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To: Interested Parties
From: Celinda Lake and Joshua Ulibarri
Date: April 3, 2007
Re: Latino Attitudes on Elected Leaders

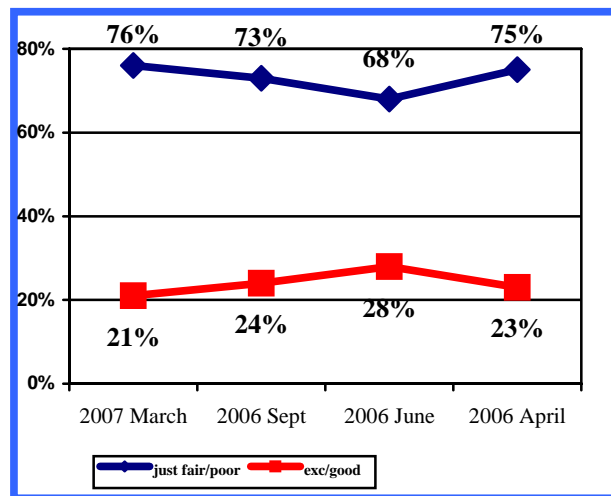
Lake Research Partners, on behalf of the Latino Policy Coalition (LPC), recently concluded another round of survey research among Latino/a registered voters. This was the fourth installment of survey research that began in April of 2006. LPC also funded two rounds of focus groups last year that informs the continuing research. In this case, we interviewed 1,000 Latino registered voters in 23 states with the highest Latino populations from March 13 to 21. The survey focused on the war in Iraq, the 2008 Presidential election, attitudes toward Congress and President Bush, and energy issues.

CONTINUED DISAPPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT BUSH

Registered Latino voters remain largely disappointed with President Bush. In fact, their disappointment is as high as it has been at any point in the last year. Currently, 65 percent of Latino voters have an unfavorable impression of President Bush, including almost half (47%) who rate him very unfavorably. Only 31% have a favorable impression of the President, including only 13% who are very favorable. There is strong partisan polarization. Among Republicans, the President's favorable ratings are 77% favorable to 22% unfavorable. Among Democrats his ratings are 19% favorable to 77% unfavorable. Thirty-one percent of independents have a favorable impression of Bush, while 63% are unfavorable toward the President.

Voters are even more disappointed in the President's job performance. Today, three in four voters (76%) rate the President's job performance as either just fair (23%) or poor (53%). Fewer than one in four (21%) rate the President's job as either good (16%) or excellent (6%). Disappointment is wide and deep and extends across demographic groups.

Again, only self-identified Republicans give the President a majority rating of excellent/good – but only slightly (56% excellent/good, 42% just fair/poor), and 20 points below their personal favorability rating for the President. The President



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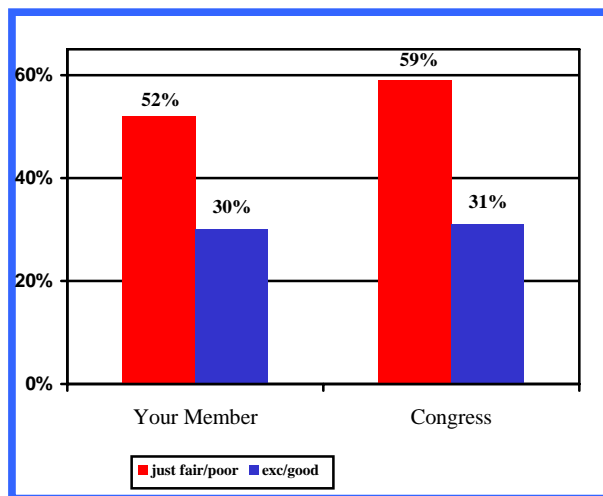
does poorly among independents (21% excellent/good, 75% just fair/poor), and even worse among Democrats (12% excellent/good, 86% just fair/poor).

LATINOS FRUSTRATED WITH CONGRESS – EVEN THEIR OWN MEMBER

Latinos also hold Congress in low regard – including their own Member of Congress. In fact, where other national studies show voters having a more favorable impression of their Member’s job performance, Latinos hold a different view and rate their own member negatively.

Latinos view Democrats in Congress favorably (68% favorable, 21% unfavorable). In fact, the favorable ratings for Democrats exceed party identification (63% identify as Democrats). Republicans in Congress fare worse (32% favorable, 51% unfavorable); although Republicans’ favorable ratings also exceed party identification (18% identify as Republicans).

However, the overall ratings of Congress’ job performance is quite different. Fifty-nine percent of registered Latino voters rate Congress’ job performance as either just fair (44%) or poor (15%). Notably, Congress’ job performance is net-negative, but lacks the negative-intensity of the President’s ratings (53% poor for Bush, 15% poor for Congress). Latinos are slightly less-negative toward Congress now compared to last year. In April of last year 74% of voters rated Congress’ job performance as just fair or poor, as did 67% in June of last year (59% currently). The trend shows Democrats and independents becoming less negative toward Congress but still net-negative overall.



Latinos also rate their Member’s job performance negatively – which tends to set them apart from the rest of voters nationally.

Half (52%) rate their Member of Congress’ job performance either just fair (37%) or poor (15%); while only 30% rate them good (25%) or excellent (4%). Interestingly, while Congress’ overall performance seems to have become slightly less negative since the Democratic takeover, that is not as true for their Member of Congress. In June of last year 49% of Latinos rated their own Member’s job performance either just fair or poor, as did 55% of Latinos in September – compared to 52% today. ***Even as Democrats have taken control of Congress, Latinos remain on watch.***

SPEAKER PELOSI VIEWED FAVORABLY, MIXED JOB-PERFORMANCE

Latinos have a favorable impression of new Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, though she receives mixed job performance ratings. Thirty-eight percent of registered Latino voters personally rate Pelosi either somewhat favorable (27%) or very favorable

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(11%). Only 19% rate her unfavorably. Almost a third of voters have heard of Pelosi, but cannot rate her (30%), and another 12% have never heard of her. Latinos, however, divide over her job performance and she seems to be carrying some of the baggage from the negative ratings that Congress receives overall. A third of Latinos (31%) give her a job performance rating of either excellent or good and another third (35%) rate her either just fair or poor.

METHODOLOGY

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached 1,000 Latino registered voters in the 23 states with the highest Latino population density. These states include: CA, TX, FL, NY, IL, AZ, NJ, NM, CO, GA, NV, NC, WA, MA, VA, PA, CT, MI, OR, MD, IN, OH, and WI. The survey was conducted March 13 and 21, 2007. Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from files of registered voters. The data were weighted slightly by age and national ancestry. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.1 percentage points.
