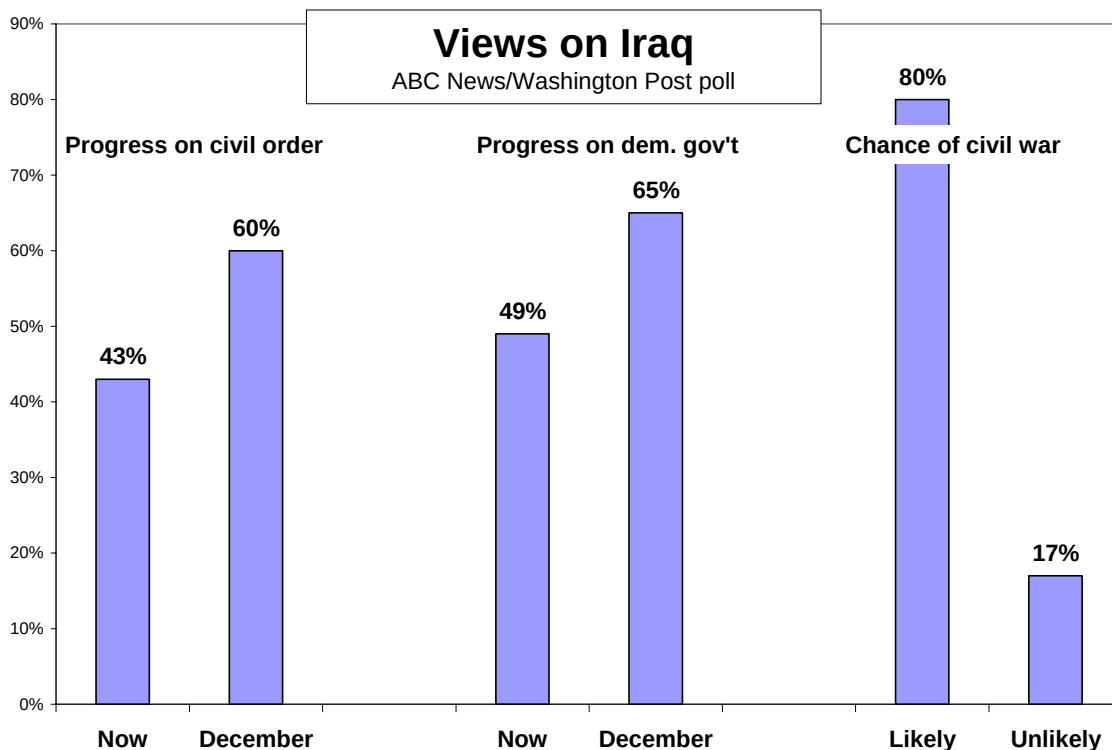


More Skepticism Confronts Bush From Iraq to the Ports and Beyond

A fresh wave of public skepticism confronts the Bush administration across current issues from the unrest in Iraq to the ports deal and privacy rights at home. And when it comes to Hurricane Katrina response or prescription drug benefits – don't ask.

On Iraq, George W. Bush's single biggest challenge, eight in 10 Americans see civil war as likely, a record 65 percent say the administration lacks a clear plan to resolve the conflict and assessments of U.S. progress have tanked in the face of the current violence.

Fifty-seven percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll say the war was not worth fighting, a majority steadily for the past 15 months, and just half say it's improved long-term U.S. security, its basic rationale. When a president's in tough straits the economy usually is the prime cause; Bush's case instead looks more like Lyndon Johnson's – an unpopular war.

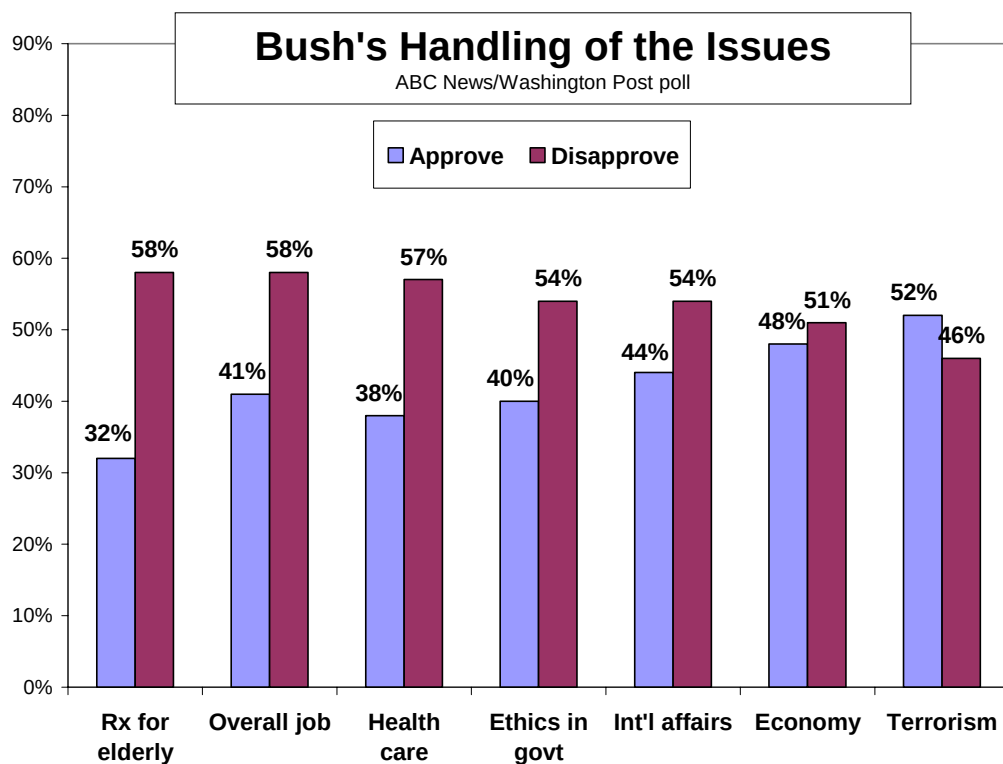


Nor does the administration get a break at home. In the latest controversy, not only do 70 percent oppose the administration-approved Dubai Ports World deal, but 53 percent

oppose it “strongly,” a remarkable (and largely bipartisan) level of strong sentiment. On domestic security more broadly, while it has majority support for Patriot Act renewal and more narrowly for warrantless wiretaps, there’s been a slight negative shift on whether the administration is doing enough to protect Americans' rights in the war on terrorism. Fifty-one percent think not, over half, albeit barely, for the first time.

On social policy, the new Medicare prescription drug plan has begun with a razz: A record 58 percent disapprove of Bush’s work on the issue. (Seniors don’t like it better than anyone else.) And more, 63 percent, disapprove of the way Bush handled the federal response to Hurricane Katrina, the subject of recent critical reports. His disapproval rating on Katrina is nine points higher now than it was two weeks after the storm itself. (The president visits New Orleans and the Gulf Coast on Wednesday.)

All told, majorities disapprove of Bush’s work on seven out of eight individual issues tested in this poll, also including health care, ethics, international affairs and the economy. The sole exception is handling terrorism, his core strength, on which 52 percent approve – far below his career average on this issue, 67 percent.

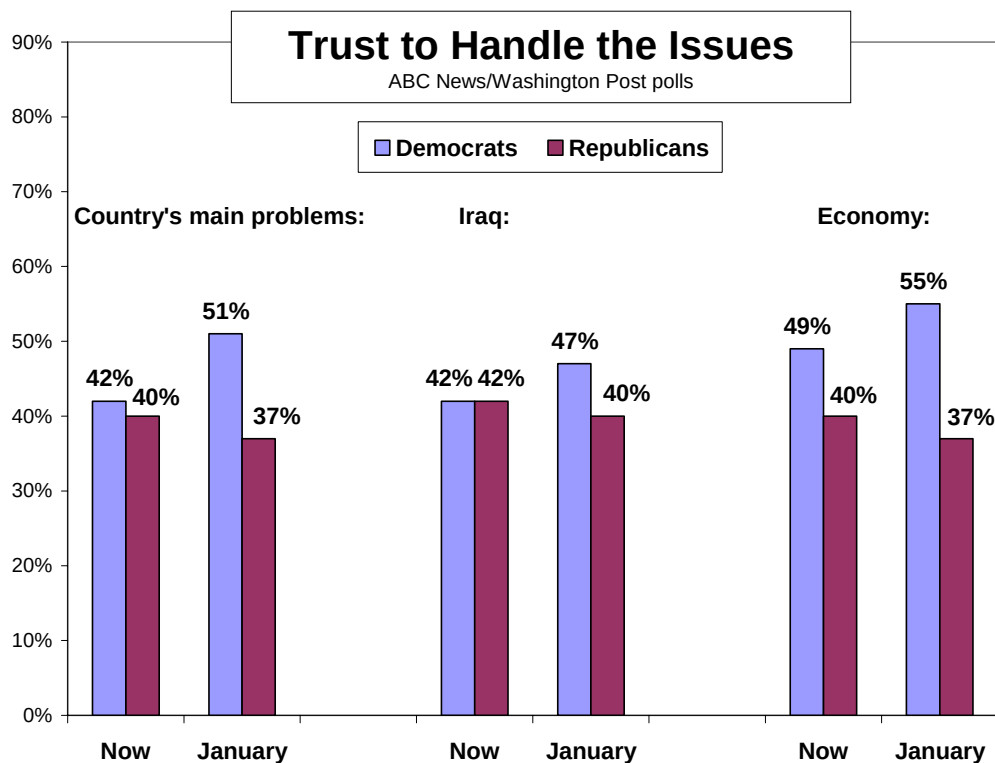


Bush’s overall job approval rating is steady but very near his career low: Forty-one percent approve, essentially the same as in January and a scant two points above his low last fall. Fifty-eight percent disapprove, and the intensity of sentiment remains heavily against him: While 24 percent approve “strongly” of his overall job performance, nearly twice as many, 44 percent, strongly disapprove.

Bush's personal (rather than professional) rating, while slightly less negative, is running on a similar track. Fifty-four percent have an unfavorable impression of him, a new high in ABC/Post polls, compared with 46 percent who view him favorably. And again, while 28 percent have a strongly favorable opinion of the president, 42 percent have a strongly unfavorable one. (Bush's "strongly unfavorable" score is five points worse than Vice President Dick Cheney's, despite the negative publicity surrounding Cheney's accidental shooting of a fellow hunter.)

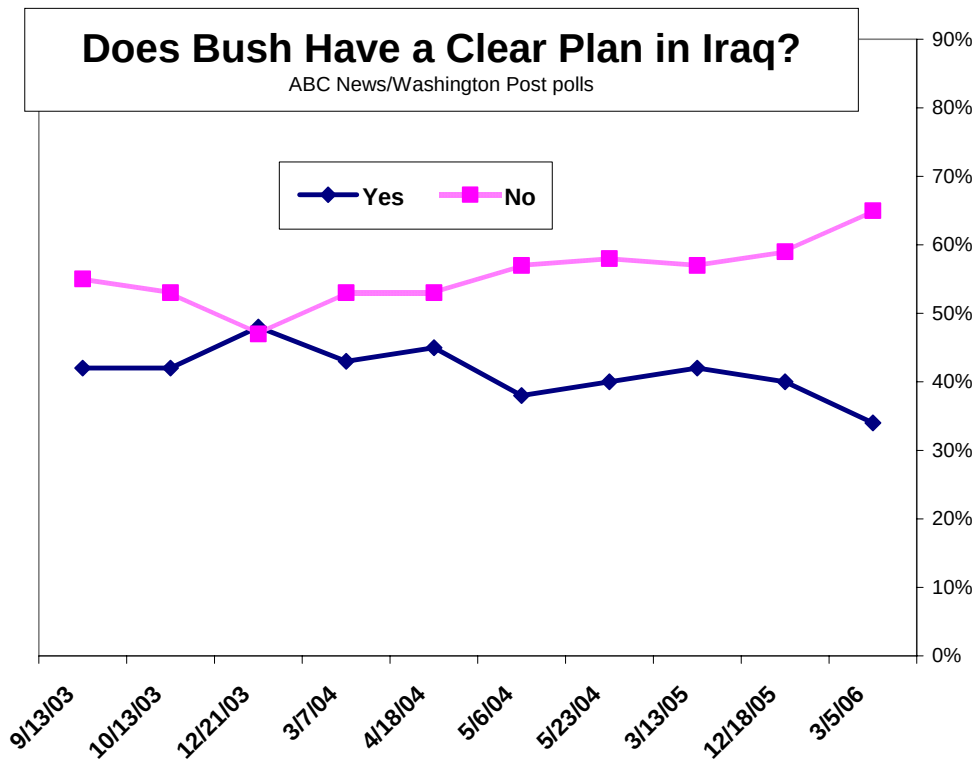
Where Bush goes, the (Republican-controlled) Congress is also going, but faster: Sixty-two percent disapprove of the way it's doing its job, the most in ABC/Post polls in 10 years. Not only do 70 percent of Democrats disapprove, so do 54 percent of Republicans. The question as November's midterm election moves closer is whether this in turn fuels any significant anti-incumbent sentiment.

For now, notably, the Democrats are doing little to capitalize on the opposition's weakness, and rather have lost ground. The public divides by 42-40 percent on which party they trust to handle the nation's main problems; that's down from a 51-37 percent Democratic advantage in late January. Independents, and particularly independent women, have backed off from the Democrats. What's grown is general disaffection: Fourteen percent of Americans now trust neither party, up by six points.



The Democrats, similarly, have lost their edge in preference to handle the situation in Iraq – their seven-point advantage in January is now an even split – and have a much lower lead in trust to handle the economy, nine points now versus 18 points six weeks ago.

IRAQ – Iraq is a top example of the Democrats’ failure to offer a strong alternative. While two-thirds say the administration lacks a clear plan for what to do there, 70 percent say the Democrats in Congress don’t have a clear plan either. Even 55 percent of Democrats say their own party lacks a clear plan on Iraq.



The current unrest is a particular blow. The parliamentary elections in December had produced a sharp gain in public optimism that the United States was making progress in Iraq. The recent sectarian violence has erased those gains just as quickly.

Fifty-five percent think the United States is not making significant progress restoring civil order in Iraq, up 19 points from its level shortly after the December elections. And while 49 percent see progress in establishing a democratic government, that, similarly, is down from 65 percent in December.

Although Republicans remain far more optimistic than independents or (especially) than Democrats, these changes are broadly based. Belief that the United States is making progress restoring civil order has fallen by 15 to 18 points across party lines. On progress establishing a democratic government in Iraq, confidence has fallen most sharply among Democrats (down 26 points) but also by 11 points among Republicans.

Moreover, not only do 87 percent of Democrats see civil war as likely in Iraq, but 81 percent of independents and 72 percent of Republicans agree. There is still hope,

however: Fewer overall, 34 percent, call civil war “very” likely. The rest call it somewhat so.

Despite these glum views on progress in Iraq, attitudes on U.S. troop commitment are little changed. As was the case in December, a narrow majority supports decreasing the level of U.S. forces in Iraq, but fewer than two in 10 support an immediate withdrawal of all troops.

	Now	12/05	11/05
U.S. troops in Iraq should be...			
Decreased NET	52%	52	47
Withdrawn immediately	17	12	18
Not withdrawn immediately	35	40	29
Kept about the same	34	36	36
Increased	11	9	15

Nonetheless, the trend in views of progress in Iraq bear watching, since in this poll they strongly interact with views on troop reductions: People who see no progress are much more apt than others to call for a reduction in U.S. forces (about seven in 10 do so), and an immediate one (about three in 10).

ECONOMY/SECURITY – A striking component of the current discontent with Bush is that it’s not chiefly fueled by economic discomfort. Economic views are hardly bright – 43 percent say the economy’s in good shape, compared with 70 percent when Bush took office. But positive economic ratings today are a bit better than their average across Bush’s presidency (38 percent) and well up from their low, 25 percent in January 2003.

Central to Bush’s presidency has been his response to terrorism, and that remains the case. In addition to his now-slight majority approval for handling terrorism, 56 percent say the country is safer today than it was before Sept. 11, 2001 – the chief challenge of this administration, and the one that earned it re-election.

But the number who say the country is safer is down eight points from January – another shift that bears close watching, since this rating is so key to the administration’s prospects. (In a regression analysis, views of the war are the strongest individual factor in predicting Bush’s approval rating, followed by views of national security, with ratings of the economy third, when all are controlled for partisanship and ideology.)

PORTS – Controversy has had a way of tracking down the Bush administration lately, and the Dubai Ports World episode is the latest example. The administration panel that approved the deal does not appear to have had its ear tuned to public opinion: Not only do 70 percent overall oppose the idea, but that includes six in 10 Republicans. Even among Republicans, a very substantial 43 percent “strongly” oppose it.

Most critics of the plan – seven in 10 of them – maintain that they don’t want any foreign-owned company operating a U.S. port. A quarter instead say their complaint is more specific – that the company in this case is owned by the United Arab Emirates. But knowing that other U.S. ports are managed by other foreign-owned companies doesn’t change much: Even with that information, nearly six in 10 still oppose the DPW deal.

While there’s criticism of the deal, there’s also – welcome to politics – some criticism of the criticism. Half the public thinks that elected officials who’ve been attacking the deal are doing so mainly to use the issue for political advantage – not mainly out of concern about national security. Fewer, 37 percent, see security concerns as the prime motivation.

SLUMP? – Comparative data from previous presidencies do not support the notion that Bush is in some sort of inevitable second-term slump. His approval rating since his re-election has averaged 46 percent; by contrast, Bill Clinton averaged 61 percent in the same period (re-election through the following March); Ronald Reagan, 63 percent.

The difference is in their appeal to the political center and beyond. In this time frame all three of these presidents enjoyed average approval from 84 to 90 percent within their parties. But Clinton and Reagan had 60 or 65 percent approval from independents; Bush has averaged 41 percent. And Clinton and Reagan won approval from a third or more people in the opposite party; since his re-election Bush, by contrast, has averaged just 16 percent approval from Democrats (11 percent in this poll).

Average approval, re-election to following March

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
GW Bush				
Approve	46%	16	85	41
Disapprove	52	82	14	57
Clinton				
Approve	61	84	33	60
Disapprove	34	13	67	34
Reagan				
Approve	63	39	90	65
Disapprove	33	56	8	30

Indeed the data don’t support the concept of an inevitable second-term slump overall. The record instead is mixed: Dwight Eisenhower did better on average in his first term, but he was strong in both. Richard Nixon did far worse in his second term, given the Watergate scandal. But Clinton’s approval rating averaged much better in his second term than in his first; likewise Reagan’s, albeit more modestly so.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone March 2-5, 2006, among a random national sample of 1,000 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.
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)?

3/5/06 - Summary Table**

	Approve	Disapprove	No op.
a. The situation in Iraq	40	59	*
b. The US campaign against terrorism	52	46	2
c. Ethics in government	40	54	6
d. Prescription drug benefits for the elderly	32	58	10
e. The situation caused by Hurricane Katrina*	36	63	1
f. The economy	48	51	1
g. Health care	38	57	6
h. International affairs	44	54	2

*"the way Bush handled"

**Items a,b asked of full sample. Items c-e asked of half sample, items f-h asked of other half sample.

Trend:

a. The situation in Iraq

----- Approve ----- ----- Disapprove ----- No

	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
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 opinion
3/5/06	52	46	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	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

c. Ethics in government

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

d. Prescription drug benefits for the elderly

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
3/5/06	32	58	10
1/26/06	38	51	11
6/20/04	40	50	11
4/18/04	38	46	15
3/7/04	41	49	9
1/18/04	39	49	12
12/21/03	36	46	18

10/29/03	36	46	18
10/13/03	34	43	22
9/13/03	35	54	11
4/30/03	44	40	17
2/1/03	46	35	19

e. The situation caused by Hurricane Katrina

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
3/5/06	36	NA	NA	63	NA	NA	1
9/11/05*	44	24	20	54	15	39	2
9/2/05	46	26	20	47	16	31	8

*9/11/05 and previous, "the way Bush is handling"

f. The economy

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
3/5/06	48	51	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

g. Health care

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
3/5/06	38	57	6
1/26/06	37	60	3
12/18/05	37	57	6
11/2/05	34	61	5
3/13/05	44	48	8
1/16/05	42	51	6
12/19/04	37	56	7
8/29/04 RV	39	55	6
7/25/04	38	53	9
6/20/04	39	57	4
4/18/04*	33	61	5
3/7/04	32	62	6
2/11/04	32	62	6
1/18/04	37	55	8
12/21/03	34	56	10
10/29/03	28	63	9
10/13/03	30	60	10
9/13/03	32	61	7
4/30/03	34	57	9
1/28/03	40	47	13
1/20/03	36	51	13
12/15/02	33	58	9

*4/18/04 and previous: "The cost, availability and coverage of health insurance"

h. International affairs

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
3/5/06	44	54	2
6/20/04	43	55	2
10/29/03	50	43	7
9/13/03	53	43	4
7/15/02	67	28	5
4/21/02	71	25	4
6/3/01	58	33	9
4/22/01	62	31	7
3/25/01	56	31	13

3. Please tell me whether the following statement applies to Bush or not.

3/5/06 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No op. *
a. He is a strong leader	52	48	
b. He is honest and trustworthy	44	55	1
c. He understands the problems of people like you	37	62	1

Trend:

a. He is a strong leader

	Yes	No	No op.
3/5/06	52	48	*
1/26/06	52	48	*
12/18/05	51	49	*
11/2/05	47	53	*
9/11/05	50	50	*
5/23/04	62	37	1
4/18/04	64	36	1
3/7/04	63	36	1
2/11/04	61	38	1
12/21/03	67	32	2
10/29/03	62	37	1
9/13/03	66	34	*
4/30/03	74	25	*
12/15/02	75	23	2
7/15/02	75	24	1
7/30/01	55	43	2
4/22/01	53	42	5
10/9/00 RV	62	33	5
9/6/00 RV	65	28	7
8/20/00 RV	65	29	5
8/10/00 RV	67	29	5
7/23/00 RV	61	33	6
7/23/00	62	32	5
6/11/00	65	30	6
4/2/00	68	27	5
3/11/00	63	31	6
2/27/00	62	32	6
2/6/00	65	30	7
1/16/00	65	28	7
12/15/99	67	26	7
10/31/99	77	18	5
9/2/99	70	18	12
3/14/99	68	13	20

b. He is honest and trustworthy

	Yes	No	No op.
3/5/06	44	55	1
1/26/06	46	53	*
12/18/05	49	50	1
11/2/05	40	58	2
5/23/04	53	45	2
4/18/04	55	44	1
3/7/04	54	45	1
2/11/04	52	45	2
10/29/03	59	40	2
9/13/03	60	39	2
12/15/02	70	26	4
7/15/02	71	26	3
7/30/01	63	34	3
4/22/01	62	32	6
11/5/00 LV	60	33	7
11/4/00 LV	61	33	7
10/24/00 LV	65	30	5
10/15/00 LV	57	34	9
10/15/00 RV	53	35	12
9/6/00 RV	62	30	7
7/23/00 RV	61	30	8
7/23/00	59	31	10
12/15/99	63	28	9

10/31/99	68	22	10
9/2/99	63	23	14
3/14/99	67	12	22

c. He understands the problems of people like you

	Yes	No	No op.
3/5/06	37	62	1
1/26/06	38	61	1
11/2/05	34	66	1
9/11/05	38	61	1
8/28/05	40	59	1
4/24/05	40	58	2
1/16/05	43	56	1
5/23/04	42	57	1
4/18/04	41	57	2
3/7/04	41	57	2
2/11/04	41	57	2
1/18/04	43	56	1
12/21/03	45	53	2
10/29/03	40	58	2
9/13/03	48	51	1
4/30/03	51	48	1
12/15/02	51	47	2
7/15/02	57	41	2
1/27/02	61	37	2
7/30/01	45	54	2
4/22/01	47	51	2
11/4/00 LV	49	46	5
10/24/00 LV	50	46	3
10/15/00 RV	46	46	7
10/9/00 RV	50	44	6
9/6/00 RV	47	49	4
8/20/00 RV	50	46	5
7/23/00	44	51	5
6/11/00	48	47	5
4/2/00	48	46	6
3/11/00	47	47	6
2/27/00	43	51	6
2/6/00	43	52	5
1/16/00	46	49	6
12/15/99	47	46	7
10/31/99	54	39	7
9/2/99	50	39	11
3/14/99	52	27	21

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

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
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

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

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
3/5/06	42	40	2	14	2
1/26/06	51	37	1	8	3
12/18/05	47	42	1	8	2
11/2/05	49	37	3	9	3
6/5/05	46	41	1	9	2
8/11/03	39	40	3	10	7
12/15/02	41	44	2	11	2
10/27/02 LV	39	51	2	5	2
9/26/02	39	46	3	8	4
9/26/02 LV	42	49	1	7	2
7/15/02	42	45	2	7	4
1/27/02	40	44	3	10	4
4/22/01	47	40	4	7	3
7/23/00	42	42	2	9	6
9/2/99	45	39	4	9	4
6/6/99	45	35	3	13	5
3/14/99	47	37	5	9	3
2/14/99	48	37	4	7	4
10/18/98	44	36	3	12	6
10/18/98 LV	43	42	3	10	2
9/28/98	49	38	2	8	3
9/28/98 LV	45	44	1	8	2
8/21/98	48	36	4	9	3
7/12/98	45	38	3	8	6
1/31/98	47	37	4	6	7
1/19/98	45	42	2	7	4
7/8/97	44	37	2	14	3
9/15/96 RV	45	38	3	11	3
8/5/96	43	38	3	11	3
6/30/96	46	37	3	12	3
5/22/96	47	38	3	10	3
11/6/94 RV	41	39	2	12	6
10/31/94	43	43	2	8	4
10/23/94	39	40	3	15	3
9/11/94	43	40	4	11	3
6/26/94	41	36	3	14	5
2/27/94	46	32	4	16	3
11/14/93	42	39	3	11	4
1/17/93	49	28	5	13	5
7/8/92	48	38	1	8	4
6/7/92	43	37	3	11	6
3/11/92	45	37	1	11	5

3/8/92	51	36	1	7	5
2/2/92	49	39	2	7	3
12/15/91	39	37	3	15	6
10/21/91	39	40	3	13	5

6. Which political party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans), do you trust to do a better job (ITEM)?

3/5/06 - Summary Table

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
a. handling the situation in Iraq	42	42	2	11	2
b. handling the economy	49	40	2	8	2
c. handling the U.S. campaign against terrorism	39	46	3	10	2

Trend:

a. handling the situation in Iraq

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
3/5/06	42	42	2	11	2
1/26/06	47	40	1	9	2
12/18/05	47	44	2	6	2
11/2/05	48	37	2	11	2
12/15/02*	30	56	4	7	3
10/27/02 LV	31	58	3	4	4
9/26/02 LV	30	61	3	3	2
9/26/02	33	52	6	4	6

*12/15/02 and previous: "The situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein"

b. handling the economy

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
3/5/06	49	40	2	8	2
1/26/06	55	37	2	5	2
11/2/05	56	34	1	8	1
12/15/02	44	45	4	6	1
10/27/02* LV	43	48	3	3	2
9/26/02 LV	50	41	3	5	1
9/26/02	47	39	3	6	5

*10/27/02 and previous: "The economy and jobs"

c. handling the U.S. campaign against terrorism

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
3/5/06	39	46	3	10	2
1/26/06	41	46	2	6	4
11/2/05	42	42	4	10	3
12/15/02	25	61	5	6	2
10/27/02* LV	26	61	4	5	4
9/26/02 LV	34	52	4	7	3
9/26/02	30	51	6	6	8

*10/27/02 and previous: "The war on terrorism"

7. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	--- Excellent/Good ----			---- Not so good/Poor ----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	op.
3/5/06	43	5	38	57	37	19	*
1/26/06	40	5	35	60	37	23	*
12/18/05	45	5	39	55	38	17	*
11/2/05	35	3	32	65	36	29	*
9/11/05	40	3	37	59	37	22	1
6/5/05	44	3	40	56	38	19	*
4/24/05	37	2	35	63	44	20	*
9/26/04 RV	46	3	43	53	38	15	1
8/29/04 RV	45	3	41	55	37	18	*
7/25/04	46	4	42	53	39	14	*
6/20/04	45	4	41	55	38	17	*
4/18/04	43	4	39	57	39	18	*
3/7/04	39	2	37	60	38	22	1
1/18/04	42	3	39	58	42	16	0
12/21/03	42	4	39	57	41	16	1
10/29/03	33	1	32	67	45	23	*
9/13/03	30	2	27	70	45	25	*
8/11/03	32	2	30	68	43	25	*
4/30/03	35	1	34	64	46	19	*
2/9/03	28	1	27	72	49	23	*
1/20/03	25	1	25	74	48	26	1
12/15/02	35	1	33	65	44	21	1
11/4/02 LV	28	1	27	72	55	17	1
11/3/02 LV	27	1	26	72	56	17	1
11/2/02 LV	29	1	28	71	54	17	*
9/26/02	31	2	28	69	50	19	*
7/15/02	39	3	36	61	44	17	1
2/21/02	30	1	29	69	51	18	*
1/27/02	31	1	29	69	50	19	*
9/20/01	38	3	35	60	47	14	2
9/9/01	33	1	32	66	47	19	*
7/30/01	50	3	46	50	39	12	*
4/22/01	50	3	47	50	40	9	*
1/15/01	70	10	59	29	24	6	1
10/27/00 LV	86	24	61	14	11	3	*
10/26/00 LV	86	24	61	14	11	3	*
6/11/00	74	17	57	26	19	6	*
2/27/00	80	25	55	20	14	5	*
10/31/99	74	18	56	26	18	7	1
9/2/99	76	19	57	23	16	6	1
3/14/99	80	22	58	19	15	4	1
11/1/98	73	12	61	26	21	5	1
11/1/98 LV	78	13	65	22	19	3	*
10/13/97	61	12	49	39	27	11	*

8. Would you say most Americans are better off financially than they were in 2001 when Bush became president, not as well off, or in about the same shape as then financially?

	Better off	Not as well off	The same	No opinion
3/5/06	18	44	37	1
9/26/04 RV	17	45	37	2
9/8/04 RV	19	42	37	3
8/29/04 RV	14	46	39	1
8/1/04 RV	18	47	34	1
7/25/04	15	41	43	1
6/20/04	17	45	37	1
4/18/04	18	43	37	2

3/7/04	17	43	38	1
2/11/04	14	47	38	1
1/18/04	13	42	43	2
12/21/03	17	40	41	2
10/29/03	9	49	41	1
9/13/03	9	52	38	1
4/30/03	10	48	42	1

George H. W. Bush

8/9/92	6	61	31	1
10/21/91	7	48	41	4
3/4/91	7	35	56	2
1/16/89	33	26	38	3

9. 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.
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"

10. 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?

	NET	----- Contributed ----- Great deal	Somewhat	Has not	No opin.
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"

11. (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
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

12. (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
3/5/06	24	70	6
12/18/05	23	74	3

13. 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
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

14. (IF DECREASED, Q13) 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
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

13/14 NET:

	Increased	NET	All/immed.	Decreased Not all/not immed.	DK	Kept about the same	No op.
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

15. (HALF SAMPLE) 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
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

16. (HALF SAMPLE) Do you think the United States is or is not making significant progress in establishing a democratic government in Iraq?

	Is making significant progress	Is not making significant progress	No opinion
3/5/06	49	48	2
12/18/05	65	31	4
11/2/05	47	48	6
12/19/04	48	44	8
6/20/04	50	48	3
5/23/04	38	57	5

17. How likely do you think it is that conflict between Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq will lead to a civil war there - is that very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely or very unlikely?

-----Likely----- -----Unlikely-----

	NET	Very	Smwt	Def. will (vol.)	Already in (vol.)	NET	Smwt	Very	Def. won't (vol.)	No op.
3/5/06	80	34	44	1	1	17	11	5	*	4

18. Compared to before September 11, 2001, do you think the country today is safer from terrorism or less safe from terrorism? IF SAFER: Would you say the country is much safer or somewhat safer?

	NET	----- Much	----- Somewhat	Less safe	No diff. (vol.)	No opin.
3/5/06	56	22	33	35	8	1
1/26/06	64	24	41	30	6	*
8/21/05	49	14	35	38	11	2
10/3/04 LV	62	29	33	29	7	2
9/26/04 LV	59	25	34	33	6	2
RV	59	24	35	34	5	2
9/8/04 RV	64	26	38	28	5	3
8/29/04 RV	60	24	36	31	7	2
1/18/04	67	28	39	24	8	1
9/7/03	67	24	42	27	4	2

19. As it conducts the war on terrorism, do you think the United States government is or is not doing enough to protect the rights of American citizens?

	Is	Is not	Doing too much (vol.)	No opin.
3/5/06	46	51	1	2
6/5/05	50	46	1	2
9/7/03	69	28	*	3
12/15/02	61	35	*	3
9/8/02	74	24	*	1
6/16/02	65	30	2	3

20. As you may know, starting in 2001 the FBI was given additional authority in areas like surveillance, wiretaps and obtaining records in terrorism investigations. Supporters said this was necessary to fight terrorism. Opponents said it went too far in compromising privacy rights. Do you think this additional FBI authority should or should not be continued?

	Yes, should	No, should not	No opinion
3/5/06	62	37	1
6/5/05	59	39	2

21. On another subject: as you may know, 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. 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?

	----- NET	Acceptable Strongly	----- Somewhat	----- NET	Unacceptable Somewhat	----- Strongly	No opin.
3/5/06	54	39	15	46	13	32	*
1/26/06	56	38	17	43	10	33	1
1/8/06	51	35	15	47	14	33	2

22. As you may know, a company owned by the government of a nation called the United Arab Emirates is in a merger deal that will give it management of six U.S. ports. Do you think this company should or should not be allowed to manage these ports? Do you feel that way STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

	-----Should-----			-----Should not-----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
3/5/06	23	8	15	70	17	53	7

23. (IF UAE SHOULD NOT, Q22) Do you feel that way mainly because (you don't think any foreign company should manage a U.S. port), or mainly because (you don't think a company owned by the United Arab Emirates should manage a U.S. port)?

	No foreign company should manage ports	No UAE company should manage ports	Other (vol.)	No opin.
3/5/06	71	24	4	1

22/23 NET

	-----Should not-----						
	Should	NET	No foreign company	No UAE company	No, other reasons	DK	No opin.
3/5/06	23	70	50	17	3	*	7

24. (IF UAE SHOULD NOT, Q22) Several other U.S. ports are managed by other foreign companies, and security at all ports is handled by the U.S. Coast Guard and Customs Service, not the port managers. Knowing this, do you think the company, Dubai Ports World, should or should not be allowed to manage these ports?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
3/5/06	15	82	3

22/24 NET

	-----Should not-----					
	Should	NET	Changed mind, should	Still should not	DK	No opin.
3/5/06	23	70	10	57	2	7

25. Do you think elected officials who have been criticizing the Dubai Ports World takeover of the management of some U.S. port operations mainly (are concerned about national security), or mainly (want to use the issue for political advantage)?

	National security	Political advantage	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opin.
3/5/06	37	49	8	1	5

26. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of (NAME)? IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE: Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

3/5/06 - Summary Table

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
a. George W. Bush	46	54	*
b, c Held for release			
d. Dick Cheney	41	56	4

Trend:

a. George W. Bush

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/5/06	46	28	17	54	12	42	*
6/5/05	48	NA	NA	51	NA	NA	1
10/17/04* LV	52			42			6
10/13/04* LV	49			46			5
10/12/04* LV	49			46			5
10/11/04* LV	52			44			4
10/4/04* LV	53			42			5
10/3/04* LV	53			41			5
9/26/04* LV	53			40			7
RV	52			38			10
9/8/04* RV	51			39			11
8/29/04* RV	50			40			9
8/1/04* RV	47			45			8
7/25/04* RV	54			43			3
3/7/04*	47			46			7
12/15/02	66			32			3
12/15/00**	56			36			8
10/15/00* RV	46			34			21
9/6/00* RV	58			31			11
7/23/00*	62			29			9
6/11/00*	50			28			22
4/2/00*	50			31			19
2/27/00*	49			39			11
10/31/99**	69			24			8
9/2/99**	61			23			16
6/6/99**	54			15			30
3/14/99**	54			14			32
2/14/99**	51			13			36
1/19/98**	34			13			53

*"Regardless of how you might vote, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of George W. Bush or perhaps you don't know enough to say."

**"I'm going to read you a few names. For each, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of that person or group, or perhaps you don't know enough to say...George W. Bush"

d. Dick Cheney

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/5/06	41	16	24	56	19	37	4
10/3/04* LV	44	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	13
9/8/04* RV	43			37			20
8/29/04* RV	41			45			14
7/25/04* RV	43			41			17
3/7/04*	35			43			23
RV	35			45			19
7/30/01	60			34			6
12/15/00**	55			23			22
9/6/00* RV	42			20			38
7/29/00	29	"	"	10	"	"	60

*"Regardless of (how you might vote/who you voted for), please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Dick Cheney or perhaps you don't know enough to say"

***I'm going to read you a few names. For each, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of that person or group, or perhaps you don't know enough to say...Dick Cheney"

27. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of (ITEM)?

3/5/06 - Summary Table

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
a. The Republican party	51	46	3
b. The Democratic party	55	41	4

Trend:

a. The Republican Party

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
3/5/06	51	46	3
6/5/05	49	49	2
12/15/02	56	38	5
1/27/02	63	30	7
7/30/01	51	46	3
12/15/00	54	35	11
1/16/00	53	37	10
1/10/00*	53	41	6
1/10/00 LV	56	39	5
11/21/99	50	44	6
5/2/99	47	44	9
2/21/99	45	46	9
2/13/99	40	54	5
2/8/99	45	47	8
1/10/99	40	52	8
12/20/98	31	57	12
12/16/98	43	47	10
10/29/97	50	42	8
9/1/96 RV	50	45	5
8/18/96 RV	55	41	4
8/7/96 RV	51	44	5
4/10/96	52	41	7
4/19/95	52	42	6
7/8/92 RV	53	39	8

*1/10/00 and previous: Gallup

b. The Democratic Party

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
3/5/06	55	41	4
6/5/05	51	47	2
12/15/02	56	37	6
1/27/02	56	36	8
7/30/01	60	36	4
12/15/00	64	25	11
1/16/00	56	35	9
1/10/00*	61	33	6
1/10/00 LV	58	37	5
11/21/99	51	41	8
5/2/99	53	37	10
2/21/99	55	37	8
2/13/99	56	38	6
2/8/99	57	37	6
1/10/99	57	35	8
12/20/98	57	30	13
12/16/98	58	32	10

10/29/97		54	39	7
9/1/96	RV	60	36	4
8/18/96	RV	55	41	4
8/7/96	RV	57	38	5
4/10/96		55	38	7
4/19/95		51	43	6
7/8/92	RV	54	38	8
*1/10/00 and previous: Gallup				

28-43 Held for release.

*****END*****