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**Terrorism Focus Increases, But No GOP Boost**  
**DEMOCRATS HOLD SOLID LEAD; STRONG ANTI-INCUMBENT,**  
**ANTI-BUSH MOOD**

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- GOP's lead on terrorism narrows
- Fewer see U.S. winning war on terror
- Iraq, terrorism biggest problems
- Mixed views of candidate positions on Iraq

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**Terrorism Focus Increases, But No GOP Boost**  
**DEMOCRATS HOLD SOLID LEAD; STRONG ANTI-INCUMBENT,**  
**ANTI-BUSH MOOD**

As the congressional midterm campaign begins in earnest, the mood of the electorate is sharply drawn. Voters are disappointed with Congress and disapproving of President Bush. Anti-incumbent sentiment, while a bit lower than a few months ago, is far more extensive than in the previous two midterms and remains close to 1994 levels. Moreover, there are indications that voters are viewing the election through the prism of national issues and concerns. Many more voters see their vote as being *against* the president than at a comparable point in 1994, and a solid majority says party control of Congress will be a factor in their voting decision.

Voters are expressing strong and consistent anti-Republican attitudes. The GOP lags well behind the Democratic Party on nearly all major issues, including the economy, Iraq, education, health care, the environment and the budget deficit. And the Republicans have lost ground in recent years even on such traditional strengths as terrorism and improving the nation's morality.

As in six previous surveys over the past 12 months, voters by a wide margin say they favor the Democratic congressional candidate in their district (50%-39%). When the sample is narrowed to likely voters, approximately half of

registered voters, the Democratic lead is undiminished. That Democrats poll as well among likely voters as among all voters may reflect the fact that Democrats, in contrast to recent campaigns, are more enthusiastic about voting than are Republicans.

Voter preferences in the midterm elections have remained very consistent over the past year. Since September 2005, the Democrats' advantage in the congressional test ballot has fluctuated only modestly, between nine and 12 points. Democratic gains this year are coming from a range of different groups, including several – like affluent Americans and college graduates – that typically lean Republican.

<b>Democrats' Midterm Lead Holds Steady</b>						
	Sept	Feb	Apr	June	Aug	Sept
<i>If the election were today, would you...</i>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
Vote Democratic	52	50	51	51	50	50
Vote Republican	40	41	41	39	41	39
Other/Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Key midterm election attitudes</i>						
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2006</u>	
Do NOT want incumbent reelected	%	%	%	%	%	
		22	<b>29</b>	20	19	<b>27</b>
Do NOT want most incumbents reelected		--	<b>56</b>	37	38	<b>49</b>
Midterm vote is a vote AGAINST president		15	23	16	15	<b>36</b>
Party control of Congress matters in vote		--	--	41	44	<b>55</b>
Based on registered voters						

In addition, Democratic support among women is much greater than in the previous midterm four years ago. And men, who are now about evenly divided in their voter preferences, backed the Republican candidate by a wide margin in 2002. The GOP also is suffering some internal defections, as more moderate and liberal Republican voters say they will support a Democratic candidate than did so in 2002. (For a detailed comparison of voting preferences in 2002 and this year, see page 17.)

The electorate's discontent with Washington, which surged to record levels in June, is only modestly diminished heading into the fall campaign. Nearly four-in-ten voters (38%) say this Congress has accomplished less than its predecessors; this mirrors the negative assessment of congressional accomplishments in October 1994. As many as 36% say they see their ballot this fall as a vote against the president. Far more voters express this sentiment in the current election cycle than in any midterm campaign dating to 1982.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Sept. 6-10 among 1,507 adults (1,191 registered voters) finds that recent developments related to terrorism – including Bush's series of speeches on the subject – have raised the profile of the issue with the public. Currently, 14% cite terrorism as the most important problem facing the country, the highest percentage in three years. However, many more people (25%) volunteer that the war in Iraq is the most pressing problem confronting the nation. And there is no evidence that the renewed focus on terrorism has improved Bush's standing; his job approval rating stands at 37%, unchanged from August.

However, the Republicans continue to retain an advantage in one important dimension. By a wide margin (43%-30%), the GOP is perceived as having stronger political leaders than the Democratic Party. Notably, independents by roughly two-to-one (42%-22%) feel that the Republican Party has stronger political leaders.

<b>GOP's Lone Advantage: Terrorism</b>			
<i>Which party can do a better job on...</i>	<u>Rep Party</u>	<u>Dem Party</u>	<u>Dem lead</u>
Terrorism	41	32	-9
Morality	34	36	+2
Crime	32	34	+2
Homosexuality	32	35	+3
Immigration	32	37	+5
Iraq	33	40	+7
Abortion	33	44	+11
Economy	32	46	+14
Taxes	30	45	+15
Reforming govt	25	41	+16
Job situation	29	47	+18
Education	28	46	+18
Energy problems	27	47	+20
Budget deficit	27	47	+20
Social Security	26	46	+20
Health care	24	48	+24
Environment	19	57	+38

The survey finds that the politics of terrorism are less one-sided than in the past. The Republican Party's advantage over the Democratic Party in dealing with the terrorist threat at home – which was as large as 30 points in January 2002 – has declined to nine points in the

current survey. In addition, the public is becoming increasingly skeptical that the U.S. is prevailing in the war on terrorism.

Currently, about as many people say the U.S. is losing the war on terrorism as say it is winning (41% vs. 39%). That represents a significant shift from the presidential campaign of two years ago, when pluralities consistently said the U.S. was winning in the struggle against terrorism.

Public opinion on the Iraq war continues to be stable. The public is evenly divided over whether the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible or maintain troops in Iraq until the country is stabilized (47%-47%). However, there has been a significant increase in the percentage viewing the violence in Iraq as a civil war, rather than an anti-U.S. insurgency.

	Sept 2004	Oct 2004	Nov 2004*	Sept 2006
<i>In war on terror</i>				
<i>U.S. is...</i>	%	%	%	%
Winning	52	46	45	39
Losing	28	31	31	41
Neither (vol.)	9	9	10	9
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100

\* Based on registered voters

Currently, half of Americans describe the violence in Iraq as mostly a civil war between competing factions; 37% say it is mostly an insurgency aimed at the U.S. and its allies. In March, opinion on this issue was almost evenly divided, and last December 58% of Americans said they viewed the violence as mostly an insurgency directed against the U.S. and its allies.

While the public is split along partisan lines about almost everything to do with the war, there also are divisions over whether it is appropriate to criticize the war's handling. Overall, 36% of Americans feel such criticisms "help America's enemies"; 15% say they "help protect America"; and 42% think that criticisms of the war's handling neither help America's enemies nor help protect the country. Conservative Republicans are the only political group in which a majority (59%) says that criticisms of the war's handling help America's enemies.

**National Problems: Iraq, Terrorism Gain**

The percent of Americans who cite terrorism as the most important problem facing the nation has spiked to 14%, up from just 5% in May and the highest in over two years. This shift in attention to the issue of terrorism reflects an overwhelming refocusing of Republican attention on the issue. In May, immigration and gas prices topped the list of Republican concerns, with only 8% citing terrorism as the biggest national issue. Today, fully 23% of Republicans point to terrorism as the nation’s greatest problem, and the focus on immigration and gas prices has faded.

At the same time, the public also places a higher priority on the war in Iraq than it has in nearly a year. Asked to describe the nation’s most important problem, 25% of Americans cite the situation in Iraq, up from 18% in May. This increase is driven primarily by Democrats – 36% of whom cite Iraq as the nation’s biggest problem, up 14 points since May. By comparison, the percent of Republicans and independents who cite Iraq as the biggest problem has not increased significantly.

As the election season reaches full steam, more than twice as many Americans cite foreign or security concerns than economic problems (47% vs. 23%). This balance is similar across party lines, though Republicans and Democrats are citing markedly different issues in their individual answers.

<b>Most Important Problem</b>					
	Nov 2005	Jan 2006	March 2006	May 2006	Sept 2006
	%	%	%	%	%
War in Iraq	29	23	20	18	<b>25</b>
Terrorism	6	6	8	5	<b>14</b>
Economy	11	11	7	7	<b>9</b>
Energy prices	4	5	5	14	<b>7</b>
Immigration	2	3	4	10	<b>6</b>
Govt/politics	7	5	10	13	<b>6</b>
Health care	5	6	6	4	<b>4</b>
Security/Def	2	3	4	1	<b>4</b>
Education	1	3	4	2	<b>4</b>
Unemployment	4	7	6	3	<b>4</b>
Poverty	4	7	3	1	<b>3</b>
Morality	3	4	6	4	<b>2</b>
Foreign policy	3	3	1	3	<b>2</b>
Inflation	1	2	3	1	<b>2</b>
Crime/Gangs	0	2	3	1	<b>2</b>
Domestic probs	0	2	0	2	<b>2</b>
NET: Foreign	42	37	34	29	<b>47</b>
NET: Economic	24	26	22	27	<b>23</b>

<b>Democrats Focus on War, Republicans on Terrorism</b>			
<i>Most important problem...</i>	<u>May</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Change</u>
	%	%	
<b>Iraq</b>			
All	18	25	+7
Republican	11	16	+5
Democrat	<b>22</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>+14</b>
Independent	22	23	+1
<b>Terrorism</b>			
All	5	14	+9
Republican	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>+15</b>
Democrat	4	9	+5
Independent	5	13	+8

**Anti-Incumbent Sentiment Highest Since ‘94**

The Democrats have held on to their considerable lead in the generic test ballot, as voter unhappiness with Congress remains very high in historical terms. The proportion of Americans who say Congress has accomplished less than usual this year peaked at 45% in June and stands at 38% today. Even so, that matches dissatisfaction with congressional accomplishments in

October 1994, and far exceeds levels of dissatisfaction during the 1998 and 2002 midterm campaigns.

Similarly, anti-incumbent sentiment remains higher than at any time since 1994, though down slightly from the early summer. Roughly half of voters (49%) say that most members should not be reelected, compared with 57% in June, and the share saying their own member does not deserve reelection has slipped from 32% to 27% over the same period.

**Problems in the GOP Base**

One factor working for Democrats is the relatively weak partisan commitment among a segment of the GOP base. Moderate and liberal Republicans, who make up about 30% of Republicans overall, are supporting their party’s candidate at far lower rates than voters in other political groups. About three-quarters of moderate and liberal Republicans (77%) say they would vote for the GOP candidate in their district. By comparison, 94% of conservative Republicans, and an equally large number of all Democrats, say they intend to vote for their party’s candidate this fall.

There are other indications that moderate and liberal Republicans are thinking in less partisan terms this year. Just 37% say that the issue of which party controls Congress next year will be a factor in their vote. Solid majorities in the other partisan groups – including 78% of liberal Democrats – say party control is a factor. Even 44% of independents, who shun partisan labels, say the composition of the next Congress matters to them.

In addition, moderate and liberal Republicans appear little affected by a key campaign message from the Republican leadership this year – that a Democratic majority in Congress will weaken America’s efforts to combat terrorism. Just 37% of moderate and liberal Republicans are

	<u>Total</u>	Cons <u>Rep</u>	Mod/ Lib <u>Rep</u>	Indep- endent	Cons/ Mod <u>Dem</u>	Lib <u>Dem</u>
<i>If election were today, would you...</i>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Vote Democratic	50	6	16	45	94	94
Vote Republican	39	94	77	31	3	4
Other/DK	<u>11</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Is party control of Congress a factor in your vote?</i>						
Yes	55	62	37	44	64	78
No	41	34	60	52	33	21
Don’t know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Very concerned that...</i>						
GOP majority will over-extend US military	41	14	29	39	60	73
Dem. majority will weaken terror efforts	31	61	37	22	24	13
Number of cases	(1,191)	(280)	(117)	(332)	(271)	(120)
Based on registered voters.						

very concerned about a weakening of the anti-terrorism effort under Democrats, compared with 61% of conservative Republicans. Among Democrats, there are narrower ideological divisions about the potential consequences of a continued GOP majority. Fully 60% of conservative and moderate Democrats, along with 73% of liberal Democrats, believe that if Republicans keep control of Congress this fall they will get the U.S. involved in too many military operations overseas.

***Democrats Favored on Most Issues***

The public favors the Republican Party on only one of 17 issues tested – terrorism. By 41%-32%, more Americans say the Republicans can better deal with the terrorist threat at home. On each of the other issues, Democrats hold either a substantial or slight lead. Even on such traditional GOP strengths as reducing crime and improving morality, at least as many Americans trust the Democratic Party to do a better job as trust the Republican Party.

The Republican lead on terrorism has narrowed over the past six months. As recently as February, Republicans had a 46% to 30% edge on this issue – about the same margin that the GOP enjoyed in the summer of 2004 and on the eve of the 2002 midterms.

In 2002 the Republican Party also held a sizable advantage as the party better able to make wise decisions about what to do in Iraq. But by 2004, this advantage disappeared, and today the Democratic Party has a seven-point advantage in handling Iraq (40% vs. 33%).

The survey updates views on the parties across a wide range of issues, and in most cases confidence in the Republican Party has fallen slightly over the past

**Democrats Lead on Most Issues,  
Draw Even on Morality, Crime**

<i>Which party can do a better job on...</i>	Rep Party	Dem Party	(vol) Both	(vol) Neither	DK	Dem lead
	%	%	%	%	%	
Terrorist threats	41	32	7	6	14=100	-9
Morality	34	36	5	10	15=100	+2
Crime	32	34	8	10	16=100	+2
Homosexuality	32	35	1	8	24=100	+3
Immigration	32	37	5	10	16=100	+5
Iraq	33	40	5	8	14=100	+7
Abortion	33	44	2	6	15=100	+11
Economy	32	46	5	5	12=100	+14
Taxes	30	45	4	9	12=100	+15
Reforming govt	25	41	4	16	14=100	+16
Job situation	29	47	6	5	13=100	+18
Education	28	46	7	6	13=100	+18
Energy problems	27	47	4	7	15=100	+20
Budget deficit	27	47	4	8	14=100	+20
Social Security	26	46	4	11	13=100	+20
Health care	24	48	5	10	13=100	+24
Environment	19	57	5	6	13=100	+38

**Terrorism and Iraq Play Differently in 2006**

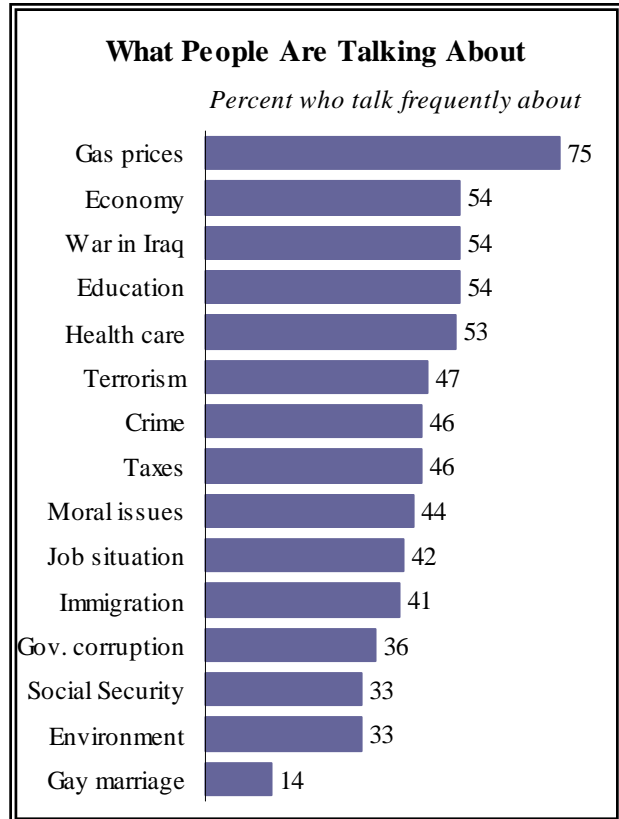
	Oct* 2002	July 2004	Feb 2006	Sept 2006
	%	%	%	%
<i>Terrorist threats</i>				
Republican Party	44	45	46	41
Democratic Party	28	30	30	32
Both (vol.)	7	6	8	7
Neither (vol.)	5	6	7	6
Don't know	16	13	9	14
	100	100	100	100
<i>Situation in Iraq</i>				
Republican Party	46	38	38	33
Democratic Party	30	40	41	40
Both (vol.)	7	4	3	5
Neither (vol.)	4	6	8	8
Don't know	13	12	10	14
	100	100	100	100

\* Based on registered voters

six months. But the Republican Party continues to hold a substantial lead in terms of having the “stronger” political leaders – 43% say the GOP has stronger leaders, compared to 30% who see the Democratic Party’s leaders as stronger. This is a narrower margin than in April, when Republicans held a 53% to 26% edge in this area, but still stands out as one of the few Republican advantages going into the election season.

***What People are Talking About***

Gasoline and energy prices are far and away the most talked about issues among Americans today. Three-quarters say that it is a subject that comes up “frequently” in conversations with family and friends, and it is a topic of discussion among people of all walks of life and political persuasions. The economy, the war in Iraq, education, and health care are also frequent topics of conversation for most Americans.



Far fewer have regular conversations about government corruption, Social Security or the environment, and just 14% say the topic of gay marriage comes up frequently.

There are stark differences in the topics of conversation between people who intend to vote Democratic and those who intend to vote Republican. Aside from gas and energy concerns, terrorism and morality are the most talked about issues among Republican voters; 57% say the former comes up frequently and 56% the latter, compared with just 44% and 38% of those who say they intend to vote Democratic.

In contrast, Democratic voters are talking about the war in Iraq and the economy more than their Republican counterparts. The war comes up frequently in the conversations of 63% of Democratic and 55% of Republican voters, while the economy comes up among 62% of Democratic voters and 49% of

Talk about ____ 'frequently'	Plan to vote for...	
	Rep cand	Dem cand
Gas prices	72	78
Economy	49	<b>62</b>
War in Iraq	55	<b>63</b>
Education	54	57
Health care	54	62
Terrorism	<b>57</b>	44
Crime	48	44
Taxes	51	49
Moral issues	<b>56</b>	38
Job situation	34	<b>51</b>
Immigration	48	39
Govt corruption	24	<b>43</b>
Social Security	27	<b>40</b>
Environment	22	<b>44</b>
Gay marriage	19	13



Republican voters. The job situation, too, is discussed by more Democratic (51%) than Republican (34%) voters.

There also are substantial differences within the party coalitions with respect to what is being discussed. Among liberals who plan to vote for the Democrats, the war in Iraq is the biggest conversation point – 78% talk about it frequently, compared with 57% of moderate and conservatives voting Democratic. For their part, moderates and conservatives who intend to vote Democratic are far more likely than liberals to talk about the job situation (59% vs. 36%).

Among those who plan to vote Republican, there are distinctly different levels of interest in moral issues and health care depending on a person’s ideological position. Fully 62% of conservative Republican voters say they frequently talk about moral issues with friends and family, more than any other issue except gas prices. But fewer than half of moderates and liberals who intend to vote Republican in the fall frequently discuss moral issues. By contrast, 63% of moderate and liberal Republican voters say that health care comes up frequently in their conversations with friends and family, compared with just 48% of conservatives who plan to vote Republican.

***Iraq Views Mostly Steady***

Public optimism about the situation in Iraq has increased slightly since last month, with a small majority of the public (52%) expressing the belief that the U.S. will succeed in establishing a stable democratic government there. Similarly, the number of Americans who say the war is going at least “fairly well” rose six percentage points from last month, to 47%. But optimism was still not as high as in June, following the death of insurgent leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Perceptions about the situation remain highly divided along partisan lines: most Republicans continue to believe that the U.S. will probably or definitely succeed (76% say this), and most also think the war is going at least “fairly well” (72%). A small majority of Democrats believe that the U.S will probably or definitely fail in Iraq (53%), and a much larger majority believes the war is not going well (67%). Independents are much closer to Democrats in these perceptions than they are to Republicans; among independents,

<b>Evaluating the War in Iraq</b>							
<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>	<u>Sept</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very/fairly well	51	51	43	47	53	41	47
Not too/at all well	44	46	51	50	43	55	48
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Will US succeed in establishing stable democracy in Iraq?</i>							
Will succeed	56	55	49	--	55	47	52
<i>Definitely</i>	14	16	10	--	15	12	9
<i>Probably</i>	42	39	39	--	40	35	43
Will fail	34	39	43	--	38	41	39
<i>Definitely</i>	8	11	10	--	9	11	10
<i>Probably</i>	26	28	33	--	29	30	29
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	--	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100		100	100	100

48% say we are likely to fail in Iraq, and 52% think the war is not going well.

With terrorism, the 9/11 anniversary and other stories drawing extensive press coverage, public interest in news from Iraq has fallen somewhat over the past month. A third of Americans say they followed news about the situation in Iraq very closely, down from 41% in August and the lowest level of interest since the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina about a year ago. Nonetheless, an increasing number of Americans – especially Democrats – view the war in Iraq as the most important problem facing the nation.

**What to Do Now?**

Public attitudes about what should be done in Iraq remain evenly divided and highly polarized along partisan lines. The public splits evenly on the general question of whether to withdraw troops as soon as possible or the keep troops in Iraq until the situation is stable (47% each), and is nearly evenly divided on whether the U.S. should set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq (47% in favor of a timetable, 45% against).

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>
<i>What to do now</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Keep troops in Iraq	48	50	44	48	50	48	47
Bring troops home	48	46	50	48	45	46	47
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Set timetable	50	--	55	53	52	52	47
No timetable	42	--	39	40	42	41	45
Get out now (vol.)	2	--	1	2	2	1	1
Don't know	<u>6</u>	--	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100		100	100	100	100	100

As has been true since late in 2003, most Republicans favor maintaining U.S. troops in Iraq until the situation is stabilized, while most Democrats support bringing the troops home as soon as possible. But the ideological divisions within the Republican Party remain somewhat larger than those in the Democratic Party. Nearly eight-in-ten conservative Republicans (79%) say the U.S. should keep troops in Iraq, but considerably fewer moderate and liberal Republicans agree (60%). Among liberal Democrats, 68% favor a troop withdrawal and nearly as many conservative and moderate Democrats take this position as well (64%). Independents are much closer to Democrats than to Republicans on both the question of what to do

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Using force in Iraq</i>	%	%	%	%
Right decision	49	76	29	47
Wrong decision	43	18	64	46
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>What to do now</i>				
Keep troops in Iraq	47	73	29	43
Bring troops home	47	24	65	51
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
Set timetable	47	31	61	50
No timetable	45	65	30	42
Get out now (vol.)	1	1	2	1
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

with the troops and whether to set a timetable for withdrawal.

### ***Reactions to Candidates' Stands on Iraq***

Reflecting public sentiment over the war, voters are divided over whether differing approaches to Iraq would make them more likely to support or oppose a congressional candidate. Of three possible options tested, support for setting a timetable for the removal of U.S. forces has the greatest potential upside; 31% of voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported this position, while 23% say they would be more likely to vote against such a candidate.

Advocating a timetable for withdrawal is deeply divisive across partisan lines, however. Democratic voters say such a position would make them more likely to support a candidate by a 43% to 9% margin, but Republicans express the opposite view, with 43% more likely to vote against a “pro-timetable” candidate and just 16% more likely to vote for someone taking such a position. However, among independent voters, advocating a timetable for troop withdrawal is the only position of three tested that attracts more votes (35%) than it drives away (20%).

<b>Candidate Positions on Iraq</b>				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
<i>Immediate withdrawal</i>				
Vote for	25	9	<b>40</b>	26
Vote against	37	<b>63</b>	15	34
Not a factor	35	26	41	37
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Setting a timetable</i>				
Vote for	31	16	<b>43</b>	<b>35</b>
Vote against	23	<b>43</b>	9	20
Not a factor	42	39	45	41
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Staying as long as it takes</i>				
Vote for	32	<b>57</b>	16	26
Vote against	28	10	<b>41</b>	32
Not a factor	36	31	38	38
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

Based on registered voters.

Candidates who favor keeping U.S. troops in Iraq for as long as it takes to stabilize the situation face a mixed response from voters. About a third of voters (32%) say this position would attract their vote, while 28% say this would make them more likely to oppose such a candidate. Again, partisanship is a powerful factor; most Republican voters (57%) say this position draws them toward a candidate, and 41% of Democrats say it would make them more likely to oppose such a candidate. Independents are divided: 26% would be more likely to vote for and 32% to vote against a candidate who backed staying in Iraq for as long as it takes.

The idea of an immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq is the least appealing option of the three tested. Just 25% of voters say they would be more likely to support a candidate who favors an immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces, while 37% say they would be more likely to vote against a candidate who advocated this policy. The idea has broad appeal only among Democratic voters, and even here attracts the votes of only 40% – slightly fewer than say they would back a candidate who favored a timetable for withdrawal. Fifteen percent of Democrats

say they would be more likely to oppose a candidate who backed an immediate withdrawal, as would 34% of independents and 63% of Republican voters.

### ***Views of War Criticism***

In addition to the debate between Republicans and Democrats about the war, there has also been a “debate about the debate.” Speaking on NBC’s “Meet the Press” Sept. 10, Vice President Dick Cheney said that debate about the war raises doubts among America’s allies, and that suggestions that the U.S. withdraw “validates the strategy of the terrorists.” The poll finds that more people think criticism of the handling of the war in Iraq helps America’s enemies (36%) than believe it helps protect America (15%); but a 42% plurality sees criticism as neither helping the country’s enemies nor protecting the U.S.

More than half of Republicans (52%) believe that criticism of the handling of the war helps America’s enemies, while just 24% of Democrats agree. Independents fall midway between Democrats and Republicans (37%). But even among Republicans there is a divide along Republican lines – 59% of conservative Republicans see criticism of the war as a form of aid to America’s enemies compared with just 39% of moderate and liberal Republicans. Older Americans are more apt than younger people to believe that war critics are helping America’s enemies; 44% of those ages 65 and older feel this way, compared with just 29% among those under age 30.

	Helps America’s <u>enemies</u> %	Helps protect <u>America</u> %	<u>Neither</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	36	15	42	7=100
Republican	52	13	31	4=100
Democrat	24	19	52	5=100
Independent	37	14	43	6=100
18-29	29	22	44	5=100
30-49	36	14	45	5=100
50-64	36	14	44	6=100
65+	44	9	34	13=100

### ***Insurgency or Civil War?***

A growing number of people perceive the Iraqi conflict as more of a civil war than an insurgency directed against the U.S. and its allies. In the current poll, 50% say it is mostly a civil war between competing factions, while 37% say it is mostly an insurgency. The belief that the situation is largely a civil war has increased by eight percentage points since March, when the public was more divided on the question (42% civil war, 45% insurgency). Unlike most attitudes and beliefs about the situation in Iraq, there are only modest partisan divides on this question; Democrats and Republicans are about equally likely to think the conflict is mostly a civil war.

	Dec <u>2005</u> %	Mar <u>2006</u> %	Sept <u>2006</u> %
<i>Current violence in Iraq is mostly...</i>			
A civil war	30	42	50
An anti-U.S. insurgency	58	45	37
Don’t know	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100

Opinions about what the U.S. should now do in Iraq are unrelated to perceptions of whether the conflict is mostly a civil war or mostly an insurgency.

***Iraq and the War on Terrorism***

There is no public consensus about the Iraq war’s impact on the effort to fight international terrorism. President Bush has repeatedly argued that Iraq is a central front in the war on terrorism, while the president’s critics say that Iraq has been a distraction from the larger struggle. In the current poll, 45% of the public says that the war in Iraq has hurt the war on terrorism, while 41% say it has helped. The public has been mostly divided on this question since the middle of 2004, amid rising violence and the revelations about prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib prison.

	Helped		No effect		Hurt	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Sept. 2006	41	45	5	9=100		
January 2006	44	38	8	10=100		
October 2005	44	44	6	6=100		
February 2005	44	41	7	8=100		
July 2004	43	45	5	7=100		
March 2004	50	37	5	8=100		
February 2004	55	32	7	6=100		
December 2003	59	26	6	9=100		
May 2003	65	22	6	7=100		

Democratic and Republican opinions on this question are mirror images of one another: 69% of Republicans say the effort in Iraq has helped the war on terrorism, while just 21% say it has hurt; among Democrats, 66% say it has hurt and 22% say it’s helped. More independents say it has hurt (50%) than helped (36%).

***War on Terror***

As far as public views of the overall struggle against terrorism, just 39% of Americans say that the United States is winning the war on terror, down from 52% in September 2004. While the belief that the U.S. is prevailing in the struggle against terrorism has decreased among most major demographic and political groups, the decline has been especially sharp among moderate and liberal Republicans.

	Sept 2004		Sept 2006		Change
	%	%	%	%	
Total	52	39			-13
Conservative Rep.	84	78			-6
Mod/Lib. Rep.	78	50			-28
Independent	48	34			-14
Cons./Mod. Dem.	36	24			-12
Liberal Dem.	31	12			-19

Just 50% of moderate and liberal Republicans say the U.S. prevailing in this effort, down from 78% two years ago. Conservative Republicans, by contrast, continue to overwhelmingly believe the U.S. is winning the war on terrorism (84% then, 78% today.)

In September 2004, roughly half of independents (48%) said the U.S. was winning the war on terrorism; currently, only about a third (34%) expresses this view. Democrats also are far less likely to say that the U.S. is winning the war on terror. Two years ago, conservative and moderate Democrats were split on this issue, with nearly as many saying the U.S. was winning as losing (36% vs. 42%). Today, conservative and moderate Democrats, by greater than two-to-one, think the U.S. is losing (57%-24%). And the percentage of liberal Democrats who think the U.S. is winning the war on terror also has declined markedly over the past two years (from 31% to 12%).

***Warrantless Wiretaps Still Favored***

A majority of Americans (54%) continue to say it is generally right for the government to monitor the telephone and email communications of Americans suspected of having ties with terrorists without first obtaining court permission. Opinion on this issue has been stable since February, when an identical majority felt the government’s warrantless surveillance of suspected terrorists was generally acceptable.

Roughly twice as many whites as African Americans take a positive view of the government eavesdropping on suspected terrorists’ communications without court permission (58% vs. 28%). More people under age 30 than older Americans express reservations about the program.

	Monitoring Suspected Terrorists’ Calls Without Court Permission Is...		
	Generally right %	Generally wrong %	DK %
Total	54	41	5=100
White	58	38	4=100
Black	28	68	4=100
18-29	47	51	2=100
30-49	54	44	2=100
50-64	58	37	5=100
65+	58	32	10=100
Cons. Rep.	78	19	3=100
Mod./Lib. Rep.	66	32	2=100
Independent	52	45	3=100
Cons./Mod. Dem.	44	51	5=100
Liberal Dem.	32	66	2=100

Republicans overwhelmingly believe it is appropriate for the government to use such means to access calls and emails from Americans suspected of having ties with terrorists. A narrow majority of independents (52%) agree, while Democrats are somewhat divided. By about two-to-one (66%-32%), liberal Democrats feel it is generally wrong for the government to monitor the communications of suspected terrorists without court permission. Conservative and moderate Democrats are more evenly divided (44% generally right, 51% generally wrong).

***Civil Liberties***

Half of Americans feel it is *not* necessary for the average person to sacrifice some civil liberties in the effort to curb terrorism in the U.S., while 43% think it is necessary. Opinion about this issue has fluctuated since the 9/11 attacks.

In the months after the attacks, majorities felt it was necessary for average citizens to give up some liberties to combat terrorism. But by July 2004, the number expressing that opinion had fallen to 38%. Over the last two years, there has been an uptick in the percentage saying it is necessary for citizens to forego some liberties in the struggle against terrorism.

	Jan <u>2002</u>	Aug <u>2003</u>	July <u>2004</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Sept <u>2006</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, necessary	55	44	38	40	43
No	39	50	56	53	50
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

This view has increased modestly among most major demographic and political groups. There continue to be significant partisan differences in whether it is necessary for average Americans to sacrifice some liberties in the war on terror; a solid majority of Republicans (56%) say such sacrifices are necessary, compared with 41% of independents and 36% of Democrats.

***Iran Negotiations Favored***

An increasing number of Americans say they are hearing a lot about the dispute over Iran's nuclear program; 41% say that now, compared with 32% in February. The public's preference continues to be for the United Nations – not the United States – to take the lead in dealing with Iran's nuclear program. Fully 70% favor the U.N. taking a lead role, which is comparable to the number expressing that opinion in May (72%) and February (78%).

	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	54	32	14=100
<i>Heard about nuclear issue...</i>			
A lot	64	31	5=100
Little/nothing	47	33	20=100
Republican	60	28	12=100
Independent	55	32	13=100
Democrat	51	40	9=100

Americans also remain more concerned that we will wait too long to take action in dealing with Iran's nuclear program, rather than acting too quickly. A narrow majority (51%) says the greater concern is that we will wait too long before dealing with this issue, which is largely unchanged from earlier this year.

Notably, the public is amenable to the idea of direct negotiations with Iran over the issue of its nuclear program. A 54% majority favors such negotiations, while 32% are opposed. Among those who say they have heard a lot about Iran's nuclear program, an even larger majority (64%) favors direct negotiations with Tehran.

Republicans are a bit more supportive of direct talks with Iran than are Democrats. Six-in-ten Republicans say they favor the U.S. negotiating directly with Iran over the issue of its nuclear program; somewhat fewer Democrats agree (51%).

### ***September News Interest***

The situation in Iraq once again was the month's most closely followed story, though significantly fewer Americans say they followed news from Iraq very closely than did so in August (33% in September vs. 41% in August). This month, nearly as many people reported following news about the death of "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin very closely as said they were tracking news about Iraq very closely.

Nearly three-in-ten Americans (27%) say they paid very close attention to reports on the upcoming fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. (This survey was in the field through Sept. 10, before the actual commemoration of the anniversary). News about Iran's nuclear program continues to draw fairly modest public interest; 23% paid very close attention to news on this issue, little change from earlier this year.

Just 18% of Americans say they very closely followed President Bush's announcement that 14 terrorist suspects, previously held in secret, will be tried in military tribunals. Political news also is not finding much of an audience; 16% say they are paying very close attention to news about candidates and election campaigns in their state and district. However, this is on par with campaign news interest at a comparable point in past midterm elections. In September 2002, for instance, 17% said they were following state and district campaign news very closely, and the figure was only slightly higher in September 1994 (19%)

<b>Top News Stories</b>	
	Following <u>very closely</u> %
Situation in Iraq	33
Death of 'Croc Hunter'	30
Anniversary of 9/11	27
Iran's nuclear program	23
Bush speech on tribunals	18
State & local campaigns	16
JonBenet Ramsey case	16



## **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 1,507 adults, 18 years of age or older, from September 6-10, 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=754) and Form 2 (N=753) the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points. For results based on registered voters (N=1,191) the sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 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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## CONGRESSIONAL MIDTERM TREND, 2002-2006

	Sept/Oct/Nov 2002			Aug/Sept 2006			<b>Dem gain</b>	2006 (N)
	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	Other/ <u>DK</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	Other/ <u>DK</u>		
Total	46	43	11	39	50	11	<b>7</b>	2410
<b>Gender</b>								
Male	51	39	11	43	46	11	<b>7</b>	1,136
Female	43	47	11	36	54	11	<b>7</b>	1,274
<b>Age</b>								
18-29	40	49	10	38	52	11	<b>3</b>	211
30-49	50	40	10	40	50	10	<b>10</b>	797
50-64	45	43	11	39	49	12	<b>6</b>	764
65+	46	43	11	39	50	11	<b>7</b>	611
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>								
White	52	37	11	43	46	11	<b>9</b>	2,015
Black	10	85	5	14	77	8	<b>-8</b>	235
Hispanic <sup>^</sup>	35	55	9	36	60	4	<b>5</b>	113
<b>Education</b>								
Post graduate	47	45	8	36	53	12	<b>8</b>	350
College graduate	54	37	8	43	50	7	<b>13</b>	572
Some college	48	42	10	39	49	12	<b>7</b>	622
High School or less	42	46	12	38	50	12	<b>4</b>	854
<b>Household income</b>								
\$100,000 +	60	37	3	42	50	8	<b>13</b>	396
\$75 to 99,999	55	39	6	46	48	6	<b>9</b>	313
\$50 to 74,999	53	38	9	47	44	9	<b>6</b>	383
\$30 to 49,999	46	43	11	38	51	11	<b>8</b>	466
\$20 to 29,999	39	49	12	32	53	14	<b>4</b>	252
Under \$20,000	29	59	12	25	64	11	<b>5</b>	267
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast	40	48	12	34	56	10	<b>8</b>	448
Midwest	44	42	14	36	54	10	<b>12</b>	649
South	49	42	9	42	46	13	<b>4</b>	856
West	51	40	9	43	47	10	<b>7</b>	457
<b>Urbanicity</b>								
Rural	49	39	12	43	44	13	<b>5</b>	525
Suburban	50	39	11	41	48	11	<b>9</b>	1,191
Urban	36	55	9	34	56	10	<b>1</b>	694
<b>Labor household</b>								
Yes	33	55	12*	36	58	6**	<b>3</b>	189
No	49	41	11	40	48	12	<b>7</b>	991

<sup>^</sup>English language interviewing only.

\*Results based on the October and November 2002 figures only.

\*\*Results based on the September 2006 figures only.

Data Note: 2002 figures compiled from three surveys conducted prior to the 2002 midterm election. The 2002 figures are rebalanced to reflect the outcome of the election (a roughly 52% to 48% Republican victory in raw votes). 2006 figures compiled from two surveys (August and September) with the August results rebalanced to match the September marginals. Sample sizes shown are based on 2006 data. Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

## CONGRESSIONAL MIDTERM TREND, 2002-2006

	Sept/Oct/Nov 2002			Aug/Sept 2006			<b>Dem gain</b>	2006 (N)
	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	Other/ <u>DK</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	Other/ <u>DK</u>		
Total	46	43	11	39	50	11	<b>7</b>	2410
<b>Party Identification</b>								
Republican	94	4	2	89	7	3	<b>3</b>	809
Democrat	6	92	2	3	95	2	<b>3</b>	811
Independent	37	40	23	31	46	23	<b>6</b>	661
<b>Ideology</b>								
Conservative	68	25	7	64	29	7	<b>4</b>	974
Moderate	38	49	12	29	58	13	<b>9</b>	955
Liberal	16	74	10	11	81	8	<b>7</b>	382
<b>Party &amp; Ideology</b>								
Conserv Repub	97	2	1	93	5	1	<b>3</b>	556
Mod/Lib Repub	91	6	3	80	12	8	<b>6</b>	241
Conserv/Mod Dem	7	91	2	3	95	2	<b>4</b>	537
Liberal Democrat	3	96	1	3	95	1	<b>-1</b>	242
<b>Religion</b>								
Protestant	51	41	9	45	45	11	<b>4</b>	1,377
White evangelical	65	25	9	60	29	10	<b>4</b>	572
White mainline	49	40	11	39	48	12	<b>8</b>	568
Black	8	89	4	14	76	10	<b>-13</b>	178
Catholic	45	45	10	39	52	9	<b>7</b>	542
White, non-Hisp.	49	40	10	39	49	11	<b>9</b>	436
Secular	35	50	15	22	64	14	<b>14</b>	243
<b>Attend church/services</b>								
Weekly	53	36	11*	47	43	10	<b>7</b>	1,030
Monthly/Few-year	41	48	11	36	55	9	<b>7</b>	733
Seldom/Never	34	51	15	30	56	14	<b>5</b>	608

\*Results based on the November 2002 figures only.

Data Note: 2002 figures compiled from three surveys conducted prior to the 2002 midterm election. The 2002 figures are rebalanced to reflect the outcome of the election (a roughly 52% to 48% Republican victory in raw votes). 2006 figures compiled from two surveys (August and September) with the August results rebalanced to match the September marginals. Sample sizes shown are based on 2006 data. Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

	<u>Sept/Oct/Nov 2002</u>			<u>Aug/Sept 2006</u>			<b><i>Dem gain</i></b>	2006 (N)
	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Other/ DK</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Other/ DK</u>		
Total	46	43	11	39	50	11	<b>7</b>	2410
<b><i><u>Age and Gender</u></i></b>								
<b>Male</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	1,136
18-29	50	39	11	45	42	13	<b>3</b>	112
30-49	53	37	10	40	50	10	<b>13</b>	379
50-64	49	41	10	47	41	12	<b>0</b>	363
65+	49	40	11	42	48	10	<b>8</b>	272
<b>Female</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	1,274
18-29	31	59	10	30	62	8	<b>3</b>	99
30-49	47	44	9	40	51	10	<b>7</b>	418
50-64	42	45	12	32	56	12	<b>11</b>	401
65+	44	46	10	36	52	12	<b>6</b>	339
<b><i><u>Age/Marital/Parent</u></i></b>								
<b>18-29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	211
Single w/o kids	41	48	10	37	50	13	<b>2</b>	119
Married	46	41	13	49	41	10	<b>0</b>	61
<b>30-49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	797
Single w/o kids	47	43	9	23	64	13	<b>21</b>	157
Married w/o kids	51	38	11	42	53	5	<b>15</b>	132
Married w/ kids	58	34	7	48	42	10	<b>8</b>	422
<b>50-64</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	764
Married	48	40	12	43	46	10	<b>6</b>	536
Not married	43	47	11	30	55	15	<b>8</b>	228
<b>65+</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	611
Married	51	39	10	45	46	9	<b>7</b>	310
Not married	44	46	11	33	54	13	<b>8</b>	301
<b><i><u>Sex/Marital/Parent</u></i></b>								
<b>Mothers</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	382
Married mom	57	34	9	45	47	9	<b>13</b>	283
Working mom	45	45	11	39	51	9	<b>6</b>	134
Single mom	23	65	12	28	63	9	<b>-2</b>	99
<b>Fathers</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	336
Married dads	53	37	10	50	41	10	<b>4</b>	290
Working dads	50	38	12	44	46	10	<b>8</b>	160

Data Note: 2002 figures compiled from three surveys conducted prior to the 2002 midterm election. The 2002 figures are rebalanced to reflect the outcome of the election (a roughly 52% to 48% Republican victory in raw votes). 2006 figures compiled from two surveys (August and September) with the August results rebalanced to match the September marginals. Sample sizes shown are based on 2006 data. Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**September 6-10, 2006**  
**N=1507**

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>
September, 2006	37	53	10=100	Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100
August, 2006	37	54	9=100	Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100
July, 2006	36	57	7=100	Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100
June, 2006	36	54	10=100	June, 2003	62	27	11=100
April, 2006	33	56	11=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	August, 2001	50	32	18=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100				

Q.2 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]

		Early Mid-					Mid-							
		May	March	Jan	Nov	May	Jan	July	Jan	Apr	Feb	Mar	May	Feb
		2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2004	2004	2003	2003	2002	2001	2001
25	War/War in Iraq	18	20	23	29	24	32	25	16	14	34	10 <sup>▲</sup>	--	--
14	Terrorism	5	8	6	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	*
9	Economy (general)	7	7	11	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
	Energy crisis/Rising gas/heating													
7	prices	14	5	5	4	6	--	2	--	--	1	1	22	4
6	Immigration	10	4	3	2	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
6	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	13	10	5	7	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
4	Health care/costs	4	6	6	5	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
	Defense issues/Military spending/													
4	National & homeland security	1	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
4	Education	2	4	3	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
4	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	3	6	7	4	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
3	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	1	3	7	4	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
2	Morality/Ethics/Family values	4	6	4	3	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
2	U.S. foreign policy/Intl affairs	3	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	--	--	--	2	2
	Inflation/Difference between													
2	wages/costs	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
2	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	1	3	2	--	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	8
	Pay more attention to problems													
2	at home	2	--	2	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--
1	Drugs/Alcohol	--	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	6
1	Using Am. military in foreign countries	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced													
1	budget	2	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1	1
15	Other													
1	None	0	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	2
7	Don't know/No answer	5	6	7	6	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
	(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/													
47	INTERNATIONAL	29	34	37	42	36	49	41	37	29	54	39	3	5
23	(NET) ECONOMIC	27	22	26	24	31	24	26	35	41	29	16	40	26

▲ War in Afghanistan in March 2002

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House in Congress is handling his or her job? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job your own representative in Congress is doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
September, 2006	46	29	25=100
May, 2005	49	23	28=100
September, 1993	54	24	22=100
August, 1993	52	26	22=100
March, 1992	45	37	18=100

Q.4 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or the war on terrorism?

		Early					
		Jan	Oct	Sept	Jan	Aug	Jan
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>
39	Domestic policy	42	50	56	40	29	33
43	War on terrorism	39	33	25	44	43	52
2	Neither (VOL.)	1	1	1	1	1	*
12	Both (VOL.)	14	13	12	13	22	13
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**

Thinking about what's been in the news lately...

Q.5F1 What subjects or stories in the news have you been following the most closely? **[OPEN END. RECORD UP TO THREE MENTIONS; DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]**

- 26 Iraq war/Troop casualties
- 10 Terrorism - general
- 5 Gas prices/Energy costs/Oil
- 5 Immigration/Border issues
- 4 Israel/Lebanon
- 4 Recent hurricanes and response
- 4 Death of Steve Irwin, the Crocodile Hunter
- 3 Economy - general
- 3 Iran/Nuclear program
- 3 Politics/Upcoming elections
- 2 Weather/Natural disasters (non-hurricane)
- 2 September 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- 2 Bush - general
- 1 Sports
- 1 Secret prisons/Treatment of terrorism suspects
- 1 Crime
- 1 JonBenet Ramsey murder case
- 1 Education
- \* Health care
- 7 Other national news
- 5 Other local news
- 4 Other international news
- 27 Nothing/Everything/Don't know

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 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 closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	DK/ Ref
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	33	43	14	8	2=100
August, 2006	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
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 <sup>1</sup>	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

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<sup>1</sup> From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as “News about the war in Iraq.”



**Q.6 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
March 13-16, 2003 <sup>2</sup>	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>b.</b> News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district	16	32	28	23	1=100
August, 2006	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 ( <i>RVs</i> )	27	46	18	9	*=100
Late October, 2002 ( <i>RVs</i> )	28	34	24	13	1=100
Early October, 2002 ( <i>RVs</i> )	21	46	22	10	1=100
Early September, 2002	17	29	29	24	1=100
Late October, 1998 ( <i>RVs</i> )	26	45	20	9	*=100
Early October, 1998 ( <i>RVs</i> )	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 <sup>3</sup>	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
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:</b>					
<b>c.F1</b> Iran's nuclear research program	23	34	19	23	1=100
August, 2006	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
<b>d.F1</b> News about the JonBenet Ramsey murder case	16	26	31	26	1=100

**NO ITEM e**

<sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup> 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.6 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Fairly closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:</b>						
f.F2	The upcoming fifth anniversary of the September 11 <sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks September, 2002 <sup>4</sup>	27 39	35 35	25 18	12 7	1=100 1=100
g.F2	The death of the Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin, from a stingray strike	30	36	21	12	1=100
<b>ASK SEPT 7-10 ONLY [N=1159]:</b>						
h.	President Bush's announcement that 14 terrorist suspects, previously held in secret, will be tried in military tribunals	18	32	23	25	2=100

**NO QUESTION 7**

**ASK ALL:**

THOUGHT How much thought have you given to the coming November election... Quite a lot, or only a little?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	<u>Quite A lot</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Some</u>	<u>Only a Little</u>	<u>None/DK/ Refused</u>
September, 2006	45	4	48	3=100
Early November, 2002	52	6	35	7=100
Early October, 2002	45	6	45	4=100
Early September, 2002	36	5	54	5=100
Late October, 1998	49	11	35	5=100
Early October, 1998	42	8	43	7=100
November, 1994	56	7	32	5=100
Late October, 1994	45	7	45	3=100
Early October, 1994	44	2	50	4=100
<i>Gallup: October, 1990</i> <sup>5</sup>	43	7	46	4=100
<i>Gallup: October, 1982</i>	29	22	37	12=100
<i>Gallup: October, 1978</i>	23	22	39	17=100
<i>Gallup: September, 1978</i>	21	18	44	18=100

<sup>4</sup> In September 2002 the story was listed as "Coverage of the upcoming anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks."

<sup>5</sup> Gallup trends based on total respondents.

PRECINCT Have you ever voted in your precinct or election district?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

		Mid- Early				Late			Mid- Early Late			Early Late			
		Nov	Oct	Sept	Aug	Nov	Nov	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Nov	Sept	Nov
		2004	2004	2004	2004	2002	2000	2000	2000	2000	1998	1998	1996	1996	1994
92	Yes	82	79	83	88	86	83	81	82	84	86	87	85	85	91
8	No	18	21	17	12	14	17	19	18	16	14	13	15	15	9
*	Don't know/Ref.	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	0	*	*	*	*	*	*
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

OFTVOTE How often would you say you vote... (READ)

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	Always	Nearly Always	Part of the time	Seldom	Never Vote	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) DK/Ref.
September, 2006	56	28	9	6	1	*	*=100
Early November, 2004	62	21	7	6	3	1	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	63	22	7	5	2	1	*=100
Early November, 2002	52	30	11	6	1	0	1=100
Early October, 2002	50	33	11	4	*	1	1=100
Early September, 2002	59	25	11	4	1	*	*=100
August, 2002	53	32	10	4	1	*	*=100
Early November, 2000	57	26	8	6	2	1	*=100
Late October, 2000	52	30	9	6	1	2	0=100
Mid-October, 2000	54	27	10	6	*	3	*=100
Early October, 2000	51	29	10	6	3	1	*=100
September, 2000	61	21	9	7	2	*	*=100
June, 2000	58	26	10	4	1	1	*=100
Late September, 1999	40	47	9	3	1	*	*=100
Late October, 1998	56	28	10	5	1	*	*=100
Early October, 1998	50	32	11	5	1	1	*=100
Early September, 1998	53	33	9	4	-	1	*=100
June, 1998	49	33	12	5	-	1	0=100
October, 1997	62	26	8	3	1	*	*=100
November, 1996	55	28	8	6	2	1	*=100
October, 1996	52	30	9	5	2	2	*=100
Late September, 1996	52	31	10	4	2	1	*=100
June, 1996	52	33	9	4	1	1	*=100
February, 1996	42	41	11	4	1	1	*=100
October, 1995	53	35	7	4	1	*	*=100
April, 1995	53	34	9	4	*	*	*=100
November, 1994	58	28	8	5	*	1	0=100
Late October, 1994	55	32	10	3	*	*	*=100
July, 1994	52	34	10	4	*	*	*=100
Early October, 1992	54	33	8	4	*	1	*=100
September, 1992	52	33	8	5	1	1	*=100
June, 1992	60	29	7	3	1	*	*=100
May, 1992	50	35	10	4	1	*	*=100
November, 1991	46	41	9	4	*	-	*=100
May, 1990	42	42	11	4	1	*	*=100
Gallup: November, 1988	57	26	10	4	2	1	*=100

**OFTVOTE CONTINUED...**

	<u>Always</u>	Nearly <u>Always</u>	Part of <u>The time</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	(VOL.) Never <u>Vote</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref.</u>
October, 1988	51	37	8	3	1	*	*=100
May, 1988	43	41	11	3	2	1	*=100
January, 1988	49	39	9	2	1	*	*=100
May, 1987	43	43	9	3	1	1	*=100

PLANTO1 Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this November?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	<u>Yes, Plan To Vote</u>	No, Don't <u>Plan To</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
September, 2006	92	5	3=100
November, 2004	97	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2004 <sup>6</sup>	98	1	1=100
Early October, 2004	98	1	1=100
Early September, 2004	98	1	1=100
<i>September 11-14</i>	97	2	1=100
<i>September 8-10</i>	99	1	*=100
August, 2004	98	2	*=100
June, 2004	96	2	2=100
November, 2002 <sup>7*</sup>	90	8	2=100
Early October, 2002*	95	3	2=100
November, 2000	96	3	1=100
Late October, 2000	97	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2000	96	2	2=100
Early October, 2000	97	2	1=100
September, 2000	95	3	2=100
June, 2000	95	2	3=100
Late October, 1998	91	6	3=100
Early October, 1998	92	4	4=100
Early September, 1998	95	2	3=100
Late August, 1998	93	3	4=100
June, 1998	95	3	2=100
November, 1996	96	2	2=100
October, 1996	98	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	98	1	1=100
Early September, 1996	96	2	2=100
July, 1996	95	3	2=100
June, 1996	96	2	2=100
November, 1994	93	5	2=100
October, 1994	95	3	2=100
October, 1992	98	1	1=100
September, 1992	98	1	1=100

<sup>6</sup> In November and Mid-October 2004 and November 2002, the volunteer category "already voted" was added and is presented in the "Yes, Plan to vote" category.

<sup>7</sup> In November 2002, November, 2000, Late October 1998, November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

**PLANTO1 CONTINUED...**

	Yes, Plan <u>To Vote</u>	No, Don't <u>Plan To</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
August, 1992	97	1	2=100
June, 1992	97	1	2=100
October, 1988	98	1	1=100

SCALE10 I'd like you to rate your chance of voting in November on a scale of 10 to 1. If 10 represents a person who definitely will vote and 1 represents a person who definitely will not vote, where on this scale of 10 to 1 would you place yourself?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	Definitely will vote										Definitely will not vote
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 2006	67	9	9	2	2	5	1	1	1	2	1=100
November, 2004 <sup>8</sup>	87	4	3	1	1	1	*	*	*	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	87	4	3	1	1	1	*	*	*	2	1=100
Early November, 2002 <sup>9</sup>	66	9	9	3	1	4	1	1	1	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	64	10	10	4	3	4	1	*	*	2	2=100
Early November, 2000	80	6	5	2	1	3	*	*	*	3	1=100
Late October, 2000	83	5	5	1	1	2	*	1	1	1	*=100
Mid-October, 2000	80	7	4	3	1	3	1	*	*	1	1=100
Early October, 2000	78	7	5	2	2	2	*	1	1	1	1=100
Late October, 1998	70	6	7	4	1	4	1	1	1	4	1=100
Early October, 1998	64	9	10	4	2	4	1	2	1	2	1=100
November, 1996	77	7	7	2	1	2	*	1	*	2	1=100
October, 1996	77	9	7	2	2	2	*	*	*	1	*=100
Late September, 1996	78	10	6	2	1	1	*	*	*	1	1=100
November, 1994	67	9	8	2	2	4	1	1	1	3	2=100
October, 1994	66	10	9	4	2	4	1	1	*	2	1=100
<b>Gallup:</b> September, 1992	77	5	4	3	2	4	*	1	*	4	*=100
<b>Gallup:</b> November, 1988	77	7	6	2	1	3	*	*	*	2	2=100
<b>Gallup:</b> October, 1988	73	8	7	3	2	3	1	*	*	1	2=100

<sup>8</sup> In November 2004 and November 2002 the volunteer category "already voted" was added and is presented in the "10 – definitely will vote" category.

<sup>9</sup> In Early November election surveys, the question asked about "Tuesday's election."

Q.8 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.8, ASK:**

Q.8a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
September, 2006	39	50	11=100
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
<b>2002 Election</b>			
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
<b>1998 Election</b>			
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
<b>1994 Election</b>			
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 FORM 1 ONLY:**

Q.9F1 What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress in your district – national issues, local or state issues, the candidate's political party, or the candidate's character or experience? **[IF MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Well, which is most important?]**

**BASED ON FORM 1 REGISTERED VOTERS [N=598]:**

	National <u>Issues</u>	State/Local <u>Issues</u>	Political <u>Party</u>	Character/ <u>Experience</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
September, 2006	29	33	5	27	1	2	3=100
June, 2006	30	26	6	33	2	*	3=100
Early November, 2002	23	38	7	26	2	*	4=100
Early October, 2002	28	35	5	25	2	1	4=100
June, 2002	26	30	5	33	2	1	3=100

**Q.9F1 CONTINUED...**

	National <u>Issues</u>	State/Local <u>Issues</u>	Political <u>Party</u>	Character/ <u>Experience</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
Early October, 2000	21	42	9	21	1	1	5=100
July, 2000	18	40	6	32	1	1	2=100
Late October, 1998	20	39	5	27	3	2	4=100
Early October, 1998	23	36	7	28	1	*	5=100
Early September, 1998	22	34	5	33	2	*	4=100
Early August, 1998	20	38	5	31	2	*	4=100
June, 1998	22	37	4	32	1	1	3=100
March, 1998	18	37	6	35	1	1	2=100
November, 1996	23	38	6	25	2	*	6=100
October, 1996	19	45	7	26	1	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	25	38	6	24	2	*	5=100
Early September, 1996	18	42	6	30	1	*	3=100
November, 1994	22	38	5	30	1	*	4=100
Late October, 1994	22	38	3	29	3	1	4=100
Early October, 1994	22	27	5	39	2	1	4=100
<b>CBS/NYT: 10/24-28, 1986</b>	22	25	6	40	1	1	5=100
<b>CBS/NYT: 9/28-10/1, 1986</b>	20	23	9	41	3	*	4=100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY:**

Q.10F2 What matters most to you as you think about your vote for Congress this fall? **[READ AND ROTATE]**

**BASED ON FORM 2 REGISTERED VOTERS [N=593]:**

47	National issues OR
36	Local issues
17	Both equally (VOL) <b>[DO NOT READ]</b>
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL) <b>[DO NOT READ]</b>
100	

**NO QUESTION 11**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	(VOL)		Congressperson (VOL)	DK/Ref
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>not running</u>	
September, 2006	53	27	1	19=100
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
October, 2000	60	17	1	22=100
July, 1999	66	23	*	11=100
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16=100

**Q.12 CONTINUED...**

	<b>(VOL)</b>			<b>(VOL)</b>
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Congressperson <u>not running</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
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.13 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	<b>(VOL)</b>		
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 2006	35	49	16=100
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.14 Thinking about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

		<i>Gallup</i>			
		June	June	June	Oct
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1994</u>
37	More	38	41	38	34
40	Less	40	33	45	44
20	Same <b>(VOL)</b>	18	23	15	20
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.15 Will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote for Congress this year, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	Yes, will be <u>a factor</u>	No, <u>will not</u>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 2006	55	41	4=100
June, 2006	58	39	3=100
April, 2006	56	39	5=100
June, 2004	43	51	6=100
Early November, 2002	48	49	3=100
Early October, 2002	42	55	3=100
Early September, 2002	44	51	5=100
June, 2002	47	50	3=100
February, 2002	46	49	5=100
Early October, 2000	46	50	4=100
July, 2000	46	49	5=100
Late October, 1998	46	50	4=100
Early October, 1998	47	49	4=100
Early September, 1998	41	56	3=100
Early August, 1998	44	53	3=100
June, 1998	45	51	4=100

Q.16 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=1191]:**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	Not a <u>factor</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
September, 2006	20	36	40	4=100
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
<b>Clinton:</b> Late October, 1998	20	17	58	5=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early October, 1998	19	23	52	6=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3=100

**Q.16 CONTINUED...**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	Not a <u>factor</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
<b>Clinton:</b> Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4=100
<b>Clinton:</b> June, 1998	20	18	57	5=100
<b>Clinton:</b> March, 1998	21	15	59	5=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1996	24	18	51	7=100
<b>Clinton:</b> November, 1994	17	21	55	7=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Late October, 1994	17	21	57	5=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6=100
<b>CBS/NYT Bush:</b> 10/28-31, 1990	19	15	61	6=100
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 10/24-28, 1986	26	12	55	7=100
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 9/28-10/1, 1986	26	16	51	7=100
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 10/23-28, 1982	23	21	51	5=100

Q.17 Generally what is more important to you this year... **(READ)?**

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	<u>Oct 1998</u>	<u>Oct 1994</u>
30 Having new faces in office OR Having experienced people who	22	31
59 know how the government works	66	57
<u>11</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
100	100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 18-19**

On another subject...

Q.20 Compared to recent Congresses, would you say THIS Congress has accomplished more, accomplished less, or accomplished about the same amount?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	<u>June 2006</u>	<u>April 2006</u>	<u>Early Nov 2002</u>	<u>June 2002</u>	<u>July 2000</u>	<u>Aug 1999</u>	<u>Early Oct 1998</u>	<u>Early Sept 1998</u>	<u>Early Aug 1998</u>	<u>Nov 1997</u>	<u>April 1997</u>	<u>Oct 1994</u>	<i>Gallup</i>
7 More	7	7	11	16	21	13	24	24	18	25	10	9	
38 Less	45	41	27	22	16	23	23	17	15	13	24	38	
50 Same	42	47	54	57	56	60	49	55	62	59	58	50	
<u>5</u> Don't know/Ref.	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Q.21 What's your view... Do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not?

	<u>Dec 2004</u>
70 More politically divided	66
24 Not more divided	26
<u>6</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 22-23**

**ROTATE Q.24 AND Q.25**

Q.24 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]**

		Aug <u>2006</u>
31	Very concerned	35
21	Fairly concerned	22
18	Not too concerned	17
25	Not at all concerned	23
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>3</u>
100		100

Q.25 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]**

		Aug <u>2006</u>
41	Very concerned	46
25	Fairly concerned	23
15	Not too concerned	18
15	Not at all concerned	11
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>2</u>
100		100

Q.26 Now I am going to read a list of things that have been in the news recently. For each, please tell me how often, if ever, it comes up in your conversations with family and friends. First how often do you talk about **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**... frequently, occasionally, hardly ever or never? What about...

		Frequ- <u>ently</u>	Occasi- <u>onally</u>	Hardly <u>Ever</u>	<u>Never</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a.	The economy	54	32	9	4	1=100
b.	The war in Iraq	54	33	9	3	1=100
c.	Terrorism	47	36	12	4	1=100
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:</b>						
d.F1	Corruption in government	36	35	20	8	1=100
e.F1	Immigration	41	34	16	9	*=100
f.F1	The environment	33	41	21	5	*=100
g.F1	Taxes	46	33	17	4	*=100
h.F1	Crime	46	35	15	4	*=100
i.F1	Social Security	33	32	26	9	*=100
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:</b>						
j.F2	Health care	53	31	10	5	1=100
k.F2	Gas and energy prices	75	19	3	2	1=100

**Q.26 CONTINUED...**

		Frequ- <u>ently</u>	Occasi- <u>onally</u>	Hardly <u>Ever</u>	<u>Never</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
l.F2	Education	54	30	11	4	1=100
m.F2	Moral issues	44	33	15	6	2=100
n.F2	The job situation	42	30	19	7	2=100
o.F2	The issue of gay marriage	14	20	31	33	2=100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.27 Next, please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE – OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]<sup>10</sup>

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u> <u>Equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	Don't <u>Know</u>
a.	Dealing with the economy	32	46	5	5	12=100
	February, 2006	36	46	5	5	8=100
	Mid-September, 2005	38	44	5	7	6=100
	July, 2004	34	46	5	5	10=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	37	40	5	6	12=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	37	41	4	5	13=100
	Early September, 2002	36	36	9	6	13=100
	January, 2002	43	34	--	5	18=100
	May, 2001 <sup>11</sup>	33	44	8	5	10=100
	June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9=100
	March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9=100
	Early September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10=100
	March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5=100
	October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10=100
	Gallup: October, 1992 (RVs)	36	45	10	--	9=100
	Gallup: October, 1990	37	35	--	--	28=100
b.	Making wise decisions about what to do in Iraq	33	40	5	8	14=100
	February, 2006	38	41	3	8	10=100
	Mid-September, 2005	38	43	5	6	8=100
	July, 2004	38	40	4	6	12=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	42	33	6	6	13=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	46	30	7	4	13=100
c.	Dealing with the terrorist threat at home	41	32	7	6	14=100
	February, 2006	46	30	8	7	9=100
	Mid-September, 2005	45	34	7	6	8=100
	July, 2004	45	30	6	6	13=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	44	27	11	6	12=100

<sup>10</sup> In January 1999, January 2001, January 2002, and May 2002, the question was worded: "Please tell me which party you think has the best ideas... the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?"

<sup>11</sup> In May 2001 and earlier, the item was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous?"

**Q.27 CONTINUED...**

		Republican	Democratic	Both	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	44	28	7	5	16=100
	Early September, 2002	44	22	14	6	14=100
	January, 2002	48	18	--	6	28=100
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:</b>						
d.F1	Reforming government in Washington	25	41	4	16	14=100
	April, 2006	28	44	5	15	8=100
	February, 2006	29	42	7	12	10=100
	March, 1998 <sup>12</sup>	37	35	8	10	10=100
	July, 1994	39	40	3	11	7=100
e.F1	Dealing with immigration	32	37	5	10	16=100
	April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13=100
	February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11=100
f.F1	Protecting the environment	19	57	5	6	13=100
	February, 2006	24	56	6	5	9=100
	Mid-September, 2005	28	51	5	7	9=100
	July, 2004	24	51	5	6	14=100
	Early September, 2002	25	46	9	6	14=100
	May, 2001	25	51	7	4	13=100
	June, 1999	27	45	7	5	16=100
	Early September, 1998	25	51	8	4	12=100
	March, 1998	22	56	8	5	9=100
	July, 1994	28	56	4	4	8=100
	December, 1993	22	46	--	12	20=100
	May, 1990	24	40	--	19	17=100
g.F1	Dealing with taxes	30	45	4	9	12=100
	February, 2006	35	46	5	6	8=100
	May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9=100
	June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12=100
	September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10=100
	March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8=100
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9=100
h.F1	Reducing crime	32	34	8	10	16=100
	February, 2006	37	30	8	10	15=100
	September, 2002	35	26	14	10	15=100
	June, 1999	35	35	12	6	12=100
	Early September, 1998	39	32	10	7	12=100
	March, 1998	35	34	11	10	10=100
	October, 1994	38	34	7	10	11=100
	December, 1993	29	35	--	17	19=100
	January, 1992	32	32	--	18	18=100
i.F1	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	26	46	4	11	13=100
	September, 2005	33	45	6	9	7=100

<sup>12</sup> In March 1998 and July 1994 the item was worded "reforming government."

**Q.27 CONTINUED...**

		Republican	Democratic	Both	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	31	42	6	9	12=100
	Early September, 2002	30	38	8	10	14=100
	May, 2002	32	38	--	9	21=100
	January, 2002	28	40	--	6	26=100
	May, 2001 <sup>13</sup>	35	43	6	5	11=100
	January, 2001	36	44	--	7	13=100
	June, 1999	33	41	4	9	13=100
	January, 1999	27	46	--	7	20=100
	Early September, 1998	37	42	7	5	9=100
	May, 1990	28	41	--	16	15=100
j.F1	Representing your views on abortion	33	44	2	6	15=100
	January, 1992 <sup>14</sup>	29	39	--	11	21=100
	August, 1990	30	40	--	12	18=100
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:</b>						
k.F2	Reforming the U.S. health care system	24	48	5	10	13=100
	February, 2006	27	49	6	9	9=100
	Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7=100
	July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13=100
	Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15=100
	January, 2002 <sup>15</sup>	20	45	--	6	29=100
	January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16=100
	January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22=100
	Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12=100
	March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8=100
	October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10=100
	July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8=100
	December, 1993	25	47	--	10	18=100
	January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15=100
	May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14=100
l.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problems	27	47	4	7	15=100
	February, 2006	32	45	6	7	10=100
	Mid-September, 2005	31	44	6	8	11=100
	May, 2001	36	34	10	7	13=100

<sup>13</sup> For May 2001, June 1999, Early September 1998 and May 1990, the question was worded, "Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job in each of the following areas ... keeping Social Security financially sound?"

<sup>14</sup> In January 1992 and August 1990, the question was worded, "Which political party - the Republican Party or the Democratic party do you think could do a better job of:"

<sup>15</sup> From 1999 to 2002, the item was listed as "...regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans." In December 1993 question was worded "Reforming health care." In January 1992 and May 1990 the question was worded "improving health care in the U.S."

**Q.27 CONTINUED...**

		Republican	Democratic	Both	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
m.F2	Improving the educational system	28	46	7	6	13=100
	February, 2006	33	44	8	7	8=100
	Mid-September, 2005	35	44	6	7	8=100
	July, 2004	29	45	7	7	12=100
	January, 2002	37	34	--	6	23=100
	May, 2001	36	38	11	6	9=100
	January, 2001	40	41	--	7	12=100
	June, 1999	29	52	7	5	7=100
	March, 1999	33	46	6	5	10=100
	January, 1999	26	46	--	7	21=100
	Early September, 1998	34	42	10	4	10=100
	March, 1998	29	49	10	5	7=100
	July, 1994	37	46	4	5	8=100
	January, 1992	28	48	--	10	14=100
	May, 1990	30	42	--	14	14=100
n.F2	Reducing the federal budget deficit	27	47	4	8	14=100
	February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7=100
	Early October, 2005 <sup>16</sup>	29	47	6	10	8=100
	June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9=100
	July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7=100
	December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15=100
o.F2	Improving morality in this country	34	36	5	10	15=100
	July, 2004	37	35	5	10	13=100
	January, 2002	38	27	--	8	27=100
	January, 2001	49	26	--	11	14=100
	January, 1999	37	29	--	17	17=100
	June, 1999 <sup>17</sup>	40	33	7	11	9=100
	Early September, 1998	45	27	8	9	11=100
	March 1998	43	29	9	11	8=100
	October, 1994	40	35	6	8	11=100
	July, 1994	46	34	4	8	8=100
p.F2	Improving the job situation	29	47	6	5	13=100
	March, 1998	30	51	7	5	7=100
	October, 1994	37	42	6	7	8=100

**ALWAYS ASK ITEM "q" LAST**

q.F2	And finally, which party comes closest to your views on homosexuality	32	35	1	8	24=100
	July, 2004	34	32	2	8	24=100
	Early September, 1998	35	34	2	6	23=100

**NO QUESTION 28**

<sup>16</sup> In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a stand alone question. In June 1999, the question was worded "keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the question was worded "reducing the budget deficit."

<sup>17</sup> In June 1999 and earlier the item was worded "...promoting morality and personal responsibility."

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**

Q.29F1 In your view, does the [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] or the [NEXT ITEM] have better political leaders?

		April <u>2006</u>	Feb <u>2006</u>
38	Republican Party	38	41
34	Democratic Party	40	37
7	Both equally (VOL.)	4	5
9	Neither (VOL.)	9	8
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.30F2 In your view, does the [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] or the [NEXT ITEM] have stronger political leaders?

		April <u>2006</u>
43	Republican Party	53
30	Democratic Party	26
7	Both equally (VOL.)	4
5	Neither (VOL.)	8
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>
100		100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.31 There is now a new Medicare law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs for seniors. Overall, would you say you strongly approve, approve, DISapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way Medicare will now cover prescription drug costs?

		Mar <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2005</u> <sup>18</sup>	Dec <u>2003</u>
13	Strongly approve	12	13	12
39	Approve	39	35	43
20	Disapprove	22	20	17
10	Strongly disapprove	10	10	10
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>17</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>18</u>
100		100	100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 32-39**

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<sup>18</sup> In December 2005 the question did not include the words "for seniors." In December 2003 the question was worded "As you may know, Congress passed a new Medicare law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs and changes the way Medicare covers other medical expenses for senior citizens. Overall, would you say you strongly approve, approve, DISapprove, or strongly disapprove of these recent changes?"



**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the issue of terrorism for a moment...

Q.40 Do you think the United States is winning or losing the war on terrorism?

		(RVs)	Early	Early
		Nov	Oct	Sept
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>
39	Winning	45	46	52
41	Losing	31	31	28
9	Neither (VOL)	10	9	9
<u>11</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.41 In order to curb terrorism in this country, do you think it is necessary for the average person to give up some civil liberties, or not?

										L.A. Times	
		July	July	Aug	June	Jan	Mid-	Sept	April	March	April
		<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003<sup>19</sup></u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>	
43	Yes, it is necessary	40	38	44	49	55	55	29	30	49	
50	No, it is not necessary	53	56	50	45	39	35	62	65	43	
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Q.42 Do you think it is generally right or generally wrong for the government to monitor telephone and e-mail communications of Americans suspected of having terrorist ties without first obtaining permission from the courts?

		Feb	Jan
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
54	Generally right	54	48
41	Generally wrong	43	47
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100

**ASK SEPT 7-10 ONLY [N=1159]:**

Q.42X Recently, there has been some discussion of what rights terrorist suspects should have as they are brought to trial. Do you think George W. Bush is doing an excellent, good, only fair, or poor job handling this issue?

10	Excellent
30	Good
25	Only fair
27	Poor
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

<sup>19</sup> In 2003 and earlier the question was worded: "In order to curb terrorism in this country, do you think it will be necessary for the average person to give up some civil liberties, or not?"

Thinking about IRAN for a moment...

Q.43 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the dispute about Iran's nuclear program? **[READ]**

		Feb <u>2006</u>
41	A lot	32
44	A little	46
14	Nothing at all	21
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**

Q.44F1 From what you know, would you favor or oppose the United States negotiating directly with Iran over the issue of its nuclear program?

54	Favor
32	Oppose
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.45F2 Who should take the lead in dealing with Iran's nuclear program? **[READ AND ROTATE]**

		May <u>2006</u>	Feb <u>2006</u>
21	The United States OR	21	17
70	The United Nations	72	78
2	Other (VOL. DO NOT READ)	3	2
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Which is your greater concern when it comes to dealing with Iran's nuclear program ... that we will take action TOO QUICKLY, or that we will wait TOO LONG?

		May <u>2006</u>	Feb <u>2006</u>
35	Take action too quickly	34	34
51	Wait too long	53	53
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
100		100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 47-49**

**QUESTIONS 50 THROUGH 53 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**NO QUESTION 54**

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q.55 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>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK/ Ref</u>
September, 2006	49	43	8=100
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
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>8=100</i>
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.56 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	(VOL) DK/ Ref
September, 2006	8	39	28	20	5=100
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>

**NO QUESTION 57**

Q.58 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) DK/ Ref
September, 2006	47	47	6=100
August, 2006	48	46	6=100
June, 2006	50	45	5=100
April, 2006	48	48	4=100
March, 2006	44	50	6=100

**Q.58 CONTINUED...**

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
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 <sup>20</sup>	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

Q.59 Do you think the war in Iraq has helped the war on terrorism, or has it hurt the war on terrorism?

	<u>Helped</u>	<u>Hurt</u>	(VOL) <u>No effect</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
September, 2006	41	45	5	9=100
June, 2006	44	40	6	10=100
March, 2006	38	44	8	10=100
January, 2006	44	38	8	10=100
Late October, 2005	44	44	6	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	43	43	6	8=100
July, 2005	39	47	7	7=100
February, 2005	44	41	7	8=100
Mid-October, 2004	45	40	6	9=100
Early September, 2004	46	40	6	8=100
August, 2004	45	44	4	7=100
July, 2004	43	45	5	7=100
June, 2004	43	44	4	9=100
Mid-March, 2004	50	37	5	8=100
Late February, 2004	62	28	3	7=100
Early February, 2004	55	32	7	6=100
December, 2003	59	26	6	9=100
September, 2003	54	31	7	8=100
May, 2003	65	22	6	7=100

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<sup>20</sup> 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?"

	<u>Helped</u>	<u>Hurt</u>	<u>(VOL)</u> <u>No effect</u>	<u>Don't know/</u> <u>Refused</u>
April, 2003 <sup>21</sup>	63	22	--	15=100
Early October, 2002	52	34	--	14=100

**NO QUESTION 60**

Q.61 Do you think the U.S. should or should not set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq?

	<u>Aug</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>June</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>April</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>Jan</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>Dec</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>Early</u> <u>Oct</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>Mid-</u> <u>Sept</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>July</u> <u>2005</u>
47 Should set a timetable	52	52	53	55	50	56	52	57	49
45 Should not set a timetable	41	42	40	39	42	38	43	37	45
1 Should get out now (VOL.)	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	*
<u>7</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<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	100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=754]:**

Q.62F1 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?

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

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.63F2 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?

	<u>Aug</u> <u>2006</u>
13 Definitely succeed	14
44 Probably succeed	40
26 Probably fail	28
9 Definitely fail	12
<u>8</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>
100	100

<sup>21</sup> In April 2003, the question was worded: "Do you think the war in Iraq will help the war on terrorism, or will it hurt the war on terrorism?" In Early October 2002 the question was worded: "If the U.S. uses military force in Iraq, do you think this will help the war on terrorism, or will it hurt the war on terrorism?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.64 From what you've read and heard, how would you describe the current violence in Iraq, is it... **[READ AND ROTATE]**?

		March <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2005</u>
50	Mostly a civil war between competing factions in Iraq OR	42	30
37	Mostly an insurgency aimed against the U.S. and its allies	45	58
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100

Q.65 Regardless of how you yourself feel about the war in Iraq, do you think CRITICISM of how the war is being handled **[READ; ROTATE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

36	Helps America's enemies OR
15	Helps protect America OR
42	Neither
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)
100	

In terms of the election this Fall...

Q.66 If a candidate for Congress supported **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, would that make you more likely to vote FOR or AGAINST that candidate, or would it not be a factor in your vote?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1191]:**

	Vote <u>for</u>	Vote <u>against</u>	Not a <u>factor</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. Bringing all the troops home from Iraq immediately	25	37	35	3=100
b. Setting a timetable for when troops would return from Iraq	31	23	42	4=100
c. Keeping U.S. troops in Iraq for as long as it takes to stabilize the situation	32	28	36	4=100

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL) <u>No Preference</u>	(VOL) <u>Other Party</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
September, 2006	30	34	30	3	*	3=100
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

**PARTY CONTINUED...**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No Preference</u>	(VOL) <u>Other Party</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	*	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
<b>Yearly Totals</b>						
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>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Other/DK</u>		
1996	29	33	33	5=100		
1995	32	30	34	4=100		
1994	30	32	34	4=100		
1993	27	34	34	5=100		
1992	28	33	35	4=100		
1991	31	32	33	4=100		
1990	31	33	30	6=100		
1989	33	33	34=100			
1987	26	35	39=100			

**IF ANSWERED 1 IN PARTY, ASK [N=471]:**

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG Republican or NOT a strong Republican?

	Late																	
	Dec 05	Dec 04	Jul 04	Aug 03	Sep 00	Sep 99	Aug 99	Nov 97	Oct 95	Apr 95	Oct 94	Jul 94	Jun 92	May 90	Feb 89	May 88	Jan 88	May 87
17 Strong	16	18	17	14	14	10	11	11	11	15	16	13	11	13	15	13	12	11
13 Not Strong/DK	13	13	12	13	13	14	14	14	19	15	15	16	17	15	16	15	15	14
30%	29	31	29	27	27	24	25	25	30	30	31	29	28	28	31	28	27	25

**IF ANSWERED 2 IN PARTY, ASK [N=498]:**

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG Democrat or NOT a strong Democrat?

	Late																	
	Dec 05	Dec 04	Jul 04	Aug 03	Sep 00	Sep 99	Aug 99	Nov 97	Oct 95	Apr 95	Oct 94	Jul 94	Jun 92	May 90	Feb 89	May 88	Jan 88	May 87
18 Strong	20	19	20	15	19	15	15	14	14	14	18	15	14	16	17	19	19	18
16 Not strong/DK	14	15	13	16	15	16	18	18	16	15	14	18	18	17	21	19	20	19
34%	34	34	33	31	34	31	33	32	30	29	32	33	32	33	38	38	39	37



**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>	<u>Refused to lean</u>
September, 2006	10	15	11=36%
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%
February, 2006	11	16	10=37%
January, 2006	10	16	14=40%
December, 2005	10	16	11=37%
Late November, 2005	9	13	17=39%
Early November, 2005	11	14	13=38%
Late October, 2005	11	15	12=38%
Early October, 2005	11	18	11=40%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 6-7, 2005	10	15	15=40%
July, 2005	9	15	11=35%
June, 2005	10	16	12=38%
Mid-May, 2005	9	13	14=36%
Late March, 2005	13	17	9=39%
December, 2004	14	12	9=35%
August, 2003	12	16	14=42%
August, 2002	12	13	13=38%
September, 2000	11	13	15=39%
Late September, 1999	14	15	16=45%
August, 1999	15	15	12=42%

**ASK IF REPUBLICAN OR LEAN REPUBLICAN (1 IN PARTY OR 1 IN PARTYLN) [N=634]:**

Q.67 Thinking about this year's Congressional elections, do you think the Republican Party will do better, worse, or about the same as it has in recent elections?

		<u>June 2006</u>	<u>Feb 2006</u>	<u>Dec 2005</u>
23	Better	19	23	17
20	Worse	18	17	20
52	About the same	58	56	55
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100

**ASK IF DEMOCRAT OR LEAN DEMOCRAT (2 IN PARTY OR 2 IN PARTYLN) [N=704]:**

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

		<u>June 2006</u>	<u>Feb 2006</u>	<u>Dec 2005</u>
62	Better	59	64	62
4	Worse	2	2	1
30	About the same	35	28	31
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100