



Interviews with 1,047 adult Americans conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on August 2-3, 2006. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points and for results based on half-samples is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 AT 4 PM

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

	<u>August 2-3</u>	<u>June 14-15</u>	<u>May 16-17</u>	<u>May 5-7</u>	<u>April 21-23</u>
Approve	40%	37%	36%	34%	32%
Disapprove	59%	53%	57%	58%	60%
No opinion	2%	10%	7%	8%	8%

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	<u>Ap- prove</u>	<u>Disap- prove</u>		<u>Ap- prove</u>	<u>Disap- prove</u>		<u>Ap- prove</u>	<u>Disap- prove</u>
<u>2006</u>								
Mar 10-12	36%	60%	Jul 19-21	49%	47%	Oct 31-Nov 3	63%	29%
Feb 28-Mar 1	38%	60%	Jun 21-23	48%	49%	Oct 21-22	67%	28%
Feb 9-12	39%	56%	May 7-9	46%	51%	Oct 3-6	67%	28%
Jan 20-22	43%	54%	Apr 16-18	52%	45%	Sep 20-22	66%	30%
Jan 6-8	43%	54%	Mar 26-28	53%	44%	Sep 13-16	70%	26%
			Mar 5-7	49%	48%	Sep 2-4	66%	29%
			Feb 16-17	51%	46%	Jul 29-31	71%	23%
<u>2005</u>			Jan 29-Feb 1	49%	48%	Jul 26-28	69%	26%
Dec 16-18	41%	56%	Jan 9-11	59%	38%	Jul 5-8	76%	18%
Dec 9-11	42%	55%	Jan 2-5	60%	35%	Jun 28-30	76%	19%
Nov 11-13	37%	60%				Jun 21-23	73%	21%
Oct 28-30	41%	56%	<u>2003</u>			Jun 7-8	74%	18%
Oct 21-23	42%	55%	Dec 15-16	63%	34%	May 28-29	77%	17%
Sep 16-18	40%	58%	Dec 5-7	55%	43%	Apr 29-May 1	77%	20%
Sep 8-11	46%	51%	Nov 14-16	50%	47%	Apr 5-7	76%	19%
Aug 28-30	45%	52%	Oct 24-26	53%	42%	Mar 22-24	79%	17%
Aug 5-7	45%	51%	Oct 10-12	56%	40%	Mar 8-9	80%	14%
Jul 22-24	49%	48%	Sep 19-21	50%	47%	Mar 1-3	81%	14%
Jun 24-26	45%	53%	Aug 25-26	59%	37%	Feb 8-10	82%	14%
Jun 16-19	47%	51%	Jul 25-27	58%	38%	Jan 25-27	84%	13%
May 20-22	46%	50%	Jun 27-29	61%	36%	Jan 11-14	83%	15%
Apr 29-May 1	48%	49%	Jun 9-10	62%	34%			
Apr 1-2	48%	48%	May 30-Jun 1	64%	32%	<u>2001</u>		
Mar 18-20	52%	44%	Apr 22-23	70%	26%	Dec 14-16	86%	11%
Feb 25-27	52%	45%	Apr 5-6	70%	27%	Nov 26-27	87%	8%
Jan 14-16	51%	46%	Mar 29-30	71%	26%	Nov 2-4	87%	9%
Jan 7-9	52%	44%	Mar 22-23	71%	25%	Oct 19-21	88%	9%
			Mar 14-15	58%	38%	Oct 5-6	87%	10%
<u>2004</u>			Feb 24-26	57%	37%	Sep 21-22	90%	6%
Dec 17-19	49%	46%	Feb 7-9	61%	34%	Sep 14-15	86%	10%
Nov 19-21	55%	42%	Jan 31-Feb 2	61%	35%	Sep 7-10	51%	39%
Oct 29-31	48%	47%	Jan 23-25	60%	36%	Aug 24-26	55%	36%
Oct 22-24	51%	46%	Jan 10-12	58%	37%	Aug 10-12	57%	35%
Oct 14-16	51%	47%	Jan 3-5	63%	32%	Aug 3-5	55%	35%
Oct 9-10	47%	49%				Jul 10-11	57%	35%
Oct 1-3	50%	48%	<u>2002</u>			Jun 8-10	55%	35%
Sep 24-26	54%	44%	Dec 16-17	63%	33%	May 18-20	56%	36%
Sep 3-5	52%	46%	Dec 9-10	63%	32%	Apr 20-22	62%	29%
Aug 23-25	49%	47%	Nov 22-24	65%	28%	Mar 9-11	58%	29%
Jul 30-Aug 1	48%	49%	Nov 8-10	68%	27%	Feb 9-11	57%	25%

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling: (ROTATE)

	<u>August 2-3</u>	<u>June 14-15</u>	<u>May 16-17</u>
The situation in Iraq			
Approve	36%	39%	34%
Disapprove	62%	54%	62%
No opinion	2%	8%	7%

Economy

Approve	38%	36%	34%
Disapprove	59%	56%	61%
No opinion	3%	7%	5%

The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in the Middle East

Approve	43%
Disapprove	46%
No opinion	10%

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The situation in Iraq

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>No opinion</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis-approve</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<u>2006</u>				<u>2004</u>			
2006 Feb 28-Mar 1	35	64	2	2004 May 7-9 ^	41	58	1
2006 Feb 6-9	38	59	3	2004 May 2-4	42	55	3
2006 Jan 20-22	39	58	3	2004 Apr 16-18	48	49	3
<u>2005</u>				2004 Mar 26-28	51	47	2
2005 Dec 16-18	37	61	2	2004 Jan 29-Feb 1	46	53	1
2005 Dec 9-11	39	59	2	2004 Jan 2-5	61	36	3
2005 Nov 11-13	35	63	2	<u>2003</u>			
2005 Sep 16-18	32	67	1	2003 Dec 5-7	50	47	3
2005 Sep 8-11	40	58	2	2003 Nov 3-5	45	54	1
2005 Aug 28-30	40	59	1	2003 Oct 6-8	47	50	3
2005 Jun 24-26	40	58	2	2003 Sep 8-10	51	47	2
2005 May 20-22 ^	40	56	4	2003 Aug 25-26	57	41	2
2005 Apr 29-May 1	42	55	3	2003 Jul 25-27	60	38	2
2005 Apr 1-2	43	54	3	2003 Jul 18-20	57	39	4
2005 Feb 25-27	45	53	2	2003 Jul 7-9	58	39	3
2005 Feb 4-6	50	48	2	2003 Jun 12-15	63	34	3
2005 Jan 7-9	42	56	2	2003 Apr 14-16	76	21	3
<u>2004</u>				2003 Mar 29-30	71	27	2
2004 Nov 7-10	47	51	2	2003 Mar 24-25	71	26	3
2004 Oct 14-16	46	52	2	2003 Mar 14-15	56	41	3
2004 Sep 24-26	48	49	3	2003 Jan 31-Feb 2	54	42	4
2004 Aug 9-11	45	52	3	2003 Jan 3-5	55	40	5
2004 Jun 21-23 ^	42	56	2	<u>2002</u>			
2004 Jun 3-6	41	57	2	2002 Dec 9-10	55	39	6
				2002 Oct 21-22	52	40	8

The economy

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>No opinion</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2006				2003			
2006 Feb 28-Mar 1	40	57	3	2003 Aug 25-26	45	52	3
2006 Feb 6-9	40	56	4	2003 Jul 25-27	46	51	3
2006 Jan 20-22	39	56	5	2003 Jul 18-20	45	51	4
2005				2002			
2005 Dec 16-18	41	56	3	2002 Dec 9-10	49	47	4
2005 Dec 9-11	40	58	2	2002 Nov 8-10	55	39	6
2005 Nov 11-13	37	61	2	2002 Oct 21-22	49	44	7
2005 Sep 16-18	35	63	2	2002 Jul 26-28	52	43	5
2005 Sep 8-11	39	58	3	2002 Jul 5-8	58	36	6
2005 Aug 28-30	38	60	2	2002 Jun 28-30	63	33	4
2005 Jun 24-26	41	55	4	2002 May 20-22	61	29	10
2005 May 20-22 ^	40	58	2	2002 Apr 5-7 ^	60	33	7
2005 Apr 29-May 1	43	53	4	2002 Mar 22-24	65	29	6
2005 Apr 1-2	41	55	4	2002 Mar 1-3	64	31	5
2005 Feb 25-27	48	49	3	2002 Feb 4-6	66	30	4
2005 Feb 4-6	50	47	3	2002 Jan 25-27	64	30	6
2005 Jan 7-9	50	48	2	2001			
2004				2001 Nov 2-4 ^	71	24	5
2004 Nov 7-10	47	51	2	2001 Oct 5-6	72	23	5
2004 Oct 14-16	46	51	3	2001 Jul 10-11	54	36	10
2004 Sep 24-26	49	48	3	2001 May 18-20	51	41	8
2004 Aug 9-11	46	51	3	2001 Apr 20-22 ^	55	38	7
2004 Jun 21-23 ^	47	50	3	2001 Mar 9-11	55	32	13
2004 Jun 3-6	41	58	1	2001 Feb 1-4	53	27	20
2004 May 7-9 ^	41	56	3				
2004 May 2-4	41	56	3				
2004 Apr 16-18	46	52	2				
2004 Mar 26-28	42	55	3				
2004 Feb 9-12	45	52	3				
2004 Jan 29-Feb 1	43	54	3				
2004 Jan 2-5	54	43	3				
2003							
2003 Dec 5-7	48	49	3				
2003 Nov 3-5	47	50	3				
2003 Oct 6-8	42	55	3				
2003 Sep 8-10	45	53	2				

^ Asked of half sample.

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Condoleezza Rice is handling her job as Secretary of State? (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)

August 2-3

Approve	62%
Disapprove	27%
No opinion	10%

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	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2005 March 18-20	61%	24%	15%

8. How much confidence do you have in Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's ability to handle the situation in the Middle East -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not confident at all? (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE)

August 2-3

Very confident	20%
Somewhat confident	39%
Not too confident	22%
Not confident at all	17%
No opinion	2%

16. Do you favor or oppose re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?

August 2-3

Favor	62%
Oppose	29%
No opinion	9%

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	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2004 Mar 8-11	55	38	7
2002 May 20-22	55	37	8
2000 Oct 25-28 ^	56	35	9
2000 May 5-7	57	36	7
1999 May 7-9	71	25	4
1999 Mar 19-21	67	27	6
1996 Apr 25-28	40	49	11
1977	53	32	15
1974	63	37	0

^ WORDING: Suppose that on election day this year you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against each one of the following propositions. Would you vote -- for or against re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?

16a. (IF OPPOSE IN QUESTION 16:) If Fidel Castro dies and his brother, Raul Castro, comes to power in Cuba, would you favor or oppose re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?

August 2-3

Favor*	69%
Oppose	18%
No opinion	13%

* Includes 62% who currently favor re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Now here are a few questions about the conflict in the Middle East between Israel and the Arab group known as Hezbollah which is based in Lebanon.

21. Based on what you have read or heard about the conflict in the Middle East, are your sympathies MORE with Israel or MORE with Hezbollah?

August 2-3

Israel	68%
Hezbollah	6%
Both (vol.)	3%
Neither (vol.)	11%
No opinion	11%

22. Do you think Israel's military reaction to the situation in the Middle East has gone too far, not gone far enough, or been about right?

August 2-3

Too far	32%
Not far enough	18%
About right	41%
No opinion	8%

23. Which of the following statements comes closer to your view of what Israel should do:

August 2-3

Israel should continue taking military action until Hezbollah can no longer launch attacks against Israel	46%
Israel should agree to a cease-fire as soon as possible	44%
No opinion	10%

QUESTIONS 24, 25 AND 26 ROTATED:

24. Do you consider Israel an ally of the United States, friendly but not an ally, unfriendly towards the U.S., or an enemy of the United States?
25. Do you consider Lebanon an ally of the United States, friendly but not an ally, unfriendly towards the U.S., or an enemy of the United States?
26. Do you consider Hezbollah an ally of the United States, friendly but not an ally, unfriendly towards the U.S., or an enemy of the United States?

	<u>Israel</u>	<u>Lebanon</u>	<u>Hezbollah</u>
Ally	49%	9%	3%
Friendly, but not an ally	33%	37%	14%
Unfriendly	6%	27%	22%
Enemy	4%	15%	47%
No opinion	7%	11%	14%

27. Would you favor or oppose the presence of U.S. ground troops, along with troops from other countries, in an international peacekeeping force on the border between Israel and Lebanon?

August 2-3

Favor	51%
Oppose	45%
No opinion	4%

QUESTIONS 28 AND 29 ROTATED

28. Thinking about the financial aid the United States provides Israel for economic purposes, do you think U.S. economic aid to Israel should be increased, kept the same, or decreased? (IF DECREASED:) Do you think the United States should reduce the amount of economic aid provided to Israel, or stop providing economic aid to Israel altogether?
29. Thinking about the military aid the United States provides Israel for military purposes, do you think U.S. military aid to Israel should be increased, kept the same, or decreased? (IF DECREASED:) Do you think the United States should reduce the amount of military aid provided to Israel, or stop providing military aid to Israel altogether?

August 2-3, 2006

	Economic <u>Aid</u>	Military <u>Aid</u>
Increased	10%	12%
Kept the same	49%	51%
Decreased	18%	13%
Stop altogether	18%	18%
No opinion	5%	6%

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September 14-15, 2001

	Economic <u>Aid</u>	Military <u>Aid</u>
Increased	8%	16%
Kept the same	55%	47%
Decreased	14%	11%
Stop altogether	16%	20%
No opinion	7%	6%

38. Based on what you have read or heard about the actor Mel Gibson, do you think he is or is not anti-Semitic, that is prejudiced against Jewish people?

August 2-3

Yes, is anti-Semitic	23%
No, is not anti-Semitic	52%
No opinion	24%

39. As you may know, Mel Gibson made several negative comments about Jews after being arrested on suspicion of drunken driving. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view:

a. You were never a fan of Mel Gibson	27%
b. You were a fan of Mel Gibson before this incident but you are not a fan now	7%
c. You are still a fan of Mel Gibson	58%
No opinion	8%