



1101 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 463-7300

Interview dates: February 22-24, 2005
Interviews: 1,000 adults
Margin of error: ± 3.1 for all adults

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL
CONDUCTED BY IPSOS-PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

REGISTERED VOTERS/ PARTY AFFILIATION

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

	ALL ADULTS
Yes.....	77
No	22
Refused/not sure	1

2a. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these? *

(IF "DEMOCRAT" TO Q.2a, Q.2b ASKED. IF "REPUBLICAN" TO Q.2a, Q.2c ASKED. IF "INDEPENDENT" or "NONE OF THESE" TO Q.2a, Q.2d ASKED. RESULTS SHOWN IN SUMMARY BELOW.)

- 2b. Do you lean strongly or only moderately toward the Democratic Party?
- 2c. Do you lean strongly or only moderately toward the Republican Party?
- 2d. Do your beliefs tend to lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	REGISTERED VOTERS
Strongly Republican	21
Moderately Republican	25
Definitely Independent/neither	6
Moderately Democrat.....	27
Strongly Democrat	20
Refused/not sure.....	1
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Total Republican	46
Total Democrat	47

* Half the respondents were asked party identification in this location, the other half were asked at the end of the survey with the other demographic questions. Results for the respondents who were asked the question early were 44% Republican, 47% Democrat. For the respondents asked later in the survey, the results were 48% Republican, 47% Democrat.

SOCIAL SECURITY STUDY

1. Do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling Social Security? **(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 approve	19
Somewhat approve	9
Lean toward approval	11
Still have mixed feelings	5
Lean toward disapproval.....	15
Somewhat disapprove	7
Strongly disapprove	34
Not sure	-
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Total Approve.....	39
Total Disapprove.....	56
<i>Mean Rating</i> ¹	3.5

¹Mean rating is calculated by assigning each response except "not sure" a value from 1 to 7, with "strongly approve" receiving a value of 7, and "strongly disapprove" a value of 1.

2. Who do you trust more to handle the issue of Social Security?

The Democrats	43
The Republicans	37
(NOT READ) Neither	16
Not sure	4

D2. Are you employed:

TOTAL EMPLOYED	66
- Full time.....	57
- Part time.....	9
Not employed	12
Retired.....	22
Not sure.....	-

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE NOT RETIRED IN Q.D2.)

3. Looking ahead to your retirement, how confident are you that you will have financial resources to live comfortably during your retirement?

Very confident	29
Somewhat confident.....	36
Not too confident	19
Not at all confident.....	15
Not sure.....	1
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Total Confident	65
Total Not Confident	34

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE NOT RETIRED IN Q.D3.)

4. How good a job are you doing of preparing financially for your retirement? Would you say you are doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job?

Excellent job	19
Good job.....	37
Fair job	29
Poor job.....	15
Not sure.....	-

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE NOT RETIRED IN Q.D3.)

5. At what age do you expect to retire?

50 or younger.....	10
51-55.....	9
56-60.....	19
61-65.....	35
66-70.....	13
71 years or older	4
Never plan to retire	6
Not sure	4

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE NOT RETIRED IN Q.D3.)

6/7. Do you think you will do any work for pay after you retire, or not? [IF YES, ASK:] Which one of the following best describes why you are planning to work after you retire?

YES, WILL WORK FOR PAY AFTER RETIRING.....	63
- To stay busy	31
- To earn enough money to make ends meet	15
- To have enough money for extras	11
- Try a new career.....	2
- Some other reason	4
NO, WILL NOT WORK FOR PAY AFTER RETIRING	34
Not sure	3

8. Do you personally have any of the following types of retirement accounts or plans, or not?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
A workplace retirement savings plan, such as a 401(k), 403(b), or 457 plan	49	49	2
An IRA (individual retirement account)	43	56	1
An employer-paid pension plan, which will pay you a set amount each month for life in your retirement	40	60	-

9a/b. (President Bush/Some people) has/have proposed that workers who are currently under age 55 should be given the option of investing a portion of their Social Security taxes in the stock market and in bonds, while at the same time reducing the guaranteed Social Security benefit they get when they retire. Depending on what happens to those investments in stocks and bonds, their Social Security benefit could be higher or lower. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
(ASKED OF HALF THE RESPONDENTS.)			
President Bush has proposed that workers who are currently under age 55 should be given the option of investing a portion of their Social Security taxes in the stock market and in bonds, while at the same time reducing the guaranteed Social Security benefit they get when they retire	39	55	6

(ASKED OF OTHER HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS.)			
Some people have proposed that workers who are currently under age 55 should be given the option of investing a portion of their Social Security taxes in the stock market and in bonds, while at the same time reducing the guaranteed Social Security benefit they get when they retire	45	51	4

10a/b. If (you personally/Americans) were allowed to invest part of (your/their) Social Security taxes in the stock market or in bonds, do you expect that (you/most Americans) would receive more money in retirement, about the same amount of money, or less money in retirement than if the government were managing all of (your/their) Social Security taxes?

	<u>More</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>About the Same</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
(ASKED OF HALF THE RESPONDENTS.)				
If you personally were allowed to invest part of your Social Security taxes in the stock market or in bonds, do you expect that you would receive more money in retirement, about the same amount of money, or less money in retirement than if the government were managing all of your Social Security taxes	39	34	22	5

(ASKED OF OTHER HALF OF THE RESPONDENTS.)				
If Americans were allowed to invest part of their Social Security taxes in the stock market or in bonds, do you expect that most would receive more money in retirement, about the same amount of money, or less money in retirement than if the government were managing all of their Social Security taxes	35	41	18	6

11. Please tell me if you would support or oppose each of the following measures as ways of helping to solve the financial problems facing the Social Security program.

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Requiring those earning more than \$90,000 per year to pay Social Security taxes on all of their earnings	74	24	2
Increasing the retirement age for all workers	32	66	2
Increasing payroll taxes on all workers	30	68	2
Cutting retirement benefits for future retirees.....	11	87	2
Cutting retirement benefits for current retirees.....	7	93	-

CHURCH-STATE STUDY

Now, on an unrelated topic...the Supreme Court is considering whether the Ten Commandments may be displayed on government property, such as in courthouses.

12. Do you believe the display of the Ten Commandments ought to be allowed on government property such as courthouses, or not?

Yes.....	76
No	23
Not sure	1

13. As you may know, the U.S. Constitution says there should be separation between church and state. How important do you think that there should be a strict boundary between religion and government?

Very important.....	36
Somewhat important	31
Not too important.....	12
Not at all important	19
Not sure.....	2
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Total Important	67
Total Not Important	31

14. The courts have the job of enforcing the separation between church and state. Do you think the courts have gone too far in enforcing the separation between church and state, not far enough, or have they handled that situation about right?

Too far	48
Not far enough.....	14
About right	35
Not sure	3

DEMOGRAPHICS

NOTE: Results for demographic questions represent all adults unless otherwise indicated.

D1a. In what year were you born?

D1b. Have you already had a birthday this year?

(IF RESPONDENT REFUSES Q.D1a OR Q.D1b, Q.D1c ASKED. RESULTS SHOWN IN SUMMARY BELOW.)

D1c. Are you:

18-34	31
35-49	30
50-64	22
65 and over	17
Refused/not sure	-

(Q.D3 ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED FULL OR PART-TIME IN Q.D2.)

D3. We would also like to have just a general idea of what type of occupation you have. Which one of the following best describes your current job?

Professional	17
Senior executive or manager	9
Clerical or administrative	7
Sales or services	9
A skilled trade or technical occupation.....	12
Blue-collar work or laborer	7
Farming or fishing	1
Other (VOL)	4
Refused/not sure	-
Not Employed Full/Part Time (Q.D3)	34

D4. What is the last year of school you completed?

Grade school or some high school	7
Completed high school	24
Some community college or university, but did not finish	22
Completed technical school or a community college	13
Completed a university or Bachelor's degree	23
Completed a post-graduate degree such as a Master's or Ph.D.	11
Refused/not sure	-

D5. Are you currently married?

Yes	56
No.....	44
Refused/not sure	-

D6. Including yourself and any children, how many people are currently living in your household?

1	20
2	33
3	20
4	16
5	8
6 or more	3
Refused/not sure	-

(Q.D7a-c ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY MORE THAN ONE PERSON IN HOUSEHOLD IN Q.D6.)

D7a. How many children under 6 years are currently living in your household?

D7b. How many children ages 6 to 12 are currently living in your household?

D7c. How many children ages 13 to 17 are currently living in your household?

ANY CHILDREN – NET	39
Under 6.....	20
6-12	18
13-17	16
NO CHILDREN	60
Refused/not sure	1

D8. Do you currently own stocks, bonds, or mutual funds?

Yes	54
No.....	44
Refused/not sure	2

(Q.D9 ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY OWN STOCKS, BONDS OR MUTUAL FUNDS IN Q.D8.)

D9. In the past 12 months, how many times did you make changes in your investments - buying or selling stocks or stock mutual funds either within or outside an employer-sponsored 401K plan?

	<u>INVESTORS</u>
None.....	35
1 time.....	20
2 times.....	13
3 times.....	7
4 times.....	3
5 to 9 times.....	11
10 to 14 times.....	4
15 to 19 times.....	2
20 to 24 times.....	1
25 times or more	2
Refused/not sure	2
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Active Investors (5 times or more).....	20

D10a. Would you describe yourself as a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	39
No.....	60
Refused/not sure	1

D10b. What is your religious preference? Is it Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, some other religion, or don't you belong to any religious denomination? (IF "SOME OTHER RELIGION, ASK) Is that a Christian denomination, or not? (IF YES, CODED AS "PROTESTANT".)

Protestant.....	49
Catholic	22
Mormon	2
Jewish	1
Muslim.....	-
Other non-Christian religion.....	4
No religion	21
Refused/not sure	1

D11a. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity?

(Q.D11b ASKED ONLY OF THOSE WHO DO NOT SAY THEY ARE HISPANIC IN Q.D11a.)

D11b. Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

(RESULTS SHOWN IN SUMMARY BELOW.)

White	81
Black.....	9
Hispanic.....	5
Asian.....	1
American Indian.....	2
Other.....	1
Refused	1

D12. Could you please tell me your household income from all sources in 2004?

Under \$15,000.....	13
\$15,000 to less than \$20,000	6
\$20,000 to less than \$25,000	6
\$25,000 to less than \$30,000	4
\$30,000 to less than \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to less than \$50,000	11
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	9
\$100,000 or more	14
Refused/not sure	12

REGION:

Northeast.....	20
Midwest.....	23
South.....	35
West.....	22

METROPOLITAN STATUS:

Urban.....	29
Suburban.....	48
Rural.....	23

GENDER:

Male.....	48
Female.....	52