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JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, WISCONSIN
DANDARA ROSSER, CALIFORNIA
BILL NELSON, FLORIDA
BARACK OBAMA, ILLINOIS
ROBERT MCNEDEZ, NEW JERSEY
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
ROBERT P. GIBSON, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA

RICHARD G. LUGAR, INDIANA
CHUCK HAGEL, NEBRASKA
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA
BLUR LORNER, TENNESSEE
JOHN E. SUNUNU, NEW HAMPSHIRE
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
LISA MURKOWSKI, ALASKA
JIM DEWINT, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6226

ANTHONY J. BLINKEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

July 23, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

On May 2, I wrote you to request information from the Department about political briefings that may have been conducted for Department employees by White House officials. The Department replied by letters dated May 21 and July 9.

The Department's letter of July 9 indicates that on January 4, 2007, six current U.S. ambassadors, as well as the U.S. Consul General in Bermuda, attended a breakfast meeting at the White House with Deputy Chief of Staff Rove; the meeting, according to the letter, included a presentation by Sara Taylor of the Office of Political Affairs "summarizing the results of the November 2006 elections." That briefing, as set forth in the PowerPoint presentation provided to the Committee, does more than review the election results. It analyzes the strength of the Democrats' hold on power in Congress, lists the "top 36 [Democratic] targets" in the House in 2008, and sets forth electoral maps indicating which Senate and gubernatorial races are expected to be competitive in 2008.

The July 9 letter also indicates that State Department employees attended meetings hosted by the White House for political appointees from across the government and that some of these meetings "may have involved some discussion of elections." That description understates the presentation given on July 12, 2001 by Mr. Melhman, then the Director of Political Affairs at the White House. The PowerPoint briefing is entitled "political briefing." It included the following:

- A map of "competitive presidential states;"
- A list of "key media markets" in many of these "competitive" states;
- A map highlighting those states where President Bush fared better in 2000 with "resource Republicans" than did Senator Dole in the 1996 presidential election;
- and
- A list of "competitive" House districts.

I do not understand why ambassadors, in Washington on official duty, would be briefed by White House officials on which Democratic House members are considered top targets by the Republican Party for defeat in 2008. Nor do I understand why Department employees would need to be briefed on "key media markets" in states that are "competitive" for the President and on a list of competitive House districts. One possibility is that State Department employees were

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

The Secretary of State
July 23, 2007
Page Two

being asked to engage in improper political activity, or to use their official authority, in a manner inconsistent with the Hatch Act.

I write, therefore, to request additional information about these sessions. Please provide the following information or respond to the following questions:

1. The Department's letter of July 9 indicates that the PowerPoint presentation given to the ambassadors by Ms. Taylor on January 4, 2007 was "sent to the attendees' staff assistants by e-mail." Please provide a copy of each e-mail.
2. Please provide a copy of any other e-mails, memoranda, or letters received by the ambassadors and Consul General Slayton from the White House Office of Political Affairs, or Mr. Rove's office, from January 1, 2007 to February 1, 2007.
3. The breakfast meeting for the ambassadors with Mr. Rove is described as an "informal function and provided an opportunity for the attendees to discuss issues related to the chiefs of missions' work abroad and other issues of mutual interest." Do the ambassadors have an interest in knowing which Democratic members of the House are targeted by the White House Office of Political Affairs, and which Senate and gubernatorial races will be competitive in 2008? If so, why? What relevance does it have to the performance of their official duties?
4. Did Ambassador Cain inform you, any official in your office, or any senior Department official about the breakfast meeting that he organized with Mr. Rove?
5. Why would Department of State employees need to be briefed about "key media markets" in states that are competitive for the President, as well as on a list of competitive House districts? What purpose would it serve?
6. What Department records were searched in the preparation of the responses to my letter of May 2?
7. The Department's letter of May 21 indicates that the White House Liaison Office at the Department contacted "various current and former State Department employees who might have had recollections of any such briefings." Please provide a list of all current and former employees who were contacted.
8. The Department's letter of July 9 indicates that the information about meetings hosted by the White House for political appointees is "not responsive to my request." I disagree. I asked:

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

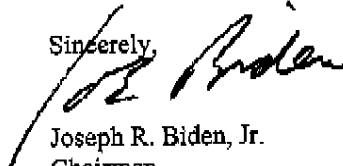
The Secretary of State
July 23, 2007
Page Three

Were any political briefings, including briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates, conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for State Department employees?

Why are meetings at the White House that involved discussion of elections not considered a "political briefing"-- and therefore a matter covered by my initial request? My question did not focus on the *location* of the briefings, but rather on whether any such briefings occurred. Are there any other briefings for Department employees of which the Department is aware that have not been disclosed in response to my letter of May 2?

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Biden". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN

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ANTHONY J. BLINZEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYRICK, JR., RECEPTION STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0225

May 2, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

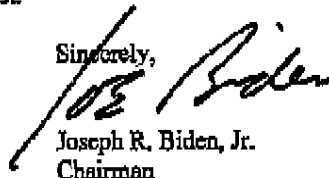
On April 26, the *Washington Post* reported that officials from the White House conducted "private briefings" on "Republican electoral prospects in the last midterm election for senior officials in at least 15 government agencies covered by federal restrictions on partisan political activity." The story also quoted a White House spokesman as stating that there were other such briefings "throughout the last six years."

I write to request that you provide information on whether any such briefings have occurred at the Department of State since January 20, 2001. Specifically, I request responses to the following:

1. Were any political briefings, including briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates, conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for State Department employees? If so, please provide information about the dates and locations of the briefings, the names of the individuals conducting the briefings, the number and rank of the Department employees who attended, and the subject matter and content of the briefings.
2. If such briefings occurred, please provide information about the approval process within the Department for such briefings, including the name and position of the most senior official who approved the briefing, and whether the briefings were approved by the Office of the Legal Adviser.
3. If such briefings occurred, please provide information regarding any assignments given or requests made to Department employees during the briefing, and any official action taken by Department employees as a result of the briefing.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

RECEIVED

MAY 21 2007

Dear Mr. Chairman:
07 MAY 23 AM 9:26

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
This is in response to your May 2, 2007 letter requesting information about political briefings provided to Department of State employees by White House or Republican National Committee staff since January 20, 2001. The Department's White House Liaison Office searched all of its records for information concerning any such briefings. No Department records were identified.

Orig: SRCCA
cc: Dem

In addition, the White House Liaison Office contacted various current and former State Department employees who might have had recollections of any such briefings. Department of State employees recall that in 2002 there was a brown bag lunch series in which different White House and Department officials spoke to political appointees at the Department concerning their work. One of these brown bag lunches featured then-White House Director of Political Affairs Ken Mehlman and Deputy Director Matt Schlapp.

The White House Liaison Office has been unable to identify any documents or other information that would clarify the date, number and rank of attendees, subject matter and content of any presentation, or whether any assignments or requests were made at this lunch. The lunches were hosted by the Department's White House Liaison Office and we have not identified any records indicating whether the Office of the Legal Adviser was consulted. While it is unclear whether this lunch is responsive to your request, we have identified it for you in the interest of full disclosure.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey T. Bergner
Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 09 2007

JUL 9 - 2007

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in further response to your May 2, 2007 letter requesting information about political briefings provided to Department of State employees by White House officials.

Although we previously provided the Committee with information concerning any such briefings at the Department of State, it has come to our attention that a meeting that may be responsive to your request occurred at the White House earlier this year. On January 4, 2007, Ambassadors Eduardo Aguirre, Jr., James Cain, Alfred Hoffman, Jr., Ronald Spogli, Craig Stapleton, and Robert Tuttle, and Consul General Gregory Slayton attended a breakfast meeting with Karl Rove at the White House. These chiefs of mission were in Washington to attend the Department of State's annual conference for Ambassadors and other chiefs of mission. The breakfast meeting had no formal agenda. It was organized at the initiative of Ambassador Cain as an informal function and provided an opportunity for the attendees to discuss issues related to the chiefs of missions' work abroad and other issues of mutual interest. It does not appear that the Department of State or its offices were consulted about this meeting.

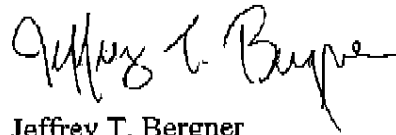
As some point in the meeting, Sara Taylor from the White House Office of Political Affairs gave a presentation summarizing the results of the November 2006 elections. After the meeting, a copy of Ms. Taylor's presentation was sent to the attendees' staff assistants by e-mail. We are not aware of any assignments, requests, or actions taken by Department employees as a result of this meeting. I have enclosed a copy of the presentation for your review.

The Honorable
Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

We also note that Department of State political appointees from time to time have attended meetings hosted by the White House for legislative affairs staff, White House liaisons, and/or chiefs of staff from multiple agencies across the federal government. We do not believe that meetings like these are responsive to your request to the Department of State as these meetings were not organized specifically for Department of State employees. However, some of these meetings may have involved some discussion of elections. I have enclosed a copy of a presentation from the White House Office of Political Affairs, found in the files of the Department's White House Liaison, which we believe was given at one such meeting at the White House some time in 2001 that was attended by the Department's White House Liaison.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey T. Bergner
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.

Political Briefing

July 12, 2001



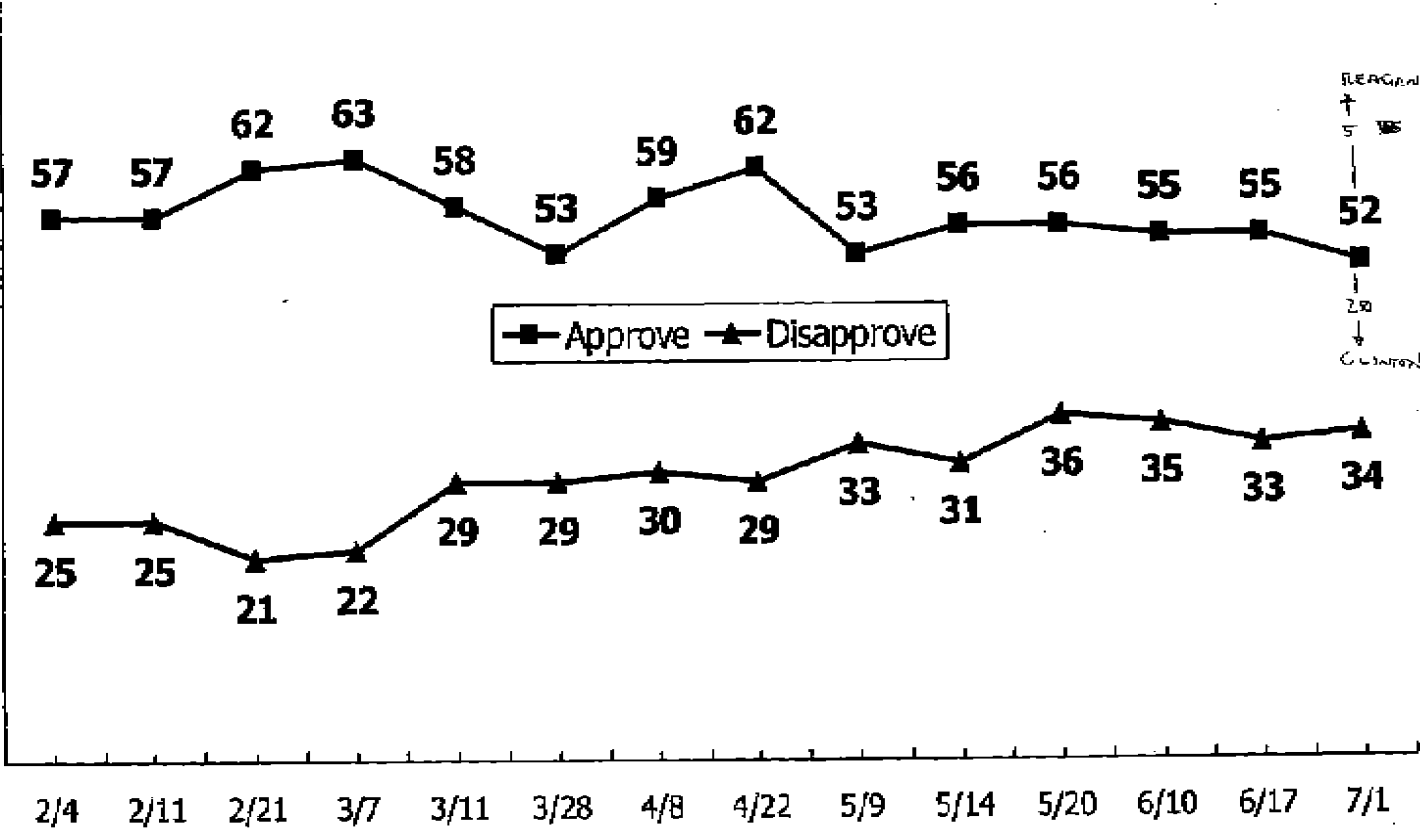
Ken Mehlman

**Director of Political Affairs &
Deputy Assistant to the President**

456-5240

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

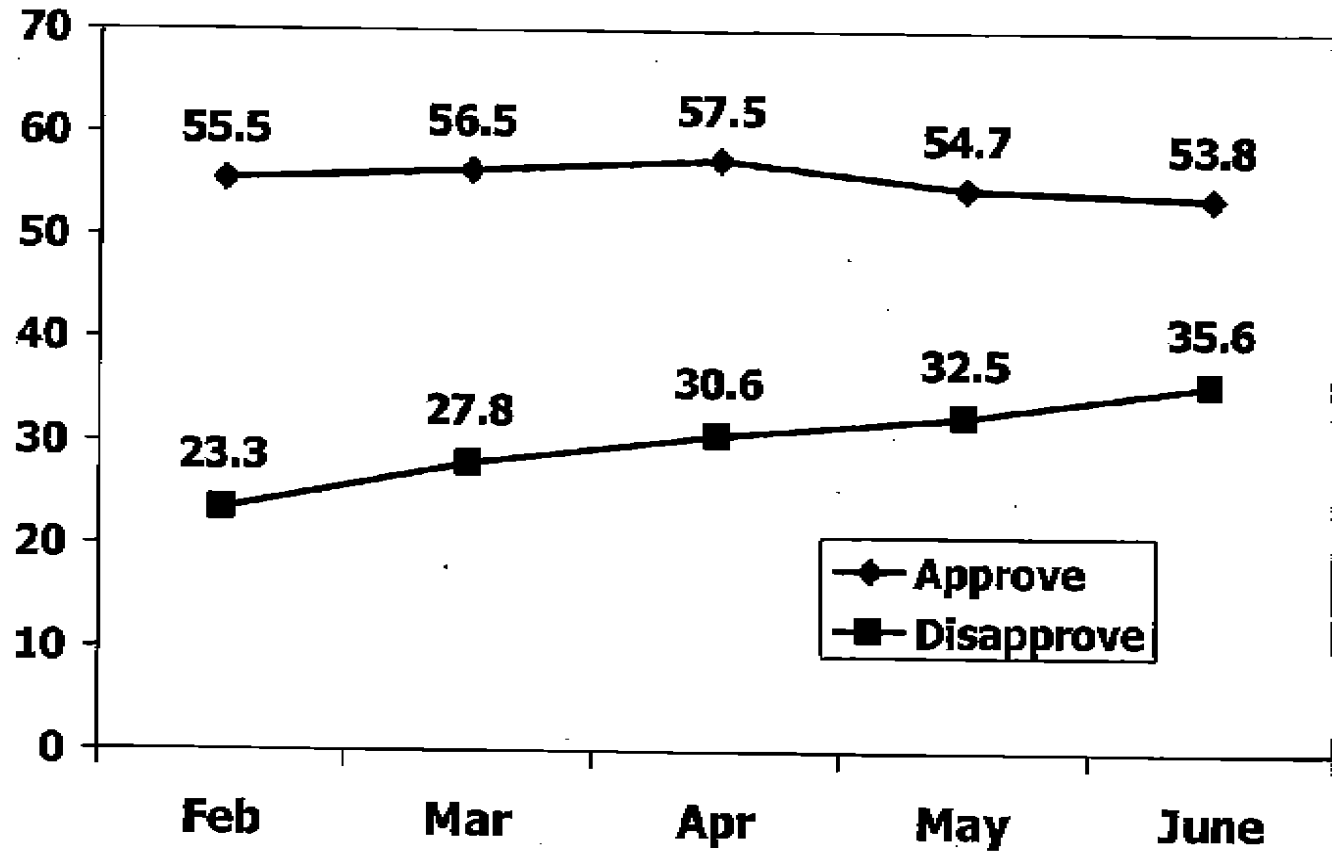
Gallup Presidential Job Approval



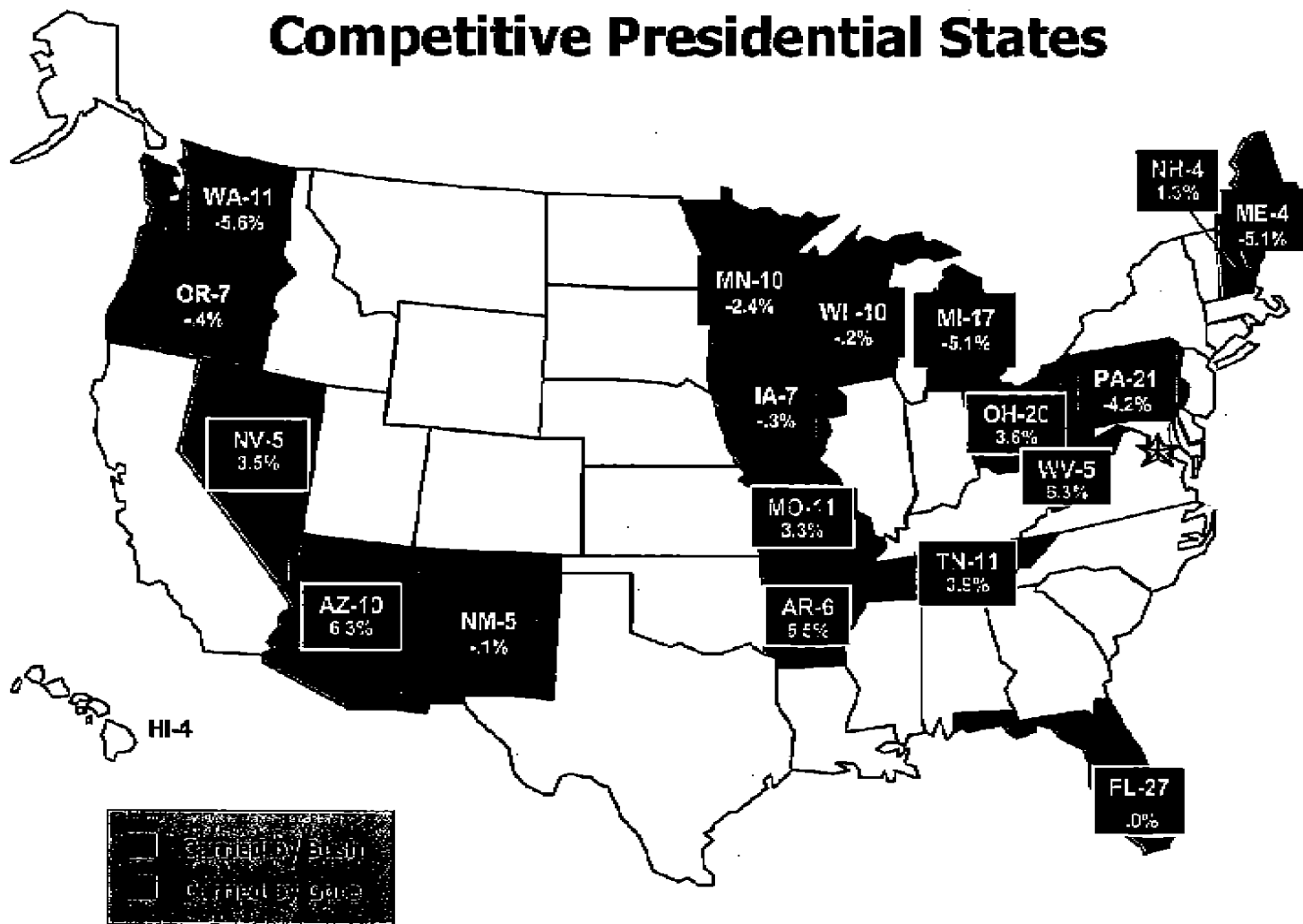
07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

Bush Job Approval in Public Polls

Average by Month



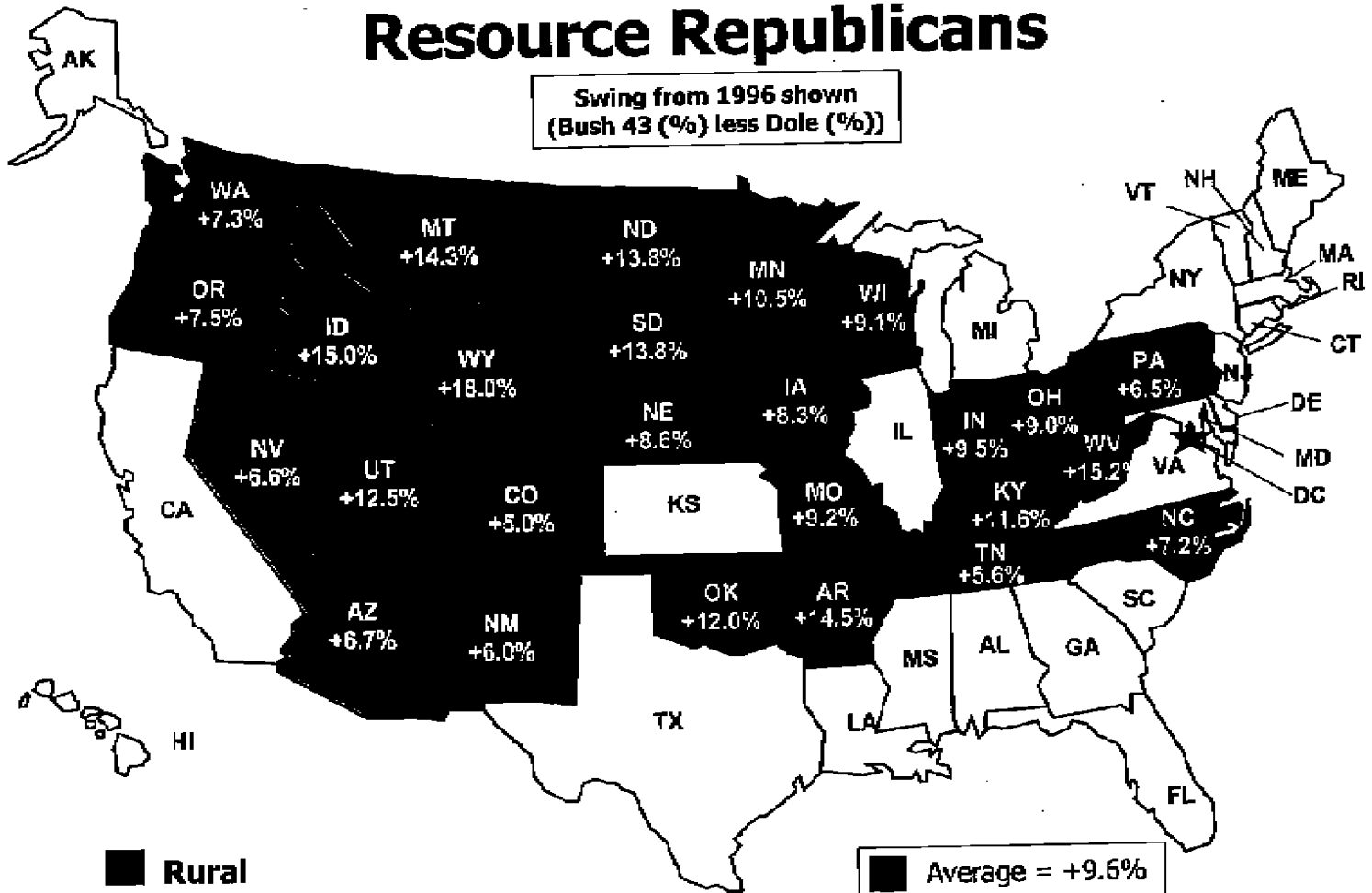
Competitive Presidential States



07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

Resource Republicans

Swing from 1996 shown
(Bush 43 (%) less Dole (%))



- Rural
- Coal, Steel, Tobacco, Endangered Species
- Sagebrush Rebellion States

■ Average = +9.6%
 ■ Average = +9.1%
 ■ Average = +10.5%

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

Key Media Markets

States	Media Markets
<i>Tier One</i>	
Florida	Tampa/St. Pete, Orlando/Daytona Beach, Miami
<i>Tier Two</i>	
New Mexico	Albuquerque
Nevada	Las Vegas, Reno
Arkansas	Little Rock, Fort Smith
Tennessee	Nashville, Memphis, Knoxville
West Virginia	Charleston, Clarksburg, Bluefield
New Hampshire	Manchester (Boston)
Missouri	St. Louis, Kansas City, Springfield
Ohio	Cleveland, Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton
<i>Tier Three</i>	
Wisconsin	Milwaukee, Green Bay, Madison
Oregon	Portland, Eugene
Michigan	Detroit, Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo, Flint/Saginaw/Bay City
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Harrisburg, Wilkes Barre/Scranton
Maine	Portland, Bangor
Iowa	Des Moines, Cedar Rapids/Waterloo, Davenport
Minnesota	Minneapolis

Competitive House Districts

CD	Member
107th Congress	
CA-03	Ose
CA-04	Doolittle
CA-23	Gallegly
CA-38	Hom
CO-06	Tancredo
CT-02	Simmons
CT-06	Johnson (redistricting)
FL-08	Keller
FL-22	Shaw
GA-07	Barr
GA-08	Chambliss
IA-02	Leach
IA-04	Ganske
IA-05	Latham
IL-10	Kirk
IL-15	Johnson
IL-20	Shimkus
IN-02	Pence
IN-08	Hostettler
KY-01	Whitfield
KY-03	Northup
KY-06	Fletcher
LA-06	Baker
MD-08	Morella
ME-02	OPEN
MI-07	Smith
MI-08	Rogers

CD	Member
MN-01	Gutknecht
MN-02	Kennedy
MO-02	Akin
MO-06	Graves
MS-03	Pickering
MT-01	Rehberg
NC-08	Hayes
NH-01	Sununu
NH-02	Skeen
NJ-07	Ferguson
NM-01	Wilson
NY-01	Grucci
OH-01	Chabot
OH-12	Tiberi
OK-02	Carson
PA-04	Hart
PA-10	Sherwood
PA-15	Toomey
SC-04	DeMint
SD-01	Thune
TN-04	Hillary (open seat)
TX-05	Sessions
TX-14	Paul
VA-02	Schrock
VA-04	Forbes
WA-02	Larsen
WA-05	Nethercutt
WV-02	Capito



The White House Office of Political Affairs

January 4, 2007

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

For documents related to this election

Historical Look

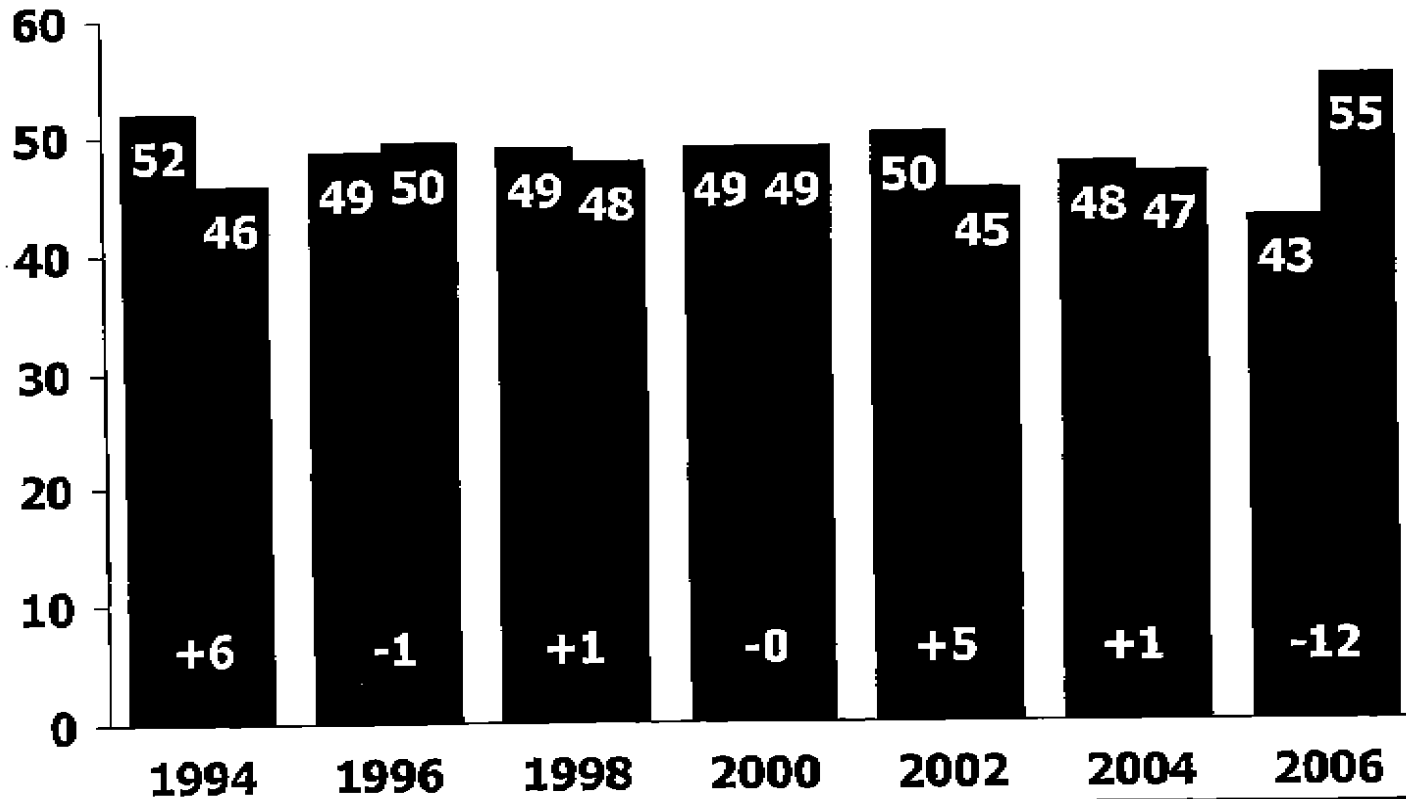
All 2nd Midterms

President	Year	President's Party House Change	President's Party Senate Change
Bush	2006	-30	-6
<i>Average</i>		-28	-5

All Wartime Midterms

President	Year	President's Party House Change	President's Party Senate Change
Bush	2006	-30	-6
<i>Average</i>		-32	-5

Generic Ballot Suggested Tsunami



House Δ	+54	-3	-4	-2	+8	+3	-30
Senate Δ	+9	+3	even	-5	+2	+4	-6

GOP Losses From Scandal, Complacency

10 losing GOP candidates tainted by scandal; 10 in Kerry districts; 6 were complacent

Scandal Seats



GOP Candidates in Kerry Districts



Complacent Incumbents



TOTAL:

22 SEATS*

* Taylor, Pombo, Weldon, and Leach are in 2 categories each

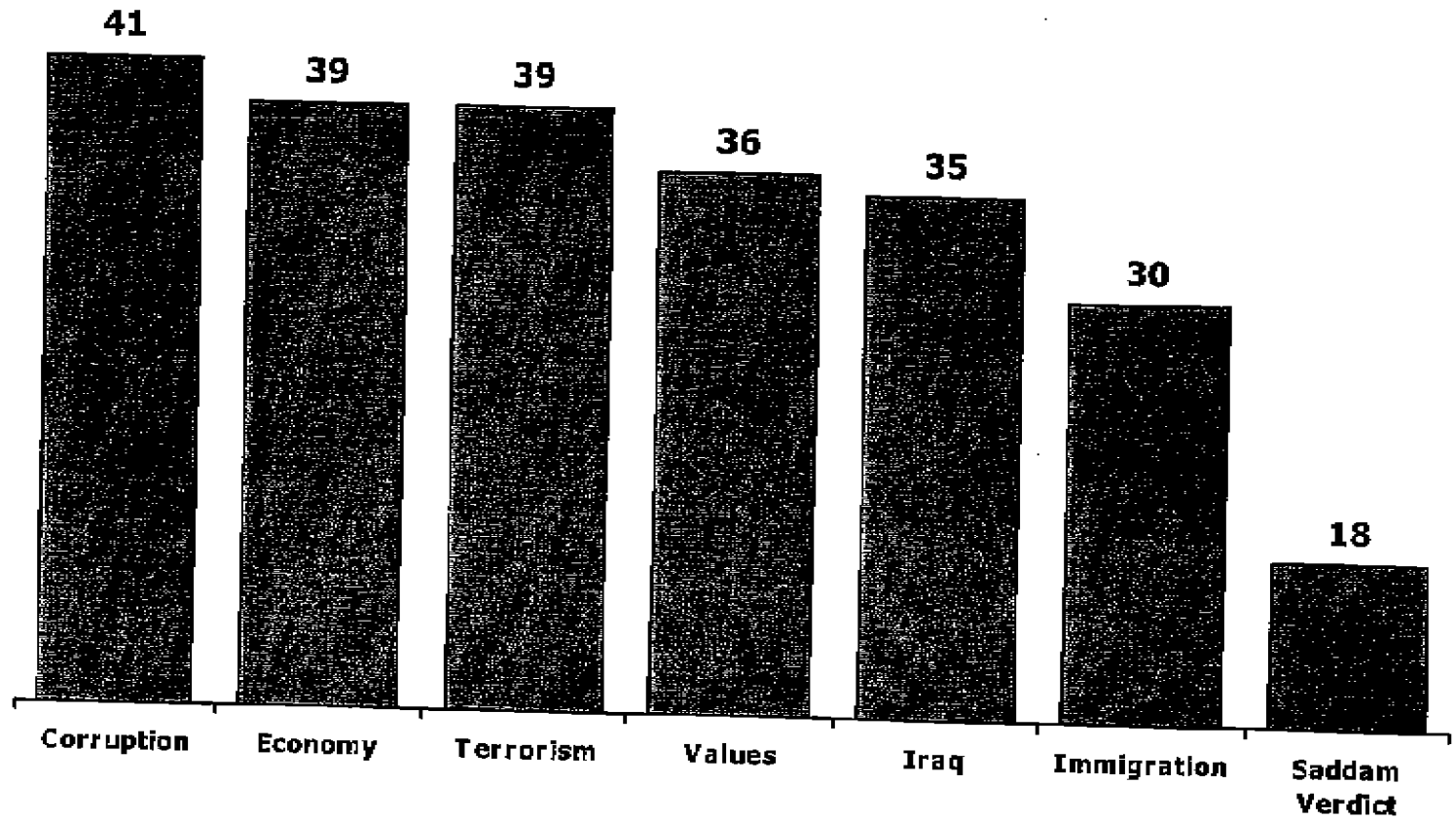
Net Loss in Seats for Incumbent Party

1.	John F. Kennedy	-4
2.	Harry Truman	-7
3.	George H. W. Bush	-8
4.	Lyndon Johnson	-12
5.	Jimmy Carter	-15
6.	Ronald Reagan	-15
7.	George W. Bush	-22
8.	Bill Clinton	-47
9.	Gerald Ford	-48
10.	Herbert Hoover	-52
11.	William H. Taft	-57
12.	Dwight Eisenhower	-68
13.	Franklin D. Roosevelt	-71
14.	Warren G. Harding	-77
15.	Woodrow Wilson	-99

* Does not include "Original Costtails"

"Corruption" Voters' Top Issue

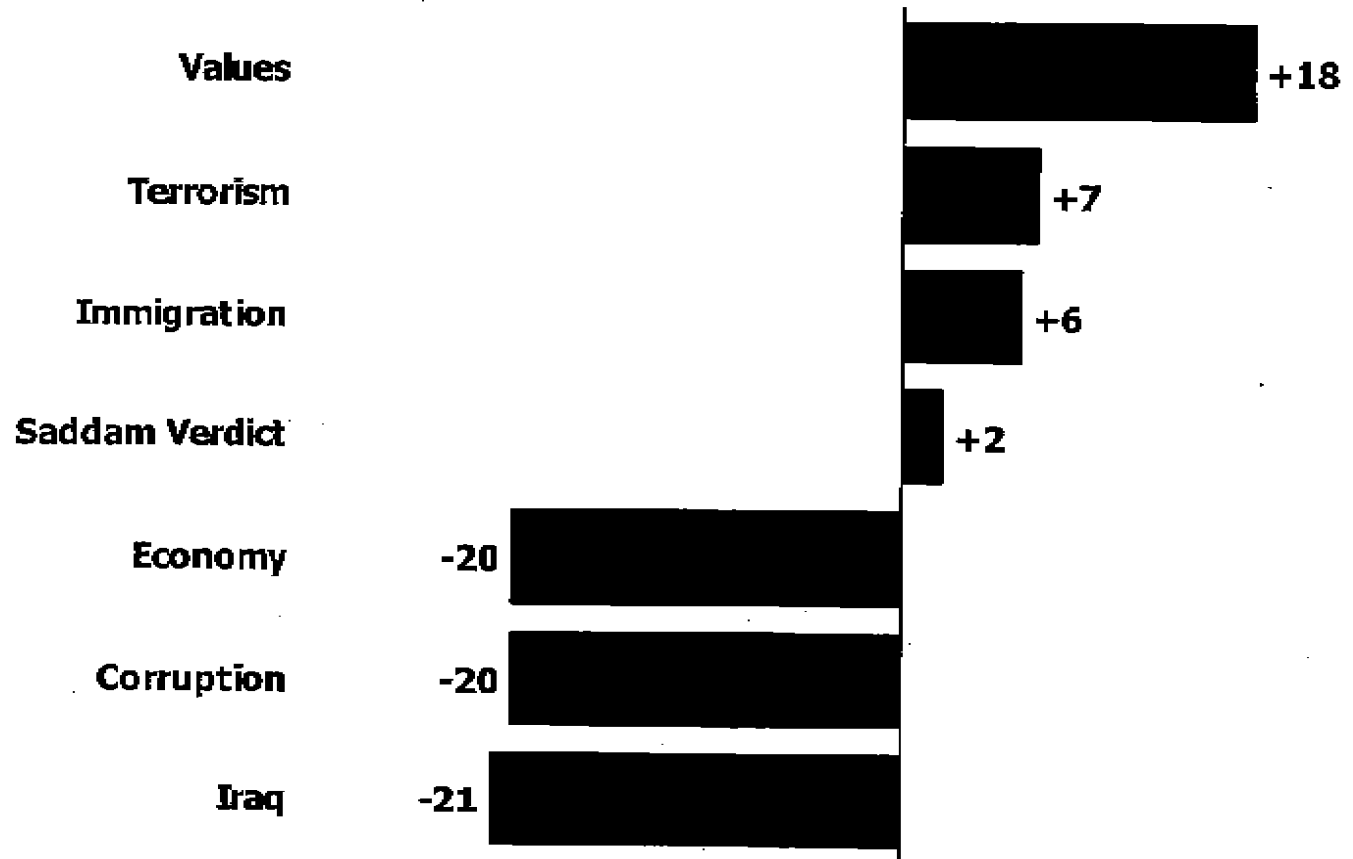
(% "Extremely Important," Exit Polling)



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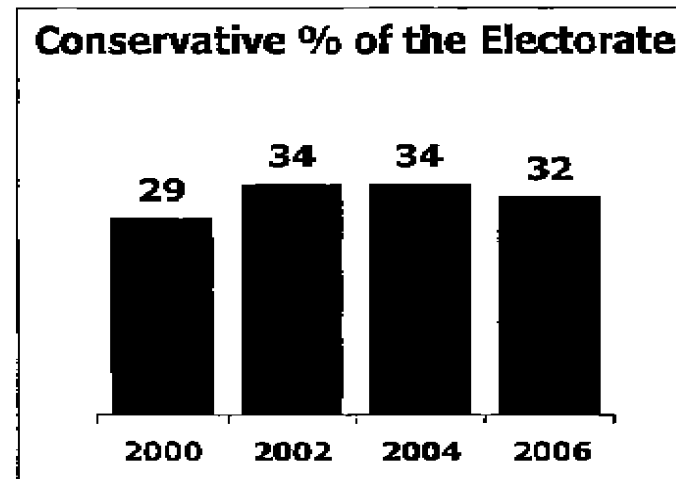
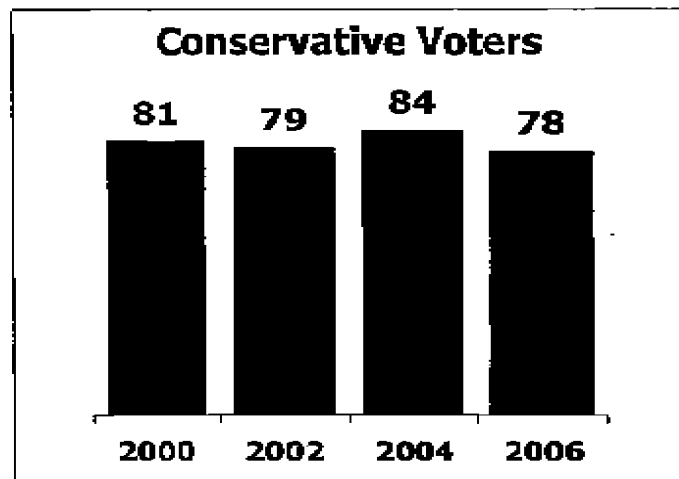
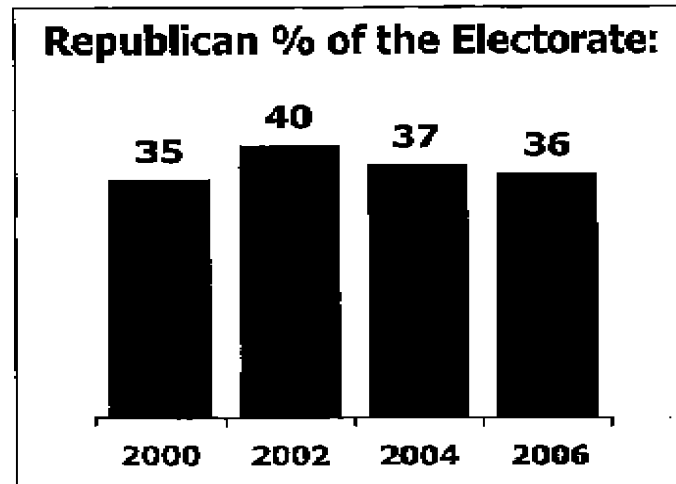
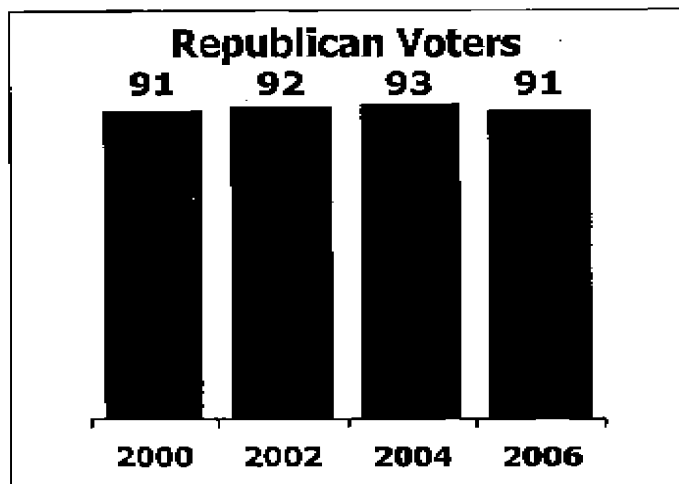
Dems Won Corruption, Econ., Iraq Voters

(% GOP - % Dem, Exit Polls)



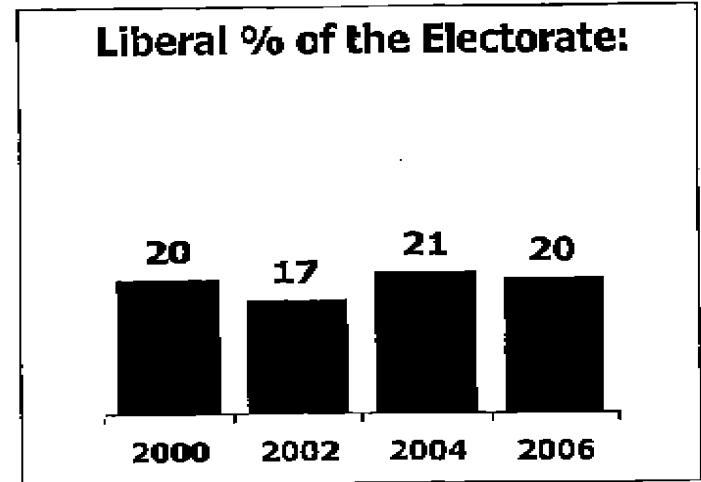
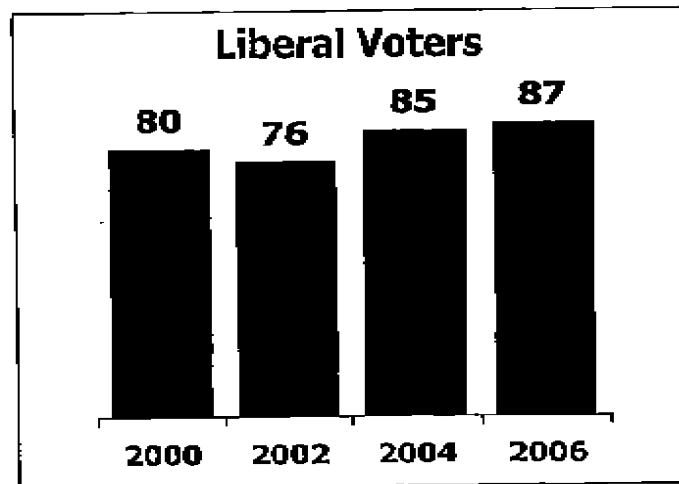
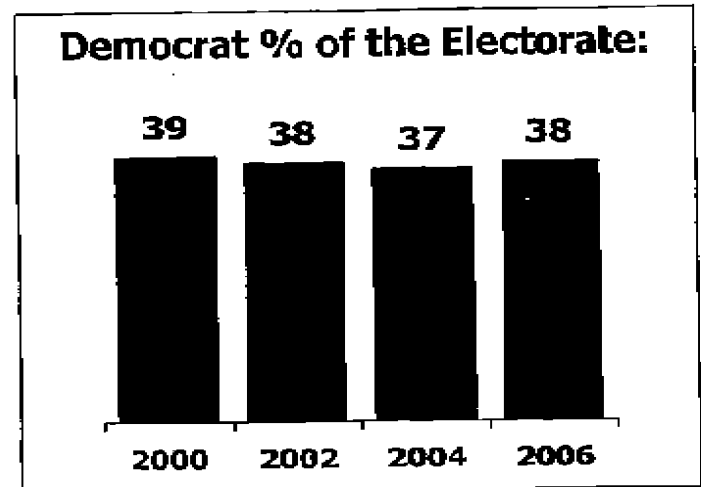
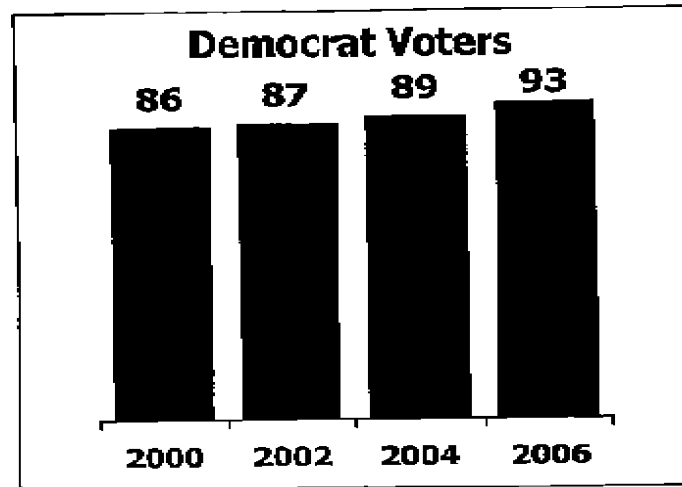
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Republican Base About the Same



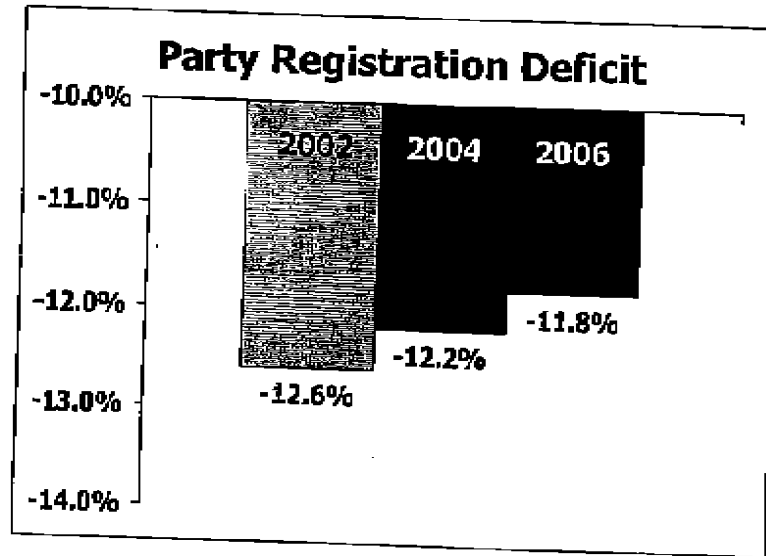
Source: Exit Polling

Democrat Base Did Not Grow



Source: Exit Polling

Not Yet an Ideological Shift



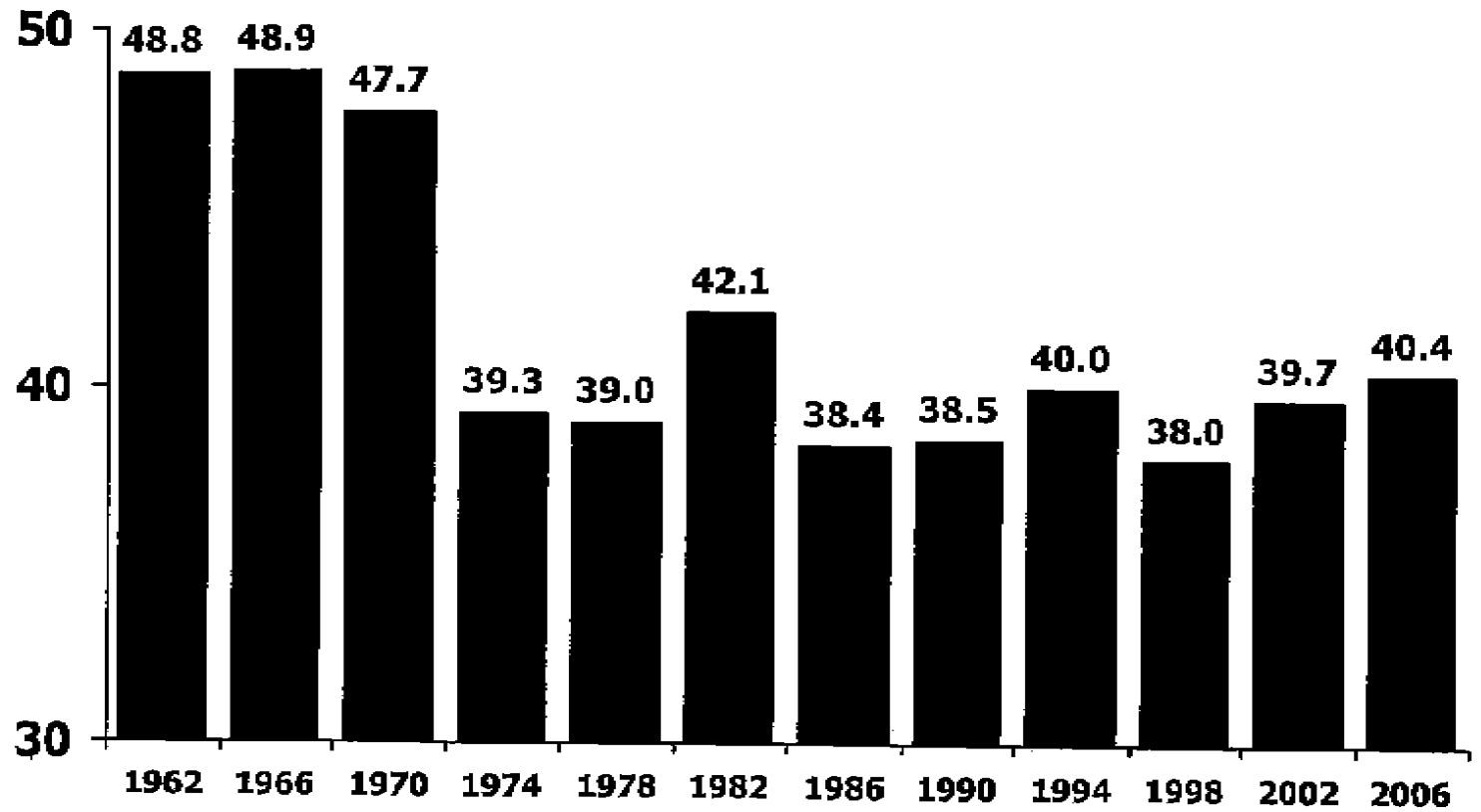
States where GOP Registration margin **Increased** (16 states) since last cycle:
AZ, CA, CT, FL, KY, LA, NC, NE, ND, NM, NY, OK, OR, SD, WV, WY
Net increase: +554,407

States where GOP Registration margin **Decreased** (8 states) since last cycle:
CO, DE, IA, KS, MD, NH, NY, PA
Net decrease: -140,529

More about rejecting Republican conduct than about supporting Democrat ideology

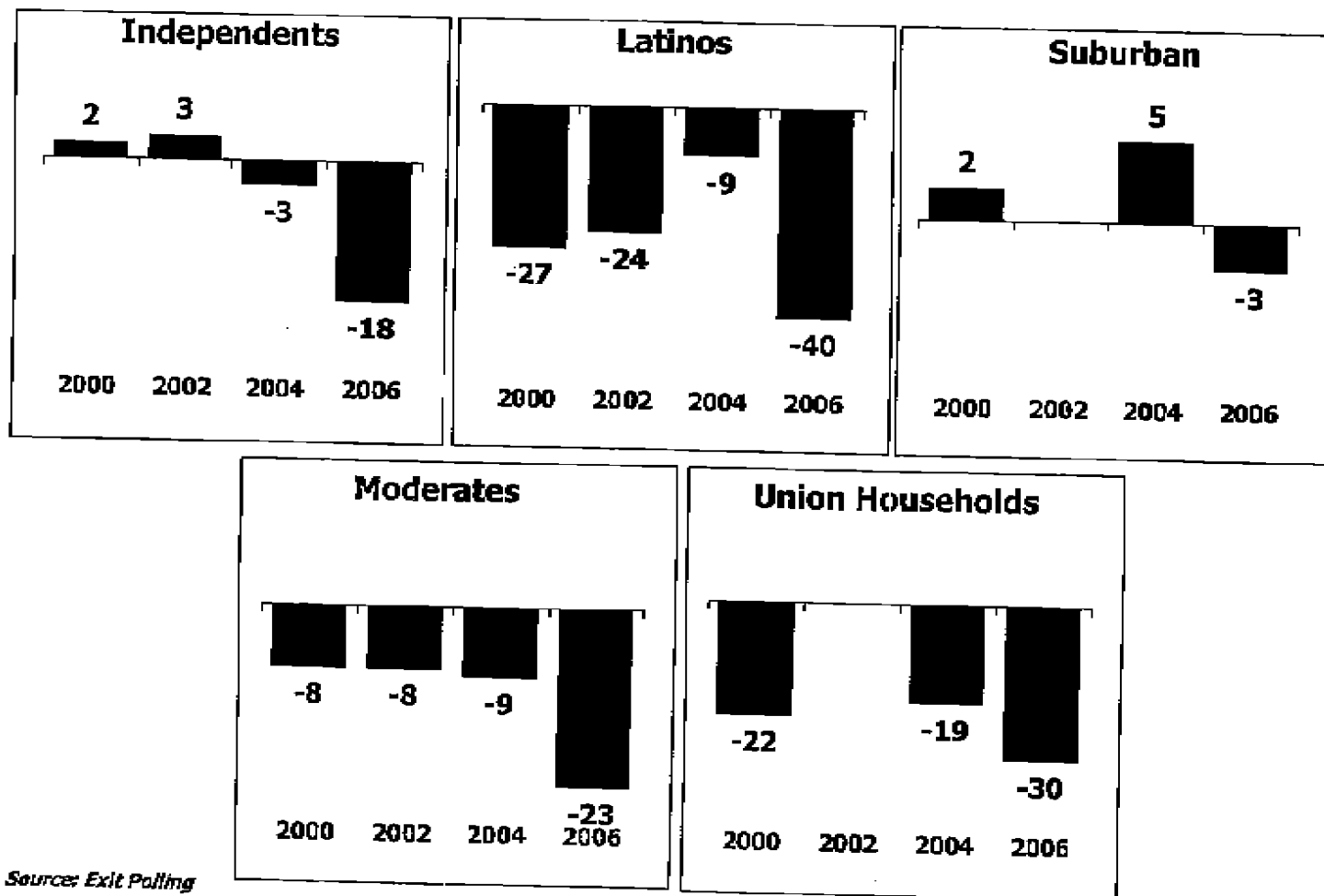
Midterm Election Turnout, 1962-2006

(As % of VAP, Center for the Study of the American Electorate)



07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

Lost Ground With Swing Voters



Source: Exit Polling

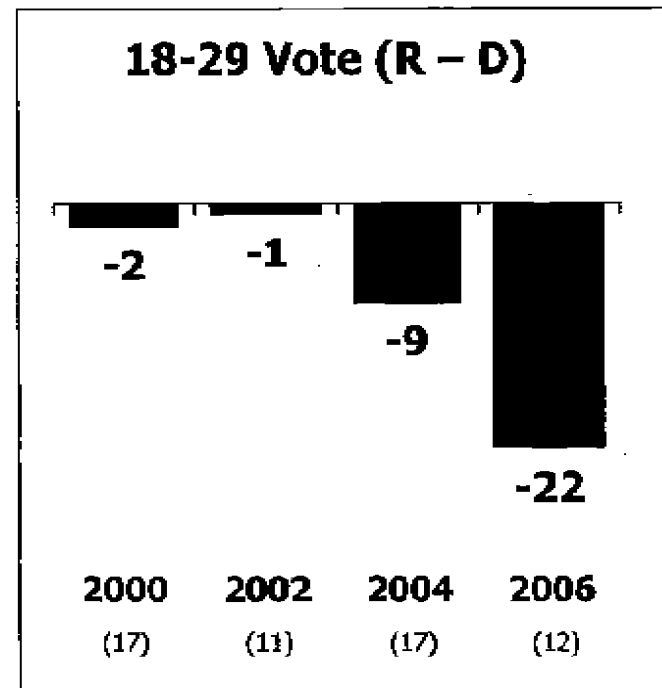
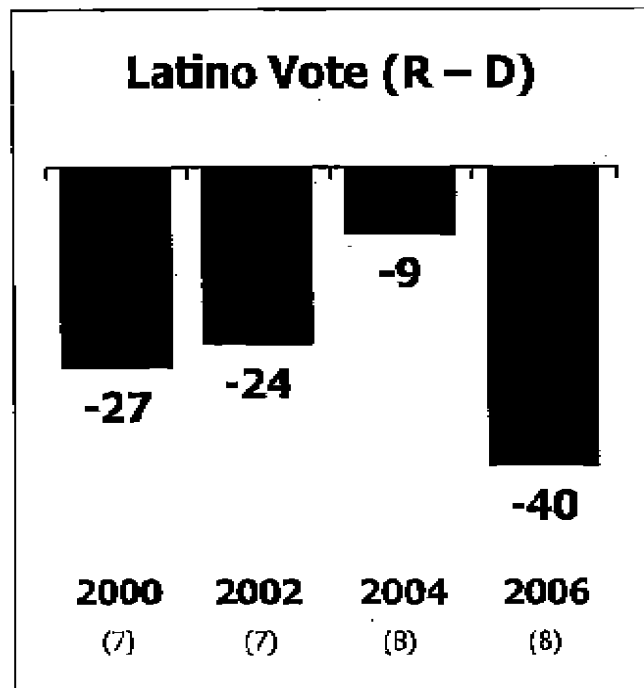
Bigger Losses Among Men



07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

Source: Exit Polling

Long Term Problems: Among Latinos and Youth Vote



07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

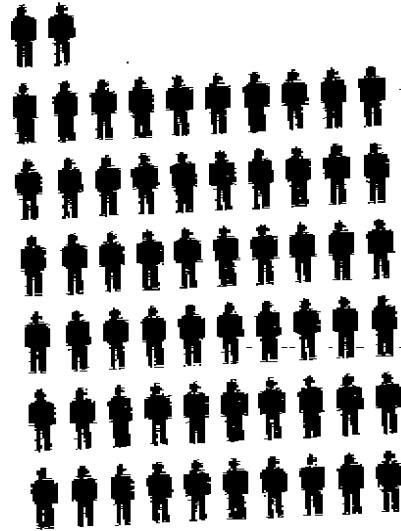
Source: Exit Polling

Races Extremely Close Because Of GOP Ground Game

- **22 races decided by two points or less—
Republicans won 13 and lost 9, including two GOP
challengers in GA.**
- **In 2002 *and* 2004, just seven races were decided
by two points or fewer.**
- **18 races decided by fewer than 5,000 votes; R's
won 12; all 18 combined were decided by 49,445
votes**
- **6 races decided by fewer than 1,000 votes;
combined margin 3694 votes.**
- **35 races in which the winner received 51% or
less of the popular vote**

More "Split" Districts Represented By Democrats

62 Democrats represent Bush '04 districts;
8 Republicans represent Kerry '04 districts



**Democratic Congressmen
In Bush Districts**



**GOP Congressmen In
Kerry Districts**

Democrats Have Precarious Hold On Power

- **Democrats represent 33 districts President Bush carried with 55% or more of the vote and 21 districts where he won 58% or more in 2004**
- **No Republican represents a district Kerry won with more than 53% of the vote in 2004**
- **Of 62 Dems in Bush districts, 23 won election this year with 55% or less of the vote**
- **Almost half the Democratic freshman class—19 of 41—represents districts President Bush won in '04**

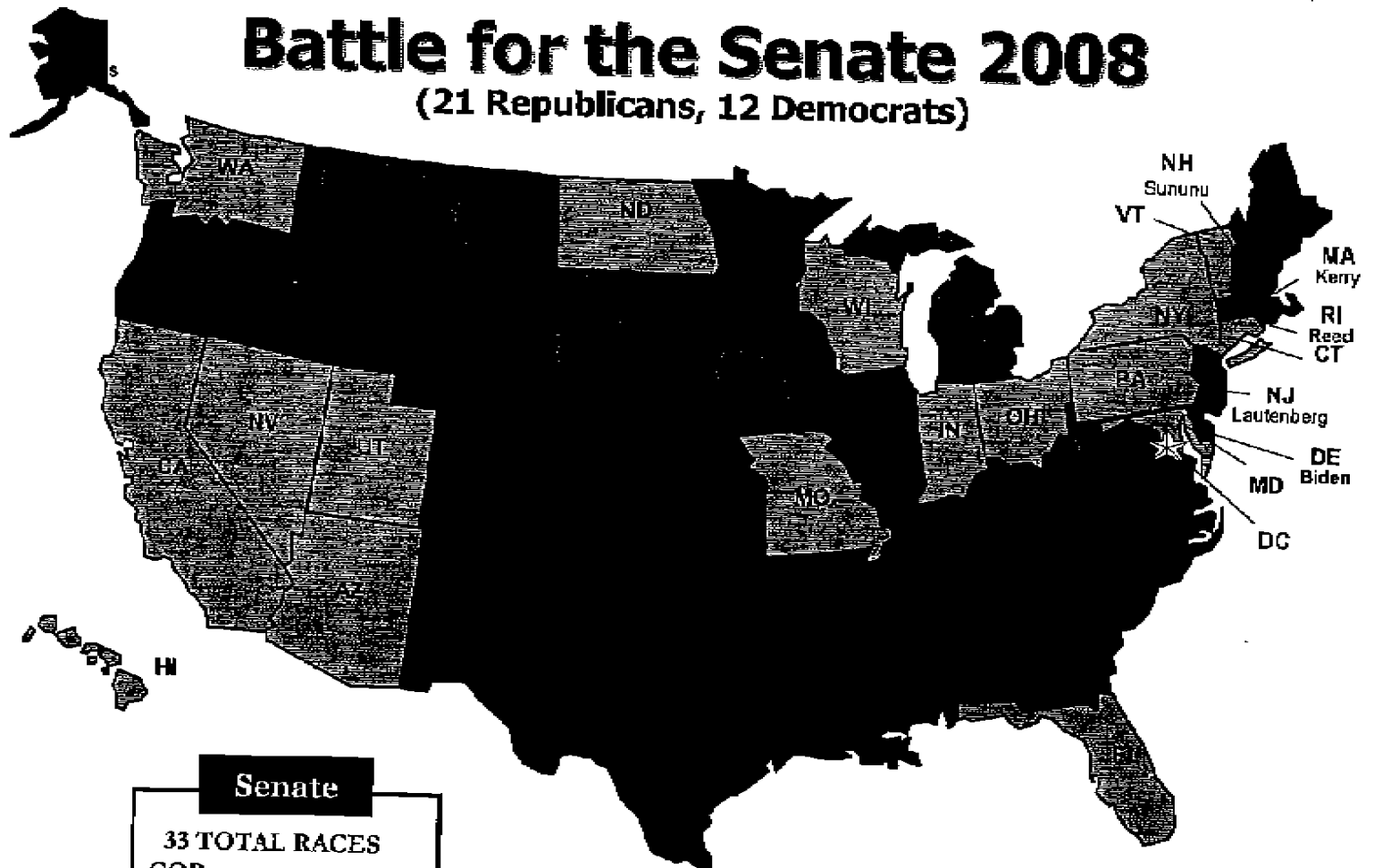
2008 House Targets: Top 36

			BC '04 %	06 DEM %				BC '04 %	06 DEM %
UT	2	Matheson		59%	CO	3	Salazar		
TX	22	Lampson		52%	WI	8	Kagen		61%
ND	AL	Pomeroy		66%	KS	3	Moore		51%
IN	8	Ellsworth		61%	PA	4	Altmire		64%
GA	8	Marshall		51%	AZ	5	Mitchell		52%
PA	10	Carney		53%	FL	16	Mahoney		51%
SD	AL	Herseth		69%	NY	19	Hall		49%
KS	2	Boyda		51%	CA	11	McNerney		51%
IN	9	Hill		50%	NY	20	Gillibrand		53%
PA	17	Holden		65%	MI	1	Stupak		53%
LA	3	Melancon		55%	WV	3	Rahall		69%
WV	1	Mollohan		64%	AZ	8	Giffords		69%
TX	23	Rodriguez		54%	NY	24	Arcuri		54%
OH	18	Space		62%	MN	1	Walz		54%
NC	11	Shuler		54%	NH	1	Shea-Porter		53%
IN	2	Donnelly		54%	OH	6	Wilson		52%
IL	8	Bean		51%	GA	12	Barrow		62%
MN	7	Peterson		70%	OR	5	Hooley		50%
									54%

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

Battle for the Senate 2008

(21 Republicans, 12 Democrats)



Senate

33 TOTAL RACES

GOP

21 Defense

Dem

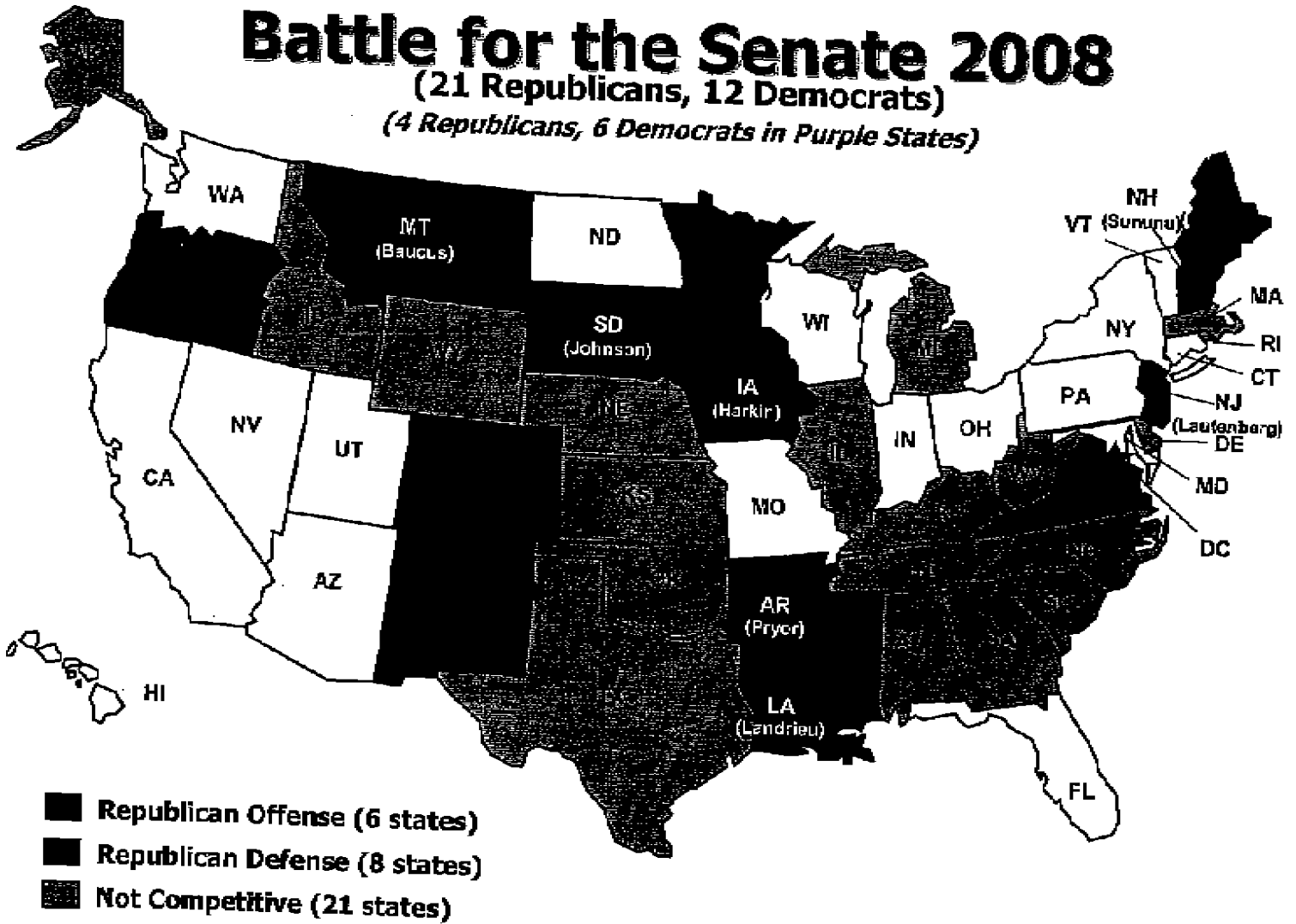
12 Defense

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

Battle for the Senate 2008

(21 Republicans, 12 Democrats)

(4 Republicans, 6 Democrats in Purple States)



07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
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DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

ANTHONY J. BLINEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

May 2, 2007

The Honorable James Kunder
Acting Deputy Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
Ronald Reagan Building
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Mr. Kunder:

On April 26, the *Washington Post* reported that officials from the White House conducted "private briefings" on "Republican electoral prospects in the last midterm election for senior officials in at least 15 government agencies covered by federal restrictions on partisan political activity." The story also quoted a White House spokesman as stating that there were other such briefings "throughout the last six years." The White House spokesman also confirmed that such briefings occurred at the Agency for International Development (AID).

I write to request that you provide information on whether any such briefings have occurred at AID since January 20, 2001. Specifically, I request responses to the following:

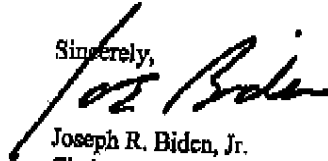
1. Is it the case, as reported, that political briefings, including briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates, were conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for AID employees? If so, please provide information about the dates and locations of the briefings, the names of the individuals conducting the briefings, the number and rank of the Agency employees who attended, and the subject matter and content of the briefings.
2. If such briefings occurred, please provide information about the approval process within the agency for such briefings, including the name and position of the most senior official who approved the briefing, and whether the briefings were approved by the office of the General Counsel.

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

3. If such briefings occurred, please provide information regarding any assignments given or requests made to AID employees during the briefing, and any official action taken by AID employees as a result of the briefing.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

JUN 21 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
U.S. Senate
Committee of Foreign Relations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Biden:

Thank you for your letter dated May 2, 2007 concerning briefings provided by the White House. We are able to provide information at this time related to two briefings conducted by the Office of Political Affairs in 2006 and 2007. Both briefings were conducted by Scott Jennings, Special Assistant to the President.

The first of these was held at the offices of the U.S. Agency for International Development in the Ronald Reagan Building on September 26, 2006. The second was held at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on February 6, 2007. Both of these briefings consisted of PowerPoint presentations of the general electoral landscape.

There were approximately 20 to 30 Agency employees at each briefing, ranging in rank from entry-level Administratively-Determined (AD) employees to the Assistant Administrator level. The senior official at the first briefing was J. Edward Fox, who was at that time the Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs. We are currently unable to determine who the senior official at the second briefing may have been.

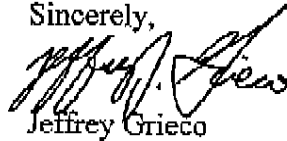
There was no formal approval process within the Agency for these briefings. While the briefings were not formally approved by the General Counsel, the then-General Counsel did attend. There were no assignments or requests made to USAID employees during either briefing, and no official actions were taken by USAID employees as a result of either briefing.

This response is based on the best information we have available at this time. We are continuing to review our files regarding these and any other possible briefings, and we will provide further information if it becomes available.

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

If there is anything else we can do for you, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Grieco". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

Jeffrey Grieco

Acting Assistant Administrator
Bureau for Legislative and
Public Affairs

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
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DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

ANTHONY J. BLANKEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8225

July 18, 2007

The Honorable Henrietta Fore
Acting Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Acting Administrator Fore:

On June 21, Acting Assistant Administrator Grleco responded to my letter of May 2 requesting information about political briefings conducted for Agency employees by White Houses staff. His letter indicated that the staff of the White House Office of Political Affairs briefed 20 to 30 Agency employees on September 26, 2006 and February 6, 2007 regarding the "general electoral landscape."

I write to request additional information about these briefings. Please respond to the following questions, or provide the following information:

1. Please provide the text of the PowerPoint presentations used in the briefings that are in the possession of the Agency, and any other materials distributed at the briefings that are in the possession of the Agency.
2. Please provide all emails, memoranda, correspondence, or notices announcing the briefings or inviting employees to attend; any notes taken at the briefings; and any subsequent memoranda, emails, or correspondence describing or discussing the briefings.
3. Please provide a list of all Agency employees invited to the briefings, their position, and type of appointment that they hold in the Agency (i.e., PAS, Schedule C, Schedule B, Civil Service, etc.).
4. Please provide a list of all Agency employees who attended the briefings, their position, and the type of appointment that they hold in the Agency.
5. Was attendance at the briefings considered mandatory for those employees invited?

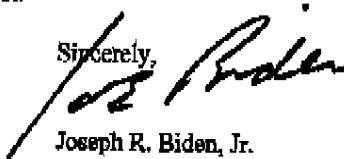
07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

The Honorable Henrietta Fore
July 18, 2007
Page Two

6. With regard to the briefing of September 26, 2006, what amount of Agency funds, and from what account or source, were expended in connection with the briefing?
7. Do you believe such briefings are appropriate? If so, how are such briefings related to the official duties of Agency employees?
8. If you do not believe they are appropriate, do you commit to taking measures to prevent and prohibit such briefings in the future?

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
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JOHN ISAKSON, GEORGIA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8226

May 2, 2007

ANTHONY J. BLINZEL, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Ronald A. Tschetter
Director, The Peace Corps
1111 20th St., NW
Washington, DC 20526

Dear Director Tschetter:

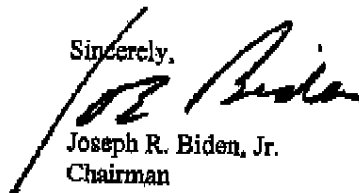
On April 26, the *Washington Post* reported that officials from the White House conducted "private briefings" on "Republican electoral prospects in the last midterm election for senior officials in at least 15 government agencies covered by federal restrictions on partisan political activity." The story also quoted a White House spokesman as stating that there were other such briefings "throughout the last six years."

I write to request that you provide information on whether any such briefings have occurred at the Peace Corps since January 20, 2001. Specifically, I request responses to the following:

1. Were any political briefings, including briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates, conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for Peace Corps employees? If so, please provide information about the dates and locations of the briefings, the names of the individuals conducting the briefings, the number and rank of the agency employees who attended, and the subject matter and content of the briefings.
2. If such briefings occurred, please provide information about the approval process within the agency for such briefings, including the name and position of the most senior official who approved the briefing, and whether the briefings were approved by the office of the General Counsel.
3. If such briefings occurred, please provide information regarding any assignments given or requests made to Peace Corps employees during the briefing, and any official action taken by Peace Corps employees as a result of the briefing.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman

07/23/2007 1:14PM (GMT-04:00)

THE DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

June 15, 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
439 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

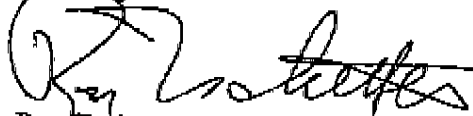
Thank you for your May 2, 2007, correspondence about whether political briefings have been conducted at the Peace Corps since January 20, 2001.

Following the 2002 mid-term elections, on March 6, 2003, a general political briefing for political appointees was conducted by Matt Schlapp of the White House Office of Political Affairs. The briefing was purely informational in nature. All of the Peace Corps political appointees were invited to attend, but there is no record of the actual number who did. The briefing did not discuss the prospects of Republican congressional candidates.

Former senior officials approved the briefing. The briefing request was not run through the Office of the General Counsel for approval. No assignments or requests were made of Peace Corps employees during the briefing; nor was any official action taken by Peace Corps employees as a result of the briefing.

We hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Ron Tschetter
Director

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
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BILL NELSON, FLORIDA
BARACK OBAMA, ILLINOIS
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA

RICHARD G. LUGAR, INDIANA
CHUCK HAGEL, NEBRASKA
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA
BOB CORNER, TENNESSEE
JOHN E. SUNUNU, NEW HAMPSHIRE
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
LISA MURKOWSKI, ALASKA
JIM DEMINT, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 2, 2007

ANTHONY J. BLINKEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Robert Mosbacher, Jr.
President and Chief Executive Officer
Overseas Private Investment Corporation
1100 New York Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20527

Dear Mr. Mosbacher:

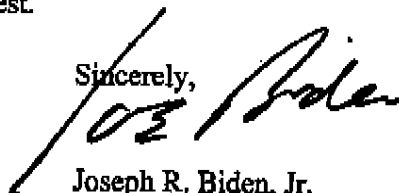
On April 26, the *Washington Post* reported that officials from the White House conducted "private briefings" on "Republican electoral prospects in the last midterm election for senior officials in at least 15 government agencies covered by federal restrictions on partisan political activity." The story also quoted a White House spokesman as stating that there were other such briefings "throughout the last six years."

I write to request that you provide information on whether any such briefings have occurred at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) since January 20, 2001. Specifically, I request responses to the following:

1. Were any political briefings, including briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates, conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for OPIC employees? If so, please provide information about the dates and locations of the briefings, the names of the individuals conducting the briefings, the number and rank of the agency employees who attended, and the subject matter and content of the briefings.
2. If such briefings occurred, please provide information about the approval process within the agency for such briefings, including the name and position of the most senior official who approved the briefing, and whether the briefings were approved by the office of the General Counsel.
3. If such briefings occurred, please provide information regarding any assignments given or requests made to OPIC employees during the briefing, and any official action taken by OPIC employees as a result of the briefing.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20527, USA



OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

May 4, 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6225

Dear Senator Biden:

I have received your letter of May 2 requesting information from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) on political briefings for OPIC employees since January 20, 2001.

I can assure you that no such briefings have happened at OPIC since I became President in October 2005.

Further, following a review with other agency officials, I am informed that OPIC employees have not received any political briefings since January 20, 2001.

If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob", written over a rectangular box.

Robert Mosbacher, Jr.
President & CEO

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, WISCONSIN
BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA
BILL NELSON, FLORIDA
BARACK OBAMA, ILLINOIS
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
ROBERT F. CASEY, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA

RICHARD G. LUGAR, INDIANA
CHUCK HAGEL, NEBRASKA
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA
BOB CORNER, TENNESSEE
JOHN E. SUNUNU, NEW HAMPSHIRE
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
LISA MURKOWSKI, ALASKA
JIM DEMINT, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

ANTONY J. BLINKEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 2, 2007

The Honorable Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors
330 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20237

Dear Mr. Tomlinson:

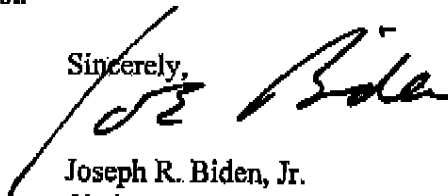
On April 26, the *Washington Post* reported that officials from the White House conducted "private briefings" on "Republican electoral prospects in the last midterm election for senior officials in at least 15 government agencies covered by federal restrictions on partisan political activity." The story also quoted a White House spokesman as stating that there were other such briefings "throughout the last six years."

I write to request that you provide information on whether any such briefings have occurred at the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) since January 20, 2001. Specifically, I request responses to the following:

1. Were any political briefings, including briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates, conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for BBG members or employees? If so, please provide information about the dates and locations of the briefings, the names of the individuals conducting the briefings, the number and rank of the BBG members or employees who attended, and the subject matter and content of the briefings.
2. If such briefings occurred, please provide information about the approval process within the agency for such briefings, including the name and position of the most senior official who approved the briefing, and whether the briefings were approved by the office of the General Counsel.
3. If such briefings occurred, please provide information regarding any assignments given or requests made to BBG members or employees during the briefing, and any official action taken by BBG members or employees as a result of the briefing.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman



**BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

330 Independence Avenue, SW
Cohen Building, Room 3360
Washington, DC 20237
Telephone: (202) 203-4545
Fax: (202) 203-4568

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman

May 7, 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Dear Mr. Chairman—

I am not aware of any political briefings at the BBG “including briefings about the proposals of Republican congressional candidates, conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for BBG members or employees.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Tomlinson', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Kenneth Y. Tomlinson
Chairman

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER J. BODD, CONNECTICUT
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, WISCONSIN
BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA
BILL NELSON, FLORIDA
BARACK OBAMA, ILLINOIS
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA

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ANTHONY J. BLINKEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 2, 2007

Ms. Leocadia I. Zak
Acting Director, Trade and Development Agency
1000 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1600
Arlington, VA 22209

Dear Ms. Zak:

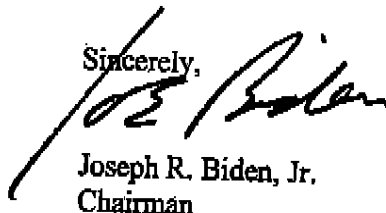
On April 26, the *Washington Post* reported that officials from the White House conducted "private briefings" on "Republican electoral prospects in the last midterm election for senior officials in at least 15 government agencies covered by federal restrictions on partisan political activity." The story also quoted a White House spokesman as stating that there were other such briefings "throughout the last six years."

I write to request that you provide information on whether any such briefings have occurred at the Trade and Development Agency (TDA) since January 20, 2001. Specifically, I request responses to the following:

1. Were any political briefings, including briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates, conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for Agency employees? If so, please provide information about the dates and locations of the briefings, the names of the individuals conducting the briefings, the number and rank of the agency employees who attended, and the subject matter and content of the briefings.
2. If such briefings occurred, please provide information about the approval process within the agency for such briefings, including the name and position of the most senior official who approved the briefing, and whether the briefings were approved by the office of the General Counsel.
3. If such briefings occurred, please provide information regarding any assignments given or requests made to TDA employees during the briefing, and any official action taken by TDA employees as a result of the briefing.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman



U . S . T R A D E A N D D E V E L O P M E N T A G E N C Y

May 4, 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
450 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Biden:

This is in response to your letter dated May 2, 2007 concerning possible briefings on partisan political activity since January 1, 2001.

Please be advised that there have been no such briefings at the U.S. Trade and Development Agency or for any USTDA employees.

I trust this response will satisfy your inquiry, however, please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leocadia I. Zak".

Leocadia I. Zak
Acting Director

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS
RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, WISCONSIN
BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA
GILL NELSON, FLORIDA
BARACK OBAMA, ILLINOIS
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
ROBERT P. CASEY, JR., PENNSYLVANIA
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA

RICHARD G. LUGAR, INDIANA
CHUCK HAGEL, NEBRASKA
NOUM COLPMAN, MINNESOTA
BOB CORKE, TENNESSEE
JOHN E. SUNUNU, NEW HAMPSHIRE
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
LISA MURKOWSKI, ALASKA
JIM DEMMERT, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHNNY ISAACSON, GEORGIA
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 2, 2007

ANTONY J. BLANKEN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable John J. Danilovich
Chief Executive Officer
Millennium Challenge Corporation
875 15th St., NW
Washington, DC 20005-2221

Dear Ambassador Danilovich:

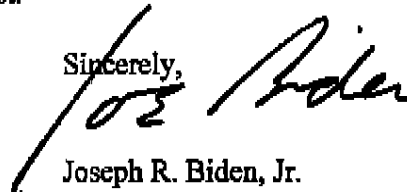
On April 26, the *Washington Post* reported that officials from the White House conducted "private briefings" on "Republican electoral prospects in the last midterm election for senior officials in at least 15 government agencies covered by federal restrictions on partisan political activity." The story also quoted a White House spokesman as stating that there were other such briefings "throughout the last six years."

I write to request that you provide information on whether any such briefings have occurred at the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) since its establishment. Specifically, I request responses to the following:

1. Were any political briefings, including briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates, conducted by White House political staff, or staff of the Republican National Committee, for MCC employees? If so, please provide information about the dates and locations of the briefings, the names of the individuals conducting the briefings, the number and rank of the agency employees who attended, and the subject matter and content of the briefings.
2. If such briefings occurred, please provide information about the approval process within the agency for such briefings, including the name and position of the most senior official who approved the briefing, and whether the briefings were approved by the office of the General Counsel.
3. If such briefings occurred, please provide information regarding any assignments given or requests made to MCC employees during the briefing, and any official action taken by MCC employees as a result of the briefing.

I appreciate your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH GROWTH

AMBASSADOR JOHN DANILOVICH

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

May 7, 2007

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
201 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Biden:

Thank you for your recent correspondence, in which you referenced an April 26, 2007 article in the *Washington Post* regarding reported "private briefings" at federal government agencies. As you have requested, I am responding to your inquiry regarding any such briefings that may have occurred at the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

As you know, I was confirmed by the Senate to serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Millennium Challenge Corporation on October 12, 2005, and began to serve in this capacity on November 7, 2005. No briefing such as you have described has occurred at MCC during my tenure, nor did one occur during the tenure of my predecessor, according to the senior staff who were here prior to my confirmation.

Regarding your specific questions, I have answered each in turn below:

1. No political briefings about the prospects of Republican congressional candidates were conducted at MCC by White House or other personnel.
2. As noted previously, no such briefings occurred, and therefore there is no information about briefers and approval such as described in your letter.

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

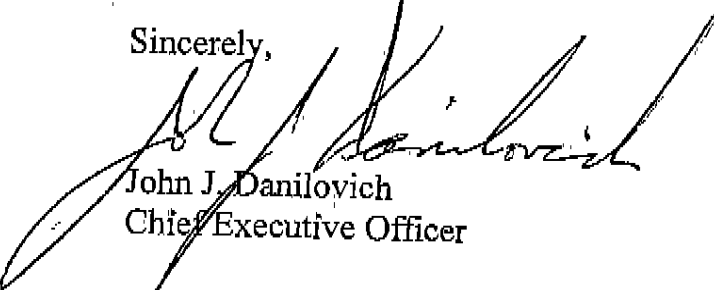
May 7, 2007

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3. As noted previously, no such briefings occurred, and therefore there is no information about assignments or official action by MCC such as described in your letter.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns. If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at (202) 521-3570, or contact Fran McNaught, Vice President for Congressional and Public Affairs, at (202) 521-3850.

Sincerely,



John J. Danilovich
Chief Executive Officer