

THE GRANITE STATE POLL THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BUSH APPROVAL DROPS AFTER IRAQ WAR

By: Andrew E. Smith, Ph.D. 603/862-2226
UNH Survey Center
www.unh.edu/survey-center

FOR RELEASE
July 9, 2003

DURHAM, NH -- President George W. Bush's approval rating in New Hampshire has dropped slightly as the afterglow from Iraq victory subsides, but it still remains at high levels. Bush is currently well positioned in New Hampshire for reelection in 2004.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The Granite State Poll is sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. Five hundred twenty (520) randomly selected adults were interviewed by telephone between June 17 and June 30, 2003. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.3 percent. (For more detailed results, visit the Survey Center web site at www.unh.edu/survey-center and click on Press Releases.)

Post-War Slippage

During and immediately after the war in Iraq, President Bush's approval ratings increased in New Hampshire and across the U.S. as Americans rallied behind the President and the troops. But after the conquest of Iraq was completed, with the rebuilding effort slowed, and with American troops still under fire from the remnants of Saddam's supporters, Bush's approval ratings have started to subside. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 64 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Bush is doing as president, 31 percent disapprove, and 5 percent are neutral. The percentage of Granite Staters who approve of Bush is down from 71 percent in the April 2003 Granite State Poll and back to the levels he saw in June 2002. But even though Bush's approval ratings have come down somewhat, they remain at a level that bodes well for reelection in 2004. "Any time a president has approval ratings of more than 63 percent they are in good position for reelection," said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. "But Bush faces two formidable problems -- the economy is still lagging and the situation in Iraq remains troublesome for the U.S. These two issues could quickly drag down support for Bush if they are not resolved relatively soon."

Bush's personal favorability ratings dropped as well to their lowest level since he became President. Currently, 62 percent of New Hampshire adults say they have a favorable opinion of Bush, 32 percent have an unfavorable opinion

of him, and 6 percent are neutral. Bush's net favorability rating, the percentage who have a favorable opinion minus the percentage who have an unfavorable opinion, is a strong +30 percent, down from +58 percent in April but similar to the +33 percent he received in June 2002.

Foreign Affairs

Bush's approval ratings skyrocketed after his response to the September 11, 2001 attacks and the war in Afghanistan. The war with Iraq similarly boosted his overall job approval and favorability ratings as well. It is remarkable how closely Bush's overall job approval rating, his personal favorability rating, and his foreign affairs approval rating move in step. When asked to rate the job Bush is doing handling foreign affairs, 63 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve, 34 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral. In the April Granite State Poll, 72 percent approved of the job Bush was doing handling foreign affairs and 25 percent disapproved. Before the start of the war (February 2003), 60 percent of New Hampshire residents approved of Bush's handling of foreign affairs, 36 percent disapproved, and 4 percent were neutral.

Economic Approval Rating

Typically a president's approval rating goes up and down with the performance of the economy. But Bush's approval ratings have been far more influenced by events overseas than by the economy. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 51 percent of New Hampshire residents say they approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, 45 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral, unchanged since this winter.

Iraq

New Hampshire residents are still supportive of the war with Iraq, but at lower levels than they were this spring. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 72 percent of New Hampshire adults say they support the United States having gone to war with Iraq, 20 percent oppose, and 8 percent are neutral. When asked about Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq, 64 percent approve, 32 percent disapprove, and 4 percent are neutral. This represents a significant decline since April when 79 percent of Granite Staters approved of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq.

2004 Presidential Election

Presidential approval ratings are closely followed by political analysts because of correlation between approval ratings and reelection. Currently, Bush's high approval ratings put him ahead of his Democratic rivals in New Hampshire in the 2004 election. When asked to think ahead to the 2004 presidential election, 48 percent of Granite Staters say they

plan to vote for Bush, 34 percent plan to vote for the Democratic Party's nominee for president, 1 percent will vote for some other candidate, 14 percent are undecided say they won't vote, and 3 percent say they won't vote.

Regardless of who they plan to vote for in the 2004 election, 63 percent of New Hampshire residents believe Bush will win the election, 21 percent think the Democratic party's nominee will win, 16 percent don't know who will win the election.

SUB-GROUP ANALYSIS

Bush's high overall and foreign affairs approval ratings and his high personal favorability ratings come from most groups of New Hampshire residents, especially from Republicans, conservatives, people who have lived in New Hampshire 5 years or less, people with bachelor's degrees, and upper income residents. He gets low marks from Democrats, liberals, people with post-graduate educations, residents of western New Hampshire, and people who have lived in New Hampshire between 11 and 20 years.

Republicans, conservatives, people who have lived in New Hampshire 5 years or less, and people earning over \$75,000 a year give Bush his highest ratings for handling the economy. Democrats, liberals, people with post-graduate educations, people who have never married, people who are neither Protestant or Catholic, and low income residents give Bush low ratings for his handling of the economy.

But even Democrats and liberals give Bush high ratings for his handling of the situation in Iraq. There is no significant opposition to the war in Iraq among any demographic group measured in the Granite State Poll.

Turning to the economy, Bush gets his highest approval ratings from Republicans, conservatives, and people who have recently moved to New Hampshire. Democrats, liberals, union households, lower income households, and residents of Northern NH are most likely to disapprove of Bush's economic job performance.

Granite State Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the most recent Granite State Poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from June 17 to June 30, 2003. A random sample of 520 New Hampshire adults was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 4.3 percent. Results reported for other subgroups have potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

The data have been weighted to adjust for numbers of adults and telephone lines within households, respondent sex, and region of the state. In addition to potential sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question order effects, question wording effects, and non-response.

Presidential Approval

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling his job as president?"

	Oct. 2001	Feb. 2002	Apr. 2002	June 2002	Feb. 2003	Apr. 2003	June 2003
Approve	92%	87%	81%	75%	65%	71%	64%
Neutral	2	4	6	5	4	6	5
Disapprove	6	9	13	21	30	23	31
(N)	(687)	(724)	(685)	(658)	(646)	(503)	(511)

Presidential Approval - Economy

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling THE ECONOMY?"

	Oct. 2001	Feb. 2002	Apr. 2002	June 2002	Feb. 2003	Apr. 2003	June 2003
Approve	75%	69%	70%	62%	51%	56%	51%
Neutral	8	6	7	6	6	6	3
Disapprove	18	25	23	32	43	38	45
(N)	(684)	(725)	(688)	(644)	(644)	(502)	(512)

Presidential Approval - Foreign Affairs

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling FOREIGN AFFAIRS?"

	Oct. 2001	Feb. 2002	Apr. 2002	June 2002	Feb. 2003	Apr. 2003	June 2003
Approve	88%	86%	76%	69%	60%	72%	63%
Neutral	4	4	5	5	4	3	3
Disapprove	7	10	19	26	36	25	34
(N)	(685)	(722)	(690)	(644)	(646)	(506)	(512)

Favorability Rating - President George W. Bush

"Next, I'd like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of this person - or if you have never heard of him or her. President George W. Bush."

	Oct. 2001	Feb. 2002	Apr. 2002	June 2002	Feb. 2003	Apr. 2003	June 2003
Favorable	88%	84%	78%	69%	64%	72%	62%
Neutral/DK	4	5	6	8	7	5	6
Unfavorable	8	11	16	23	29	23	32
(N)	(678)	(726)	(693)	(641)	(651)	(503)	(514)

Presidential Approval - Handling of Situation in Iraq

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?"

	Feb. 2003	Apr. 2003	June 2003
Approve	56%	79%	64%
Neutral	7	2	4
Disapprove	37	18	32
(N)	(646)	(503)	(513)

Favor or Oppose Sending US Ground Troops to Iraq (Feb.) / War in Iraq (April on)

"Would you favor or oppose invading Iraq with U.S. ground troops in an attempt to remove Saddam Hussein from power?" (February)

"Do you support or oppose the United States having gone to war with Iraq?" (April on)

	Feb. 2003	Apr. 2003	June 2003
Favor	55%	80%	72%
Neutral	7	7	8
Oppose	38	13	20
(N)	(645)	(506)	(513)

Vote in 2004 Presidential Election

"If George W. Bush runs for reelection in 2004, in general, are you more likely to vote for Bush or for the Democratic Party's nominee for president or will you not vote in the election?"

	June 2003
Bush	48%
Dem. Candidate	34
Other	1
Undecided	14
Won't Vote	3
(N)	(509)

Who Will WIN the 2004 Presidential Election

"Regardless of who you plan to vote for, who do you think will win the election: President George W. Bush or the Democratic Party's nominee for president?"

	June 2003
Bush	63%
Dem. Candidate	21
Other	1
Don't Know	16
(N)	(512)

Presidential Approval Rating - Overall

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 64%	<u>Neutral</u> 5%	<u>Disapprove</u> 31%	<u>(N=)</u> 511
Registered Democrat	35	5	60	97
Undeclared	64	4	33	157
Registered Republican	85	3	12	151
Not registered	59	11	31	98
Democrat	35	5	60	194
Independent	58	11	30	82
Republican	91	1	8	222
Liberal	32	3	65	90
Moderate	68	4	29	228
Conservative	82	4	14	153
Union household	68	5	27	61
Non-union	63	5	32	449
5 Years or less in NH	76	1	23	63
6 to 10 years	62	7	31	39
11 to 20 years	49	6	45	103
More than 20 years	67	5	28	304
18 to 34	57	10	34	118
33 to 49	77	3	20	173
50 to 64	59	4	36	113
65 and over	59	3	38	98
Male	64	4	32	251
Female	64	5	31	259
High school or less	58	8	34	149
Some college	72	6	22	122
College graduate	75	2	23	147
Post-graduate	46	3	51	93
Less than \$30K	56	8	36	79
\$30K to \$60K	59	5	36	125
\$60K to \$75K	70	2	28	75
\$75K to \$100K	64	0	36	61
More than \$100K	85	2	13	53
Married	70	3	27	314
Divorced/separated	60	5	34	94
Never married	50	9	41	101
Protestant	72	3	25	202
Catholic	67	5	28	163
Other	47	8	45	130
Northern NH	62	6	32	68
Western NH	47	9	44	49
Central/Lakes	59	4	37	81
Hillsborough County	70	4	26	151
Seacoast	67	4	29	161
First Cong. District	67	4	29	271
Second Cong. District	60	6	34	239

Presidential Approval Rating - Economy

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 51%	<u>Neutral</u> 3%	<u>Disapprove</u> 45%	<u>(N=)</u> 512
Registered Democrat	20	2	78	97
Undeclared	46	2	52	157
Registered Republican	78	1	21	151
Not registered	49	9	41	99
Democrat	19	3	78	196
Independent	45	6	49	84
Republican	82	3	16	221
Liberal	21	3	75	90
Moderate	52	1	47	231
Conservative	71	6	23	151
Union household	48	4	49	61
Non-union	52	3	45	450
5 Years or less in NH	67	0	33	64
6 to 10 years	44	4	52	39
11 to 20 years	47	5	49	104
More than 20 years	51	4	46	303
18 to 34	51	5	44	119
33 to 49	58	2	40	174
50 to 64	47	2	51	113
65 and over	48	6	46	97
Male	52	3	45	250
Female	51	4	46	261
High school or less	48	8	44	149
Some college	58	1	40	123
College graduate	60	3	37	146
Post-graduate	34	0	66	93
Less than \$30K	38	7	55	79
\$30K to \$60K	51	2	47	126
\$60K to \$75K	53	4	43	75
\$75K to \$100K	62	0	38	60
More than \$100K	63	1	36	55
Married	58	2	40	315
Divorced/separated	45	5	50	92
Never married	36	7	57	103
Protestant	59	3	39	202
Catholic	51	5	44	165
Other	39	4	57	129
Northern NH	39	11	51	68
Western NH	46	1	53	49
Central/Lakes	51	3	47	80
Hillsborough County	60	0	39	153
Seacoast	50	4	45	161
First Cong. District	52	4	44	271
Second Cong. District	50	3	47	240

Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 63%	<u>Neutral</u> 3%	<u>Disapprove</u> 34%	<u>(N=)</u> 512
Registered Democrat	37	1	61	96
Undeclared	62	2	36	159
Registered Republican	86	1	13	151
Not registered	55	10	34	99
Democrat	36	3	61	195
Independent	58	4	38	84
Republican	90	1	9	222
Liberal	28	2	70	90
Moderate	65	2	33	231
Conservative	85	2	13	153
Union household	68	6	25	61
Non-union	63	3	35	451
5 Years or less in NH	69	0	31	65
6 to 10 years	56	9	35	39
11 to 20 years	55	5	40	103
More than 20 years	66	2	32	304
18 to 34	57	3	39	119
33 to 49	73	4	23	175
50 to 64	60	2	38	112
65 and over	60	2	38	98
Male	64	3	33	251
Female	63	3	34	261
High school or less	61	7	33	148
Some college	71	0	29	124
College graduate	69	1	30	147
Post-graduate	49	4	48	94
Less than \$30K	56	3	41	78
\$30K to \$60K	60	3	37	127
\$60K to \$75K	65	3	32	75
\$75K to \$100K	68	0	32	61
More than \$100K	83	0	17	55
Married	70	2	28	314
Divorced/separated	60	6	35	95
Never married	47	4	49	103
Protestant	72	2	26	203
Catholic	65	4	30	164
Other	47	4	49	130
Northern NH	58	6	36	68
Western NH	53	4	42	49
Central/Lakes	61	3	36	81
Hillsborough County	68	3	29	154
Seacoast	65	2	33	161
First Cong. District	67	3	30	271
Second Cong. District	59	3	38	241

Presidential Approval Rating - Handling of Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 64%	<u>Neutral</u> 4%	<u>Disapprove</u> 32%	<u>(N=)</u> 513
Registered Democrat	40	3	57	97
Undeclared	60	4	35	158
Registered Republican	84	4	12	151
Not registered	60	5	34	99
Democrat	38	5	57	195
Independent	60	6	34	84
Republican	88	3	9	222
Liberal	31	6	63	90
Moderate	62	5	33	230
Conservative	86	2	12	153
Union household	63	5	31	61
Non-union	64	4	32	452
5 Years or less in NH	64	5	32	65
6 to 10 years	66	1	33	39
11 to 20 years	57	7	36	104
More than 20 years	66	3	31	303
18 to 34	62	5	34	119
33 to 49	73	4	24	174
50 to 64	61	3	36	113
65 and over	57	5	38	98
Male	64	4	32	251
Female	64	4	32	262
High school or less	64	7	29	149
Some college	63	5	33	124
College graduate	74	2	24	147
Post-graduate	49	2	49	93
Less than \$30K	50	5	45	79
\$30K to \$60K	61	5	35	127
\$60K to \$75K	65	3	32	75
\$75K to \$100K	65	4	31	61
More than \$100K	80	1	19	55
Married	71	3	26	315
Divorced/separated	55	6	39	94
Never married	49	6	44	103
Protestant	70	4	26	203
Catholic	66	5	29	165
Other	51	3	46	130
Northern NH	57	7	36	67
Western NH	55	5	40	49
Central/Lakes	59	5	36	81
Hillsborough County	69	5	26	154
Seacoast	67	2	32	161
First Cong. District	67	4	29	271
Second Cong. District	60	4	36	242

Favor / Oppose War with Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Favor</u> 72%	<u>Neutral</u> 8%	<u>Oppose</u> 20%	<u>(N=)</u> 513
Registered Democrat	56	12	32	97
Undeclared	68	9	23	158
Registered Republican	90	5	5	151
Not registered	68	9	23	99
Democrat	54	14	32	195
Independent	68	7	25	84
Republican	91	3	6	222
Liberal	38	15	47	90
Moderate	74	7	19	231
Conservative	89	5	6	153
Union household	74	6	20	61
Non-union	72	9	19	452
5 Years or less in NH	74	18	9	65
6 to 10 years	68	11	21	39
11 to 20 years	62	7	31	104
More than 20 years	76	6	18	304
18 to 34	72	9	20	119
33 to 49	77	7	16	175
50 to 64	71	10	20	112
65 and over	68	8	25	98
Male	75	8	18	251
Female	70	8	21	262
High school or less	68	9	23	149
Some college	77	8	16	124
College graduate	78	8	15	147
Post-graduate	65	8	27	93
Less than \$30K	70	7	22	79
\$30K to \$60K	70	8	22	127
\$60K to \$75K	68	9	23	75
\$75K to \$100K	73	14	13	61
More than \$100K	85	6	9	55
Married	75	7	17	315
Divorced/separated	69	8	24	94
Never married	66	11	23	103
Protestant	77	8	14	203
Catholic	75	7	19	165
Other	62	10	28	130
Northern NH	73	7	21	68
Western NH	66	9	26	49
Central/Lakes	67	8	25	81
Hillsborough County	80	6	14	154
Seacoast	69	11	19	161
First Cong. District	74	9	17	271
Second Cong. District	71	7	22	242

Favorability Rating - George W. Bush

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 62%	<u>Neutral</u> 5%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 32%	<u>Don't Know</u> 1%	<u>(N=)</u> 514
Registered Democrat	36	2	61	0	97
Undeclared	58	5	36	1	158
Registered Republican	85	4	11	0	151
Not registered	59	10	29	2	100
Democrat	30	7	63	1	196
Independent	64	8	27	1	84
Republican	90	2	8	0	222
Liberal	28	6	66	0	90
Moderate	63	6	31	0	231
Conservative	81	4	14	1	154
Union household	68	1	32	0	61
Non-union	61	6	32	1	452
5 Years or less in NH	69	3	25	3	66
6 to 10 years	59	10	30	0	39
11 to 20 years	51	5	43	1	104
More than 20 years	65	5	30	0	303
18 to 34	62	4	32	2	121
33 to 49	70	5	24	1	175
50 to 64	58	8	34	0	112
65 and over	56	5	39	0	97
Male	60	6	34	0	251
Female	64	5	30	1	263
High school or less	57	9	32	2	150
Some college	69	4	27	0	124
College graduate	73	4	23	0	147
Post-graduate	45	3	52	0	94
Less than \$30K	53	9	37	1	79
\$30K to \$60K	59	6	33	2	127
\$60K to \$75K	68	4	28	0	75
\$75K to \$100K	63	0	37	0	61
More than \$100K	78	0	22	0	55
Married	67	4	28	1	317
Divorced/separated	56	7	36	0	93
Never married	51	8	40	1	103
Protestant	68	5	25	1	204
Catholic	65	5	29	1	165
Other	48	6	46	0	130
Northern NH	62	7	31	1	68
Western NH	46	10	44	0	49
Central/Lakes	62	2	35	1	81
Hillsborough County	70	3	27	0	154
Seacoast	60	7	32	1	161
First Cong. District	64	6	30	0	271
Second Cong. District	60	5	34	1	242

Vote for President in 2004 General Election

STATEWIDE	<u>Bush</u> 48%	<u>Democrat</u> 34%	<u>Other</u> 1%	<u>Won't Vote</u> 3%	<u>Undecided</u> 14%	<u>(N=)</u> 509
Registered Democrat	14	73	0	0	12	97
Undeclared	41	37	2	0	20	156
Registered Republican	82	8	1	0	9	151
Not registered	41	29	1	15	13	98
Democrat	11	73	1	3	11	194
Independent	32	25	3	4	36	80
Republican	87	4	1	1	7	222
Liberal	13	76	2	3	6	90
Moderate	50	32	1	3	14	227
Conservative	70	14	1	2	13	152
Union household	45	41	1	3	11	59
Non-union	49	33	1	3	14	449
5 Years or less in NH	56	28	0	5	11	65
6 to 10 years	40	38	1	0	20	39
11 to 20 years	41	41	2	1	15	103
More than 20 years	50	31	1	4	13	301
18 to 34	41	41	1	5	12	118
33 to 49	55	29	1	2	14	174
50 to 64	44	31	2	4	19	111
65 and over	53	35	0	3	9	97
Male	51	33	2	2	12	248
Female	46	34	1	4	15	260
High school or less	41	31	2	8	18	149
Some college	55	31	0	2	12	121
College graduate	58	27	1	1	12	147
Post-graduate	36	52	1	0	11	93
Less than \$30K	39	43	0	8	10	79
\$30K to \$60K	44	39	1	2	13	125
\$60K to \$75K	50	35	2	4	10	74
\$75K to \$100K	53	39	2	2	4	61
More than \$100K	65	16	2	0	16	53
Married	55	29	1	2	13	312
Divorced/separated	42	34	1	7	16	94
Never married	34	48	1	4	14	101
Protestant	57	25	2	1	15	202
Catholic	48	31	0	4	16	163
Other	34	50	1	5	9	129
Northern NH	50	35	0	6	9	67
Western NH	35	49	2	1	13	49
Central/Lakes	51	39	1	4	6	79
Hillsborough County	51	29	1	3	16	151
Seacoast	48	31	2	2	17	162
1st District	50	32	1	3	14	270
2nd District	47	36	1	3	13	238

Who Will Win in 2004 General Election?

STATEWIDE	<u>Bush</u> 63%	<u>Democrat</u> 21%	<u>Other</u> 1%	<u>Don't Know</u> 16%	<u>(N=)</u> 512
Registered Democrat	37	40	0	23	97
Undeclared	63	18	0	18	157
Registered Republican	79	10	1	10	151
Not registered	65	22	1	13	99
Democrat	42	38	0	20	196
Independent	58	17	1	25	84
Republican	84	7	1	8	222
Liberal	41	40	2	17	90
Moderate	66	18	0	16	231
Conservative	78	13	0	9	152
Union household	66	25	0	9	61
Non-union	63	20	1	17	451
5 Years or less in NH	71	18	0	12	65
6 to 10 years	49	29	0	22	39
11 to 20 years	57	25	1	17	104
More than 20 years	65	19	0	15	303
18 to 34	61	26	0	14	119
33 to 49	65	21	0	14	174
50 to 64	63	15	1	20	113
65 and over	64	19	1	16	97
Male	68	19	1	12	250
Female	58	23	0	19	262
High school or less	60	26	0	13	148
Some college	63	18	1	18	124
College graduate	71	14	1	14	146
Post-graduate	58	25	1	16	93
Less than \$30K	44	29	1	25	79
\$30K to \$60K	63	18	0	18	126
\$60K to \$75K	63	20	2	15	75
\$75K to \$100K	75	19	0	6	61
More than \$100K	70	22	0	8	55
Married	69	19	1	12	315
Divorced/separated	59	14	1	25	93
Never married	49	32	0	19	103
Protestant	70	16	1	13	202
Catholic	58	24	0	19	165
Other	59	24	1	17	130
Northern NH	58	18	0	23	68
Western NH	67	17	0	15	49
Central/Lakes	65	29	1		581
Hillsborough County	65	18	0	18	153
Seacoast	61	22	1	15	161
1st District	63	22	1	14	271
2nd District	63	19	0	17	241