

THE GRANITE STATE POLL

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

BUSH APPROVAL RATINGS – STATUS QUO

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UNH Survey Center
www.unh.edu/survey-center

FOR RELEASE
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DURHAM, NH – President Bush’s job approval ratings in New Hampshire have remained essentially unchanged over the past year.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**,⁷ conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The Granite State Poll is sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. Five hundred four (504) randomly selected adults were interviewed by telephone between July 7 and July 17, 2005. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/-4.4 percent.

For more detailed results, visit the Survey Center web site at www.unh.edu/survey-center/presapp72805.pdf

Presidential Approval

Despite an improved national and state economy, and in the face of continuing problems in Iraq, President George W. Bush’s job approval ratings are hovering in a mediocre range in New Hampshire. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 49 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Bush is doing as president, 47 percent disapprove, and 4 percent are neutral. These figures are unchanged since April and are only slightly better than they were one year ago. “New Hampshire has settled on how it feels about Bush,” said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. “Republicans strongly support his job as President while Democrats strongly disapprove.” More than 80 percent of Republicans and conservatives approve of Bush’s performance as president while more than 75 percent of Democrats and liberals disapprove.

Another measure of Bush’s popularity is his personal favorability rating. Currently, 52 percent of New Hampshire adults have a favorable opinion of Bush, 46 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him, and 2 percent are neutral. Bush’s net favorability rating, the percentage having a favorable opinion minus the percentage having an unfavorable opinion, is fairly low +6%. More than 90 percent of Republicans have a favorable opinion of Bush while 80 percent of Democrats have an unfavorable opinion of him, another indicator of how polarized New Hampshire is regarding President Bush.

Economic Approval Rating

While New Hampshire’s unemployment rate is below 3 percent, and home sales remain strong, gasoline continues to cost more than \$2 per gallon. These mixed economic signals are reflected in the ratings President Bush gets on his handling of the economy. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 48 percent of New Hampshire residents say they approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, 48 percent disapprove, and 4 percent are neutral. The percentage who approve of Bush’s handling of the economy has also remained largely unchanged over the past year

⁷ We ask that this copyrighted information be referred to as *the Granite State Poll*, sponsored by the University of New Hampshire.

Foreign Affairs

New Hampshire, like the rest of the nation, was deeply divided over Bush's handling of foreign affairs and the war in Iraq during last fall's election campaign and New Hampshire adults remain deeply divided. When asked about how the president is handling foreign affairs, only 47 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve, 50 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral, unchanged since before the November election.

Turning specifically to Iraq, 45 percent of Granite State adults approve of the way Bush has handled the situation there, 51 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral, slightly higher than July 2004.

New Hampshire is evenly divided over whether the war in Iraq was a good idea. Currently, 48 percent support the US having gone to war in Iraq, 48 percent oppose the US having gone to war, and 5 percent neutral. This measure is down somewhat since April, but is at the same level as July 2004.

Right Track – Wrong Track

In another measure of the difficulty President Bush is having, New Hampshire residents are even divided about the overall direction of the country. Forty-seven percent of New Hampshire residents think that things in this country are generally going in the right direction, 47 percent think they are on the wrong track, and 6 percent don't know.

Subgroup Analysis

Bush gets his highest approval ratings from Republicans, conservatives, upper income residents people who attend church weekly and residents of Northern New Hampshire. Democrats, liberals, young adults (under 35), people who have never married, people who do not attend church, and people who want abortion legal in all circumstances are most likely to give Bush low approval ratings.

Republicans, conservatives, residents of Northern New Hampshire, and regular church goers are most supportive of the war in Iraq while Democrats, liberals, people with post-graduate educations, and non-religious 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 July 7 to July 17, 2005. A random sample of 504 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>
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>
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>
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>
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>
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>
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>
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> 49%	<u>Neutral</u> 4%	<u>Disapprove</u> 47%	<u>(N=)</u> 498
Democrat	16	3	80	212
Independent	48	9	43	72
Republican	87	2	11	196
Liberal	20	4	76	112
Moderate	38	4	58	204
Conservative	85	2	13	151
Union household	52	1	48	72
Non-union	48	5	47	422
5 years or less in NH	38	3	59	71
6 to 10 years	57	5	39	54
11 to 20 years	45	4	51	94
More than 20 years	51	4	45	269
18 to 34	35	8	57	101
35 to 49	54	4	41	166
50 to 64	49	2	50	126
65 and over	53	4	43	84
Male	53	2	45	241
Female	46	6	49	256
High school or less	56	5	39	119
Some college	47	8	45	111
College graduate	49	2	49	160
Post-graduate	42	3	55	102
Less than \$30K	41	9	50	49
\$30K to \$60K	46	5	50	94
\$60K to \$75K	46	2	52	55
\$75K to \$100K	58	1	41	59
More than \$100K	57	2	41	87
Married	55	3	42	325
Divorced/separated	41	6	53	87
Never married	33	7	60	80
Protestant	60	4	36	165
Catholic	53	5	42	185
Other	29	2	69	125
Attend 1 or more/week	63	6	32	107
1-2 times a month	47	3	50	77
Less often	46	3	51	151
Never	42	5	53	143
Abortion legal in all circumstances	36	4	60	224
Legal in limited circumstances	62	4	34	220
Illegal in all circumstances	54	4	42	27
Northern NH	63	2	34	42
Central/Lakes	50	3	47	87
Conn. Valley	36	2	62	70
Mass Border	53	7	40	119
Seacoast	49	3	48	93
Greater Manchester	47	5	48	86
1st Cong. District	57	4	40	266
2nd Cong. District	41	4	55	231

Presidential Approval Rating - Economy

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 48%	<u>Neutral</u> 4%	<u>Disapprove</u> 48%	<u>(N=)</u> 495
Democrat	19	5	76	212
Independent	35	6	59	72
Republican	85	1	14	194
Liberal	21	5	74	111
Moderate	38	3	59	205
Conservative	79	3	18	151
Union household	46	5	49	72
Non-union	47	4	49	419
5 years or less in NH	39	8	53	70
6 to 10 years	55	2	43	55
11 to 20 years	44	4	53	95
More than 20 years	49	4	47	266
18 to 34	36	8	57	100
35 to 49	51	4	45	165
50 to 64	46	3	51	128
65 and over	57	2	41	82
Male	52	1	47	241
Female	43	7	50	255
High school or less	49	4	47	117
Some college	49	6	45	110
College graduate	50	3	47	160
Post-graduate	39	4	56	103
Less than \$30K	39	7	54	47
\$30K to \$60K	48	4	48	94
\$60K to \$75K	40	2	58	55
\$75K to \$100K	59	0	41	59
More than \$100K	52	2	47	88
Married	52	3	44	324
Divorced/separated	43	4	53	84
Never married	31	7	61	80
Protestant	59	4	37	166
Catholic	51	2	47	183
Other	26	6	68	125
Attend 1 or more/week	62	4	35	107
1-2 times a month	52	2	46	77
Less often	43	4	53	150
Never	39	5	56	144
Abortion legal in all circumstances	36	4	60	223
Legal in limited circumstances	57	5	38	220
Illegal in all circumstances	57	2	42	26
Northern NH	52	4	44	41
Central/Lakes	49	1	50	84
Conn. Valley	38	4	58	71
Mass Border	50	6	44	119
Seacoast	49	2	49	92
Greater Manchester	47	6	46	88
1st Cong. District	53	4	44	266
2nd Cong. District	42	5	54	230

Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 47%	<u>Neutral</u> 3%	<u>Disapprove</u> 50%	<u>(N=)</u> 497
Democrat	17	2	81	214
Independent	43	3	54	70
Republican	83	2	15	195
Liberal	19	5	76	113
Moderate	39	1	60	203
Conservative	77	1	22	151
Union household	47	2	51	71
Non-union	47	3	50	422
5 years or less in NH	41	0	59	70
6 to 10 years	50	8	41	54
11 to 20 years	39	1	59	95
More than 20 years	50	3	48	268
18 to 34	35	6	59	99
35 to 49	51	3	46	166
50 to 64	46	0	54	129
65 and over	51	2	47	83
Male	54	1	44	242
Female	40	5	56	255
High school or less	54	5	41	118
Some college	50	4	46	111
College graduate	47	2	51	159
Post-graduate	36	0	64	104
Less than \$30K	43	7	49	49
\$30K to \$60K	46	2	52	93
\$60K to \$75K	41	0	59	55
\$75K to \$100K	52	3	45	59
More than \$100K	54	2	45	87
Married	53	2	45	327
Divorced/separated	37	2	62	84
Never married	29	9	62	80
Protestant	56	3	41	166
Catholic	52	2	47	183
Other	27	2	71	126
Attend 1 or more/week	60	4	36	107
1-2 times a month	48	0	52	76
Less often	42	3	55	152
Never	42	3	55	144
Abortion legal in all circumstances	32	4	64	223
Legal in limited circumstances	60	1	39	221
Illegal in all circumstances	54	2	44	27
Northern NH	59	0	41	42
Central/Lakes	43	4	53	86
Conn. Valley	38	2	60	71
Mass Border	50	4	46	119
Seacoast	48	3	50	91
Greater Manchester	48	4	48	88
1st Cong. District	53	2	44	266
2nd Cong. District	39	4	57	230

U.S. Right Direction / Wrong Track

	<u>Right Direction</u> 47%	<u>Wrong Track</u> 47%	<u>Don't Know</u> 6%	<u>(N=)</u> 492
STATEWIDE				
Democrat	21	74	5	212
Independent	40	50	11	70
Republican	77	17	6	195
Liberal	21	72	7	108
Moderate	40	54	6	203
Conservative	74	22	5	150
Union household	42	53	6	69
Non-union	47	46	6	417
5 years or less in NH	35	58	8	68
6 to 10 years	61	37	2	52
11 to 20 years	37	55	7	95
More than 20 years	49	45	7	265
18 to 34	31	60	9	98
35 to 49	55	41	4	163
50 to 64	45	51	4	127
65 and over	50	39	11	82
Male	52	42	6	240
Female	42	51	7	251
High school or less	50	42	8	116
Some college	50	45	5	109
College graduate	48	45	7	158
Post-graduate	36	59	5	103
Less than \$30K	38	54	8	44
\$30K to \$60K	49	45	6	93
\$60K to \$75K	38	56	7	55
\$75K to \$100K	57	34	10	59
More than \$100K	52	46	2	86
Married	50	44	7	322
Divorced/separated	44	51	5	86
Never married	34	60	6	76
Protestant	55	39	6	164
Catholic	54	40	7	179
Other	25	69	6	125
Attend 1 or more/week	53	40	7	105
1-2 times a month	49	47	4	77
Less often	46	47	7	145
Never	38	55	7	144
Abortion legal in all circumstances	38	58	4	221
Legal in limited circumstances	52	39	9	218
Illegal in all circumstances	57	40	4	27
Northern NH	55	40	5	40
Central/Lakes	46	49	5	87
Conn. Valley	39	56	5	70
Mass Border	50	46	5	118
Seacoast	42	49	8	93
Greater Manchester	52	39	9	84
1st Cong. District	52	42	7	263
2nd Cong. District	41	53	6	229

Presidential Approval Rating - Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 45%	<u>Neutral</u> 3%	<u>Disapprove</u> 51%	<u>(N=)</u> 499
Democrat	15	1	83	214
Independent	39	7	54	72
Republican	81	2	17	195
Liberal	18	3	79	113
Moderate	35	3	61	205
Conservative	76	1	23	151
Union household	45	0	55	72
Non-union	45	4	51	423
5 years or less in NH	34	0	66	70
6 to 10 years	51	6	43	53
11 to 20 years	39	3	59	95
More than 20 years	48	4	48	271
18 to 34	32	5	63	99
35 to 49	49	4	47	166
50 to 64	47	1	52	129
65 and over	49	3	48	84
Male	53	2	45	242
Female	39	4	57	257
High school or less	54	4	42	120
Some college	44	5	51	111
College graduate	44	2	53	159
Post-graduate	36	2	62	104
Less than \$30K	49	5	45	49
\$30K to \$60K	41	3	56	95
\$60K to \$75K	41	0	59	55
\$75K to \$100K	50	0	50	59
More than \$100K	50	5	45	87
Married	50	4	47	327
Divorced/separated	37	3	60	86
Never married	34	2	63	80
Protestant	52	4	44	167
Catholic	50	3	47	185
Other	29	1	70	125
Attend 1 or more/week	58	6	36	107
1-2 times a month	47	2	51	77
Less often	39	3	58	152
Never	41	3	57	145
Abortion legal in all circumstances	31	3	65	224
Legal in limited circumstances	57	3	40	222
Illegal in all circumstances	54	0	46	27
Northern NH	57	3	40	42
Central/Lakes	45	1	55	87
Conn. Valley	35	5	60	71
Mass Border	45	6	49	119
Seacoast	46	3	51	92
Greater Manchester	49	1	50	88
1st Cong. District	52	3	45	268
2nd Cong. District	38	3	59	230

Support / Oppose US War in Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Support</u> 48%	<u>Neutral</u> 5%	<u>Oppose</u> 48%	<u>(N=)</u> 493
Democrat	18	3	79	212
Independent	46	12	42	72
Republican	83	2	15	194
Liberal	23	3	74	110
Moderate	41	6	53	204
Conservative	78	2	21	150
Union household	45	3	52	72
Non-union	48	5	47	417
5 years or less in NH	46	1	53	70
6 to 10 years	52	8	40	53
11 to 20 years	42	4	54	94
More than 20 years	49	5	46	267
18 to 34	42	5	53	99
35 to 49	55	5	40	163
50 to 64	44	5	51	129
65 and over	47	2	51	83
Male	51	5	44	241
Female	44	5	51	252
High school or less	54	7	39	114
Some college	46	7	46	111
College graduate	48	1	51	160
Post-graduate	43	3	54	104
Less than \$30K	60	3	37	49
\$30K to \$60K	40	7	53	94
\$60K to \$75K	46	2	51	55
\$75K to \$100K	51	4	45	59
More than \$100K	56	5	39	87
Married	52	5	44	323
Divorced/separated	38	5	57	86
Never married	40	5	55	79
Protestant	57	3	40	165
Catholic	51	8	41	183
Other	31	1	68	124
Attend 1 or more/week	58	5	36	104
1-2 times a month	48	3	49	77
Less often	49	7	45	153
Never	39	3	59	142
Abortion legal in all circumstances	36	2	62	220
Legal in limited circumstances	59	7	34	223
Illegal in all circumstances	46	5	49	27
Northern NH	47	6	48	42
Central/Lakes	46	3	51	86
Conn. Valley	41	1	58	67
Mass Border	47	7	46	119
Seacoast	52	4	44	93
Greater Manchester	53	6	41	87
1st Cong. District	54	5	41	267
2nd Cong. District	41	4	55	226

Favorability Rating - George W. Bush

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 52%	<u>Neutral</u> 2%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 46%	<u>(N)</u> 497
Democrat	17	3	80	215
Independent	52	1	47	71
Republican	91	2	7	196
Liberal	19	3	78	108
Moderate	41	1	58	205
Conservative	89	2	9	152
Union household	47	2	51	70
Non-union	52	3	45	423
5 years or less in NH	44	3	54	70
6 to 10 years	57	3	39	54
11 to 20 years	45	1	54	95
More than 20 years	54	3	43	269
18 to 34	37	3	60	98
35 to 49	60	3	37	165
50 to 64	48	2	50	129
65 and over	55	2	43	84
Male	55	1	43	242
Female	48	4	48	255
High school or less	57	2	40	120
Some college	57	3	40	108
College graduate	51	3	46	161
Post-graduate	39	2	59	104
Less than \$30K	47	5	49	47
\$30K to \$60K	53	2	46	95
\$60K to \$75K	45	2	52	55
\$75K to \$100K	58	0	42	59
More than \$100K	55	1	44	87
Married	58	2	41	326
Divorced/separated	45	5	50	87
Never married	34	4	62	79
Protestant	61	3	36	166
Catholic	59	2	39	186
Other	27	2	70	125
Attend 1 or more/week	65	5	30	106
1-2 times a month	52	4	44	77
Less often	51	2	47	151
Never	41	1	58	144
Abortion legal in all circumstances	38	1	61	223
Legal in limited circumstances	63	2	34	221
Illegal in all circumstances	66	9	25	27
Northern NH	57	4	39	42
Central/Lakes	54	1	45	87
Conn. Valley	36	3	61	70
Mass Border	60	4	36	119
Seacoast	48	2	49	93
Greater Manchester	52	0	48	86
1st Cong. District	57	2	41	267
2nd Cong. District	46	4	51	230