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American Bar Association's Presidential Power Datasheeted Questionnaire

Field Period: February 3-6, 2006 1045 completed interviews with adults 18+

February 7, 2006

**Methodology:** This Presidential Power Survey was conducted by telephone within the United States between February 3-6, 2006, among a nationwide cross section of 1,045 adults. Figures for age, sex, race, and geographic region were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population.

In theory, with a probability sample of this size, one could say with 95 percent certainty that the results of the total sample have a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points of what they would be if the entire adult population had been polled with complete accuracy. Unfortunately, there are several other possible sources of error in all polls or surveys that are probably more serious than theoretical calculations of sampling error. They include refusals to be interviewed (non-response), question wording and question order, and weighting. It is impossible to quantify the errors that may result from these factors.

## BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS

N1 In the fight against terrorism, regarding a person's freedoms protected by the Constitution, which ONE of the following statements about the President's power do you MOST agree with?

	Total
President can suspend (Net)	43%
The President can suspend the constitutional	18%
freedoms of people like you anytime the	
President thinks it is necessary to protect the	
country.	
The President can suspend the constitutional	25%
freedoms of people like you only when	
authorized by a court of law or by Congress.	
The President alone should never be able to	52%
suspend the constitutional freedoms of people like	
you.	
Don't know/Not sure (Vol.)	3%
Decline to answer (Vol.)	2%

## **BASE: ALL RESPONDENTS**

N2 In the fight against terrorism, which of the following reasons, if any, would justify the government eavesdropping on your personal communications, including phone calls or emails, without a search warrant or court order?

	<u>Total</u>
Government justified to monitor (Net)	48%
An anonymous tip that you may be helping to plan a terrorist attack in the United States	22%
Someone's suspicion that you may be sending money to a terrorist organization	21%
You are a member or supporter of an organization which has publicly criticized the President	8%
Believe that the government does not need to give any special reason to monitor your personal communications	13%
Believe that the government is never justified in eavesdropping on your personal communications without approval by a court or Congress	45%
Don't know/Not sure (Vol.)	5%
Decline to answer (Vol.)	2%