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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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Four-in-ten Question Rebuilding New Orleans in Present Location
ROBERTS GAINS SUPPORT, BUT REMAINS A MYSTERY TO MANY

With hearings on the nomination of John Roberts beginning today in Washington, a growing number of Americans say that Roberts should be confirmed as chief justice. In polling conducted over the weekend by the Pew Research Center, 46% expressed support for Roberts's confirmation, up from 35% in a poll conducted last week. Opposition to Roberts was mostly unchanged (21% now, 19% last week). A third of respondents had no opinion, down from 46% last week.

With President Bush facing the task of filling another court vacancy, public opinion continues to tilt in favor of maintaining the court's ideological balance. About four-in-ten (39%) believe Bush should nominate people who will keep the court about as it is now; 30% favor Bush selecting nominees who will make the court more conservative; and 24% say Bush should choose nominees who will move the court in a more liberal direction. The balance of opinion on this issue has been stable since March.

Plurality Support for Roberts			
		Sept	Sept
<i>Should Roberts</i>		<u>6-7</u>	<u>8-11</u>
<i>be confirmed?</i>		%	%
Yes		35	46
No		19	21
Don't know		<u>46</u>	<u>33</u>
		100	100
<i>Bush should choose people</i>			
<i>who will make court...</i>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Sept</u>
More liberal	28	24	24
More conservative	29	27	30
About the same as now	35	40	39
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Personal importance of</i>			
<i>court appointments</i>			
Very important	47	47	48
Somewhat important	29	30	34
Not too important	14	14	9
Not at all important	8	8	7
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted among 1,523 Americans Sept. 8-11, finds about half (48%) saying that the president's choices of the next Supreme Court justices are very important to them personally; this percentage has remained steady since June. A similar number (46%) said the nomination of a chief justice was personally

very important to them.

As expected, there are partisan differences over Roberts’s nomination, though about as many Democrats support his confirmation as oppose it (31% vs. 33%). A relatively high proportion of Democrats and independents (36% each) declined to offer an opinion. About two-thirds of Republicans (68%) believe the Senate should confirm Roberts, but even among Republicans about a quarter (24%) did not express an opinion.

More Disapprove of Local Hurricane Response

Two weeks after Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, the public has become significantly more critical of the response by state and local governments in Mississippi and Louisiana. Currently, just 34% give state and local governments an excellent or good rating on their handling of the disaster, down from 41% last week. Public evaluations of the federal government’s response to the disaster are largely unchanged from last week – 37% positive, 61% negative.

Judgments about the performance of state and local governments are similar among Republicans and Democrats (34% positive for Republicans, 37% for Democrats), unlike views of the federal government’s response which are highly partisan. Similarly, whites and blacks have identical views about the state and local response, but blacks are much more negative than whites about how the federal government has dealt with the hurricane’s impact.

The news media continue to get good evaluations for their coverage of the disaster, with 63% rating the press performance excellent or good – about the same as last week. While the hurricane’s aftermath continues to dominate the news, just 23% of those polled said news organizations are giving it too much coverage. Most said the level of coverage was about right (61%); 14% – including 29% of African-

Democrats Divided Over Roberts Confirmation			
<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
<i>Bush appointees should make the court...</i>			
More liberal	8	37	26
More conservative	51	18	23
About the same as now	36	38	45
Don’t know	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100

More Question State & Local Response		
	<u>Sept 6-7</u>	<u>Sept 8-11</u>
<i>Response of State/local governments</i>	%	%
Excellent/good	41	34
Only fair/poor	51	60
Don’t know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100
<i>Response of federal government</i>		
Excellent/good	38	37
Only fair/poor	58	61
Don’t know	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100
No Signs of “Katrina Fatigue”		
<i>News coverage of events</i>		
Too much	21	23
Too little	13	14
Right amount	62	61
Don’t know	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100

Americans – thought there had been too little coverage.

Despite the outpouring of sympathy and donations to the relief effort in the Gulf Coast region, the public is divided on the question of whether the federal government should help pay for rebuilding New Orleans. Just over half (51%) say it should, but 41% think it is too risky to rebuild the city in its present location. Modest majorities of Democrats (55%) and independents (53%) believe the federal government should help pay for rebuilding New Orleans, while Republicans are divided; 44% think the government should help, while 47% believe it is too risky.

Rebuild New Orleans?				
<i>Federal govt role in rebuilding New Orleans</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Should help pay	51	44	55	53
Too risky to rebuild	41	47	38	39
Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>U.S. has enough forces to fight effectively in Iraq and respond to domestic crises?</i>				
Yes	47	70	32	38
No	48	26	63	59
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100

There is a deeper partisan divide over whether the U.S. has sufficient military forces to fight effectively in Iraq and still respond to domestic crises like the hurricane. Seven-in-ten Republicans say the U.S. has enough forces to accomplish both missions; only about half as many Democrats and independents agree (32% and 38%, respectively).

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 1,523 adults, 18 years of age or older, from Sept. 8-11, 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 percentage points. For results based on form 1 (N=758) and form 2 (N=765) the sampling error is plus or minus 4 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
MID-SEPTEMBER 2005 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
September 8-11, 2005
N=1,523

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- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>approve</u>	<u>know</u>
September 8-12, 2005	40	52	8=100	<i>March 13-16, 2003</i>	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				
<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100				
<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100				
<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100				
		Dis-	Don't				

QUESTIONS 2-29 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

On a different subject...

Q.30 In making his appointments to the Supreme Court, should President Bush nominate people who will make the court more liberal, people who will make it more conservative, or people who will keep the court about the same as it is now?

		July ¹ <u>2005</u>	June <u>2005</u>	Late March <u>2005</u>	Clinton <i>Gallup</i> <u>March 1993</u>
24	More liberal	24	28	24	29
30	More conservative	27	29	28	29
39	About the same as it is now	40	35	41	38
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=758]:

Q.31F1 How important are the president's choices of the next Supreme Court justices to you personally? **[READ]**

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

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=765]:

Q.32F2 How important is the president's choice of the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to you personally? **[READ]**

46	Very important
35	Somewhat important
9	Not too important
8	Not at all important
<u>2</u>	[VOL. DO NOT READ] Don't know/Refused
100	

NO QUESTION 33

¹ In July 2005 and earlier the question was worded "In making his next appointment to the Supreme Court, should President Bush choose someone who will make the court more liberal, someone who will make it more conservative, or someone who will keep the court about the same as it is now?"

² In July 2005 the question was worded "How important is the President's choice of the next Supreme Court Justice to you personally?"

ASK ALL:

Q.34 Do you think the U.S. Senate should or should not confirm John Roberts as the next Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

		Early Sept <u>2005</u> ³
46	Should	35
21	Should not	19
<u>33</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>46</u>
100		100

Thinking now about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath...

Q.35 In general, how would you rate the job the press has done in covering the impact of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast?

		Early Sept <u>2005</u>	<i>Terrorist Attacks</i> <u>Mid-Sept 2001</u>
26	Excellent	28	56
37	Good	37	33
18	Only fair	18	6
18	Poor	15	3
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

Q.36 Do you think news organizations are giving too much, too little, or the right amount of coverage to the impact of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans and the Gulf Coast?

		Early Sept <u>2005</u>	<i>Terrorist Attacks</i> Early Oct <u>2001</u>
23	Too much coverage	21	32
14	Too little coverage	13	2
61	Right amount of coverage	62	63
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

ROTATE Q.37 Q.38

Q.37 How would you rate the job state and local governments in Louisiana and Mississippi have been doing responding to Hurricane Katrina? **[READ]**

		Early Sept <u>2005</u>
7	Excellent	9
27	Good	32
31	Only fair	29
29	Poor	22
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL]	<u>8</u>
100		100

³ In early September 2005 the question began "From what you have heard or read..."

Q.38 How would you rate the job the federal government has been doing responding to Hurricane Katrina?
[READ]

		Early Sept
		<u>2005</u>
8	Excellent	8
29	Good	30
30	Only fair	29
31	Poor	29
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL]	<u>4</u>
100		100

Q.39 Do you think the federal government should help to pay for rebuilding New Orleans, or is it too risky to rebuild the city in its present location?

51	Federal government should help pay
41	Too risky
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

QUESTIONS 40-55 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

Q.56 Do you believe that the US has enough military forces to fight effectively in Iraq and still respond to domestic crises such as Hurricane Katrina, or don't you think so?

47	Yes
48	No
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
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) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL) Other <u>Party</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
September 8-12, 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
Late September, 2004	29	30	31	6	*	4=100
Mid-September, 2004	29	31	30	5	*	5=100
Early September, 2004	30	33	31	3	*	3=100

<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>
September 8-12, 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%