

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2006 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
February 1-5, 2006
N = 1,502

QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 6 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

Q.7 Which is more important to you: that the government be able to censor news stories it feels threaten national security OR that the news media be able to report stories they feel are in the national interest?

	Feb <u>2003</u>	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	March <u>1991</u>	Aug <u>1989</u>	June <u>1985</u>	Oct <u>1985</u>
34 Government able to censor	42	53	58	40	44	38
56 News media able to report	50	39	32	52	38	50
5 Both equal (VOL)	2	4	5	5	9	6
<u>5</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.8 Now thinking about some groups and organizations ... Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Rate</u>
a.	The Republican Party	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6=100
	Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9=100
	July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9=100
	June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8=100
	December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6=100
	June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9=100
	Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6=100
	June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9=100
	April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6=100
	December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8=100
	July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10=100
	January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7=100
	August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4=100
	February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5=100
	January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6=100
	Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6=100
	Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7=100
	March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7=100
	August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6=100
	June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6=100
	January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5=100
	October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4=100
	December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6=100
	July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4=100
	May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11=100
	July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6=100
b.	The Democratic Party	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8=100
	Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10=100

Q.8 CONTINUED...

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Rate</u>
	July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9=100
	June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9=100
	December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6=100
	June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10=100
	Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5=100
	June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8=100
	April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7=100
	December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9=100
	July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8=100
	January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5=100
	August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4=100
	February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5=100
	January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7=100
	March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6=100
	August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6=100
	June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6=100
	January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5=100
	October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3=100
	December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6=100
	July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4=100
	May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9=100
	July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6=100
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=757]:									
c.F1	The news media	59	12	47	37	10	27	0	4=100
	Late October, 2005	52	11	41	42	13	29	0	6=100
	Mid-March, 2005	56	12	44	40	13	27	0	4=100
	December, 2004	43	8	35	51	18	33	*	6=100
	Late October, 2000 (RVs)	50	7	43	45	14	31	0	5=100
	February, 1999	49	6	43	49	15	34	0	2=100
	March, 1998	48	9	39	50	16	34	*	2=100
	October, 1997	50	7	43	48	14	34	*	2=100
d.F1	The federal government in Washington	43	6	37	50	16	34	*	7=100
	December, 2005	46	7	39	49	18	31	*	5=100
	Late October, 2005	45	6	39	48	16	32	*	7=100
	February, 2004	59	10	49	36	11	25	*	5=100
	April, 2003	73	14	59	22	5	17	0	5=100
	December, 2002	64	11	53	27	7	20	*	9=100
	Mid-November, 2001	82	17	65	15	3	12	0	3=100
	Late October, 2000 (RVs)	54	7	47	40	10	30	*	6=100
	October, 1997	38	4	34	59	18	41	0	3=100
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=745]:									
e.F2	Congress	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9=100
	Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10=100
	July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11=100
	June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11=100
	June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11=100

Q.8 CONTINUED...

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Rate</u>
	July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11=100
	March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7=100
	January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7=100
	August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3=100
	June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5=100
	February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4=100
	January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5=100
	Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7=100
	October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3=100
	August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6=100
	June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6=100
	May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9=100
	February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8=100
	January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4=100
	June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5=100
	April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5=100
	January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4=100
	October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3=100
	August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7=100
	June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5=100
	February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9=100
	July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4=100
	May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9=100
	November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6=100
	March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8=100
	May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6=100
	May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8=100
	January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7=100
	May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6=100
	January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10=100
	June, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7=100
f.F2	The Supreme Court	60	16	44	28	10	18	*	12=100
	Late October, 2005	62	12	50	27	10	17	*	11=100
	July, 2005	61	12	49	28	10	18	*	11=100
	June, 2005	57	8	49	30	8	22	*	13=100
	July, 2001	70	15	55	20	6	14	*	10=100
	March, 2001	72	15	57	20	5	15	*	8=100
	January, 2001	68	18	50	21	8	13	1	10=100
	October, 1997	77	13	64	18	6	12	*	5=100
	May, 1997	72	16	56	22	5	17	0	6=100
	July, 1994	80	18	62	16	3	13	*	4=100
	May, 1993	73	17	56	18	4	14	0	9=100
	November, 1991	72	18	54	21	5	16	0	7=100
	May, 1990	65	10	55	25	7	18	1	9=100
	January, 1988	79	14	65	13	2	11	*	8=100
	May, 1987	76	13	63	17	2	15	*	7=100
Roper:	March 1985	64	17	47	28	7	21		8=100

NO QUESTIONS 9 OR 10

ASK ALL:

Q.11 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.11, ASK:

Q.11a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1269]:

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

¹ November 1996 trend based on likely voters.

ASK ALL:

Thinking ahead...

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=1269]:

	(VOL.)			
	Congressperson			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not running</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
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
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
October, 1994	55	30	2	13=100
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20=100
Gallup: 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=1269]:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
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	36	18=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 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=1269]:

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	Not a <u>Factor</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
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

NO QUESTIONS 15-19

Q.20 Do you think [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE – OBSERVE FORM SPLIT] in this country works pretty well and requires only MINOR CHANGES, do you think it needs MAJOR CHANGES, or do you think it needs to be COMPLETELY REBUILT?

	<u>Works pretty well/ Only minor changes</u>	<u>Major changes</u>	<u>Completely Rebuilt</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
a. The health care system	20	46	32	2=100
January, 2005	27	50	21	2=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=757]:

b.F1 The tax system	35	39	22	4=100
January, 2005	50	29	17	4=100

d.F1 The Social Security system	35	36	26	3=100
January, 2005	47	34	15	4=100

e.F1 The legal system	43	34	19	4=100
January, 2005	44	37	15	4=100

g.F1 Immigration policy	23	41	27	9=100
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ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=745]:

c.F2 The education system	35	45	16	4=100
January, 2005	36	45	17	2=100

f.F2 The criminal justice system	36	41	20	3=100
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Q.20 CONTINUED...

		<u>Works pretty well/ Only minor changes</u>	<u>Major changes</u>	<u>Completely Rebuilt</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
h.F2	The Medicare system	26	42	28	4=100
i.F2	The Homeland Security system	39	36	19	6=100

ASK ALL:

Thinking more generally...

Q.21 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	<u>Just About Always</u>	<u>Most of the Time</u>	<u>Only Sometimes</u>	(VOL) <u>Never</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref.</u>
February, 2006	4	30	59	6	1=100
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	63	4	2=100
Mid-March, 2004	4	32	59	4	1=100
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1=100
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2=100
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1=100
November, 1998	4	22	61	11	2=100
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1=100
November, 1997	2	36	60	2	*=100
<i>NES</i> ² 1996	2	25	70	2	1=100
1994	2	19	74	3	2=100
1992	3	26	68	2	1=100
1990	3	25	69	2	1=100
1988	4	37	56	2	1=100
1986	3	35	58	2	2=100
1984	4	40	53	1	2=100
1982	2	31	62	2	3=100
1980	2	23	69	4	2=100
1978	2	27	64	4	3=100
1976	4	30	62	1	3=100
1974	2	34	61	1	2=100
1972	5	48	44	1	2=100
1970	7	47	44	*	2=100
1968	7	54	37	*	2=100
1966	17	48	28	3	4=100
1964	14	62	22	*	2=100
1958	16	57	23	0	4=100

NO QUESTION 22

² Trend numbers for 1958 through 1996 are from the American National Election Studies.

Q.23 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; RANDOMIZE – OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**³

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) Neither	Don't
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Know</u>
a.	Dealing with the economy	36	46	5	5	8=100
	Mid-September, 2005	38	44	5	7	6=100
	July, 2004	34	46	5	5	10=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	37	40	5	6	12=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	37	41	4	5	13=100
	Early September, 2002	36	36	9	6	13=100
	January, 2002	43	34	--	5	18=100
	May, 2001 ⁴	33	44	8	5	10=100
	June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9=100
	March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9=100
	Early September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10=100
	March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5=100
	October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10=100
	Gallup: October, 1992 (RVs)	36	45	10	--	9=100
	Gallup: October, 1990	37	35	--	--	28=100
b.	Reforming the U.S. health care system	27	49	6	9	9=100
	Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7=100
	July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13=100
	Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15=100
	January, 2002 ⁵	20	45	--	6	29=100
	January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16=100
	January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22=100
	Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12=100
	March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8=100
	October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10=100
	July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8=100
	December, 1993	25	47	--	10	18=100
	January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15=100
	May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14=100
c.	Dealing with the nation's energy problems	32	45	6	7	10=100
	Mid-September, 2005	31	44	6	8	11=100
	May, 2001	36	34	10	7	13=100
d.	Reforming government in Washington	29	42	7	12	10=100
	March, 1998 ⁶	37	35	8	10	10=100
	July, 1994	39	40	3	11	7=100

³ In January 1999, January 2001, January 2002, and May 2002, the question was worded: "Please tell me which party you think has the best ideas... the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?"

⁴ In May 2001 and earlier, the item was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous?"

⁵ From 1999 to 2002, the item was listed as "...regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans." In December 1993 question was worded "Reforming health care." In January 1992 and May 1990 the question was worded "improving health care in the U.S."

⁶ In March 1998 and July 1994 the item was worded "reforming government."

Q.23 CONTINUED...

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) Neither	Don't
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Know</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=757]:						
e.F1	Making wise decisions about what to do in Iraq	38	41	3	8	10=100
	Mid-September, 2005	38	43	5	6	8=100
	July, 2004	38	40	4	6	12=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	42	33	6	6	13=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	46	30	7	4	13=100
f.F1	Protecting the environment	24	56	6	5	9=100
	Mid-September, 2005	28	51	5	7	9=100
	July, 2004	24	51	5	6	14=100
	Early September, 2002	25	46	9	6	14=100
	May, 2001	25	51	7	4	13=100
	June, 1999	27	45	7	5	16=100
	Early September, 1998	25	51	8	4	12=100
	March, 1998	22	56	8	5	9=100
	July, 1994	28	56	4	4	8=100
	December, 1993	22	46	--	12	20=100
	May, 1990	24	40	--	19	17=100
g.F1	Dealing with taxes	35	46	5	6	8=100
	May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9=100
	June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12=100
	September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10=100
	March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8=100
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9=100
h.F1	Reducing crime	37	30	8	10	15=100
	September, 2002	35	26	14	10	15=100
	June, 1999	35	35	12	6	12=100
	Early September, 1998	39	32	10	7	12=100
	March, 1998	35	34	11	10	10=100
	October, 1994	38	34	7	10	11=100
	December, 1993	29	35	--	17	19=100
	January, 1992	32	32	--	18	18=100
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=745]:						
i.F2	Dealing with the terrorist threat at home	46	30	8	7	9=100
	Mid-September, 2005	45	34	7	6	8=100
	July, 2004	45	30	6	6	13=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	44	27	11	6	12=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	44	28	7	5	16=100
	Early September, 2002	44	22	14	6	14=100
	January, 2002	48	18	--	6	28=100
j.F2	Improving the educational system	33	44	8	7	8=100
	Mid-September, 2005	35	44	6	7	8=100
	July, 2004	29	45	7	7	12=100
	January, 2002	37	34	--	6	23=100
	May, 2001	36	38	11	6	9=100
	January, 2001	40	41	--	7	12=100
	June, 1999	29	52	7	5	7=100
	March, 1999	33	46	6	5	10=100

Q.23 CONTINUED...

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both Equally	(VOL.) Neither	Don't Know
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>			
	January, 1999	26	46	--	7	21=100
	Early September, 1998	34	42	10	4	10=100
	March, 1998	29	49	10	5	7=100
	July, 1994	37	46	4	5	8=100
	January, 1992	28	48	--	10	14=100
	May, 1990	30	42	--	14	14=100
k.F2	Reducing the federal budget deficit	33	45	6	9	7=100
	Early October, 2005 ⁷	29	47	6	10	8=100
	June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9=100
	July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7=100
	December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15=100
l.F2	Dealing with immigration	34	38	8	9	11=100

ASK ALL:

Q.24 In your view, does the [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] or the [NEXT ITEM] have better political leaders?

41 Republican Party
 37 Democratic Party
 5 Both equally (VOL.)
 8 Neither (VOL.)
 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=757]:

Q.25F1 Thinking about the Democratic Party, who do YOU think of as the leader of the Democratic Party these days? days? Is it... [RANDOMIZE; READ ALL BEFORE RECORDING RESPONSE]?

2 Joseph Biden
 14 Bill Clinton
 26 Hillary Clinton
 4 Howard Dean
 4 John Edwards
 4 Al Gore
 12 John Kerry
 3 Barack Obama
 3 Nancy Pelosi [OR]
 1 Harry Reid
 5 (VOL. DO NOT READ) Other
 8 (VOL. DO NOT READ) Nobody is
 14 (VOL. DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
 100

⁷ In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the question was worded "keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the question was worded "reducing the budget deficit."

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Who do YOU now think of as the leader of the Democratic Party... (**READ AND ROTATE**)?

Jan	
<u>2002</u>	
14	Bill Clinton
15	Al Gore
10	Joseph Lieberman
9	Dick Gephardt [OR]
29	Tom Daschle
1	Other (VOL)
3	Nobody is (VOL)
<u>19</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=745]:

Q.26F2 Thinking about the Democratic Party, who do YOU think of as the leader of the Democratic Party these days? [**SINGLE RESPONSE, DO NOT READ OPTIONS. USE PRECODES AS APPROPRIATE; ACCEPT ONLY ONE RESPONSE.**]

3	Joseph Biden
11	Bill Clinton
15	Hillary Clinton
3	Howard Dean
2	John Edwards
1	Al Gore
8	John Kerry
4	Barack Obama
1	Nancy Pelosi [OR]
1	Harry Reid
8	Other
13	Nobody is
<u>30</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.27 Do you think recent reports of lobbyists bribing members of Congress are isolated incidents of corruption, or do you think this kind of behavior is common in Congress?

		Jan
		<u>2006</u>
13	Isolated incidents	11
81	Common behavior	81
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100		100

IF FORM 2 AND 'COMMON BEHAVIOR' (2 IN Q.27) ASK [N=616]:

Q.28F2 When you say this is common, do you mean that members are trading specific votes on legislation for money and personal favors, or that they just pay more attention to those who give them campaign donations?

36	Trading specific votes for money
47	Just more likely to listen
13	Both (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.29 Do you think that YOUR member of Congress has taken bribes from lobbyists, or not?

BASED ON FORM 1 ONLY [N=757]:

41 Yes
35 No
24 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.30 Do you think bribery and corruption in Congress is more common now than it used to be, or no different from the past?

36 More common now
60 No different from the past
4 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.31 Is the [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] or the [NEXT ITEM], more involved in corruption and bribery in Congress?

31 Republican Party
14 Democratic Party
34 Both equally (VOL.)
4 Neither (VOL.)
17 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100

QUESTIONS 32 THROUGH 38 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

QUESTIONS 39 THROUGH 46 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

QUESTION 47 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

QUESTIONS 48 THROUGH 67 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

ASK ALL:

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>
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
Mid-May, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Late March, 2005	29	32	36	2	*	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
February, 2005	31	32	30	4	1	2=100
January, 2005	32	33	30	4	*	1=100
December, 2004	31	34	30	3	*	2=100

Yearly Totals

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
<i>2001 Post-Sept 11</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>2001 Pre-Sept 11</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>2=100</i>
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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No Preference/ <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

	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Independent/ No Pref/Oth/DK</u>
1989	33	33	34=100
1987	26	35	39=100

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY [N=538] 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>	<u>Refused to lean</u>
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 IF REPUBLICAN OR LEAN REPUBLICAN (1 IN PARTY OR 1 IN PARTYLN) [N=641]:

Q.68 Thinking about next year's congressional elections, do you think the Republican Party will do better, worse, or about the same as it has in recent elections?

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

ASK IF DEMOCRAT OR LEAN DEMOCRAT (2 IN PARTY OR 2 IN PARTYLN) [N=726]:

Q.69 Thinking about next year's congressional elections, do you think the Democratic Party will do better, worse, or about the same as it has in recent elections?

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