

GW Battleground 2008 (XXXI)

FINAL

STUDY #11236

THE TARRANCE GROUP and LAKE RESEARCH PARTNERS

N = 1,000 Registered "likely" voters

Field Dates: January 8-11, 2007

Split Sample A/B

Hello, I'm _____ of The Tarrance Group, a national survey research firm. We're talking to people long distance today about public leaders and issues facing us all. May I please speak with a (male/female) in the household who is registered to vote?

A. Are you registered to vote in your state?

IF "NO," ASK: Is there someone else at home who is registered to vote?
(IF "YES," THEN ASK: MAY I SPEAK WITH HIM/HER?)

Yes (CONTINUE)

No (THANK AND TERMINATE)

Now thinking ahead to the elections that will be held this year --

B. What is the likelihood of your voting in the elections to be held this year -- are you extremely likely, very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely at all to vote?

(CONTINUE)

Extremely Likely 63%
Very Likely 30%
Somewhat Likely 8%

(THANK AND TERMINATE)

Not Very Likely
UNSURE (DNR)

C. Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed with an advertising agency, newspaper, television or radio station, or political campaign?

Yes (THANK AND TERMINATE)

No (CONTINUE)

Now, thinking for a moment about things in the country --

1. Do you feel things in this country are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK: And do you feel *strongly* or *somewhat* about that?

Right direction/strongly 13%
Right direction/somewhat 12%
UNSURE (DNR) 11%
Wrong track/somewhat 13%
Wrong track/strongly 51%

* = Less than .5%

Thinking about things in the country --

2. What do you think is the number one problem facing the country today -- that is, what is the problem that you and your family are most concerned about? **(DO NOT READ RESPONSES, JUST RECORD)**
NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: After completion of interview, double check this question for proper coding. Try to fit "Others" into a pre-existing category.

Economic Issues

▶ Jobs issues	
Jobs	3%
Job training	
Loss of Industry	1%
Unemployment	1%
Unions	*
Agriculture/farming/ranching	*
Inflation	1%
Interest rates	*
▶ Tax issues	
Taxes	2%
Property taxes	*
Tax increases	1%
▶ Other economic issues	
Cost of living	2%
Auto insurance	*
Energy costs (gasoline)	1%
Energy costs (home heating)	
Poverty	1%
Wages	1%
Stock Market	
Trade	*

National Security Issues

National Defense	2%
Foreign affairs	2%
Terrorism	2%
War	28%

Social Issues

▶ Crime & drugs issues	
Crime	1%
Drugs	1%
Gangs	
Guns	
Violence	*
▶ Other Social issues	
AIDS	
Environment	1%
Pollution	
Housing (costs/lack of)	*
Immigration	6%
Welfare (reform)	*
Racism	
Lawsuits/Litigation	

Moral Issues

Abortion	1%
Moral/religious concerns	5%
Values	1%
Television/violence & sex	*
Gay marriage	*

Health Care and Seniors Issues

▶ Health care issues	
Health care (cost/quality of)	5%
Health insurance (cost/lack of)	3%
Medicare/Medicaid	1%
Prescription drugs	
▶ Other Seniors issues	
Senior citizens	*
Social security	1%
Retirement	*
Pensions	*

Education/Children's Issues

Education	2%
Child care	*
College/affording	*
Schools/school choice	*

Government/Political Issues

President George W. Bush	4%
Republicans	*
Democrats	2%
Congress	1%
Politicians/incumbents	2%
Campaign finance reform	
Budget deficit	1%
Deficit	1%
Cuts to government programs	
Government/size/regulation	1%
Government spending	1%

Local Issues

Roads/highways	
Traffic	
Growth/development	
Sprawl	*
Water (shortage/quality)	
Homeless/poverty	*
Other, specify (DNR) _____	8%
Unsure/refused (DNR)	5%

Now, thinking about this issue in a different way...

Now I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me which one issue is most important for Congress to work on. **(READ AND ROTATE ISSUES)**

(PROMPT IF COMBINATION/EQUALLY: “BUT IF YOU HAD TO PICK JUST ONE, WHICH WOULD YOU SAY IS MOST IMPORTANT?”)

AFTER EACH CHOICE MADE, UP TO THREE CHOICES, ASK:

And which issue do you think is next most important?

	<u>Q3 MOST IMPORT</u>	<u>Q4 NEXT IMPORT</u>	<u>Q5 NEXT IMPORT</u>
• War in Iraq	25%	18%	12%
• Dealing with illegal immigration	14%	8%	8%
• Cutting taxes	4%	5%	7%
• War on terrorism and homeland security	12%	12%	9%
• Improving education	5%	9%	12%
• Changing the Medicare Prescription Drug benefit	3%	5%	8%
• Cutting health care costs	11%	12%	11%
• Controlling federal spending	7%	8%	10%
• Improving the economy and creating jobs	11%	11%	10%
• Energy independence	6%	7%	7%
• COMBINATION/EQUALLY (DNR)	3%	2%	2%
• OTHER (DNR)	1%	2%	2%
• NONE (DNR)		*	1%
• UNSURE (DNR)	1%	1%	2%

ASK OF EVERYONE

Now I would like to read you the names of several individuals and organizations who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person or organization and if so, whether you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of them. If you do not recognize the name, just say so.

WAIT FOR RESPONSE, THEN ASK: Would that be a strongly (favorable/unfavorable) impression or just a somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) impression?

(ROTATE NAMES)		FAVORABLE		UNFAVORABLE		NO	NEVER
		<u>Strng</u>	<u>Smwht</u>	<u>Smwht</u>	<u>Strng</u>	<u>OPIN.</u>	<u>HEARD</u>
6.	George W. Bush	26%	19%	11%	42%	2%	
7.	The Republicans in Congress	13%	28%	19%	29%	10%	1%
8.	The Democrats in Congress	25%	26%	18%	19%	11%	1%
9.	Nancy Pelosi (“ peh-LOW-see ”)	19%	19%	9%	22%	15%	17%
10.	Harry Reid	4%	11%	6%	12%	16%	53%
11.	Dick Cheney	18%	24%	13%	36%	8%	1%

(END ROTATION)

Now I would like to read you the names of several other individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and if so, whether you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of them. If you do not recognize the name, just say so.

WAIT FOR RESPONSE, THEN ASK: Would that be a strongly (favorable/unfavorable) impression or just a somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) impression?

12.	Mitt Romney	6%	16%	8%	6%	19%	46%
13.	Rudy Giuliani	27%	37%	13%	9%	8%	5%
14.	Barack Obama	21%	25%	11%	10%	12%	21%
15.	John McCain	20%	42%	15%	10%	8%	6%
16.	Hillary Clinton	27%	24%	11%	35%	3%	*
17.	John Edwards	19%	30%	14%	15%	10%	12%

(END ROTATION)

*****SPLIT SAMPLE A***
(ROTATE Qs 18A-19A)**

Now, even though it is a long way off, as you think about the election for President that will held in 2008 –

18A. If the 2008 election for President were held today and you had to make a choice between these two candidates, for whom would you vote...
(ROTATE NAMES)

-- Rudy Giuliani, the Republican,

or

-- Hillary Clinton, the Democrat?

IF "UNDECIDED", ASK:
And which candidate do you lean toward slightly?

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:
Would you say that you are definitely going to vote for him/her, or probably going to vote for him/her?

Giuliani/definitely.....43%
Giuliani /probably..... 9%
Giuliani /lean 1%

UNDECIDED (DNR)..... 4%

Clinton/lean 1%
Clinton/probably10%
Clinton/definitely.....31%

19A. If the 2008 election for President were held today and you had to make a choice between these two candidates, for whom would you vote...
(ROTATE NAMES)

-- John McCain, the Republican,

or

-- Hillary Clinton, the Democrat?

IF "UNDECIDED", ASK:
And which candidate do you lean toward slightly?

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:
Would you say that you are definitely going to vote for him/her, or probably going to vote for him/her?

McCain/definitely.....38%
McCain/probably.....14%
McCain /lean..... 1%

UNDECIDED (DNR)..... 4%

Clinton/lean 2%
Clinton/probably12%
Clinton/definitely.....29%

*****SPLIT SAMPLE B***
(ROTATE Qs 18B-19B)**

Now, even though it is a long way off, as you think about the election for President that will held in 2008 –

18B. If the 2008 election for President were held today and you had to make a choice between these two candidates, for whom would you vote...
(ROTATE NAMES)

-- Rudy Giuliani, the Republican,

or

-- Barack Obama, the Democrat?

IF "UNDECIDED", ASK:
And which candidate do you lean toward slightly?

Giuliani/definitely.....31%
Giuliani /probably.....16%
Giuliani /lean 2%

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:
Would you say that you are definitely going to vote for him, or probably going to vote for him?

UNDECIDED (DNR)..... 9%
Obama/lean 1%
Obama/probably 8%
Obama/definitely32%

19B. If the 2008 election for President were held today and you had to make a choice between these two candidates, for whom would you vote...
(ROTATE NAMES)

-- John McCain, the Republican,

or

-- Barack Obama, the Democrat?

IF "UNDECIDED", ASK:
And which candidate do you lean toward slightly?

McCain/definitely.....29%
McCain/probably..... 19%
McCain /lean..... 3%

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:
Would you say that you are definitely going to vote for him, or probably going to vote for him?

UNDECIDED (DNR).....10%
Obama/lean 2%
Obama/probably11%
Obama/definitely27%

*****ASK OF EVERYONE*****

20. How would you rate the job George W. Bush has been doing as President? Do you approve or disapprove of the job he is doing?

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:
And do you feel *strongly* about that?

Approve/strongly..... 26%
Approve 16%
UNSURE (DNR) 3%
Disapprove.....8%
Disapprove/strongly47%

And,

21. Whether you approve of disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President, what is your impression of George W. Bush as a person? Do you approve or disapprove of him?

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:

And do you *strongly*
(approve/disapprove)
or *somewhat* (approve/
disapprove)?

Approve/strongly..... 40%
Approve/somewhat..... 21%
UNSURE (DNR)..... 6%
Disapprove/somewhat 7%
Disapprove/strongly 25%

Thinking now about the recent elections for Congress...

Now I'd like to read you three viewpoints. Please tell me which one comes closest to your own.
(READ & ROTATE ALTERNATIVES)

22.

Some people say that these elections were a rejection of the domestic and economic agenda and policies of the Bush administration and the Congressional Republicans.

Other people say that these elections were about the War in Iraq and sent a clear message that the US should change the way it is fighting the war there.

Still other people say that these elections were a vote against partisan bickering and gridlock in Congress and sent a message that Congress should work in a bipartisan way to solve problems.

***"Which viewpoint comes
closest to your own?"***

Rejection of Bush/Congressional GOP..... 22%
War in Iraq/change course 43%
End to gridlock/bipartisanship 26%
ALL EQUALLY (DNR)..... 3%
NONE (DNR)..... 4%
UNSURE (DNR) 3%

SPLIT SAMPLE A

Thinking again about issues facing the country --

Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, which political party would do a better job of handling this issue-- (ROTATE) • the Republican Party or the Democratic Party. Here is the first one:

	(READ LIST & ROTATE)	<u>GOP</u>	<u>DEMS</u>	<u>NONE</u> (DNR)	<u>UNSURE</u> (DNR)
23A.	Iraq (PROMPT: WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD DO A BETTER JOB HANDLING THIS ISSUE -- (ROTATE) THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OR THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY?)	40%	48%	5%	7%
24A.	Jobs	37%	51%	3%	8%
25A.	Energy independence	29%	55%	6%	9%
26A.	Prescription Drugs	26%	61%	5%	9%
27A.	Taxes	47%	44%	3%	6%
28A.	Social Security	32%	56%	7%	6%
29A.	The economy	43%	46%	4%	7%
30A.	Terrorism	52%	35%	4%	10%
31A.	Moral values	44%	36%	11%	9%
32A.	Illegal immigration	42%	38%	10%	10%
33A.	Healthcare	24%	63%	4%	8%
34A.	Corruption in Washington	28%	44%	17%	11%

(END ROTATION)

SPLIT SAMPLE B

Thinking again about issues facing the country --

Now, I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, which political party would do a better job of handling this issue-- (ROTATE) • **President Bush or the Democrats in Congress.** Here is the first one:

(READ LIST & ROTATE)	<u>Bush</u>	<u>CONG. DEMS</u>	<u>NONE (DNR)</u>	<u>UNSURE (DNR)</u>
23B. Iraq (PROMPT: WHO DO YOU THINK WOULD DO A BETTER JOB HANDLING THIS ISSUE -- (ROTATE) PRESIDENT BUSH OR THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS?)	42%	49%	4%	5%
24B. Jobs	42%	52%	2%	4%
25B. Energy independence	32%	56%	4%	8%
26B. Prescription Drugs	27%	60%	4%	9%
27B. Taxes	44%	50%	2%	5%
28B. Social Security	33%	56%	4%	7%
29B. The economy	44%	50%	2%	4%
30B. Terrorism	54%	39%	2%	5%
31B. Moral values	50%	38%	6%	6%
32B. Illegal immigration	35%	43%	11%	11%
33B. Healthcare	29%	61%	4%	6%
34B. Corruption in Washington	35%	44%	12%	10%

(END ROTATION)

ASK OF EVERYONE

Now, thinking now about the war in Iraq --

35. All in all, do you think the war in Iraq is worth fighting, or not?

Worth fighting/strongly.....	34%
Worth fighting/somewhat.....	12%
IF CHOICE MADE, ASK: And UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR).....	6%
do you feel strongly or Not worth fighting/somewhat	7%
somewhat strongly about that? Not worth fighting/strongly.....	40%

One last question on the War in Iraq...

36. As you have probably heard, there has been a lot of debate over the past few months about what the United States should do about its troops that are currently stationed in Iraq. I am going to read you four proposals on this issue. Please tell me which one comes closest to your own.

(ROTATE CHOICES -- TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

- The US should begin immediately withdrawing all troops from Iraq. This is now a job for Iraqi forces to handle.
- The US should set a date certain, no more than one year from now, when all troops will be withdrawn from Iraq. This process should begin with some troops coming home immediately.
- The US should keep its forces in Iraq until our military leaders there confirm that the situation in Iraq is stable enough that extremist forces will not be able to seize control once US troops leave.
- The US should temporarily increase the number of troops in Iraq to help stabilize the situation more quickly.

Immediate withdrawal.....	16%
Set date certain for withdrawal	28%
Forces stay until situation is confirmed to be stable.....	32%
Temporarily increase the number of troops.....	21%
OTHER (Specify ____) (DNR).....	1%
NONE (DNR).....	1%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	2%

Now, thinking about the future...

37. Do you believe that in the future your children will be

(ROTATE CHOICES -- TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

- Better off
- About the same, OR
- Worse off

than you are right now?

Better off.....	39%
About the same	19%
Worse off.....	37%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	6%

Now, just a few final questions for statistical purposes only --

D1.	What is your age, please?	18-24	4%
		25-29	4%
		30-34	5%
		35-39	6%
		40-44	8%
		45-54	20%
		55-64	23%
		65-69	9%
		70-74	8%
		75-79	5%
		80-84	3%
		85-89	2%
		90 or over.....	1%
		REFUSED	2%

D2.	What is the highest level of education you have completed? <u>(DO NOT READ, JUST RECORD)</u>	Some grade school (1-8)	1%
		Some high school (9-11)	4%
		Graduated high school (12).....	23%
		Technical/vocational (12).....	3%
		Some college (13-15)	25%
		Graduated college (16)	27%
		Graduate/professional school (16 or more)	18%
		Unsure/Refused	*

D3.	When thinking about politics and government, do you consider yourself to be... (READ LIST, ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)	Very conservative.....	21%
		Somewhat conservative.....	38%
		MODERATE (DNR)	3%
		Somewhat liberal	29%
		Very liberal	6%
		UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	4%

D4. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT,

ASK: Would you call yourself a strong or a not very strong (Republican/Democrat)?

Republican/strong.....23%
 Republican/not strong11%
 Lean Republican.....9%

Independent13%

Lean Democrat8%
 Democrat/not strong.....10%
 Democrat/strong25%

IF INDEPENDENT OR ANYTHING

ELSE, ASK: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democrat Party?

NO PREFERENCE (DNR)1%
 OTHER (DNR)*
 UNSURE/DK (DNR)1%

Now, thinking about your past voting history --

D5. Which of the following would you say most closely reflects your past voting history -- **(ROTATE, TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP) --**

- I vote in every single election held,
- I vote in almost every election held,
- I vote in the elections held every two years,
- I vote in every Presidential election,
- I vote in the elections I am interested in,
- I vote in only a few elections,
- I never vote in the elections?

Every single election49%
 Almost every election.....36%
 Elections every two years.....3%
 Presidential elections.....5%
 Elections I am interested in5%
 Only a few elections.....2%
 Never vote.....*
 UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)1%

D6. Which of these statements best describes how you have usually voted in past elections?

(READ LIST, ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

Straight Republican8%
 Mostly Republican26%
 A few more Republicans than Democrats.....12%
 INDEPENDENT/THE PERSON (DNR)6%
 A few more Democrats than Republicans.....10%
 Mostly Democrat23%
 Straight Democrat12%
 UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)3%

Now, thinking about something a little different--

D7. Do you have a friend or family member who is currently serving in the US military and is stationed in Iraq?

Yes 28%
No 72%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR) *

D8. Are you a member of a labor union, including trade unions, service employee unions, public employee unions, and teachers unions?

IF NO, THEN ASK: Is anyone in your household a member of one of these types of labor unions?

Labor Union Member 12%
Labor Union Household 3%
Non-Union Household 85%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR) *

And...

D9. What is your current marital status -- are you -- • single and never married, • married, • separated, • divorced, or •widowed?

Single 14%
Married 64%
Separated 1%
Divorced 9%
Widowed 11%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR) 1%

D10. Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

Yes 27%
No 73%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR) *

D11. What is the church you or your family attends most often?

IF BAPTIST, ASK: Is that Southern Baptist or some other Baptist church?
(DO NOT READ RESPONSES, JUST RECORD)

AME (Africa Methd. Episcopal)..... *	Lutheran 5%
Assemblies of God 1%	Mennonite *
Baptist/American 2%	Methodist/United Methodist 6%
Baptist/Missionary or Indep. or Primitive or other 4%	Mormon/Latter Day Saints..... 2%
Baptist/Southern 10%	Nazarene 1%
Bible Church..... *	Non-denominational 4%
Christian Church..... 5%	Other Protestant..... 3%
Christian Reformed Church *	Pentecostal/Charismatic 1%
Church of Christ 3%	Presbyterian/United Presb 3%
Church of God 1%	Quaker/Amish *
Disciples of Christ *	Reformed Church in America *
Episcopalian 3%	Roman Catholic..... 20%
Evangelical *	Seventh Day Adventist..... 1%
Friends *	United Church of Christ *
Fundamentalist *	OTHER (SPECIFY _____)..... 4%
Eastern/Greek Orthodox..... *	None (TO D14)..... 15%
Jewish 1%	DK/REFUSED (TO D14)..... 4%

IF ANY RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION IN D11, ASK:

D12. And how often do you attend church (or synagogue)?

(READ LIST, IF NECESSARY)

More than once a week.....	19%
Once a week	37%
Several times a month.....	11%
Once a month.....	8%
Several times a year.....	15%
Only on holidays.....	7%
NEVER/DON'T ATTEND	3%
UNSURE/REFUSED	1%

IF ANY RELIGION NAMED IN D11 EXCEPT CODE 17, THEN ASK:

D13. Do you consider yourself to be a born again or evangelical Christian?

Born again/evangelical.....	47%
Not born again	47%
REFUSED (DNR).....	6%

****ASK OF EVERYONE****

And,

D14. What do you consider to be your race? Are you white, African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or some other race?

White.....	80%
Black/African-American	12%
Hispanic/Latino (TO D15).....	5%
Asian/Pacific American.....	1%
Native American.....	1%
Other (Specify _____).....	1%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	2%

FOR ALL RESPONSES EXCEPT "HISPANIC/LATINO," ASK:

D14-1. And, do you consider yourself a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking American?

Yes	4%
No.....	95%
UNSURE/REFUSED (DNR)	1%

****ASK OF EVERYONE****

D15. Sex/Emp (**BY OBSERVATION**)

ASK OF EVERYONE: Are you employed outside the house, are you a homemaker, or are you retired?

Male/employed	29%
Male/homemaker.....	1%
Male/retired	17%
Male/not in labor force	2%
Female/employed	24%
Female/homemaker	8%
Female/retired.....	18%
Female/not in labor force	2%
MALE/REFUSED (DNR)	*
FEMALE/REFUSED (DNR)	*

D16. RECORD REGION CODE FROM SAMPLE ____

D17. RECORD STATE/COUNTY CODE FROM SAMPLE ____ _

D18. RECORD DMA FROM SAMPLE ____ _

D19. RECORD CD CODE FROM SAMPLE ____ _

D20. RECORD URBAN/SUBURBAN/RURAL CODE ____

DISCLOSURE INFO

**** INTERVIEWER MUST READ IN VIRGINIA (STATE CODE 51) ****

The Tarrance Group wishes to thank you for participating in this survey – which was commissioned and paid for by The George Washington University.

IN WISCONSIN (STATE CODE 55)

NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: UNDER WISCONSIN STATE LAW, IF ASKED, YOU MUST TELL THE RESPONDENT THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION WHO IS SPONSORING THIS INTERVIEW, AS WELL AS THEIR ADDRESS, AND IF IT IS A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN THE NAME OF THEIR TREASURER.

THE INFORMATION FOR THIS SURVEY IS AS FOLLOWS:

ORGANIZATION NAME: The George Washington University

ORGANIZATION ADDRESS: 2121 Eye Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20052

IF A RESPONDENT ASKS DURING THE COURSE OF THE INTERVIEW, PLEASE TELL THEM THAT YOU WILL GIVE THEM THE INFORMATION AT THE END. IF THEY INSIST, AND WILL GO NO FURTHER WITH THE INTERVIEW UNTIL YOU DIVULGE, GIVE THEM THE INFORMATION AND TERMINATE THE INTERVIEW. YOU CANNOT ALLOW AN INTERVIEW TO CONTINUE ONCE THE RESPONDENT HAS BEEN TOLD WHO IS SPONSORING IT.