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FINAL

Study #6054 NBC News/Wall Street Journal May 2005 48 Male

Interviews: 1,005 adults

Dates: May 12-16, 2005

[109]

52 Female

Please note: Additional results will be posted Thursday, May 19 at 11 p.m. EDT. All results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.

The margin of error for 1,005 interviews is ±3.1%

1. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

Headed in the right direction. Off on the wrong track Mixed (VOL) Not sure	5/05 35 52 10 3	4/05 34 51 12 3	2/05 42 48 8 2	1/05 40 47 10 3	12/04 41 46 11 2	10/04 39 48 10 3	High 9/01 72 11 11 6	Low 7/92+ 14 71 9 6	[138]
		<u>9/04</u> +	<u>8/04</u> +	<u>7/04</u> +	<u>6/04</u> +	<u>5/04</u> +	3/04	1/04	
		39	36	36	36	33	41	47	
		49	50	48	48	50	49	43	
		10	12	14	14	14	5	6	
		2	2	2	2	3	5	4	
		12/14/03	12/13/03	11/03	9/03	7/03	<u>5/03</u> +	<u>4/03</u>	
		56	41	43	38	42	49	62	
		30	48	47	50	44	38	22	
		9	8	6	8	9	8	13	
		5	3	3	4	4	5	3	
		4.400	40/00	40/00	0.40.0	7/00	0.40.0	4/00	
		<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02</u> +	9/02	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>4/02</u>	
		36	43	44	42	40	52	53	
		47	42	42	43	42	31	28	
		14 3	13 2	14	12 3	14 4	14	15	
		3	2	-	3	4	3	4	
		1/02	12/01	9/01	<u>6/01</u>	<u>1/01</u>	<u>5/96</u> +		
		62	70	72	43	45	28		
		20	15	11	39	36	52		
		14	12	11	14	15	15		
		4	3	6	4	4	8		

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

3a. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing as president?

						High	Low	
	<u>5/05</u>	<u>4/05</u>	<u>2/05</u>	<u>1/05</u>	<u>12/04</u>	<u>11/01</u>	<u>6/04</u> +	
Approve	47	48	50	50	49	88	45	[143]
Disapprove	47	46	45	44	44	7	49	
Not sure	6	6	5	6	7	5	6	
	<u>10/04</u> +	<u>9/04</u> +	<u>8/04</u> +	<u>7/04</u> +	<u>6/04</u> +	<u>5/04</u> +	<u>3/04</u>	
	49	47	47	48	45	47	50	
	47	48	48	46	49	46	46	
	4	5	5	6	6	7	5	
	1/04	10/11/00	10/10/00	11/02	0/02	7/02	E/02 ·	
	<u>1/04</u>	<u>12/14/03</u>	<u>12/13/03</u>	<u>11/03</u>	<u>9/03</u>	<u>7/03</u>	<u>5/03</u> +	
	54	58	52	51	49	56	62	
	41	34	41	44	45	38	31	
	6	9	7	5	6	6	7	
		3/29-						
	4/03	30/03	3/23/03	3/17/03	2/03 ¹	<u>1/03</u>	12/02	
	71	66	67	62	61	54	62	
	23	29	28	33	31	40	33	
	6	5	5	5	8	6	5	
	40/00	0/00	7/00	0/00	F/00	4/00	4/04	
	<u>10/02</u> +	<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>5/02</u>	<u>4/02</u>	<u>4/01</u>	
	63	64	67	69	75	74	57	
	31	30	27	23	18	20	22	
	6	6	6	8	7	6	21	

¹Overnight poll conducted after Colin Powell's speech to the United Nations.

3b. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling the economy?

Approve Disapprove Not sure	5/05 43 51 6	4/05 41 53 6	2/05 46 50 4	1/05 47 47 6	12/04 44 51 5	10/04 45 52 3	<u>9/04</u> + 45 51 4	[144]
	<u>8/04</u> +	<u>6/04</u> +	<u>5/04</u> +	3/04	<u>1/04</u>	12/13/03	11/03	
	43	45	41	45	49	48	50	
	52	49	53	51	45	46	44	
	5	6	6	4	6	6	5	
	9/03	<u>7/03</u>	<u>5/03</u> +	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02</u> +	
	43	45	47	49	44	47	48	
	52	48	45	42	49	45	44	
	6	7	8	9	7	8	8	
	9/02	7/02	<u>6/02</u>	4/02	1/02	<u>12/01</u>	<u>4/01</u>	
	48	49	57	61	63	63	52	
	43	43	34	30	27	25	27	
	9	8	9	9	10	12	21	

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

3c. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling our foreign policy?

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters

Approve Disapprove Not sure	<u>5/05</u> * 42 52 6	4/05 42 50 8	<u>2/05</u> 44 50 6	<u>1/05</u> 46 49 5	12/04 45 51 4	10/04+ 48 46 6	9/04+ 44 51 5	[145]
		8/04+ 44 52 4	6/04+ 44 52 4	<u>5/04</u> + 43 51 6	3/04 47 48 5	1/04 54 41 5	12/14/03 56 37 7	
		12/13/03 48 47 5	11/03 48 48 4	9/03 47 46 7	7/03 55 39 6	5/03+ 63 31 6	4/03 70 24 6	
		<u>1/03</u> 51 42 7	12/02 57 36 7	10/02+ 58 35 7	9/02 55 34 11	7/02 62 28 10	6/02 64 28 8	
		4/02 68 26 6	1/02 81 13 6	12/01 82 12 6	4/01 53 20 27			

^{*} Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

3d. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling the situation in Iraq? **

Approve	44	[146]
Disapprove	52	
Not sure	4	

^{**} Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

4. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that Congress is doing?

Approve Disapprove Not sure	5/05 33 51 16	4/05 39 46 15	1/05 41 40 19	6/04+ 40 42 18	5/04+ 39 43 18	1/04 46 41 13	12/13/03 39 47 14	High 9/98 61 28 11	Low 10/90+ 22 69 9	[147]
	11/03 43 45 11	9/03 39 45 16	7/03 42 45 13	5/03+ 43 43 14	1/03 42 39 19	12/02 44 39 17	10/02+ 44 40 16	9/02 40 44 16	7/02 34 48 18	
	6/02 43 41 16	1/02 54 29 17	12/01 57 29 14	6/01 47 34 19	4/01 43 33 24	3/01 45 32 23	1/01 48 35 17	12/00 55 30 15	10/00+ 49 35 16	
	<u>9/00</u> +	<u>7/00</u> +	<u>6/00</u> +	<u>4/00</u> +	<u>3/00</u> +	<u>1/00</u>	12/99	10/99	9/99	

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

46	46	43	42	43	48	45	42	40
41	42	46	44	40	36	42	45	49
13	12	11	14	17	16	13	13	11
7/99	6/99	4/99	3/99	<u>1/99</u>	12/98	10/98+	6/95	5/94
43	40	49	41	50	44	48	43	32
41	42	38	45	40	42	39	43	56
16	18	13	14	10	14	13	14	12

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

6a. In the next election for U.S. Congress, do you feel that your representative deserves to be reelected, or do you think it is time to give a new person a chance?

Deserves to be reelected Give new person a chance Not sure	5/05+ 42 45 13	10/04+ 49 34 17	10/02+ 42 39 19	9/02 41 42 17	10/00+ 50 35 15	9/00+ 49 38 13	6/00+ 49 39 12	12/99 42 47 11	[156]
		<u>10/98</u> +	<u>12/97</u> +	<u>10/94</u> +	9/94	<u>5/94</u>	1/94	10/93	
		48	41	39	30	34	35	34	
		37	45	49	53	50	47	52	
		15	14	12	17	16	18	14	
		<u>9/93</u>	<u>7/93</u>	<u>10/92</u> +	<u>9/92</u> +	<u>7/92</u> +	<u>4/92</u> +	<u>2/92</u> +	
		37	30	31	31	27	33	37	
		47	55	56	56	62	57	52	
		16	15	13	13	11	10	11	
		<u>1/92</u> +	<u>12/91</u> +	<u>10/91</u> +	<u>10/90</u> +	<u>11/89</u> +			
		42	35	40	39	41			
		48	52	48	48	36			
		10	13	12	13	23			

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

6b. What is your preference for the outcome of the 2006 congressional elections—a Congress controlled by Republicans or a Congress controlled by Democrats?

		10/29-	10/16-							
	5/05+1	<u>31/04</u> +	<u>18/04</u> +	<u>9/04</u> +	<u>6/04</u> +	<u>5/04</u> +	<u>3/04</u> +	<u>1/04</u>	12/13/03	
Republican-controlled Congress	40	43	44	42	42	41	42	42	42	[157]
Democrat-controlled Congress	47	44	44	46	44	44	45	43	42	
Not sure ³	13	13	12	12	14	15	13	15	16	
		<u>10/02</u> +	9/02	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>1/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	<u>12/99</u>	<u>10/99</u>	
		43	42	43	42	44	42	40	39	
		42	42	41	41	40	40	44	41	
		15	16	16	17	16	18	16	20	
	<u>7/99</u>	<u>6/99</u>	<u>4/99</u>	<u>3/99</u>	<u>10/98</u> +	<u>9/98</u>	7/98	6/98	<u>4/98</u>	
	39	42	41	37	41	40	41	39	37	
	43	41	40	43	43	39	40	40	41	
	18	17	19	20	16	21	19	21	22	
	2/98	1/98	12/97	9/97	7/97	4/97	1/96	12/95	10/94 ²	

41	40	41	41	45	44	41	42	44
37	42	37	39	39	38	38	41	38
22	18	22	20	16	18	21	17	18

¹ Prior to May 2005 the question was phrased, "What is your preference for the outcome of the upcoming congressional elections"

6c. How much confidence do you have in Congress--a great deal, quite a bit, some, very little, or none at all?

	A Great Deal Of <u>Confidenc</u>	Quite A Bit Of <u>Confidenc</u>	Some <u>Confidenc</u>	Very Little Confidenc	No Confidenc e <u>At All</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
	<u>e</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>e</u>	<u>e</u>			
Congress							[158]
May 2005	6	12	53	23	5	1	
January 2002	13	24	44	15	3	1	
December 2000	10	16	48	18	6	2	
June 1998 ¹	10	18	48	20	2	2	
February 1997 ⁵	7	14	46	32	NA	1	
January 1996 ²	4	10	41	41	3	1	
December 1991 ³	7	10	39	43	NA	1	
December 1988 ⁴	8	20	41	26	NA	6	
October 1986 ⁴	10	31	43	12	1	3	
November 1981 ⁴	8	21	41	22	6	3	
January 1977 ⁴	12	28	34	17	1	7	
June 1975 ⁴	14	26	38	18	1	3	

PLEASE NOTE: Comparative data shown does *not* necessarily reflect all of the existing data for an item. It is possible that an institution received higher or lower confidence ratings in a survey that is not shown.

7. Generally speaking do you feel that, **(READ ITEM)** has the same priorities for the country as you do, or do you think that **(READ ITEM)** has different priorities for the country than you do?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY HAS SAME PRIORITIES

	Has Same <u>Priorities</u>	Has Different <u>Priorities</u>	Some Of Both/Depend s <u>(VOL)</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
President Bush	35	57	7	1	[159/161]
The Democrats in Congress **	34	48	14	4	[162]
The Republicans in Congress **	33	55	9	3	[163]
Congress *	17	65	14	4	[160]

² In October 1994, the question referred to the 1994 congressional elections; the 1995 and 1996 survey dates referred to the 1996 congressional elections; the 1997 and 1998 dates refer to the 1998 congressional elections.

³ The volunteered responses "both equal," "neither in control," or "doesn't matter," were reported separately; for purposes of comparative they are combined with "not sure."

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

¹ Comparative data comes from Gallup/CNN/USA Today surveys.

² Comparative data comes from a survey conducted by Princeton Survey Research for the Kaiser Foundation, Harvard University, and the Washington Post

³ Comparative data comes from a survey conducted by ABC News.

⁴ Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by Gallup.

⁵ Comparative data comes from a survey conducted by Hart/Teeter for the Council for Excellence in Government.

8. I'm going to list some issues, and for each one, please tell me whether you think that President Bush and his administration are placing too much emphasis on this issue, too little emphasis, or the right amount of emphasis. *

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY TOO MUCH EMPHASIS

			Right		
	Too Much	Too Little	Amount Of	Not	
	<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Sure</u>	
Iraq	49	12	34	5	[165]
Issues related to moral values	30	27	39	4	[172]
Social Security	27	40	27	6	[166]
Afghanistan	26	24	41	9	[169]
Terrorism	19	25	52	4	[174]
Homeland security	17	28	52	3	[173]
Immigration	14	56	21	9	[170]
Gas prices	9	64	22	5	[164]
Education	8	57	31	4	[168]
Health care	3	75	20	2	[171]
Jobs and the economy	1	65	31	3	[167]

^{*} Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

9. Do you think that Congress and the President are working together to end the gridlock in Washington, or do you think that things will stay pretty much as they are now because Congress and the President always have differences?

	<u>5/05</u>	
Congress and President will be able to work together	13	[175]
Things will be pretty much as they were before	80	
Not sure	7	

Now that the presidency and the Congress are both controlled by the same party, do you expect that Congress and the President will be able to work together to end the gridlock in Washington or do you think that things will stay pretty much as they are now because Congress and the President always have differences?

	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>
Congress and President will be able to work together	41	48
Things will be pretty much as they were before	51	46
Not sure	8	6

11. When there are vacancies in the federal court system, should the Senate generally confirm the President's judicial nominees as long as they are honest and competent, or should the Senate make its own decision about the fitness of each nominee to serve?

Should generally confirm president's nominees	34	[177]
Should make its own decision	56	

^{*} Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

^{**} Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Depends (VOL)	5
Not sure	5

12. I am going to read you a series of actions that have recently been in the news. For each one, please tell me whether you generally support this action, generally oppose this action, feel neutral about this action, or whether you do not care about this action.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY GENERALLY SUPPORT ACTION

	Generally Support <u>Action</u>	Generally Oppose <u>Action</u>	Feel Neutral About This <u>Action</u>	Do Not Care About <u>This Action</u>	Not Sure	
Congress holding hearings on gas prices	66	13	14	5	2	[180]
Congress investigating Congressman Tom DeLay's travel and working relationship with lobbyists	52	12	15	16	5	[178]
Congress considering changing the Social Security system to allow people to invest some of their Social Security taxes in private accounts	39	45	11	2	3	[209]
Congress considering putting an end to the Senate's filibuster procedure, which requires sixty senators rather than fifty-one to end debate and hold a confirmation vote						
for judicial nominees Democrats in the Senate preventing	31	32	19	13	5	[179]
President Bush's judicial nominations from coming up for a vote	30	38	21	7	4	[208]

16. Over the past twelve months, do you think that the nation's economy has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same?

	<u>5/05</u>	<u>1/05</u>	<u>10/04</u> +	<u>9/04</u> +	<u>8/04</u> +	<u>7/04</u> +	<u>6/04</u> +	<u>6/04</u> +	<u>5/04</u> +	
Economy has gotten better	20	31	30	29	29	37	39	39	35	[214]
Economy has gotten worse	42	28	34	36	33	31	28	28	33	
Economy has stayed about the same	37	40	35	34	37	30	31	31	31	
Not sure	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	
	<u>3/04</u> +	1/04	12/13/03	11/03	9/03	7/03	<u>5/03</u> +	12/01	<u>4/01</u> 1	
	35	43	45	38	27	23	18	6	7	
	34	23	27	29	41	42	44	65	57	
	29	34	27	31	30	34	36	28	35	
	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	
	3/01	3/92	<u>1/92</u>	12/91	10/91	<u>9/91</u>	<u>7/91</u>	6/91	<u>5/91</u>	
	17	6	2	3	6	8	9	11	8	
	44	73	78	74	67	57	64	54	64	
	38	20	19	22	26	33	26	35	27	
	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	_	1	

<u>12/90</u>	<u>10/90</u>	9/90	7/90	<u>5/90</u>	<u>4/90</u>	3/90	<u>1/90</u>	<u>11/89</u>	9/89
3	3	6	11	11	12	12	12	15	18
73	72	57	37	36	30	30	29	34	23
23	24	35	51	52	56	56	57	49	57
1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2

¹ Prior to April 2001, the question was phrased, "Over the past year..."

17. During the next twelve months, do you think that the nation's economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

Economy will get better	<u>5/05</u> 28	<u>1/05</u> 43	<u>10/04</u> + 43	<u>9/04</u> + 43	<u>5/04</u> + 42	<u>3/04</u> + 44	<u>1/04</u> 50	<u>12/13/03</u> 53	<u>11/03</u> 49	[215]
Economy will get worse Economy will stay about	30	17	10	13	16	18	10	10	15	
the same	36	36	33	33	34	35	37	33	33	
Not sure	6	4	14	11	8	3	3	3	3	
		9/03	7/03	<u>5/03</u> +	1/03	12/02	<u>10/02</u> +	9/02	7/02	
		44	45	49	35	40	41	39	41	
		19	16	17	25	20	20	18	20	
		33	34	31	37	35	34	39	37	
		4	4	3	3	5	5	4	2	
				4						
		<u>4/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	4/01 ¹	<u>3/01</u>	<u>10/98</u> +	<u>9/98</u>	<u>4/97</u>	<u>1/96</u>	
		50	50	36	28	17	19	19	21	
		13	15	25	29	24	22	22	21	
		32	32	34	37	54	53	57	52	
		5	3	5	6	5	6	2	6	
		7/95	<u>4/95</u>	12/94	10/94	9/94	<u>6/94</u>	<u>5/94</u>	3/94	
		20	24	31	31	28	28	<u> </u>	29	
		21	23	17	24	24	17	21	16	
		54	50	46	40	44	52	49	52	
		5	3	6	5	4	3	3	3	
		5	3	O	5	4	3	3	3	
		<u>1/94</u>	<u>12/93</u>	<u>10/93</u>	9/93	<u>7/93</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>4/93</u>	<u>3/93</u>	
		44	43	21	23	20	23	33	39	
		16	19	27	24	29	27	21	15	
		36	34	50	51	48	47	44	43	
		4	4	2	2	3	3	2	3	
		<u>1/93</u>	12/92	<u>5/92</u>	<u>9/91</u>					
		50	53	32	31					
		9	10	20	24					
		39	35	45	40					
		2	2	3	5					

¹ Prior to April 2001, the question was phrased, "During the next year..."

Now I'd like to ask you a couple of questions about Social Security . . .

25a. In general, do you think that it is a good idea or a bad idea to change the Social Security system to allow workers to invest their Social Security contributions in the stock market?

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

	5/05		4/05	2/05	1/05	12/04	
Good idea	36	CONTINUE	35	40	40	38	[237]
Bad idea	56		55	51	50	50	
Not sure	8	Skip to Q.26	10	9	10	12	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY GOOD IDEA OR BAD IDEA IN Q.25a.)

25b. When it comes to allowing workers to invest some of their Social Security contributions in the stock market, would you say that your position is completely firm and unlikely to change, or would you say that you are open to changing your mind on this issue?

	(Good Idea (Q.25a)	a		Bad Idea (Q.25a)		
	5/05	4/05	2/05	5/05	4/05	2/05	•
Position is firm/unlikely to change	37	32	31	62	53	60	[238]
Open to changing mind	62	65	68	36	45	39	
Not sure	1	3	1	2	2	1	

27. Which of the following do you think best describes the financial situation of Social Security today--it is in crisis, it is in serious trouble but not in crisis, it is in some trouble, or it is not really in trouble at all?

	<u>5/05</u> **	4/05	2/05	<u>1/05</u>	
In crisis	14	17	17	14	[240]
In serious trouble but not in crisis	39	37	35	38	
In some trouble	36	36	39	38	
Not really in trouble at all	8	7	7	7	
Depends (VOL)	1	1	-	1	
Not sure	2	2	2	2	

^{**} Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Turning to the war in Iraq . . .

When it comes to the war in Iraq, do you think that removing Saddam Hussein from power was or was not worth the number of U.S. military casualties and the financial cost of the war?

Worth it Not worth it Depends (VOL) Not sure	5/05 40 51 4 5	4/05 44 48 4 4	2/05 44 49 3 4	1/05 40 52 3 5	12/04 43 48 6 3	10/04+ 41 50 4 5	[243]
		9/04+ 40 52 3 5	8/04+ 43 49 4	7/04+ 43 47 4 6	6/04+ 40 51 5 4	5/04+ 42 47 5 6	
		3/04 50 45 1 4	1/04 52 40 2 5	12/14/03 53 37 5 5	12/13/03 45 42 6 6	11/03 45 46 3 5	

⁺ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

The Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll was based on nationwide telephone interviews of 1,005 American adults, conducted May 12-16 by the polling organizations of Peter Hart and Bill McInturff.

The sample was drawn in the following manner: 300 geographic points were randomly selected proportionate to the population of each region and, within each region, by size of place. Individuals were selected by a method that gave all telephone numbers, listed and unlisted, an equal chance of being included.

One adult, 18 years or older, was selected from each household by a procedure to provide a balance of respondents by sex. The data's margin of error is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. Sample tolerances for subgroups are larger.