The Parties

Republicans Standing Up

**Question:** In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat or an Independent?


Rating the Parties on the Issues

**Question:** ... I am going to read a list of issues ... as I read each one, please tell me whether you think the Republican or Democratic Party can best handle that problem ... a) protecting Social Security, b) protecting Medicare, c) balancing the federal budget, d) reducing unemployment, e) improving the ethical standards of government officials, f) helping the middle class, g) reforming the welfare system, h) reducing crime, and i) restoring the American dream?

**RESULTS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Rep</th>
<th>Dem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Dream</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle class</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Political Snapshot**

**Question:** Over the next two years, who do you think will have more influence over the direction of the country: President Clinton, or the Republicans in Congress?

**National Mood Rising (a bit)**

**Question:** All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

![Wrong Track vs Right Direction Graph]

**Source:** Surveys by Hart and Teeter Research Companies for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, latest that of January 14-17, 1995.

**Question:** How well do you think things are going in the country these days?

![Percent responding "very/fairly well" Graph]

**Source:** Surveys by Yankelovich Partners for Time/CNN, latest that of February 28-March 1, 1995.

**Most Important Problems—Top Mentions**

**Question:** What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today?

1. Economy/Unemployment 19%
2. Crime 17
3. Health Care 10
4. Deficit 10
5. Welfare 6
6. Homelessness 6

1. Economy/Unemployment/Recession 20%
2. Crime/Violence 19
3. Deficit 12
4. Health Care/Hospitals (combined) 7
5. Poverty/Hunger/Homelessness 6

**Source:** Survey by CBS News, January 10-20, 1995.

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, January 16-18, 1995.