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**Approval of Bush, GOP Leaders Slips**  
**DISENGAGED PUBLIC LEANS AGAINST CHANGING FILIBUSTER**  
**RULES**

**Also Inside...**

- Both Sides Blamed in Filibuster Fight
- 22% Have Seen or Heard Ad on Filibuster
- DeLay Ethics Questions Spark Little Interest
- Rising Gas Prices Top News Story

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## Approval of Bush, GOP Leaders Slips **DISENGAGED PUBLIC LEANS AGAINST CHANGING FILIBUSTER RULES**

As the Senate prepares for a showdown on the use of the filibuster against some of President Bush's judicial nominees, the issue remains mostly off the public's radar. But public opinion – especially among the roughly one-third of the public who has paid at least fairly close attention to the issue – tilts against changing Senate rules to prohibit filibusters against judicial nominees.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted May 11-15 among 1,502 Americans, finds that by 37%-28%, the general public opposes changing the Senate rules to stop the use of filibusters against judicial nominees. But a relatively large number of Americans (35%) have no opinion on the matter. Among the minority who have followed the story fairly or very closely, a majority (54%) opposes changing the rules on Senate filibusters.

About as many Americans blame President Bush (38%) as blame congressional Democrats (34%) for the stalemate over judicial nominees. Opinion on the broader principles involved in the filibuster debate is decidedly mixed. While 62% believe the Senate's minority party should be able to block nominees they feel strongly about, a majority (53%) says that President Bush should be able to appoint anyone he wants to the courts if a majority of senators agree.

<b>Low Interest, Mixed Feelings on Filibuster</b>				
<i>How closely following news about filibuster?</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
Very closely	14	15	18	12
Fairly closely	20	19	21	18
Not too closely	26	27	24	28
Not at all closely	39	39	36	41
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Changing Senate rules to stop judicial filibusters</i>				
Favor	28	45	20	23
Oppose	37	24	47	41
Don't know	<u>35</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>36</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Who's responsible for the situation</i>				
President Bush	38	10	64	38
Senate Democrats	34	69	11	29
Don't know	<u>28</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>33</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Seen any advertisements about the filibuster issue?</i>				
Yes	22	22	23	20
No	77	76	76	80
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100	100	100

The survey shows that Washington's springtime battles are generally not resonating – interest in the ethics complaints against House Majority Leader Tom Delay is even lower than in the filibuster controversy. However, these fights are taking a toll on opinions of the nation's political leaders. President Bush's overall job approval rating stands at 43%, down from 49% in late March. That equals the lowest mark in Bush's presidency (43% in April 2004).

Nearly two-thirds (64%) say Republicans and Democrats in Washington have been bickering and opposing one another more than usual this year, continuing an upward trend. This is a stark contrast to the beginning of Bush's first term in office – both before and after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks – when a significant proportion saw the parties working together more to solve problems.

Although neither party is escaping blame, the damage to the Republican Party's image may be more severe. Just 35% of Americans say they approve of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing; 50% disapprove, up from 44% in March of this year, and 42% a year ago. Public approval of Democratic leaders is only slightly higher (39% approve, 41% disapprove), but has remained unchanged over the past two years.

<b>Public Sees Mudfight, No Winners</b>					
	May	May	Oct	June	May
	<u>01</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>03</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
<i>This year, the parties are...</i>					
Bickering more than usual	41	31	55	60	64
Working together more than usual	34	44	21	21	13
Same as in past (VOL.)	9	8	10	7	8
Don't know	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
	June	May	Feb	Mar	May
<b><i>Congressional Job Approval</i></b>	<u>01</u>	<u>02</u>	<u>04</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>
<i>Republican leaders</i>	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	40	49	41	39	35
Disapprove	40	34	42	44	50
Don't know	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Democratic leaders</i>					
Approve	50	42	38	37	39
Disapprove	28	37	42	44	41
Don't know	<u>22</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100	100	100	100
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Mid- Mar	Late May
	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>05</u>
	%	%	%	%	%
<b><i>2005 Bush Job Approval</i></b>					
Approve	50	46	45	49	43
Disapprove	43	47	46	46	50
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100

These generally unfavorable views may have political ramifications for incumbents seeking reelection in 2006. While by more than two-to-one (49%-23%), more say they approve than disapprove of *their own* representative in the House, this is comparable to measures of satisfaction in the summer of 1993, a year before the historic midterm elections in 1994 in which the Democratic Party lost its majority in the House.

***Attentive Americans Oppose Rule Change***

The public is paying relatively little attention to the senate dispute over judicial nominees. Just 14% say they are following the issue very closely, with another 20% following fairly closely. About equal numbers of Democrats and Republicans are following the issue. But reflecting the intensity of interest by interest groups that have engaged the issue, about one-in-five (22%) say they have seen, read, or heard advertisements that take sides on the issue. However, just 3% have received telephone calls about the issue.

Among the approximately one-third of the public paying at least fairly close attention to the filibuster issue, a small majority of 54% opposes the idea of changing the senate rules to stop the use of filibusters; 36% favor the change. People who are paying less attention are evenly divided (25% favor, 28% oppose), with nearly half (47%) holding no opinion. And among the attentive public on this issue, a plurality of 46 % say Bush is more responsible for the situation; 39% blame the Democrats.

<b>More Opposition from Engaged</b>		
	<i>Followed news about filibuster...</i>	
	Very/fairly	Not too/at all
<i>Changing Senate rules</i>	<u>closely</u>	<u>closely</u>
<i>to stop judicial filibusters</i>	%	%
Favor	36	25
Oppose	54	28
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>47</u>
	100	100
<i>Who's responsible for the situation</i>		
President Bush	46	35
The Democrats	39	31
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>34</u>
	100	100
<i>Seen any advertisements about the filibuster issue?</i>		
Yes	42	12
No	57	87
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	100	100

***Many Argue It Either Way***

Public opinion on the filibuster issue is still very unsettled, as reflected by the high percentage of Americans who do not have an opinion on whether Senate rules should be changed (35%). This is partly a result of the low visibility of the issue, but it also stems from conflicting views about the underlying principles. Majorities agree with each of two opposing statements about the situation, and nearly one-third (31%) agree with both.

Over half of the public (53%) agrees that the Republican victory in the 2004 election entitles the president to pick anyone he wants if a majority in the senate agrees; 43% disagree. An even larger majority (62%) agrees that the lifetime terms of

judicial appointments entitles the minority to block nominees about whom they feel strongly; just 30% disagree with this. Slightly less than half of the public holds consistent views on these two statements (agreeing with one and not the other).

Views on the first statement are very partisan, which is perhaps not surprising given the specific references to the Republican Party and to President Bush. More than eight-in-ten Republicans (84%) believe that the president should get his way, while 60% of Democrats disagree. Independents are evenly divided (48% agree, 49% disagree). But the principle that would give the minority party the ability to block appointments on which it feels strongly drew significant support among Republicans, with 53% agreeing and 42% disagreeing. Democrats were very supportive (by a margin of 70% to 23%), and most independents also agreed (64%-30%).

### ***DeLay Story Not Resonating***

Thus far, the controversy surrounding House Majority Leader Tom DeLay has attracted far less attention than the 1997 ethics case involving former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Only about three-in-ten (29%) are following news about the ethics complaints against DeLay very or fairly closely. In January 1997, fully twice as many (58%) paid at least some attention to news that

<b>Taking Both Sides on Judicial Filibusters</b>					
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
		%	%	%	%
<i>The Republicans won last election so President Bush should be able to appoint anyone he wants to the federal courts if a majority of Senators agree.</i>	Agree	53	84	35	48
	Disagree	43	15	60	49
	Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
		100	100	100	100
<i>The minority party ought to be able to block some of the judges they feel strongly about because judges are appointed to the federal courts for life terms.</i>	Agree	62	53	70	64
	Disagree	30	42	23	30
	Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
		100	100	100	100

<b>Little Interest in DeLay</b>			
	Jan 1997	May 2005	
	<u>Gingrich</u>	<u>DeLay</u>	
	%	%	
<i>Follow news about ethical complaints...</i>			
Very closely	23	8	
Fairly closely	35	21	
Not too closely	22	28	
Not at all closely	19	42	
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
	100	100	
		<i>Followed story</i>	
		Very/	Not too/
		fairly	not at all
<i>Is DeLay is guilty of ethics violations</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>closely</u>	<u>closely</u>
	%	%	%
Yes	31	61	18
No	19	24	18
Don't know	<u>50</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>64</u>
	100	100	100
		(N=478)	(N=1006)

Gingrich had been charged with violations by the House Ethics Committee.

With so little attention to this news story outside the Beltway, it is not surprising that half of the public is unable to make a judgment about whether or not DeLay is guilty of violating the ethical standards of the House. Of those who have an opinion, a 31% plurality believes he is guilty of violating House rules. Those following the story at least fairly closely think DeLay is guilty of ethics violations by better than a two-to-one margin (61% vs. 24%).

Republicans who paying at least some attention to the reports on DeLay are somewhat divided over whether he is guilty of violating the ethical standards of the House; 49% say he is not guilty, while 39% believe he is. As expected, Democrats who have been following this story very or fairly closely overwhelmingly believe DeLay is guilty (78%).

Over the past month, the high price of gasoline dominated the public's news interests; 58% paid very close attention to reports on gas prices, up from 50% in March. Roughly four-in-ten (42%) followed news from Iraq very closely, little changed from March (40%).

The president's Social Security proposal attracted very close attention from 36% of the public, while 30% closely followed news on the economy. Only about one-in-five (22%) tracked reports on the selection of the new pope very closely, and even fewer tracked the debate over the Senate filibuster rules (14%) and ethics complaints against DeLay (8%) very closely.

<b>The Public's News Interests</b>	
	Percent following <u>very closely</u>
The high price of gasoline	58
The situation in Iraq	42
Bush's Social Security proposal	36
Economic conditions	30
The selection of the new pope	22
Filibuster debate	14
Delay ethics complaints	8

### **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 May 11-15, 2005. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=758) or Form 2 (N=744) 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.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MAY 2005 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**May 11-15, 2005**  
**N=1502**

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
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
<b>2004</b>				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	<b>2001</b>			
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
<b>2003</b>				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				
February, 2003	54	36	10=100				
January, 2003	58	32	10=100				
<b>2002</b>							
December, 2002	61	28	11=100				

**QUESTIONS 2 AND 3 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK FORM 1 [N=758]:**

**ROTATE Q.4F1 AND Q.5F1**

Q.4F1 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican 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 Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
May, 2005	35	50	15=100	November, 1996	40	43	17=100
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17=100	July, 1996	38	48	14=100
Early February, 2004	41	42	17=100	June, 1996	36	50	14=100
January, 2003	48	37	15=100	April, 1996	39	46	15=100
June, 2002	50	34	16=100	March, 1996	35	51	14=100
May, 2002	49	34	17=100	February, 1996	33	53	14=100
February, 2002	56	24	20=100	January, 1996	36	54	10=100
Early September, 2001	43	39	18=100	October, 1995	36	51	13=100
June, 2001	40	40	20=100	September, 1995	36	50	14=100
May, 2001	45	36	19=100	August, 1995	38	45	17=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=100	June, 1995	41	45	14=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100	April, 1995	44	43	13=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100	March, 1995	43	39	18=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100	December, 1994	52	28	20=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100				
February, 2000	40	43	17=100				
January, 2000	39	41	20=100				
December, 1999	38	42	20=100				
October, 1999	34	50	16=100				
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100				
August, 1999	40	44	16=100				
July, 1999	36	45	19=100				
June, 1999	37	46	17=100				
May, 1999	38	44	18=100				
March, 1999	38	47	15=100				
February, 1999	37	51	12=100				
January, 1999	38	50	12=100				
Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100				
November, 1998	41	48	11=100				
Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100				
Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100				
June, 1998	42	38	20=100				
May, 1998	40	41	19=100				
April, 1998	41	40	19=100				
March, 1998	43	39	18=100				
January, 1998	43	41	16=100				
November, 1997	41	43	16=100				
August, 1997	42	44	14=100				
June, 1997	33	50	17=100				
May, 1997	40	44	16=100				
April, 1997	40	44	16=100				
February, 1997	44	42	14=100				
January, 1997	38	47	15=100				



Q.5F1 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>
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

**ASK FORM 2 [N=744]:**

Q.6F2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House in Congress is handling his or her job? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job your own representative in Congress is doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
May, 2005	49	23	28=100
September, 1993	54	24	22=100
August, 1993	52	26	22=100
March, 1992	45	37	18=100

**QUESTION 7 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.8 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. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**

	<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. George W. Bush's proposal to deal with the Social Security system					
Mid-March, 2005	36	36	17	10	1=100
February, 2005	38	34	16	11	1=100
<b>Clinton:</b> February, 1998 <sup>1</sup>	31	36	20	13	*=100
January, 1997	24	38	26	12	*=100
	29	35	22	13	1=100
b. The high price of gasoline these days					
Mid-March, 2005	58	27	9	5	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	50	32	13	5	*=100
August, 2004	64	22	8	5	1=100
July, 2004	52	29	10	8	1=100
June, 2004	56	25	11	7	1=100
April, 2004	58	26	9	6	1=100
Early April, 2004	46	30	15	8	1=100
	58	23	10	8	1=100

<sup>1</sup> In February 1998, the story was listed as "Clinton's proposal to deal with the problem with Social Security." In January 1997 the story was listed as "Proposals to reform the Social Security System."

**Q.8 CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/Ref
Mid-March, 2004	47	27	14	10	2=100
September, 2003	45	27	15	11	1=100
March, 2003	52	27	11	9	1=100
February, 2003	53	25	12	9	1=100
June, 2001	56	31	7	5	1=100
May, 2001	61	26	6	6	1=100
Early October, 2000	56	25	12	6	1=100
June, 2000 <sup>2</sup>	61	25	9	5	*=100
March, 2000	58	28	10	4	*=100
October, 1990	62	26	8	4	*=100
September, 1990	56	28	11	5	*=100
August, 1990	57	27	10	5	1=100
<b>c. Reports about the condition of the U.S. economy</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1=100</b>
January, 2005	35	41	17	7	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	30	43	16	10	1=100
Early September, 2004	39	34	15	11	1=100
Mid-January, 2004	37	41	15	7	*=100
December, 2003	35	38	14	11	2=100
November, 2003	40	34	15	10	1=100
October, 2003	32	39	16	12	1=100
September, 2003	39	30	18	12	1=100
March, 2003	40	35	16	8	1=100
February, 2003	42	33	15	10	*=100
January, 2003	40	35	13	11	1=100
December, 2002	38	34	17	10	1=100
February, 2002	35	40	15	9	1=100
January, 2002	30	44	16	9	1=100
December, 2001	37	40	13	8	2=100
Mid-November, 2001	41	36	15	7	1=100
June, 2001	24	41	18	16	1=100
May, 2001	34	36	15	15	0=100
April, 2001	36	34	16	13	1=100
February, 2001	30	39	18	12	1=100
January, 2001	32	38	17	11	2=100
June, 1995	26	41	22	11	*=100
March, 1995	27	45	19	9	*=100
February, 1995	23	41	22	13	1=100
December, 1994	28	43	20	9	*=100
October, 1994	27	40	20	12	1=100
June, 1994	25	42	23	10	*=100
May, 1994	33	40	16	10	1=100
January, 1994	34	39	16	10	1=100
Early January, 1994	36	44	13	7	*=100
December, 1993	35	41	15	8	1=100
October, 1993	33	38	20	9	*=100
September, 1993	37	40	14	8	1=100
Early September, 1993	39	39	14	9	*=100
August, 1993	41	36	14	9	*=100

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<sup>2</sup> In August 1990 through June 2000 the story was listed as "Recent increases in the price of gasoline."

**Q.8 CONTINUED...**

	Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
May, 1993	37	38	18	6	1=100
February, 1993	49	36	10	5	*=100
January, 1993	42	39	12	7	*=100
September, 1992	43	37	13	6	1=100
May, 1992	39	39	15	6	1=100
March, 1992	47	38	11	4	*=100
February, 1992	47	37	10	6	*=100
January, 1992	44	40	11	5	*=100
October, 1991	36	38	16	9	1=100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=758]:**

d.F1	News about the current situation in Iraq	42	42	11	5	*=100
	Mid-March, 2005	40	39	14	5	2=100
	February, 2005	38	45	13	4	*=100
	January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
	December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
	Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
	Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
	August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
	July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
	June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
	April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
	Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
	Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
	December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
	November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
	October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
	September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
	Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
	Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
	June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100
	May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
	April 11-16, 2003 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	62	27	6	4	1=100
	February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
	January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
	December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
	Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
	Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
	Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=744]:**

e.F2	The selection of the new Pope	22	33	23	20	2=100
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<sup>3</sup> From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed as "News about the war in Iraq."

<sup>4</sup> 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."

**NO QUESTION 9**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 This year, have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems OR have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?

	Working together more	Bickering and opposing one another more than usual	Same as in past (VOL)	Don't Know/ Refused
May, 2005	13	64	8	15=100
January, 2005 <sup>5</sup> (Prospective)	30	59	4	7=100
June, 2004	21	60	7	12=100
October, 2003	21	55	10	14=100
May, 2002	44	31	8	17=100
January, 2002 (Prospective)	53	39	5	3=100
July, 2001	30	46	10	14=100
May, 2001	34	41	9	16=100
January, 2001 (Prospective)	41	50	4	5=100
July, 2000	21	54	10	15=100
August, 1999	20	68	4	8=100
August, 1998	27	51	8	14=100
November, 1997	38	45	7	10=100
August, 1997	43	46	3	8=100
June, 1997	34	49	6	11=100
October, 1995	21	72	3	4=100
August, 1993	20	57	13	10=100

**IF "2" IN Q.10, ASK:**

Q.11 Who do you think is more to blame for this... Republicans or Democrats?

		<u>Jan 2002</u>
22	Republicans	10
18	Democrats	11
17	Both (VOL)	12
2	Neither (VOL)	2
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>4</u>
64%		39%

**QUESTION 12 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

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<sup>5</sup> In January 2005, January 2002 and January 2001 the question was worded "This coming year, do you think Republicans and Democrats in Washington will work together more to solve problems OR do you think they will bicker and oppose one another more than usual?"

Thinking again about news stories...

Q.13 How closely did you follow news about the debate over changing Senate rules to stop the Democrats from using the filibuster against some of President Bush's judicial nominees--very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

14	Very closely
20	Fairly closely
26	Not too closely
39	Not at all closely
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.14 How do you feel about this issue—do you favor or oppose changing the rules of the Senate to stop the use of filibusters against judicial nominees?

28	Favor
37	Oppose
<u>35</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.15 Who is more responsible for this situation ... is it **[ROTATE OPTIONS]** President Bush for nominating judges who are too conservative, or is it the Democrats for using Senate rules to block a majority vote that they would lose?

38	Bush
34	The Democrats
<u>28</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.16 Have you seen, read or heard any advertisements that take sides on this issue?

22	Yes
77	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.17 Have you received any telephone calls from groups or organizations with a point of view about this issue?

3	Yes
97	No
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.18 Here are a couple of statements about the situation in the Senate. For each, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with it. [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

	----- AGREE -----			----- DISAGREE -----			DK/
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Completely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Completely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Ref</u>
a. The Republicans won the last election so President Bush should be able to appoint anyone he wants to the federal courts if a majority of Senators agree.	53	20	33	43	20	23	4=100
b. The minority party ought to be able to block some of the judges they feel strongly about because judges are appointed to the federal courts for life terms.	62	22	40	30	11	19	8=100

Thinking again about news stories...

Q.19 How closely did you follow news about ethics complaints made against the House majority leader Tom DeLay --very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

		<i><b>Newt Gingrich</b></i>	<i><b>Jim Wright</b></i>
		<u>Jan 1997<sup>6</sup></u>	<u>May 1989</u>
8	Very closely	23	15
21	Fairly closely	35	30
28	Not too closely	22	25
42	Not at all closely	19	30
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
100		100	100

Q.20 From what you've heard or read, do you think that Tom DeLay is guilty of violating the ethical standards of the House, or don't you think so?

31	Yes, guilty
19	No, don't think so
<u>50</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

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<sup>6</sup> In January 1997 the question was asked as part of a series and was worded: "Charges that Newt Gingrich violated House ethics rules?" In May 1989 the question was asked as part of a series and was worded: "The ethics committee's investigation of Speaker of the House Jim Wright?"