



**FOR RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2002, 4:00 P.M.**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
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**Satisfaction with National Conditions Slumps
DEMOCRATS LESS PLEASED WITH PARTY'S PERFORMANCE**

A year after Democrats took control of the Senate, the party's rank-and-file give Democratic congressional leaders lower marks for performance than GOP adherents give their leadership. While 64% of Democrats approve of their leaders' job performance, 80% of Republicans have a positive view of the job GOP leaders are doing. Consequently, the Democratic leaders' net approval rating of 42%-37% lags well behind the Republican leaders' mark (49%-34%).

Perhaps more significant, barely half of Democrats (51%) say the party is doing an excellent or good job of standing up for such core principles as representing the interests of working people, protecting minorities and helping the poor. By comparison, 61% of Republicans say their party is doing an excellent or good job of standing up for its core principles, such as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values.

As the battle for control of Capitol Hill intensifies, neither party has been able to gain a significant edge in the congressional ballot test. A recent Bloomberg News survey, conducted in early May, showed the Democrats with a slight 38%-34% advantage. Still, the proportion of Democrats who disapprove of the way party leaders are doing their jobs has increased from 11% to 22% since last June, shortly after Sen. Jim Jeffords' defection from the GOP gave Democrats control of the Senate. The disapproval rate among GOP adherents for their leaders has not changed (13%).

The new Pew Research Center nationwide survey of 1,002 adults, conducted May 6-16, also finds that as many as one-third of Democrats believe the party's leaders are speaking out too little in response to President Bush's policies. That number rises to 46% among Democrats who express general disapproval of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing.

Partisan Evaluations				
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
<i>Republican leaders</i>				
Approve	49	80	33	44
Disapprove	34	13	54	35
Don't know	17	7	13	21
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<i>Democratic leaders</i>				
Approve	42	26	64	40
Disapprove	37	59	22	36
Don't know	21	15	14	24
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<i>Democrats speaking out ...</i>				
Too much	18	34	4	20
Too little	22	9	33	23
Right amount	42	40	49	41
Don't know	18	17	14	16
	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
<i>Party's stand for core principles*</i>				
Excellent		9	7	
Good		52	44	
Only fair		32	38	
Poor		5	8	
Don't know		2	3	
		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	

* Respondents who identified with a party were asked to evaluate their party's job standing up for its traditional positions.

The survey also reveals declining public satisfaction with national conditions. Just 44% of the respondents say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, marking the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks that this measure has fallen below 50% in a Pew Research Center survey. Discontent with national conditions has increased especially among women and older Americans, returning to pre-9/11 levels among these groups. Dissatisfaction among those age 65 and older exceeds satisfaction by two-to-one (56% dissatisfied, 28% satisfied). Men and younger Americans remain more pleased with the state of the nation today than before the attacks.

	<i>Percent Satisfied</i>		
	Early Sept %	Late Sept %	May %
Total	41	57	44
Men	43	65	56
Women	38	50	35
18-29	47	61	53
30-49	40	59	48
50-64	41	56	43
65+	34	48	28
Republican	57	70	54
Democrat	30	50	42
Independent	40	54	42

While the public is less satisfied with the direction of the country, they look more favorably on the way the two parties are working together in Washington. More than four-in-ten (44%) think Democrats and Republicans are cooperating more than usual, compared with 31% who see a higher level of partisan bickering. In July 2001, the balance of public opinion was just the opposite – 30% saw the parties working together more, while 46% said partisan skirmishing was on the upswing.

The Republican party continues to inspire much more confidence than the Democrats on major international issues – the war against terrorists and the conflict in the Mideast. When it comes to the war on terrorism, a sizable number of Democrats think the Republicans have better ideas than their own party. However, the Democratic party is given a greater vote of confidence on top domestic issues such as providing a prescription drug benefit under the Medicare program and – by a much narrower margin – on taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound. There is a high degree of partisan division on these issues, especially with regard to which party can best strengthen Social Security.

	<u>Total</u> %	<i>---Party ID---</i>		
		<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
<i>War on terrorism</i>				
Republican Party	56	88	37	51
Democratic Party	19	2	33	21
Neither/DK	<u>25</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>28</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Middle East</i>				
Republican Party	44	76	16	48
Democratic Party	24	5	50	21
Neither/DK	<u>32</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>31</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Strengthening Social Security</i>				
Republican Party	32	63	12	31
Democratic Party	38	11	74	35
Neither/DK	<u>30</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>34</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Prescription drug benefit under Medicare</i>				
Republican Party	21	44	6	18
Democratic Party	39	18	65	37
Neither/DK	<u>40</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>45</u>
	100	100	100	100

By more than two-to-one, independents think the Republicans can better handle terrorism and the problems in the Middle East. Independents favor Democrats on the prescription drug issue by two-to-one (37%-18%), while they split fairly evenly in assessing which party is better able to put the Social Security system on sound financial footing.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,002 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period May 6-16, 2002. Based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=485) or Form 2 (N=517), 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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
2002 BELIEVABILITY SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
May 6 - 16, 2002
N=1002

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
May, 2002	44	44	12=100
March, 2002	50	40	10=100
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100
June, 2001	43	52	5=100
March, 2001	47	45	8=100
February, 2001	46	43	11=100
January, 2001	55	41	4=100
September, 2000	51	41	8=100
June, 2000	47	45	8=100
April, 2000	48	43	9=100
August, 1999	56	39	5=100
January, 1999	53	41	6=100
November, 1998	46	44	10=100
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
February, 1998	59	37	4=100
January, 1998	46	50	4=100
September, 1997	45	49	6=100
August, 1997	49	46	5=100
January, 1997	38	58	4=100
July, 1996	29	67	4=100
March, 1996	28	70	2=100
October, 1995	23	73	4=100
June, 1995	25	73	2=100
April, 1995	23	74	3=100
July, 1994	24	73	3=100
March, 1994	24	71	5=100
October, 1993	22	73	5=100
September, 1993	20	75	4=100
May, 1993	22	71	7=100
January, 1993	39	50	11=100
January, 1992	28	68	4=100
November, 1991	34	61	5=100
<i>Late February, 1991 (Gallup)</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>3=100</i>
August, 1990	47	48	5=100
May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 1989	45	50	5=100
September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5=100
May, 1988	41	54	5=100
January, 1988	39	55	6=100

ROTATE Q.2 AND Q.3

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job 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 Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
May, 2002	49	34	17=100
February, 2002	56	24	20=100
Early September, 2001	43	39	18=100
June, 2001	40	40	20=100
May, 2001	45	36	19=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=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
September, 1999	35	48	17=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
Mid-January, 1999	36	51	13=100
January, 1999	38	50	12=100
Late December, 1998	39	56	5=100
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
November, 1998	41	48	11=100
September 21-22, 1998	44	44	12=100
September 19-20, 1998	46	41	13=100
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Late August, 1998	48	36	16=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
November, 1996	40	43	17=100
July, 1996	38	48	14=100
June, 1996	36	50	14=100
April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 1996	36	54	10=100
October, 1995	36	51	13=100
September, 1995	36	50	14=100
August, 1995	38	45	17=100
June, 1995	41	45	14=100
April, 1995	44	43	13=100

Q.2 CONTINUED ...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
March, 1995	43	39	18=100
December, 1994	52	28	20=100

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the job 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 Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
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=485]:

Q.3F1 How do you think the leaders of the Democratic Party are responding to George W. Bush's policies and proposals... do you think they are speaking out too much, speaking out too little, or speaking out about the right amount?

		---- 2002 ----			----- April 2001 -----			
		----- Party Id -----			----- Party Id -----			
		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
18	Speaking out too much	30	4	20	15	27	7	17
22	Speaking out too little	10	33	23	23	8	36	20
42	Speaking out about the right amount	40	50	41	45	51	45	45
<u>18</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=517]:

Q.4F2 This year, have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems OR have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?

	<u>July 2001</u>	<u>May 2001</u>	<u>July 2000</u>	<u>Aug 1999</u>	<u>Aug 1998</u>	<u>Nov 1997</u>	<u>Aug 1997</u>	<u>June 1997</u>	<u>Oct 1995</u>	<u>Aug 1993</u>
44	Working together more	30	34	21	20	27	38	43	34	21
31	Opposing each other more	46	41	54	68	51	45	46	49	72
8	Same as in past (VOL)	10	9	10	4	8	7	3	6	3
<u>17</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

P.1 Please tell me which party you think has the best ideas on the following issues. (First), on the issue of **[READ AND ROTATE]** who has the best ideas... the Republican Party or the Democratic Party? **[REPEAT FOR NEXT ITEM:]** And who has the best ideas on...

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=485]:		Republican Party	Democratic Party	(VOL) Neither	DK/Ref
a.F1	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	32	38	9	21=100
	January, 2002	28	40	6	26=100
	May, 2001 ¹	35	43	11	11=100
	January, 2001	36	44	7	13=100
	June, 1999	33	41	13	13=100
	January, 1999	27	46	7	20=100
	September, 1998	37	42	12	9=100
	May, 1990	28	41	16	15=100
b.F1	Dealing with problems in the Middle East	44	24	10	22=100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=517]:

c.F2	Providing prescription drug benefits to senior citizens on Medicare	21	39	9	31=100
	January, 2002	18	46	5	31=100
	January, 2001	30	49	5	16=100
d.F2	Dealing with the military efforts to destroy terrorist groups overseas	56	19	5	20=100
	January, 2002	51	16	6	27=100

Q.5 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL) No Preference	(VOL) Other Party	DK/Ref
May, 2002	27	30	36	4	1	2=100
May, 2001	27	30	37	4	1	1=100
September, 2000	27	34	30	6	*	3=100
February, 2000	27	30	34	6	1	2=100
Late September, 1999	24	31	36	5	1	3=100
August, 1999	25	33	37	3	*	2=100
November, 1997	25	32	38	3	*	2=100
June, 1996	30	33	34	2	*	1=100
February, 1996	30	32	32	3	1	2=100
October, 1995	30	30	35	3	*	2=100
April, 1995	30	29	37	3	*	1=100
March, 1995	35	28	32	--	2	3=100
February, 1995	33	30	33	--	2	2=100
December, 1994	35	31	30	--	2	2=100
November, 1994	28	31	35	4	*	2=100
October, 1994	31	32	33	3	*	1=100
Early October, 1994	33	30	32	--	2	3=100
July, 1994	29	33	35	2	*	1=100
June, 1992	28	32	36	1	*	3=100
May, 1990	28	33	28	9	*	2=100
February, 1989	31	38	23	7	*	1=100
May, 1988	28	38	26	6	*	2=100
January, 1988	27	39	26	6	*	2=100
May, 1987	25	37	28	8	*	2=100

¹ For May 2001, June 1999, September 1998 and May 1990, the question was worded, "Please tell me if you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party could do a better job in each of the following areas ... keeping Social Security financially sound?"

ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO ANSWERED INDEPENDENT/NO PREFERENCE/OTHER/DON'T KNOW (Q.5=3, 4, 5, 9) [N=411]:

Q.6 As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

37	Republican
31	Democrat
<u>32</u>	Other/Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (Q.5=1 OR Q.6=1) [N=453]:

Q.7 How good a job is the Republican Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as reducing the size of government, cutting taxes and promoting conservative social values — would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

		<i>Rep/ Lean Rep</i> <u>May 2001</u>	<i>Rep/ Lean Rep (RV)</i> <u>Sept 2000</u>
6	Excellent	10	6
49	Good	50	43
38	Only fair	32	44
5	Poor	5	5
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS ONLY (Q.5=2 OR Q.6=2) [N=424]:

Q.8 How good a job is the Democratic Party doing these days in standing up for its traditional positions on such things as protecting the interests of minorities, helping the poor and needy, and representing working people — would you say the Party is doing an excellent job, a good job, only a fair job or a poor job?

		<i>Dem/ Lean Dem</i> <u>May 2001</u>	<i>Dem/ Lean Dem (RV)</i> <u>Sept 2000</u>
5	Excellent	8	11
39	Good	39	52
43	Only fair	40	32
10	Poor	7	4
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>