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Interview dates: February 7-9, 2005
Interviews: 1,000 adults, 849 registered voters
Margin of error: ± 3.1 for all adults, ± 3.4 for registered voters

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL
CONDUCTED BY IPSOS-PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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*AP/Ipsos Poll: Bush's Job Approval Figures Weaken
Older Americans Grow Disenchanted*

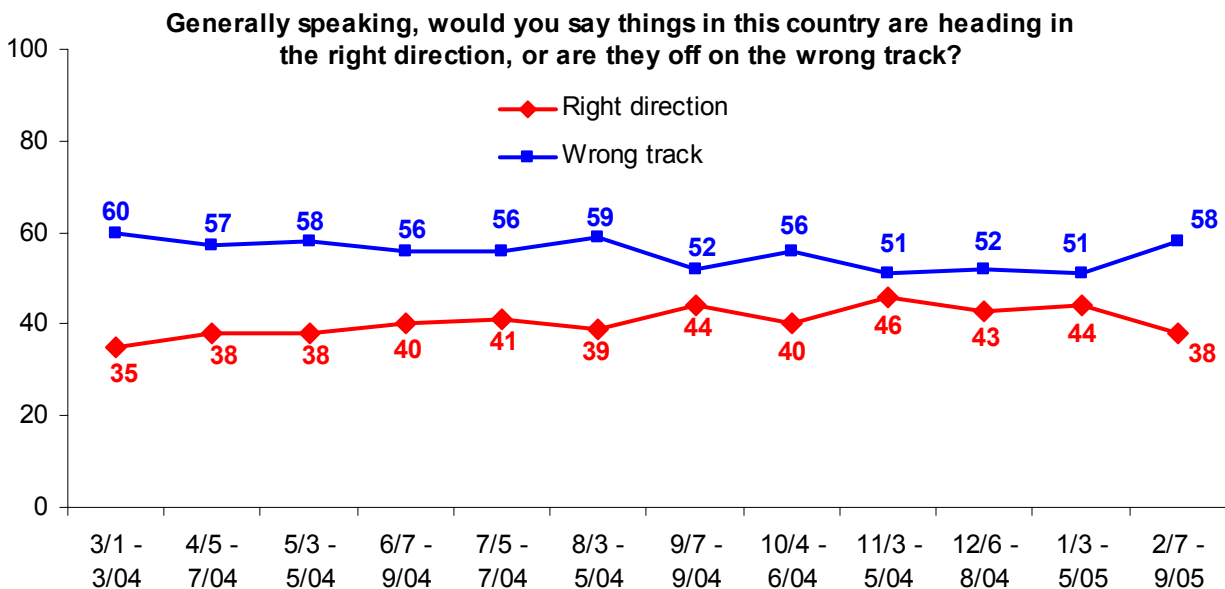
NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

The Associated Press Poll is conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Between February 7-9, 2005, the AP-Ipsos poll interviewed a representative sample of 1,000 adults nationwide, including 849 registered voters. The margin of error is ± 3.1 for all adults and ± 3.4 for registered voters. Margin of error for subgroups may be higher.

Washington, D.C., February 14, 2005 — The latest Associated Press/Ipsos-Public Affairs poll shows rising public disapproval of President Bush's job performance and a growing belief that the country is generally off on the wrong track. Yet this poll, taken just after the January 31 elections in Iraq, finds that more Americans believe a stable and democratic government will be established in Iraq.

Majority Say Country Is On the Wrong Track

A significant majority (58%) of Americans say the country is headed off on the wrong track, up from 51% in early January – a net change of minus 13 points. Four in ten (38%) say the U.S. is headed in the right direction. Views have not been this negative since August 2004.



Compared to how people felt immediately after Election Day 2004, today older Americans are growing less sanguine about the country's overall direction, with the largest net decline among Americans age 65 and over (minus 31 points), followed by people age 40-64 (down 18 points). These declines come at a time when President Bush is communicating his sense of crisis in Social Security and the need to embrace some positive risk to improve returns for tomorrow's retirees. Young men age 18-44, the most risk-embracing group, actually grew more optimistic about the direction of the country in the past month.

Q. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

February 7-9, 2005			Gender		Age				
All Adults		Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
Right direction		38%	45%	32%	34%	43%	42%	37%	36%
Wrong track		58%	51%	65%	62%	53%	54%	61%	60%
(DK/NS)		4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	2%	4%
November 3-5, 2004			Gender		Age				
Registered Voters		Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
Right direction		46%	49%	43%	36%	45%	51%	46%	51%
Wrong track		51%	47%	55%	61%	52%	45%	52%	44%
(DK/NS)		3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	4%	2%	5%
Net Change		-15	-8	-21	-3	-3	-18	-18	F -31

		Age/Gender			
February 7-9, 2005 All Adults		Men 18-44	Men 45+	Women 18-44	Women 45+
Right direction	38%	44%	45%	33%	32%
Wrong track	58%	50%	53%	65%	65%
(DK/NS)	4%	6%	2%	2%	3%
		Age/Gender			
November 3-5, 2004 All Adults	Total	Men 18-44	Men 45+	Women 18-44	Women 45+
Right direction	46%	43%	56%	45%	41%
Wrong track	51%	53%	40%	53%	56%
(DK/NS)	3%	4%	4%	2%	3%
Net Change	-15	+4	-24	-24	-18

Bush Approval Ratings Down

Bush's overall approval ratings also stand in negative territory. One month ago, adults in general were evenly divided on Bush's performance (49%-49%).

- Q. Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President? **(IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE, ASK:)** Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)? **(IF HAVE MIXED FEELINGS OR NOT SURE, ASK:)** If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approve or disapprove?

	2/7 - 9/05	1/3 - 5/05
Strongly approve	24	27
Somewhat approve	11	12
Lean toward approval	10	10
Still have mixed feelings	1	1
Lean toward disapproval	15	13
Somewhat disapprove	7	7
Strongly disapprove	32	30
Not sure	-	-
Total Approve	45	49
Total Disapprove	54	49

Bush Criticized for His Handling of Domestic Issues

Disapproval of Bush's handling of economic issues has risen since last month, with 56% now saying they disapprove – a net change of -9 points. Views of Bush's handling of domestic issues lies in the same territory, with 58% saying they disapprove (56% in January).

Bush's strongest point remains his handling of foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism: 47% approve and 51% disapprove, a slight shift from the evenly divided opinions viewed a month ago (50%-48%). Evaluations of Bush's handling of Iraq have also edged down (42% approve, 57% disapprove), despite successful elections there.

- Q. And when it comes to **(READ ISSUE)** do you approve or disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling that issue? **(IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE, ASK:)** Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/ disapprove)? **(IF HAVE MIXED FEELINGS OR NOT SURE, ASK:)** If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approve or disapprove?

	ALL ADULTS									
	Strongly Ap- prove	Some- what Ap- prove	Lean Toward Ap- proval	Still Have Mixed Feelings	Lean Toward Disap- proval	Some- what Disap- prove	Strongly Disap- prove	Not Sure	Total Ap- prove	Total Disap- prove
Handling the economy										
2/7-9/05.....	18	14	10	1	14	10	33	-	43	56
1/3-5/05.....	23	16	9	1	12	11	28	-	47	51
Handling domestic issues like health care, education, the environment and energy										
2/7-9/05.....	15	14	12	1	12	9	37	-	41	58
1/3-5/05.....	18	14	11	1	14	9	33	-	43	56
Handling foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism										
2/7-9/05.....	31	10	6	2	15	8	28	-	47	51
1/3-5/05.....	32	12	6	2	12	7	29	-	50	48
Handling the situation in Iraq										
2/7-9/05.....	25	9	8	1	10	9	38	-	42	57
1/3-5/05.....	24	12	8	2	8	7	39	-	44	54

Approval of Congress Up

At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, approval of the job being done by Congress has improved slightly. Today, 44% approve and 52% disapprove. That puts Congress on the same footing as the President. One month ago, approval of Congress fell far below Bush's approval ratings.

- Q. Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way Congress is handling its job? **(IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE, ASK:)** Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)? **(IF HAVE MIXED FEELINGS OR NOT SURE, ASK:)** If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approve or disapprove?

	2/7 - 9/05	1/3 - 5/05
Strongly approve.....	6	8
Somewhat approve.....	21	21
Lean toward approval	17	12
Still have mixed feelings	3	4
Lean toward disapproval.....	21	19
Somewhat disapprove	15	16
Strongly disapprove	16	18
Not sure	1	2
Total Approve.....	44	41
Total Disapprove.....	52	53

Improved Hopes for a Stable Government in Iraq

Half (50%) think it is at least somewhat likely that a stable, democratic government will be established in Iraq, up from 46% a month ago. Expectations are clearly divided along party lines: 71% of registered Republican voters say a stable government is likely, 67% of registered Democratic voters say it is unlikely.

- Q. How likely is it that a stable, democratic government will be established in Iraq? Is it ...

	2/7- 9/05	1/10- 12/05	12/6 - 8/04	4/16- 18/04	4/5 - 7/04
Very likely	10	9	9	11	10
Somewhat likely	41	37	38	44	40
Not too likely	31	33	32	31	33
Not at all likely.....	16	20	19	13	16
Not sure	2	1	2	1	1
Total Likely	50	46	47	55	50
Total Not Likely	48	53	51	44	49

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