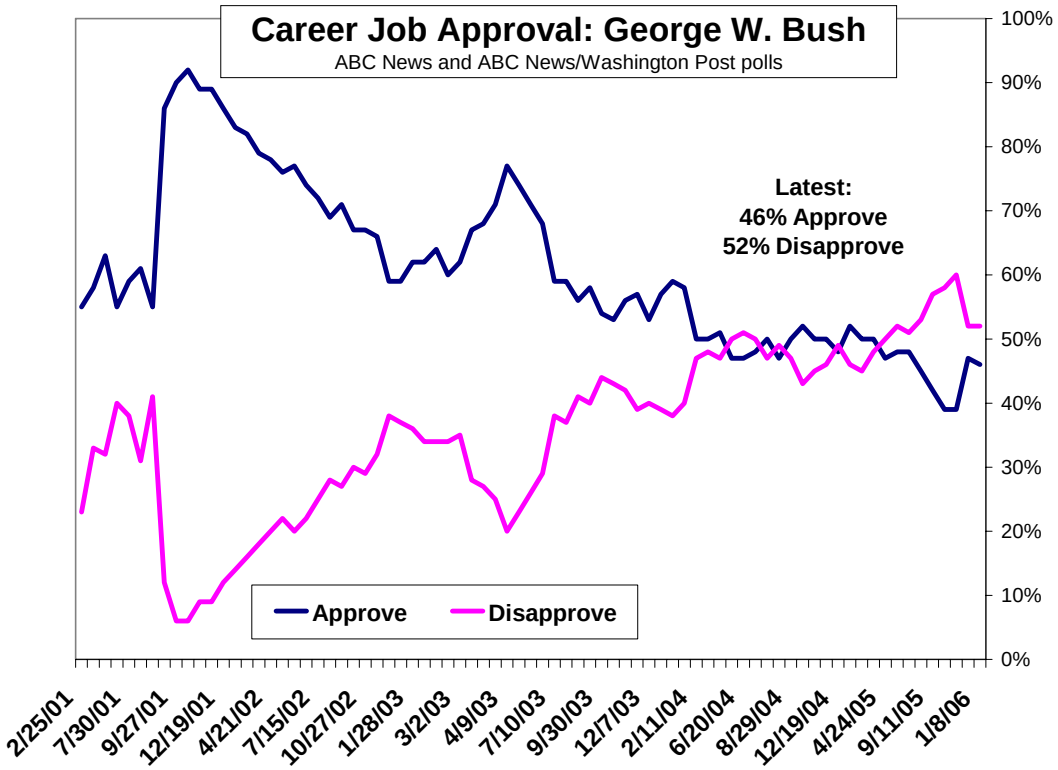
ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL: TERRORISM vs. PRIVACY – 1/8/06
EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006

Broader Concern on Privacy Rights But Terrorism Threat Still Trumps

Three in 10 Americans think the federal government is making unjustified intrusions into personal privacy as it investigates terrorism – nearly double the level of concern a few years ago, albeit still far from a majority.

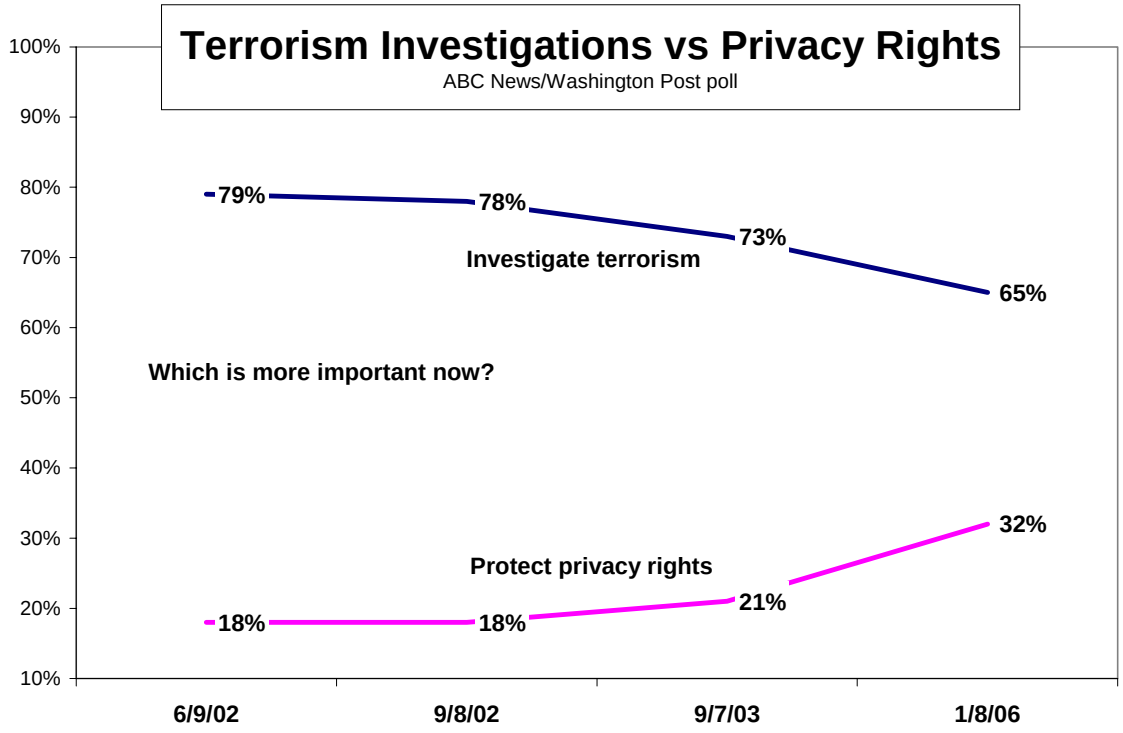
More broadly, the public still gives investigating terrorism a higher priority than privacy rights, but by somewhat less of a margin than in the past. And Americans divide about evenly on the specific issue of warrantless wiretaps by the National Security Agency: Fifty-one percent call them acceptable in investigating terrorism, 47 percent unacceptable – views marked by huge partisan and ideological gaps.

Separately, this ABC News/Washington Post poll finds George W. Bush's overall job rating unchanged after a gain following the Iraqi elections last month. Forty-six percent of Americans approve of his work in office, while 52 percent disapprove. That's almost identical to its mid-December level, but better than his low (39 percent approval) this fall.



The war in Iraq continues to weigh on Bush – 55 percent say it was not worth fighting, a view that's maintained a majority in polls since December 2004. And a tepid 53 percent approve of the way Bush is handling the U.S. campaign against terrorism, long the key to his support and indeed to his re-election in 2004.

PRIVACY – Results in this survey indicate some shifts in the tug-of-war between investigating terrorism and protecting privacy. While still heavily outnumbered, those who call privacy a greater concern have grown from 21 percent in September 2003 to 32 percent now. And as noted, the number of Americans who think the government is intruding on privacy without justification has risen from 17 to 30 percent.



That said, security concerns still trump: Sixty-five percent say it's more important for the government to investigate terrorism than for it to protect privacy (down, though, from a high of 79 percent in June 2002). Despite the NSA revelations, as many say they're worried that Bush will not do enough to investigate terrorism (48 percent) as are worried that he'll go too far in compromising constitutional rights (44 percent).

These results don't mean Americans don't value their privacy or constitutional rights; they suggest instead that most see security as a competing right – one that, since Sept. 11, 2001, has commanded considerable clout.

As things stand, Americans by 48-42 percent say that as it investigates terrorism the government is doing enough, rather than not enough, to protect the rights of American citizens (eight percent say it's doing too much). The divisions are about the same when it comes to the rights of people suspected of involvement in terrorism.

PARTISAN – Some of these issues engender sharp ideological and partisan differences, with Republicans and conservatives more concerned about terrorism than about privacy rights, and Democrats and liberals, in particular, in the opposite camp.

Republicans by 84-15 percent say it's more important right now to investigate possible terrorist threats, even if that intrudes on privacy, than not to intrude on privacy, if that limits the ability to investigate possible terrorism. Most independents agree, but by a 2-1 margin rather than the Republicans' nearly 6-1. Democrats divide about evenly. The divisions among conservatives, moderates and liberals are similar.

	More important right now:	
	Investigate terrorism	Protect privacy
All	65%	32
Democrats	51	47
Independents	64	34
Republicans	84	15
Liberals	49	49
Moderates	65	33
Conservatives	76	21

In another difference, Republicans and conservatives, given their support for the administration, are much less likely to say the government is intruding on privacy rights; or, if they think it's doing so, to see such intrusions as unjustified.

	Is the government intruding on privacy rights?		
	Yes, and *not* justified	Yes, but justified	No, not intruding
All	30%	31	32
Democrats	45	25	25
Independents	33	31	27
Republicans	8	41	45
Liberals	49	25	20
Moderates	33	37	24
Conservatives	15	30	48

Similarly, more than six in 10 conservatives and Republicans alike are more worried that Bush will not go far enough to investigate terrorism, because of concerns about constitutional rights, than that he'll go too far in compromising those rights. Fewer independents agree (46 percent) and fewer still Democrats, moderates or liberals (about four in 10).

Democrats, for their part, are twice as likely as Republicans to think the government is not doing enough to protect Americans' rights as it investigates terrorism.

Some of the biggest divisions are on the question of whether it's acceptable for the federal government to use warrantless wiretaps to investigate terrorism. Seventy-five percent of Republicans and 65 percent of conservatives say yes. That falls to 47 percent of moderates and 44 percent of independents – and falls further to just 37 percent of Democrats and 35 percent of liberals.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Jan. 5-8, 2006, among a random national sample of 1,001 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.

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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.
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

2a. Previously released.

2b. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling the U.S. campaign against terrorism?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
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	43	2
6/5/05	50	49	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	19	3
4/21/02*	81	18	2
3/10/02*	88	10	2
1/27/02	88	10	2
12/19/01*	89	9	2
10/15/01*	92	5	3

*Asked very/somewhat follow-up

3. Previously released.

4. 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? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	--- Worth fighting ---			--- Not worth fighting --			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	op.
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”

5. As it investigates terrorism, do you think the federal government is doing too much, not enough or about the right amount to protect the rights of (READ ITEM)?

1/8/06 - Summary Table

	Too much	Not enough	Right amount	No opin.
a. American citizens	8	42	48	2
b. People suspected of involvement in terrorism	11	40	46	3

6. 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.
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”

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

	Are	Are not	No opinion
1/8/06	64	32	4
9/7/03*	58	33	8

8. (IF FEDERAL AGENCIES ARE INTRUDING, Q7) Do you think those intrusions are justified or not justified?

	Justified	Not justified	No opinion
1/8/06	49	46	5
9/7/03*	63	29	8

Q7/8 NET:

		-------- Intrusion ----------			Not an	No
	NET	Just.	Not just.	No op.	intrusion	opin.
1/8/06	64	31	30	4	32	4
9/7/03*	58	36	17	4	33	8

*9/7/03: “federal agencies like the FBI”

9. Which worries you more: (that Bush will not go far enough to investigate terrorism because of concerns about constitutional rights), or (that Bush will go too far in compromising constitutional rights in order to investigate terrorism)?

	Will not go far enough	Will go too far	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
1/8/06	48	44	6	2

10. According to recent news reports, the National Security Agency has been investigating people suspected of involvement with terrorism by secretly listening in on telephone calls and reading e-mails between some people in the United States and other countries, without first getting court approval to do so. How closely have you been following this story – very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not closely at all?

	------Closely------			------Not Closely------			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
1/8/06	66	20	46	34	21	13	*

11. Would you consider this wiretapping of telephone calls and e-mails without court approval as an acceptable or unacceptable way for the federal government to investigate terrorism? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	------Acceptable------			------Unacceptable------			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
1/8/06	51	35	15	47	14	33	2

12-20. Previously released.

*****END*****