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Interview dates: March 7-9, 2005
Interviews: 1,001 adults, 842 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: Americans Support Bush On Terrorism,
Not On Social Security***

NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

The Associated Press Poll is conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Between March 7-9, 2005, the AP-Ipsos poll interviewed a representative sample of 1,001 adults nationwide, including 842 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, DC, March 14, 2005 – The latest Associated Press poll finds a majority of Americans approve of President Bush's handling of terrorism, but disapprove of his handling of Social Security. This poll, conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs for the AP, also indicates that Americans are divided on Bush's handling of the economy, and by a narrow margin disapprove of his handling of Iraq and domestic issues.

Foreign Policy and War on Terrorism Remain Bush's Strong Point

Half (52%) of American adults approve of Bush's handling of foreign policy and the war on terrorism (46% disapprove). Public attitudes toward Bush's performance on these issues has rebounded modestly from polls conducted in the past two months. Of the five topics covered in the question, Bush's public approval is once again strongest on these international issues.

Approval for Bush's handling of foreign affairs and terrorism is highest among men (59%), residents of the Midwest and South (57%), and Republican registered voters (86%). Criticism of Bush's handling of foreign policy is more pronounced among women (52% disapprove), minorities (63% disapprove, vs. 42% of whites), and residents of the Northeast (57%) and Pacific (52%) regions.

Social Security Emerges as Bush's Achilles Heel

In line with the early February AP/Ipsos poll, Bush's approval ratings are lowest on handling Social Security (37% approve, 56% disapprove). Residents of the Northeastern U.S. (69%), women over 45 years (66%) and people without investments (61%) are especially likely to disapprove of Bush's performance on Social Security. Senior citizens are most likely to "strongly disapprove" (52%, vs. 27% of people in their thirties).

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?

	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 foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism										
3/7-9/05	32	11	9	2	11	8	27	-	52	46
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 economy										
3/7-9/05	22	16	10	2	11	10	29	-	47	50
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 the situation in Iraq										
3/7-9/05	29	9	7	2	9	7	37	-	45	53
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
Handling domestic issues like health care, education, the environment and energy										
3/7-9/05	17	16	11	3	10	11	32	-	44	53
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 Social Security										
3/7-9/05	17	9	11	4	10	8	38	3	37	56
2/22-24/05	19	9	11	5	15	7	34	-	39	56

Social Security may indeed be dragging down the President's ratings among certain key groups. Comparing approval ratings on foreign policy and the war on terrorism versus approval on handling Social Security points to substantial gaps among women (16 points difference between approval of foreign policy vs. approval of Social Security), people age 50 and over (-23 for those age 50-64), and people with up to a high school diploma (-21). Also, although their numbers are relatively small, Independent registered voters are more critical of Bush's handling of Social Security (20% approve, 62% disapprove) than foreign policy and the war on terrorism (48%-41%).

	Gender		Age					Education		
	Male	Female	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	HS or less	Some college	College degree
Handling foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism										
Total Approve	59%	45%	47%	50%	50%	55%	54%	53%	52%	50%
Total Disapprove	39%	52%	52%	46%	48%	43%	43%	44%	45%	49%
Handling Social Security										
Total Approve	45%	29%	40%	42%	38%	32%	33%	32%	38%	39%
Total Disapprove	50%	62%	57%	50%	56%	59%	59%	61%	55%	53%
Net Approval Gap	-6	-16	-7	-8	-12	-23	-21	-21	-14	-11

Public Divided on Bush's Overall Performance

Americans remain evenly split in their views of Bush's overall handling of the Presidency. Half (48%) approve and half (50%) disapprove. This is a topic where nearly everyone has an opinion: very few respondents have mixed feelings or are undecided on Bush's performance so far. As in polls taken over the past year – both before and after the November election – ratings of Bush's performance are sharply divided along partisan lines. Most (87%) Republican registered voters approve of Bush's performance, while most (82%) of their Democratic counterparts disapprove.

- 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?

	ALL ADULTS			REGISTERED VOTERS		
	3/7 - 9/05	2/7 - 9/05	1/3 - 5/05	12/6 - 8/04	11/3 - 5/04	10/4 - 6/04
Strongly approve	25	24	27	31	33	31
Somewhat approve.....	12	11	12	10	12	9
Lean toward approval	10	10	10	11	6	8
Still have mixed feelings	2	1	1	2	1	1
Lean toward disapproval	13	15	13	14	9	12
Somewhat disapprove	6	7	7	4	5	6
Strongly disapprove.....	31	32	30	28	34	33
Not sure	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total Approve	48	45	49	51	51	48
Total Disapprove	50	54	49	47	48	51

Congress Comes under Criticism

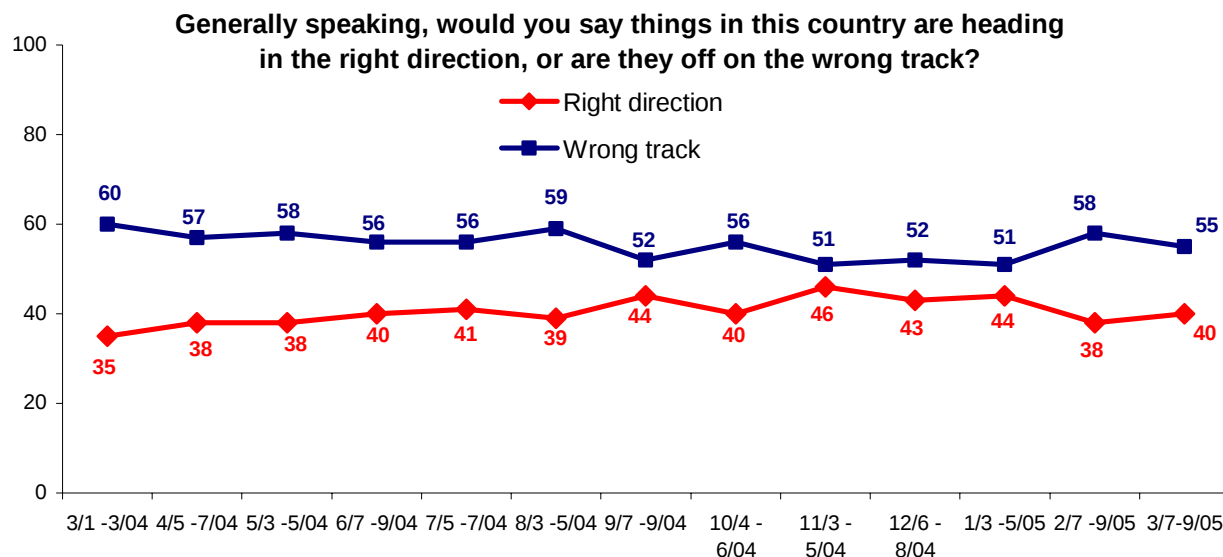
By a five-to-four margin, Americans say they disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job. But unlike opinions on President Bush's performance, Americans don't have strong views on Congress, although more say they "strongly disapprove" (18%) than "strongly approve" (7%).

- 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?

	ALL ADULTS		
	3/7 - 9/05	2/7 - 9/05	1/3 - 5/05
Strongly approve	7	6	8
Somewhat approve.....	20	21	21
Lean toward approval	14	17	12
Still have mixed feelings	5	3	4
Lean toward disapproval	20	21	19
Somewhat disapprove	14	15	16
Strongly disapprove.....	18	16	18
Not sure	2	1	2
Total Approve	41	44	41
Total Disapprove	53	52	53

Half Still Say Country Headed Down Wrong Track

A majority (55%) of adult Americans say the U.S. is generally off on the wrong track, in keeping with findings from over the past year. Four in ten (40%) say the country is heading in the right direction. Whether defined by party affiliation or their views toward the President's handling of the issues, Bush supporters are clearly positive and Bush opponents are solidly negative toward the country's direction.



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