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For The People & The Press

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Plurality Favors Centrist Court Nominee
REPUBLICANS UNCERTAIN ON ROVE RESIGNATION

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Plurality Favors Centrist Court Nominee
REPUBLICANS UNCERTAIN ON ROVE RESIGNATION

Only about half of the American public is paying close attention to news reports that White House aide Karl Rove may have leaked classified information about a CIA agent. But 39% of the public – and a solid majority of those closely following the reports (58%) – believe that Rove should resign his position.

While there is a partisan cast to views on Rove’s fate, Republican support for the influential White House aide has been tepid. As many Republicans declined to offer an opinion (42%) as say Rove should not step down (39%). However, public opinion is still forming on this matter. Nearly half of all Americans (45%) declined to offer an opinion on whether Rove is guilty of a serious offense; 32% feel he is guilty of a serious offense while 23% say he is not.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted July 13-17 among 1,502 Americans, finds that more Americans favor a nominee for the Supreme Court who will keep the court as it is now (40%), rather than someone who will make the court more conservative (27%), or more liberal (24%). On balance, there is greater concern that Bush will select someone who will make the court too conservative, rather than not conservative enough (by 31% to 19%).

Nearly half of the public (47%) says the choice of a new justice to replace Sandra Day O’Connor is very important to them personally, with Democrats, independents, and Republicans about equally likely to feel this way. The public is divided over the question of whether the upcoming nomination is more controversial than appointments in the past: 44% say it is, while 44% say the level of controversy is about the same and 5% say it’s less controversial. Among those seeing greater controversy now, the blame for fueling the dispute is divided equally between Democrats (39%) and Republicans (37%).

Thus far, few Americans say they have been contacted by interest groups on the left and right who are expected to do battle over the nomination. Only 3% of the poll’s respondents say they have been contacted by individuals or groups asking for support for their position in the nomination fight.

Reactions to Rove Controversy				
		– Party ID –		
<i>Following news about Rove</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Very closely	23	18	26	27
Fairly closely	25	31	22	25
Not too closely	26	28	26	25
Not at all closely	25	23	25	22
Don’t know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Should Rove resign?</i>				
Yes	39	19	55	45
No	23	39	14	20
Don’t know	<u>38</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>35</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Rove guilty of serious offense?</i>				
Guilty	32	16	42	39
Not guilty	23	38	15	20
Don’t know	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>41</u>
	100	100	100	100

Opinions on the court's future ideological balance have changed little over the past few months. In June and March, comparable pluralities expressed the view that Bush should pick a nominee who will keep the court about as it is now (35% June, 41% March). The partisan differences in these attitudes, while substantial, are not overwhelming. Even among Republicans, less than half (48%) want to see Bush nominate someone who would move the court to the right. And similarly among Democrats, just 38% say he should pick someone who would make the court more liberal.

Little Sentiment for Changing the Court				
	– Party ID –			
	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
<i>Bush appointee should make the court...</i>	%	%	%	%
More liberal	24	8	38	25
More conservative	27	48	15	23
About the same as now	40	38	38	43
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Worry that appointee will make court...</i>				
Too conservative	31	10	46	41
Not conservative enough	19	29	12	16
Don't worry about this	44	56	37	38
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has been widely mentioned as a possible candidate for the vacancy, and about half of the public has heard at least a little about this possibility (11% a lot, 41% a little). Those who have heard about the possibility are divided as to whether it's a good idea or not – 29% say it's a good idea, 30% say it's a bad idea. Despite some grumbling by conservative groups about a possible Gonzales appointment, by more than three-to-one conservative Republicans in the poll think picking Gonzales would be a good idea (42%) rather than a bad idea (12%).

Public interest in O'Connor's retirement was modest, with 24% following the news very closely. Democrats, Republicans, and independents were equally interested in the story. Justice O'Connor's public legacy on the court is largely as a moderate, with 51% saying her judgments were middle-of-the-road. About as many say she was liberal (10%) as conservative (13%). Perceptions of O'Connor by Democrats, Republicans, and independents are strikingly similar.

Opinions on Rove

The survey finds that attention to the Rove story is comparable to interest in past Washington controversies, including the 1997 ethics charges against House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott’s resignation in 2003 following remarks at Strom Thurmond’s birthday party, and charges in 1991 that then-White House chief of staff John Sununu used military aircraft for personal trips. But the story has much greater resonance than the recent ethics complaints made against House Majority Leader Tom DeLay.

As many independents as Democrats are paying close attention, and independents are nearly as negative toward Rove as Democrats are. While a majority of Democrats (55%) think Rove should resign, so too do 45% of independents – including fully 69% of independents following the story closely. Republicans are not yet jumping to Rove’s defense. More than half of Republicans who have been closely following reports on Rove believe he should not resign (54%), but nearly as many either favor his resignation (23%) or offered no opinion (23%).

High-Profile Washington Controversies				
	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not Closely	DK/Ref
	%	%	%	%
Sununu personal trips ('91)	26	37	36	1=100
Gingrich ethics charges ('97)	23	35	41	1=100
Rove CIA leak reports ('05)	23	25	51	1=100
Lott’s resignation ('03)	20	34	45	1=100
DeLay ethics complaints ('05)	8	21	70	1=100

Attentive Public: Rove Should Go				
	<i>Following Rove news very or fairly closely</i>			
	<u>All</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
<i>Should Rove resign?</i>				
Yes	58	23	78	69
No	26	54	10	20
Don’t know	<u>16</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
N=	(392)	(118)	(146)	(107)
<i>Rove guilty of serious offense?</i>				
Guilty	47	21	64	54
Not guilty	29	52	16	21
Don’t know	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>
N=	(437)	(135)	(150)	(129)

Bush’s Character Seen More Negatively

The survey shows that President Bush’s personal character is being viewed more negatively. Public views of Bush’s trustworthiness, empathy and leadership have all declined significantly since 2003. But the biggest decrease has been in perceptions of Bush’s effectiveness, perhaps reflecting the stubborn challenges he faces at home and abroad. The number saying that Bush is “able to get things done” now stands at just 50%, down from 68% in September 2003.

The number describing Bush as trustworthy has fallen 13 points over the same period, and there are indications that the Rove controversy is contributing to the president's lower rating in this area. An analysis of the data shows that those who believe that Rove has committed a serious offense are somewhat less likely than others to view Bush as trustworthy, even taking account of such factors as partisanship and opinions on Bush's job performance.

Perceptions of Bush's character also have become much more partisan. Just 28% of Democrats say Bush is able to get things done, only about half the number who said that in September 2003 (55%).

But independents also have grown more skeptical of Bush's effectiveness. Currently, fewer than half of independents (45%) say they believe Bush can get things done, down from 67% in September 2003. Independents are much more critical of Bush in other areas as well. Only about half of independents (48%) view Bush as a strong leader, compared with 72% two years ago. Bush's rating for trustworthiness among independents has suffered a comparable decline. About four-in-ten (38%) say he is trustworthy, a decline of 21 percentage points from September 2003.

Republicans continue to express highly positive opinions of Bush's character and effectiveness. Bush gets his highest ratings among Republicans for trustworthiness (88%), leadership (87%), warmth (86%) and empathy (86%). Democrats have soured on Bush across the board; positive ratings range from a high of 37% (for warmth) to a low of 20% (for personal empathy).

Descriptions of Bush's Character				
	Oct 1999	Feb 2001	Sept 2003	July 2005
	%	%	%	%
Trustworthy	63	60	62	49
Not trustworthy	29	28	32	46
Neither/DK	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100
Warm and friendly	--	67	70	57
Cold and aloof	--	21	23	37
Neither/DK	--	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
		100	100	100
Able to get things done	--	60	68	50
Not able	--	18	26	42
Neither/DK	--	<u>22</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
		100	100	100
Well informed	--	62	59	52
Not well informed	--	27	36	42
Neither/DK	--	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
		100	100	100
Cares about people like me	54	--	56	48
Doesn't care	37	--	38	49
Neither/DK	<u>9</u>	--	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
	100		100	100
Strong leader	68	--	68	55
Not a strong leader	24	--	29	41
Neither/DK	<u>8</u>	--	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100		100	100

Independents More Negative on Bush's Character			
	Sept 2003	July 2005	'05- '03
	%	%	
Strong leader	72	48	-24
Get things done	67	45	-22
Trustworthy	59	38	-21
Warm and friendly	64	48	-16
Cares about me	51	38	-13
Well informed	55	44	-11

Bush Slips on Terrorism

Currently, 44% approve of Bush’s overall job performance, while 48% disapprove. That is fairly consistent with his marks in recent months, although in the immediate aftermath of the London terrorist bombings somewhat more (47%) approved of his job performance.

Bush’s positive ratings for several major issues – the economy, foreign policy and the war in Iraq – remain in the mid- to high 30% range. In addition, since May there has been a significant decline in the number approving of Bush’s handling of terrorist threats; 49% rate Bush positively in this area, down from 57% in May. That equals the lowest rating Bush has received on terrorism since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks (49% in mid-October 2004).

	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>July</u>
	%	%	%	%
Overall job	50	46	43	44
Terrorism	62	59	57	49
Foreign policy	48	43	38	36
Iraq	45	40	37	35
Economy	45	43	35	38

Independents, in particular, have become more critical of Bush’s handling of terrorist threats. In May, a solid majority of independents (56%) approved of Bush’s performance in this area; currently, independents are split (43% approve/44% disapprove). The number of Democrats who approve of Bush’s handling of this issue also has declined (from 35% in May to 28%).

Bush...in a Word

One word impressions of President Bush were slightly more negative than positive (40% vs. 36%); 12% were neutral or not clearly positive or negative. As with several previous surveys that have tapped this top-of-the-mind association with the president, the most frequent response was “honest.” Close behind were two negative terms: “incompetent” and “arrogant.” Other frequently mentioned positive terms included “good,” “integrity,” and “determined.” Other popular negative words included “liar,” “stupid,” and “idiot.” Common neutral or ambiguous responses included “fair,” “aggressive,” and “adequate.”

<u>February 2005</u>		<u>July 2005</u>	
38	Honest	31	Honest
20	Good	26	Incompetent
15	Integrity	24	Arrogant
15	Arrogant	18	Good
14	Incompetent	18	Integrity
13	Leader	15	Determined
11	Fair	13	Liar
11	Idiot	12	Stupid
9	Strong	11	Idiot
9	Liar	11	Strong
8	Poor	10	Leader
8	Excellent	9	Okay
8	Trustworthy	9	Christian
8	Dishonest	9	Great
7	Conservative	8	Fair
7	Great	8	Sincere
7	Sucks	7	Aggressive
7	Christian	7	Honorable
7	Honorable	(N=751)	
(N=761)			

The number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are NOT percentages.

Most View Bush as a Conservative

Public perceptions of Bush’s ideology also have changed, though less dramatically, since 2003. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) believe Bush is a conservative; fewer than half as many (26%) describe him as middle of the road. In 2003, a narrower majority (51%) saw Bush as a conservative. Over the longer term, however, views of Bush’s ideological leanings have changed significantly. In February 2001, shortly after Bush took office, nearly as many described Bush as middle of the road as saw him as conservative (39% vs. 44%).

	Feb 2001	Sept 2003	July 2005
	%	%	%
Liberal	7	9	9
Middle of the road	39	33	26
Conservative	44	51	57
Neither/DK	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100

By more than two-to-one (53%-23%), the public says that Bush listens to more conservative, rather than moderate, members of his party. The balance of opinion on this measure has not changed much since the start of Bush’s presidency; however, in January 2002, when Bush still retained extraordinarily high approval ratings in the aftermath of 9/11, roughly as many said Bush listened more to moderate Republicans as to conservatives (40% vs. 38%).

News Interest Index

The July 7 terrorist bombings in London are the top story in this month’s news interest index, with 48% of Americans saying they followed coverage of the attacks *very* closely. News about the current situation in Iraq also remains a top interest of the American public; 43% followed this story very closely, about the same as last month (41%).

	Percent following <u>very closely</u>
London terrorist bombings	48
The situation in Iraq	43
Hurricanes on the Gulf Coast	38
O’Connor retirement	24
Rove controversy	23
Chinese firm and Unocal	11

So far, roughly four-in-ten (38%) Americans have paid very close attention to the recent hurricanes affecting the Gulf Coast of the U.S. The public is less engaged than it was when Hurricane Isabel struck in March 2003 (47% following very closely), but the current level of interest is the same as for hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico and off the Louisiana coast in October 2002 (38% very closely). Not surprisingly, interest in the recent storms was highest in the South (52% very closely).

About a quarter (24%) followed coverage of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s retirement from the Supreme Court very closely. Voters at the far ends of the political spectrum tend to be more engaged in this story than those in the center; 35% of liberal Democrats and 30% of conservative Republicans followed this very closely, compared with 19% of conservative/moderate Democrats

and 17% of moderate/liberal Republicans. College graduates were also particularly interested in the O'Connor retirement (38% very closely).

As mentioned above, 23% of Americans say they paid very close attention to the controversy surrounding Karl Rove and the identification of CIA operative Valerie Plame. Meanwhile, only 11% very closely followed the bid by the China National Overseas Oil Corporation to purchase the American oil company Unocal.

ABOUT THE 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 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, from July 13-17, 2005. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=751) or Form 2 (N=751) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

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

PERCEPTIONS OF BUSH'S TRUSTWORTHINESS

	-----September 2003-----				-----July 2005-----			
	(VOL.)				(VOL.)			
	Trustworthy	Not trustworthy	Neither particularly	DK/ Ref	Trustworthy	Not trustworthy	Neither particularly	DK/ Ref
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	62	32	2	4=100	49	46	2	3=100
Sex								
Male	62	33	2	3	52	44	1	3
Female	62	31	1	6	47	48	3	2
Race								
White	68	28	1	3	54	41	2	3
Non-white	43	46	4	7	30	65	2	3
Race and Sex								
White Men	67	29	2	2	57	38	1	4
White Women	68	26	1	5	52	43	3	2
Age								
Under 30	55	37	3	5	50	45	4	1
30-49	64	30	1	5	48	48	1	3
50-64	63	34	1	2	54	41	3	2
65+	66	27	2	5	47	47	1	5
Sex and Age								
Men under 50	64	32	1	3	49	47	1	3
Women under 50	58	33	2	7	48	47	3	2
Men 50+	61	34	2	3	57	37	1	5
Women 50+	68	28	1	3	46	49	3	2
Education								
College Grad.	57	39	*	4	45	52	1	2
Some College	65	30	2	3	52	43	4	1
H.S. Grad. or Less	64	29	2	5	50	44	2	4
Family Income								
\$75,000+	60	34	1	5	54	42	2	2
\$50,000-\$74,999	70	27	0	3	72	27	1	0
\$30,000-\$49,999	65	30	2	3	42	52	2	4
\$20,000-\$29,999	62	35	*	3	35	58	3	4
<\$20,000	56	33	4	7	43	55	1	1

Question: As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of George W. Bush so far. First, does George W. Bush impress you as...?

Continued on next page...

	-----September 2003-----				-----July 2005-----			
	(VOL.)				(VOL.)			
	Trustworthy	Not trustworthy	Neither particularly	DK/Ref	Trustworthy	Not trustworthy	Neither particularly	DK/Ref
%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	62	32	2	4=100	49	46	2	3=100
Region								
East	61	32	2	5	56	37	4	3
Midwest	64	32	1	3	50	47	0	3
South	64	30	2	4	51	45	1	3
West	60	35	*	5	40	54	4	2
Religious Affiliation								
Total White Protestant	75	20	1	4	61	35	2	2
- Evangelical	84	12	1	3	74	26	0	*
- Non-Evangelical	65	30	1	4	44	47	5	4
White Catholic	66	31	2	1	57	37	2	4
Party ID								
Republican	91	6	*	3	88	11	*	1
Democrat	45	50	2	3	25	71	1	3
Independent	59	34	3	4	38	55	4	3
Party and Ideology								
Conservative Republican	92	5	*	3	93	7	0	*
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	91	6	0	3	80	18	1	1
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	46	48	2	4	30	67	1	2
Liberal Democrat	43	55	1	1	16	77	1	6
Use of Force in Iraq								
Right Decision	79	15	2	4	80	17	2	1
Wrong Decision	31	65	*	4	13	83	1	3
Male Veteran								
Yes	63	31	3	3	65	31	1	3
No	64	32	1	3	48	48	1	3
Bush Approval								
Approve	90	7	1	2	92	6	1	1
Disapprove	24	70	3	3	11	85	2	2
Parental Status								
Parent	63	29	1	7	53	41	3	3
Non-Parent	62	33	2	3	47	48	2	3
Labor Union								
Union Household	69	28	1	2	47	46	1	6
Non-Union Household	62	32	2	4	50	46	2	2

PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY “VERY CLOSELY”

	The terrorist bombings in London	Situation in Iraq	Recent hurricanes effecting the Gulf Coast	Retirement of Justice O’Connor	Chinese firm’s bid to buy Unocal	(N)
	%	%	%	%	%	
Total	48	43	38	24	11	(1502)
Sex						
Male	47	44	33	25	14	(722)
Female	48	43	42	23	9	(780)
Race						
White	50	45	39	25	11	(1210)
Non-white	40	38	33	20	13	(257)
Black	44	43	40	17	10	(133)
Hispanic*	46	41	32	18	12	(98)
Race and Sex						
White Men	51	47	35	27	14	(569)
White Women	50	43	42	24	8	(641)
Age						
Under 30	40	40	27	14	5	(188)
30-49	47	40	36	20	9	(521)
50-64	49	46	41	31	15	(421)
65+	58	51	51	36	18	(336)
Education						
College Grad.	56	46	34	38	15	(554)
Some College	47	45	40	24	12	(372)
H.S. Grad	42	39	36	17	9	(469)
< H.S. Grad	50	46	44	13	10	(90)
Region						
East	48	42	33	24	10	(288)
Midwest	48	40	34	23	9	(345)
South	48	41	52	25	12	(542)
West	46	51	22	24	14	(327)
Party ID						
Republican	53	45	44	25	13	(476)
Democrat	46	43	38	24	13	(513)
Independent	47	44	34	25	9	(413)

* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
JULY 2005 NEWS INTEREST INDEX / RELIGION
FINAL TOPLINE
July 13-17, 2005
N=1,502

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know
July, 2005	44	48	8=100	February, 2003	54	36	10=100
July 7-10, 2005	47	46	7=100	January, 2003	58	32	10=100
June, 2005	42	49	9=100	2002			
Late May, 2005	42	48	10=100	December, 2002	61	28	11=100
Mid-May, 2005	43	50	7=100	Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100
Late March, 2005	49	46	5=100	Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100
Mid-March, 2005	45	46	9=100	Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
2004				August, 2002	67	21	12=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	2001			
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
2003				August, 2001	50	32	18=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100				
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100				
June, 2003	62	27	11=100				
May, 2003	65	27	8=100				
April 10-16, 2003	72	22	6=100				
April 9, 2003	74	20	6=100				
April 2-7, 2003	69	25	6=100				
March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100				
March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100				
March 20-24, 2003	67	26	7=100				
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100				

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=751]:

More specifically,

Q.2F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a.F1 The economy	38	53	9=100
Mid-May, 2005	35	57	8=100
February, 2005	43	50	7=100
January, 2005	45	50	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	38	55	7=100
Early September, 2004	44	49	7=100
August, 2004	42	52	6=100
July, 2004	42	52	6=100
June, 2004	43	50	7=100
Early April, 2004	39	53	8=100
Mid-January, 2004	47	47	6=100
September, 2003	43	48	9=100
February, 2003	43	48	9=100
January, 2003	47	45	8=100
Early October, 2002	49	40	11=100
June, 2002	53	36	11=100
January, 2002	60	28	12=100
Early September, 2001	47	44	9=100
February, 2001	50	22	28=100
b.F1 The situation in Iraq	35	57	8=100
Mid-May, 2005	37	56	7=100
February, 2005	40	53	7=100
January, 2005	45	50	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	37	56	7=100
Early September, 2004	47	45	8=100
August, 2004	43	52	5=100
July, 2004	42	53	5=100
June, 2004	42	51	7=100
Late April, 2004	44	48	8=100
Early April, 2004	40	53	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	59	37	4=100
September, 2003	52	40	8=100
April 10-16, 2003 ¹	77	17	6=100
April 8-9, 2003	71	23	6=100
--April 9, 2003	76	18	6=100
--April 8, 2003	65	28	7=100
April 2-7, 2003	73	21	6=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	26	5=100
March 25-27, 2003	73	23	4=100
March 23-24, 2003	72	22	6=100
March 20-22, 2003	70	23	7=100
February, 2003	56	37	7=100

¹ From March to April 2003 the item was worded: "... dealing with the war in Iraq?" The 1991 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

Q.2F1 CONTINUED...		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
	January, 2003	56	36	8=100
	Early October, 2002	56	34	10=100
c.F1	Terrorist threats	49	40	11=100
	Mid-May, 2005	57	35	8=100
	February, 2005	59	34	7=100
	January, 2005	62	33	5=100
	Mid-October, 2004	49	40	11=100
	Early September, 2004	62	32	6=100
	August, 2004	58	37	5=100
	July, 2004	54	40	6=100
	June, 2004	56	35	9=100
	Late April, 2004	55	36	9=100
	Early April, 2004	53	38	9=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : December, 2003	65	33	2=100
	September, 2003	64	28	8=100
	February, 2003	67	25	8=100
	January, 2003	69	23	8=100
	Early October, 2002	71	22	7=100
	June, 2002	74	18	8=100
	Mid-September, 2001 ²	85	6	9=100
	Clinton : Early September, 1998	72	20	8=100
d.F1	The nation's foreign policy	36	49	15=100
	Mid-May, 2005	38	46	16=100
	February, 2005	43	46	11=100
	January, 2005	48	43	9=100
	Mid-October, 2004	37	49	14=100
	Early September, 2004	47	42	11=100
	August, 2004	42	49	9=100
	July, 2004	40	48	12=100
	Mid-January, 2004	53	36	11=100
	March, 2003	53	36	11=100
	Early April, 2002	69	20	11=100
	<i>Gallup</i> : October, 2001	81	14	5=100
	Early September, 2001	46	34	20=100
	August, 2001 ³	45	32	23=100
	Clinton : September, 1997	54	34	12=100
	Bush, Sr : May, 1990	58	30	12=100

² In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded: "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington." In Early September 1998 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling current threats from international terrorist groups?"

³ In August 2001 roughly half of the U.S. sample was asked about Bush's handling of international policy, while the other half was asked about the handling of the nation's foreign policy. Results did not differ between question wordings.

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=751]:

Q.3F2 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of George W. Bush. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes him. **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).**

<u>July 2005*</u>	<u>February 2005</u>	<u>May 2004</u>	<u>Early Feb 2004⁴</u>	<u>May 2003</u>
31 Honest	38 Honest	30 Honest	27 Honest	29 Honest
26 Incompetent	20 Good	29 Good	24 Fair	21 Good
24 Arrogant	15 Integrity	26 Incompetent	24 Leader	20 Arrogant
18 Good	15 Arrogant	26 Leader	21 Liar	16 Leader
18 Integrity	14 Incompetent	24 Arrogant	17 Arrogant	13 Great
15 Determined	13 Leader	16 Strong	14 Strong	12 Confident
13 Liar	11 Fair	15 Integrity	13 Excellent	12 Courageous
12 Stupid	11 Idiot	13 Idiot	13 Good	11 Aggressive
11 Idiot	9 Strong	11 Christian	12 Christian	11 Christian
11 Strong	9 Liar	10 Determined	12 Integrity	11 Determined
10 Leader	8 Excellent	10 Stupid	9 Stupid	11 Integrity
9 Christian	8 Trustworthy	9 Liar	9 Incompetent	10 Patriot/Patriotic
9 Great	8 Dishonest	8 Trustworthy	8 Dishonest	9 Cowboy
9 Okay	8 Poor	7 Aggressive	7 Confident	8 Competent
8 Fair	7 Conservative	7 Committed	7 Determined	8 Decisive
8 Sincere	7 Great	7 Dishonest	7 Idiot	8 Idiot
7 Aggressive	7 Sucks	7 Okay	7 Patriotic	8 President
7 Honorable	7 Christian	6 Dedicated	7 Ass	8 Strong
6 Inept	7 Honorable	6 Fair	6 Character	7 Adequate
5 Adequate	6 Dedicated	6 President	6 Poor	7 Excellent
5 Ass	6 Determined	6 War/warrior	6 Selfish	7 Fair
4 Persistent	6 President	5 Brave	(N=748)	(N=602)
4 Egotistical	6 Selfish	5 Confident		
4 Greedy	5 Trying	5 Courageous		
4 Jerk	5 Warmonger	5 Decisive		
4 Patriotic	5 Ignorant	5 Dumb		
4 Terrible	5 Terrible	5 Excellent		
	4 Diligent	5 Great		
	4 Consistent	5 Honorable		
	4 Sincere	5 Straight-forward		
	4 Ineffective	(N=897)		
	4 Inept			
	(N=761)			

* The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

⁴ In Early February 2004, these “one word” questions were not asked toward the beginning of the questionnaire. For George W. Bush, trends from March 1999, September 1999 and March 2000 are also available.

ASK ALL:

Q.4 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE.]

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
a. News about the current situation in Iraq	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 ⁵	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 ⁶	62	27	6	4	1=100
February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100
b. The retirement of Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor	24	29	24	22	1=100
c. The move by a Chinese firm to buy the American oil company Unocal	11	18	26	43	2=100

⁵ From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

⁶ 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.4 CONTINUED...

		Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/Ref
d.	Recent hurricanes that have affected the Gulf Coast of the U.S.	38	37	17	8	*=100
	Early October, 2002 <i>Gulf of Mexico and Louisiana</i>	38	34	18	10	*=100
e.	The terrorist bombings in London, England	48	37	11	4	*=100
	March, 2004 <i>Madrid</i>	34	35	18	12	1=100
	Late October, 2002 <i>Nightclub in Bali, Indonesia</i>	20	34	25	20	1=100

NO QUESTION 5

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=751]:

Q.6F2 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of George W. Bush so far. (First,) does George W. Bush impress you as... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

		Sep <u>2003</u>	Feb <u>2001</u>	Oct <u>1999</u>
a.F2	49 Trustworthy, or	62	60	63
	46 NOT trustworthy	32	28	29
	2 Neither particularly (VOL)	2	4	2
	<u>3</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
b.F2	57 Warm and friendly, or	70	67	
	37 Cold and aloof	23	21	
	3 Neither particularly (VOL)	3	6	
	<u>3</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	100	
c.F2	50 Able to get things done, or	68	60	
	42 NOT able to get things done	26	18	
	4 Neither particularly (VOL)	3	7	
	<u>4</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>	<u>15</u>	
	100	100	100	
d.F2	52 Well informed, or	59	62	
	42 NOT well informed	36	27	
	2 Neither particularly (VOL)	*	4	
	<u>4</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	
	100	100	100	
		Sep <u>2003</u>	April <u>2001</u>	Feb <u>2001</u>
e.F2	9 Liberal,	9	8	7
	26 Middle of the road or	33	37	39
	57 Conservative	51	46	44
	2 Neither particularly (VOL)	1	3	2
	<u>6</u> Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100	100

Q.6F2 CONTINUED...

			Sep <u>2003</u>	Oct <u>1999</u>
f.F2	48	Cares about people like me, or	56	54
	49	DOESN'T care about people like me	38	37
	1	Neither particularly (VOL)	2	2
	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
	100		100	100
g.F2	55	A strong leader, or	68	68
	41	NOT a strong leader	29	24
	2	Neither particularly (VOL)	1	3
	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
	100		100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=751]:

Q.7F1 When it comes to national policy, who do you think George W. Bush is listening to more... **[READ, ROTATE]**

		Jan <u>2005</u>	May <u>2003</u>	Jan <u>2003</u>	Jan <u>2002</u>	Jan <u>2001</u>
53	Conservative members of his party OR	54	49	41	38	48
23	Moderate members of his party	27	32	35	40	37
<u>24</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

ASK ALL:

Thinking again about news stories...

Q.8 How closely have you followed reports that White House adviser Karl Rove may have leaked classified information about a CIA agent – very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

		October <u>2003</u> ⁷
23	Very closely	16
25	Fairly closely	32
26	Not too closely	24
25	Not at all closely	27
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>
100		100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=751]:

Q.9F1 From what you've heard or read, do you think that Karl Rove should resign his position, or don't you think so?

39	Yes, should resign
23	No, don't think so
<u>38</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

⁷ In October 2003, the story was listed as "Reports that a White House official may have leaked classified information about a CIA agent."

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=751]:

Q.9F2 From what you've heard or read about Karl Rove's involvement in this case, do you think the he is guilty of a serious offense or don't you think so?

32 Guilty of a serious offense
23 Not guilty of a serious offense
45 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

As you may have heard, Sandra Day O'Connor recently retired from the Supreme Court...

Q.10 Just your impression... was Sandra Day O'Connor mostly conservative, mostly liberal, or middle-of-the-road in her judgments on the Court?

13 Mostly conservative
10 Mostly liberal
51 Middle of the road
26 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=751]:

Q.11F1 In making his next appointment to the Supreme Court, should President Bush choose someone who will make the court more liberal, someone who will make it more conservative, or someone who will keep the court about the same as it is now?

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

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=751]:

Q.12F2 Do you worry that the president's next Supreme Court appointment will make the court too conservative, not conservative enough, or don't you worry about this?

31 Too conservative
19 Not conservative enough
44 Don't worry about this
6 Don't know/Refused
100

ASK ALL:

Q.13 How important is the president's choice of the next Supreme Court justice to you personally? **[READ]**

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

Q.14 From what you've seen and heard, is the question of who should be appointed to the Supreme Court more controversial this year than in the past, less controversial, or about as controversial as it's always been?

44	More controversial
5	Less controversial
44	As controversial as it's always been
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

IF MORE CONTROVERSIAL (1 IN Q.14) ASK [N=669]:

Q.15 Who is more responsible for making it more controversial... Republicans or Democrats?

37	Republicans
39	Democrats
12	Both (VOL.)
1	President Bush (VOL.)
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

QUESTION 16 AND 17 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.18 Have you been contacted by any individuals or groups asking you to support their position in the debate over the next Supreme Court nominee?

IF YES (1 IN Q.18) ASK:

Q.19 When you were contacted, were you encouraged to SUPPORT President Bush, or to OPPOSE President Bush?

3	Yes
1	Support Bush
1	Oppose Bush
1	Both/Neither (VOL.)
*	Don't know/Refused
97	No
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

NO QUESTIONS 20 THROUGH 22

Q.23 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about Attorney General Alberto Gonzales as a possible nominee to the Supreme Court? **[READ]**

- 11 A lot
- 41 A little [OR]
- 47 Nothing at all
- 1 Don't know/Refused
- 100

ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (1 OR 2 IN Q.23) [N=882]:

Q.24 From what you've read and heard, do you think it would be a good idea or a bad idea for Alberto Gonzales to be confirmed as a Supreme Court justice?

- 29 Good idea
- 30 Bad idea
- 41 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
- 100

Now, just a few questions for statistical purposes only...

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

<i>Trend</i>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL)	(VOL)	<u>Don't know</u>
				No	Other	
				<u>Preference</u>	<u>Party</u>	
July, 2005	31	34	29	4	*	2=100
June, 2005	30	32	32	4	*	2=100
Mid-May, 2005	30	34	29	4	*	3=100
Late March, 2005	32	36	2	*	1=100	
Mid-March, 2005	34	29	4	*	3=100	
February, 2005	31	32	30	4	1	2=100
January, 2005	32	33	30	4	*	1=100
December, 2004	31	34	30	3	*	2=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	33	30	4	*	3=100
Late September, 2004	29	30	31	6	*	4=100
Mid-September, 2004	29	31	30	5	*	5=100
Early September, 2004	30	33	31	3	*	3=100
August, 2004	31	35	27	4	*	3=100
July, 2004	29	33	32	3	*	3=100
Yearly Totals						
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

PARTY CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No Preference/ <u>Other/DK</u>
1996	29	33	33	5=100
1995	32	30	34	4=100
1994	30	32	34	4=100
1993	27	34	34	5=100
1992	28	33	35	4=100
1991	31	32	33	4=100
1990	31	33	30	6=100
			Independent/ <u>No Pref/Oth/DK</u>	
1989	33	33	34=100	
1987	26	35	39=100	

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	Refused <u>to lean</u>
July, 2005	9	15	12=36%
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%