

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

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

**Conducted February 23-26, 2006
N = 1,000 adults nationwide, Margin of Error: ± 3.1%**

All numbers represent percentages unless otherwise labeled.

COOK POLITICAL STUDY

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

1. 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	2/23-26/06			1/22- 25/06	12/8- 11/05	11/17- 20/05
		R	I	D	ALL ADULTS		
Total Approve	40	82	33	10	47	42	41
Total Disapprove	54	14	60	85	50	55	52
Strongly approve	23	56	15	3	27	27	26
Somewhat approve	16	26	17	7	18	14	14
Lean approve.....	1	-	1	-	2	1	2
Neither/not sure/mixed (vol)/do not lean.....	5	4	7	4	2	1	5
Lean disapprove.....	1	1	1	1	2	1	2
Somewhat disapprove.....	11	7	12	14	9	11	7
Strongly disapprove.....	41	5	47	70	40	43	43
Not sure	1	-	-	1	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	2/23-26/06			1/22- 25/06	12/8 – 11/05
		R	I	D	ALL ADULTS	
Total Right Direction	34	67	29	9	38	36
Total Wrong Track	59	27	63	84	60	61
Strongly right direction	17	38	12	3	17	22
Somewhat right direction	15	24	15	5	17	13
Lean right direction	2	5	1	1	3	2
Neither/not sure/mixed (vol)/ do not lean	5	5	6	5	2	2
Lean wrong track	2	2	2	2	2	2
Somewhat wrong track	16	13	16	18	18	15
Strongly wrong track	41	12	45	64	40	43
Not sure	2	2	2	2	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	2/23-26/06			1/22- 25/06	12/8- 11/05
		R	I	D	ALL ADULTS	
Democrats	47	6	47	89	51	49
Republicans	38	87	28	4	39	38
Other (VOL)	7	2	14	3	10	13
Not sure/refused	8	5	11	4	-	-

4. And now looking ahead to the 2008 election for President, if that election were today and the candidates were — **(ROTATE:)** Hillary Clinton, the Democrat or John McCain, the Republican—for whom would you vote?

	ALL ADULTS	R	I	D
Hillary Clinton, the Democrat	37	5	37	69
John McCain, the Republican	47	84	43	17
Other	5	4	9	3
Not sure/refused	11	7	11	11

REGISTERED VOTERS/ PARTY AFFILIATION / OVERSAMPLE

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

	ALL ADULTS	R	I	D
Yes, registered at this address.....	84	89	82	85
(VOL) Do not need to register in order to vote	-	1	-	-
No, not registered at this address	15	10	17	14
Not sure/ refused	1	1	-	1
Total Registered/ No need to register.....	85	89	83	85

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	32
Democrat	34
<hr/>	
<i>Republicans with leaners</i>	<i>41</i>
<i>Democrats with leaners</i>	<i>46</i>
<hr/>	
Strongly Republican	16
Moderately Republican	15
Independent/neither/lean Republican.....	10
Independent/neither/do not lean	10
Independent/neither/lean Democrat	12
Moderately Democrat.....	17
Strongly Democrat.....	16
Refused/not sure.....	4

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

Very closely	31
Somewhat closely	57
Not much at all	12
Refused/not sure.....	-

COOK POLITICAL STUDY (continued)

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

Dem1. Thinking now about the Democratic nomination for President in 2008, will you support **(RANDOMIZE:)** Hillary Clinton, the Senator from New York, John Kerry, the Senator from Massachusetts, John Edwards, the former candidate for Vice President, or someone else for the Democratic nomination for President in 2008?

	DEMS & DEM <u>LEANERS</u>
Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Senator from New York	44
John Kerry, the Senator from Massachusetts	14
John Edwards, former candidate for Vice President	16
Someone else	12
Not sure.....	14

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

Dem2. Thinking about Hillary Clinton, which of the following two statements comes *closer* to your opinion: **(ROTATE:)** If Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee, I am worried that she cannot win the election for President, or If Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee, she'll have as good a chance as any Democratic nominee to be elected President.

	DEMS & DEM <u>LEANERS</u>
If Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee, I am worried that she cannot win the election for President	46
If Hillary Clinton is the Democratic nominee she'll have as good a chance as any Democratic nominee to be elected President.....	47
Some of both (VOL).....	2
Neither/Other reasons (VOL)	1
Not sure.....	4

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

Rep 1. Thinking now about the Republican nomination for President in 2008, will you support **(RANDOMIZE:)** John McCain, the Senator from Arizona, Newt Gingrich (GINN-grich), the former Speaker of the House, Rudy Giuliani (JEW-lee-on-ee), the former Mayor of New York City, or someone else for the Republican nomination for President in 2008?

	REPS & REP <u>LEANERS</u>
John McCain, the Senator from Arizona.....	30
Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the House.....	11
Rudy Giuliani, the former Mayor of New York City.....	30
Someone else	12
Not sure.....	16

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

Rep2. Thinking about Rudy Giuliani,

(ROTATE:)

Some people say he really cleaned up New York City as Mayor and made it a safer place to live or visit, and then he showed real courage as a leader after the attack on the World Trade Center.

Other people say that his views on some issues—because he is pro-choice on abortion, and supports gun control and gay rights—makes it hard for them to support him for President

Having heard that, which of the following two statements comes *closer* to your opinion: **(ROTATE:)** The Republicans should nominate Giuliani for President, or the Republicans should NOT nominate Giuliani for President.

	REPS & REP LEANERS
The Republicans should nominate Giuliani for President	50
The Republicans should NOT nominate Giuliani for President	43
Some of both (VOL).....	-
Neither/Other reasons (VOL)	2
Not sure.....	4

8. When you hear about charges of corruption in Washington today, which do you think is the MOST to blame: **(RANDOMIZE:)**

	ALL ADULTS	R	I	D
Democrats in Washington are corrupt	4	12	2	-
Politicians of both parties in Washington today are corrupt.....	61	66	62	55
Republicans who control Congress and the White House today are corrupt	14	-	14	28
Some of both (VOL).....	14	15	15	12
Neither/Other reasons (VOL)	3	4	3	1
Not sure.....	4	4	3	4

9. And when it comes to the elections this November for Congress, which ONE of the three statements I will read comes CLOSEST to your own personal opinion:

(RANDOMIZE:)

I will vote for the Democratic candidate in my district just because it is so important for the country that Democrats take back control of Congress

I will vote for the Republican candidate in my district just because it is so important for the country that Republicans keep control of Congress

I will vote for the candidate who will best represent my community in Congress, regardless of party

	ALL ADULTS	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
I will vote Democratic so Democrats take back control of Congress	19	2	15	39
I will vote Republican so Republicans keep control of Congress	14	30	7	5
I will vote for the candidate who will best represent my community, regardless of party	64	64	73	53
None of these/Other reasons (VOL)	2	2	2	1
Not sure.....	2	1	2	2

10. Here is something that has been in the news recently. An Arab-government owned company has been cleared by the U.S. government to run major shipping operations at six major seaports here in the United States. Some believe that this proposal could lead to a potential security threat at these U.S. ports, while President Bush disagrees. Bush says the government has carefully made this decision and there is no security threat. Do you think **(ROTATE:)** Congress should take special action to block the government's decision, or we should trust President Bush and his Administration in their decision?

	ALL ADULTS	<u>R</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>D</u>
Congress should take special action to block the government's decision.....	61	32	67	81
We should trust President Bush and his Administration in their decision.....	27	54	23	9
Not sure.....	12	14	11	10

DEMOGRAPHICS / OVERSAMPLE

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.....	48.40

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

High School or less	33
Some college	30
College Graduate	37
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>	
Grade school or some high school.....	7
Graduated high school.....	25
Some community college or university but did not finish	18
Graduated from a community college, technical or vocational school or two-year college degree.....	12
Completed a four-year college or university degree.....	21
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

D8. How would you describe your political views?

	2/23- 26/06	1/22 – 25/06	12/8 – 11/05	11/17 – 20/05
Total Conservative.....	42	40	38	38
Total Liber.....	25	22	24	27

Very conservative	14	14	17	14
Somewhat conservative ...	28	26	21	24
Moderate	30	35	35	32
Somewhat liberal	17	15	16	19
Very liberal	8	8	8	8
Refused/not sure.....	4	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	79
Black	10
Hispanic	8
Asian	1
American Indian.....	-
Other	-
(VOL) Mixed.....	-
Refused.....	1

REGION:

NORTHEAST	New England.....	5
	Mid Atlantic States	15
MIDWEST	Great Lakes	15
	Farm Belt	7
SOUTH	Deep South	19
	Outer South	18
WEST	Mountain	7
	Pacific	15

METROPOLITAN STATUS:

Urban	31
Suburban	47
Rural	21

GENDER:

Male	47
Female.....	53