

# THE PIPA/KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS POLL

## THE AMERICAN PUBLIC ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

### PIPA-Knowledge Networks Poll:

#### The Federal Budget: The Public's Priorities

#### Questionnaire

Dates of Survey: Feb 18–25, 2005  
Sample Size: 1182

Margin of Error: +/- 2.9 % [full sample]  
+/- 4.1 % [1/2 sample]

Q1-Q1b. *Previously released.*

[HALF SAMPLE A,C,D]

Q2: As you may know, the administration has just released a proposed budget for the next fiscal year, 2006. Is it your impression that in this budget:

There is a large surplus .....	4%
There is a small surplus .....	5
The budget is balanced .....	7
There is a small deficit .....	9
There is a large deficit .....	62
(No answer).....	14
There is a surplus .....	9%
The budget is balanced .....	7
There is a deficit .....	71
(No answer).....	14

[HALF SAMPLE B,C,D]

Q3: Is it your impression that in the proposed budget, spending for the following items would--

Q3a. Defense (not including spending on Iraq)

Increase .....	59%
Decrease .....	11
Stay the same .....	23
(No answer).....	7

Q3b. Education

Increase .....	35%
Decrease .....	34
Stay the same .....	24
(No answer).....	7

Q3c. Environment and natural resources

Increase .....	21%
Decrease .....	39
Stay the same .....	33
(No answer).....	7

[3/4 SAMPLE ABC]

Q4. As you may know, the White House proposes a budget to Congress. In this survey, you will make up a budget for 17 major areas of the budget. We're not including some big entitlement programs like Medicare or Social Security, which by law cannot simply be adjusted year to year.

For these 17 areas, a budget of about \$912 billion has been proposed for 2006. Please imagine that you have \$1,000 of your tax money to divide among these 17 areas. For each area, you'll see how much of your \$1,000 is proposed to go to that area, and then you can indicate how many dollars you'd like to see go to that area. You'll be able to monitor how much of the \$1,000 you have left as you make decisions by scrolling down to the bottom of the page.

[BUDGET ITEMS PRESENTED IN RANDOM ORDER – EXCEPT IRAQ AND DEFICIT REDUCTION, WHICH SHOULD ALWAYS BE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST]

<b>FY2006 Budget Authorization Requests</b>	<b>Administration's proposed 2006 budget (converted to billions)</b>	<b>Public's mean preference (converted to billions)</b>	<b>\$ change (billions)</b>	<b>% change</b>
Defense/military	\$435.9	\$302.1	-\$133.8	-31%
Iraq/Afghanistan supplemental	\$85.0	\$55.4	-\$29.6	-35%
Transportation	\$69.4	\$56.8	-\$12.6	-18%
Federal Administration of Justice	\$41.1	\$32.4	-\$8.7	-21%
Space Program and Science Research	\$24.7	\$23.5	-\$1.2	-5%
State Department	\$6.1	\$9.4	\$3.2	53%
Humanitarian and economic aid	\$14.2	\$17.3	\$3.2	23%
Military aid to foreign countries	\$8.2	\$12.9	\$4.7	58%
UN and UN Peacekeeping	\$2.3	\$7.1	\$4.8	207%
Environment and Natural Resources	\$28.0	\$37.0	\$9.0	32%
Housing	\$30.0	\$39.3	\$9.3	31%
Homeland Security	\$27.3	\$37.8	\$10.5	38%

**The Federal Budget:  
The Public's Priorities**

**Feb 18 - 25, 2005**

Veteran's benefits	\$31.4	\$43.9	\$12.5	40%
Medical Research	\$29.2	\$44.7	\$15.5	53%
Job Training and Employment	\$7.2	\$26.2	\$19.0	263%
Energy: conservation - developing renewable resources	\$2.2	\$26.2	\$24.0	1090%
Education	\$68.5	\$95.2	\$26.8	39%
Deficit reduction	\$0.0	\$36.3	\$36.3	

[HALF SAMPLE A,C]

Q5: Do you think the amount shown previously for economic and humanitarian aid:

- Is the total amount ..... 26%
- There is substantially more spending on aid somewhere else in the federal budget .....65
- (No answer).....10

[3/4 SAMPLE A,B,C]

[THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT INTRODUCTIONS FOR THIS SECTION: FOR THOSE WHO REDUCED DEFENSE IN THE ABOVE BUDGET EXERCISE]

In the budget exercise you just completed you proposed lowering defense spending. Here are some things that could be reduced in order to lower defense spending. For each one, please indicate how much, if at all, you would like to have it reduced.

[BOTH SEE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS]

**Including those who maintained or increased in budget exercise**

- Q8a. Overall number of soldiers in the military
- Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) ..... 39%
  - Reduce a little (-1) .....14
  - Reduce some (-2) .....15
  - Reduce quite a bit (-3).....4
  - Reduce a lot (-4).....3
  - (No answer).....4
- Q8b. Salaries and benefits for soldiers
- Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) ..... 54%
  - Reduce a little (-1) .....4
  - Reduce some (-2) .....7
  - Reduce quite a bit (-3).....2

Reduce a lot (-4).....	1
(No answer) .....	4
 Q8c. Intelligence gathering	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	37%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	16
Reduce some (-2) .....	14
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	4
Reduce a lot (-4).....	1
(No answer).....	4
 Q8d. Number of troops trained for special operations	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	32%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	16
Reduce some (-2) .....	17
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	4
Reduce a lot (-4) .....	1
(No answer).....	5
 Q8e. Number of aircraft carriers	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	32%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	20
Reduce some (-2) .....	19
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	6
Reduce a lot (-4).....	2
(No answer).....	4
 Q8f. Number of nuclear weapons	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	23%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	14
Reduce some (-2) .....	21
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	15
Reduce a lot (-4).....	15
(No answer).....	4
 Q8g. Number of bombers	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	28%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	20
Reduce some (-2) .....	19
Reduce quite a bit (-3).....	7
Reduce a lot (-4).....	6
(No answer).....	4
 Q8i. Number of naval destroyers	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	31%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	20

Reduce some (-2) .....	20
Reduce quite a bit (-3).....	6
Reduce a lot (-4) .....	4
(No answer).....	5

**Q8j. Number of submarines**

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	31%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	21
Reduce some (-2) .....	21
Reduce quite a bit (-3).....	6
Reduce a lot (-4) .....	3
(No answer).....	4

**[INTRO 2 - FOR THOSE WHO MAINTAIN OR INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING]**

Here are some things that the defense budget is spent on. Please indicate if you would like to see them increased or reduced.

-4 to +4

**[BOTH SEE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS]**

**Q8a. Overall number of soldiers in the military**

Increase a lot (4).....	4%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	5
Increase some (2) .....	8
Increase a little (1) .....	4

**Q8b. Salaries and benefits for soldiers**

Increase a lot (4).....	5%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	7
Increase some (2) .....	9
Increase a little (1) .....	5

**Q8c. Intelligence gathering**

Increase a lot (4).....	6%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	6
Increase some (2) .....	6
Increase a little (1) .....	5

**Q8d. Number of troops trained for special operations**

Increase a lot (4).....	5%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	6
Increase some (2) .....	8
Increase a little (1) .....	6

**Q8e. Number of aircraft carriers**

Increase a lot (4).....	2%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	3
Increase some (2) .....	5
Increase a little (1) .....	6

**Q8f. Number of nuclear weapons**

Increase a lot (4).....	1%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	1
Increase some (2) .....	2
Increase a little (1) .....	3

**Q8g. Number of bombers**

Increase a lot (4).....	1%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	3
Increase some (2) .....	4
Increase a little (1) .....	8

**Q8i. Number of naval destroyers**

Increase a lot (4).....	1%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	2
Increase some (2) .....	3
Increase a little (1) .....	6

**Q8j. Number of submarines**

Increase a lot (4).....	2%
Increase quite a bit (3).....	2
Increase some (2) .....	4
Increase a little (1) .....	7

[TO THOSE WHO REDUCED DEFENSE SPENDING]

[STATEMENT] Now please consider whether you would like to reduce spending on the capability to conduct certain kinds of operations such as:

BOTH SEE:

**Including those  
who maintained  
or increased in  
budget exercise**

**Q9a. Urban fighting**

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0).....	36%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	17
Reduce some (-2) .....	16
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	5
Reduce a lot (-4).....	3
(No answer).....	6

Q9b. Fighting insurgents or guerillas

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	36%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	15
Reduce some (-2) .....	16
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	5
Reduce a lot (-4).....	3
(No answer).....	6

Q9c. Air strikes

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	36%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	18
Reduce some (-2) .....	18
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	4
Reduce a lot (-4).....	3
(No answer).....	6

Q9d. Large scale land wars

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	26%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	20
Reduce some (-2) .....	19
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	12
Reduce a lot (-4).....	8
(No answer).....	6

Q9e. Large scale naval wars

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	28%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	21
Reduce some (-2) .....	19
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	10
Reduce a lot (-4).....	9
(No answer).....	6

Q9f. Large scale nuclear wars

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	23%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	14
Reduce some (-2) .....	15
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	13
Reduce a lot (-4).....	23
(No answer).....	6

Q9g. Peacekeeping operations

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	41%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	16
Reduce some (-2) .....	14
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	4

Reduce a lot (-4).....5  
(No answer).....6

Q9h. Training exercises with allies for multinational operations  
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) ..... 33%  
Reduce a little (-1) .....19  
Reduce some (-2) .....15  
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....5  
Reduce a lot (-4).....4  
(No answer).....6

[TO THOSE WHO MAINTAINED OR INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING]  
[STATEMENT] Now please consider whether you would like to increase or reduce spending on the capability to conduct certain kinds of operations such as:

BOTH SEE:

Q9a. Urban fighting  
Increase a lot (4)..... 2%  
Increase quite a bit (3) .....3  
Increase some (2) .....7  
Increase a little (1) .....4

Q9b. Fighting insurgents or guerrillas  
Increase a lot (4)..... 4%  
Increase quite a bit (3) .....4  
Increase some (2) .....6  
Increase a little (1) .....4

Q9c. Air strikes  
Increase a lot (4)..... 2%  
Increase quite a bit (3) .....3  
Increase some (2) .....6  
Increase a little (1) .....4

Q9d. Large scale land wars  
Increase a lot (4)..... 1%  
Increase quite a bit (3) .....1  
Increase some (2) .....3  
Increase a little (1) .....4

Q9e. Large scale naval wars  
Increase a lot (4)..... 1%  
Increase quite a bit (3) .....1  
Increase some (2) .....3



Increase a little (1) .....	2
Q9f. Large scale nuclear wars	
Increase a lot (4).....	1%
Increase quite a bit (3) .....	1
Increase some (2) .....	1
Increase a little (1) .....	2
Q9g. Peacekeeping operations	
Increase a lot (4).....	4%
Increase quite a bit (3) .....	1
Increase some (2) .....	4
Increase a little (1) .....	6
Q9h. Training exercises with allies for multinational operations	
Increase a lot (4).....	3%
Increase quite a bit (3) .....	3
Increase some (2) .....	5
Increase a little (1) .....	6

[TO THOSE WHO REDUCED DEFENSE SPENDING]

[STATEMENT] Now please consider whether you would like to reduce spending on developing and building new capabilities such as:

[SAME SCALES AS USED ABOVE]

**Including those  
who maintained  
or increased in  
budget exercise**

Q10a. A national missile defense system	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	35%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	15
Reduce some (-2) .....	14
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	5
Reduce a lot (-4).....	7
(No answer).....	5
Q10b. New types of nuclear weapons	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	23%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	17
Reduce some (-2) .....	15
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	12
Reduce a lot (-4).....	18
(No answer).....	5

Q10c. New types of bombers

Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	25%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	19
Reduce some (-2) .....	18
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	9
Reduce a lot (-4).....	7
(No answer).....	6
 Q10e. New types of naval destroyers	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	26%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	20
Reduce some (-2) .....	18
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	9
Reduce a lot (-4).....	7
(No answer).....	6
 Q10f. New types of submarines	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	27%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	20
Reduce some (-2) .....	18
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	10
Reduce a lot (-4).....	4
(No answer).....	6
 Q10g. New types of high technology missiles and bombs	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	34%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	17
Reduce some (-2) .....	13
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	6
Reduce a lot (-4).....	5
(No answer).....	6
 Q10h. More advanced communication systems	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	44%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	13
Reduce some (-2) .....	8
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	3
Reduce a lot (-4).....	2
(No answer).....	6
 Q10i. New types of equipment for infantry and Marines	
Not reduce at all [Keep same] (0) .....	39%
Reduce a little (-1) .....	15
Reduce some (-2) .....	10
Reduce quite a bit (-3) .....	3
Reduce a lot (-4).....	3
(No answer).....	6

[TO THOSE WHO MAINTAINED OR INCREASED DEFENSE SPENDING]

[STATEMENT] Now please consider whether you would like to increase or reduce spending on developing and building new capabilities such as:

[SAME SCALES AS USED ABOVE]

Q10a. A national missile defense system

Increase a lot (4) ..... 3%  
Increase quite a bit (3) ..... 3  
Increase some (2) ..... 7  
Increase a little (1) ..... 5

Q10b. New types of nuclear weapons

Increase a lot (4) ..... 1%  
Increase quite a bit (3) ..... 1  
Increase some (2) ..... 3  
Increase a little (1) ..... 4

Q10c. New types of bombers

Increase a lot (4) ..... 2%  
Increase quite a bit (3) ..... 1  
Increase some (2) ..... 5  
Increase a little (1) ..... 9

Q10e. New types of naval destroyers

Increase a lot (4) ..... 2%  
Increase quite a bit (3) ..... 1  
Increase some (2) ..... 4  
Increase a little (1) ..... 7

Q10f. New types of submarines

Increase a lot (4) ..... 2%  
Increase quite a bit (3) ..... 2  
Increase some (2) ..... 4  
Increase a little (1) ..... 6

Q10g. New types of high technology missiles and bombs

Increase a lot (4) ..... 2%  
Increase quite a bit (3) ..... 3  
Increase some (2) ..... 7  
Increase a little (1) ..... 8

Q10h. More advanced communication systems

Increase a lot (4) ..... 4%  
Increase quite a bit (3) ..... 7

Increase some (2) .....7  
 Increase a little (1) .....6

Q10i. New types of equipment for infantry and Marines

Increase a lot (4) ..... 5%  
 Increase quite a bit (3) .....6  
 Increase some (2) .....8  
 Increase a little (1) .....5

[HALF SAMPLE B,D]

Q11. The proposed budget includes a deficit of more than 400 billion dollars. Some people say that the government should roll back the tax cuts for those with over \$200,000 incomes that were passed in 2001 and 2003, so the government does not have to borrow so much more money. Others say tax cuts help stimulate the economy and that borrowing more money is not that big of a problem. Do you think the government should or should not roll back some of the tax cuts that were passed in 2001 and 2003?

Should ..... 63%  
 Should not .....32  
 (No answer).....5

[HALF SAMPLE A,C]

Q12. As you may know some of the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 were designed to be temporary and will expire in a few years. Which of the following is closer to your position:

[ARO]

The tax cuts should be made permanent because they  
 are good for the economy ..... 45%

The big deficits the US is running hurt the economy  
 so the tax cuts should be allowed to expire as planned.....48

(No answer).....7

[HALF SAMPLE C,D]

Q13. Which area of the federal budget do you think has the most “pork barrel” and other wasteful spending? [Please pick one]

Space Program and Science Research ..... 13%  
 Environment and Natural Resources .....2  
 Job Training and Employment.....3  
 Medical Research .....\*  
 Federal Administration of Justice .....4

UN and UN Peacekeeping .....	8
State Department .....	6
Transportation .....	3
Military aid to foreign countries .....	16
Education .....	2
Housing .....	2
Energy conservation and research .....	2
Veterans' benefits .....	1
Humanitarian and economic aid to foreign countries .....	13
Defense/military .....	14
Homeland Security .....	8
(No answer).....	5

[HALF SAMPLE A,D]

Q14. When the US military is in another country like it is today in Iraq, who do you think should conduct most relief and reconstruction programs:

The US military .....	23%
The UN, international aid organizations and US civilian agencies. ....	74
(No answer).....	4

[HALF SAMPLE B,D]

Q15. What percentage of the federal budget do you think is devoted to economic and humanitarian assistance? Please enter a percentage.

More than 3% .....	72%
3% or less .....	18
(No answer).....	10
Median .....	10

Q16. What do you think would be an appropriate percentage? Please enter a percentage.

Median .....	15
--------------	----

[HALF SAMPLE A,D]

Q18. Right now, the size of US defense budget is based on the need for the US to have the capability to fulfill commitments it has made to protect a number of other countries if they are

attacked. Here are three positions people have taken on US defense spending. Please select which one you agree with most.

[ALTERNATE RANDOM ORDER]

The US should only spend enough to protect itself but not to protect other countries. .... 11%

The US should spend enough so that it can protect itself and other countries all on its own. ....17

The US should only spend enough to protect itself and to join in efforts to protect countries together with allies or through the UN.....69

(No answer).....2

[HALF SAMPLE B,D]

Q19. How do you feel about the Pentagon on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very negative and 10 being very positive.

Positive (7-10).....31%  
Neutral (5-6).....37  
Negative (1-4).....28  
(No answer).....5  
  
Mean .....5.4  
Median .....5

Q20. How do you feel about the US armed forces on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being very negative and 10 being very positive.

Positive (7-10)..... 76%  
Neutral (5-6).....12  
Negative (1-4).....8  
(No answer).....3  
  
Mean .....8.0  
Median .....8

[HALF SAMPLE B,C]

Q21. Which statement comes closest to your point of view:

Today there are numerous terrorist organizations that

are hostile toward the US. To keep up its guard against these threats, the US at least needs to maintain defense spending at current levels. .... 38%

The US should do everything it can through the CIA, the FBI and military anti-terrorist units to try to meet the threat of terrorism. However, spending lots of money on defense for regular military forces does not address the problem because terrorists do not engage military forces directly. ....58

(No answer).....4

[HALF SAMPLE A,D]

Q22. Which statement comes closest to your point of view:

The US government should not cut defense spending because many people will lose their jobs when bases are closed and factories are shut down. .... 44%

It does not make sense to keep spending money on defense so as to keep jobs. It is better for the American economy, and ultimately is cheaper, to retrain those workers to produce something for the civilian economy. ....52

(No answer).....4

[HALF SAMPLE C,D]

Q23. Just your best guess: how many nuclear weapons do you think the US has in the US, or on submarines, that are ready to be used on short notice? [Give number]

Median .....989

[HALF SAMPLE C,D]

Q24. How many nuclear weapons do you think the US needs to have to make sure other countries are deterred from attacking it? [Give number]

Median .....150

[HALF SAMPLE C,D]

Q25. Imagine that the President and Congress decided to cut defense spending by 15% and directed this money to education, healthcare, housing, and cutting the deficit instead. Would you:

Support this decision .....	65%
Oppose this decision .....	31
(No answer).....	4

[HALF SAMPLE C,D]

Q31. Now please think about how much the US should spend on defense as compared to its potential enemies. For discussion's sake, let's include as potential enemies Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, Libya and Syria. Here are some possible levels that have been suggested for US spending. Please tell me which one makes the most sense to you. Do you think the US should spend:

A bit more than its most powerful potential enemy .....	41%
About a much as all of its potential enemies combined. ....	30
About twice as much as all its potential enemies combined .....	15
About three times as much as all its potential enemies combined .....	7
(No answer).....	7

[FULL SAMPLE]

Q35. How closely would you say you follow news about spending on defense?

Very closely .....	4%
Somewhat closely .....	30
Not very closely .....	42
Not at all closely .....	23
(No answer).....	2

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA:

D1. In politics today, do you think of yourself as:

Strong Republican .....	16%
Not strong Republican .....	11
Lean Republican .....	8



Undecided/Independent/Other .....	27
Lean Democrat.....	10
Not strong Democrat.....	12
Strong Democrat .....	16

D2. Age

18-29 .....	22%
30-44 .....	31
45-59 .....	26
60+ .....	22

D6. Education level (categorical)

Less than High School .....	16%
High School Graduate.....	33
Some College .....	28
College Graduate .....	24

D7. Race/Ethnicity

White, Non-Hispanic .....	73%
Black, Non-Hispanic.....	12
Other, Non-Hispanic .....	5
Hispanic .....	11

D8. Gender

Male .....	48%
Female.....	52

D9. Region

Northeast.....	19%
Midwest.....	23
South .....	36
West .....	23