, 1998	18	37	6	35	1	1	2=100
November, 1996	23	38	6	25	2	*	6=100
October, 1996	19	45	7	26	1	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	25	38	6	24	2	*	5=100
Early September, 1996	18	42	6	30	1	*	3=100
November, 1994	22	38	5	30	1	*	4=100
Late October, 1994	22	38	3	29	3	1	4=100
Early October, 1994	22	27	5	39	2	1	4=100
CBS/NYT: 10/24-28, 1986	22	25	6	40	1	1	5=100
CBS/NYT: 9/28-10/1, 1986	20	23	9	41	3	*	4=100

Q.12 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

	(VOL.)		(VOL.)
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Congressperson <u>not running</u> DK/Ref
June, 2006	51	32	1 16=100
April, 2006	57	28	1 14=100
February, 2006	59	28	1 12=100
Mid-September, 2005	57	25	1 17=100
Early October, 2002	58	19	2 21=100
June, 2002	58	23	1 18=100
Early November, 2000	59	16	2 23=100
October, 2000	60	17	1 22=100
July, 1999	66	23	* 11=100
Late October, 1998	64	19	1 16=100
Early October, 1998	58	20	2 20=100
Early September, 1998	63	20	1 16=100
March, 1998	63	21	1 15=100
January, 1998	66	23	0 11=100
August, 1997	66	22	0 12=100

Q.12 CONTINUED...

	(VOL.)			(VOL)
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Congressperson <u>not running</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21=100
October, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26=100
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
November, 1994	58	25	1	16=100
Late October, 1994	55	30	2	13=100
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	62	22	2	14=100

Q.13 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2006	29	57	14=100
April, 2006	34	53	13=100
February, 2006	36	49	15=100
September, 2005	36	48	16=100
Early October, 2002	39	38	23=100
June, 2002	45	37	18=100
October, 2000	40	34	26=100
July, 1999	41	47	12=100
Late October, 1998	41	37	22=100
Early October, 1998	39	39	22=100
Early September, 1998	46	37	17=100
March, 1998	45	41	14=100
January, 1998	44	43	13=100
August, 1997	45	42	13=100
Early September, 1996	43	43	14=100
November, 1994	31	51	18=100
Late October, 1994	31	56	13=100
Early October, 1994	28	56	16=100

Q.14 Thinking about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

		<i>Gallup</i>		
		June	June	Oct
		<u>2002</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1994</u>
38	More	41	38	34
40	Less	33	45	44
18	Same (VOL)	23	15	20
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.15 Will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote for Congress this year, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

	Yes, will be <u>a factor</u>	No, <u>will not</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2006	58	39	3=100
April, 2006	56	39	5=100
June, 2004	43	51	6=100
Early November, 2002	48	49	3=100
Early October, 2002	42	55	3=100
Early September, 2002	44	51	5=100
June, 2002	47	50	3=100
February, 2002	46	49	5=100
Early October, 2000	46	50	4=100
July, 2000	46	49	5=100
Late October, 1998	46	50	4=100
Early October, 1998	47	49	4=100
Early September, 1998	41	56	3=100
Early August, 1998	44	53	3=100
June, 1998	45	51	4=100

NO QUESTION 16

Q.17 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote FOR George W. Bush, as a vote AGAINST George W. Bush, or isn't George W. Bush much of a factor in your vote?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	Not a <u>factor</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
June, 2006	15	38	44	3=100
April, 2006	17	34	46	3=100
February, 2006	18	31	47	4=100
Early November, 2002	29	16	49	6=100
Early October, 2002	30	20	44	6=100
Early September, 2002	29	15	51	5=100
February, 2002	34	9	50	7=100
Clinton: Late October, 1998	20	17	58	5=100
Clinton: Early October, 1998	19	23	52	6=100
Clinton: Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3=100
Clinton: Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2=100
Clinton: Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4=100
Clinton: June, 1998	20	18	57	5=100
Clinton: March, 1998	21	15	59	5=100
Clinton: Early September, 1996	24	18	51	7=100
Clinton: November, 1994	17	21	55	7=100
Clinton: Late October, 1994	17	21	57	5=100
Clinton: Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6=100
CBS/NYT Bush: 10/28-31, 1990	19	15	61	6=100
CBS/NYT Reagan: 10/24-28, 1986	26	12	55	7=100
CBS/NYT Reagan: 9/28-10/1, 1986	26	16	51	7=100
CBS/NYT Reagan: 10/23-28, 1982	23	21	51	5=100

On another subject...

Q.18 Compared to recent Congresses, would you say THIS Congress has accomplished more, accomplished less, or accomplished about the same amount?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

		Early					Early	Early	Early	Gallup		
		April	Nov	June	July	Aug	Oct	Sept	Aug	Nov	April	Oct
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1994</u>
7	More	7	11	16	21	13	24	24	18	25	10	9
45	Less	41	27	22	16	23	23	17	15	13	24	38
42	Same	47	54	57	56	60	49	55	62	59	58	50
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Ref.	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK IF "LESS" – (2 IN Q.18) [N=557]:

Q.19 Who do you think is most to blame for this [READ AND ROTATE]?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

April 2006

56	Republican leaders in Congress	56
17	Democratic leaders in Congress	14
24	Both/Neither/Someone else (VOL)	26
<u>3</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL)	<u>4</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.20 As I name some issues that are in the news these days, please tell me how important the issue is to you personally. First, is [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE – OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] an issue that is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to you? ... How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY "Is [ITEM] very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important to you personally?]

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

		<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>DK/</u>
		<u>important</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a.	The nation's economy	80	17	1	1	1=100
b.	The situation in Iraq	74	20	2	2	2=100
c.	Immigration	58	29	7	5	1=100
d.	Gay marriage	34	17	12	33	4=100
e.	Global warming	44	31	10	11	4=100

BASED ON FORM 1 REGISTERED VOTERS [N=588]:

f.F1	Terrorism and homeland security	74	19	4	2	1=100
g.F1	A Constitutional amendment to ban flag burning	49	18	10	22	1=100
h.F1	The federal budget deficit	56	30	8	4	2=100
i.F1	Education	82	15	2	1	*=100

Q.20 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
j.F1 The job situation	66	23	6	4	1=100
k.F1 Environmental policy	52	36	8	3	1=100
l.F1 Eliminating the inheritance tax	44	25	13	13	5=100
BASED ON FORM 2 REGISTERED VOTERS [N=627]:					
m.F2 Government surveillance programs in the U.S.	44	29	13	11	3=100
n.F2 Abortion	43	26	12	15	4=100
o.F2 Health care	79	16	4	1	*=100
p.F2 Taxes	68	23	6	2	1=100
q.F2 Social Security	75	21	3	1	*=100
r.F2 Energy policy	64	29	3	2	2=100
s.F2 Increasing the minimum wage	52	26	14	8	*=100

QUESTIONS 28-29 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.37 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	----- FAVOR -----			----- OPPOSE -----			Don't <u>know</u>
	<u>Net</u>	<u>Strongly Favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>Strongly Oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
June, 2006	33	13	20	55	32	23	12=100
March, 2006	39	10	29	51	28	23	10=100
July, 2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11=100
December, 2004	32	14	18	61	38	23	7=100
August, 2004	29	8	21	60	35	25	11=100
July, 2004	32	10	22	56	33	23	12=100
March, 2004	32	10	22	59	35	24	9=100
Early February, 2004	30	9	21	63	42	21	7=100
November, 2003	30	10	20	62	41	21	8=100
October, 2003	31	9	21	58	33	25	12=100
Mid-July, 2003	38	10	28	53	30	23	9=100
March, 2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8=100
June, 1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8=100

IF OPPOSE GAY MARRIAGE (3,4 IN Q.37), ASK:

Q.38 There has been a proposal to change the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage. Do you think amending the Constitution to ban gay marriage is a good idea, or a bad idea?

		July <u>2005</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	July <u>2004</u>	March <u>2004</u>
33	Favor	36	29	32	32
55	Oppose	53	60	56	59
33	Good idea / Pro-Constitutional amendment	29	35	31	36
19	Bad idea / Anti-Constitutional amendment	22	22	22	21
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	3	3	2
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.39 Congress is currently debating immigration policy. Which of these proposals do you favor? (READ AND ROTATE; READ RESPONSE NUMBER TO CLARIFY OPTIONS)

40	Focusing MOSTLY on strong border protection and stiffer penalties on people who enter the U.S. illegally
	OR
56	Increasing border protection and ALSO creating a way for some illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

QUESTIONS 41-45 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL) Other <u>Party</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
June, 2006	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
April, 2006	29	32	33	3	*	3=100
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100
December, 2005	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
Late November, 2005	27	34	29	5	1	4=100
Early November, 2005	28	34	31	5	*	2=100
Late October, 2005	29	33	31	5	*	2=100
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	*	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100

PARTY CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL) Other <u>Party</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
<i>Yearly Totals</i>						
2005	30	33	31	4	*	2=100
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100
				No Preference/		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Other/DK</u>		
1996	29	33	33	5=100		
1995	32	30	34	4=100		
1994	30	32	34	4=100		
1993	27	34	34	5=100		
1992	28	33	35	4=100		
1991	31	32	33	4=100		
1990	31	33	30	6=100		
1989	33	33	34=100			
1987	26	35	39=100			

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	Refused <u>to lean</u>
June, 2006	10	16	11=37%
April, 2006	12	17	10=39%
March, 2006	11	14	13=38%
February, 2006	11	16	10=37%
January, 2006	10	16	14=40%
December, 2005	10	16	11=37%
Late November, 2005	9	13	17=39%
Early November, 2005	11	14	13=38%
Late October, 2005	11	15	12=38%
Early October, 2005	11	18	11=40%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 6-7, 2005	10	15	15=40%
July, 2005	9	15	11=35%
June, 2005	10	16	12=38%
Mid-May, 2005	9	13	14=36%
Late March, 2005	13	17	9=39%
December, 2004	14	12	9=35%
August, 2003	12	16	14=42%
August, 2002	12	13	13=38%
September, 2000	11	13	15=39%
Late September, 1999	14	15	16=45%
August, 1999	15	15	12=42%

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

Q.68 How good a job is the Republican Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values — would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS/REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=618]:

									(RVs)	
		April	Mid- Sept	Late March	July	Aug	May	May	Sept	
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	
6	Excellent	6	4	8	12	6	6	10	6	
36	Good	41	44	43	49	51	49	50	43	
44	Only fair	41	41	36	33	37	38	32	44	
10	Poor	10	8	9	4	5	5	5	5	
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Ref. (VOL)	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):

Q.69 How good a job is the Democratic Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people — would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

BASED ON DEMOCRATS/DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=728]:

									(RVs)	
		April	Mid- Sept	Late March	July	Aug	May	May	Sept	
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	
4	Excellent	5	3	3	6	5	5	8	11	
30	Good	35	32	30	43	33	39	39	52	
51	Only fair	48	49	51	40	51	43	40	32	
13	Poor	11	14	14	8	9	10	7	4	
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

ASK IF REPUBLICAN OR LEAN REPUBLICAN (1 IN PARTY OR 1 IN PARTYLN) [N=618]:

Q.70 Thinking about this year's congressional elections, do you think the Republican Party will do better, worse, or about the same as it has in recent elections?

		Feb	Dec
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
19	Better	23	17
18	Worse	17	20
58	About the same	56	55
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100

ASK IF DEMOCRAT OR LEAN DEMOCRAT (2 IN PARTY OR 2 IN PARTYLN) [N=728]:

Q.71 Thinking about this year's congressional elections, do you think the Democratic Party will do better, worse, or about the same as it has in recent elections?

		Feb	Dec
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
59	Better	64	62
2	Worse	2	1
35	About the same	28	31
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100