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FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2005, 4:00 P.M.

Bush Approval Rating Lower Than For Other Two-Termers
PUBLIC'S AGENDA DIFFERS FROM PRESIDENT'S

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Bush Approval Rating Lower Than For Other Two-Termers
PUBLIC’S AGENDA DIFFERS FROM PRESIDENT’S

George W. Bush begins his second term with considerably less popular support than other recent incumbent presidents after their reelection. He also is proposing a second-term policy agenda that differs in several key respects from the public’s. Health care, aid for the poor, and the growing budget deficit are all increasingly important public priorities, while limiting lawsuit awards, making recent tax cuts permanent and tax simplification rank near the bottom of the public’s agenda.

Social Security, which the White House has targeted as a major issue, ranks near the top of the public’s policy agenda, with 70% identifying it as a top priority. But the public believes that the health care system currently is in greater need of repair than Social Security, the tax system or the legal system – all of which are expected to be the subject of administration initiatives.

Health Care System Most In Need Of Repair			
	Major Changes/ Completely Rebuilt	Works pretty well, only minor changes	DK
	%	%	%
Health care system	71	27	2=100
Education system	62	36	2=100
Legal system	52	44	4=100
Social Security	49	47	4=100
Tax system	46	50	4=100

Nearly half of Americans (47%) believe the Social Security system now works pretty well and needs only minor changes, with comparable percentages of Republicans and Democrats in agreement on that point. That compares with just 27% who believe that the health care system works fairly well and 36% who say the same about the education system.

In principle, Americans are open to the idea of introducing private accounts into the Social Security system. But in practice, the public believes it is more important to retain a guaranteed monthly Social Security benefit than it is to let younger workers invest in private accounts whose value would rise or fall depending on how their investments perform. The preference for a guaranteed Social Security benefit has grown since the end of the 1990s stock market boom – 65% prefer retaining a guaranteed monthly benefit, compared with 54% in October 2000.

Second-Term Approval Ratings (1957-2005)		
	App- rove %	Dis- approve %
Bush (Jan 2005)	50	43
Clinton (Jan 1997)	59	31
Reagan (Jan 1985)	62	29
Nixon (Dec 1972)	59	30
Johnson (Jan 1965)	71	15
Eisenhower (Jan 1957)	73	14

* 1957-1985 results from Gallup Poll

The latest survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 5-9 among 1,503 Americans, finds a yawning partisan gap in public policy priorities and in perceptions of President Bush. Overall, half of Americans approve of the president’s job performance while 43%

disapprove. This is well below the approval ratings enjoyed by Presidents Eisenhower, Nixon, Reagan and Clinton as they began their second term. Bush's lower ranking results from greater disapproval among members of the opposing party than was the case for his reelected predecessors. However, Bush continues to draw an extremely high level of support from the GOP base. Bush's approval rating among his own party (89%) is just as high as his predecessors at the start of their second terms.

Looking ahead, the public believes that the military, business corporations and conservative Christians will gain influence in Bush's second term. Among those expected to lose influence in Washington, poor people clearly stand out; 49% believe the influence of poor people will decline, compared with 40% who expressed that view at the start of Bush's first term. Environmentalists, union leaders, and, significantly, older people also are expected to lose influence. In addition, about a third of Americans (34%) say that people like them will have less influence, up from 26% who said that four years ago.

Pew's annual assessment of the public's policy priorities reflects the continuing re-emergence of several domestic objectives – particularly the need to provide health insurance for the uninsured and deal with the problems of the poor – which had faded in importance after the 9/11 terrorism attacks. The deficit also is a growing concern; 56% cite reducing the budget deficit as a top policy priority, up from 40% just two years ago.

Second-Term Winners and Losers			
	<i>In 2nd term, group will...</i>		
	<u>Gain</u>	<u>Lose</u>	<u>Not be</u>
	<u>influence</u>	<u>influence</u>	<u>affected/DK</u>
The military	63	13	24=100
January, 2001	72	4	24=100
Business corporations	56	9	35=100
January, 2001	66	9	25=100
Conservative Christians	54	11	35=100
January, 2001	51	11	38=100
Washington lobbyists	40	14	46=100
January, 2001	35	17	48=100
Hispanics	39	24	37=100
January, 2001	--	--	--
Older people	29	40	31=100
January, 2001	46	26	28=100
Blacks	26	31	43=100
January, 2001	30	29	41=100
People like yourself	22	34	44=100
January, 2001	35	26	39=100
Poor people	20	49	31=100
January, 2001	29	40	31=100
Union leaders	18	38	44=100
January, 2001	26	38	36=100
Environmentalists	18	44	38=100
January, 2001	24	40	36=100

As was the case last year, defending the country against terrorism and strengthening the economy are viewed as the top priorities facing the president and Congress. But there are substantial partisan divisions behind these figures. Among Republicans, defending against terrorist

attacks is cited as a top priority far more than any other issue, but fewer Democrats (66%) say the same, placing it well below improving the economy, expanding health insurance, improving education, and securing Medicare and Social Security for the future.

Top Domestic Priorities		
<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Independents</u>
84% Terror defenses	82% Economy	74% Terror defenses
66% Economy	81% Health insurance	74% Economy
65% Soc. Security	76% Medicare	73% Jobs
62% Education	74% Education	68% Education
62% Military	73% Soc. Security	68% Soc. Security

In the wake of the contentious presidential campaign, the public expects an even greater level of partisanship in Washington in the year ahead. Roughly six-in-ten (59%) think Democrats and Republicans will oppose each other more than usual, while just 30% believe the two parties will work together. As a point of reference, somewhat more Americans (41%) predicted partisan cooperation at the start of Bush’s first term.

While the economy and terrorism lead the public’s policy agenda, a plurality of Americans (32%) volunteer the war in Iraq as the biggest problem facing the country. As Pew surveys found throughout the presidential campaign, Iraq has propelled foreign policy and defense issues past the economy among the public’s concerns.

Even More of the Same		
	Jan 2001	Jan 2005
<i>This year, Dems and Reps will...</i>	%	%
Bicker more than usual	50	59
Work together more	41	30
Same as usual (Vol.)	4	4
Don’t know	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100

Opinion on the war itself has remained stable in recent months, in spite of the ongoing violence in Iraq. There is little sense that elections in Iraq, scheduled for Jan. 30, will do much to bring stability to the country. About half of Americans (49%) think the situation will not change much after the election, while 29% expect the balloting to lead to greater stability and 14% expect the situation to get worse.

The public has been riveted by reports of widespread death and destruction from last month’s tsunami in the Indian Ocean. Nearly six-in-ten Americans (58%) say they have followed news of the tsunami very closely. That is the largest audience for any overseas news story – aside from stories about U.S. military forces or American hostages – in the nearly two decades of Pew’s monthly news interest index.

Three-in-ten people say they or someone in their household has donated to a charity helping the tsunami victims, while the same number (30%) say they are planning to make a donation. Notably, most of those who have made donations have done so in person (59%) rather than by mail

or over the Internet.

Most Important Problem

In an open-ended format, roughly one-in-three Americans (32%) volunteer the situation in Iraq as the most important problem facing the nation. This represents twice as many people as a year ago, when the public’s outlook about Iraq was much more positive in the wake of Saddam Hussein’s capture.

When combined with terrorism, foreign policy and general security issues, about half the public (49%) cites a defense-related concern as the leading problem facing the nation. Roughly a quarter (24%) cite economic issues as most important, including unemployment, the deficit, and the state of the economy overall.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to offer Iraq and economic problems – particularly unemployment – as most important while Republicans cite terrorism as a bigger concern.

Most Important Problem Facing the Country				
	Feb 2003	Jan 2004	July 2004	Jan 2005
Defense/Terrorism/ Foreign Affairs (Net)	54	37	41	49
War/War in Iraq	34	16	25	32
Terrorism	16	14	8	10
Foreign policy	*	2	4	1
Security	2	3	3	3
Economic (Net)	29	35	26	24
Economy (general)	21	20	14	12
Unemployment/Jobs	6	13	8	7
Deficit/Debt	*	2	1	3
Social & Domestic				
Health care	2	5	5	6
Morality	5	3	4	6
Social Security	*	*	1	4
Education	1	3	4	3
Poverty	1	3	2	3
Immigration	*	3	1	1
Politics & Gov’t	5	5	7	5

Figures add to more than 100% because respondents could list multiple responses. Based on general public.

Though no single social or domestic issue has become the focus of public attention, a number are mentioned by significant minorities. Health care and morality are each volunteered by 6% of respondents. Social Security, which was almost never mentioned earlier in Bush’s presidency, is offered as the most important issue by 4% of Americans.

GOP Strong on Security, Democrats on Foreign Policy

Overall, the public is evenly divided over whether the Republican party (36%) or Democratic party (35%) could do a better job handling the nation’s most important problem. But the parties’ strengths and weaknesses are more apparent depending on which issue a person volunteered as most important.

Security and defense issues remain the Republicans' strong suits, though this does not extend to Iraq or foreign policy generally. By a 58%-19% margin, people who volunteer terrorism and homeland defense as the biggest problems facing the country say the Republicans, not the Democrats, are best able to address these issues.

Republican Strength is Security, Not Foreign Policy					
<i>Party best able to handle problem</i>	<i>Biggest problem facing the nation is...</i>				
	<u>Iraq situation</u>	<u>Security/ Terrorism</u>	<u>Foreign policy</u>	<u>Social/ Domestic</u>	<u>Jobs/ Economy</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican Party	35	58	22	34	26
Democratic Party	40	19	39	33	43
No difference	14	14	26	22	18
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
Number of cases	(485)	(185)	(90)	(409)	(356)

Those who cite Iraq as the most important national problem are divided, with 40% saying the Democrats would do the best job and 35% trusting Republicans. And Democrats are favored by a 39% to 22% margin among the smaller number who sees foreign policy more broadly as the leading concern.

Democrats continue to be viewed as stronger on the economy. Among Americans who rate jobs or the economy as the biggest problems facing the nation, 43% think the Democratic Party can do a better job, while 26% say the Republican Party. Neither party has an advantage among those who mention other domestic or social issues.

Domestic Priorities Resurgent

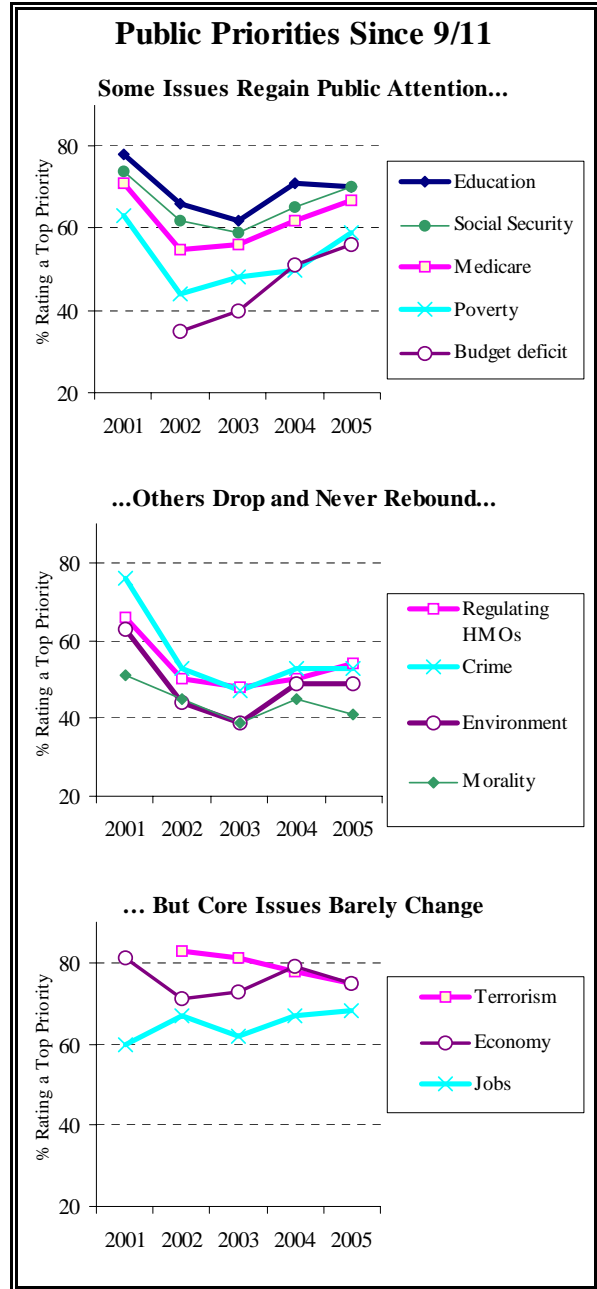
Although Iraq is mentioned most often as the single biggest problem facing the nation, domestic issues are more important to Americans than in any year since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. When asked whether President Bush should place more emphasis on domestic policy or the war on terrorism the public is divided today, in contrast with a clear preference for fighting terrorism in the wake of 9/11. And while defending against terrorism clearly dominated the list of domestic policy priorities in 2002 and 2003, it is just one among many highly ranked issues today, particularly for Democrats and independents.

There is a rising focus on a number of traditional

Terrorism Increasingly Seen in Domestic Terms		
<i>Which is more important?</i>	Jan 2002	Jan 2005
	%	%
Domestic policy	33	40
War on terrorism	52	44
Equal (VOL.)	13	14
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100
<i>Emphasis in fight against terrorism</i>		
Build defenses at home	44	60
Military action overseas	40	28
Equal (VOL.)	12	7
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100

domestic policy areas – including health care, the deficit, and helping the poor and needy – which declined in the public’s priority list in the wake of the attacks. In addition, the public’s priorities over whether to concentrate the war on terrorism at home or abroad have shifted. By about two-to-one (60%-28%), more Americans today say the priority in the war on terrorism should be building defenses at home to prevent future attacks rather than taking military action to destroy terrorist networks around the world. Three years ago, opinion was divided almost evenly (44%-40%) on this question.

Defending against terrorism and strengthening the nation’s economy lead the public’s policy agenda for 2005, with 75% saying these issues should be given top priority by the president and Congress. Insuring the stability of the Social Security system and improving education are close behind, with 70% rating each as top policy priorities for the coming year. Republicans, in particular, are placing a higher priority on stabilizing Social Security than in recent years. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (65%) rate this a top priority today, up from 47% in 2002. This represents a closing of the partisan gap, as Democrats have consistently rated this as a top priority (75% currently, 76% in 2002).



Dealing with the problems of the poor and needy, which fell dramatically as a priority following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, has rebounded in the years since. Roughly six-in-ten (59%) say this should be a top priority for the president and Congress. This is up significantly from a low of 44% in January 2002, and nearly matches the 63% who cited helping the poor as a top priority in January 2001.

The question of providing health insurance for the uninsured has followed a similar pattern,

plummeting in importance following the 9/11 attacks, but slowly rising again to near pre-attack levels. This increase is being driven largely by Democrats and independents. In particular, eight-in-ten Democrats (81%) view insuring the uninsured as a top priority, compared with just 56% at the beginning of 2002. By contrast, this issue has, if anything, faded slightly as a priority among Republicans. Consequently, the partisan gap over the importance of providing health insurance for all, already sizeable, has nearly doubled in the past three years.

The budget deficit also has become an increasingly important issue – 56% rank this as a top priority today, up from 51% a year ago and just 35% in 2002. However, public concern over the deficit remains lower than in the mid-1990s, when nearly two-thirds of Americans (65% in 1994) rated reducing the budget deficit a top policy priority.

Crime, Environment Still Lag

While the public has placed greater emphasis on addressing poverty and expanding health insurance, support for some other domestic priorities continues to lag behind pre-9/11 levels. Reducing crime, regulating HMOs and protecting the environment – all of which were rated as top priorities by 60% or more before the terrorist attacks – declined in importance after 9/11 and have seen little or no rebound in public interest since that time.

Top Domestic Priorities for Bush and Congress					
<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Jan 2001	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005
Strengthening nation's economy	81	71	73	79	75
Defending US against terrorism	--	83	81	78	75
Improving educational system	78	66	62	71	70
Securing Social Security	74	62	59	65	70
Improving job situation	60	67	62	67	68
Securing Medicare	71	55	56	62	67
Providing insurance to uninsured	61	43	45	54	60
Dealing with problems of poor	63	44	48	50	59
Reducing budget deficit	--	35	40	51	56
Regulating HMOs	66	50	48	50	54
Reducing crime	76	53	47	53	53
Strengthening the military	48	52	48	48	52
Protecting the environment	63	44	39	49	49
Reducing middle class taxes	66	43	--	44	48
Dealing with energy problems	46*	42	40	46	47
Increasing minimum wage	40*	--	--	38	43
Dealing with moral breakdown	51	45	39	45	41
Tax simplification	--	--	--	--	39
Developing missile defense	41	39	42	35	35
Making tax cuts permanent	--	--	30	--	34
Dealing with global trade	37	25	--	32	32
Limiting awards in lawsuits	--	--	--	--	27
Gay marriage amendment	--	--	--	22	27

* Asked in early September, 2001

Consistent with previous Pew surveys, there also is no evidence that dealing with the nation's moral breakdown is a greater public concern than in the past. Just 41% rate this as a top priority, compared with 45% a year ago and 51% at the start of the president's first term.

With the exception of Social Security, a number of Bush’s announced policy objectives for the coming year rate relatively low on the public’s list of priorities. Most notably, passing legislation that would limit the amount of money that courts can award in personal injury lawsuits is seen as a top priority by barely a quarter of Americans (27%); the same number views passing a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriages as a major priority. The president’s two major tax proposals – to make the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts permanent and to simplify the tax code – rank slightly higher (34% and 39% top priority, respectively).

Parties Divide Over Priorities

There are stark differences in the policy priorities of Republicans and Democrats. Republicans place a far higher priority on terrorism (84% top priority vs. 66% for Democrats) while Democrats see the economy as more important (82% vs. 66%). Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to rank Social Security, Medicare, and education as top priorities for the coming year, though these are near the top of the list for Republicans as well.

But the partisan divide is most extreme over expanding government assistance for those in need. Among Democrats, 81% rate providing health insurance to the uninsured as a top priority, second only to strengthening the economy overall. Just 35% of Republicans give this issue as much emphasis. Increasing the minimum wage and dealing with the problems of poor and needy people are also far less important to Republicans than to Democrats.

Partisan Gaps Over Priorities			
<i>Percent considering each as a “top priority”</i>	Repub- <u>licans</u>	Demo- <u>crats</u>	<i>R-D <u>diff.</u></i>
Providing insurance to uninsured	35	81	-46
Increasing minimum wage	20	59	-39
Dealing with problems of poor	42	73	-31
Protecting the environment	32	58	-26
Securing Medicare	58	76	-18
Reducing budget deficit	48	64	-16
Strengthening nation’s economy	66	82	-16
Regulating HMOs	46	61	-15
Improving job situation	58	72	-14
Improving educational system	62	76	-14
Dealing with energy	43	54	-11
Securing Social Security	65	74	-9
Reducing crime	48	54	-6
Reducing middle class taxes	46	51	-5
Simplifying tax code	37	42	-5
Dealing with global trade	32	27	+5
Developing missile defense	39	32	+7
Dealing with moral breakdown	47	37	+10
Limiting awards on lawsuits	34	22	+12
Strengthening the military	62	48	+14
Making tax cuts permanent	43	29	+14
Defending US against terrorism	84	66	+18
Gay marriage amendment	44	19	+25

At the other end of the spectrum, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to rate passing a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage, making the tax cuts permanent, and strengthening the military as top policy objectives, though neither gay marriage nor taxes are high on either party’s list of priorities.

Both Democrats and Republicans have given the budget deficit higher priority in recent years, but the partisan gap on this issue is not narrowing. Dealing with the deficit is a much more important priority for Democrats than for Republicans, and this has been the case since George W. Bush first took office. This represents a notable shift from the 1990s, when Republicans rated the deficit as the higher priority.

Trading Places on the Deficit				
<i>Reducing deficit a top priority</i>				
	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<i>R-D</i> <u>Diff</u>
	%	%	%	
Jan 2005	56	48	64	-16
Jan 2004	51	44	57	-13
Jan 2003	40	38	48	-10
Jan 2002	35	27	41	-14
Jan 1997	60	66	54	+12
Dec 1994	65	65	61	+4

Cautious on Social Security Overhaul

While a growing number of Americans consider the fiscal health of Social Security a top priority, the public is split over the current condition of the program. Nearly half (47%) believe it works pretty well and needs only minor changes; 34% think major changes are required; and 15% say the Social Security system has to be completely rebuilt.

Views of Social Security				
	<u>Works pretty well, minor changes</u>	<u>Major changes</u>	<u>Needs to be Rebuilt</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
	%	%	%	%
Total	47	34	15	4=100
18-29	50	32	16	2 =100
30-49	40	40	17	3 =100
50-64	47	34	14	5 =100
65+	62	24	10	4 =100
Republican	48	36	14	2 =100
Democrat	50	32	15	3 =100
Independent	45	35	16	4 =100

The belief that Social Security is in need of fundamental change is most evident among people in their 30s and 40s. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) believe the system needs major changes (40%) or to be completely rebuilt (17%). Younger people – those age 30 and under – are less persuaded of the need for a major overhaul of Social Security. As expected, senior citizens generally believe the system works pretty well as it is; just 34% say it needs major changes or to be completely rebuilt.

As expected, senior citizens generally believe the system works pretty well as it is; just 34% say it needs major changes or to be completely rebuilt.

There are no significant political or ideological differences in opinions on the state of Social Security – about half of Democrats (50%) and Republicans (48%) believe the program works well and needs only minor changes. Pluralities of liberal Democrats (48%) and conservative Republicans (45%) also share that view.

Most Favor Keeping Guaranteed Benefit

Opinion is much more partisan about the idea of introducing private investment accounts into the Social Security program. But, attitudes on this issue also are highly dependent on how the

proposal is framed.

In December, the Pew Research Center asked respondents how much they had heard about a proposal that would allow younger workers to invest some of their Social Security taxes in private retirements accounts, including stocks or mutual funds. Only about a quarter of Americans (23%) said they had heard a lot about the proposal, and another 43% said they had heard a little.

A majority of the public (54%) supported the concept of permitting younger workers to invest some Social Security taxes in investment accounts, while 30% were opposed. Opinion among those who indicated they heard a great deal about the proposal mirrored the general public's, with 54% in favor.

But public opinion on the creation of private accounts in Social Security changes when the concept of investment risk is introduced. In the current survey, Pew asked a more detailed question on whether people favored “keeping Social Security as a program with a guaranteed monthly benefit,” or “letting younger workers decide for themselves how some of their own contributions” are invested, which “would cause their future benefits to be higher or lower” depending how those investments perform.¹

By greater than two-to-one (65%-29%), the public believes it is more important to keep Social Security as a guaranteed monthly benefit rather than it is to allow younger workers to invest some of their contributions, which may cause benefits to increase or decrease depending on how well they do. Support for a guaranteed monthly benefit has grown since fall 2000, when 54% supported this option.

Private Social Security Accounts – Details Matter¹				
Version A²				
<i>Private Soc Sec retirement accounts</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Favor	54	71	43	50
Oppose	30	14	43	34
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100
Version B				
Let workers decide on Soc Sec investments	29	43	18	28
Keep system with guaranteed benefit	65	50	78	67
Both/neither (vol.)	2	2	2	2
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
¹ See footnote for full question wording. ² Asked Dec 1-16, 2004, N=2,000				

¹ **Version A** Generally, do you favor or oppose this proposal (which would allow younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in private retirement accounts, which might include stocks or mutual funds)?

Version B When decisions about Social Security's future are being made, which do you think is **MORE** important...(read and rotate) keeping Social Security as a program with a **GUARANTEED** monthly benefit based on a person's earnings during their working life **OR** letting younger workers **DECIDE** for **THEMSELVES** how some of their own contributions to Social Security are invested, which would cause their future benefits to be higher or lower depending on how well their investments perform?

In principle, Republicans overwhelmingly favor the idea of private accounts; by 71%-14% they support allowing younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in private accounts. But when asked whether it is more important to keep a guaranteed monthly Social Security benefit than to permit younger workers to invest in private accounts, Republicans are divided; in this formulation, 50% favor keeping Social Security as a guaranteed benefit, while 43% support private accounts.

Democrats split evenly – 43%-43% – over the general proposal to allow workers to invest in private accounts. But by more than four-to-one (78%-18%), Democrats say it is more important to retain a guaranteed monthly Social Security benefit over a program than to permit younger workers to invest some payroll taxes in private accounts whose value could rise or fall with the market.

Foreign Policy Priorities

As was the case even before the Sept. 11 attacks, Americans see reducing the threat of international terrorism as the nation’s top foreign policy priority. Currently, 73% rate reducing the threat of international terrorism as a top priority. Comparable proportions ranked it as a top priority in both 1995 and 1999 as well.

By contrast, far fewer Americans (46%) rate the goal of making Iraq stable as a top policy priority. Stabilizing Iraq is of roughly equal importance with protecting the global environment (48% top priority) and keeping a close watch on the development of China as a world power (42%). More people rank stopping the spread of AIDS and international drug trafficking as top priorities than say the same about making Iraq stable.

<i>Percent considering each as a “top priority”</i>	Sept 1993	June 1995	Mar 1999	Jan 2003	Jan 2005
Threat of int’l terrorism	--	71	75	74	73
Spread of AIDS	--	--	65	--	61
International drug trade	82	75	72	--	56
Global environment	63	55	62	--	48
Making Iraq stable	--	--	--	--	46
China as world power	--	--	52	39	42
N. Korean military threat	20	--	29	47	41
Human rights abuses	--	--	37	--	36
Israel/Arab peace	34	--	35	38	34
Russia and E. Europe	23	14	--	--	17

As is the case with domestic issues, Democrats and Republicans have different views on what is most important in U.S. foreign policy. Among Republicans, fighting the war on terrorism and bringing stability to Iraq top the list, cited as top priorities by 82% and 59% of Republicans, respectively. While combating terrorism overseas is a top priority for two-thirds of Democrats as well, just 36% see making Iraq stable as a top U.S. priority. Instead, Democrats place far more importance on stopping AIDS and protecting the global environment.

Low Expectations for Iraqi Elections

Views of the war in Iraq continue to slip. The public is now evenly divided over whether the military effort is going very or fairly well (48%) or not too or not at all well (49%). Perceptions of progress in Iraq have been steadily declining since summer; in June, 57% thought things were going well there.

Moreover, there is little optimism that the upcoming Iraqi elections will change things for the better. Most Americans say they have heard at least something about Iraq’s elections, but fewer than half (46%) have heard a lot. A plurality of the public (49%) thinks the elections will do little to change the situation there; 29% think it will lead to greater stability; while 14% say it will make Iraq less stable.

Upcoming Iraqi Elections				
<i>Heard about elections</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
A lot	46	54	38	47
A little	40	39	43	38
Nothing	13	6	18	15
Don’t know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Iraqi Elections will lead to...</i>				
More stable situation	29	46	18	25
Less stable situation	14	10	18	13
Not much change	49	39	55	55
Don’t know	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

Republicans are more optimistic than Democrats about the elections. But fewer than half of Republicans (46%) believe the elections will lead to greater stability in Iraq, while nearly as many (39%) expect little change. A majority of Democrats (55%) think the Iraqi elections will not make much difference, and as many think the elections will make Iraq less stable as say it will lead to more stability (18% each).

For the most part, fundamental attitudes toward the war have remained fairly stable. About half of Americans (51%) think the U.S. made the right decision to use force against Iraq while 44% disagree. The partisan divide on this measure continues to be substantial. More than eight-in-ten Republicans (84%) feel the war was the right decision, while 71% of Democrats say it was wrong.

A 54% majority think the U.S. should keep troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized while about four-in-ten (41%) think troops should come home as soon as possible. That is about the same as in recent months. Eight-in-ten Republicans favor keeping troops in Iraq until it has stabilized while 61% of Democrats want the troops home as soon as possible.

Public interest in news about Iraq has increased substantially since December. Currently, about half of Americans (48%) say they are tracking news from Iraq very closely. In December, only about a third expressed great interest in news about Iraq, the lowest mark recorded since the debate

over war began in earnest in late 2002.

Bush at the Midpoint

President Bush begins his new term with half of the public approving of his performance in office; 43% disapprove. His overall job rating, along with approval in specific areas, has climbed somewhat from the nadir it reached in mid-October of the contentious campaign season. At that point, following the presidential debates, only 44% approved of Bush's performance, while 48% disapproved.

The president continues to receive his best rating on handling terrorist threats. Currently, 62% approve, the same as in September 2004 and up 13 points from a low of 49% in October. He also gets more approval than disapproval on foreign policy (48% to 43%). But as has been the case for the past year, more people disapprove than approve of Bush's handling of the economy (now 45% approve, 50% disapprove), and he gets identical marks for his handling of the situation in Iraq.

As yet, there is no public consensus on whether Bush's presidency will be successful. Just over a third (36%) say he will be successful, while 27% think he will be unsuccessful, a figure that has grown significantly over the past two years. Republicans overwhelmingly are optimistic about Bush (72% say he will be successful); most Democrats who have an opinion think he will fail rather than succeed (48%-8%), but even among Democrats a significant number say it is too early to tell (41%).

Despite the strong public interest in the presidential election, only about third (34%)

	Feb 2001	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005
<i>Overall job</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	53	80	58	58	50
Disapprove	21	11	32	35	43
Don't know	<u>26</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>The economy</i>					
Approve	50	60	47	47	45
Disapprove	22	28	45	47	50
Don't know	<u>28</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Iraq situation</i>					
Approve	--	--	56	59	45
Disapprove	--	--	36	37	50
Don't know	--	--	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
			100	100	100
<i>Terrorist threats</i>					
Approve	--	74*	69	65 [^]	62
Disapprove	--	18	23	33	33
Don't know	--	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
		100	100	100	100
<i>Foreign policy</i>					
Approve	--	69+	53 [#]	53	48
Disapprove	--	20	36	36	43
Don't know	--	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>
		100	100	100	100

* Trend is from early June 2002. [^]Dec. 2003 Gallup.
+April 2002. # March 2003

	--Clinton--		-----Bush-----			
	Jan 1999	Jan 2000	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005
<i>Compared with previous years'</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
More important	27	16	54	52	34	34
About the same	51	53	36	35	49	47
Less important	16	22	4	6	9	9
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

view Bush's State of the Union address as more important than previous such speeches. That is the same level as last year, but far below the number who attached great importance to State of the Union addresses in 2003 and 2002 (52%, 54%, respectively).

The public has a similar sense of the importance of the president's Jan. 20 inaugural address. About a third (34%) thinks his inaugural speech will be more important than in past years; 47% say it will be as important as past inaugurals; and 10% believe it will be less important. As with the State of the Union, Republicans view the inaugural address as more important than do Democrats.

Most Say Bush Influenced by Conservatives

At the beginning of Bush's first term, nearly half of the public said he listened more to conservatives in his party than to GOP moderates (48% to 37%). In the aftermath of 9/11, fewer saw the president tilting to the conservative voices in his party, but the number who feel that way has grown steadily since then. Today, more than half of the public (54%) say he listens more to conservatives, while 27% thinks he listens more to moderates.

Among Republicans, a majority of conservative Republicans (54%) believe he is listening to their wing of the party, while a plurality of moderate and liberal Republicans (47%) see him paying more attention to their side. Among liberal Democrats, fully 84% think the president hews to the conservative side, an increase of 20 percentage points since January 2003.

The public views Vice President Dick Cheney as a more powerful figure than it did at the start of Bush's presidency. A quarter of Americans say he has too much influence – roughly double the number who said that in January 2001 (12%). But the number who say he has too little influence has also increased (from 12% to 18%).

Ideological perceptions of his second-term cabinet appointments are little different from those of Bush's first term. Just a quarter of the public believes his appointments

Who Influences Bush More?			
	<i>Party members who are...</i>		
	Conser- vative	Mod- erate	DK
	%	%	%
January 2001	48	37	15=100
January 2002	38	40	22=100
January 2003	41	35	24=100
May 2003	49	32	19=100
January 2005	54	27	19=100
Conserv. Rep.	54	27	19=100
Lib/Mod. Rep.	38	47	15=100
Cons/Mod. Dem.	54	29	17=100
Liberal Dem.	84	7	9=100

Cheney and the Cabinet		
	Jan 2001	Jan 2005
	%	%
<i>Dick Cheney's influence...</i>		
Too much	12	25
Too little	12	18
Right amount	58	44
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100
<i>Bush's cabinet choices ...</i>		
Too conservative	21	25
Too moderate	7	7
About right	45	45
Don't know	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>
	100	100

are too conservative, while 7% say they are too moderate and 45% say they are “about right.” As in 2001, nearly one-quarter of the public has no opinion on this question. Compared with four years ago, more Democrats now say the cabinet selections are too conservative, but even among Democrats less than a majority expresses this concern (42% now, 33% in 2001).

Bush’s overhaul of his cabinet has attracted little public interest. Just 18% of Americans say they followed Bush’s appointments very closely, the lowest interest for any news story this month. There was greater public attention to Bush’s cabinet selections four years ago, which is typically the case for newly elected presidents.

Public Still Sees Sluggish Economy

A majority of Americans continue to think that the economy is not in good condition, but the number who say it is in “poor” shape has declined to its lowest level in a year. Overall, 39% say the nation’s economic conditions are either excellent or good, while 45% describe them as only fair and 15% say they are poor. The percentage with a favorable view of the economy is somewhat higher than it was through most of President Bush’s first term, and is notably better than in the latter part of Bush’s father’s presidency.

But fewer people today than at any time since 2001 believe that economic conditions are going to be better a year from now. Just 27% are optimistic, while 18% think things will get worse. A majority of 52% expect little change. A solid majority of 58% continues to say that jobs in their community are difficult to find, while about a third (32%) think there are plenty of jobs available.

Americans’ views of their own family finances are more positive. Just over half (51%) describe their own financial situation as either excellent or good, with 34% saying “only fair” and 14% saying they are in poor shape. These numbers have changed very little over the past year and a half. Nearly two-thirds (64%) expect their family financial situation to improve at least a little over the next year; 18% expect it to get worse.

	Aug	Aug	Aug	Aug	Jan
	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
<i>Nation’s economy*</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Excellent	2	1	1	3	3
Good	34	27	24	30	36
Only fair	49	52	52	45	45
Poor	14	19	23	21	15
Don’t know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Year from now things will be...</i>	Jan	Jan	Feb	Aug	Jan
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Better	44	30	39	36	27
Worse	17	20	12	9	18
Same	36	44	41	47	52
Don’t know	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

*Trend from 2001-2003 from Gallup.

More affluent people have more sanguine views about the condition of the economy, though even among people with family incomes above \$75,000, more describe the economy and the job situation as bad than good. But especially on the question of the availability of good jobs in the community, the perceptions of the lowest and highest income groups are sharply different. Not surprisingly, lower income respondents are very apt to describe their family financial situation as only fair or poor.

Republicans and Democrats have very different views of the economy as well. A large majority of Republicans (62%) say economic conditions in the country are good, and 68% say the same about their own financial situation. Half see a favorable job market in their local community. By contrast, just a quarter of Democrats think the national economy is in good shape, and only 41% are happy with the state of their own finances. Just 17% think jobs in their community are easy to find. On each of these questions, independents tend to fall between Democrats and Republicans, but are closer in their views to those of the Democrats.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Under \$20K</u>	<u>\$20K-50K</u>	<u>\$50K-75K</u>	<u>\$75K & over</u>
<i>Nation's economy</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Excellent	3	2	3	3	5
Good	36	24	35	35	44
Only fair	45	41	47	52	41
Poor	15	30	14	10	10
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Year from now things will be...</i>					
Better	27	22	24	24	35
Worse	18	23	15	20	17
Same	52	51	58	55	47
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Your family's finances</i>					
Exc./Good	51	16	43	66	80
Fair/Poor	48	83	57	34	20
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Jobs in your area...</i>					
Plenty available	32	19	30	33	44
Hard to find	58	70	61	55	49
Other/DK	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

Public Response to Tsunami Tragedy

News about the disastrous tsunami in the Indian Ocean has been followed more closely by the American public than any other major foreign news story over the past seventeen years.² Nearly six-in-ten Americans (58%) have tracked news from south Asia very closely; the next highest foreign stories were the death of Princess Diana in 1997 (followed very closely by 54% of Americans) and the opening of the Berlin Wall in 1989 (50%).

Attention to news about the tsunami and flooding in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and other Asian countries is even high relative to disasters closer to home. More Americans tracked news of the tsunami very closely than followed news about hurricanes hitting Florida and the Southeast this past summer very closely (52%).

Attention to Foreign News

	Percent following <u>Very closely</u>
Tsunami in Indian Ocean {1-05}	58
Death of Princess Diana {9-97}	54
Opening of Berlin wall {11-89}	50
Killing of Russian schoolchildren by Chechen rebels {9-04}	48
Breakup of Soviet Union {10-91}	47
Political upheaval in China {7-89}	47
Chernobyl nuclear accident {7-86}	46
Israeli-Palestinian violence {4-02}	44
SARS spread from Asia {5-03}	39
Hurricane Mitch, flooding & mudslides in Central America {11-98}	36
India & Pakistan nuclear testing {6-98}	36
Terrorist bombing in Madrid {3-04}	34
N. Korea's nuclear weapons {3-03}	34

Summary of foreign news stories that do not involve American troops, hostages, or political leaders from January 1987 through January 2005. For items that were measured on multiple surveys, the highest level of public interest is shown here.

The global tragedy has captured the interest of all demographic groups, though, as is the case with news of almost all types, young people are considerably less attentive. Roughly half (49%) of people under age 30 followed this story very closely, compared with 72% of those age 65 and older.

Three-in-ten Americans say they have made a donation for the relief effort and the same number say they plan to do so. Donations came most often from the college educated, the affluent and Americans living in the East and West. Donations to the relief effort have come from both sides of the political spectrum, with Democrats, Republicans and political independents all about equally likely to have made a donation. And despite not following the story as closely, nearly a quarter of young people (24% of those under age 30) have given, compared with 31% of those age 30-49 and 32% of people 50 and older (See pg. 26 for more details).

Among those who have made a donation, 36% have given to a church or other religious

² Foreign news stories defined as those that do not involve U.S. troops, hostages, or political leaders.

organization, 57% have given to some other kind of charity, and 4% gave to both. Most of those who report having made a donation (59%) said they did so in person. Donations via the mail (17%) and Internet (15%) are about equally common. Another 10% made donations over the phone.

People who attend religious services once a week or more are somewhat more likely to have made a donation in response to the tsunami than those who attend less often; 34% of weekly attenders made a donation compared to 28% of those who attend services less often. But frequent church attenders were far more likely to make their donation to a church or other religious organization. The majority of weekly church attenders who made a donation gave to a church or other religious organization (57%), while 32% gave to non-religious groups and 9% gave to both. Less frequent church goers mostly gave to non-religious organizations (by a 75 to 21% margin, with 1% giving to both).

Most See U.S. Aid As Sufficient

Nearly half of Americans (48%) consider the U.S. government's response to the relief effort to be about right, 36% say the U.S. has done more than its fair share and just one in ten say the U.S. has done less than its fair share. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to think the U.S. has done more than its fair share in the relief effort (46% to 28%), however.

Conservative Republicans are particularly likely to think the U.S. has done more than its share to help. Half of conservative Republicans take this position compared to 36% of moderate and liberal Republicans. Liberal Democrats diverge strongly from this perspective with just 18% thinking the U.S. has done more than its fair share and 28% saying the U.S. has done less than its share.

<i>Donations</i>	%
Donated	30
Planning to	30
Not planning to	37
Don't know	<u>3</u>
	100
<i>What kind of charity?*</i>	
Religious	36
Other, non religious	57
Both (vol.)	4
Don't know	<u>3</u>
	100
<i>How donated?*</i>	
In person	59
Mail	17
Internet	15
Phone	10
Other (vol.)	1
Don't know	2
* Among those who donated	
+ Numbers add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.	

<i>U.S. government's contribution</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
More than fair share	36	46	28	32
About right	48	46	50	50
Less than fair share	10	4	15	12
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

ABOUT THE 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 1,503 adults, 18 years of age or older, from January 5-9, 2005. 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=740) or Form 2 (N=763) only, the error attributable to sampling 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.

DOMESTIC PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

(Demographic Breakdown for Top Six Responses)

	Defending the country from future <u>terrorist attacks</u> %	Strengthening the nation's <u>economy</u> %	Making Social Security <u>sound</u> %	Improving the educational <u>system</u> %	Improving the job <u>situation</u> %	Making Medicare <u>sound</u> %
Total	75	75	70	70	68	67
Sex						
Male	76	78	68	65	68	62
Female	75	71	72	74	69	71
Race						
White	77	72	68	65	65	64
Non-white	68	85	76	89	79	79
Black	68	84	74	91	85	82
Hispanic*	68	79	64	74	74	78
Race and Sex						
White Men	76	73	65	60	65	59
White Women	78	70	72	70	65	68
Age						
Under 30	68	77	55	78	68	56
30-49	76	72	71	72	69	66
50-64	80	76	74	58	67	72
65+						
Sex and Age						
Men under 50	75	79	63	69	69	58
Women under 50	71	69	67	78	69	67
Men 50+	76	76	75	57	65	70
Women 50+	80	75	79	67	69	78
Education						
College Grad.	67	65	59	64	57	59
Some College	71	77	72	74	65	70
High School Grad.	83	75	73	65	76	67
<H.S. Grad.	81	88	80	87	80	80
Family Income						
\$75,000+	73	70	60	61	61	57
\$50,000-\$74,999	75	71	68	66	66	67
\$30,000-\$49,999	78	75	69	68	62	67
\$20,000-\$29,999	74	80	72	70	68	69
<\$20,000	78	80	80	84	84	77

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?

Continued...

	Defending the country from future <u>terrorist attacks</u>	Strengthening the nation's <u>economy</u>	Making Social Security <u>sound</u>	Improving the educational <u>system</u>	Improving the job <u>situation</u>	Making Medicare <u>sound</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	75	75	70	70	68	67
Region						
East	75	76	69	73	65	71
Midwest	73	76	71	66	73	62
South	81	76	73	73	71	71
West	70	70	63	65	62	61
Religious Affiliation						
Total White Protestant	81	69	70	63	60	63
White Prot. Evangelical	87	71	71	67	60	64
White Prot. Non-Evangel.	73	68	68	60	60	62
White Catholic	78	76	74	68	70	65
Secular	60	75	65	70	71	59
Party ID						
Republican	84	66	65	62	58	58
Democrat	66	82	75	76	72	76
Independent	74	74	68	68	73	66
Party and Ideology						
Conservative Republican	83	67	70	62	53	59
Moderate/Liberal Repub.	87	63	56	62	65	58
Conserv./Moderate Dem.	73	84	80	74	76	85
Liberal Democrat	49	82	66	79	60	60
Bush Approval						
Approve	86	67	68	64	63	60
Disapprove	63	81	70	74	73	73
Use of Force in Iraq						
Right Decision	84	68	69	62	63	62
Wrong Decision	62	81	70	76	72	73
Marital Status						
Married	77	71	67	64	64	64
Unmarried	72	78	73	76	73	71
Parental Status						
Parent	78	74	63	70	67	61
Non-Parent	74	75	74	69	69	70
Labor Union						
Union Household	83	71	62	64	69	69
Non-Union Household	74	75	71	70	68	67

FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES FOR CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

(Demographic Breakdown for Top Six Responses)

	Reducing threat of international <u>terrorism</u> %	Stopping the spread of AIDS <u>worldwide</u> %	Stopping drug <u>trafficking</u> %	Protecting the global <u>environment</u> %	Making Iraq <u>stable</u> %	Watching the development <u>of China</u> %
<i>Total</i>	73	61	56	48	46	42
<i>Sex</i>						
Male	73	58	49	48	50	44
Female	74	64	62	49	42	40
<i>Race</i>						
White	75	58	53	47	48	40
Non-white	66	74	64	52	37	47
Black	67	86	70	52	33	45
Hispanic*	75	--	--	67	--	--
<i>Race and Sex</i>						
White Men	74	54	48	42	51	42
White Women	76	61	59	51	45	39
<i>Age</i>						
Under 30	66	72	52	58	46	35
30-49	72	57	46	44	43	41
50-64	77	57	64	46	47	46
65+	79	62	74	50	50	48
<i>Sex and Age</i>						
Men under 50	69	61	42	51	48	44
Women under 50	71	64	55	47	40	35
Men 50+	78	54	64	42	54	45
Women 50+	77	63	72	52	44	48
<i>Education</i>						
College Grad.	66	53	43	41	50	35
Some College	74	61	52	50	42	46
High School Grad. or Less	76	66	65	52	45	44
<i>Family Income</i>						
\$75,000+	73	50	40	40	52	36
\$50,000-\$74,999	65	55	48	44	43	24
\$30,000-\$49,999	74	58	56	50	40	50
\$20,000-\$29,999	76	66	59	50	43	43
<\$20,000	73	77	73	62	45	52

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Now thinking about FOREIGN policy problems, tell me whether each one should have top priority in the U.S. government, a priority but not top priority, or no priority?

Continued ...

	Reducing threat of international <u>terrorism</u>	Stopping the spread of AIDS <u>worldwide</u>	Stopping drug trafficking <u>trafficking</u>	Protecting the global environment <u>environment</u>	Making Iraq stable <u>stable</u>	Watching the development of China <u>of China</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	73	61	56	48	46	42
Region						
East	78	69	56	48	50	37
Midwest	68	52	48	41	38	44
South	78	64	67	53	49	44
West	66	57	45	48	46	40
Religious Affiliation						
Total White Protestant	77	57	58	44	52	48
White Protestant Evangelical	81	54	68	44	54	50
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	74	60	51	44	50	45
White Catholic	76	60	55	48	44	33
Secular	63	59	38	54	45	28
Party ID						
Republican	82	44	57	36	59	46
Democrat	67	73	62	55	36	39
Independent	70	63	46	51	44	40
Party and Ideology						
Conservative Republican	88	38	55	28	62	53
Moderate/Liberal Republican	72	53	58	45	55	32
Conserv./Moderate Democrat	72	66	67	48	37	46
Liberal Democrat	56	84	49	70	34	23
Bush Approval						
Approve	84	53	58	40	58	45
Disapprove	59	70	51	56	33	39
Use of Force in Iraq						
Right Decision	83	54	57	43	57	47
Wrong Decision	62	67	52	55	34	37
Marital Status						
Married	76	51	51	40	47	41
Unmarried	69	73	62	58	45	44
Parental Status						
Parent	75	57	49	46	42	38
Non-Parent	72	63	60	50	48	44
Labor Union						
Union Household	72	52	48	44	36	40
Non-Union Household	73	63	57	49	48	42

NEEDS MAJOR CHANGES/COMPLETELY REBUILT

	The healthcare <u>system</u> %	The tax <u>system</u> %	The education <u>system</u> %	The Social Security <u>system</u> %	The legal <u>system</u> %
Total	71	46	62	49	52
Sex					
Male	68	48	61	50	52
Female	74	44	62	49	52
Race					
White	68	43	58	48	49
Non-white	81	57	76	53	61
Black	82	60	76	55	70
Hispanic*	75	42	72	51	57
Race and Sex					
White Men	64	44	56	48	49
White Women	72	42	60	49	49
Age					
Under 30	67	31	66	48	50
30-49	73	48	65	58	53
50-64	78	56	59	49	55
65+	61	46	53	34	48
Sex and Age					
Men under 50	67	44	65	54	51
Women under 50	74	41	66	54	53
Men 50+	68	54	57	42	53
Women 50+	74	50	56	43	51
Education					
College Grad.	71	46	64	54	45
Some College	72	44	65	56	50
High School Grad.	71	47	60	42	58
<H.S. Grad.	70	49	57	48	54
Family Income					
\$75,000+	70	46	63	55	50
\$50,000-\$74,999	77	49	58	54	53
\$30,000-\$49,999	73	47	63	50	56
\$20,000-\$29,999	65	44	60	46	47
<\$20,000	73	46	63	47	55

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Do you think... 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?

Continued ...

	The healthcare <u>system</u> %	The tax <u>system</u> %	The education <u>system</u> %	The Social Security <u>system</u> %	The legal <u>system</u> %
Total	71	46	62	49	52
Region					
East	71	47	62	49	50
Midwest	74	50	61	51	51
South	71	44	57	48	54
West	68	44	69	51	52
Religious Affiliation					
Total White Protestant	66	43	54	49	51
White Protestant Evangelical	65	44	54	47	57
White Prot. Non-Evangelical	66	41	55	51	46
White Catholic	69	47	58	48	46
Secular	71	39	63	42	50
Party ID					
Republican	58	43	54	50	50
Democrat	81	50	67	46	52
Independent	74	47	65	51	53
Party and Ideology					
Conservative Republican	54	44	50	53	52
Moderate/Liberal Republican	63	40	60	46	47
Conserv./Moderate Democrat	81	49	62	47	51
Liberal Democrat	82	54	79	49	55
Use of Force in Iraq					
Right Decision	63	43	56	52	52
Wrong Decision	80	50	67	48	52
Bush Approval					
Approve	63	43	56	51	53
Disapprove	82	51	67	48	51
Marital Status					
Married	71	47	59	50	53
Unmarried	72	45	65	48	50
Parental Status					
Parent	73	45	62	55	54
Non-Parent	70	47	61	46	50
Labor Union					
Union Household	74	51	61	54	55
Non-Union Household	70	45	62	49	52

AID TO THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

	--Give a Donation--				---U.S. Government has given---			
	Yes, have made a <u>donation</u>	No, don't think		DK/ <u>Ref</u>	More than <u>fair share</u>	Less than <u>fair share</u>	About <u>right</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
	%	<u>to do so</u>	<u>will donate</u>					
Total	30	30	37	3=100	36	10	48	6=100
Sex								
Male	32	28	37	3	38	11	46	5
Female	29	32	37	2	33	10	51	6
Race								
White	30	30	37	3	38	9	47	6
Non-white	30	31	37	2	28	15	52	5
Black	22	32	44	2	27	14	55	4
Hispanic*	32	37	31	0	22	14	60	4
Race and Sex								
White Men	30	27	39	4	41	10	44	5
White Women	30	32	36	2	35	9	50	6
Age								
Under 30	24	26	46	4	27	13	53	7
30-49	31	33	34	1	37	11	48	4
50-64	35	31	31	3	38	9	47	6
65+	28	27	41	4	40	8	45	7
Sex and Age								
Men under 50	30	29	38	3	37	11	47	5
Women under 50	28	32	39	1	30	12	53	5
Men 50+	36	25	36	3	40	10	45	5
Women 50+	30	33	34	3	37	8	47	8
Education								
College Grad.	42	30	25	3	28	17	48	7
Some College	29	34	35	2	36	9	50	5
H.S. Grad.	24	30	43	3	39	8	48	5
< H.S. Grad.	23	22	53	2	42	7	46	5
Family Income								
\$75,000+	40	37	22	1	34	13	48	6
\$50,000-\$74,999	33	29	37	1	37	11	48	4
\$30,000-\$49,999	30	28	39	3	37	9	50	3
\$20,000-\$29,999	28	32	35	5	38	12	43	7
<\$20,000	19	25	55	1	32	10	51	7

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Thinking about the earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean, have you or anyone in your household made a donation to help those affected, are you planning to do so, or is this something you don't think you will do right now? As compared to other major countries, do you think the U.S. government has given more than its fair share to the relief effort, less than its fair share, or about its fair share?

Continued on next page...

	<i>--Give a Donation--</i>				<i>---U.S. Government has given---</i>			
	Yes, have	No, don't think		DK/ Ref	More than fair share	Less than fair share	About right	DK/Ref
	made a donation	Planning to do so	will donate right now					
Total	30	30	37	3=100	36	10	48	6=100
Region								
East	34	38	27	1	35	11	50	4
Midwest	25	28	44	3	40	10	47	3
South	27	30	40	3	35	9	48	8
West	36	25	36	3	32	13	48	7
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	28	29	41	2	41	7	47	5
- Evangelical	24	31	43	2	44	4	46	6
- Non-Evangelical	31	28	38	3	37	11	47	5
White Catholic	36	31	31	2	39	8	49	4
Secular	28	24	44	4	26	19	48	7
Party ID								
Republican	32	34	32	2	46	4	46	4
Democrat	28	31	39	2	28	15	50	7
Independent	32	27	39	2	32	12	50	6
Party and Ideology								
Conservative Republican	30	36	31	3	50	5	41	4
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	36	31	32	1	36	3	56	5
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	26	30	43	1	33	9	52	6
Liberal Democrat	34	33	31	2	18	28	47	7
Use of Force in Iraq								
Right Decision	29	33	36	2	46	3	47	4
Wrong Decision	32	27	38	3	24	20	50	6
Marital Status								
Married	33	34	31	2	37	10	49	4
Unmarried	27	26	44	3	34	11	48	7
Bush Approval								
Approve	32	32	34	2	45	3	48	4
Disapprove	30	27	40	3	25	20	48	7
Parental Status								
Parent	33	33	33	1	37	9	49	5
Non-Parent	29	28	40	3	35	11	48	6
Labor Union								
Union Household	33	29	35	3	38	9	47	6
Non-Union Household	30	30	38	2	35	10	49	6

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY “VERY CLOSELY”

	<u>The earthquake and tsunami</u>	<u>Current situation in Iraq</u>	<u>Condition of economy</u>	<u>Safety concerns about Vioxx/Celebrex</u>	<u>Pres. Bush Cabinet appointments</u>	<u>(N)</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	58	48	35	29	18	(1503)
Sex						
Male	53	50	38	22	20	(727)
Female	62	45	32	35	16	(776)
Race						
White	56	48	34	28	18	(1226)
Non-white	62	46	37	33	19	(258)
Black	61	50	40	41	17	(163)
Hispanic*	56	37	21	19	16	(88)
Race and Sex						
White Men	50	49	35	19	19	(603)
White Women	63	47	32	36	17	(623)
Age						
Under 30	49	40	22	16	12	(237)
30-49	55	44	34	23	16	(548)
50-64	60	54	43	37	23	(430)
65+	72	58	42	49	26	(500)
Education						
College Grad.	63	51	41	25	25	(532)
Some College	54	47	34	23	19	(402)
H.S. Grad	56	46	32	33	13	(446)
< H.S. Grad	58	46	31	35	17	(117)
Region						
East	63	55	37	30	18	(263)
Midwest	53	46	39	28	17	(357)
South	59	48	33	35	20	(587)
West	56	41	30	16	16	(296)
Party ID						
Republican	57	48	32	25	20	(509)
Democrat	63	52	38	34	17	(477)
Independent	53	46	35	26	18	(439)

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations 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?

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2005 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
January 5 - 9, 2005
N=1,503

ON FORM ONE Q.1 PRECEDES Q.2 --- ON FORM TWO, Q.2 PRECEDES Q.1

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>	Dis- approve	Don't <u>know</u>		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't <u>know</u>
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
2004				August, 2002	67	21	12=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	2001			
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
2003				August, 2001	50	32	18=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100				
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100				
June, 2003	62	27	11=100				
May, 2003	65	27	8=100				
April 10-16, 2003	72	22	6=100				
April 9, 2003	74	20	6=100				
April 2-7, 2003	69	25	6=100				
March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100				
March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100				
March 20-24, 2003	67	26	7=100				
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100				
February, 2003	54	36	10=100				
January, 2003	58	32	10=100				
2002							
December, 2002	61	28	11=100				
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				

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Sat- isfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>		<u>Sat- isfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
January, 2005	40	54	6=100	July, 1994	24	73	3=100
December, 2004	39	54	7=100	March, 1994	24	71	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6=100	October, 1993	22	73	5=100
July, 2004	38	55	7=100	September, 1993	20	75	4=100
May, 2004	33	61	6=100	May, 1993	22	71	7=100
Late February, 2004	39	55	6=100	January, 1993	39	50	11=100
Early January, 2004	45	48	7=100	January, 1992	28	68	4=100
December, 2003	44	47	9=100	November, 1991	34	61	5=100
October, 2003	38	56	6=100	Late Feb, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3=100
August, 2003	40	53	7=100	August, 1990	47	48	5=100
April, 2003 ³	50	41	9=100	May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 2003	44	50	6=100	January, 1989	45	50	5=100
November, 2002	41	48	11=100	September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5=100
September, 2002 ⁴	41	55	4=100	May, 1988	41	54	5=100
Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100	January, 1988	39	55	6=100
May, 2002	44	44	12=100				
March, 2002	50	40	10=100				
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100				
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100				
June, 2001	43	52	5=100				
March, 2001	47	45	8=100				
February, 2001	46	43	11=100				
January, 2001	55	41	4=100				
October, 2000 (<i>RV's</i>)	54	39	7=100				
September, 2000	51	41	8=100				
June, 2000	47	45	8=100				
April, 2000	48	43	9=100				
August, 1999	56	39	5=100				
January, 1999	53	41	6=100				
November, 1998	46	44	10=100				
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100				
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100				
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100				
February, 1998	59	37	4=100				
January, 1998	46	50	4=100				
September, 1997	45	49	6=100				
August, 1997	49	46	5=100				
January, 1997	38	58	4=100				
July, 1996	29	67	4=100				
March, 1996	28	70	2=100				
October, 1995	23	73	4=100				
June, 1995	25	73	2=100				
April, 1995	23	74	3=100				

³ Asked April 8, 2003 only; N=395.

⁴ The September 2002 trend is from a Pew Global Attitudes Project survey, fielded August 19 to September 8, 2002 and released December 4, 2002.

Q.3 In the long run, do you think George W. Bush will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

		Early			----- Clinton -----									
		Dec	Oct	Jan	Jan	Early	Sept	Feb	Oct	May	Jan	Oct	Sept	Aug
		<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1993</u>
36	Successful	39	40	26	44	38	18	14	21	21	18	22	13	
27	Unsuccessful	20	15	15	24	24	34	35	26	19	25	22	25	
35	Too early to tell	38	44	58	29	35	43	48	52	57	56	54	60	
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Ref.	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:

Q.4F1 Now thinking about George W. Bush's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

		Mid			--- Clinton ---	
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
34	More important	34	52	54	16	27
9	Less important	9	6	4	22	16
47	Same	49	35	36	53	51
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=763]:

Q.5F2 Now thinking about George W. Bush's upcoming inaugural address... Do you consider this year's inaugural address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

34	More important
13	Less important
46	Same
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

NO QUESTION 6

ASK ALL:

Q.7 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [**RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION**]

		Mid-						
		July	Jan	Apr	Feb	Mar	May	Feb
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
32	War/War in Iraq	25	16	14	34	10 [▲]	-	--
12	Economy (general)	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
10	Terrorism	8	14	9	16	24	1	*
7	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
5	Health care/costs	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
5	Morality/Ethics/Family values	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
5	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
4	Social Security	1	--	1	--	--	3	1
3	Education	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
3	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
	Defense issues/Military spending/ National & homeland security	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
3	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	1	2	2	--	1	1	1
2	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	1	1	1	1	4	4	8
1	Immigration	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
	Inflation/Difference between wages/costs	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
1	Tsunami disaster	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	U.S. military in other countries	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	Drugs/Alcohol	1	1	1	2	4	4	6
1	Trade/Jobs moving overseas	2	1	--	--	--	--	--
1	U.S. foreign policy/Intl affairs	4	2	--	--	--	2	2
1	Homelessness	1	1	1	--	1	1	2
1	Taxes	1	1	1	--	1	3	3
1	Issues related to elderly	1	2	1	--	1	2	2
1	Youth problems/teen violence	--	--	--	--	2	8	3
1	Abortion	1	--	--	--	--	1	1
1	Uneven distribution of wealth	1	--	--	--	--	1	1
	Too much foreign aid/ spend money at home	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
9	Other							
1	None	1	1	1	1	1	*	2
5	Don't know/No answer	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
49	(NET) DEFENSE/TERRORISM/ INTERNATIONAL	41	37	29	54	39	3	5
24	(NET) ECONOMIC	26	35	41	29	16	40	26

▲ War in Afghanistan in March 2002

IF ANSWER GIVEN IN Q.7, ASK [N=1457]:

Q.8 Which political party do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you just mentioned – the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

		Mid		--- Gallup ---					(RV's)					
		Jan	Mar	Jan	April	July	April	July	June	Jan	May	May	Jan	May
		2004	2002	1999 ⁵	1998	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1990	1988	1988	1987
36	Republican Party	35	38	33	40	36	42	36	28	32	29	26	30	28
35	Democratic Party	35	27	43	42	35	32	33	35	41	30	38	35	38
18	No difference (VOL)	14	21	n/a	10	18	17	16	23	12	31	22	24	24
<u>11</u>	Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations 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; RANDOMIZE.]

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a.	News about the current situation in Iraq	48	37	11	4	*=100
	December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
	Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
	Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
	August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
	July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
	June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
	April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
	Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
	Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
	December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
	November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
	October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
	September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
	Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
	Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
	June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
	May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
	April 11-16, 2003 ⁶	47	40	10	2	1=100
	April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
	March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
	March 13-16, 2003 ⁷	62	27	6	4	1=100
	February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
	January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100

⁵ In January 1999, the “no difference” and “don’t know” categories are combined.

⁶ From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed: “News about the war in Iraq.”

⁷ From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as “Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq.” In Early September 2002 the story was listed as “Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq.”

Q.9 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/Ref
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100
b. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	35	41	17	7	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1=100
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*=100
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2=100
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1=100
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1=100
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1=100
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1=100
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*=100
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1=100
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1=100
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1=100
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1=100
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2=100
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1=100
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1=100
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0=100
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1=100
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100

Q.9 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
c. George W. Bush's cabinet choices and other high level appointments for his second term ⁸	18	37	26	18	1=100
January, 2001	26	32	24	17	1=100
January, 1997 (Clinton)	15	32	30	23	*=100
January, 1993 (Clinton)	24	42	22	11	1=100
d. The earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean	58	32	7	3	*=100
e. Safety concerns about certain types of pain medicines like Vioxx and Celebrex	29	30	25	16	*=100
T.1 Thinking about the earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean, have you or anyone in your household made a donation to help those affected, are you planning to do so, or is this something you don't think you will do right now?					
30 Yes, have made a donation					
30 Planning to do so					
37 No, don't think will donate right now					
<u>3</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL)					
100					

IF MADE A DONATION (1 IN T.1) ASK [N=474]:

T.2 Did you donate to a church or other religious organization, or to some other kind of charity?	
36 Church or religious organization	
57 Other kind of charity	
4 Both (VOL.)	
<u>3</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	
100	
T.3 Did you donate through the mail, on the Internet, by phone, or in person? [MULTI-PUNCH, ENTER ALL ANSWERS GIVEN; DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]	
17 Mail	
15 Internet	
10 Phone	
59 In person	
1 Other (VOL.)	
2 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	

Numbers add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

⁸ In January 2005, "for his second term" was added.

ASK ALL:

T.4 As compared to other major countries, do you think the U.S. government has given more than its fair share to the relief effort, less than its fair share, or about its fair share?

36	More than fair share
10	Less than fair share
48	About right
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.10 What's your opinion of the cabinet choices and other high level appointments George W. Bush has made for his second term... Do you think they are too conservative, too moderate or about right?

		<u>Jan 2001⁹</u>
25	Too conservative	21
7	Too moderate	7
45	About right	50
<u>23</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>22</u>
100		100

Q.11 How much influence do you think Dick Cheney is having within the Bush Administration... too much, too little or about the right amount?

		<u>Jan 2001</u>
25	Too much	12
18	Too little	12
44	Right amount	58
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>18</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:

Q.12F1 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

			----- Clinton -----			
		<u>Jan</u>	Early Sept	Jan	Dec	Oct
		<u>2002</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
53	Domestic policy	52	56	86	85	76
27	Foreign policy	34	30	7	7	13
1	Neither (VOL)	*	0	*	2	*
16	Both (VOL)	11	11	5	4	7
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

⁹ In January 2001 the question was worded: "...appointments George W. Bush has made so far..."

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=763]:

Q.13F2 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or the war on terrorism?

		<u>Aug 2002</u>	<u>Jan 2002</u>
40	Domestic policy	29	33
44	War on terrorism	43	52
1	Neither (VOL.)	1	*
13	Both (VOL.)	22	13
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

NO QUESTION 14

ASK ALL:

Q.15 This coming year, do you think Republicans and Democrats in Washington will work together more to solve problems OR do you think they will bicker and oppose one another more than usual?

		<u>Jan 2002</u>	<u>Jan 2001</u>
30	Work together	53	41
59	Bicker and oppose one another more than usual	39	50
4	Same as in the past (VOL.)	5	4
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100

Q.16 When it comes to national policy, who do you think George W. Bush is listening to more... **[READ, ROTATE]**

		<u>May 2003</u>	<u>Jan 2003</u>	<u>Jan 2002</u>	<u>Jan 2001</u>
54	Conservative members of his party OR	49	41	38	48
27	Moderate members of his party	32	35	40	37
<u>19</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100	100	100

NO QUESTIONS 17-19

On another subject...

Q.20 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)?**)

<u>SUMMARY TABLE</u>		Important				DK/Ref
		Top Priority	But lower Priority	Not too Important	Should Not Be Done	
s.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	75	22	2	*	1=100
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	75	21	2	1	1=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	70	25	2	2	1=100
l.F2	Improving the educational system	70	25	2	2	1=100
a.F1	Improving the job situation	68	28	2	1	1=100
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	67	29	3	1	*=100
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	60	30	7	2	1=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	59	34	5	1	1=100
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	56	34	5	2	3=100
f.F1	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	54	33	7	4	2=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	53	39	5	2	1=100
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	52	35	8	3	2=100
e.F1	Protecting the environment	49	42	8	1	*=100
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	48	35	8	6	3=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	47	42	7	1	3=100
u.F2	Increasing the minimum wage	43	39	11	6	1=100
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	41	32	14	10	3=100
v.F2	Changing the federal income tax system to make it simpler	39	36	15	6	4=100
g.F1	Developing a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks	35	38	15	9	3=100
h.F1	Making the recent federal income tax cuts permanent	34	34	12	14	6=100
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	32	47	13	2	6=100
w.F2	Limiting the amount of money courts can award in personal injury lawsuits	27	40	18	11	4=100
k.F1	Passing a constitutional amendment that would prohibit gay marriages	27	17	19	35	2=100

FULL TREND

ASK ITEMS a THRU k OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:

a.F1	Improving the job situation	68	28	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1=100
	January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1=100
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2=100
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4=100
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100

Q.20 CONTINUED...

		Top	Important	But lower	Not too	Should Not	
		Priority	Priority	Priority	Important	Be Done	DK/Ref
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	56	34	5	2	3=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2=100	
	January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3=100	
	January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5=100	
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3=100	
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3=100	
c.F1	Reducing crime	53	39	5	2	1=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2=100	
	January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2=100	
	January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2=100	
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*=100	
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2=100	
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100	
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2=100	
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100	
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100	
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100	
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	48	35	8	6	3=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	44	37	12	6	1=100	
	January, 2002	43	37	11	6	3=100	
	January, 2001	66	26	4	3	1=100	
	January, 2000	54	34	7	3	2=100	
	July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1=100	
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100	
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100	
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100	
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100	
e.F1	Protecting the environment	49	42	8	1	*=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*=100	
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1=100	
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1=100	
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1=100	
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1=100	
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100	
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100	
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100	
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100	
f.F1	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans	54	33	7	4	2=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3=100	
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4=100	
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2=100	
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2=100	
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3=100	
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4=100	
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100	

Q.20 CONTINUED...

		Important Top	But lower Priority	Not too Important	Should Not Be Done	DK/Ref
		<u>Priority</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Be Done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
g.F1	Developing a national missile defense system to protect against missile attacks	35	38	15	9	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	35	34	18	11	2=100
	January, 2003	42	34	13	8	3=100
	January, 2002	39	35	15	7	4=100
	Early September, 2001	35	39	14	11	1=100
	January, 2001	41	32	14	9	4=100
h.F1	Making the recent federal income tax cuts permanent	34	34	12	14	6=100
	January, 2003 ¹⁰	30	39	15	9	7=100
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	75	21	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1=100
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0=100
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1=100
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	32	47	13	2	6=100
	Mid-January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4=100
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5=100
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6=100
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7=100
k.F1	Passing a constitutional amendment that would prohibit gay marriages	27	17	19	35	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	22	16	22	37	3=100
ASK ITEMS 1 THRU w OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=763]:						
l.F2	Improving the educational system	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1=100
	January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1=100
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1=100
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1=100
	January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2=100
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100

¹⁰ In January 2003 the item was listed: "making the cuts in federal income taxes passed in 2001 permanent".

Q.20 CONTINUED...

		Top	Important	But lower	Not too	Should Not	
		Priority	Priority	Important	Be Done	DK/Ref	
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100	
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100	
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100	
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	67	29	3	1	*=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1=100	
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1=100	
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1=100	
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2=100	
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2=100	
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100	
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100	
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100	
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100	
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	59	34	5	1	1=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1=100	
	January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1=100	
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1=100	
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2=100	
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2=100	
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100	
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100	
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100	
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100	
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	41	32	14	10	3=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2=100	
	January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4=100	
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4=100	
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5=100	
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3=100	
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100	
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100	
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100	
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100	
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	60	30	7	2	1=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	54	34	8	3	1=100	
	January, 2003	45	41	10	2	2=100	
	January, 2002	43	45	7	3	2=100	
	January, 2001	61	31	4	2	2=100	
	January, 2000	55	32	8	2	3=100	
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	52	35	8	3	2=100	
	Mid-January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1=100	
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3=100	
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2=100	
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2=100	

Q.20 CONTINUED...

		Top	Important But lower	Not too	Should Not	
		<u>Priority</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Be Done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
s.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	75	22	2	*	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2=100
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1=100
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1=100
	Early September, 2001 ¹¹	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1=100
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	47	42	7	1	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2=100
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3=100
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3=100
	Early September, 2001 ¹²	46	41	6	2	5=100
u.F2	Increasing the minimum wage	43	39	11	6	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	38	39	17	5	1=100
	Early September, 2001	40	40	13	6	1=100
	January, 2000	34	41	16	6	3=100
v.F2	Changing the federal income tax system to make it simpler	39	36	15	6	4=100
w.F2	Limiting the amount of money courts can award in personal injury lawsuits	27	40	18	11	4=100

ASK ALL:

Q.21 Now thinking about FOREIGN policy problems, tell me whether each one should have top priority in the U.S. government, a priority but not top priority, or no priority. (First.../How about...) **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]**

		<u>Top</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>A</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>
a.	Making Iraq stable	46	37	15	2=100
b.	Reducing the threat of international terrorism	73	24	2	1=100
	January, 2003	74	22	3	1=100
	March, 1999	75	20	2	3=100
	June, 1995	71	23	5	1=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:

c.F1	Countering the threat of North Korean militarism	41	46	7	6=100
	January, 2003	47	40	8	5=100
	March, 1999	29	49	14	8=100
	September, 1993	20	49	25	6=100

¹¹ In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

¹² In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

Q.21 CONTINUED...

		<u>Top</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>A</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>No</u> <u>Priority</u>	<u>Don't</u> <u>Know</u>
d.F1	Keeping a close watch on the development of China as a world power	42	46	9	3=100
	January, 2003	39	49	10	2=100
	March, 1999	52	37	8	3=100
e.F1	Bringing about a permanent settlement between Israel and the Arabs	34	42	21	3=100
	January, 2003	38	40	19	3=100
	March, 1999	35	42	19	4=100
	September, 1993	34	45	19	2=100
f.F1	Preventing human rights abuses in other countries	36	45	17	2=100
	March, 1999	37	46	13	4=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=763]:

g.F2	Protecting the global environment	48	43	7	2=100
	March, 1999	62	30	5	3=100
	June, 1995	55	37	6	2=100
	September, 1993	63	31	5	1=100
h.F2	Stopping international drug trafficking	56	36	7	1=100
	March, 1999	72	23	4	1=100
	June, 1995	75	20	4	1=100
	September, 1993	82	14	4	*=100
i.F2	Stopping the spread of AIDS around the world	61	33	5	1=100
	March, 1999	65	29	4	2=100
j.F2	Insuring democracy succeeds in Russia and Eastern Europe	17	53	25	5=100
	March, 1999 ¹³	30	43	21	6=100
	June, 1995	14	54	29	3=100
	September, 1993	23	53	21	3=100

NO QUESTION 22¹³

In March 1999 and before the item was listed: "Insuring democracy succeeds in Russia and the other former Soviet states".

ASK ALL:

All in all...

Q.23 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. The economy	45	50	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	38	55	7=100
Early September, 2004	44	49	7=100
August, 2004	42	52	6=100
July, 2004	42	52	6=100
June, 2004	43	50	7=100
Early April, 2004	39	53	8=100
Mid-January, 2004	47	47	6=100
September, 2003	43	48	9=100
February, 2003	43	48	9=100
January, 2003	47	45	8=100
Early October, 2002	49	40	11=100
June, 2002	53	36	11=100
January, 2002	60	28	12=100
Early September, 2001	47	44	9=100
February, 2001	50	22	28=100
b. The situation in Iraq	45	50	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	37	56	7=100
Early September, 2004	47	45	8=100
August, 2004	43	52	5=100
July, 2004	42	53	5=100
June, 2004	42	51	7=100
Late April, 2004	44	48	8=100
Early April, 2004	40	53	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	59	37	4=100
September, 2003	52	40	8=100
April 10-16, 2003 ¹⁴	77	17	6=100
April 8-9, 2003	71	23	6=100
--April 9, 2003	76	18	6=100
--April 8, 2003	65	28	7=100
April 2-7, 2003	73	21	6=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	26	5=100
March 25-27, 2003	73	23	4=100
March 23-24, 2003	72	22	6=100
March 20-22, 2003	70	23	7=100
February, 2003	56	37	7=100
January, 2003	56	36	8=100
Early October, 2002	56	34	10=100

¹⁴ From March to April 2003 the item was worded: "... dealing with the war in Iraq?" The 1991 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

Q.23 CONTINUED...	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
c. Terrorist threats	62	33	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	49	40	11=100
Early September, 2004	62	32	6=100
August, 2004	58	37	5=100
July, 2004	54	40	6=100
June, 2004	56	35	9=100
Late April, 2004	55	36	9=100
Early April, 2004	53	38	9=100
Gallup: December, 2003	65	33	2=100
September, 2003	64	28	8=100
February, 2003	67	25	8=100
January, 2003	69	23	8=100
Early October, 2002	71	22	7=100
June, 2002	74	18	8=100
Mid-September, 2001 ¹⁵	85	6	9=100
Clinton: Early September, 1998	72	20	8=100
d. The nation's foreign policy	48	43	9=100
Mid-October, 2004	37	49	14=100
Early September, 2004	47	42	11=100
August, 2004	42	49	9=100
July, 2004	40	48	12=100
Mid-January, 2004	53	36	11=100
March, 2003	53	36	11=100
Early April, 2002	69	20	11=100
Gallup: October, 2001	81	14	5=100
Early September, 2001	46	34	20=100
August, 2001 ¹⁶	45	32	23=100

ASK ALL:

ROTATE Q.24/Q.25 BLOCK WITH Q.26/Q.27 BLOCK

On a different subject...

Q.24 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only</u>		<u>Don't know/</u>
			<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1=100
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1=100
Early November, 2004 (<i>RVs</i>)	5	31	37	26	1=100
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2=100
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1=100
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2=100
Late February, 2004	2	29	42	26	1=100
February 9-12, 2004 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	31	46	21	0=100
January 12-15, 2004 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	34	42	21	0=100

¹⁵ In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded: "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington." In Early September 1998 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling current threats from international terrorist groups?"

¹⁶ In August 2001 roughly half of the U.S. sample was asked about Bush's handling of international policy, while the other half was asked about the handling of the nation's foreign policy. Results did not differ between question wordings.

Q.24 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
January 2-5, 2004 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	40	41	16	*=100
December 11-14, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	34	44	19	*=100
November 3-5, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	28	49	21	*=100
October 24-26, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	24	44	30	*=100
October 6-8, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	20	50	27	1=100
September 8-10, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	20	49	30	*=100
August 4-6, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	24	52	23	*=100
August 5-8, 2002 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	27	52	19	1=100
August 16-19, 2001 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	34	49	14	1=100
August 18-19, 2000 (<i>Gallup</i>)	25	49	21	4	1=100
August 24-26, 1999 (<i>Gallup</i>)	14	50	28	7	1=100
September 1, 1998 (<i>Gallup</i>)	11	54	25	9	1=100
August 22-25, 1997 (<i>Gallup</i>)	8	41	38	13	*=100
October 26-29, 1996 (<i>Gallup</i>)	5	42	39	13	1=100
November 6-8, 1995 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	28	47	22	1=100
July 15-17, 1994 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	26	52	21	*=100
June 29-30, 1993 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	14	52	32	1=100
Aug. 31-Sept., 1992 (<i>Gallup</i>) (RVs)	1	9	37	53	*=100

Q.25 A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be better than they are at present, or worse, or just about the same as now?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
January, 2005	27	18	52	3=100
August, 2004	36	9	47	8=100
Late February, 2004	39	12	41	8=100
September, 2003	37	17	43	3=100
May, 2003	43	19	35	3=100
Late March, 2003	33	23	37	7=100
January, 2003	30	20	44	6=100
Early October, 2002	34	18	42	6=100
June, 2002	30	20	46	4=100
January, 2002	44	17	36	3=100
January, 2001 <i>Newsweek</i>	18	33	44	5=100
June, 2000	15	24	55	6=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	16	22	57	5=100
Early September, 1998	18	17	61	4=100
May, 1990	18	31	45	6=100
February, 1989	25	22	49	4=100
September, 1988 (RVs)	24	16	51	9=100
May, 1988	24	20	46	10=100
January, 1988	22	26	45	7=100
January, 1984 <i>Newsweek</i> (RVs)	35	13	49	3=100

Thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.26 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape?

	Don't Know/				
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1=100
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1=100
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1=100
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4=100
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1=100
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1=100
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2=100
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2=100
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1=100
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2=100
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1=100
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1=100
September, 1996 (RVs)	8	47	34	10	1=100
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1=100
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1=100
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1=100
January, 1993 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	33	46	16	1=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & World Report</i>	4	32	45	18	1=100

Q.27 Over the course of the next year, do you think the financial situation of you and your family will improve a lot, improve some, get a little worse or get a lot worse?

	Stay the					
	<u>Improve A lot</u>	<u>Improve Some</u>	<u>Get a Little Worse</u>	<u>Get a lot Worse</u>	<u>Same (VOL.)</u>	<u>Don't Know/Refused</u>
January, 2005	10	54	14	4	15	3=100
August, 2004	13	57	9	3	12	6=100
September, 2003	11	53	15	4	14	3=100
Late March, 2003	12	51	15	4	11	7=100
January, 2003	9	51	18	5	13	4=100
Early October, 2002	10	54	13	5	12	6=100
June, 2002	11	55	15	4	11	4=100
January, 2002	12	53	15	5	11	4=100
Late September, 2001	9	46	16	4	17	8=100
June, 2001	11	52	15	4	14	4=100
January, 2001	11	46	18	9	12	4=100
January, 1999	17	55	7	3	14	4=100
May, 1997	12	56	10	2	17	3=100
February, 1995	11	53	13	3	17	3=100
March, 1994	10	57	11	3	16	3=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	9	51	14	3	15	8=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	6	50	20	5	14	5=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	8	49	22	4	13	4=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News & W. Report</i>	9	46	19	5	16	5=100

NO QUESTION 28

Q.29 Thinking now about job opportunities where you live, would you say there are plenty of jobs available in your community or are jobs difficult to find?

										<i>U.S. News & – World Report –</i>		
		Mid-	Late	Late	Mid-				Aug	May	Jan	
		Sept	Aug	April	Feb	Jan	Oct	June	June	1992	1992	1992
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>
32	Plenty of jobs available	31	34	30	31	27	24	31	42	15	16	12
58	Jobs are difficult to find	52	55	57	59	60	66	59	44	76	77	79
5	Lots of some jobs, few of others (VOL)	6	4	4	5	6	5	4	8	6	4	6
<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NO QUESTIONS 30-31

Q.32 In recent years, President Bush and Congress have made major cuts in federal income tax rates. Do you approve or disapprove of these tax cuts?

		March	Aug
		<u>2004¹⁷</u>	<u>2003</u>
51	Approve	53	54
41	Disapprove	38	37
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100

NO QUESTION 33

Q.34 People have different opinions about how the Social Security system might be changed for the future. When decisions about Social Security's future are being made, which do you think is MORE important... (READ; ROTATE ITEMS 1 AND 2)

		Early Oct
		<u>2000</u>
65	Keeping Social Security as a program with a GUARANTEED monthly benefit based on a person's earnings during their working life?	54
OR		
29	Letting younger workers DECIDE for THEMSELVES how some of their own contributions to Social Security are invested, which would cause their future benefits to be higher or lower depending on how well their investments perform?	31
1	Both equally important (VOL.)	9
1	Neither is important (VOL.)	1
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>
100		100

NO QUESTION 35

¹⁷ In March 2004 and before the question was worded: "...President Bush and Congress have made two major cuts in federal income tax rates".

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:

Q.36F1 In international affairs, do you think George W. Bush pushes American interests too hard, not hard enough, or about right?

		<u>Mid- Jan 2004</u>	Clinton <u>June 1995</u>
27	Too hard	26	12
23	Not hard enough	22	42
43	About right	47	39
<u>7</u>	Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=763]:

Q.37F2 In formulating U.S. foreign policy, is the Bush administration taking into account the interests and views of our allies... Too much, too little, or about the right amount?

		<u>July 2004</u>	<u>Mid-Jan 2004</u>	<u>Early Sept 2001</u>
16	Too much	15	18	19
34	Too little	37	30	22
44	Right amount	38	46	42
<u>6</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>17</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.38 Do you think [INSERT ITEM, ROTATE] 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	27	50	21	2=100
b.	The tax system	50	29	17	4=100
c.	The education system	36	45	17	2=100
d.	The Social Security system	47	34	15	4=100
e.	The legal system	44	37	15	4=100

Q.39 Usually at the start of a new presidential term, certain groups gain influence in Washington, while other groups lose influence... As I read from a list, tell me if you think these groups will gain influence, lose influence or not be affected by Bush being in office for another term? First... **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE a. THROUGH j. — ITEM k. SHOULD ALWAYS COME LAST)**¹⁸

		<u>Gain</u>	<u>Lose</u>	<u>Not be affected</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a.	Blacks	26	31	35	8=100
	January, 2001	30	29	31	10=100
	January, 1993	66	6	19	9=100
b.	Hispanics	39	24	29	8=100
c.	Conservative Christians	54	11	26	9=100
	January, 2001	51	11	27	11=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:

d.F1	Environmentalists	18	44	30	8=100
	January, 2001	24	40	25	11=100
	January, 1993	67	7	16	10=100
e.F1	Older people	29	40	26	5=100
	January, 2001	46	26	22	6=100
	January, 1993	42	25	26	7=100
f.F1	Washington lobbyists	40	14	30	16=100
	January, 2001	35	17	28	20=100
	January, 1993	23	31	29	17=100
g.F1	Union leaders	18	38	32	12=100
	January, 2001	26	38	24	12=100
	January, 1993	35	24	28	13=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=763]:

h.F2	Business corporations	56	9	28	7=100
	January, 2001	66	9	17	8=100
	January, 1993	34	33	21	12=100
i.F2	Poor people	20	49	26	5=100
	January, 2001	29	40	23	8=100
	January, 1993	61	12	19	8=100
j.F2	The military	63	13	18	6=100
	January, 2001	72	4	16	8=100

ASK ALL:

k.	People like yourself	22	34	40	4=100
	January, 2001	35	26	33	6=100
	January, 1993	43	22	27	8=100

¹⁸ In January 2001 the lead in to the question was worded: "Usually, when there is a new president, certain groups gain influence in Washington..."

Now thinking about Iraq...

Q.40 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
January, 2005	51	44	5=100
December, 2004	49	44	7=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12=100
Early October, 2004	50	39	11=100
Early September, 2004	53	39	8=100
August, 2004	53	41	6=100
July, 2004	52	43	5=100
June, 2004	55	38	7=100
May, 2004	51	42	7=100
Early April, 2004	57	35	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5=100
Early January, 2004	62	28	10=100
December, 2003	67	26	7=100
October, 2003	60	33	7=100
September, 2003	63	31	6=100
August, 2003	63	30	7=100
Early July, 2003	67	30	7=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100

Q.41 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
April 10-16, 2003	61	32	3	1	3=100
April 8-9, 2003	60	32	3	3	2=100

Q.41 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	55	37	3	2	3=100
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	39	46	8	2	5=100
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	45	41	6	2	6=100
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	65	25	2	1	7=100

Q.42 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

	Dec <u>2004</u>	Mid- Oct <u>2004</u>	Early Sept <u>2004</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	July <u>2004</u>	June ¹⁹ <u>2004</u>	May <u>2004</u>	Late April <u>2004</u>	Early April <u>2004</u>	Early Jan <u>2004</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>
54 Keep troops in Iraq	56	57	54	54	53	51	53	53	50	63	58	64
41 Bring troops home	40	36	40	42	43	44	42	40	44	32	39	32
<u>5</u> Don't know/Refused	4	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.43 Thinking about the people you know, would you say they are becoming LESS emotionally involved in the news from Iraq than they were, MORE emotionally involved, or are the people you know about as involved as they had been?

	Aug <u>2004</u>	June <u>2004</u>	May <u>2004</u>
35 Less emotionally involved	36	35	26
19 More emotionally involved	19	23	33
44 About as involved as they have been	41	37	36
* Mixed / Some more, some less (VOL.)	*	1	1
<u>2</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100	100	100

NO QUESTION 44

Q.45 On January 30th, Iraq is scheduled to have its first nationwide elections. How much have you heard about this... A lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	June 2004 ²⁰
46 A lot	42
40 A little	40
13 Nothing at all	17
<u>1</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>
100	100

¹⁹ In June 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: "Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?"

²⁰ In June 2004 the question was worded: "On June 30th, the U.S. is planning to hand over civilian authority to Iraqi leaders. How much have you heard about this... a lot, a little, or nothing at all?"

Q.46 All in all, do you think the January elections in Iraq will lead to a MORE stable situation, a LESS stable situation, or will the situation in Iraq not change much?

29	More stable
14	Less stable
49	Situation will not change much
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

NO QUESTIONS 47-50

And briefly, about the war on terrorism...

Q.51 How well is the MILITARY effort to destroy terrorist groups around the world going? **[READ]**

		Sept ²¹ <u>2003</u>	Late Aug <u>2002</u>	Jan <u>2002</u>	Early Nov <u>2001</u>	Oct 15-21 <u>2001</u>	Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>
12	Very well	11	22	38	30	38	45
51	Fairly well	51	43	51	45	45	35
25	Not too well	23	18	6	12	9	6
9	Not at all well	7	4	3	4	2	4
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.52 How would you rate the job the government is doing in BUILDING DEFENSES at home to prevent future terrorist attacks? Would you say the government is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

		Jan <u>2002</u>	Early Nov <u>2001</u>	Oct 15-21 <u>2001</u>	Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>
9	Excellent	13	15	18	20
38	Good	47	47	51	47
38	Only fair	31	25	22	22
11	Poor	6	7	5	4
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100

²¹ In September 2003 the question wording included "in Afghanistan". In 2004 "around the world" was added.

Q.53 If you had to choose, what should get a higher priority now? **[READ AND ROTATE]**

		Late Feb <u>2003</u>	Early Aug <u>2002</u>	June <u>2002</u>	Jan <u>2002</u>	Nov <u>2001</u>	Oct 15-21 <u>2001</u>	Oct 10-14 <u>2001</u>	Late Sept <u>2001</u>
60	Building our defenses at home to prevent future terrorist attacks	46	51	51	44	42	37	36	33
	OR								
28	Taking military action to destroy terrorist networks around the world	39	30	34	40	42	48	45	44
7	Both (VOL)	8	13	8	12	11	13	13	16
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.54 What is the best way to pay for increased spending for military defense and homeland security? Should the U.S. ... **[READ AND ROTATE]**

		Early Sept <u>2004</u>	Feb <u>2003</u> ²²	Feb <u>2002</u>
16	Add to the budget deficit	11	23	24
20	Reduce spending on domestic programs [OR]	19	21	22
42	Postpone or reduce last year's tax cuts	47	40	42
2	None (VOL)	3	1	2
1	Multiple (VOL)	1	1	*
4	Other (VOL)	4	2	1
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100

²² In February 2003 and 2002 the question was worded: "As you may know, President Bush has proposed large increases in the budget for military defense and homeland security. Which one of the following do you think is the BEST way to pay for these increases, if they are to happen?"

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Q.31 How much, if anything, have you heard about a proposal which would allow younger workers to invest a portion of their Social Security taxes in private retirement accounts, which might include stocks or mutual funds — a lot, a little or nothing at all?

		Early Sept 2004 ²³	RV's Sept 2000
23	A lot	19	26
43	A little	41	43
33	Nothing at all	39	30
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

Q.32 Generally, do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Heard about			-- Early Sept 2004 --		---- Sept 2000 ----	
<u>Total</u>	<u>Proposal</u> ²⁴		Heard about		Heard about	
			<u>Total</u>	<u>Proposal</u>	<u>RV's</u>	<u>Proposal</u>
54	54	Favor	58	61	70	71
30	35	Oppose	26	28	21	23
<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
100	100		100	100	100	100

(N=1420)

²³ In 2004 the question included the words "... payroll taxes in private retirement accounts, which might include stocks or mutual funds, rather than having all of it go toward Social Security."

²⁴ Based on the percent who heard "A lot" or "A little" in Q.31.