

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
 DECEMBER 2005 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
 FINAL TOPLINE
 December 7-11, 2005
 N=1,502

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

IF APPROVE OR DI SAPPROVE (1, 2 IN Q. 1) ASK:

Q. 1a Do you (approve/di sapprove) very strongly, or not so strongly?

	March 2005	Dec 2004	Nov 2003	Sept 2003	June 2002	April 2001
38 Approve	49	48	50	55	70	56
26 Very strongly	32	34	34	35	46	34
11 Not so strongly	16	12	14	18	21	20
1 Don't know (VOL)	1	2	2	2	3	2
54 Di sapprove	46	44	40	36	20	27
42 Very strongly	36	35	30	27	8	18
11 Not so strongly	10	8	9	9	12	9
1 Don't know (VOL)	*	1	1	*	0	*
8 Don't know/Refused	5	8	10	9	10	17
100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:

More specific ally...

Q. 2 Do you approve or di sapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Di sapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. F1 The economy	38	55	7=100
Late October, 2005	36	56	8=100
Early September, 2005	33	60	7=100
July, 2005	38	53	9=100
Mid-May, 2005	35	57	8=100
February, 2005	43	50	7=100
January, 2005	45	50	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	38	55	7=100
Early September, 2004	44	49	7=100
August, 2004	42	52	6=100
July, 2004	42	52	6=100
June, 2004	43	50	7=100
Early April, 2004	39	53	8=100
Mid-January, 2004	47	47	6=100
September, 2003	43	48	9=100
February, 2003	43	48	9=100
January, 2003	47	45	8=100
Early October, 2002	49	40	11=100
June, 2002	53	36	11=100
January, 2002	60	28	12=100
Early September, 2001	47	44	9=100
February, 2001	50	22	28=100
b. F1 The situation in Iraq	36	58	6=100
Late October, 2005	37	57	6=100
Early September, 2005	34	58	8=100
July, 2005	35	57	8=100
Mid-May, 2005	37	56	7=100
February, 2005	40	53	7=100
January, 2005	45	50	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	37	56	7=100
Early September, 2004	47	45	8=100
August, 2004	43	52	5=100
July, 2004	42	53	5=100
June, 2004	42	51	7=100
Late April, 2004	44	48	8=100
Early April, 2004	40	53	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	59	37	4=100
September, 2003	52	40	8=100
April 10-16, 2003 ¹	77	17	6=100
April 8-9, 2003	71	23	6=100

¹ From March to April 2003 the item was worded: "... dealing with the war in Iraq?" The 1991 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

Q. 2F1 CONTI NUED. . .

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Di sapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
--April 9, 2003	76	18	6=100
--April 8, 2003	65	28	7=100
April 2-7, 2003	73	21	6=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	26	5=100
March 25-27, 2003	73	23	4=100
March 23-24, 2003	72	22	6=100
March 20-22, 2003	70	23	7=100
February, 2003	56	37	7=100
January, 2003	56	36	8=100
Early October, 2002	56	34	10=100
c. F1 Terrori st threats	49	44	7=100
Late October, 2005	52	40	8=100
Early September, 2005	49	41	10=100
July, 2005	49	40	11=100
Mid-May, 2005	57	35	8=100
February, 2005	59	34	7=100
January, 2005	62	33	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	49	40	11=100
Early September, 2004	62	32	6=100
August, 2004	58	37	5=100
July, 2004	54	40	6=100
June, 2004	56	35	9=100
Late April, 2004	55	36	9=100
Early April, 2004	53	38	9=100
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 2003	65	33	2=100
September, 2003	64	28	8=100
February, 2003	67	25	8=100
January, 2003	69	23	8=100
Early October, 2002	71	22	7=100
June, 2002	74	18	8=100
Mid-September, 2001 ²	85	6	9=100
Clinton: Early September, 1998	72	20	8=100
d. F1 Tax pol icy	36	51	13=100
February, 2003	42	44	14=100
June, 2002	45	39	16=100
<i>FOX News</i> : January, 2002 (<i>RVS</i>)	58	28	14=100
<i>FOX News</i> : June, 2001 (<i>RVS</i>)	59	29	12=100
<i>FOX News</i> : March, 2001 (<i>RVS</i>)	54	31	15=100

NO QUESTIONS 3-6

² In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded: "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington." In Early September 1998 the question was worded: "Do you approve or di sapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling current threats from international terrorist groups?"

ASK ALL:

Q. 7 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/ Ref
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	45	38	11	5	1=100
Early November, 2005	41	40	13	6	*=100
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*=100
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1=100
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1=100
June, 2005	41	39	12	7	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
April 11-16, 2003 ³	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 ⁴	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:

b.F1 The high price of gasoline these days	61	27	7	4	1=100
Early November, 2005	61	27	9	2	1=100
Late October, 2005	67	23	7	3	*=100
Early October, 2005	65	25	6	3	1=100
Early September, 2005	71	19	7	3	*=100
Mid-May, 2005	58	27	9	5	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	50	32	13	5	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	64	22	8	5	1=100
August, 2004	52	29	10	8	1=100
July, 2004	56	25	11	7	1=100
June, 2004	58	26	9	6	1=100
April, 2004	46	30	15	8	1=100
Early April, 2004	58	23	10	8	1=100

³ From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

⁴ From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq." In Early September 2002 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."

Q. 7 CONTINUED. . .

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/ Ref
Mid-March, 2004	47	27	14	10	2=100
September, 2003	45	27	15	11	1=100
March, 2003	52	27	11	9	1=100
February, 2003	53	25	12	9	1=100
June, 2001	56	31	7	5	1=100
May, 2001	61	26	6	6	1=100
Early October, 2000	56	25	12	6	1=100
June, 2000 ⁵	61	25	9	5	*=100
March, 2000	58	28	10	4	*=100
October, 1990	62	26	8	4	*=100
September, 1990	56	28	11	5	*=100
August, 1990	57	27	10	5	1=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:

c. F2 Reports about the condition of the

U. S. economy	35	35	18	11	1=100
Early November, 2005	35	39	17	9	*=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1=100
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1=100
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*=100
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2=100
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1=100
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1=100
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1=100
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1=100
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*=100
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1=100
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1=100
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1=100
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1=100
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2=100
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1=100
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1=100
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0=100
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1=100
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100

⁵ In August 1990 through June 2000 the story was listed as "Recent increases in the price of gasoline."

Q. 7 CONTINUED...

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
d.F2 The nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court	14	20	31	32	3=100
Early November, 2005	21	28	24	25	2=100
Early October, 2005 <i>Harriet Miers</i>	22	33	21	23	1=100
Early September, 2005 <i>John Roberts</i>	18	26	25	29	2=100
August, 1993 <i>Ruth Bader Ginsburg</i>	18	30	27	24	1=100
October, 1991 <i>Clarence Thomas</i>	28	35	18	18	1=100
July, 1991 <i>Clarence Thomas</i>	33	33	19	14	1=100
August, 1990 <i>David Souter</i>	16	27	27	29	1=100
September, 1987 <i>Robert Bork</i>	17	23	29	29	2=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:

e.F1 The major job cuts announced by General Motors	22	30	26	21	1=100
January, 1992	35	38	18	9	*=100

ASK ALL:

f. Changes to the prescription drug coverage provided by Medicare	25	24	29	20	2=100
December, 2003 <i>Medicare reform legislation</i>	25	28	22	23	2=100
g. Rebuilding efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina	39	40	15	5	1=100
Early Oct, 2005 <i>Impact of Katrina and Rita</i>	73	21	4	2	*=100
Early September, 2005 <i>Impact of Katrina</i>	70	21	7	2	*=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:

ROTATE Q. 8F1 AND Q. 9F1

Q. 8F1 In general, do you think news reports are making the situation in Iraq seem WORSE than it really is or BETTER than it really is, or are reports showing the situation about the way it really is?

	Mid- Sept 2005	Oct 2003
39 Worse	35	38
19 Better	19	14
35 About the way it really is	38	36
7 Don't know/Refused	8	12
100	100	100

Q. 9F1 In general, do you think news reports are making the U.S. economy seem WORSE than it really is, or BETTER than it really is, or are reports showing the situation about the way it really is?

39 Worse
18 Better
36 About the way it really is
7 Don't know/Refused
100

NO QUESTIONS 10-13

ASK ALL:

Q. 14 I'm going to read you some pairs of statements that will help us understand how you feel about a number of things. As I read each pair, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE) (AFTER CHOICE IS MADE, PROBE: Do you feel STRONGLY about that, or not?)**

c.	Poor people today have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything in return	Poor people have hard lives because government benefits don't go far enough to help them live decently	Neither
	<u>Total</u> <u>Strongly</u> <u>Not Strongly</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Strongly</u> <u>Not Strongly</u>	<u>/DK</u>
December, 2005	35 23 12	51 39 12	14=100
December, 2004	34 23 11	52 40 12	14=100
June, 2003	34 24 10	55 42 13	11=100
August, 1999	45 30 15	42 31 11	13=100
June, 1997	45 33 12	42 31 11	13=100
October, 1996	46 35 11	40 28 12	14=100
October, 1995	54 36 18	36 25 11	10=100
April, 1995	52 37 15	39 28 11	9=100
October, 1994	48 35 13	41 31 10	11=100
July, 1994	53 37 16	39 27 12	8=100

g.	Immigrants today strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents	Immigrants today are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care	Neither
	<u>Total</u> <u>Strongly</u> <u>Not Strongly</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Strongly</u> <u>Not Strongly</u>	<u>/DK</u>
December, 2005	45 30 15	44 34 10	11=100
December, 2004	45 32 13	44 34 10	11=100
June, 2003	46 30 16	44 35 9	10=100
September, 2000	50 36 14	38 29 9	12=100
August, 1999	46 30 16	44 34 10	10=100
October, 1997	41 -- --	48 -- --	11=100
June, 1997	41 26 15	48 37 11	11=100
April, 1997	38 19 19	52 38 14	10=100
June, 1996	37 -- --	54 -- --	9=100
July, 1994	31 17 14	63 49 14	6=100

k.	Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard	Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people	Neither
	<u>Total</u> <u>Strongly</u> <u>Not Strongly</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Strongly</u> <u>Not Strongly</u>	<u>/DK</u>
December, 2005	64 56 8	33 26 7	3=100
December, 2004	68 62 6	28 22 6	4=100
September, 2000	73 66 7	24 20 4	3=100
August, 1999	74 66 8	23 18 5	3=100
July, 1994	68 59 9	30 22 8	2=100

n.	Business corporations make too much profit	Most corporations make a fair and reasonable amount of profit	Neither
	<u>Total</u> <u>Strongly</u> <u>Not Strongly</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Strongly</u> <u>Not Strongly</u>	<u>/DK</u>
December, 2005	61 52 9	33 21 12	6=100
December, 2004	53 46 7	39 25 14	8=100
June, 2003	51 43 8	42 27 15	7=100
July, 2002	58 51 7	33 22 11	9=100
February, 2002	54 44 10	39 24 15	7=100
September, 2000	54 46 8	38 28 10	8=100
August, 1999	52 42 10	42 29 13	6=100
June, 1997	51 43 8	43 28 15	6=100
October, 1996	51 43 8	42 27 15	7=100
October, 1995	53 44 9	43 27 16	4=100
April, 1995	51 42 9	44 26 18	5=100
October, 1994	50 40 10	44 28 16	6=100
July, 1994	52 43 9	43 27 16	5=100

Q. 14 CONTINUED...

	Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy			Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost			Neither /DK
	Total	Strongly	Not Strongly	Total	Strongly	Not Strongly	
December, 2005	37	28	9	56	43	13	7=100
December, 2004	31	21	10	60	48	12	9=100
September, 2000	31	22	9	61	50	11	8=100
August, 1999	28	19	9	65	50	15	7=100
October, 1996	30	22	8	63	51	12	7=100
October, 1995	35	23	12	61	47	14	4=100
April, 1995	39	28	11	57	44	13	4=100
October, 1994	32	23	9	62	49	13	6=100
July, 1994	33	21	12	62	45	17	5=100

	I'm generally satisfied with the way things are going for me financially			I'm not very satisfied with my financial situation			Neither /DK
	Total	Strongly	Not Strongly	Total	Strongly	Not Strongly	
December, 2005	56	40	16	42	36	6	2=100
December, 2004	59	44	15	39	33	6	2=100
September, 2000	59	46	13	39	33	6	2=100
August, 1999	64	48	16	34	28	6	2=100
October, 1996	57	43	14	41	36	5	2=100
April, 1996	57	44	13	42	37	5	1=100
July, 1994	56	36	20	43	33	10	1=100

	I often don't have enough money to make ends meet			Paying the bills is generally not a problem for me			Neither /DK
	Total	Strongly	Not Strongly	Total	Strongly	Not Strongly	
December, 2005	40	32	8	56	44	12	4=100
December, 2004	35	29	6	62	48	14	3=100
September, 2000	37	30	7	59	48	11	4=100
August, 1999	29	22	7	68	54	14	3=100
July, 1994	36	27	9	63	43	20	1=100

Q. 15 Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs...
(READ)

	Most of the time	Some of the time	Only now and then	Hardly at all	DK/Ref
December, 2005	50	28	14	8	*=100
December, 2004	45	35	14	5	1=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	61	27	9	3	*=100
Mid-October, 2004 (RVs)	63	26	8	3	*=100
June, 2004	44	34	15	7	*=100
August, 2003	48	33	12	6	1=100
November, 2002	49	27	14	9	1=100
August, 2002	54	30	11	5	*=100
March, 2001	49	27	13	10	1=100
Early November, 2000 (RVs)	51	32	12	5	*=100
September, 2000 (RVs)	51	34	10	4	1=100
June, 2000	38	32	19	11	*=100
Late September, 1999	39	32	20	9	*=100
August, 1999	40	35	17	8	*=100
November, 1998	46	27	14	13	*=100
Late October, 1998 (RVs)	57	29	10	4	*=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	51	33	11	5	*=100
Early September, 1998	45	34	15	6	*=100
June, 1998	36	34	21	9	*=100
November, 1997	41	36	16	7	*=100
November, 1996 (RVs)	52	32	12	4	*=100
October, 1996 (RVs)	43	37	13	6	1=100

Q. 15 CONTINUED. . .

	Most of the time	Some of the time	Only now and then	Hardly at all	(VOL.) DK/Ref
June, 1996	41	34	17	8	*=100
October, 1995	46	35	14	5	*=100
April, 1995	43	35	16	6	*=100
November, 1994	49	30	13	7	1=100
October, 1994	45	35	14	6	*=100
July, 1994	46	33	15	6	*=100
May, 1990	39	34	18	9	*=100
February, 1989	47	34	14	4	1=100
October, 1988	52	33	11	4	*=100
September, 1988	58	32	8	2	*=100
May, 1988	37	37	17	6	3=100
January, 1988	37	35	18	8	2=100
November, 1987	49	32	14	4	1=100
May, 1987	41	35	15	7	2=100
July, 1985	36	33	18	12	1=100

NO QUESTIONS 16-19

On a different subject...

ROTATE Q. 20 AND Q. 21

Q. 20 Which comes closer to your view? Abortion should be generally available to those who want it; Abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now; Abortion should be against the law except in cases of rape, incest and to save the woman's life; Abortion should not be permitted at all.

		Late Nov ⁶ 2005	July 2005	June 1997	June 1996	CBS/NYT Feb 1996
35	Generally available	30	35	30	32	36
20	Available, but under stricter limits	19	23	21	24	22
31	Against law except rape/incest/save life	31	31	36	33	34
11	Abortion should not be permitted at all	16	9	12	9	7
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	2	1	2	1
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q. 21 Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

		Late Nov ⁷ 2005	July 2005 ⁸	Mid- July 2003	March 2002	March 2001	Sept 1999	June 1996
62	Favor	61	68	64	67	66	74	78
30	Oppose	27	24	30	26	27	22	18
8	Don't know/Ref. (VOL.)	12	8	6	7	7	4	4
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

⁶ In Late November 2005 this question was asked in a unique context, following a long series of questions about euthanasia and end-of-life decisions. This context may have affected responses to this question.

⁷ In Late November 2005 this question was asked in a unique context, following a long series of questions about euthanasia and end-of-life decisions. This context may have affected responses to this question.

⁸ In July 2005 and earlier, the question was asked as part of a series of items. It was worded: "I'd like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in this country today. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?"

NOTE: DUE TO A PROGRAMMING ERROR Q22F1 and Q23F2 WERE ASKED OF SEPARATE SAMPLES ON VARYING SURVEY DATES. Q22F1 WAS FIELDDED DECEMBER 7 THROUGH 11. Q23F2 WAS FIELDDED FROM DECEMBER 9 THROUGH 11.

ASK FORM A ONLY (DEC. 7-11, 2005) [N=571]:

Q. 22F1 In your view, would you prefer if stores and businesses greet their customers by saying "Merry Christmas," OR would you prefer if stores and businesses use less religious terms such as "Happy Holidays" and "Season's Greetings?"

60 Prefer "Merry Christmas"
 23 Prefer less religious terms
 17 Doesn't matter/don't care (VOL.)
 * Don't know/refused (VOL.)
 100

ASK FORM B ONLY (DEC. 9-11, 2005) [N=554]:

Q. 23F2 In your view, would you prefer if stores and businesses greet their customers by saying "Merry Christmas," OR would you prefer if stores and businesses use less religious terms such as "Happy Holidays" and "Season's Greetings", or doesn't it matter to you?

42 Prefer "Merry Christmas"
 12 Prefer less religious terms
 45 Doesn't matter
 1 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
 100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:

Q. 24F1 Should displays of Christmas symbols like nativity scenes and Christmas trees be allowed on government property, or not?

ASK IF 'SHOULD BE ALLOWED' (1 IN Q. 24F1) [N=624]:

Q. 25F1 Should displays of Christmas symbols be allowed ONLY if Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and other symbols are also displayed, or is it OK for Christmas symbols to be displayed alone?

83 Should be allowed
 27 Only if other symbols are displayed as well
 44 OK for Christmas symbols to be displayed alone
 10 Doesn't matter/don't care (VOL.)
 2 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
 11 Should not be allowed
 4 Doesn't matter/don't care (VOL.)
 2 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
 100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:

Q. 26F2 As I read a few things about the Christmas holiday season, tell me how much, if at all, each bothers you. First does [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] bother you a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused</u>
a. F2	The commercialization of Christmas	26	26	10	38	*=100
b. F2	Opposition to religious symbols in public places	22	13	8	56	1=100
c. F2	The playing of Christmas music in stores and public places	2	5	6	87	*=100

On a different subject...

Q. 27F2 From what you've seen and heard so far, do you think the Senate should or should not confirm Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court?

		Early Nov <u>2005</u>	<i>Harriet Miers</i> Early Oct <u>2005</u>	<i>John Roberts</i> Mid-Sept <u>2005</u>	Early Sept <u>2005</u>
32	Should	40	33	46	35
19	Should not	23	27	21	19
49	Don't know/Refused	37	40	33	46
100		100	100	100	100

Q. 28F2 Do you worry that Samuel Alito would make the Supreme Court too conservative, not conservative enough, or don't you worry about this?

		Early Nov <u>2005</u>	<i>Harriet Miers</i> Early Oct <u>2005</u>	<i>John Roberts</i> Early Oct <u>2005</u>	<i>Next Supreme Court Appt.</i> July <u>2005⁹</u>
21	Too conservative	25	18	20	31
6	Not conservative enough	6	8	9	19
53	Don't worry about this	56	56	60	44
20	Don't know/Refused	13	18	11	6
100		100	100	100	100

Q. 29F2 If Samuel Alito is confirmed to sit on the Supreme Court, do you think he would vote to OVERTURN the Roe versus Wade decision that established a woman's right to an abortion, or don't you think he would vote to overturn the Roe versus Wade decision?

27	Would vote to overturn Roe v. Wade
26	Would NOT vote to overturn Roe v. Wade
4	Not important / Doesn't matter (VOL.)
43	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q. 30 There is now a new Medicare Law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs. Overall, would you say you strongly approve, approve, DISapprove, or strongly disapprove of the way Medicare will now cover prescription drug costs?

		<u>Dec 2003¹⁰</u>
13	Strongly approve	12
35	Approve	43
20	Disapprove	17
10	Strongly disapprove	10
22	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	18
100		100

⁹ In July 2005 the question was worded "Do you worry that the president's next Supreme Court appointment will make the court ..."

¹⁰ In December 2003 the question was worded "As you may know, Congress passed a new Medicare law that includes some coverage of prescription drug costs and changes the way Medicare covers other medical expenses for senior citizens. Overall, would you say you strongly approve, approve, DISapprove, or strongly disapprove of these recent changes?"

Q. 31 Please tell me what first comes to mind when you think about the new Medicare prescription drug program... 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).

44 NEGATIVE EVALUATIONS (NET)

- 14 Complicated/confusing
- 9 Costly/Expensive (SUB-NET)
 - 3 - Costly to seniors/high deductible/loss of prior coverage/can't afford it
 - 2 - Cost to government/inefficient/deficits/higher taxes
 - 4 - Cost generally
- 3 Scam/boondoggle/drug company/corporate scheme
- 3 Unfair/inequitable
- 3 Doesn't go far enough
- 2 Big government/socialism/welfare/bureaucracy
- 2 Not enough drug choices/limited options
- 9 Other negatives

20 POSITIVE EVALUATIONS (NET)

- 6 Helpful/helps seniors
- 2 Timely/necessary
- 1 Affordability of drugs/cheaper drugs
- 1 Helps low income/poor
- 1 Saves money/efficient
- 10 Other positives

10 NEUTRAL EVALUATIONS (NET)

- 4 Mentions parents/grandparents/older people
- 2 Good step, but not enough
- 1 Not eligible/doesn't affect me/don't want it
- 1 Better than nothing/could be better
- 3 Other Neutral
- 7 All other mentions
- 19 Nothing/Don't know

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:

Q. 32 On balance, do you think the new Medicare prescription drug plan will be very good, good, bad, or very bad for **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

		Very Good	Good	Bad	Very bad	(VOL) Not much affected	DK/ ref.
a. F2	Seniors on Medicare	11	42	21	9	1	16=100
b. F2	Drug companies	22	36	17	3	3	19=100
c. F2	The financial stability of Medicare	5	36	28	7	2	22=100
d. F2	The federal budget deficit	4	23	30	12	6	25=100

ASK ALL:

Q. 33 Are you yourself eligible for the new Medicare prescription drug program?

- 22 Yes, eligible for new Medicare program
- 71 No, not eligible
- 7 Don't know/Refused
- 100

IF 'NO' OR 'DK' (2,9 IN Q. 33) [N=1,129] ASK:

Q. 34 Do you have a close family member who is eligible?

- 45 Yes, close family member is eligible
- 27 No, not eligible
- 6 Don't know/Refused
- 78%

NO QUESTION 35

ASK ALL:

Q. 36 Now thinking about some groups and organizations ... Is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly Unfavorable, or very unfavorable? [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

	---Favorable---			---Unfavorable---			(VOL)	Can't Rate
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never Heard of	
a. Business corporations	57	9	48	35	10	25	*	8=100
Late October, 2005	45	8	37	45	16	29	*	10=100
July, 2005	49	9	40	40	11	29	*	11=100
March, 2002	62	10	52	29	6	23	1	8=100
July, 2001	59	9	50	27	6	21	*	14=100
March, 2001	65	9	56	25	6	19	1	9=100
August, 1999	73	8	65	22	3	19	0	5=100
Early September, 1998	64	9	55	26	5	21	*	10=100
October, 1997	66	11	55	28	5	23	*	6=100
June, 1997	68	8	60	25	7	18	*	7=100
May, 1997	59	9	50	28	7	21	1	12=100
June, 1996	62	10	52	31	6	25	*	7=100
February, 1996	59	9	50	34	10	24	1	6=100
October, 1995	60	6	54	36	7	29	0	4=100
July, 1994	70	8	62	24	5	19	*	6=100
November, 1991	65	8	57	28	6	22	0	7=100
January, 1988	59	6	53	32	5	27	*	9=100
June, 1985	58	8	50	31	7	24	1	10=100
b. The federal government in Washington	46	7	39	49	18	31	*	5=100
Late October, 2005	45	6	39	48	16	32	*	7=100
February, 2004	59	10	49	36	11	25	*	5=100
April, 2003	73	14	59	22	5	17	0	5=100
December, 2002	64	11	53	27	7	20	*	9=100
Mid-November, 2001	82	17	65	15	3	12	0	3=100
Late October, 2000 (RVs)	54	7	47	40	10	30	*	6=100
October, 1997	38	4	34	59	18	41	0	3=100
c. Your state government	57	8	49	37	11	26	*	6=100
December, 2002	62	15	47	31	10	21	1	7=100
Mid-November, 2001	77	15	62	18	4	14	*	5=100
October, 1997	66	10	56	29	7	22	*	5=100
d. Your local government	66	12	54	28	10	18	*	6=100
December, 2002	67	16	51	25	9	16	*	7=100
Mid-November, 2001	78	15	63	17	4	13	*	5=100
October, 1997	68	12	56	25	7	18	*	7=100

Q. 37 And thinking about some major companies, is your overall opinion of [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly Unfavorable, or very unfavorable? [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

	---Favorable---			---Unfavorable---			(VOL)	Can't Rate
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never Heard of	
a. Wal-Mart	65	25	40	30	13	17	1	4=100
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:								
b. F1 Target	76	20	56	14	7	7	1	9=100
c. F1 United Airlines	56	7	49	16	4	12	1	27=100
d. F1 Johnson & Johnson	78	26	52	8	4	4	1	13=100
e. F1 General Motors	66	14	52	24	6	18	*	10=100
f. F1 Google	62	23	39	6	2	4	13	19=100
g. F1 McDonald's	69	19	50	24	9	15	*	7=100

Q. 37 CONTINUED...

		---Favorable---			---Unfavorable---			(VOL)	Can't
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never Heard of	Rate
h. F1	Halliburton	23	5	18	33	17	16	25	19=100
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:									
i. F2	Home Depot	82	26	56	9	2	7	1	8=100
j. F2	Southwest Airlines	60	17	43	12	3	9	2	26=100
k. F2	Pfizer	39	6	33	25	8	17	19	17=100
l. F2	Toyota	72	24	48	14	4	10	1	13=100
m. F2	Microsoft	73	23	50	15	5	10	2	10=100
n. F2	Coca Cola	76	23	53	14	5	9	0	10=100
o. F2	Exxon/Mobil	42	10	32	47	22	25	1	10=100

Thinking about Wal-Mart for a moment...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:

ROTATE Q. 38F1 AND Q. 39F1

Q. 38F1 In your view, what is the BEST thing about Wal-Mart? [OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]

- 82 PRAISE FOR THE STORES AND SERVICES (NET)**
- 50 Low/Good Prices
- 22 Broad selection/variety/one stop shopping
- 10 Convenience/accessibility/location
- 3 24-hour availability
- 1 Return policy
- 6 PRAISE FOR THE COMPANY (NET)**
- 4 Provides jobs
- 1 Employment policy
- 1 Don't shop there
- 3 All other mentions
- 9 Nothing/Don't know

Q. 39F1 In your view, what is the WORST thing about Wal-Mart? [OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO THREE ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]

- 39 CRITICISM OF THE COMPANY (NET)**
- 20 Treat employees unfairly/bad benefits/wages
- 12 Bad for local businesses
- 5 Too large/corporate/monopolistic
- 2 Products not made in America/foreign manufacturing
- 2 Unfair labor practices/hire illegal immigrants
- 32 CRITICISM OF THE STORES AND SERVICES (NET)**
- 15 Poor customer service/too few cashiers/long lines
- 7 Crowded
- 3 Cheap products/poor quality/bad prices
- 3 Too large, physically
- 3 Dirty/disorganized
- 2 Products not in stock/don't have right products
- 10 All other mentions
- 20 Nothing/Don't know

ASK ALL:

Q. 40 Where you live, is there a Wal-Mart near enough to shop at if you wanted to, or not?

- 91 Yes
- 8 No
- 1 Don't know/Refused
- 100

Q. 41 During the past 12 months have you shopped at a Wal-Mart store?

IF SHOPPED AT WAL-MART (1 IN Q. 41), [N=1,244] ASK:

Q. 42 Do you shop at Wal-Mart regularly, or only once in a while?

84	Yes, shopped in past 12 months
42	Regularly
42	Once in a while
*	Don't know/Refused
16	No
*	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

ASK IF WAL-MART NEAR (1 IN Q. 40) [N=1,381]:

Q. 43 Would you say Wal-Mart is a good or bad place for you and your family to shop?

81	Good
13	Bad
5	Neither/No effect (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

Q. 44 Since Wal-Mart arrived in the area where you live, do you think it has had a good or bad effect on the area?

68	Good
19	Bad
8	Neither/No effect (VOL.)
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

ASK ALL:

Q. 45 Overall, do you think that Wal-Mart has had a good or bad effect on the country?

64	Good
24	Bad
4	Neither/No effect (VOL.)
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

Q. 46 Based on what you've seen and heard, do you think Wal-Mart is a good or bad place to work?

56	Good
34	Bad
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

NO QUESTIONS 47-49

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q. 50 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right</u> <u>deci si on</u>	<u>Wrong</u> <u>deci si on</u>	<u>Don' t know/</u> <u>Refused</u>
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

Q. 50 CONTI NUED. . .

	<u>Ri ght deci si on</u>	<u>Wrong deci si on</u>	<u>Don' t know/ Refused</u>
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
Mi d-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mi d-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	9=100

IF 'WRONG DECISION' (2 IN Q. 50) [N=710]:

Q. 51 When you say it was the wrong decision, is that **[READ AND ROTATE]?**

- 74 Mostly because you don't think we should have gone there in the first place
 - OR
 - 19 Mostly because of the way things have turned out since we went there
 - 4 Both (VOL.) **[PROBE ONCE BEFORE ACCEPTING]**
 - 3 Neither (VOL.)
 - * Other (VOL.)
 - * Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

NO QUESTION 52 OR 53

ASK ALL:

Q. 54 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>Don' t know/ Refused</u>
December, 2005	14	37	29	17	3=100
Early October, 2005	9	35	31	22	3=100
Mi d-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
Mi d-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
Mi d-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mi d-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

Q. 54 CONTINUED...	Very well	Fairly well	Not too well	Not at all well	Don't know/Refused
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
April 10-16, 2003	61	32	3	1	3=100
April 8-9, 2003	60	32	3	3	2=100
April 2-7, 2003	55	37	3	2	3=100
March 25-April 1, 2003	39	46	8	2	5=100
March 23-24, 2003	45	41	6	2	6=100
March 20-22, 2003	65	25	2	1	7=100

Q. 55 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 in Iraq	Bring troops home	Don't know/Refused
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 ¹¹	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 "BRING TROOPS HOME" (2 IN Q. 55) [N=635] ASK:

Q. 56 Should the U.S. remove all troops from Iraq immediately, or should the withdrawal of troops be gradual over the next year or two?

17	Remove all troops immediately
28	Gradual withdrawal over the next year or two
1	Don't know/Refused
46%	

NO QUESTION 57 OR 58

ASK ALL:

Q. 59 Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?

	Has a clear plan	Doesn't have a clear plan	Don't know/Refused
December, 2005	28	66	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	30	63	7=100
July, 2005	27	64	9=100
February, 2005	32	61	7=100
Early October, 2004	35	55	10=100
Early September, 2004	36	55	9=100
August, 2004	36	58	6=100
July, 2004	34	59	7=100
June, 2004	37	55	8=100
Late April, 2004	36	54	10=100

¹¹ 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. 59 CONTINUED. . .

	Has a clear <u>plan</u>	Doesn't have <u>a clear plan</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
Early April, 2004	32	57	11=100
December, 2003	44	45	11=100
October, 2003	35	54	11=100
September, 2003	32	58	10=100

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

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

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

	Early Oct <u>2005</u>	Mid-Sep <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>
56 Should set a timetable	52	57	49
38 Should not set a timetable	43	37	45
1 Should get out now (VOL.)	1	1	*
5 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	5	6
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q. 62 Regardless of your feelings about the original decision to use military force, do you now believe that the U.S. will definitely succeed, probably succeed, probably fail, or definitely fail in establishing a stable democratic government in Iraq?

	Late Oct <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>
16 Definitely succeed	12	17
41 Probably succeed	44	43
28 Probably fail	29	25
9 Definitely fail	8	8
6 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	7
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

Q. 63 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, [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]?

	Making <u>progress</u>	Losing <u>ground</u>	(VOL) No <u>change</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
a. Training Iraqi security forces so they can replace U.S. troops	61	27	1	11=100
b. Reducing the number of civilian casualties there	35	53	3	9=100
c. Preventing terrorists from using Iraq as a base for attacks against the U.S. and its allies	48	41	2	9=100
d. Defeating the insurgents militarily	44	41	3	12=100
e. Establishing democracy in Iraq	58	32	2	8=100
f. Preventing a civil war between various religious and ethnic groups	36	49	3	12=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:

Q. 64F1 If the U.S. were to withdraw its troops from Iraq soon, do you think terrorist organizations there will become stronger, will become weaker, or would they not be affected as a result of the withdrawal? **[READ]**

58	Stronger
13	Weaker
22	Would not be affected
7	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:

Q. 65F2 If the U.S. continues to keep troops in Iraq, do you think terrorist organizations there will become stronger, will become weaker, or would they not be affected as a result of America's continued presence there? **[READ]**

30	Stronger
36	Weaker
29	Would not be affected
5	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

Q. 66F2 On December 15th, Iraq is scheduled to have its first nationwide election to choose officials in the new government. How much have you heard about this... A lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused</u>
December, 2005	22	57	20	1=100
Nationwide Oct 15th Vote on Constitution¹²				
Early November, 2005 (<i>After vote</i>)	22	52	25	1=100
Early October, 2005 (<i>Before vote</i>)	21	50	28	1=100
Nationwide Jan 30th Elections				
February, 2005 (<i>After elections</i>)	52	41	7	*=100
January, 2005 (<i>Before elections</i>)	46	40	13	1=100
Handover of Civilian Authority to Iraqi Leaders				
June, 2004 (<i>Before handover</i>)	42	40	17	1=100

Q. 67F2 Do you think the upcoming election will lead to a MORE stable situation, a LESS stable situation, or will the situation in Iraq not change much?

	<u>More Stable</u>	<u>Less Stable</u>	<u>Situation will not change much</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
December, 2005	37	9	47	7=100
Nationwide Oct 15th Vote on Constitution¹³				
Early November, 2005 (<i>After Vote</i>)	30	6	56	8=100
Early October, 2005 (<i>Before Vote</i>)	29	10	51	10=100
Nationwide Jan 30th Elections				
February, 2005 (<i>After elections</i>)	47	7	40	6=100
January, 2005 (<i>Before elections</i>)	29	14	49	8=100

¹² In Early November 2005 the question was worded: "A few weeks ago, Iraq held a nationwide vote on the country's constitution..." In Early October 2005 the question was worded: "On October 15th, Iraq is scheduled to have a nationwide vote on the country's proposed constitution..." In February 2005 the question was worded: "Iraq recently held its first nationwide elections..." In January 2005 question was worded "On January 30th, Iraq is scheduled to have its first nationwide elections..." In June 2004 the question was worded: "On June 30th, the U.S. is planning to hand over civilian authority to Iraqi leaders..."

¹³ In Early November 2005 the question was worded: "In this election, the Iraqi people voted "yes" on the new constitution. Do you think this will lead to..." In Early October 2005 the question was worded: "If the proposed constitution is approved..." In January and February 2005 the question was worded "All in all, do you think the January elections in Iraq will lead to a MORE stable situation, a LESS stable situation, or will the situation in Iraq not change much?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:

Q.68F1 From what you've read and heard, how would you describe the current violence in Iraq, is it... **[READ AND ROTATE]**

- 30 Mostly a civil war between competing factions in Iraq
- OR
- 58 Mostly an insurgency aimed against the U.S. and its allies
- 12 Don't know/Refused
- 100

NO QUESTION 69

ASK ALL:

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

<i>Trend</i>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL)	(VOL)	Don't know
				No Preference	Other Party	
December, 2005	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
Late November, 2005	27	34	29	5	1	4=100
Early November, 2005	28	34	31	5	*	2=100
Late October, 2005	29	33	31	5	*	2=100
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	*	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Late March, 2005	29	32	36	2	*	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
February, 2005	31	32	30	4	1	2=100
January, 2005	32	33	30	4	*	1=100
December, 2004	31	34	30	3	*	2=100

<i>Yearly Totals</i>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL)	(VOL)	Don't know
				No Preference	Other Party	
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No Preference/ Other/DK
1996	29	33	33	5=100
1995	32	30	34	4=100
1994	30	32	34	4=100
1993	27	34	34	5=100
1992	28	33	35	4=100
1991	31	32	33	4=100
1990	31	33	30	6=100

	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Independent/ No Pref/Oth/DK</u>
1989	33	33	34=100
1987	26	35	39=100

IF ANSWERED 1 IN PARTY, ASK [N=480]:

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

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

IF ANSWERED 2 IN PARTY, ASK [N=495]:

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

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

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, [N=527] ASK:

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

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

ASK IF REPUBLICAN OR LEAN REPUBLICAN (1 IN PARTY OR 1 IN PARTYLN) [N=639]:

Q. 70 Thinking about next year's congressional elections, do you think the Republican Party will do better, worse, or about the same as it has in recent elections?

17	Better
20	Worse
55	About the same
8	Don't know/Refused
100	

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

Q. 71 Thinking about next year's congressional elections, do you think the Democratic Party will do better, worse, or about the same as it has in recent elections?

62	Better
1	Worse
31	About the same
6	Don't know/Refused
100	