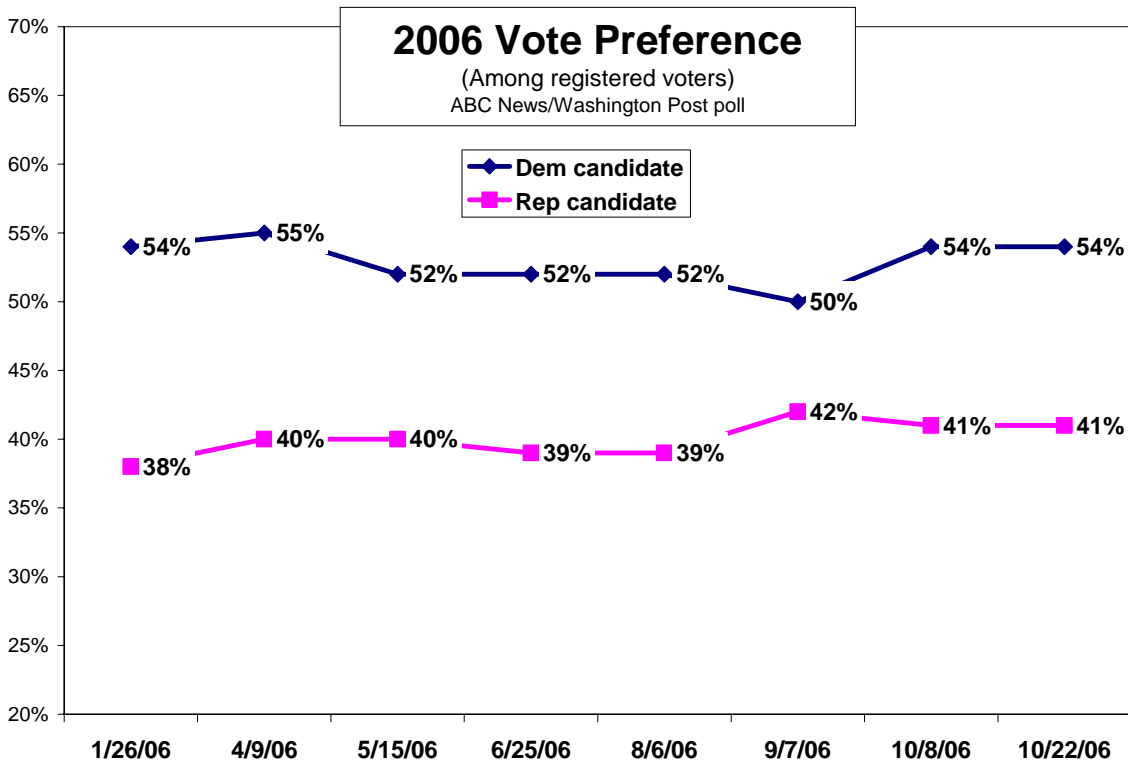


## **In a Referendum on Iraq The Center Peels Away**

Two weeks away, the 2006 midterm elections look more than anything like a referendum on the war in Iraq – a war on which George W. Bush and his party have lost not just the political center, but significant chunks of their own base as well.

An improving economy notwithstanding, opposition to the war remains the prime issue driving congressional vote preference. And the war's critics include not just eight in 10 Democrats, but 64 percent of independents, 40 percent of conservatives, 35 percent of evangelical white Protestants and a quarter of Republicans themselves.

It matters: Among the four in 10 registered voters who favor the war in Iraq, 73 percent support the Republican in their congressional district. But many more, nearly six in 10, oppose the war – and 78 percent of them favor Democrats for the House.



That spells a continued, dramatic Democratic lead: Fifty-four percent of registered voters in this ABC News/Washington Post poll prefer the Democrat in their congressional

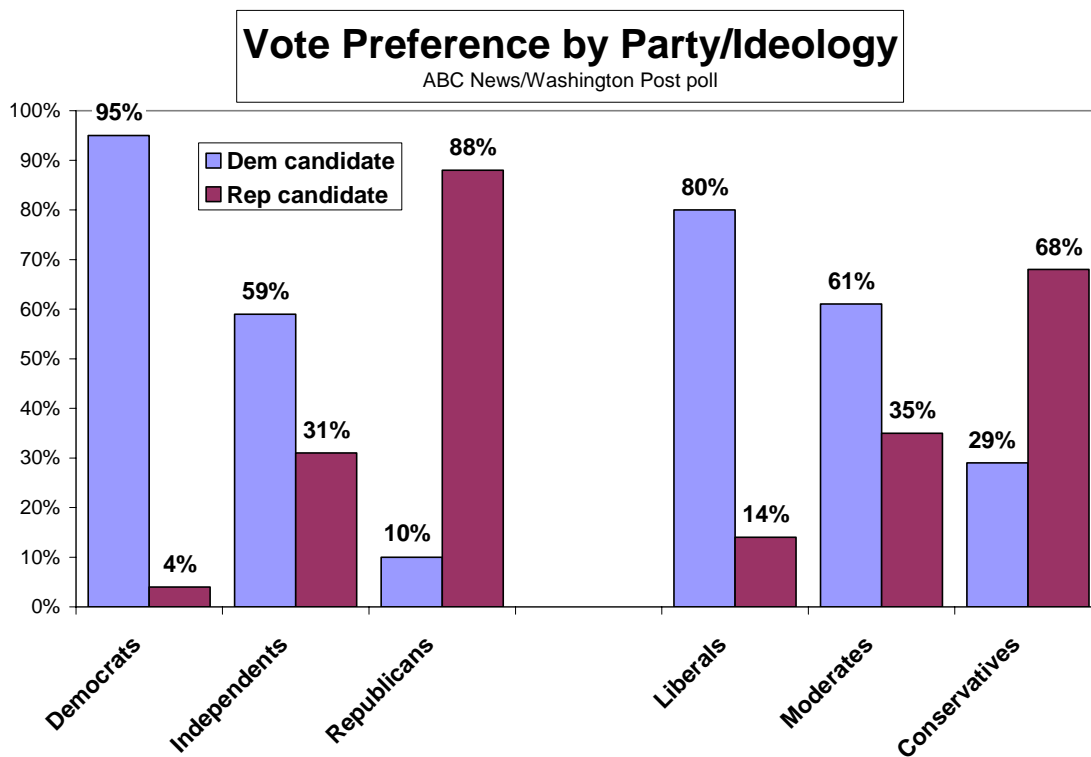
district, 41 percent the Republican, among the highest levels of Democratic support since 1984 in ABC/Post surveys.

Among likely voters the race is a nearly identical 55-41 percent.

Another result underscores the sense of urgency many Americans give to this election: Fifty-eight percent of registered voters call it more important to the country than past congressional elections in their lifetime. Perhaps scenting blood, Democrats, in particular, say so – 69 percent of them, vs. 49 percent of Republicans.

LEAD – The Democratic lead comes mainly from the center, which simply is not holding for the Republicans: Independents, the quintessential swing voters, favor Democrats for House by 28 percentage points, 59-31 percent. That compares to just a three-point Democratic edge among independents in the 2004 exit poll; indeed it’s better than House Democrats have done among independents in exit polls since 1982.

But Democratic House candidates also are poaching on Republican turf, notably winning support from 29 percent of conservatives, compared with 17 percent in 2004; and, albeit in less of a shift, by 30 percent of evangelical white Protestants, vs. 24 percent in 2004.



Democratic congressional candidates also now lead by 54-42 percent among men – a group they haven’t won since 1992. And 10 percent of Republicans favor the Democrat in their district – a small group, but greater than the level of Democratic defections to Republican candidates, just four percent.

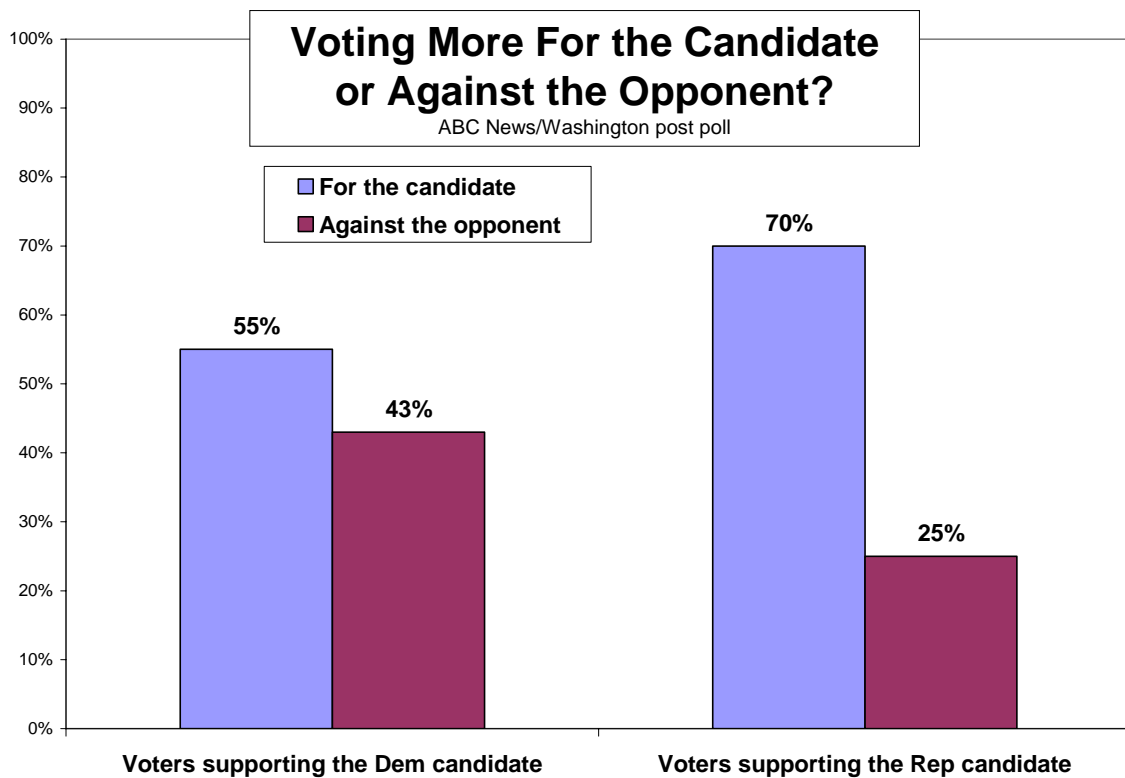
**CHANGE** – A further problem for the Republicans is the war-related desire for change, and specifically for a change from the current Republican leadership. Just 37 percent of Americans approve of Bush’s job performance overall, down five points from September. He’s been rated lower just once in his career, 33 percent approval in May – and then, unlike now, rising gasoline prices were partly to blame.

Nearly twice as many registered voters say they’ll cast their ballot as a way to show opposition to Bush (31 percent) as to support him, (17) percent; that is triple the level of anti-Bill Clinton voting in the 1998 midterms, during the height of the Lewinsky scandal.

Sixty-eight percent of Americans say the country’s off on the wrong track – the highest in 10 years, save for last May and November – a view closely related with views on the Iraq war. Sixty-five percent disapprove of how Congress is doing its job, including 45 percent of Republicans, whose party controls the institution.

And in a sign the ill will is aimed at the Republican leadership, 47 percent of registered voters say it would be a good thing if control of Congress switches to the Democrats, twice as many as say it’d be a bad thing. At this time in 1994, substantially fewer, 36 percent, said it’d be a good thing if the Republicans took control, as they did.

Indeed 1994 was an anti-incumbent election; at the time just 49 percent approved of their own representative’s job performance. Today more, 59 percent, approve, making it less of an anti-incumbent election, and more of a partisan protest.

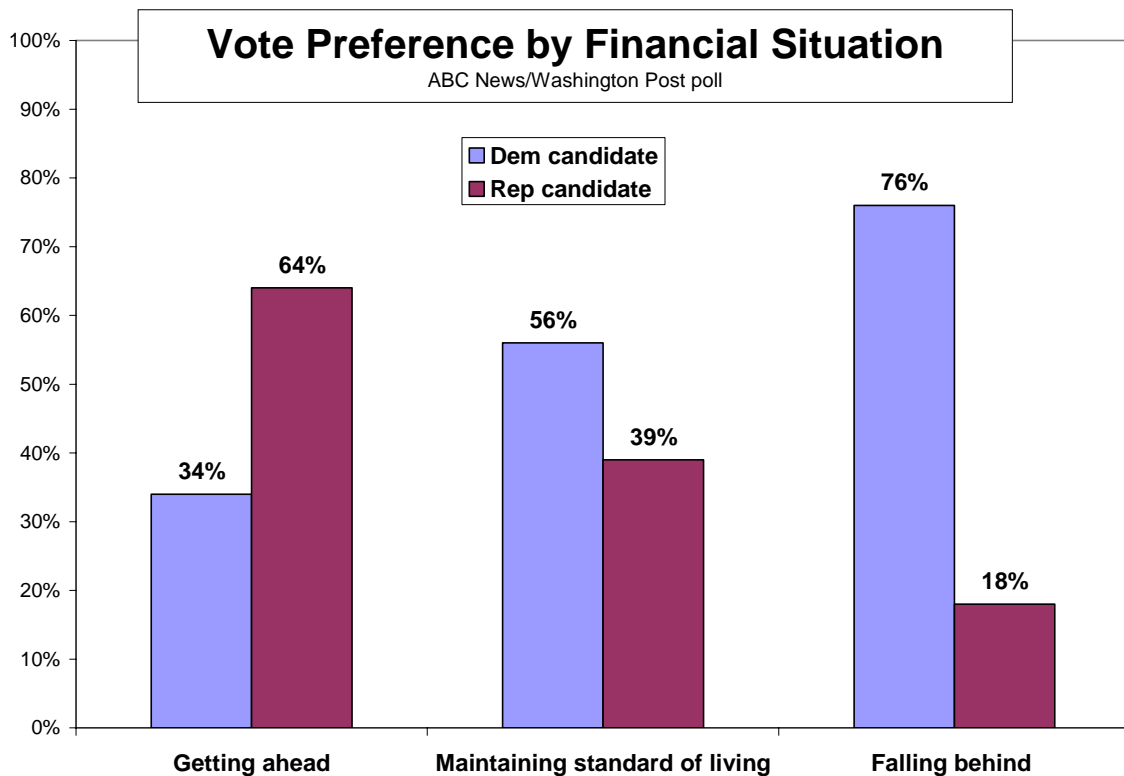


Indeed the Democrats are benefiting from a substantial negative vote. Among registered voters who prefer Democrats for House, 55 percent are mainly voting pro-Democrat, but a substantial 43 percent say they're mainly voting, instead, to oppose the Republican candidate. The Republican vote is much more affirmative: Seventy percent pro-Republican, 25 percent anti-Democrat.

**HORSE RACE** – The congressional horse race tells more about voter sentiment nationally than about the status of individual races at the state and district level. Incumbency is powerful, late advertising matters and get-out-the vote drives can be decisive. But another result indicates that the Democrats – at least so far – are holding their own in voter contacts.

As many registered voters say they've been personally contacted on behalf of a Democratic candidate as by a Republican organization (about two in 10 in both cases). And the Democratic calls look better targeted: People who've been solicited on behalf of a Democratic candidate favor the Democrat in their district by a 45-point margin; people who've gotten a Republican contact prefer the Republican by a narrower 19 points.

**ECONOMY** – Bush and his party clearly want to change the subject of the election from Iraq to something (almost anything) else. Hence the president's comments today heralding the economy. It makes sense: Fifty-five percent of Americans in this poll say the economy is in good shape – the most since Bush took office.



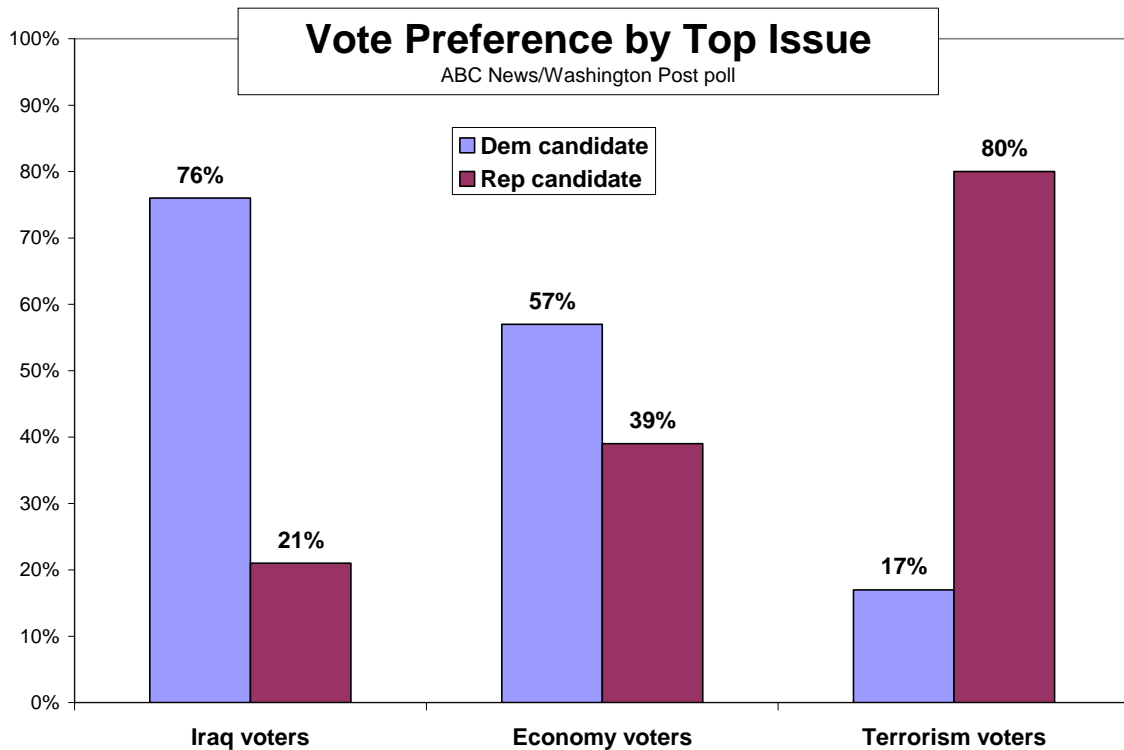
But economic gains are not evenly spread: While 24 percent say they're getting ahead financially, as many, 23 percent, say they're falling behind, and most, 52 percent, are simply maintaining their standard of living, not improving it.

The result is that the economy, even while better-rated, is not bringing the Republicans much in the way of votes. Registered voters who are getting ahead financially favor the Republican in their district by 64-34 percent; those who are falling behind favor the Democrat by 76-18 percent. But, crucially, the big middle group, those treading water economically, go Democrat by a 17-point margin, 56-39 percent.

Moreover, those who call the economy the most important issue in their vote favor the Democrat in their district, by 57-39 percent.

ISSUES – Twenty-seven percent of registered voters call the war in Iraq the top issue in their vote; 19 percent say it's the economy, 14 percent terrorism, 13 percent health care 10 percent immigration and eight percent ethics in government.

Iraq is not only the top issue but the Democrats' most powerful one; people who pick it favor Democrats for Congress by 76-21 percent. They also hold substantial leads on the economy, as noted; and on health care, a longtime Democratic strength.



Terrorism remains the Republicans' best issue by far; they lead by 80-17 percent among people who call this their top issue. They also hold a large lead among immigration

voters. For all the attention paid to the Foley scandal, ethics is the issue that not only ranks lowest, but cuts least: voters who pick it as their top issue divide about evenly in their House vote preference.

**WOMEN** – Men and women are equally critical of the war in Iraq, but women are more likely to call it the most important issue in their vote: Thirty-one percent of women say so, making it their top issue by far. In contrast, men divide between the economy (25 percent) and Iraq (22 percent).

Women are also 13 points more likely than men to call this election more important than past congressional elections in their lifetime – 62 percent say so, vs. 49 percent of men.

**IRAQ** – Negative as they are, views on the war in Iraq are slightly less so than earlier this month: Then 63 percent said the war was not worth fighting, compared with 57 percent now. The fundamental point, though, is that a majority of Americans haven't endorsed the war since September 2004.

Beyond that rating, 55 percent of Americans are pessimistic about the situation in Iraq in the year ahead. Many more, 76 percent, say the war has damaged the United States' image in the rest of the world. And for the first time fewer than half, 47 percent, believe the war has improved the lives of the Iraqi people, down dramatically from 68 percent in June.

Another unsettling result on Iraq is the fact that 45 percent of Americans think the country is heading for the same kind of involvement there that it had in Vietnam (including five percent who think that's already happened).

Blame, again, is Republican-directed. Fifty-five percent of Americans say the Republicans in Congress should get a great deal or good amount of blame for problems relating to the war in Iraq. Far fewer, 35 percent, blame the Democrats.

Moreover, while 55 percent give the Republicans in Congress blame for Iraq, fewer, 43 percent, give them credit for the fact that there hasn't been another terrorist attack on U.S. soil since Sept. 11, 2001. Fewer still, 27 percent, credit the Democrats.

**HANDLE** – Finally, in trust-to-handle ratings among registered voters, the Democrats have a 13-point lead on ethics, nine points on the economy, eight points on Iraq and seven points even on handling the situation with North Korea. It's essentially a dead heat – Dems +1 – on trust to handle terrorism.

What's telling is that the Democrats' overall lead in congressional vote preference is larger than their leads on these individual issues. That, too, suggests that voter preferences are less about individual Democratic initiatives – and more about broader discontent, grounded in public unhappiness with the war in Iraq.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 19-22, 2006, among a random national sample of 1,200 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.
10/22/06	RV	40	24	16	58	14	44	2
	All	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. Thinking about this November's election for the U.S. House and some U.S. Senate and governor seats, are you following the election 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	op.
10/22/06	RV	78	29	50	22	13	8	*
10/8/06	RV	75	26	49	25	17	8	0



9/7/06	RV	66	20	46	34	20	14	*
8/6/06	RV	66	21	45	34	23	11	*
5/15/06	RV	60	20	40	39	23	16	*
	All	57	18	38	43	24	19	*

3. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the Congressional election in November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

		Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than 50/50	Don't think will vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
10/22/06	RV	75	14	7	3	*	1	2

4. (and 4a) If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for (the Democratic candidate) or (the Republican candidate) in your congressional district? (IF OTHER, NEITHER, DK, REF) Would you lean toward the (Democratic candidate) or toward the (Republican candidate)?

5. (IF ALREADY VOTED) Did you vote for (the Democratic candidate) or (the Republican candidate) in your congressional district?

Net Leaned Vote:

		Dem cand.	Rep cand.	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Will not vote (vol.)	No opin.
10/22/06	RV	54	41	*	1	*	3
10/8/06	RV	54	41	*	1	1	3
9/7/06	RV	50	42	*	3	2	4
8/6/06	RV	52	39	*	2	1	5
6/25/06	RV	52	39	1	3	1	4
	All	52	38	1	2	2	5
5/15/06	RV	52	40	1	3	1	4
	All	53	38	1	3	1	4
4/9/06	RV	55	40	*	2	*	3
	All	54	40	*	2	1	4
1/26/06	RV	54	38	1	3	1	5
	All	55	36	1	3	1	4
12/18/05	RV	51	41	1	3	1	4
	All	50	41	1	3	1	4
11/2/05	RV	52	37	1	4	2	6
	All	53	36	1	3	2	5
11/4/02	LV	48	48	1	1	0	2
11/3/02	LV	48	48	*	1	0	2
11/2/02	LV	50	49	*	1	0	2
10/27/02	LV	47	49	1	1	0	3
9/26/02	LV	49	47	1	2	0	2
	RV	47	44	2	3	2	3
	All	46	42	2	2	5	3
7/15/02	RV	47	46	1	1	1	4
	All	47	45	1	1	1	4
1/27/02*	RV	43	50	NA	2	1	5
9/6/00	RV	49	42		2	1	6
7/23/00	RV	46	45		3	1	5
2/27/00	RV	45	46		2	1	5
10/31/99	RV	50	43		3	1	3
9/2/99	RV	48	44		3	*	5
3/14/99	RV	50	41		2	1	6
2/14/99	RV	48	41		3	1	7
1/30/99	RV	49	39		8	1	3

11/1/98	RV	51	43	4	*	2
10/25/98	RV	48	43	3	1	4
10/18/98	RV	49	44	3	1	4
9/28/98	RV	49	44	2	*	4
8/21/98	RV	48	45	3	1	3
7/12/98	RV	47	45	2	*	6
1/31/98	RV	49	40	2	1	8
1/19/98	RV	47	44	3	1	5
10/8/96	RV	51	41	2	1	5
9/29/96	RV	48	41	3	1	7
9/22/96	RV	50	43	2	1	4
9/15/96	RV	49	45	1	1	4
9/4/96	RV	48	44	3	*	5
8/29/96	RV	53	39	3	1	5
8/28/96	RV	51	40	3	1	5
8/27/96	RV	51	41	3	0	5
8/26/96	RV	51	41	3	0	5
8/25/96	RV	48	43	3	1	6
8/24/96	RV	47	43	2	1	6
8/19/96	RV	49	42	3	0	6
8/18/96	RV	45	46	3	0	6
8/15/96	RV	46	43	4	1	5
8/14/96	RV	48	42	3	1	6
8/13/96	RV	49	43	3	0	5
8/12/96	RV	49	42	3	1	5
8/11/96	RV	49	40	4	1	6
8/10/96	RV	49	41	4	1	5
8/4/96	RV	48	45	2	1	4
6/30/96	RV	49	44	3	*	3
5/22/96	RV	52	41	3	1	3
3/10/96	RV	51	43	2	*	4
1/21/96	RV	52	43	3	1	1
10/1/95	RV	49	44	3	*	3
11/6/94	RV	47	42	5	2	5
10/31/94	RV	48	44	4	1	3
10/23/94	RV	50	45	2	1	2
10/9/94	RV	46	47	3	2	2
9/11/94	RV	50	45	1	1	4
8/7/94	RV	49	42	4	1	4
2/27/94	RV	50	40	8	1	2
10/21/91	RV	51	41	4	*	4
7/28/91	RV	49	41	6	*	3
6/2/91	RV	48	42	4	1	5
11/4/90	RV	51	41	5	*	3
10/14/90	RV	50	41	5	*	3
9/9/90	RV	47	46	3	*	3
7/24/90	RV	51	41	4	1	4
5/21/90	RV	47	45	5	1	2
9/21-10/10/88	RV	52	41	2	1	4
9/19/88	RV	51	39	3	1	6
6/22/85	RV	48	44	5	*	3
10/16/84	RV	52	44	2	NA	5
9/11/84	RV	53	45	2	NA	1
7/8/84	RV	58	40	2	NA	1
10/27/82	RV	58	39	NA	NA	3
10/11/82	RV	55	36	NA	NA	9
9/13/82	RV	58	36	NA	NA	6
11/22/81	RV	53	41	NA	NA	7

\*1/27/02 and previous: No "other candidate" option recorded

6. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE) Will you definitely vote for the (CANDIDATE), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else? (IF CHANCE

CHANGE MIND) Is there a good chance you'll change your mind, or would you say it's pretty unlikely?

	Definitely vote	NET	-- Chance change mind	Good	Unlikely	--- No opin.
Registered voters:						
10/22/06 All	69	31		14	17	0
Dem cand	70	30		13	16	0
Rep cand	68	32		14	18	0

7. How enthusiastic (are/were) you about voting for the (Democrat/Republican) in your Congressional district this year - very enthusiastic, fairly enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

10/22/06 Summary Table - Among Registered Voters, Leaned Dem/Rep Supporters

	--- Enthusiastic --			---- Not Enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	op.
a. Democrat	78	38	40	20	13	8	2
b. Republican	80	39	41	19	14	5	1

Trend:

a. Democrat

	--- Enthusiastic --			---- Not Enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	op.
10/22/06 RV	78	38	40	20	13	8	2
10/8/06 RV	81	42	40	18	14	4	1

b. Republican

	--- Enthusiastic --			---- Not Enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	op.
10/22/06 RV	80	39	41	19	14	5	1
10/8/06 RV	76	35	41	23	18	5	1

8. (IF SUPPORTING/VOTED FOR DEM CANDIDATE) Is/was) your vote more FOR the Democratic candidate in your congressional district, or more AGAINST the Republican candidate?

	For the Dem cand.	Against the Rep. cand.	No opinion
10/22/06 RV	55	43	3

9. (IF SUPPORTING/VOTED FOR REP CANDIDATE) (Is/was) your vote more FOR the Republican candidate in your congressional district, or more AGAINST the Democratic candidate?

	For the Rep cand.	Against the Dem. cand.	No opinion
10/22/06 RV	70	25	5

10. Which of the following (will be/was) the SINGLE MOST important issue in your vote for Congress this year: (the U.S campaign against terrorism), (the war in Iraq), (the economy), (immigration), (ethics in government), (health care) or something else?

Health	Immi-	Terror-	Ethics	No
--------	-------	---------	--------	----

		Iraq	Econ.	care	gration	ism	in govt.	Other	op.
10/22/06	RV	27	19	13	10	14	8	7	3
10/8/06	RV	26	23	13	9	14	10	3	2

Compare to:

		Iraq	Econ.	Health care	Immi-gration	Terror-ism	Gas Prices	Other	No op.
9/7/06	RV	21	22	13	11	16	5	9	3
8/6/06	RV	21	21	14	10	11	15	7	1
6/25/06	RV	23	24	15	13	9	8	6	2
	All	24	23	14	13	8	9	6	2

11. Do you think things in this country (are generally going in the right direction) or do you feel things (have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track)?

		Right direction	Wrong track	No opin.
10/22/06	RV	32	66	2
	All	30	68	2
10/8/06		32	66	2
5/15/06		29	69	2
11/2/05		30	68	2
10/24/04	LV	41	55	4
4/18/04		42	57	1
4/30/03		52	46	2
9/26/02		43	53	4
2/21/02		54	42	4
2/14/99		55	41	4
11/1/98		55	43	2
11/1/98	LV	55	44	1
8/21/98		57	40	4
7/12/98		50	45	6
4/4/98		55	41	4
1/31/98		61	34	5
1/30/98		61	34	5
1/19/98		44	50	6
8/27/97		39	57	4
6/8/97		37	60	3
3/9/97		34	62	4
10/17/96	RV	40	55	5
10/16/96	RV	42	53	5
10/15/96	RV	43	52	5
10/14/96	RV	44	51	5
10/13/96	RV	44	51	5
9/04/96	RV	40	54	6
8/21/96		28	67	5
6/30/96		26	70	5
3/17/96		27	70	3
1/21/96		27	66	6
1/3/96		21	77	3
4/5/95		23	73	3
1/4/95		27	68	6
10/31/94		27	69	4
7/20/94		26	70	4
3/27/94		28	69	3
1/23/94		31	60	10
11/14/93		25	69	6
8/8/93		26	71	3
6/20/93		26	71	3
4/26/93		27	71	2
3/11/93		36	57	7

2/28/93	37	59	4
1/17/93	31	63	6
12/14/92	35	60	5
10/27/92 RV	22	76	2
10/4/92 RV	18	78	4
6/7/92	14	83	3
4/9/92	16	81	3
3/11/92	18	79	4
1/15/92	19	78	3
11/10/91	24	72	4
10/29/91	26	71	3
8/27/91	31	60	9
7/28/91	30	67	3
6/2/91	39	57	4
4/9/91	42	51	7
2/26/91	58	39	3
1/27/91	49	48	4
10/14/90	19	79	2
9/9/90	36	60	4
8/20/90	35	60	5
7/24/90	37	60	2
5/21/90	39	60	2
3/26/90	44	53	2
2/4/90	49	48	3
1/16/90	48	49	3
5/23/89	42	55	3
3/16/89	46	52	2
1/16/89 LV	51	46	3
10/25/88 RV	49	46	6
9/27/88	48	44	8
7/11/88	40	56	4
5/25/88	35	59	6
3/21/88	40	56	4
1/23/88	39	59	2
12/13/87	49	47	4
12/2/87	35	61	4
9/23/87	43	54	4
6/29/87	35	62	3
4/13/87	37	60	3
3/9/87	38	58	4
1/18/87	39	56	5
9/8/86	50	48	2
1/26/86	45	47	8
7/29/85	52	43	6
1/16/85	59	36	4
5/22/84	47	48	5
12/13/83	43	51	6
11/7/83	51	44	5
4/12/83	41	54	4
3/2/83	43	53	3
1/25/83	58	39	3
1/25/83	43	52	4
10/11/82	35	57	8
1/30/82	39	56	5
2/80*	20	70	10
2/78	34	53	13
2/77	41	44	14
10/75	19	71	9
10/74	15	75	11
10/73	16	74	10

\*2/80 and previous: Roper

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is doing its job?  
 Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

		----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
10/22/06	RV	31	5	26	65	26	39	4
	All	31	5	25	65	27	38	4
10/8/06		32	5	27	66	29	37	2
9/7/06		40			55			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

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
10/22/06 RV	62	32	6
All	59	33	8
10/8/06	60	33	6
9/7/06	60	30	9
8/6/06	55	37	7
5/15/06	62	31	7
4/9/06	59	34	6
1/26/06	64	30	6
12/18/05	65	29	6
11/2/05	60	33	7
6/5/05	61	32	8
9/26/02	64	27	9
7/15/02	68	23	9
11/1/98	72	20	8
11/1/98 LV	73	23	5
10/18/98	68	20	11
10/18/98 LV	67	25	9
9/28/98	70	21	10
9/28/98 LV	71	23	6

7/12/98	70	18	12
1/19/98	74	19	7
4/5/95	65	25	9
10/31/94	51	38	11
10/23/94	49	43	8
9/11/94	53	35	12
6/26/94	59	31	10
3/27/94	62	26	12
1/17/93	60	29	11
4/9/92	47	39	13
3/18/92	49	40	11
2/2/92	56	32	12
12/15/91	60	28	12
10/21/91	64	27	9
6/2/91	61	26	14
10/14/90	64	29	7
5/23/89	71	18	11

14. Will/was one reason for your vote for Congress (be) to express (support for) Bush, to express (opposition to) Bush, or is/was Bush not a factor in your choice?

	Support	Opposition	Not a factor	No opinion
10/22/06 RV	17	31	50	2
10/8/06 RV	18	35	47	1
5/15/06	12	30	58	1
11/4/02 LV	29	15	55	1
11/3/02 LV	29	17	52	1
11/2/02 LV	30	15	54	1
10/27/02 LV	33	18	49	1

Compare to: Is one of the reasons you support this candidate to express support for Bill Clinton, to express opposition to Clinton, or would you say that Clinton is not a factor?

	Support	Opposition	Not a factor	No opinion
11/1/98	13	9	77	1
11/1/98 LV	10	13	77	*
10/25/98	14	10	72	4
10/25/98 LV	15	15	70	1
10/18/98	13	9	75	3
10/18/98 LV	12	12	76	1
9/28/98	14	13	71	2
9/28/98 LV	14	18	67	1

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

10/8/06 - Summary Table, Registered Voters\*

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
a. The situation in Iraq	48	40	1	8	3
b. The U.S. campaign against terrorism	44	43	2	8	3
c. The economy	50	41	2	5	2
d. Ethics in government	48	35	2	13	1
e. The situation with North Korea	47	40	1	7	5

Items a-c asked of full sample; items d,e asked of half sample.



Trend where available:

a. The situation in Iraq

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
10/22/06 RV	48	40	1	8	3
10/8/06	51	38	3	7	2
9/7/06	43	44	2	10	2
8/6/06	43	40	*	11	5
6/25/06	47	41	1	9	2
5/15/06	50	36	2	10	3
4/9/06	49	42	1	6	2
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	33	52	6	4	6

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

b. The U.S. campaign against terrorism

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
10/22/06 RV	44	43	2	8	3
10/8/06	47	41	4	6	2
9/7/06	40	47	1	9	3
8/6/06	46	38	1	11	4
6/25/06	39	46	2	10	3
5/15/06	46	41	2	8	3
4/9/06	46	45	1	6	1
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*	30	51	6	6	8
7/15/02	27	55	9	3	6
1/27/02	23	62	10	3	2

\*"The war on terrorism"

c. The economy

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
10/22/06 RV	50	41	2	5	2
10/8/06	54	37	3	6	1
9/7/06	50	39	1	7	4
6/25/06	52	39	1	5	3
5/15/06	52	34	3	9	2
4/9/06	49	43	1	4	3
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*	47	39	3	6	5
7/15/02**	38	48	3	6	5
1/27/02**	39	48	5	6	3
4/22/01***	47	43	4	4	3

9/28/98	53	40	NA	NA	7
7/12/98	49	37	4	5	6
1/19/98	45	44	3	6	3
7/8/97	43	39	5	12	2
10/23/94	38	43	3	14	2
9/11/94	39	43	3	11	4
2/27/94	47	36	3	11	3
2/2/92	49	38	2	7	4
12/15/91	43	36	4	11	5
3/4/91	32	49	5	10	4
1/16/90	33	52	4	7	4

\*"The economy and jobs"

\*\*"Improving the economy"

\*\*\*4/22/01 and previous: "The nation's economy"

d. Ethics in government

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
10/22/06 RV	48	35	2	13	1
10/8/06	49	30	3	15	2
12/18/05	47	38	2	10	3
11/2/05	42	36	3	16	3

e. No trend.

16. If control of the Congress switched from the Republicans to the Democrats after next month's election, do you think that would be a good thing, a bad thing, or wouldn't it make any difference?

	Good	Bad	No difference	No opinion
10/22/06 RV	47	23	27	2
All	45	21	32	3

Compare to: If control of the Congress switched from the Democrats to the Republicans after next month's election, do you think that would be a good thing, a bad thing, or wouldn't it make any difference?

	Good	Bad	No difference	No opinion
10/31/94 LV	36	23	39	2
All	32	20	45	2
10/23/94	31	18	49	1

17. Have you recently been contacted in person, by telephone, or by e-mail by any organization working in support of a candidate for Congress, asking for your vote?

	Yes	No	No opinion
10/22/06 RV	29	70	1
All	25	74	*

18. (IF CONTACTED, Q17) Were you asked to vote for a (Republican) candidate or for a (Democratic) candidate?

	Rep. cand.	Dem. cand.	Both (vol.)	Other (vol.)	No opin.
10/22/06 RV	33	29	29	1	8
All	33	29	28	1	8

19. Compared to past congressional elections in your lifetime, do you see the 2006 election as (more important) to the country, (less important), or about as important as past congressional elections?

	More	Less	Same	No opin.
10/22/06 RV	58	2	39	*
All	56	3	41	1

20. 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.
10/22/06 RV	40	30	11	57	10	47	2
All	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"

21. Do you think the war with Iraq has or has not (ITEM)?

10/22/06 - Summary Table

		NET	Has Great deal	Somewhat	Has not	No op.
a. Damaged the United States' image in the rest of the world		RV 77	50	27	22	1
		All 76	51	25	22	1
b. Helped to improve the lives of the Iraqi people		RV 49	22	26	46	5
		All 47	21	26	48	5

Trend:

a. Damaged the United States' image in the rest of the world

		NET	Great deal	Somewhat	Has not	No opin.
10/22/06	RV	77	50	27	22	1
	All	76	51	25	22	1
6/25/06		74	43	30	25	1
6/26/05		67	31	36	33	*
6/20/04		76	46	31	23	1
7/10/03*		63	30	34	34	3

\*"did or did not"

b. Helped to improve the lives of the Iraqi people

		NET	Great deal	Somewhat	Has not	No opin.
10/22/06	RV	49	22	26	46	5
	All	47	21	26	48	5
6/25/06		68	32	36	29	3
6/20/04		65	28	37	33	1
7/10/03*		72	41	31	25	3

\*"did or did not"

22. How much blame do you think the (INSERT) in Congress should get for problems relating to the war in Iraq - a great deal of blame, a good amount, just some or hardly any?

10/22/06 - Summary Table

		Great deal/ -- Good amount --			---- Some/Hardly any/None ----				No op.
		NET	Great	Good	NET	Some	Hardly any	(vol.)	op.
a. Democrats		RV 34	12	22	63	43	16	3	3
		All 35	13	22	62	42	17	3	3
b. Republicans		RV 55	33	22	43	27	12	4	2
		All 55	31	24	43	27	13	3	2

23. How much credit do you think the (INSERT) in Congress should get for the fact that there has not been another terrorist attack in the United States since September 11th, 2001 - a great deal of credit, a good amount, just some or hardly any?

10/22/06 - Summary Table

		Great deal/ -- Good amount --			---- Some/Hardly any/None ----				No
		NET	Great	Good	NET	Some	Hardly any	(vol.)	op.
a. Democrats	RV	24	8	16	74	32	33	9	2
	All	27	10	17	71	32	31	9	2
b. Republicans	RV	44	23	21	55	27	22	5	1
	All	43	22	21	56	27	23	6	1

Compare to: How much credit do you think Bush should get for the fact that there has not been another terrorist attack in the United States since September 11th, 2001 - a great deal of credit, a good amount, just some or hardly any?

		Great deal/ -- Good amount --			---- Some/Hardly any/None ----				No
		NET	Great	Good	NET	Some	Hardly any	(vol.)	op.
10/8/06		44	20	23	56	24	27	5	*
8/29/04	RV	51	21	30	48	24	21	3	1

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

10/22/06 - Summary Table

		Optimistic	Pessimistic	No op.
a. the situation in Iraq	RV	42	56	3
	All	42	55	3
b. the country's ability to defend itself against terrorist attacks	RV	72	25	3
	All	70	26	3

Trend:

a. the situation in Iraq

		Optimistic	Pessimistic	No opinion
10/22/06	RV	42	56	3
	All	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"

b. the country's ability to defend itself against terrorist attacks

		Optimistic	Pessimistic	No opinion
10/22/06	RV	72	25	3
	All	70	26	3
5/15/06		65	32	3
12/18/05		65	34	1
12/19/04		66	30	4
6/20/04		66	31	3
1/14/03		75	23	3

25. Do you think the United States is heading for the same kind of involvement in Iraq as it had in the Vietnam war, or do you think the United States will avoid that kind of involvement this time?

	Another Vietnam	Will avoid that	Already in it (vol.)	No opin.
10/22/06 RV	40	50	5	4
All	40	50	5	5
6/5/05	42	52	3	3
Compare to: Afghanistan				
3/10/02	18	77	NA	5
Compare to: Serbia				
4/26/99	31	65	NA	4
Compare to: Bosnia				
11/29/95	33	61	NA	6
Compare to: Persian Gulf				
4/3/91*	8	89	NA	3
1/20/91*	11	86	NA	3
12/5/90	32	66	NA	3
11/15/90	26	69	NA	5
9/9/90	18	78	NA	4
8/20/90	22	74	NA	4

\*Wording change: "Persian Gulf" in place of "Middle East"

26. On another subject, 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 op.
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
10/22/06 RV	56	11	45	44	29	15	*
All	55	10	45	45	28	17	*
10/8/06	47	7	40	53	37	16	*
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	*

27. Which best describes your family's financial situation? Do you feel as if you (are getting ahead financially), have just enough money to maintain your standard of living, or (are falling behind financially)?

	Getting ahead	Just enough to maintain	Falling behind	No opin.
10/22/06 RV	25	53	21	1
All	24	52	23	1

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