

THE GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BUSH APPROVAL RATINGS PLUMMET

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DURHAM, NH – President Bush’s job approval ratings in New Hampshire have dropped to the lowest levels of his presidency. The ongoing conflict in Iraq is dragging down Bush’s overall ratings as well as views about his handling of the economy.

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 eleven (511) randomly selected adults were interviewed by telephone between October 25 and October 30, 2005. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.4 percent.

Presidential Approval

Despite an improved national and state economy, President George W. Bush’s job approval ratings in New Hampshire have dropped dramatically over the past three months. In the most recent Granite State Poll, only 39 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Bush is doing as president, 55 percent disapprove, and 6 percent are neutral. Approval of Bush as president has dropped 10 percent since the July Granite State Poll. “Outside of Republicans, Bush has lost his political support in New Hampshire,” said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. “And Bush is even starting to lose support among Republicans.” Seventy-three percent of Republicans approve of the job Bush is doing as President, down from 87 percent in July. Ninety percent of Democrats disapprove of the job Bush is doing. It is also quite significant that the percentage of New Hampshire adults who say they strongly disapprove of Bush has increased to 44 percent, from 35 percent in July.

A USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll conducted during the same time period showed Bush with a similar approval rating nationally -- 41 percent approve, 56 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are unsure.

Bush’s personal favorability rating has also dropped to its lowest levels of his presidency. Currently, only 42 percent of New Hampshire adults have a favorable opinion of Bush, 52 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him, and 6 percent are neutral. Bush’s net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, is -10%, down from +6% in July. Currently, 78 percent of Republicans have a favorable opinion of Bush, down from 91 percent in July while 91 percent of Democrats have an unfavorable opinion of him.

[?] We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, sponsored by the University of New Hampshire.

Foreign Affairs

Bush's dramatic loss of support in New Hampshire is tied to the continuing problems faced in Iraq and the lingering questions over the U.S. decision to go to war with Iraq. When asked about how the president is handling foreign affairs, only 38 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve, 59 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral. The percentage who approve of the way Bush is handling foreign affairs has dropped from 47 percent in July. Turning specifically to Iraq, only 38 percent of Granite State adults approve of the way Bush has handled the situation there, 60 percent disapprove, and 2 percent are neutral. This measure is also at its lowest level of the Bush presidency.

Support for the U.S. having gone to war with Iraq continues to wane in New Hampshire. Currently, 45 percent support the U.S. having gone to war in Iraq, 50 percent oppose the U.S. having gone to war, and 4 percent are neutral. Support for the U.S. having gone to war with Iraq is at its lowest level since the war began in 2003.

Economic Approval Rating

Dissatisfaction with the war in Iraq has colored how New Hampshire views President Bush's handling of the economy. While the U.S. economy seems to have weathered the September hurricanes, and while the New Hampshire economy continues to grow, only 41 percent of New Hampshire residents say they approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, 55 percent disapprove, and 4 percent are neutral. The percentage who approve of Bush's handling of the economy has dropped from 48 percent in July and matches the lowest level of his presidency.

Right Track – Wrong Track

The angst caused by Iraq and high gasoline prices have left New Hampshire wondering about the direction the U.S. is headed. Only 38 percent of New Hampshire residents think that things in this country are generally going in the right direction, 55 percent think things are seriously off on the wrong track, and 7 percent don't know. This measure is also at its lowest level of the Bush presidency.

Subgroup Analysis

Bush continues to get his highest approval ratings from Republicans, conservatives, and people who attend church weekly. Democrats, liberals, people who have never married, people who do not attend church, and people with post-graduate educations are most likely to give Bush low approval ratings.

Republicans, conservatives, young adults, men, and regular church goers are most supportive of the war in Iraq while Democrats, liberals, union households, people 50 and older, women, people with post-graduate educations, people who are divorced, and non-churchgoing residents are most opposed to the war in Iraq.

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 October 25 to October 30, 2005. A random sample of 511 New Hampshire adults was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 4.4 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?”

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '05	39%	6%	55%	(505)
July '05	49	4	47	(498)
Apr. '05	50	3	47	(483)
Feb. '05	52	4	43	(533)
Oct. '04	51	3	46	(567)
July '04	46	4	50	(503)
Apr. '04	48	6	46	(536)
Feb. '04	47	5	48	(505)
Oct. '03	56	4	40	(502)
June '03	64	5	31	(511)
Apr. '03	71	6	23	(503)
Feb. '03	65	4	30	(646)
June '02	75	5	21	(658)
Apr. '02	81	6	13	(685)
Feb. '02	87	4	9	(724)
Oct. '01	92	2	6	(687)

Presidential Approval – Economy

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '05	41%	4%	55%	(500)
July '05	48	4	48	(495)
Apr. '05	46	5	50	(490)
Feb. '05	48	5	46	(534)
Oct. '04	48	3	49	(568)
July '04	49	5	47	(499)
Apr. '04	43	6	51	(538)
Feb. '04	41	5	54	(506)
Oct. '03	46	4	50	(499)
June '03	51	3	45	(512)
Apr. '03	56	6	38	(502)
Feb. '03	51	6	43	(644)
June '02	62	6	32	(644)
Apr. '02	70	7	23	(688)
Feb. '02	69	6	25	(725)
Oct. '01	75	8	18	(684)

Presidential Approval - Foreign Affairs

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '05	38%	3%	59%	(502)
July '05	47	3	50	(497)
Apr. '05	47	4	49	(486)
Feb. '05	47	4	49	(533)
Oct. '04	48	3	49	(568)
July '04	41	3	56	(499)
Apr. '04	48	5	48	(539)
Feb. '04	44	4	52	(507)
Oct. '03	53	3	44	(501)
June '03	63	3	34	(512)
Apr. '03	72	3	25	(506)
Feb. '03	60	4	36	(646)
June '02	69	5	26	(644)
Apr. '02	76	5	19	(690)
Feb. '02	86	4	10	(722)
Oct. '01	88	4	7	(685)

Presidential Approval - Handling of Situation in Iraq

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '05	38%	2%	60%	(506)
July '05	45	3	51	(499)
Apr. '05	45	3	52	(491)
Feb. '05	47	3	50	(535)
July '04	42	3	55	(501)
Apr. '04	49	4	47	(540)
Feb. '04	44	3	53	(509)
Oct. '03	54	3	42	(500)
June '03	64	4	32	(513)
Apr. '03	79	2	18	(503)
Feb. '03	56	7	37	(646)

Support for War in Iraq

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

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(N)</u>
Oct. '05	45%	4%	50%	(502)
July '05	48	5	48	(493)
Apr. '05	52	3	45	(489)
Feb. '05	47	6	47	(537)
July '04	47	6	47	(498)
Apr. '04	59	4	37	(536)
Feb. '04	54	3	33	(509)
Oct. '03	65	5	30	(496)
June '03	69	4	20	(513)
Apr. '03	77	4	20	(506)

Right Track - Wrong Track

“Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?”

	<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Track</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
Oct. '05	38%	55%	7%	(498)
July '05	47	47	6	(492)
Apr. '05	46	43	11	(487)
Feb. '05	53	40	7	(535)
Oct. '04	46	50	4	(574)
July '04	48	43	10	(500)
Apr. '04	44	48	8	(535)
Feb. '04	43	49	8	(503)
Oct. '03	51	43	6	(487)
June '03	56	38	5	(511)

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."

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>(N=)</u>
Oct. '05	42%	6%	52%	-10%	(510)
July '05	52	2	46	+6%	(497)
Oct. '04	55	2	43	+12%	(574)
July '04	50	6	44	+6%	(506)
Apr. '04	48	6	46	+2%	(540)
Feb. '04	48	4	48	0	(510)
Oct. '03	57	4	38	+19%	(503)
June '03	62	6	32	+30%	(514)
Apr. '03	72	5	23	+49%	(503)
Feb. '03	64	7	29	+35%	(651)
June '02	69	8	23	+46%	(641)
Apr. '02	78	6	16	+62%	(693)
Feb. '02	84	5	11	+73%	(726)
Oct. '01	88	4	8	+80%	(678)

Presidential Approval Rating - Overall

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 39%	<u>Neutral</u> 6%	<u>Disapprove</u> 55%	<u>(N=)</u> 505
Registered Democrat	8	4	88	97
Undeclared	34	6	61	180
Registered Republican	69	8	24	134
Not registered	41	7	52	91
Democrat	7	3	90	205
Independent	39	7	54	86
Republican	73	8	19	197
Liberal	18	4	78	115
Moderate	32	7	61	196
Conservative	68	4	28	149
Union household	26	10	64	66
Non-union	42	6	52	429
5 years or less in NH	40	7	53	63
6 to 10 years	44	3	53	55
11 to 20 years	40	5	55	98
More than 20 years	39	7	54	280
18 to 34	47	4	49	92
35 to 49	42	7	51	177
50 to 64	35	4	61	151
65 and over	30	12	59	70
Male	45	5	50	246
Female	34	7	59	259
High school or less	37	6	57	121
Some college	42	10	48	109
College graduate	45	5	50	166
Post-graduate	30	5	65	103
Less than \$30K	35	4	61	43
\$30K to \$60K	46	7	47	96
\$60K to \$75K	40	3	56	66
\$75K to \$100K	46	4	50	65
More than \$100K	35	8	57	100
Married	44	6	50	337
Divorced/separated	32	6	62	95
Never married	29	4	67	69
Protestant	49	5	46	198
Catholic	39	8	53	175
Other	24	6	71	109
Attend 1 or more/week	57	9	34	122
1-2 times a month	43	3	54	75
Less often	37	6	57	167
Never	23	6	71	124
Northern NH	36	4	60	42
Central/Lakes	36	9	55	79
Connecticut Valley	42	6	52	71
Massachusetts Border	37	7	56	121
Seacoast	42	5	53	88
Greater Manchester	42	4	54	103
1st Cong. District	40	5	55	279
2nd Cong. District	38	7	55	226

Presidential Approval Rating - Economy

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 41%	<u>Neutral</u> 4%	<u>Disapprove</u> 55%	<u>(N=)</u> 500
Registered Democrat	10	5	85	96
Undeclared	33	4	64	177
Registered Republican	74	4	23	134
Not registered	40	5	55	90
Democrat	9	4	87	202
Independent	39	5	56	85
Republican	74	4	22	196
Liberal	18	4	78	116
Moderate	37	5	58	193
Conservative	66	3	32	148
Union household	30	7	62	65
Non-union	42	4	54	425
5 years or less in NH	38	5	56	64
6 to 10 years	44	6	50	53
11 to 20 years	45	3	52	95
More than 20 years	40	4	56	278
18 to 34	49	5	47	91
35 to 49	43	2	54	174
50 to 64	36	4	61	152
65 and over	35	9	56	68
Male	47	4	49	241
Female	34	5	61	260
High school or less	40	4	55	120
Some college	39	4	57	108
College graduate	45	5	51	162
Post-graduate	37	4	59	104
Less than \$30K	35	11	54	43
\$30K to \$60K	45	7	49	94
\$60K to \$75K	39	3	59	68
\$75K to \$100K	49	1	50	64
More than \$100K	39	2	59	99
Married	45	4	51	334
Divorced/separated	33	4	64	95
Never married	30	6	64	68
Protestant	49	4	47	196
Catholic	41	5	54	173
Other	25	6	69	109
Attend 1 or more/week	59	6	36	118
1-2 times a month	47	0	53	73
Less often	35	6	60	166
Never	27	5	68	125
Northern NH	42	5	53	41
Central/Lakes	31	7	61	78
Connecticut Valley	42	5	53	71
Massachusetts Border	43	5	52	121
Seacoast	39	3	58	88
Greater Manchester	44	2	54	101
1st Cong. District	42	2	56	275
2nd Cong. District	39	7	54	226

Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 38%	<u>Neutral</u> 3%	<u>Disapprove</u> 59%	<u>(N=)</u> 502
Registered Democrat	9	3	88	95
Undeclared	32	1	66	179
Registered Republican	66	5	29	134
Not registered	38	4	57	90
Democrat	8	2	90	202
Independent	33	6	61	87
Republican	71	3	26	196
Liberal	13	2	85	116
Moderate	32	3	65	195
Conservative	65	4	31	147
Union household	25	5	71	66
Non-union	40	3	56	427
5 years or less in NH	34	10	56	63
6 to 10 years	37	5	57	53
11 to 20 years	44	2	55	96
More than 20 years	37	2	61	280
18 to 34	47	2	51	89
35 to 49	39	3	58	177
50 to 64	33	3	64	151
65 and over	31	7	62	70
Male	45	3	52	245
Female	30	4	66	257
High school or less	41	2	57	121
Some college	40	4	56	106
College graduate	41	4	55	166
Post-graduate	27	3	69	103
Less than \$30K	35	3	62	44
\$30K to \$60K	41	7	52	96
\$60K to \$75K	41	2	57	67
\$75K to \$100K	38	0	62	63
More than \$100K	36	2	62	100
Married	42	3	55	335
Divorced/separated	29	4	67	95
Never married	30	4	66	67
Protestant	46	4	50	196
Catholic	37	2	61	174
Other	25	5	70	109
Attend 1 or more/week	52	6	42	120
1-2 times a month	40	0	60	75
Less often	37	2	61	165
Never	25	4	71	125
Northern NH	35	8	57	41
Central/Lakes	34	4	61	77
Connecticut Valley	35	8	58	71
Massachusetts Border	38	4	58	121
Seacoast	44	0	56	89
Greater Manchester	37	1	62	103
1st Cong. District	39	1	60	280
2nd Cong. District	36	6	58	222

U.S. Right Direction / Wrong Track

	<u>Right Direction</u> 38%	<u>Wrong Track</u> 55%	<u>Don't Know</u> 7%	<u>(N=)</u> 498
STATEWIDE				
Registered Democrat	5	89	6	94
Undeclared	33	61	6	179
Registered Republican	63	30	7	130
Not registered	45	44	11	91
Democrat	10	84	6	199
Independent	37	55	8	86
Republican	66	27	7	195
Liberal	21	76	3	112
Moderate	32	59	9	195
Conservative	62	35	3	146
Union household	27	67	6	65
Non-union	40	53	7	423
5 years or less in NH	39	56	5	65
6 to 10 years	48	47	5	54
11 to 20 years	40	52	9	92
More than 20 years	35	58	7	278
18 to 34	46	46	7	93
35 to 49	43	52	5	174
50 to 64	31	62	7	149
65 and over	30	61	9	68
Male	45	48	7	240
Female	31	62	7	258
High school or less	38	55	6	120
Some college	34	58	8	105
College graduate	46	48	7	164
Post-graduate	29	64	7	103
Less than \$30K	24	69	8	44
\$30K to \$60K	41	50	9	95
\$60K to \$75K	46	52	2	64
\$75K to \$100K	45	53	2	64
More than \$100K	35	56	8	97
Married	41	53	6	332
Divorced/separated	27	63	10	93
Never married	34	55	11	68
Protestant	45	50	5	196
Catholic	37	53	9	173
Other	25	68	7	104
Attend 1 or more/week	53	39	9	116
1-2 times a month	40	51	9	73
Less often	36	59	5	167
Never	26	67	7	125
Northern NH	37	48	15	42
Central/Lakes	29	64	7	75
Connecticut Valley	45	54	1	70
Massachusetts Border	31	60	9	118
Seacoast	46	46	8	88
Greater Manchester	40	54	6	104
1st Cong. District	40	53	7	278
2nd Cong. District	34	58	8	220

Presidential Approval Rating - Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 38%	<u>Neutral</u> 2%	<u>Disapprove</u> 60%	<u>(N=)</u> 506
Registered Democrat	12	2	86	97
Undeclared	30	1	69	180
Registered Republican	71	3	26	134
Not registered	37	2	60	91
Democrat	10	2	88	204
Independent	34	2	63	88
Republican	70	2	28	197
Liberal	16	1	83	116
Moderate	34	1	65	195
Conservative	65	1	34	149
Union household	29	1	70	66
Non-union	41	2	57	429
5 years or less in NH	27	2	71	64
6 to 10 years	36	3	61	55
11 to 20 years	43	3	53	97
More than 20 years	40	1	58	280
18 to 34	40	0	59	93
35 to 49	42	3	55	176
50 to 64	37	1	62	152
65 and over	29	3	67	70
Male	47	2	51	245
Female	30	2	67	261
High school or less	39	1	59	122
Some college	39	3	58	108
College graduate	43	2	55	166
Post-graduate	30	2	68	103
Less than \$30K	38	0	62	44
\$30K to \$60K	41	2	57	96
\$60K to \$75K	46	0	54	68
\$75K to \$100K	40	0	60	62
More than \$100K	37	3	60	100
Married	42	2	56	337
Divorced/separated	31	2	67	95
Never married	30	2	68	69
Protestant	46	4	50	197
Catholic	39	0	61	175
Other	26	2	72	109
Attend 1 or more/week	57	3	40	120
1-2 times a month	42	0	58	75
Less often	36	3	62	167
Never	24	1	75	127
Northern NH	38	1	61	42
Central/Lakes	34	1	64	79
Connecticut Valley	40	4	56	71
Massachusetts Border	40	2	58	121
Seacoast	40	2	58	90
Greater Manchester	37	2	61	101
1st Cong. District	37	2	61	279
2nd Cong. District	41	2	57	226

Support / Oppose US War in Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Support</u> 45%	<u>Neutral</u> 4%	<u>Oppose</u> 50%	<u>(N=)</u> 502
Registered Democrat	15	3	82	97
Undeclared	38	4	57	177
Registered Republican	73	7	21	134
Not registered	50	4	47	91
Democrat	17	1	82	202
Independent	41	6	53	88
Republican	77	5	18	195
Liberal	22	2	76	116
Moderate	40	4	56	192
Conservative	73	4	23	149
Union household	39	1	60	66
Non-union	46	5	49	425
5 years or less in NH	47	0	53	63
6 to 10 years	45	5	49	55
11 to 20 years	46	5	49	95
More than 20 years	45	5	50	279
18 to 34	56	3	41	92
35 to 49	52	5	43	174
50 to 64	36	3	60	152
65 and over	35	2	63	68
Male	55	5	40	242
Female	36	4	60	260
High school or less	44	6	50	121
Some college	45	4	50	108
College graduate	50	5	46	164
Post-graduate	38	1	60	103
Less than \$30K	37	6	57	44
\$30K to \$60K	51	2	47	96
\$60K to \$75K	51	2	47	68
\$75K to \$100K	45	4	51	62
More than \$100K	51	0	48	99
Married	49	5	46	335
Divorced/separated	33	3	65	94
Never married	42	5	52	69
Protestant	51	5	44	195
Catholic	49	3	48	175
Other	30	4	66	107
Attend 1 or more/week	56	6	38	119
1-2 times a month	51	1	48	75
Less often	45	4	51	166
Never	32	3	65	124
Northern NH	41	2	57	42
Central/Lakes	38	5	57	78
Connecticut Valley	40	9	51	71
Massachusetts Border	46	4	50	121
Seacoast	49	4	47	88
Greater Manchester	52	3	45	101
1st Cong. District	49	3	48	278
2nd Cong. District	41	6	53	224

Favorability Rating - George W. Bush

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 42%	<u>Neutral</u> 6%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 52%	<u>(N)</u> 510
Registered Democrat	8	3	89	97
Undeclared	35	5	60	183
Registered Republican	75	8	17	135
Not registered	41	7	51	91
Democrat	7	1	91	205
Independent	40	11	49	88
Republican	78	8	14	199
Liberal	19	3	78	117
Moderate	35	8	57	196
Conservative	72	3	26	151
Union household	29	12	59	67
Non-union	45	5	50	432
5 years or less in NH	42	4	54	65
6 to 10 years	45	8	46	55
11 to 20 years	44	1	54	98
More than 20 years	41	7	52	282
18 to 34	46	7	47	93
35 to 49	47	6	47	179
50 to 64	37	3	60	152
65 and over	34	11	55	71
Male	48	6	46	247
Female	36	5	58	263
High school or less	42	4	54	122
Some college	44	9	47	109
College graduate	47	5	49	167
Post-graduate	34	6	60	105
Less than \$30K	37	5	57	44
\$30K to \$60K	45	10	45	96
\$60K to \$75K	47	1	52	68
\$75K to \$100K	46	7	48	65
More than \$100K	37	4	59	100
Married	46	6	47	341
Divorced/separated	33	5	61	95
Never married	33	5	63	70
Protestant	52	5	43	200
Catholic	41	8	51	176
Other	26	5	69	109
Attend 1 or more/week	59	8	34	122
1-2 times a month	44	2	55	75
Less often	39	7	54	168
Never	29	6	66	127
Northern NH	40	4	56	42
Central/Lakes	38	6	56	79
Connecticut Valley	44	4	52	71
Massachusetts Border	39	8	53	121
Seacoast	43	4	53	90
Greater Manchester	47	6	47	106
1st Cong. District	42	5	53	284
2nd Cong. District	42	7	51	226