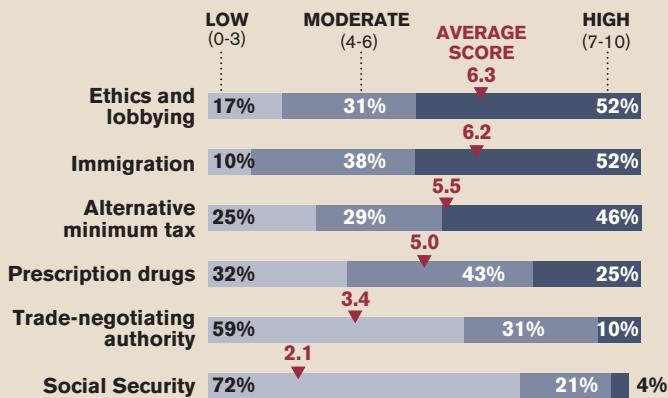


Congressional **Insiders** Poll

Q: On a scale of zero (no chance) to 10 (virtual certainty), rate the likelihood that the 110th Congress will **send legislation to President Bush** in each of these areas.

■ **Republicans** (29 votes)



■ **Ethics and lobbying**

- 10. "Absolute certainty."
- 5. "50-50 chance; more than likely with rules changes, not legislation."

■ **Immigration**

- 10. "Bush will get what he wants, and congressional Republicans will get a great issue against vulnerable Democrats."
- 7. "It can be done if the Democrats don't overreach."

■ **Alternative minimum tax**

- 10. "At the very least, Congress will extend a one-year patch."
- 7. "Yes, but not a permanent fix."

■ **Other comments**

"Ethics, prescription drugs, and minimum wage will be the trifecta hailed in bipartisan successes, and the '08 presidential race will take center stage."

"The Democrats have already begun to implode and break their



GETTY/JOE RAEDLE

Both Republican and Democratic insiders say there's about a 60 percent chance that immigration legislation will clear the next Congress.

campaign promises, and the fractures within their party will only worsen as they attempt to legislate come January"

"They are going to find out that it's tough to be in the majority!"

National Journal Insiders

■ **National Journal's Congressional Insiders Poll** includes 113 members of Congress—12 Senate Republicans, 46 House Republicans, 6 Senate Democrats, 48 House Democrats, and 1 Senate independent. (The vote of the Senate's lone independent is tallied as if he were a Democrat.)

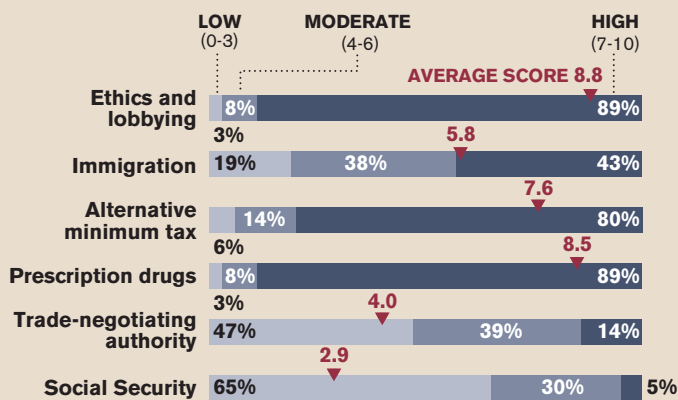
■ **GOP Congressional Insiders** Sens. Lamar Alexander, George Allen, Jim Bunning, Conrad Burns, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Mel Martinez, Lisa Murkowski, Olympia Snowe, John Sununu, John Thune; Reps. Sherwood Boehlert, John Boehner, Kevin Brady, John Campbell, Chris Cannon, Eric Cantor, Michael Castle, Tom Cole, Mike Conaway, Tom Davis, John Doolittle, David Dreier, Phil English, Jeff Flake, Bob Goodlatte, Melissa Hart, Doc Hastings, J.D. Hayworth, Pete Hoekstra, Bobby Jindal, Peter King, Jack Kingston, Mark Kirk, Ray LaHood, Dan Lungren, Kenny Marchant, Jim McCrery, Patrick McHenry, Cathy McMorris, John Mica, Marilyn Musgrave, Sue Myrick, Mike Pence, Tom Price, Deborah Pryce, Adam Putnam, Dave Reichert, Tom Reynolds, Mike Rogers of Michigan, Paul Ryan, Pete Sessions, John Shadegg, Christopher Shays, John Sweeney, Zach Wamp, and Joe Wilson.

■ **Democratic Congressional Insiders** Sens. Christopher Dodd, James Jeffords (independent), Edward Kennedy, Frank Lautenberg, Barbara Mikulski, Mark Pryor, Ken Salazar; Reps. Tom Allen, Robert Andrews, Tammy Baldwin, Melissa Bean, Xavier Becerra, Howard Berman, Marion Berry, Rick Boucher, Sherrod Brown, Michael Capuano, Ben Cardin, James Clyburn, Jim Cooper, Joseph Crowley, Elijah Cummings, Artur Davis, Jim Davis, Diana DeGette, Rosa DeLauro, Eliot Engel, Anna Eshoo, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Bob Filner, Alcee Hastings, Mike Honda, Steve Israel, Jim Langevin, John Lewis, Zoe Lofgren, Nita Lowey, Ed Markey, Jim McDermott, Jim McGovern, Jim Moran, David Price, Silvestre Reyes, Jan Schakowsky, Jose Serrano, Adam Smith, John Spratt, Pete Stark, John Tanner, Ellen Tauscher, Bennie Thompson, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and Henry Waxman.



On a scale of zero (no chance) to 10 (virtual certainty), rate the likelihood that the 110th Congress will **send legislation to President Bush** in each of these areas.

Democrats (37 votes)



Ethics and lobbying

- 10. "This may be the first piece of legislation that passes the House. The question is, how far is the Senate willing to go on this issue? I think that something will go to the president."
- 10. "Reform will be passed within the first 100 legislative hours, as part of our Six for '06 agenda."
- 8. "Much ethics and lobby reform can be achieved by amending the rules of the House and the Senate, thus avoiding presidential participation."
- 5. "House will do some changes in House rules and probably pass legislation. However, no guarantee that Senate will agree with House approach."

Immigration

- 10. "That is, if a strong border-security-only bill counts as immigration reform."
- 8. "Republicans who opposed comprehensive reform lost their elections. Democrats want to resolve immigration as an issue with bipartisan, comprehensive reform."
- 6. "While there is a strong bipartisan middle ground on immigration, the Southern/Western Republican bloc in the Senate will filibuster, an eerie echo of the Dixiecrat resistance to civil-rights laws of the '60s."
- 5. "This is a tough one to get agreement. I think there will be a desire, but reaching a consensus is going to be difficult."

Alternative minimum tax

- 10. "10 to patch; 5 to fix."

10. "Democrats are insistent that we help the middle class. As the AMT hits the middle class, adjustments must be made."

9. "Another in the long line of temporary fixes to come."

8. "A key area of high interest to [House Ways and Means Chairman Charles] Rangel."

8. "Democrats want to do something about this issue. It is a way to provide help for the middle-class workers."

Prescription drugs

10. "A measure to provide for negotiated drug prices as part of Medicare will be approved as part of the Six for '06, 100-hours agenda."

7. "There is a need and agreement that something has to be done."

Trade-negotiating authority

6. "The Democrats need to neutralize the K Street community by demonstrating a middle ground on some economic issue—trade is the likeliest bet."

5. "Democrats are prepared to write a good bill. But does the president want a good bill, and will he ask for one?"

3. "If the president commits to changing the way trade deals are done and recognizing the need to include Democrats in the process, this could be a stealth victory."

Social Security

7.5 "America's most distinguished citizens deserve knowing that their Social Security safety net is itself safe. But until the president declares that he has put away his scissors and is ready to fix the problem, not cut the safety net, real reform will be elusive until a Democrat occupies the White House."

5. "Social Security is easy to solve with a bipartisan effort. But do Republicans want a solution or a campaign issue?"

4. "We have one year to do it—2007-2008 is presidential campaign."

Other comments

"Hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off to work we (Democrats) go!"

"We are going from a do-nothing Congress to a can-do Congress."

"Comparing the seriousness of legislating between the 109th and the upcoming 110th will be the difference between 'stop' and 'go!'"

—RICHARD E. COHEN AND PETER BELL