

**A Vote of Renewed Confidence:  
How Americans View Presidential Appointees  
And Government in the Wake of the  
September 11 Terrorist Attacks**

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**THE PRESIDENTIAL  
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Thomas Jefferson had a great deal on his mind as he prepared for his first term as president, not the least of which was the brutal contest that led to his election after 34 ballots in the House of Representatives. Beset by civil unrest at home and threatened from abroad, the nation was fighting for its very survival. Yet, as Jefferson mused about the challenges ahead, he worried most about building “an administration whose talents, integrity, names and dispositions, should at once inspire unbounded confidence in the public mind and insure a perfect harmony in the conduct of the public business.”<sup>1</sup>

Two hundred years later, there is ample evidence that a president’s appointments still have the power to inspire unbounded confidence in the public mind. Confidence in presidential appointees surged dramatically in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, and now exceeds confidence in elected federal officials such as members of Congress and federal government workers.

The evidence comes from comparing the results of a new nationwide, representative telephone survey of 1,033 adults living in the continental United States with the results of a parallel survey conducted during the summer. Both surveys were conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates for The Presidential Appointee Initiative, a nonpartisan project of the Brookings Institution funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts. The first survey was conducted between June 18 and July 18, 2001 and the second one was conducted between September 27 and October 6, 2001. For results based on the total sample of either survey, one can say with 95 percent confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is within approximately plus or minus 3 percentage points.

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Jefferson to Aaron Burr, 1800, in Andrew A. Lipscomb and Albert Ellery Bergh, eds., *The Writings of Thomas Jefferson* (Washington, 1903-04), vol. 10, p. 182.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Having given a vote of no confidence to the presidential appointments process in an earlier Presidential Appointee Initiative public opinion survey taken in July, Americans have turned much more positive in the wake of the September 11 tragedies.

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- 79 percent of Americans now have a very or somewhat favorable view of presidential appointees, up nearly 20 percentage points from last July.
- 47 percent of Americans now believe that presidential appointees are motivated primarily by serving their country's best interests, up from 35 percent in July, while only 37 percent said that presidential appointees are primarily motivated by advancing their career, down from 54 percent last summer.
- 31 percent of Americans now say presidents choose appointees who are the most qualified for the job, up from 18 percent in July, while the number who say the president mainly picks people who played a role in the president's campaign fell from 26 percent in July to 16 percent by October.
- 42 percent of Americans now say they would strongly encourage a close friend who is successful in business to take a presidential appointment, up from 30 percent in July.

Americans have clearly come to believe that presidential appointees play a critical role in government, particularly during the current terrorist crisis. They are not only paying more attention to news stories about who President Bush is selecting as presidential appointees, they can better identify key cabinet members such as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. It is no surprise, therefore, that 90 percent of Americans would say that presidential appointees play an extremely or very important role in periods of crisis like this.

This report will address three questions about public opinion in the wake of the September 11 attacks. First, how has confidence in government, its leaders, and employees changed as a result of the tragedies? Second, how has opinion changed toward presidential appointees and the presidential appointments process? And third, what might explain the increase in overall trust in government?

## CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Many institutions gained public confidence in the wake of the September 11 attacks, including both the news media and business corporations. But no institution moved as far as the federal government in Washington. The number of Americans who said they trust the federal government in Washington a great deal or fair amount jumped 17 percentage points from July to October, while those who said they trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always or most of the time rose 28 points, and the number who felt very or somewhat favorable also jumped 28 points.

The gains came in all demographic groups and among Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Nevertheless, the gains were particularly striking where one would have expected high ratings to begin with, among Republicans. Whereas just 10 percent of Republicans said they had a great deal of trust in the government in Washington in July, 23 percent had a great deal by October; whereas 33 percent trusted government to do what is right just about always or most of the time in July, 70 percent had moved to these levels by October.

### TRUST IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

OCT 2001 JULY 2001

→ **In general, how much do you trust the federal government?**

A great deal	17	7
A fair amount	63	56
Not too much	16	29
Not at all	4	7

→ **Trust federal government to do what is right?**

Just about always	15	4
Most of the time	42	25
Only some of the time	39	66
Never	2	4

→ **Opinion of Federal Government**

Very favorable	35	9
Somewhat favorable	43	41
Somewhat unfavorable	11	28
Very unfavorable	5	17
n=	1033	1003

Confidence in government's other leaders and its employees also rose dramatically in the wake of September 11. The number of Americans who felt very or somewhat favorable toward President Bush rose 26 points between July and October, compared to 19 points for presidential appointees, 17 point jump for Vice President Cheney, 13 points for members of Congress, and 7 points for federal workers.

It is important to note that the reason federal employees moved so little during the period may be due to the fact that they were already rated as the most favorable government group in July. They simply had the least room to rise.

It is also interesting to note that Bush gained among all political persuasions, including Republicans. Whereas 53 percent of Republicans had a very favorable opinion of Bush in July, 86 percent had a very favorable opinion by October, a gain of 33 points. Democrats and Independents also become more favorable to the president, by 24 percentage points and 31 points respectively, but they ended up far below the Republicans in their overall ratings.

Ninety-eight percent of Republicans said they were very or somewhat favorable toward the President by October, compared to 69 percent of Democrats, and 85 percent of Independents.

The question is whether the extraordinary rise in trust signals a desire for a return of bigger government. Setting aside the issue of whether the era of big government in America was ever over, as President Clinton claimed in 1996, or ever occurred in comparison to other western democracies, the rise in confidence appears to be driven more by the hope that America will win the war on terrorism than any tectonic shift in public views of the size and priorities of government. Simply put, Americans want more of virtually everything the federal government delivers, yet still have lingering doubts about the motivations of federal employees and the inefficiency of big government.

**OPINION OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIALS AND WORKERS**

OCT 2001 JULY 2001

	OCT 2001	JULY 2001
<b>→ Opinion of George W. Bush</b>		
Very favorable	54	25
Somewhat favorable	29	32
Somewhat unfavorable	8	19
Very unfavorable	7	20
<b>→ Opinion of federal officials the president selects</b>		
Very favorable	26	12
Somewhat favorable	53	48
Somewhat unfavorable	12	25
Very unfavorable	4	9
<b>→ Opinion of Vice President Dick Cheney</b>		
Very favorable	39	22
Somewhat favorable	35	35
Somewhat unfavorable	9	19
Very unfavorable	6	13
<b>→ Opinion of elected federal officials</b>		
Very favorable	14	7
Somewhat favorable	57	51
Somewhat unfavorable	19	28
Very unfavorable	4	10
<b>→ Opinion of federal government workers</b>		
Very favorable	20	12
Somewhat favorable	56	57
Somewhat unfavorable	13	18
Very unfavorable	4	7
n=	1033	1003

On the one hand, Americans clearly want the federal government to continue delivering the goods and services. Hence, the number of Americans who said that the federal government has the wrong priorities fell from 28 percent in July to 20 percent in October, while the number that said government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems rose from an average of 3.86 on a six point scale in July to 4.15 by October. Americans are in no mood for cutbacks.

On the other hand, Americans remained convinced that most federal employees choose to work in government for the security, benefits, and paycheck, not because they want to help people, make a difference, or do something worthwhile. And the number who believe that government has the right priorities, but is inefficient remained statistically unchanged at 61 percent in July and 63 percent by October. Americans may be in no mood for cutbacks, but neither do they appear to be in the mood for a vast expansion.

Americans did become more enthusiastic about government as a potential employer after September, however. Asked to imagine they had a grown son or daughter with two job offers, one in government and the other in private business, 39 percent of Americans said they would recommend government by October, up 9 points from July.

But at least some of that increased enthusiasm appears to reflect growing worry about the economy, particularly among less educated, lower-income Americans. Hence, respondents with some college or less were more likely to see the value of a government job for their imagined son or daughter than people with a college degree. Whereas 34 percent of high school graduates said their son or daughter should take the government job in July, 45 percent said government in October.

**MOTIVATIONS OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
WORKERS**

	OCT 2001	JULY 2001
<b>→ Security vs. Help public</b>		
Job security	68	70
Want to help the public	26	22
<b>→ Salary and benefits vs. Make difference</b>		
Salary and benefits	64	68
Chance to make a difference	31	24
<b>→ Something worthwhile vs. Secure paycheck</b>		
Want to do something worthwhile	30	24
Want to have a secure pay check	63	68
n=	1033	1003

## CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES

The terrorist attacks clearly altered public confidence in presidential appointees. Not only has favorability toward appointees increased dramatically since September 11, more Americans are following the news about who President Bush is selecting to help him run the government. Sixty-three percent of Americans said they were following the news about appointees very or somewhat closely by October, up 11 percentage points from July.

Americans are clearly paying greater attention to the process in large measure because they believe appointees matter greatly in times of crisis. Asked about the role of appointees during periods of crisis, 60 percent of Americans said appointees play an extremely important role, while 30 percent said a very important role. Asked whether appointees should play a bigger or smaller role during the current crisis, 26 percent said bigger, while just 2 percent said smaller.<sup>2</sup>

Americans also want presidents to select the best people for the top jobs. Sixty-three percent now say the president should select the best qualified person for the job regardless of political party, up from 59 percent in July, while just 33 percent say it is important to select people who are loyal to the president, down from 38 percent in July.

### Knowledge of the Process

Although the attention has not produced a significant increase in knowledge about the appointments process, in part because Americans were already reasonably well informed about the process before September 11, it produced a significant increase in knowledge of at least one specific appointee, Donald Rumsfeld. The number of Americans who correctly matched Rumsfeld's name with his position as Secretary of Defense doubled from 20 percent in July to 40 percent by October, with gains in all demographic and party groups.

The number who correctly identified John Ashcroft also increased to 40 percent, but he was already at 33 percent in July. Although Colin Powell remains the most recognized cabinet member, Americans are still not sure whether he is Secretary of State or Secretary of Defense.

<sup>2</sup> These two questions were not asked in July.

### Fairness of the Process

Despite their increased favorability toward presidential appointees, Americans have not changed dramatically in their view of the process. Although the number of respondents who said presidents choose the most qualified person for the job increased from 18 percent in July to 31 percent in October, there is ample evidence that Americans still worry that politics plays too large a role in the process.

- 53 percent of Americans still believe that financial contributions people make to a president's campaign play a very big role in the appointments process, down only 4 percentage points from July.
- 80 percent strongly or somewhat agree that political considerations play too large a role in who the president selects, down just 1 point from July.

Nevertheless, Americans also believe the process is too harsh on appointees. Hence, 50 percent of the post-September 11 respondents strongly agreed that the media asks too many questions about the personal lives of appointees, up from 44 percent in July, and 49 percent continued to recognize that appointees make less money than a person in a senior position outside of government.

Some Americans also seem to understand that the appointments process takes too long, especially during times of crisis. Of respondents who understood that Congress must approve the president's appointees, 43 percent said that the approval process should be streamlined in periods of crisis, compared to 51 percent who said that the approval process should be followed strictly.

Despite these concerns, Americans remain encouraging toward presidential service. Asked to imagine that they had a close friend who was successful in business, 42 percent of the post-September 11 respondents said they would strongly encourage their friend to take a presidential appointment, up from 30 percent in July. Americans may have doubts about both the role of politics and the harshness of the process, but they clearly want talented citizens to say "yes" when the president calls.

Interestingly, Americans are no longer as convinced that private-sector experience offers the best qualification for being a presidential appointee. Whereas 44 percent of respondents said private-sector experience was the best qualification in July, only 36 percent agreed by October. In contrast, whereas 44 percent said public-sector experience was the best qualification in July, 48 percent agreed in October.



### Image of Appointees

Despite continued concerns about the appointments process, Americans were much more inclined to say that presidential appointees are motivated by the right things in October than they were in July. As noted above, 47 percent now believe that appointees are motivated primarily to serve their country, up 12 points from July, while 37 percent say that appointees are motivated primarily by advancing their career, down 17 points from July. Given a list of reasons that a person agrees to serve the president, Americans were also much more likely to say that presidential appointees take their positions to help the country. The increases came from all demographic and party positions, including Republicans as well as Democrats.

Finally, Americans saw appointees as more capable, patriotic, hard-working, and honest after September 11 than they did before. Although substantial minorities still questioned the basic honesty and work ethic of appointees, all of the numbers moved in the positive direction.

#### MOTIVATION TO SERVE A PRESIDENT

	OCT 2001	JULY 2001
<b>→ Person's primary motivation</b>		
Serving country's best interest	47	35
Advancing their career	37	54
Both	10	6
Neither	1	*
n=	1033	1003

#### COMPARISON OF APPOINTEES TO MOST AMERICANS

	OCT 2001	JULY 2001
<b>→ Capable</b>		
As	48	49
More	44	40
Less	6	9
<b>→ Patriotic</b>		
As	59	56
More	31	26
Less	6	14
<b>→ Hard working</b>		
As	50	45
More	27	23
Less	18	27
<b>→ Honest</b>		
As	55	53
More	12	8
Less	26	33
n=	1033	1003

## WHY TRUST INCREASED: A BRIEF STATISTICAL NOTE

It is difficult to determine what drives government trust in the aftermath of September 11th. The only way to sort the statistical wheat from the chaff is to use advanced techniques that pit one explanation against another using regression analysis. That analysis suggests five major factors associated with trust in government to do what is right.

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1. Confidence in President Bush is the most important factor associated with greater overall trust. Americans clearly feel more confident about government given the president's response to the crisis. The fact that Bush's favorability ratings rose so dramatically after September 11 clearly shaped the parallel rise in confidence in government as a whole.
2. Confidence in the elected leaders of Congress is the second most important factor associated with the increased trust. Although it is not clear whether Congress is basking in the glow of the president's approval or generating an independent effect here, there is no question that the public thinks more highly of Congress in the wake of the crisis, and that this favorability has some independent impact on trust in government.
3. A decrease in the number of Americans who favor cutting back federal programs to reduce the power of government is the third most important factor associated with overall trust. In a sense, these Americans act as a kind of "circuit breaker" that prevents dramatic increases in trust in government under lesser circumstances. Their movement toward acceptance of government adds significantly to overall confidence.
4. Confidence in the president's appointees is the fourth most important factor associated with greater trust. Just as favorability toward the president lifted trust, so did favorability toward appointees. Americans clearly feel more comfortable knowing that the president's people are with him at the helm.
5. Confidence in federal government employees is the fifth most important factor associated with the increased trust. Americans clearly believe that federal employees must play a role in winning the war on terrorism and restoring a sense of security to the nation.

Overall, these five variables help explain 30 percent of the increase in trust in government, meaning that a very large portion of the increase involves the intangible instinct in times of crisis to rally around the government as the only sector that can meet the challenges ahead.

## CONCLUSION

Americans turn to government in times of crisis precisely because government was established to solve broad national problems that no one else could solve. To maintain the public's confidence, the federal government will have to measure up, whether by winning the war on terrorism, bolstering the economy, or continuing to produce the goods and services that so many Americans want maintained. One way to do so is to make sure the people who work in government are well prepared for the long effort ahead. That means ensuring that the president's appointees are moved through the process as quickly and fairly as possible without sacrificing quality, while guaranteeing that federal employees have the tools and resources to do their jobs well.

# Topline Results

## Presidential Appointee Survey IV

Prepared by Princeton Survey Research Associates  
for The Brookings Institution

10.15.01

### October Survey

N=1033 Adults

Interview dates: September 27 – October 6, 2001

Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on the full sample

### July Survey

N=1003 Adults

Interview dates: June 18 – July 18, 2001

Margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points for results based on the full sample

Q1 To start, I'd like your opinion of some organizations and institutions. The first one is (Insert). Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of (Insert)? ... How about (Insert)?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know	Refused
<b>a business corporations</b>						
OCT 2001	17	48	11	4	17	2
JULY 2001	12	49	15	6	14	4
<b>b the news media</b>						
OCT 2001	17	49	19	8	6	1
JULY 2001	12	44	26	11	5	2
<b>c the federal government in Washington</b>						
OCT 2001	35	43	11	5	5	1
JULY 2001	9	41	28	17	4	1

Q2 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right – just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
15	4	Just about always
42	25	Most of the time
39	66	Only some of the time
2	4	Never ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
2	1	Don't know
*	*	Refused

2

Q3 Generally speaking, what is your opinion of (Insert)? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable? ... How about (Insert)?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Don't Know	Refused
<b>a</b> elected federal officials such as members of Congress						
OCT 2001	14	57	19	4	6	1
JULY 2001	7	51	28	10	3	1
<b>b</b> federal officials the president selects to help run the different departments and agencies of the government						
OCT 2001	26	53	12	4	5	1
JULY 2001	12	48	25	9	5	1
<b>c</b> federal government workers						
OCT 2001	20	56	13	4	7	1
JULY 2001	12	57	18	7	6	1
<b>d</b> President George W. Bush						
OCT 2001	54	29	8	7	2	*
JULY 2001	25	32	19	20	3	1
<b>e</b> Vice-President Dick Cheney						
OCT 2001	39	35	9	6	11	*
JULY 2001	22	35	19	13	11	1

Q4 If 1 represents someone who generally believes that, on the whole, federal government programs should be cut back greatly to reduce the power of government, and 6 represents someone who feels that federal government programs should be maintained to deal with important problems, where on the scale of 1 to 6 would you place yourself?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
4.15	3.86	Mean
6	9	1 – federal programs should be cut back greatly
6	7	2
18	22	3
24	23	4
21	18	5
19	16	6 – federal programs should be maintained to deal with important problems
6	3	Don't Know
*	1	Refused

Q5 What do you personally feel is the bigger problem with government? Government has the wrong priorities, OR government has the right priorities but runs programs inefficiently?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
20	28	Wrong priorities
63	61	Runs programs inefficiently
4	3	Both ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
4	2	Neither ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
8	5	Don't Know
1	1	Refused

Q6 When a new president enters office, he selects people to help him run the different departments and agencies of the government. For example, the president selects the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General. How closely have you been following news stories on who President Bush is selecting to help him run the different departments and agencies of the government – very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
22	15	Very closely
41	37	Somewhat closely
24	29	Not too closely
13	19	Not closely at all
*	*	Don't Know
*	*	Refused

**Q7** Just your best guess, about how many of the government workers in Washington does the president select – nearly all, most, some, or only a few?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
11	8	Nearly all
17	16	Most
28	30	Some
38	41	Only a few
7	6	Don't Know
0	*	Refused

4

**Q8** Do you think a president can select anyone he wants to fill the highest-level positions in the government such as the Secretary of State, or does Congress need to approve the president's selections, or don't you know for sure?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
10	13	President can select anyone he wants
64	60	Congress needs to approve
25	26	Don't know for sure
*	1	Refused

**Q8a** In periods of crisis, such as the current terrorist crisis, should the approval process be followed strictly or should the approval process be streamlined to quickly appoint the people the president wants to help him run the government?

*Based on those who know Congress needs to approve president's selections: n=674*

OCT 2001	
51	Follow process strictly
43	Streamline process
6	Don't know
1	Refused

**Q9** And in periods of crisis, such as the current terrorist crisis, how important a role do the people who serve the president play in helping him deal with the crisis—an extremely important role, a very important role, a somewhat important role or a not very important role?

OCT 2001	
60	Extremely important role
30	Very important role
7	Somewhat important role
2	Not very important role
1	Don't know
0	Refused

**Q10** Do you think the people who serve the president should play a bigger role, a smaller role or the same role that they currently play in helping the president deal with the current crisis?

OCT  
2001  
**26** Bigger role  
**2** Smaller role  
**68** Same role  
**4** Don't know  
**\*** Refused

5

**Q11** There may be many reasons a person agrees to serve a president. How big of a role do you think (Insert) plays in a person's decision to serve a president – a very big role, a moderate role, a small role, or no role at all?

	A very big role	A moderate role	A small role	No role at all	Don't Know	Refused
<b>a</b> the desire to make America a better place to live						
OCT 2001	<b>61</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>
JULY 2001	<b>44</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>b</b> the desire to have influence and make important decisions						
OCT 2001	<b>52</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>*</b>
JULY 2001	<b>52</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>c</b> the chance to make a difference through working in the government						
OCT 2001	<b>44</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>
JULY 2001	<b>31</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>d</b> the desire to meet important people and get ahead professionally						
OCT 2001	<b>44</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
JULY 2001	<b>55</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>e</b> interest in the government work that needs to be done						
OCT 2001	<b>48</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>
JULY 2001	<b>33</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>f</b> the financial rewards and benefits of working for the government						
OCT 2001	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>*</b>
JULY 2001	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>g</b> personally liking the president and believing in the president's vision for the country						
OCT 2001	<b>53</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>*</b>
JULY 2001	<b>45</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>*</b>



Q12 All in all, when a person agrees to serve a president do you think the person is motivated primarily to serve the country's best interests or to advance their own career?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
47	35	Serving country's best interests
37	54	Advancing their career
10	6	Both ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
1	*	Neither ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
4	4	Don't Know
1	1	Refused

6

Q13 What do you think is the main reason a president chooses someone to help him run the government – they're the most qualified for the job, they share the president's political beliefs, or they played a role in the president's campaign?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
31	18	Most qualified
42	46	Share the president's political beliefs
16	26	Played a role in the president's campaign
8	7	All ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
*	1	None ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
3	2	Don't Know
*	1	Refused

Q14 Now I'm going to read you some statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. (Insert) Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with that statement?

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know	Refused
a Political considerations play too large a role in who the President selects to help run the government						
OCT 2001	30	50	12	3	5	0
JULY 2001	36	45	12	4	3	*
b The media asks too many questions and reports too much information about the personal lives of the people that the president selects to help run the government						
OCT 2001	50	29	11	9	1	0
JULY 2001	44	32	13	10	1	*

**Q15** Some people say that a president should select the best-qualified person to serve in the government regardless of the person's political party. Other people say that there are many qualified people in both political parties, and that it is important for a president to select people who are loyal to the president's party so they can help him carry out his programs. Which view is closer to your own?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
<b>63</b>	<b>59</b>	Best qualified person regardless of party
<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>	Important to select people that are loyal to help carry out the president's programs
<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	Don't Know
<b>*</b>	<b>1</b>	Refused

**Q16** Which of the following is the best qualification for a person to help run the government?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	Public-sector experience in elected office such as the U.S. Congress or prior service as presidential appointee
<b>36</b>	<b>44</b>	Private-sector experience in managing or running a business
<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	Other
<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	Don't Know
<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	Refused

**Q17** Compared to most Americans, how (Insert) are the people the president selects to help run the government? Are they as (Insert) as most Americans, more (Insert) or less (Insert) than most Americans?

	As ____	More ____	Less ____	Don't Know	Refused
<b>a honest</b>					
OCT 2001	<b>55</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>
JULY 2001	<b>53</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>b hard working</b>					
OCT 2001	<b>50</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>*</b>
JULY 2001	<b>45</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>c patriotic</b>					
OCT 2001	<b>59</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>*</b>
JULY 2001	<b>56</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>d intelligent</b>					
OCT 2001	<b>44</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
JULY 2001	<b>47</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

	As ____	More ____	Less ____	Don't Know	Refused
e capable					
OCT 2001	48	44	6	2	*
JULY 2001	49	40	9	3	1

8

Q19 How big a role do you think financial contributions people make to a president's campaign play in who is selected to work in high level government positions? Do you think financial contributions play a very big role, a moderate role, a small role, or no role at all?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
53	57	A very big role
33	28	A moderate role
10	10	A small role
2	3	No role at all
2	2	Don't Know
*	1	Refused

Q20 Do you think that a person who serves the president, such as the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, makes more money, the same amount of money, or less money than a person in a senior position outside of government, such as a company executive?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
28	31	Makes more money
12	12	Makes the same amount of money
49	49	Makes less money
10	8	Don't Know
*	*	Refused

Q21 Imagine you had a close friend who is successful in business and has been asked by the president to work in his administration. Would you strongly encourage this friend to take the job, somewhat encourage, somewhat discourage or strongly discourage this friend from taking the job?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
42	30	Strongly encourage
33	39	Somewhat encourage
8	11	Somewhat discourage
5	7	Strongly discourage
7	7	Depends ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
4	4	Don't Know
1	1	Refused

Q22 Imagine you had a grown son or daughter who had two job offers, one to work in the federal government and one to work in private business, which job would you recommend he or she take?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
39	30	Government
42	53	Private business
13	11	Depends ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
5	4	Don't Know
1	2	Refused

9

Q23 In general, how much do you trust the following organizations. First, what about (Insert)? And what about (Insert)?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	Don't Know	Refused
<b>a the federal government in Washington</b>						
OCT 2001	17	63	16	4	1	0
JULY 2001	7	56	29	7	1	*
<b>b private business</b>						
OCT 2001	11	62	20	4	2	*
JULY 2001	9	63	21	4	2	*

Q24 Now think about government workers in Washington in general, not the ones selected by the president to help him run the government. Do you think most federal government workers in general choose to work in government because (Insert first phrase) or because (Insert second phrase)?

	First item	Second item	Don't Know	Refused
<b>a of the job security the government provides/they want to help the public</b>				
OCT 2001	68	26	6	1
JULY 2001	70	22	6	1
<b>b of the salary and benefits the government provides/they get the chance to make a difference</b>				
OCT 2001	64	31	5	1
JULY 2001	68	24	7	1
<b>c they want to do something worthwhile/they want to have a secure pay check</b>				
OCT 2001	30	63	6	1
JULY 2001	24	68	7	1

Q25 Now we have a question some people can answer and some people cannot. One of the people President Bush selected is (**Randomly choose from:** Colin Powell, John Ashcroft, Donald Rumsfeld). Do you know whether he was picked by the President to be (Secretary of State, the Attorney General or Secretary of Defense)?

OCT 2001	JULY 2001	
		<b>Colin Powell (n=357)</b>
37	36	Secretary of State
6	4	Attorney General
34	35	Secretary of Defense
23	24	Don't Know
1	1	Refused
		<b>John Ashcroft (n=351)</b>
8	8	Secretary of State
40	33	Attorney General
16	11	Secretary of Defense
36	47	Don't Know
*	2	Refused
		<b>Donald Rumsfeld (n=325)</b>
6	7	Secretary of State
3	9	Attorney General
40	20	Secretary of Defense
50	64	Don't Know
2	1	Refused

10

D1 Respondent's sex:

OCT 2001	
47	Male
53	Female

D2 What is your age?

OCT 2001	
21	18-29
32	30-44
25	45-59
22	60+
0	Don't Know
*	Refused

D3 Are you of Hispanic origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban or some other Latino background?

OCT  
2001

- 9 Yes
- 90 No
- 0 Don't Know
- \* Refused

11

D4 What is your race? White, African-American or black, Latino or Hispanic, Asian or some other race?

OCT  
2001

- 75 White
- 12 Black or African-American
- 6 Latino or Hispanic
- 2 Asian
- 3 Other
- \* Don't Know
- 1 Refused

D5 What was the last grade or class you completed in school?

OCT  
2001

- 2 None, or grade 1-8
- 12 High school incomplete (grades 9-11)
- 34 High school graduate (grade 12 or GED certificate)
- 3 Business, technical or vocational school after high school
- 24 Some college, no four-year degree
- 15 College graduate (BS, BA or other four-year degree)
- 9 Post-graduate training or professional schooling after college (e.g., toward a master's degree or PhD, law or medical school)
- 0 Don't Know
- \* Refused

D6 Last year, what was your total household income from all sources before taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category.

OCT  
2001

6	Less than \$10,000
8	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
15	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
14	\$30,000 to under \$40,000
9	\$40,000 to under \$50,000
14	\$50,000 to under \$75,000
8	\$75,000 to under \$100,000
12	\$100,000 or more
6	Don't Know
7	Refused

12

D7 In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat or Independent?

OCT  
2001

31	Republican
33	Democrat
28	Independent
6	No Preference ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
*	Other ( <b>Volunteered</b> )
2	Don't Know
1	Refused

D8 As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

*Based on those who do not identify themselves as a Republican or Democrat: n=373*

OCT  
2001

31	Republican
29	Democrat
28	Don't Know
12	Refused