



Interviewing: Dec. 8-11, 2005
 Sample: 1,000 adults nationwide
 Margin of error: ± 3.1

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**RT Strategies National Omnibus Poll
 Thomas Riehle and Lance Tarrance, Partners**

**And
 Cook Political Report/RT Strategies Poll**

**Conducted December 8-11, 2005
 N = 1,000 adults nationwide, Margin of Error: ± 3.1%**

All numbers represent percentages unless otherwise labeled.

POLITICAL STUDY

We're talking to people about political leaders and issues facing the country today.

- Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as President? **(IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE, ASK:)** Is that strongly **(APPROVE/DISAPPROVE)**, or only somewhat? **(IF NOT SURE/REFUSED/MIXED, ASK:)** Well, do you lean more toward approve or disapprove when it comes to his performance as President?

	ALL ADULTS	12/8 – 11/05			11/17 – 20/05 ALL ADULTS
		R	I	D	
Total Approve	42	88	31	12	41
Total Disapprove	55	11	67	85	52
Strongly approve	27	64	18	5	26
Somewhat approve.....	14	22	11	7	14
Lean approve	1	2	1	-	2
Neither/not sure/mixed (vol)/do not lean	1	1	1	2	5
Lean disapprove.....	1	-	3	1	2
Somewhat disapprove	11	3	15	14	7
Strongly disapprove.....	43	8	49	70	43
Not sure	1	1	1	2	2

2. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track? **(IF RIGHT/WRONG, ASK:)** Do you feel strongly about that, or only somewhat? **(IF NOT SURE/REFUSED, ASK:)** Do you lean more toward right direction or wrong track?

	<u>ALL ADULTS</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
Total Right Direction.....	36	69	28	15
Total Wrong Track.....	61	27	70	82
Strongly right direction.....	22	47	15	6
Somewhat right direction.....	13	20	11	8
Lean right direction.....	2	3	2	-
Neither/not sure/mixed (vol)/ do not lean.....	2	3	1	1
Lean wrong track.....	2	2	3	1
Somewhat wrong track.....	15	10	15	20
Strongly wrong track.....	43	15	52	61
Not sure.....	1	1	1	2

3. Now, thinking about the election for U.S Congress in November 2006, regardless of how you might plan to vote in your own district, which party would you like to see in control of Congress after the congressional elections a year from now— **(ROTATE:)** the Democrats or the Republicans?

	<u>ALL ADULTS</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
Democrats.....	49	6	48	91
Republicans.....	38	90	28	1
Neither.....	13	4	24	7

4. Now if you had to make a choice today, in thinking about the election for President in November 2008, do you think you will vote for the **(ROTATE:)** Democratic or the Republican candidate for President?

	<u>ALL ADULTS</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
Democratic candidate.....	45	4	44	86
Republican candidate.....	32	81	21	1
Neither.....	23	15	35	14

REGISTERED VOTERS/ PARTY AFFILIATION

5. Are you currently registered to vote at this address, or not?

	<u>ALL ADULTS</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
Yes, registered at this address.....	84	88	80	85
(VOL) Do not need to register in order to vote....	-	-	-	-
No, not registered at this address.....	14	11	17	14
Not sure/ refused.....	1	-	2	1
Total Registered/ No need to register.....	85	89	81	85

6. In national politics do you consider yourself (**RANDOMIZE:**) a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or none of these? (**IF DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN ASK:**) Do you consider yourself strongly (Democratic/Republican) or only moderately (Democratic/Republican). (**IF INDEPENDENT/NONE OF THESE, ASK:**) Do lean more toward the (**ROTATE:**) Democratic or Republican Party?

Republican	30
Independent	34
Democrat	33

<i>Republicans with leaners</i>	38
<i>Democrats with leaners</i>	46

Strongly Republican	17
Moderately Republican	13
Independent/neutral/lean Republican	8
Independent/neutral/do not lean	13
Independent/neutral/lean Democrat	13
Moderately Democrat	14
Strongly Democrat	19
Refused/not sure	3

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE DEMOCRATS OR DEMOCRATIC LEANERS.)

- D-1. In thinking about a Democratic nominee for President in 2008, which ONE of the following three descriptions comes closest to the kind of candidate you would prefer as the Democratic nominee for President: Do you think the Democrats should nominate a candidate who (**RANDOMIZE:**)

Strongly advocates all of the values and traditions of the Democratic Party and stands up strongly for liberal positions	29
Reflects most of the values and traditions of the Democratic Party but is somewhat less liberal and therefore might be more electable than some past party nominees	31
Is much more moderate than recent Democratic Party nominees, someone who is not from the Northeast, but who will aggressively reach out to independent and Republican voters in areas like the South and the Midwest	31
Not sure	9

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE DEMOCRATS OR DEMOCRATIC LEANERS.)

D-2. I am going to read a list of people who might seek the Democratic nomination for President in 2008, and I will read the list twice. I would like you to tell me who would be your FIRST CHOICE for the nomination? And who would be your SECOND CHOICE? **(RANDOMIZE:)**

	<u>1ST CHOICE</u>	<u>2ND CHOICE</u>
Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Senator from New York	33	19
John Kerry, the Senator from Massachusetts.....	17	18
John Edwards, former candidate for Vice President	15	16
Joe Biden, the Senator from Delaware	7	4
Bill Richardson, the Governor of New Mexico	4	4
Russ Feingold, the Senator from Wisconsin.....	4	4
Mark Warner, the Governor of Virginia.....	4	4
Wesley Clark, retired general	3	7
Evan Bayh, the Senator from Indiana	3	3
Tom Vilsack, the Governor of Iowa.....	-	1
Not sure	11	19

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE DEMOCRATS OR DEMOCRATIC LEANERS.)

D-2a. IF CLINTON DOES NOT RUN?

	RECALCULATED BASED ON 2ND CHOICE OF CLINTON VOTERS: <u>IF CLINTON DOES NOT RUN</u>
Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Senator from New York	NA
John Kerry, the Senator from Massachusetts.....	28
John Edwards, former candidate for Vice President	23
Joe Biden, the Senator from Delaware	9
Russ Feingold, the Senator from Wisconsin	6
Bill Richardson, the Governor of New Mexico	6
Wesley Clark, retired general	5
Mark Warner, the Governor of Virginia	5
Evan Bayh, the Senator from Indiana	4
Tom Vilsack, the Governor of Iowa.....	-
Not sure	14

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE REPUBLICAN OR REPUBLICAN LEANERS.)

R-1. In thinking about a Republican nominee for President in 2008, which ONE of the following three descriptions comes closest to the kind of candidate you would prefer as the Republican nominee for President: Do you think the Republicans should nominate a candidate who **(RANDOMIZE:)**

A candidate who is a strong conservative, who emphasizes social and cultural issues, and is pro-life and opposes gay marriage.....	33
A candidate who is a strong conservative focusing on business and tax issues, and who favors conservative positions on social and cultural issues, but does not emphasize them.....	30
A candidate who focuses on a strong national defense and projecting American influence around the world, and who favors conservative positions on social and cultural issues, but does not emphasize them.....	29
Not sure.....	8

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE REPUBLICAN OR REPUBLICAN LEANERS.)

R-2. I am going to read a list of people who might seek the Republican nomination for President in 2008, and I will read the list twice. I would like you to tell me who would be your **FIRST CHOICE** for the nomination? And who would be your **SECOND CHOICE**? **(RANDOMIZE:)**

	<u>1ST CHOICE</u>	<u>2ND CHOICE</u>
John McCain, the Senator from Arizona.....	25	10
Rudy Giuliani, the former Mayor of New York City.....	25	19
Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the House.....	12	11
Bill Frist, the Senator from Tennessee.....	5	7
Rick Santorum, the Senator from Pennsylvania.....	4	3
Mitt Romney, the Governor of Massachusetts.....	4	4
George Allen, the Senator from Virginia.....	3	4
George Pataki, the Governor of New York.....	3	6
Mike Huckabee, the Governor of Arkansas.....	2	2
Mark Sanford, the Governor of South Carolina.....	2	2
Chuck Hagel, the Senator from Nebraska.....	2	1
Sam Brownback, the Senator from Kansas.....	1	2
Tim Pawlenty, the Governor of Minnesota.....	-	1
Not sure.....	14	27

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE REPUBLICAN OR REPUBLICAN LEANERS.)

R-2a. IF GIULIANI DOES NOT RUN?

	RECALCULATED BASED ON 2ND CHOICE OF GIULIANI VOTERS: <u>IF GIULIANI DOES NOT RUN</u>
Rudy Giuliani, the former Mayor of New York City.....	NA
John McCain, the Senator from Arizona.....	30
Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the House	16
Bill Frist, the Senator from Tennessee.....	7
George Pataki, the Governor of New York.....	6
Mitt Romney, the Governor of Massachusetts.....	5
Rick Santorum, the Senator from Pennsylvania	5
George Allen, the Senator from Virginia.....	5
Chuck Hagel, the Senator from Nebraska.....	2
Mike Huckabee, the Governor of Arkansas.....	2
Mark Sanford, the Governor of South Carolina.....	2
Sam Brownback, the Senator from Kansas.....	1
Tim Pawlenty, the Governor of Minnesota	-
Not sure	18

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE REPUBLICAN OR REPUBLICAN LEANERS.)

R-2b. IF McCAIN DOES NOT RUN?

	RECALCULATED BASED ON 2ND CHOICE OF McCAIN VOTERS: <u>IF McCAIN DOES NOT RUN</u>
John McCain, the Senator from Arizona	NA
Rudy Giuliani, the former Mayor of New York City	33
Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the House	15
Bill Frist, the Senator from Tennessee.....	7
Rick Santorum, the Senator from Pennsylvania.....	6
Mitt Romney, the Governor of Massachusetts	6
George Pataki, the Governor of New York.....	5
George Allen, the Senator from Virginia	4
Mike Huckabee, the Governor of Arkansas.....	3
Mark Sanford, the Governor of South Carolina.....	2
Chuck Hagel, the Senator from Nebraska	2
Sam Brownback, the Senator from Kansas	2
Tim Pawlenty, the Governor of Minnesota.....	-
Not sure.....	17

RT-1. As you may know, to replace U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, President Bush has nominated Judge Samuel Alito, who has 15 years of experience on the federal courts. Alito is considered a conservative in his views while O'Connor is considered a moderate who has been a swing vote on some key issues.

Does hearing that Alito would make the Supreme Court more conservative make you feel MORE likely, or LESS likely, to support the choice of Judge Alito for the Supreme Court, or does hearing that make no difference to you? **(IF MORE LIKELY/LESS LIKELY, ASK:)** Is that much (MORE LIKELY/LESS LIKELY), or only somewhat? **(IF NOT SURE/REFUSED/MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, ASK:)** Well, does hearing that make you lean toward being more likely or less likely to support Alito?

Total More Likely	32
Total Less Likely	29

Much more likely	20
Somewhat more likely	9
Lean more likely.....	3
Makes no difference/not lean either way	35
Lean less likely	2
Somewhat less likely.....	9
Much less likely.....	18
Not sure.....	3

DEMOGRAPHICS

NOTE: Results for demographic questions represent all adults unless otherwise indicated.

Finally, just a few questions for statistical purposes only:

D2. How often do you personally have the time to vote in the primary elections or participate in political caucuses when parties select their candidates for office—all the time, most of the time, some of the time, or never?

	12/8- 11/05	11/17- 20/05
All the time.....	41	39
Most of the time.....	29	25
Some of the time.....	20	22
Never	9	13
Refused/not sure.....	1	-

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY PERSONALLY VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS AT LEAST SOME OF THE TIME IN D2.)

D3. And do you generally participate in primary elections or party caucuses with the Republican Party/Democratic Party?

	ALL ADULTS	12/8 – 11/05			11/17 – 20/05
		R	I	D	ALL ADULTS
Total Republican Primary/lt depends	47	94	47	5	49
Total Democratic Primary/lt depends	56	7	61	97	55
Democrat party.....	46	2	41	93	45
Republican party.....	38	90	27	1	38
(VOL) Depends.....	9	5	20	4	10
Not sure	6	3	12	2	7

D4. Into which of the following categories does your age fall?

18-29.....	17
30-34.....	11
35-39.....	9
40-44.....	12
45-49.....	10
50-54.....	9
55-59.....	6
60-64.....	7
65 and older.....	18
Refused/not sure.....	1
<i>Mean</i>	46.99

D5. What is the last year of school you completed?

High School or less	30
Some college	30
College Graduate	39

Grade school or some high school.....	5
Graduated high school.....	25
Some community college or university but did not finish	19
Graduated from a community college, technical or vocational school or two-year college degree.....	11
Completed a four-year college or university degree...	23
Completed post-graduate degree, such as a Master's or Ph.D or professional school such as law or medicine.	16
Refused/not sure	1

D6. On the abortion issue, are you generally pro-choice or pro-life? Do you feel strongly that way, or only somewhat?

	12/8 – <u>11/05</u>	11/17 – <u>20/05</u>
Total Pro-life	45	46
Total Pro-choice	49	48

Strongly pro-life.....	36	36
Somewhat pro-life	10	10
Somewhat pro-choice.....	15	15
Strongly pro-choice	34	32
Refused/not sure	6	6

D8. How would you describe your political views?

	12/8 – <u>11/05</u>	11/17 – <u>20/05</u>
Total Conservative	38	38
Total Liberal	24	27

Very conservative.....	17	14
Somewhat conservative...	21	24
Moderate	35	32
Somewhat liberal.....	16	19
Very liberal.....	8	8
Refused/not sure	3	2

D9. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity? **(IF NOT HISPANIC, ASK:)** Is your ethnicity white, black, Asian, or some other race?

(RESULTS SHOWN IN SUMMARY BELOW.)

White	79
Black	9
Hispanic.....	7
Asian	1
American Indian	1
Other	1
(VOL) Mixed.....	1
Refused	1

D10. Are you a member of a labor union? **(IF NO, ASK:)** Is anyone in the household a member of a labor union?

Total Union Household	17

Respondent a union member.....	11
Other in household a union member	6
No labor union member in household.....	82
Refused/not sure.....	1

REGION:

NORTHEAST	New England.....	5
	Mid Atlantic States	16
MIDWEST	Great Lakes.....	13
	Farm Belt	8
SOUTH	Deep South	15
	Outer South.....	20
WEST	Mountain	10
	Pacific	13

METROPOLITAN STATUS:

Urban	29
Suburban.....	52
Rural	19

GENDER:

Male	48
Female	52