

### Methodology

This survey of public opinion was conducted January 28-29, 2006, among 1,000 likely general election voters throughout 20 “swing districts” nationwide. The twenty districts are currently represented in Congress by Republican incumbents. They are: AZ-1, AZ-8, CA-50, CO-7, CT-2, CT-4, IA-1, IA-2, IN-8, IN-9, MN-6, NC-11, NM-1, NV-3, NY-29, OH-18, PA-6, PA-8, WA-8, and WI-8. All interviews were conducted by professional interviewers by telephone. Interview selection was at random from among lists of registered voters in each district with a history of voting in general elections. The accuracy of this nationwide swing district survey with 1,000 likely voters is within +/-3.1% at a 95% confidence interval.

### Key Findings

- Voters in the swing districts who are likely to determine which party controls Congress next year have a negative attitude about the current leadership in Congress, and are strongly leaning toward supporting Democrats in this November’s elections. The voter sample in this survey is reflective of these swing districts, as it is evenly divided between the parties (38% Republicans, 38% Democrats, and 21% Independents). Among that evenly divided group, 42% say they are likely to vote for a Democrat for Congress this year, compared to 36% for a Republican. Further, when asked which party they would prefer to see in control of Congress next year, 47% chose the Democrats compared to 36% for the Republicans. Overall, 35% of respondents said they had a favorable view of Republicans in Congress, compared to 45% with an unfavorable view.
- Congressional ethics scandals are taking a toll on the perception of Republicans in these swing districts. When asked to volunteer their own answer to the question “What issue or action do you most associate with the Republican leadership in Congress?” respondents offered “corruption and dishonesty” more often than any other response with the exception of the war. Further, 80% of respondents said the words that best described the level of ethical misconduct in Congress today were either “serious” or “scandalous.”
- Voters in these swing districts have a clear and strong preference for a new Republican Majority Leader who is not perceived as tainted by the Washington lobbyist community. Fifty-two percent said that “the type of person that Republicans elect as the new Majority Leader would have an impact on how they view the Republicans in Congress.” And 77% said they would prefer “a Congressman who has not been a part of the senior House leadership and who does not have close ties to the Washington lobbyist community” over a Congressman who is a current or former high ranking member of the House leadership and has close ties to the Washington lobbyist community. Notably, this preference cut across all party and ideological lines among the voters.

BASSWOOD RESEARCH  
SURVEY OF NATIONWIDE SWING DISTRICTS - GENERAL ELECTION VOTERS

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JANUARY 29, 2006

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Q1. - IN GENERAL, WHEN THERE ARE GENERAL ELECTIONS, DO YOU ALWAYS VOTE, ALMOST ALWAYS VOTE, VOTE SOME OF THE TIME, HARDLY EVER VOTE OR NEVER VOTE?

- 1000 Total
- 763 76.3 ALWAYS
- 237 23.7 ALMOST ALWAYS

Q2. - IF YOU HAD TO LABEL YOURSELF, WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE A LIBERAL, A MODERATE, OR A CONSERVATIVE IN YOUR POLITICAL BELIEFS?

- 1000 Total
- 210 21.0 LIBERAL
- 356 35.6 MODERATE
- 389 38.9 CONSERVATIVE
- 216 21.6 Smwht Conservative
- 173 17.3 Very Conservative
- 45 4.5 D.K./REFUSED

Q3. - THINKING ABOUT AMERICA RIGHT NOW, DO YOU THINK WE ARE HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, OR DO YOU THINK WE HAVE GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK?

- 1000 Total
- 291 29.1 RIGHT DIRECTION
- 616 61.6 WRONG TRACK
- 93 9.3 DK/REFUSED

Q4. - ALL OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, ARE YOU MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT OR A REPUBLICAN FOR CONGRESS THIS YEAR?

- 1000 Total
- 419 41.9 DEMOCRAT
- 358 35.8 REPUBLICAN
- 223 22.3 UNDEDICED

Q5. - WOULD YOU PREFER TO SEE THE DEMOCRATS OR THE REPUBLICANS IN CONTROL OF CONGRESS AFTER THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS?

- 1000 Total
- 468 46.8 DEMOCRATS
- 361 36.1 REPUBLICANS
- 171 17.1 DK/REFUSED

Q6. - WHAT ISSUE OR ACTION DO YOU MOST ASSOCIATE WITH THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS?

- 1000 Total
- 144 14.4 WAR/IRAQ
- 51 5.1 CORRUPT/DISHONEST
- 30 3.0 ECONOMY
- 28 2.8 TAXES/LOWER
- 25 2.5 HOMELAND SECURITY
- 22 2.2 ABORTION
- 21 2.1 SUPREME COURT NOMINEES
- 19 1.9 CONSERVATIVE/TOO

- 19 1.9 (WASTEFUL) SPENDING  
- 16 1.6 FOR BIG BUSINESS  
- 15 1.5 IMMIGRATION LAWS  
- 15 1.5 GOOD JOB  
- 13 1.3 NO LIKE/NO MY PARTY  
- 12 1.2 FOR THE RICH  
- 12 1.2 RELIG/RIGHT/EXTREME  
- 11 1.1 LIKE/MY PARTY  
- 11 1.1 PATRIOT ACT  
- 10 1.0 FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY  
- 10 1.0 MEDICARE RX BILL  
- 10 1.0 POOR JOB  
- 10 1.0 SCANDALS/MISCONDUCT  
- 9 0.9 SELF-INTEREST/GREEDY  
- 9 0.9 MORAL/FAMILY VALUES  
- 9 0.9 BUDGET/DEFICIT  
- 9 0.9 SUPPORTS G.W. BUSH  
- 8 0.8 DO NOTHING/INACTION  
- 7 0.7 GUN CONTROL STAND  
- 7 0.7 SOCIAL SECURITY STAND  
- 7 0.7 HEALTH CARE  
- 7 0.7 WAR ON TERRORISM  
- 7 0.7 FOREIGN POLICY  
- 6 0.6 DISAGREE W/VIEWS  
- 6 0.6 HONEST/TRUTHFUL  
- 6 0.6 MAJORITY PARTY  
- 6 0.6 GOP AGENDA  
- 6 0.6 MEDICARE STAND  
- 6 0.6 WIRE TAPS  
- 5 0.5 AGREE W/VIEWS  
- 5 0.5 EDUCATION  
- 5 0.5 NOT FOR POOR/NEEDY  
- 5 0.5 MILITARY/DEFENSE  
- 5 0.5 STRONG LEADERSHIP  
- 5 0.5 INCOMPETENCE  
- 5 0.5 PASSIVE/NO FIGHT  
- 4 0.4 MONEY  
- 4 0.4 ENERGY CRISIS  
- 4 0.4 CUT SOCIAL PROGRAMS  
- 4 0.4 LOBBYISTS  
- 4 0.4 PARTISAN/BICKER  
- 4 0.4 POOR LEADERSHIP  
- 4 0.4 GOVERNMENT REFORM  
- 4 0.4 ARROGANCE  
- 3 0.3 GAY MARRIAGE STAND  
- 3 0.3 BI-PARTISAN/CO-OPERAT  
- 3 0.3 TOM DELAY  
- 3 0.3 NOT QUALIFIED  
- 2 0.2 FOR THE PEOPLE  
- 2 0.2 COST OF LIVING/HIGH  
- 2 0.2 EMPLOYMENT  
- 2 0.2 ENVIRONMENTAL STAND  
- 2 0.2 DOMESTIC POLICY  
- 2 0.2 STICKS TO BELIEFS  
- 2 0.2 SNEAKY  
- 2 0.2 NO SUPPORT G.W. BUSH  
- 1 0.1 TOO LIBERAL  
- 1 0.1 CONTROL/POWER  
- 1 0.1 STATES RIGHTS  
- 1 0.1 EFFECTIVE/DO THINGS  
- 1 0.1 FOLLOW THE CONSTTUTION  
- 1 0.1 PRESERVE STATUS QUO  
- 1 0.1 PATRIOTISM  
- 1 0.1 CONTRACT W/AMERICA  
- 1 0.1 ACTS BEFORE THINKS

- 277 27.7 DON'T KNOW

Q7. - PLEASE TELL ME WHETHER YOU HAVE A FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING. IF YOU HAVE NO OPINION OR HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE PERSON, JUST SAY SO.  
"GEORGE W. BUSH"

- 1000 Total  
- 400 40.0 FAVORABLE  
- 523 52.3 UNFAVORABLE  
- 77 7.7 NO OPINION

Q8. - PLEASE TELL ME WHETHER YOU HAVE A FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING. IF YOU HAVE NO OPINION OR HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE PERSON, JUST SAY SO.  
"LOBBYISTS"

- 1000 Total  
- 63 6.3 FAVORABLE  
- 606 60.6 UNFAVORABLE  
- 304 30.4 NO OPINION  
- 27 2.7 NEVER HEARD OF

Q9. - PLEASE TELL ME WHETHER YOU HAVE A FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING. IF YOU HAVE NO OPINION OR HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE PERSON, JUST SAY SO.  
"THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS"

- 1000 Total  
- 354 35.4 FAVORABLE  
- 447 44.7 UNFAVORABLE  
- 196 19.6 NO OPINION  
- 3 0.3 NEVER HEARD OF

Q10. - PLEASE TELL ME WHETHER YOU HAVE A FAVORABLE OR UNFAVORABLE OPINION OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING. IF YOU HAVE NO OPINION OR HAVE NEVER HEARD OF THE PERSON, JUST SAY SO.  
"THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS"

- 1000 Total  
- 341 34.1 FAVORABLE  
- 393 39.3 UNFAVORABLE  
- 262 26.2 NO OPINION  
- 4 0.4 NEVER HEARD OF

Q11. - WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WORDS WOULD YOU SAY BEST DESCRIBES THE LEVEL OF ETHICAL MISCONDUCT IN CONGRESS TODAY?

- 1000 Total  
- 143 14.3 MINOR  
- 502 50.2 SERIOUS  
- 304 30.4 SCANDALOUS  
- 51 5.1 DK/REFUSED

Q12. - AS YOU MIGHT KNOW, NEXT WEEK THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS WILL ELECT A NEW REPUBLICAN HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER TO REPLACE CONGRESSMAN TOM DELAY. WILL THE TYPE OF PERSON THEY ELECT AS THE NEW MAJORITY LEADER HAVE AN IMPACT ON HOW YOU VIEW THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS?

- 1000 Total  
- 517 51.7 YES  
- 403 40.3 NO  
- 80 8.0 DK/REFUSED

Q13. - WHICH TYPE OF PERSON WOULD YOU PREFER TO SEE AS THE REPUBLICAN HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER?

1. A CONGRESSMAN WHO IS TOM DELAY'S TOP ASSISTANT IN THE CURRENT HOUSE LEADERSHIP AND HAS LONG AND CLOSE TIES TO THE WASHINGTON LOBBYIST COMMUNITY.
2. A CONGRESSMAN WHO IS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP WHO HAS CLOSE TIES TO THE WASHINGTON LOBBYIST COMMUNITY.
3. A CONGRESSMAN WHO HAS NOT BEEN A PART OF THE SENIOR HOUSE LEADERSHIP, AND WHO DOES NOT HAVE CLOSE TIES TO THE WASHINGTON LOBBYIST COMMUNITY.

- 1000 Total  
- 765 76.5 NO LDRSHP/LOBBYISTS  
- 85 8.5 LEADERSHIP/LOBBYISTS  
- 42 4.2 DELAY TOP ASSISTANT  
- 108 10.8 DK/REFUSED

Q14. - WITH WHICH POLITICAL PARTY ARE YOU REGISTERED OR AFFILIATED?

- 1000 Total  
- 380 38.0 REPUBLICAN  
- 377 37.7 DEMOCRAT  
- 213 21.3 INDEPENDENT/OTHER  
- 30 3.0 DK/REFUSED

Q15. - WOULD YOU SAY THAT ALWAYS VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS, USUALLY VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS, VOTE FOR ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF REPUBLICANS AS DEMOCRATS, USUALLY VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS, OR ALWAYS VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS?

- 1000 Total  
- 279 27.9 REPUBLICAN  
- 84 8.4 Always Republican  
- 195 19.5 Usually Republican  
- 451 45.1 TICKETSPLITTER  
- 153 15.3 Usually Democratic  
- 104 10.4 Always Democratic  
- 257 25.7 DEMOCRAT  
- 13 1.3 DK/REFUSED

Q16. - WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

- 1000 Total  
- 25 2.5 18 - 25  
- 138 13.8 26 - 40  
- 261 26.1 41 - 54  
- 256 25.6 55 - 64  
- 308 30.8 65 OR OLDER  
- 12 1.2 REFUSED

Q17. - WHAT IS YOUR ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME?

- 1000 Total  
- 182 18.2 UNDER \$30,000  
- 219 21.9 \$30,000 - \$50,000  
- 164 16.4 \$50,001 - \$75,000  
- 259 25.9 OVER \$75,000  
- 176 17.6 REFUSED

Q18. - GENDER:

- 1000 Total  
- 480 48.0 MALE  
- 520 52.0 FEMALE

Q19. - REGION:

- 1000 Total  
- 250 25.0 NORTHEAST  
- 350 35.0 MID-WEST  
- 50 5.0 SOUTH  
- 350 35.0 WEST