Political Executives Under Fire

Although far below its peak, Bush's job performance rating is still far above that of Congress. Washington officials are not alone: political executives across the country are receiving less favorable ratings, too.

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling his job as President?

George Bush's handling of his job

- 12% Don't know/no answer
- 37% Disapprove
- 51% Approve


Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Congress' handling of its job

- 14% Don't know/no answer
- 29% Approve
- 57% Disapprove

Rate [1991] Congress as...

- One of the best/above average: 6%
- Above average: 45%
- Average: 46%
- Below average/fail of the worst: 24%


Question: How would you rate the overall performance and accomplishments of this year's Congress...?

Respondents in New York

Governor Mario Cuomo is...

- Doing an excellent job: 10%
- Good job: 54%
- Fair: 24%
- Poor: 12%

Feb. 1990

- Doing an excellent job: 7%
- Good job: 41%
- Fair: 25%
- Poor: 27%

Mar. 1991

- Doing an excellent job: 6%
- Good job: 39%
- Fair: 27%
- Poor: 18%

Oct. 1991

Source: Surveys by the Marist Institute, latest that of October 7-10, 1991.

Question: Would you rate the job each of the following public officials is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Respondents in Virginia

Governor Wilder is...

- Doing an excellent job: 1%
- Good: 43%
- Fair: 35%
- Poor: 19%

Sep. 1990

- Doing an excellent job: 8%
- Good: 33%
- Fair: 34%
- Poor: 16%

Jul.-Aug. 1991

- Doing an excellent job: 2%
- Good: 21%
- Fair: 45%
- Poor: 24%

Nov.-Dec. 1991

Note: Eighty percent of respondents gave ratings in the latest poll.
Source: Surveys by Virginia Commonwealth University, latest that of November 14-December 9, 1991.

Question: What kind of job do you think Pete Wilson is doing as Governor of California—an excellent, good, fair, poor, or very poor job?

Respondents in California

Pete Wilson is...

- Doing an excellent/good job:
  - Feb. 1991: 36%
  - Jun.: 36%
  - Sep.: 29%

- Poor/very poor:
  - Feb. 1991: 12%
  - Jun.: 24%
  - Sep.: 33%

- No opinion: 7%

Source: Survey by the Field Institute, latest that of September 19-25, 1991.

Party Standings: Are GOP Gains Fading?

The impressive Republican gains in party identification in the 1980s may have stalled. Twice as many Americans think the GOP has “strong leaders” as say this about the Democrats, but the GOP has lost its substantial edge as the party of prosperity.

Question: Generally speaking, do you usually consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what? If “independent,” ask: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican party, or to the Democratic party?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party Identification including leaners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-29 Republican</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-29 Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
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Question: Now I'd like you to think about the Democratic party/Republican party. I'm going to read to you two statements and I'd like you to tell me which one best describes the Democratic/Republican party.

Best describes...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Democratic Party</th>
<th>Republican Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has strong leaders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has weak leaders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>72%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is organized</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>56%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is disorganized</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>67%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is united</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>59%</td>
<td>28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is divided</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>54%</td>
<td>66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is competent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is incompetent</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Question: I'm going to read some criticisms that have been made about the Democratic party and its candidates. Please tell me whether you generally agree or disagree with the following statements...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Democrats</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rely too much on increasing taxes and government spending to deal with problems</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are too weak on foreign policy and national defense</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are too supportive of racial quotas as a way to improve conditions for minorities</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Question: Which party, the Democratic party or the Republican party, do you think will do a better job of keeping America prosperous in the years to come?

Democrats will do a better job keeping America prosperous in the years to come | 66% | 32% |
Republicans will | 29% | 40% |

