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President Bush's Popularity Slides

As George W. Bush begins his fifth year as president, his support from the American people has declined dramatically. He began his second term by saying that he had the political capital to press on with his agenda, but nowhere today is that political capital evident. The president and, more specifically, the Bush administration has been engulfed in one problem after another – the war in Iraq and the alleged misinformation about Saddam Hussein having weapons of mass destruction, the slow reaction to Hurricane Katrina, the indictment of Scooter Libby (Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff) for lying to a grand jury about outing a covert CIA agent, the warrantless eavesdropping of Americans within the U.S. and the disastrous beginning of the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. With all these adverse events, the public is showing much dissatisfaction with Bush.

In leading up to the president's State of the Union address next week, the latest L.A. Times/Bloomberg poll shows that Bush has a lot to be worried about. Besides the president's job rating dropping, the public thinks the country would be better off if it moved in a new direction, rather than continue with Bush's policies. In addition, the right direction and wrong track question, a marker that most politicians and political consultants use to rate the health of an administration, is very bad.

The president also doesn't fare much better when Americans were asked to rate Bush on a myriad of other issues -- his handling of the war in Iraq, economy, health care and ethics in government. The only one that Bush receives a more ambiguous response to is his handling of the war on terrorism. This issue has always been a strong one for the president and helped him get reelected. Last January, for example, a Times poll showed that the president had a 54% job approval rating on handling the war on terrorism. But in the current poll, Americans are at best evenly split.

Just as protecting the country from terrorism was the lynchpin to his winning a second term, so was America's perception of his being a strong leader and having honesty and integrity. In his 2000 campaign the president promised that he would restore honesty and integrity to the White House. But in the current poll, the share of respondents giving the president high marks for these personal attributes have slipped markedly. In November 2003, a Times poll found that 56% of respondents thought the president was honest, while another 61% thought he was a strong leader. Today, the nation is divided over whether he is honest and trustworthy and just about half think he is a strong leader. And most don't believe the president fulfilled his promise to restore honesty and integrity to the White House.

Although most of the poll's data is not good news for the president, one ray of hope is how Americans view the way the president is making the country safe from terrorism. They agree with the president's argument that the provisions of the Patriot Act that will expire next month should be re-authorized. Also, interestingly, in the name of making the country safe, the public would not mind if some of their civil liberties were taken away. They are, however, somewhat divided on whether Bush's electronic surveillance on American citizens without a warrant is acceptable or not.

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Another issue that is hurting the president is the war in Iraq. Half of Americans don't believe the president when he says the U.S. military is making a lot of headway in Iraq, while many feel that going to war with Iraq was not worth it. Yet, there is some optimism that things will get better over the year. Even though some Democrats in Congress have rattled the cage and said the U.S. military should get out of Iraq immediately, there isn't a swell of support for this immediate withdrawal.

View of the Country

Three out of five Americans think the country is seriously off on the wrong track (up 13 points from last year at this time), while a third believe the country is going in the right direction. The only demographic groups that believe the country is going in the right direction are Republicans and the most affluent -- each at 52%.

A third each of survey respondents mentioned health care and the war in Iraq as a top priority for Congress and the president to address, followed by Social Security (20%) and terrorism (17%). More than two out of five Democrats mentioned healthcare and 39% cited the Iraq war, while a little more than a fifth of Republicans mentioned health care and 30% cited the Iraq war. Thirty-two percent of Republicans mentioned terrorism, while just 9% of Democrats mentioned this issue.

Bush Ratings

Twice as many Americans think the country needs to move in a new direction, rather than proceed with Bush's policies (62% vs. 31%). Two thirds of independents and seven in 10 moderates want to move the country in a new direction. All demographic groups except the very core groups for Bush -- Republicans and conservatives – want to move the country away from Bush's policies and toward a new direction.

Overall job rating: A majority of Americans (54%) disapprove of the way the president is handling his job, while 43% approve. This includes 39% who strongly disapprove. This is a big drop from the beginning of last year, when a January L.A. Times Poll had Bush's job rating at 50% approve (47% disapprove). Throughout much of 2005, most national polls have shown Bush's popularity declining dramatically. The poll results are very close to the average of other national polls released in the last two weeks.

A gender gap is seen in many of the questions relating to Bush. However, last year 54% of men approved of Bush's performance, while 50% of women disapproved. This poll shows the men moving toward the negative column – they are now divided on whether they approve of the president's job performance, or not. Women disapproved of him last year and are more disapproving of him this year (from 50% to 60%).

Now, almost 6 out of 10 respondents who consider themselves independents disapproved of the way Bush is handling his job and 39% approved. Last year, they were split with 49% approving and 46% disapproving. Moderates are another example of a group moving to the negative column – more than 6 out of 10 disapproved, compared to more than a third who approved. Last year they were split (47%-46%). Moderate Republicans are 12 points more negative than last year (from 21% to 33%). Conservative Republicans are still solidified behind the president -- 85% approval vs. 14% disapproval. The youngest and oldest respondents are more disapproving of the president on this issue than the other age groups.

Interestingly, whites last year gave Bush positive marks for his job performance, but in this current poll, more than half are now disapproving. Minorities last year and in this poll disapprove of the president's handling of his job. Among blacks, it is even more negative – 72% disapprove. All income groups give the president a negative rating, except for those respondents with household incomes of more than $100,000. They are split in their opinion (52% to 48%). Americans living in the Southern region of the country are the only ones that give Bush a positive rating.

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Handling situation in Iraq: Nearly three-fifths of Americans disapprove of the way Bush is handling the situation in Iraq, while 41% approve. This includes 45% who strongly disapprove. More younger respondents (18-29) disapprove of the president's job performance on this issue than the other age groups. Two thirds of minorities disapprove of the president handling this situation (including a full 54% who strongly disapprove), compared to 53% of whites who also disapprove of the president's performance. There is also a gender gap on this issue. Men are divided (50%-49%), while nearly two-thirds of women disapprove. Only the president's core base is giving him some positive feedback on this issue. Roughly four out of five Republicans and two thirds of conservatives approve of Bush's handling the war in Iraq.

Handling the war on terrorism: Throughout the poll this one issue has shown to be one of the president's biggest strengths. He plays to this issue time and time again. He positions himself as a president that will do anything to make the country safe from terrorism. And this was the only issue that the poll tested where he did not received a negative rating. However, Americans are divided as to whether they approve or disapprove of the president's job performance on this issue (48%-49%). Last year, 54% of Americans approved, while 43% disapproved. A third strongly approve, while just more than a third strongly disapprove. Once again, there is a gender gap, with 58% of men approving and 57% of women disapproving. Independents and moderates disapprove of the president's job performance on this issue. Whites are more approving (51%) than minorities (58% disapproving).

Handling the economy: Nearly three in five disapprove of the way Bush is handling the economy, while 37% approve. This includes 40% who strongly disapprove. Most demographic groups disapprove of the president's performance on this issue, but once again his core is loyal to him – 75% of Republicans, 59% of conservatives and 53% of the most affluent – give him a positive rating. Last year 49% of respondents overall approved, while 46% disapproved.

Handling the cost and availability of health care: A huge 64% of Americans disapprove of the way the president is handling the issue of health care (including 47% who strongly disapprove). Only 27% approve. Again, all demographic groups, except for Republicans, disapprove of his handling this issue. Seven in 10 minorities disapprove, as do 72% of respondents whose household income is less than $40,000, 62% of the elderly, 66% of women and 75% of moderates. Even conservatives who usually stand behind the president, barely approve of his handling this issue (46%-44%), although within the poll's margin of error.

*Handling ethics in governmen*t: Respondents are somewhat divided as to whether they approve of Bush's handling of ethics in government (43% approve to 47% disapprove). A third strongly disapprove (while 21% strongly approve). There is a gender gap on this issue, where men approve (47%) and women disapprove (52%) of the president's job performance. Whereas younger respondents have been critical of the president on the other issues tested in the poll, they give him a more positive rating (48%). At least half each of independents and moderates disapprove of the president's handling of ethics in government.

Attributes for the president: Americans are evenly split on whether Bush is honest and trustworthy. This is a 10 point drop when respondents were asked the same question in a November 2003 Times poll. More than half each of independents and moderates don't think he has those qualities. Roughly half of the men in the survey believe in Bush's honesty, while nearly half of women don't. Almost three-fifths of respondents who are 18-29 years old don't think Bush is honest and trustworthy, while 48% of the elderly do. And three out of five of all adults do not think Bush fulfilled his promise to restore honesty and integrity to the Oval Office. Once again only Republicans (66%) and conservatives (55%) are loyal to the president and think he kept his promise.

The public, however, still believes he is a strong leader, although people's attitude about this attribute has dropped 11 points since the Times Poll asked the question in November 2003. And the gender gap still persists – men think he is a strong leader, while women don't.

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Other issues for the president: Another item that is helping to keep attitudes about the president negative is the feeling that the country's economy is worse off since he took office five years ago. Nearly half say the country is worse off, while 22% say better off and another 28% say it has remained the same. Interestingly, almost a quarter who say the country's economy is better off since Bush took office, wants the country to head in a new direction, rather than following Bush's policies; half of those who said the economy is about the same also don't want to follow Bush's policies, but want to find a new path. And not surprisingly, 90% who said the country's economy is worse off wants the country to move in another direction.

But once again as the polling data suggests, the public still trusts Bush to keep the country safe from terrorism. More than half of the public believes Bush's policies on terrorism and national security have made the country more secure over the past five years, 21% think it has made the country less secure and 25% think there is no difference. Democrats are divided as to whether Bush's policies made the country more or less secure.

Bush vs. Democrats in Congress: The only issue that Bush defeats Democrats on is who would be best at protecting the nation against terrorism. When asked who could do a better job of handling taxes – 43% thought the Democrats in Congress would be better, compared to 34% for the president; handling the federal budget deficit – 47% said the Democrats and 30% sided with Bush; handling health care issues – 53% mentioned the Democrats and 25% supported Bush; better job of protecting the nation against terrorism – 45% thought Bush would be better, while 32% thought that about the Democrats.

The National Economy

Driven by a lack of trust in the country's fiscal leadership, economic optimism is slipping among all but the country's most financially advantaged. In addition, there is evidence that the rising cost of household energy could slow the economy. Most Americans, even about half of those in households making more than $100,000 a year, said that they will have to cut back on other purchases if prices of heating fuel, electricity and gasoline continue to rise.

Americans were generally more fiscally optimistic than pessimistic - more than half said the economy is doing well. However the survey also found evidence that their confidence is slipping. The healthy twenty-one point gap between those who said that the economy was doing well compared to badly one year ago (60% to 39%) has narrowed to eleven points in the current poll (55% to 44%.) Similarly, the solid six out of 10 in this survey who said that they feel secure about their own personal financial situation represents a ten point drop from the even more solid seven in 10 who said the same thing one year ago.

In general, the country's economic optimism is sliding in tandem with its trust in the current administration's handling of the country's fiscal health. About three out of five handed George W. Bush a negative job approval rating on his handling of the economy. Nearly half (47%) said that the national fiscal outlook is in worse shape now than before Bush took office, specifically because of the president's economic policies. In a further repudiation of Bush's economic moves, respondents picked "The Democrats in Congress" over Bush by nine points when asked who they'd trust to do a better job of handling taxes, and by 17 points when it came to handling the federal budget deficit.

The slippage so far is confined mostly to the lower regions of the economic pyramid, as well as being much more prevalent among women than men, and stronger in the East and West than in the Midwest or South.

There has been virtually no loss of economic optimism among those whose family earnings exceed $60,000 a year, a group which represents a bit more than the upper third of American households, according to the 2005 Current Population Survey. Among that group, nearly seven in 10 characterized the economy as doing well and about five out of six said their own personal financial situation is secure. Those proportions are little changed from one year ago. It is another story for those whose household incomes are

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lower – optimism about the national economy has dropped about ten points among those groups. Those with the lowest incomes are faring the worst – a 55% majority of adults in households earning less than $40K characterized the economy as doing badly in the most recent poll, a switch from a year ago when just over half of that group said it was doing well. Similarly, only 37% of the under $40K group said their own personal financial situation felt secure, a dramatic 17 point drop from the 54% who felt financially sound one year ago.

Women are not only less optimistic about the national economy, but also more likely to feel financially insecure, compared to men, and the difference is increasing. A year ago, more women felt secure than shaky by 30 points, nearly twice as large as the 58% to 41% gap found in this survey. That gap narrowed among men, too, going from about three times as many who felt secure as shaky a year ago to less than twice as many, at 64% vs. 35%. Similarly, while the proportion of men who view the national economy as sound has not changed over the last year – 62% then and now said the economy is doing well – optimism has slipped by ten points among women. One year ago nearly six in 10 women said it was doing well, but now that proportion is 47%, compared to 51% who say it is doing badly.

Southerners and those from the Midwest are more likely than the rest of the country to feel confident in the economy and their own finances, while those in the east are least likely. The proportion of Midwesterners and Southerners who say the economy is doing well in this survey is little changed from a year ago, as well as their outlook on their own personal financial situation. However, the proportion of those in eastern and western portions of the country who feel financially shaky has nearly doubled in each case. More than half (53%) of those living in the east of the country said the economy is doing badly, a complete turnaround from the 56% who said it was doing well one year ago. In the west, the proportion of those who are optimistic about the economy has dropped 13 points - from 69% to 56% - since last January.

In spite of a series of recent reports showing housing prices leveling off, most Americans nationwide still view their homes as a solid investment. Nearly nine out of 10 homeowners said that, in the next half year, they thought the price of housing would stay the same (54%) or increase (34%), compared to the just over one in 10 who thought that prices might go down. Homeowner's optimism about the persistence of the housing price bubble persists even in the face of their pessimism about the economy. About three out of four of homeowners who predicted a downturn in the economy over the next six months said that they figured housing prices would stay the same (57%) or increase (21%) over that period. Renters, however, are another matter. Nearly half of those who rent, many of whom may feel priced out of the housing market, predicted that the cost of housing will continue to rise. Only one in six renters said it will decrease, and about a third figured it would stay the same. Renters tend to be younger, have shakier personal finances, and to be more pessimistic about the state of the national economy in general.

Civil Liberties and Ethics

President Bush has been urging Congress to reauthorize parts of the Patriot Act that have expired. He argues that America cannot let down its guard in fighting and rooting out terrorism. The American people agree. Nearly three out of five would like Congress to reauthorize the provisions that have expired (temporarily extended to early February), while a third say those provisions should be allowed to expire because they may violate civil liberties. Democrats are somewhat split (45% reauthorize, 44% let provisions expire), while independents and moderates agree that Congress should pass the Act's expiring provisions. One of the only group that want Congress to let parts of the Patriot Act expire is liberals.

Along with the public wanting parts of the Patriot Act reauthorized, 51% are willing to give up some of their civil liberties in the name of keeping the country safe from terrorism. Democrats, liberals and the youngest respondents are not willing to give up some of their civil liberties to help fight against terrorism. Also, a small majority say they would mind if their phone calls were being monitored by the U.S. government as part of the fight against terrorism, but a large minority – 46% would not mind. Fifty-two percent of registered voters would mind if their calls were being monitored, as well as Democrats,

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independents, liberals, moderates, men and women, the younger respondents (younger than 45), minorities and all income groups except those households earning more than $100K. Whites are split on this.

Surveillance without a warrant: Americans are somewhat divided as to whether it is acceptable or not for Bush to authorize electronic surveillance to monitor phone calls and emails within the United States without first getting a court warrant to do so (49% acceptable vs. 45% unacceptable). But there are some warning signs for Bush -- nearly three-fifths would like Congress to hold hearings to investigate the legality of the president's authorization without a warrant. More than a third would not like Congress to hold hearings. But if a congressional investigation finds that the president broke the law when he authorized the use of electronic surveillance to tap Americans without a court warrant, 52% believe that is not an impeachable offense, while 39% do believe it is an impeachable offense.

Ethics: The subject matter, ethics, has taken front and center in the last few months with Republican lobbyist Abramoff pleading guilty to conspiracy, fraud and tax evasion which fueled the ongoing investigation of alleged pay to play by members of Congress. Congress as an institution has taken a big hit with the American public. Almost two out of three respondents rated Congress on personal ethics and honesty as not so good (41%) or poor (23%). Those surveyed felt completely opposite about their own representative in Congress – 63% rate their member of Congress either good or excellent when it comes to their personal ethics and honesty. Democrats are trying to make this an issue and accuse the Republicans of having little ethical standards. However, at this point, it doesn't seem to be resonating with the public. More than two thirds said that neither party has higher standards than the other. Fourteen percent said that Republicans have a higher standard than Democrats and 13% said Democrats had a higher standard over Republicans. The job approval rating of Democrats and Republicans in Congress are not very good and both parties received about the same low level of support. But with the swirl of bad press surrounding Republicans and the ethics problems of some of their members of Congress, more voters would like to see Democrats win in their congressional district than Republicans (by 9 percentage points).

When respondents were asked about the president's integrity – a third believe that the president has lower ethical standards than most modern day presidents; about a fourth said he had higher standards and roughly two in five said his ethical standards were similar to most modern day presidents. In September 1997, a Times poll asked a similar question about Bill Clinton: Do you think Bill Clinton is less ethical or more ethical than most other modern day U.S. presidents or about as ethical? More than three out of 10 said he was less ethical, 9% more ethical and 56% thought he was as ethical.

Laws for Lobbyists: Because of the Abramoff scandal, Republicans and Democrats are jumping over each other to author finance reform bills to show the public that they want to clean house. Both parties are in the process of writing legislation to limit the extent of lobbyists' gifts. Americans believe Congress' ethical behavior is not good at best and want either tougher laws enacted (48%) or strictly enforce the existing laws (34%) dealing with lobbyist's gifts and fundraising. This includes 65% who would like to prohibit fundraisers that are arranged by lobbyists for congressional candidates because they believe it would reduce their influence over lawmakers. All demographic groups want to prohibit fundraisers by lobbyists. About a fifth disagree because they believe it would infringe on the lobbyists' constitutional rights. Under congressional ethics laws, lawmakers may travel on jets provided by corporations and lobbyists for the cost of flying on a commercial airline. The public wants none of that – nearly three-quarters of respondents want that perquisite prohibited. This belief crosses party lines, party ideology, and all other demographic groups.

Iraq (and Iran)

Americans are increasingly skeptical about the situation in Iraq, the survey showed, and a call for immediate troop withdrawal may be on the rise. A majority continued to disapprove of George W. Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq, and indicated that the situation in Iraq was not worth the costs of war. Half said they don't believe the Bush administration's claim that the U.S. is making progress toward democracy in Iraq. In addition, as many were skeptical that Iraq can maintain a democracy once the U.S.

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has pulled out as believe it is possible. Still, the survey found strong support for going into Iran, if necessary to suppress that country's nuclear capabilities.

The proportion of those who think the war is not worthwhile has grown from a minority of four in 10 when the Times Poll first asked the question in November 2003, to 53% today. The issue is politically polarized and negative feelings ran more strongly among women than men. Three out of four self-described Democrats in this survey said that the war isn't worth it, a similar proportion of Republicans said it is, and about six in 10 independents sided with the Democrats. A 55% to 38% majority of women said the war isn't worth it, while men split 50% who said it isn't vs. 47% who said it is.

George W. Bush's approval rating on the subject of Iraq has been steadily negative since 2003, and is similarly polarized. About four in 10 overall approved of the job the president is doing in Iraq compared to nearly six in ten who disapproved, and the usual partisan points of view applied, while Independents again sided with Democrats on this subject by disapproving 61% to 34%. Women in particular didn't care for Bush's handling of the war - twice as many disapproved as approved, compared to men who were split 50% approve to 49% disapprove.

The survey found little hope for improvement in Iraq in the short term… Half said they don't believe President Bush when he talks about positive movement toward democracy and stability in Iraq, and the vast majority said they do not expect things there to get better over the next year. Just over a third were optimistic that the situation in Iraq will improve, while 44% said they expect it will be the same a year from now and 19% are concerned it will just get worse. Part of that expectation may come from the belief that neither side is winning this war and concern that Iraq will not remain a democracy. More than half (55%) said that neither side is winning, compared to 33% who said the U.S. is winning, and 7% who said the insurgents are. Only about a third view U.S. involvement in Iraq as a stabilizing influence on that country and they split 45% to 44% over whether Iraq will be able to maintain a democratic government after the U.S. and its allies pull out.

While four in 10 continue to support the idea of leaving troops in Iraq for "as long as it takes to secure and stabilize the country" (a proportion similar to one year ago), the number of those calling for the U.S. to bring troops home now* has doubled to about 15% over the past year. (*this is a volunteered response to a question asking whether troops should be left for as long as it takes, or come home within a set amount of time.) Two in 10 Democrats, compared to just 3% of Republicans, said that the troops should come home now, along with twice as many women as men (20% and 9% respectively.)

The Bush Administration's assertion that U.S. involvement in Iraq is part of the declared U.S. war on terrorism continues to attract a bare majority of agreement among the population. Fifty-one percent said it is part of the war on terrorism and 46% said it is separate. The latter view has gained ground… in a November 2003 Times poll, six in 10 said that the fighting in Iraq was a part of a bigger picture, compared to only 36% who said that it was not, at that time. Only about one in six in the current survey said terrorism around the world has decreased as a result of U.S. involvement in Iraq while almost half said that it has neither increased nor decreased, and a third said they are concerned that terrorism has risen as a result.

There is widespread agreement that the country's involvement in Iraq has hurt the U.S.'s image with the rest of the world – two thirds nationwide, including nearly half of Republicans, said that was the case. Four in ten overall said the war has badly hurt this country's image. Only 12% nationwide said that the U.S. has been enhanced in the world's eyes as a result, while 19% didn't see that it has had an effect one way or the other.

But despite growing disenchantment about the war in Iraq, the survey found some evidence that Americans may be ready to do it again, in Iran. When asked the question: *"If Iran continues to produce material that can be used to develop nuclear weapons, would you support or oppose the U.S. taking military action against Iran?,"* 57% said they would support such an action, including nearly a third who said they

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strongly supported it. A third were opposed (including 20% strongly opposed), and 10% weren't sure. Almost half of Democrats and Independents and 76% of Republicans supported action in Iran, along with 60% of men and 54% of women. There could well be nuances to this support, of course – responses to questions of this type can vary depending on the specifics and "military action" encompasses a wide variety of activities. Also, most Americans (63%) said, in a separate question, that they supported the U.S. working only in a coordinated effort with allies to "fight violations of international law and aggression around the world" rather than going it alone.

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Results from the Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg Poll
National Poll
January 22-25, 2006

Guide to Column Headings

ALL All adults
RV Registered voters
DEM Self-described Democrats
IND Self-described Independents
REP Self-described Republicans
LIB Self-described liberals
MOD Self-described moderates
CON Self-described conservatives

Note
-All results are among adults nationwide
-(Vol.) indicates a voluntarily response
- '–' indicates less than 0.5%

Q1. Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Right direction	**32**	**34**	**18**	**31**	**52**	**20**	**29**	**45**
On the wrong track	**61**	**58**	**75**	**64**	**40**	**72**	**64**	**48**
Don't know	**7**	**8**	**7**	**5**	**8**	**8**	**7**	**7**

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(ORDER OF PRIORITIES IS ROTATED)
Q2. Which of the following should Congress and the President make their top priority this year: Should it be health care, or making tax cuts permanent, or Social Security, or the deficit, or the war in Iraq, or fighting terrorism, or the way political campaigns are financed, or establishing a guest worker program for foreign workers, or tighter enforcement of immigration laws? (UP TO TWO RESPONSES ACCEPTED)

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
War in Iraq	**34**	**35**	**39**	**32**	**30**	**34**	**38**	**32**
Health care	**34**	**34**	**42**	**38**	**22**	**38**	**41**	**26**
Social Security	**20**	**20**	**23**	**19**	**17**	**17**	**21**	**21**
Terrorism	**17**	**18**	**9**	**16**	**32**	**9**	**11**	**29**
Tighter enforcement of immigration laws	**14**	**15**	**8**	**18**	**21**	**6**	**14**	**20**
Deficit	**12**	**12**	**10**	**10**	**15**	**14**	**11**	**12**
Tax cuts permanent	**8**	**8**	**4**	**7**	**12**	**4**	**8**	**10**
The way political campaigns are financed	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**2**	**5**	**4**	**2**
Guest worker program	**2**	**2**	**2**	**–**	**3**	**1**	**3**	**2**
All (Vol.)	**7**	**7**	**8**	**7**	**4**	**11**	**5**	**5**
Other (Vol.)	**2**	**2**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**1**
Don't know	**1**	**1**	**3**	**–**	**–**	**3**	**–**	**1**

Q3. Would you say the country is better off because of George W. Bush's policies and should proceed in the direction he set out, or do you think the country is not better off and needs to move in a new direction?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Continue policies of George W. Bush	**31**	**33**	**8**	**25**	**67**	**12**	**21**	**56**
Needs a new direction	**62**	**60**	**86**	**67**	**26**	**83**	**71**	**38**
Don't know	**7**	**7**	**6**	**8**	**7**	**5**	**8**	**6**

Q4. Would you say you favor smaller government with fewer services, or larger government with many services?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Smaller government	**49**	**52**	**34**	**50**	**69**	**30**	**44**	**66**
Larger government	**38**	**35**	**51**	**35**	**23**	**57**	**43**	**22**
Don't know	**13**	**13**	**15**	**15**	**8**	**13**	**13**	**12**

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Q5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve (Net)	**43**	**45**	**18**	**39**	**79**	**20**	**37**	**68**
Approve strongly	**25**	**28**	**8**	**19**	**53**	**9**	**16**	**46**
Approve somewhat	**18**	**17**	**10**	**21**	**26**	**11**	**20**	**22**
Disapprove (Net)	**54**	**52**	**80**	**57**	**20**	**77**	**62**	**30**
Disapprove somewhat	**15**	**14**	**17**	**17**	**10**	**15**	**24**	**9**
Disapprove strongly	**39**	**38**	**63**	**40**	**10**	**63**	**38**	**21**
Don't know	**3**	**3**	**2**	**4**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**

(ORDER OF NEXT FIVE QUESTIONS IS ROTATED)
Q6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation in Iraq? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve (Net)	**41**	**44**	**19**	**34**	**77**	**20**	**31**	**65**
Approve strongly	**26**	**28**	**8**	**17**	**56**	**13**	**16**	**46**
Approve somewhat	**15**	**15**	**11**	**18**	**21**	**7**	**15**	**19**
Disapprove (Net)	**56**	**53**	**78**	**61**	**22**	**77**	**68**	**31**
Disapprove somewhat	**12**	**12**	**14**	**17**	**7**	**12**	**17**	**8**
Disapprove strongly	**45**	**42**	**64**	**44**	**15**	**65**	**51**	**23**
Don't know	**3**	**3**	**3**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**4**

Q7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the war on terrorism? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve (Net)	**48**	**50**	**25**	**45**	**81**	**24**	**41**	**71**
Approve strongly	**33**	**35**	**13**	**31**	**61**	**17**	**26**	**52**
Approve somewhat	**15**	**15**	**12**	**14**	**20**	**7**	**14**	**19**
Disapprove (Net)	**49**	**47**	**70**	**54**	**18**	**73**	**57**	**25**
Disapprove somewhat	**13**	**13**	**15**	**17**	**6**	**14**	**18**	**7**
Disapprove strongly	**36**	**34**	**55**	**37**	**12**	**59**	**40**	**18**
Don't know	**3**	**3**	**5**	**1**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**4**

Q8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve (Net)	**37**	**41**	**13**	**34**	**75**	**19**	**31**	**59**
Approve strongly	**20**	**23**	**4**	**12**	**48**	**6**	**13**	**38**
Approve somewhat	**18**	**18**	**9**	**22**	**27**	**13**	**18**	**21**
Disapprove (Net)	**59**	**56**	**83**	**59**	**23**	**78**	**67**	**36**
Disapprove somewhat	**18**	**17**	**20**	**17**	**10**	**20**	**22**	**13**
Disapprove strongly	**40**	**39**	**63**	**42**	**13**	**57**	**45**	**23**
Don't know	**4**	**3**	**4**	**7**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**5**

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Q9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the cost and availability of health care in the United States? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve (Net)	**27**	**29**	**9**	**21**	**54**	**12**	**20**	**46**
Approve strongly	**10**	**11**	**3**	**6**	**21**	**6**	**7**	**17**
Approve somewhat	**17**	**18**	**6**	**15**	**34**	**6**	**14**	**29**
Disapprove (Net)	**64**	**63**	**84**	**70**	**36**	**78**	**75**	**44**
Disapprove somewhat	**17**	**18**	**19**	**25**	**16**	**19**	**22**	**13**
Disapprove strongly	**47**	**45**	**66**	**45**	**20**	**59**	**52**	**31**
Don't know	**9**	**8**	**7**	**9**	**10**	**10**	**5**	**10**

Q10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling ethics in government? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve (Net)	**43**	**45**	**23**	**39**	**72**	**23**	**43**	**59**
Approve strongly	**21**	**22**	**5**	**18**	**44**	**9**	**14**	**37**
Approve somewhat	**22**	**23**	**18**	**21**	**28**	**14**	**29**	**23**
Disapprove (Net)	**47**	**45**	**66**	**52**	**19**	**68**	**49**	**32**
Disapprove somewhat	**14**	**13**	**12**	**19**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**14**
Disapprove strongly	**34**	**32**	**54**	**33**	**10**	**57**	**37**	**18**
Don't know	**10**	**10**	**11**	**9**	**9**	**9**	**8**	**9**

Q11*. If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party would you like to see win in your congressional district: the Democratic Party or the Republican Party? (INCLUDES LEANERS)

		Among Registered Voters						
	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Democratic	**47**	**46**	**87**	**32**	**9**	**81**	**50**	**25**
Republican	**35**	**37**	**5**	**27**	**83**	**11**	**24**	**66**
Some other party (Vol.)	**2**	**3**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**2**	**4**	**2**
Neither	**8**	**8**	**5**	**15**	**4**	**4**	**11**	**4**
Don't know	**8**	**6**	**2**	**21**	**3**	**2**	**11**	**3**

*** Question 11 is the only question that is among registered voters.**

Q12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve	**35**	**33**	**30**	**32**	**42**	**26**	**38**	**38**
Disapprove	**55**	**57**	**60**	**54**	**51**	**63**	**55**	**52**
Don't know	**10**	**10**	**10**	**14**	**7**	**11**	**7**	**10**

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(ORDER OF NEXT TWO QUESTIONS IS ROTATED)
Q13. What is your impression of the Democrats in Congress?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Favorable	**36**	**35**	**54**	**31**	**18**	**54**	**35**	**25**
Unfavorable	**45**	**47**	**27**	**41**	**70**	**32**	**38**	**62**
Haven't heard enough	**16**	**15**	**15**	**25**	**10**	**11**	**23**	**11**
Don't know	**3**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**2**

Q14.What is your impression of the Republicans in Congress?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Favorable	**38**	**41**	**16**	**38**	**71**	**20**	**30**	**60**
Unfavorable	**44**	**43**	**67**	**34**	**19**	**68**	**45**	**28**
Haven't heard enough	**16**	**14**	**15**	**25**	**9**	**9**	**24**	**11**
Don't know	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**1**

(ORDER OF NEXT TWO QUESTIONS IS ROTATED)
Q15. Would you describe George W. Bush as "honest and trustworthy" or not?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Yes	**46**	**49**	**22**	**38**	**85**	**23**	**42**	**69**
No	**47**	**43**	**68**	**55**	**12**	**69**	**52**	**25**
Don't know	**7**	**8**	**10**	**7**	**3**	**8**	**6**	**6**

Q16. Do you think George W. Bush is a strong leader, or not?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Yes	**50**	**51**	**26**	**45**	**82**	**32**	**42**	**72**
No	**46**	**46**	**71**	**47**	**15**	**65**	**54**	**25**
Don't know	**4**	**3**	**3**	**8**	**3**	**3**	**4**	**3**

Q17. When George W. Bush first became president in 2000, he said he would restore honesty and integrity to the White House. Do you think Bush has fulfilled his promise, or not?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Yes	**32**	**34**	**12**	**25**	**66**	**13**	**23**	**55**
No	**60**	**58**	**82**	**70**	**25**	**76**	**72**	**37**
Don't know	**8**	**8**	**6**	**5**	**9**	**11**	**5**	**8**

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(ORDER OF NEXT TWO QUESTIONS IS ROTATED)
Q18. Would you say the country's economy is better off because of George W. Bush's economic policies than when he became president five years ago, or worse off, or is the country's economy about the same as it was then?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Better	**22**	**23**	**9**	**15**	**45**	**11**	**17**	**37**
Worse	**47**	**46**	**71**	**42**	**20**	**66**	**50**	**30**
Same	**28**	**29**	**19**	**35**	**33**	**21**	**31**	**30**
Don't know	**3**	**2**	**1**	**8**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**

Q19. Would you say George W. Bush's policies on terrorism and national security have made the country more secure over the past five years, or less secure, or have the president's policies not made a difference one way or the other?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
More secure	**52**	**52**	**34**	**40**	**82**	**34**	**46**	**70**
Less secure	**21**	**20**	**33**	**26**	**5**	**31**	**26**	**9**
No difference	**25**	**26**	**31**	**31**	**11**	**34**	**25**	**19**
Don't know	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**2**

(ORDER OF NEXT FOUR QUESTIONS IS ROTATED)
Q20. Who do you trust to do a better job of handling taxes: George W. Bush or the Democrats in Congress?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
George W. Bush	**34**	**36**	**10**	**27**	**73**	**14**	**24**	**59**
Democrats	**43**	**41**	**73**	**41**	**12**	**68**	**46**	**25**
Both equally (Vol.)	**3**	**3**	**1**	**6**	**3**	**2**	**3**	**2**
Neither (Vol.)	**11**	**10**	**7**	**15**	**5**	**9**	**14**	**9**
Don't know	**9**	**10**	**9**	**11**	**7**	**7**	**13**	**5**

Q21. Who do you trust to do a better job of handling the federal budget deficit: George W. Bush or the Democrats in Congress?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
George W. Bush	**30**	**32**	**9**	**30**	**62**	**15**	**23**	**51**
Democrats	**47**	**46**	**76**	**44**	**17**	**68**	**51**	**28**
Both equally (Vol.)	**2**	**2**	**1**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**3**
Neither (Vol.)	**11**	**11**	**6**	**14**	**10**	**9**	**13**	**12**
Don't know	**10**	**9**	**8**	**8**	**8**	**6**	**11**	**6**

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Q22. Who do you trust to do a better job of handling health care issues: George W. Bush or the Democrats in Congress?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
George W. Bush	**25**	**28**	**6**	**25**	**54**	**11**	**18**	**45**
Democrats	**53**	**50**	**81**	**49**	**22**	**74**	**59**	**34**
Both equally (Vol.)	**2**	**2**	**1**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**1**
Neither (Vol.)	**11**	**11**	**9**	**11**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**10**
Don't know	**9**	**9**	**3**	**12**	**13**	**5**	**11**	**10**

Q23. Who do you trust to do a better job of protecting the nation against terrorism: George W. Bush or the Democrats in Congress?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
George W. Bush	**45**	**48**	**17**	**46**	**85**	**19**	**39**	**72**
Democrats	**32**	**29**	**56**	**27**	**6**	**54**	**33**	**16**
Both equally (Vol.)	**4**	**4**	**6**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**7**	**2**
Neither (Vol.)	**9**	**10**	**10**	**9**	**3**	**12**	**11**	**4**
Don't know	**10**	**9**	**11**	**14**	**3**	**12**	**10**	**6**

Q24. Generally speaking, do you think the nation's economy these days is doing very well, or fairly well, or fairly badly, or very badly?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Well (Net)	**55**	**57**	**36**	**60**	**81**	**41**	**45**	**76**
Very well	**7**	**9**	**3**	**3**	**16**	**3**	**4**	**14**
Fairly well	**48**	**48**	**33**	**57**	**65**	**38**	**41**	**62**
Badly (Net)	**44**	**42**	**62**	**40**	**18**	**58**	**54**	**23**
Fairly badly	**30**	**28**	**38**	**27**	**15**	**40**	**41**	**13**
Very badly	**14**	**14**	**24**	**12**	**3**	**18**	**13**	**10**
Don't know	**1**	**1**	**2**	**–**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**

Q25. Would you describe the state of your own personal finances these days as very secure, fairly secure, fairly shaky or very shaky?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Secure (Net)	**61**	**64**	**50**	**62**	**76**	**56**	**55**	**72**
Very secure	**15**	**16**	**7**	**16**	**27**	**6**	**13**	**23**
Fairly secure	**47**	**48**	**44**	**46**	**49**	**51**	**42**	**50**
Shaky (Net)	**38**	**35**	**48**	**38**	**24**	**44**	**44**	**27**
Fairly shaky	**21**	**20**	**24**	**26**	**15**	**26**	**27**	**14**
Very shaky	**16**	**15**	**23**	**12**	**9**	**17**	**17**	**12**
Don't know	**1**	**1**	**2**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1**	**1**

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Q26. Six months from now, do you expect the nation's economy will be better than it is now, worse than it is now or about the same as it is now?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Better	**16**	**17**	**10**	**10**	**28**	**9**	**12**	**26**
Worse	**20**	**20**	**32**	**15**	**7**	**26**	**24**	**11**
About the same	**59**	**58**	**52**	**71**	**61**	**61**	**60**	**59**
Don't know	**5**	**5**	**6**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**

Q27. Six months from now, do you expect housing values to increase in your neighborhood, or to decrease, or do you think housing values in your neighborhood will remain about the same?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Increase	**38**	**36**	**37**	**31**	**43**	**35**	**34**	**43**
Decrease	**13**	**13**	**14**	**17**	**9**	**16**	**14**	**10**
Remain the same	**48**	**50**	**47**	**51**	**48**	**46**	**52**	**46**
Don't know	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**	**–**	**3**	**–**	**1**

Q28. Do you personally feel more or less secure financially than you did five years ago when George W. Bush became president, or are you about as secure financially as you were before Bush became president five years ago?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
More secure	**30**	**31**	**14**	**29**	**53**	**24**	**20**	**45**
Less secure	**29**	**29**	**44**	**27**	**13**	**37**	**35**	**17**
About as secure	**38**	**38**	**40**	**41**	**32**	**35**	**43**	**36**
Don't know	**3**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**2**

Q29. Thinking now about the energy costs for your household, such as heating, electricity and gasoline prices. If household energy costs continue to rise at their current rate, will you need to cut back spending in other ways to compensate for this rise, or not?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Need to cut back	**76**	**76**	**84**	**76**	**65**	**82**	**78**	**71**
Won't need to cut back	**21**	**21**	**13**	**22**	**32**	**15**	**20**	**26**
Don't pay energy bills (Vol.)	**1**	**1**	**2**	**–**	**1**	**3**	**–**	**1**
Don't know	**2**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**–**	**2**	**2**

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(ORDER OF NEXT TWO QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS WITHIN TEXT ARE ROTATED)
Q30. Which do you think is more effective in stimulating the nation's economy: An economic agenda focused on returning money to taxpayers through tax cuts, or an economic agenda focused on reducing the federal deficit and paying down the national debt?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Tax cuts	**40**	**40**	**31**	**38**	**56**	**22**	**36**	**55**
Reducing deficit, paying debt	**51**	**51**	**60**	**49**	**36**	**68**	**56**	**38**
Don't know	**9**	**9**	**9**	**13**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**7**

Q31. Which do you think is more effective in stimulating the nation's economy: An economic agenda focused on returning money to taxpayers through tax cuts, or an economic agenda focused on spending on such issues as health care and education?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Tax cuts	**36**	**37**	**23**	**33**	**59**	**19**	**30**	**57**
Health care and education	**56**	**54**	**70**	**56**	**35**	**74**	**64**	**36**
Don't know	**8**	**9**	**7**	**11**	**6**	**7**	**6**	**7**

(ORDER OF STATEMENTS IS ROTATED)
Q32. As you may know, after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Congress passed the Patriot Act which gave the government greater powers to access records, perform wiretaps and use other means to locate terrorists. Congress will be voting on whether to reauthorize some provisions of the bill that will expire this year. Do you agree more with those who say Congress should reauthorize those provisions because they have been effective in preventing terrorist attacks, or do you agree more with those who say those provisions should be allowed to expire because they may violate civil liberties?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Agree with those who want to reauthorize provisions	**59**	**63**	**45**	**55**	**80**	**33**	**60**	**76**
Agree with those who want to allow to expire	**33**	**30**	**44**	**42**	**14**	**55**	**34**	**18**
Don't know	**8**	**7**	**11**	**3**	**6**	**12**	**6**	**6**

(ORDER OF STATEMENTS IS ROTATED)
Q33. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view... "Americans should be willing to give up some of their civil liberties so the government can keep the country safe from terrorism" or "Americans should not be willing to allow the government to take away their civil liberties in the name of keeping the country safe from terrorism."

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Give up civil liberties for safety	**51**	**53**	**41**	**50**	**67**	**35**	**53**	**61**
Not allow civil liberties to be taken away	**40**	**37**	**51**	**43**	**24**	**54**	**40**	**30**
Don't know	**9**	**10**	**8**	**7**	**9**	**11**	**7**	**9**

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Q34. As you may know, George W. Bush authorized federal government agencies to use electronic surveillance to monitor phone calls and emails within the United States without first getting a court warrant to do so. Do you consider this an acceptable or unacceptable way for the federal government to investigate terrorism? (IF ACCEPTABLE/UNACCEPTABLE) Do you feel strongly about that or not?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Acceptable (Net)	**49**	**53**	**33**	**47**	**72**	**31**	**42**	**69**
Strongly acceptable	**37**	**41**	**22**	**35**	**61**	**20**	**31**	**57**
Somewhat acceptable	**11**	**12**	**11**	**12**	**11**	**11**	**11**	**12**
Unacceptable (Net)	**45**	**43**	**61**	**51**	**21**	**64**	**50**	**27**
Somewhat unacceptable	**12**	**11**	**14**	**12**	**7**	**11**	**15**	**8**
Strongly unacceptable	**34**	**32**	**47**	**38**	**14**	**53**	**35**	**19**
Don't know	**6**	**4**	**6**	**2**	**7**	**5**	**8**	**4**

Q35. Would you mind if you found out that your phone calls were being monitored by the U.S. government as part of the fight against terrorism?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Would mind	**53**	**52**	**71**	**54**	**30**	**74**	**55**	**37**
Wouldn't mind	**46**	**47**	**28**	**46**	**69**	**25**	**44**	**62**
Don't know	**1**	**1**	**1**	**–**	**1**	**1**	**1**	**1**

Q36. Do you think Congress should hold hearings to investigate the legality of George W. Bush's authorization of electronic surveillance to monitor American citizens without a court warrant, or not?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Hold hearings	**57**	**55**	**79**	**54**	**31**	**81**	**62**	**36**
Do not hold hearings	**38**	**40**	**18**	**42**	**61**	**17**	**34**	**57**
Don't know	**5**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**8**	**2**	**4**	**7**

Q37. If a congressional investigation finds that George W. Bush broke the law when he authorized government agencies to use electronic surveillance to monitor American citizens without a court warrant, do you think that is an impeachable offense, or not an impeachable offense?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Impeachable offense	**39**	**37**	**56**	**41**	**15**	**62**	**39**	**22**
Not an impeachable offense	**52**	**55**	**36**	**49**	**77**	**34**	**52**	**67**
Don't know	**9**	**8**	**8**	**10**	**8**	**4**	**9**	**11**

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(ORDER OF STATEMENTS IS ROTATED)
Q38. Which statement comes closer to your view: "The United States has a responsibility to fight violations of international law and aggression around the world even without the cooperation of its allies," or "The United States should work only in a coordinated effort with its allies to fight violations of international law and aggression around the world"?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Fight alone	**27**	**27**	**15**	**24**	**44**	**15**	**21**	**40**
Fight with allies	**63**	**62**	**72**	**66**	**49**	**77**	**68**	**51**
U.S. should not be involved at all (Vol.)	**2**	**2**	**3**	**1**	**–**	**4**	**1**	**1**
Don't know	**8**	**9**	**10**	**9**	**7**	**4**	**10**	**8**

Q39. Overall, how would you rate Congress on personal ethics and honesty: Excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Excellent/good	**31**	**31**	**33**	**30**	**33**	**26**	**33**	**32**
Not so good/poor	**64**	**63**	**63**	**62**	**62**	**70**	**64**	**62**
Don't know	**5**	**6**	**4**	**8**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**6**

Q40. How would you rate your own representative in Congress on personal ethics and honesty: Excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Excellent/good	**63**	**63**	**67**	**53**	**68**	**60**	**67**	**62**
Not so good/poor	**27**	**27**	**24**	**35**	**26**	**29**	**25**	**31**
Don't know	**10**	**10**	**9**	**12**	**6**	**11**	**8**	**7**

(ORDER OF PARTIES IS ROTATED)
Q41. Who do you think has higher standards of honesty and integrity: the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress, or do you think there is no difference between the two parties when it comes to honesty and integrity?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Republicans	**14**	**15**	**5**	**8**	**33**	**8**	**7**	**26**
Democrats	**13**	**14**	**26**	**5**	**1**	**24**	**11**	**6**
No difference	**68**	**66**	**66**	**79**	**62**	**65**	**74**	**66**
Don't know	**5**	**5**	**3**	**8**	**4**	**3**	**8**	**2**

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Q42. When it comes to ethics and honesty, how does George W. Bush compare to most other modern day U.S. presidents? Would you say Bush has higher, lower or similar ethical standards as other modern day presidents?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Higher	**26**	**28**	**9**	**21**	**53**	**12**	**16**	**47**
Lower	**32**	**31**	**53**	**28**	**7**	**50**	**34**	**18**
Similar	**39**	**38**	**36**	**46**	**39**	**36**	**47**	**34**
Don't know	**3**	**3**	**2**	**5**	**1**	**2**	**3**	**1**

(ORDER OF STATEMENTS IS ROTATED)
Q43. As you may know, there are existing laws limiting fundraising, money and gifts by lobbyists to members of Congress and other federal public officials. Which of the following comes closest to your view: "The existing laws dealing with lobbyists' gifts and fundraising are adequate but should be more strictly enforced," or "The existing laws dealing with lobbyists' gifts and fundraising are not strong enough and tougher ones need to be passed," or "The existing laws dealing with lobbyists' gifts and fundraising are adequate and no change is needed"?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Laws should be strictly enforced	**34**	**34**	**32**	**32**	**35**	**33**	**37**	**31**
Tougher new laws	**48**	**48**	**50**	**46**	**51**	**45**	**50**	**50**
No change is needed	**11**	**11**	**11**	**11**	**9**	**15**	**8**	**12**
Don't know	**7**	**7**	**7**	**11**	**5**	**7**	**5**	**7**

(ORDER OF STATEMENTS IS ROTATED)
Q44. Which of the following comes closer to your view: "If lobbyists were prohibited from arranging fundraisers for congressional candidates, it would mostly be a good thing, because it would reduce their influence over lawmakers" or "If lobbyists were prohibited from arranging fundraisers for congressional candidates, it would mostly be a bad thing, because it would infringe on the lobbyist's constitutional rights."

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Good thing-reduce influence	**65**	**68**	**65**	**62**	**71**	**66**	**63**	**69**
Bad thing-infringe on rights	**19**	**17**	**19**	**21**	**15**	**16**	**21**	**18**
Don't know	**16**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**14**	**18**	**16**	**13**

Q45. As you may know, under current congressional ethics laws, lawmakers may travel on jets provided by corporations and lobbyists for the cost of flying on a commercial airline. Should this practice be continued, or should lawmakers be prohibited from accepting such flights?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Continue	**21**	**21**	**18**	**25**	**26**	**16**	**19**	**26**
Prohibited	**72**	**73**	**75**	**68**	**68**	**78**	**76**	**69**
Don't know	**7**	**6**	**7**	**7**	**6**	**6**	**5**	**5**

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Q46. All in all, do you think the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, or not?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Yes	**42**	**45**	**19**	**39**	**74**	**22**	**35**	**62**
No	**53**	**50**	**75**	**59**	**22**	**74**	**60**	**33**
Don't know	**5**	**5**	**6**	**2**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**5**

Q47. Do you believe George W. Bush when he says that the U.S. military is making a lot of progress in making Iraq a safe, democratic country, or do you not believe him?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Believe him	**45**	**48**	**21**	**48**	**76**	**20**	**41**	**66**
Do not believe him	**50**	**47**	**74**	**50**	**19**	**75**	**56**	**29**
Don't know	**5**	**5**	**5**	**2**	**5**	**5**	**3**	**5**

Q48. Over the next year, do you expect the situation In Iraq will get better, get worse or remain about the same?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Better	**34**	**36**	**24**	**27**	**55**	**24**	**26**	**51**
Worse	**19**	**18**	**26**	**19**	**9**	**26**	**22**	**11**
Same	**44**	**44**	**48**	**52**	**34**	**48**	**49**	**37**
Don't know	**3**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**1**

Q49. Do you think the war in Iraq has stabilized the situation in Iraq, or do you think it has destabilized that country, or do you think it has not had an effect on the country's stability one way or the other?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Stabilized	**36**	**40**	**19**	**44**	**57**	**21**	**27**	**55**
Destabilized	**34**	**33**	**46**	**29**	**20**	**55**	**34**	**22**
No effect	**24**	**21**	**28**	**25**	**17**	**18**	**31**	**19**
Don't know	**6**	**6**	**7**	**2**	**6**	**6**	**8**	**4**

Q50. So far, do you think the U.S. is winning the war in Iraq, or do you think the anti-U.S. insurgents in Iraq are winning the war, or is neither side winning the war in Iraq?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
U.S. winning	**33**	**35**	**17**	**31**	**56**	**19**	**26**	**52**
Insurgents winning	**7**	**6**	**9**	**8**	**5**	**9**	**9**	**4**
Neither side winning	**55**	**54**	**69**	**57**	**36**	**66**	**61**	**41**
Don't know	**5**	**5**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**6**	**4**	**3**

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Q51. Do you think the United States should maintain a significant number of troops in Iraq for as long as it takes to secure and stabilize the country, or do you think that the troops should come home in a set amount of time no matter what happens in Iraq? (IF SET AMOUNT OF TIME) How much longer should the U.S. maintain troops in Iraq?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Set amount of time (Net)	**56**	**54**	**69**	**58**	**77**	**69**	**60**	**40**
Get out now (Vol.)	**14**	**13**	**20**	**15**	**3**	**16**	**18**	**8**
Less than a year	**22**	**21**	**29**	**19**	**16**	**29**	**25**	**13**
1-2 years	**7**	**6**	**9**	**3**	**7**	**11**	**5**	**6**
Longer than 2 years	**2**	**3**	**2**	**5**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**2**
As long as it takes (Net)	**40**	**42**	**27**	**37**	**61**	**26**	**37**	**55**
Don't know	**4**	**4**	**4**	**5**	**2**	**5**	**3**	**5**

Q52. Do you think it is likely or unlikely that Iraq will be able to maintain a democratic government after the U.S. and its allies leave?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Likely	**45**	**46**	**35**	**42**	**59**	**38**	**41**	**53**
Unlikely	**44**	**43**	**53**	**47**	**30**	**53**	**49**	**36**
Don't know	**11**	**11**	**12**	**11**	**11**	**9**	**10**	**11**

Q53. Do you think of the war with Iraq as part of the war against terrorism, or as separate from the war against terrorism?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Part of the war	**51**	**53**	**34**	**48**	**76**	**31**	**46**	**71**
Separate from the war	**46**	**44**	**62**	**48**	**22**	**67**	**51**	**26**
Don't know	**3**	**3**	**4**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**3**	**3**

Q54. Do you think the image of the United States has been helped or hurt around the world by its involvement in Iraq, or has the United States' image not been affected one way or the other? (IF HELPED OR HURT) Has the United States' image been (helped/hurt) a lot or only somewhat?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Helped (Net)	**12**	**13**	**7**	**8**	**21**	**11**	**9**	**16**
Helped a lot	**4**	**5**	**3**	**4**	**7**	**5**	**2**	**7**
Helped somewhat	**8**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**14**	**7**	**7**	**9**
Hurt (Net)	**65**	**63**	**77**	**71**	**48**	**78**	**68**	**55**
Hurt somewhat	**27**	**26**	**27**	**31**	**29**	**18**	**33**	**26**
Hurt a lot	**38**	**37**	**50**	**40**	**19**	**60**	**35**	**29**
No effect	**19**	**20**	**14**	**19**	**26**	**10**	**19**	**26**
Don't know	**4**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**5**	**1**	**4**	**3**

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Q55. Do you think terrorism around the world has increased or decreased because of the situation in Iraq, or has terrorism around the world remained about the same?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Increased	**32**	**31**	**45**	**30**	**16**	**42**	**36**	**21**
Decreased	**17**	**19**	**10**	**18**	**27**	**10**	**14**	**23**
Remained the same	**47**	**46**	**41**	**49**	**53**	**45**	**47**	**51**
Don't know	**4**	**4**	**4**	**3**	**4**	**3**	**3**	**5**

Q56. If Iran continues to produce material that can be used to develop nuclear weapons, would you support or oppose the U.S. taking military action against Iran?

	ALL	RV	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Support	**57**	**57**	**49**	**49**	**76**	**40**	**55**	**71**
Oppose	**33**	**33**	**42**	**40**	**16**	**52**	**34**	**20**
Don't know	**10**	**10**	**9**	**11**	**8**	**8**	**11**	**9**

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg Poll contacted 1,555 adults nationwide by telephone January 22 through 25, 2006. Telephone numbers were chosen from a list of all exchanges in the nation, and random digit dialing techniques allowed listed and unlisted numbers to be contacted. Multiple attempts were made to contact each number. Adults were weighted slightly to conform with their respective census figures for sex, race, age, education and region. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For certain subgroups, the error margin may be somewhat higher. Poll results may also be affected by factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are presented.

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