



National Public Radio National Survey

Key Findings From a Survey of 1000 Likely Voters
in 48 Competitive U.S. Congressional Districts

October 6-11 & 13, 2006



Project #061410

GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER RESEARCH



Methodology



Public Opinion Strategies and Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research are pleased to present National Public Radio with the key findings of a national telephone survey of 1000 likely voters in the 48 most competitive U.S. Congressional Districts. The survey, which was completed October 6-11 & 13, 2006, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points ($\pm 3.1\%$).

The 48 most competitive districts were chosen based on rankings by the Cook Political Report, Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball (UVA Center for Politics), the Rothenberg Political Report, and the National Journal's Hotline. The most competitive Congressional Districts include 38 Republican seats, 1 Independent seat, and 9 Democratic seats.

Twelve of the districts are open seats (10 Republican, 1 Independent, 1 Democrat).



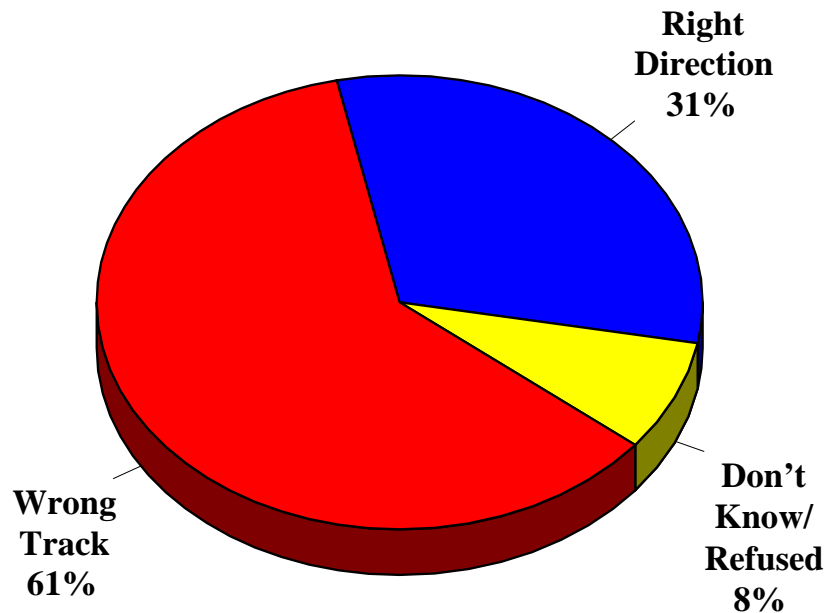
Political Environment



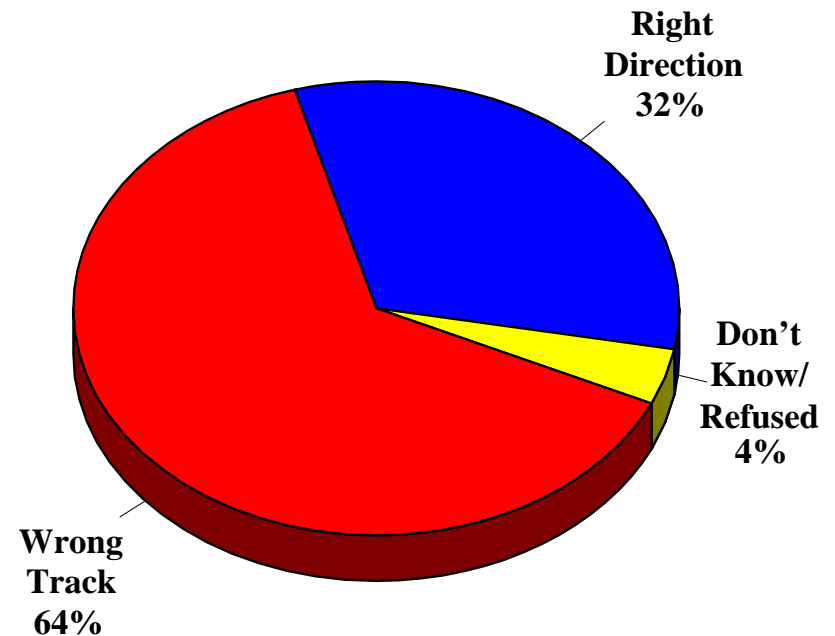
Voters continue to be pessimistic about the direction of the country.

“Generally speaking, would you say that things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?”

July 2006



October 2006

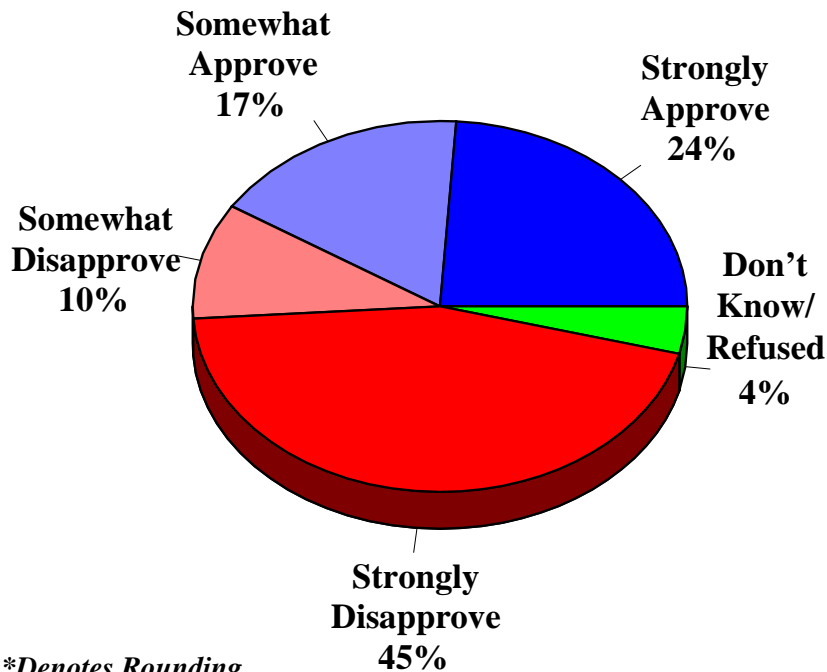


Voters continue to disapprove of the President.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as President?”

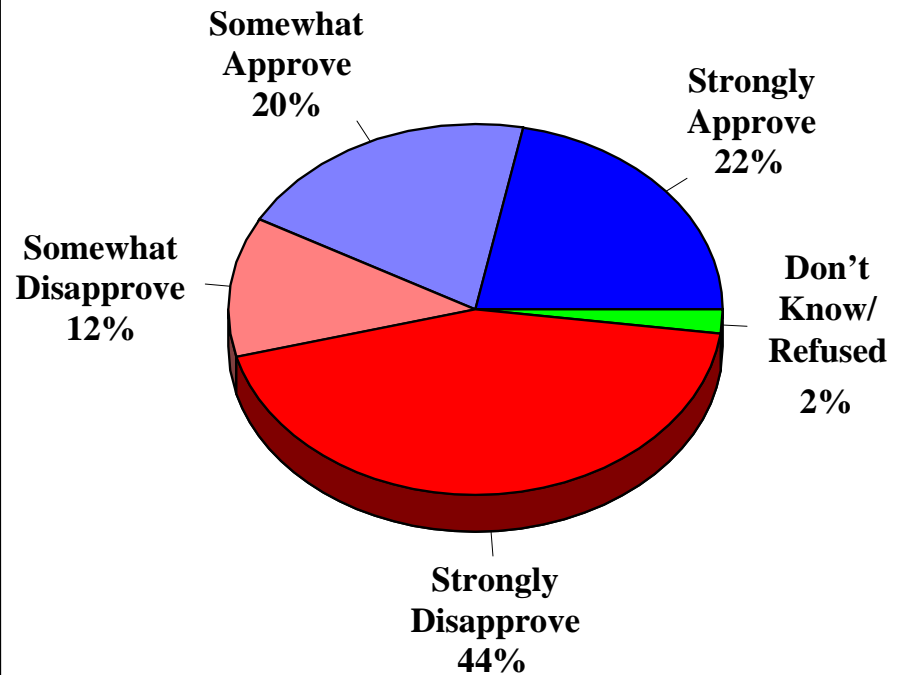
July 2006

Total Approve: 42%*
Total Disapprove: 55%



October 2006

Total Approve: 43%*
Total Disapprove: 56%

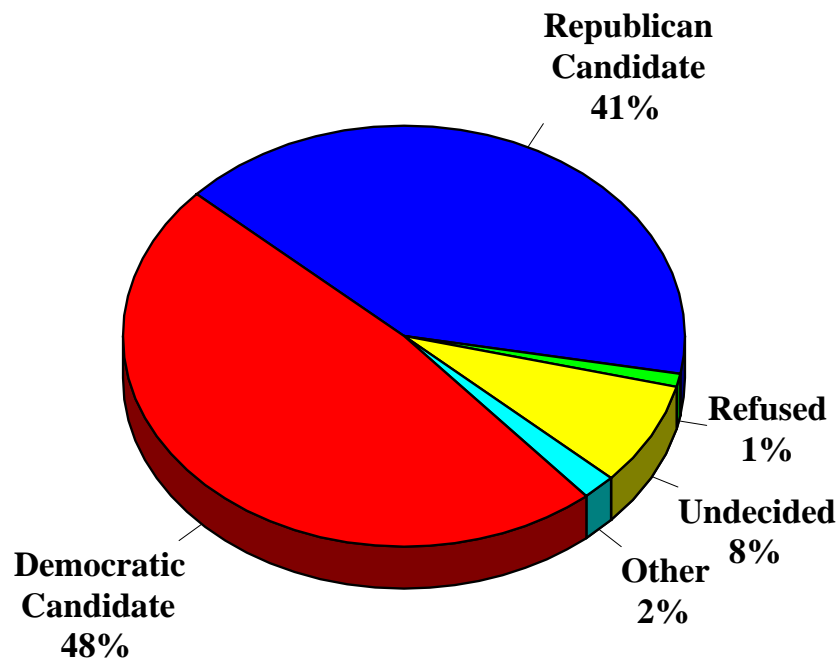


*Denotes Rounding

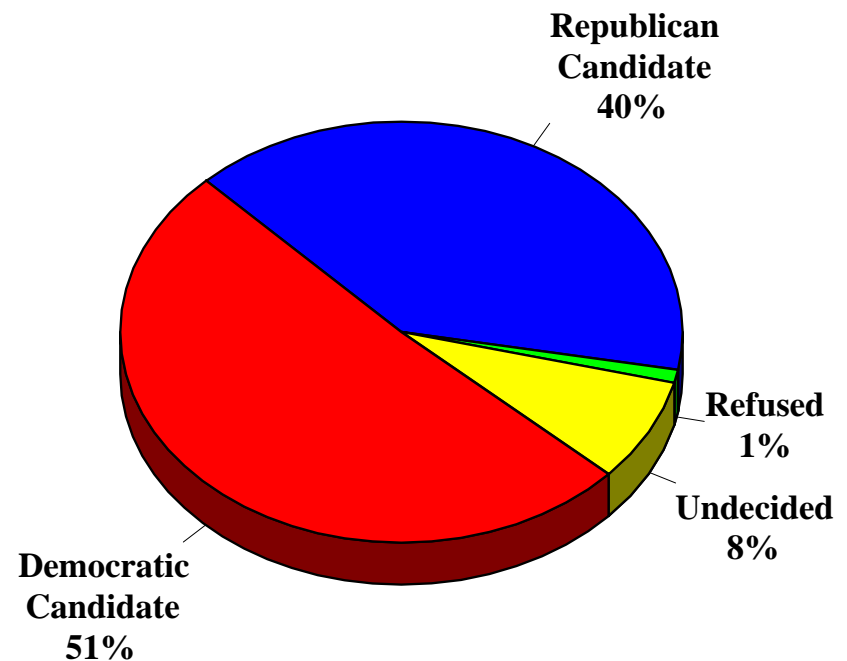
Democrats maintain a significant advantage on the generic ballot.

“If the 2006 election for United States Congress were being held today, for whom would you vote... the Republican candidate ...or... the Democratic candidate... in this district?”

July 2006

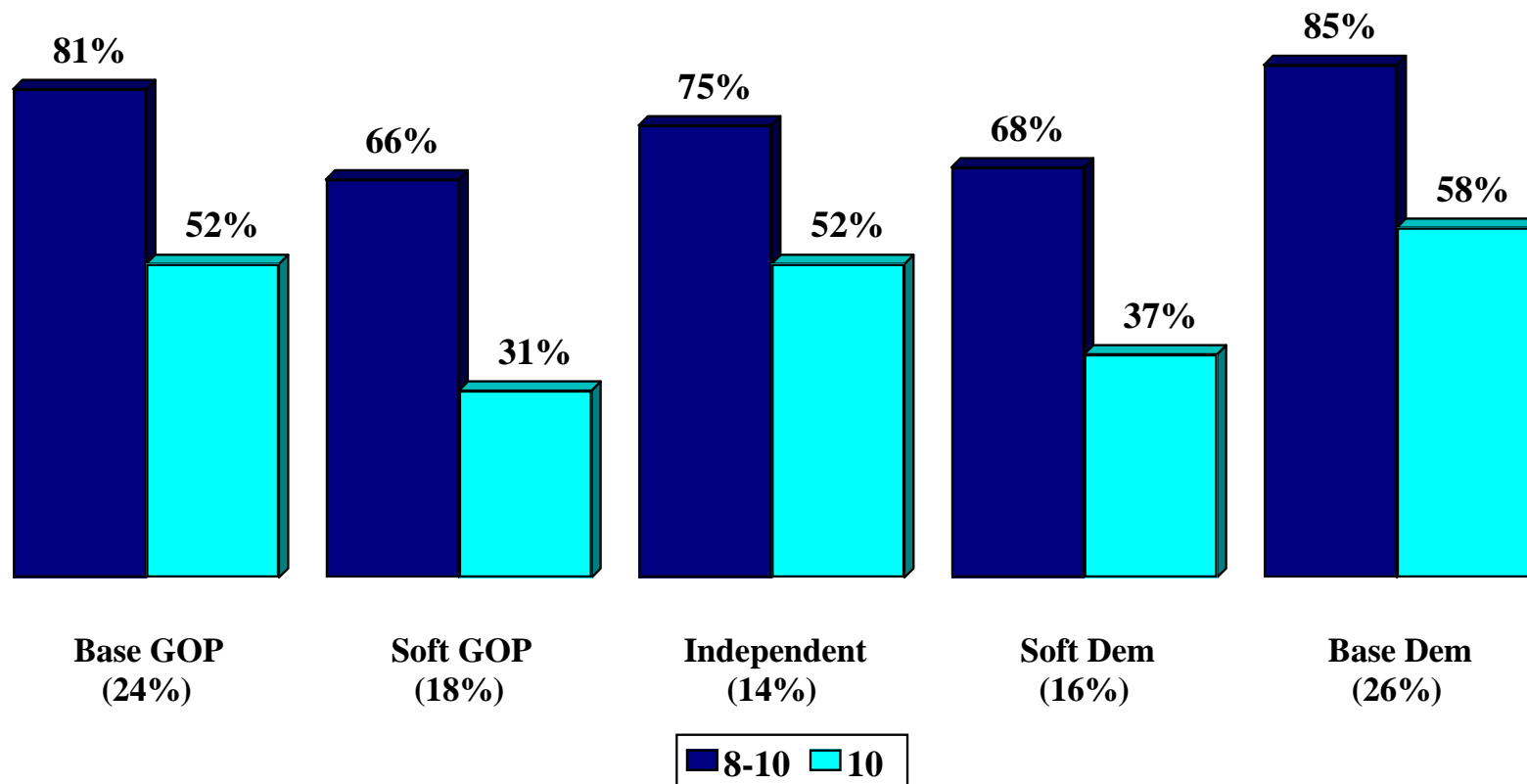


October 2006



Base Democrats are slightly more energized than base GOPers. Independents also rate their interest as high.

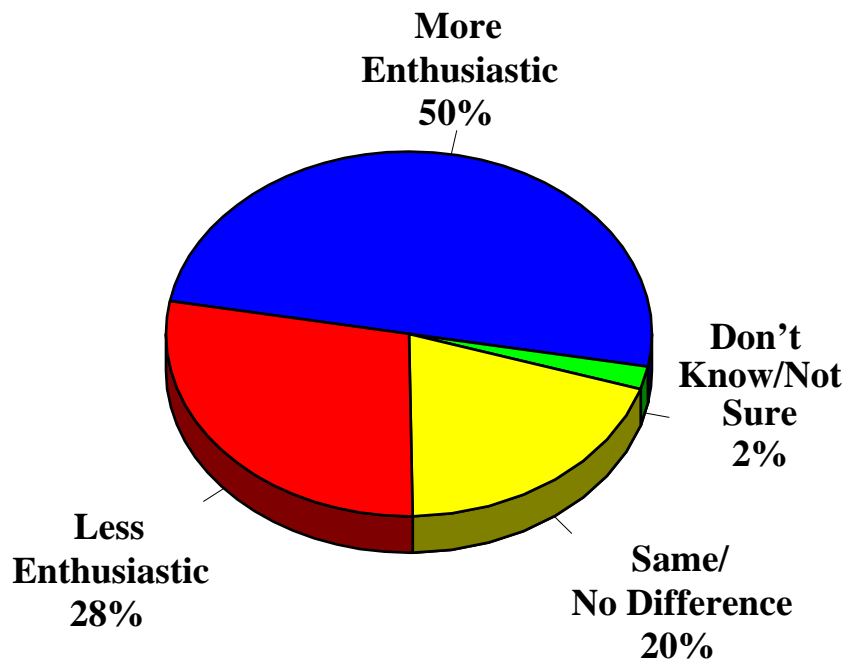
“And how interested are you in the November elections for such offices as U.S. Congress? Please rate your interest from one to ten, with one meaning that you have no interest in this election and ten meaning that you are extremely interested. Of course, you can choose any number between one and ten.”



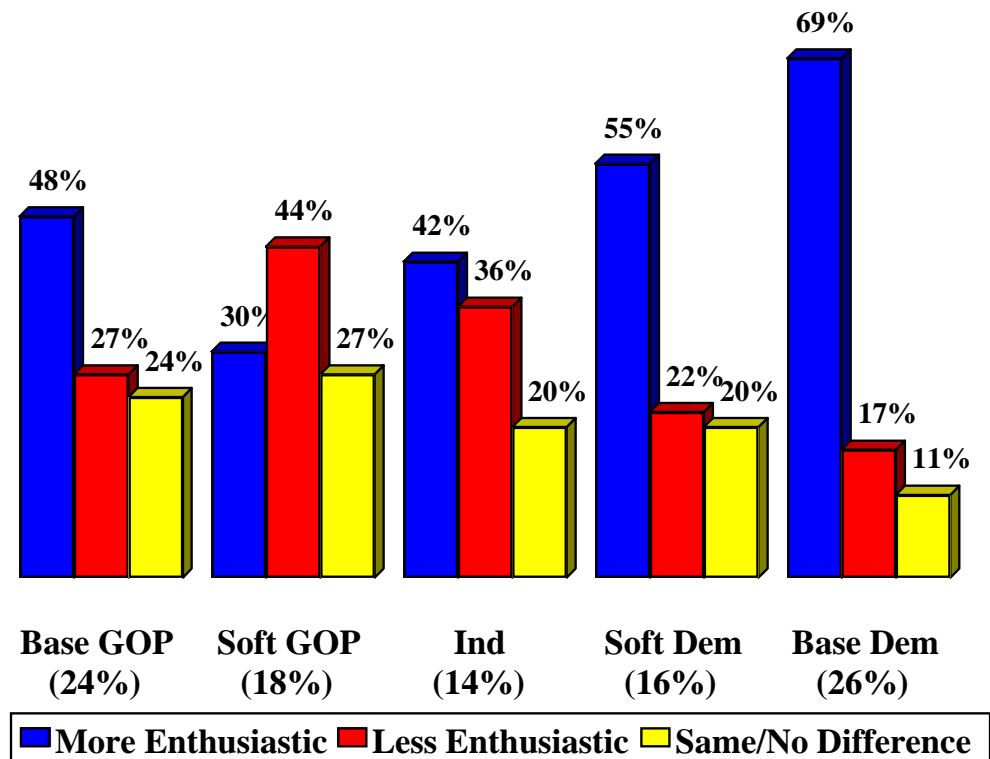
Voters—and especially Democrats—say they are more interested in this year’s elections.

“Thinking more about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less enthusiastic?”

Overall



By Party





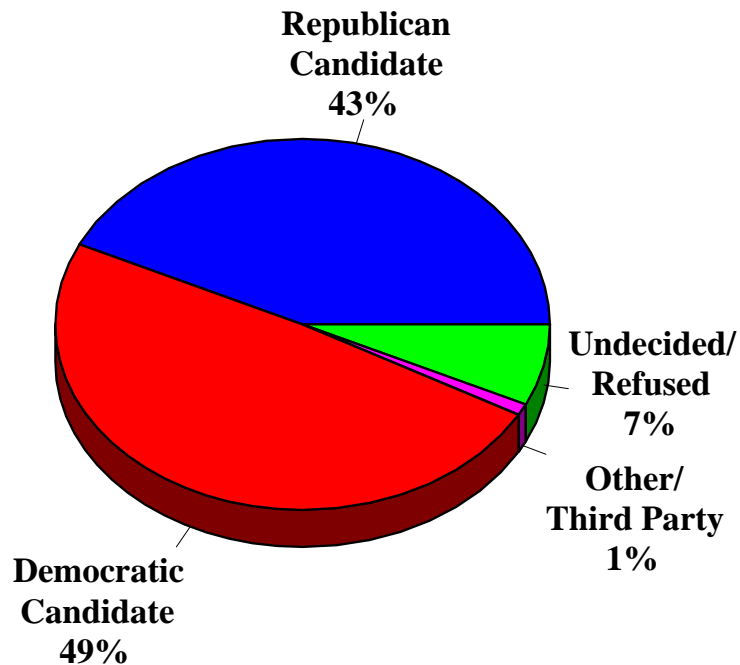
Ballot Test



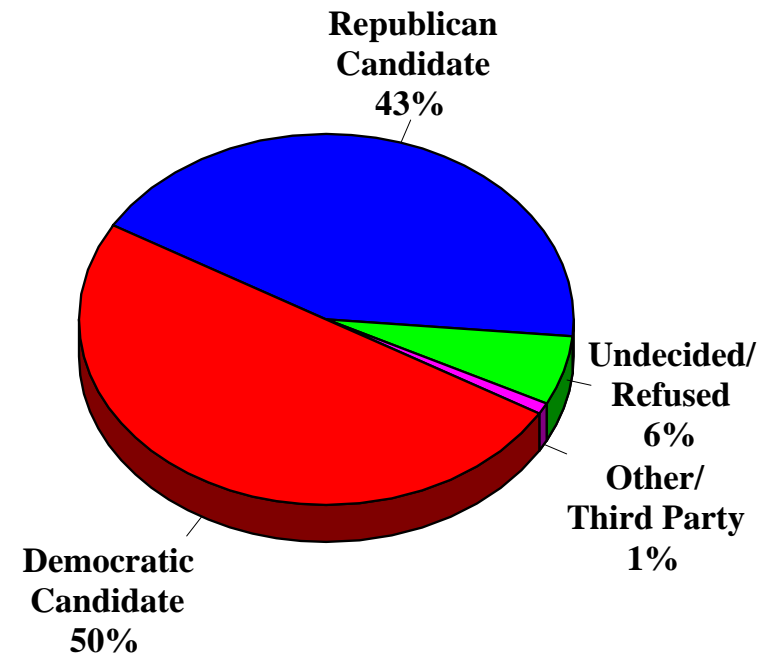
The named Congressional ballot is unchanged, with Democrats in the lead.

“And if the election for United States Congress were being held today, for whom would you vote... [Republican candidate name] ...or... [Democratic candidate name]?”*

July 2006



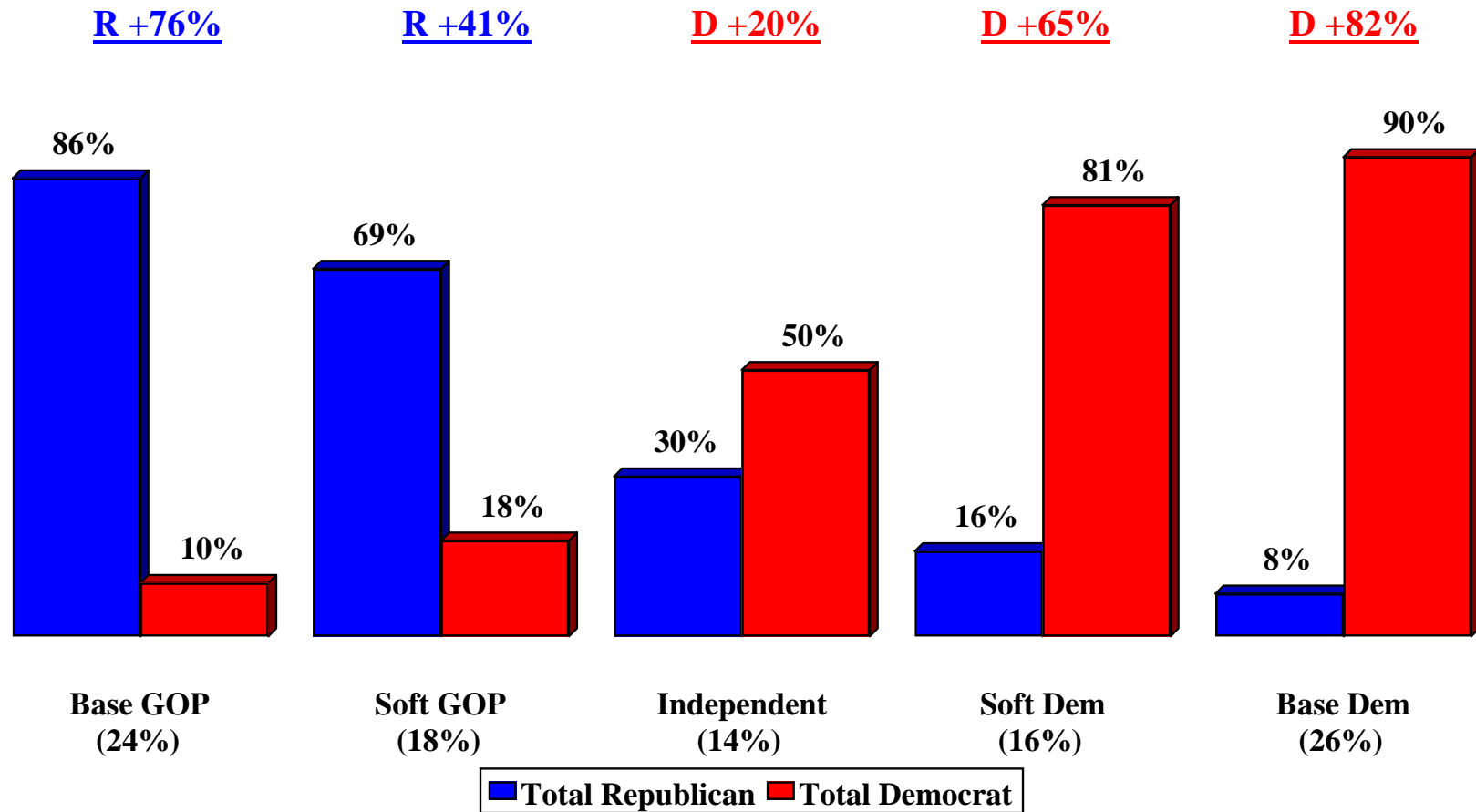
October 2006



**Actual names of candidates used*

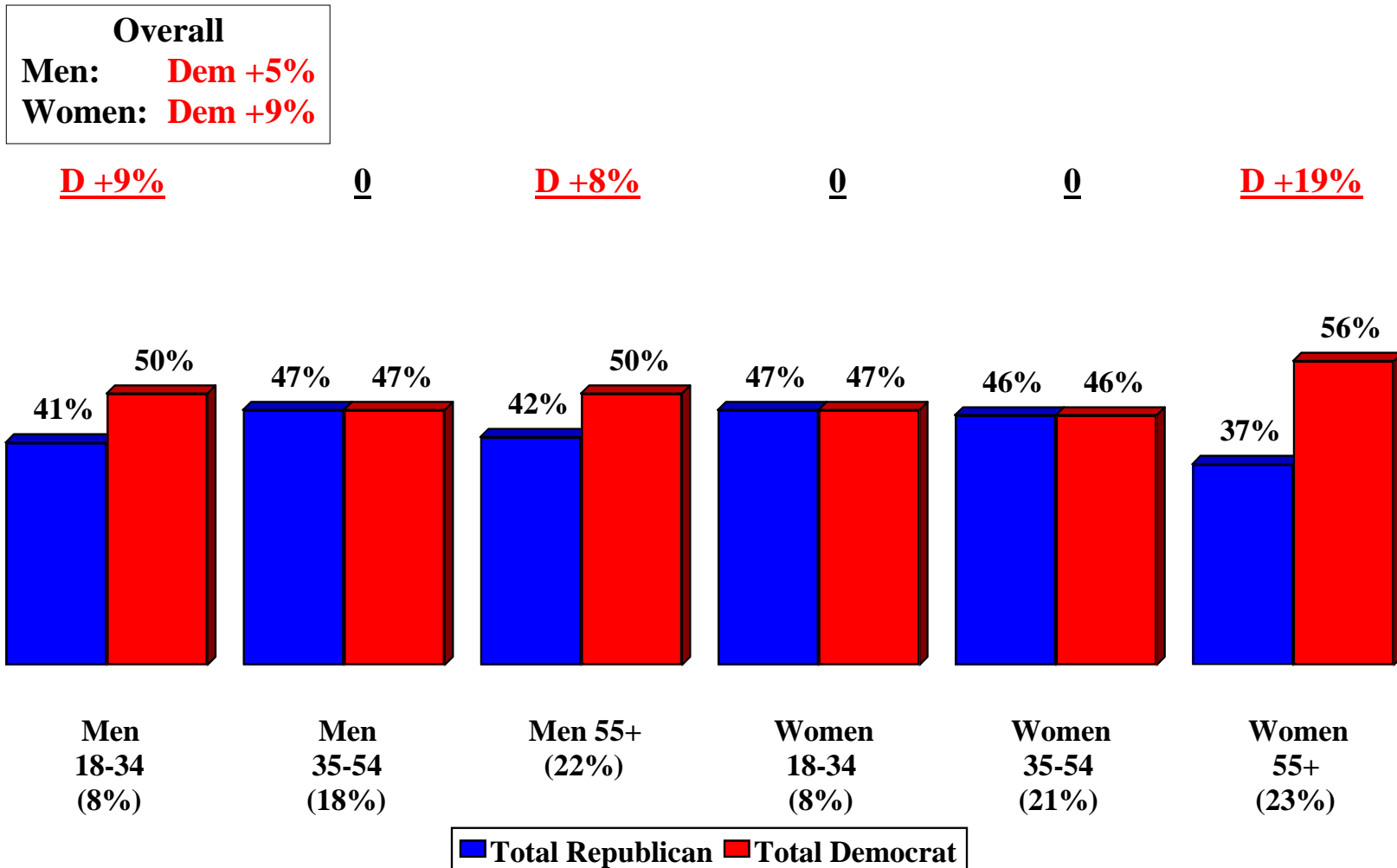
Independents prefer the Democrat.

Named Congressional Ballot by Party



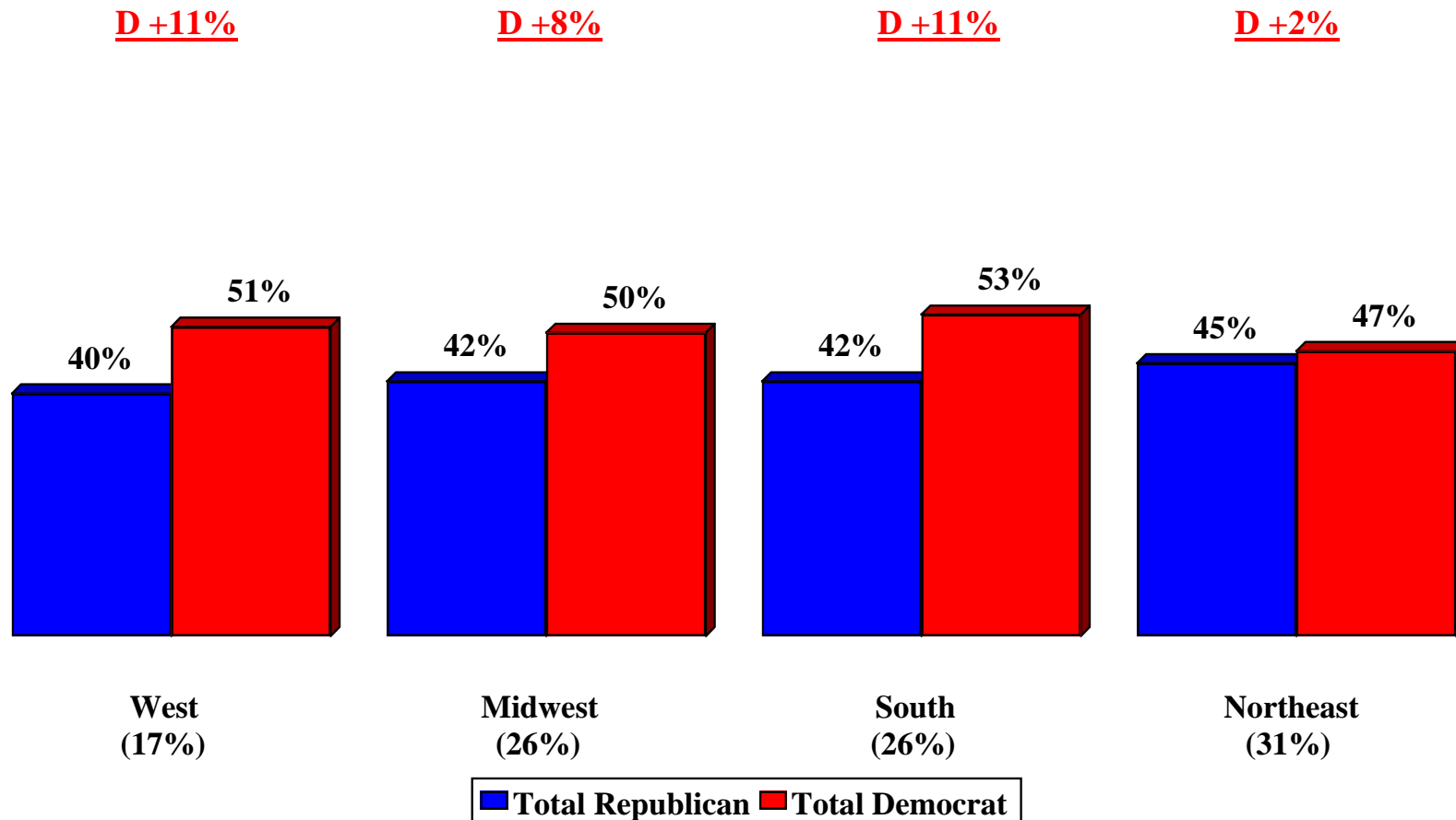
The Democrat advantage on the named Congressional ballot is being driven by older women.

Named Congressional Ballot by Gender/Age



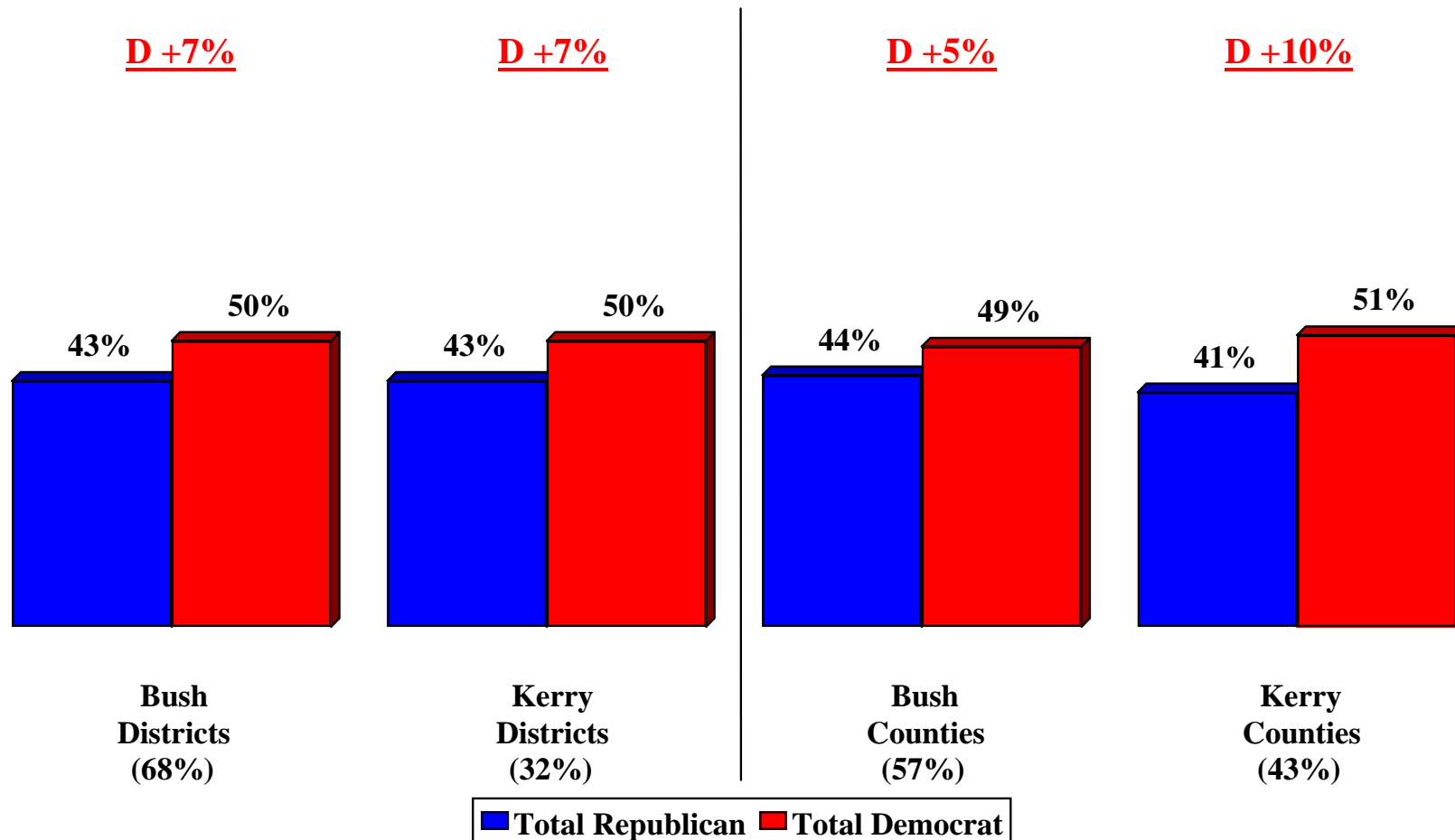
The most competitive districts are in the Northeast.

Named Congressional Ballot by Region



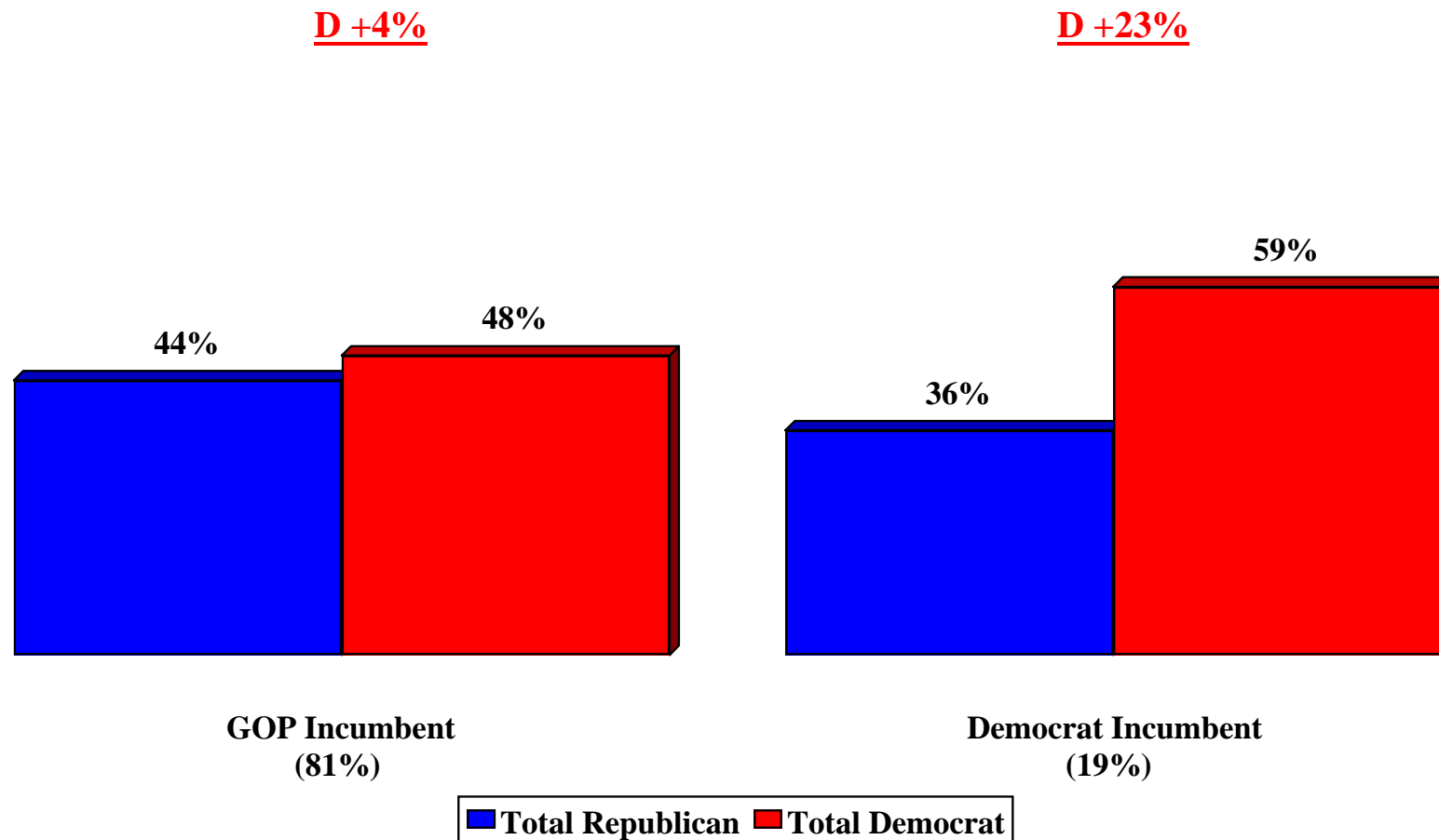
Both Bush and Kerry districts are in play.

Named Congressional Ballot by 2004 Presidential Vote



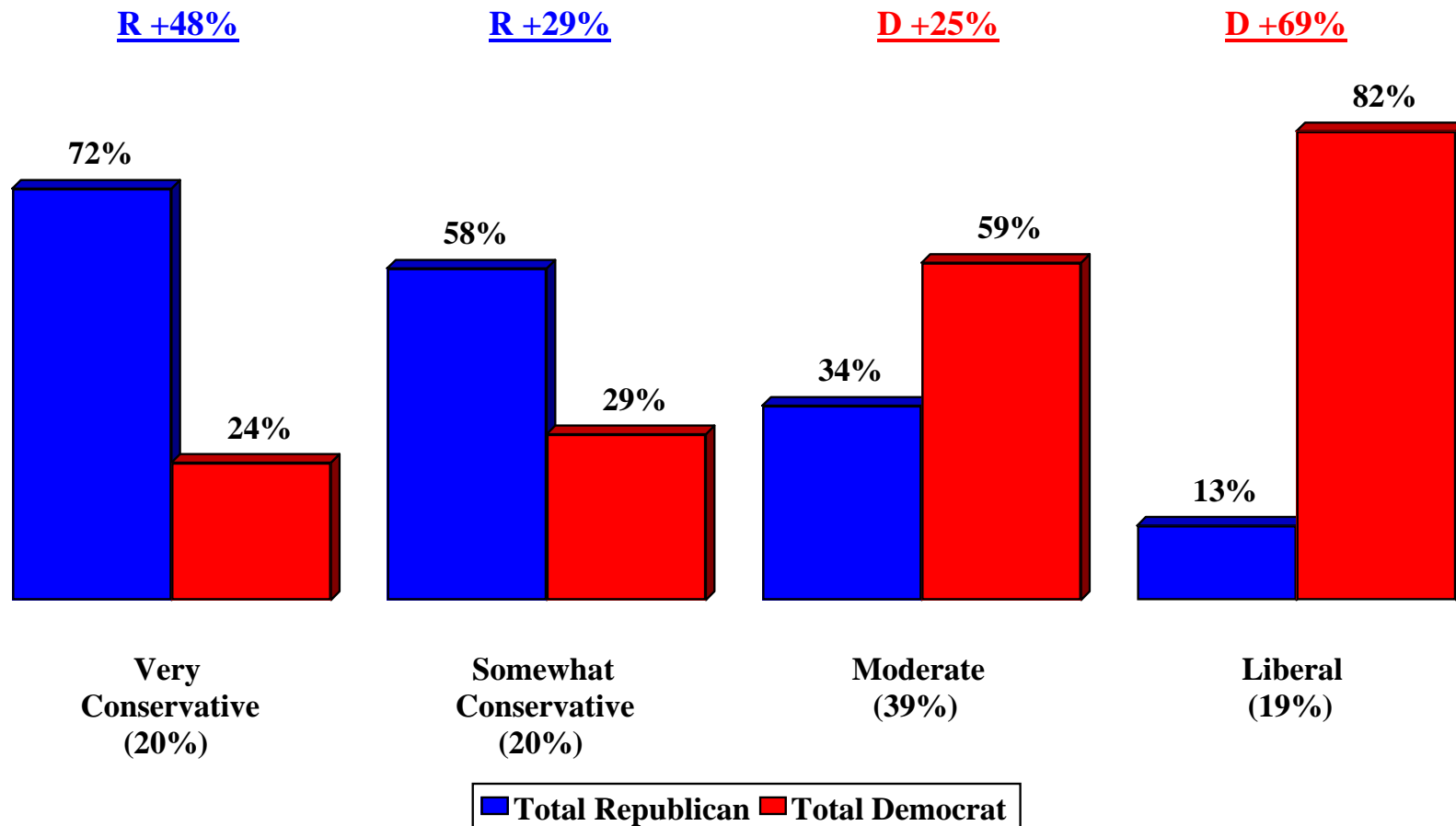
Republican-held seats are more competitive.

Named Congressional Ballot by District



A majority of moderates are voting Democrat.

Named Congressional Ballot by Ideology



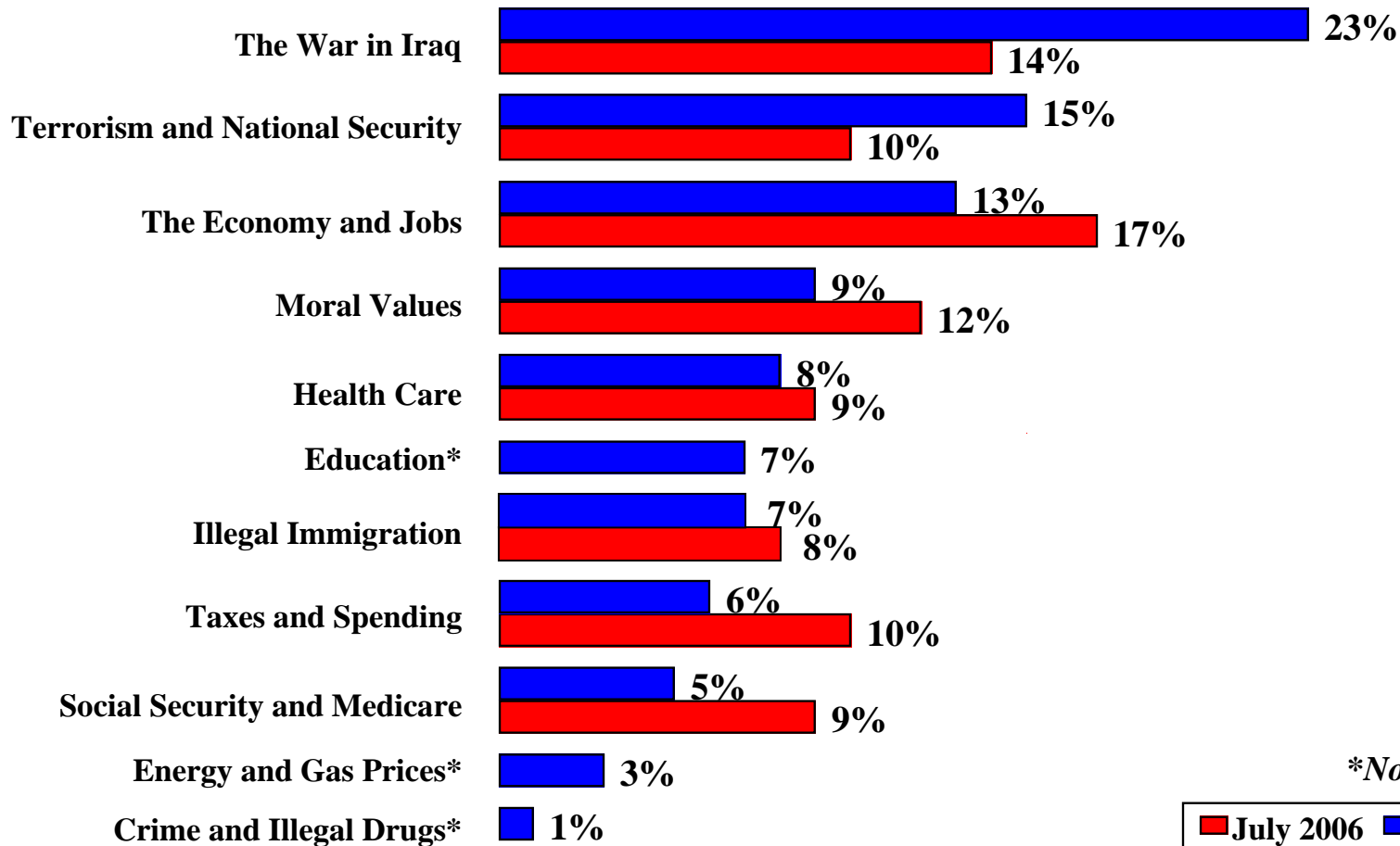


High-Profile Issues Debate



Iraq now tops the issues agenda, while terrorism and economy/jobs are second-tier issues.

“Which ONE of the following issues would be MOST important to you in deciding how to vote for a candidate for Congress?”
Trend Ranked by October 2006

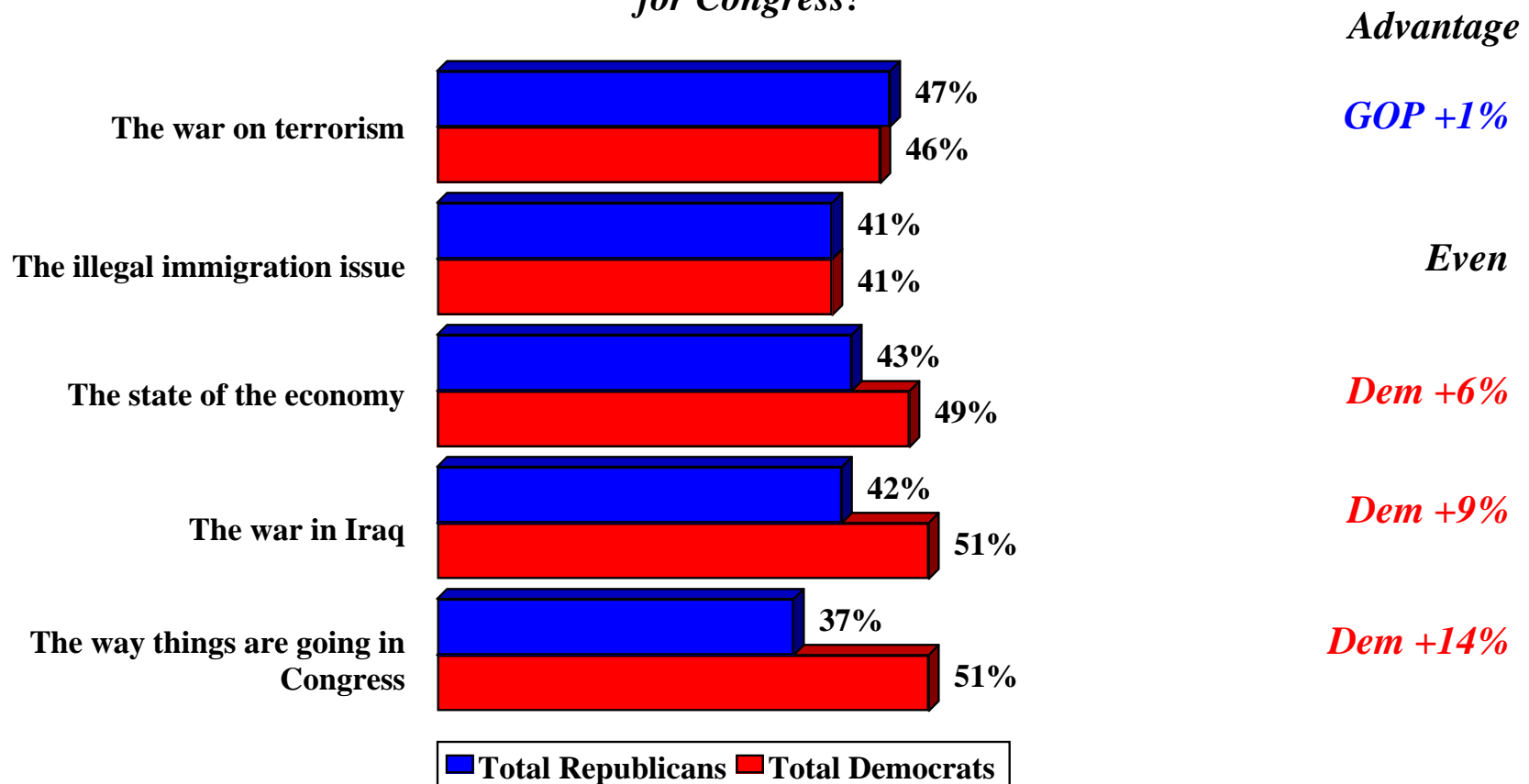


**Not asked in July*

■ July 2006 ■ October 2006

Iraq and the state of Congress move the public toward Democrats, while these other issues divide voters.

“I’m going to ask you about a number of issues that are being debated in the Congress and with the President. For each one, based on what you have heard recently, does it make you more likely to support the Democrats or the Republicans for Congress?”



A majority agree the Foley scandal is an isolated incident. Opinions are driven largely by party.

“As you may know, Republican Congressman Mark Foley of Florida resigned last week because he sent sexually inappropriate e-mails and instant messages to teenage boys who served as pages in the Congress... Now I am going to read you two statements and after I read them please tell me which statement comes closest to your own opinion...”

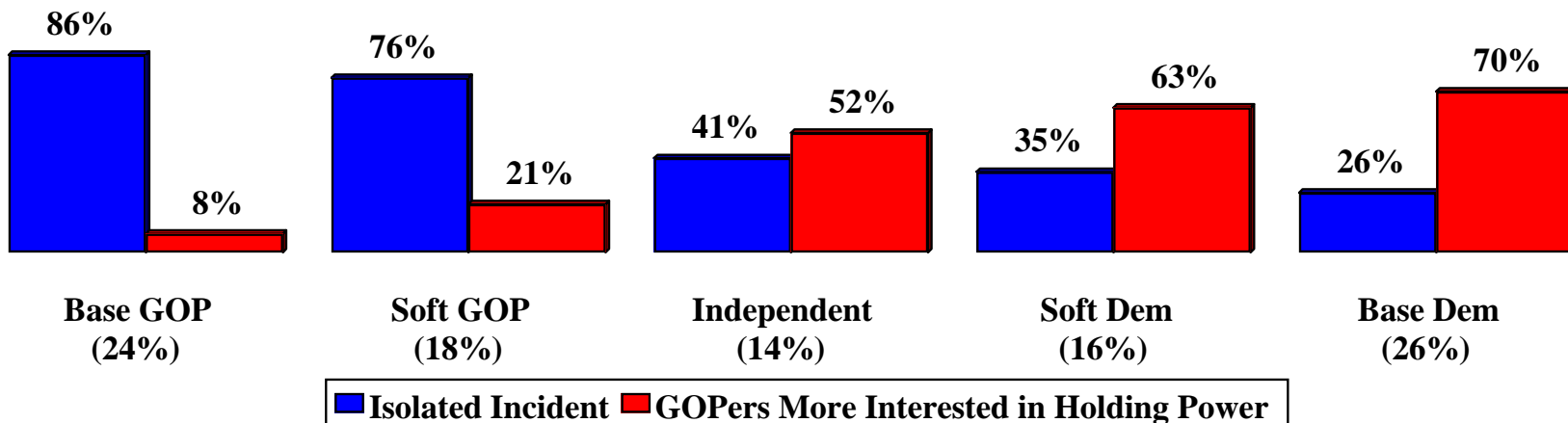
53%

Some people say this is an isolated incident of wrong-doing. They say what Foley did was wrong and disgusting, but he has resigned and Republican leaders have called for an FBI investigation. They say this incident does not affect how they will vote in November.

...while...

42%

Other people say the Foley incident is wrong and disgusting but also shows Republican leaders more interested in holding on to power than in protecting teenage pages. It is the kind of partisan bickering that dominates Washington that makes me want to vote for change.





For more information about this presentation, please contact Public Opinion Strategies and Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research.

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GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER RESEARCH

