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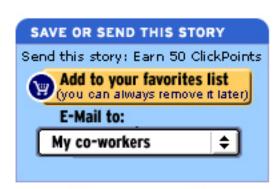
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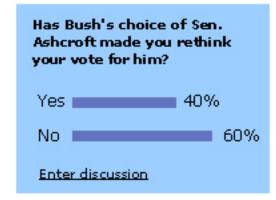
The Story

WASHINGTON (Los Angeles Times) -- In the end, Democrats showed force but didn't pull the trigger. Republicans proved they could unify under pressure. But the real surprise behind the Senate's 58-42 vote to confirm John Ashcroft as attorney general Thursday was how both sides seemed ready to move on. There were few signs the battle would leave the long-term scars many had assumed would result from the controversial nomination.



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