



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

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

FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2007, 2:00 PM

But Many Are Hesitant to Yield on Contentious Issues
BROAD SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL COMPROMISE IN WASHINGTON

*A survey conducted in association with:
National Public Radio*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andrew Kohut, Director
Carroll Doherty and Michael Dimock, Associate Directors
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Pew Research Center for The People & The Press
202/419-4350
<http://www.people-press.org>

But Many Are Hesitant to Yield on Contentious Issues

BROAD SUPPORT FOR POLITICAL COMPROMISE IN WASHINGTON

A large majority of the American public thinks the country is more politically polarized than in the past, and an even greater number expresses a strong desire for political compromise. Fully three-quarters say they like political leaders who are willing to compromise, compared with 21% who see this as a negative trait. Moreover, a solid majority favors compromise when it comes to the most important issues of the day, even by the political party that they think most capable of handling these issues.

And after an election in which voters in the middle of the electorate proved decisive, there are signs of the public's continuing preference for political moderation. Majorities dislike political leaders who take liberal positions on nearly all issues (62%) as well as political leaders who take conservative positions on nearly all issues (57%). Instead, by roughly two-to-one (60% to 34%), more Americans like leaders who take a mix of conservative and liberal positions.

Nonetheless, the public is skeptical about current prospects for increased bipartisanship in Washington. Few see signs that relations between Democrats and Republicans are getting better, and many themselves are hesitant to compromise on contentious political issues.

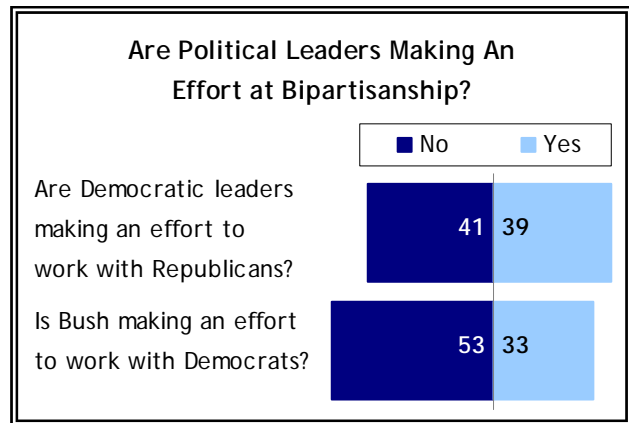
Public's Desire for Compromise...			
<i>Views of political leaders who...</i>	<u>Like</u> %	<u>Dislike</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Are willing to compromise	75	21	4=100
Stick with positions, even if unpopular	67	28	5=100
Often side w/ opponents	44	48	8=100
<i>Whose positions are...</i>			
Mix of liberal & conservative	60	34	6=100
Nearly always conservative	38	57	5=100
Nearly always liberal	32	62	6=100
Is Less Evident on Contentious Issues			
<i>Should Reps/Dems compromise on...*</i>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Other/ <u>DK</u>
The environment	54	43	3=100
Illegal immigration	50	47	3=100
Federal taxes	50	46	4=100
Iraq	45	51	4=100
Abortion policy	25	72	3=100
* Based on those who chose either party's stance on issues.			

The public's taste for compromise and moderation is limited by several factors. First, while political leaders who are willing to compromise are viewed as appealing, so too are those who demonstrate political conviction. Two-thirds say they like politicians who stick to their positions, even if unpopular. There also is much greater support for compromise in principle than there is on contentious issues, such as the war in Iraq and abortion policy. On abortion, 72% of those who favor either party's stance on the issue say that party should stick to its position, even if that means less progress is achieved.

In addition, the country’s lingering political bitterness complicates efforts at compromise, particularly between Democrats and President Bush. A majority of Democrats (54%) continue to say they want party leaders to “stand up” to President Bush, even if that means less gets done in Washington. By comparison, when the question is whether to compromise with *Republicans* rather than the president, Democrats express much greater willingness to find common ground.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Jan. 10-15 among 1,708 Americans, finds that despite the sweeping changes in Washington, the public remains dubious about prospects for bipartisanship. Only about a quarter (28%) believes that relations between the two parties will improve over the next year. And while the new Congress is less than a month old, just 39% believe Democratic leaders are making an effort to reach out to Republicans on policy solutions, and even fewer see President Bush reaching out to Democrats (33%).

In general, people who live in the 30 congressional districts that swung from the GOP to the Democrats in November’s midterms have similar opinions about political compromise and the possibilities for greater harmony in Washington. If anything, people in these closely contested districts are slightly more likely than people living elsewhere to see the country as more politically divided. But like those in other areas, they have high regard for political leaders who make compromises, as well as those who stand on principle.



The survey shows that, at this early stage in the 2008 presidential campaign, more Americans express a preference for voting for a moderate candidate – particularly a moderate Democrat – than a candidate from the left or the right. Overall, about a third (32%) say they most want to vote for a moderate Democrat, and nearly half (48%) would vote for a moderate from either party.

Moderates Matter in Early '08 Preferences

<i>Would most like to vote for a...</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Conservative Rep	15	40	1	12
Moderate Rep	16	40	1	17
Moderate Dem	32	3	59	28
Liberal Dem	17	6	28	16
Other/Depends/DK	<u>20</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>27</u>
	100	100	100	100

More than twice as many Democrats want to vote for a moderate from the party rather than a liberal (by 59% to 28%), while Republicans are evenly split between backing a conservative or moderate Republican (40% each). Nearly half of independents (45%) say they most want to vote for a moderate – either a Democrat (28%) or a Republican (17%). Yet

independents also are leaning heavily Democratic in their 2008 choices – by 44%-29%, more independents say they want to vote for a Democrat (either moderate or liberal) than a Republican.

The survey finds that the war in Iraq is not only dominating the political landscape, it is overshadowing other major issues. When asked in an open-ended format to name the most important problem facing the country, 42% of the public volunteers the Iraq war. That nearly equals the highest percentage citing any single issue in a Pew Research Center trend dating back nearly two decades; in Jan. 1992, 43% of Americans said the economy was the most important problem facing the country.

	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007
<i>Most important problem facing the country:</i>	%	%	%	%
Iraq	16	32	23	42
Health care costs	5	5	6	8
Dissatisfaction with gov't	5	5	5	8
Economy	20	12	11	5
Immigration	3	1	3	5
Terrorism	14	10	6	5
Unemployment	13	7	7	5
NET: Foreign/International	37	49	37	50
NET: Economic	35	24	26	15

The growing concerns about the war are underscored by the fact that the next most frequently named problems -- the cost of health care and dissatisfaction with the government -- were named by just 8% of respondents. Every other issue, from the economy to immigration to the budget deficit, ranked even further down the public's list of leading concerns. In addition, the war is complicating the Democrats' efforts to spotlight their so-called 100-hour policy agenda. When asked to name a policy or priority the Democrats have put forward, a majority (54%) was unable to name any policy; 27% said the Iraq war or mentioned proposals to withdraw U.S. forces from Iraq, while 18% cited efforts to raise the minimum wage.

Pew's annual list of the public's policy priorities for the president and Congress shows little change from recent years. As in the past, defending the country against terrorism and improving educational system rate as leading priorities, with cutting health care costs also a major goal. Democrats and Republicans remain far apart in their view of the salience of most major issues, and in some cases those divisions have widened considerably over the past year. Many more Republicans than Democrats rate defending the country against terrorism as a top priority; by contrast, more than twice as many Democrats as Republicans view raising the minimum wage as a major priority for Washington policymakers.

	Jan 2002	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007
<i>More important for Bush to focus on...</i>	%	%	%	%
Foreign policy	34	27	25	40
Domestic policy	52	53	57	39
Neither/Both (Vol.)	11	17	14	16
Don't know	3	3	4	5
	100	100	100	100

More broadly, it is clear that Iraq, and foreign

policy issues generally, have greater importance than they did just a few months ago. Four-in-ten Americans say it is more important for the president to focus on foreign issues, rather than domestic concerns. In previous surveys since 2002, at least half had said it was more important for Bush to focus on domestic matters.

Iraq Dominates

The percentage of Americans volunteering the war in Iraq as the nation’s most important problem has risen 17 points since September (from 25%); a year ago, 23% volunteered Iraq as the biggest problem facing the country. With so much focus on Iraq, other issues that have rated as major problems in recent years – notably, the economy and terrorism – have fallen in importance.

Just 5% volunteer the economy as the top national problem, down from 11% last January and 20% in January 2004. The percentage citing terrorism is about the same as it was a year ago (5% now, 6% then); however, terrorism concerns are now far lower than they were in September 2006 (14%), following the foiling of a reported plot against transatlantic airliners and a series of speeches on terrorism by President Bush.

Overall, the percentage naming foreign or international issues far exceeds the number mentioning economic concerns, by a staggering 50%-15% margin. Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, foreign and international issues have been mentioned far more frequently than domestic concerns, but never by such a wide margin.

The Iraq war is viewed as a more pressing issue by Democrats than by Republicans – 54% of Democrats named this issue as the most important problem compared to 33% of Republicans. By contrast, far more Republicans than Democrats cite terrorism as the biggest problem facing the country (10% of Republicans vs. 2% of Democrats).

<i>Most important problem facing the country:</i>	Total	Rep	Ind	Dem
	%	%	%	%
Iraq	42	33	38	54
Health care costs	8	7	9	7
Dissatisfaction with gov't	8	7	9	8
Economy	5	4	6	6
Immigration	5	7	5	3
Terrorism	5	10	3	2
Unemployment	5	4	5	5
NET: Foreign/International	50	46	45	58
NET: Economic	15	13	19	15

Democratic Advantage on the War

When asked which party can do a better job of handling the nation’s problems, those who cite Iraq as a top concern chose the Democrats over the Republicans by a nearly three-to-one margin (52%-18%). The gap between the parties has increased significantly since last year, not because the public now has more confidence in the Democratic Party, but because fewer favor the Republicans and more see no difference between the two parties.

Among those who cite health care, dissatisfaction with the political system, and the economy as the nation's most important problems, the Democrats also enjoy sizable advantages over the Republicans. Among those who name terrorism, homeland security or national defense as the most important problem facing the country, 59% say the Republican Party could do a better job, compared with only 23% said the Democratic Party could do a better job. However, the number citing terrorism and security concerns as the most important problem has declined in recent years. The Republicans also are viewed as the party better able to handle immigration (by 36%-23%), but just 5% cite immigration as the biggest problem facing the country.

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Neither/DK
<i>Most important problem:</i>	%	%	%
Iraq	18	52	29=100
Health care	20	44	36=100
Dissatisfaction w/gov't	16	44	40=100
Economy	21	49	30=100
Terrorism	59	23	18=100
Immigration	36	23	41=100

Little Change in Public Priorities

Despite the change in congressional leadership in Washington, the public's hierarchy of policy priorities remains largely the same as it was in January 2006. Defending the U.S. against terrorism remains the highest priority for the American public: 80% say this should be a top priority for President Bush and Congress this year. This is unchanged from last year. Protecting against terrorism has been the top priority each year since the 9/11 attacks.

Roughly seven-in-ten Americans (69%) say improving the nation's educational system should be a top priority for the president and Congress. About as many (68% each) cite strengthening the nation's economy and reducing health care costs as major priorities. Among

<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Jan 2002	Jan 2003	Jan 2004	Jan 2005	Jan 2006	Jan 2007
Defending US against terrorism	83	81	78	75	80	80
Improving educational system	66	62	71	70	67	69
Strengthening nation's economy	71	73	79	75	66	68
Reducing health care costs	--	--	--	--	--	68
Securing Social Security	62	59	65	70	64	64
Securing Medicare	55	56	62	67	62	63
Reducing crime	53	47	53	53	62	62
Dealing with energy problems	42	40	46	47	58	57
Protecting the environment	44	39	49	49	57	57
Improving the job situation	67	62	67	68	65	57
Providing insurance to uninsured	43	45	54	60	59	56
Dealing with problems of poor	44	48	50	59	55	55
Increasing minimum wage	--	--	38	43	47	53
Reducing budget deficit	35	40	51	56	55	53
Reducing illegal immigration	--	--	--	--	51	51
Reducing middle class taxes	43	--	44	48	51	48
Dealing with moral breakdown	45	39	45	41	47	47
Strengthening the military	52	48	48	52	42	46
Dealing with global warming	--	--	--	--	--	38
Making income tax cuts permanent	--	30	--	34	--	36
Reducing influence of lobbyists	--	--	--	--	--	35
Dealing with global trade	25	--	32	32	30	34

health care issues, more Americans rate reducing health care costs as a top priority than say the same about providing health insurance to the uninsured (68% vs. 56%).

Though entitlement reform does not seem to be at the top of the agenda in Washington these days, the public maintains a strong interest in this issue. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (64%) say taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound should be a top priority for the president and Congress this year, and 63% say the same about making the Medicare system financially sound.

The percentage of Americans who cite reducing crime as a major priority is unchanged from January 2006 (62%). Crime concern rose substantially between 2005 and 2006; in January 2005, 53% rated reducing crime as a top priority. Despite this increase, far fewer people view reducing crime as a top priority than did so in the mid-1990s (78% in December 1994), or in January 2001 (76%).

Public concern over energy and the environment also has been stable: 57% of Americans say that dealing with the nation's energy problem should be a top priority for the president and Congress this year, compared with 58% last year. Similarly, 57% say protecting the environment should be a top priority (unchanged from last year). However, the issue of global warming rates far lower in importance. Just 38% say that dealing with global warming should be a top policy priority.

Concern over the nation's employment situation has eased somewhat since last year. While a 57% majority says improving the job situation should be a top priority, this is down from 65% at this time last year. Not all Americans are feeling better about the job situation, however. People with relatively low annual household incomes (less than \$20,000) have always placed the highest priority on jobs, and they remain as concerned today as they were a year ago. It is those with higher household incomes (\$50,000 or more) who now give improving the job situation a lower priority.

	Jan 2006 %	Jan 2007 %	Change
Total	65	57	-8
<i>Family income</i>			
Less than \$20,000	79	76	-3
\$20,000-\$49,999	72	64	-8
\$50,000-\$74,999	64	46	-18
\$75,000+	55	41	-14
<i>Party ID</i>			
Republican	58	39	-19
Democrat	72	67	-5
Independent	66	60	-6

When it comes to tax cuts, the public places a higher priority on cutting taxes for the middle class than it does on making the Bush Administration's federal income tax cuts permanent. Nearly half of the public (48%) says cutting middle class tax cuts should be a top priority. Only 36% say making the Bush tax cuts permanent should be given the same priority.

At the bottom of the public’s priorities list are lobbying reform and global trade. In spite of the emphasis the new Democratic leadership in Congress has given the issue, only 35% of Americans say reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington should be a top policy priority. Just 34% say the same about dealing with global trade.

Partisan Agendas

There continue to be sharp differences between Democrats and Republicans on policy priorities, with Democrats generally placing more emphasis on economic and social issues and Republicans focusing more on defense and military issues, as well as morality.

On the public’s top issue – defending the U.S. against terrorism – the partisan gap has grown wider over the past year. Fully 93% of Republicans say terrorism should be a top priority for the president and Congress, up from 86% last year. There has been virtually no change among Democrats (76% last year, 74% now). The 19-point gap between the two parties over the importance of terrorism is the largest on that issue since the 9/11 attacks.

However, Democrats and Republicans are even further apart on two issues that relate directly to employment: an increase in the minimum wage and the job situation more generally. Democrats place a much higher priority on each of these issues than do Republicans. Roughly seven-in-ten Democrats (71%) say increasing the minimum wage should be a top priority, compared with only 28% of Republicans. The gap on this issue has widened significantly since last year, mainly due to an increase in concern among Democrats. (55% last year, 71% today).

Similarly, while 67% of Democrats say improving the job situation should be a top priority, only 39% of Republicans agree. The partisan gap on this issue has widened since last year, as Republicans have become much less concerned about this issue, while the views of Democrats have remained

<i>Percent considering each as a "top priority"</i>	Repub- licans	Demo- crats	<i>R-D diff.</i>
Increasing minimum wage	28	71	-43
Improving job situation	39	67	-28
Providing insurance to uninsured	44	70	-26
Protecting the environment	41	67	-26
Dealing with global warming	23	48	-25
Dealing with problems of poor	48	67	-19
Reducing health care costs	58	77	-19
Dealing with energy problems	45	64	-19
Securing Medicare	53	70	-17
Reducing influence of lobbyists	28	44	-16
Reducing budget deficit	42	57	-15
Reducing crime	56	69	-13
Strengthening nation’s economy	65	77	-12
Securing Social Security	62	72	-10
Improving educational system	65	74	-9
Reducing middle class taxes	49	54	-5
Dealing with global trade	33	35	-2
Dealing with moral breakdown	54	45	+9
Strengthening the military	56	42	+14
Making tax cuts permanent	48	33	+15
Reducing illegal immigration	63	48	+15
Defending US against terrorism	93	74	+20

largely unchanged. In January 2006, a solid majority of Republicans (58%) rates improving the job situation as a top priority for the president and Congress.

Democrats and Republicans also differ widely on issues relating to the poor. Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to say that dealing with the problems of the poor and, more specifically, providing health insurance to the uninsured should be top policy priorities.

The two groups also part company over environmental issues. Two-thirds of Democrats (67%) and only 41% of Republicans say protecting the environment should be a top priority. Similarly, more than twice as many Democrats as Republicans (48% vs. 23%) say dealing with global warming should be a top priority.

Aside from terrorism, Republicans attach much greater importance than Democrats to the issue of illegal immigration. Last year at this time, Republicans and Democrats expressed similar view about immigration – 56% and 51%, respectively, said that making it tougher for illegal immigrants to enter the U.S. should be a top policy priority. Since then, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of Republicans rating this issue a top priority (to 63%) while Democratic views have been largely unchanged.

Republicans also place more importance on strengthening the military, though on this issue the partisan gap has gotten smaller over the past year. Today, 56% of Republicans say this should be a top priority, compared to 42% of Democrats. In January 2006, 56% of Republicans said this should be a top priority as did only 34% of Democrats.

Awareness of Democratic Priorities

Despite efforts by House Democrats to pass a series of programs in the first 100 hours of the new Congress, including more money for stem cell research and additional funds for student loans, about half (54%) could not name a policy or program being advanced by the Democrats.

At the same time, more than four-in-ten are able to volunteer a broad policy initiative or program currently being promoted by Democrats. More than a quarter (27%) identify Democrats with efforts to reduce U.S. involvement in Iraq. Another 18% are aware of Democratic plans to increase the minimum wage, one of

Public Awareness Of Democratic Priorities	
<i>Name any Democratic policy priority...</i>	%
Iraq war/withdraw troops	27
Raise minimum wage	18
Health care	7
Stem cell research	4
Education/student loans	3
Immigration	2
Ethics/lobbying reform	2
Repealing tax cuts/ raising taxes	2
Energy policy	1
Homeland security	1
Social Security	1
Global warming	1
Balancing budget/deficit reduction	1
No answer/not sure/DK	54

Open ended question. Figures add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

the cornerstones of their 100-hour policy agenda. Other issues that Americans believe Democrats have put forward as legislative priorities include health care (7%), stem cell research (4%) and education (3%).

As might be expected, self-described Democrats were more likely than Republicans or political independents to be able to name a specific issue or policy being promoted by Democratic leaders in Congress. Overall, slightly more than half (52%) of all Democrats were able to volunteer a Democratic initiative, compared with 45% of all Republicans and 43% of independents.

Public Predicts Success for Democratic Leaders

Most Americans (57%) say they expect Democratic leaders to be generally successful in passing their programs into law, while 25% predict they will be unsuccessful. These opinions have changed only slightly since mid-November, shortly after the mid-term election.

Once again, partisans offer somewhat different forecasts about how successful Democratic leaders will be translating their policy priorities into law. Fully three-quarters of Democrats, but just 44% of Republicans, predict that Democratic leaders generally will be successful in getting their programs enacted.

	Success- ful %	Unsuc- cessful %	Other/ DK %
Jan 2007	57	25	18=100
Nov 2006	59	22	19=100
<i>GOP Congress</i>			
Sept 1995	54	31	15=100
Dec 1994	62	24	14=100
<i>Predictions of...</i>			
Republicans	44	37	19=100
Democrats	75	14	11=100
Independents	52	30	18=100

Bush's Legacy

With less than two years left in his presidency, Bush's legacy has suffered under the strains of the continuing violence in Iraq. According to the survey, 53% of the public believes that, in the long run, the failures of the Bush administration will outweigh its accomplishments, a 17 percentage point increase since January 2004. Nearly half (45%) believe that Bush will be viewed as an unsuccessful president. About one-in-four (24%) see him as successful, while the remainder say it's too early to tell or don't know.

The public's views on Iraq appear to play a significant role in shaping their evaluation of the Bush legacy, particularly among opponents of the war. Among the 40% who believe the U.S. made the right decision to use military force against Iraq, most (61%) say Bush will be remembered more for his accomplishments. But among the 51% who say the U.S. was wrong, eight-in-ten predict that Bush's legacy will be more defined by his failures.

In the past three years evaluations of the Bush presidency have grown much more negative among political independents. In January 2004, just 37% of self-described political independents predicted the president would be remembered more for his failures than for his accomplishments. Today, a 59% majority of independents express this view of Bush’s presidency – a 22-point increase. Negative evaluations of Bush also rose among Republicans and Democrats, though the increases were not as precipitous.

<i>Will Bush accomplishments outweigh failures?</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Accomplishments will outweigh failures	31	69	13	25
Failures will outweigh accomplishments	53	17	72	59
Don't know	16	14	15	16
	100	100	100	100

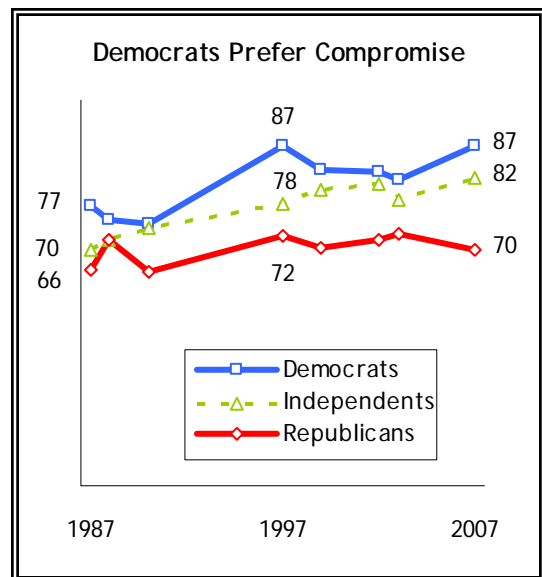
<i>In the long run, do you think Bush will be a...</i>	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Successful president	24	56	5	20
Unsuccessful president	45	8	75	46
Too early to tell	27	33	17	31
Don't know	4	3	3	3
	100	100	100	100

Not unexpectedly, questions about Bush’s legacy provoke opposite reactions from Democrats and Republicans. Three-in-four Democrats (75%) predict that Bush will be judged to be an unsuccessful president and 72% believe he will be remembered more for his failures than for his successes.

Majorities of Republicans held the opposite views, though the survey suggests these GOP partisans were not quite as enthusiastic about Bush as their Democratic counterparts were critical of him: 56% of all Republicans say history will judge the Bush presidency a success and 69% predict that Bush will be remembered more for his accomplishments than his failures. For a significant minority of Republicans, the jury remains out on the Bush presidency: 33% of all GOP partisans say it is “too early to tell” whether Bush will be a successful or unsuccessful president.

The Longstanding Appeal of Compromise

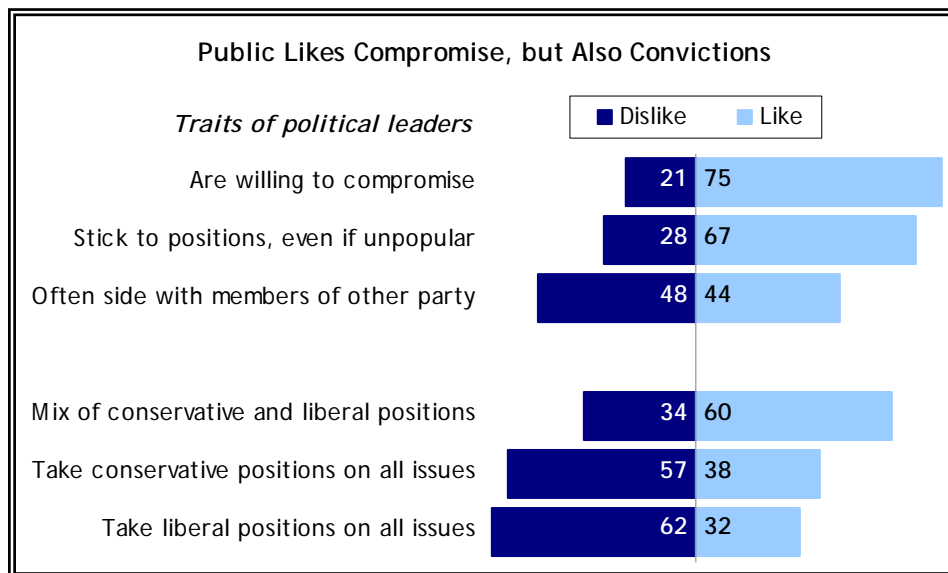
Americans have long had a preference for political compromise, and this feeling has only increased over the past 20 years. The latest Pew Research Center for the People & the Press values study found 79% saying they like political leaders who are willing to make compromises in order to get the job done, up from an already high 72% in 1987. The proportion saying they completely agree with this statement stands at 29%, up from 16% 20 years ago.



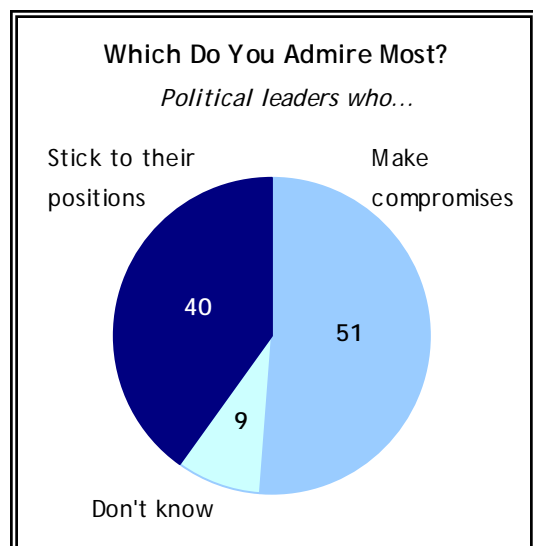
Throughout this timespan, Democrats have consistently expressed more support for leaders who compromise than have Republicans, and this holds true today. Fully 87% of Democrats like leaders who are willing to make compromises in order to get the job done, compared with 70% of Republicans.

Public Wants Both Compromise and Conviction

Compared with a number of other leadership characteristics, willingness to compromise stands out as particularly appealing to Americans. Fully three-quarters say they like political leaders who are willing to compromise – nearly half (49%) say they like this trait in their leaders a lot. Just 21% of Americans say this is something they dislike in their political leaders. And a 62% majority wants to see a willingness to compromise when it comes to the most important issues of the day, even from the political party that they think most capable of handling things.



But at the same time, the American public also likes leaders with the courage of their convictions. While three-in-four like leaders who are willing to compromise, two-thirds also say they like politicians who stick to their positions, even if unpopular. Just 28% find this to be a negative trait. This conflict between compromise and conviction comes to a head when people are asked which kind of leaders they admire *most*. A slim majority (51%) think more highly of political leaders who make compromises, while 40% most admire those who stick to their positions.



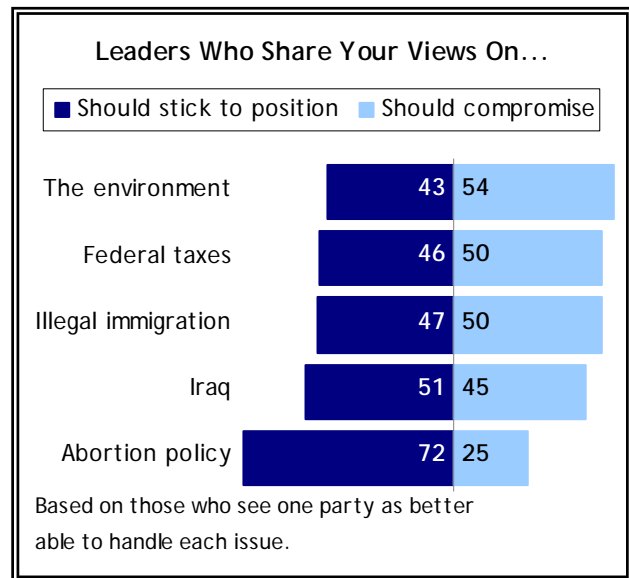
The appeal of compromise is linked to a general distaste for ideologues. Majorities dislike political leaders who take liberal positions on nearly all issues (62%) as well as political leaders who take conservative positions on nearly all issues (57%). Instead, by roughly two-to-one (60% to 34%) most Americans like leaders who take a mix of conservative and liberal positions. And this view is widespread – a majority of Republicans, Democrats and independents alike look favorably on politicians who take a mix of positions.

While finding a middle ground is widely appealing, the public’s taste for compromise is limited in two critical ways. First, though most support the idea of their leaders making compromises, there is more resistance when specific issues like abortion are on the table. Second, the low esteem many have for current political leaders – Democrats’ view of President Bush in particular – makes the reality of working collaboratively right now less appealing.

The Issues: Abortion

The distinction between being willing to compromise and actually giving way on specific issues is most stark when it comes to abortion. Nearly three-in-four (72%) say that the political party that most closely shares their view on abortion should stick to its position on this issue without compromising. Just a quarter say that the party should compromise so that some agreement can be reached. Even among those who think most highly of politicians who are willing to compromise, just 30% want compromise on this issue, while more than two-thirds (68%) are unwilling to bend.

Resistance to compromise on abortion is high on both sides of the issue – 69% of those who favor the Democrats on this issue say the party should stick its position, as do 76% of those who say the GOP more closely represents their views. Over the past decade, the public’s views on abortion have become even more rigid. In 1997, 30% of Americans said the party they supported should be willing to compromise; today that has fallen to 25%.



GOP Backers Entrench Further on Abortion

	Total	Preferred party on abortion	
		Rep Party	Dem Party
<i>January 2007</i>			
Should compromise	25	22	27
Should stick to position	72	76	69
Depends/Don't know	3	2	4
	100	100	100
<i>February 1997</i>			
Should compromise	30	32	29
Should stick to position	64	63	64
Depends/Don't know	6	5	7
	100	100	100

Among those who side with the Republican Party, the percent willing to compromise on the issue has fallen 10 points from 32% to 22% since 1997, while it has dropped just two points (from 29% to 27%) among people who say the Democrats best represent their views on abortion.

The Issues: Environment, Taxes, Immigration

There is considerably more support for compromise on other major issues of the day. A 54% majority is willing to see leaders who share their views on the environment come to a compromise in order to reach some agreement, though even here, 43% are not. Even among those who most admire willingness to compromise in political leaders, 39% see no room for compromise on this issue.

On many issues, openness to compromise is inversely linked to the importance people place on the issue. In the case of the environment, just 41% of those who rate environmental issues as a top priority are willing to see the party that best represents their view on this issue compromise with the other party. By contrast, 59% of those who rate this as a lower priority say the party they most agree with should be willing to compromise on the environment so that the parties can reach some agreement.

Public reactions to the issues of illegal immigration and taxes follow a similar pattern. Overall, about half of those who view these issues as top priorities are unwilling to see the party that shares their views compromise with the other party in order to come to an agreement. Those who attach less importance to illegal immigration and taxes are more open to compromise.

There is a notable difference in willingness to compromise on immigration across party lines. Among people who say the Democratic Party best reflects their views, 56% are willing to see the party compromise in order to come to some agreement. However, among those who side with the Republicans, just 44% are willing to compromise, while 53% say the party should stick to its positions.

This pattern is reversed when it comes to the environment, where Republican backers are more willing to compromise on the issue (59%) than are people who side with the Democrats.

The More Important the Issue, More Resistance to Compromise		
	Top* priority %	Not top %
<i>The environment</i>		
Should compromise	41	59
Should stick to position	55	38
Depends/Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100
<i>Federal taxes</i>		
Should compromise	44	56
Should stick to position	51	40
Depends/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100
<i>Illegal immigration</i>		
Should compromise	44	57
Should stick to position	51	42
Depends/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100
<i>Iraq</i>		
Should compromise	46	45
Should stick to position	51	51
Depends/Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100

* Those who rate each issue as a top priority for the president and Congress this year. For Iraq, respondents who mentioned Iraq as the most important issue facing the nation are compared with those who did not.

The Issues: Iraq

While the situation in Iraq stands out as the single most important issue facing the nation, the public's openness to compromise solutions as a way to get things done is relatively limited. Just 45% say they want to see the party that shares their views compromise with others to come to an agreement on Iraq; 51% say their party should stick to its position on this issue even if it means no progress is made.

This resistance to compromise on Iraq crosses party lines – just over half of those who agree with both the GOP and the Democrats on Iraq (51% each) say the party should stick to its positions even if it means no progress is made.

Willingness to compromise on Iraq also is unrelated to whether people rank the war as the nation's most important problem. Just 46% of those who see Iraq as most important want the party they agree with to compromise in order to reach some agreement, as do 45% of those who do not rank Iraq as the most important problem. Narrow majorities in both groups say the party they back should stick to its position on Iraq even if it means no progress is made.

Partisan Views

The current political context is another factor affecting the public's willingness to work toward a middle ground. Put briefly, Democrats tend to favor compromise in principle, but not in practice, while Republicans favor compromise in practice, but not in principle. This conflict between the principle of compromise and its practice is particularly stark for Democrats, most of whom very much admire a willingness to compromise as a trait in political leaders, and favor their party working with Republicans to make progress on the most important issue of the day. Yet when it comes to working with George W. Bush there is far less enthusiasm. In fact, most Democrats (55%) say that their party should stand up to Bush on important issues even if it means less gets done this year, rather than work with the president to get things done (42%).

Issues, Party Preferences, and Willingness to Compromise		
	Preferred party on issue	
	Rep Party	Dem Party
	%	%
<i>The environment</i>		
Should compromise	59	51
Should stick to position	37	46
Depends/Don't know	4	3
	100	100
<i>Federal taxes</i>		
Should compromise	49	51
Should stick to position	47	45
Depends/Don't know	4	4
	100	100
<i>Illegal immigration</i>		
Should compromise	44	56
Should stick to position	53	41
Depends/Don't know	3	3
	100	100
<i>Iraq</i>		
Should compromise	46	45
Should stick to position	51	51
Depends/Don't know	3	4
	100	100

Democrats Favor Compromise in Principle, But Not with Bush					
<i>Most admire politicians who...</i>		<i>On most important issue Democrats should...</i>		<i>This year, Democrats should...</i>	
	%		%		%
Make compromises	58	Compromise with Reps	58	Work with Pres. Bush	42
Stick to positions	34	Stick to their position	36	Stand up to Pres. Bush	55
Don't know	<u>8</u>	Don't know	<u>6</u>	Don't know	<u>3</u>
	100		100		100

Republicans Admire Leaders with Convictions, But Want to See Things Get Done					
<i>Most admire politicians who...</i>		<i>On most important issue Republicans should...</i>		<i>This year, Republicans should...</i>	
	%		%		%
Make compromises	36	Compromise with Dems	63	Work with Dem leaders	57
Stick to positions	57	Stick to their position	30	Stand up to Dem leaders	38
Don't know	<u>7</u>	Don't know	<u>7</u>	Don't know	<u>5</u>
	100		100		100

For Republicans, the pattern is the reverse, with the practical need to get things done outweighing a preference for conviction. As a general rule, Republicans most admire political leaders who stick to their positions (57%) rather than those who are willing to compromise (36%). But when it comes to the most important issue of the day, nearly two-thirds of Republicans (63%) want the GOP to compromise with Democrats, and 57% also support working with Democratic leaders this year to accomplish things.

Independents Don't Stand Out

Independents, who eschew partisan labels for themselves, are also supportive of politicians compromising to find a middle ground. But their views are not starkly different from those of their partisan counterparts. Over the past 20 years, Democrats have consistently expressed more support for the idea of political compromise than have independents. And in the current survey, there is little difference between the views of Democrats and independents on this issue. About the same number say they like politicians who are willing to compromise, and who take a mix of

	Independents in the Middle				
	Cons Rep	Mod/ Lib Rep	Ind	Mod/ Cons Dem	Lib Dem
	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Like political leaders who...</i>					
Are willing to compromise	65	79	80	75	86
Stick to their positions, even if unpopular	77	68	67	67	61
Often side with members of the other party	40	48	48	44	44
Take a mix of liberal and conservative positions	48	63	63	62	66
<i>Which do you admire most?</i>					
Political leaders who make compromises	33	43	54	58	60
Political leaders who stick to their positions	59	51	37	36	33
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

liberal and conservative positions on the issues.

Most independents (54%) say that they admire leaders who compromise more than leaders who stick to their positions. This again shadows the view of Democrats, 58% of whom have the same preference. On all of these questions, it is the Republicans who stand apart as more supportive of political conviction over political compromise.

Instead of independents, it is the liberal Democrats who most consistently find compromise appealing. Fully 86% say they like leaders who are willing to compromise, more than any other group, and by nearly two-to-one (60% to 33%) they favor compromise over conviction as a leadership trait. Conservative Republicans stand out at the other end of the spectrum. By roughly the reverse margin (60% to 32%) conservative Republicans admire leaders who stick to their positions more than those who make compromises.

But independents are not all the same when it comes to finding a middle ground. Those who are more educated place a far higher priority on compromise and moderation than their less educated counterparts. Fully 77% of independents with a college degree say they like leaders who take a mix of liberal and conservative positions, compared with just 56% of those who did not attend or finish college. And 61% of college grads admire leaders who make compromises more than those who stick to their positions. The balance of opinion among those with less education also favors compromisers, but by a narrower 49% to 41% margin.

<i>Political leaders who take a mix of liberal and conservative positions</i>	College	Not coll
	<u>grad</u> %	<u>grad</u> %
Like	77	56
Dislike	20	36
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100
<i>Most admire political leaders who...</i>		
Make compromises	61	49
Stick to their positions	23	41
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100

The Other Side Should Compromise

At root, the problem with questions of political compromise is that peoples' answers will always be relative – compromise is fine when it is the other side that is doing the compromising. Fully 78% of Democrats believe that Republican leaders in Congress should work with Democratic leaders to accomplish things this year, but just 42% of Democrats say that their own leaders should be trying to

<i>Democratic leaders should...</i>	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Work with President Bush	55	77	42	54
Stand up to President Bush	40	18	55	40
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Republican leaders should...</i>				
Work with Democratic leaders	69	57	78	70
Stand up to Democratic leaders	24	38	16	24
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100

work with President Bush. Similarly, 77% of Republicans think Democratic leaders should be making an effort to work with the president, but fewer (57%) think GOP leaders should reach across the aisle in order to get things done.

Democrats’ support for “standing up to” President Bush reflects their longstanding frustration with the president, as much as any general unwillingness to reach across the aisles. When asked whether Democratic leaders should be willing to compromise with Republicans in general on the most important issue of the day, most Democrats say yes by a 58% to 36% margin. But when it comes to working with Bush, just 42% favor cooperation, while 55% say the party should stand up to him on important issues, even if it means less gets done this year. This is particularly the case among liberal Democrats, who favor standing up to Bush by a 62% to 34% margin.

Independents have different expectations for the two party’s leaders as well. Seven-in-ten independents say that the Republican leaders should try to work with Democratic leaders to get things done in Congress. A much slimmer majority of 54% place the same demands on Democratic leaders in terms of working with President Bush.

Few See Bipartisanship

While there are some signs that Americans want more compromise and bipartisanship in Washington, they are not very optimistic that the two parties will work together. The public is evenly divided as to whether Democratic leaders in Congress are reaching out to Republicans to work out policy solutions – 39% say the Democrats are reaching out, 41% say they are not.

Even fewer people (33%) believe that the Bush administration is reaching out to Democratic congressional leaders. A majority (53%) says the administration is not making an effort to work with Democrats, while 14% do not have an opinion.

<i>Dems reaching out to GOP?</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Yes	39	24	56	33
No	41	60	24	48
Don't know	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Bush reaching out to Dems?</i>				
Yes	33	57	22	29
No	53	28	67	57
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100	100	100

Views about which side is really trying to be bipartisan are strongly linked to partisan affiliation, as comparable majorities of both Republicans (57%) and Democrats (56%) believe their side is reaching out to the other. Independents are generally skeptical of the efforts of both the Bush administration and congressional Democrats to work with the opposition. By 48% to 33%, independents say Democratic leaders are not reaching out to Republicans; and by an even

wider margin (57%-29%), independents say Bush is not making an effort to reach out to top Democrats.

And there is little hope that relations between the parties will improve – only 28% believe relations between Democrats and Republicans in Washington will get better in the coming year, while 49% say they will stay about the same and 19% think they will grow worse. This pessimistic assessment is basically unchanged from November when, just after a divisive midterm campaign, 29% said relations would get better, 46% said they would remain the same, and 20% thought they would get worse.

Views of prospects for bipartisanship differ along partisan and ideological lines. Democrats, especially liberal Democrats, are more likely to think relations between the two parties will improve over the next year, while few Republicans, particularly conservative Republicans, see relations getting better. It is worth noting, however, that among all five partisan/ideological groups, less than a third actually think relations will grow worse. Instead, either a plurality or majority in each group feels things will stay about the same.

<i>Relations between Dems and Reps will...</i>	Total %	Mod/			Con/	
		Rep %	Rep %	Ind %	Mod Dem %	Lib Dem %
Get better	28	17	29	26	34	41
Get worse	19	31	24	18	16	10
Stay about the same	49	49	46	51	46	46
Don't know	4	3	1	5	4	3
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Most See Country as More Divided

Americans also believe political divisions in the country have grown deeper in recent years. Two-thirds (66%) feel the country is more politically divided these days than in the past. The perception that America has become more polarized is shared across partisan and ideological groups, although Democrats (72%) are especially likely to say the country is more divided now. The public's views on this have changed very little since Pew first asked the question in December 2004.

<i>Country more divided?</i>	Dec 2004	Sept 2006	Jan 2007
	%	%	%
Yes	66	70	66
No	26	24	28
Don't know	8	6	6
	100	100	100
<i>People you know more divided?</i>			
Yes	53	--	51
No	40	--	41
Don't know	7	--	8
	100	--	100

Americans are somewhat less likely to see growing political divisions among the people they know; still, 51% say their acquaintances are more divided over politics now than in the past. Here again, there has been little change on this question since December 2004. Democrats (58%) are slightly more likely than Republicans (50%) or independents (48%) to say people they know are more divided

now. And there is a notable education gap on this question – college graduates (43%) are less likely than those with some college (55%) or those with a high school education or less (54%) to believe the people they associate with are more polarized today over political issues.

Differences Between Parties

Overwhelmingly, Americans think there are important differences between the Democratic and Republican parties. More than one-in-three (35%) say there is a great deal of difference between the two major parties, while another 40% see a fair amount of difference. Only 20% believe there is hardly any difference between the parties. Opinion on this question has remained relatively stable since the late 1990s.

<i>How much difference between parties...</i>	<u>Total</u>	Mod/		Con/		
		Con Rep	Lib Rep	Mod Dem	Lib Dem	
A great deal	35	49	37	24	39	46
A fair amount	40	37	36	42	43	43
Hardly any	20	12	24	28	14	9
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats are especially likely to see important distinctions between the parties – among both groups, nearly half (49% of conservative Republicans, 46% of liberal Democrats) say there is a great deal of difference. Relatively few in any group consider the parties similar to one another, although over one-quarter (28%) of independents say there are hardly any differences between Democrats and Republicans.

Views of Political Leaders' Ideologies

A plurality of Americans (39%) say that President Bush generally takes positions that are more conservative than their own; somewhat fewer (31%) see Bush's positions as similar to their own. By contrast, about-four-in-ten (39%) say Democratic leaders in Congress generally take positions that are similar to their own, while 35% view the positions of Democratic leaders as too liberal.

As expected, large majorities of Republicans and Democrats say the positions taken by their parties' leaders generally dovetail with their own; 68% of Republicans say Bush adopts positions that are similar to their own, while 64% of Democrats say the same about the positions of Democratic leaders in Congress. However, while 70% of

<i>President Bush's positions are...</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
More conservative than yours	39	15	54	43
More liberal than yours	19	12	23	21
Similar to yours	31	68	12	24
Other/Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Democratic leaders' positions are...</i>				
More conservative than yours	12	6	16	13
More liberal than yours	35	70	11	38
Similar to yours	39	12	64	34
Other/Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100

Republicans say the stances of Democratic leaders are more liberal than their own, just 54% of Democrats view Bush's positions as more conservative; indeed, a relatively large minority of Democrats (23%) say Bush's positions are more liberal than their own.

Independents tend to see more common ground with the positions of Democratic leaders than with Bush's positions. However, roughly four-in-ten (38%) view the Democrats' positions as more liberal than their own, which is only somewhat fewer than the number who say Bush's positions are more conservative than their own.

Competitive House Districts

Views about conflict and compromise in politics are very similar across the country, regardless of whether people live in areas that tend to lean Republican or Democratic, as well as in the political battlegrounds. There are some signs, though, that people in the most competitive congressional districts have a greater taste for compromise and moderation than those in other districts nationwide. The differences, however, are modest, and in most cases these respondents share the views of the rest of the nation.

To analyze these differences, the survey included an oversample of nearly 400 residents in the 30 House districts where Democrats made gains in the 2006 midterm election. These districts, as a group, capture the areas of the country where neither political party has a clear advantage, and which were saturated with campaign activity over the past year.

While majorities nationwide say they like moderation in their leaders, this view is somewhat stronger among people who live in congressional districts where the seat changed hands from a Republican to a Democrat in November. Two-thirds (66%) say they like political leaders who take a mix of

Compromise and Moderation: The View from New Democratic Districts				
	Total	House District in '06		
		Rep	Stayed	Stayed
	%	%	Dem	Changed
			%	to Dem
			%	%
<i>Most admire leaders who...</i>				
Make compromises	51	49	52	55
Stick to their positions	40	43	38	35
Don't know	9	8	10	10
	100	100	100	100
<i>Democratic leaders should...</i>				
Try to work with Pres. Bush	55	57	52	57
Stand up to Bush	40	37	43	37
Don't know	5	6	5	6
	100	100	100	100
<i>Republican leaders should...</i>				
Try to work with Dem. leaders	69	67	70	76
Stand up to Dem. leaders	24	27	22	20
Don't know	7	6	8	4
	100	100	100	100
<i>Leaders who take a mix of liberal and conservative positions</i>				
Like	60	58	59	66
Dislike	34	36	34	29
Don't know	6	6	7	5
	100	100	100	100
<i>2008 presidential preference</i>				
Conservative Republican	15	18	11	15
Moderate Republican	16	17	15	20
Moderate Democrat	32	29	35	34
Liberal Democrat	17	15	21	14
Other/Depends/Don't know	20	21	18	17
	100	100	100	100
Number of cases	1,708	729	581	395
The survey included an oversample of residents in House districts that changed hands in the 2006 election.				

liberal and conservative views, compared with 59% in consistently Democratic districts and 58% in consistently Republican districts. And 54% say they would prefer a moderate presidential candidate in 2008, compared with 50% and 46% in these other parts of the country.

Compromise is also the watchword in these districts – fully 76% say that Republican leaders should try to work with Democrats to get things done. This is the majority view nationwide, but by a somewhat slimmer margin (69%). As is the case nationwide, there is less demand for Democrats to try to work with President Bush (57%), but residents of these districts are somewhat more eager to see Democratic leaders compromise than people in other Democratic districts. In districts that stayed Democratic, 43% want the Democratic leaders to stand up to Bush, even if it means less gets done this year. In the districts that switched to Democratic control, 37% are of this view.

While supportive of moderation and compromise, the outlook of residents in districts that changed hands is not positive. Fully 72% say that the country is more politically divided these days than in the past – this compares with 66% in other parts of the country. And there is not much sentiment that things will change – a 55% majority sees relations between Democrats and Republicans in Washington staying about the same in the coming year, compared with 49% nationwide. It is worth noting, however, that there is little optimism about greater bipartisanship in any part of the country.

Residents in these districts take a particularly negative view of George W. Bush – and feel they have more in common with the new Democratic leadership. When it comes to ideology, fully 48% in these districts say that the Democratic leaders take a similar ideological position to their own. This is slightly higher even than in districts that already had Democratic representatives before November (43%) and much higher

People in "Flipped" Districts See Greater Divisiveness				
	House District in '06			
	Total	Rep	Dem	to Dem
	%	%	%	%
<i>These days the U.S. is...</i>				
More politically divided	66	66	64	72
Not more divided	28	28	29	24
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>This year, will relations between Dems and Reps...</i>				
Get better	28	25	31	25
Get worse	19	21	18	17
Stay about the same	49	50	46	55
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Holds ideological views similar to your own...</i>				
Dem leaders in Congress	39	35	43	48
George W. Bush	31	36	25	28
<i>They are making an effort To work with the other side</i>				
Dem leaders in Congress	39	33	46	37
George W. Bush	33	38	29	26
<i>In the long run, Bush's failures will outweigh his accomplishments</i>				
	53	47	59	65

than in districts with Republican representatives (35%). By comparison, just 28% in the districts that changed hands believe George W. Bush is ideologically similar to them.

Despite this sense of commonality with Democratic leaders, residents of districts that changed hands are not particularly optimistic that the situation in Washington will improve. Just 37% think the Democratic leaders have made an effort to reach out to Republicans to work out solutions to policy problems. In this regard, they have more in common with residents of Republican held districts (33%) than residents of districts that were already Democratic in 2006 (46%).

But George W. Bush receives even worse ratings – only 26% think Bush is making an effort to reach out to Democrats. Here, they share the skepticism of those who live in consistently Democratic districts (29%). And residents of the districts that changed hands are the most likely to see Bush's presidency as a failure overall. Just shy of two-thirds (65%) say Bush's failures will outweigh his accomplishments – more than in both consistently Democratic (59%) and Republican (47%) districts.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,708 adults, 18 years of age or older, from January 10-15, 2007. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=863) and Form 2 (N=845) the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points. For results based on January 11-15, 2007 (N=1,384), the sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

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

This survey includes an oversample of 395 respondents in congressional districts that switched party control in the 2006 election. Flipped districts were identified using the 2006 House Election Results from the Cook Political Report, published December 13, 2006. In all, there were 30 congressional districts that switched hands: Arizona-05, Arizona-08, California-11, Colorado-07, Connecticut-02, Connecticut-05, Florida-16, Florida-22, Indiana-02, Indiana-08, Indiana-09, Iowa-01, Iowa-02, Kansas-02, Kentucky-03, Minnesota-01, New Hampshire-01, New Hampshire-02, New York-19, New York-20, New York-24, North Carolina-11, Ohio-18, Pennsylvania-04, Pennsylvania-07, Pennsylvania-08, Pennsylvania-10, Texas-22, Texas-23 (Runoff election was held on Dec. 12, 2006), Wisconsin-08. The oversample has a sampling error of plus or minus 6 percentage points.

Survey Methodology in Detail

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone numbers in the U.S. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing one or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. The use of replicates also ensures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the sample.

As many as 10 attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home." If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the youngest female, 18 years of age or older, who is now at home." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (March 2006). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone.

The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters.

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 six 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, Richard Wike and Kim Parker, Senior Researchers
Nilanthi Samaranyake, Survey and Data Manager
April Clark, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf and Daniel Cox, Research Associates
James Albrightain, Executive Assistant

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JANUARY 2007 NEWS INTEREST INDEX
FINAL TOPLINE
January 10-15, 2007
N=1708

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

	Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>		Satis- <u>fied</u>	Dis- <u>satisfied</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>
January, 2007	32	61	7=100	Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100
December, 2006	28	65	7=100	Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8=100	February, 1998	59	37	4=100
Early October, 2006	30	63	7=100	January, 1998	46	50	4=100
July, 2006	30	65	5=100	September, 1997	45	49	6=100
May, 2006	29	65	6=100	August, 1997	49	46	5=100
March, 2006	32	63	5=100	January, 1997	38	58	4=100
January, 2006	34	61	5=100	July, 1996	29	67	4=100
Late November, 2005	34	59	7=100	March, 1996	28	70	2=100
Early October, 2005	29	65	6=100	October, 1995	23	73	4=100
July, 2005	35	58	7=100	June, 1995	25	73	2=100
Late May, 2005	39	57	4=100	April, 1995	23	74	3=100
February, 2005	38	56	6=100	July, 1994	24	73	3=100
January, 2005	40	54	6=100	March, 1994	24	71	5=100
December, 2004	39	54	7=100	October, 1993	22	73	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6=100	September, 1993	20	75	5=100
July, 2004	38	55	7=100	May, 1993	22	71	7=100
May, 2004	33	61	6=100	January, 1993	39	50	11=100
Late February, 2004	39	55	6=100	January, 1992	28	68	4=100
Early January, 2004	45	48	7=100	November, 1991	34	61	5=100
December, 2003	44	47	9=100	Late February, 1991 (<i>Gallup</i>)	66	31	3=100
October, 2003	38	56	6=100	August, 1990	47	48	5=100
August, 2003	40	53	7=100	May, 1990	41	54	5=100
<i>April 8, 2003</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>9=100</i>	January, 1989	45	50	5=100
January, 2003	44	50	6=100	September, 1988 (<i>RVs</i>)	50	45	5=100
November, 2002	41	48	11=100	May, 1988	41	54	5=100
September, 2002	41	55	4=100	January, 1988	39	55	6=100
Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100				
May, 2002	44	44	12=100				
March, 2002	50	40	10=100				
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100				
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100				
June, 2001	43	52	5=100				
March, 2001	47	45	8=100				
February, 2001	46	43	11=100				
January, 2001	55	41	4=100				
October, 2000 (<i>RVs</i>)	54	39	7=100				
September, 2000	51	41	8=100				
June, 2000	47	45	8=100				
April, 2000	48	43	9=100				
August, 1999	56	39	5=100				
January, 1999	53	41	6=100				
November, 1998	46	44	10=100				
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100				

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [**IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH:** Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK**]

	<u>App-rove</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>		<u>App-rove</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
January, 2007	33	59	8=100	June, 2003	62	27	11=100
December, 2006	32	57	11=100	May, 2003	65	27	8=100
Mid-November, 2006	32	58	10=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
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	March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100
Early April, 2006	35	55	10=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
March, 2006	33	57	10=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
February, 2006	40	52	8=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
January, 2006	38	54	8=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
December, 2005	38	54	8=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Early November, 2005	36	55	9=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
Late October, 2005	40	52	8=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
Early October, 2005	38	56	6=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
September 8-11, 2005	40	52	8=100	August, 2002	67	21	12=100
September 6-7, 2005	40	52	8=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	August, 2001	50	32	18=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	February, 2001	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				

From what you've seen and read so far,

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
January, 2007	39	34	27=100
Early October, 2006	35	53	12=100
June, 2006	32	50	18=100
March, 2006	34	46	20=100
January, 2006	34	48	18=100
Early November, 2005	36	44	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	48	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19=100
Early February, 2004	38	42	20=100
June, 2002	47	36	17=100
May, 2002	42	37	21=100
February, 2002	49	30	21=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

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

		Sept 2006	May 2006	March 2006	Jan 2006	Early Nov 2005	Mid- May 2005	Jan 2005	July 2004	Mid- Jan 2004	Apr 2003	Feb 2003	Mar 2002	May 2001	Feb 2001
42	War/War in Iraq	25	18	20	23	29	24	32	25	16	14	34	10 [▲]	--	--
8	Health care/costs	4	4	6	6	5	7	5	5	5	3	2	2	6	7
8	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics	6	13	10	5	7	6	5	7	5	3	5	4	2	5
5	Economy (general)	9	7	7	11	11	15	12	14	20	28	21	8	7	7
5	Immigration	6	10	4	3	2	4	1	1	3	1	--	1	1	2
5	Terrorism	14	5	8	6	6	8	10	8	14	9	16	24	1	*
5	Unemployment/Lack of jobs	4	3	6	7	4	7	7	8	13	10	6	4	5	6
4	Education	4	2	4	3	1	2	3	4	3	4	1	4	8	11
3	Morality/Ethics/Family values	2	4	6	4	3	3	5	4	3	4	5	8	6	12
3	Poverty/Hunger/Starvation	3	1	3	7	4	2	3	2	3	3	1	2	3	3
2	Crime/Gangs/Justice system	2	1	3	2	--	2	2	1	1	1	1	4	4	8
2	Homelessness	--	1	--	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	1	2
	Energy crisis/Rising gas/heating prices	7	14	5	5	4	6	--	2	--	--	1	1	22	4
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced budget	1	2	2	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	--	1	1	1
	Environment/pollution/Global warming	--	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	*	*	1	3	1
	Drugs/Alcohol	1	--	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	4	6
	Defense issues/Military spending/National & homeland security	4	1	4	3	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	5	1	1
	Youth Problems/Teen Violence	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	--	2	8	3
	Issues relating to the elderly	--	--	--	1	--	--	1	1	2	1	--	1	2	2
	Abortion	--	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	--	--	--	--	1	1
15	Other														
*	None	1	0	4	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	2
7	Don't know/No answer	7	5	6	7	6	5	5	6	4	9	4	8	8	7
	(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/														
50	INTERNATIONAL	47	29	34	37	42	36	49	41	37	29	54	39	3	5
15	(NET) ECONOMIC	23	27	22	26	24	31	24	26	35	41	29	16	40	26

[▲] War in Afghanistan in March 2002

IF ANSWER GIVEN IN Q.4 ASK [N=1630]:

Q.5 Which political party do you think can do a better job of handling the problem you just mentioned – the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

		Mid				--- Gallup ---					(RV's)					
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Mar	Jan	April	July	April	July	June	Jan	May	May	Jan	May
		2006	2005	2004	2002	1999 ¹	1998	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1990	1988	1988	1987
24	Republican Party	27	36	35	38	33	40	36	42	36	28	32	29	26	30	28
42	Democratic Party	41	35	35	27	43	42	35	32	33	35	41	30	38	35	38
21	No difference (VOL)	19	18	14	21	n/a	10	18	17	16	23	12	31	22	24	24
<u>13</u>	Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

IF 'REPUBLICAN PARTY' (1 IN Q.5) ASK [N=406]:

Q.6 Should Republican political leaders be willing to compromise with the Democrats on this issue, or should they stick to their position without compromising?

63	Should be willing to compromise
30	Should stick to their position
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF 'DEMOCRATIC PARTY' (2 IN Q.5) ASK [N=661]:

Q.7 Should Democratic political leaders be willing to compromise with the Republicans on this issue, or should they stick to their position without compromising?

60	Should be willing to compromise
34	Should stick to their position
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

1 In January 1999, the "no difference" and "don't know" categories are combined.

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=863]:

Q.8F1 In the long run, do you think George W. Bush will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

		-----Clinton-----														
		Early		Early		Early										
		Jan	Oct	Jan	Dec	Oct	Jan	Jan	Sep	Feb	Oct	May	Jan	Oct	Sept	Aug
		2006	2005	2005	2003	2002	2001	1999	1998	1995	1994	1994	1994	1993	1993	1993
24	Successful	27	26	36	39	40	26	44	38	18	14	21	21	18	22	13
45	Unsuccessful	37	41	27	20	15	15	24	24	34	35	26	19	25	22	25
27	Too early to tell	32	30	35	38	44	58	29	35	43	48	52	57	56	54	60
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Ref.	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=845]:

Q.9F2 In the long run, do you think the accomplishments of the Bush Administration will outweigh its failures, or will the failures outweigh the accomplishments?

		----- Clinton -----						-- Reagan --	
		Early		Early		Newsweek			
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Aug	Jan	Sept	May	Feb
		2004	2001	2000	1999	1999	1998	1987	1987
31	Accomplishments will outweigh failures	49	60	51	56	50	52	46	52
53	Failures will outweigh accomplishments	36	27	37	38	34	35	41	38
<u>16</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=863]:

Q.10aF1 Now thinking about George W. Bush's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

		Mid					-- Clinton ---	
		Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan	Jan
		2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2000	1999
32	More important	30	34	34	52	54	16	27
16	Less important	14	9	9	6	4	22	16
43	Same	47	47	49	35	36	53	51
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=845]:

Q.10bF2 Now thinking about George W. Bush's upcoming State of the Union address... Do you plan to watch the President's State of the Union Address, which will be in a few weeks, or not?

59	Yes
37	No
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=863]:

Q.11F1 Right now, which is more important for President Bush to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

		----- Clinton -----									
		Early					Early				
		Aug	Jan	Oct	Jan	Jan	Sept	Jan	Dec	Oct	
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>	
39	Domestic policy	50	57	64	53	52	56	86	85	76	
40	Foreign policy	32	25	20	27	34	30	7	7	13	
1	Neither (VOL)	1	1	1	1	*	0	*	2	*	
15	Both (VOL)	12	13	12	16	11	11	5	4	7	
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=845]:

And thinking about Congress...

Q.12F2 Right now, which is more important for Democratic leaders in Congress to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

51	Domestic policy
32	Foreign policy
1	Neither (VOL)
11	Both (VOL)
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.13 Thinking about the Democratic and Republican parties, would you say there is a great deal of difference in what they stand for, a fair amount of difference, or hardly any difference at all?

		Early										
		Oct	April	June	Feb	March	June	Oct	July	May	May	
		<u>2006</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1987</u>	
35	A great deal	38	33	29	33	28	25	34	23	24	25	
40	A fair amount	39	42	49	46	45	48	46	51	45	45	
20	Hardly any	18	21	20	18	23	25	18	24	27	25	
<u>5</u>	DK/Ref (VOL)	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Q.14 Now, 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 WITH ITEM b ALWAYS FOLLOWING ITEM a] [IF NECESSARY "Did you follow [ITEM] very closely, fairly closely, not too closely or not at all closely?"]**

		Very	Fairly	Not too	Not at all	DK/
		<u>closely</u>	<u>closely</u>	<u>closely</u>	<u>closely</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a.	News about the current situation in Iraq	46	40	8	5	1=100
	December, 2006	42	39	12	7	*=100
	Mid-November, 2006	44	38	12	6	*=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

Q.14 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very</u> <u>closely</u>	<u>Fairly</u> <u>closely</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>closely</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>closely</u>	<u>DK/</u> <u>Ref</u>
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 ²	47	40	10	2	1=100
April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
March 13-16, 2003 ³	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

2 From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as “News about the war in Iraq.”

3 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.14 CONTINUED...

		Very <u>closely</u>	Fairly <u>closely</u>	Not too <u>closely</u>	Not at all <u>closely</u>	DK/ <u>Ref</u>
b.	The execution of Saddam Hussein	31	33	21	14	1=100
	December, 2003, <i>Capture of Saddam Hussein</i>	44	37	14	5	*=100
	August, 2003 <i>Killing of Hussein's two sons</i>	45	35	13	6	1=100
c.	The death and memorial services of Gerald Ford	25	37	24	13	1=100
	June, 2004 <i>Death and services of Ronald Reagan</i>	40	30	17	11	2=100
	May, 1994 <i>Death and funeral of Richard Nixon</i>	36	37	17	10	*=100
d.	The U.S. air strikes on suspected terrorist sites in Somalia	17	31	27	23	2=100
	August, 1998 <i>U.S. strikes/Afghanistan & Sudan</i> ⁴	44	35	13	8	*=100
e.	News about the incoming Democratic leaders in Congress	25	38	20	16	1=100
	December, 2006	29	36	19	15	1=100
	February, 1995 <i>New Republican leaders</i>	19	32	23	26	*=100
f.	Unusual winter weather	39	35	15	10	1=100
	December, 1998 <i>Unseasonable weather patterns</i>	39	35	13	12	1=100

Q.15 As you may know, the Democrats now hold a majority in Congress. From what you've seen and heard, can you name any issues or policies that Democratic leaders have put forward as priorities? **[IF "YES" PROBE: What issues?]** **[OPEN END; ACCEPT UP TO FIVE ISSUES, PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL]**

- 27 War in Iraq/Bringing troops home
- 18 Raising the minimum wage
- 7 Health care/Medicare/Prescription drug costs
- 4 Stem cell research
- 3 Education/Making student loans more affordable
- 2 Immigration
- 2 Ethics/lobbying reform
- 2 Repealing tax cuts/Raising taxes
- 1 Energy policy/Ending tax breaks for oil companies/Reducing gas prices
- 1 Homeland security/Implementing 9/11 Commission recommendations
- 1 Social Security
- 1 Global warming
- 1 Balancing the budget/Reducing the deficit
- 4 Other
- 54 No answer/Not sure/Don't know/Refused

NO QUESTION 16

4 In August 1998, the item was worded: "U.S. military strikes against sites linked to terrorists in Afghanistan and Sudan."

Looking ahead...

Q.17 In the 2008 presidential election, who would you MOST like to vote for... a conservative Republican candidate, a moderate Republican candidate, a moderate Democratic candidate or a liberal Democratic candidate? **[INTERVIEWER: IF R SAYS “OTHER” OR “SOMEONE ELSE,” PROBE ONCE: “If you had to choose...”]**

- 15 Conservative Republican candidate
- 16 Moderate Republican candidate
- 32 Moderate Democratic candidate
- 17 Liberal Democratic candidate
- 3 Other (VOL.)
- 7 Depends on candidates (VOL.)
- 10 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

Q.18 I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? (First,) should **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM DIFFERENCES)** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? (What about **(INSERT ITEM)?**)

		Top	Important	Not too	Should not	
		priority	but lower	important	be done	<u>DK/Ref</u>
<u>SUMMARY TABLE</u>						
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	80	16	2	1	1=100
l.F2	Improving the educational system	69	25	4	1	1=100
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	68	24	4	3	1=100
s.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	68	25	4	2	1=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	64	28	5	2	1=100
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	63	31	3	1	2=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	62	31	5	1	1=100
e.F1	Protecting the environment	57	32	9	1	1=100
a.F1	Improving the job situation	57	30	10	1	2=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	57	35	6	1	1=100
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	56	31	7	4	2=100
k.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	55	29	11	3	2=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	55	36	6	2	1=100
g.F1	Increasing the minimum wage	53	29	12	4	2=100
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	53	33	7	2	4=100
u.F2	Making it tougher for illegal immigrants to enter U.S.	51	31	10	6	2=100
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	48	35	10	4	3=100
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	47	30	12	8	3=100
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	46	35	10	5	4=100
w.F2	Dealing with global warming	38	34	16	8	4=100
h.F1	Making recent federal income tax cuts permanent	36	32	12	12	8=100
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	35	30	23	4	8=100
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	34	46	12	2	6=100

Q.18 CONTINUED...

<u>FULL TREND</u>		Top	Important	Not too	Should not	
ASK ITEMS a THRU k OF FORM 1 ONLY [N=863]:		<u>priority</u>	<u>but lower</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	Improving the job situation	57	30	10	1	2=100
	January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2=100
	January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1=100
	January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1=100
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2=100
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4=100
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3=100
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4=100
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1=100
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1=100
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2=100
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	53	34	7	2	4=100
	January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4=100
	January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2=100
	January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3=100
	January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5=100
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3=100
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3=100
c.F1	Reducing crime	62	31	5	1	1=100
	January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2=100
	January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2=100
	January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2=100
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*=100
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1=100
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2=100
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1=100
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*=100
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2=100
d.F1	Reducing federal income taxes for the middle class	48	35	10	4	3=100
	January, 2006	51	32	8	5	4=100
	January, 2005	48	35	8	6	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	44	37	12	6	1=100
	January, 2002	43	37	11	6	3=100
	January, 2001	66	26	4	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	34	7	3	2=100
	July, 1999	57	30	8	4	1=100
	January, 1999	52	33	8	3	4=100
	January, 1998	54	33	8	3	2=100
	January, 1997	42	38	10	8	2=100
	December, 1994	53	32	9	3	3=100

Q.18 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
e.F1	Protecting the environment	57	32	9	1	1=100
	January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1=100
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*=100
	Mid-January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*=100
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1=100
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1=100
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1=100
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1=100
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1=100
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1=100
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1=100
f.F1	Reducing health care costs	68	24	4	3	1=100
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans					
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3=100
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3=100
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4=100
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2=100
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2=100
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3=100
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4=100
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3=100
g.F1	Increasing the minimum wage	53	29	12	4	2=100
	January, 2006	47	34	10	6	3=100
	January, 2005	43	39	11	6	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	38	39	17	5	1=100
	Early September, 2001	40	40	13	6	1=100
	January, 2000	34	41	16	6	3=100
h.F1	Making the recent federal income tax cuts permanent	36	32	12	12	8=100
	January, 2005	34	34	12	14	6=100
	January, 2003 ⁵	30	39	15	9	7=100
i.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	80	16	2	1	1=100
	January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1=100
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0=100
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1=100

Q.18 CONTINUED...

		<u>Top</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Not too</u>	<u>Should not</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
		<u>priority</u>	<u>but lower</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>be done</u>	
			<u>priority</u>			
j.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	34	46	12	2	6=100
	January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8=100
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6=100
	Mid-January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4=100
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5=100
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6=100
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7=100
k.F1	Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration	55	29	11	3	2=100
ASK ITEMS 1 THRU w OF FORM 2 ONLY [N=845]:						
l.F2	Improving the educational system	69	25	4	1	1=100
	January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1=100
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1=100
	January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1=100
	January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1=100
	January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1=100
	July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2=100
	January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*=100
m.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	64	28	5	2	1=100
	January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2=100
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1=100
	January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2=100
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2=100
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1=100
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2=100
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1=100
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1=100
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*=100
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1=100

Q.18 CONTINUED...

		<u>Top</u> <u>priority</u>	<u>Important</u> <u>but lower</u> <u>priority</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>important</u>	<u>Should not</u> <u>be done</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
n.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	63	31	3	1	2=100
	January, 2006	62	30	4	2	2=100
	January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*=100
	Mid-January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1=100
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1=100
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1=100
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2=100
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2=100
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1=100
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2=100
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1=100
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1=100
o.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	55	36	6	2	1=100
	January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1=100
	January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1=100
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1=100
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2=100
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2=100
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1=100
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1=100
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1=100
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	*=100
p.F2	Dealing with the moral breakdown in the country	47	30	12	8	3=100
	January, 2006	47	26	14	9	4=100
	January, 2005	41	32	14	10	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	45	31	13	9	2=100
	January, 2003	39	34	16	7	4=100
	January, 2002	45	32	12	7	4=100
	January, 2001	51	27	10	7	5=100
	January, 2000	48	34	9	6	3=100
	July, 1999	55	28	8	5	4=100
	January, 1999	50	31	10	5	4=100
	January, 1998	48	31	13	6	2=100
	January, 1997	52	29	10	6	3=100
q.F2	Providing health insurance to the uninsured	56	31	7	4	2=100
	January, 2006	59	30	6	2	3=100
	January, 2005	60	30	7	2	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	54	34	8	3	1=100
	January, 2003	45	41	10	2	2=100
	January, 2002	43	45	7	3	2=100
	January, 2001	61	31	4	2	2=100
	January, 2000	55	32	8	2	3=100

Q.18 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Ref
r.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	46	35	10	5	4=100
	January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3=100
	January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2=100
	Mid-January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1=100
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3=100
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2=100
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2=100
s.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	68	25	4	2	1=100
	January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2=100
	January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2=100
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1=100
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1=100
	Early September, 2001 ⁶	80	18	1	*	1=100
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1=100
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1=100
t.F2	Dealing with the nation's energy problem	57	35	6	1	1=100
	January, 2006	58	33	6	1	2=100
	January, 2005	47	42	7	1	3=100
	Mid-January, 2004	46	41	10	1	2=100
	January, 2003	40	46	10	1	3=100
	January, 2002	42	46	7	2	3=100
	Early September, 2001 ⁷	46	41	6	2	5=100
u.F2	Making it tougher for illegal immigrants to enter the U.S.	51	31	10	6	2=100
	January, 2006	51	26	14	6	3=100
v.F2	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	35	30	23	4	8=100
w.F2	Dealing with global warming	38	34	16	8	4=100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=863]:

Q.19F1 What's your view... Do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not?

		Sept <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>2004</u>
66	More politically divided	70	66
28	Not more divided	24	26
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100

6 In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

7 In Early September 2001 the item was worded: "Passing a comprehensive energy plan."

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=845]:

Q.20F2 Thinking about the people you know, are they more divided over politics these days than in the past, or not?

		Dec
		<u>2004</u>
51	More divided over politics	53
41	Not more divided	40
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>7</u>
100		100

ASK ALL:

ROTATE Q.21 AND Q.22

Q.21 Are Democratic leaders in Congress making an effort to reach out to Republicans to work out solutions to policy problems, or don't you think so?

39	Yes, making an effort
41	No, not making an effort
<u>20</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.22 Is the Bush administration making an effort to reach out to the Democratic leaders in Congress to work out solutions to policy problems, or don't you think so?

33	Yes, making an effort
53	No, not making an effort
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

ROTATE Q.23 AND Q.24

Q.23 In general, do the Democratic leaders in Congress right now take positions that are more liberal than yours, more conservative than yours, or similar to yours?

35	More liberal
12	More conservative
39	Similar positions
2	Mixed/Depends (VOL.)
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.24 Do you think President Bush generally takes positions that are more liberal than yours, more conservative than yours, or similar to yours?

19	More liberal
39	More conservative
31	Similar positions
2	Mixed/Depends (VOL.)
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.25 As I read some characteristics associated with political leaders in Washington, please tell me how much you like or dislike each. We'll use a scale from 4 to 1 where "4" represents something you like a lot and "1" represents something you dislike a lot. On this scale, how would you rate political leaders who **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS a. THRU c. FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED ITEMS d. THRU f.]**? How about political leaders who **[INSERT ITEM]**?

		Like		Dislike		
		Lot		Lot		
		<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a.	Take conservative positions on nearly all issues	14	24	28	29	5=100
b.	Take liberal positions on nearly all issues	11	21	27	35	6=100
c.	Take a mix of liberal and conservative positions	28	32	25	9	6=100
d.	Are willing to compromise	49	26	13	8	4=100
e.	Stick to their positions, even if unpopular	44	23	15	13	5=100
f.	Often side with members of the other party	16	28	31	17	8=100

Q.26 All things considered, which do you admire most? **[READ AND ROTATE]**:

51 Political leaders who make compromises
 OR
 40 Political leaders who stick to their positions
9 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)
 100

QUESTIONS 27-30a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Thinking again about Congress...

Q.31 Generally, do you think Democratic leaders in Congress will be successful or unsuccessful in getting their programs passed into law?

		Mid-	Sept	Dec
		Nov	1995 ⁸	1994
		<u>2006</u>		
57	Successful	59	54	62
25	Unsuccessful	22	31	24
5	Mixed/get some passed (VOL.)	6	n/a	4
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100

8 In September 1995 and December 1994, the question asked about "Republican leaders in Congress." In September 1995, the question was worded "In general, would you say the Republican leaders in Congress have been successful or unsuccessful so far this year in getting their programs passed into law?"

ROTATE Q.32 AND Q.33

Q.32 This year should the Democratic leaders in Washington... **(READ)**

		Mid- Nov <u>2006</u>	Dec <u>1994</u> ⁹
55	Try as best they can to work with George W. Bush to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Democratic supporters	55	69
	OR		
40	Should they stand up to George W. Bush on issues that are important to Democratic supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington?	36	23
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100

Q.33 This year should the Republican leaders in Washington... **(READ)**

		Mid- Nov <u>2006</u>
69	Try as best they can to work with Democratic leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Republican supporters?	71
	OR	
24	Should they stand up to the Democrats on issues that are important to Republican supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington?	20
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>
100		100

Q.34 Do you think relations between Republicans and Democrats in Washington will get better in the coming year, get worse, or stay about the same as they are now?

		Mid- Nov <u>2006</u>
28	Get better	29
19	Get worse	20
49	Stay about the same	46
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>
100		100

9 In December 1994, the answer categories referred to "Republican leaders" rather than "George W. Bush." Results also exist for November 2004 and November 1996, but questions were not asked of general public.

Q.35 Please tell me which political party, the Republicans or the Democrats, comes closer to your view on each issue I name. First, which party's position comes closer to your views on... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? [IF RESPONDENT CHOOSES EITHER PARTY FOR ANY ITEM, FOLLOW UP WITH Q.36, THEN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ITEM IN Q.36] And which party comes closer to your view on [NEXT ITEM]?

		<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democratic</u>	<u>(VOL) Neither</u>	<u>(VOL) No Diff.</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a.	Abortion policy	34	42	3	2	19=100
	February, 1997	31	40	4	2	23=100
b.	The environment	24	50	3	2	21=100
	February, 1997	27	44	3	2	24=100
c.	Iraq	35	49	5	1	10=100
d.	Illegal immigration	34	35	7	3	21=100
e.	Federal taxes	34	44	5	1	16=100
	February, 1997 <i>Federal budget</i>	39	39	4	1	17=100

Q.36 Do you think that the [INSERT PARTY IN Q.35: Republican/Democratic] party should compromise on this issue, so that the two parties could reach some agreement, or do you think the [INSERT PARTY] party should stick to its position on this issue even if it means no progress is made?

BASED ON THOSE WHO CHOSE EITHER PARTY IN Q.35:

		<u>Yes Compromise</u>	<u>Stick to Position</u>	<u>(VOL) Depends</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>
a.	Abortion policy (N=1312)	25	72	1	2=100
	February, 1997	30	64	1	5=100
b.	The environment (N=1294)	54	43	1	2=100
	February, 1997	54	42	2	2=100
c.	Iraq (N=1419)	45	51	1	3=100
d.	Illegal immigration (N=1150)	50	47	1	2=100
e.	Federal taxes (N=1356)	50	46	1	3=100
	February, 1997 <i>Federal budget</i>	64	33	1	2=100

QUESTIONS 37 THROUGH 44 AND 46 THROUGH 51 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE

NO QUESTION 45

ASK ALL:

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No Preference	(VOL.) Other Party	DK/ Ref
January, 2007	24	35	34	3	*	4=100
December, 2006	25	35	32	5	*	3=100
Mid-November, 2006	25	36	32	4	*	3=100
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	1	3=100
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
Yearly Totals						
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
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 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>
January, 2007	12	17	12=41%
December, 2006	11	17	12=40%
Mid-November, 2006	9	18	12= 39%
Late October, 2006	10	17	15=42%
Early October, 2006	12	15	12=39%
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 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%

CVOTE06A In the 2006 elections for CONGRESS, did things come up which kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED "1" YES, ASK:

CVOTE06B Did you happen to vote for a Republican candidate or a Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in your district?

64	Yes, voted
23	Republican
34	Democrat
1	Other/Independent Candidate
1	Didn't vote for Congress
5	Don't know/Refused
35	No, didn't vote (includes too young to vote)
<u>1</u>	DK/Refused
100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
2007 VALUES UPDATE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
December 12, 2006 - January 9, 2007

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=982]:

Q.20F1 Now I am going to read you another series of statements on some different topics. For each statement, please tell me if you completely agree with it, mostly agree with it, mostly DISagree with it or completely disagree with it. The first one is... **[READ ITEMS, IN ORDER. DO NOT ROTATE. OBSERVE FORM SPLIT ON ITEMS aa AND bb (¼ SAMPLE EACH)]**

		-----AGREE-----			----DISAGREE----			
		Comp-			Comp-			Don't
		<u>Net</u>	<u>letely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>letely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Know</u>
h.F1	I like political leaders who are willing to make compromises in order to get the job done	79	29	50	16	5	11	5=100
	August, 2003	77	28	49	19	6	13	4=100
	August, 2002	78	30	48	18	6	12	4=100
	Late September, 1999	77	32	45	19	4	15	4=100
	November, 1997	78	32	46	19	5	14	3=100
	May, 1990	71	23	48	23	6	17	6=100
	May, 1988	72	23	49	22	5	17	6=100
	May, 1987	72	16	56	20	4	16	8=100