## EMBARGOED

## Party Images Unchanged With a Week To Go SUPPORT FOR POTENTIAL MILITARY ACTION SLIPS TO 55\%

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Associate Director
Carroll Doherty, Editor
Michael Dimock, Research Director
Elizabeth Mueller Gross, Special Projects Director
Nilanthi Samaranayake, Peyton Craighill and Nicole Speulda, Project Directors
Pew Research Center for The People \& The Press
202/293-3126
http://www.people-press.org

## Party Images Unchanged With a Week To Go SUPPORT FOR POTENTIAL MILITARY ACTION SLIPS TO 55\%

A growing number of Americans oppose military action in Iraq, amid widespread concern over the potential negative consequences of war. For the first time since the Iraq debate intensified this summer, a majority of Democrats oppose the use of force to remove Saddam Hussein from power. And while a $55 \%$ majority still favors military action, this is fewer than the more than six-inten who have consistently supported that option since late August. A third (34\%) now oppose military action, up from $28 \%$ earlier this month and $21 \%$ in late August.

The public's leading concern arising from a possible conflict is that Iraq will deploy chemical or biological weapons against U.S. forces; six-in-ten (59\%) say they worry a great deal about this. A 52\% majority expresses concern about the general prospect of heavy military casualties. And compared with the first Persian Gulf War, many more Americans fear a conflict with Iraq will raise the risk of terrorism in the United States. Half (51\%) express

| More Opposition to War in Iraq |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Late | Mid- | Early | Late |
| Military action | Aug | $\frac{\text { Sept }}{0}$ | Oct | $\frac{\text { Oct }}{0}$ |
| in Iraq | \% |  |  |  |
| Favor | 64 | 64 | 62 | 55 |
| Even without allies | 30 | 33 | -- | 27 |
| Only if allies agree | 30 | 25 | -- | 23 |
| Don't know | 4 | 6 | -- | 5 |
| Oppose | 21 | 23 | 28 | 34 |
| Don't know | $\frac{15}{100}$ | $\frac{13}{100}$ | $\frac{10}{100}$ | $\frac{11}{100}$ | that concern now, compared with just a third in late January 1991, after the Gulf War began.

As in previous surveys, support for using force against Iraq declines markedly in the absence of allied backing for such an operation. Fewer than three-in-ten (27\%) say they would favor military action against Baghdad if the allies do not go along, down from $33 \%$ in mid-September.

The latest nationwide Pew Research Center survey of 1,751 adults (1,305 registered voters), conducted October 17-27, shows that massive public interest in the sniper attacks in the Washington D.C. area has overshadowed the debate over war in Iraq. Nearly two-thirds of the public (65\%) followed news about the sniper case very closely, making it the top news story of the year. While a majority (53\%) tracked the Iraq debate very closely, that is down from $60 \%$ in early October.

The survey finds that, with midterm elections less than a week away, the prospect of war with Iraq and other major national issues are not affecting voters' views of the two parties. Republicans continue to be seen as better able to handle Iraq and terrorism, while Democrats hold the advantage on Social Security. Perhaps most important, neither party has a significant edge on the economy, the issue that voters most want to hear discussed in their state and local races (see "Americans Thinking About Iraq, But Focused on the Economy," Oct. 10).

## Half of Democrats Now Oppose War

The decline in public support for using force against Iraq is evident among all demographic and political groups, but the decrease has been particularly noteworthy among African-Americans. Just three-in-ten (31\%) support military action today, down 12 percentage points since early October. Support also has slipped among liberals, people age 65 and older, residents of the Northeast and those with less than a high school diploma (down at least 11 points each).

The falloff in support for military action has been comparable among Democrats and Republicans (nine points and seven points, respectively). But a majority of Democrats (51\%) now oppose using force to oust Saddam, while 40\% favor military action. In early October, Democrats supported military action, $49 \%-43 \%$.

While majorities of every other age group back military action, those age 65 and older, on balance, are opposed. Nearly half(47\%) oppose military action, while just $39 \%$ are supportive. And there continues to be a gender gap

| Decline in Support for War with Iraq |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Early | Late |  |
| Favor military action in Iraq |  | $\frac{\mathrm{Oct}}{\%}$ | Change |
| Total | 62 | 55 | -7 |
| Men | 68 | 59 | -9 |
| Women | 56 | 50 | -6 |
| White | 65 | 59 | -6 |
| Black | 43 | 31 | -12 |
| Hispanic | 63 | 55 | -8 |
| Under 30 | 65 | 56 | -9 |
| 30-49 | 66 | 60 | -6 |
| 50-64 | 61 | 55 | -6 |
| 65+ | 50 | 39 | -11 |
| Conservative | 69 | 65 | -4 |
| Moderate | 61 | 55 | -6 |
| Liberal | 51 | 40 | -11 |
| Conserv Rep | 80 | 76 | -4 |
| Mod/Lib Rep | 79 | 71 | -8 |
| Cons/Mod Dem | 53 | 43 | -10 |
| Liberal Dem | 37 | 33 | -4 | over taking action against Iraq with men more supportive than women of using force against Saddam (59\%-50\%).

## Bush Making the Case?

In September, President Bush made significant progress in explaining his case for military action in Iraq to the American public, but the new poll indicates that, if anything, he has lost ground in this effort since then. The public is split over whether Bush has clearly explained the U.S. stakes in Iraq - 48\% say he has, while $45 \%$ disagree.

Last month, following Bush's well-received speeches at the United Nations and for the commemoration of the $9 / 11$ anniversary, a $52 \%$ majority thought Bush had presented a clear rationale for using force, while just $37 \%$ said he had not. The perception that Bush is not making a clear case for war has increased among all demographic groups.

## Leading Worries: Chemical Attacks, Casualties

Americans express a number of concerns over the possible consequences of military action, including the use of chemical or biological weapons against U.S. troops, high casualties among U.S. troops or Iraqi civilians, increased terrorism against the U.S., the difficulty of stabilizing Iraq after a war, and the specter of all-out war in the Middle East. Only $17 \%$ of the public is not worried a "great deal" about at least one of these potential problems, and over a quarter (27\%) are worried about five or all six.

Americans today are much more worried about the possibility that war with Iraq might lead to increased terrorism in the U.S. than was the case in 1991 when this question was first asked ( $51 \%$ now worry a great deal, compared with $33 \%$ in January 1991 after the war began). There is also somewhat greater concern about the prospect of a large number of Iraqi civilian casualties ( $40 \%$ now worry a great deal, compared with $33 \%$ in 1991). By contrast, concern about American casualties while high - is nonetheless lower than in 1991. Currently, $52 \%$ worry a great deal that U.S. forces might sustain a lot of casualties in a war

| Worries About War With Iraq |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Great } \\ & \frac{\text { deal }}{\%} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \begin{array}{c} \text { Fair } \\ \text { amount } \end{array} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Not } \\ \frac{\text { much }}{\%} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{DK} / \\ & \frac{\mathrm{Ref}}{\%} \end{aligned}$ |
| Chemical/bio attacks on US troops | 59 | 26 | 13 | $2=100$ |
| Many US casualties | 52 | 28 | 18 | $2=100$ |
| Late January 1991 | 57 | 30 | 12 | $1=100$ |
| More domestic terrorism |  | 26 | 20 | $3=100$ |
| Late January 1991 | 33 | 38 | 28 | $1=100$ |
| All-out Mideast war | 46 | 27 | 25 | $2=100$ |
| Long postwar role | 43 | 25 | 27 | $5=100$ |
| Iraqi civilian casualties | 40 | 30 | 27 | $3=100$ |
| Late January 1991 | 33 | 35 | 28 | $4=100$ | with Iraq; in 1991, $57 \%$ worried a great deal about this.

Concern about the spread of war throughout the region is also on the minds of many Americans, with $46 \%$ of respondents saying they worry a great deal about all-out war in the Middle East. And another $43 \%$ worry a great deal that it will take a long time to stabilize Iraq after the war is over. The Pew Research Center's early October poll found $60 \%$ of the public supportive of a major U.S. effort to rebuild Iraq if there is a war and establish a stable government there.

## Opponents Have Many Concerns

When it comes to the threat of chemical or biological attacks against U.S. forces, supporters of military action are nearly as likely to be very worried (59\%) as war opponents ( $62 \%$ ). But on other issues there is a larger gap. Just under half ( $46 \%$ ) of those in favor of war in Iraq worry a great deal about heavy U.S. casualties and an increased risk of terrorism. Six-in-ten war opponents worry a great deal about these problems. And supporters are significantly less concerned about the conflict spreading throughout the Middle East (38\%), the difficulty of stabilizing Iraq (34\%) or the prospect of large numbers of Iraqi civilian casualties (30\%).

## Stable Party Images

Despite heavy campaigning in many parts of the country, voters' perceptions of the political parties have changed little over the past few months. More voters express confidence in the Republicans' ability to deal with the threat of terrorism here in the U.S. (by a $44 \%$ to $27 \%$ margin), while Democrats have a significant advantage when it comes to making the Social Security system financially sound ( $42 \%$ vs. $31 \%$ who think the GOP would do better).

And neither party has a clear advantage in being seen as better able to handle the economy -four-in-ten give the Democrats the edge on this issue, $37 \%$ the Republicans. This is virtually unchanged from surveys conducted earlier this month and in early September. In January, the GOP had a significant lead on this issue ( $45 \%-33 \%$ ).

Republicans are still seen as better able to make wise decisions about what to do in Iraq, though by a slightly narrower margin than earlier this month. Republicans have a nine-point edge on this issue today, with $42 \%$ of voters favoring the Republicans on Iraq, and a third placing more confidence in the Democrats to better handle this issue. The GOP had a $46 \%-30 \%$ edge in early October.

| Which Party Can Best Handle ... (among registered voters) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Repub | Dem | Both/ | DK/ |
|  | $\frac{\text { Party }}{0}$ | $\frac{\text { Party }}{0}$ | $\frac{\text { Neither }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\mathrm{Ref}}{\%}$ |
| Terrorist threat | 44 | 27 | 17 | $12=100$ |
| Early Oct | 44 | 28 | 12 | $16=100$ |
| Early Sept | 45 | 23 | 20 | $12=100$ |
| January | 50 | 16 | 6 | $28=100$ |
| Iraq situation | 42 | 33 | 12 | $13=100$ |
| Early Oct | 46 | 30 | 11 | $13=100$ |
| Economy | 37 | 40 | 11 | $12=100$ |
| Early Oct | 37 | 41 | 9 | $13=100$ |
| Early Sept | 37 | 37 | 15 | $11=100$ |
| January | 45 | 33 | 5 | $17=100$ |
| Social Security | 31 | 42 | 15 | $12=100$ |
| Early Sept | 31 | 39 | 18 | $12=100$ |
| January | 30 | 41 | 6 | $23=100$ |
| Gun control | 36 | 38 | 10 | $16=100$ |
| April 2000 | 31 | 40 | 11 | $18=100$ |
| June 1999 | 34 | 42 | 13 | $11=100$ |

Voters are split over which party best reflects their views on gun control (38\% Democrats, $36 \%$ Republicans). The Democrats' modest advantage, evident before and during the 2000 presidential campaign, has disappeared. As in the past, there is a gender gap on gun control; men favor Republicans ( $45 \%-35 \%$ ), while women favor Democrats ( $41 \%-28 \%$ ).

President Bush's job performance rating stands at $59 \%$, which is largely unchanged since early October ( $61 \%$ ). Over the last two months, Bush's ratings have hovered in the $60 \%$ range, with the exception of his $67 \%$ score in mid-September following his speeches at $9 / 11$ anniversary ceremonies and the United Nations. The president's ratings are currently about 10 points higher than in the summer of 2001, prior to the $9 / 11$ attacks, when they stood at about $50 \%$.

## Sniper Attacks Lead News Index

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65\%) say they paid very close attention to news of the sniper attacks in the Washington, D.C. area, making it the year's top news story. This interest is not limited to the region where the shootings occurred. Fully nine-in-ten in every part of the country say they followed this story at least fairly closely.

The only story this year to approach that level of interest has been the continuing debate about possible military action against Iraq. Six-in-ten Americans followed that story very closely in early October, but interest subsided a bit to $53 \%$ in the current survey.

Voter interest in the midterm elections continues to be on par with previous campaigns. More than six-in-ten (62\%) are following campaign news at least fairly closely, with $28 \%$ saying they follow news about candidates and the election very closely.

A quarter of the public closely followed North Korea's admission that it has been secretly developing nuclear weapons, while $20 \%$ paid very close attention to the suspected terrorist

| Top News Stories of 2002 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Very | Fairly | Followed |
|  | $\frac{\text { Closely }}{0}$ | $\frac{\text { Closely }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Story }}{\%}$ |
| 1. Sniper Shootings (Late Oct) | 65 | 26 | $=91$ |
| 2. Debate on Iraq* (Early Oct) | 60 | 28 | $=88$ |
| 3. War in Afghanistan* (Jan) | 51 | 35 | $=86$ |
| 4. Terrorism defenses* (Jul) | 51 | 33 | $=84$ |
| 5. Court ruling on Pledge (Jul) | 52 | 27 | $=79$ |
| 6. Kidnapped children (Sept) | 49 | 30 | $=79$ |
| 7. Violence in Mid-East* (Apr) | 44 | 33 | $=77$ |
| 8. U.S. Economy* (Feb) | 35 | 40 | $=75$ |
| 9. 9/11 Anniversary (Sept) | 39 | 35 | $=74$ |
| 10. Catholic priest scandals* (Jun) | n) 38 | 36 | $=74$ |

* Interest in these stories was tracked over many months - highest reported interest shown here.


## PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY "VERY CLOSELY"

|  | Sniper Shootings Near WDC | Debate over Iraq | State/District Election Campaigns* | North Korean Nuclear Weapons | Terrorism in Bali, Indonesia | (N) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |  |
| Total | 65 | 53 | 28 | 25 | 20 | (1751) |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 62 | 56 | 30 | 29 | 20 | (864) |
| Female | 67 | 50 | 27 | 22 | 20 | (887) |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 62 | 53 | 26 | 24 | 19 | (1405) |
| Non-white | 75 | 53 | 38 | 27 | 25 | (311) |
| Black | 82 | 55 | 46 | 28 | 29 | (160) |
| Hispanic ${ }^{\wedge}$ | 66 | 42 | 21 | 24 | 12 | (139) |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 61 | 42 | 20 | 15 | 12 | (345) |
| 30-49 | 64 | 53 | 24 | 22 | 18 | (687) |
| 50+ | 67 | 58 | 34 | 34 | 26 | (687) |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 62 | 60 | 26 | 25 | 21 | (573) |
| Some College | 66 | 55 | 28 | 26 | 20 | (442) |
| High School Grad. | 67 | 51 | 30 | 26 | 18 | (572) |
| <H.S. Grad. | 61 | 42 | 30 | 22 | 23 | (157) |
| Region |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| East | 65 | 55 | 30 | 28 | 24 | (229) |
| Midwest | 62 | 50 | 29 | 22 | 18 | (463) |
| South | 70 | 54 | 31 | 28 | 22 | (607) |
| West | 59 | 52 | 21 | 20 | 17 | (452) |
| Party ID |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Republican | 69 | 58 | 30 | 28 | 21 | (543) |
| Democrat | 66 | 53 | 31 | 26 | 22 | (520) |
| Independent | 62 | 50 | 23 | 23 | 18 | (562) |
| Registered Voter |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Yes | 66 | 57 | 28 | 28 | 21 | (1305) |
| No | 60 | 42 | - | 18 | 17 | (446) |

${ }^{\wedge}$ The designation, Hispanic, is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

* Based on registered voters; Ns do not apply.

Question: Now I will read a list of some things that have been in the news 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?

# TREND IN OPINION OF MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ 

|  | --- Early October 2002 --- |  |  | --- Late October 2002 --- |  |  | Change in Favor |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Favor | Oppose | DK | Favor | Oppose | DK |  |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |  |
| Total | 62 | 28 | $10=100$ | 55 | 34 | $11=100$ | -7 |
| Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 68 | 24 | 8 | 59 | 31 | 10 | -9 |
| Female | 56 | 32 | 12 | 50 | 38 | 12 | -6 |
| Race |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White | 65 | 25 | 10 | 59 | 31 | 10 | -6 |
| Non-white | 49 | 42 | 9 | 38 | 50 | 12 | -11 |
| Black | 43 | 47 | 10 | 31 | 57 | 12 | -12 |
| Hispanic ${ }^{\wedge}$ | 63 | 24 | 13 | 55 | 35 | 10 | -8 |
| Race and Sex |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White Men | 72 | 21 | 7 | 64 | 28 | 8 | -8 |
| White Women | 59 | 28 | 13 | 54 | 33 | 13 | -5 |
| Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 30 | 65 | 27 | 8 | 56 | 36 | 8 | -9 |
| 30-49 | 66 | 26 | 8 | 60 | 31 | 9 | -6 |
| 50-64 | 61 | 28 | 11 | 55 | 31 | 14 | -6 |
| 65+ | 50 | 34 | 16 | 39 | 47 | 14 | -11 |
| Sex and Age |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Men under 50 | 71 | 23 | 6 | 63 | 28 | 9 | -8 |
| Women under 50 | 60 | 30 | 10 | 55 | 36 | 9 | -5 |
| Men 50+ | 64 | 27 | 9 | 54 | 36 | 10 | -10 |
| Women 50+ | 50 | 34 | 16 | 43 | 41 | 16 | -7 |
| Education |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| College Grad. | 57 | 34 | 9 | 50 | 41 | 9 | -7 |
| Some College | 63 | 26 | 11 | 58 | 31 | 11 | -5 |
| High School Grad. | 66 | 25 | 9 | 58 | 31 | 11 | -8 |
| $<$ H.S. Grad. | 60 | 30 | 10 | 49 | 39 | 12 | -11 |
| Family Income* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| \$75,000+ | 66 | 28 | 6 | 62 | 31 | 7 | -4 |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 | 72 | 19 | 9 | 60 | 30 | 10 | -12 |
| \$30,000-\$49,999 | 62 | 29 | 9 | 60 | 32 | 8 | -2 |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 63 | 30 | 7 | 53 | 35 | 12 | -10 |
| <\$20,000 | 51 | 38 | 11 | 45 | 42 | 13 | -6 |

${ }^{\wedge}$ The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

* The Family Income categories for Late October 2002 range from $\$ 60,000+, \$ 40,000-\$ 59,999, \$ 30,000-\$ 39,999$, $\$ 20,000-\$ 29,999$ and below $\$ 20,000$.

Question: Would you favor or oppose taking military action in Iraq to end Saddam Hussein's rule?
Continued ...


## ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for the Late-October Omnibus survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,751 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period October 17-27, 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 2.5 percentage points. For results based on Registered Voters $(\mathrm{N}=1,305)$, the sampling error is plus or minus 3 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 AND THE PRESS LATE OCTOBER 2002 NII OMNIBUS <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> October 17-27, 2002 $\mathrm{N}=1751$

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]

|  | Approve | Disapprove | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Late October, 2002 | 59 | 29 | 12=100 |
| Early October, 2002 | 61 | 30 | $9=100$ |
| Mid-September, 2002 | 67 | 22 | $11=100$ |
| Early September, 2002 | 63 | 26 | $11=100$ |
| Late August, 2002 | 60 | 27 | $13=100$ |
| August, 2002 | 67 | 21 | $12=100$ |
| Late July, 2002 | 65 | 25 | $10=100$ |
| July, 2002 | 67 | 21 | $12=100$ |
| June, 2002 | 70 | 20 | $10=100$ |
| April, 2002 | 69 | 18 | $13=100$ |
| Early April, 2002 | 74 | 16 | $10=100$ |
| February, 2002 | 78 | 13 | $9=100$ |
| January, 2002 | 80 | 11 | $9=100$ |
| Mid-November, 2001 | 84 | 9 | $7=100$ |
| Early October, 2001 | 84 | 8 | $8=100$ |
| Late September, 2001 | 86 | 7 | $7=100$ |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 80 | 9 | $11=100$ |
| Early September, 2001 | 51 | 34 | $15=100$ |
| August, 2001 | 50 | 32 | $18=100$ |
| July, 2001 | 51 | 32 | $17=100$ |
| June, 2001 | 50 | 33 | $17=100$ |
| May, 2001 | 53 | 32 | $15=100$ |
| April, 2001 | 56 | 27 | $17=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 55 | 25 | $20=100$ |
| February, 2001 | 53 | 21 | $26=100$ |

Q. 2 Now I will read a list of some things that have been in the news 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; ROTATE]

Very Fairly Not too Not at all DK/ Closely Closely Closely Closely Ref.
a. Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq Early October, 2002 Early September, $2002^{1}$

| 53 | 33 | 8 | 5 | $1=100$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 60 | 28 | 6 | 5 | $1=100$ |
| 48 | 29 | 15 | 6 | $2=100$ |

b. News about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district


$28 \quad 34$

Early October, 2002
2146

Early September, 2002
Late October, 1998
Early October, 1998
Early September, 1998
26

Early August, 1998
20

June, 1998
April, $1998^{2}$
November, 1994
October, 1994
19

Early October, 1994
September, 1994
November, $1990^{3}$
October, $1990^{4}$
c. Sniper shootings near Washington D.C.

26

20
34
d. The terrorist bombing of a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia
e. North Korea's admission that it has been secretly developing nuclear weapons 25

31

| 24 | 13 | $1=100$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 22 | 10 | $1=100$ |
| 29 | 16 | $1=100$ |
| 20 | 9 | $*=100$ |
| 24 | 11 | $1=100$ |
| 28 | 17 | $*=100$ |
| 25 | 24 | $*=100$ |
| 32 | 25 | $*=100$ |
| 23 | 21 | $*=100$ |
| 21 | 7 | $*=100$ |
| 28 | 10 | $1=100$ |
| 21 | 14 | $*=100$ |
| 28 | 13 | $*=100$ |
| 13 | 7 | $*=100$ |
| 28 | 22 | $*=100$ |
|  | 3 | $*=100$ |
| 6 |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| 25 | 20 | $1=100$ |

$3123 \quad 1=100$
Q. 3 Next, please tell me if you think the REPUBLICAN Party or the DEMOCRATIC Party could do a better job in each of the following areas... (First,) which party could do a better job of...[INSERT ITEM]

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1305]:

a. Dealing with the economy

| Republican <br> Party | Democratic <br> 37 |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\frac{\text { Party }}{40}$ |  |
| 37 | 41 |
| 37 | 37 |
| 45 | 33 |
| 33 | 46 |
| 35 | 45 |
| 39 | 45 |
| 41 | 37 |
| 39 | 41 |
| 46 | 33 |
| 36 | 45 |
| 37 | 35 |


| (VOL.) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Both | (VOL.) | Don't |
| Equally | Neither | Know |
| 5 | 6 | $12=100$ |
| 4 | 5 | $13=100$ |
| 9 | 6 | $11=100$ |
| -- | 5 | $17=100$ |
| 8 | 4 | $9=100$ |
| 9 | 3 | $8=100$ |
| 5 | 3 | $8=100$ |
| 9 | 4 | $9=100$ |
| 13 | 3 | $4=100$ |
| 5 | 6 | $10=100$ |
| 10 | 0 | $9=100$ |
| 0 | 0 | $28=100$ |

b. Making wise decisions about
what to do in Iraq 42

Early October, 2002
c. Dealing with the terrorist threat at home

Early October, 2002
Early September, 200245
4233
30

January, 200250

| 27 | 11 | 6 | $12=100$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 28 | 7 | 5 | $16=100$ |
| 23 | 14 | 6 | $12=100$ |
| 16 | -- | 6 | $28=100$ |

d. Reflecting your views about gun control
$36 \quad 38$
April, $2000^{8}$

June, 199934
Gen. Public: Dec. 199332
e. Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound 31

| Early September, 2002 | 31 | 39 | 8 | 10 | $12=100$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| January, 2002 | 30 | 41 | - | 6 | $23=100$ |
| May, 2001 | 36 | 43 | 6 | 6 | $9=100$ |
| January, 2001 | 37 | 45 | - | 7 | $11=100$ |
| June, 1999 | 35 | 39 | 5 | 9 | $12=100$ |
| January, 1999 | 28 | 47 | - | 7 | $18=100$ |
| Early September, 1998 | 37 | 41 | 8 | 6 | $8=100$ |
| May, 1990 | 30 | 42 | -- | 16 | $12=100$ |

[^0]On another subject. .
Q. 4 Would you favor or oppose taking military action in Iraq to end Saddam Hussein's rule?

IF FAVOR ATTACK ("1" IN Q.4), ASK:
Q. 5 Should we attack Iraq only if our major allies agree to join us, or attack Iraq even if allies do not want to join us?

|  |  |  | Early | Mid- | Late |  | ------ | Gallu |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Oct | Sept | Aug | June | Nov | Feb | June | March |
|  |  |  | $\underline{2002}$ | $\underline{2002}$ | $\underline{2002}$ | $\underline{2002}$ | 2001 | 2001 | 1993 | 1992 |
| 55 | Fav |  | 62 | 64 | 64 | 59 | 74 | 52 | 70 | 55 |
|  | 27 | Even if allies won't join | -- | 33 | 30 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|  | 23 | Only if allies agree | -- | 25 | 30 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
|  | 5 | Don't know/Refused | -- | 6 | 4 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 34 | Oppose |  | 28 | 23 | 21 | 34 | 20 | 42 | 27 | 40 |
| 11 | Don't know/Refused |  | 10 | 13 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| $\overline{100}$ |  |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | $1 \overline{0} 0$ | 100 | $1 \overline{0} 0$ | 100 | $1 \overline{0} 0$ |

ASK ALL:
Q. 6 Do you think George W. Bush has explained clearly what's at stake as to why the U.S. might use military force to end the rule of Saddam Hussein, or do you think he has not explained the reasons clearly enough?

|  |  | Mid-Sept | Late Aug | New York Times |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 48 | Explained clearly | $\frac{2002}{52}$ | $\frac{2002}{37}$ | $\frac{\text { Aug } 1990^{11}}{50}$ |
| 45 | Not clearly | 37 | 52 | 41 |
| $\frac{7}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused | $\underline{11}$ | $\underline{11}$ | $\underline{9}$ |
| 100 | $\underline{100}$ | 10 |  |  |

Q. 7 In your view, has there been too much, too little, or the right amount of discussion of ways to deal with Saddam Hussein other than using military force?

| 16 | Too much |
| :--- | :--- |
| 50 | Too little |
| 25 | Right amount |
| $\frac{9}{100}$ | Don't know/Refused |

Q. 8 Thinking about a possible war with Iraq, how worried are you that [INSERT ITEM; ROTATE] - a great deal, a fair amount, or not much? ... How worried are you that [INSERT NEXT ITEM, REPEAT RESPONSE CATEGORIES FOR EACH ITEM]? ${ }^{12}$
a. U.S. forces might sustain a lot of casualties

| A Great <br> Deal | A Fair <br> Amount | Not <br> Much | DK/ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ref. |  |  |  |  |
| 52 | 28 |  | 18 | $2=100$ |
| 57 | 30 | 12 | $1=100$ |  |

b. Iraq might use biological or chemical weapons against U.S. troops
c. Many Iraqi civilians might be killed Late January, 1991
d. This might increase the chances of a terrorist attack within the U.S.

| 51 | 26 | 20 | $3=100$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 33 | 38 | 28 | $1=100$ |

e. It will take a long time to make Iraq a stable and peaceful country after the war
$43 \quad 25 \quad 27 \quad 5=100$
f. It might lead to an all-out war in the Middle East

46
27
25
$2=100$

[^1]
[^0]:    5

    6
    Trend was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous?"
    Gallup poll conducted Oct. 23-25, 1992 based on registered voters.
    7 Gallup poll conducted Oct 25-28, 1990, based on general population.
    8
    In April 2000, this item was not asked as part of a series.
    9 For May 2001, June 1999, Early 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?"

[^1]:    12
    Trend questions were asked after the onset of the Gulf War in 1991.
    13
    In 1991 the item was "terrorists might strike within the U.S."

