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For The People & The Press

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Clinton Widens Lead, Giuliani Slips

A SUMMER OF DISCONTENT WITH WASHINGTON

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Clinton Widens Lead, Giuliani Slips

A SUMMER OF DISCONTENT WITH WASHINGTON

As official Washington winds down for its summer holiday, all three branches of government are coming under fire from the American public. Just 29% approve of the way President Bush is handling his job, and only slightly more, 33%, approve of the job performance of the Democratic leaders of Congress. Even the U.S. Supreme Court is not immune from the current round of public disaffection: The court's favorable rating has fallen from 72% in January to 57% currently.

Opinion of all three institutions divides predictably along party lines – but even partisans offer comparatively modest support for both the President and the Democratic Congressional leadership. Bush's approval rating stands at only 69% among Republicans and the Democratic leaders can claim just a 62% approval score among Democrats. In contrast, sizable majorities of independents *disapprove* of the job performance of the President and of Capitol Hill's leadership.

Opinions about House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are somewhat more positive than opinions of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. The public divides about evenly on Pelosi: 35% approve of her job performance as Speaker, 37% disapprove and 28% cannot rate her. Reid is less well known and less well regarded – 21% approve of his performance as majority leader, 33% disapprove and 46% express no opinion.

The Democratic leadership is criticized as often by congressional critics for “not doing enough” as it is for “doing the wrong things.” Republicans cite the latter, while roughly equal proportions of political independents are concerned about one or the other. Democrats themselves criticize their leaders for not achieving enough.

While there is substantial criticism of the Democratic leadership, fully half of the public (50%)

Critical Views			
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Bush job</i>			
Approve	33	29	29
Disapprove	59	61	61
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Dem leaders</i>			
Approve	39	34	33
Disapprove	34	49	54
Don't know	<u>27</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Why 'disapprove'?</i>			
Doing wrong things	--	--	21
Not doing enough	--	--	23
Mixed/DK	--	--	<u>10</u>
			54
	Oct		
<i>View of</i>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>July</u>
<i>Congress</i>	%	%	%
Favorable	41	53	41
Unfavorable	46	38	51
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100
<i>View of</i>	July		
<i>Supreme Court</i>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>July</u>
Favorable	63	72	57
Unfavorable	27	17	29
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100
	Nov		
<i>Democratic</i>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>July</u>
<i>majority</i>	%	%	%
Happy they won	60	54	50
Unhappy they won	24	32	35
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Dems will be...</i>			
Successful	59	54	43
Unsuccessful	22	32	42
Mixed/DK	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100

continues to say it is happy that the Democrats control Congress, according to the latest nationwide Pew Research Center for the People & the Press survey of 1,503 randomly selected adults conducted July 25-29. But, as many as 60% had said they were happy with impending Democratic control of the Congress in November, following the midterm elections.

Declining contentment with Democratic control of Congress tracks with ebbing confidence that Democratic leaders will be successful in passing legislation. Right after the election, 59% of the public thought they would be successful in doing so. That percentage dipped to 54% in March, and stands at just 43% in the current poll.

The Supreme Court's ratings have slumped across the board since January, but the declines have been greater among Democrats and independents than among Republicans, who still have largely positive views of that institution. Fewer than half of Democrats (48%) now say they have a positive opinion of the court, down from 67% in January. Ratings also fell among independents over this period (from 74% to 58%). Most Republicans continue to hold a favorable opinion of the Supreme Court – but it, too, has slipped since the beginning of the year (from 81% to 72%).

Slightly more than one-in-three (36%) Americans say that President Bush has made the Supreme Court more conservative through his appointments to the bench, but a 41% plurality believes that he has not changed the balance of the court. Opinion about the ideological composition of the courts is highly dependent on a citizen's ideological perspective.

Most liberals (55%) see the current court as conservative, and most say Bush has moved it farther to the right. The other side sees it quite differently. Only 24% of conservatives themselves think the Court is conservative, and just 30% think the Bush appointments have made the court more conservative. Opinions of political moderates fall between these two extremes.

	Total	Cons	Mod	Lib
<i>Current court is...</i>	%	%	%	%
Conservative	36	24	41	55
Middle of the road	35	41	37	25
Liberal	14	22	8	10
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Bush appointments have made the court...</i>				
More conservative	36	30	36	54
No change	41	50	40	33
More liberal	7	7	8	5
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of cases	1,503	597	560	284

Campaign Backlash Brewing?

Fewer than one-in-three citizens (30%) have given a lot of thought to the candidates running for president. That percentage has not changed markedly in recent months even though a large share of the public says they been paying at least some attention to campaign news generally¹ and to the televised debates, specifically.

A backlash to the campaign may be part of the reason why there has been little increase in the public's consideration of the candidates, even as many people are being exposed to the race. When Pew's respondents were asked to come up with one word to describe the campaign, 52% gave a negative answer, 19% a positive one, and 10% offered a neutral phrase. *Too early* was the most frequently volunteered negative phrase, followed by *confusing* and *long*. *Interesting* was the most-cited positive word or phrase, followed by *okay*.

Democrats are slightly more attentive to the presidential campaign, and more often say they have given a lot of thought to the candidates than do Republicans. They also are more positive about the campaign than are Republicans. GOP malaise over the campaign is underscored by the fact that equal proportions of independents and Republicans have given a lot of thought to the candidates, a change in the typical pattern that finds independents to be the least engaged in the presidential campaign.

Debates Well Regarded

Possible backlash notwithstanding, the new survey finds as many as 40% of respondents say they have seen any of the debates. This is twice the percentage that recalled watching a debate between presidential candidates in January 2004, significantly later in the campaign cycle. And the debates get good reviews: About two-thirds (66%) report that they have been helpful in deciding whom to support and 47% say they have been fun to watch. Many more Democrats than Republicans say the debates have been helpful (81% to 55%)

Top Words Used to Describe the Campaign

N*	Word
81	Early/Too Early
61	Interesting
40	OK
38	Good
35	Confused/Confusing
35	Long/Too long
29	Unimpressed
27	Boring
21	Joke
20	Fair
17	Disappointing
17	Lacking/Lackluster
17	Poor
16	Bad
16	Ridiculous
15	Mediocre
13	Money

* Number of individuals volunteering each word out of 1,503 respondents; these numbers are not percentages.

Debate Reactions

	Total %
<i>Watched any debates?</i>	
Yes	40
No/DK	60
	100
<i>If watched...*</i>	
<i>Helpful in learning about candidates</i>	
Yes	66
No/DK	34
	100
<i>Fun to watch</i>	
Yes	47
No/DK	53
	100

* Based on 647 respondents who watched any of the debates.

¹ For more on public attention to the campaign and other stories in the news, see the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly news interest index results at: <http://people-press.org/newsinterest/>.

and fun (58% to 41%.)

By four-to-one (68% to 17%) the American public prefers debates that have regular people asking questions of the candidates over debates with journalists asking the questions. While the recent CNN/YouTube-sponsored debate that featured self-recorded questions submitted over the internet garnered substantial attention, most Americans did not judge the debate as substantially better than others they have seen.

Clinton Widens Lead, Giuliani Slips

Hillary Clinton now holds a nearly two-to-one lead over Barack Obama. The current survey finds 40% of registered Democrats and independents who lean Democratic say they would most like to see her nominated as their party's presidential candidate. Obama is the choice of 21% while Al Gore is favored by 12% and John Edwards by 11%. Pew's April survey had found Clinton with a more modest 34% to 24% lead over the Illinois senator. Over this period, support for the former first lady has increased most among independent Democrats, liberals and moderates, college graduates, middle-aged and older voters.

On the Republican side, Rudy Giuliani remains the top choice for the presidential nomination among 27% of all registered Republicans and GOP-leaning independents. The poll finds 18% favoring Fred Thompson, 16% John McCain and 10% Mitt Romney. Since April, Giuliani support has declined (32% to 27%) as has McCain's (23% to 16%) while Thompson has gained significantly (10% to 18%). Thompson has caught up to Giuliani among independents who lean Republican, as Giuliani's support has fallen by half. But Giuliani remains the frontrunner among those who identify as Republicans, with no overall change in his support since April.

Iraq Not Shaping Candidate Preferences—So Far

At this early stage in the campaign, the poll finds little connection between candidate preferences and opinions about Iraq. Republicans who say they want the next Republican

A "YouTube" Revolution?

	Total
<i>Prefer debates in which...</i>	
Regular people ask questions	68
Journalists ask questions	17
Don't know	15
	100
<i>The CNN/YouTube debate*</i>	
Watched it	13
Read/Heard about it	42
Didn't hear about it/DK	45
	100
<i>If watched/heard about...**</i>	
<i>Compared to other debates</i>	
Learned more	28
Learned less	12
About the same	53
Don't know	7
	100

* From the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press' weekly News Interest Index survey of 1,027 adults nationwide.

** Based on 599 respondents who watched or heard about the CNN/YouTube debate.

2008 Presidential Candidate Preferences

	April	July
<i>Democratic voters</i>		
	%	%
Hillary Clinton	34	40
Barack Obama	24	21
Al Gore	14	12
John Edwards	18	11
Other	3	8
None/DK	7	8
	100	100
Number of cases	574	623
<i>Republican voters</i>		
Rudy Giuliani	32	27
Fred Thompson	10	18
John McCain	23	16
Mitt Romney	8	10
Newt Gingrich	9	8
Other	6	7
None/DK	11	14
	100	100
Number of cases	530	546

Based on registered voters who either identify with or lean toward each political party.

president to take a different course on Iraq than President Bush's have similar views about the Republican field as those who do not want change. On the Democratic side, those who want Democratic Congressional leaders to challenge Bush more on Iraq hold the same candidate preferences as those who do not favor a more aggressive approach.

Contention Continues Over Iraq

Opinions about the war in Iraq remain entrenched as Washington braces for a new round of reports on the war scheduled for release in early September. By 63% to 29% the public wants their congressional representative to vote for a bill that calls for withdrawal from Iraq next year. And there continues to be considerable public reluctance to compromise. On balance, supporters of a timeline say they want their representatives to insist on that position rather than working on a compromise with President Bush. Opponents of the timeline are equally adamant: Most do not want President Bush to compromise with Democratic leaders.

The poll finds little change in basic opinions about Iraq from earlier in the year: a 53% majority believes the U.S. made the wrong decision in going to war and 59% thinks the war is not going well. By a margin of 49% to 43% the public now concludes the U.S. will fail rather than succeed in achieving its goals in Iraq. Democrats and Republicans express fundamentally different opinions on all of these points, and political independents come closer to the views of Democrats than to Republicans.

Public confidence in the Iraqi government, already low in previous years, has continued to fall. Nearly nine-in-ten say the government of Iraq is doing only a fair job (44%) or a poor job (40%) of running the country. A majority of Americans now believe that the people of Iraq do not support America's policies.

Section 1: Congress and the Parties

Democratic Job Approval

Public dissatisfaction with the performance of Democratic congressional leaders now stands at a new high for the 110th Congress. A 54% majority currently disapproves of the job Democratic leaders are doing, up from 49% a month ago and just 34% at the start of the legislative term in January. Barely one-in-three Americans (33%) approves of the job Democrats are doing – down from 39% at the beginning of the year.

Dissatisfaction with Democratic leaders' performance now equals the levels of criticism of both Democrats and Republicans on the eve of the 2006 midterm election. In October of 2006, 35% approved and 53% disapproved of the job Democratic leaders were doing – the worst rating in Pew polling since 2001. Republican leaders received a virtually identical rating at that time (33% approve, 56% disapprove) – the most negative balance of opinion in more than twelve years of tracking this question going back to 1994.

Not surprisingly, nearly eight-in-ten Republicans (79%) disapprove of the performance of Democratic leaders in Congress, while just 12% say they approve. But the balance of opinion also is decidedly negative among independents: Just 23% approve of Democratic leaders in Congress, while 63% disapprove. Most Democrats (62%) approve of their leaders' performance, while a quarter (25%) disapproves. In all three groups, approval ratings have remained relatively stable since January, while disapproval has grown substantially. Among independents, disapproval is up 23 points from 40% in January, among Republicans disapproval is up 20-points from 59%, and among Democrats disapproval has nearly doubled from 13% in January to 25% today.

When asked why they disapprove, a plurality of Republicans say it is mostly because Congress is “doing the wrong things,” while most Democrats who give their leaders negative ratings say it is because they “are not doing enough.” Independents are more divided, with about as many saying they disapprove because

	App-rove %	Dis-approve %	DK %
<i>2007</i>			
July	33	54	13=100
June	34	49	17=100
April	36	43	21=100
March	37	42	21=100
February	41	36	23=100
January	39	34	27=100
<i>Oct. 2006</i>			
Dem leaders	35	53	12=100
Rep leaders	33	56	11=100

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Approve	33	12	62	23
Disapprove	54	79	25	63
<i>Doing the wrong things</i>	21	37	5	22
<i>Not doing enough</i>	23	27	17	26
<i>Both (Vol.)</i>	7	11	1	11
<i>Other/DK (Vol.)</i>	3	4	2	4
Don't know	13	9	13	14
	100	100	100	100
Number of cases	753	214	223	274

Congress is underperforming as saying they disapprove because Congress is on the wrong track.

Pelosi More Visible, More Popular than Reid

Roughly as many Americans approve (35%) as disapprove (37%) of Nancy Pelosi's job performance as Speaker of the House, while 28% have no opinion. Far fewer are familiar with Harry Reid, but the balance of opinion is decidedly negative among those who are. Just 21% say they approve of the job Reid is doing as Senate Majority Leader, while 33% disapprove. Nearly half (46%) say they have no opinion of Reid either way.

So far Democrats are significantly more enthusiastic about Pelosi than Reid – they approve of Pelosi's performance by a 53% to 19% margin, but approve of Reid's performance by a narrower 32% to 19% margin. Among independents, more disapprove than approve of Reid by 38% to 16%, and more disapprove than approve of Pelosi as well, by a 43% to 29% margin.

	<i>Nancy Pelosi</i>			<i>Harry Reid</i>		
	<u>App</u> %	<u>Dis</u> %	<u>DK</u> %	<u>App</u> %	<u>Dis</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	35	37	28=100	21	33	46=100
Democrats	53	19	28=100	32	20	48=100
Republicans	24	53	23=100	13	45	42=100
Independents	30	43	27=100	16	38	46=100
Men	30	46	24=100	21	39	40=100
Women	40	29	31=100	20	28	52=100

There is a notable gender gap in ratings of Pelosi and Reid. More women approve than disapprove of Nancy Pelosi (40% vs. 29%), while men tend to view Pelosi negatively (30% approve, 46% disapprove). The positive impression women have of Pelosi does not carry over to Harry Reid – just 20% of women approve of Reid's job performance (half as many as approve of Pelosi's), while 28% disapprove and a 52% majority have no opinion of Reid.

On Balance, More Still Happy Democrats Won

Despite growing dissatisfaction with the performance of Democratic Congressional leaders, half of Americans remain happy that the party won control of Congress in last year's election, while just 35% are unhappy the Democrats won. This margin has narrowed considerably in recent months – right after the election more said they were happy than unhappy by a 60% to 24% margin. Among independents, more are happy than unhappy by a 52% vs. 28% margin, while Democrats are overwhelmingly happy (82% to 10%) and Republicans are overwhelmingly unhappy (14% to 75%).

	<u>Nov</u> <u>2006</u> %	<u>Mar</u> <u>2007</u> %	<u>July</u> <u>2007</u> %
Happy the Democrats won?			
Happy	60	54	50
Unhappy	24	32	35
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100
Expect the party's leaders to be...			
Successful	59	54	43
Unsuccessful	22	32	42
Mixed (Vol.)	6	4	6
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100

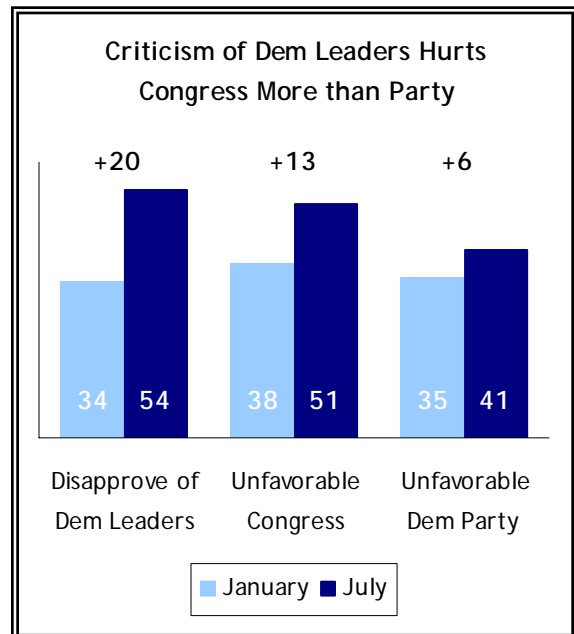
The public is divided over whether the Democrats will be successful (43%) or unsuccessful (42%) in getting their programs passed into law. Expectations have deteriorated significantly since the week following the election. At that time, 59% predicted a successful Democratic Congress and 22% an unsuccessful one. As recently as March, a 54% majority expected Democrats to succeed on their agenda, 11-points higher than today.

Despite these broad changes in job ratings and expectations, the Democratic Party’s overall image has suffered only slightly over the past six months. Slightly more than half (51%) views the party favorably, while 41% holds an unfavorable opinion. In January, the margin was 54% favorable and 35% unfavorable. And the Democratic Party’s image remains substantially stronger than the Republican Party’s, which has slipped since the start of the year. Currently, a 53% majority holds an unfavorable opinion of the GOP, up from 48% in January.

	Oct 2006	Jan 2007	July 2007
Democratic Party			
Favorable	53	54	51
Unfavorable	36	35	41
Don't know	11	11	8
	100	100	100
Republican Party			
Favorable	41	41	39
Unfavorable	50	48	53
Don't know	9	11	8
	100	100	100
Congress			
Favorable	41	53	41
Unfavorable	46	38	51
Don't know	13	9	8
	100	100	100

In fact, it is the image of Congress more generally – rather than of the Democratic Party – that may have suffered from growing skepticism about the effectiveness of the current leadership. As disapproval of the job Democratic leaders are doing has jumped 20-points since January, unfavorable views of Congress are up 13 percentage points, while disapproval of the Democratic Party has risen a more modest 6 points.

Republican views of Congress have shifted the most – the percent offering an unfavorable opinion of Congress is up from 34% to 56% since January. Independents, too, offer more negative opinions today (60%, up from 45% in January). By comparison, Democratic ratings of Congress are virtually unchanged (35% unfavorable, compared with 32% in January).



There is a large ideological divide among Republicans in ratings of Congress. Conservative Republicans offer more unfavorable (65%) than favorable (29%) marks, while moderate and liberal Republicans offer more favorable (57%) than unfavorable (36%) marks. In this regard, conservative Republicans and independents stand out as the groups that are overwhelmingly critical of Congress. Moderate and liberal Republicans, by comparison, share with Democrats a generally favorable opinion of Congress.

	Favor- <u>able</u> %	Unfav- <u>orable</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Republicans	37	56	7=100
Conservative	29	65	6=100
Moderate/Liberal	57	36	7=100
Independents	34	60	6=100
Democrats	55	35	10=100
Conserv/Moderate	58	33	9=100
Liberal	54	37	9=100

President Bush and the Democratic Leadership

Democrats believe their party's leaders are not pushing the president hard enough on the war while most Republicans say the Democratic leaders are going too far in challenging the president.

A plurality of the public (38%) currently believes that Democratic leaders in Congress are not going far enough in challenging the president's Iraq policy. At the same time, 29% say the Democrats are going too far, up from 22% in June. About one-quarter (24%) think the Democratic leaders are handling the situation about right.

	<i>Dem leaders are...</i>			
	Going too <u>far</u> %	Not going <u>far enough</u> %	Handling about <u>right</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
July	29	38	24	9=100
June	22	41	25	12=100
March	23	40	30	7=100
Republicans	62	13	19	6=100
Democrats	8	54	31	7=100
Independents	25	43	23	9=100

Shifts in sentiment among Republicans and independents are driving the recent change in perceptions that Democrats are becoming too critical of Bush's handling of Iraq. The proportion of Republicans who feel that Democratic leaders have gone too far in challenging the president has increased 8 percentage points (from 54% to 62%), and 8 points as well among independents (17% to 25%). But a plurality of independents (43%) still favors a more aggressive approach in dealing with the president. A majority of Democrats (54%) continues to say party leaders aren't doing enough to challenge Bush, a belief that has changed little over the past four months.

Section 2: Views of the Supreme Court

Evaluating the Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is viewed favorably by 57% of Americans, down sharply from a high of 72% in January. This represents the lowest favorability rating for the court since June 2005. Even in the midst of the contentious debate over the October 2005 nomination of Harriet Miers to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, favorability ratings were five points higher than they are today.

	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
July 2007	57	73	49	58
Jan 2007	72	81	66	74
July 2006	63	71	57	66
Feb 2006	60	77	45	65
Oct 2005	62	72	59	60
July 2005	61	69	57	59
June 2005	57	64	51	61

As has consistently been the case in recent years, Republicans view the court more favorably than do Democrats or independents. More than seven-in-10 Republicans (73%) see the court in mostly or very favorable light, compared with 58% of independents and fewer than half of all Democrats (49%). Since January, Supreme Court favorability is down across party lines, though most steeply among Democrats (-17 points) and independents (-16 points).

There is no public consensus regarding the ideological balance of the current court: 36% say the court is conservative, while 35% say it is "middle-of-the-road." Only 14% see the Supreme Court as liberal. However, views differ substantially by party. A plurality of Republicans (44%) sees the Supreme Court as middle of the road, while 26% say it is conservative. Almost half of Democrats (48%) describe the court as conservative, while just 28% say it is middle of the road. Relatively few in either party see the current balance on the Supreme Court as liberal.

	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
<i>Current court is...</i>				
Conservative	36	26	48	37
Middle of the road	35	44	28	35
Liberal	14	18	11	13
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Bush appointments have made the court...</i>				
More conservative	36	34	41	39
No change	41	47	37	42
More liberal	7	6	10	4
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Opinion of court's recent decisions...</i>				
Approve	37	53	28	35
Disapprove	27	14	36	31
Haven't heard about	20	18	22	18
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100
Number of cases	1,503	438	472	502

There also is no consensus about whether President Bush's appointments to the court have made the court more conservative (36%) or had no effect on its political balance (41%). (Samuel Alito was confirmed in January 2006, replacing O'Connor, who often served as a swing vote on the Court. John Roberts replaced Rehnquist as chief justice in September 2005.) Very few people see the recent appointees as having made the court more liberal (7%).

Democrats are only slightly more likely than are Republicans to say Bush's appointees have shifted the court in a more conservative direction (41% versus 34%). Republicans are somewhat more likely to see the newcomers as having made no change to the court's politics (47% vs. 37% of Democrats). Views of the direction of the court are linked to overall evaluations of the institution. Democrats who believe the Supreme Court has become more conservative under Bush are far less likely to rate the court favorably (40%) than Democrats who think things haven't changed much (58%). Republicans who believe the court has moved to the right offer more favorable reviews (83%) than Republicans who see no change (71%).

The Supreme Court made several high-profile decisions during its recently concluded term on controversial topics including abortion, school desegregation and restrictions on ads during political campaigns. More Americans say they approve of the court's recent decisions than disapprove. However, many Americans, 36%, either had not heard about the court's work or didn't have an opinion of the decisions either way. Nevertheless, Republicans are almost twice as likely as Democrats to approve of the court's rulings.

Section 3: The War in Iraq

Opinions about the War

Most aspects of public opinion about the war have shown little change in recent months. Majorities of the public (53%) say the U.S. made the wrong decision in using military force in Iraq, believe that the war is not going well (59%), and favor bringing the troops home as soon as possible (54%). None of these indicators are significantly different now than in the beginning of the year and all show large partisan gaps, as they have since the conflict began four years ago.

Although there was a slight increase in support for sending more troops just after President Bush announced his plans for a troop surge in January, the number favoring adding military forces has now returned roughly to the level seen at the end of 2006. Currently, 16% favor sending more troops, down 9 percentage points from a survey conducted in mid-January. The proportion that favors immediate withdrawal from Iraq also has increased from 16% to 21% since the beginning of the year.

	Aug 2006	Sept 2006	Nov 2006	Feb 2007	Mar 2007	April 2007	July 2007
<i>Military effort in Iraq is...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Going well	41	47	32	30	40	38	36
Not going well	55	48	64	67	56	59	59
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>The U.S. will...*</i>							
Succeed	54	57	53	47	--	45	43
Fail	40	35	41	46	--	46	49
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	--	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100		100	100
<i>The U.S. should...</i>							
Keep troops in	48	47	46	42	43	41	39
Bring troops home	46	47	48	53	52	53	54
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>The war was the...</i>							
Right decision	45	49	41	40	43	45	41
Wrong decision	46	43	51	54	49	47	53
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Success or failure was defined in terms of the U.S. "achieving its goals in Iraq."

The public remains divided whether the war in Iraq has helped the war on terrorism (40%) or hurt it (45%). But for more than a year, the narrow division of opinion on this question has tilted negative. The last time a plurality said the Iraq war was helping the war on terrorism was in June of 2006 (44% helped, 40% hurt).

One indicator of public sentiment that has shown steady erosion is optimism about the likelihood that the U.S. will achieve its goal in Iraq. In the current survey just 43% say the U.S. will definitely or probably succeed, down from 57% in September.

Democrats and Republicans do agree on one thing about the situation in Iraq: the Iraqi government is not doing a good job running the country. Just 8% of the public rate the Iraqi government's performance as excellent or good, while 44% say it has been "only fair" and 40%

say the Iraqi leaders are doing a poor job. More Democrats (46%) than Republicans (31%) give the Iraqi government a poor rating. But that does not mean that Republicans view the government favorably; just 12% of Republicans give the Iraqi government excellent or good marks, compared with 5% of Democrats.

<i>Iraqi government's job performance</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Excellent	1	1	*	1
Good	7	11	5	7
Only fair	44	53	40	41
Poor	40	31	46	40
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100

<i>Most people in Iraq...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Support U.S. Iraq policy	30	51	18	26
Oppose U.S. Iraq policy	54	34	68	57
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100

In addition to increasing doubts about the Iraqi government, longstanding doubts about the Iraqi people also have grown. For the first time since the war began, a majority of Americans (54%) currently believes that most Iraqis oppose the U.S. policies in their country. At the same time, 30% of the public think the Iraqi public currently supports the U.S., a new low.

Despite majority support for a withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, most Americans say that a withdrawal will increase the chances of civil war in Iraq and the possibility that al Qaeda will establish terrorist bases there. Overall, 58% believe the chances of full-scale civil war will grow if the U.S. withdraws over the coming year while 6% say a withdrawal would reduce the chances of civil war and 20% say it would have no effect. Similarly, 55% say the chances of al Qaeda establishing terrorist bases would increase if the U.S. withdraws, 6% say the chances would decrease and 24% say a withdrawal would have no effect.

<i>Chances of civil war will...</i>	Total %	<i>Among those who say U.S. should...</i>	
		Keep troops in Iraq %	Bring troops home %
Increase	58	81	41
Decrease	6	3	8
Not change	20	8	31
Other/Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100

<i>Chances that al Qaeda would establish terror bases will...</i>	Total %	Keep troops in Iraq %	Bring troops home %
Increase	55	80	37
Decrease	6	4	8
Not change	24	8	36
Other/Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>19</u>
	100	100	100

Even among those who favor a withdrawal, a plurality foresees an increase in the chances of civil war if the U.S. pulls out over the next year. But among those who oppose withdrawal, overwhelming majorities believe that both civil war and terrorist bases would follow.

Information about the War

Compared with four months ago, Americans today express somewhat more confidence in the accuracy of information about the war provided by the U.S. military. Today, slightly more than half (52%) expresses at least a fair amount of confidence in facts and information provided

by the military, up from 46% in April. At the same time, 44% say they have “not too much” or “no confidence at all” in military-supplied data. Republicans express far greater confidence in the military as a source of information than do Democrats (75% vs. 36%). In contrast, nearly nine-in-10 Americans (85%) expressed confidence in facts provided by the armed forces when the conflict with Iraq began in 2003.

Section 4: The 2008 Presidential Campaign

Candidate Consideration Little Changed

Despite the intensity of the current campaign, the proportion of registered voters who say they given “a lot” of thought to the candidates has increased only modestly in recent months. Currently, 34% say they have given a lot of thought to the presidential field, up just one-point from June and only a seven-point increase since December. Another 39% say they have given the campaign “some” thought, while 26% have given little or no thought to the campaign, down from 31% a month ago.

Republican voters are not yet as fully focused as Democrats on the presidential field, perhaps reflecting the general malaise within the GOP since the 2006 congressional election and President Bush’s continuing low support. If anything, GOP partisans are paying slightly less attention to the candidates now than they were just a month ago. Three-in-10 Republicans (30%) now report they have given a lot of thought to the candidates—a 3-point decline in the past month. In contrast, 39% of all Democratic voters are thinking a lot about their choices, rebounding from 33% in June and up 2 percentage points from April. About a third of all independents (34%) are doing a lot of thinking about the candidates, a 9-point increase from April.

	<i>Given “a lot of thought” to the candidates</i>					
	<u>Dec</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>July</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	27	28	28	29	33	34
Some	37	36	40	37	35	39
Not much	20	20	17	18	18	15
None at all	15	14	13	14	13	11
Don’t know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>A lot of thought among...</i>						
Republicans	23	23	27	27	33	30
Democrats	34	34	31	37	33	39
Independents	26	25	25	25	32	34
<i>D-R gap</i>	<i>+11</i>	<i>+11</i>	<i>+4</i>	<i>+10</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>+9</i>
Based on registered voters.						

The Campaign So Far: Too Much, Too Soon—But Interesting

Other survey findings illustrate some of the major reasons why many Americans have yet to sharply focus on the 2008 presidential field. When asked which single word or phrase best describes their impression of the campaign so far, negative descriptions outnumber positive evaluations by nearly three-to-one. The single most frequently mentioned judgment about the campaign: *Too early*.

Overall, the survey finds that slightly more than half (52%) of the words and phrases that the public uses to describe the campaign are modestly unfavorable (*lackluster, mediocre, disappointing*), sharply disapproving (*joke, ridiculous, stinks*) or colorfully but unprintably obscene. Far fewer (19%) offered positive words or phrases, including the second-most frequently mentioned description – *interesting*, which was followed by *okay*. The remaining respondents either offered words that were neutral in tone (10%) or gave no answer (19%).

Taken together, several major themes emerge from the more than 400 words or phrases used to describe the campaign. The public clearly remains concerned about the early start of the races. In addition to judging it as beginning *too early*, other frequently mentioned words and phrases sound a similar note of impatience, including *premature, too long* and *too soon*. Many others express a sense of frustration or confusion with the campaign, including *confused, chaotic*, and *circus*. Still others reflect disapproval for the candidates and the process such as *disgusting* and *stinks* while many Americans seemed to be simply unimpressed or bored: *lackluster, uninteresting* and *weak*.

While far fewer respondents offered positive evaluations, most – but not all – of those who did so are broadly impressed. *Interesting* was the most frequently mentioned positive review while many evaluated the campaign as *good* and *fair* or, far less frequently, as *hopeful* or *impressive*. Still, many of those with a generally favorable view of the campaign are unwilling to give it an

How People Describe the Campaign	
%	<i>Most frequent words (times mentioned)</i>
52 Negative	Early/too early (81) Confused/Confusing (35) Long/Too long (35) Unimpressed (29) Boring (27) Joke (21) Disappointing (17) Lacking/Lackluster (17) Poor (17) Bad (16) Ridiculous (16) Mediocre (15) Premature (15) Money (13) Circus (12) Too soon/Soon (12) Uninteresting (12) Weak (12) Chaos/Chaotic (11) Stinks (10) Expensive (10) Sucks (9) Silly (8) Disgusting (7) Crap/Crappy (6)
19 Positive	Interesting (61) Okay (40) Good (38) Fair (20) Hopeful (8) Impressive (8)
10 Neutral	
19 DK/No Answer	
100	

Respondents asked to give the one word that best describes the campaign. Numbers in parentheses show how many respondents - out of 1,503 - offered each word. These numbers are not percentages.

enthusiastic endorsement: *Okay* is the second-most frequently mentioned word to describe the race.

Dissatisfaction with the current campaign is far greater among Republicans than Democrats. By a margin of 61% to 13%, Republicans offer more negative than positive assessments. Independents, too, give words that are far more negative in tone (55%) than positive (17%). Democrats, by comparison, are less dismissive of the campaign. While a 39% plurality of Democrats have negative things to say, 27% offer positive evaluations.

	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Tone of response*</i>	%	%	%
Positive	13	27	17
Negative	61	39	55
Neutral	9	14	9
No answer	17	20	19
	100	100	100

Open-ended one-word responses.

The Democratic Field

Hillary Clinton has widened her advantage over Barack Obama to nearly two-to-one and has drawn support from her nearest rival from groups that had been among his strongest backers: independent-leaning Democrats and political liberals.

The current survey finds 40% of Democrats and independents who lean Democratic now say they would like to see Clinton win their party's nomination while Obama is the choice of 21%. In a little over three months, Clinton has more than doubled her advantage over the Illinois Democrat from nine-points in March to 19-points in the current survey. Trailing even further behind are Al Gore (12%), who has not announced his candidacy, and John Edwards (11%), who continues to lose ground.

	March	April	July
	%	%	%
Hillary Clinton	35	34	40
Barack Obama	26	24	21
Al Gore	12	14	12
John Edwards	16	18	11
Bill Richardson	1	1	2
Dennis Kucinich	*	1	2
Joe Biden	1	1	2
Chris Dodd	*	*	1
Other	0	*	1
None	3	5	2
Don't know	6	2	6
	100	100	100
Number of cases	614	574	623

Based on Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters.

Collectively, the other candidates in the field are gaining, though no individual has broken out of the pack. The current survey finds 8% of Democrats backing Bill Richardson (2%), Dennis Kucinich (2%), Joe Biden (2%), Chris Dodd (1%), or some other candidate (1%). Three months ago, fewer than half as many Democrats (3%) favored any of these Democratic hopefuls.

Clinton has made significant inroads into voter groups that had broadly supported Obama earlier in the year. For example, Clinton now leads Obama by more than two-to-one (41% vs. 17%) among Democratic-leaning independents. This group was evenly divided at 30% each in earlier Pew polling. Younger voters continue to be one of the core segments of Obama's base, though Clinton has widened her lead from 4-points to 12-points among Democratic voters under

age 50. Clinton also has increased her advantage from 9 percentage points to 25 points among voters 50 to 64 years old, while also gaining among those 65 and older.

Ideology looked to be a critical dividing line among Democrats in earlier polling, but the liberal-conservative divide has largely disappeared as the campaign has progressed. In March and April, liberal Democrats were split between Clinton and Obama (32% vs. 30%, respectively) while conservatives favored Clinton by nearly three-to-one (42% vs. 15%). Today, there is virtually no difference between the preferences of these two subsets of Democratic voters.

And while college graduates favored Obama over Clinton by 31% to 24% in earlier Pew polling, Clinton has opened up a 34% to 23% advantage here as well. Still, less educated Democrats remain Clinton's strongest backers.

While Pew's June survey found 80% of Democratic voters saying Iraq was very important to their vote, it has yet to become a defining issue in the primary contest. A 56% majority of Democratic voters say that their party's leadership has not challenged Bush's Iraq policies enough, but these voters do not express fundamentally different candidate preferences at this stage of the campaign. Clinton leads Obama by roughly two-to-one among both voters who want the party to stand up to Bush more firmly and voters who think the party is handling the Iraq issue about right. Similarly, none of the remaining candidates garners significantly more support among those who want to see Democratic leaders mount a greater challenge to Bush.

	March/April		July		Clinton gain	(N)
	Clin-ton %	Oba-ma %	Clin-ton %	Oba-ma %		
All RVs	34	25	40	21	+6	623
Democrat	36	22	40	23	+4	415
Dem leaner	30	30	41	17	+11	208
Liberal	32	30	39	24	+7	207
Moderate	33	27	40	18	+7	273
Conservative	42	15	42	23	0	124
White	30	22	37	17	+7	469
Black	46	36	47	34	+1	109
Male	29	26	37	19	+8	284
Female	38	24	43	22	+5	339
18-49	34	30	38	26	+4	257
50-64	32	23	40	15	+8	206
65+	38	15	48	15	+10	152
College grad	24	31	34	23	+10	277
Some college	35	33	45	26	+10	155
HS or less	41	16	43	17	+2	189

March/April figures based on 1,188 Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters interviewed in both March and April, 2007. Subsample sizes from July survey shown in last column.

	Democrats challenging Bush's Iraq policies	
	Right amount	Not enough
	%	%
Hillary Clinton	42	42
Barack Obama	21	22
Al Gore	13	12
John Edwards	9	10
Bill Richardson	2	3
Dennis Kucinich	1	3
Joe Biden	2	2
Chris Dodd	*	0
Other	2	0
None	1	3
Don't know	7	3
	100	100
Number of cases	194	345

Based on Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters.

The Republican Field

On the Republican side, Rudy Giuliani is now the favorite of 27% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters. The poll finds 18% favoring Fred Thompson, 16% John McCain and 10% Mitt Romney. Since April, support for Giuliani has faded (from 32% to 27%) as has McCain's (from 23% to 16%), while Thompson has made a significant gain (from 10% to 18%.)

The small overall drop in support for Rudy Giuliani reflects a sizeable shift in opinion among Republican-leaning independents, who are about half as likely to back him today (18%) as they were in April (34%). By comparison, Giuliani's support among voters who identify as Republicans has remained unchanged (31% in April, 30% today). McCain has lost support in both of these subgroups, though the drop is perhaps more severe among Republican-leaning independents, just 10% of whom favor McCain, down from 21% in April.

	April %	July %
Rudy Giuliani	32	27
Fred Thompson	10	18
John McCain	23	16
Mitt Romney	8	10
Newt Gingrich	9	8
Ron Paul	--	2
Sam Brownback	*	1
Tom Tancredo	--	1
Mike Huckabee	3	1
Tommy Thompson	2	1
Other	1	1
None	3	3
Don't know	8	11
	100	100
Number of cases	530	546

Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters. Ron Paul and Tom Tancredo not included in April question.

Meanwhile, Fred Thompson has gained support across the board. His overall standing is up eight-points, from 10% in April to 18% today, and his support has grown at about the same rate among both Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. Combined with the steep drop in support for Giuliani and McCain among these voters, Fred Thompson has risen to the top of the field among Republican "leaners". Currently, 20% of independents who lean Republicans say they favor Thompson, compared with 18% for Giuliani, 14% for Gingrich, 11% for Romney and 10% for McCain. Among voters who identify as Republicans, Rudy Giuliani remains the favored candidate.

	<i>Republicans</i>			<i>Republican "leaners"*</i>		
	April %	July %	Change	April %	July %	Change
Giuliani	31	30	-1	34	18	-16
Thompson	9	17	+8	13	20	+7
McCain	25	18	-7	21	10	-11
Romney	6	10	+4	12	11	-1
Gingrich	8	6	-2	9	14	+5

* Independents who say they "lean" toward the Republican Party

The survey also finds that Giuliani's generally pro-life position on abortion continues to be unknown to most Republicans. Barely four-in-ten (41%) Republican voters, including independents who lean Republican, can identify Giuliani as the GOP candidate who supports a woman's right to choose when it comes to abortion, while the rest either incorrectly named another GOP candidate (12%) or say they do not know (47%). This is not substantially different from the share of Democratic voters who are aware of Giuliani's position (39%).

Awareness of Giuliani's position is higher among Republican voters who have given a lot of thought to the candidates (58% gave the correct answer). There also is an ideological divide: Nearly half (47%) of conservative voters can identify Giuliani as the pro-choice candidate compared with 30% of moderate and liberal Republicans. But still, there is no evidence that this issue is hurting Giuliani among conservatives. Conservative Republicans who know Giuliani's position are about as likely to support him as those who are unaware of his position.

	Named <u>Giuliani</u> %	Others/ <u>DK</u> %
All GOP voters*	41	59=100
<i>Thought given</i>		
A lot	58	42=100
Some	40	60=100
Little/None	25	75=100
<i>Ideology</i>		
Conservative	47	53=100
Moderate/Liberal	30	70=100

* Based on 546 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.

Many Republicans Want New Direction in Iraq

A majority of Republicans continue to want a GOP presidential nominee who will take a different approach on Iraq than President Bush. Fully 53% of all registered Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say they want their party's next nominee to follow a different course on the war while 36% want a candidate who will continue the president's policies.

Support for a new direction is overwhelming among moderate and liberal Republican voters, 69% of whom want a candidate who will provide a different approach to Iraq. But even among conservative Republicans, 46% want a candidate with new ideas, while 43% prefer a candidate who will continue Bush's policies in Iraq. Not surprisingly, ratings of George W. Bush are the predominant factor in this evaluation. Among the growing minority (currently 26%) of Republican voters who disapprove of Bush's job performance fully 88% say they want a candidate who will pursue a different approach in Iraq.

	Continue Bush's <u>policies</u> %	Take a different <u>approach</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
All GOP voters*	36	53	11=100
<i>Ideology</i>			
Conservative	43	46	11=100
Moderate/Liberal	23	69	8=100
<i>Bush job</i>			
Approve	53	37	10=100
Disapprove	7	88	5=100

* Based on 546 Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.

Despite this sentiment within the GOP, no Republican presidential hopeful disproportionately appeals to those who favor a different approach on the war. Neither has one candidate emerged as the clear and distinct favorite of Republicans who want to see the administration's policies continue, suggesting that issues other than the war are currently more powerful in shaping GOP voter sentiments.

Giuliani continues to lead Republican voters who favor change in Iraq (25%) and among those who support continuing present policies (28%). At the same time, Thompson currently is supported by 17% of those who want change and 22% of those who prefer a continuation of Bush's strategy. Roughly equal proportions of Republicans who favor a new direction and those who support the administration's present policies favor McCain (17% of those who favor a new approach support him vs. 16% of those who do not), Romney (9% vs. 11%) and Gingrich (7% vs. 11%). Taken together when the candidates are ranked by the size of their support among those who favor and oppose new policies in Iraq, the order of the field is virtually identical among both groups.

Significantly, however, 16% of all Republicans who say they want to see the nominee take a different approach on Iraq currently have no favorite candidate. That's double the proportion of undecided voters among Republicans who want the party's standard-bearer to continue Bush war policies, suggesting the potential for significant shifts in support as candidates fine-tune their positions on the war or their views become better known. Together, these findings underscore the difficulties faced by the GOP candidates over what position to take on Bush policies in Iraq and the importance of issues such as international terrorism, the economy and social concerns to large numbers of GOP voters.

No Clear "Change" Candidate Emerges in GOP Field		
	<i>On Iraq, prefer a candidate who will...</i>	
	Continue Bush's policies	Take a different approach
	%	%
Rudy Giuliani	28	25
Fred Thompson	22	17
John McCain	16	17
Mitt Romney	11	9
Newt Gingrich	11	7
Ron Paul	0	5
Sam Brownback	0	1
Tom Tancredo	1	*
Mike Huckabee	2	0
Tommy Thompson	1	1
Other	*	2
None	2	3
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100
Number of cases	200	279
Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.		

What Supporters Say about the Candidates

Survey respondents were asked to describe, in their own words, the main reasons they support their favored candidates. Here are the kinds of things they said.

Hillary Clinton

- Platform (Health care, social, domestic issues)
- Experienced/Qualified
- Woman's perspective
- Intelligent/Educated

"She's really good with the social issues like healthcare and children. I'm tired of the males that don't care about that stuff." "I feel like she has experience and I loved when her husband was in office."

Barack Obama

- Platform/Ideology (General stand and approach)
- New/Fresh/Change/Young
- Likeable/Charismatic

"I just like his ideas better and it would be nice to have some new blood in there." "I find him to be a charismatic speaker, he's intelligent." "He's young and I believe he would put a lot of energy into it." "Fresh ideas." "Won't be the usual politics."

Al Gore

- Environmental issue
- Experience/Vice President

"Grasp of environmental issues." "Distinct vision for the future." "A proven entity, experienced." "I've been impressed with his leadership in terms of global warming, I also think he was cheated out of the last election."

John Edwards

- Platform/Ideology (represents party/people)
- Honesty/Integrity
- Experience

"More in touch with everyday people." "More honest than the rest." "Represents what the party was."

Rudy Giuliani

- Handling of 9/11 & Terrorism
- Experience as Mayor of NYC
- Leadership

"Stepped up during 9/11 and did what needed to be done." "Did a great job in NYC." "He's a strong leader."

Fred Thompson

- Platform/Ideology (Conservative values)
- Honesty/Integrity
- Mature/Stable/Confident

"His viewpoints his demeanor his opinions and his attitude." "He's more conservative." "Straight-shooter, honest and not a politician." "Stable person, good sense and does a good job."

John McCain

- Platform/Ideology (General views)
- Military experience
- Political experience

"Has the military experience to take over." "He's the best qualified - more level headed than the others." "Around for a long time." "I just like his overall outlook."

Mitt Romney

- Platform/Ideology (Conservative values)
- Honesty/Integrity
- Experience/Competence

"I think he's interested in the morals of this country." "Seems less political and more sincere and real than some of the others." "He's capable." "Can get the job done."

Most Americans Have Yet to See a Presidential Debate

A clear majority of Americans (59%) say they have not yet seen any of the televised face-offs between Republican or Democratic contenders. At the same time, 40% report they have seen at least one debate, double the proportion that saw a debate in January of 2004 and another indication of public interest in a presidential contest that won't be decided for 15 months. A 2-1 majority of all debate watchers say they found the debates to be “helpful” in learning about the candidates and nearly half (47%) report televised confrontations between the candidates were “fun to watch.”

Even many Americans who are paying at least some attention to the presidential contests have so far skipped watching the presidential debates. Six-in-ten of those who say they have given “a lot” of thought to the candidates have seen a debate, while 40% have not. Among those who have given “some” thought, 40% have seen a debate. At the same time, just 20% of those who acknowledged that they have given little or no thought to the contest have seen a candidate forum. Similarly, barely four-in-10 (42%) of all self-described registered voters say they've seen a debate compared with 33 percent of those not yet signed up to vote.

More Democrats (45%) than Republicans (38%) report they had watched a debate. Notably, only a quarter of all moderate Republicans (25%) have seen a debate while 75% have not.

Early Debates Get Mostly Positive Reviews

The presidential debates get generally good reviews from those who have seen at least one candidate forum. Nearly two-thirds (66%) of all debate watchers report the candidate forums have been helpful in learning about the candidates. Women were more likely than men to find the face-offs helpful (71% vs. 61%). Young people, too, found them particularly useful: 77% of those 18 to 29 say they learned something about the presidential contenders compared with 56% of those 65 and older.

While majorities of both parties view debates favorably, Democrats who have seen a debate found them particularly useful. Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to say the debates helped them learn about the candidates (81% vs. 55%). One reason may be that the most recent Democratic debate, co-sponsored by CNN and YouTube two weeks ago, featured

Who's Watching the Candidate Debates?*		
	Yes %	No/DK %
Total	40	60=100
Male	42	58=100
Female	38	62=100
18-29	38	62=100
30-49	36	64=100
50-64	42	58=100
65+	48	52=100
Republicans	38	62=100
Conservative	44	56=100
Mod/Liberal	25	75=100
Independents	38	62=100
Democrats	45	55=100
Conserv/Mod	44	56=100
Liberal	48	52=100
<i>Thought about candidates</i>		
A lot	60	40=100
Some	40	60=100
Not much/none	20	80=100
Registered voters	42	58=100
Not registered	33	67=100
* Watched any of the televised debates between presidential candidates.		

candidates answering questions posed by the public in taped videos, a novel format that was widely hailed in the media as particularly useful and engaging.

Not only have the debates been helpful, they also have been fun for many Americans. Nearly half (47%) of those who have watched at least one say they found the debates enjoyable to watch and 51% did not. While more women than men report that the debates were helpful, more men say they found them to be fun. The partisan gap is equally substantial when it comes to enjoying the debates. Most Democrats

(58%) who have seen a debate say what they saw was fun to watch, while most Republican viewers (57%) say they were not fun.

<i>The debates...</i>	All debate			
	<u>watchers</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Helped you learn about the candidates</i>	%	%	%	%
Yes	66	55	81	58
No	33	44	19	40
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	*	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Were fun to watch</i>				
Yes	47	41	58	43
No	51	57	41	53
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

Based on 647 respondents who watched any of the debates.

Most Prefer "Real People" Questioning Candidates

The public broadly endorses one key elements of the recent YouTube-CNN presidential debate – having questions submitted from regular people. Asked whether they prefer watching debates that have journalists asking questions of the candidates or regular people asking the questions, 68% choose the latter, while just 17% favor journalists.

The appetite for more direct public involvement in presidential debates bridges political ideology and party identification. Roughly equal proportions of Democrats (69%), Republicans (70%) and political independents (66%) would rather see members of the public – and not the press – question the candidates. Similarly, majorities of three-to-one or more conservatives, moderates and liberals favor non-journalists asking the questions than prefer that the candidates be questioned by the media.

But some modest demographic differences did emerge. Significantly larger proportions of blacks

	<i>Better when questions are asked by...</i>		
	<u>Regular people</u>	<u>Journ- alists</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	
Total	68	17	15=100
Male	65	19	16=100
Female	71	16	13=100
18-29	77	13	10=100
30-49	71	16	13=100
50-64	66	20	14=100
65+	57	21	22=100
White	66	19	15=100
Black	84	7	9=100
College grad	58	27	15=100
Some college	75	16	9=100
H.S. or less	72	12	16=100
Republican	70	19	11=100
Democrat	69	17	14=100
Independent	66	18	16=100
Conservative	68	18	14=100
Moderate	70	17	13=100
Liberal	68	19	13=100

(84%) than whites (66%), 18 to 29-year olds (77%) than those 65 or older (57%) and women (71%) than men (65%) prefer that members of the public question presidential hopefuls in televised debates. Non-college graduates by a 6-1 majority are more comfortable with citizen questioners. In contrast, the most highly educated are easily the least likely to prefer a member of the public to a reporter. Among those with postgraduate college degrees, barely half (53%) say they want questioners to be regular people while 30% prefer journalists.

CNN/YouTube Debate

A majority of the public either watched or heard about last week’s CNN/YouTube debate – 13% watched it and another 42% heard about it in the news. Democrats were only slightly more likely than Republicans to have watched the debate (16% vs. 11%) while 13% of independents tuned in. Nearly equal percentages of Democrats, Republicans and independents heard about the debate in the news. Older Americans were more likely than younger ones to have watched or heard about the debate (62% of those age 50 or older either watched or heard about it compared to 51% of those under age 50). College graduates were much more likely than those without a college degree to have heard about the debate.

Among all of those who either watched or heard about the debate, the consensus seems to be that, in spite of all the hype, it wasn’t much different from more traditional debates. Many did find the new format entertaining. When asked to compare it to more traditional debates in terms of being interesting and entertaining, 34% said the CNN/YouTube debate was better (12% said it was worse in this regard and 44% said it was about the same).

When asked how the YouTube debate compared to past debates in terms of addressing a wide range of topics, asking the candidates challenging questions and helping viewers learn more about the candidates, majorities in each case said it was about the same. Where people did see differences, the reviews for the YouTube debate were generally positive. Three-in-ten said it was better at addressing a wide range of topics, 9% said it was worse. Nearly as many (29%) thought it was better when it came to asking the candidates challenging questions (12% said worse). And 28% thought it was better in terms of helping them learn about the candidates (12% said worse).

<i>CNN/YouTube debate vs. other debates:</i>	<u>Better</u> %	<u>Worse</u> %	<u>About the same</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Helping you learn more about candidates	28	12	53	7=100
Asking the candidates challenging questions	29	12	50	9=100
Addressing wide range of topics	30	9	51	10=100
Interesting and Entertaining to watch	34	12	44	10=100

Based on 599 respondents who watched or heard about the CNN/YouTube debate.

Democrats had a more positive view of the debate format than did Republicans, although Republicans' views may change after the next CNN/YouTube debate which will feature GOP presidential hopefuls. Fully 35% of Democrats thought this debate was better than past ones in helping them learn about the candidates. This compares with only 17% of Republicans. Similarly 33% of Democrats thought the debate was better in terms of addressing a wide range of topics (vs. 19% of Republicans), and 35% said it was better when it came to asking the candidates challenging questions (vs. 17% of Republicans).

Young people, particularly those under age 30, were more enthusiastic about the debate format than their older counterparts. They were more likely to give the debate positive marks for helping them learn about the candidates, addressing a wide range of topics and being interesting and entertaining.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. among a nationwide sample of 1,503 adults, 18 years of age or older, from July 25-29, 2007. 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=753) or Form 2 (N=750), one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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

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 seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

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

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

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JULY 2007 POLITICAL SURVEY / MEDIA UPDATE
FINAL TOPLINE
July 25-29, 2007
N=1,503

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>
July, 2007	29	61	10=100	December, 2003	57	34	9=100
June, 2007	29	61	10=100	November, 2003	50	40	10=100
April, 2007	35	57	8=100	October, 2003	50	42	8=100
March, 2007	33	58	9=100	September, 2003	55	36	9=100
February, 2007	33	56	11=100	Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100
Mid-January, 2007	33	59	8=100	Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100
Early January, 2007	33	57	10=100	Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100
December, 2006	32	57	11=100	Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100
Mid-November, 2006	32	58	10=100	June, 2003	62	27	11=100
Early October, 2006	37	53	10=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
September, 2006	37	53	10=100	April 10-16, 2003	72	22	6=100
August, 2006	37	54	9=100	April 9, 2003	74	20	6=100
July, 2006	36	57	7=100	April 2-7, 2003	69	25	6=100
June, 2006	36	54	10=100	March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100
April, 2006	33	56	11=100	March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	March 20-24, 2003	67	26	7=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	August, 2001	50	32	18=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100				

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.2F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
July, 2007	33	54	13=100
June, 2007	34	49	17=100
April, 2007	36	43	21=100
March, 2007 ¹	37	42	21=100
February, 2007	41	36	23=100
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27=100
Early October, 2006	35	53	12=100
June, 2006	32	50	18=100
March, 2006	34	46	20=100
January, 2006	34	48	18=100
Early November, 2005	36	44	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	48	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19=100
Early February, 2004	38	42	20=100
June, 2002	47	36	17=100
May, 2002	42	37	21=100
February, 2002	49	30	21=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

ASK IF DISAPPROVE IN Q.2F1:

Q.3F1 Is that more because **[INSERT ITEM & ROTATE]**, or more because **[NEXT ITEM]**?

21	Congress is doing the wrong things
23	Congress is not doing enough
7	Both (VOL.)
2	Other (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
54%	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY AND ROTATE Q.4F2/Q.5F2 [N=750]:

Q.4F2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nancy Pelosi is handling her job as Speaker of the House?

		<u>June 2007</u>	<u>April 2007</u>
35	Approve	36	35
37	Disapprove	33	30
<u>28</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>31</u>	<u>35</u>
100		100	100

1 In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

Q.5F2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Harry Reid is handling his job as Senate Majority Leader?

--Bob Dole--

		Feb <u>1995</u>
21	Approve	45
33	Disapprove	19
<u>46</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>36</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

Q.6 How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2008?
[READ]

		June <u>2007</u>	April <u>2007</u>	March <u>2007</u>	Feb <u>2007</u>	Dec <u>2006</u>
30	A lot	29	26	24	24	23
38	Some	34	34	36	34	36
16	Not much	20	21	20	22	20
15	None at all	16	17	18	18	20
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. - DO NOT READ)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

A.1 What ONE WORD best describes your impression of the presidential campaign so far. Just the one word that best describes your impression. (OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).

Frequency*

81	Early/Too early
61	Interesting
40	OK
38	Good
35	Confused/Confusing
35	Long/Too long
29	Unimpressive/Not impressed
27	Boring
21	Joke
20	Fair
17	Disappointed/Disappointing
17	Lacking/Lackluster
17	Poor
16	Bad
16	Ridiculous
15	Mediocre
13	Money
12	Circus
12	Too soon/Soon
12	Uninteresting/Not interested
12	Weak
11	Chaos/Chaotic
10	Expensive
10	Stinks

* The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

A.2 So far, have you watched any of the televised debates between presidential candidates or haven't you had a chance to watch any of them?

--Democratic Candidates' Debates--

		January	February
		<u>2004</u>	<u>1992</u>
40	Yes	20	16
59	No	80	84
<u>1</u>	Don't know	*	*
100		100	100

ROTATE A.3 AND A.4:

IF 'YES' (1 IN A.2) ASK [N=647]:

A.3 Have you found the debates to be helpful in learning about the candidates, or not?

66	Yes
33	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know
100	

A.4 Have you found the debates to be fun to watch, or not?

47	Yes
51	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	

ASK ALL:

A.5 All in all, do you prefer watching debates that have [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] asking questions of the candidates, or that have [NEXT ITEM] asking questions of the candidates?

17	Journalists
68	Regular people
<u>15</u>	Don't know
100	

ASK ALL:

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

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>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No Preference	(VOL.) Other Party	DK/ Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
July, 2007	27	32	34	4	*	3=100	11	17
June, 2007	25	34	32	6	*	3=100	10	17
April, 2007	25	28	40	5	*	2=100	13	17
March, 2007	25	36	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
February, 2007	25	34	34	4	*	3=100	10	18
Mid-January, 2007	24	35	34	3	*	4=100	12	18
Early-January, 2007	23	31	39	4	*	3=100	12	18
December, 2006	25	35	32	5	*	3=100	11	17
Mid-November, 2006	25	36	32	4	*	3=100	9	18
Late October, 2006	26	32	33	5	1	3=100	10	16

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)			
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				Preference	Party	Ref	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
Early October, 2006	27	34	33	3	*	3=100	12	15
Early September, 2006	30	34	30	3	*	3=100	10	14
August, 2006	30	33	30	4	*	3=100	12	14
July, 2006	29	33	31	4	1	2=100	11	14
June, 2006	29	34	31	4	*	2=100	11	16
April, 2006	29	32	30	5	*	4=100	10	14
Early April, 2006	29	32	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100	11	15
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100	11	16
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100	10	15
Yearly Totals								
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.5	33.1	30.0	4.0	.4	3.0=100	11.8	13.6
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					

IF ANSWERED 1 IN PARTY, ASK:

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

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not Strong/ Don't Know</u>
July, 2007	16	11=27%
June, 2007	13	12=25%
April, 2007	14	11=25%
January, 2007	12	11=23%
Mid-November, 2006	14	11=25%
Late-October, 2006	14	12=26%
Early-October, 2006	15	12=27%
September, 2006	17	13=30%
December, 2005	16	13=29%
December, 2004	18	13=31%
July, 2004	17	12=29%
August, 2003	14	13=27%
September, 2000	14	13=27%
Late-September, 1999	10	14=24%
August, 1999	11	14=25%
November, 1997	11	14=25%
October, 1995	11	19=30%
April, 1995	15	15=30%
October, 1994	16	15=31%
June, 1992	11	17=28%
May, 1990	13	15=28%
February, 1989	15	16=31%
May, 1988	13	15=28%
January, 1988	12	15=27%
May, 1987	11	14=25%

IF ANSWERED 2 IN PARTY, ASK:

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

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not Strong/ Don't Know</u>
July, 2007	19	13=32%
June, 2007	19	15=34%
April, 2007	15	13=28%
January, 2007	17	14=31%
Mid-November, 2006	22	14=36%
Late-October, 2006	18	14=32%
Early-October, 2006	19	15=34%
September, 2006	18	16=34%
December, 2005	20	14=34%
December, 2004	19	15=34%
July, 2004	20	13=33%
August, 2003	15	16=31%
September, 2000	19	15=34%
Late-September, 1999	15	16=31%
August, 1999	15	18=33%
November, 1997	14	18=32%
October, 1995	14	16=30%
April, 1995	14	15=29%

PARTYSTR CONTINUED...

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not Strong/ Don't Know</u>
October, 1994	18	14=32%
July, 1994	15	18=33%
June, 1992	14	18=32%
May, 1990	16	17=33%
February, 1989	17	21=38%
May, 1988	19	19=38%
January, 1988	19	20=39%
May, 1987	18	19=37%

ASK OF DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2) ONLY:

Q.7 I'm going to read you the names of some possible DEMOCRATIC presidential candidates. Who would you most like to see nominated as the Democratic Party's candidate for president in 2008? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE. ACCEPT VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE IF OFFERED BEFORE FULL LIST IS READ. IF 98 'DON'T KNOW' PROBE ONCE: Is there anyone you are leaning toward as of today?]**

IF ANSWERED (1-96 IN Q.7) ASK:

Q.8 And who would be your SECOND choice? **[READ REMAINING NAMES IF NECESSARY]**

BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=623]:

<i>Choice</i>			April 2007			March 2007				
<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>
40	21	61	Hillary Clinton	34	24	58		35	24	59
21	29	50	Barack Obama	24	22	46		26	20	46
12	11	23	Al Gore	14	16	30		12	17	29
11	14	25	John Edwards	18	15	33		16	13	29
2	5	7	Bill Richardson	1	4	5		1	2	3
2	1	3	Dennis Kucinich	1	1	2		*	1	1
2	3	5	Joe Biden	1	2	3		1	2	3
1	1	2	Chris Dodd	*	1	1		*	1	1
1	1		Other (VOL. DO NOT READ) [SPECIFY]	*	0			0	*	
2	3		None of them (VOL. DO NOT READ)	5	2			3	5	
6	3		Don't know/Haven't thought about it (VOL.)	2	6			5	5	
0	*		Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)	*	*			1	1	
<u>n/a</u>	<u>8</u>		<i>No first choice</i>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>7</u>			<u>n/a</u>	<u>9</u>	
100	100			100	100			100	100	

IF ANSWERED (1-96 IN Q.7) ASK:

Q.9 What's the main reason you support [INSERT CANDIDATE CHOSEN IN Q.7] for the Democratic nomination for president [OPEN END; IF "DON'T KNOW" PROMPT ONCE "It can be anything that comes to mind that you like about (him/her)." PROBE FOR CLARITY. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]?

BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS WITH A FIRST CHOICE CANDIDATE IN Q.7 [N=573]:

PERSONAL QUALITIES (NET)	59
Intelligent/Educated	10
New/Fresh/Change	9
Woman	8
Trustworthy/Honest/Integrity	7
Bill Clinton	7
Favorable/Popular/Like/For the People	6
Miscellaneous Positive	6
Good/Great/Nice	5
Strong/Tough	3
Articulate/Well-spoken	3
Charismatic/Passionate	2
Race/Ethnicity	2
Leader	2
Compassionate/Sincere/Fair	1
Attractive/Charming/Interesting	1
Religion/Personal Life	*
ISSUES/IDEOLOGY/PARTY	30
EXPERIENCE (NET)	23
Experienced/Qualified/Competent	15
Political Office/Past Candidacy	5
First Lady	4
City/State Association	*
Non-Political/Family	*
OTHER	5
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	2

ASK OF REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) ONLY :

Q.10 I'm going to read you the names of some possible REPUBLICAN presidential candidates. Who would you most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate for president in 2008? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE. ACCEPT VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE IF OFFERED BEFORE FULL LIST IS READ. IF 98 'DON'T KNOW' PROBE ONCE: Is there anyone you are leaning toward as of today?]**

IF ANSWERED (1-96 IN Q.10) ASK:

Q.11 And who would be your SECOND choice? **[READ REMAINING NAMES IF NECESSARY]**

BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=546]:

<i>Choice</i>			April 2007			March 2007			
<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>Choice</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>	
27	21	48	Rudy Giuliani	32	21	53	33	18	51
18	12	30	Fred Thompson ²	10	7	17	n/a	n/a	n/a
16	14	30	John McCain	23	21	44	22	17	39
10	8	18	Mitt Romney	8	11	19	7	8	15
8	8	16	Newt Gingrich	9	10	19	8	11	19
2	1	3	Ron Paul	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1	1	2	Sam Brownback	*	1	1	2	1	3
1	1	2	Tom Tancredo ³	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1	2	3	Mike Huckabee	3	1	4	2	3	5
1	4	5	Tommy Thompson	2	3	5	3	3	6
1	*		Other (VOL. DO NOT READ)	2	3		6	4	
3	8		None of them (VOL. DO NOT READ)	3	4		5	7	
11	6		Don't know/Haven't thought about it (VOL.)	8	7		12	10	
*	0		Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)	*	*		*	1	
<u>n/a</u>	<u>14</u>		<i>No first choice</i>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>n/a</u>	<u>17</u>	
100	100			100	100		100	100	

2 In March 2007, Fred Thompson was not included in the question.

3 In July 2007, Tom Tancredo and Ron Paul replaced Duncan Hunter and Jim Gilmore in the question.

IF ANSWERED (1-96 IN Q.10) ASK:

Q.12 What's the main reason you support [INSERT CANDIDATE CHOSEN IN Q.10] for the Republican nomination for president [OPEN END; IF "DON'T KNOW" PROMPT ONCE "It can be anything that comes to mind that you like about (him/her)."] PROBE FOR CLARITY ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]?

BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS WITH A FIRST CHOICE CANDIDATE IN Q.10 [N=472]:

PERSONAL QUALITIES (NET)	43
Trustworthy/Honest/Integrity	12
Miscellaneous Positive	6
Leader	6
Good/Great/Nice	6
Intelligent/Educated	5
Favorable/Popular/Like/For the People	4
Strong/Tough	3
Articulate/Well-spoken	3
Compassionate/Sincere/Fair	2
New/Fresh/Change	2
Religion/Personal Life	2
Attractive/Charming/Interesting	1
Charismatic/Passionate	*
EXPERIENCE (NET)	33
Sept. 11/Terrorist Attacks	12
Experienced/Qualified/Competent	10
Political Office/Past Candidacy	5
Mayor of NYC	5
POW/Military	4
City/State Association	1
Non-Political/Family	*
ISSUES/IDEOLOGY/PARTY	29
OTHER	7
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	3

ASK OF REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

Q.13 Thinking about Iraq, would you prefer a Republican candidate who will continue George W. Bush's policies in Iraq, or would you prefer a Republican candidate who will take a different approach to the situation in Iraq?

BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=546]:

		April
		<u>2007</u>
36	Continue Bush's policies	38
53	Take a different approach	54
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>
100		100

IF NOT REPUBLICAN OR REPUBLICAN LEANER (PARTY NE 1 AND PARTYLN NE 1) READ:

From what you've heard about the REPUBLICAN candidates...

ASK ALL:

Q.14 Do you happen to know which of the leading Republican presidential candidates favors a woman's right to choose when it comes to abortion? Is it **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,291]

		June <u>2007</u>
39	Rudy Giuliani	37
8	John McCain [OR]	8
4	Mitt Romney	5
2	None favor a woman's right to choose (VOL. DO NOT READ)	1
1	All/More than one favor a woman's right to choose (VOL. DO NOT READ)	1
<u>46</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)	<u>48</u>
100		100

Q.15 Now I'd like your opinion of some groups and organizations in the news. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS a. THRU e. FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS f. THRU I; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS)** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **(INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE")**

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Rate</u>
a.	The Republican Party	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8=100
	Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10=100
	Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9=100
	July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7=100
	April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10=100
	February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6=100
	Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9=100
	July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9=100
	June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8=100
	December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6=100
	June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9=100
	Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6=100
	June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9=100
	April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6=100
	December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8=100
	July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10=100
	January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7=100
	August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4=100
	February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5=100
	January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6=100
	Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6=100
	Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7=100
	March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7=100
	August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6=100
	June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6=100
	January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5=100
	October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4=100
	December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6=100

Q15 CONTINUED...

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Rate</u>
	July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4=100
	May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11=100
	July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6=100
b.	The Democratic Party	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8=100
	Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11=100
	Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11=100
	July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7=100
	April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11=100
	February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8=100
	Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10=100
	July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9=100
	June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9=100
	December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6=100
	June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10=100
	Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5=100
	June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8=100
	April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7=100
	December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9=100
	July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8=100
	January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5=100
	August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4=100
	February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5=100
	January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7=100
	March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6=100
	August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6=100
	June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6=100
	January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5=100
	October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3=100
	December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6=100
	July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4=100
	May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9=100
	July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6=100
c.	Congress	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8=100
	Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8=100
	Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13=100
	February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9=100
	Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10=100
	July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11=100
	June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11=100
	June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11=100
	July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11=100
	March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7=100
	January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7=100

Q.15 CONTINUED...

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>Rate</u>
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3=100
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5=100
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4=100
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7=100
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5=100
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7=100
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3=100
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6=100
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6=100
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9=100
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8=100
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4=100
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5=100
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5=100
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4=100
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3=100
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7=100
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5=100
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9=100
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4=100
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9=100
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6=100
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8=100
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6=100
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8=100
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7=100
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6=100
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10=100
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7=100
d. The Supreme Court	57	12	45	29	9	20	0	14=100
Early January, 2007	72	18	54	17	3	14	2	9=100
July, 2006	63	7	56	27	8	19	1	9=100
February, 2006	60	16	44	28	10	18	*	12=100
Late October, 2005	62	12	50	27	10	17	*	11=100
July, 2005	61	12	49	28	10	18	*	11=100
June, 2005	57	8	49	30	8	22	*	13=100
July, 2001	70	15	55	20	6	14	*	10=100
March, 2001	72	15	57	20	5	15	*	8=100
January, 2001	68	18	50	21	8	13	1	10=100
October, 1997	77	13	64	18	6	12	*	5=100
May, 1997	72	16	56	22	5	17	0	6=100
July, 1994	80	18	62	16	3	13	*	4=100
May, 1993	73	17	56	18	4	14	0	9=100
November, 1991	72	18	54	21	5	16	0	7=100
May, 1990	65	10	55	25	7	18	1	9=100
January, 1988	79	14	65	13	2	11	*	8=100
May, 1987	76	13	63	17	2	15	*	7=100
March 1985 (Roper)	64	17	47	28	7	21	--	8=100

Q.15 CONTINUED...

		-----Favorable-----			----Unfavorable----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never	Can't
								Heard of	Rate
e.	The military	78	47	31	15	6	9	0	7=100
	March, 2007	77	43	34	17	6	11	0	6=100
	Early January, 2007	84	47	37	11	3	8	*	5=100
	Late October, 2005	82	44	38	12	4	8	0	6=100
	Late March, 2005	87	49	38	9	3	6	*	4=100
	June, 2004	85	48	37	10	3	7	*	5=100
<i>Newsweek:</i>	May 16-17, 2002	93	59	34	5	2	3	--	2=100
<i>Newsweek:</i>	September 13-14, 2001	94	58	36	4	2	2	--	2=100
	July, 2001	81	29	52	11	4	7	*	8=100
	January, 2001	82	32	50	12	3	9	0	6=100
	August, 1999	89	30	59	10	2	8	*	1=100
	June, 1999	83	36	47	13	2	11	0	4=100
	Early September, 1998	86	29	57	10	3	7	0	4=100
	October, 1997	78	22	56	18	5	13	0	4=100
	May, 1997	80	23	57	16	5	11	0	4=100
	February, 1996	82	33	49	16	4	12	*	2=100
	July, 1994	87	30	57	11	3	8	*	2=100
	May, 1993	85	32	53	10	2	8	0	5=100
	March, 1991	94	60	34	4	2	2	0	2=100
	May, 1990	73	18	55	21	6	15	*	6=100
	January, 1988	77	20	57	17	3	14	*	6=100
	April, 1987	80	17	63	16	4	12	0	4=100
	January, 1987	73	19	54	16	5	11	*	11=100
	July, 1986	85	32	53	10	3	7	0	5=100
	July, 1985	77	24	53	18	5	13	*	5=100

QUESTIONS 16-26 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 27-29

Thinking about Congress...

Q.30 Are you happy or unhappy that the Democratic Party won control of Congress in last November's election?⁴

		Mid-		-----Republican Party-----				
		March	Nov	Dec	Nov	April	March	Dec
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2002⁵</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
50	Happy	54	60	48	47	52	55	57
35	Unhappy	32	24	34	32	36	31	31
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

4 The phrase "in last November's election" was added to the question in July 2007.

5 In December 2002, the question was worded: "In general, are you happy or unhappy that the Republican Party won control of the U.S. Senate?" In November 1998, the question was worded: "Are you happy or unhappy that the Republican Party maintained control of the U.S. Congress? In April 1995 and before, the question was worded: "Generally, are you happy or unhappy that the Republican Party won control of the U.S. Congress."

Q.31 Generally, do you think Democratic leaders in Congress will be successful or unsuccessful in getting their programs passed into law?

		Mid-	Mid-	----- <i>Republicans</i> -----				
		March	Jan	Nov	Sept	April	Feb	Dec
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>1995⁶</u>	<u>1995⁷</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>
43	Successful	54	57	59	54	63	61	62
42	Unsuccessful	32	25	22	31	28	20	24
6	Mixed/get some passed (VOL.)	4	5	6	n/a	3	5	4
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.32 Do you think Democratic leaders in Congress are going too far or not far enough in challenging George W. Bush's policies in Iraq, or are they handling this about right?

		June	March
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>
29	Too far	22	23
38	Not far enough	41	40
24	About right	25	30
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100

Q.33 Later this summer, Congress will be debating future funding for the war in Iraq. If a bill is proposed that calls for a withdrawal of troops from Iraq to be completed by next year, would you like to see your Congressional representative vote FOR or AGAINST it?

IF 'VOTE FOR' (1 IN Q.33) ASK:

Q.34 As you may know, President Bush has said he will veto any Iraq funding bill that includes a timeline for troop withdrawal. Would you like to see Democratic leaders work with Bush toward a compromise, or should they insist on a timeline for troop withdrawal?

IF 'VOTE AGAINST' (2 IN Q.33) ASK:

Q.35 As you may know, President Bush has said he will veto any Iraq funding bill that includes a timeline for troop withdrawal. Would you like to see President Bush work with Democratic leaders toward a compromise, or should Bush insist on NO timeline for troop withdrawal?

BASED ON TOTAL:		April ⁸	March
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>
63	Vote for	59	59
25	Work with Bush	25	--
36	Insist on a timeline	32	--
2	Don't know/Refused	2	--
29	Vote against	33	33
11	Work with Democratic leaders	14	--
17	Insist on NO timeline	18	--
1	Don't know/Refused	1	--
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100

6 In September, 1995 the question asked "In general, would you say the Republican leaders in Congress have been successful or unsuccessful so far this year in getting their programs passed into law?"

7 From April, 1995 to December, 1994 the question asked "Generally, do you think Republican leaders in Congress will be successful or unsuccessful in getting their programs passed into law?"

8 In March 2007 and April 2007, wording of the question was: "The Congress is now debating future funding for the war in Iraq. Would you like to see your Congressional representative vote FOR or AGAINST a bill that calls for a withdrawal of troops from Iraq to be completed by August of 2008?" In March 2007, the follow-up questions, Q.34 and Q35, were not asked.

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the Supreme Court...

Q.36 In your view, do you think the current Supreme Court is conservative, middle of the road, or liberal?

- 36 Conservative
- 35 Middle of the road
- 14 Liberal
- 15 Don't know/Refused
- 100

Q.37 Since taking office, George W. Bush has appointed two new justices to the Supreme Court. Do you think this has made the Supreme Court more liberal, more conservative, or has it not changed the balance of opinion on the Supreme Court significantly?

- 7 More liberal
- 36 More conservative
- 41 Not changed the balance of the Court
- 16 Don't Know/Refused
- 100

Q.38 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about any of the decisions issued by the Supreme Court over the past year? **[READ]**

- 19 A lot
- 61 A little, OR
- 18 Nothing at all
- 2 Don't know/Refused **[VOL. DO NOT READ]**
- 100

IF 'A LOT' OR 'A LITTLE' (1,2 IN Q.38) ASK [N=1,254]:

Q.39 From what you've read or heard, do you approve or disapprove of the decisions issued by the Supreme Court this year?

- 46 Approve
- 34 Disapprove
- 20 Don't know/Refused
- 100

QUESTIONS 40-41 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 42-45

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q.46 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
July, 2007	41	53	6=100
June, 2007	40	51	9=100
April, 2007	45	47	8=100
March, 2007	43	49	8=100
February, 2007	40	54	6=100
Mid-January, 2007	40	51	9=100
Early January, 2007	40	53	7=100

Q.46 CONTINUED...

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
December, 2006	42	51	7=100
Mid-November, 2006	41	51	8=100
Late October, 2006	43	47	10=100
Early October, 2006	45	47	8=100
Early 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>
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>7=100</i>
Late January, 1991	77	15	8=100

Q.47 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>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
July, 2007	8	28	34	25	5=100
June, 2007	7	27	33	28	5=100
April, 2007	7	31	34	25	3=100
March, 2007	10	30	32	24	4=100
February, 2007	5	25	38	29	3=100
Mid-January, 2007	7	28	32	30	3=100
December, 2006	4	28	37	27	4=100
Mid-November, 2006	6	26	34	30	4=100
Late October, 2006	5	30	34	25	6=100
Early October, 2006	8	29	33	25	5=100
Early 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
December, 2005	14	37	29	17	3=100
Early October, 2005	9	35	31	22	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	12	41	26	18	3=100
July, 2005	14	38	27	17	4=100
June, 2005	9	41	27	19	4=100
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

Q.48 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>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
July, 2007	39	54	7=100
June, 2007	39	56	5=100
April, 2007	41	53	6=100
March, 2007	43	52	5=100
February, 2007	42	53	5=100
Mid-January, 2007	46	48	6=100
Early January, 2007	41	53	6=100
December, 2006	44	50	6=100
Mid-November, 2006	46	48	6=100
Late October, 2006	46	47	7=100
Early October, 2006	47	47	6=100
Early 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
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 ⁹	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

IF “KEEP TROOPS IN IRAQ” (1 IN Q.48) ASK:

Q.49 Do you think more troops are needed in Iraq right now, or do you think there are already enough troops there to do the job?

	More troops <u>needed</u>	Have enough <u>troops there</u>	Reduce <u>troops</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
July, 2007	16	17	*	6=39%
June, 2007	16	17	*	6=39%

9 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?”

Q.49 CONTINUED...

	More troops <u>needed</u>	Have enough <u>troops there</u>	Reduce <u>troops</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
April, 2007	17	15	0	9=41%
March, 2007	21	15	*	7=43%
February, 2007	21	14	*	7=42%
Mid-January, 2007	25	14	*	7=46%
December, 2006	17	20	*	7=44%
Mid-November, 2006	17	20	*	9=46%
August, 2006	15	24	*	9=48%
April, 2006	13	27	*	8=48%
Early October, 2005	13	26	0	8=47%
July, 2005	16	27	*	9=52%
June, 2004	18	23	*	10=51%
Early January, 2004	29	26	*	8=63%
October, 2003	32	21	*	5=58%
September, 2003	34	25	*	5=64%

IF "BRING TROOPS HOME" (2 IN Q.48) ASK:

Q.50 Should the U.S. remove all troops from Iraq immediately, or should the withdrawal of troops be gradual over the next year or two?

	June <u>2007</u>	April <u>2007</u>	Mar <u>2007</u>	Feb <u>2007</u>	Mid- Jan <u>2007</u>	Mid- Dec <u>2006</u>	Mid- Nov <u>2006</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>	April <u>2006</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2005</u>
21 Remove all troops immediately	20	17	18	16	16	18	16	15	18	14	17
31 Gradual withdrawal over the next yr or two	35	34	33	35	30	32	31	30	29	32	28
<u>2</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
54%	56%	53%	52%	53%	48%	50%	48%	46%	48%	48%	46%

NO QUESTION 51

ASK ALL:

Q.52 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>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
July, 2007	40	45	8	7=100
April, 2007	38	44	7	11=100
February, 2007	40	47	5	8=100
Mid-November, 2006	37	48	5	10=100
Late October, 2006	36	46	6	12=100
Early October, 2006	38	47	5	10=100
Early 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

Q.52 CONTINUED...

	<u>Helped</u>	<u>Hurt</u>	<u>(VOL)</u> <u>No effect</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref</u>
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

NO QUESTION 53

Q.54 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>April</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mid-</u> <u>Nov</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Aug</u>
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>
9	Definitely succeed	9	7	12	13	14
34	Probably succeed	36	40	41	44	40
32	Probably fail	30	34	28	26	28
17	Definitely fail	16	12	13	9	12
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.55 If the U.S. withdraws its troops from Iraq over the coming year, would it INCREASE, DECREASE or have no effect on the chances that Iraq would go into a full scale civil war?

58	Increase
6	Decrease
20	No effect
5	Already is a civil war in Iraq (VOL.)
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

Q.56 If the U.S. withdraws its troops from Iraq over the coming year, would it INCREASE, DECREASE or have no effect on the chances that al Qaeda would establish terrorist bases in Iraq?

55	Increase
6	Decrease
24	No effect
5	Al Qaeda already has bases in Iraq (VOL.)
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

Q.57 How much confidence do you have that the U.S. military is giving the public an accurate picture of how the war is going? [READ]

		<i>Afghanistan</i>			<i>---Gulf War---</i>	
		March 30- <u>April 2, 2007</u>	March <u>2003</u>	Mid-Nov <u>2001</u>	March <u>1991</u>	Late Jan <u>1991</u>
17	A great deal of confidence	15	40	28	44	29
35	A fair amount of confidence	31	45	52	46	58
29	Not too much confidence	31	11	13	7	9
15	No confidence at all	21	*	4	2	2
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.58 How much confidence do you have that the press is giving the public an accurate picture of how the war is going?

		March 30- <u>April 2, 2007</u>	March <u>2003</u>	<i>Gulf War</i> Late Jan <u>1991</u>
7	A great deal of confidence	7	30	26
35	A fair amount of confidence	31	51	59
36	Not too much confidence	33	14	11
20	No confidence at all	27	1	2
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.59F1 From what you've seen and read, how good a job is the new Iraqi government doing running the country? Is it doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job, or a poor job?

		Aug <u>2004</u>	July <u>2004</u>
1	Excellent	2	4
7	Good	17	19
44	Only fair	47	41
40	Poor	18	14
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>16</u>	<u>22</u>
100		100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:

Q.60F2 Based on what you've seen and read, do most people IN IRAQ support or oppose America's current policies in Iraq?

		Dec <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Early April <u>2004</u>	Dec <u>2003</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>
30	Support	38	38	37	47	39
54	Oppose	48	44	48	34	47
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

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

Q.61 Do you think the United States is winning or losing the war on terrorism?

		<i>(RVs)</i>		<i>(RVs)</i> Early		Early
		Nov	Sept	Nov	Oct	Sept
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>
40	Winning	46	39	45	46	52
39	Losing	33	41	31	31	28
12	Neither (VOL)	10	9	10	9	9
<u>9</u>	Don't Know/Refused	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:

Q.62F1 Do you think the danger of a major attack on the United States is greater now than it was before September 11th, less now than it was before September 11th, or is it about the same?

22	Greater
29	Less
47	Same
<u>2</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:

Q.63F2 How worried are you that there will soon be another terrorist attack in the United States? **[READ]**

	<u>Very</u> <u>worried</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>worried</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>worried</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>worried</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref</u>
July, 2007	20	42	25	11	2=100
August, 2006	23	44	21	10	2=100
July, 2005	26	42	19	12	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	17	43	27	12	1=100
August, 2004	20	44	25	10	1=100
July, 2004	17	41	26	15	1=100
June, 2004	25	42	20	12	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	20	42	25	12	1=100
Early February, 2004	13	42	28	16	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	20	45	24	10	1=100
August, 2003	13	45	29	12	1=100
March, 2003	22	42	20	14	2=100
February, 2003	34	41	17	7	1=100
January, 2003	18	50	23	8	1=100
December, 2002	31	42	18	8	1=100
Early October, 2002	20	46	22	11	1=100
Late August, 2002	16	46	25	12	1=100
June, 2002	32	44	17	7	* =100
January, 2002	20	42	28	9	1=100
December, 2001	13	39	27	19	2=100
October 15-21, 2001	29	42	18	10	1=100
October 10-14, 2001	27	40	19	12	2=100
Early October, 2001	28	45	15	11	1=100

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
 JULY 27-30, 2007 NEWS INTEREST INDEX OMNIBUS SURVEY
 FINAL TOPLINE
 N=1,027**

Questions 1-3 Released Separately

On another subject...

Q.4 Did you happen to hear about a recent Democratic debate where ordinary people submitted video questions through YouTube for the candidates to answer? **[IF YES, ASK: Did you watch the debate itself, or did you just hear or see reports in the news?]**

- 13 Yes, watched the debate
- 42 Yes, heard/saw reports but did not watch it
- 44 No, haven't heard about it
- 1 Don't know/Refused
- 100

IF HEARD ABOUT IT (Q.4=1,2), ASK [N=599]:

Q.5 Compared to other debates you've seen or heard about, do you think this YouTube debate was better, worse or about the same in terms of **[READ AND ROTATE]**?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	About the <u>same</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
a. Helping you learn more about the candidates	28	12	53	7=100
b. Addressing a wide range of topics	30	9	51	10=100
c. Asking the candidates challenging questions	29	12	50	9=100
d. Being interesting and entertaining	34	12	44	10=100

Questions 6-8 Released Separately

ABOUT THE NEWS INTEREST INDEX SURVEY

Results for the weekly News Interest Index survey are based on telephone interviews among a nationwide survey of 1,027 adults, 18 years of age or older, conducted under the direction of ORC (Opinion Research Corporation). For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on the 599 respondents who watched or heard about the CNN/YouTube debate, the margin of error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

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