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1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel (202) 419-4350
Fax (202) 419-4399

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Bush Ratings Fall Further
ALITO VIEWED POSITIVELY, BUT LIBBY TAKES A TOLL

Also Inside...

- Libby guilty says plurality
- Republicans critical of Bush coverage
- No pandemic panic
- Internet audience more taken with Libby story

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Jodie Allen, Senior Editor
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Carolyn Funk and Richard Wike, Senior Project Director
Nilanthi Samaranyake, Peyton Craighill, Nicole Speulda, Courtney Kennedy,
Greg Smith, Project Directors
Jason Owens, Research Assistant Kate DeLuca Staff Assistant
Pew Research Center for The People & The Press
202/419-4350
<http://www.people-press.org>

Bush Ratings Fall Further

ALITO VIEWED POSITIVELY, BUT LIBBY TAKES A TOLL

President George W. Bush's approval ratings have fallen to another new low, amid a growing focus on alleged ethical lapses in his administration. Just 36% now believe that Bush has lived up to his campaign pledge to restore integrity to the White House.

In contrast, fully 79% of Americans say the recent indictment of I. Lewis Libby, formerly a top aide to Vice President Cheney, on perjury and other charges is a matter of at least some importance to the nation; that is greater than the percentage who said that in 1998 about charges that former President Clinton lied under oath about a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky (65%).

A plurality of Americans (42%) think that Libby is guilty of the charges brought against him. Moreover, an increasing number of Americans think that U.S. and British leaders were mostly lying when they claimed prior to the Iraq war that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction; 43% express that opinion now, up from 31% in February 2004.

Despite mounting criticisms of the president, Bush's latest nominee for the Supreme Court – Judge Samuel Alito Jr. – has received favorable initial reviews from the public. By nearly two-to-one (40%-23%), Americans say the Senate should confirm Alito to the court. This is similar to the public's response to Judge John Roberts in mid-September, nearly two months after his nomination, and is a greater vote of confidence than failed nominee Harriet Miers received in early October.

Libby Case Seen as Important

<i>Importance to the nation</i>	<i>Sept 1998</i>	<i>Nov 2005</i>
	<u>Clinton lied under oath</u>	<u>CIA leak case/ Libby indictment</u>
	%	%
Great	42	44
Some	23	35
Very little	33	19
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100

More View WMD Claims as 'Lies'

<i>Why US & Britain claimed Iraq had WMDs</i>	<i>Feb 2004</i>	<i>Nov 2005</i>
Lied to justify Iraq invasion	31	43
Misinformed by bad intelligence	49	41
Other/Don't know	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100

Alito Nomination Viewed Positively

<i>Senate confirm... to Supreme Court?</i>	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Miers</i>	<i>Alito</i>
	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
	%	%	%
Should	46	33	40
Should not	21	27	23
Don't know	<u>33</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>37</u>
	100	100	100

But Court Overshadowed by Other News

<i>Recent news story that FIRST comes to mind...</i>	<i>%</i>
Iraq war and troop casualties	19
Hurricane news	14
Libby indictment and scandal	11
Supreme Court appointments	5
Crime news	3
Local news (misc. stories)	2
Bush trip to South America	2
Bird flu	1

Unfortunately for the administration, the positive glimmers from Alito's nomination are being overshadowed by negative developments elsewhere. When asked to name the first current news story that comes to mind, Americans most frequently cite the war and troop deaths in Iraq (19%), recent hurricanes and their aftermath (14%), and the Libby case (11%); far fewer mention Bush's appointments to the Supreme Court (5%).

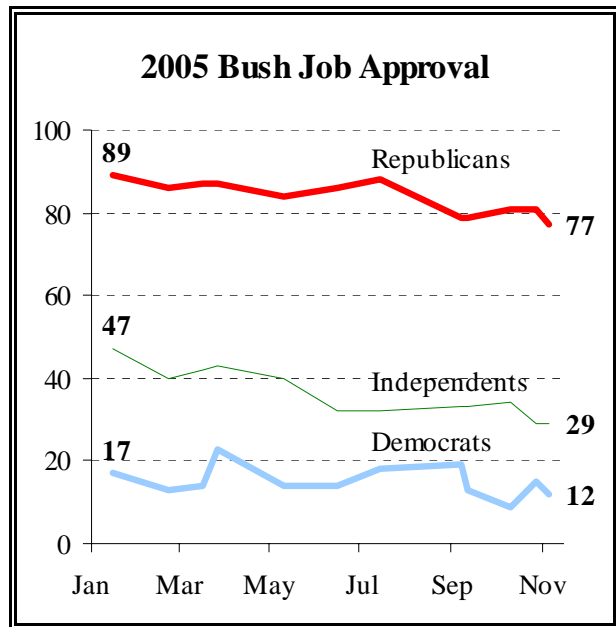
The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Nov. 3-6 among 1,201 Americans, finds that the public also continues to view the war in Iraq as the most important problem facing the country. About three-in-ten (29%) volunteer the war as the biggest national problem, up from 24% in May, while 11% mention the economy.

The survey also shows that just a third of Americans approve of the job performance of Republican congressional leaders, while only slightly more (36%) give positive marks to Democratic leaders. Democratic leaders have gained a bit since last month (from 32%), but still a plurality of Americans continue to disapprove of the job performance of each party.

Bush's Eroding Base

Bush's current 36% job approval rating is the lowest of his presidency, down from 40% in late October and 50% at the start of the year. This decline reflects a souring of opinion among independents – just 29% approve of the president's job performance today, compared with 47% at the start of the year. Democratic evaluations have been both stable and overwhelmingly negative over the course of the year.

However, Bush is also now facing a significant loss of support within his own party – particularly among moderate Republicans. Overall, the proportion of Republicans who approve of Bush's job in office has dropped from 89% just after the 2004 election to 77% today.



The most significant turn in Republican support occurred in late summer among the party's moderates and liberals, who make up 37% of the GOP. Between July and the end of September, the

percentage of moderate and liberal Republicans who approved of the president's job performance fell from 81% to 60%. While there has been some rebound since this post-Katrina low, currently 66% of moderate and liberal Republicans approve, while 29% disapprove of the president's job in office. By comparison, conservative Republicans – who make up a solid majority of the party as whole (62%) – have been more loyal, though the percentage giving the president favorable marks has fallen 10 points since January to 84% today.

Bush Ratings in Context

One year after their respective reelection victories, Bush's job approval is nine points higher than former President Richard M. Nixon's approval mark in early November 1973 (36% vs. 27%). For Nixon, this came amid the continuing Watergate scandal and shortly after the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew in October. Nixon's final approval would drop just three more points to 24% before he resigned from office in the summer of 1974.

But it is largely GOP loyalty that separates Bush from Nixon at comparable points in their presidencies. Bush's 29% approval rating among independents is only four points higher than Nixon's standing among independents in early November 1973. And Bush's 12% approval rating among Democrats is nearly identical to Nixon's (13%).

Despite Bush's lower ratings among Republicans in recent months, his standing among Republicans remains much higher than Nixon's was in the fall of 1973. By more than four-to-one (77%-18%), Republicans approve of Bush's job performance; Nixon's rating among his own party was less than two-to-one positive (56%-32%).

	<i>Conservative Republicans</i>		<i>Mod/Liberal Republicans</i>	
	<u>App</u>	<u>Dis</u>	<u>App</u>	<u>Dis</u>
<i>Bush Job</i>	%	%	%	%
November	84	12	66	29
Late Oct	87	9	71	23
Mid Oct	87	9	71	25
Mid Sept	88	10	60	28
Early Sept	84	14	70	26
July	91	6	81	15
June	89	7	80	15
May	89	8	78	20
March	89	8	85	11
February	93	6	78	17
January	94	3	82	14

<i>Bush</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Nov 3-6, 2005</i>	%	%	%	%
Approve	36	77	12	29
Disapprove	55	18	82	59
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Nixon</i>				
<i>Nov 2-5, 1973</i>				
Approve	27	56	13	25
Disapprove	63	32	79	65
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Diff in approval</i>	+9	+21	-1	+4
1973 Data Source: Gallup Organization				

One-Word Reactions to Libby Indictment

The public reacted to the indictment of Vice President Dick Cheney’s top aide with a mixture of shock and dismay, but many people also said they were not surprised by it. The poll’s respondents who were paying at least some attention to the story were asked what one word best described their reaction to the news of Libby’s indictment. The top two responses were opposites: “not surprised” (mentioned by 89 people) and “surprised” (82 people). The third most common word was “shocked,” which was mentioned by 58 people – but 21 said it was “expected” and 7 were “not shocked.”

Many responses reflect positive views of the indictment: “good,” “finally,” “traitor” or “treason,” “about time,” and “guilty” were all mentioned by several people. Those who disagreed with the indictment used fewer words in common: “ridiculous” was mentioned by eight people. Instead, a wide range of words was used to express opposition to the charges: among the words getting fewer than five mentions each were “witch hunt,” “waste of time,” “baloney,” “innocent,” “ludicrous,” “no crime,” “not fair,” “overblown,” “trumped up,” “sham,” and “nitpick.”

Not surprised / unsurprised	89
Surprised	82
Shocked	58
Disappointed	24
Disgusted	23
Expected	21
Good	21
Disbelief / unbelievable	15
Finally	14
About time	12
Traitor / treason	11
Guilty	11
Typical	11
Wow	9
Indifferent	9
Outraged	8
Ridiculous	8
Watergate	8
Happy	8
Not shocked	7

*The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; they ARE NOT percentages.

Plurality Sees Libby as Guilty

Overall, 42% of those interviewed said they thought Libby is guilty, while just 15% believed that he is innocent. But a relatively large number of people (43%) declined to offer an opinion about the case. However, 61% among those following the case very closely believe Libby committed the crimes he’s charged with.

Partisan affiliation is a also factor in reactions to the Libby case, but opinions are not solely a function of partisanship. A majority of Democrats (57%) think Libby is guilty, while Republicans are evenly divided with about as

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Is Libby Guilty	%	%	%	%
Guilty	42	25	57	45
Not guilty	15	27	7	12
Don’t know	<u>43</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>43</u>
	100	100	100	100
Importance of Situation				
Great importance	44	30	56	46
Some importance	35	37	31	35
Little/none	19	33	9	17
Don’t know	<u>2</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100	100
Press Coverage of Case				
Too much	31	50	15	27
Too little	21	11	30	21
Right amount	39	30	46	43
Don’t know	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100

many saying he is guilty (25%) as not guilty (27%).

Most Americans do not believe that there has been too much news coverage of the matter. Six-in-ten think the story has gotten either the right amount of attention (39%) or too little attention (21%) from the media. Just 31% believe it has gotten too much coverage. Only among Republicans do as many as half think there has been too much coverage. However, there is only modest news interest in the Libby case. Only about quarter (24%) say they are paying *very* close attention to the Libby indictment (24%),

The public’s view of the indictment is strongly coloring assessments of President Bush’s honesty. A 56% majority – including 63% of independents – believe Bush has not lived up to his promise to restore integrity to the White House. Fully a third (34%) of moderate and liberal Republicans agree. Even among white evangelicals, who are Bush’s strongest demographic group, 41% do not think the president has fulfilled this pledge. Opinions on this question are strongly related to the issue of Libby’s guilt, independent of the influence of partisanship.

Has Bush Lived Up to Promise of Restoring Integrity to White House?			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
Total	36	56	8=100
Conservative Republican	79	14	7=100
Moderate/Liberal Repub	57	34	9=100
Independent	29	63	8=100
Moderate/Conserv Dem	15	80	5=100
Liberal Democrat	11	82	7=100
White Protestant	44	49	7=100
Evangelical	52	41	7=100
Mainline	35	59	6=100
White Catholic	36	58	6=100
Secular	23	71	6=100

Prewar WMD Claims Viewed More Negatively

The Libby case also bears on public views about the Bush administration’s case for going to war in Iraq. A plurality of the public (43%) now thinks that the administration mostly lied in its claims that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction to provide a reason for invading Iraq. Nearly as many (41%) believe the administration was itself misinformed by bad intelligence. The number saying the administration lied in asserting that Iraq had WMD has risen 12 percentage points since early 2004, with most of the change occurring among Democrats and independents.

Among independents, in particular, those who believe Libby is guilty of the charges against him are more likely than others to say that U.S. and British leaders lied in claiming that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Administration Handling of Prewar Intelligence				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Nov. 2005				
Lied	43	12	67	47
Misinformed	41	69	20	39
Might still find (VOL.)	5	7	3	4
Don’t know	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100
Feb. 2004				
Lied	31	9	48	35
Misinformed	49	65	37	48
Might still find (VOL.)	9	16	3	9
Don’t know	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Change in “Lied”</i>	+12	+3	+19	+12

Of those who say U.S. and British leaders lied in their claims that Iraq had WMD, most (24% of the general public) feel that the administration chose to believe only the intelligence that supported their decision to go to war; 17% say that the leaders *knew* Iraq had no weapons.

Good Start for Alito

Judging from the public’s reception of President Bush’s two earlier choices to fill vacancies on the Supreme Court – the successful nomination of John Roberts as Chief Justice and the withdrawn nomination of Harriet Miers – his latest choice, federal appeals court Judge Samuel Alito, is off to a promising start.

A 40% plurality of the public agrees that, based upon what they’ve seen and heard so far, Alito should be confirmed. This compares with 33% who said the same of Miers in October. Alito’s support has not reached the 46% level Roberts enjoyed shortly before his confirmation hearings began in mid-September, but it is higher than the 35% support Roberts received earlier that month.

Alito Outpacing Miers in Support			
	<u>Roberts</u>	<u>Miers</u>	<u>Alito</u>
	<u>Mid-Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
	%	%	%
<i>Confirm?</i>			
Yes	46	33	40
No	21	27	23
Don’t know	<u>33</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>37</u>
	100	100	100

Three-quarters of Americans (75%) rate the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice as personally important, with 47% saying it is very important and 28% saying it is somewhat important. This is roughly the same level of concern expressed by the public last June, shortly before Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's announced retirement gave President Bush his first opportunity to make an appointment to the high court.

Roughly two-thirds of conservative Republicans (66%) say the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice is very important personally; nearly as many liberal Democrats (62%) attach great importance to the selection.

Still, the nomination has attracted only modest public attention, with 21% saying they are following the news about Alito very closely and another 28% saying they are following it fairly closely. That is comparable to the level of public attention to Roberts and Miers.

Modest Concern Over Alito's Ideological Impact

Although Alito, like retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, is regarded as a likely tie-breaking vote on controversial issues, a majority of the public (56%) is unconcerned about the ideological direction in which he might move the court. Concern that Alito will move the court too far to the right is slightly higher, at 25%, than was the case of either of the two earlier nominees. By contrast, concern that Alito will not make the court sufficiently conservative is minimal (6%).

Conservative Republicans, in particular, say they are not concerned about Alito's possible impact on the court's ideological balance. Roughly seven-in-ten conservative Republicans (72%) say they do not worry about this, about the same percentage that expressed no concern over Roberts's possible ideological impact.

Most Not Worried About Alito's Effect On Court			
	<i>Roberts</i>	<i>Miers</i>	<i>Alito</i>
<i>Worry that nominee will make Court...</i>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
	%	%	%
Too conservative	20	18	25
Not conserv. enough	9	8	6
Don't worry about this	60	56	56
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100

Conversely, Democrats are considerably more worried about a move to the right by the Supreme Court should Alito take a place on its bench. Six-in-ten liberal Democrat, and about three-in-ten conservative and moderate Democrats worry that Alito would make the court too conservative. That is significantly higher than the number who expressed the same concern over Roberts (48% liberal Democrats, 23% conservative and moderate Democrats).

Democrats Not Rallying in Opposition

Opposition to Alito’s confirmation among Democrats is somewhat higher than in the case of Roberts. Nearly four-in-ten Democrats (39%) oppose Alito’s confirmation compared with a third of Democrats who opposed Roberts. But roughly a quarter of Democrats (27%) support Alito’s nomination and a third (34%) have no opinion.

Independents are even more uncertain about the nomination. A plurality (45%) express no opinion, while 34% favor Alito’s confirmation, and 21% are opposed. Republican support for Alito’s confirmation is comparable to that for Roberts in September.

Democrats More Opposed, Still Divided			
November			
<i>Should Alito be confirmed?</i>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%
Yes	66	27	34
No	7	39	21
Don’t know	<u>27</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>45</u>
	100	100	100
September			
<i>Should Roberts be confirmed?</i>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%
Yes	68	31	40
No	8	33	24
Don’t know	<u>24</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>36</u>
	100	100	100

Top Court Issues: Abortion, Rights of Terror Suspects

Among issues likely to come before the Supreme Court in the coming years, abortion continues to top the list of those of great importance to the public. More than six-in-ten (62%) say that court decisions relating to abortion are very important to them personally. Close behind are issues relating to the rights of people held in custody as terrorist suspects (57%). Opinions on the importance of possible items on the court’s agenda are little changed since July.

Substantial minorities also accord high importance to court decisions regarding religious displays on government property (46%) and the size of money awards in personal injury lawsuits (44%). Fewer Americans say issues relating to affirmative action (38%) and homosexuality (36%) are very important to them personally.

Importance of Supreme Court Decisions			
	Very <u>impt</u>	Less <u>impt</u> *	<u>DK</u>
<i>How important are court decisions on...</i>	%	%	%
Abortion	62	36	2=100
Terror suspect rights	57	39	4=100
Religious displays	46	51	3=100
Lawsuit award limits	44	54	2=100
Affirmative action	38	56	6=100
Homosexuality	36	61	3=100

*Fairly important, not too important, or not at all important.

Among religious groups, concern about the court’s abortion rulings is highest among white evangelicals and frequent churchgoers, 69% and 70% of whom, respectively, rate the issue as very important to them personally. However, seven-in-ten among the minority of the public that opposes Alito’s confirmation also assign high personal importance to the court’s abortion rulings.

The public continues to oppose the complete overturning of the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision guaranteeing the right to an abortion. By more than two-to-one (65%-26%) the public opposes *completely* overturning the decision, which is consistent with results from recent years.

People who favor overturning *Roe* are more likely to personally consider abortion very important (78%, compared with 57% who oppose overturning *Roe*). They are also more likely than those who oppose overturning *Roe* to view the next Supreme Court appointment as very important (56% vs. 44%).

Overall, most Americans (60%) feel that Supreme Court nominees should be required to answer questions about issues like abortion during their confirmation hearings. Majorities of *Roe* supporters (62%) and opponents (56%) agree that court nominees should be required to answer senators' questions about abortion and other topics that may come before the Supreme Court.

	<i>Overturn Roe v. Wade</i>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Next Court appointment "very important"	56	44
Abortion "very important" issue to you personally	78	57
<i>When it comes to restricting access to abortions...</i>		
Worry Alito will go too far	10	35
Worry he won't go far enough	27	6
Don't worry about this	46	45
Don't know	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100

Iraq Outlook Remains Gloomy

Unlike the elections held in January, the recent constitutional referendum in Iraq garnered little public attention from the American public, and did little to change peoples' outlook on the situation. Just 22% report having heard a lot about the recent referendum, and though the constitution was approved, Americans are no more optimistic today that it will make the situation in Iraq more stable than they were before the vote took place. Three-in-ten believe the successful referendum will make the situation in Iraq more stable, while most (56%) think things won't change much and 6% expect it will make things worse.

	<i>January 30th elections</i>		<i>October 15th referendum</i>	
	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>
Heard a lot about it?	42	46	21	22
<i>Will make situation...</i>				
More stable	29	47	29	30
Less stable	14	7	10	6
No change	49	40	51	56
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

This is in stark contrast to a wave of optimism following Iraq's Jan. 30 elections, a news

story that garnered far more public attention in the U.S. Nearly half of Americans (46%) reported having heard a lot about that election, and 47% thought it would make the situation in Iraq more stable.

Press Unfair to Bush?

As Bush’s approval ratings have declined, an increasing number of Americans – particularly Republicans – express negative opinions of press coverage of the administration. Just half of Americans say the press is being fair to the administration, the lowest number since Bush became president. Similarly, there has been a notable rise over the past two years in the percentage who say the press is too critical of the Bush administration.

Republicans See Growing Press Unfairness toward Bush				
	<i>Clinton</i>			
<i>News organizations fair or unfair to admin?</i>	<u>Sept 1998</u>	<u>Feb 2001</u>	<u>July 2003</u>	<u>Nov 2005</u>
Republicans	%	%	%	%
Fair	70	58	50	25
Unfair	25	30	38	63
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100
Democrats				
Fair	39	73	71	68
Unfair	54	12	16	16
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100	100	100
Independents				
Fair	53	70	67	55
Unfair	37	16	20	25
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100	100

Republican perceptions of press coverage of Bush have changed dramatically. Just a quarter of Republicans think news organizations are treating the Bush administration fairly, down from 50% who said the media treated the administration fairly in 2003 and 58% in 2001, shortly after he took office.

Republicans were far more positive about press coverage of the Clinton administration during the Lewinsky scandal of 1998; not surprisingly, most Democrats (54%) felt the press was unfair to the former president at that time. Nonetheless, comparing the reactions of partisans to press coverage of the two presidents, more Republicans see the press as unfair to Bush than did Democrats (by 63% to 54%).

A similar pattern is seen in public attitudes toward whether the press has been too critical – or not critical enough – of the Bush administration’s policies and performance.

Currently, 34% think the press is handling coverage of the administration “about right,” while 32%

Republicans say “Too Critical” Democrats “Not Enough”		
<i>Press criticizing Bush admin policies...</i>	<u>July 2003</u>	<u>Nov 2005</u>
Republicans	%	%
Press too critical	46	64
Not critical enough	7	8
About right	44	26
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100
Democrats		
Press too critical	13	9
Not critical enough	38	45
About right	47	41
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100
Independents		
Press too critical	20	28
Not critical enough	25	27
About right	53	37
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100

say it is too critical of the administration, and 28% feel it is not critical enough. That represents a major change since July 2003, when nearly half (48%) believed the coverage of the Bush administration was about right.

Much of the shift has come among Republicans. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans (64%) see the press as too critical of Bush’s policies and performance, up from 46% in July 2003. Democratic views have been more stable; a plurality of Democrats (45%) say coverage of the Bush administration has not been critical enough (up from 38% in 2003).

Stable Views of Press Watchdog Role

Overall opinions of the news media’s role as a watchdog on politicians has remained stable, despite growing sentiments among Republicans that the press is unfair to Bush. Fully 62% of the public believes that by criticizing political leaders, news organizations keep them from doing things that should not be done, while only 22% think such criticism keeps leaders from doing their job.

There are broad political differences in attitudes toward the press’s watchdog role. Roughly seven-in-ten Democrats (70%) and independents (72%) believe media criticism of political leaders keeps them from doing things they should not do, compared with 40% of Republicans.

Modest Attention to Bird Flu

The public is paying limited attention to news about outbreaks of bird flu in Asia and Europe, and there is little to suggest that concerns about the spread of bird flu are particularly widespread. Just 22% say they are following news about the bird flu very closely. This is significantly lower than the 39% who followed news about the possible spread of SARS from Asia in 2003. Similarly, when cases of mad cow disease appeared in Washington state in early 2004, 29% reported following very closely.

	<i>Sept. 01</i> Mad cow disease in <u>Europe</u> %	<i>Mar. 03</i> SARS spread <u>in Asia</u> %	<i>Jan. 04</i> Mad cow outbreak in <u>Wash. state</u> %	<i>Nov. 05</i> Bird flu in Asia & <u>Europe</u> %
Very closely	18	39	29	22
Fairly closely	34	39	42	37
Not too closely	27	15	19	25
Not at all closely	20	6	9	15
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100

While 29% of Americans say that too little attention is being paid to the possibility of a bird flu outbreak in America, 22% think we are paying too much attention to such a possibility. Most say they are either not too worried (38%) or not at all worried (23%) that a family member might be exposed to the bird flu. Women worry more than men about a family member contracting the

virus (45% of women are very or somewhat worried, compared with 31% of men) and women are following the news story more closely.

While concerns are limited, so is confidence in the federal government's ability to deal with a possible outbreak in the U.S. Just as many say they have little or no confidence in the government's capabilities as say they have a great deal or fair amount of confidence. There is a sharp partisan divide in this sentiment. Three-quarters of Republicans (74%) have at least a fair amount of confidence in the government's ability to deal with an outbreak, compared with barely a third (35%) of Democrats and 43% of independents.

News Stories and News Sources

Asked to cite the first news story that comes to mind when thinking about what's been in the news lately, nearly half of Americans cited one of four major stories. News about Iraq and troop casualties was mentioned by 19%, followed by news about recent hurricanes and their aftermath (14%), the CIA-leak investigation (11%), and 5% first thought of news about Supreme Court appointments.

The poll found a correlation between the respondent's source of news and "top of mind recall" of news stories. People who cite newspapers and network evening news programs as their main source of news were the most likely to think first about recent reporting about Iraq. People who rely most on network and local TV news were the most likely to think of news about the hurricanes and post-hurricane response. And while the CIA-leak investigation and Louis Libby indictment was only the third most cited story overall, it was the first to come to mind among people who get most of their news from the Internet.

No Bird Flu Panic	
<i>Attention paid to bird flu</i>	
Too much	22
Too little	29
Right amount	42
Don't know	7
	100
<i>Confidence in gov't response</i>	
Great deal	9
Fair amount	39
Not very much	33
None at all	16
Don't know	3
	100
<i>Worry family might get infected</i>	
Very	11
Somewhat	27
Not too	38
Not at all	23
Don't know	1
	100

Figures based on 1,046 respondents who had followed news about the bird flu very, fairly or not too closely.

What Recent News Story First Comes to Mind?								
	<u>Total</u>	<u>News-</u>	<u>Inter-</u>	<u>TV</u>	<u>Net-</u>			
	%	<u>paper</u>	<u>Radio</u>	<u>net</u>	<u>(total)</u>	<u>Cablework</u>	<u>Local</u>	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Iraq/Troop deaths	19	26	15	10	23	19	31	19
Hurricanes & response	14	11	13	13	16	13	20	17
Libby/Cheney/CIA scandal	11	11	16	19	8	10	7	3
Supreme Court appointments	5	7	6	5	5	7	5	8
Crime	3	1	0	1	3	5	2	0
Local news	2	1	3	5	2	2	*	4

Gas Prices Top News Interest

The high price of gasoline these days continues to top the public's news interest, though attention has dropped slightly as prices have receded. Today, 61% say they are following media coverage of gas prices very closely, down from 67% in October. Interest is particularly high among lower income Americans. Fully 70% of people whose household income is below \$20,000 annually are following news about gas prices very closely, compared with just 47% of those earning \$75,000 or more.

A related story – oil companies reporting large profits over the past few months – was closely followed by 37% of Americans, with another 33% following this story fairly closely. Democrats are far more attentive to this issue than are Republicans (42% very closely vs. 26%). In addition, people living in rural parts of the country followed this news far more closely (45%) than those in urban areas (29%).

Public attention to news about the situation in Iraq remains close, with 41% following very closely and another 40% fairly closely. This has remained fairly constant over the past year, with only a slight dip in attention during the crisis caused by Hurricane Katrina.

One-in-four closely followed news about the death of Rosa Parks. African Americans are twice as likely as whites to have followed this story very closely (44% vs. 21%). Related to this racial difference, 34% of Democrats overall followed news about Parks's death very closely, compared with 16% of Republicans.

Top News Stories	
	Percent following <u>very closely</u>
High price of gasoline	61
Situation in Iraq	41
Oil company profits	37
Condition of the economy	35
Hurricane Wilma	34
Death of Rosa Parks	25
Libby indictment	24
Bird flu outbreaks	22
Alito nomination	21

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,201 adults, 18 years of age or older, from November 3-6, 2005. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on form 1 (N=589) and form 2 (N=612) the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
NOVEMBER 2005 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
November 3 - 6, 2005
N=1,201

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know
November, 2005	36	55	9=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	2002			
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
2004				August, 2002	67	21	12=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	2001			
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
2003				August, 2001	50	32	18=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100				
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100				
June, 2003	62	27	11=100				
May, 2003	65	27	8=100				
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100				
<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100				
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100				

ROTATE Q.2 AND Q.3

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
November, 2005	33	50	17=100	November, 1996	40	43	17=100
Early October, 2005	32	52	16=100	July, 1996	38	48	14=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15=100	June, 1996	36	50	14=100
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15=100	April, 1996	39	46	15=100
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17=100	March, 1996	35	51	14=100
Early February, 2004	41	42	17=100	February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 2003	48	37	15=100	January, 1996	36	54	10=100
June, 2002	50	34	16=100	October, 1995	36	51	13=100
May, 2002	49	34	17=100	September, 1995	36	50	14=100
February, 2002	56	24	20=100	August, 1995	38	45	17=100
Early September, 2001	43	39	18=100	June, 1995	41	45	14=100
June, 2001	40	40	20=100	April, 1995	44	43	13=100
May, 2001	45	36	19=100	March, 1995	43	39	18=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=100	December, 1994	52	28	20=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100				
July, 2000	36	46	18=100				
May, 2000	40	42	18=100				
March, 2000	38	43	19=100				
February, 2000	40	43	17=100				
January, 2000	39	41	20=100				
December, 1999	38	42	20=100				
October, 1999	34	50	16=100				
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100				
August, 1999	40	44	16=100				
July, 1999	36	45	19=100				
June, 1999	37	46	17=100				
May, 1999	38	44	18=100				
March, 1999	38	47	15=100				
February, 1999	37	51	12=100				
January, 1999	38	50	12=100				
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100				
November, 1998	41	48	11=100				
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100				
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100				
June, 1998	42	38	20=100				
May, 1998	40	41	19=100				
April, 1998	41	40	19=100				
March, 1998	43	39	18=100				
January, 1998	43	41	16=100				
November, 1997	41	43	16=100				
August, 1997	42	44	14=100				
June, 1997	33	50	17=100				
May, 1997	40	44	16=100				
April, 1997	40	44	16=100				
February, 1997	44	42	14=100				
January, 1997	38	47	15=100				

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
November, 2005	36	44	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	48	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19=100
Early February, 2004	38	42	20=100
June, 2002	47	36	17=100
May, 2002	42	37	21=100
February, 2002	49	30	21=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=589]:

Q.4F1 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? [**RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION**]

		Mid- May <u>2005</u>	Jan <u>2005</u>	July <u>2004</u>	Mid- Jan <u>2004</u>	Apr <u>2003</u>	Feb <u>2003</u>	Mar <u>2002</u>	May <u>2001</u>	Feb <u>2001</u>
29	War/War in Iraq	24	32	25	16	14	34	10 [▲]	--	--
11	Economy (general)	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
7	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
6	Terrorism	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	*
5	Health care/costs	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
4	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
4	Energy crisis/Rising gas/heating prices	6	--	2	--	--	1	1	22	4
4	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
3	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1	1
3	U.S. foreign policy/Intl affairs	1	1	4	2	--	--	--	2	2
3	Morality/Ethics/Family values	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
	Defense issues/Military spending/ National & homeland security	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
2	Hurricane/disaster relief	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
2	Immigration	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
2	Trade/Jobs moving overseas	1	1	2	1	--	--	--	--	--
1	Homelessness	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	1	2
1	Inflation/Difference between wages/costs	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
1	Education	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
1	Social Security	8	4	1	--	1	--	--	3	1
1	Taxes	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	3	3
1	Drugs/Alcohol	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	6
	Too much foreign aid/ spend money at home	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
15	Other									
6	Don't know/No answer	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
42	(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/ INTERNATIONAL	36	49	41	37	29	54	39	3	5
24	(NET) ECONOMIC	31	24	26	35	41	29	16	40	26

▲ War in Afghanistan in March 2002

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=612]:

Q.4XF2 What is the FIRST news story that comes to mind when you think about what's been in the news lately?
**[OPEN END. ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES, DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL.
 RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

FIRST STORY MENTIONED:

19 Iraq war/troop casualties
 14 Recent Hurricanes and response
 11 Libby/Cheney/Plame/White House scandal
 5 Supreme Court appointments
 3 Crime
 2 Other local news
 2 Bush's trip to South America/protest
 1 Weather/natural disasters
 1 Bird flu
 1 Death of Rosa Parks
 1 Gas prices
 1 Politics (general)
 1 Violence and protests in France
 1 Democrats holding closed door session in Senate
 1 Immigration/border issues
 1 Prince Charles and Camilla trip to the U.S.
 5 All others
30 Don't Know/Refused
 100

ASK ALL:

Q.5 In your view, has George W. Bush lived up to his campaign promise to restore integrity to the White House, or not?

36 Yes, lived up to his promise
 56 No, has not
8 (VOL. DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused
 100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=589]:

Q.6F1 In your opinion, are the news organizations you are familiar with being fair or unfair to the Bush administration?

	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Unfair</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
G.W. Bush: November, 2005	50	31	19=100
G.W. Bush: Early July, 2003	62	24	14=100
G.W. Bush: February, 2001	65	19	16=100
Clinton: Early September, 1998	52	40	8=100
Clinton: February, 1998	49	44	7=100
Clinton: September, 1994	67	26	7=100
Clinton: May, 1994	52	36	12=100
Clinton: August, 1993	66	21	13=100
Clinton: June, 1993	51	43	6=100
Clinton: February, 1993	72	17	11=100
Bush, Sr.: January, 1992	77	15	8=100
Bush, Sr.: November, 1990	72	15	13=100
Bush, Sr.: January, 1990	76	14	10=100

Q.6F1 CONTINUED...

	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Unfair</u>	<u>DK/Refused</u>
Bush, Sr.: August, 1989	82	12	6=100
Reagan: January, 1988	66	21	13=100
Reagan: January, 1987	67	25	8=100
Reagan: July, 1985	78	12	10=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=612]:

Q.7F2 Do you think the press has been too critical of the Bush Administration policies and performance so far, not critical enough or do you think that the press has handled this about right?

	<u>Early July 2003</u>	<u>Clinton June 1993</u>
32 Press too critical	25	35
28 Not critical enough	23	12
34 About right	48	49
<u>6</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Q.8 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	41	40	13	6	*=100
Early October, 2005	43	36	15	6	*=100
Early September, 2005	32	40	20	7	1=100
July, 2005	43	37	13	6	1=100
June, 2005	41	39	12	7	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	42	42	11	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100

Q.8 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/Ref
April 11-16, 2003 ¹	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 ²	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=589]:

b.F1 The high price of gasoline these days	61	27	9	2	1=100
Late October, 2005	67	23	7	3	*=100
Early October, 2005	65	25	6	3	1=100
Early September, 2005	71	19	7	3	*=100
Mid-May, 2005	58	27	9	5	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	50	32	13	5	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	64	22	8	5	1=100
August, 2004	52	29	10	8	1=100
July, 2004	56	25	11	7	1=100
June, 2004	58	26	9	6	1=100
April, 2004	46	30	15	8	1=100
Early April, 2004	58	23	10	8	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	47	27	14	10	2=100
September, 2003	45	27	15	11	1=100
March, 2003	52	27	11	9	1=100
February, 2003	53	25	12	9	1=100
June, 2001	56	31	7	5	1=100
May, 2001	61	26	6	6	1=100
Early October, 2000	56	25	12	6	1=100
June, 2000 ³	61	25	9	5	*=100
March, 2000	58	28	10	4	*=100
October, 1990	62	26	8	4	*=100
September, 1990	56	28	11	5	*=100
August, 1990	57	27	10	5	1=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=612]:

c.F2 Oil companies reporting large profits over the past few months	37	33	16	13	1=100
---	----	----	----	----	-------

¹ From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

² From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq." In Early September 2002 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."

³ In August 1990 through June 2000 the story was listed as "Recent increases in the price of gasoline."

Q.8 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=589]:					
d.F1 Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy	35	39	17	9	*=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	39	19	11	1=100
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1=100
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*=100
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2=100
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1=100
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1=100
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1=100
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1=100
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*=100
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1=100
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1=100
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1=100
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1=100
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2=100
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1=100
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1=100
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0=100
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1=100
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100

Q.8 CONTINUED...

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=612]:					
e.F2 The impact of Hurricane Wilma on Mexico and Florida	34	37	21	8	*=100
Late October, 2005 <i>Impact of Katrina and Rita</i>	69	24	5	2	*=100
Early October, 2005 <i>Impact of Katrina and Rita</i>	73	21	4	2	*=100
Early September, 2005 <i>Impact of Katrina</i>	70	21	7	2	*=100
July, 2005 <i>Hurricanes affecting the Gulf Coast</i>	38	37	17	8	*=100
Early October, 2002 <i>Gulf of Mexico & Louisiana</i>	38	34	18	10	*=100
ASK ALL:					
f. The nomination of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court	21	28	24	25	2=100
Early October, 2005 <i>Nomination of Harriet Miers</i>	22	33	21	23	1=100
Early September, 2005 <i>Nomination of John Roberts</i>	18	26	25	29	2=100
August, 1993 <i>Nomination of Ruth Bader Ginsburg</i>	18	30	27	24	1=100
October, 1991 <i>Nomination of Clarence Thomas</i>	28	35	18	18	1=100
July, 1991 <i>Nomination of Clarence Thomas</i>	33	33	19	14	1=100
August, 1990 <i>Nomination of David Souter</i>	16	27	27	29	1=100
September, 1987 <i>Nomination of Robert Bork</i>	17	23	29	29	2=100
g. The indictment of Vice President Cheney's Chief of Staff Lewis "Scooter" Libby	24	29	23	23	1=100
Early October, 2005 ⁴ <i>Indictment of Tom DeLay</i>	18	25	26	30	1=100
h. The outbreak of bird flu in Asia and Europe	22	37	25	15	1=100
Late October, 2005	22	33	24	20	1=100
January, 2004 <i>Mad cow disease in Washington state</i>	29	42	19	9	1=100
June, 2003 <i>SARS spread from Asia</i>	28	44	19	8	1=100
May, 2003 <i>SARS spread from Asia</i>	39	39	15	6	1=100
Early September, 2001 <i>Mad cow disease in Europe</i>	18	34	27	20	1=100
March, 2001 <i>Foot-and-mouth disease in Europe</i>	22	33	22	22	1=100
January, 1998 <i>Outbreak of an Asian flu</i>	19	36	25	20	*=100
ASKED NOVEMBER 4-6 ONLY [N=828]:					
i. The death of Rosa Parks	25	37	22	15	1=100

⁴ In Early October 2005 the story was listed as "The criminal indictment of House Majority Leader Tom DeLay for campaign finance violations"

ASK ALL:

Q.9 How have you been getting most of your news about national and international issues? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the internet? [ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS: IF ONLY ONE RESPONSE IS GIVEN, PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL RESPONSE]

	<u>Television</u>	<u>News- papers</u>	<u>Radio</u>	<u>Magazines</u>	<u>Internet</u>	<u>Other (VOL)</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
November, 2005	73	36	16	2	20	2	*
Early Sept, 2005⁵ (Hurricane Katrina)	89	35	17	*	21	3	*
June, 2005	74	44	22	5	24	2	1
December, 2004	74	46	21	4	24	2	3
October, 2003	80	50	18	4	20	2	1
August, 2003	79	46	15	3	18	2	1
Early July, 2003	79	45	16	5	19	1	*
March, 2003 (War in Iraq)	89	24	19	*	11	2	*
February, 2003	83	42	19	4	15	3	*
January, 2003	81	44	22	4	17	2	1
January, 2002	82	42	21	3	14	2	*
Mid-September, 2001 (Terror Attacks)	90	11	14	*	5	1	1
Early September, 2001	74	45	18	6	13	1	*
February, 2001	76	40	16	4	10	2	1
October, 1999	80	48	19	5	11	2	*
January, 1999	82	42	18	4	6	2	*
January, 1996	88	61	25	8	--	2	*
September, 1995 ⁶	82	63	20	10	--	1	1
January, 1994	83	51	15	10	--	5	1
September, 1993	83	60	17	9	--	3	*
January, 1993	83	52	17	5	--	1	1
Early January, 1991	82	40	15	4	--	1	*

⁵ In Early September 2005, the question was worded “news about the impact of Hurricane Katrina.” In March 2003, the question was worded “news about the war in Iraq,” and in Mid-September 2001, the question was worded “news about the terrorist attacks.” In September 1995, question wording did not include “international.” In Early January 1991 the question asked about “the latest developments in the Persian Gulf.”

⁶ In September 1995, question wording did not include “international.” In Early January 1991 the question asked about “the latest developments in the Persian Gulf.”

IF '1' TELEVISION AS EITHER 1ST OR 2ND RESPONSE IN Q.9 ASK:

Q.9a Do you get most of your news about national and international issues from [READ, RANDOMIZE ITEMS 2 THRU 4 AND 5 THRU 8 SEPARATELY, AND RANDOMIZE SETS OF ITEMS (LOCAL; NETWORK; CABLE). ACCEPT MULTIPLE ANSWERS BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]

BASED ON TOTAL:		<i>Hurricane Katrina</i>						
		Early Sept 2005 ⁷	June 2005	Dec 2004	Oct 2003	Aug 2003	Early July 2003	Jan 2002
16	Local news programming	19	13	15	17	17	17	16
14	ABC Network news	14	12	11	12	12	12	11
12	CBS Network news	8	9	9	8	10	11	11
15	NBC Network news	12	12	14	13	15	14	15
24	CNN Cable news	31	18	20	20	26	27	28
8	MSNBC Cable news	9	5	6	6	7	9	8
22	The Fox News Cable Channel	22	16	19	17	18	22	16
5	CNBC Cable news	3	2	3	-- ⁸	3	3	4
3	(DO NOT READ) Don't know/Refused	3	4	3	4	4	3	2

IF '5' INTERNET AS EITHER 1ST OR 2ND RESPONSE IN Q.9, ASK [N=236]:

Q.9b When you get news online, do you read the websites of local or national newspapers, or not?

		<u>June 2005</u>
67	Yes	62
32	No	36
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>
100		100

ASK IF FOLLOWED BIRD FLU VERY, FAIRLY, NOT TOO CLOSELY (1-3 IN Q.8h) [N=1,046]:

F.1 In your view, is too much, too little, or the right amount of attention being paid to the possibility of a bird flu outbreak in America?

22	Too much
29	Too little
42	Right amount
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

F.2 How much confidence do you have in the federal government to deal with a possible outbreak of bird flu in America? [READ]

9	A great deal
39	A fair amount
33	Not very much
16	No confidence at all
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

⁷ In Early September 2005, the question was worded: "Have you been getting most of your news about the disaster from..."

⁸ In October 2003, CNBC Cable news item was not asked due to programming error.

F.3 How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be exposed to the bird flu? [READ]

		<i>SARS</i>
		<u>May2003⁹</u>
11	Very worried	9
27	Somewhat worried	28
38	Not too worried	29
23	Not worried at all	34
<u>1</u>	No opinion (VOL)	*
100		100

On a different subject...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=589]:

Q.10F1 Some people think that by criticizing leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion?

	<u>Keeps leaders from doing their job</u>	<u>Keeps leaders from doing things that shouldn't be done</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
November, 2005	22	62	16=100
June, 2005	28	60	12=100
Early July, 2003	29	54	17=100
July, 2002	26	59	15=100
Mid-November, 2001	32	54	14=100
Early September, 2001	25	60	15=100
February, 1999	31	58	11=100
Early February, 1998	39	55	6=100
February, 1997	32	56	12=100
Late January, 1994	24	66	10=100
Early January, 1994	18	69	13=100
August, 1989	23	68	9=100
December, 1986	26	60	14=100
July, 1985	17	67	16=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=612]:

Q.11F2 Some people think that in investigating possible wrongdoing by political leaders, news organizations keep leaders from doing their job. Others think such investigations are worth it because they keep political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion?

25	Investigations keep political leaders from doing their job
61	Investigations keep leaders from doing things that should not be done
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

⁹ In May 2003, the question was worded "One last question about the new disease know as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS. How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be exposed to SARS..."

ASK ALL:

Q.12 When it comes to national policy, who do you think George W. Bush is listening to more... **[READ AND ROTATE]**

		Early						
		Oct	July	Jan	May	Jan	Jan	Jan
		<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
53	Conservative members of his party	57	53	54	49	41	38	48
OR								
27	Moderate members of his party	27	23	27	32	35	40	37
<u>20</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>16</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Last week a grand jury investigating the leak of a CIA agent's identity indicted the vice president's adviser Lewis Libby on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

ASK IF FOLLOWED NEWS ABOUT LIBBY INDICTMENT AT ALL (1,2,3 IN Q8g) [N=964]:

Q.13 Thinking back to when you FIRST heard about the indictment, what ONE WORD best describes your reaction to the news? **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE)***

- 89 Not surprised/unsurprised
- 82 Surprised
- 58 Shocked
- 24 Disappointed
- 23 Disgusted
- 21 Expected
- 21 Good
- 15 Disbelief/unbelievable
- 14 Finally
- 12 About time
- 11 Traitor/treason
- 11 Guilty
- 11 Typical
- 9 Wow
- 9 Indifferent
- 8 Outraged
- 8 Ridiculous
- 8 Watergate
- 8 Happy
- 7 Not shocked

** The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.*

ASK ALL:

Q.14 How important an issue do you think this whole situation is to the nation... [READ]

		---- Clinton lied under oath ----						— Clinton had affair — — CBS —			
		Sept ¹⁰ 21-22	Sept 19-20	Sept 11-15	Early Sept	Late Aug	Early Aug	Late Feb	Early Feb	Jan 26	Jan 24-25
		1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998
44	Great importance	37	42	37	34	33	27	22	25	39	40
35	Some importance	19	23	22	20	23	21	25	27	28	21
18	Very little importance	42	33	38	42	42	46	50	45	28	35
1	None (VOL)	--	--	1	3	2	3	3	1	2	3
<u>2</u>	DK/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.15 From what you've heard and read, do you think Lewis Libby is guilty or not guilty of the charges brought against him?

42	Guilty
15	Not guilty
<u>43</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

Q.16 Do you think news organizations are giving too much, too little, or the right amount of coverage to the investigation into the leak of a CIA agent's identity?

		<i>Lewinsky</i> ¹¹		---- Whitewater Investigation ----				<i>Iran Contra</i>
		Dec 1998	Aug 1998	May 1997	Aug 1995	March 1994	<i>Newsweek</i> March 1994	Jan 1987
31	Too much	64	69	43	45	55	44	44
21	Too little	2	4	14	15	7	10	9
39	About the right amount	31	26	39	37	33	36	43
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

¹⁰ Interviews from September 19-20 were conducted prior to the release of Bill Clinton's videotaped grand jury testimony. Interviews from September 21-22 were conducted following the release of the videotape. Interviews from September 11-15 were conducted after the release of the Starr Report. From August to September 1998 the question was worded "Now, a few questions about the allegation that President Clinton lied under oath about a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. Thinking specifically about this allegation..." In Late February 1998 and earlier the question was worded "Thinking about these allegations against President Clinton [that he had an affair with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky], how important an issue do you think this whole situation is to the nation..."

¹¹ In 1998 the question was worded: "Do you think the media is giving TOO MUCH attention to the investigation of President Clinton, TOO LITTLE attention, or about the right amount?" From 1994 to 1997 the question was worded: "...to the Whitewater case and the White House handling of it..." In 1987 the question was worded: "...have given the Iran-Contra affair..."

On a different subject...

Q.17 How important is the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally? [READ]

		Mid- Sept <u>2005</u> ¹²	July <u>2005</u>	June <u>2005</u>	Late March <u>2005</u>
47	Very important	48	47	47	38
28	Somewhat important	34	30	29	36
13	Not too important	9	14	14	15
11	Not at all important	7	8	8	8
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100	100	100

Q.18 From what you've seen and heard so far, do you think the Senate should or should not confirm Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court?

		<i>Harriet Miers</i> Early Oct <u>2005</u>	<i>-- John Roberts --</i> Mid-Sept <u>2005</u>	Early Sept <u>2005</u>
40	Should	33	46	35
23	Should not	27	21	19
<u>37</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>40</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>46</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.19 Do you worry that Samuel Alito would make the Supreme Court too conservative, not conservative enough, or don't you worry about this?

		<i>Harriet Miers</i> <u>Early Oct 2005</u>	<i>Chief Justice John Robersts</i> <u>Early Oct 2005</u>	<i>Next Supreme Court Appointment</i> <u>July 2005</u> ¹³
25	Too conservative	18	20	31
6	Not conservative enough	8	9	19
56	Don't worry about this	56	60	44
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.20 As I read some issues the Supreme Court may rule on over the coming years, please tell me how important each issue is to you personally. First, are court decisions on [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLIT] very important, fairly important, not too important, or not at all important to you?

		<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Fairly Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Abortion	62	20	8	8	2=100
	July, 2005	63	21	8	7	1=100
b.	Affirmative action	38	37	12	7	6=100
	July, 2005	43	35	12	7	3=100

¹² In mid-September 2005 the question was asked about both choices: "How important are the President's choices of the next Supreme Court Justice to you personally?"

¹³ In July 2005 the question was worded "Do you worry that the president's next Supreme Court appointment will make the court ..."

Q.20 CONTINUED...

	Very <u>Important</u>	Fairly <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	Not at all <u>Important</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
c. Issues related to homosexuality	36	20	20	21	3=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=589]:

d.F1 The rights of people held in custody as terrorist suspects	57	23	10	6	4=100
July, 2005	62	21	10	6	1=100

ASK ALL:

e. The amount of money courts can award in personal injury lawsuits	44	34	14	6	2=100
July, 2005	49	31	13	5	2=100
f. Whether to allow religious displays on government property	46	25	16	10	3=100
July, 2005	55	25	11	8	1=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=612]:

g.F2 How terrorist suspects should be treated	60	24	8	5	3=100
---	----	----	---	---	-------

Q.21 When Senators ask Supreme Court nominees questions about issues like abortion that may come before the court, do you think **[INSERT ITEM, ROTATE]** or do you think **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	Early Oct <u>2005</u>
60 Nominees should be required to answer those questions	55
35 Nominees should be allowed to not comment on those questions	39
<u>5</u> Don't know/Refused [VOL]	<u>6</u>
100	100

Q.22 Do you worry that Samuel Alito would go too far in restricting access to abortions, not go far enough, or don't you worry about this?

25 Go too far
12 Not go far enough
47 Don't worry about this
<u>16</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100

On a different subject...

Q.23 A few weeks ago, Iraq held a nationwide vote on the country's constitution. How much have you heard about this... A lot, a little, or nothing at all?

		Early Oct <u>2005</u>	Jan <u>2005</u> ¹⁴	June <u>2004</u>
22	A lot	21	46	42
52	A little	50	40	40
25	Nothing at all	28	13	17
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.24 In this election, the Iraqi people voted "yes" on the new constitution. Do you think this will lead to a MORE stable situation, a LESS stable situation, or will the situation in Iraq not change much?

		<i>Before Oct 15th Vote</i> Early Oct <u>2005</u>	<i>Before Jan 30th Elections</i> Feb ¹⁵ <u>2005</u>	Jan <u>2005</u>
30	More stable	29	47	29
6	Less stable	10	7	14
56	Situation will not change much	51	40	49
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100

Q.25 Before the war the U.S. and Britain claimed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. These weapons have not been found. Why do you think they made this claim: [READ AND ROTATE]

ASK IF 'LIED TO PROVIDE A REASON' (Q25=2)

Q.26 Do you think U.S. and British leaders knew Iraq had no weapons, or did they simply choose to believe only the intelligence that supported going to war?

		Feb ¹⁶ <u>2004</u>
41	Was it mostly because they were themselves misinformed by bad intelligence	49
	OR	
43	Was it mostly because they lied to provide a reason for invading Iraq	31
17	Knew Iraq had no weapons	22
24	Chose to believe only the intelligence that supported going to war	9
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	*
5	WMD might still be found (VOL)	9
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>11</u>
100		100

NO QUESTION 27

¹⁴ In early October 2005 the question was worded: "On October 15th, Iraq is scheduled to have a nationwide vote on the country's proposed constitution. How much have you heard about this..." In January 2005 question was worded "On January 30th, Iraq is scheduled to have its first nationwide elections..." In June 2004 the question was worded: "On June 30th, the U.S. is planning to hand over civilian authority to Iraqi leaders. How much have you heard about this..."

¹⁵ In early October 2005 the question was worded: "If the proposed constitution is approved..." In January and February 2005 the question was worded "All in all, do you think the January elections in Iraq will lead to a MORE stable situation, a LESS stable situation, or will the situation in Iraq not change much?"

¹⁶ In February 2004 the question included "These weapons have yet to be found."

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=589]:

Q.28F1 In 1973 the Roe versus Wade decision established a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Would you like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn its Roe versus Wade decision, or not?

		-----Gallup-----					
		July	June	Jan	March	Aug ¹⁷	Oct
		2005	2005	2003	2002	1992	1989
26	Yes, overturn Roe versus Wade	29	30	31	36	34	33
65	No, not overturn Roe versus Wade	65	63	62	60	60	61
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=612]:

Q.29F2 In 1973 the Roe versus Wade decision established a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, at least in the first three months of pregnancy. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its Roe versus Wade decision, or not?

32	Yes, overturn Roe versus Wade
57	No, not overturn Roe versus Wade
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

<i>Trend</i>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL)	(VOL)	<u>Don't know</u>
				<u>No Preference</u>	<u>Other Party</u>	
November, 2005	28	34	31	5	*	2=100
Late October, 2005	29	33	31	5	*	2=100
Early October, 2005	26	34	34	4	*	2=100
September 8-11, 2005	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
September 6-7, 2005	27	33	33	4	*	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Late March, 2005	29	32	36	2	*	1=100
Mid-March, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
February, 2005	31	32	30	4	1	2=100
January, 2005	32	33	30	4	*	1=100
December, 2004	31	34	30	3	*	2=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100

¹⁷

Gallup trend from August 1992 is based on registered voters.

PARTY CONTINUED...

<i>Yearly Totals</i>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL)	(VOL)	<u>Don't know</u>
				No Preference	Other Party	
2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
2003	30	31	31	5	*	3=100
2002	30	31	30	5	1	3=100
2001	29	34	29	5	*	3=100
<i>2001 Post-Sept 11</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>2001 Pre-Sept 11</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>2=100</i>
2000	28	33	29	6	*	4=100
1999	27	33	34	4	*	2=100
1998	28	33	32	5	*	2=100
1997	28	33	32	4	1	2=100
				No Preference/		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Other/DK</u>		
1996	29	33	33	5=100		
1995	32	30	34	4=100		
1994	30	32	34	4=100		
1993	27	34	34	5=100		
1992	28	33	35	4=100		
1991	31	32	33	4=100		
1990	31	33	30	6=100		
				Independent/		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>No Pref/Oth/DK</u>			
1989	33	33	34=100			
1987	26	35	39=100			

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Refused to lean</u>
November, 2005	11	14	13=38%
Late October, 2005	11	15	12=38%
Early October, 2005	11	18	11=40%
September 8-11, 2005	10	18	9=37%
September 6-7, 2005	10	15	15=40%
July, 2005	9	15	11=35%
June, 2005	10	16	12=38%
Mid-May, 2005	9	13	14=36%
Late March, 2005	13	17	9=39%
December, 2004	14	12	9=35%
August, 2003	12	16	14=42%
August, 2002	12	13	13=38%
September, 2000	11	13	15=39%
Late September, 1999	14	15	16=45%
August, 1999	15	15	12=42%