



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

FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2006, 2:00 PM EDT

**GOP Troubles Extend into Home Territory**  
**DEMOCRATS HOLD DOUBLE-DIGIT LEAD IN COMPETITIVE**  
**DISTRICTS**

**Also Inside...**

- Democrats' image improves
- GOP losing ground among married moms
- Republicans more negative about Iraq
- No rise in economic optimism

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Andrew Kohut, Director  
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research  
Carroll Doherty, Associate Director  
202/419-4350  
<http://www.people-press.org>

**GOP Troubles Extend into Home Territory**  
**DEMOCRATS HOLD DOUBLE-DIGIT LEAD IN COMPETITIVE DISTRICTS**

With less than two weeks to go before the midterm elections, the Democrats not only continue to maintain a double-digit advantage nationally, but also lead by the same margin in the competitive districts that will determine which party controls the House of Representatives. Nationally, the Democrats hold a 49%-38% lead among registered voters, and a nearly identical 50%-39% lead among those voters most likely to cast ballots on Nov. 7.

An oversample of voters in 40 competitive districts – identified by a consensus of political analysts – shows that voting intentions in the battleground districts are about the same as they are in the “safe” House districts. Among registered voters, the Democrats lead by 11 points in competitive districts (50%-39%) and by the same margin in safe districts (49%-38%).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted among 1,552 registered voters – including 528 who reside in competitive districts – shows that Iraq continues to be the dominant issue for voters. More than four-in-ten voters (45%) view the situation in Iraq as the most important, or second most important issue in their vote, the highest percentage for six issues tested. In competitive districts, slightly more (50%) cite Iraq as a top issue in their vote.

Public views of Iraq continue to be overwhelmingly negative, with a solid majority of Americans (59%) saying the U.S. military effort there is not going well. Republicans, who have been steadfast backers of the war, are now rendering more negative judgments about how things are going in Iraq.

<b>Democrats Hold Wide Lead in Competitive Districts*</b>			
<b>REGISTERED VOTERS</b>		Comp- etitive	“Safe”
	<u>Total</u>	<u>districts</u>	<u>districts</u>
<i>Vote preference</i>	%	%	%
Republican	38	39	38
Democrat	49	50	49
Other/Undecided	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100
Number of cases	(1552)	(528)	(1023)
<b>LIKELY VOTERS</b>		Comp- etitive	“Safe”
	<u>Total</u>	<u>districts</u>	<u>districts</u>
<i>Vote preference</i>	%	%	%
Republican	39	40	39
Democrat	50	50	50
Other/Undecided	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100
Number of cases	(1118)	(384)	(733)
* The survey includes an oversample of voters in 40 congressional districts that are identified as competitive by political analysts this year.			

The new poll finds no increase in public optimism about the nation’s economy, despite gains in the stock market and lower gas prices. Just one-in-three Americans say the national economy is in excellent or good shape, while nearly twice as many (65%) view the economy as only fair or poor. Opinions about economic conditions are especially negative in the Midwest. Democrats and independents offer much gloomier assessments of the nation’s economy, and their own financial condition, than do Republicans.

The Democratic Party’s advantage in handling most issues remains stable. The GOP continues to be viewed as better able to deal with terrorism but its lead has declined from 16 points in February to six points currently. However, the GOP has drawn even with the Democrats in perceptions of which party can better handle immigration, after trailing by as much as 16 points in the spring.

Notably, public impressions of the Democratic Party have improved since the summer. Currently, 53% express a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party, up from 47% in July. Just 41% have a positive opinion of the Republican Party, which is virtually unchanged from April and July (40% on both occasions).

**Competitiveness in Republican Districts**

With opinions of Congress growing increasingly negative, even safe Republican districts have been affected. In these districts, which voted heavily in favor of President Bush two years ago, 44% of registered voters say they plan to vote for the Republican candidate compared with 42% who favor the Democrat. By contrast, the survey suggests that Democrats in districts regarded as safe are just that – 58% of voters in safe Democratic districts say they would vote for the Democratic candidate while just 31% intend to vote Republican.

The competitive House districts were identified using rankings from early to mid-October in *Congressional*

<b>Republicans Safe? Maybe</b>			
	Comp- <u>etitive</u>	“Safe” <u>Rep</u>	“Safe” <u>Dem</u>
<i>Vote preference</i>	%	%	%
Republican	39	44	31
Democrat	50	42	58
Other/Undecided	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100
<i>What matters more</i>			
National issues	49	46	46
Local issues	26	26	26
Both equally/DK	<u>25</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Top issue</i>			
Iraq	50	43	46
Economy	38	39	45
Health care	39	35	40
Terrorism	23	29	23
Immigration	22	28	19
Energy	16	10	13
<i>Bush job</i>			
Approve	36	48	33
Disapprove	57	46	60
Don’t know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
<i>2004 Pres. Vote</i>			
Bush	43	52	39
Kerry	38	32	45
Other/Don’t recall	8	8	7
Did not vote	10	8	8
Don’t know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Been called by campaigns</i>			
Yes	60	38	40
No/Don’t know	<u>40</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>60</u>
	100	100	100
Number of cases	(528)	(582)	(441)
Based on registered voters.			

*Quarterly, The Cook Political Report, The Rothenberg Political Report, The New York Times, and Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball.* Most of the districts are in the Midwest and Northeast; four of the districts are in Pennsylvania, with three each in Connecticut, Indiana, New York and Ohio. Of the 40 districts selected, 34 are Republican-held (24 GOP incumbents and 10 open seats), while six are currently Democratic (five incumbents and one open seat).

As a group, voters in these districts say they voted for President Bush by a 43%-38% margin in 2004. But today, 57% of voters in competitive districts disapprove of Bush's job performance, which is comparable to the percentage disapproving in the safe Democratic districts (60%). Bush's overall rating is higher in safe Republican districts than elsewhere (48%).

About half of voters in competitive, safe Republican, and safe Democratic districts say that national issues matter more to their vote for Congress than do local issues. Iraq is clearly the top issue in competitive districts; by comparison, nearly as many voters in safe Democratic districts rate the economy (45%) as the top issue in their vote as cite the war (46%). Iraq is the top issue in safe Republican districts, but terrorism and immigration rate higher in these districts than elsewhere.

As expected, many more voters in competitive districts than in safe districts for either party say they have been called by candidates or political groups during the past few months. Fully 60% of voters in competitive districts say they have been called by a campaign or political organization, far more than in safe districts. However, campaign commercials are nearly as commonplace in safe districts as in competitive ones, with roughly nine-in-ten in each saying they have seen or heard commercials for candidates running for office.

Another way to view the relative standing of the two parties as the midterms approach is to sort the survey respondents according to how their congressional districts voted in the 2004 presidential election. In very strong Republican districts – the 125 districts where John Kerry got less than 40% of the vote in 2004 – voters are favoring the Republican House candidate over the Democrat by a margin of 49% to 39%. But there is a slight Democratic advantage in voting intention in the somewhat larger group of 131 districts where Kerry received between 40% to 49% of the vote in 2004: 45%

<b>Democratic Advantage Reaches into GOP Territory</b>				
	<i>2004 Democratic share of pres. vote in district</i>			
	Under 40%	40%-49%	50%-59%	60% and up
<i>Vote preference</i>	%	%	%	%
Republican	49	40	35	19
Democratic	39	45	55	70
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100
N=	(431)	(613)	(318)	(189)
Based on registered voters.				

of respondents in these districts say they will vote Democratic in the House race, compared with 40% saying they will vote Republican. Among respondents in the 179 districts where Kerry received half or more of the votes, the Democratic House candidate has a wide lead.

**Shifts Since '02**

The nation's political landscape has changed dramatically since the fall of 2002, prior to that year's midterm elections when the Republican Party gained seven House seats.

Many of the voter groups that were fairly evenly divided between the Republican and Democratic

parties at that time have swung decisively in favor of the Democrats, according to an analysis of survey data from two polls conducted this month and three pre-election surveys from 2002. (For detailed demographic tables comparing the 2002 and 2006 midterms, see pg. 16).

The voter groups that were divided in 2002 but now favor Democrats include independents, women and working moms. The latter group was split in its voter preferences in the fall of

2002 (45%-45%); today, 52% say they will vote for the Democratic candidate in their district, while 34% favor the Republican.

Similarly, other key voter groups that favored the Republican candidate by large margins

	-----2002-----			-----2006-----			2006 N
	Rep	Dem	margin	Rep	Dem	margin	
	%	%		%	%		
Post graduates	47	45	-2	35	55	+20	(474)
Age 65+	46	43	-3	36	52	+16	(774)
Midwesterners	44	42	-2	36	50	+14	(811)
High School or less	42	46	+4	35	52	+17	(1,063)
Independents	37	40	+3	30	46	+16	(886)
Women	43	47	+4	35	52	+17	(1,615)
Age 50-64	45	43	-2	39	49	+10	(947)
Working moms	45	45	0	34	52	+18	(385)

	-----2002-----			-----2006-----			2006 N
	Rep	Dem	margin	Rep	Dem	margin	
	%	%		%	%		
Income \$50-\$100k	54	39	-15	43	49	+6	(863)
Income \$100,000 +	60	37	-23	47	42	-5	(532)
Suburban residents	50	39	-11	41	47	+6	(1,552)
Men	51	39	-12	42	46	+4	(1,440)
Whites	52	37	-15	43	44	+1	(2,601)
Age 30-49	50	40	-10	42	46	+4	(1,027)
College graduates	54	37	-17	47	42	-5	(715)
Rural residents	49	39	-10	43	45	+2	(669)
Southerners	49	42	-7	42	45	+3	(1,053)
Married moms	57	34	-23	45	42	-3	(417)

four years ago are much more divided today. These include men, who backed the Republican candidate by 12 points four years ago and now narrowly favor the Democrat in their district (by four points), and whites, who also preferred the GOP candidate by 15 points but are now divided (44%

	-----2002-----			-----2006-----			2006 N
			Dem			Dem	
	Rep	Dem	margin	Rep	Dem	margin	
	%	%		%	%		
White Catholics	49	40	-9	35	52	+17	(633)
Westerners	51	40	-11	40	49	+9	(560)
Men 18-29	50	39	-11	33	51	+18	(119)
Men 65+	49	40	-9	41	49	+8	(341)

Democrat-43% Republican). However, among these groups the biggest shift has occurred among married mothers: In the fall of 2002, married mothers favored the Republican candidate in their district by 57%-34%; today they support the Republican by just three points.

In addition, some groups of voters that favored the GOP candidate by substantial margins in 2002 now support the Democrat in their district by comparable, or in some cases greater, margins. White Catholics were solidly in the GOP's camp in 2002, but now support the Democratic candidate by 52%-35%.

**Independents Moving**

Independents now support the Democratic candidate in their district by 16 points; four years ago, Democrats led among independent voters by just three points.

	-----2002-----			-----2006-----			2006 N
			Dem			Dem	
	Rep	Dem	margin	Rep	Dem	margin	
	%	%		%	%		
All Independents	37	40	+3	30	46	+16	(886)
Men	40	38	-2	34	43	+9	(453)
Women	33	43	+10	25	49	+24	(433)
18-29	33	47	+14	18	52	+34	(95)
30-49	37	41	+4	34	42	+8	(303)
50-64	39	38	-1	32	45	+13	(295)
65+	36	35	-1	28	52	+24	(180)
East	35	44	+9	26	51	+25	(205)
Midwest	31	40	+9	29	48	+19	(263)
South	42	38	-4	37	34	-3	(267)
West	39	40	+1	24	56	+32	(151)
College graduates	39	42	+3	32	46	+14	(358)
Some college or less	36	40	+4	29	45	+16	(525)
Under \$50,000	32	43	+11	27	51	+24	(351)
\$50-75,000	43	37	-6	31	46	+15	(134)
\$75,000+	44	43	-1	34	46	+12	(271)

The analysis shows that much of the change among independents has occurred among voters under age 30 and those ages 65 and older. Independents under the age of 30 decisively favored the Democratic candidate in 2002, and the margin has more than doubled (from 14 points in 2002 to 34 points currently). By contrast,

independents ages 65 and older were narrowly divided in their voter preference four years ago, but now heavily favor the Democrat (by 52%-28%).

***Views of Congress Fall Further***

Just 41% of Americans express a favorable opinion of Congress, while 46% have an unfavorable view. Opinions of Congress as an institution have fallen steadily over the past two years, from 56% favorable in June 2004. Favorable views of Congress are now at their lowest level ever in a Pew survey; however, unfavorable opinions were significantly higher at around the time of the government shutdown in late 1995 and early 1996 (55% unfavorable in October 1995).

Since the summer, the Democratic Party’s image has improved modestly. Currently, 53% say they have a favorable opinion of the party, compared with 36% who have an unfavorable view. In July, impressions of the Democratic Party were more evenly divided (47% favorable/44% unfavorable).

By contrast, opinions of the Republican Party have remained more stable. In the current survey, 41% say they have a favorable opinion of the Republican Party, which is virtually unchanged from July (40%) and April (40%). The gap in positive opinions of the two parties – 12 points – is larger than at any point since February 1999, during the impeachment of former President Clinton (14 points)

Both political parties are viewed much less favorably than they were in July 1994, a few months before the Republicans won control of Congress. At that time, positive opinions of both parties were in the low 60s (63% Republican Party, 62% Democratic Party). Opinions of Congress are also less favorable than they were then (53% vs. 41% today).

<i>Overall opinion of...</i>	<u>Fav</u> %	<u>Unfav</u> %	<u>Can't</u> <u>rate</u> %
<b>Congress</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>13=100</b>
February 2006	44	47	9=100
Late Oct. 2005	45	45	10=100
July 2005	49	40	11=100
June 2004	56	33	11=100
September 2000*	61	32	7=100
Early Sept. 1998	66	27	7=100
January 1996	42	54	4=100
October 1995	42	55	3=100
<b>July 1994</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>4=100</b>
May 1993	43	48	9=100
May 1990	59	34	7=100

\* Based on registered voters.

<i>Overall opinion of...</i>	<u>Fav</u> %	<u>Unfav</u> %	<u>Can't</u> <u>rate</u> %
<b>Democratic Party</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11=100</b>
July 2006	47	44	9=100
April 2006	47	42	11=100
February 2006	48	44	8=100
December 2004	53	41	6=100
December 2002	54	37	9=100
March 1998	58	36	6=100
<b>July 1994</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4=100</b>
July 1992	61	33	6=100
<b>Republican Party</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>9=100</b>
July 2006	40	52	7=100
April 2006	40	50	10=100
February 2006	44	50	6=100
December 2004	52	42	6=100
December 2002	59	33	8=100
March 1998	50	43	7=100
<b>July 1994</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4=100</b>
July 1992	46	48	6=100

### ***Terrorism Remains GOP's Strongest Issue***

Dealing with terrorism continues to be the strongest issue for the Republican Party; by a 10-point margin (44%-34%), registered voters believe Republicans are better able to deal with the terrorist threat at home. The GOP also has the advantage in dealing with North Korea, and a narrower edge on immigration, while it is tied with Democratic Party as the party better able to reduce crime.

Of the eight other issues tested, the Democrats hold statistically significant leads on seven, including a five-point lead as the party better able to make wise decisions about what to do in Iraq. The Democrats lead by more sizable margins on dealing with the economy, reforming government, tackling energy issues, improving the educational system, and improving health care.

Views about which party can better handle these issues have changed little in recent weeks. The scandal surrounding Republican Congressman Mark Foley, who has admitted to sending sexuality explicit emails and instant messages to congressional pages, has not changed voter perceptions about which party would do a better job of improving morality in the country. In early September, shortly before the Foley story broke, registered voters leaned toward the Democrats on this issue by a 37%-33% margin. In the wake of the scandal, these numbers are virtually unchanged: 36% prefer the Democrats, 34% the Republicans.

The perception that Democrats are better positioned to reform the government in Washington is particularly common among two crucial swing vote constituencies: voters in competitive House districts and independents. Nationwide, registered voters give the Democrats a 14-point advantage on this issue (41%-27%), but voters in competitive districts favor the Democrats on government reform by an even larger 22-point margin (44%-22%). Meanwhile, registered independents are also particularly likely to say the Democrats are best able to handle reforming the government Washington (by 43%-15%).

#### **Democrats Lead on Most Issues But Republicans Have Advantage on Terrorism**

<i>Which party can do a better job on...</i>	Rep Party %	Dem Party %	Dem lead
Terrorist threats	44	34	-10
Dealing with N. Korea	40	35	-5
Immigration	39	35	-4
Crime	33	33	<i>even</i>
Improving morality	34	36	+2
Iraq	35	40	+5
Taxes	37	42	+5
Economy	36	46	+10
Reforming government	27	41	+14
Energy	29	48	+19
Education	30	46	+16
Health care	26	47	+21

Based on registered voters.



### ***Conflicting Concerns***

Misgivings about the ability of Republicans to reform government are a voter concern: Two-thirds say they are either very (36%) or fairly (31%) concerned that if Republicans keep control of Congress they will not take the needed steps to reform government. Importantly, this concern is widespread among independent voters (34% very concerned, 35% fairly concerned).

Voters also worry that if Democrats gain control of Congress, they will launch too many investigations of President Bush and the Republicans. But fewer voters express this concern than worry that the Republicans will fail to reform government (55% vs. 67%).

On foreign policy, voters also are more worried about the direction Republicans would take the country than they are about the Democratic approach to international issues. Nearly two-in-three voters (65%) are concerned (and 43% are very concerned) that if Republicans maintain control they will get the country involved in too many overseas military operations. These fears are shared by a two-thirds majority of independents (45% very, 21% fairly).

Although a potential Democratic majority arouses less concern, about half of registered voters (51%) nonetheless say they are either very (30%) or fairly (21%) concerned that if Democrats win control they will weaken the country's anti-terrorism efforts. This includes roughly half of independent voters (27% very, 22% fairly).

		Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>If Republicans keep control...</i>		%	%	%	%
They won't take	Concerned	67	42	89	69
needed steps to	Not	31	55	9	29
reform government	Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
		100	100	100	100
<i>If Democrats win control...</i>					
They will investigate	Concerned	55	78	39	53
Bush and Republicans	Not	42	21	58	45
too much	Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
		100	100	100	100

Based on registered voters.

### ***Bush Approval Steady***

Approval ratings for President Bush have remained basically unchanged since June of this year. Currently, 38% of the general public approves of the way Bush is handling his job as president, while 53% disapprove. Views of the President are similar among registered voters: 41% approve, 53% disapprove. In competitive districts, however, registered voters take a somewhat more negative view; in these 40 House districts, 36% give Bush positive marks, while 57% give him negative reviews. Registered independents also take a dim view of the President's job performance - only 33% approve, while 56% disapprove.

**Money in Politics; Photo ID for Voters**

With 2006 shaping up to be the most expensive mid-term election in the nation’s history, the role of money is once again a topic of discussion. When asked if new laws could be written that would be effective in reducing the role of money in politics, about half (51%) of the public says yes; 37% do not think any new laws could be effective. Democrats are more apt than Republicans or independents to think new laws could reduce the role of money in politics.

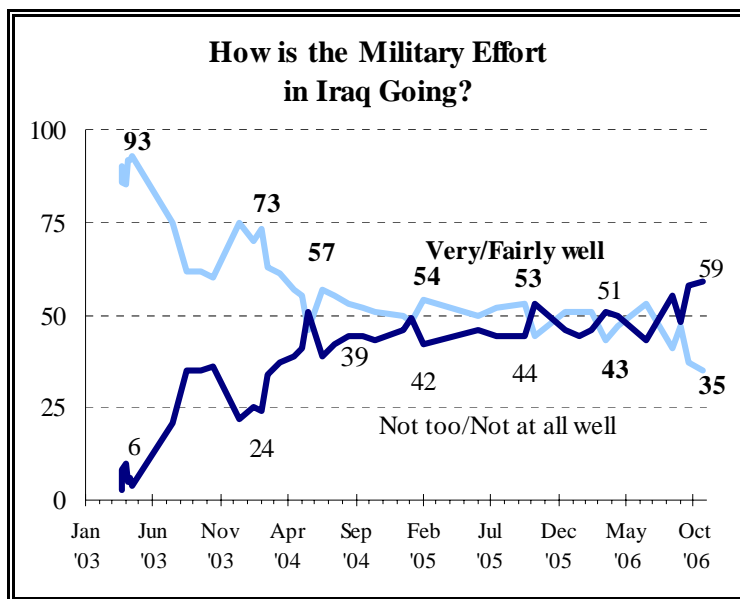
Compared with a decade ago, fewer people today believe that laws could be effective. In 1997, 62% thought the role of money in politics could be reduced.

Another policy debate that has attracted attention this year is the move by some states as well as Republicans in the U.S. House to require voters to produce an official photo identification at the polls before being allowed to vote. A large majority of the poll’s respondents (78%) support such a requirement; just 18% say they oppose it. Democrats are less supportive of this proposal than are Republicans, and this is especially true among liberal Democrats, 36% of whom are opposed. But even in this group, 60% favor it.

<b>Political Reforms</b>				
<i>Could new laws reduce role of money in politics?</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Yes	51	49	57	50
No	37	39	33	39
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Require voters to show photo ID?</i>				
Yes	78	86	71	77
No	18	10	26	19
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100

### ***Iraq Trends More Negative***

Amid increased violence and mounting casualties in Iraq, opinions about the war have changed only marginally over the past several weeks. Since early September, however, opinions on several key measures on the war have grown more negative. Just 43% of Americans now believe the U.S. made the right decision in using military force against Iraq, down from 49% in early September. And the number saying the U.S. military effort is not going well has risen from 48% in early September to 59% in the current survey.



Even so, the public remains divided over whether U.S. troops should stay in Iraq until the situation is stabilized (46%) or come home as soon as possible (47%). Opinion has been evenly split for several months about what to do with the troops. In early September, 47% favored keeping the troops in Iraq and an identical number favored withdrawing U.S. forces as soon as possible.

### ***Republicans Softening on the War***

While views on the war continue to be strongly linked to partisanship, Republicans are becoming more negative in their assessments of the war effort and are more open to the possibility of establishing a timetable for the withdrawal of troops. However, a strong majority of Republicans (78%) continue to say that the U.S. made the right decision in using force in Iraq. Over the same period, the views of the general public have moved in the opposite direction.

Republicans' assessments of the war effort have grown more negative: 61% now say the military effort is going well, down from 72% in early September. The views of moderate Republicans have soured even more: 56% said the war effort was going well in September, compared with only 41% today. Furthermore, Republicans are more accepting of the idea of establishing a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. Four-in-ten Republicans are now in favor of a timetable, up from 31% last month.

Republicans continue to be more divided than the Democrats over Iraq policy. While an overwhelming percentage of conservative Republicans (86%) say the U.S. made the right decision in using force in Iraq, just 59% of moderate Republicans agree. Within the Democratic party, the gap is less dramatic: 11% of liberal Democrats say the U.S. made the right decision, compared with 24% of moderate Democrats. Similarly, while 69% of conservative Republicans say the war effort is going well, only 41% of moderate Republicans agree with that assessment. Among Democrats, small minorities of both liberals (18%) and moderates (20%) agree things are going well in Iraq.

Opinion about Iraq also has shifted significantly among white evangelical Protestants since September. Roughly six-in-ten evangelicals (58%) now feel it was the right decision to use force in Iraq, down from 71% in early September. In addition, white evangelicals are now much more open to the

	-----Republicans-----						White Evangelical Protestants	
	All		Conservative		Moderate		<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Now</i>
	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Now</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Now</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Now</i>		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
U.S. made right decision using force	76	78	82	86	64	59	<b>71</b>	<b>58</b>
U.S. military effort is going very/fairly well	72	61	81	69	<b>56</b>	<b>41</b>	61	48
War in Iraq has helped war on terrorism	69	68	75	74	57	53	<b>61</b>	<b>51</b>
U.S. should set timetable for withdrawal	31	40	27	37	42	48	<b>32</b>	<b>46</b>

idea of establishing a timetable for withdrawal from Iraq: 46% now say we should set a timetable compared with 32% in September.

By a margin of 46%-36% the public says the war in Iraq has hurt the broader war on terrorism. The balance of opinion on this issue has shifted since the summer when more Americans believed the war in Iraq had *helped* the war on terrorism. The partisan gap on this issue remains substantial. Nearly seven-in-ten Republicans (68%) say the war in Iraq has helped the war on terror. A nearly equal percentage of Democrats (69%) say it has hurt U.S. efforts against terrorism. Independents are closer to Democrats on this question: 33% say the Iraq war has helped the war on terror, 50% say it has hurt.

## ***The Economy***

Despite record highs on Wall Street and falling gasoline prices, the public continues to give the national economy lukewarm ratings. Just 33% say national economic conditions are excellent or good; 65% say the economy is in only fair or poor shape. These ratings are off slightly from last month (37% excellent or good) and basically unchanged from January of this year. Men are more positive about the economy than are women, and whites have a much more positive view than do blacks. Midwesterners have a much more negative view of the economy compared with those living in other regions of the country. Only a quarter of Midwesterners give the economy an excellent or good rating, compared with roughly 35% of those living in other parts of the country.

Americans offer more positive assessments of their own personal financial situations: 49% say they are in excellent or good shape financially, while an equal percentage says their finances are in only fair or poor shape. Men rate their personal financial situation more positively than do women, and whites give themselves higher ratings than do blacks. The racial gap on this question is especially sharp: 53% of whites say they are in excellent or good shape financially, compared with only 30% of blacks.

Views of both the national economy and personal financial situations are strongly linked to party identification. Republicans are more than twice as likely as Democrats to say the national economy is in excellent or good shape (55% vs. 21%, respectively). Independents are much closer to Democrats in their assessments of the national economy. A similar pattern can be seen on personal finances with Republicans feeling much more positive about their own financial situations than either Democrats or independents.

<b>Partisan Views of the Economy</b>			
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>
<i>National economic conditions:</i>	%	%	%
Excellent/good	55	21	29
Only fair/poor	43	78	70
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Personal finances:</i>			
Excellent/good	65	45	43
Only fair/poor	34	53	55
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100

### ***Iraq Interest Rebounds***

There was extensive public interest in several major stories this month: 46% say they paid very close attention to recent school shootings in Pennsylvania and other states, and about as many (45%) say they tracked news of North Korea's nuclear test very closely.

The rash of school shootings attracted particularly widespread interest among women, especially older women. Overall, 52% of women paid very close attention to these stories compared with 40% of men. Roughly six-in-ten women ages 50 and older (59%) tracked the school shootings very closely.

North Korea's announcement that it recently tested a nuclear weapon drew broad public interest. Identical percentages of Republicans and Democrats (49% each), but fewer independents (40%), followed this story very closely.

Roughly four-in-ten Americans say they are paying very close attention to news about the current situation in Iraq (42%). In September, just 33% said they were tracking news from Iraq very closely, one of the lowest levels since the war began more than three years ago.

About a quarter of Americans (26%) say they very closely followed news of the resignation of former Rep. Mark Foley, who sent inappropriate messages to young people. More than a third of Democrats (35%) paid very close attention to this story, compared with just 22% of independents and 21% of Republicans.

<b>Major News Stories</b>	
	<u>Following very closely</u>
	<u>%</u>
Recent school shootings	46
North Korea nuclear test	45
Situation in Iraq	42
Mark Foley resignation	26

## 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 2,006 adults, 18 years of age or older, from October 17-22, 2006. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2.5 percentage points. For results based on registered voters (N=1,552), the sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=1,003) and Form 2 (N=1,003) the sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on likely voters (N=1,118) 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.

This survey includes an oversample of 515 respondents in congressional districts with competitive U.S. House races in the 2006 election for a total of 682 respondents who reside in such districts. Competitive districts were identified using rankings by Congressional Quarterly, The Cook Political Report, The Rothenberg Political Report, The New York Times, and Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball in early to mid-October. This yielded a list of forty competitive districts: Arizona-05, Arizona-08, California-11, Colorado-04, Colorado-07, Connecticut-02, Connecticut-04, Connecticut-05, Florida-13, Florida-22, Georgia-08, Georgia-12, Iowa-01, Iowa-03, Illinois-06, Illinois-08, Indiana-02, Indiana-08, Indiana-09, Kentucky-04, Minnesota-06, North Carolina-11, New Jersey-07, New Mexico-01, Nevada-02, New York-20, New York-24, New York-29, Ohio-01, Ohio-15, Ohio-18, Pennsylvania-06, Pennsylvania-07, Pennsylvania-08, Pennsylvania-10, Texas-17, Virginia-02, Vermont at-large, Washington-08, and Wisconsin-08.

This survey was conducted in association with the Brookings Institution and the Cato Institute. Professor Gary Jacobson of the University of California, San Diego generously provided data on voting patterns in congressional districts.

## ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

Andrew Kohut, Director  
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research  
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors  
Carolyn Funk and Richard Wike, Senior Project Directors  
Nilanthi Samaranayake, Survey and Data Manager  
Peyton Craighill, April Clark and Juliana Horowitz, Research Associates  
Rob Suls, Research Analyst  
James Albrightain, Executive Assistant



**CONGRESSIONAL MIDTERM TREND, 2002-2006**

	Sept/Oct/Nov 2002				Oct 4/Oct 23 2006				<i>Dem gain</i>	2006 (N)
	<i>Rep</i> %	<i>Dem</i> %	<i>Other/DK</i> %	<i>Dem margin</i>	<i>Rep</i> %	<i>Dem</i> %	<i>Other/DK</i> %	<i>Dem margin</i>		
All Registered	46	43	11	-3	38	49	13	11	<b>6</b>	3,055
<b>Gender</b>										
Male	51	39	11	-12	42	46	12	4	<b>7</b>	1,440
Female	43	47	11	4	35	52	13	17	<b>5</b>	1,615
<b>Age</b>										
18-29	40	49	10	9	29	56	15	27	<b>7</b>	263
30-49	50	40	10	-10	42	46	12	4	<b>6</b>	1,027
50-64	45	43	11	-2	39	49	12	10	<b>6</b>	947
65+	46	43	11	-3	36	52	12	16	<b>9</b>	774
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>										
White	52	37	11	-15	43	44	13	1	<b>7</b>	2,601
Black	10	85	5	75	6	82	12	76	<b>-3</b>	266
Hispanic^	35	55	9	20	33	51	16	18	<b>-4</b>	148
<b>Education</b>										
Post graduate	47	45	8	-2	35	55	10	20	<b>10</b>	474
College graduate	54	37	8	-17	47	42	11	-5	<b>5</b>	715
Some college	48	42	10	-6	39	46	15	7	<b>4</b>	798
High School or	42	46	12	4	35	52	13	17	<b>6</b>	1,063
<b>Household income</b>										
\$100,000 +	60	37	3	-23	47	42	11	-5	<b>5</b>	532
\$75 to 99,999	55	39	6	-16	43	49	8	6	<b>10</b>	393
\$50 to 74,999	53	38	9	-15	42	48	10	6	<b>10</b>	470
\$30 to 49,999	46	43	11	-3	40	48	12	8	<b>5</b>	586
\$20 to 29,999	39	49	12	10	35	53	12	18	<b>4</b>	281
Under \$20,000	29	59	12	30	20	66	14	46	<b>7</b>	356
<b>Region</b>										
Northeast	40	48	12	8	32	54	14	22	<b>6</b>	631
Midwest	44	42	14	-2	36	50	14	14	<b>8</b>	811
South	49	42	9	-7	42	45	13	3	<b>3</b>	1,053
West	51	40	9	-11	40	49	11	9	<b>9</b>	560
<b>Urbanicity</b>										
Rural	49	39	12	-10	43	45	12	2	<b>6</b>	669
Suburban	50	39	11	-11	41	47	13	6	<b>8</b>	1,552
Urban	36	55	9	19	31	55	14	24	<b>0</b>	834
<b>Labor household</b>										
Yes	33	55	12*	22	30	56	14	26	<b>1</b>	446
No	49	41	11	-8	40	48	12	8	<b>7</b>	2,591

^English language interviewing only.

\*Results based on the October and November 2002 figures only.

Data Note: All results are based on registered voters. 2002 figures compiled from three Pew surveys conducted prior to the 2002 midterm election. The 2002 figures are rebalanced to reflect the outcome of the election (a roughly 52% to 48% Republican victory in raw votes). 2006 figures compiled from two surveys (Early October and Late October) with the Early October results rebalanced to match the Late October marginals. Sample sizes shown are based on 2006 data -- in nearly all cases the 2002 samples are larger. Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

## CONGRESSIONAL MIDTERM TREND, 2002-2006

	Sept/Oct/Nov 2002				Oct 4/Oct 23 2006				<b>Dem gain</b>	2006 (N)
	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Other/ DK</u> %	<u>Dem margin</u>	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Other/ DK</u> %	<u>Dem margin</u>		
All Registered	46	43	11	-3	38	49	13	11	<b>6</b>	3,055
<b>Party Identification</b>										
Republican	94	4	2	-90	91	5	4	-86	<b>1</b>	999
Democrat	6	92	2	86	2	93	4	91	<b>1</b>	1,027
Independent	37	40	23	3	30	46	24	16	<b>6</b>	886
<b>Ideology</b>										
Conservative	68	25	7	-43	65	24	11	-41	<b>-1</b>	1263
Moderate	38	49	12	11	25	62	13	37	<b>13</b>	1202
Liberal	16	74	10	58	9	80	10	71	<b>6</b>	487
<b>Party &amp; Ideology</b>										
Conserv Repub	97	2	1	-95	94	3	3	-91	<b>1</b>	713
Mod/Lib Repub	91	6	3	-85	85	10	5	-75	<b>4</b>	274
Cons/Mod Dem	7	91	2	84	3	92	5	89	<b>1</b>	687
Liberal Democrat	3	96	1	93	0	98	2	98	<b>2</b>	309
<b>Religion</b>										
Protestant	51	41	9	-10	44	45	12	1	<b>4</b>	1,751
Wh. evangelical	65	25	9	-40	60	28	12	-32	<b>3</b>	704
White mainline	49	40	11	-9	44	46	10	2	<b>6</b>	747
Black	8	89	4	81	5	84	11	79	<b>-5</b>	229
Catholic	45	45	10	0	33	53	13	20	<b>8</b>	744
Wh., non-Hisp.	49	40	10	-9	35	52	13	17	<b>12</b>	633
Secular	35	50	15	15	23	56	20	33	<b>6</b>	298
<b>Attend church/services</b>										
Weekly	53	36	11*	-17	48	40	12	-8	<b>4</b>	1334
Monthly/Few-year	41	48	11	7	34	56	10	22	<b>8</b>	941
Seldom/Never	34	51	15	17	28	56	16	28	<b>5</b>	740

\*Results based on the November 2002 figures only.

Data Note: All results are based on registered voters. 2002 figures compiled from three Pew surveys conducted prior to the 2002 midterm election. The 2002 figures are rebalanced to reflect the outcome of the election (a roughly 52% to 48% Republican victory in raw votes). 2006 figures compiled from two surveys (Early October and Late October) with the Early October results rebalanced to match the Late October marginals. Sample sizes shown are based on 2006 data -- in nearly all cases the 2002 samples are larger. Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**CONGRESSIONAL MIDTERM TREND, 2002-2006**

	Sept/Oct/Nov 2002				Oct 4/Oct 23 2006				<b>Dem gain</b>	2006 (N)
	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Other/ DK</u> %	<u>Dem margin</u>	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Other/ DK</u> %	<u>Dem margin</u>		
All Registered	46	43	11	-3	38	49	13	11	<b>6</b>	3,055
<b><u>Age and Gender</u></b>										
<b>Male</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	1,440
18-29	50	39	11	-11	33	51	17	18	<b>12</b>	119
30-49	53	37	10	-16	45	42	13	-3	<b>5</b>	504
50-64	49	41	10	-8	43	47	10	4	<b>6</b>	461
65+	49	40	11	-9	41	49	10	8	<b>9</b>	341
<b>Female</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	1,615
18-29	31	59	10	28	26	60	14	34	<b>1</b>	144
30-49	47	44	9	-3	39	49	12	10	<b>5</b>	523
50-64	42	45	12	3	35	51	14	16	<b>6</b>	486
65+	44	46	10	2	32	54	14	22	<b>8</b>	433
<b><u>Age/Marital/Parent</u></b>										
<b>18-29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>	263
Single w/o kids	41	48	10	7	26	61	12	35	<b>13</b>	124
Married	46	41	13	-5	43	40	17	-3	<b>-1</b>	98
<b>30-49</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	1,027
Single w/o kids	47	43	9	-4	26	58	15	32	<b>15</b>	173
Mar. w/o kids	51	38	11	-13	38	50	12	12	<b>12</b>	141
Married w/ kids	58	34	7	-24	50	38	12	-12	<b>4</b>	605
<b>50-64</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	947
Married	48	40	12	-8	42	45	13	3	<b>5</b>	658
Not married	43	47	11	4	31	58	11	27	<b>11</b>	289
<b>65+</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	774
Married	51	39	10	-12	43	47	10	4	<b>8</b>	412
Not married	44	46	11	2	29	56	15	27	<b>10</b>	362
<b><u>Sex/Marital/Parent</u></b>										
<b>Mothers</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	547
Married mom	57	34	9	-23	45	42	13	-3	<b>8</b>	417
Working mom	45	45	11	0	34	52	13	18	<b>7</b>	385
Single mom	23	65	12	42	16	71	13	55	<b>6</b>	130
<b>Fathers</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>3</b>	463
Married dads	53	37	10	-16	48	41	12	-7	<b>4</b>	405
Working dads	50	38	12	-12	47	41	11	-6	<b>3</b>	416

Data Note: All results are based on registered voters. 2002 figures compiled from three Pew surveys conducted prior to the 2002 midterm election. The 2002 figures are rebalanced to reflect the outcome of the election (a roughly 52% to 48% Republican victory in raw votes). 2006 figures compiled from two surveys (Early October and Late October) with the Early October results rebalanced to match the Late October marginals. Sample sizes shown are based on 2006 data -- in nearly all cases the 2002 samples are larger. Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**OCTOBER 2006 SURVEY ON ELECTORAL COMPETITION**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**October 17 - 22, 2006**  
**N=2006 General Public**  
**N=1552 Registered Voters**

THOUGHT How much thought have you given to the coming November election... Quite a lot, or only a little?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	Quite <u>A lot</u>	(VOL.) <u>Some</u>	Only a <u>Little</u>	None/DK/ <u>Refused</u>
Late October, 2006	54	6	35	5=100
Early October, 2006	51	4	40	5=100
Early September, 2006	45	4	48	3=100
Early November, 2002	52	6	35	7=100
Early October, 2002	45	6	45	4=100
Early September, 2002	36	5	54	5=100
Late October, 1998	49	11	35	5=100
Early October, 1998	42	8	43	7=100
November, 1994	56	7	32	5=100
Late October, 1994	45	7	45	3=100
Early October, 1994	44	2	50	4=100
<i>Gallup: October, 1990<sup>1</sup></i>	43	7	46	4=100
<i>Gallup: October, 1982</i>	29	22	37	12=100
<i>Gallup: October, 1978</i>	23	22	39	17=100
<i>Gallup: September, 1978</i>	21	18	44	18=100

REGIST These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN REGIST ASK:**

REGICERT Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote, or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

76	Yes, registered
72	Absolutely certain
3	Chance registration has lapsed
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
24	No, not registered
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

---

1 Gallup trends based on total respondents.

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

CAMPNII How closely have you followed news about candidates and election campaigns in your state and district? Have you followed it very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
Late October, 2006	27	45	17	11	*=100
Early October, 2006	23	43	23	10	1=100
Early November, 2002	27	46	18	9	*=100
Early October, 2002	21	46	22	10	1=100
Late October, 1998	26	45	20	9	*=100
Early October, 1998	21	43	24	11	1=100
November, 1994	23	49	21	7	*=100
Late October, 1994	18	43	28	10	1=100

PRECINCT Have you ever voted in your precinct or election district?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

		Early			Mid- Early			Late			Mid- Early			Late			
		Oct	Sept	Nov	Oct	Sept	Aug	Nov	Nov	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Oct	Nov	Sept	Nov
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1994</u>	
91	Yes	90	92	82	79	83	88	86	83	81	82	84	86	87	85	85	91
9	No	10	8	18	21	17	12	14	17	19	18	16	14	13	15	15	9
*	Don't know/Ref.	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>
<u>100</u>		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

WHERE Do you happen to know where people in your neighborhood go to vote?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

		Early				Late				Early				<i>Gallup</i>			
		Oct	Nov	Nov	Nov	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Oct	Oct	Nov	Nov	Oct	Nov	Nov	Oct
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1988</u>
86	Yes — gives answer	88	85	88	84	90	87	88	85	93	89	89	86				
14	No/Don't know/Ref./No Answer	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>					
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

FOLGOV Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	Most of <u>the time</u>	Some of <u>the time</u>	Only now <u>and then</u>	Hardly <u>at all</u>	DK/Ref
Late October, 2006	57	30	8	5	*=100
December, 2005	54	29	12	5	0=100
December, 2004	49	35	12	4	*=100
November, 2004	61	27	9	3	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	63	26	8	3	*=100
June, 2004	49	35	12	4	*=100

**FOLGOV CONTINUED...**

	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Only now and then</u>	<u>Hardly at all</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
November, 2002	54	29	11	6	*=100
August, 2002	61	29	8	2	0=100
Early November, 2000	51	32	12	5	*=100
Late October, 1998	57	29	10	4	*=100
Early October, 1998	51	33	11	5	*=100
November, 1996	52	32	12	4	*=100
October, 1996	43	37	13	6	1=100
October, 1988	52	33	12	3	*=100

OFTVOTE How often would you say you vote... **(READ)**

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	<u>Always</u>	<u>Nearly Always</u>	<u>Part of The time</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never Vote</u>	<u>(VOL.) Other</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref.</u>
Late October, 2006	58	27	9	4	1	1	*=100
Early October, 2006	47	36	10	3	2	1	1=100
Early September, 2006	56	28	9	6	1	*	*=100
November, 2004	62	21	7	6	3	1	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	63	22	7	5	2	1	*=100
Early November, 2002	52	30	11	6	1	0	1=100
Early October, 2002	50	33	11	4	*	1	1=100
Early September, 2002	59	25	11	4	1	*	*=100
August, 2002	53	32	10	4	1	*	*=100
Early November, 2000	57	26	8	6	2	1	*=100
Late October, 2000	52	30	9	6	1	2	0=100
Mid-October, 2000	54	27	10	6	*	3	*=100
Early October, 2000	51	29	10	6	3	1	*=100
September, 2000	61	21	9	7	2	*	*=100
June, 2000	58	26	10	4	1	1	*=100
Late September, 1999	40	47	9	3	1	*	*=100
Late October, 1998	56	28	10	5	1	*	*=100
Early October, 1998	50	32	11	5	1	1	*=100
Early September, 1998	53	33	9	4	-	1	*=100
June, 1998	49	33	12	5	-	1	0=100
October, 1997	62	26	8	3	1	*	*=100
November, 1996	55	28	8	6	2	1	*=100
October, 1996	52	30	9	5	2	2	*=100
Late September, 1996	52	31	10	4	2	1	*=100
June, 1996	52	33	9	4	1	1	*=100
February, 1996	42	41	11	4	1	1	*=100
October, 1995	53	35	7	4	1	*	*=100

**OFTVOTE CONTINUED...**

	<u>Always</u>	Nearly <u>Always</u>	(VOL.) Part of <u>The time</u>	Seldom	Never <u>Vote</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref.</u>
April, 1995	53	34	9	4	*	*	*=100
November, 1994	58	28	8	5	*	1	0=100
Late October, 1994	55	32	10	3	*	*	*=100
July, 1994	52	34	10	4	*	*	*=100
Early October, 1992	54	33	8	4	*	1	*=100
September, 1992	52	33	8	5	1	1	*=100
June, 1992	60	29	7	3	1	*	*=100
May, 1992	50	35	10	4	1	*	*=100
November, 1991	46	41	9	4	*	-	*=100
May, 1990	42	42	11	4	1	*	*=100
<i>Gallup</i> : November, 1988	57	26	10	4	2	1	*=100
October, 1988	51	37	8	3	1	*	*=100
May, 1988	43	41	11	3	2	1	*=100
January, 1988	49	39	9	2	1	*	*=100
May, 1987	43	43	9	3	1	1	*=100

**NO QUESTIONS 1 THROUGH 9**

Thinking about this year's election...

Q.10 If the 2006 elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in your district?

**IF ANSWERED '3' OTHER OR '9' DON'T KNOW IN Q.10, ASK:**

Q.10a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the Republican or the Democrat?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
Late October, 2006	38	49	13=100
Early October, 2006	38	51	11=100
Early September, 2006	39	50	11=100
August, 2006	41	50	9=100
June, 2006	39	51	10=100
April, 2006	41	51	8=100
February, 2006	41	50	9=100
Mid-September, 2005	40	52	8=100
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early November, 2002	42	46	12=100
Early October, 2002	44	46	10=100
Early September, 2002	44	46	10=100
June, 2002	44	46	10=100
February, 2002	46	45	9=100
Early November, 2001	44	44	12=100
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	40	47	13=100
Early October, 1998	43	44	13=100
Early September, 1998	45	46	9=100
Late August, 1998	44	45	11=100
Early August, 1998	42	49	9=100
June, 1998	44	46	10=100

**Q.10/Q.10a CONTINUED...**

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
March, 1998	40	52	8=100
February, 1998	41	50	9=100
January, 1998	41	51	8=100
August, 1997	45	48	7=100
<b>1994 Election</b>			
November, 1994	45	43	12=100
Late October, 1994	47	44	9=100
Early October, 1994	52	40	8=100
September, 1994	48	46	6=100
July, 1994	45	47	8=100

**IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' OR '2' IN Q.10 ASK:**

Q.10b Do you support the (INSERT PARTY SELECTED IN Q.10: Democratic/Republican) candidate strongly or only moderately?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

		Early Oct <u>2006</u>	Early Nov <u>2002</u>	Early Nov <u>2000</u>	Late Oct <u>1998</u>	Nov <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>
38	Republican/Lean Rep	38	42	42	40	41	45
19	Strongly	20	21	20	19	18	19
19	Moderately/Lean	17	20	22	21	23	26
*	Don't know/Refused	1	1	*	--	*	--
49	Democrat/Lean Dem	51	46	48	47	48	43
25	Strongly	26	22	23	24	22	17
23	Moderately/Lean	24	23	24	23	25	26
1	Don't know/Refused	1	1	1	--	1	--
<u>13</u>	Other/Undecided (VOL.)	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

PLANTO1 Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this November?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	Yes, Plan <u>To Vote</u>	No, Don't <u>Plan To</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
Late October, 2006 <sup>2</sup>	94	3	3=100
Early October, 2006	93	4	3=100
Early September, 2006	92	5	3=100
November, 2004	97	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	98	1	1=100
Early October, 2004	98	1	1=100
Early September, 2004	98	1	1=100
September 11-14	97	2	1=100

2 In Late October 2006 through Mid-October 2004 and in November 2002, the volunteer category "already voted" was added and is presented in the "Yes, Plan to vote" category.



**PLANTO1 CONTINUED...**

	Yes, Plan To Vote	No, Don't Plan To	Don't know/ Refused
<i>September 8-10</i>	99	1	*=100
August, 2004	98	2	*=100
June, 2004	96	2	2=100
Early November, 2002 <sup>3</sup>	90	8	2=100
Early October, 2002	95	3	2=100
Early November, 2000	96	3	1=100
Late October, 2000	97	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2000	96	2	2=100
Early October, 2000	97	2	1=100
September, 2000	95	3	2=100
June, 2000	95	2	3=100
Late October, 1998	91	6	3=100
Early October, 1998	92	4	4=100
Early September, 1998	95	2	3=100
Late August, 1998	93	3	4=100
June, 1998	95	3	2=100
November, 1996	96	2	2=100
October, 1996	98	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	98	1	1=100
Early September, 1996	96	2	2=100
July, 1996	95	3	2=100
June, 1996	96	2	2=100
November, 1994	93	5	2=100
October, 1994	95	3	2=100
October, 1992	98	1	1=100
September, 1992	98	1	1=100
August, 1992	97	1	2=100
June, 1992	97	1	2=100
<b>Gallup:</b> November, 1988	97	2	1=100
October, 1988	98	1	1=100

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

SCALE10 I'd like you to rate your chances of voting in November on a scale of 10 to 1. If TEN represents a person who DEFINITELY will vote and ONE represents a person who definitely will NOT vote, where on this scale of ten to one would you place yourself?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	Definitely will vote										Definitely will not vote
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	71	8	9	4	2	3	*	1	*	1	1=100
Early October, 2006	68	10	9	4	1	4	*	1	*	2	1=100
Early September, 2006	67	9	9	2	2	5	1	1	1	2	1=100

3 In Early November 2002, Early November, 2000, Late October 1998, November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?" In Early November 2002 "Yes, Plan to Vote" category includes people who volunteered that they already voted.

**SCALE10 CONTINUED...**

	Definitely will vote										Definitely will not vote	DK/Ref
	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>		
November, 2004 <sup>4</sup>	87	4	3	1	1	1	*	*	*	2		1=100
Mid-October, 2004	87	4	3	1	1	1	*	*	*	2		1=100
Early November, 2002 <sup>5</sup>	66	9	9	3	1	4	1	1	1	5		1=100
Early October, 2002	64	10	10	4	3	4	1	*	*	2		2=100
Early November, 2000	80	6	5	2	1	3	*	*	*	3		1=100
Late October, 2000	83	5	5	1	1	2	*	1	1	1		*=100
Mid-October, 2000	80	7	4	3	1	3	1	*	*	1		1=100
Early October, 2000	78	7	5	2	2	2	*	1	1	1		1=100
Late October, 1998	70	6	7	4	1	4	1	1	1	4		1=100
Early October, 1998	64	9	10	4	2	4	1	2	1	2		1=100
November, 1996	77	7	7	2	1	2	*	1	*	2		1=100
October, 1996	77	9	7	2	2	2	*	*	*	1		*=100
Late September, 1996	78	10	6	2	1	1	*	*	*	1		1=100
November, 1994	67	9	8	2	2	4	1	1	1	3		2=100
October, 1994	66	10	9	4	2	4	1	1	*	2		1=100
Gallup: September, 1992	77	5	4	3	2	4	*	1	*	4		*=100
Gallup: November, 1988	77	7	6	2	1	3	*	*	*	2		2=100
Gallup: October, 1988	73	8	7	3	2	3	1	*	*	1		2=100

**IF YES IN PLANTO1, ASK:**

PLANTO3 In the congressional election this fall, do you plan to vote BEFORE Election Day, OR will you probably vote at your polling place ON Election Day OR have you already cast your vote?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	Early Oct 2006 <sup>6</sup>	Nov 2004 <sup>7</sup>	Mid-Oct 2004	Early Sept 2004	June 2004
15 Before Election Day/By Mail/Absentee	14	9	16	13	19
74 Will probably vote at polling place on Election Day	77	75	78	84	77
2 Already voted	*	13	3	*	n/a
3 Don't know/Refused	2	*	1	1	*
<u>6</u> Don't plan to vote/Don't know (IN PLANTO1)	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100

4 In November 2004 and November 2002 the volunteer category "already voted" was added and is presented in the "10 – definitely will vote" category.

5 In Early November election surveys, the question asked about "Tuesday's election."

6 In Early October 2006 the question was worded: "In the congressional election this fall, do you plan to vote BEFORE Election Day, that is through the mail or with an absentee ballot, OR will you probably vote at your polling place ON Election Day?"

7 In November 2004, the question wording did not begin by referencing a congressional or Presidential election. In Mid-October 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: "In the presidential election this fall..." In November and Mid- October 2004, "or have you already cast your vote," was added to the question wording, but had been a volunteer option in September 2004 and was not made available in June 2004.

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.11 What matters more to you as you think about your vote for Congress this fall? [READ AND ROTATE]

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

		Early Oct <u>2006</u>	Early Sept <u>2006</u> <sup>8</sup>
47	National issues OR	51	47
26	Local issues	23	36
25	Both equally (VOL.) [DO NOT READ]	24	17
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.) [DO NOT READ]	<u>2</u>	*
100		100	100

Q.12 Of the following six issues, which ONE would you say is MOST important to your vote for Congress this year [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

**IF ANSWER GIVEN (1-7 IN Q.12) ASK:**

Q.12a And which would you say is the SECOND most important to your vote? [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.12 EXCLUDING PRIOR SELECTION]

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>	<u>Combined</u>		Early Oct 2006 <u>Combined</u>
20	22	41	The economy	41
27	18	45	The situation in Iraq	44
14	12	26	Terrorism	32
11	12	24	Immigration	21
4	8	12	Energy policy	14
18	20	37	Health care	38
2	2	3	Other (VOL.) [DO NOT READ]	3
*	*	1	None of these (VOL.) [DO NOT READ]	*
<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.) [DO NOT READ]	3
100	100			

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.13 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the upcoming congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	(VOL)		Congressperson	(VOL)
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>not running</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	55	26	1	18=100
Early October, 2006 <sup>9</sup>	50	27	1	22=100
Early September, 2006	53	27	1	19=100

8 In Early September 2006, the question was worded: "What matters most to you..."

9 In Early October 2006 and before the question was worded: "Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?"

**Q.13 CONTINUED...**

			(VOL)	(VOL)
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Congressperson <u>not running</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2006	51	30	*	19=100
June, 2006	51	32	1	16=100
April, 2006	57	28	1	14=100
February, 2006	59	28	1	12=100
Mid-September, 2005	57	25	1	17=100
Early October, 2002	58	19	2	21=100
June, 2002	58	23	1	18=100
Early November, 2000	59	16	2	23=100
October, 2000	60	17	1	22=100
July, 1999	66	23	*	11=100
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16=100
Early October, 1998	58	20	2	20=100
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16=100
March, 1998	63	21	1	15=100
January, 1998	66	23	0	11=100
August, 1997	66	22	0	12=100
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21=100
October, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26=100
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17=100
November, 1994	58	25	1	16=100
Late October, 1994	55	30	2	13=100
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20=100
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	62	22	2	14=100

Q.14 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the upcoming congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	34	49	17=100
Early October, 2006 <sup>10</sup>	32	48	20=100
Early September, 2006	35	49	16=100
August, 2006	36	49	15=100
June, 2006	29	57	14=100
April, 2006	34	53	13=100
February, 2006	36	49	15=100
September, 2005	36	48	16=100
Early October, 2002	39	38	23=100
June, 2002	45	37	18=100
October, 2000	40	34	26=100
July, 1999	41	47	12=100

---

10 In Early October 2006 and before the question was worded: "Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?"

**Q.14 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 1998	41	37	22=100
Early October, 1998	39	39	22=100
Early September, 1998	46	37	17=100
March, 1998	45	41	14=100
January, 1998	44	43	13=100
August, 1997	45	42	13=100
Early September, 1996	43	43	14=100
November, 1994	31	51	18=100
Late October, 1994	31	56	13=100
Early October, 1994	28	56	16=100

Q.15 Thinking about the upcoming congressional elections, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

		Early Oct <u>2006<sup>11</sup></u>	Early Sept <u>2006</u>	June <u>2006</u>	June <u>2002</u>	June <u>1998</u>	<i>Gallup</i> Oct <u>1994</u>
41	More	39	37	38	41	38	34
34	Less	36	40	40	33	45	44
23	Same (VOL)	21	20	18	23	15	20
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.16 Will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote for Congress this year, or not?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	<u>Yes, will be a factor</u>	<u>No, will not</u>	<u>(VOL)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	61	36	3=100
Early October, 2006	57	40	3=100
Early September, 2006	55	41	4=100
June, 2006	58	39	3=100
April, 2006	56	39	5=100
June, 2004	43	51	6=100
Early November, 2002	48	49	3=100
Early October, 2002	42	55	3=100
Early September, 2002	44	51	5=100
June, 2002	47	50	3=100
February, 2002	46	49	5=100
Early October, 2000	46	50	4=100
July, 2000	46	49	5=100
Late October, 1998	46	50	4=100

11 In Early October 2006 and before the question was worded: "Thinking about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?"

**Q.16 CONTINUED...**

	Yes, will be <u>a factor</u>	No, <u>will not</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early October, 1998	47	49	4=100
Early September, 1998	41	56	3=100
Early August, 1998	44	53	3=100
June, 1998	45	51	4=100

Q.17 Do you think of your vote for Congress this fall as a vote FOR George W. Bush, as a vote AGAINST George W. Bush, or isn't George W. Bush much of a factor in your vote?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Not a factor</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	20	37	38	5=100
Early October, 2006	18	39	40	3=100
Early September, 2006	20	36	40	4=100
August, 2006	17	35	43	5=100
June, 2006	15	38	44	3=100
April, 2006	17	34	46	3=100
February, 2006	18	31	47	4=100
Early November, 2002	29	16	49	6=100
Early October, 2002	30	20	44	6=100
Early September, 2002	29	15	51	5=100
February, 2002	34	9	50	7=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Late October, 1998	20	17	58	5=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early October, 1998	19	23	52	6=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4=100
<b>Clinton:</b> June, 1998	20	18	57	5=100
<b>Clinton:</b> March, 1998	21	15	59	5=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1996	24	18	51	7=100
<b>Clinton:</b> November, 1994	17	21	55	7=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Late October, 1994	17	21	57	5=100
<b>Clinton:</b> Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6=100
<b>CBS/NYT Bush:</b> 10/28-31, 1990	19	15	61	6=100
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 10/24-28, 1986	26	12	55	7=100
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 9/28-10/1, 1986	26	16	51	7=100
<b>CBS/NYT Reagan:</b> 10/23-28, 1982	23	21	51	5=100

**QUESTION 18 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL GENERAL PUBLIC:**

Q.19 As I read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month, tell me if you happened to follow each news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. [IF NECESSARY “Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?”]**

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely	DK/ Ref
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	42	38	12	6	2=100
September, 2006	33	43	14	8	2=100
August, 2006	41	39	12	7	1=100
June, 2006	37	43	13	6	1=100
May, 2006	42	35	15	7	1=100
April, 2006	43	36	13	7	1=100
March, 2006	43	38	12	6	1=100
February, 2006	39	42	12	6	1=100
January, 2006	40	40	12	7	1=100
December, 2005	45	38	11	5	1=100
Early November, 2005	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
April 11-16, 2003 <sup>12</sup>	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100

**Q.19 CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 <sup>13</sup>	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
b. North Korea's announcement that it recently tested a nuclear weapon	45	33	13	8	1=100
c. The resignation of Congressman Mark Foley, who sent inappropriate messages to young people	26	32	23	18	1=100
d. Recent shootings at schools in Pennsylvania and other states	46	33	12	8	1=100

**QUESTIONS 20 THROUGH 24 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**READ TO ALL:** Next I would like to ask you about a couple of things that have been in the news. Not everyone will have heard about them...

**ASK ALL GENERAL PUBLIC:**

Q.25 Do you happen to know which political party has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives?

	April <u>2006</u>	April <u>2004</u>	June <u>2001</u>	Aug <u>1999</u>	Dec <u>1998</u>	June <u>1997</u>	April <u>1996</u>	June <u>1995</u>
58 Republican ( <i>Correct</i> )	64	56	31	55	56	50	70	73
4 Democratic	6	8	34	8	11	6	8	5
<u>38</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>30</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.26 Do you happen to know the name of your current Representative in Congress or not?

		<b>-- Based on Registered Voters --</b>			
		Late Oct <u>2006</u>	Oct <u>1998</u>	Nov <u>1994</u>	Gallup Oct <u>1990</u>
37	Yes ( <b>ACCEPT ANY NAME GIVEN</b> )	46	59	63	61
54	No	46	37	34	39
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>*</u>
100		100	100	100	100

(N=1552)

13 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."



Q.27 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]

	App- rove	Dis- approve	Don't know		App- rove	Dis- approve	Don't know
Late October, 2006	38	53	9=100	<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	72	22	6=100
Early October, 2006	37	53	10=100	<i>April 9, 2003</i>	74	20	6=100
Early September, 2006	37	53	10=100	<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	69	25	6=100
August, 2006	37	54	9=100	<i>March 28-April 1, 2003</i>	71	23	6=100
July, 2006	36	57	7=100	<i>March 25-27, 2003</i>	70	24	6=100
June, 2006	36	54	10=100	<i>March 20-24, 2003</i>	67	26	7=100
April, 2006	33	56	11=100	<i>March 13-16, 2003</i>	55	34	11=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	<i>February, 2003</i>	54	36	10=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	<i>January, 2003</i>	58	32	10=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	<i>December, 2002</i>	61	28	11=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	<i>Late October, 2002</i>	59	29	12=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	<i>Early October, 2002</i>	61	30	9=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	<i>Mid-September, 2002</i>	67	22	11=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	<i>Early September, 2002</i>	63	26	11=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	<i>Late August, 2002</i>	60	27	13=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	<i>August, 2002</i>	67	21	12=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	<i>Late July, 2002</i>	65	25	10=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	<i>July, 2002</i>	67	21	12=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	<i>June, 2002</i>	70	20	10=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	<i>April, 2002</i>	69	18	13=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	<i>Early April, 2002</i>	74	16	10=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	<i>February, 2002</i>	78	13	9=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	<i>January, 2002</i>	80	11	9=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	<i>Mid-November, 2001</i>	84	9	7=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	<i>Early October, 2001</i>	84	8	8=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	<i>Late September, 2001</i>	86	7	7=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	<i>Mid-September, 2001</i>	80	9	11=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	<i>Early September, 2001</i>	51	34	15=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	<i>August, 2001</i>	50	32	18=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	<i>July, 2001</i>	51	32	17=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	<i>June, 2001</i>	50	33	17=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	<i>May, 2001</i>	53	32	15=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	<i>April, 2001</i>	56	27	17=100
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	<i>March, 2001</i>	55	25	20=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	<i>February, 2001</i>	53	21	26=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100				
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100				
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100				
December, 2003	57	34	9=100				
November, 2003	50	40	10=100				
October, 2003	50	42	8=100				
September, 2003	55	36	9=100				
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100				
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=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				

**ASK ALL GENERAL PUBLIC:**

Q.28 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; RANDOMIZE – OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]<sup>14</sup>

	Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) Neither	Don't	
	Party	Party	Equally		Know	
a.	Dealing with the economy	32	45	4	5	14=100
	September, 2006	32	46	5	5	12=100
	February, 2006	36	46	5	5	8=100
	Mid-September, 2005	38	44	5	7	6=100
	July, 2004	34	46	5	5	10=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	37	40	5	6	12=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	37	41	4	5	13=100
	Early September, 2002	36	36	9	6	13=100
	January, 2002	43	34	--	5	18=100
	May, 2001 <sup>15</sup>	33	44	8	5	10=100
	June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9=100
	March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9=100
	Early September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10=100
	March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5=100
	October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10=100
	Gallup: October, 1992 (RVs)	36	45	10	--	9=100
	Gallup: October, 1990	37	35	--	--	28=100
b.	Making wise decisions about					
	what to do in Iraq	31	39	5	8	17=100
	September, 2006	33	40	5	8	14=100
	February, 2006	38	41	3	8	10=100
	Mid-September, 2005	38	43	5	6	8=100
	July, 2004	38	40	4	6	12=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	42	33	6	6	13=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	46	30	7	4	13=100
c.	Dealing with the terrorist threat at home	39	33	7	6	15=100
	September, 2006	41	32	7	6	14=100
	February, 2006	46	30	8	7	9=100
	Mid-September, 2005	45	34	7	6	8=100
	July, 2004	45	30	6	6	13=100
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	44	27	11	6	12=100
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	44	28	7	5	16=100
	Early September, 2002	44	22	14	6	14=100
	January, 2002	48	18	--	6	28=100

14 In January 1999, January 2001, January 2002, and May 2002, the question was worded: "Please tell me which party you think has the best ideas... the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?"

15 In May 2001 and earlier, the item was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous?"

**Q.28 CONTINUED...**

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) Neither	Don't
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Know</u>
d.	Improving morality in this country	30	37	6	12	15=100
	September, 2006	34	36	5	10	15=100
	July, 2004	37	35	5	10	13=100
	January, 2002	38	27	--	8	27=100
	January, 2001	49	26	--	11	14=100
	January, 1999	37	29	--	17	17=100
	June, 1999 <sup>16</sup>	40	33	7	11	9=100
	Early September, 1998	45	27	8	9	11=100
	March 1998	43	29	9	11	8=100
	October, 1994	40	35	6	8	11=100
	July, 1994	46	34	4	8	8=100
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1003]:</b>						
e.F1	Reforming government in Washington	24	41	5	12	18=100
	September, 2006	25	41	4	16	14=100
	April, 2006	28	44	5	15	8=100
	February, 2006	29	42	7	12	10=100
	March, 1998 <sup>17</sup>	37	35	8	10	10=100
	July, 1994	39	40	3	11	7=100
f.F1	Dealing with immigration	35	33	6	8	18=100
	September, 2006	32	37	5	10	16=100
	April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13=100
	February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11=100
g.F1	Dealing with taxes	32	40	5	7	16=100
	September, 2006	30	45	4	9	12=100
	February, 2006	35	46	5	6	8=100
	May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9=100
	June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12=100
	September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10=100
	March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8=100
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9=100
h.F1	Reducing crime	29	33	9	9	20=100
	September, 2006	32	34	8	10	16=100
	February, 2006	37	30	8	10	15=100
	September, 2002	35	26	14	10	15=100
	June, 1999	35	35	12	6	12=100
	Early September, 1998	39	32	10	7	12=100
	March, 1998	35	34	11	10	10=100
	October, 1994	38	34	7	10	11=100
	December, 1993	29	35	--	17	19=100
	January, 1992	32	32	--	18	18=100

---

16 In June 1999 and earlier the item was worded "...promoting morality and personal responsibility."

17 In March 1998 and July 1994 the item was worded "reforming government."

**Q.28 CONTINUED...**

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both	(VOL.) Neither	Don't
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>	<u>Equally</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Know</u>
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1003]:</b>						
i.F2	Reforming the U.S. health care system	25	46	4	8	17=100
	September, 2006	24	48	5	10	13=100
	February, 2006	27	49	6	9	9=100
	Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7=100
	July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13=100
	Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15=100
	January, 2002 <sup>18</sup>	20	45	--	6	29=100
	January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16=100
	January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22=100
	Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12=100
	March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8=100
	October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10=100
	July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8=100
	December, 1993	25	47	--	10	18=100
	January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15=100
	May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14=100
j.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problems	28	44	5	6	17=100
	September, 2006	27	47	4	7	15=100
	February, 2006	32	45	6	7	10=100
	Mid-September, 2005	31	44	6	8	11=100
	May, 2001	36	34	10	7	13=100
k.F2	Improving the educational system	27	45	5	6	17=100
	September, 2006	28	46	7	6	13=100
	February, 2006	33	44	8	7	8=100
	Mid-September, 2005	35	44	6	7	8=100
	July, 2004	29	45	7	7	12=100
	January, 2002	37	34	--	6	23=100
	May, 2001	36	38	11	6	9=100
	January, 2001	40	41	--	7	12=100
	June, 1999	29	52	7	5	7=100
	March, 1999	33	46	6	5	10=100
	January, 1999	26	46	--	7	21=100
	Early September, 1998	34	42	10	4	10=100
	March, 1998	29	49	10	5	7=100
	July, 1994	37	46	4	5	8=100
	January, 1992	28	48	--	10	14=100
	May, 1990	30	42	--	14	14=100
l.F2	Dealing with North Korea	36	35	5	5	19=100

18 From 1999 to 2002, the item was listed as "...regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans." In December 1993 question was worded "Reforming health care." In January 1992 and May 1990 the question was worded "improving health care in the U.S."

**ASK ALL GENERAL PUBLIC:  
ROTATE N.1 AND N.2**

N.1 How concerned are you, if at all, that if the Democrats take control of the Congress this fall they will weaken the country's efforts to combat terrorism? **[READ]**

		Sept <u>2006</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>
29	Very concerned	31	35
22	Fairly concerned	21	22
19	Not too concerned	18	17
26	Not at all concerned	25	23
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

N.2 How concerned are you, if at all, that if the Republicans keep control of the Congress this fall they will get the U.S. involved in too many military operations overseas? **[READ]**

		Sept <u>2006</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>
43	Very concerned	41	46
22	Fairly concerned	25	23
19	Not too concerned	15	18
13	Not at all concerned	15	11
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL)	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100

**ASK REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY (REGICERT=1)**

Q.29 Here are a few ways that candidates and political groups contact voters to encourage them to vote a particular way. Thinking just about the past few months, have you been contacted **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** by any candidates or political groups? Have you been contacted **[NEXT ITEM]**?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a. Over the phone			
Late October, 2006	41	59	*=100
Early October, 2006	38	61	1=100
November, 2002 <sup>19</sup>	33	66	1=100
Early November, 2000	26	73	1=100
b. In person by someone coming to your door			
Late October, 2006	14	86	*=100
Early October, 2006	14	86	*=100
c. By e-mail			
Late October, 2006	16	82	2=100
Early October, 2006	15	83	2=100

---

19 In November 2002 and earlier the question was worded: "Recently, have you been contacted over the phone by any candidates, campaigns or other groups urging you to vote in a particular way in the upcoming elections?"

**IF YES TO ANY (1 IN Q.29a, Q.29b OR Q.29c), ASK:**

Q.30 When you were contacted, were you urged to vote for Democratic candidates OR Republican candidates?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

		Early Oct <u>2006</u>
54	Yes, contacted (NET)	49
15	Democrats	14
13	Republicans	13
3	Other (VOL.)	2
13	Both (VOL.)	11
10	Don't know/Refused	9
<u>46</u>	Not contacted/DK/Refused	<u>51</u>
100		100

**ASK REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY (REGICERT=1)**

Q.31 So far, have you seen or heard any campaign commercials for candidates running for office?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

		Early Oct <u>2006</u> <sup>20</sup>
89	Yes, have seen campaign commercials	71
10	No, haven't seen any campaign commercials	29
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*
100		<u>100</u>

Q.32 Have you, yourself, volunteered any of your time to help one of the election campaigns this fall or not?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

5	Yes
95	No
*	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

Q.33 Have you, yourself contributed money to a campaign in support of a candidate in the elections this fall, or not?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

10	Yes
90	No
*	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

---

20 In Early October 2006 the question was worded: "So far, have you seen or heard any campaign commercials for candidates running for office? [IF YES: Have you seen a lot of commercials, some, or just a few?"]

**ASK ALL GENERAL PUBLIC:**

Q.34 I'd like to get your opinion of some organizations in the news. Is your overall opinion of... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN NEVER HEARD OF AND CAN'T RATE.]

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL)	(VOL)	
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never	Can't	
									Heard of	Rate/Ref
a.	The Republican Party	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9=100	
	July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7=100	
	April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10=100	
	February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6=100	
	Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9=100	
	July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9=100	
	June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8=100	
	December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6=100	
	June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9=100	
	Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6=100	
	June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9=100	
	April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6=100	
	December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8=100	
	July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10=100	
	January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9=100	
	September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7=100	
	August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4=100	
	February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5=100	
	January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6=100	
	Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7=100	
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6=100	
	Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7=100	
	March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7=100	
	August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6=100	
	June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6=100	
	January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5=100	
	October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4=100	
	December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6=100	
	July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4=100	
	May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11=100	
	July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6=100	
b.	The Democratic Party	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11=100	
	July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7=100	
	April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11=100	
	February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8=100	
	Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10=100	
	July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9=100	
	June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9=100	
	December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6=100	
	June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10=100	
	Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5=100	
	June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8=100	
	April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7=100	
	December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9=100	
	July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8=100	

Q.34 CONTINUED...

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never	Can't
								heard of	rate/Ref
	January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5=100
	August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4=100
	February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5=100
	January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7=100
	March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6=100
	August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6=100
	June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6=100
	January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5=100
	October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3=100
	December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6=100
	July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4=100
	May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9=100
	July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6=100
c.	The Congress	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13=100
	February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9=100
	Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10=100
	July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11=100
	June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11=100
	June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11=100
	July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11=100
	March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7=100
	January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12=100
	September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7=100
	August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3=100
	June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5=100
	February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4=100
	January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7=100
	Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5=100
	Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7=100
	October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3=100
	August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6=100
	June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6=100
	May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9=100
	February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8=100
	January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4=100
	June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5=100
	April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5=100
	January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4=100
	October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3=100
	August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7=100
	June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5=100
	February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9=100
	July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4=100
	May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9=100



**Q.34 CONTINUED...**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6=100
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8=100
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6=100
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8=100
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7=100
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6=100
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10=100
June, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7=100

**ASK REGISTERED VOTERS ONLY (REGICERT=1)**

Q.35 From what you have heard or read, will voters in your state this November be voting on any ballot initiatives, referendums, or state constitutional amendments, or not?

**BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1552]:**

		Early Oct	Mid-Oct
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>
39	Yes	36	42
28	No	28	31
<u>33</u>	Don't know/Ref	<u>36</u>	<u>27</u>
100		100	100

**IF 'YES' (1 IN Q.35) ASK:**

Q.36 Can you think of any particular issues on the ballot that are up for a vote in your state? [OPEN-END, PRECODED RESPONSES BELOW, DO NOT READ. ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL]

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO SAID "YES" IN Q.35 [N=575]:**

		Early Oct	Mid-Oct
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2004</u>
11	Education/Schools/school bonds	8	9
11	Gay marriage/gay rights	5	15
11	Taxes	11	7
8	Cigarettes/Smoking	3	--
5	Property rights/Eminent domain/Private property/ Government taking land	3	--
5	Gambling/Lottery/Casinos	3	20
5	Energy/Gas/Oil/Drilling	3	--
4	Other bond issues / Local development	3	4
3	Immigration issues	4	2
3	Transportation	1	2
3	Alcohol	--	--
3	Stem cell research	2	2
2	Minimum wage	3	--
1	Environment issues	1	3
1	Politicians/elections	1	2
1	Health care	3	2
15	Other (VOL.)	12	15
31	No / Don't know / No others (VOL.)	46	37

**IF ‘YES’ (1 IN Q.35) ASK:**

Q.37 How interested are you in the ballot issues in your state this year? [READ]

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO SAID “YES” IN Q.35 [N=575]:**

		Early Oct <u>2006</u>	Mid-Oct <u>2004</u>
38	Very interested	42	41
43	Fairly interested	42	45
15	Not too interested	12	11
2	Not at all interested	2	2
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100

**ASK ALL GENERAL PUBLIC:**

**ROTATE Q.38 AND Q.39**

Thinking about the nation's economy...

Q.38 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	Don't Know <u>Refused</u>
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2=100
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2=100
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1=100
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2=100
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1=100
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1=100
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1=100
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1=100
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1=100
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2=100
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1=100
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2=100
Late February, 2004	2	29	42	26	1=100
February 9-12, 2004 (Gallup)	2	31	46	21	0=100
January 12-15, 2004 (Gallup)	3	34	42	21	0=100
January 2-5, 2004 (Gallup)	3	40	41	16	*=100
December 11-14, 2003 (Gallup)	3	34	44	19	*=100
November 3-5, 2003 (Gallup)	2	28	49	21	*=100
October 24-26, 2003 (Gallup)	2	24	44	30	*=100
October 6-8, 2003 (Gallup)	2	20	50	27	1=100
September 8-10, 2003 (Gallup)	1	20	49	30	*=100
August 4-6, 2003 (Gallup)	1	24	52	23	*=100
February 17-19, 2003 (Gallup)	1	17	48	34	*=100
February 4-6, 2002 (Gallup)	2	26	55	16	1=100
March 5-7, 2001 (Gallup)	3	43	43	10	1=100
January 7-10, 2000 (Gallup)	19	52	23	5	1=100
January 15-17, 1999 (Gallup)	14	55	27	4	*=100
March 20-22, 1998 (Gallup)	20	46	27	7	*=100
Jan 31 - Feb 2, 1997 (Gallup)	4	38	43	15	*=100
March 15-17, 1996 (Gallup)	2	31	48	18	1=100
May 11-14, 1995 (Gallup)	2	27	50	20	1=100
January 15-17, 1994 (Gallup)	*	22	54	24	*=100

**Q.38 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	Don't Know <u>Refused</u>
February 12-14, 1993 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	*	14	46	39	1=100
January 3-6, 1992 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	*	12	46	41	1=100

Thinking about your own personal finances...

Q.39 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
Late October, 2006	9	40	33	16	2=100
March, 2006	9	39	36	15	1=100
January, 2006	7	39	37	15	2=100
Mid- May, 2005	7	37	39	16	1=100
January, 2005	10	41	34	14	1=100
August, 2004	9	42	34	14	1=100
September, 2003	10	38	36	15	1=100
Late March, 2003	10	43	31	12	4=100
January, 2003	7	38	39	15	1=100
Early October, 2002	7	39	37	16	1=100
June, 2002	5	40	37	16	2=100
Late September, 2001	7	40	37	14	2=100
June, 2001	6	38	39	16	1=100
June, 2000	9	43	35	11	2=100
August, 1999	6	43	41	9	1=100
May, 1997	7	43	38	11	1=100
September, 1996 ( <i>RVs</i> )	8	47	34	10	1=100
February, 1995	8	39	38	14	1=100
March, 1994	5	41	40	13	1=100
December, 1993	5	34	45	15	1=100
January, 1993 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	4	33	46	16	1=100
October, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	6	34	40	19	1=100
August, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	5	30	47	17	1=100
May, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	4	35	45	15	1=100
January, 1992 <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	4	32	45	18	1=100

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q.40 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	43	47	10=100
Early October, 2006	45	47	8=100
Early September, 2006	49	43	8=100
August, 2006	45	46	9=100
July, 2006	44	50	6=100
June, 2006	49	44	7=100
April, 2006	47	46	7=100
March, 2006	45	49	6=100
February, 2006	51	44	5=100
January, 2006	45	47	8=100
December, 2005	47	48	5=100

**Q.40 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Right decision</u>	<u>Wrong decision</u>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK/ Ref</u>
Late October, 2005	48	45	7=100
Early October, 2005	44	50	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	49	44	7=100
July, 2005	49	44	7=100
June, 2005	47	45	8=100
February, 2005	47	47	6=100
January, 2005	51	44	5=100
December, 2004	49	44	7=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12=100
Early October, 2004	50	39	11=100
Early September, 2004	53	39	8=100
August, 2004	53	41	6=100
July, 2004	52	43	5=100
June, 2004	55	38	7=100
May, 2004	51	42	7=100
Late April, 2004	54	37	9=100
Early April, 2004	57	35	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5=100
Early January, 2004	62	28	10=100
December, 2003	67	26	7=100
October, 2003	60	33	7=100
September, 2003	63	31	6=100
August, 2003	63	30	7=100
Early July, 2003	67	24	9=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>7=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>8=100</i>
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	25	6=100
March 25-27, 2003	74	21	5=100
March 23-24, 2003	74	21	5=100
March 20-22, 2003	71	22	7=100
Late January, 1991	77	15	8=100

**Q.41** How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<b>(VOL)</b> <u>DK/ Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	5	30	34	25	6=100
Early October, 2006	8	29	33	25	5=100
Early September, 2006	8	39	28	20	5=100
August, 2006	8	33	32	23	4=100
June, 2006	16	37	25	18	4=100
April, 2006	13	34	29	21	3=100
March, 2006	9	34	30	21	6=100
February, 2006	13	38	29	17	3=100
January, 2006	12	39	27	17	5=100

**Q.41 CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
December, 2005	14	37	29	17	3=100
Early October, 2005	9	35	31	22	3=100
Mid-September, 2005	12	41	26	18	3=100
July, 2005	14	38	27	17	4=100
June, 2005	9	41	27	19	4=100
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

Q.42 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	46	47	7=100
Early October, 2006	47	47	6=100
Early September, 2006	47	47	6=100
August, 2006	48	46	6=100
June, 2006	50	45	5=100
April, 2006	48	48	4=100
March, 2006	44	50	6=100
February, 2006	50	46	4=100
January, 2006	48	48	4=100
December, 2005	49	46	5=100
Early October, 2005	47	48	5=100
Mid-September, 2005	51	45	4=100
July, 2005	52	43	5=100

**Q.42 CONTINUED...**

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	(VOL) <u>DK/ Ref</u>
June, 2005	50	46	4=100
February, 2005	55	42	3=100
January, 2005	54	41	5=100
December, 2004	56	40	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	57	36	7=100
Early September, 2004	54	40	6=100
August, 2004	54	42	4=100
July, 2004	53	43	4=100
June, 2004 <sup>21</sup>	51	44	5=100
May, 2004	53	42	5=100
Late April, 2004	53	40	7=100
Early April, 2004	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	63	32	5=100
October, 2003	58	39	3=100
September, 2003	64	32	4=100

Q.43 Do you think the war in Iraq has helped the war on terrorism, or has it hurt the war on terrorism?

	<u>Helped</u>	<u>Hurt</u>	(VOL) <u>No effect</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
Late October, 2006	36	46	6	12=100
Early October, 2006	38	47	5	10=100
Early September, 2006	41	45	5	9=100
June, 2006	44	40	6	10=100
March, 2006	38	44	8	10=100
January, 2006	44	38	8	10=100
Late October, 2005	44	44	6	6=100
Mid-September, 2005	43	43	6	8=100
July, 2005	39	47	7	7=100
February, 2005	44	41	7	8=100
Mid-October, 2004	45	40	6	9=100
Early September, 2004	46	40	6	8=100
August, 2004	45	44	4	7=100
July, 2004	43	45	5	7=100
June, 2004	43	44	4	9=100
Mid-March, 2004	50	37	5	8=100
Late February, 2004	62	28	3	7=100
Early February, 2004	55	32	7	6=100
December, 2003	59	26	6	9=100
September, 2003	54	31	7	8=100
May, 2003	65	22	6	7=100
April, 2003 <sup>22</sup>	63	22	--	15=100
Early October, 2002	52	34	--	14=100

---

21 In June 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: "Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?"

22 In April 2003, the question was worded: "Do you think the war in Iraq will help the war on terrorism, or will it hurt the war on terrorism?" In Early October 2002 the question was worded: "If the U.S. uses military force in Iraq, do you think this will help the war on terrorism, or will it hurt the war on terrorism?"

Q.44 Do you think the U.S. should or should not set a timetable for when troops will be withdrawn from Iraq?

		Early Oct <u>2006</u>	Early Sept <u>2006</u>	Aug <u>2006</u>	June <u>2006</u>	April <u>2006</u>	March <u>2006</u>	Jan <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2005</u>	Early Oct <u>2005</u>	Mid- Sept <u>2005</u>	July <u>2005</u>
54	Should set a timetable	53	47	52	52	53	55	50	56	52	57	49
37	Should not set a timetable	39	45	41	42	40	39	42	38	43	37	45
2	Should get out now (VOL.)	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	*
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

On another subject...

Q.45 In general, do you think new laws COULD BE written that would be effective in reducing the role of money in politics, OR don't you think any new laws would be effective?

		Feb <u>2002</u>	Feb <u>2000</u>	Sept <u>1997</u>	<i>Ctr for Responsive Politics</i> <u>April 1997</u>
51	Yes, new laws would be effective	55	59	62	62
37	No, new laws would not be effective	34	34	32	32
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 46-49**

**QUESTIONS 50 THROUGH 56 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.57 On Election Day, should voters be required to show an official photo identification, such as a Drivers' License, or shouldn't they have to do this?

78	Should show photo ID
18	Should not have to do this
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ROTATE Q.58 AND Q.59**

Q.58 How concerned are you, if at all, that if the Democrats take control of the Congress this fall they will spend too much time investigating the Bush administration and the Republicans in Congress? [READ]

26	Very concerned
26	Fairly concerned
26	Not too concerned
18	Not at all concerned
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
100	

Q.59 How concerned are you, if at all, that if the Republicans keep control of the Congress this fall they won't take the steps needed to reform the government? [READ]

34	Very concerned
30	Fairly concerned
20	Not too concerned
12	Not at all concerned
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
100	

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No <u>Preference</u>	(VOL.) Other <u>Party</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
Late October, 2006	26	32	33	5	1	3=100
Early October, 2006	27	34	33	3	*	3=100
Early September, 2006	30	34	30	3	*	3=100
August, 2006	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
July, 2006	29	33	31	4	1	2=100
June, 2006	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
April, 2006	29	32	33	3	*	3=100
March, 2006	28	34	30	4	*	4=100
February, 2006	30	33	31	3	*	3=100
January, 2006	28	32	32	5	*	3=100
December, 2005	29	34	31	4	*	2=100
Late November, 2005	27	34	29	5	1	4=100
Early 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
<b>Yearly Totals</b>						
2005	30	33	31	4	*	2=100
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
2001 Post-Sept 11	31	32	28	5	1	3=100
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28	35	30	5	*	2=100
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		
1989	33	33	34=100			
1987	26	35	39=100			



**IF ANSWERED 1 IN PARTY, ASK:**

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG Republican or NOT a strong Republican?

	Early					Early					Late									
	Oct	Sep	Dec	Dec	Jul	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug	Nov	Oct	Apr	Oct	Jul	Jun	May	Feb	May	Jan	May
14 Strong	<u>06</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>87</u>
12 Not Strong/DK	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
26%	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>
	<u>27</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>

**IF ANSWERED 2 IN PARTY, ASK:**

PARTYSTR Do you consider yourself a STRONG Democrat or NOT a strong Democrat?

	Early					Early					Late									
	Oct	Sep	Dec	Dec	Jul	Aug	Sep	Sep	Aug	Nov	Oct	Apr	Oct	Jul	Jun	May	Feb	May	Jan	May
18 Strong	<u>06</u>	<u>06</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>87</u>
14 Not strong/DK	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>
32%	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>
	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>37</u>

**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>
Late October, 2006	10	17	15=42%
Early October, 2006	12	15	12=39%
Early September, 2006	10	15	11=36%
August, 2006	12	14	11=37%
July, 2006	11	14	13=38%
June, 2006	10	16	11=37%
April, 2006	12	17	10=39%
March, 2006	11	14	13=38%
February, 2006	11	16	10=37%
January, 2006	10	16	14=40%
December, 2005	10	16	11=37%
Late November, 2005	9	13	17=39%
Early 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%

**IF REPUBLICAN OR LEAN REPUBLICAN (1 IN PARTY OR 1 IN PARTYLN) ASK [N=792]:**

STDEM Do you ever vote for Democratic candidates, or do you always vote Republican?

		Dec
		<u>2004</u>
64	Sometimes vote for Democratic candidates	71
28	Always vote Republican	22
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

**IF DEMOCRAT OR LEAN DEMOCRAT (2 IN PARTY OR 2 IN PARTYLN) ASK [N=946]:**

STREP Do you ever vote for Republican candidates, or do you always vote Democratic?

		Dec
		<u>2004</u>
57	Sometimes vote for Republican candidates	56
34	Always vote Democratic	38
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>
100		100

**ASK ALL:**

PVOTE04A In the 2004 presidential election between George W. Bush and John Kerry, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

**IF YES (1 IN PVOTE04A) ASK:**

PVOTE04B Did you vote for Bush, Kerry or someone else?

73	Voted
37	Bush
31	Kerry
2	Other candidate
*	Don't remember which candidate (VOL.)
3	Refused (VOL.)
26	Did not vote (includes too young to vote)
1	Don't remember if voted (VOL.)
*	Refused (VOL.)
<u>100</u>	

**IF YES (1 IN PVOTE04A) ASK:**

CVOTE04A And do you recall if you also cast a vote for a candidate in the race for Congress in your district?

73	Yes, voted in presidential election
43	And voted in congressional race
13	But didn't vote in congressional race
17	Don't know if voted in congressional race
26	Did not vote (includes too young to vote)
1	Don't remember if voted (VOL.)
*	Refused (VOL.)
<u>100</u>	