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For The People & The Press

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Strong Support for Israel – No Surge in Terror Concerns or Boost for Bush
AMERICAN ATTITUDES HOLD STEADY IN FACE OF FOREIGN
CRISES

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Strong Support for Israel – No Surge in Terror Concerns or Boost for Bush AMERICAN ATTITUDES HOLD STEADY IN FACE OF FOREIGN CRISES

The public is paying a great deal of attention to major overseas events – the reported terrorist plot against U.S. trans-Atlantic jet liners, the war in Lebanon, as well as the ongoing violence in Iraq. However, there is little indication that these dramatic stories have materially changed public attitudes. Worries about another terrorist attack have not surged. The public continues to express high levels of support for Israel, even as a sizable minority views Israel as mostly responsible for the civilian casualties arising from the fighting. And while more Americans say the U.S. is losing ground in preventing a civil war in Iraq, basic attitudes about the conflict are largely unchanged.

The strong focus on news from abroad is having little impact on the public’s political opinions. President Bush’s job approval rating stands at 37%, virtually unchanged from July. His personal image continues to be far less positive than it was about a year ago – about half the public says he is not a strong leader, not trustworthy, and unable to get things done. Moreover, the renewed emphasis on terrorism has done little to boost the president’s standing on that issue. The survey, which was largely conducted after the Aug. 10 revelations of the terror plot against airliners, shows that 50% approve of the president’s handling of terrorist threats, little changed from June (47%).

The severity of the president’s image problem is reflected in the fact that while many Americans (49%) feel the level of U.S. involvement in resolving the Lebanon crisis has been appropriate, far fewer (36%) say they approve of Bush’s handling of the issue.

Attitudes toward the midterm congressional campaign also remain fairly stable, with strong anti-incumbent sentiment persisting and the Democrats retaining a sizable advantage in

Major Events, Modest Impact			
<i>Following ‘very closely’...</i>			
Top foreign stories			%
Airline terror plot			54
Iraq war			41
Conflict in Lebanon			40
Top domestic stories			
High price of gas			60
Hot summer weather			38
Issue of immigration			34
<i>Bush job approval</i>			
	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>
Approve	36	36	37
Disapprove	54	57	54
Don’t know	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Sympathize more...</i>			
	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	
with Israel	44	52	
with the Palestinians	9	11	
Both (vol.)	5	5	
Neither (vol.)	20	15	
Don’t know	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Issues most like to hear candidates discuss...*</i>			
			%
Education			15
Gas prices			12
Health care			11
Iraq			10
Terrorism			2
* Based on registered voters			

voting intentions. There is no evidence that terrorism is weighing heavily on voters – just 2% cite that as the issue they most want to hear candidates discuss, far fewer than the number mentioning education, gas prices, or health care. And while roughly a third of Americans (35%) say they are very concerned that, if Democrats gain control of Congress, they will weaken terrorist defenses, even more (46%) express great concern that Republicans will involve the U.S. in too many overseas military missions if the GOP keeps its congressional majorities.

More Concern Over GOP Militarism Than Democratic Weakness

<i>How concerned?</i>	GOP majority will overextend	Dem majority will weaken
	<u>U.S. military</u>	<u>terror efforts</u>
	%	%
Very	46	35
Somewhat	23	22
Not too	18	17
Not at all	11	23
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Aug. 9-13 among 1,506 adults, finds a continuing partisan split in views of whether U.S. forces should be brought home from Iraq as soon as possible, or be kept in the country until the situation has stabilized. However, there also are notable internal Republican divisions over the question of a troop withdrawal. About twice as many moderate and liberal Republicans as conservative Republicans favor bringing U.S. troops home as soon as possible (35% vs. 18%). By contrast, Democrats are comparatively unified across ideological lines over whether to withdraw U.S. forces as quickly as possible; 66% of conservative and moderate Democrats favor this course, as do 62% of liberals.

The survey shows that overall public support for Israel is, if anything, even greater than it was before its cross-border offensive against Hezbollah militants. Indeed, 52% now say they sympathize with Israel in its dispute with the Palestinians, a significant increase from July (44%). As far as the situation in Lebanon itself, more than three times as many people blame Hezbollah for the outbreak of violence there than blame Israel (by 42% to 12%).

Who's Most Responsible For...

	The outbreak of violence	Civilian casualties
	%	%
Hezbollah	42	29
Israel	12	21
Both sides	6	13
Lebanon	5	3
America/Bush	2	3
Iran	2	1
Palestinians	1	1
Arabs/Muslims	1	*
Terrorists/Extremists	*	1
Syria	*	*
Other	2	2
Don't know	29	27

Open ended responses, figures may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses. Respondents who said "both" or volunteered both Hezbollah and Israel are coded as "both sides."

Overwhelmingly, Americans see Hezbollah as a group that is committed to Israel's

destruction. Fully 63% express this view, compared with just 15% who think Hezbollah is a group with which Israel might be able to reach an accommodation. Consequently, a plurality of Americans feel that Israel's response to the conflict has been appropriate, although 21% think that Israel has been most responsible for the civilian casualties that have occurred. Only somewhat more (29%) place most of the blame for civilian casualties on Hezbollah.

The conflict in Lebanon has attracted unusually high public interest for an overseas story that does not directly involve the United States or Americans. Four-in-ten Americans say they are following the conflict very closely, about the same number as are paying very close attention to the situation in Iraq (41%). Still, considerably more say they followed news of the terror plot against airlines very closely (54%), while an even higher percentage say they followed the high price of gasoline very closely (60%).

Generally, the public gives good grades to press coverage of the conflict – 61% feel it has been fair, while a 47% plurality says the amount of coverage has been appropriate. Despite the widespread interest in news about Lebanon, however, most Americans feel they do not have a very good understanding of the political situation in the Middle East. When asked which current news story they wished they understood better, more volunteered the Lebanon crisis than any other story.

Regarding the public's awareness of current news stories, most Americans were able to correctly name the Hollywood actor who recently made anti-Semitic remarks during a drunk driving arrest (69%); Mel Gibson was widely identified despite the fact that just 14% say they followed his outburst very closely. Far fewer Americans (40%) were able to name the Democratic senator who this month lost a primary election in Connecticut (Joe Lieberman). And roughly a third (35%) could identify Katie Couric as the soon-to-be anchor of the CBS Evening News.

Do You Happen to Know the Name of...	
<i>Actor who made anti-Semitic remarks?</i>	<u>Total</u> %
Mel Gibson	69
Other/Don't know	<u>31</u>
	100
<i>Dem. senator who lost Conn. primary?</i>	%
Joe Lieberman	40
Other/Don't know	<u>60</u>
	100
<i>Next anchor of CBS Evening News?</i>	%
Katie Couric	35
Other/Don't know	<u>65</u>
	100

Terror Plot: Broad Attention, No Spike in Concern

The news that British officials had stopped a terrorist plot to blow up planes flying to the U.S. drew higher public attention than have most other terror-related news stories since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Fully 54% say they followed this news story very closely, compared with 48% who tracked last summer’s London bombings very closely, and 34% who paid close attention to the Madrid rail bombings in 2004.

The extensive public attention did not result in a spike in concern about terrorism, however. In interviews conducted after the story broke (Aug. 10-13), a quarter of respondents said that they were “very worried” that there will soon be another terrorist attack on the United States. By comparison, 17% of respondents interviewed on Aug. 9 – before the announcement – reported that level of concern. This small rise in public concern is similar to those measured in previous terrorist events. In the wake of last summer’s London bombings 26% of Americans expressed high concern about terrorism hitting the U.S., up from 17% in late 2004. And the 2004 Madrid bombings caused a similar seven-point jump in terrorism concern, from 13% before the bombings to 20% after.

	Followed very closely %	Very worried*	
		Before %	After %
Terrorist attacks in NYC and DC {9-01}	74	--	28
Thwarted British terrorist plot {8-06}	54	17	25**
Terrorist bombings in London {7-05}	48	17	26
Killing of Russian school kids {9-04}	48	--	--
Reports of anthrax around country {11-01}	47	--	--
Terrorist bombings in Madrid {3-04}	34	13	20
Arrest of alleged ‘dirty bomber’ {6-02}	30	20	32
Terrorist bombings in Kenya {12-02}	21	20	31
Bombing of nightclub in Bali {10-02}	20	--	--
Failed shoe bombing on Paris flight {1-02}	20	13	20
Terrorist bombings in Bali {10-05}	13	--	--
Ricin found in Senate Office Bldg {2-04}	12	--	--

* Percent very worried there will soon be another terrorist attack on the U.S.
 ‘Before’ figures from closest available survey prior to incident, ‘after’ and news interest from closest survey following incident.
 ** ‘Before’ figure from Aug 9; ‘After’ and news interest from August 10-13.

More Pessimism on Iraq

After an uptick in optimism two months ago following the death of insurgent leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the public has become significantly more pessimistic about the situation in Iraq. But basic attitudes about the decision to go to war and what to do at this point remain stable. As in the past, both perceptions of progress and opinions about what to do remain highly polarized along partisan lines. Ideological divisions on what to do about the war are significantly greater within the Republican Party than in the Democratic Party.

The public divides evenly on the question of whether the decision to use military force in Iraq was right (45%) or wrong (46%) and on whether to keep troops there until a stable government is established (48%) or bring troops home as soon as possible (46%). Opinion on both of these questions has changed little during 2006, and reflect a basic division on the war that emerged during 2005.

There has also been little change in the level of support for a timetable for withdrawing troops from Iraq: 52% say there should be timetable, 41% say there should not, a division virtually identical to that seen since mid-July of 2005.

What has changed are views of the situation on the ground in Iraq. Currently 55% of those polled say the U.S. military effort is going “not too well” or “not at all well.” This is the highest negative percentage expressed in Pew’s polls since the start of the war in 2003. This general assessment of the situation is also

reflected in growing pessimism about the eventual outcome of the conflict. Currently, 47% say that the U.S. will definitely (12%) or probably (35%) succeed in establishing a stable democracy in Iraq, the lowest number expressing this view since the question was first asked in mid-2005. When asked

<i>How things are going in Iraq</i>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Aug</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very/fairly well	51	51	43	47	53	41
Not too/at all well	44	46	51	50	43	55
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Will US succeed in establishing stable democracy in Iraq?</i>						
Definitely succeed	14	16	10	--	15	12
Probably succeed	42	39	39	--	40	35
Probably fail	26	28	33	--	29	30
Definitely fail	8	11	10	--	9	11
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	--	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100		100	100
<i>What to do now</i>						
Keep troops in	48	50	44	48	50	48
Bring troops home	48	46	50	48	45	46
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
Set a timetable	50	--	55	53	52	52
Do not set timetable	42	--	39	40	42	41
Get out now (vol.)	2	--	1	2	2	1
Don't know	<u>6</u>	--	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>
	100		100	100	100	100
<i>Using force in Iraq</i>						
Right decision	45	51	45	47	49	45
Wrong decision	47	44	49	46	44	46
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

a slightly different version of this question – whether the U.S. will succeed “in achieving its goal in Iraq,” the public is slightly more optimistic, 54% expecting success.

Losing Ground in Preventing Civil War

The optimism generated by the killing of Zarqawi in June has largely dissipated, especially with regard to the U.S.’s key objectives. Since then, the number of Americans who say that we are losing ground in defeating the insurgents has risen by nine percentage points (from 36% to 45%), and there has been an even larger increase in the percentage saying that we are losing ground in preventing a civil war between various religious and ethnic groups (from 50% to 63%). There is also notably more pessimism about coalition efforts to rebuild Iraqi infrastructure (from 23% “losing ground” to 34%), and less optimism about the progress in establishing democracy in Iraq (from 55% “making progress” to 47%).

Other measures show less change. About the same numbers today as two months ago say we are making progress in reducing Iraqi civilian casualties (25% now, 29% in June) and in preventing terrorists from using Iraq as a base for attacks against the U.S. and its allies (45% now, 49% in June). The public remains most optimistic about efforts to train Iraqi security forces: 58% currently say we are making progress, which is about the same as in June (61%).

Perceptions about progress continue to be nearly as polarized by party affiliation as perceptions about what should be done in Iraq. On

Downturn in Optimism on Iraq					
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Aug</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Training Iraqi security forces</i>					
Making progress	65	56	55	61	58
Losing ground	22	30	30	28	26
No change/DK	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Establishing a democracy</i>					
Making progress	62	50	51	55	47
Losing ground	26	38	38	35	39
No change/DK	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Rebuilding the infrastructure</i>					
Making progress	59	53	55	52	46
Losing ground	22	29	26	23	34
No change/DK	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Preventing terrorist base for attacks</i>					
Making progress	52	42	44	49	45
Losing ground	33	44	43	39	40
No change/DK	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Defeating the insurgents</i>					
Making progress	46	36	40	48	41
Losing ground	38	51	46	36	45
No change/DK	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Reducing Iraqi civilian casualties</i>					
Making progress	32	27	28	29	25
Losing ground	54	56	56	56	58
No change/DK	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Preventing a civil war</i>					
Making progress	34	24	26	32	22
Losing ground	48	66	59	50	63
No change/DK	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

every question, Republicans are substantially more upbeat than Democrats. The smallest partisan gap in views of progress is 21 percentage points (reducing civilian casualties, where both parties are relatively glum). Sizable majorities of Republicans (about two-thirds to three-fourths) see progress in all areas except preventing a civil war and reducing civilian casualties, though Republican optimism on preventing civil war dropped by 16 percentage points in two months. By contrast, in *none* of these areas does a majority of Democrats see progress.

<i>Percent saying we're making progress in...</i>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%
Training Iraqi forces	76	46	57
Rebuilding infrastructure	61	39	43
Establishing a democracy	67	31	44
Preventing terrorist base for attacks	64	29	44
Defeating the insurgents	65	25	38
Reducing civilian casualties	38	17	18
Preventing a civil war	38	13	19
Minimum number of cases	(241)	(221)	(212)

On all of the items, independents are closer to the Democrats than to the Republicans in their views of how things are going. Only on the matter of training Iraqi forces does a majority of independents (57%) see the U.S. as making progress.

Divisions Within the Parties on Iraq

The defeat of Sen. Joseph Lieberman by Ned Lamont in the Connecticut Democratic senatorial primary last week raised anew the question of divisions within the Democratic Party over the war in Iraq. Lieberman's support for the war in Iraq was a major factor in his defeat, according to pre-election and exit polls conducted in the race.

While most Republicans support the war and most Democrats oppose it, views within the parties are not unanimous. This is especially true regarding the critical question of what should be done now about the U.S. involvement. Among Republicans, 72% say the U.S. should keep troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized; among Democrats, 65% favor

	<u>Total</u>	-----Party & Ideology-----					
		Mod/		Cons/		Lib	
		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Dem</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Bring troops home	46	18	35	47	66	62	
<i>Remove all troops immediately</i>	15	5	11	16	20	19	
<i>Gradually over next 1-2 years</i>	30	12	23	30	45	42	
Keep troops in Iraq	48	80	59	47	29	31	
<i>No timetable</i>	30	63	38	31	11	10	
<i>Should set timetable</i>	16	15	19	14	17	19	
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	
	100	100	100	100	100	100	

bringing troops home as soon as possible. But while there is slightly greater agreement within the GOP in support of the president's policy than there is in opposition to it within the Democratic Party, divisions along ideological lines are much greater in the Republican than the Democratic Party.

Among Democrats, comparable levels of support for bringing the troops home are found among liberal Democrats (62%) and among those who consider themselves moderate or conservative (66%). And among both groups, bringing the troops home is more likely to mean a gradual withdrawal (45% among moderate and conservative Democrats, 42% among liberal Democrats) within the next 1-2 years rather than an immediate pullout.

By contrast, there is a sizable gap on this question between conservative Republicans and their moderate to liberal colleagues. Eight-in-ten conservative Republicans favor keeping troops in Iraq; among moderate and liberal Republicans, 59% agree. And the GOP division is even more pronounced when the question of a timetable for withdrawing troops is also considered. Nearly two-thirds of conservative Republicans (63%) say the troops should stay in Iraq until things stabilize and that there should be no timetable for withdrawal. But just 38% of moderate and liberal Republicans agree with this position, which best approximates the position of the Bush administration.

Public Sympathy for Israel Grows

Despite some concerns over the extent of Israel's bombing campaign in Lebanon, the American public remains sympathetic with Israel's position both in this conflict and more generally. In fact, the proportion favoring Israel's side in the long-running conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has increased since before the current conflict started. Currently, 52% say they sympathize more with Israel's position in that conflict, up from 44% a month ago.

	Sympathize More With...				
	July <u>2003</u>	July <u>2004</u>	July <u>2005</u>	July <u>2006</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Israel	41	40	37	44	52
Palestinians	13	13	12	9	11
Both (vol.)	8	7	5	5	5
Neither (vol.)	18	18	19	20	15
Don't know	<u>20</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

By a margin of 40% to 8%, more Americans say the U.S. should publicly support, not publicly criticize, Israel over its response to the current situation in southern Lebanon – virtually unchanged from a CBS/New York Times survey taken in the early stages of the conflict. Fully 44%

believe that Israel’s response to Hezbollah militants has been appropriate, and another 15% say that Israel has not gone far enough. There is a 23% minority, however, who believe that Israel has gone too far.

In large part, the public’s support for Israel is rooted in a sense that Hezbollah is responsible for initiating the current crisis, and that it is a group that Israel simply cannot negotiate with. Fully 42% of Americans say that Hezbollah is most responsible for the outbreak of the recent violence, another 5% cite Lebanon, and a few others point to Iran, the Palestinians, or Muslims in general. By comparison, just 12% say that Israel bears the most responsibility for the current conflict.

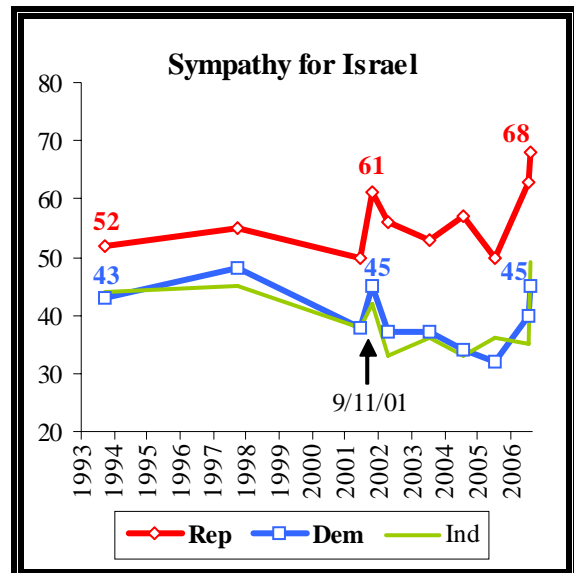
In addition, 63% of Americans believe that Hezbollah is a group committed to the destruction of Israel, while just 15% believe it is a group that Israel might be able to reach an accommodation with. And the more people follow the news or feel informed about the situation, the more widely they perceive Hezbollah as a group Israel cannot negotiate with at all.

But backing for Israel is hardly universal, particularly as it relates to civilian casualties since the fighting began. Americans overwhelmingly blame Hezbollah for initiating the conflict, they are more divided over who is to blame for civilian casualties – 29% hold Hezbollah responsible but 21% say Israel is responsible and another 13% blame both sides equally. Overall, 45% register approval of Israel’s military action in Lebanon, 33% disapprove.

Mideast Views More Partisan

Americans’ views of the Israel-Palestinian conflict have grown more partisan since the 1990s. Currently, 68% of Republicans say they sympathize more with Israel than the Palestinians, compared with 49% of independents and just 45% of Democrats. While support for Israel has grown among members of both parties – and especially independents – since July of this year, the partisan differences have not changed.

The partisan gap in opinions of the Israel-Palestinian conflict has widened since the Clinton administration, largely because Republicans have



grown much more supportive of Israel. In September 1997, for instance, 55% of Republicans and 48% of Democrats said they had greater sympathy for Israel than the Palestinians.

What Should America Do?

In general, Americans either are comfortable with the level of U.S. involvement in the Israel/Hezbollah conflict, or worry that the U.S. is already too involved. While 40% want the U.S. to publicly support Israel, nearly as many (38%) think that the U.S. should say or do nothing in terms of either backing or criticizing Israel. A 49% plurality says the U.S. is as involved as it should be in terms of resolving the conflict, and among those who disagree there is far more sentiment that the U.S. is too involved (28%) than not involved enough (15%).

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>The US should...</i>	%	%	%	%
Support Israel	40	54	31	37
Criticize Israel	8	5	11	9
Say or do nothing	38	29	44	42
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>The US should be...</i>				
More involved	15	11	21	15
Less involved	28	19	36	28
As involved as it is	49	63	35	51
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

Democrats are the most likely group to favor less U.S. involvement in the conflict – 44% say the U.S. should say or do nothing in the conflict, and 36% say the U.S. should be less involved than it is now. Part of this reflects Democratic disapproval of the President and his foreign policy leadership, but it also reflects the partisan divide in sympathy for Israel.

As a result, Republicans are far more likely to hold Hezbollah responsible for both starting the conflict and contributing to the casualties, and to perceive it as a group that is set on the destruction of Israel. By comparison, Democratic views on the crisis are less uniform. For example, most Republicans (53%) believe Israel's actions have been about right, while just 11% believe they have gone too far. Democrats are divided on this question, with only about a

<i>Most responsible for the outbreak of violence</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Hezbollah	42	55	33	42
Israel	12	9	15	13
Both	6	4	5	7
<i>Most responsible for civilian casualties</i>				
Hezbollah	29	39	22	29
Israel	21	13	27	24
Both	13	12	13	14
<i>Israel has...</i>				
Gone too far	23	11	31	30
Not far enough	15	22	12	10
About right	44	53	35	45
Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100
Hezbollah is committed to destroying Israel	63	74	55	63
Israel can come to an accomodation with them	15	11	21	15
Don't know	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>
	100	100	100	100

third (35%) saying Israel’s actions have been appropriate and another third (31%) saying they have gone too far.

These partisan divides are even more striking among those paying very close attention to news from the Middle East. Republicans who are tracking the news very closely are overwhelmingly supportive of Israel, and place the blame squarely on Hezbollah for the current violence and casualties. Democrats who are tracking the news very closely are not behind Hezbollah by any stretch, but are far more critical of Israel’s actions in the current conflict and the most supportive of the United States doing more to help resolve the situation.

Good Marks for Press Coverage

The press receives generally favorable marks for its coverage of the Israel/Hezbollah conflict. Nearly half (47%) say the amount of coverage has been appropriate; among those critical of the level of coverage, more say the press has given too much attention to the story (29%) than too little (16%). By more than two-to-one (61% vs 23%), the public also believes that press coverage of the conflict has been fair.

<i>Press coverage has been...</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Fair	61	57	69	62
Unfair	23	29	17	21
Anti-Israel bias	5	11	2	4
Pro-Israel bias	2	1	3	3
Don’t know	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100

Republicans are more likely than Democrats and independents to see a slant in news coverage of the current conflict, and are by far the most likely to say that bias is against Israel. Roughly one-in-ten Republicans (11%) say that the press coverage is either biased against Israel and in favor of Hezbollah, or is focused unduly on Lebanese casualties without enough attention on damage in Israel. These are criticisms raised very rarely by Democrats or independents. Overall, 5% of Americans believe press coverage has been biased against Israel, while just 2% perceives a pro-Israel bias to media coverage of the conflict.

%	
25	(NET) Anti-Israeli bias
19	Anti-Israel/Pro-Hezbollah bias
6	Show only Lebanese casualties
10	Pro-Israel/Anti-Hezbollah bias
12	Not enough information
4	Sensationalistic
3	Negative/Bad news only
1	Anti-US bias
1	Liberal Bias
1	Doesn’t show horrors of war
5	Other
24	General/unspecified bias
13	Don’t know
*Based on those who say press coverage is “unfair.” Figures add to more than 100% because respondents could offer more than one answer.	

Overall, many of those who say the press coverage has been unfair don’t have a political bias in mind. While

about a third who say the coverage is unfair point to either an anti-Israel (25%) or anti-Hezbollah (10%) slant to the coverage, another 12% say the unfairness is just that the press is not offering enough information to viewers, readers and listeners.

Democrats’ Midterm Advantage

Voters continue to say they favor the Democratic candidate in their district, currently by a 50% to 41% margin. This reflects overwhelming loyalty among both Democrats and Republicans, combined with the fact that independent voters currently favor the Democratic candidate in their district by a 48% to 34% margin.

Democrats Retain Midterm Lead					
	Sept 2005	Feb 2006	Apr 2006	June 2006	Aug 2006
<i>If the election were today, would you...</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Vote Democratic	52	50	51	51	50
Vote Republican	40	41	41	39	41
Other/Don't know	8	9	8	10	9
	100	100	100	100	100

Based on registered voters

Anti-incumbent sentiment remains remarkably high. Three-in-ten say they do not want the representative in their district to be reelected, largely unchanged from surveys earlier this year and significantly more than expressed this view in the 2002 or 1998 midterms. In recent years, only polling on the eve of the 1994 midterm election registered this level of anti-incumbent voting.

Views on the overall makeup of Congress have moderated somewhat since June. Today, 49% say they would like to see most members of Congress replaced in this election, down slightly from 57% two months ago. Even with this small drop, however, there is greater antagonism toward incumbents generally than in any midterm since 1994.

While foreign policy has dominated the news recently, most voters want to hear midterm candidates address domestic issues on the campaign trail this fall. Only one-in-five voters (21%) mention issues related to foreign policy, Iraq or the war on terrorism as what they want candidates to discuss. Instead, a wide range of domestic issues are frequently mentioned, including education (15%), gas prices (12%), health care (11%), and immigration (9%).

Want to Hear Candidates Discuss	
%	
15	Education
12	Gas prices
11	Health care
10	Iraq
9	Immigration
8	Economy
6	Foreign policy
5	Taxation
5	Jobs/Employment
4	National security
3	State/local issues
2	Terrorism
2	Environment
2	Social Security
2	Family/Child care
General categories:	
47	Domestic issues
27	Economic issues
21	Foreign issues

Based on registered voters.

But while the focus is domestic, it is not entirely on the economy – just 8% cite the economy directly as the issue they most want candidates to talk about – in the closing days of the 2002 midterm fully 40% cited the economy as the pre-eminent campaign issue.

And equally important, even with most of the polling conducted after the British arrests in a possible terrorist plot, just 2% cite terrorism as the issue candidates most need to address this fall.

While a low priority, the implications of the terrorism issue for midterm candidates are clearly mixed, with potential downsides for both Democrats and Republicans. In particular, while many Americans express concern about the Democrats' capacity to carry out the war on terrorism if they win a majority this fall, there is greater concern about Republicans involving the U.S. in too many overseas military operations if they retain power after the election.

Security Concerns about Both Parties					
		Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
		%	%	%	%
<i>How concerned that...</i>					
If Republicans keep the majority they will get the U.S. involved in too many military operations	Very	46	21	70	46
	Fairly	23	25	19	26
	Not too	18	29	7	19
	Not at all	11	23	3	8
	Don't know	2	2	1	1
		100	100	100	100
If Democrats win the majority they will weaken the country's efforts to combat terrorism	Very	35	58	21	30
	Fairly	22	24	18	22
	Not too	17	12	18	20
	Not at all	23	4	40	25
	Don't know	3	2	3	3
		100	100	100	100

Fully 46% of Americans say they are very concerned that if Republicans keep control of the Congress this fall they will get the country involved in too many military missions. By comparison, just over a third (35%) say they are very concerned that if Democrats take control of the Congress this fall they will weaken the country's efforts to combat terrorism.

The concerns of independents are potentially the most relevant, and decidedly unfavorable to Republican candidates. Fully 72% of independents say they are very or fairly concerned about where a Republican majority would steer U.S. foreign policy. Just 52% of independents are equally concerned that a Democratic majority would be too weak on terrorism.

But foreign affairs is not the only issue that is causing problems for GOP candidates among independent voters. While independents who *are* concerned about Republican overassertiveness favor Democratic candidates this fall by wide margins, Republican candidates are barely breaking

even among independents who do not hold this view. Independents are more likely to cite gas prices than terrorism or foreign policy as the issue they most want to hear candidates discuss this fall.

Early Look at '08

With two years to go before the presidential campaign, Sen. John McCain and former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani are the front-runners for the Republican nomination. Overall, 26% of registered voters say they would like to see McCain capture the GOP nomination in 2008, with 24% backing Giuliani.

But Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has extensive appeal, especially among conservative Republican voters. Rice draws about as much support as Giuliani and McCain, among conservative Republicans. Support for other potential Republicans is in the single digits, though 11% of conservative Republicans say they would like to see former House Speaker Newt Gingrich win the Republican nomination.

	All voters	----GOP voters----		
		Total	Cons	Mod/Lib
	%	%	%	%
John McCain	26	20	19	25
Rudy Giuliani	24	24	22	29
Condi Rice	18	21	23	18
Newt Gingrich	5	9	11	5
George Allen	3	5	6	2
Mitt Romney	3	4	5	4
Bill Frist	2	3	2	4
Sam Brownback	1	1	1	1
Other (vol.)	1	1	*	2
None (vol.)	13	9	9	7
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of cases	(1219)	(409)	(276)	(124)

On the Democratic side, Sen. Hillary Clinton continues to hold a sizable advantage. Roughly three-in-ten (29%) voters say they would like to see Clinton win the Democratic nomination, with 13% favoring former vice president Al Gore and 11% backing former senator John Edwards.

Clinton's strength is greater among conservative and moderate Democratic voters than among liberal voters, though she leads by substantial margins among both groups. More than four-in-ten conservative and moderate Democrats say they would like to see Clinton

	All voters	---Democratic voters---		
		Total	Lib	Mod/Cons
	%	%	%	%
Hillary Clinton	29	40	31	43
Al Gore	13	18	19	18
John Edwards	11	11	12	11
John Kerry	9	11	10	10
Joe Biden	6	6	11	4
Bill Richardson	5	4	5	4
Mark Warner	3	2	2	1
Russ Feingold	3	2	3	2
Other (vol.)	2	1	2	2
None (vol.)	16	4	2	4
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of cases	(1219)	(407)	(122)	(266)

gain the nomination, compared with just 18% who prefer Gore, her closest competitor. By comparison, Clinton holds a 31%-19% over Gore among liberals.

Bush Ratings Stable

Despite significant events overseas, overall impressions of the president’s performance in office have been stable in recent months. Currently, 37% approve of the job Bush is doing, while 54% disapprove, virtually unchanged from surveys in June and July. While there continues to be an overwhelming partisan divide in views of the president, independents remain highly critical. By just over two-to-one (59% to 28%) more independents disapprove than approve of the president’s job performance.

Bush Job Approval			
<i>How Bush is handling...</i>	App-rove %	Dis-approve %	DK %
Terrorist threats	50	39	11=100
Education	38	45	17=100
Foreign policy	37	49	14=100
Overall job	37	54	9=100
Israel/Hezbollah conflict	36	44	20=100
Economy	33	59	8=100
Iraq situation	32	61	7=100
Health care	31	54	15=100

Handling terrorist threats continues to be the president’s strongest area, and there has been some improvement in public perceptions in recent months. After reaching a low of 42% approval on the issue of terrorism in March, approval rose to 47% in June and up to 50% today. But impressions of the president’s performance in Iraq and on foreign policy remain generally negative. Just 32% approve of how Bush is handling the situation in Iraq, down slightly from 35% in June.

Public evaluations of the president’s personal character also have not changed significantly in recent months. Bush’s first-term image as someone who is trustworthy, capable and a strong leader had already faded substantially by this March, and shows no sign of recovery. By a 52% to 41% margin more say the president is not trustworthy than say he is trustworthy, and the balance of opinion on his ability to get things done, to be a strong leader, and the extent to which he cares about regular people are similarly negative.

The proportion of Americans who see President Bush as well informed has rebounded from a low in March, during the debate over the possible deal to allow a Dubai-based company to manage

U.S. ports. At that time, just 38% described the president as well informed while 54% said he was not well informed. Currently, 46% describe the president as well informed, though an equal number say he is not.

August News Interest

While the public has been closely tracking news about Iraq, Lebanon and the war on terror, this month’s most closely followed story is the high price of gasoline. Six-in-ten Americans followed this story very closely, little changed from June (58%). Public attentiveness to high gas prices reached its peak last September in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when 71% tracked news about the high price of gas very closely.

There was broad public interest in news that British officials foiled a terrorist plot to blow up jet liners flying to the United States. However, more Republicans (63%) tracked these reports very closely than either Democrats (53%) or independents (49%).

Four-in-ten Americans say they followed news about the conflict in Lebanon very closely. This story has attracted relatively broad interest when compared with other conflicts over the past two decades that did not directly involve the U.S. or Americans. Among such stories, only the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989 and Middle East violence in 2002 drew greater public attention.

Bush’s Personal Image					
	Feb 2001	Sept 2003	July 2005	Mar 2006	Aug 2006
	%	%	%	%	%
Well informed	62	59	52	38	46
Not well informed	27	36	42	54	46
Neither/DK	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
Trustworthy	60	62	49	40	41
Not trustworthy	28	32	46	52	52
Neither/DK	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
Able to get things done	60	68	50	43	42
Not able	18	26	42	50	51
Neither/DK	<u>22</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
Conservative	44	51	57	48	48
Middle of the road	39	34	26	31	30
Liberal	7	9	9	10	8
Neither/DK	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
Cares about people like me	--	56	48	42	41
Doesn’t care	--	38	49	51	53
Neither/DK	--	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
		100	100	100	100
Strong leader	--	68	55	44	43
Not a strong leader	--	29	41	51	52
Neither/DK	--	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
		100	100	100	100

Top News Stories	
	Following very closely %
High price of gas	60
Airline terror plot	54
Situation in Iraq	41
Conflict in Lebanon	40
Hot summer weather	38
Issue of immigration	34
Iran’s nuclear program	24
State & district campaigns	20
Fidel Castro’s illness	19
Joe Lieberman’s defeat	17
Mel Gibson’s outburst	14

Among other stories this month, 38% say they paid very close attention to news about hot summer weather, and 34% closely tracked news about the issue of immigration. Roughly a quarter (24%) say they followed news about Iran’s nuclear program very closely, while 20% say the same about news about state and local election campaigns. That level of interest is on par with recent midterm campaigns.

Just 17% of Americans say they followed news of Sen. Joe Lieberman’s primary defeat. Although Lieberman lost in Connecticut’s *Democratic* primary, this story drew more interest from Republicans than Democrats. About a quarter of Republicans (26%) followed this story very closely, including 36% of conservative Republicans. That compares with 15% of Democrats and 12% of independents.

Interest in Foreign Conflicts Not Involving the U.S.	
<i>Percent following news story...</i>	<u>Very closely</u>
Tiananmen Square {7-89}	47
Continued violence in Middle East {4-02}	44
<i>Israel & Hezbollah conflict {8-06}</i>	40
India/Pakistan nuclear testing {6-98}	36
Colombian drug war {9-89}	34
Failed coup in Panama {10-89}	29
Revolution in Romania {1-90}	28
Iran’s nuclear program {5-06}	26
North Korea building nukes {10-02}	25
Civil war in Bosnia {5-93}	23
Cease fire between Iraq & Iran {8-88}	22
Unrest & violence in Haiti {3-04}	15
Massacre in Kosovo {1-99}	9
Coup attempt in Venezuela {5-02}	6

Some stories asked more than once; highest % is shown

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,506 adults, 18 years of age or older, from August 9-13, 2006. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=731) and Form 2 (N=775) the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of six projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AUGUST 2006 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
August 9-13, 2006
N=1506

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>App-rove</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>		<u>App-rove</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
August, 2006	37	54	9=100	Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100
July, 2006	36	57	7=100	Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100
June, 2006	36	54	10=100	Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100
April, 2006	33	56	11=100	June, 2003	62	27	11=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	August, 2001	50	32	18=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:

More specifically...

Q.2F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE;]**
How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	The economy	33	59	8=100
	June, 2006	33	57	10=100
	March, 2006	34	57	9=100
	February, 2006	38	55	7=100
	December, 2005	38	55	7=100
	Late October, 2005	36	56	8=100
	Early September, 2005	33	60	7=100
	July, 2005	38	53	9=100
	Mid-May, 2005	35	57	8=100
	February, 2005	43	50	7=100
	January, 2005	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.F1	The situation in Iraq	32	61	7=100
	June, 2006	35	57	8=100
	March, 2006	30	65	5=100
	February, 2006	38	57	5=100
	December, 2005	36	58	6=100
	Late October, 2005	37	57	6=100
	Early September, 2005	34	58	8=100
	July, 2005	35	57	8=100
	Mid-May, 2005	37	56	7=100
	February, 2005	40	53	7=100
	January, 2005	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

Q.2F1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
April 10-16, 2003 ¹	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
c.F1 Terrorist threats	50	39	11=100
June, 2006	47	41	12=100
March, 2006	42	49	9=100
February, 2006	53	40	7=100
December, 2005	49	44	7=100
Late October, 2005	52	40	8=100
Early September, 2005	49	41	10=100
July, 2005	49	40	11=100
Mid-May, 2005	57	35	8=100
February, 2005	59	34	7=100
January, 2005	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
<i>Gallup</i> : 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 ²	85	6	9=100
Clinton : Early September, 1998	72	20	8=100

¹ From March to April 2003 the item was worded: "... dealing with the war in Iraq?"

² 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?"

Q.2F1 CONTINUED...

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
d.F1	The nation's foreign policy	37	49	14=100
	June, 2006	37	51	12=100
	Late October, 2005	36	51	13=100
	July, 2005	36	49	15=100
	Mid-May, 2005	38	46	16=100
	February, 2005	43	46	11=100
	January, 2005	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
	<i>Gallup</i> : October, 2001	81	14	5=100
	Early September, 2001	46	34	20=100
	August, 2001 ³	45	32	23=100
	Clinton : September, 1997	54	34	12=100
	Bush, Sr : May, 1990	58	30	12=100
e.F1	Health care policy	31	54	15=100
	March, 2006	26	57	17=100
	February, 2006	28	57	15=100
	February, 2005	36	51	13=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : November, 2004	37	57	6=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : January, 2004	43	49	8=100
	September, 2003	33	46	21=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : January, 2003	41	44	15=100
	June, 2002	37	46	17=100
	Clinton : July, 1994	39	54	7=100
	Bush, Sr : May, 1990	30	59	11=100
f.F1	Education	38	45	17=100
	February, 2006	43	45	12=100
	February, 2005	44	42	14=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : August, 2004	47	47	6=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : January, 2004	56	35	9=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : January, 2003	57	30	13=100
	June, 2002	56	31	13=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : March, 2001	65	22	13=100
	Bush, Sr : May, 1990	45	45	10=100
g.F1	The conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Hezbollah	36	44	20=100

³ 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.

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

		Early		----- Clinton -----					
		Jan	Oct	Jan	Jan	Early Sept	Jan	Dec	Oct
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
50	Domestic policy	57	64	53	52	56	86	85	76
32	Foreign policy	25	20	27	34	30	7	7	13
1	Neither (VOL)	1	1	1	*	0	*	2	*
12	Both (VOL)	13	12	16	11	11	5	4	7
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NO QUESTION 4-6

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=775]:

Q.7F2 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of George W. Bush. (First,) does George W. Bush impress you as... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

		Early					
		March	Oct	July	Sept	Feb	Oct
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1999</u>
a.F2	41 Trustworthy, or	40	49	49	62	60	63
	52 NOT trustworthy	52	46	46	32	28	29
	3 Neither particularly (VOL)	2	2	2	2	4	2
	<u>4</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

		Early					
		March	Oct	July	Sept	Feb	
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>	
b.F2	42 Able to get things done, or	43	51	50	68	60	--
	51 NOT able to get things done	50	43	42	26	18	--
	3 Neither particularly (VOL)	3	2	4	3	7	--
	<u>4</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>	--
	100	100	100	100	100	100	

		March	July	Sept	Feb		
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>		
c.F2	46 Well informed, or	38	--	52	59	62	--
	46 NOT well informed	54	--	42	36	27	--
	3 Neither particularly (VOL)	2	--	2	*	4	--
	<u>5</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	--	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	--
	100	100	100	100	100		

		Early					
		March	Oct	July	Sept	April	Feb
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2001</u>
d.F2	8 Liberal,	10	9	9	9	8	7
	30 Middle of the road or	31	27	26	34	37	39
	48 Conservative	48	55	57	51	46	44
	3 Neither particularly (VOL)	3	3	2	1	3	2
	<u>11</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.7F2 CONTINUED...

			March	Early	July	Sept	Oct
			<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>1999</u>
e.F2	41	Cares about people like me, or	42	45	48	56	54
	53	DOESN'T care about people like me	51	51	49	38	37
	2	Neither particularly (VOL)	2	1	1	2	2
	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
	100		100	100	100	100	100

			March	Early	July	Sept	Oct
			<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>1999</u>
f.F2	43	A strong leader, or	44	51	55	68	68
	52	NOT a strong leader	51	46	41	29	24
	3	Neither particularly (VOL)	2	2	2	1	3
	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
	100		100	100	100	100	100

NO QUESTION 8

ASK ALL:

Now a different kind of question...

Q.9 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month, tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

		Very	Fairly	Not too	Not at all	DK/
		closely	closely	closely	closely	Ref
a.	News about the current situation in Iraq	41	39	12	7	1=100
	June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1=100
	May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1=100
	April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1=100
	March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1=100
	February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1=100
	January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1=100
	December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1=100
	Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*=100
	Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*=100
	Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1=100
	July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1=100
	June, 2005	41	39	12	7	1=100
	Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
	Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
	February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
	January, 2005	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

Q.9 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
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 ⁴	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 ⁵	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
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. The hot weather this summer and its impact on the country	38	34	17	9	2=100
January, 2001 ⁶	42	31	15	11	1=100
January, 1999	37	34	17	12	*=100
Early December, 1998	39	35	13	12	1=100
August, 1988	42	32	15	10	1=100

⁴ From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

⁵ 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."

⁶ In January 2001 question was worded "Cold winter weather and storms in the Northeast and Midwest.." In January 1999 question was worded "Cold winter weather and storms in the Midwest." In December 1998 question was worded "Unseasonable weather patterns." In August 1988 question was worded "The hot weather this summer and the greenhouse effect."

Q.9 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
c. The military conflict between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon	40	34	14	10	2=100
September, 2003 ⁷	31	36	20	13	*=100
Early July, 2003	26	40	20	13	1=100
December, 2002	29	36	22	12	1=100
Early October, 2002	32	39	20	8	1=100
June, 2002	38	33	18	10	1=100
April, 2002	38	37	14	10	1=100
Early April, 2002	44	33	13	9	1=100
December, 2001	31	40	19	9	1=100
Early September, 2001	21	33	25	20	1=100
April, 2001	22	34	24	19	1=100
Mid-October, 2000	30	38	18	13	1=100
Early October, 2000	21	30	27	21	1=100
January, 1997	12	23	29	35	1=100
October, 1996	17	34	26	23	*=100
May, 1988	18	37	34	9	2=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:

d.F1 The high price of gasoline these days	60	26	7	5	2=100
June, 2006	58	26	10	5	1=100
May, 2006	69	21	6	3	1=100
April, 2006	65	22	8	4	1=100
December, 2005	61	27	7	4	1=100
Early November, 2005	61	27	9	2	1=100
Late October, 2005	67	23	7	3	*=100
Early October, 2005	65	25	6	3	1=100
Early September, 2005	71	19	7	3	*=100
Mid-May, 2005	58	27	9	5	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	50	32	13	5	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	64	22	8	5	1=100
August, 2004	52	29	10	8	1=100
July, 2004	56	25	11	7	1=100
June, 2004	58	26	9	6	1=100
April, 2004	46	30	15	8	1=100
Early April, 2004	58	23	10	8	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	27	14	10	2=100
September, 2003	45	27	15	11	1=100
March, 2003	52	27	11	9	1=100
February, 2003	53	25	12	9	1=100
June, 2001	56	31	7	5	1=100
May, 2001	61	26	6	6	1=100
Early October, 2000	56	25	12	6	1=100

⁷ In Early September 2001 through September 2003 and in Mid-October 2000 the story was listed as "Continued violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis." In April 2001 the story was listed as "Continued violence in the Middle East." In Early October 2000 the story was listed as "Renewed violence in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis." In January 1997 the story was listed as "Renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians over Hebron." In October 1996 the story was listed as "Renewed violence between Israelis & Palestinians on the West Bank and in Jerusalem." In May 1988 the story was listed as "The conflict in the Middle East between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the occupied territories."

Q.9 CONTINUED...

		Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
	June, 2000 ⁸	61	25	9	5	*=100
	March, 2000	58	28	10	4	*=100
	October, 1990	62	26	8	4	*=100
	September, 1990	56	28	11	5	*=100
	August, 1990	57	27	10	5	1=100
e.F1	The issue of immigration	34	40	16	9	1=100
	June, 2006	36	41	15	7	1=100
	May, 2006	44	33	13	9	1=100
	April, 2006	39	34	16	10	1=100
f.F1	Iran's nuclear research program	24	34	20	20	3=100
	June, 2006	21	32	22	22	3=100
	April, 2006	26	30	23	20	1=100
	March, 2006	24	31	22	22	1=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=775]:

g.F2	News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district	20	29	28	22	1=100
	June, 2006	18	30	29	21	2=100
	April, 2006	18	28	30	23	1=100
	Early November, 2002 (RVs)	27	46	18	9	*=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	28	34	24	13	1=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	21	46	22	10	1=100
	Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1=100
	Late October, 1998 (RVs)	26	45	20	9	*=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	21	43	24	11	1=100
	Early September, 1998	17	32	28	23	*=100
	Early August, 1998	13	30	28	28	1=100
	June, 1998	9	27	33	30	1=100
	April, 1998 ⁹	16	33	24	27	*=100
	November, 1994	18	42	25	15	*=100
	Late October, 1994	14	38	31	16	1=100
	Early October, 1994	23	34	23	19	1=100
	September, 1994	19	34	29	18	*=100
	November, 1990	38	34	17	11	*=100
	October, 1990	18	32	28	22	*=100

NO ITEM h.

⁸ In August 1990 through June 2000 the story was listed as "Recent increases in the price of gasoline."

⁹ In April 1998, September 1994 and October 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and election campaigns in your state." In November 1990, story was listed as "Candidates and elections in your state."

Q.9 CONTINUED...

		<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
i.F2	Fidel Castro handing control of Cuba to his brother because of an illness	19	34	23	23	1=100
j.F2	Actor Mel Gibson's outburst during a drunk driving arrest	14	23	30	31	2=100

ASK AUGUST 10-13 FORM 2 ONLY [N=582]:

k.F2	Senator Joe Lieberman's defeat in the Connecticut primary	17	24	19	37	3=100
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ASK AUGUST 10-13 ONLY [N=1135]:

l.	British officials stopping a terrorist plot to blow up planes flying to the U.S.	54	26	9	9	2=100
	June, 2002 ¹⁰	30	30	24	15	1=100

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Of the stories I just mentioned, are there any that you wish you understood better or had more time to learn about? **[DO NOT READ; DISPLAY PRE-CODES CORRESPONDING TO FORM; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE]**

10	News about the current situation in Iraq
2	The hot weather this summer and its impact on the country
16	The military conflict between Israel and Hezbollah forces in Lebanon
1	Actor Mel Gibson's outburst during a drunk driving arrest
7	The high price of gasoline these days
5	The issue of immigration
6	Iran's nuclear research program
2	News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district
1	Joe Lieberman's defeat in the Connecticut primary
4	Fidel Castro handing control of Cuba to his brother because of an illness
4	British officials stopping a terrorist plot to blow up planes flying to the U.S.
4	Other
56	No, none
3	Don't know/Refused

¹⁰ In June 2002 the story was listed as "The arrest of a man for planning a "dirty bomb" terrorist attack on the U.S."

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.11 If the 2006 elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

IF ANSWERED '3' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW IN Q.11, ASK:

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

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1219]:

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

ASK ALL:

Q.12 What one issue would you most like to hear the candidates in your state or district talk about this fall? [OPEN ENDED; PROMPT ONCE WITH “What would you name second?” ACCEPT UP TO THREE MENTIONS]

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1219]:		Early Oct <u>2002</u>	June <u>2002</u>	Early Oct <u>1998</u>	Early Sept <u>1998</u>	June <u>1998</u>
15	Education issues	21	20	24	20	20
12	Gas Prices/Alternative Fuel/Energy Prices	–	–	–	–	–
11	Health care	9	13	8	6	5
10	Iraq	4	–	–	–	–
9	Immigration	1	1	*	*	*
8	Economy/Economic issues	40	7	6	8	4
6	Foreign policy/International relations	6	7	1	2	2
5	Jobs/Employment	16	6	3	4	5
5	Taxation	10	12	8	11	13
4	National security	3	12	1	1	1
3	State/local issues	2	1	3	4	–
2	Family/Child care issues	2	1	1	1	3
2	Dealing with terrorism/terrorists	11	9	*	1	–
2	Caring for seniors/Elder care	3	3	2	1	–
2	Environment	2	4	2	2	2
2	Social Security	2	3	6	4	9
1	Balanced budget	4	4	3	2	3
1	Crime/Crime control/All other crime issues	4	6	7	9	14
1	Politicians/Political system	2	2	4	3	–
1	Abortion	2	2	3	2	4
1	Welfare/Welfare reform	1	1	1	3	–
1	Poverty/Homelessness	1	2	3	2	2
1	Size/Scope of government	1	1	2	2	–
1	Wages/Salaries	1	*	1	1	–
*	None	1	*	*	*	*
13	No answer/DK/Refused	11	16	2	21	18
27	ECONOMIC (NET)	55	20	14	15	15
21	FOREIGN POLICY/TERRORISM (NET)	22	26	3	4	3

Q.13 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1219]:

	(VOL)		(VOL)	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Congressperson <u>not running</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2006	51	30	*	19=100
June, 2006	51	32	1	16=100
April, 2006	57	28	1	14=100
February, 2006	59	28	1	12=100
Mid-September, 2005	57	25	1	17=100
Early October, 2002	58	19	2	21=100
June, 2002	58	23	1	18=100
Early November, 2000	59	16	2	23=100

Q.13 CONTINUED...

	(VOL)			(VOL)
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Congressperson <u>not running</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
October, 2000	60	17	1	22=100
July, 1999	66	23	*	11=100
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16=100
Early October, 1998	58	20	2	20=100
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16=100
March, 1998	63	21	1	15=100
January, 1998	66	23	0	11=100
August, 1997	66	22	0	12=100
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21=100
October, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26=100
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
November, 1994	58	25	1	16=100
Late October, 1994	55	30	2	13=100
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	62	22	2	14=100

Q.14 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1219]:

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

Q.15 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote FOR George W. Bush, as a vote AGAINST George W. Bush, or isn't George W. Bush much of a factor in your vote?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1219]:

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	Not a <u>factor</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
August, 2006	17	35	43	5=100
June, 2006	15	38	44	3=100
April, 2006	17	34	46	3=100
February, 2006	18	31	47	4=100
Early November, 2002	29	16	49	6=100
Early October, 2002	30	20	44	6=100
Early September, 2002	29	15	51	5=100
February, 2002	34	9	50	7=100
Clinton: Late October, 1998	20	17	58	5=100
Clinton: Early October, 1998	19	23	52	6=100
Clinton: Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3=100
Clinton: Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2=100
Clinton: Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4=100
Clinton: June, 1998	20	18	57	5=100
Clinton: March, 1998	21	15	59	5=100
Clinton: Early September, 1996	24	18	51	7=100
Clinton: November, 1994	17	21	55	7=100
Clinton: Late October, 1994	17	21	57	5=100
Clinton: Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6=100
CBS/NYT Bush: 10/28-31, 1990	19	15	61	6=100
CBS/NYT Reagan: 10/24-28, 1986	26	12	55	7=100
CBS/NYT Reagan: 9/28-10/1, 1986	26	16	51	7=100
CBS/NYT Reagan: 10/23-28, 1982	23	21	51	5=100

ROTATE P.1 AND P.2

P.1 Now I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the REPUBLICAN nomination for President in 2008. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate for President? (**PROBE IF NECESSARY:** Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?) (**READ AND RANDOMIZE**)

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1219]:

	Late March <u>2005</u> ¹¹
26 John McCain	34
24 Rudy Giuliani	26
18 Condoleezza Rice	17
5 Newt Gingrich	--
3 George Allen	--
3 Mitt Romney	--
2 Bill Frist	4
1 Sam Brownback	--
1 Other (VOL)	
13 None (VOL)	
<u>4</u> DK/Ref	
100	

¹¹ In Late March 2005, the candidate list included John McCain, Rudy Giuliani, Condoleezza Rice, Jeb Bush, and Bill Frist.

P.2 Now I am going to read you the names of some possible candidates for the DEMOCRATIC nomination for President in 2008. AFTER I READ ALL THE NAMES, please tell me which one you would most like to see nominated as the Democratic Party's candidate for President? (**PROBE IF NECESSARY:** Well as of today, to whom do you most lean?) (**READ AND RANDOMIZE**)

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1219]:

		Late March 2005 ¹²
29	Hillary Clinton	32
13	Al Gore	--
11	John Edwards	17
9	John Kerry	14
6	Joe Biden	--
5	Bill Richardson	10
3	Mark Warner	--
3	Russ Feingold	--
2	Other (VOL)	
16	None (VOL)	
<u>3</u>	DK/Ref	
100		

ASKED AUGUST 10-13 ONLY [N=1135]:

ROTATE P.3 AND P.4

P.3 How concerned are you, if at all, that if the Democrats take control of the Congress this fall they will weaken the country's efforts to combat terrorism? [**READ**]

35	Very concerned
22	Fairly concerned
17	Not too concerned
23	Not at all concerned
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

P.4 How concerned are you, if at all, that if the Republicans keep control of the Congress this fall they will get the U.S. involved in too many military operations overseas? [**READ**]

46	Very concerned
23	Fairly concerned
18	Not too concerned
11	Not at all concerned
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

¹² In Late March 2005, the candidate list included Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, John Kerry, Bill Richardson, and Howard Dean.

ASK ALL:

Q.16 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the internet? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]

	Television	News- papers	Radio	Magazines	Internet	(VOL) Other	Don't Know/ Refused
August, 2006	72	36	14	4	24	2	1
November, 2005	73	36	16	2	20	2	*
Early Sept, 2005¹³ (Hurricane Katrina)	89	35	17	*	21	3	*
June, 2005	74	44	22	5	24	2	1
December, 2004	74	46	21	4	24	2	3
October, 2003	80	50	18	4	20	2	1
August, 2003	79	46	15	3	18	2	1
Early July, 2003	79	45	16	5	19	1	*
March, 2003 (War in Iraq)	89	24	19	*	11	2	*
February, 2003	83	42	19	4	15	3	*
January, 2003	81	44	22	4	17	2	1
January, 2002	82	42	21	3	14	2	*
Mid-September, 2001 (Terror Attacks)	90	11	14	*	5	1	1
Early September, 2001	74	45	18	6	13	1	*
February, 2001	76	40	16	4	10	2	1
October, 1999	80	48	19	5	11	2	*
January, 1999	82	42	18	4	6	2	*
January, 1996	88	61	25	8	--	2	*
September, 1995 ¹⁴	82	63	20	10	--	1	1
January, 1994	83	51	15	10	--	5	1
September, 1993	83	60	17	9	--	3	*
January, 1993	83	52	17	5	--	1	1
Early January, 1991	82	40	15	4	--	1	*

¹³ In Early September 2005, the question was worded “news about the impact of Hurricane Katrina.” In March 2003, the question was worded “news about the war in Iraq,” and in Mid-September 2001, the question was worded “news about the terrorist attacks.” In September 1995, question wording did not include “international.” In Early January 1991 the question asked about “the latest developments in the Persian Gulf.”

¹⁴ In September 1995, question wording did not include “international.” In Early January 1991 the question asked about “the latest developments in the Persian Gulf.”

IF '1' TELEVISION AS EITHER 1ST OR 2ND RESPONSE IN Q.16 ASK:

Q.16a On television, do you get most of your news about national and international issues from [READ, RANDOMIZE ITEMS 2 THRU 4 AND 5 THRU 8 SEPARATELY, AND RANDOMIZE SETS OF ITEMS (LOCAL; NETWORK; CABLE). ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]

BASED ON TOTAL:	<i>Hurricane Katrina</i>							
	Nov 2005	Early Sept 2005 ¹⁵	June 2005	Dec 2004	Oct 2003	Aug 2003	Early July 2003	Jan 2002
13	Local news programming	16	19	13	15	17	17	16
10	ABC Network news	14	14	12	11	12	12	11
9	CBS Network news	12	8	9	9	8	10	11
12	NBC Network news	15	12	12	14	13	15	15
24	CNN Cable news	24	31	18	20	20	26	28
6	MSNBC Cable news	8	9	5	6	6	7	8
20	The Fox News Cable Channel	22	22	16	19	17	18	16
2	CNBC Cable news	5	3	2	3	-- ¹⁶	3	4
4	Other (VOL)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	DK/Ref	3	3	4	3	4	4	2

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:

Next, I would like to ask you about some things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them. First, [RANDOMIZE ITEMS 17aF1 THRU 17cF1]

Q.17aF1 Do you happen to know the name of the person who will soon be taking over as the anchor of the CBS Evening News later this summer?

- 35 Yes, Katie Couric *{correct}*
- 5 Yes, other
- 60 No, Don't know
- 100

Q.17bF1 Do you happen to know the name of the Democratic senator from Connecticut who recently lost in the state's primary election?

- 40 Yes, Joe Lieberman *{correct}*
- 4 Yes, other
- 56 No, Don't know
- 100

Q.17cF1 Do you happen to know the name of the Hollywood actor who made anti-Semitic remarks during a recent drunk driving arrest?

- 69 Yes, Mel Gibson *{correct}*
- 6 Yes, other
- 25 No, Don't know
- 100

QUESTION 18a-c HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

¹⁵ In Early September 2005, the question was worded: "Have you been getting most of your news about the disaster from..."

¹⁶ In October 2003, CNBC Cable news item was not asked due to programming error.

ASK ALL:

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q.19 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>(VOL) DK/ Ref</u>
August, 2006	45	46	9=100
July, 2006	44	50	6=100
June, 2006	49	44	7=100
April, 2006	47	46	7=100
March, 2006	45	49	6=100
February, 2006	51	44	5=100
January, 2006	45	47	8=100
December, 2005	47	48	5=100
Late October, 2005	48	45	7=100
Early October, 2005	44	50	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	49	44	7=100
July, 2005	49	44	7=100
June, 2005	47	45	8=100
February, 2005	47	47	6=100
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
Late April, 2004	54	37	9=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	24	9=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100
April 10-16, 2003	74	19	7=100
April 8-9, 2003	74	19	7=100
April 2-7, 2003	72	20	8=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	25	6=100
March 25-27, 2003	74	21	5=100
March 23-24, 2003	74	21	5=100
March 20-22, 2003	71	22	7=100
Late January, 1991	77	15	8=100

Q.20 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>	(VOL) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
August, 2006	8	33	32	23	4=100
June, 2006	16	37	25	18	4=100
April, 2006	13	34	29	21	3=100
March, 2006	9	34	30	21	6=100
February, 2006	13	38	29	17	3=100
January, 2006	12	39	27	17	5=100
December, 2005	14	37	29	17	3=100
Early October, 2005	9	35	31	22	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	12	41	26	18	3=100
July, 2005	14	38	27	17	4=100
June, 2005	9	41	27	19	4=100
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
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
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

Q.21 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?

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
August, 2006	48	46	6=100
June, 2006	50	45	5=100
April, 2006	48	48	4=100
March, 2006	44	50	6=100
February, 2006	50	46	4=100
January, 2006	48	48	4=100
December, 2005	49	46	5=100
Early October, 2005	47	48	5=100
Mid-September, 2005	51	45	4=100
July, 2005	52	43	5=100
June, 2005	50	46	4=100
February, 2005	55	42	3=100
January, 2005	54	41	5=100
December, 2004	56	40	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	57	36	7=100
Early September, 2004	54	40	6=100
August, 2004	54	42	4=100
July, 2004	53	43	4=100
June, 2004 ¹⁷	51	44	5=100
May, 2004	53	42	5=100
Late April, 2004	53	40	7=100
Early April, 2004	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	63	32	5=100
October, 2003	58	39	3=100
September, 2003	64	32	4=100

¹⁷ 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?"

IF “KEEP TROOPS IN IRAQ” (1 IN Q.21) ASK:

Q.22 Do you think more troops are needed in Iraq right now, or do you think there are already enough troops there to do the job?

		April <u>2006</u>	Early Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Jun <u>2004</u>	Early Jan <u>2004</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>
15	More troops needed	13	13	16	18	29	32	34
24	Have enough there to do the job	27	26	27	23	26	21	25
*	Reduce number of troops (VOL)	*	0	*	*	*	*	*
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
48%		48%	47%	52%	51%	63%	58%	64%

IF “BRING TROOPS HOME” (2 IN Q.21) ASK:

Q.23 Should the U.S. remove all troops from Iraq immediately, or should the withdrawal of troops be gradual over the next year or two?

		April <u>2006</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2005</u>
15	Remove all troops immediately	18	14	17
30	Gradual withdrawal over the next year or two	29	32	28
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
46%		48%	48%	46%

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:

Q.24F1 Regardless of what you think about the original decision to use military force in Iraq, do you now believe that the United States will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in establishing a stable democratic government in Iraq?

		June <u>2006</u>	March <u>2006</u>	Feb <u>2006</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2005</u>	Late Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>
12	Definitely succeed	15	10	16	14	16	12	17
35	Probably succeed	40	39	39	42	41	44	43
30	Probably fail	29	33	28	26	28	29	25
11	Definitely fail	9	10	11	8	9	8	8
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=775]:

Q.25F2 Regardless of what you think about the original decision to use military force in Iraq, do you now believe that the United States will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in achieving its goals in Iraq?

14	Definitely succeed
40	Probably succeed
28	Probably fail
12	Definitely fail
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

Q.26 As I read a few specific things about Iraq, tell me if you think we are making progress or losing ground in each area. First, are we making progress or losing ground in **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you think we are making progress or losing ground in this area?]**

		<u>Making</u>	<u>Losing</u>	(VOL) <u>No</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/</u>
ASK ITEMS a THRU d OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:		<u>progress</u>	<u>ground</u>	<u>change</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a.F1	Training Iraqi security forces so they can replace U.S. troops	58	26	2	14=100
	June, 2006	61	28	2	9=100
	April, 2006	55	30	1	14=100
	March, 2006	56	30	1	13=100
	January, 2006	65	22	1	12=100
	December, 2005	61	27	1	11=100
b.F1	Reducing the number of civilian casualties there	25	58	3	14=100
	June, 2006	29	56	3	12=100
	April, 2006	28	56	3	13=100
	March, 2006	27	56	3	14=100
	January, 2006	32	54	3	11=100
	December, 2005	35	53	3	9=100
c.F1	Preventing terrorists from using Iraq as a base for attacks against the U.S. and its allies	45	40	2	13=100
	June, 2006	49	39	2	10=100
	April, 2006	44	43	3	10=100
	March, 2006	42	44	2	12=100
	January, 2006	52	33	2	13=100
	December, 2005	48	41	2	9=100
d.F1	Establishing democracy in Iraq	47	39	3	11=100
	June, 2006	55	35	2	8=100
	April, 2006	51	38	3	8=100
	March, 2006	50	38	2	10=100
	January, 2006	62	26	2	10=100
	December, 2005	58	32	2	8=100
ASK ITEMS e THRU g OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=775]:					
e.F2	Defeating the insurgents militarily	41	45	3	11=100
	June, 2006	48	36	2	14=100
	April, 2006	40	46	2	12=100
	March, 2006	36	51	1	12=100
	January, 2006	46	38	3	13=100
	December, 2005	44	41	3	12=100
f.F2	Preventing a civil war between various religious and ethnic groups	22	63	4	11=100
	June, 2006	32	50	4	14=100
	April, 2006	26	59	3	12=100
	March, 2006	24	66	2	8=100
	January, 2006	34	48	4	14=100
	December, 2005	36	49	3	12=100

Q.26 CONTINUED...

	<u>Making progress</u>	<u>Losing ground</u>	<u>(VOL) No change</u>	<u>(VOL) DK/Ref</u>
g.F2 Rebuilding roads, power plants and other services in Iraq	46	34	1	19=100
June, 2006	52	23	1	24=100
April, 2006	55	26	1	18=100
March, 2006	53	29	1	17=100
January, 2006	59	22	1	18=100

ASK ALL:

Q.27 Do you think the U.S. should or should not set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq?

	<u>June 2006</u>	<u>April 2006</u>	<u>March 2006</u>	<u>Jan 2006</u>	<u>Dec 2005</u>	<u>Early Oct 2005</u>	<u>Mid-Sept 2005</u>	<u>July 2005</u>
52 Should set a timetable	52	53	55	50	56	52	57	49
41 Should not set a timetable	42	40	39	42	38	43	37	45
1 Should get out now (VOL)	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	*
<u>6</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Turning to another subject...

Q.28 In the dispute between Israel and the Palestinians, which side do you sympathize with more, Israel or the Palestinians?

	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Palestinians</u>	<u>(VOL) Both</u>	<u>(VOL) Neither</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2006	52	11	5	15	17=100
July, 2006	44	9	5	20	22=100
July, 2005	37	12	5	19	27=100
July, 2004	40	13	7	18	22=100
Late February, 2004	46	12	8	15	19=100
Mid-July, 2003	41	13	8	18	20=100
April, 2002	41	13	6	21	19=100
Mid-October, 2001	47	10	8	18	17=100
Early September, 2001	40	17	6	23	14=100
September, 1997	48	13	5	16	18=100
September, 1993	45	21	3	18	12=100
<i>Chicago CFR 1990</i>	34	13	7	26	20=100
<i>Chicago CFR 1978</i>	38	12	8	15	13=100

QUESTIONS 29-52 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.53 How worried are you that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the United States? [READ]

	<u>Very worried</u>	<u>Somewhat worried</u>	<u>Not too worried</u>	<u>Not at all worried</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2006	23	44	21	10	2=100
July, 2005	26	42	19	12	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	17	43	27	12	1=100
August, 2004	20	44	25	10	1=100
July, 2004	17	41	26	15	1=100
June, 2004	25	42	20	12	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	20	42	25	12	1=100
Early February, 2004	13	42	28	16	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	20	45	24	10	1=100
August, 2003	13	45	29	12	1=100
March, 2003	22	42	20	14	2=100
February, 2003	34	41	17	7	1=100
January, 2003	18	50	23	8	1=100
December, 2002	31	42	18	8	1=100
Early October, 2002	20	46	22	11	1=100
Late August, 2002	16	46	25	12	1=100
June, 2002	32	44	17	7	* =100
January, 2002	20	42	28	9	1=100
December, 2001	13	39	27	19	2=100
October 15-21, 2001	29	42	18	10	1=100
October 10-14, 2001	27	40	19	12	2=100
Early October, 2001	28	45	15	11	1=100

Q.54 All in all, how worried are you that you or someone in your family might become a victim of a terrorist attack? Would you say you are [READ]?

	<u>Very Worried</u>	<u>Somewhat Worried</u>	<u>Not too Worried</u>	<u>Not at all Worried</u>	<u>(VOL) Already a Victim</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2006	16	28	35	20	*	1=100
February, 2004	10	27	37	26	*	*=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	14	34	31	20	0	1=100
March 25-27, 2003	12	30	33	23	1	1=100
March 23-24, 2003	8	25	37	28	*	2=100
March 20-22, 2003	9	27	37	26	*	1=100
February, 2003	22	29	30	18	0	1=100
January, 2003	11	30	37	21	*	1=100
Late August, 2002	12	28	35	24	*	1=100
June, 2002	17	28	36	19	*	*=100
January, 2002	12	26	38	24	*	*=100
Early November, 2001	13	27	35	24	0	1=100
Mid-October, 2001	18	32	29	19	0	2=100
Late September, 2001	17	36	31	15	*	1=100

Q.54 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Worried</u>	Somewhat <u>Worried</u>	Not too <u>Worried</u>	Not at all <u>Worried</u>	(VOL) Already a Victim	DK/Ref
<i>Gallup:</i> 9/14-15/01 ¹⁸	18	33	35	13	*	1=100
<i>Gallup:</i> 9/11/01 ¹⁹	23	35	24	16	1	1=100
<i>Gallup:</i> August, 1998	10	22	38	29	--	1=100
<i>Gallup:</i> July, 1996	13	26	34	27	--	*=100
<i>Gallup:</i> April, 1995 ²⁰	14	28	33	24	--	1=100

Q.55 As I read from a list tell me how important each of the following is a way to reduce terrorism in the future. (First), [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] is this very important, fairly important, not too important, or not at all important as a way to reduce terrorism in the future? (Next... [NEXT ITEM])

	Very <u>Important</u>	Fairly <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	Not at all <u>Important</u>	DK/Ref
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:					
a.F1	Decrease American dependence on oil imported from the Middle East				
	67	18	5	5	5=100
	Late August, 2002				
	53	26	8	5	8=100
	January, 2002				
	53	29	9	4	5=100
b.F1	Encourage more democracy in Mideast countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia				
	38	29	16	10	7=100
	Late August, 2002				
	38	31	13	11	7=100
	January, 2002				
	42	35	11	5	7=100
c.F1	Take military action to wipe out facilities of countries attempting to build nuclear weapons				
	43	30	12	9	6=100
	Late August, 2002				
	58	21	9	6	6=100
	January, 2002				
	54	27	9	5	5=100
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=775]:					
d.F2	Increase defense spending to maintain our military preparedness				
	52	31	10	6	1=100
	Late August, 2002				
	53	33	7	3	4=100
	January, 2002				
	54	33	7	3	3=100
e.F2	Attempt to reduce poverty with foreign aid as a way of combating terrorism in poor Mideast countries				
	30	33	19	12	6=100
	Late August, 2002				
	25	34	19	16	6=100
	January, 2002				
	24	41	21	10	4=100

¹⁸ For the September 14-15 Gallup trend the question started with "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred this past Tuesday in New York City and Washington, DC..."

¹⁹ For the September 11 Gallup trend the question started with "I'd like to ask you a few questions about the events that occurred today in New York City and Washington, DC..."

²⁰ For the April 1995 Gallup trend the question was worded "How worried are you that you or someone in your family will become a victim of a terrorist attack similar to the bombing in Oklahoma City?"

Q.55 CONTINUED...

		<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Fairly Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
f.F2	Not get involved in trying to solve the problems of other countries	41	31	13	10	5=100
	Late August, 2002	32	32	17	12	7=100

NO QUESTIONS 56-61

ASK ALL:

Q.62 Over the past few weeks, there has been a significant escalation of violence between Israel and the Hezbollah group in Lebanon. From what you've read and heard, who do you think is most responsible for the outbreak of the recent violence? [**OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE. PROBE ONCE FOR CLARITY IF GENERAL RESPONSE**]

- 12 Israel
- 42 Hezbollah
- 6 Both sides
- 5 Lebanon
- * Syria
- 2 Iran
- 2 United States/Bush
- 1 Palestinians
- 1 Arabs/Muslims/Islam
- * Terrorists/Extremists
- 2 Other (**SPECIFY**)
- 29 Don't know/Refused

Q.63 And who do you think is most responsible for the civilian casualties that have occurred since the fighting began? [**OPEN END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW"**]

- 21 Israel
- 29 Hezbollah
- 13 Both sides
- 3 Lebanon
- * Syria
- 1 Iran
- 3 United States/Bush
- 1 Palestinians
- * Arabs/Muslims/Islam
- 1 Terrorists/Extremists
- 2 Other (**SPECIFY**)
- 27 Don't know/Refused

Q.64 What should the United States do in this conflict? Should the United States government publicly support Israel, should it say or do nothing, or should it publicly criticize Israel?

		<u>CBS/NYT</u> <u>July 2006</u>
40	Support	39
38	Say or do nothing	40
8	Criticize	7
<u>14</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused</u>	<u>14</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=731]:

Q.65F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the military action Israel has taken in Lebanon?

		<i>Gallup/USA Today</i>
		<u>July 2006</u>
45	Approve	50
33	Disapprove	38
<u>22</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=775]:

Q.66F2 What do you think about the way Israel is responding in the current conflict with Hezbollah militants in Lebanon? Has Israel gone too far, not gone far enough, or has Israel's response been about right?

		<i>CBS/NYT</i>
		<u>July 2006</u>
23	Gone too far	26
15	Not far enough	9
44	About right	48
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>17</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.67 From what you've heard or read, what's your best understanding of Hezbollah? **[READ AND ROTATE]**?

63	Is it a group committed to the destruction of Israel
	[OR]
15	Is it a group that Israel might be able to reach an accommodation with
<u>22</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL - DO NOT READ]
100	

Q.68 In terms of resolving this conflict, do you think the United States should be more involved than it is now, less involved than it is now, or is it as involved as it should be?

15	More involved
28	Less involved
49	As involved as it should be
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

NO QUESTION 69

Q.70 How much influence do you think the U.S. can have on the way Israel is dealing with the current situation? **[READ]**

28	A lot of influence
41	Some influence
18	Not much influence
7	No influence at all
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.71 Do you think news organizations are giving too much, too little, or the right amount of coverage to the situation in the Middle East?

29 Too much
16 Too little
47 Right amount
8 Don't know/Refused
100

Q.72 In your opinion, are the news organizations you are familiar with being fair or unfair in their coverage of the conflict between Israel and the Hezbollah group in Lebanon?

61 Fair
23 Unfair
16 Don't know/Refused
100

IF "UNFAIR" (2 IN Q.72) ASK [N=334]:

Q.73 In your view, what has been unfair about the press coverage? **OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE]**

24 Bias – general/unspecified
19 Anti Israel/Pro-Hezbollah
12 Not fact-based/Not enough coverage/Information
10 Pro Israel/Anti-Hezbollah
6 Too focused on civilian casualties in Lebanon, not Israel
5 Sensationalistic
3 Too negative/Focused on bad news
1 Anti U.S. point of view
1 Liberal bias
1 Too positive/Doesn't show true horror of war
5 Other
13 Don't know/No answer

ASK ALL:

Q.74 Just in general, how well do you feel you understand the political situation in the Middle East these days?
[READ]

12 Very well
49 Fairly well
26 Not too well
12 Not well at all
1 Don't know/Refused **[VOL Do Not Read]**
100

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) No Preference	(VOL) Other Party	DK/ Ref
August, 2006	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
July, 2006	29	33	31	4	1	2=100
June, 2006	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
April, 2006	29	32	33	3	*	3=100
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100
December, 2005	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
Late November, 2005	27	34	29	5	1	4=100
Early November, 2005	28	34	31	5	*	2=100
Late October, 2005	29	33	31	5	*	2=100
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	*	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
Yearly Totals						
2005	30	33	31	4	*	2=100
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100
				No Preference/ <u>Other/DK</u>		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>			
1996	29	33	33	5=100		
1995	32	30	34	4=100		
1994	30	32	34	4=100		
1993	27	34	34	5=100		
1992	28	33	35	4=100		
1991	31	32	33	4=100		
1990	31	33	30	6=100		
1989	33	33	34=100			
1987	26	35	39=100			

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

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	Refused to lean
August, 2006	12	14	11=37%
July, 2006	11	14	13=38%
June, 2006	10	16	11=37%
April, 2006	12	17	10=39%
March, 2006	11	14	13=38%

PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Refused to lean</u>
February, 2006	11	16	10=37%
January, 2006	10	16	14=40%
December, 2005	10	16	11=37%
Late November, 2005	9	13	17=39%
Early November, 2005	11	14	13=38%
Late October, 2005	11	15	12=38%
Early October, 2005	11	18	11=40%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 6-7, 2005	10	15	15=40%
July, 2005	9	15	11=35%