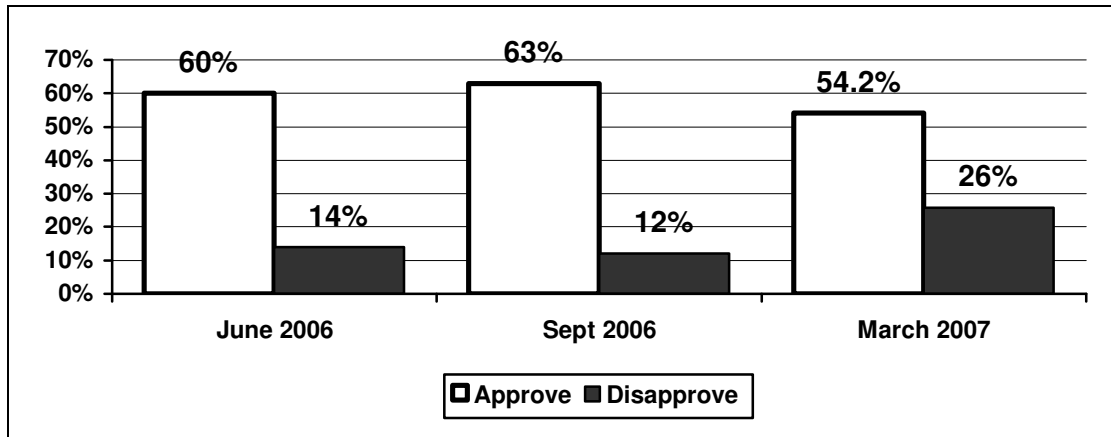


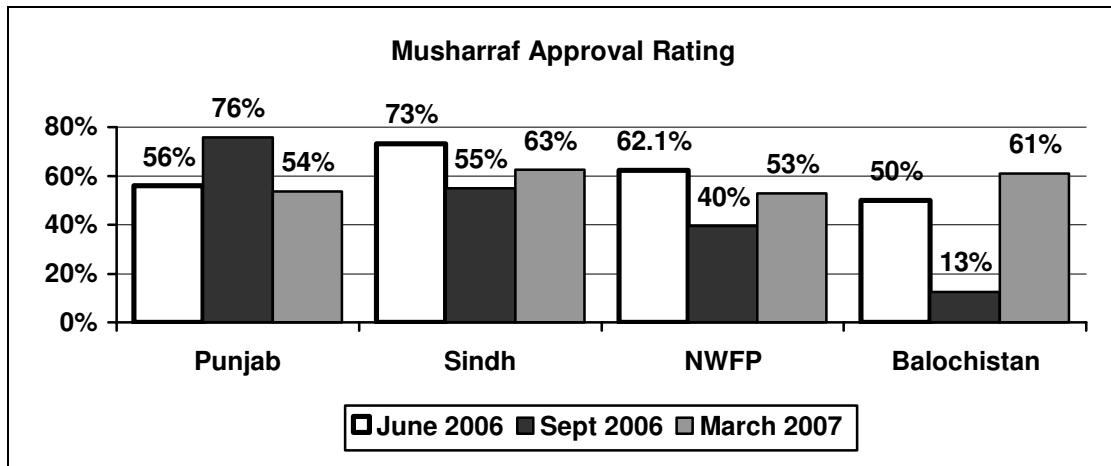
## IRI INDEX I: Approval Ratings

IRI's survey found that 54.2 percent of respondents approved of the job that President Pervez Musharraf was doing, down nearly nine percent from his approval rating in IRI's September 2006 poll. Despite the decline, however, an approval number of more than 50 percent can be considered significant:

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Pervez Musharraf is handling his job?”



In a breakdown by province, Musharraf's approval rating was the highest in Sindh (62.6%) and Balochistan (61%). Of particular interest is the 22.2 percent drop in his approval rating in Punjab, Pakistan's largest province containing the majority of the population, and largely considered to be his base of support:



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## IRI INDEX I: Approval Ratings – Page Two

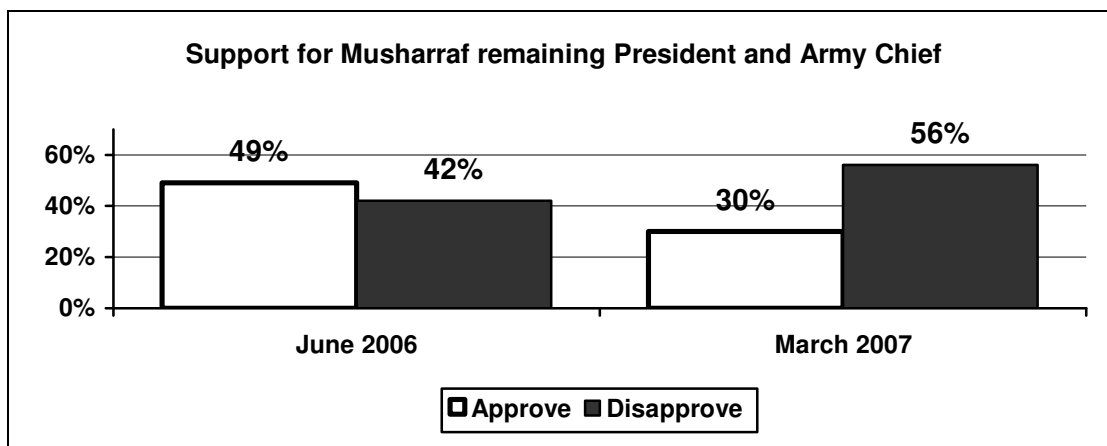
Despite his declining approval rating, IRI's survey found that Musharraf remained the number one choice as the leader best able to address the country's problems. In a province breakdown, Musharraf led the other contenders in all of the provinces except for Sindh, where Benazir Bhutto received 55.9 percent. Nawaz Sharif came in second in Punjab with 22.1 percent:

“Which one leader do you think will be able to handle the problems facing Pakistan most effectively?”

RESPONSE	June 2006	Sept 2006	March 2007
Pervez Musharraf	28%	24%	32%
Benazir Bhutto	23%	21%	25.4%
Nawaz Sharif	16%	14%	15.1%
Altaf Hussain	4%	4%	2.9%
Imran Khan	-	-	3.1%
Qazi Hussain	-	-	2.1%
Fazal-ur Rehman	3%	3%	2.6%

	NWFP	Sindh	Punjab	Balochistan
Pervez Musharraf	27.6%	17.5%	37.5%	48.4%
Benazir Bhutto	12.6%	55.9%	16.2%	22.8%
Nawaz Sharif	12.3%	2.6%	22.1%	2%
Altaf Hussain	0.5%	9.9%	0.7%	0.6%
Imran Khan	7.9%	1.3%	2.9%	1.1%
Qazi Hussain	4.4%	1.4%	2%	0.6%
Fazal-ur Rehman	6.8%	2%	1.1%	9.6%

IRI's polling also found that the majority of respondents (29.9% support; 55.6% opposed) felt that Musharraf should not continue as both head of the Army and President. Since IRI's June 2006 poll, the percentage supporting dropped 19 percent while those opposing increased by 14 percent:



(more)

**IRI INDEX I: Approval Ratings – Page Three**

IRI’s poll also found that a plurality of voters were opposed to Musharraf using the current parliament to re-elect himself president, with 43 percent agreeing and 47.7 percent disagreeing. Nearly a third (28.5%) said that they “strongly disagreed,” showing a high level of intensity in this opposition:

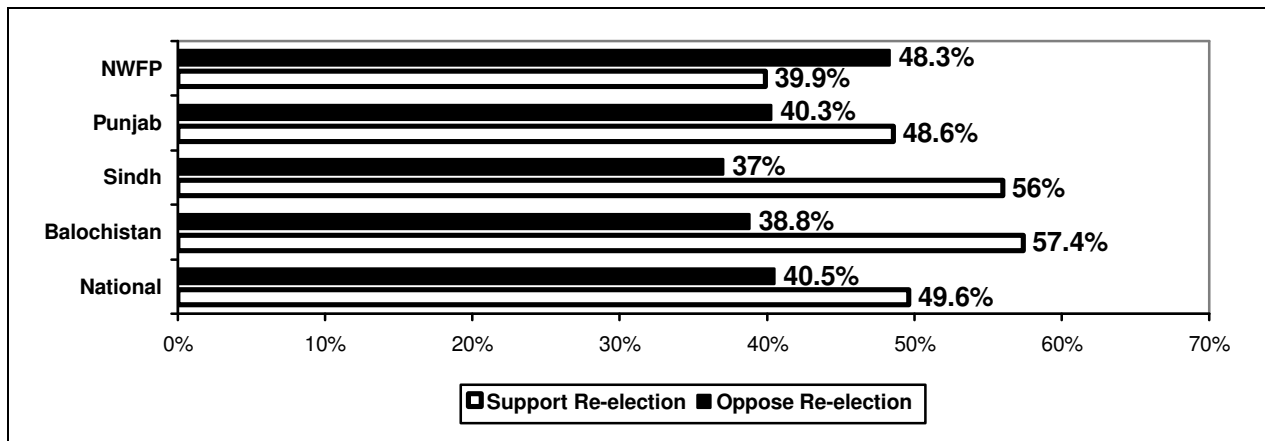
	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>DK</b>
The current assemblies should re-elect the President	20.3%	22.7%	19.2%	28.5%	9.4%

When it comes to Musharraf’s re-election in general, IRI’s survey found that just under half (49.6%) supported him while 40.5 percent did not. And although those voicing support edged out those voicing opposition by nine percent, this difference was found in the less intense support category. Further, those strongly opposed (29.4%) outnumbered those strongly in support (26.5%):

“Do you think President Musharraf should be re-elected?”

Strongly Support Re-election	26.5%
Somewhat Support Re-election	23.1%
Somewhat Oppose Re-election	11.1%
Strongly Oppose Re-election	29.4%
DK/NR	9.8%

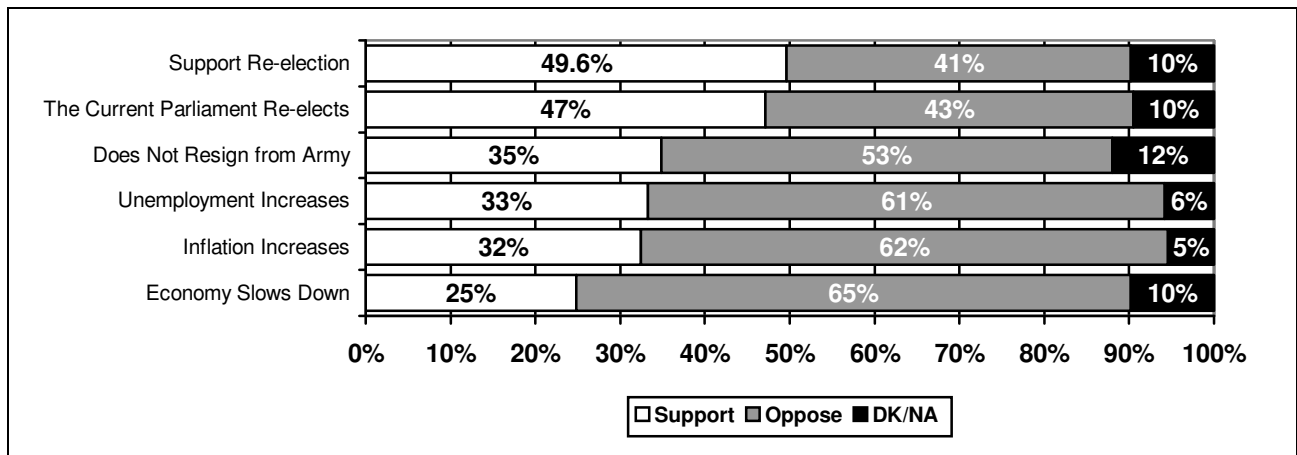
This trend can also be found in a province by province breakdown, with those strongly opposing re-election outnumbering those who strongly favor re-election in every province except for Punjab. However, the support numbers topped the opposition numbers in every province except for one. The strongest levels of support can be found in Balochistan (57.4% in favor; 38.8% opposed) and Sindh (56.1% in favor; 37% opposed), with Punjab (48.6% support; 40.3% opposed) and NWFP (39.9% support; 48.3% opposed) coming in third and fourth:



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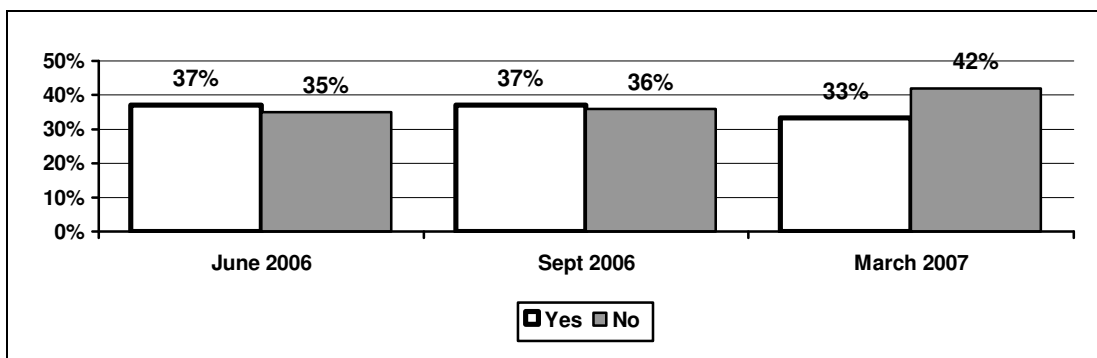
## IRI INDEX I: Approval Ratings – Page Four

The survey also found that support for re-election dropped depending upon the circumstances under which the election occurred. If the current parliament conducted the re-election, 47.2 percent would support and 43.4 percent would oppose, while if President Musharraf failed to resign his position as head of the army, 34.9 percent would support re-election and 53.2 percent would oppose. Economic issues, however, remained the top concern, with increasing inflation (32.4% support; 62.2% opposed), increasing unemployment (33.3% support; 60.9% opposed) and a faltering economy (24.8% support; 65.4% opposed) having the largest potential impact on his support:



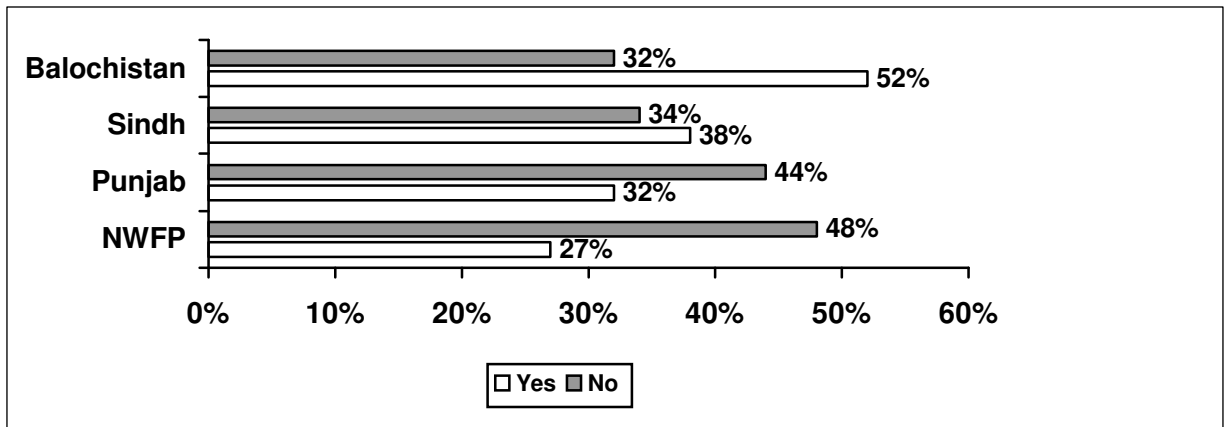
This dissatisfaction carried over to the ruling coalitions as well, both provincial and national. When asked if the PML-Q led national ruling coalition did its job well enough to deserve re-election, 33.4 percent said yes (down 3.6% since September) and 41.7 percent said no (up 5.7%). This is the first time in IRI's tracking polls since June 2006 that most voters replied no. In a provincial breakdown, most voters replied "yes" in Balochistan and Sindh, while a plurality said "no" in NWFP and Punjab:

"Does the Ruling Coalition Deserve Re-election?"



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**IRI INDEX I: Approval Ratings – Page Five**

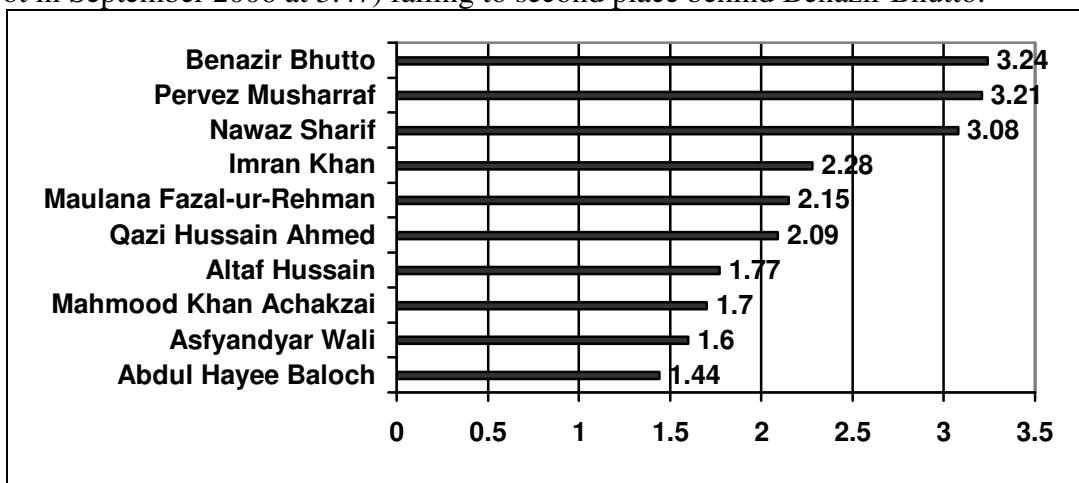


When asked if MMA had fulfilled its campaign promise to improve conditions in the provinces that they governed, 37.9 percent agreed that they had while 40.2 percent did not. In a province breakdown, 22.4 percent agreed and 57.2 percent disagreed in the NWFP, while 36.7 percent agreed and 52.6 percent disagreed in Balochistan:

“Has MMA fulfilled its promise to improve conditions in the provinces they are running?”

	National	NWFP	Balochistan
Strongly Agree	8.4%	7.3%	9.1%
Agree	18.9%	15.1%	27.6%
Disagree	16%	25.3%	20.4%
Strongly Disagree	24.2%	31.9%	32.2%
DK/NR	32.5%	20.4%	10.6%

IRI’s poll also probed the overall popularity of these leaders, asking voters to rate them on a scale from one to five, with one being the lowest and five being the highest. Benazir Bhutto, Pervez Musharraf, and Nawaz Sharif occupy the top three places at an average score of 3.24, 3.21, and 3.08, respectively. President Musharraf declined in this rating scale (he occupied the top spot in September 2006 at 3.47) falling to second place behind Benazir Bhutto:



(more)

## IRI INDEX I: Approval Ratings – Page Six

IRI's poll also found strong support for Pakistan's exiled political leadership being allowed back into the country. In fact, even a slight majority of PML-Q voters agreed, with 50.5 percent saying that Nawaz Sharif should be allowed back and 50.7 percent saying that Benazir Bhutto should as well:

“Should Nawaz Sharif be allowed back to participate in the next general election?”

	National	PML-Q Voters
Yes	63.3%	50.5%
No	25.1%	37.8%

“Should Benazir Bhutto be allowed back to participate in the next general election?”

	National	PML-Q Voters
Yes	64.8%	50.7%
No	24.2%	36.9%

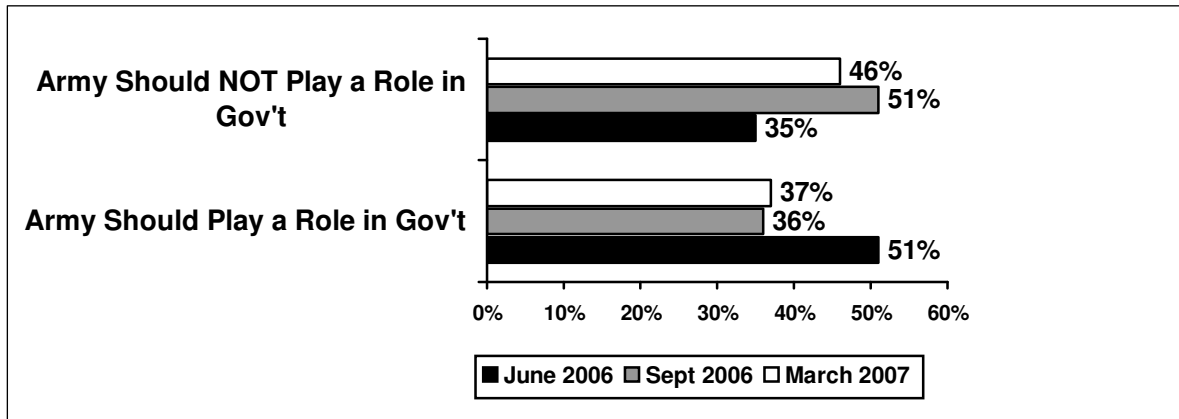
IRI's survey also explored institutional approval ratings, breaking the institutions into three categories: high, medium, and low. The Army is still by far the most respected institution in the country, with a 79.7 percent approval rating and with 55.4 percent of respondents having a “very favorable” opinion:

	Institutions	June 2006	Sept 2006	March 2007	% Change from Sept 06 to March 07
<b>High</b>	Army	77%	82%	80%	-2%
<b>Medium</b>	Media	62%	68%	67%	-1%
	National Assembly	46%	64%	57%	-7%
	Government	49%	65%	55%	-10%
	Courts	29%	60%	51%	-9%
<b>Low</b>	Political Parties	35%	55%	49%	-6%
	Opposition	33%	*	48%	NA
	Election Commission	39%	49%	47%	-2%
	Police	19%	34%	28%	-6%

(more)

## IRI INDEX I: Approval Ratings – Page Seven

Although the Pakistani army is highly respected, a plurality of respondents felt that it should not play a role in the governing of the country, with 37 percent saying yes and 46 percent saying no. Since June 2006, IRI's polling has tracked a significant shift in attitudes, from a majority advocating for such an army role last year to a plurality being opposed:



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