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Voters Believe Republicans Control Congressional Agenda: Overall, 55% Say Republicans in Control, 32% Democrats

**Democratic Voters Say Republicans in Charge, 73%-20%
Republican Voters Split: Only 40% Say Republicans in Charge, 45% Democrats
Independent Voters Say Republicans in Charge, 46%-27%, with Many Not Sure**

41% Prefer Republican Control, 45% Democratic After Midterm Election

Between August 2 and August 4, 2002, and between August 16 and August 18, 2002, Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs interviewed a representative sample of 2,000 adults nationwide, including 1,562 registered voters. The margin of error for the combined surveys is $\pm 2.2\%$ for all adults and $\pm 2.5\%$ for registered voters.

*The question of **which party controls the Congressional agenda** was only asked on the August 16-18 survey of 1,000 adults and 773 registered voters, for which the margin of error is $\pm 3.1\%$ for all adults and $\pm 3.6\%$ for registered voters.*

WASHINGTON, D.C., (August 19, 2002) —Registered voters believe by a decisive margin of 55%-32% that Republicans, not Democrats, control the Congressional agenda in Washington.

“It is such an innocuous question in some ways and yet so important in order to determine which party benefits from any anti-establishment/incumbency voter backlash,” writes Chuck Todd, the Editor-in-Chief, in today’s Hotline, the daily on-line political news service of National Journal. Todd suggested the question be added to this week’s Ipsos-Reid/Cook Political Report survey.

“This demonstrates why it is always a hard sell for the President to travel out to a state and ask voters to help him by electing fellow partisans so that he can ‘get control of the Congressional agenda.’ Even in the 50-50 political world we live in, voters assume the President and his party already control the Congressional agenda,” says Thomas Riehle, President of Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs, which conducts the survey the first and third weekend of every month. “Most don’t agree with the President that obstructions created by the other party’s control of Congress are a problem. In fact, most don’t agree that the other party controls the agenda in Congress.

“Democratic voters think that Republicans control the agenda, and are not likely to be persuaded to cross party lines to help out even a popular President if they believe his party already controls the Congressional agenda. Independent voters assume that, too, although many confess they do not know for sure.

“In fact, it is mostly frustrated Republican voters, who won a Presidential election in 2000 and have not yet seen enough of the Republican agenda passed into law to satisfy their tastes, who now say Democrats control the Congressional agenda—and probably think that’s a problem—but Bush probably already has their votes in the midterm elections,” Riehle concludes.



Which party do you think controls the congressional agenda in Washington?

	Voting Likelihood		Reg. Voters: Party Identification			Reg. Voters: Elect President Bush		
	Registered voters	Likely voters	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Definitely vote to reelect	Consider someone else	Definitely vote for someone else
The Democrats	32%	31%	45%	20%	27%	43%	29%	19%
The Republicans	55%	56%	40%	73%	46%	41%	60%	73%
(VOL.) Both equally	3%	3%	4%	2%	1%	4%	1%	3%
(VOL.) Neither	2%	3%	3%	1%	6%	3%	1%	1%
(DK/NS)	8%	7%	8%	4%	20%	9%	9%	4%

Other Findings

Voters would like to see Democrats win control of the Congressional agenda, with 45% preferring that Democrats control Congress and 41% Republicans in the current survey, conducted August 16-18, 2002,.

Looking only at results **from the poll conducted this past weekend, August 16-18, 2002** with 773 registered voters nationwide (margin of error: $\pm 3.6\%$):

- ❑ Bush's overall job approval rating stands at 62% approve-34% disapprove. Bush's ratings for handling the economy stand at 53% approve-42% disapprove.
- ❑ If the Presidential vote were held this past weekend, 41% would definitely support Bush's reelection, 27% would consider voting for someone else, and 29% would definitely vote for someone else.

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About Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs

The survey was conducted by Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs, the Washington, D.C.-based division of Ipsos, which is the world's fourth largest polling and market research organization, based in Paris. Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective public affairs research organization made up of Democratic and Republican campaign and political polling veterans. It was established in Washington in August 2001, and it is led by Thomas Riehle, who has more than 15 years of experience as a political pollster in Washington. The Ipsos-Reid/Cook Political Report poll and the Ipsos-Reid Consumer Attitudes and Spending by Household (CASH) Index poll are conducted the first and third week of every month, as part of Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs weekly omnibus polling service.

The political survey is designed in conjunction with Charlie Cook of the Cook Political Report. Founded in 1984, The Cook Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter that analyzes elections for the U.S. House, Senate, governor and President as well as domestic American political trends. The New York Times has called the publication, "a newsletter that both parties consider authoritative" while the dean of the Washington political press corps, the Washington Post's David Broder has called Charlie Cook, its editor and publisher, "perhaps the best political handicapper in the nation." Cook also writes two weekly columns that appear in National Journal magazine and CongressDaily/AM and on nationaljournal.com, and serves as a political analyst for Cable News Network's show "Inside Politics." Researched and written by a staff of five based in Washington, D.C., the Cook Political Report's subscribers are primarily the lobbyists and managers for the political action committees of the nation's major corporations, trade associations and labor unions as well as by news organizations, foreign governments and others with an interest in detailed, impartial information and analysis of Congressional, gubernatorial and presidential elections.