

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE PRESS
LATE OCTOBER 2002 NII OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
October 17 - 27, 2002
N=1751

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
August, 2002	67	21	12=100
Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
July, 2002	67	21	12=100
June, 2002	70	20	10=100
April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
February, 2002	78	13	9=100
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

Q.2 Now I will read a list of some things that have been in the news this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002 ¹	48	29	15	6	2=100

¹ In Early September 2002 the question was worded, "...U.S. will invade Iraq."

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
b.	News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district					
	BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1305]:					
	Late October, 2002	28	34	24	13	1=100
	Early October, 2002	21	46	22	10	1=100
	Early September, 2002	20	34	29	16	1=100
	Late October, 1998	26	45	20	9	*=100
	Early October, 1998	21	43	24	11	1=100
	Early September, 1998	20	35	28	17	*=100
	Early August, 1998	16	35	25	24	*=100
	June, 1998	12	31	32	25	*=100
	April, 1998 ²	19	37	23	21	*=100
	November, 1994	23	49	21	7	*=100
	October, 1994	18	43	28	10	1=100
	Early October, 1994	28	37	21	14	*=100
	September, 1994	22	37	28	13	*=100
	November, 1990 ³	44	36	13	7	*=100
	October, 1990 ⁴	18	32	28	22	*=100
c.	Sniper shootings near Washington D.C.	65	26	6	3	*=100
d.	The terrorist bombing of a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia	20	34	25	20	1=100
e.	North Korea's admission that it has been secretly developing nuclear weapons	25	31	23	20	1=100

Q.3 Next, please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of...**[INSERT ITEM]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1305]:

		<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>(VOL.) Both Equally</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a.	Dealing with the economy	37	40	5	6	12=100
	Early October, 2002	37	41	4	5	13=100
	Early September, 2002	37	37	9	6	11=100
	January, 2002	45	33	--	5	17=100
	May, 2001 ⁵	33	46	8	4	9=100
	June, 1999	35	45	9	3	8=100
	March, 1999	39	45	5	3	8=100
	Early September, 1998	41	37	9	4	9=100
	March, 1998	39	41	13	3	4=100
	October, 1994	46	33	5	6	10=100
	October, 1992 ⁶	36	45	10	0	9=100
	October, 1990 ⁷	37	35	0	0	28=100

² In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state."

³ In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

⁴ October 1990 trend based on total respondents.

⁵ Trend was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous?"

⁶ Gallup poll conducted Oct. 23-25, 1992 based on registered voters.

⁷ Gallup poll conducted Oct 25-28, 1990, based on general population.

Q.3 CONTINUED ...

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u> <u>Equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
b.	Making wise decisions about what to do in Iraq	42	33	6	6	13=100
	Early October, 2002	46	30	7	4	13=100
c.	Dealing with the terrorist threat at home	44	27	11	6	12=100
	Early October, 2002	44	28	7	5	16=100
	Early September, 2002	45	23	14	6	12=100
	January, 2002	50	16	--	6	28=100
d.	Reflecting your views about gun control	36	38	5	5	16=100
	April, 2000 ⁸	31	40	4	7	18=100
	June, 1999	34	42	4	9	11=100
	Gen. Public: Dec. 1993	32	42	--	8	18=100
e.	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	31	42	6	9	12=100
	Early September, 2002	31	39	8	10	12=100
	January, 2002	30	41	--	6	23=100
	May, 2001 ⁹	36	43	6	6	9=100
	January, 2001	37	45	--	7	11=100
	June, 1999	35	39	5	9	12=100
	January, 1999	28	47	--	7	18=100
	Early September, 1998	37	41	8	6	8=100
	May, 1990	30	42	--	16	12=100

On another subject...

Q.4 Would you favor or oppose taking military action in Iraq to end Saddam Hussein's rule?

IF FAVOR ATTACK ("1" IN Q.4), ASK:

Q.5 Should we attack Iraq only if our major allies agree to join us, or attack Iraq even if allies do not want to join us?

		Early Oct 2002	Mid- Sept 2002	Late Aug 2002	----- Gallup ¹⁰ -----				
					June 2002	Nov 2001	Feb 2001	June 1993	March 1992
55	Favor	62	64	64	59	74	52	70	55
27	Even if allies won't join	--	33	30	--	--	--	--	--
23	Only if allies agree	--	25	30	--	--	--	--	--
5	Don't know/Refused	--	6	4	--	--	--	--	--
34	Oppose	28	23	21	34	20	42	27	40
11	Don't know/Refused	10	13	15	7	6	6	3	5
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

⁸ In April 2000, this item was not asked as part of a series.

⁹ For May 2001, June 1999, Early September 1998 and May 1990, the question was worded, "Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job in each of the following areas ... keeping Social Security financially sound?"

¹⁰ Gallup trend was worded "Would you favor or oppose sending American troops back to the Persian Gulf in order to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq?"

ASK ALL:

Q.6 Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly what's at stake as to why the U.S. might use military force to end the rule of Saddam Hussein, or do you think he has not explained the reasons clearly enough?

		Mid-Sept <u>2002</u>	Late Aug <u>2002</u>	<i>New York Times</i> <u>Aug 1990</u> ¹¹
48	Explained clearly	52	37	50
45	Not clearly	37	52	41
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.7 In your view, has there been too much, too little, or the right amount of discussion of ways to deal with Saddam Hussein other than using military force?

16	Too much
50	Too little
25	Right amount
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.8 Thinking about a possible war with Iraq, how worried are you that **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]** – a great deal, a fair amount, or not much? ... How worried are you that **[INSERT NEXT ITEM, REPEAT RESPONSE CATEGORIES FOR EACH ITEM]**?¹²

		<u>A Great Deal</u>	<u>A Fair Amount</u>	<u>Not Much</u>	<u>DK/ Ref.</u>
a.	U.S. forces might sustain a lot of casualties Late January, 1991	52 57	28 30	18 12	2=100 1=100
b.	Iraq might use biological or chemical weapons against U.S. troops	59	26	13	2=100
c.	Many Iraqi civilians might be killed Late January, 1991	40 33	30 35	27 28	3=100 4=100
d.	This might increase the chances of a terrorist attack within the U.S. Late January, 1991 ¹³	51 33	26 38	20 28	3=100 1=100
e.	It will take a long time to make Iraq a stable and peaceful country after the war	43	25	27	5=100
f.	It might lead to an all-out war in the Middle East	46	27	25	2=100

¹¹ New York Times trend was worded “Do you think George Bush has explained clearly what’s at stake and why the U.S. is sending troops to Saudi Arabia, or do you think ...”

¹² Trend questions were asked after the onset of the Gulf War in 1991.

¹³ In 1991 the item was “terrorists might strike within the U.S.”