

State of the Nation

Disapproval and trust

Is your opinion of the following institutions favorable or unfavorable?*

	2008		2004	
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable	Unfavorable
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	37	58	59	36
YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT	59	37	57	37
YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT	63	33	66	28

Is your opinion of the following government institutions favorable?*

	Republicans	Democrats
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	53	29
YOUR STATE GOVERNMENT	64	59
YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT	73	62

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the President, Congress, or the Supreme Court are doing their jobs?***

	Approve	Disapprove
PRESIDENT	30	64
CONGRESS	19	74
SUPREME COURT	48	38

As you may know, the U.S. government is holding a number of detainees at a military base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. In your opinion, are the government's policies toward these prisoners fair or unfair?†

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Overall
FAIR	73	39	54	52
UNFAIR	13	47	34	33
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	14	14	12	15

Is it generally right or generally wrong for the government to monitor communications of Americans suspected of terrorist ties without first obtaining a warrant?†

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Overall
GENERALLY RIGHT	74	39	52	52
GENERALLY WRONG	21	57	45	44
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	5	4	3	4

Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists in order to gain important information can ever be justified?†

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Overall
CAN BE JUSTIFIED	83	60	68	68
CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED	14	38	30	30
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED	3	2	2	2

All numbers expressed in percentages. Sources: *Pew Center for the Press, Politics, and the Public, May 2008. **Gallup, June 2008. †Pew Center, February 2008. Surveys compiled by Stephen Ansolabehere, Harvard University. Some columns and rows omitting no-opinion responses do not add up to 100 percent.