

AEI'S ELECTION WATCH – JANUARY 2004

Bush and His Predecessors Seeking Re-election – Job Approval (Gallup/CNN/USA Today)

	-----Election Year-----		
	Jan.	Mar.	Jun.
Bush	60%	???	???
Clinton	42	52	52
Bush	46	42	38
Reagan	52	54	54
Carter	56	39	31

Bush's Current Approval on Handling... (Gallup/CNN/USA Today, Jan. 2004)

Iraq	61%
His job	60
Foreign affairs	58
Taxes	57
Education	56
Economy	54
Health care	43

Jan. 2004 Matchups (Gallup/CNN/USA Today)

Bush	59%	Dean	37%
(Harris/CNN/Time Dec. 30, 2003-Jan. 1, 2004)			
Bush	51	Dean	46
Bush	53	Clark	43
Bush	53	Gephardt	44
Bush	54	Kerry	43
Bush	52	Lieberman	46

NOTE: Likely voters.

Matchups at Start of Election Year

<i>For Presidents Seeking Re-election (Gallup)</i>					
Jan. 1996	Clinton	47%	Dole	46%	
Feb. 1992	Bush	53	Clinton	38	
Jan. 1984	Reagan	46	Mondale	46	
Jan. 1980	Carter	66	Reagan	34	

How Things Are Going In U.S.

Jan.	Very/Fairly Well (Harris)*	Satisfied (Gallup)
2004	65%	55%
1996	48	24
1992	36	24
1984	67	50+
1980	34	18^

NOTE: *Harris/CNN/Time. +Feb. 1984. ^Nov. 1979.

Consumer Confidence (U. of Mich.)

Dec.	
2003	92.6
1995	91.0
1991	68.2
1983	94.2
1979	61.0

Know the Candidate? (CBS/NYT)

		Undecided	Haven't Heard Enough to Have Opinion
Dec. 2003*	Dean	23%	32%
Dec. 1999*+	Bush	21	16
Dec. 1995	Dole	21	24
Jan. 1992	Clinton	14	69
Jan. 1988^	Dukakis	22	54
Feb. 1976	Carter	NA	48#

NOTE: *Registered voters. +CBS. ^Democratic primary voters. #Wording was, "... don't know enough about him to have an impression...?"

U.S. Senate Races at a Glance

34 seats
 (19 Democrat, 15 Republican)
 [10 of 19 Dem. seats in Bush states (2000)]
 [3 of 15 Rep. seats in Gore states (2000)]
 7 open seats (5 Democrat, 2 Republican)
 [5 of 5 Dem. open seats in Bush states]
 [1 of 2 Rep. open seats in Gore states]

U.S. House Races at a Glance

435 seats
 (229 Republican, 204 Democrat,
 1 Independent, 1 vacancy)
 20 open seats
 (14 Republican, 6 Democrat)

IS THE NATION'S ECONOMY BETTER?

- Over the past twelve months, do you think that the nation's economy has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same? (NBC/WSJ)

	-----Nation's Economy Has Gotten-----		
	<i>Better</i>	<i>Same</i>	<i>Worse</i>
Dec. 2003	45%	27%	27%

- During the next twelve months, do you think that the nation's economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same? (NBC/WSJ)

	-----Nation's Economy Will Get-----		
	<i>Better</i>	<i>Same</i>	<i>Worse</i>
Dec. 2003	53%	33%	10%

ARE YOU BETTER OFF?

- Now here are some questions that ask you to compare the situation today with three years ago. Are you better off than you were three years ago, or not? (Gallup/CNN/USA Today)

	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Worse Off</i>
	-----Than Three Years Ago-----	
Oct. 2003	50%	42%

- Would you say you, yourself, are better off financially than you were when George W. Bush became president three years ago, or not as well off, or in about the same financial shape as you were then? (LA Times)

	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Same</i>	<i>Not As Well Off</i>
	-----Than Three Years Ago-----		
Nov. 2003	22%	50%	27%

- Would you say that you are better off or worse off financially than you were a year ago? (Quinnipiac)

	<i>Better Off</i>	<i>Same (Volunteered)</i>	<i>Worse Off</i>
	-----Than One Year Ago-----		
Dec. 2003	43%	20%	36%

NOTE: *Registered voters.

IS THE COUNTRY SAFER?

- Do you think the war with Iraq has made the U.S. safer or less safe from terrorism? (Gallup/CNN/USA Today)

	<i>Safer</i>	<i>Less Safe</i>		<i>Safer</i>	<i>Less Safe</i>
Apr. 2003	51%	37%	Nov. 2003	48%	43%
Apr. 2003	58	33	Dec. 2003*	56	33
Oct. 2003	45	43			

NOTE: *Poll was conducted after Saddam Hussein's capture.

- Compared to before September 11, 2001, do you think the country today is safer from terrorism or less safe from terrorism? (If safer) Would you say the country is much safer or less safe from terrorism? (ABC)

	<i>Much Safer</i>	<i>Somewhat Safer</i>	<i>Less Safe</i>
Sep. 2003	24%	42%	27%