

To: Partnership for Public Service
From: McLaughlin & Associates
Re: 2004 National Post-Election Survey
Date November 4, 2004

Methodology: This National Post-Election Survey of political attitudes was conducted among 1,000 actual voters on November 2, 2004. All interviews were conducted via telephone by professionally trained data collectors on McLaughlin & Associates’ state-of-the art CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Respondent selection was at random. This sample of 1,000 actual voters has an accuracy of +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence interval.

Summary: By a virtual 2 to 1 majority (52% to 27%) the electorate agrees that we need a positive vision of how to make government more effective and that the blame for government doesn’t lie with federal workers but with elected leaders. Conversely, only 27% of the electorate blames the role of “bureaucrats” for what is wrong with the government. The voters’ belief that we should not blame the federal workers and need a positive vision of how to make government more effective cuts across party, ideological, gender, age and religious lines. Clearly this is not a one party issue. Both the Republicans’ voter base and the Democrats’ voter base want to see elected leaders have a positive vision of how to make our government more effective.

“Some candidates during this election complained about the role of “bureaucrats” in government and blamed them for what is wrong with government. Other candidates said we need a positive vision of how to make government more effective and that the blame for government doesn’t lie with federal workers but with elected leaders. Who do you agree with more?”

	Total	Bush Voters	Kerry Voters	GOP	Dem	Ind	Lib	Mod	Cons	Men	Women
Positive Vision	52	45	58	43	60	51	62	57	44	54	50
Bureaucrats	27	33	20	34	19	30	20	26	34	28	25
Don’t Know	22	22	22	24	21	19	19	17	23	18	25

	18 to 25	26 to 40	41 to 55	56 to 65	Over 65	Protestant	Evan/ Born-Again	Catholic
Positive Vision	49	50	54	53	50	53	54	49
Bureaucrats	21	32	28	27	21	26	24	31
Don’t Know	31	18	18	20	29	21	22	21

	East	Mid West	South	West
Positive Vision	53	53	50	51
Bureaucrats	30	20	30	27
Don’t Know	17	27	20	22

The majority (53%) of voters agree with the statement “improving our federal workforce will make America safer from terrorism”. The issue of homeland security played a major role in this year’s election and the voters clearly make the connection between an improved federal workforce and a safer America. This voter opinion is evident among Bush and Kerry voters, Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, men and women, younger and older voters, and among Protestants and Catholics.

*Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
 “Improving our federal workforce will make America safer from terrorism”*

	Total	Bush Voters	Kerry Voters	GOP	Dem	Ind	Lib	Mod	Cons	Men	Women
Agree	52	54	51	54	53	46	49	54	54	55	50
Disagree	33	32	35	32	34	40	33	37	32	33	34
Don’t Know	14	14	14	14	13	14	17	9	13	12	17

	18 to 25	26 to 40	41 to 55	56 to 65	Over 65	Protestant	Evan/ Born-Again	Catholic
Agree	55	56	57	48	46	53	54	57
Disagree	35	31	31	41	33	33	31	33
Don’t Know	10	13	12	12	21	14	16	10

	East	Mid West	South	West
Agree	50	57	55	45
Disagree	36	29	33	37
Don’t Know	14	14	12	18

Conclusion: The survey results clearly illustrate that the electorate regardless of political affiliation and beliefs agree that there needs to be a positive vision for making our government more effective and that improving our federal workforce will make America safer from terrorism. The two issues are directly related. Not placing the blame on “bureaucrats” and having a positive vision for a more effective government and government workforce will make America safer from terrorism.