

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

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

**Conducted January 22-25, 2006
N = 1,000 adults nationwide, Margin of Error: \pm 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	1/22-25/06			12/8 – 11/05	11/17 – 20/05
		R	I	D	ALL ADULTS	ALL ADULTS
Total Approve	47	88	42	17	42	41
Total Disapprove	50	12	53	81	55	52
Strongly approve	27	65	16	3	27	26
Somewhat approve	18	22	23	11	14	14
Lean approve	2	2	3	2	1	2
Neither/not sure/mixed (vol)/do not lean	2	1	4	2	1	5
Lean disapprove	2	1	2	1	1	2
Somewhat disapprove	9	5	9	12	11	7
Strongly disapprove	40	6	42	68	43	43
Not sure	1	-	2	1	1	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?

	ALL ADULTS	1/22-25/06			12/8 – 11/05
		R	I	D	ALL ADULTS
Total Right Direction	38	73	30	15	36
Total Wrong Track	60	25	66	83	61
Strongly right direction	17	41	10	4	22
Somewhat right direction	17	27	16	10	13
Lean right direction	3	4	4	1	2
Neither/not sure/mixed (vol)/ do not lean	2	1	3	2	2
Lean wrong track	2	2	2	3	2
Somewhat wrong track	18	14	19	19	15
Strongly wrong track	40	10	45	60	43
Not sure	1	1	1	-	1

3. Now, thinking about the election for U.S Congress in this November, 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 in November— **(ROTATE:)** the Democrats or the Republicans?

	ALL ADULTS	1/22-25/06			12/8- 11/05
		R	I	D	ALL ADULTS
Democrats	51	4	49	95	49
Republicans	39	92	28	3	38
Neither	10	4	23	2	13

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: **(RANDOMIZE ORDER:)**
- a. Elected officials in Washington really care what people like me think.
 - b. Charges of corruption by some members of Congress against other members is just politics and is nothing new.
 - c. Election results have little or no influence on government decisions in Washington.

(IF AGREE/DISAGREE, ASK:) Do you **(AGREE/DISAGREE)** strongly, or only somewhat?

(IF NEITHER/NOT SURE, ASK:) Do you lean more toward agree or disagree?

	Strong-ly agree	Some-what agree	Lean agree	Nei-ther (VOL)/ Do not lean	Lean dis-agree	Some-what dis-agree	Strong-ly dis-agree	Not sure	Total Agree	Total Dis-agree
Charges of corruption by some members of Congress against other members is just politics and is nothing new										
ALL ADULTS	36	28	2	1	1	12	19	2	66	31
<i>R</i>	48	26	2	-	-	10	12	1	76	23
<i>I</i>	36	31	1	3	1	10	17	2	68	28
<i>D</i>	27	26	2	1	1	14	26	3	55	42
Election results have little or no influence on government decisions in Washington										
ALL ADULTS	20	21	1	1	1	23	32	1	41	57
<i>R</i>	15	21	-	2	1	25	35	1	37	61
<i>I</i>	23	21	1	1	-	20	32	2	45	52
<i>D</i>	20	21	1	-	1	24	31	1	42	57
Elected officials in Washington really care what people like me think										
ALL ADULTS	9	23	1	1	2	21	42	1	33	65
<i>R</i>	13	32	2	1	1	24	28	1	47	52
<i>I</i>	5	16	2	2	2	19	52	2	23	73
<i>D</i>	8	22	1	1	3	20	44	1	31	67

5. In your opinion, which is MORE OFTEN to blame if a person is poor: **(ROTATE)** A lack of effort on their own part, or circumstances beyond their control?

	<u>ALL ADULTS</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
A lack of effort on their own part.....	39	56	38	27
Circumstances beyond their control.....	40	22	38	57
Some of both (VOL).....	15	16	18	11
Neither/Other reasons (VOL).....	2	3	1	1
Not sure	4	3	5	4

6. When you hear about charges of corruption in Washington today, which do you think is MORE to blame: **(ROTATE:)**

	<u>ALL ADULTS</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
Politicians of both parties in Washington today are corrupt.....	73	82	77	62
Republicans who control Congress and the White House today are corrupt.....	15	2	10	29
Some of both (VOL).....	7	7	7	5
Neither/Other reasons (VOL).....	4	8	4	2
Not sure	2	2	2	2

7. If Democrats controlled the White House and Congress today, do you think there would be **(ROTATE)** more or less corruption in Washington?

	<u>ALL ADULTS</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
More corruption if Democrats in control.....	23	56	12	3
Less corruption if Democrats in control.....	38	8	31	71
About the same (VOL).....	29	28	40	19
Depends (VOL).....	2	1	4	1
Not sure.....	9	6	12	7

REGISTERED VOTERS/ PARTY AFFILIATION

D1. Are you currently registered to vote at this address, or not?

	ALL ADULTS	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
Yes, registered at this address	85	91	76	88
(VOL) Do not need to register in order to vote....	1	1	2	-
No, not registered at this address	14	7	21	11
Not sure/ refused	-	-	-	-
Total Registered/ No need to register.....	86	93	79	88

D2. 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	31
Independent	33
Democrat.....	34
<hr/>	
<i>Republicans with leaners.....</i>	39
<i>Democrats with leaners.....</i>	46
<hr/>	
Strongly Republican	18
Moderately Republican.....	13
Independent/neither/lean Republican....	8
Independent/neither/do not lean	12
Independent/neither/lean Democrat	12
Moderately Democrat	19
Strongly Democrat	16
Refused/not sure.....	2

D3. How closely do you follow national politics and policy discussions in Washington—very closely, somewhat closely, or not much at all?

Very closely	30
Somewhat closely	55
Not much at all.....	15
Refused/not sure.....	-

DEMOGRAPHICS

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

Finally, just a few questions for statistical purposes only:

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

18-29.....	16
30-34.....	9
35-39.....	9
40-44.....	11
45-49.....	10
50-54.....	9
55-59.....	7
60-64.....	7
65 and older.....	22
Refused/not sure.....	-
Mean.....	47

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

High School or less	34
Some college	29
College Graduate	36
Grade school or some high school.....	8
Graduated high school.....	27
Some community college or university but did not finish	17
Graduated from a community college, technical or vocational school or two-year college degree.....	12
Completed a four-year college or university degree...	20
Completed post-graduate degree, such as a Master's or Ph.D or professional school such as law or medicine.	15
Refused/not sure	-

D8. How would you describe your political views?

	<u>1/22 – 25/06</u>	<u>12/8 – 11/05</u>	<u>11/17 – 20/05</u>
Total Conservative	40	38	38
Total Liberal.....	22	24	27
Very conservative.....	14	17	14
Somewhat conservative...	26	21	24
Moderate	35	35	32
Somewhat liberal.....	15	16	19
Very liberal.....	8	8	8
Refused/not sure.....	3	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	78
Black	10
Hispanic.....	9
Asian	1
American Indian	-
Other	1
(VOL) Mixed.....	-
Refused	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	32
Suburban.....	48
Rural	21

GENDER:

Male	48
Female	52