

# **CNN**

## **POLL**

**Interviews with 1,012 adult Americans conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on October 13-15, 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. The sample included 906 registered voters (plus or minus 3 percentage points) and 536 likely voters (plus or minus 4 percentage points).**

---

**FOR RELEASE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 6 AM**

4. How important will each of the following issues be to your vote for Congress this year -- will it be -- extremely important, very important, moderately important, or not that important? (RANDOMIZED)

	<u>Extremely Important</u>	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Moderately Important</u>	<u>Not that Important</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
Terrorism					
October 13-15	43%	37%	16%	5%	1%
September 22-24	49%	33%	14%	5%	*
August 2-3	48%	36%	10%	6%	*
The situation in Iraq					
October 13-15	43%	38%	13%	5%	1%
September 22-24	46%	36%	14%	2%	1%
August 2-3	45%	41%	9%	4%	1%
The economy					
October 13-15	33%	45%	18%	4%	1%
September 22-24	32%	42%	21%	4%	*
August 2-3	40%	42%	15%	3%	*
The situation in North Korea					
October 13-15	32%	34%	23%	9%	2%
The charges that a former Congressman named Mark Foley behaved inappropriately toward teenage boys					
October 13-15	27%	28%	21%	22%	2%
Values issues such as same-sex marriage or abortion*					
October 13-15	22%	27%	25%	26%	1%

\*ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE

*(CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS ON NEXT PAGE)*

CNN/USA TODAY/GALLUP TRENDS

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Moderately important</u>	<u>Not that important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
<b>The economy</b>					
2006 Jan 6-8	38	45	14	1	1
2005 Oct 21-23	43	41	15	1	*
2002 Sep 20-22*	37	44	17	2	*
2002 Aug 19-21*	34	44	17	3	2

\*WORDING: Economic conditions

**Terrorism**

2006 Jan 6-8	45	35	16	3	1
2005 Oct 21-23	45	32	19	4	*
2002 Sep 20-22**	47	36	13	3	1
2002 Aug 19-21*	45	37	12	5	1

\*WORDING: The war on terrorism

\*\*Asked of a half sample.

**The situation in Iraq**

2006 Jan 6-8	45	40	11	3	1
2005 Oct 21-23	44	37	13	4	2
2005 Sept 20-22*	42	36	15	6	1
2002 Aug 19-21	32	41	18	7	2

\*WORDING: The possibility of war with Iraq

As you may know, former Florida Congressman Mark Foley resigned from Congress recently after the public release of sexually explicit messages he had sent to a teenage boy who had been a congressional page.

24. Overall, which of the following statements best describes your view of former Congressman Foley's actions -- Foley did something illegal, he did something immoral, but nothing illegal, or he did not do anything seriously wrong?

	<u>Oct. 13-15</u>	<u>Oct. 6-8</u>
Illegal	55%	53%
Immoral but not illegal	40%	40%
Nothing seriously wrong	1%	2%
No opinion	3%	5%

Some Republican leaders in Congress were aware last year that Foley had sent messages to a former congressional page that some people considered inappropriate, although they say they were unaware of the messages that caused Foley to resign. The leaders did not take any disciplinary action and did not start a formal investigation at that time.

25. Just your best guess, why do you think the Republican leaders did not investigate this matter at that time? Do you think they were involved in a deliberate cover-up, or do you think they were unaware of the serious and inappropriate nature of Foley's behavior?

	<u>Oct. 13-15</u>	<u>Oct. 6-8</u>
Deliberate cover-up	57%	52%
Unaware of serious nature	39%	38%
No opinion	4%	10%

26. Thinking specifically about the Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, do you think Hastert should resign as the Speaker of the House or do you think he should remain as the Speaker of the House?

	<u>Oct. 13-15</u>	<u>Oct. 6-8</u>
Resign	50%	52%
Remain as Speaker	39%	31%
No opinion	11%	17%

27. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own personal opinion of how the Foley matter was handled in Congress: You are angry about how the matter was handled, you are dissatisfied but not angry about it, or you are satisfied with how the matter was handled.

Oct. 13-15

Angry	20%
Dissatisfied	57%
Satisfied	19%
No opinion	3%