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**For The People & The Press**

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**PUBLIC SEES PROGRESS IN WAR EFFORT**

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## PUBLIC SEES PROGRESS IN WAR EFFORT

For the first time in a long time, nearly half of Americans express positive opinions about the situation in Iraq. A growing number says the U.S. war effort is going well, while greater percentages also believe the United States is making progress in reducing the number of Iraqi casualties, defeating the insurgents and preventing a civil war in Iraq.

Roughly half of the public (48%) believes the U.S. military effort in Iraq is going very or fairly well. Judgments about the overall situation in Iraq have been improving steadily since the summer. As recently as June, only about a third of Americans (34%) said things were going well in Iraq.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Nov. 20-26 among 1,399 adults, finds that improved public impressions of Iraq are particularly evident when it comes to security-related issues. The number of Americans who say that the United States is making progress in reducing the number of civilian casualties in Iraq has doubled from 21% to 43% since June. The proportion saying that progress has been achieved in preventing terrorists from establishing bases in Iraq is also up substantially, as is the number saying the U.S. is making progress in defeating the insurgents militarily.

	Feb	Jun	Sep	Nov	Feb-Nov Change
<b>Military effort is going...</b>	%	%	%	%	
Very/Fairly well	30	34	41	48	+18
Not too/At all well	67	61	54	48	
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<b>Defeating the insurgents</b>					
Making progress	30	32	37	43	+13
Losing ground	55	50	44	44	
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<b>The US should...</b>					
Keep troops in	42	39	39	41	-1
Bring troops home	53	56	54	54	
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<b>US effort in Iraq...</b>					
Will succeed	47	43*	42	48	+1
Will fail	46	49	47	46	
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<b>Bush job</b>					
Approve	33	29	31	30	-3
Disapprove	56	61	59	59	
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	
	100	100	100	100	

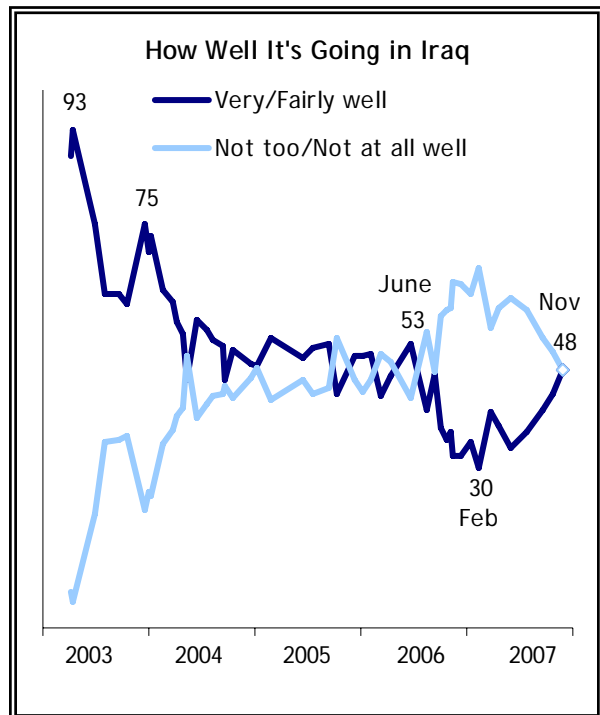
\* Figures from July, 2007.

However, a rosier view of the military situation in Iraq has not translated into increased support for maintaining U.S. forces in Iraq, greater optimism that the United States will achieve its goals there, or an improvement in President Bush's approval ratings. By 54%-41%, more Americans favor bringing U.S. troops home from Iraq as soon as possible rather than keeping troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized. The balance of opinion on this measure has not changed significantly all year.

Similarly, Americans remain evenly divided over whether the U.S. is likely to succeed or fail in achieving its goals in Iraq; improved perceptions of the situation in Iraq have not resulted in a changed outlook in this regard. In addition, Bush's overall job approval now stands at 30%, which is largely unchanged since June and equals the lowest marks of his presidency.

### Views of U.S. Military Effort

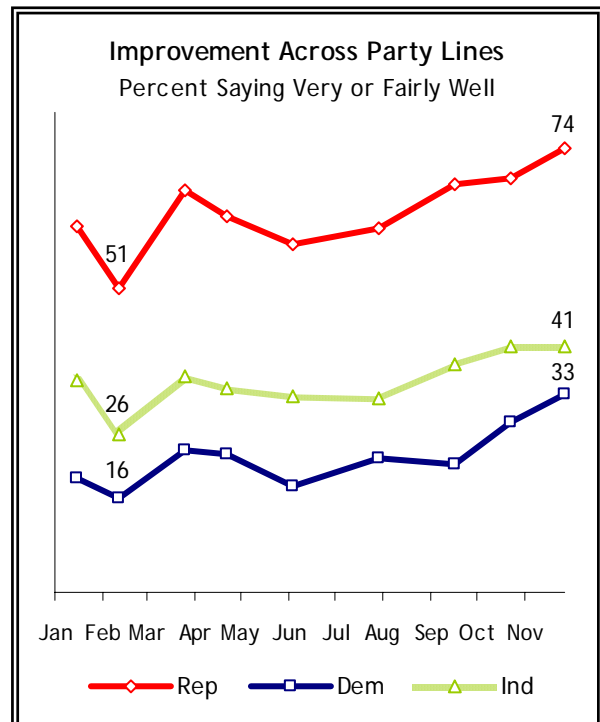
Public impressions of the U.S. military effort in Iraq are more positive now than at any point since September 2006. At that time, 47% said things were going very or fairly well. A few months earlier, in June, 53% said things were going well, the last time a majority expressed a positive view of conditions in Iraq. Through the following fall and winter, however, Americans grew increasingly downbeat about progress in the war. In February 2007, just 30% said the U.S. military effort was going very or fairly well – the lowest recorded in a Pew survey.



Opinions about the situation in Iraq have slowly turned around in the second half of 2007.

In June, barely a third of Americans (34%) saw the situation in Iraq going well. This rose to 41% in September, 44% in October and 48% currently.

While Iraq remains a deeply polarizing issue across party lines, there has been improvement in how both Democrats and Republicans view the war. At the lowest point in February, barely half of Republicans (51%) said things were going well. Today, 74% of Republicans say the same. And while Democrats remain far more skeptical than Republicans, the proportion of Democrats expressing a positive view of the Iraq effort has doubled since February (from 16% to 33%).



Independents' assessments of how the military effort is going remain far closer to the

views of Democrats than of Republicans. Currently, 41% of independents offer a positive assessment, while half say things are not going well. In February, 26% of independents expressed a positive view of the situation in Iraq.

### Less Political Progress Seen

In February, about two-thirds of the public (66%) said the U.S. was “losing ground” in preventing civilian casualties, while just 20% saw progress being achieved. Opinions about progress in this area have changed dramatically; in the current survey, 46% say the U.S. is losing ground, compared with 43% who believe the U.S. is making progress.

More Americans also say the United States is making progress in preventing a civil war (up 14 points since February) and defeating the insurgents militarily (up 13 points). However, perceptions of progress in several other areas – including establishing democracy in Iraq, rebuilding Iraq’s infrastructure and training Iraq’s forces have shown less change.

Opinions about progress toward specific military and political goals remain deeply divided along partisan lines, with Republicans consistently more likely than Democrats to say progress is being achieved. For instance, while there has been an across-the-board increase in the belief the U.S. is making progress in reducing civilian casualties, about twice as many Republicans as Democrats say the United States is making progress on this (60% of Republicans vs. 28% of Democrats).

More See Military Progress While Political Progress Lags					
	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<i>Feb-Nov</i> <i>change</i>
	%	%	%	%	
<b>Reducing civilian casualties</b>					
Making progress	20	21	37	43	+23
Losing ground	66	65	48	46	
<b>Preventing civil war</b>					
Making progress	18	24	26	32	+14
Losing ground	68	60	57	55	
<b>Defeating the insurgents</b>					
Making progress	30	32	37	43	+13
Losing ground	55	50	44	44	
<b>Preventing terrorist bases</b>					
Making progress	43	38	46	51	+8
Losing ground	43	46	41	36	
<b>Rebuilding Iraq’s infrastructure</b>					
Making progress	40	36	39	46	+6
Losing ground	36	39	34	30	
<b>Establishing democracy in Iraq</b>					
Making progress	40	39	39	43	+3
Losing ground	47	47	49	46	
<b>Training Iraqi security forces</b>					
Making progress	51	42	50	50	-1
Losing ground	34	36	38	36	
<b>Getting Iraqis to work together</b>					
Making progress	--	--	35	41	--
Losing ground	--	--	49	47	--

## Stable Support for Troop Withdrawal

Since February, majorities have consistently supported a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq as soon as possible. Despite the improvement in views of the situation, 54% continue to favor a troop withdrawal while 41% say the United States should keep its troops in Iraq until the situation is stabilized.

Attitudes about what to do with U.S. forces have remained very stable across political lines.

Two-thirds of Republicans (67%) currently favor maintaining troops in Iraq, little change from February (71%). Just 39% of independents and 21% of Democrats want to keep troops in Iraq – again, virtually unchanged from nine months ago.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
<i>November</i>				
Bring troops home	54	30	75	55
Keep troops in Iraq	41	67	21	39
Don't know	5	3	4	6
	100	100	100	100
<i>February</i>				
Bring troops home	53	23	74	55
Keep troops in Iraq	42	71	23	40
Don't know	5	6	3	5
	100	100	100	100

## Iraq in a Word

The belief that the situation in Iraq is getting better also is reflected in the single words that people use to describe the war. The word “improving” is most frequently used to characterize people’s impression of the war; 29 respondents mentioned this word.

For the most part, negative descriptions of the Iraq situation – such as “terrible” (26 mentions), “bad” (24), and “mess” (21) still predominate. However, fewer people use each of these words in characterizing their impressions of the war than did so in September. Individual mentions of the word “improving” have increased over this period, from eight in September to 29 in the current survey.

(N)	November	(N)	September
29	Improving	41	Mess
26	Terrible	34	Bad
24	Bad	31	Terrible
21	Mess	31	Sad
18	Disaster	26	Horrible
17	Hopeless	19	Disaster
14	Horrible	16	Hopeless
13	Better	12	Chaos
13	Chaos	10	Confused
12	Sad	10	Disappointing
11	Ridiculous	9	Bring troops home
9	Quagmire	9	Disgusting
8	Awful	9	Tragic
8	Confusing	9	Unfortunate
8	Difficult	8	Improving
8	Not good	8	Not good
8	Poor	8	Vietnam
8	Tragedy		
8	Unnecessary		

\* Figures show the number using each word out of 675 respondents asked the question (760 in September). The numbers are NOT percentages.

## Most Important Problem

The survey finds that the war in Iraq continues to be viewed as the most important problem facing the nation, though it is not nearly as dominant a concern as it was early this year. Currently, 32% volunteer the war as the biggest problem facing the United States, while 14% mention the economy. In January, mentions of the war outnumbered mentions of the economy by roughly eight-to-one (42% vs. 5%).

While the economy has increased as a concern, so too have energy and gas prices. Currently, 7% name energy and gas prices as the most important national problem, up from just 2% in September and January.

Overall, 31% of the public mentions either the economy, energy or another economic issue (such as unemployment or the budget deficit) as the top national problem. That compares with 40% who cite the Iraq war or another foreign policy issue. In both January and September, foreign policy concerns outpaced economic issues by far wider margins.

<i>Most important problem facing nation</i>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Nov</u>
	%	%	%
Iraq	42	37	32
Economy	5	10	14
Healthcare	8	7	7
Energy/Prices	2	2	7
Immigration	5	6	6
Govt/Politics	8	7	5
Unemployment/Jobs	5	3	4
Terrorism	5	6	4
Deficit/Nat'l debt	1	1	3
Foreign policy	--	1	3
Social Security	--	1	2
Education	4	3	2
Inflation/costs	--	1	2
Defense	1	3	2
Energy dependence	--	2	2
Morality/Values	3	3	2
Poverty/Hunger	3	3	2
NET: Foreign	50	48	40
NET: Economy	15	20	31

Based on open-ended responses.

## **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Schulman, Ronca, & Bucuvalas, Inc. among a nationwide sample of 1,399 adults, 18 years of age or older, from November 20-26, 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=724) or Form 2 (N=675) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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

## **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 AND THE PRESS**  
**NOVEMBER 2007 CAUCUS & PRIMARY SCENE-SETTER SURVEY**  
**NATIONAL TOPLINE- BASED ON GENERAL PUBLIC**  
**November 20-26, 2007**  
**N=1,399**

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]**

	App- rove	Dis- approve	Don't know		App- rove	Dis- approve	Don't know
November, 2007	30	59	11=100	June, 2004	48	43	9=100
October, 2007	30	63	7=100	May, 2004	44	48	8=100
September, 2007	31	59	10=100	Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100
August, 2007	31	59	10=100	Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100
July, 2007	29	61	10=100	Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100
June, 2007	29	61	10=100	Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100
April, 2007	35	57	8=100	February, 2004	48	44	8=100
March, 2007	33	58	9=100	Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100
February, 2007	33	56	11=100	Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100
Mid-January, 2007	33	59	8=100	December, 2003	57	34	9=100
Early January, 2007	33	57	10=100	November, 2003	50	40	10=100
December, 2006	32	57	11=100	October, 2003	50	42	8=100
Mid-November, 2006	32	58	10=100	September, 2003	55	36	9=100
Early October, 2006	37	53	10=100	Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100
September, 2006	37	53	10=100	Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100
August, 2006	37	54	9=100	Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100
July, 2006	36	57	7=100	Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100
June, 2006	36	54	10=100	June, 2003	62	27	11=100
April, 2006	33	56	11=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100



**Q.1 CONTINUED....**

	<u>App- rove</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
August, 2001	50	32	18=100
July, 2001	51	32	17=100
June, 2001	50	33	17=100
May, 2001	53	32	15=100
April, 2001	56	27	17=100
March, 2001	55	25	20=100
February, 2001	53	21	26=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=724]:**

R.1F1 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>
November, 2007	35	50	15=100
October, 2007	31	54	15=100
July, 2007	33	54	13=100
June, 2007	34	49	17=100
April, 2007	36	43	21=100
March, 2007 <sup>1</sup>	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

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

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=675]:**

R.2F2 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

		Sept	Jan	Sept	Jan	May	Mid-	Mid-	Jan	Apr	Feb	Mar	May	Feb
		2007	2007	2006	2006	2005	Jan	July	Jan	2003	2003	2002	2001	2001
32	War/War in Iraq	37	42	25	23	24	32	25	16	14	34	10 <sup>▲</sup>	--	--
14	Economy (general)	10	5	9	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
7	Health care/costs	7	8	4	6	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
7	Energy Costs/Rising gas/heating prices	2	2	7	5	6	--	2	--	--	1	1	22	4
6	Immigration	6	5	6	3	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
5	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	7	8	6	5	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
4	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	3	5	4	7	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
4	Terrorism	6	5	14	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	--
3	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	1	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1	1
3	U.S. foreign policy/International affairs	1	--	2	3	1	1	4	2	--	--	--	2	2
2	Social Security	1	--	--	2	8	4	1	--	1	--	--	3	1
2	Education	3	4	4	3	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
2	Inflation/Difference in Wages/Costs	1	--	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
2	Defense issues/Military spending/National & homeland security	3	1	4	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
2	Oil dependence/Energy policy and alternatives	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Morality/Ethics/Family values	3	3	2	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
2	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	3	3	3	7	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
1	Taxes (general)	1	--	--	1	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	3	3
1	Environment/pollution/Global warming	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	3	1
1	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	8
1	Youth	--	1	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	8	3
1	Abortion	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	1	1
1	Middle East	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
1	Drugs/Alcohol	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	6
1	Uneven distribution of wealth	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	1	1
8	Other													
1	None	--	--	1	--	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	--	2
6	Don't know/No answer	5	7	7	7	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
<b>40</b>	<b>(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>(NET) ECONOMIC</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>26</b>

▲ War in Afghanistan in March 2002

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=675]:**

And a different kind of question...

R.3F2 What one word best describes your impression of the situation in Iraq these days? Just the first word or thought that comes to mind? (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE**).\*

		(N=760)	(N=695)
		Sept	March
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
29	Improving/Improved	8	12
26	Terrible	31	22
24	Bad	34	39
21	Mess	41	37
18	Disaster	19	15
17	Hopeless	16	10
14	Horrible	26	15
13	Better	4	8
13	Chaos	12	29
12	Sad	31	18
11	Ridiculous	5	1
9	Quagmire	6	4
8	Awful	2	3
8	Confusing	10	8
8	Difficult	6	7
8	Poor	3	6
8	Tragedy/Tragic	9	5
8	Unnecessary	7	5
8	No good/Not good	8	6
7	Disappointing	10	2
7	Good	4	7
7	Long/Lengthy	6	1
7	Mistake	4	0
7	Shouldn't be there	6	2
6	Hopeful	3	6
5	Horrific	4	1
5	Bring troops home	9	6
5	Depressing	6	2
5	Progress	5	3
5	Troubled	2	4
4	Deplorable	3	4
4	Frustrating	6	5
4	Killing	5	5
4	Pathetic	3	3
4	Scary	5	4
4	Senseless	3	0
4	Unstable	4	7
4	Useless	5	0
4	Waste	2	1
4	Winning	3	0

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

**QUESTIONS 2 AND 3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

**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	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
November, 2007	28	33	32	4	1	2=100	9	16
October, 2007	25	37	33	3	*	2=100	11	17
September, 2007	27	32	32	6	*	3=100	8	16
August, 2007	26	32	32	5	1	4=100	10	16
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	1
Mid-November, 2006	25	36	32	4	*	3=100	9	18
Late October, 2006	26	32	33	5	1	3=100	10	16
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
<i>Yearly Totals</i>								
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

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>Party</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					

**QUESTIONS 4 THROUGH 30 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**

Now thinking about Iraq...

Q.31 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very</u> <u>well</u>	<u>Fairly</u> <u>well</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>well</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>well</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Refused</u>
November, 2007	11	37	29	19	4=100
October, 2007	10	34	29	22	5=100
September, 2007	9	32	30	24	5=100
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
February, 2006	13	38	29	17	3=100
January, 2006	12	39	27	17	5=100
December, 2005	14	37	29	17	3=100
Early October, 2005	9	35	31	22	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	12	41	26	18	3=100
July, 2005	14	38	27	17	4=100
June, 2005	9	41	27	19	4=100
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100

**Q.31 CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
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, 200</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.32 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>	DK/ Ref
November, 2007	41	54	5=100
October, 2007	42	54	4=100
September, 2007	39	54	7=100
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

**Q.32 CONTINUED...**

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
August, 2004	54	42	4=100
July, 2004	53	43	4=100
June, 2004 <sup>2</sup>	51	44	5=100
May, 2004	53	42	5=100
Late April, 2004	53	40	7=100
Early April, 2004	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	63	32	5=100
October, 2003	58	39	3=100
September, 2003	64	32	4=100

**IF “KEEP TROOPS IN IRAQ” (1 IN Q.32) ASK [N=621]:**

Q.33 Do you think the U.S. should or should not set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq? ^

	Should set a <u>timetable</u>	Should not set <u>timetable</u>	<u>DK/ Refused</u>
November, 2007	11	29	1=41%
October, 2007	15	26	1=42%
September, 2007	13	25	1=39%
June, 2007	13	25	1=39%
April, 2007	11	28	2=41%
March, 2007	14	27	2=43%
Mid-January, 2007	19	26	1=46%
December, 2006	17	25	2=44%
Mid-November, 2006	17	27	2=46%
Late October, 2006	15	29	2=46%
Early October, 2006	15	30	2=47%
Early September, 2006	13	32	2=47%
August, 2006	16	30	2=48%
June, 2006	16	32	1=50%
April, 2006	14	32	1=48%
March, 2006	14	29	1=44%
January, 2006	16	30	2=48%
December, 2005	17	30	2=49%
Early October, 2005	15	31	1=47%
Mid-September, 2005	19	30	2=51%
July, 2005	16	34	2=52%

^ Trend note: Question previously asked of all respondents. Results shown here are limited to those who said we should “keep troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized.” The small number who volunteered that the U.S. should “get out now” in previous surveys have been grouped with supporters of a timetable.

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

**IF “BRING TROOPS HOME” (2 IN Q.32) ASK [N=699]:**

Q.34 Should the U.S. remove all troops from Iraq immediately, or should the withdrawal of troops be gradual over the next year or two?

	Remove all troops <u>immediately</u>	Gradual <u>withdrawal</u>	DK/ <u>Refused</u>
November, 2007	16	36	2=54%
October, 2007	18	35	1=54%
September, 2007	18	34	2=54%
July, 2007	21	31	2=54%
June, 2007	20	35	1=56%
April, 2007	17	34	2=53%
March, 2007	18	33	1=52%
February, 2007	16	35	2=53%
Mid-January, 2007	16	30	2=48%
December, 2006	18	32	*=50%
Mid-November, 2006	16	31	1=48%
August, 2006	15	30	1=46%
April, 2006	18	29	1=48%
January, 2006	14	32	2=48%
December, 2005	17	28	1=46%

**ASK ALL:**

R.4 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?

		Oct <u>2007</u>	Sept <u>2007</u>	July <u>2007</u>	April <u>2007</u>	Feb <u>2007</u>	Nov <u>2006</u>	Mid- Sept <u>2006</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>	July <u>2005</u>
11	Definitely succeed	11	8	9	9	7	12	13	14	17
37	Probably succeed	35	34	34	36	40	41	44	40	43
33	Probably fail	31	32	32	30	34	28	26	28	25
13	Definitely fail	13	15	17	16	12	13	9	12	8
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100



R.5 As I read a few specific things about Iraq, tell me if you think we are making progress or losing ground in each area. First, are we making progress or losing ground in [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think we are making progress or losing ground in this area?

		(VOL)			
		<u>Making</u>	<u>Losing</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/</u>
<b>ASK ITEMS a THRU d OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=724]:</b>		<u>progress</u>	<u>ground</u>	<u>change</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a.F1	Training Iraqi security forces so they can replace U.S. troops	50	36	3	11=100
	September, 2007	50	38	2	10=100
	June, 2007	42	36	2	20=100
	February, 2007	51	34	2	13=100
	November, 2006	48	37	1	14=100
	August, 2006	58	26	2	14=100
	June, 2006	61	28	2	9=100
	April, 2006	55	30	1	14=100
	March, 2006	56	30	1	13=100
	January, 2006	65	22	1	12=100
	December, 2005	61	27	1	11=100
b.F1	Reducing the number of civilian casualties there	43	46	3	8=100
	September, 2007	37	48	2	13=100
	June, 2007	21	65	2	12=100
	February, 2007	20	66	2	12=100
	November, 2006	20	67	2	11=100
	August, 2006	25	58	3	14=100
	June, 2006	29	56	3	12=100
	April, 2006	28	56	3	13=100
	March, 2006	27	56	3	14=100
	January, 2006	32	54	3	11=100
	December, 2005	35	53	3	9=100
c.F1	Preventing terrorists from using Iraq as a base for attacks against the U.S. and its allies	51	36	3	10=100
	September, 2007	46	41	2	11=100
	June, 2007	38	46	3	13=100
	February, 2007	43	43	3	11=100
	November, 2006	39	49	2	10=100
	August, 2006	45	40	2	13=100
	June, 2006	49	39	2	10=100
	April, 2006	44	43	3	10=100
	March, 2006	42	44	2	12=100
	January, 2006	52	33	2	13=100
	December, 2005	48	41	2	9=100

d.F1	Establishing democracy in Iraq	43	46	3	8=100
	September, 2007	39	49	4	8=100
	June, 2007	39	47	3	11=100
	February, 2007	40	47	3	10=100
	November, 2006	43	42	2	13=100
	August, 2006	47	39	3	11=100
	June, 2006	55	35	2	8=100
	April, 2006	51	38	3	8=100
	March, 2006	50	38	2	10=100
	January, 2006	62	26	2	10=100
	December, 2005	58	32	2	8=100

**ASK ITEMS e THRU h OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=675]:**

e.F2	Defeating the insurgents militarily	43	44	3	10=100
	September, 2007	37	44	4	15=100
	June, 2007	32	50	3	15=100
	February, 2007	30	55	3	12=100
	November, 2006	34	52	2	12=100
	August, 2006	41	45	3	11=100
	June, 2006	48	36	2	14=100
	April, 2006	40	46	2	12=100
	March, 2006	36	51	1	12=100
	January, 2006	46	38	3	13=100
	December, 2005	44	41	3	12=100

f.F2	Preventing a civil war between various religious and ethnic groups	32	55	3	10=100
	September, 2007	26	57	4	13=100
	June, 2007	24	60	3	13=100
	February, 2007	18	68	4	10=100
	November, 2006	22	65	2	11=100
	August, 2006	22	63	4	11=100
	June, 2006	32	50	4	14=100
	April, 2006	26	59	3	12=100
	March, 2006	24	66	2	8=100
	January, 2006	34	48	4	14=100
	December, 2005	36	49	3	12=100

g.F2	Rebuilding roads, power plants and other services in Iraq	46	30	1	23=100
	September, 2007	39	34	2	25=100
	June, 2007	36	39	1	24=100
	February, 2007	40	36	2	22=100
	November, 2006	43	36	1	20=100
	August, 2006	46	34	1	19=100
	June, 2006	52	23	1	24=100
	April, 2006	55	26	1	18=100
	March, 2006	53	29	1	17=100
	January, 2006	59	22	1	18=100

h.F2	Getting Iraqi political leaders to work together	41	47	3	9=100
	September, 2007	35	49	3	13=100

**QUESTIONS 35 THROUGH 56 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.**