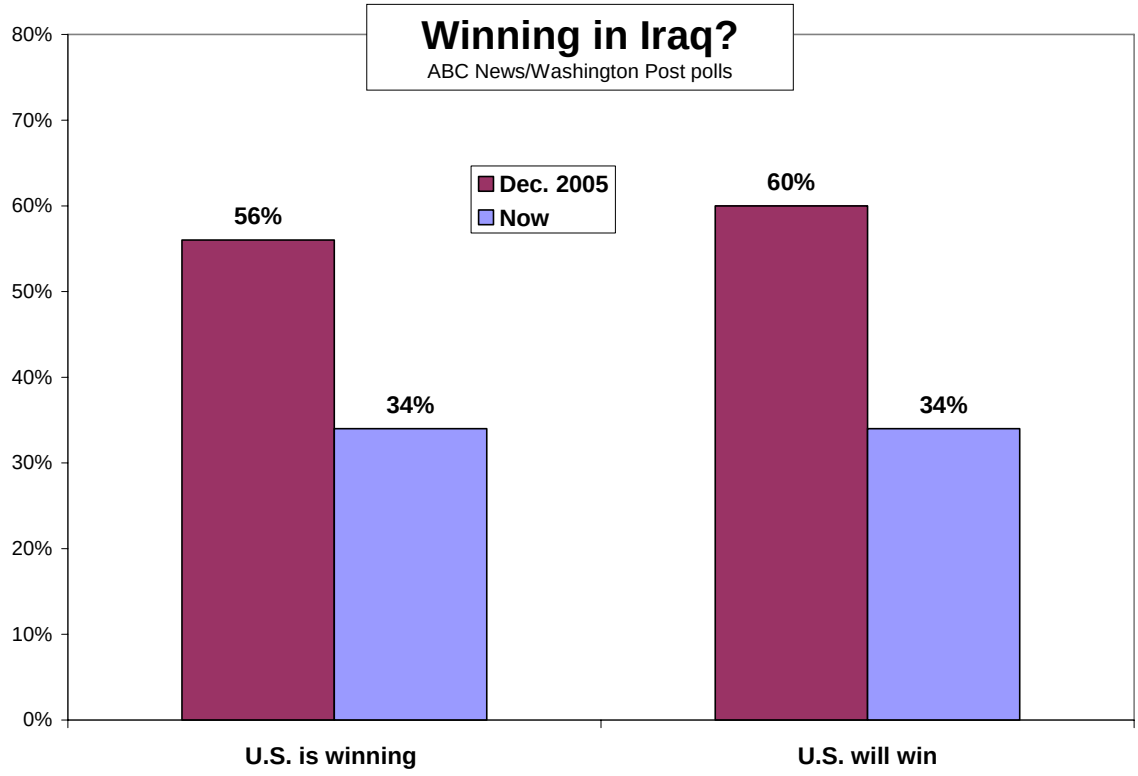
ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL: WAR and POLITICS – 12/11/06
EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006

A Skeptical and War-Weary Public Doubts Bush Will Change Course on Iraq

Barely over a third of Americans expect the United States to win the war in Iraq, a bleak assessment that's chasing the Bush administration into ever-deeper political disfavor.

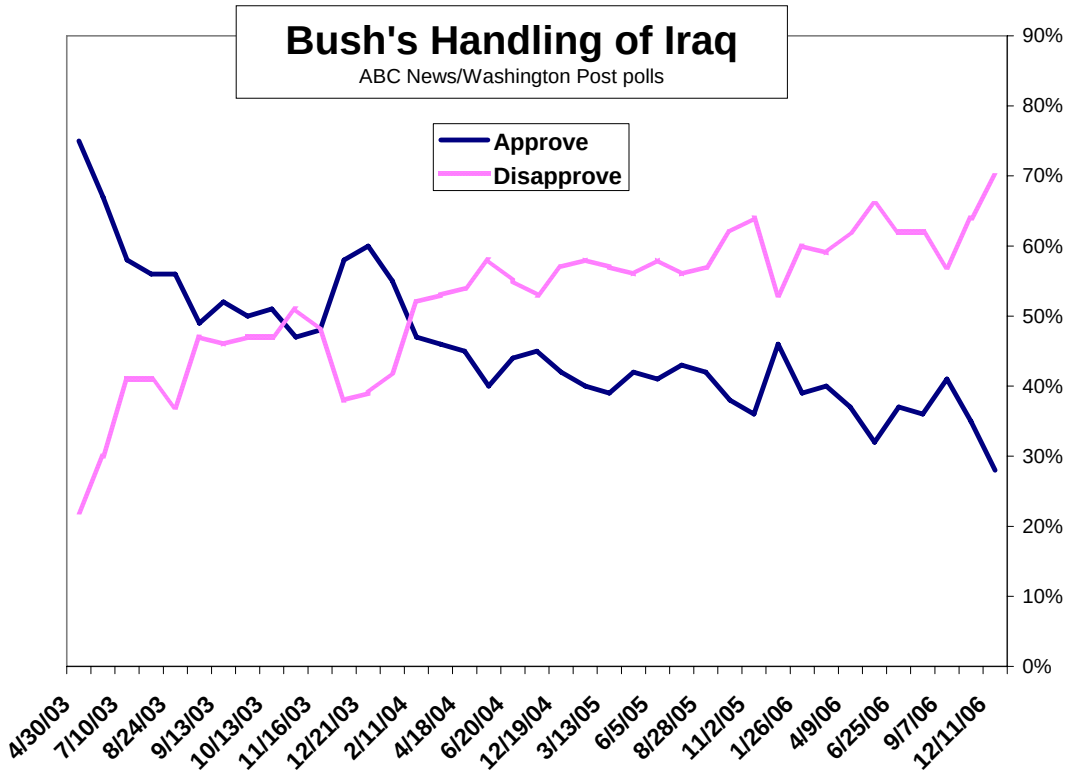
As he struggles to find a new course, George W. Bush faces a skeptical and war-weary public: Not only do a record 70 percent disapprove of his handling of the situation in Iraq, but two-thirds also think that – despite last week's prodding by the Iraq Study Group and his current deliberations – he's not willing enough to change his war policies.



Sixty-one percent now say the war was not worth fighting, over six in 10 for only the third time in ABC News/Washington Post polls. Driven down by that discontent, Bush's overall job approval rating stands at just 36 percent, while 62 percent disapprove – the second-worst rating of his career, this time without soaring gasoline prices to blame.

The intensity of these negative sentiments is remarkable: A record 57 percent "strongly" disapprove of Bush's handling of Iraq, 50 percent strongly feel the war was not worth fighting and a record 49 percent strongly disapprove of his job performance overall,

compared with just 18 percent who strongly approve. His strong disapproval is 16 points worse than Bill Clinton's worst, just before the 1994 midterm elections; and 15 points worse than Bush's father's worst, in the economic discontent of 1992.



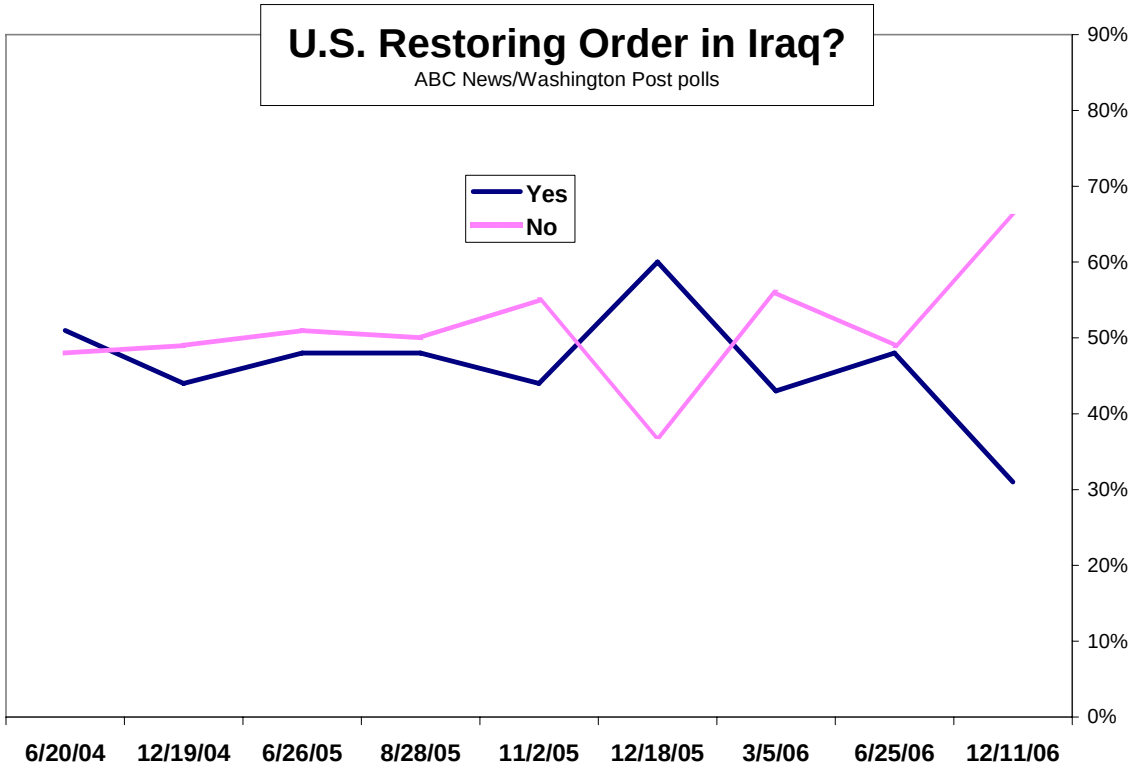
WAR WOES – A year ago 60 percent of Americans thought the United States ultimately would win the war in Iraq. Today just 34 percent think so, a dramatic dive in confidence. Forty-six percent instead now expect to lose the war, and 11 percent expect a draw.

Views on the current situation, as opposed to expectations, are similar: Just 34 percent think the United States is winning, down 22 points from a year ago. Most instead think it's outright losing (52 percent) or fighting to a draw (nine percent).

These views heavily impact broader sentiment. People who expect the United States to win the war are much more likely to say it's worth fighting, to approve of how Bush is handling it, and to approve of his job performance overall, a result that's significant even when controlled for political partisanship.

The Iraq Study Group's proposals offer a glimmer of light; its key elements are broadly popular. So does the Democrats' newly won control of Congress, itself a consequence of unhappiness with the war: Americans by a wide margin, 56-32 percent, trust the Democrats more than Bush to handle Iraq policy. Two years ago those numbers were reversed; a 20-point Bush advantage in trust on Iraq after the 2004 election is a 24-point deficit today.

Part of Bush's problem in Iraq is apparent on the ground: Just three in 10 Americans now say the United States is making significant progress restoring civil order there, down 17 points since June. Eighty-six percent say Iraq either is in a civil war, or close to it.



Another of the administration's problems is its own credibility: Fifty-two percent think it intentionally misled the American public in making its case for war. Indeed 53 percent favor Congressional hearings into how the administration handled prewar intelligence and war planning; about as many favor hearings into surveillance and the treatment of prisoners in the broader U.S. campaign against terrorism.

Yet, given demands for a solution, there's danger for the Democrats as well. Iraq is far atop the public's agenda; 44 percent volunteer it as the single most important problem for Bush and the Congress to handle, up a dozen points from a year ago and far outstripping all other mentions. But while 72 percent say Bush lacks a clear plan on Iraq (a record, up 11 points from September), 65 percent say the Democrats don't have one, either.

STUDY GROUP – Enter the Iraq Study Group. General responses to its proposals are cautious; 46 percent support them overall (32 percent are withholding judgment); just 32 percent say it offers a clear plan (28 percent wait-and-see). But specific, central elements of its proposals win broad majority support:

-Seventy-nine percent favor shifting from primarily a combat mission in Iraq to primarily a mission to support and train the Iraqi Army;

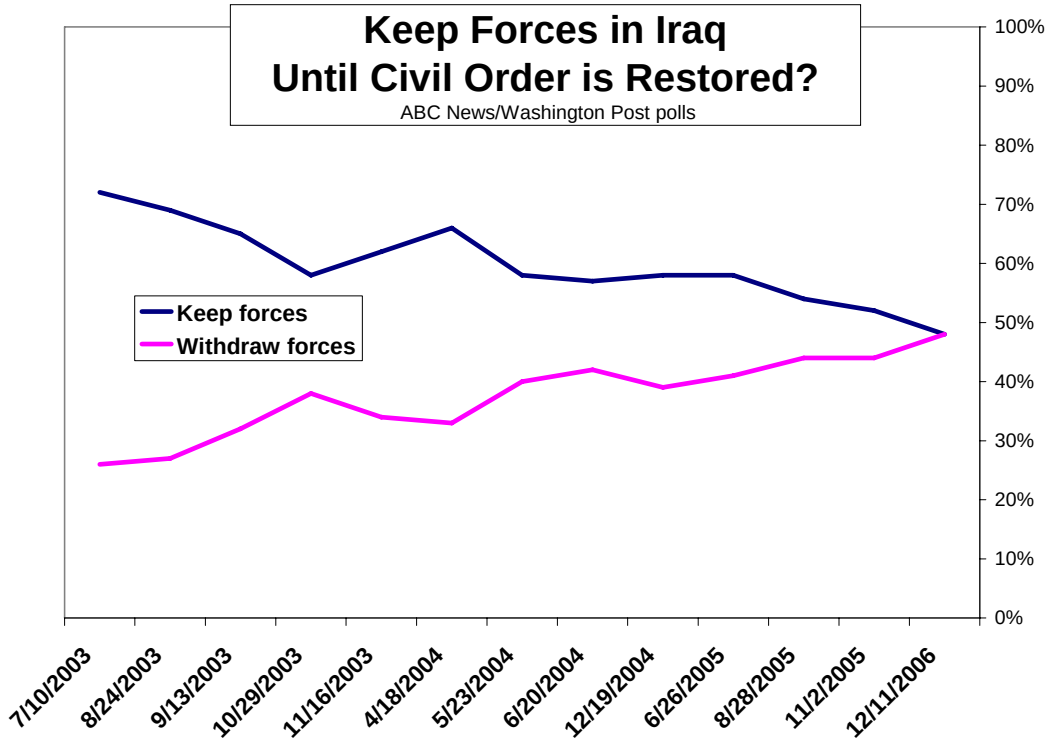
-Seventy-four percent support reducing military and financial support for the Iraqi government if it fails to make progress establishing civil order;

-Sixty-nine percent support withdrawing almost all U.S. combat forces by early 2008, while retaining military training forces (among those who oppose this timetable, just over half do so because they want to see faster withdrawal); and

-Majorities support including direct U.S. talks with Iran (57 percent) and Syria (58 percent) as part of a regional dialogue, even though the United States has identified those countries as sponsors of terrorism.

Notably, these ISG proposals hold bipartisan support in what has been a heavily partisan debate. Eighty-five percent of Republicans favor switching to a training mission, as do more than three-quarters of independents and Democrats. Sixty-five percent of Republicans favor substantial withdrawal by early 2008, as do as many independents and slightly more Democrats. More than seven in 10 Americans across partisan lines support performance-based aid for Iraq; majorities likewise support talks with Iran and Syria.

Whether the ISG notion will work is more debatable: Just 41 percent of Americans think the United States is making significant progress in training and equipping the Iraqi army to be an effective force. And the public divides about evenly in their confidence the Iraqis themselves ultimately will be able to defeat the insurgents in their country.



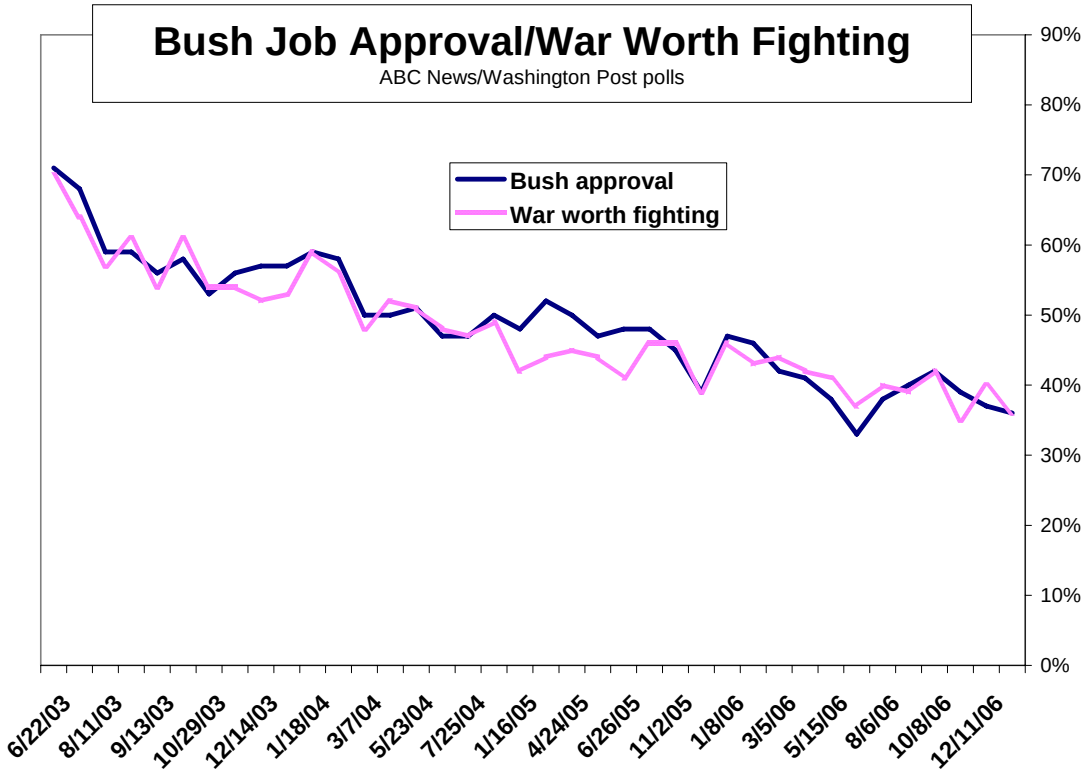
WITHDRAWAL – For all the public's discontent with the war, relatively few Americans call for immediate withdrawal from Iraq. At the same time, the level of commitment to pacify the country before pulling out has diminished – potentially a significant demarcation in public sentiment on ultimately withdrawing U.S. forces.

For the first time in ABC/Post polls, just under half of Americans (48 percent) now say the United States should remain in Iraq until civil order is restored, even if that means sustaining continued U.S. casualties. Until now majorities had expressed that "broke-it/bought-it" sentiment, from a high of 72 percent in summer 2003 to a low of 52 percent a year ago.

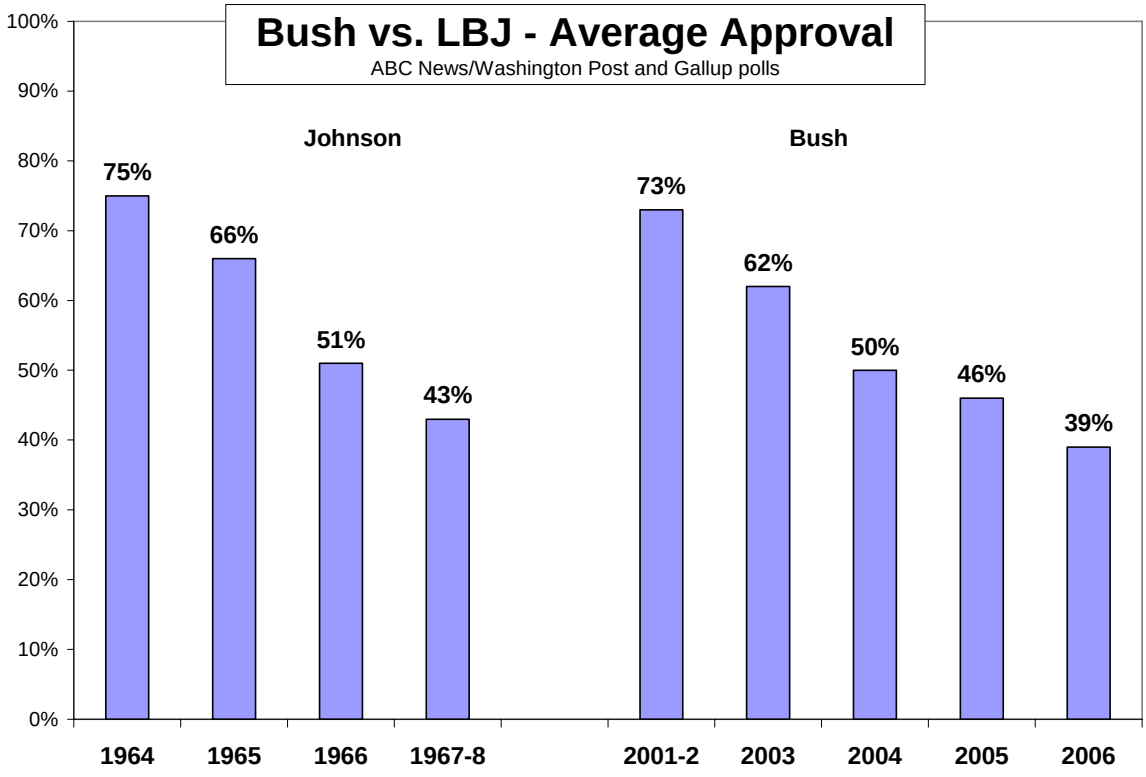
This view, like most on Iraq, reverts to heavy partisanship: Seventy-two percent of Republicans want to stay until order is restored; that drops to 49 percent of independents, and further to just 29 percent of Democrats.

More generally, while 52 percent of Americans favor decreasing U.S. forces in Iraq, that includes just 15 percent who want them all withdrawn immediately – about the same number as favor the opposite tack, increasing the deployment. A quarter say the current deployment should remain about the same; all these numbers have been steady lately.

WAR and APPROVAL– The root cause of Bush's woes is unmistakable – his overall approval rating has moved in tandem with views of whether the war has been worth fighting. The two correlate almost perfectly, at .94, where 1 is an exact match.



The same sort of drop in approval occurred in Lyndon B. Johnson's presidency: His year-to-year decline in popularity as the country became enmeshed in Vietnam almost precisely matches Bush's year-to-year decline during the Iraq war. The parallels are striking.



Support for the war is down to Bush's base: Republicans, conservatives and evangelical white Protestants are the only groups in which majorities say it was worth fighting. And in this groups, as in all others, majorities call the level of U.S. casualties unacceptable (77 percent overall say so, a new high, albeit, as in several other cases of new highs or lows, by a single point).

PARTISANS – While the ISG's proposals get bipartisan support, most other views are marked by the extreme partisanship of recent years. In one striking example, 75 percent of Democrats and 58 percent of independents think the administration intentionally misled the public on Iraq; 82 percent of Republicans think not.

Similarly, 69 percent of Republicans say the Iraq war was worth fighting; 65 percent of independents and 81 percent of Democrats say not. And Bush retains a 77-percent overall job approval within his party; that plummets to 30 percent among independents and 12 percent among Democrats.

But all is not well even in Bush's base. His approval rating from Republicans specifically on handling Iraq has dropped from 77 percent in October to 65 percent now – a point

from its low in May. And four in 10 Republicans think he's not willing enough to change course on Iraq. That soars to seven in 10 independents, and among Democrats, even higher.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Dec.7-11, 2006, among a random national sample of 1,005 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html.

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	Approve			Disapprove			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
12/11/06	36	18	18	62	13	49	2
11/4/06	40	24	16	57	12	46	2
10/22/06	37	21	16	60	15	45	3
10/8/06	39	23	16	60	12	48	1
9/7/06	42	24	18	55	12	43	3
8/6/06	40	23	17	58	12	46	2
6/25/06	38	20	18	60	12	48	2
5/15/06	33	17	16	65	18	47	2
4/9/06	38	20	18	60	13	47	1
3/5/06	41	24	17	58	14	44	1
1/26/06	42	25	18	56	14	42	2
1/8/06	46	29	17	52	13	39	2
12/18/05	47	29	17	52	12	40	1
11/2/05	39	20	18	60	13	47	1
10/29/05	39	22	17	58	13	45	3
9/11/05	42	27	15	57	12	45	1
8/28/05	45	27	18	53	12	41	2
6/26/05	48	27	21	51	11	40	1
6/5/05	48	27	21	52	14	38	1
4/24/05	47	25	22	50	13	38	3
3/13/05	50	31	19	48	11	37	3
1/31/05	50	34	15	45	11	34	5
1/16/05	52	33	19	46	11	35	2
12/19/04	48	27	21	49	12	38	2
10/20/04	50	30	20	46	11	35	4
10/17/04 LV	54	35	19	45	9	36	2
10/16/04 LV	54	35	19	44	10	34	2
10/15/04 LV	54	35	19	44	10	34	2
10/3/04 LV	53	36	17	46	11	34	1
9/26/04	50	33	18	45	13	32	5
9/8/04	52	35	17	43	11	32	5
8/29/04	50	31	19	47	13	34	3
8/1/04	47	28	18	49	13	36	5
7/25/04	50	32	19	47	13	34	3
7/11/04	48	31	17	50	11	39	2

6/20/04		47	30	17	51	13	39	1
5/23/04		47	31	17	50	14	36	3
4/18/04		51	33	18	47	13	34	1
3/7/04		50	32	18	48	12	36	2
2/11/04		50	30	21	47	14	34	2
1/18/04		58	35	24	40	9	30	2
12/21/03		59	39	21	38	15	23	3
12/14/03		57	37	20	39	10	29	5
12/7/03		53	32	21	40	13	27	7
11/16/03		57	34	23	39	11	28	4
10/29/03		56	30	26	42	13	29	2
10/13/03		53	33	20	43	13	29	4
9/30/03		54	34	20	44	15	29	2
9/13/03		58	35	23	40	14	27	2
9/7/03		56	34	22	41	13	28	4
8/11/03		59	37	22	37	14	23	4
7/10/03		59	35	24	38	13	25	3
6/22/03		68	45	23	29	11	18	4
4/30/03		71	50	22	26	17	9	3
4/16/03		74	52	22	23	9	14	3
4/9/03		77	58	19	20	6	14	4
4/3/03		71	54	16	25	7	19	4
3/23/03		68	NA	NA	27	NA	NA	4
3/20/03		67	NA	NA	28	NA	NA	5
3/2/03		62	38	23	35	13	22	4
2/23/03		60	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	6
2/9/03		64	42	21	34	14	20	3
2/1/03		62	41	21	34	13	22	4
1/28/03		62	43	19	36	13	23	2
1/27/03		59	39	21	37	15	22	4
1/20/03		59	36	23	38	16	22	2
12/15/02		66	37	28	32	12	20	2
11/4/02	LV	67	45	23	31	12	20	1
11/3/02	LV	67	45	22	32	12	20	1
11/2/02	LV	67	47	20	32	9	23	1
10/27/02		67	39	28	29	13	16	4
9/26/02		67	42	25	30	12	18	3
9/8/02		71	42	28	27	12	15	3
7/28/02		69	39	31	28	14	14	3
7/15/02		72	42	31	25	12	13	2
6/17/02		74	42	32	22	9	13	4
6/9/02		77	41	36	20	9	11	3
5/19/02		76	48	28	22	8	13	3
4/21/02		78	47	31	20	9	10	2
3/28/02		79	49	30	18	8	10	3
3/10/02		82	52	30	16	9	7	2
1/27/02		83	56	27	14	7	7	3
12/19/01		86	64	22	12	6	6	2
11/27/01		89	69	21	9	4	5	1
11/6/01		89	65	24	9	5	4	2
10/9/01		92	76	16	6	3	3	1
9/27/01		90	70	20	6	3	3	4
9/13/01		86	63	23	12	5	6	2
9/9/01		55	26	29	41	20	22	3
8/12/01		61	28	33	31	14	17	8
7/30/01		59	28	30	38	17	22	3
6/3/01		55	27	28	40	18	22	6
4/22/01		63	33	30	32	16	16	5
3/25/01		58	NA	NA	33	NA	NA	8
2/25/01		55	NA	NA	23	NA	NA	22

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling (ITEM)?

12/11/06 - Summary Table

	Approve	Disapprove	No op.
a. The situation in Iraq	28	70	2
b. The US campaign against terrorism	46	52	2
c. The economy	43	55	2
d. Ethics in government	39	56	5

Trend:

a. The situation in Iraq

	-------- Approve --------			------- Disapprove ------			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
12/11/06	28	12	16	70	13	57	2
10/8/06	35	21	14	64	10	54	1
9/7/06	41	25	16	57	10	47	2
8/6/06	36	21	15	62	10	52	2
6/25/06	37	21	17	62	11	52	*
5/15/06	32	19	13	66	13	53	1
4/9/06	37	21	16	62	11	51	1
3/5/06	40	23	17	59	12	47	*
1/26/06	39	24	15	60	10	50	1
12/18/05	46	31	15	53	10	43	1
11/2/05	36	20	15	64	13	51	1
9/11/05	38	NA	NA	62	NA	NA	1
8/28/05	42	28	14	57	11	46	1
6/26/05	43	25	18	56	12	44	1
6/5/05	41	NA	NA	58	NA	NA	1
4/24/05	42			56			2
3/13/05	39			57			4
1/16/05	40			58			2
12/19/04	42			57			1
9/26/04 RV	47			50			3
8/29/04 RV	47			51			2
7/25/04	45			53			2
6/20/04	44			55			2
5/23/04	40			58			2
4/18/04	45			54			1
3/7/04	46			53			1
2/11/04	47			52			1
1/18/04	55			42			2
12/21/03	60			39			2
12/14/03	58			38			4
11/16/03	48			48			4
10/29/03	47			51			2
10/13/03	51			47			2
9/29/03	50			47			3
9/13/03	52			46			2
9/7/03	49			47			4
8/24/03	56			37			7
8/11/03	56			41			3
7/10/03	58			41			2
6/22/03	67			30			2
4/30/03	75	"	"	22	"	"	2
3/27/03*	69			26			5
3/23/03	71			26			3
3/20/03	65			29			5
3/17/03	64			29			7
3/9/03	55			38			8
2/23/03	55			39			6
2/9/03	61			37			2
2/5/03	61			32			7

2/1/03		61			35		3
1/28/03		58			38		4
1/27/03		57			40		3
1/20/03		50			46		4
12/15/02		58			37		5
11/4/02	LV	56			40		4
11/3/02	LV	57			40		4
11/2/02	LV	56			41		3
10/27/02		57			38		5
9/26/02		58			39		3
9/14/02		65			31		4
8/29/02		52	"	"	36	"	"	12

*3/27/03 and previous: "The situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein"

b. The US campaign against terrorism

		Approve			Disapprove			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
12/11/06		46	NA	NA	52	NA	NA	2
10/8/06		45	29	16	53	13	40	1
9/7/06		53	33	19	45	14	31	2
8/6/06		47	NA	NA	50	NA	NA	2
6/25/06		51	NA	NA	47	NA	NA	2
5/15/06		53	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	4
4/9/06		50	32	18	49	15	34	1
3/5/06		52	NA	NA	46	NA	NA	2
1/26/06		52			45			2
1/8/06		53			45			2
12/18/05		56			44			1
11/2/05		48			51			1
9/11/05		50	"	"	47	"	"	3
8/28/05		56	34	21	43	14	29	2
6/5/05		50	NA	NA	49	NA	NA	1
4/24/05		56			41			3
3/13/05		59			38			3
1/16/05		61			38			2
12/19/04		53			43			3
9/26/04	RV	59			38			3
8/29/04	RV	60			37			3
7/25/04		57			40			4
6/20/04		50			48			2
5/23/04		58			39			4
4/18/04		63			35			2
3/7/04		63			34			3
2/11/04		64			34			2
1/18/04		66			33			2
12/21/03		70			28			2
10/29/03		63			35			2
10/13/03		66			30			4
9/13/03		70			27			3
9/7/03		67			28			5
4/30/03		79			19			2
2/9/03		74			23			4
2/1/03		75			21			3
1/27/03		72			26			2
1/20/03		71			25			4
12/15/02		79			20			1
11/4/02	LV	76			22			1
11/3/02	LV	77			22			3
11/2/02	LV	78			21			2
10/27/02		74			23			4
9/26/02		70			28			2
9/8/02		74			24			2

7/28/02	81			17			2
7/15/02	83	"	"	15	"	"	2
5/19/02	79	51	27	19	10	9	3
4/21/02	81	56	25	18	10	7	2
3/10/02	88	64	24	10	5	5	2
1/27/02	88	NA	NA	10	NA	NA	2
12/19/01	89	67	22	9	5	4	2
10/15/01	92	75	17	5	3	3	3

c. The economy

	-------- Approve --------			------- Disapprove ------			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
12/11/06	43	NA	NA	55	NA	NA	2
10/8/06	41	NA	NA	56	NA	NA	2
8/6/06	39	NA	NA	59	NA	NA	2
6/25/06	38	NA	NA	61	NA	NA	1
5/15/06	38	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	2
4/9/06	40	20	21	59	18	41	1
3/5/06	48	NA	NA	51	NA	NA	1
1/26/06	46			52			1
12/18/05	47			52			1
11/2/05	36			61			3
9/11/05	40			58			2
8/28/05	44			54			3
6/5/05	40			58			2
4/24/05	40			57			3
3/13/05	43			55			2
1/16/05	46			52			2
12/19/04	46			51			3
9/26/04 RV	47			50			4
8/29/04 RV	45			52			3
7/25/04	47			50			3
6/20/04	46			53			1
5/23/04	44			54			2
4/18/04	44			54			2
3/7/04	39			59			1
2/11/04	44			54			2
1/18/04	51			47			2
12/21/03	51			44			5
11/16/03	48			49			3
10/29/03	45			53			2
10/13/03	45			52			2
9/13/03	42			56			3
9/7/03	44			51			5
8/11/03	45			51			5
7/10/03	47			49			4
4/30/03	52			45			3
2/9/03	47			49			4
2/1/03	44			52			4
1/28/03	46			49			4
1/27/03	47			47			5
1/20/03	43			53			4
1/5/03	50			43			7
12/15/02	50			46			4
11/4/02 LV	53			45			2
11/3/02 LV	52			46			2
11/2/02 LV	55			43			2
10/27/02	51			43			6
9/26/02	51			47			3
9/8/02	57			40			4
7/28/02	57			39			4
7/15/02	58			38			3

4/21/02	64			33			3
1/27/02	62			34			4
12/19/01	67			27			6
11/6/01	72			23			5
9/9/01	48			48			4
7/30/01	52			45			3
6/3/01	53			41			6
4/22/01	55			38			7
3/25/01	50	"	"	42	"	"	8

d. Ethics in government

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
12/11/06	39	56	5
5/15/06	39	54	7
3/5/06	40	54	6
1/26/06	42	56	2
1/8/06	45	52	3
12/18/05	48	49	3

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is doing its job?

	-------- Approve --------			------- Disapprove ------			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
12/11/06	37	NA	NA	57	NA	NA	6
11/4/06 RV	36	7	29	60	25	35	4
10/22/06	31	5	25	65	27	38	4
10/8/06	32	5	27	66	29	37	2
9/7/06	40	NA	NA	55	NA	NA	5
8/6/06	36			60			4
5/15/06	33			63			4
4/9/06	35			62			3
3/5/06	36			62			3
1/26/06	43			53			4
1/8/06	41			55			5
12/18/05	43			53			4
11/2/05	37			59			4
8/28/05	37			59			4
6/5/05	41			54			4
10/29/03	40			52			9
4/30/03	57			37			6
9/26/02	51			43			6
7/15/02	57			36			7
2/21/02	57			39			4
1/27/02	58			35			7
12/19/01	59			34			7
9/9/01	45			48			7
7/30/01	48			48			4
4/22/01	58			33			8
10/31/99	42			53			6
9/2/99	46			47			7
6/6/99	48			46			6
3/14/99	44			49			7
2/14/99	46			50			4
12/20/98	44			51			5
12/19/98	45			50			5
12/13/98	49			46			5
11/7/98	41			55			4
11/1/98	49			47			5
10/25/98	45			44			11
10/18/98	46			45			8
9/28/98	52			44			4

8/21/98	55			39			6
7/12/98	46			44			11
5/12/98	45			45			9
4/4/98	47			45			8
1/31/98	55			35			10
1/30/98	55			35			10
1/25/98	56			37			8
1/24/98	55			38			7
1/19/98	47			49			5
10/13/97	36			57			7
8/27/97	39			54			7
7/8/97	40			53			6
4/24/97	40			53			7
3/9/97	35			60			5
8/5/96	42			52			7
6/30/96	35			58			7
5/22/96	35			60			5
3/10/96	30			64			6
1/7/96	31			65			5
11/19/95	27			68			5
10/1/95	32			65			3
7/17/95	34			63			3
3/19/95	39			56			5
1/29/95	42			52			6
10/31/94	21			72			8
10/23/94	18			78			4
9/11/94	24			70			5
6/26/94	34			61			5
3/27/94	35			62			3
2/27/94	32			64			4
1/23/94	29			60			11
11/14/93	28			66			6
8/8/93	33			64			3
4/26/93	30			69			2
1/17/93	29			66			6
4/9/92	17			78			5
3/18/92	19			76			5
3/8/92	22			73			6
2/2/92	32			64			4
12/15/91	35			59			6
10/21/91	45			50			5
6/2/91	49			46			5
10/14/90	34			63			3
2/4/90	41			55			4
1/16/90	39			55			6
8/21/89	42			53			5
5/23/89	54			44			2
2/14/89	53			44			3
1/23/88*	43			53			4
6/1/87	56			40			4
6/22/85	54			37			9
5/83	33			43			24
6/81	38			40			22
6/79	19			61			20
9/78	29			49			22
6/77	34			42			24
6/75	29			54			17
8/74	48	"	"	35	"	"	17

*1/23/88 and previous: Gallup

4. What would you say is the one most important problem you would like to see Bush and the Congress deal with next year?

	12/11/06	12/18/05
Iraq/War in Iraq	44	32
Economy	10	15
Health care	6	11
Immigration	5	6
Terrorism/War on terrorism/ Homeland security	4	5
Education	4	3
Medicare	1	3
Social Security	2	3
Jobs/Unemployment	3	2
Taxes	2	2
Gasoline prices/Energy prices	3	2
Federal budget deficit	*	1
Environment	1	1
Poverty/Homelessness/Hunger	2	1
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in Government	2	1
Crime/drugs	1	1
Prescription drug benefits	*	*
Global warming/Greenhouse effect	1	*
None	0	1
Other	6	6
No opinion	4	3

5. Overall, who do you trust to do a better job coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years, (Bush) or (the Democrats in Congress)?

	Bush	Democrats	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
12/11/06	31	57	1	8	2
1/18/04	45	44	1	6	3
4/30/03	55	37	1	4	3
10/27/02 LV	53	37	1	5	4
9/26/02 LV	52	43	2	1	1
9/26/02	54	38	3	3	3
7/15/02	53	37	4	3	3
1/27/02	62	31	2	3	2

Compare to: Who do you trust to do a better job coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next year - Clinton or the Republicans in Congress?

	Clinton	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opin.
1/26/00	45	46	*	7	2
2/14/99*	52	35	2	7	3
2/12/99	53	30	3	11	4
1/19/99	50	32	3	8	7
11/7/98	47	38	4	9	2
9/28/98	51	38	2	6	3
8/21/98	48	38	2	9	3
7/12/98	48	38	1	6	6
5/12/98	47	39	3	8	3
1/31/98	52	35	3	4	6
1/19/98	48	40	2	8	2
3/9/97	49	38	4	8	2
1/15/97**	51	37	3	7	2
1/29/95	40	46	4	8	2
1/4/95	30	54	3	9	4
12/15/94	34	49	3	9	6

*1999 and previous: "next few years"
** "The Clinton administration"

6. Who do you trust to do a better job handling (ITEM), (Bush) or (the Democrats in Congress)?

a. The situation in Iraq

	Bush	Dems	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opin.
12/11/06	32	56	1	7	3
1/18/04	56	36	1	4	3
4/30/03	72	20	2	3	3

6 b-f-10. Held for release.

11. (HALF SAMPLE) Do you think Congress should or should not hold hearings on how the Bush administration handled pre-war intelligence, war planning, and related issues in the war in Iraq?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
12/11/06	53	44	3

12. (HALF SAMPLE) Do you think Congress should or should not hold hearings on how the Bush administration has handled surveillance, treatment of prisoners and related issues in the U.S. campaign against terrorism?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
12/11/06	52	45	3

13. All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not?

	----- Worth fighting ----			--- Not worth fighting --			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	op.
12/11/06	36	25	11	61	12	50	2
11/4/06 RV	44	33	12	53	10	44	2
10/22/06	40	28	12	57	11	47	2
10/8/06	35	25	10	63	13	50	2
9/7/06	42	29	13	56	11	45	2
8/6/06	39	29	10	59	12	47	1
6/25/06	40	25	15	58	13	45	2
5/15/06	37	24	14	62	12	50	1
4/9/06	41	30	11	58	10	48	1
3/5/06	42	29	14	57	11	46	1
1/26/06	44	32	12	55	13	42	1
1/8/06	43	30	13	55	12	43	2
12/18/05	46	33	14	52	11	42	1
11/2/05	39	25	13	60	12	48	1
8/28/05	46	33	12	53	9	44	1
6/26/05	46	33	13	53	10	43	1
6/5/05	41	29	12	58	12	46	1
4/24/05	44	31	13	54	12	42	2
3/13/05	45	34	11	53	11	42	2
1/16/05	44	32	12	55	10	45	1
12/19/04	42	31	11	56	10	47	2
10/3/04 LV	49	34	15	48	11	37	3
9/26/04 RV	46	35	12	51	8	42	3

9/8/04	RV	51	38	13	45	10	34	4
8/29/04	RV	48	34	14	50	11	39	2
7/25/04		49	36	13	48	11	37	3
6/20/04		47	32	14	52	13	39	2
5/23/04		48	35	13	50	13	37	1
5/6/04		49	NA	NA	47	NA	NA	5
4/18/04		51			47			2
3/7/04		52			44			3
2/11/04		48			50			2
1/18/04		56			41			3
12/21/03		59			39			2
12/14/03		53			42			5
11/16/03		52			44			4
10/29/03		54			44			2
10/13/03		54			44			2
9/13/03		61			37			2
9/7/03		54			42			4
8/24/03		57			37			5
8/11/03		61			35			4
7/10/03		57			40			3
6/22/03		64			33			3
4/30/03		70	"	"	27	"	"	4
2/2/92*		66	NA	NA	32	NA	NA	2
7/28/91		67			30			3
6/2/91		70			26			3
3/4/91		86	"	"	13	"	"	1

*2/2/92 and previous: "the Persian Gulf war"; 3/4/91: "this war"

14. Again thinking about the goals versus the costs of the war, so far in your opinion has there been an acceptable or unacceptable number of U.S. military casualties in Iraq?

	Acceptable	Unacceptable	No opinion
12/11/06	21	77	2
5/15/06	22	76	2
11/2/05	25	73	2
8/28/05	30	68	3
6/26/05	29	69	2
6/5/05	25	73	2
3/13/05	27	70	3
12/19/04	27	70	3
6/20/04	29	71	1
4/18/04	33	65	2
1/18/04	34	62	4
12/21/03	37	60	4
11/16/03	33	64	3
10/29/03	35	62	3
10/13/03	37	60	3
9/13/03	43	55	2
9/7/03	38	57	5
8/11/03	42	53	5
7/10/03	44	52	3
6/22/03	51	44	5
4/9/03	66	28	6
4/3/03	62	32	5
3/27/03	58	34	9

15. Do you think the war with Iraq has or has not contributed to the long-term security of the United States? IF YES: Has it contributed to the long-term security of the United States a great deal, or somewhat?

	--------- Contributed ---------			Has	No
	NET	Great deal	Somewhat	not	opin.
12/11/06	46	25	21	51	3
10/8/06	48	26	21	50	3
9/7/06	50	28	21	47	3
6/25/06	51	28	22	48	1
5/15/06	48	28	20	51	2
4/9/06	52	32	20	46	1
3/5/06	50	28	23	48	2
1/26/06	53	32	21	45	1
12/18/05	54	32	22	44	2
11/2/05	46	25	21	52	2
8/28/05	49	29	20	49	2
6/26/05	52	31	22	46	1
6/5/05	47	24	22	52	1
3/13/05	52	29	23	46	2
1/16/05	50	30	21	47	3
12/19/04	51	27	23	46	4
10/3/04 LV	53	32	22	42	4
9/26/04 RV	54	36	18	42	4
9/8/04 RV	57	36	22	40	3
8/29/04 RV	54	33	20	42	4
7/25/04	51	32	19	45	3
6/20/04	51	28	23	46	2
5/23/04	54	30	24	43	3
4/18/04	57	33	24	40	3
3/7/04	57	29	29	40	3
2/11/04	58	32	26	38	4
1/18/04	59	34	25	38	3
12/21/03	62	34	29	34	4
7/10/03*	62	33	29	35	3

*"did or did not"

16. Do you think (the United States should keep its military forces in Iraq until civil order is restored there, even if that means continued U.S. military casualties); OR, do you think (the United States should withdraw its military forces from Iraq in order to avoid further U.S. military casualties, even if that means civil order is not restored there)?

	Keep forces	Withdraw forces	No opinion
12/11/06	48	48	4
11/2/05	52	44	4
8/28/05	54	44	2
6/26/05	58	41	2
12/19/04	58	39	3
6/20/04	57	42	1
5/23/04	58	40	2
4/18/04	66	33	1
11/16/03	62	34	4
10/29/03	58	38	3
9/13/03	65	32	3
8/24/03	69	27	4
7/10/03	72	26	2

17. (HALF SAMPLE) Do you think the Bush Administration does or does not have a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq?

	Does	Does not	No opinion
12/11/06	25	72	3
9/7/06	38	61	2
8/6/06	33	64	3

6/25/06	35	64	2
3/5/06	34	65	*
12/18/05	40	59	1
3/13/05	42	57	2
5/23/04	40	58	2
5/6/04	38	57	5
4/18/04	45	53	2
3/7/04	43	53	3
12/21/03	48	47	5
10/13/03	42	53	5
9/13/03	42	55	2

18. (HALF SAMPLE) Do you think the Democrats in Congress do or do not have a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq?

	Do	Do not	No opinion
12/11/06	26	65	9
9/7/06	25	69	7
8/6/06	27	66	6
6/25/06	24	71	5
3/5/06	24	70	6
12/18/05	23	74	3

19. Do you think the number of U.S. military forces in Iraq should be (increased), (decreased), or kept about the same?

	Increased	Decreased	Kept about the same	No opinion
12/11/06	17	52	27	1
10/8/06	18	51	28	3
8/6/06	17	53	27	3
5/15/06	15	54	27	4
4/9/06	13	54	31	2
3/5/06	11	52	34	3
12/18/05	9	52	36	3
11/2/05	15	47	36	3
8/28/05	21	41	35	4
6/26/05	16	38	44	2
3/13/05	15	44	36	4

20. (IF DECREASED, Q19) Should all U.S. forces in Iraq be withdrawn immediately, or should they be decreased, but not all withdrawn immediately?

	Withdrawn immediately	Decreased but not withdrawn immediately	No opinion
12/11/06	28	70	1
10/8/06	37	63	*
8/6/06	33	66	1
5/15/06	31	68	1
4/9/06	28	72	1
3/5/06	33	67	*
12/18/05	23	77	0
11/2/05	38	61	*
8/28/05	33	66	1
6/26/05	34	66	1
3/13/05	27	72	1

19/20 NET:

		Decreased					
	Increased	NET	All/immed.	Not all/not immed.	DK	Kept about the same	No op.
12/11/06	17	52	15	36	1	27	4
10/8/06	18	51	19	32	*	28	3
8/6/06	17	53	18	35	*	27	3
5/15/06	15	54	17	37	*	27	4
4/9/06	13	54	15	39	1	31	2
3/5/06	11	52	17	35	*	34	3
12/18/05	9	52	12	40	*	36	3
11/2/05	15	47	18	29	*	36	3
8/28/05	21	41	13	27	*	35	4
6/26/05	16	38	13	25	*	44	2
3/13/05	15	44	12	31	1	37	4

21. Do you think the United States is or is not making significant progress toward restoring civil order in Iraq?

	Is making significant progress	Is not making significant progress	No opinion
12/11/06	31	66	3
6/25/06	48	49	2
3/5/06	43	56	2
12/18/05	60	37	2
11/2/05	44	55	2
8/28/05	48	50	2
6/26/05	48	51	1
12/19/04	44	49	7
6/20/04	51	48	1

22. In making its case for war with Iraq, do you think the Bush administration (told the American public what it believed to be true), or (intentionally misled the American public)?

	Told the American public what it believed to be true	Intentionally misled the American public	No opin.
12/11/06	45	52	3
11/4/06 RV	51	47	2
5/15/06	46	52	2
11/2/05	44	55	2
6/26/05	48	52	*
3/13/05	55	43	2
8/29/04 RV	57	40	3
7/25/04	55	42	3

23. (HALF SAMPLE) All told, do you think the United States is winning or losing the war in Iraq?

	Winning	Losing	Neither/It's a tie (vol.)	No opinion
12/11/06	34	52	9	4
12/18/05	56	34	8	2
8/28/05	51	38	8	3

24. (HALF SAMPLE) All told, do you think the United States will win or lose the war in Iraq?

	Win	Lose	Neither/It will be a tie (vol.)	No opinion
12/11/06	34	46	11	9
12/18/05	60	27	7	6

25. Would you describe Iraq as currently in a civil war, not in a civil war but close to one, or is the situation less severe than that?

	Currently in a civil war	Not in a civil war but close to one	Situation less severe than that	No op.
12/11/06	41	45	11	3
8/6/06	34	51	12	3
4/9/06	30	49	18	3

26. As you may know a government committee called the Iraq Study Group issued its report on Iraq this week. Given what you've heard and read, overall do you support or oppose the Iraq Study Group report?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
12/11/06	46	22	32

27. Do you think the Iraq Study Group does or does not have a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq?

	Does	Does not	No opinion
12/11/06	32	41	28

28. Please tell me if you support or oppose each of the following proposals. First is (ITEM)… How about (NEXT ITEM)…

12/11/06 – Summary Table

	Support	Oppose	No op.
a. Changing the primary mission of U.S. forces in Iraq to supporting and training the Iraqi Army, rather than on directly fighting insurgents.	79	18	3
c. Withdrawing almost all U.S. combat forces from Iraq by early 2008, but keeping military training forces there.	69	28	3
d. Reducing U.S. military and financial support from the Iraqi government if the Iraqis fail to make progress toward national unity and restoring civil order.	74	22	4

29. (IF OPPOSE, Q28C) Is that because you want U.S forces to (be withdrawn sooner), or to (stay longer)?

	Withdrawn sooner	Stay longer	No opinion
12/11/06	53	42	4

30. Do you think the United States is or is not making significant progress in training and equipping the Iraqi Army to be an effective force in Iraq?

	Is making significant progress	Is not making significant progress	No opinion
12/11/06	41	53	6

31. How confident are you that after U.S. training the Iraqi Army will be able to defeat the insurgents in Iraq – very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	---- Confident ----			---- Not Confident ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
12/11/06	51	8	43	48	31	17	1

32. (HALF SAMPLE) Some people say (the United States should include direct talks with Syria as part of a regional dialogue about the situation in Iraq because Syria has influence in the region). Others say (the United States should not directly engage with Syria because the U.S. has identified Syria as a sponsor of terrorism.)

What do you think? Do you think the United States should or should not hold direct talks with Syria about the situation in Iraq?

	Should include Syria in talks	Should NOT directly engage with Syria	No opinion
12/11/60	58	37	5

33. (HALF SAMPLE) Some people say (the United States should include direct talks with Iran as part of a regional dialogue about the situation in Iraq because Iran has influence in the region). Others say (the United States should not directly engage with Iran because the US has identified Iran as a sponsor of terrorism and because of Iran's nuclear program.)

What do you think? Do you think the United States should or should not hold direct talks with Iran about the situation in Iraq?

	Should include Iran in talks	Should NOT directly engage with Iran	No opinion
12/11/60	57	41	2

34. Do you think Bush is or is not willing enough to change his administration's policies in Iraq?

	Is	Is not	Too willing (vol.)	No change needed (vol.)	No opin.
12/11/06	30	66	*	1	3

35-37. Held for release.

38. What do you think is more important right now - (for the federal government to investigate possible terrorist threats, even if that intrudes on personal privacy); or (for the federal government not to intrude on personal privacy, even if that limits its ability to investigate possible terrorist threats)?

	Investigate threats	Respect privacy	No opin.
12/11/06	63	34	3
9/7/06	65	32	3
5/15/06	67	30	3
5/11/06	65	31	4
1/8/06	65	32	3
9/7/03*	73	21	5
9/8/02	78	18	4
6/9/02	79	18	3

*9/7/03 and previous: "FBI" rather than "federal government"

39. In investigating terrorism, do you think the federal agencies like the FBI are or are not intruding on some Americans' privacy rights?

	Are	Are not	No opinion
12/11/06	66	30	4
9/7/06	61	35	4
1/8/06*	64	32	4
9/7/03	58	33	8

*"do you think federal agencies are or are not"

40. (IF YES, Q39) Do you think those intrusions are justified or not justified?

	Justified	Not justified	No opinion
12/11/06	51	43	6
9/7/06	54	40	6
1/8/06	49	46	5
9/7/03	63	29	8

Q39/40 NET:

		Intrusion			Not an	No
	NET	Just.	Not just.	No op.	intrusion	opin.
12/11/06	66	34	28	4	30	4
9/7/06	61	33	24	4	35	4
1/8/06	64	31	30	4	32	4
9/7/03	58	36	17	4	33	8

41-42. Held for release.

43a, c-g. Held for release.

43. Thinking about the next 12 months, would you say you feel (optimistic) or (pessimistic) about (ITEM)?

b. the situation in Iraq

	Optimistic	Pessimistic	No opinion
12/11/06	40	57	3
10/22/06	42	55	3
5/15/06	43	55	2
12/18/05	54	44	2
12/19/04	46	51	2
6/20/04	52	45	3
5/23/04	55	43	2
1/18/04*	58	39	2

*"Thinking about the coming year"

44-49. Held for release.

END