



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE PRESIDENT VS. CONGRESS ON IRAQ AND GONZALES

April 20-24, 2007

Most Americans want to see a timetable for U.S. troop removal from Iraq by 2008 and believe Congress, not the President, should have the last say when it comes to setting troop levels there -- but they do not want Congressional Democrats to cut off war funding if President Bush is unwilling to agree on a timetable.

Americans say that if Congressional Democrats are rebuked by George W. Bush's veto in their effort to make additional war funding contingent on setting a timetable for troop withdrawal, then the Democrats should go ahead and allow funding, even without a schedule in place. 56% say Congressional Democrats should keep funding the war even if there is a no timetable.

IF BUSH VETOES FUNDING-TIMETABLE BILL, DEMS SHOULD...

Fund war anyway	56%
Withhold funding until Bush sets timetable	36

This is not because most Americans approve of the President or of his handling of the war in Iraq. Just 24% approve of the President's handling of Iraq, one of his lowest ratings ever on this question. Given the choice, Americans would like to see the U.S. set a timetable to begin withdrawing troops sometime in 2008. This view is even more prevalent than it was two weeks ago.

SHOULD U.S. SET TIMETABLE FOR IRAQ WITHDRAWAL IN 2008?

	Now	4/9-12/2007
Yes	64%	57%
No	32	38

Starting in 2005, this poll has asked Americans if they favored a timetable generally (without 2008 as a specific marker). A majority of Americans has consistently favored one.

In general, when there are disagreements between President Bush and Congress over troop levels in Iraq, Americans want Congress to have the final say (though partisan allegiances hold sway in this). Overall, 57% want Congress to have the last word on what happens to troop levels in Iraq, up eight points in just a few weeks. 35% want the President to have it.

WHO SHOULD HAVE FINAL SAY OVER IRAQ TROOP LEVELS?

	All	Reps	Dems	Indeps	4/9-12/2007
Pres. Bush	35%	66%	17%	32%	44%
Congress	57	26	77	58	49

Conservatives think funding ought to go forward if the President issues a veto. Most moderates also favor continued funding. Liberals are the most likely of the three groups to say the Democrats' next step should be to try to withhold funding, but even they are split: 50% would withhold funding, but a sizeable 42% of liberals would allow funding in that circumstance.

Similarly, rank-and-file Democrats are not in lockstep on what to do next: 51% would withhold funds, but 41% would allow them. 83% of Democrats favor a timetable in principle.

Americans overall continue to give President Bush low marks for his handling of Iraq, with just 24% approving, down from 30% a few weeks ago, and not much above the low of 21% he received last December. Republicans continue to approve, but in lower numbers than two weeks ago. Democrats and Independents overwhelmingly disapprove.

BUSH HANDLING OF IRAQ

	<u>All</u>		<u>Republicans</u>	
	Now	4/9-12/2007	Now	4/9-12/2007
Approve	24%	30%	58%	64%
Disapprove	71	66	34	30

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES

After Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' testimony before a Senate committee about the firing of eight U.S. Attorneys, slightly more Americans think he should resign than thought so before -- though views on the matter are very partisan and more than a quarter have no opinion on the question. Many Americans are not following the story closely.

SHOULD ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES RESIGN?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind	4/9-12/2007
Yes	44%	22%	65%	38%	36%
No	28	48	10	30	28
Don't know	28	30	25	32	36

Despite coming under fire from some prominent Congressional Republicans and conservatives, Gonzales retains the support of the GOP rank-and-file, who appear to be following the White House's lead. In increasing numbers, both Republicans and conservatives say they want him to stay put.

REPUBLICANS AND CONSERVATIVES:

SHOULD GONZALES RESIGN?

	<u>Republicans</u>		<u>Conservatives</u>	
	Now	4/9-12/2007	Now	4/9-12/2007
Yes	22%	21%	29%	27%
No	48	41	40	35
Don't know	29	38	31	38

Despite the hearings, only half of Americans are following this story closely. Attention to the story has not varied very much since it was first asked about in March.

FOLLOWING NEWS ABOUT FIRING OF U.S. ATTORNEYS

	Now	4/9-12/2007	3/2007
Very closely	15%	11%	14%
Somewhat closely	35	30	36
Not too/Not at all	49	58	50

Partisans on both sides are equally likely to be following the matter, but Democrats are more likely than Republicans to be following very closely: two in ten of them are. One in ten Republicans is.

Two weeks ago, 52% of Americans following the story either very or somewhat closely wanted Gonzales to resign. That number is higher today: 59% of those paying attention say he should resign.

THE PRESIDENT

The President's overall approval rating is 32% -- similar to what it was two weeks ago.

BUSH'S JOB APPROVAL RATING

	Now	4/9-12/2007
Approve	32%	31%
Disapprove	61	61

This poll also asked Americans to rate the President's handling of the environment. A majority of Americans, 56%, disapprove. 33% approve. Back in August 2001, the country was more evenly divided.

BUSH'S HANDLING OF THE ENVIRONMENT

	Now	8/2001
Approve	33%	43%
Disapprove	56	40

Americans are even less enthusiastic when asked about his handling of the U.S.' energy situation: only about one in four approve.

BUSH'S HANDLING OF THE ENERGY SITUATION

	Now	2/2006	8/2001
Approve	27%	27%	43%
Disapprove	63	60	42

Americans rate the President's handling of the environment and energy situation below both terrorism and the economy. Among the specific issue areas in this poll, only his handling of Iraq ranks lower.

BUSH JOB APPROVALS

Terrorism	42%
Economy	35%
Environment	33%
Energy Situation	27%
Iraq	24%

GAS PRICES AND THE IRAQ WAR

82% of Americans think the price of gasoline will go up in the next few months, while only one in 10 thinks it will stay the same and even fewer think it will go down. Americans have been pessimistic about the price of gas over the past two years.

IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, WILL GAS PRICES...?

	Now	7/2006	8/2005
Go up	82%	85%	78%
Stay the same	11	10	6
Go down	5	4	12

Most Americans see the war in Iraq as a contributing factor to rising gas prices. 64% of Americans - including about half of all Republicans - say the Iraq War has caused the price of gasoline to go up.

IRAQ WAR HAS MADE GAS PRICES...

Go up	64%
Go down	0
No effect	30

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1052 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone April 20-24, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

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q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	32	76	11	24	31
Disapprove	61	19	85	65	61
DK/NA	7	5	4	11	8

q2 How about the economy? Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

Approve	35	81	10	28	36
Disapprove	56	13	82	60	57
DK/NA	9	5	8	12	7

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	24	58	5	19	30
Disapprove	71	34	93	74	66
DK/NA	5	8	2	7	4

q4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the campaign against terrorism?

Approve	42	80	19	39	45
Disapprove	51	16	75	51	47
DK/NA	7	4	6	10	8

q5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the environment?

					Aug01c
Approve	33	65	17	27	43
Disapprove	56	24	75	58	40
DK/NA	11	11	8	15	17

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the energy situation?

					Feb06b
Approve	27	58	11	24	27
Disapprove	63	33	84	62	60
DK/NA	10	9	5	14	13

q7 How closely have you been following news about the recent firing of several U.S. Attorneys by the Justice Department? Have you been following it very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not at all?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	**** Party ID ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very closely	15	11	21	14	11
Somewhat closely	35	39	34	34	30
Not too closely	36	35	37	35	31
Not at all	13	15	8	16	27
DK/NA	1	0	0	1	1

q8 Do you think Alberto Gonzales should resign or be removed from his job as Attorney General as a result of these firings, or should he remain as Attorney General?

Should resign	44	22	65	38	36
Should not resign	28	48	10	30	28
DK/NA	28	30	25	32	36

q30 In the next few months, do you expect that the price of gasoline will go up, stay the same, or go down?

	Jul06a				
Go up	82	75	86	83	85
Stay the same	11	16	8	9	10
Go down	5	7	5	5	4
DK/NA	2	2	1	3	1

q31 Has the war in Iraq made the price of gasoline go up, go down or hasn't the war in Iraq had an effect on the price of gasoline?

Go up	64	49	77	62
Go down	0	0	0	0
No effect	30	44	17	32
DK/NA	6	7	6	6

q70 Do you think the United States should or should not set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq sometime in 2008?

Should	64	33	83	65	57
Should not	32	59	14	30	38
DK/NA	4	8	3	5	5

q71 Currently, President Bush and Congress disagree about what to do about U.S. troop levels in Iraq. Who do you think should have the final say about troop levels in Iraq, the President or Congress?

President	35	66	17	32	44
Congress	57	26	77	58	49
Both (vol.)	3	3	3	3	3
DK/NA	5	5	3	7	4

q72 The Democrats in Congress have proposed to fund the Iraq war only if the U.S. sets a timetable for troop withdrawal, too. George W. Bush has stated he will veto that proposal. If George W. Bush does veto it, what should the Democrats in Congress do next: should they try to withhold funding for the war until George W. Bush accepts a timetable for troop withdrawal, or should they allow funding for the war, even if there is no timetable?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

	**** Party ID ****			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Withhold funding	36	12	51	38
Allow funding	56	84	41	52
DK/NA	8	4	8	10

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1052	
Total Republicans	289	251
Total Democrats	341	363
Total Independents	422	438