



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

NEWS Release
1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel (202) 419-4350
Fax (202) 419-4399

FOR RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2005, 4:00 P.M.

Court Critics Now on Both Left and Right
SUPREME COURT'S IMAGE DECLINES AS NOMINATION BATTLES
LOOM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Jodie Allen, Senior Editor
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Carolyn Funk, Senior Project Director
Nilanthi Samaranayake, Peyton Craighill, Nicole Speulda, Courtney Kennedy, Project Directors
Jason Owens, Greg Smith, Research Assistants Kate DeLuca, Tiffany Turner, Staff Assistants
Pew Research Center for The People & The Press
202/419-4350
<http://www.people-press.org>

Court Critics Now on Both Left and Right

SUPREME COURT'S IMAGE DECLINES AS NOMINATION BATTLE LOOMS

With an aging Supreme Court possibly facing major changes, the court's public image has eroded significantly. Currently, 57% of Americans have a favorable opinion of the Supreme Court, with 30% expressing an unfavorable view. In the past, favorable views of the court typically surpassed 70%; even in January 2001, shortly after the Supreme Court's ruling deciding the contentious presidential election, 68% expressed a positive opinion of the court.

Two very different factors are contributing to the court's lower standing with the public. Democrats turned more negative toward the Supreme Court in the wake of its controversial decision in *Bush v. Gore*. Positive opinions of the court among Democrats fell from 78% in May 1997 to 61% in January 2001. Democratic support for the court has continued to ebb, and now stands at 51%.

But much of the recent decline in positive views of the court has come among conservative Republicans. Favorable opinions of the Supreme Court among both conservative Republicans and white evangelical Protestants have declined by about 20 points since January 2001. An analysis of the poll finds that Republicans who want the court to take a tougher stand against abortion rights are more dissatisfied with the court than Republicans who do not.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 8-12 among 1,464 Americans, finds that the struggle over the court's future is beginning to intensify. Overall, 47% of the public says the selection of the next Supreme Court justice is very important to them personally, up from 38% in March. But at this point, the issue is mainly of interest to the extreme wings of each political party. Fully six-in-ten conservative Republicans (61%), and the same number of liberal Democrats, attach great importance to the selection of the next nominee. That compares with just four-in-ten conservative and moderate Democrats, and about the same number of moderate and liberal Republicans (38%).

Supreme Court Losing Favor

	<i>Favorable opinion of Supreme Court</i>		
	Jan 2001	June 2005	<i>Change</i>
	%	%	
Total	68	57	-11
Republican	80	64	-16
Democrat	61	51	-10
Independent	69	62	-7
Conserv. Repub.	78	59	-19
Mod./Lib. Repub.	84	72	-12
Conserv./Mod. Dem.	66	52	-14
Liberal Democrat	54	51	-3
White Protestant	71	57	-14
--Evangelical	73	51	-22
--Mainline	69	63	-6
White Catholic	74	64	-10
Secular	58	52	-6

On what is likely to be a pivotal issue in a Supreme Court nomination battle – abortion rights – the public continues to strongly oppose the complete overturning of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. By 63%-30%, the public rejects the idea of completely overturning the 1973 decision establishing a woman’s right to abortion. That margin has remained stable for more than a decade.

In many ways, the political divide over that landmark court decision reflects the battle lines over the court’s future. Solid majorities in most demographic groups oppose completely overturning the *Roe v. Wade* decision, but opposition is greatest among liberal Democrats (82%) and seculars (82%).

Conservative Republicans are by far the most supportive of overturning the *Roe v. Wade* decision (62%). This represents a deep division within the Republican base, as Republicans who describe themselves as moderate or liberal favor maintaining *Roe v. Wade* by a 71% to 25% margin. The only other major group in which a majority favors completely overturning *Roe v. Wade* is white evangelical Protestants (52%).

Dissatisfaction with the Supreme Court among Republicans is closely tied to views about *Roe v. Wade*. The roughly half of Republicans who would like to see the abortion decision overturned are twice as likely as their counterparts who support the status quo to give the Court an unfavorable rating (33% vs. 16%).

Public Opposed to Overturning ‘Roe’			
	<i>Completely overturn Roe v. Wade?</i>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
Total	30	63	7=100
Men	31	62	7=100
Women	29	64	7=100
White	31	63	6=100
Black	28	60	12=100
Hispanic	31	62	7=100
18-29	29	66	5=100
30-49	28	65	7=100
50-64	32	62	6=100
65+	34	57	9=100
College graduate	20	75	5=100
Some college	32	63	5=100
H.S. or less	35	57	8=100
Republican	48	47	5=100
Democrat	19	75	6=100
Independent	25	69	6=100
Conserv Repub	62	33	5=100
Mod./Lib Repub	25	71	4=100
Cons./Mod Dem	23	72	5=100
Liberal Democrat	13	82	5=100
White Protestant	37	56	7=100
--Evangelical	52	41	7=100
--Mainline	21	71	8=100
White Catholic	31	65	4=100
Secular	12	82	6=100
<i>Attend church</i>			
Weekly or more	46	48	6=100
Sometimes	22	70	8=100
Seldom or never	17	77	6=100

Attitudes toward *Roe v. Wade* also are a major factor in Republican views of how President Bush should approach a possible court vacancy. Overall, a 35% plurality wants President Bush to select a nominee who will keep the court as it is now; 29% favor a nominee who will move the court in a more conservative direction; and 28% favor a nominee who will make the court more liberal.

Fully three-quarters of Republican opponents of the *Roe* decision (76%) want Bush to appoint a justice who will make the court more conservative, compared with just 33% of Republican supporters of *Roe*. A plurality of Republican supporters of the *Roe* precedent (43%) believe Bush should appoint a justice who keeps the court about the same as it is now.

There also is a large gap in the intensity of opinions about the court's future between Republicans who oppose *Roe* and those who support it. Fully 62% of *Roe* opponents within the party say the decision of how to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Court is very important to them personally; just 43% of those who support *Roe* agree.

Congress, GOP Down

The new Pew survey finds further evidence of public dissatisfaction with Congress. About half of Americans (49%) express a favorable opinion of Congress, a decline from 56% a year ago and the lowest mark since the 1999 impeachment trial of former President Bill Clinton (48% in January 1999).

Views of Congress remain partisan, but the decline in congressional favorability has come among members of both parties. The shift has been greatest among those at either end of the political spectrum. Just three-in-ten liberal Democrats (31%) have a positive view of Congress, down from 53% last June. Conservative Republicans also are less happy with Congress; 58% have a favorable opinion of Congress, compared with 70% a year ago.

Positive opinions of the Republican Party have slipped since the end of last year. Currently, 48% have a favorable opinion of the GOP, with 44% unfavorable. In December 2004, positive opinions of the Republican Party outnumbered negative ones by 52%-42%. Over the same period, ratings for the Democratic Party have been stable (53% then/52% now). In the new poll, fewer than half of those ages 65 and older (46%) express a positive opinion of the Republican Party, down from 57% last December.

Republicans Divided by Roe		
	<i>Republicans who want to...</i>	
	Overturn	Maintain
<i>View of the Supreme Court</i>	<u>Roe</u>	<u>Roe</u>
	%	%
Favorable	57	71
Unfavorable	33	16
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100
<i>Appoint justice who will make Court...</i>		
More conservative	76	33
More liberal	*	18
Same as now	21	43
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100
<i>Next appointment is...</i>		
Very important	62	43
Somewhat important	27	29
Not too/at all important	10	28
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100
Number of cases	(222)	(222)

Rating the Parties Ideologically

As in the past, most Americans see themselves close to the center of the ideological spectrum. And they view the two parties as being about equally distant from their own position. However, the new poll finds more political independents see the Republican Party as too conservative than see Democratic Party as too liberal.

On an ideological scale of 1-6 (where 1 is the most conservative and 6 is the most liberal), the midpoint is 3.5 and the public’s self-rating, on average, is 3.4. The Republican Party, on average, receives a rating of 2.6; the average rating for the Democratic Party is the same distance in the liberal direction (4.2).

<i>Rating given by...</i>	<i>Average rating of...</i>		
	<i>Your-self</i>	<i>Rep Party</i>	<i>Dem Party</i>
All Americans	3.4	2.6	4.2
Republicans	2.7	2.6	4.7
Democrats	4.0	2.4	4.0
Independents	3.6	2.8	4.0

Average ratings based on those who were able to place each item on a scale from 1 to 6 where “1” represents very **conservative** and “6” represents very **liberal**.

On average, Republicans rate the Democratic Party as more liberal than Democrats rate their own party (4.7 vs. 4.0). By contrast, Democrats place the GOP at about the same place on the spectrum as Republicans place their party (2.4 vs. 2.6). Independents view the Republican Party as slightly further away from the ideological midpoint than the Democratic Party (2.8 for Republican Party; 4.0 for Democratic Party).

<i>Placement of...*</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>The Republican Party</i>	%	%	%	%
More conservative than self	47	28	64	51
Same as self	21	43	8	17
More liberal than self	20	24	17	19
Don’t know	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>The Democratic Party</i>				
More liberal than self	42	69	28	36
Same as self	24	10	34	28
More conservative than self	22	13	29	24
Don’t know	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100

Percentages show how many place each party higher, lower, or at the same position as themselves on a scale from 1 to 6 where “1” represents very **conservative** and “6” represents very **liberal**.

This can also be seen by comparing how independents rate themselves versus how they rate the two parties. Roughly half of independents (51%) rate the Republican Party as more conservative than themselves; fewer independents (36%) rate the Democratic Party as more liberal than themselves.

Significantly, more Republicans are in tune ideologically with the GOP than Democrats are with their party. A plurality of Republicans (43%) rate their party the same as they rate themselves. By contrast, only about a third of Democrats (34%) give the Democratic Party the same rating they

give themselves.

Ideology and Issues

The public’s view of the parties’ ideological stances on social issues, like homosexuality and abortion, is almost evenly split. About as many say the Republican Party is too conservative on these issues (38%) as believe the Democratic Party is too liberal (35%).

There is a comparable divide in opinions of the parties’ ideological positions on economic issues. However, there are bigger differences in the public’s perceptions of where the parties stand on foreign policy and national security issues. Nearly half (46%) say the Democratic Party is ‘not tough enough’ on these issues. Views of the Republican Party’s positions on national security are more divided; 31% believe the GOP is not tough enough on foreign policy, while 22% say it is too tough.

Pluralities of independents rate the GOP as being too conservative on social issues (41%) and economic issues (38%). By contrast, pluralities of independents say the Democratic Party is about right on both sets of issues.

Like the general public, independents are divided in their assessment of the Republican Party’s positions on foreign policy; a third say their positions are about right, with somewhat smaller percentages saying they are not tough enough (30%) or too tough (26%). But a plurality of independents (44%) believe the Democratic Party is not tough enough on foreign policy.

Rating the Parties on Issues		
	Rep Party	Dem Party
<i>On social issues such as homosexuality and abortion</i>		
	%	%
Too conservative	38	13
Too liberal	13	35
About right	34	36
Don’t know	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100
<i>On economic issues such as taxes and gov’t programs</i>		
Too conservative	36	14
Too liberal	17	33
About right	33	39
Don’t know	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100
<i>On foreign policy and national security issues</i>		
Too tough	22	5
Not tough enough	31	46
About right	35	35
Don’t know	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100

Independents View the Parties		
	Rep Party	Dem Party
<i>On social issues...</i>		
	%	%
Too conservative	41	14
Too liberal	14	27
About right	30	41
Don’t know	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>
	100	100
<i>On economic issues...</i>		
Too conservative	38	18
Too liberal	18	29
About right	29	39
Don’t know	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100

Based on 450 respondents who think of themselves as independents.

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 1,464 adults, 18 years of age or older, from June 8-12, 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=726) or Form 2 (N=738) 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JUNE 2005 NEWS INTEREST INDEX / MEDIA UPDATE
FINAL TOPLINE
JUNE 8-12, 2005
N=1,464

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 know		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know
June, 2005	42	49	10=100	2002			
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
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				

QUESTION 2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

Now, a different kind of question...

ASK ALL:

I.1 If "6" represents a very liberal position in politics and "1" represents a very conservative position, where on this scale of 6 to 1 would you rate **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS a. AND b. WITH ITEM c. ALWAYS LAST)**? Again, 6 is very liberal and 1 is very conservative, and you can use any number in between. **[IF ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW"/"NEVER HEARD OF" DO NOT PROBE.]**

	<i>Based on Those Who Could Rate</i>						<i>Never heard of/</i>	
	<i>-Conservative-</i>			<i>— Liberal —</i>			<i>DK/Refused</i>	<i>(N)</i>
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>		
a. The Republican Party	27	27	22	11	7	6=100	9%	1,332
b. The Democratic Party	5	6	21	24	22	22=100	10%	1,329
c. Yourself	11	14	31	20	15	9=100	7%	1,377
Early Sept, 2004	15	13	30	17	12	13=100	8%	
Mid-March, 2004	12	12	30	20	14	12=100	6%	
Mid-January, 2004	15	15	27	18	14	11=100	5%	
January, 2000	15	16	31	16	10	12=100	8%	
May, 1999	13	12	30	20	11	14=100	7%	
September, 1996	17	10	31	18	13	11=100	6%	
September, 1988	14	15	29	20	12	10=100	6%	
Newsweek: 1984	16	9	31	19	12	13=100	6%	

QUESTION 3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.4 Now I'd like your opinion of some groups and organizations in the news. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE)** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **(INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")**

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

Q.4 CONTINUED...		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL)	(VOL)
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never Heard of	Can't Rate
	June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6=100
	January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5=100
	October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4=100
	December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6=100
	July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4=100
	May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11=100
	July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6=100
b.	The Democratic Party	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9=100
	December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6=100
	June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10=100
	Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5=100
	June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8=100
	April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7=100
	December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9=100
	July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8=100
	January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5=100
	August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4=100
	February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5=100
	January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7=100
	March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6=100
	August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6=100
	June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6=100
	January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5=100
	October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3=100
	December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6=100
	July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4=100
	May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9=100
	July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6=100
c.	Congress	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11=100
	June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11=100
	July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11=100
	March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7=100
	January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7=100
	August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3=100
	June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5=100
	February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4=100
	January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5=100
	Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7=100
	October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3=100
	August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6=100
	June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6=100
	May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9=100

Q.4 CONTINUED...

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

On another subject...

Q.5 In making his next appointment to the Supreme Court, should President Bush choose someone who will make the court more liberal, someone who will make it more conservative, or someone who will keep the court about the same as it is now?

		March <u>2005</u>	Clinton <i>Gallup</i> <u>March 1993</u>
28	More liberal	24	29
29	More conservative	28	29
35	About the same as it is now	41	38
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100

Q.6 How important is the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally? **[READ]**

		March <u>2005</u>
47	Very important	38
29	Somewhat important	36
14	Not too important	15
8	Not at all important	8
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>
100		100

QUESTIONS 7 THROUGH 25 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Now, I have a few questions about the political parties...

FOR Q.26 THROUGH Q.28, HALF OF RESPONDENTS SHOULD GET THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FIRST ON ALL QUESTIONS; HALF OF RESPONDENTS SHOULD GET THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FIRST ON ALL QUESTIONS.

Q.26 First thinking about social issues such as homosexuality and abortion, has the **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE]** become too conservative, too liberal, or is it about right on social issues such as homosexuality and abortion? What about **[ALTERNATE ITEM]**? Has it become too conservative, too liberal, or is it about right on social issues such as homosexuality and abortion?

		<u>Too Conservative</u>	<u>Too Liberal</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a.	The Republican Party	38	13	34	15=100
b.	The Democratic Party	13	35	36	16=100

Q.27 Now thinking about economic issues such as taxes and government programs, do you think the **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.26]** has become too conservative, too liberal, or is it about right on economic issues such as taxes and government programs? What about **[ALTERNATE ITEM]**? Has it become too conservative, too liberal, or is it about right on economic issues such as taxes and government programs?

		Too <u>Conservative</u>	Too <u>Liberal</u>	About <u>right</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
a.	The Republican Party	36	17	33	14=100
b.	The Democratic Party	14	33	39	14=100

Q.28 Now thinking about foreign policy and national security issues, do you think the **[INSERT ITEM; ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.26]** is too tough, not tough enough, or about right in its approach to foreign policy and national security issues? What about **[ALTERNATE ITEM]**? Do you think it is too tough, not tough enough, or about right in its approach to foreign policy and national security issues?

		Too <u>tough</u>	Not tough <u>enough</u>	About <u>right</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
a.	The Republican Party	22	31	35	12=100
b.	The Democratic Party	5	46	35	14=100

QUESTIONS 29 THROUGH 36 HELD OR PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

Lastly on a different subject...

Q.37 In 1973 the Roe versus Wade decision established a woman’s constitutional right to an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Would you like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn its Roe versus Wade decision, or not?

		-----Gallup-----			
		Jan <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u>	Aug ¹ <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1989</u>
30	Yes	31	36	34	33
63	No	62	60	60	61
<u>7</u>	Don’t know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100

¹ Gallup trend from August 1992 is based on registered voters.