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AMERICANS UNHAPPY WITH GOP CONGRESS

Poll Results Similar to '94 When Majority Party Lost Power

Washington, DC – Two new polls indicate that Americans are losing faith in the GOP-controlled Congress. A recent Pew Survey found that only 35 percent of Americans approved of the performance of the Republicans in Congress; these ratings are comparable to poll results taken in 1994 when the then-majority Democrats lost 52 House seats and 8 Senate seats. The *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll provides further evidence that Americans are fed up.

"Clearly the Republicans aren't fooling anyone, the American people see this arrogant power grab for what it is, a reckless diversion from doing the people's business," said DNC spokeswoman Karen Finney. "Democrats want to get back to work. Come the next election, voters will remember who is to blame for skyrocketing healthcare costs, high gas prices and a failed foreign policy."

Pew Survey: Low Marks for Congressional Republicans; Similar to '94, When Not a Single GOP Incumbent Lost. "A Pew survey released this week found that 39% of Americans gave positive marks to Democrats in Congress, with 41% disapproving of them. For congressional Republicans, the results were bleaker. Of those polled, 35% said they approved of the GOP's performance, with 50% disapproving." The *Los Angeles Times* also noted that, "public polling just before the GOP landslide in 1994 showed both parties receiving low marks for their performance in Congress that year, comparable to their weak ratings in the recent Pew survey. And in 1994 only the majority Democrats paid a price, losing 52 House seats and eight in the Senate." [*Los Angeles Times*, 5/19/05]

WSJ/NBC News Poll: Americans Fed Up with GOP Congress. "A new *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll shows that disapproval of Congress's performance is higher than it has been since 1994, the year voters swept Democrats out of power on Capitol Hill. Americans have grown gloomier about the nation's direction, the economy and Iraq, and by 65%-17% they say Congress doesn't share their priorities." The poll found that, "While the survey contains warning signs for members of both parties, it is especially problematic for Republicans as the party in power at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue," and "shows that the greatest erosion in congressional approval has occurred among self-described Republicans." Furthermore, "Just 42% of Americans say their representative deserves to be re-elected, while a 45% plurality calls it time for someone new. When Americans are asked which party they want to control Congress after the 2006 elections, Democrats hold a 47%-40% edge -- the party's best showing since the *Journal*/NBC survey began asking that question in 1994." [*Wall Street Journal*, 5/19/05]

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