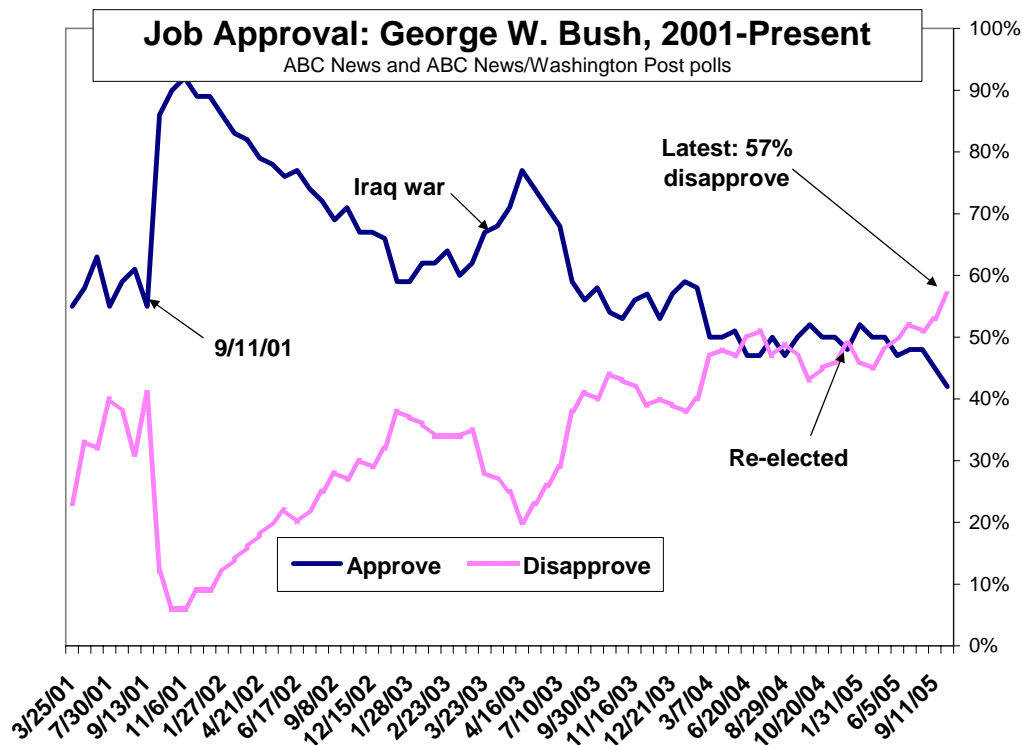


## **Bush Hits a Career Low in Approval As Katrina Response Ratings Worsen**

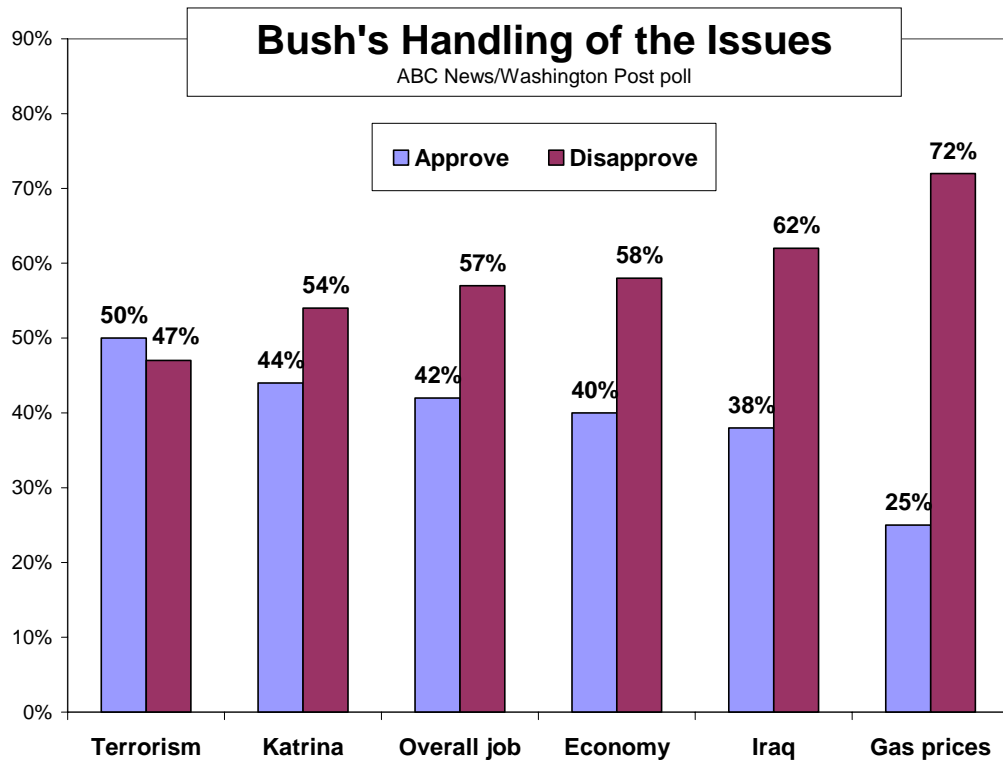
Public views of the federal government's hurricane response have grown sharply more critical in the last week, pushing George W. Bush's leadership and performance ratings to career lows. A record 57 percent of Americans now disapprove of his work overall.

As striking as Bush's rating – his disapproval is higher than the worst for either of his last two two-term predecessors – is the intensity of sentiment against him: Forty-five percent of Americans "strongly" criticize Bush's performance in office, an unusually deep well of disapproval. Far fewer, 27 percent, strongly approve.



Bush gets only 50-50 ratings for strong leadership and for trust in a crisis – long his strong suits, both now down sharply to career lows. A record 61 percent say he doesn't understand their problems. And his ratings on other issues have soured as well: A record 62 percent disapprove of his work on Iraq. On the economy, 58 percent disapprove; on gas prices, it's a huge 72 percent. Even on handling terrorism, long the keystone of his support, just half now approve of Bush's performance.

One brighter spot for the administration is the nomination of John Roberts as chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court: Fifty-five percent support his confirmation.

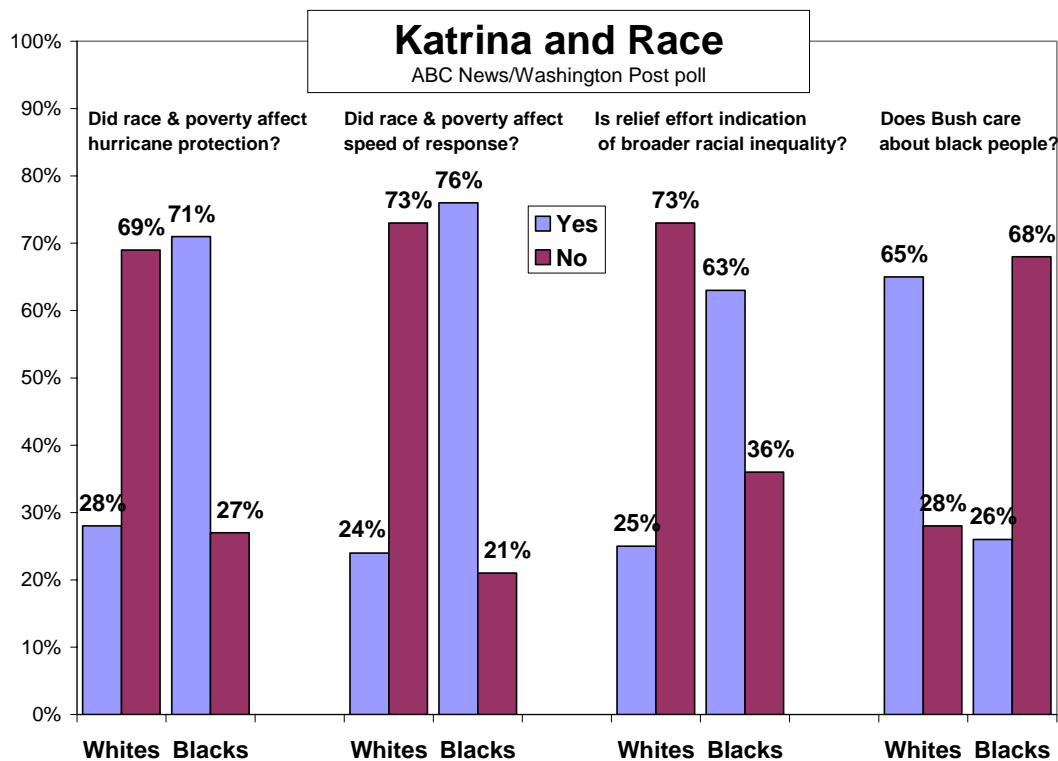


**KATRINA** – On Katrina, opinion has moved further away from Bush and his administration. Fifty-four percent now disapprove of his work on the hurricane, up seven points from an ABC News/Washington Post poll Sept. 2, four days after the storm hit the Gulf Coast. What had been essentially an even division on Bush’s response is now disapproval by a 10-point margin.

More, 62 percent, rate the overall federal response negatively, up 11 points from initial public attitudes. Sixty-three percent say that two weeks after the hurricane hit, the administration still lacks a clear plan on how to handle it; rather than recovering its footing, the administration has lost eight points on this measure since Sept. 2. And three-quarters of Americans favor a 9/11-commission style investigation of the hurricane response, apart from anything Congress might be planning.

There may be repercussions as well for administration policy on taxes: Nearly six in 10 Americans say consideration of tax cuts should be set aside for the time being.

**RACE** – The survey also finds a profound division between black and white Americans in their perceptions of the disaster response. Blacks overwhelmingly say hurricane preparedness and response were shortchanged because of the race and poverty of many of those affected, and call it a sign of broader racial inequality in this country. Whites are far less likely to see it that way.



Seven in 10 blacks, for instance, believe New Orleans would have received better flood protection and emergency preparedness resources if it had been a wealthier, whiter city, rather than a largely poor, African-American one. Fewer than three in 10 whites agree.

Similarly, 76 percent of blacks think the federal government would have responded more quickly to rescue people trapped by floodwaters if more of them had been wealthy and white rather than poorer and black. Fewer than a quarter of whites share that view.

And among blacks, fewer but still a sizable majority, 63 percent, think problems with the hurricane relief effort are an indication of broader racial inequality. Among whites, a quarter agree.

There's the further issue of perceptions of Bush's own empathy. Sixty-eight percent of blacks think he doesn't care about the problems facing black people in this country; among whites, that declines to 28 percent. And even more blacks – 88 percent, more than in any other group – say Bush doesn't understand the problems of people like them.

**PARTISANSHIP** – On explicitly racial issues, views depend heavily on racial perspectives. On broader political issues, though, it's partisanship that counts the most (and blacks are the most loyal Democratic voting bloc).

Overall, for example, 84 percent of blacks disapprove of Bush's job performance, and 69 percent disapprove strongly – but those ratings are essentially no different than they've

been all year, and are much the same among black and white Democrats alike. Similarly, seven in 10 Republicans approve of the president's performance on Katrina, compared with only 22 percent of Democrats – with white and black Democrats again in general agreement.

Putting some blame on the victims is another area, and a less explicitly political one, in which differences are more partisan than racial. This poll asked what was a bigger problem – that some people stayed in the hurricane's path because they didn't take the warnings seriously, or that some people had no way to leave and the government failed to provide transportation. Six in 10 Republicans say it was the former; six in 10 Democrats say the latter, with similar views among black and white Democrats alike.

Anger at the government's response also is more partisan than racial. Just over six in 10 Democrats are angry about it, regardless of their race, compared with just under a quarter of Republicans.

MOVE AWAY – The move away from Bush since Sept. 2, though, has occurred across the board. Disapproval of his handling of the hurricane aftermath has gained five points among Republicans, seven points among independents and six points among Democrats.

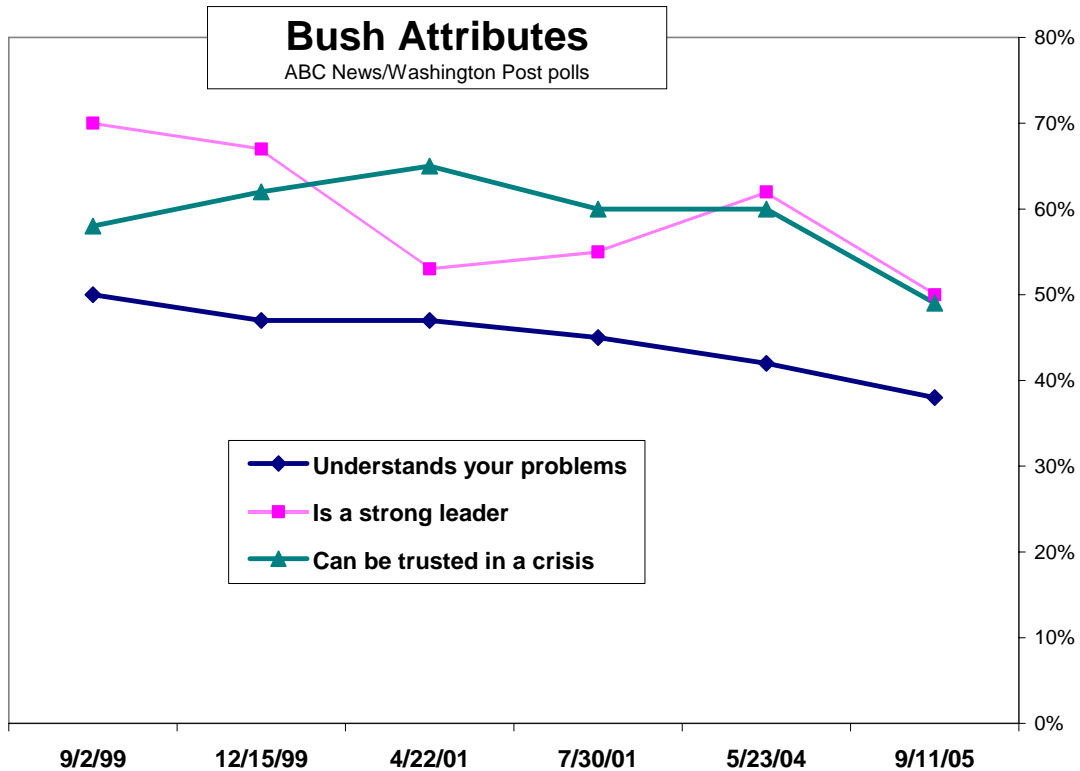
And again, as with his overall job rating, the intensity on Katrina has moved against Bush. The number of people who disapprove strongly of his response has gained eight points since Sept. 2, while the number who strongly approve is flat.

Rather than a switch in views, today's negative attitudes on Bush's response to Katrina look to have come from those who previously were undecided. All the same, 64 percent of Americans remain "hopeful" about the federal response, the same as on Sept. 2; fewer, 45 percent, are "angry" about it, also unchanged.

PERSONAL – Bush's personal ratings – for leadership, ability to handle a crisis and empathy – may be as big a concern to the administration as his job performance ratings. Personal good will can act as a kind of political cartilage, protecting a president when times get tough. Bush's, though, is wearing thin.

Before now, on average across his presidency, 66 percent of Americans have perceived Bush as a strong leader. Today it's 50 percent. An average of 61 percent have said he can be trusted in a crisis; it's 49 percent now. Projecting empathy has been more of a challenge for Bush; on average across his presidency, 46 percent have said he understands their problems. But it's 38 percent now.

Only among three groups – Republicans, evangelical white Protestants and conservatives – do majorities say Bush understands their problems. As noted, among blacks, 88 percent say he doesn't, the most of any group.



BLAME GAME? – There’s also vast partisanship on whether the administration has been willing to accept or is seeking to avoid responsibility for problems in the hurricane response. Seventy-nine percent of Republicans take the former view; 72 percent of Democrats, the latter. The result is about an even split overall.

More generally, most Americans, 56 percent, say most of the criticism of the hurricane response has been fair. But there’s also broad perception of unseemly partisanship from the Democratic side: Six in 10 say Democrats who criticize the administration’s response are mainly seeking political advantage, rather than trying to find out what went wrong.

These views are one reason the public so broadly supports an independent commission’s investigation of the response; more than seven in 10 think a congressional inquiry will get bogged down in partisan politics. Indeed in a rare example of bipartisanship, an independent commission is backed by majorities of Republicans, independents and Democrats alike - 64 percent, 79 percent and 83 percent, respectively.

It should be noted that there’s plenty of blame to go around: Americans rate the state and local governments’ response to the hurricane as negatively as the federal government’s. And 57 percent say state and local officials deserve blame for the response, which is substantially more than the 45 percent who say Bush personally deserves blame.

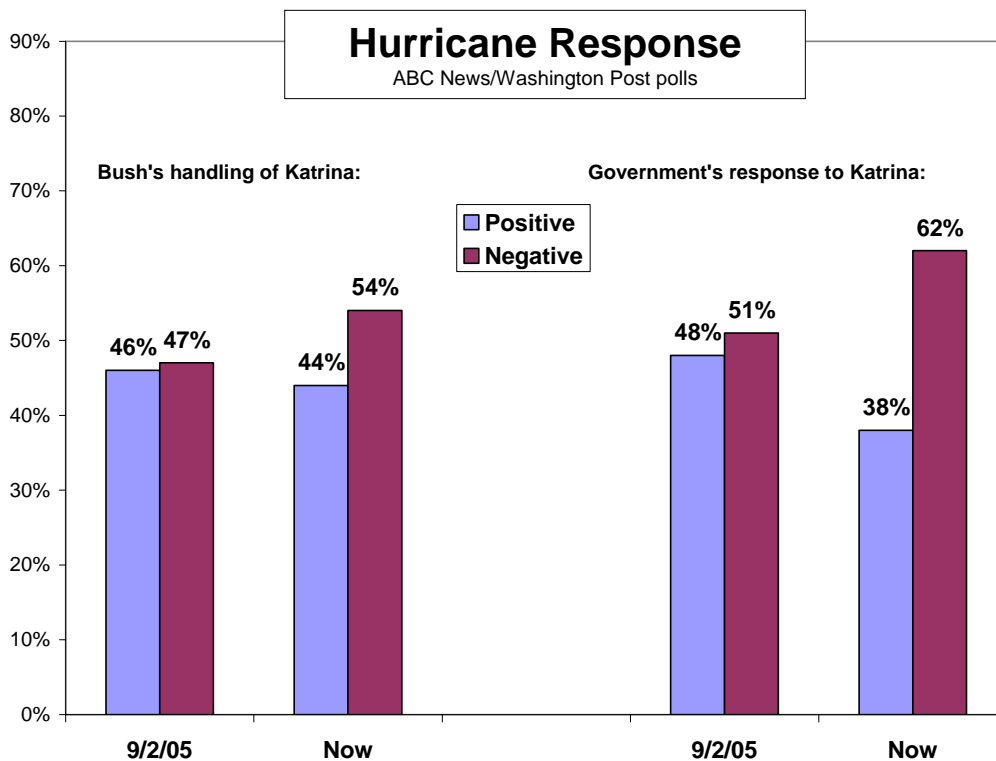
A key reason for the difference is that many Republicans join in the criticism of state and local officials, but not of Bush. Somewhat more Democrats, on the other hand, blame Bush than blame state and local authorities.

**PERFORMANCE** – Not all views of the Katrina response have grown more negative: This survey finds a 10-point gain in positive ratings of the federal government’s efforts to evacuate and resettle evacuees, from 38 percent Sept. 2 to 48 percent now.

That’s still just about a 50-50 performance score, though, which is about the same as ratings of the efforts to deliver food, water and medical care. Neither does the government get good grades on its effort to clear and repair the damage (44 percent positive), to recover and identify the dead (40 percent positive) or, most strikingly, to deal with spiraling gasoline prices (just 20 percent positive).

Rating federal efforts to:	Excellent/Good	Not good/poor
Respond overall	38%	62
Deliver food, water, med. care	48	51
Evacuate/resettle	48	50
Clear/repair damage	44	50
Recover/identify bodies	40	53
Deal with gas prices	20	78

There’s concern, too, with another aspect of the relief effort – whether or not the federal government has put in place adequate controls to prevent waste and fraud. Fifty-four percent are not confident that it has done so, with those who are “not at all” confident outnumbering those who are very confident by more than 3-1.



ECONOMY – Katrina’s effect on the economy remains an open question. On one hand, ratings of the economy remain about steady – 59 percent negative, but that compares with a much-worse 74 percent negative in January 2003. On the other, 46 percent are now pessimistic about the economy’s direction – up six points from early June, and up 12 points from June 2004.

The public is remaining reasonably stoic – if broadly unhappy with the president – in the face of \$3 gasoline. Nearly two-thirds say gas prices are causing financial hardship in their households, but fewer, 34 percent, say it’s serious hardship, and these numbers are essentially unchanged from their late-August levels, before Katrina struck.

One thing many Americans are doing with some of their money is donating it to the relief effort. Sixty percent say they’ve made a charitable contribution for hurricane relief, and an additional 28 percent say they’re considering it.

APPROVAL CONTEXT – As noted, Bush’s overall job approval rating – 42 percent approve, 57 percent disapprove – is the worst of his career, breaking out of a long, year-and-a-half period of essentially 50-50 ratings. His disapproval rating exceeds the highest recorded in ABC/Post polls for either Bill Clinton (51 percent) or Ronald Reagan (54 percent); it’s two points away from Jimmy Carter’s worst in Gallup polls.

	Career highs for disapproval	
George W. Bush	57%	9/05, to date
Clinton	51	1/95, 8-10/94, 8/93
George H.W. Bush	64	8/92
Reagan	54	1/83
Carter	59	7/79
Ford	46	4/75, 11/75
Nixon	66	8/74
Johnson	52	8/68

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 8-11, 2005, among a random national sample of 1,201 adults, including an oversample of blacks for a total of 271 black respondents. The results have a three-point error margin for the full sample, six points for blacks. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch 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.
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)?

9/11/05 - Summary Table

	Approve	Disapprove	No op.
a. The situation with gasoline prices	25	72	3
b. The situation caused by Hurricane Katrina	44	54	2
c. The situation in Iraq	38	62	1
d. The US campaign against terrorism	50	47	3
e. The economy	40	58	2

Trend where available:

a. The situation with gasoline prices

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
9/11/05	25	72	3
8/28/05	22	73	6

b. The situation caused by Hurricane Katrina

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/11/05	44	24	20	54	15	39	2
9/2/05	46	26	20	47	16	31	8

c. The situation in Iraq

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
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

Compare to: The situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein

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

d. The US campaign against terrorism

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
9/11/05	50	NA	NA	47	NA	NA	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
11/3/02	LV			77			22
11/2/02	LV			78			21
10/27/02				74			23
9/26/02				70			28
9/8/02				74			24
7/28/02				81			17
7/15/02			" "	83		" "	15
5/19/02*				79			19
4/21/02*				81			18
3/10/02*				88			10
1/27/02				88			10
12/19/01*				89			9
10/15/01*				92			5

\*Asked very/somewhat follow-up

e. The economy

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
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
8/29/04	RV	45	52
7/25/04		47	50
6/20/04		46	53
5/23/04		44	54
4/18/04		44	54
3/7/04		39	59
2/11/04		44	54
1/18/04		51	47
12/21/03		51	44
11/16/03		48	49
10/29/03		45	53
10/13/03		45	52
9/13/03		42	56
9/7/03		44	51
8/11/03		45	51
7/10/03		47	49
4/30/03		52	45
2/9/03		47	49
2/1/03		44	52
1/28/03		46	49
1/27/03		47	47
1/20/03		43	53
1/5/03		50	43
12/15/02		50	46
11/4/02	LV	53	45
11/3/02	LV	52	46

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

3. 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.
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	*

4. Thinking about the next 12 months, would you say you feel (optimistic) or (pessimistic) about the state of the national economy?

	Optimistic	Pessimistic	No opinion
9/11/05	51	46	2
6/5/05	59	40	1
12/19/04	58	40	2
6/20/04	64	34	2
1/14/03	63	35	2

5. Held for release.

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

9/11/05 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No op.
a. He understands the problems of people like you	38	61	1
b. He is a strong leader	50	50	*
c. He can be trusted in a crisis	49	49	2

Trend:

a. He understands the problems of people like you

	Yes	No	No op.
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

b. He is a strong leader

	Yes	No	No op.
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

c. He can be trusted in a crisis

	Yes	No	No op.
9/11/05	49	49	2
5/23/04	60	39	1
7/30/01	60	37	3
4/22/01	65	32	4
12/15/99	62	27	11
9/2/99	58	22	19

7. How would you rate the federal government's overall response to the situation caused by Hurricane Katrina - excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	----Excellent/Good---			-----Not so good/Poor-----			No opin.
	NET	Exc.	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
9/11/05	38	5	32	62	28	34	*
9/2/05*	48	11	37	51	23	28	1

\*caused by the hurricane and flooding

8. Thinking about how the federal government is handling specific issues - how would you rate the federal government's performance on (ITEM) - excellent, good, not so good or poor?

9/11/05 - Summary Table

	-----Exc/Good-----			---Not good/Poor---			No op.
	NET	Exc.	Good	NET	Not so	Poor	
a. delivering food, water and medical help	48	10	37	51	24	28	1
b. recovering and identifying those who lost their lives	40	5	35	53	29	24	7
c. dealing with the oil supply and rising gasoline prices	20	3	18	78	35	43	1
d. evacuating and resettling people who've lost their homes	48	10	39	50	24	26	2
e. clearing and repairing the hurricane and flood damage	44	6	38	50	28	22	5

Trend where available:

a. delivering food, water and medical help

	----Excellent/Good---			-----Not so good/Poor-----			No opin.
	NET	Exc.	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
9/11/05	48	10	37	51	24	28	1
9/2/05	43	10	33	56	27	29	1

b. No trend.

c. dealing with the oil supply and rising gasoline prices

	----Excellent/Good---			-----Not so good/Poor-----			No opin.
	NET	Exc.	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
9/11/05	20	3	18	78	35	43	1
9/2/05	20	3	16	79	29	50	2

d. evacuating and resettling people who've lost their homes

	----Excellent/Good---			-----Not so good/Poor-----			No opin.
	NET	Exc.	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
9/11/05	48	10	39	50	24	26	2
9/2/05	38	8	30	59	30	29	3

e. No trend.

9. Do you think the Bush administration does or does not have a clear plan for dealing with the hurricane situation?

	Does	Does not	No opin.
9/11/05	33	63	3
9/2/05	40	55	5

10. How much blame if any do you think Bush should get for problems in the federal response to the situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some or none?

	--Great deal/Good amount--			----Some/None----			No problems (vol.)	No op.
	NET	Grt.deal	Good amt.	NET	Some	None		
9/11/05	45	24	21	54	37	17	0	*
9/2/05	44	23	20	55	33	22	*	1

11. Do you think the situation shows serious problems in the federal government's emergency preparedness overall, or do you think this was a special case?

	Serious problems	Special case	No problems (vol.)	No opin.
9/11/05	50	47	2	1
9/2/05	44	54	1	1

12. How would you rate the overall response of state and local governments to the situation caused by Hurricane Katrina - excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	---Exc/Good---			---Not so gd/Poor---			State good; local wasn't	Local good; state wasn't	No
	NET	Ex.	Gd	NET	Not so gd	Poor	(vol.)	(vol.)	op.
9/11/05	37	8	29	61	32	29	*	1	1

13. How much blame if any do you think state and local officials should get for problems in the response to the situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some or none?

	--Great deal/Good amount--			----Some/None----			No problems	No
	NET	Grt.deal	Good amt.	NET	Some	None	(vol.)	op.
9/11/05	57	30	27	42	34	8	*	*

14. Please tell me if each of the following does or does not describe your own personal feelings about the federal government's response to the hurricane situation.

9/11/05 - Summary Table

	Does	Does not	No op.
a. Angry	45	55	*
b. Hopeful	64	35	1

Trend:

a. Angry

	Does	Does not	No op.
9/11/05	45	55	*
9/2/05	45	54	*

b. Hopeful

	Does	Does not	No op.
9/11/05	64	35	1
9/2/05	64	34	1

15. What do you think was a bigger problem - (that some people could have evacuated before the hurricane hit, but failed to take the warnings seriously); or (that some people wanted to evacuate before the hurricane hit but didn't have transportation, and the government didn't provide it)?

	People failed to take warnings seriously	Government did not provide transportation	No opin.
9/11/05	49	48	3

16. Overall, do you think most of the criticism of the federal government's response to the hurricane has been fair, or unfair?

	Fair	Unfair	No opinion
9/11/05	56	43	1

17. Do you think the Bush administration is (willing to take responsibility) for problems in the hurricane response, or is (trying to avoid responsibility) for those problems?

	Willing to take responsibility	Trying to avoid responsibility	No opinion
9/11/05	48	49	3

18. Do you think Democrats who criticize the way the Bush administration has handled the hurricane response mainly want to (find out what went wrong), or mainly want to (use the issue for political advantage?)

	Find out what went wrong	Use for political advantage	No opinion
9/11/05	36	60	4

19. The Republican leaders of Congress have called for a full-scale Congressional investigation of the government's hurricane preparedness and response effort. Apart from this investigation, would you support or oppose an investigation by an independent commission like the one that investigated the 9/11 attacks?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
9/11/05	76	23	2

20. Just your best guess, do you think the congressional investigation will (stay focused on the facts), or (get bogged down in partisan politics)?

	Stay focused on the facts	Get bogged down in partisan politics	No opinion
9/11/05	26	71	2

21. The hurricane relief effort may cost well over 100 billion dollars. How do you think the government should pay for this - by (cutting spending on other programs), (increasing the federal budget deficit), (raising taxes) or what?

	9/11/05
Cutting spending on other programs	39
Increasing the federal budget deficit	17
Raising taxes	16
Something else	17
Pull out of Iraq (vol.)	4
No opinion	8

22. Held for release.

23. Some federal lawmakers have proposed 70 billion dollars in tax cuts over the next five years. Do you think those tax cuts should (go forward as proposed), or do you think they should (be put off for the time being)?

	Should go forward as proposed	Should be put off	No opin.
9/11/05	36	59	5

24. Have you personally made a charitable contribution for hurricane relief, are you considering doing so, or is that not something you are considering at this time?

	Made a contribution	-----Have not contributed-----			
		NET	Considering contribution	Not considering contribution	No op.
9/11/05	60	39	28	11	*

25. As you may know, New Orleans was a poor city with a large African-American population. Do you think it would have received better flood protection and emergency preparedness resources if it had been a wealthier city with more whites, or do you think race and poverty did not affect its hurricane protection and emergency planning?

	Would have been better prepared	Race and poverty did not affect preparedness	No opinion
9/11/05	36	60	4

26. Do you think the federal government would have responded more quickly to rescue people trapped by floodwaters if more of them had been wealthier and white rather than poorer and black, or do you think race and poverty did not affect the speed of the rescue effort?

	Would have responded faster	Race and poverty did not affect responsiveness	No opinion
9/11/05	33	64	3

27. Overall, do you think problems with the hurricane relief effort are or are not an indication of racial inequality in this country?

	Are	Are not	No opinion
9/11/05	31	67	2

28. Overall, do you think Bush personally cares or does not care about the problems facing black people in this country?

	Cares	Does not care	Doesn't care about anyone/less than other groups (vol.)	No opin.
9/11/05	59	34	4	4

29. How confident are you that the federal government has put in place adequate controls to avoid waste and fraud in the use of federal money in the hurricane relief effort? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No op.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	
9/11/05	44	7	37	54	30	24	2

30. Have recent price increases in gasoline caused any financial hardship for you or others in your household, or not? IF YES: Has that been a serious hardship, or not serious?

	-----Yes-----				
	NET	Serious	Not serious	No	No opin.
9/11/05	64	34	30	36	*
8/28/05	66	36	30	34	*
8/21/05	53	26	27	47	*
4/24/05	64	34	30	36	*
3/20/05	57	29	28	43	*
5/23/04	64	37	27	36	0
4/18/04	54	31	23	46	0
4/28/02	53	20	33	47	*
4/29/01	48	17	30	52	*
6/25/00*	44	NA	NA	56	*
5/24/00	36			64	*
4/2/00	39			61	*
3/12/00	41			59	*
2/15/00	40	"	"	60	*

\*6/25 and previous by Gallup; slightly different wordings.

31. How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to prevent further terrorist attacks against Americans in this country: a great deal, a good amount, only a fair amount or none at all?

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No opin.
	NET	Grt.deal	Good amt.	NET	Fair amt.	None	
9/11/05	41	14	27	59	41	18	*
8/21/05	42	14	28	57	43	15	*
9/8/04 RV	52	16	35	47	39	8	1
9/7/03	45	14	31	55	48	7	1
9/8/02	50	12	38	49	43	6	*
7/15/02	46	13	33	54	45	9	*
6/9/02	44	14	30	55	44	11	*
5/19/02	46	17	29	52	42	10	2
3/10/02	55	18	38	44	39	5	*
1/27/02	57	18	40	42	37	6	1
11/27/01	63	24	39	36	32	5	1
11/6/01	52	17	35	47	40	7	1
9/11/01	66	35	31	32	30	2	1
6/2/97	35	10	26	62	52	10	3
8/5/96	35	12	23	65	49	16	*
5/14/95	36	12	24	63	51	12	1
4/20/95	37	13	24	62	51	11	1
6/28/93	59	22	37	41	32	8	1
4/3/89	46	16	30	54	38	16	*

32. As you may know, Bush has nominated federal judge John Roberts to be Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Do you think the U.S. Senate should or should not confirm Roberts' nomination as Chief Justice?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
9/11/05	55	26	19

Compare to:

As you may know, George W. Bush has nominated federal judge John Roberts to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Do you think the U.S. Senate should or should not confirm Roberts' nomination to the Supreme Court?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
8/28/05	57	22	20
7/21/05	59	23	17

Compare to:

	Should	Should not	No opinion
BREYER:			
5/15/94	52	10	37

	Should	Should not	Wait and see (vol.) /no opinion
THOMAS:			
10/14/91	59	28	14
10/13/91	56	29	15
10/12/91	50	29	20
10/9/91	47	23	30
10/8/91	50	25	24
9/15/91	63	24	14

\*\*\*END\*\*\*