

# THE GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

### BUSH APPROVAL RATINGS - STUCK AT 50

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DURHAM, NH – Faced with continuing trouble in Iraq, high oil prices at home, and political fights over Social Security, energy policy, and court and ambassadorial appointments, President Bush's job approval ratings in New Hampshire are stuck at 50 percent.

These findings are based on the latest **Granite State Poll**,<sup>?</sup> conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The Granite State Poll is sponsored by the University of New Hampshire. Five hundred two (502) randomly selected adults were interviewed by telephone between April 24 and May 2, 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/presapp50505.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/survey-center/presapp50505.pdf))

#### Presidential Approval

George W. Bush's job approval ratings nationwide have recently dropped to the lowest level of his presidency. And while Bush's job approval ratings are not at an all time low in New Hampshire, they are still stuck in a mediocre range. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 50 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Bush is doing as president, 47 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral. These figures are down slightly since February when 52 percent approved of Bush's performance as president, 43 percent disapproved, and 4 percent were neutral. "Bush's approval ratings in the Granite State have been hovering around 50 for the past year," said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. "The economy has not rebounded as strongly as many have hoped and the situation in Iraq is a drag on his popularity."

New Hampshire joined the other New England states and went narrowly for John Kerry in the November election, but still remains deeply divided in how it perceives President Bush. Republicans and conservatives strongly approve of Bush's performance as president while equally large majorities of Democrats and liberals disapprove.

#### Economic Approval Rating

New Hampshire's unemployment rate has currently crept up to 4.0 percent, and gasoline continues to cost more than \$2 per gallon. Although New Hampshire's economy is certainly not in bad shape, it has not improved as rapidly as many have hoped. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 46 percent of New Hampshire residents say they approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, 50 percent disapprove, and 5 percent are neutral. The percentage who approve of Bush's handling of the economy has slipped somewhat since February, but considerably higher than February 2004, when only 41 percent approved of Bush's handling of the economy.

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<sup>?</sup> 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 adults remain deeply divided over the president's handling of foreign affairs. When asked about how the president is handling foreign affairs, only 47 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve, 49 percent disapprove, and 4 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, 52 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral, down slightly since February when 47 percent approved of the Bush Administration's handling of Iraq and 50 percent disapproved.

However, a slight majority of New Hampshire residents think that going to Iraq was a good idea. Support for the US having gone to war in Iraq is up five percentage points since February and now 52 percent supporting the war, 45 percent opposing, and 3 percent neutral.

### **Right Track – Wrong Track**

New Hampshire residents are somewhat pessimistic about the overall direction of the country. Forty-six percent of New Hampshire residents think that things in this country are generally going in the right direction, 43 percent think they are on the wrong track, and 11 percent don't know.

### **Subgroup Analysis**

Bush gets his highest approval ratings from Republicans, conservatives, upper income residents, Catholics, and people who attend church weekly. Democrats, liberals, union households, those making less than \$30,000 annually, people who have never married, and people who do not attend church are most likely to give Bush low approval ratings.

Republicans, conservatives, and upper income residents are most supportive of the war in Iraq while Democrats, liberals, and non-religious residents are most opposed

### **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 April 24 and May 2, 2005. A random sample of 502 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>
<b>Apr. '05</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>(483)</b>
<b>Feb. '05</b>	52	4	43	(533)
<b>Oct. '04</b>	51	3	46	(567)
<b>July '04</b>	46	4	50	(503)
<b>Apr. '04</b>	48	6	46	(536)
<b>Feb. '04</b>	47	5	48	(505)
<b>Oct. '03</b>	56	4	40	(502)
<b>June '03</b>	64	5	31	(511)
<b>Apr. '03</b>	71	6	23	(503)
<b>Feb. '03</b>	65	4	30	(646)
<b>June '02</b>	75	5	21	(658)
<b>Apr. '02</b>	81	6	13	(685)
<b>Feb. '02</b>	87	4	9	(724)
<b>Oct. '01</b>	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>
<b>Apr. '05</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>(490)</b>
<b>Feb. '05</b>	48	5	46	(534)
<b>Oct. '04</b>	48	3	49	(568)
<b>July '04</b>	49	5	47	(499)
<b>Apr. '04</b>	43	6	51	(538)
<b>Feb. '04</b>	41	5	54	(506)
<b>Oct. '03</b>	46	4	50	(499)
<b>June '03</b>	51	3	45	(512)
<b>Apr. '03</b>	56	6	38	(502)
<b>Feb. '03</b>	51	6	43	(644)
<b>June '02</b>	62	6	32	(644)
<b>Apr. '02</b>	70	7	23	(688)
<b>Feb. '02</b>	69	6	25	(725)
<b>Oct. '01</b>	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>
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>
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>
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?”

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

**Presidential Approval Rating - Overall**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u> 50%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u> 3%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u> 47%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u> 483</b>
Registered Democrat	12	3	85	103
Undeclared	43	4	53	176
Registered Republican	85	2	12	145
Not registered	45	7	47	51
Democrat	17	2	81	186
Independent	42	8	50	75
Republican	83	2	15	198
Liberal	19	1	80	112
Moderate	46	5	49	178
Conservative	82	2	16	154
Union household	33	2	65	59
Non-union	52	4	44	413
18 to 34	49	5	46	72
35 to 49	55	4	41	175
50 to 64	47	2	51	144
65 and over	45	4	51	68
Male	50	2	48	236
Female	50	5	45	247
High school or less	58	5	37	124
Some college	55	4	41	120
College graduate	43	2	55	152
Post-graduate	43	3	53	75
Less than \$30K	37	8	55	49
\$30K to \$60K	46	1	53	95
\$60K to \$75K	38	11	51	52
\$75K to \$100K	54	2	44	63
More than \$100K	59	2	39	86
Married	54	3	43	331
Divorced/separated	43	4	52	92
Never married	38	5	57	49
Protestant	52	2	45	163
Catholic	60	5	36	159
Other / None	35	3	62	134
Attend Church once or more/week	61	2	37	128
1-2 times a month	47	9	45	51
Less often	52	3	45	131
Never	41	3	56	147
Northern NH	50	1	49	66
Western NH	48	4	49	46
Central/Lakes	51	5	44	76
Hillsborough County	53	5	43	144
Seacoast	47	3	50	151
1st Cong. District	53	2	45	241
2nd Cong. District	47	5	48	242

**Presidential Approval Rating - Economy**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u></b> <b>46%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b>5%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u></b> <b>50%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>490</b>
Registered Democrat	16	5	79	103
Undeclared	41	4	54	181
Registered Republican	75	4	21	147
Not registered	31	6	63	51
Democrat	18	2	81	187
Independent	33	14	54	78
Republican	77	3	20	199
Liberal	20	1	79	111
Moderate	39	7	54	183
Conservative	75	3	22	156
Union household	30	2	68	59
Non-union	48	5	47	419
18 to 34	52	7	41	75
35 to 49	51	3	46	177
50 to 64	38	4	58	144
65 and over	41	7	51	70
Male	48	2	50	240
Female	43	7	50	250
High school or less	47	7	46	127
Some college	47	4	49	120
College graduate	47	3	50	155
Post-graduate	41	4	55	75
Less than \$30K	37	9	54	51
\$30K to \$60K	42	3	56	96
\$60K to \$75K	41	6	53	52
\$75K to \$100K	43	4	53	63
More than \$100K	62	1	37	89
Married	50	5	45	336
Divorced/separated	34	4	63	93
Never married	37	6	58	50
Protestant	43	7	50	167
Catholic	58	4	38	158
Other / None	35	3	62	136
Attend Church once or more/week	54	3	43	132
1-2 times a month	40	9	50	52
Less often	50	6	44	133
Never	36	4	60	147
Northern NH	53	2	45	67
Western NH	32	14	53	46
Central/Lakes	37	10	53	76
Hillsborough County	53	2	45	150
Seacoast	44	3	53	151
1st Cong. District	48	3	49	242
2nd Cong. District	43	7	50	247

**Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u> 47%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u> 4%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u> 49%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u> 486</b>
Registered Democrat	11	4	85	104
Undeclared	41	3	55	178
Registered Republican	81	2	18	146
Not registered	40	10	50	49
Democrat	17	2	81	187
Independent	35	9	56	75
Republican	80	1	18	198
Liberal	19	3	78	110
Moderate	40	4	55	179
Conservative	78	2	20	158
Union household	35	0	65	59
Non-union	49	4	47	415
18 to 34	32	8	60	74
35 to 49	56	3	41	175
50 to 64	45	1	54	145
65 and over	45	5	50	70
Male	49	2	49	238
Female	45	5	50	248
High school or less	54	6	40	125
Some college	53	2	46	119
College graduate	41	3	56	154
Post-graduate	41	2	57	74
Less than \$30K	37	16	47	51
\$30K to \$60K	40	2	58	95
\$60K to \$75K	45	1	53	50
\$75K to \$100K	49	2	49	63
More than \$100K	53	1	46	89
Married	53	2	45	334
Divorced/separated	41	8	51	91
Never married	20	6	74	50
Protestant	50	3	48	163
Catholic	56	3	41	161
Other / None	32	5	63	135
Attend Church once or more/week	57	3	40	129
1-2 times a month	48	6	47	51
Less often	49	5	47	133
Never	38	2	61	148
Northern NH	46	4	51	66
Western NH	41	7	52	47
Central/Lakes	46	4	50	76
Hillsborough County	49	3	48	146
Seacoast	49	3	49	150
1st Cong. District	50	3	47	242
2nd Cong. District	44	4	52	244



**U.S. Right Direction / Wrong Track**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Right Direction</u> 46%</b>	<b><u>Wrong Track</u> 43%</b>	<b><u>Don't Know</u> 11%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u> 487</b>
Registered Democrat	22	70	8	105
Undeclared	35	52	14	174
Registered Republican	74	17	9	146
Not registered	50	39	11	55
Democrat	21	70	9	189
Independent	36	40	23	74
Republican	72	21	8	195
Liberal	19	70	11	111
Moderate	41	46	13	178
Conservative	71	23	6	153
Union household	40	44	16	60
Non-union	46	44	10	416
18 to 34	46	34	20	75
35 to 49	50	43	8	176
50 to 64	41	49	10	143
65 and over	43	48	8	69
Male	48	43	9	232
Female	44	44	13	255
High school or less	52	35	13	132
Some college	42	50	8	114
College graduate	49	40	11	153
Post-graduate	30	59	11	73
Less than \$30K	30	55	15	49
\$30K to \$60K	49	45	6	95
\$60K to \$75K	35	45	20	52
\$75K to \$100K	50	44	6	60
More than \$100K	51	40	9	86
Married	48	42	9	331
Divorced/separated	39	48	13	92
Never married	37	46	17	52
Protestant	40	45	15	163
Catholic	57	35	7	156
Other / None	37	53	10	138
Attend Church once or more/week	50	40	11	128
1-2 times a month	49	44	7	52
Less often	45	38	18	134
Never	40	53	7	147
Northern NH	44	47	8	65
Western NH	35	42	23	47
Central/Lakes	47	45	8	75
Hillsborough County	51	37	11	149
Seacoast	44	47	9	151
1st Cong. District	48	44	7	243
2nd Cong. District	44	42	14	243

**Presidential Approval Rating - Iraq**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<u><b>Approve</b></u> <b>45%</b>	<u><b>Neutral</b></u> <b>3%</b>	<u><b>Disapprove</b></u> <b>52%</b>	<u><b>(N=)</b></u> <b>491</b>
Registered Democrat	10	5	85	105
Undeclared	40	2	59	178
Registered Republican	78	1	21	148
Not registered	36	7	57	51
Democrat	16	2	82	187
Independent	30	6	64	78
Republican	78	1	22	200
Liberal	18	3	79	111
Moderate	38	2	60	182
Conservative	76	1	22	158
Union household	36	1	63	59
Non-union	46	3	51	420
18 to 34	31	7	62	73
35 to 49	52	1	47	178
50 to 64	44	2	54	145
65 and over	44	2	53	71
Male	49	1	50	241
Female	41	4	55	250
High school or less	49	5	46	126
Some college	50	2	48	122
College graduate	40	1	59	155
Post-graduate	41	3	56	75
Less than \$30K	42	10	48	51
\$30K to \$60K	31	3	66	94
\$60K to \$75K	47	0	53	52
\$75K to \$100K	44	2	55	63
More than \$100K	54	0	46	89
Married	50	2	48	336
Divorced/separated	39	3	58	93
Never married	20	7	73	50
Protestant	50	3	47	167
Catholic	54	1	45	161
Other / None	28	3	68	135
Attend Church once or more/week	53	2	45	132
1-2 times a month	51	3	46	51
Less often	49	3	48	134
Never	33	2	65	147
Northern NH	43	5	52	66
Western NH	49	4	48	47
Central/Lakes	41	2	57	76
Hillsborough County	48	1	50	148
Seacoast	43	3	53	153
1st Cong. District	46	3	51	245
2nd Cong. District	44	3	53	246

**Support / Oppose US War in Iraq**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Support</u></b> <b>52%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b>3%</b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b> <b>45%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>489</b>
Registered Democrat	13	1	86	103
Undeclared	47	2	51	176
Registered Republican	83	6	10	150
Not registered	51	7	42	52
Democrat	22	1	77	187
Independent	39	3	59	74
Republican	84	5	11	201
Liberal	25	1	73	112
Moderate	47	3	50	181
Conservative	80	3	17	156
Union household	42	1	57	59
Non-union	53	4	44	418
18 to 34	38	4	59	75
35 to 49	59	4	38	176
50 to 64	52	2	46	143
65 and over	47	4	49	71
Male	56	2	42	237
Female	47	4	48	252
High school or less	51	6	42	129
Some college	63	2	35	119
College graduate	45	2	54	154
Post-graduate	48	2	49	73
Less than \$30K	44	8	48	51
\$30K to \$60K	43	3	55	93
\$60K to \$75K	47	2	50	51
\$75K to \$100K	52	1	47	61
More than \$100K	63	2	36	88
Married	56	2	41	336
Divorced/separated	44	5	51	91
Never married	31	7	62	52
Protestant	56	2	42	165
Catholic	60	2	38	161
Other / None	35	4	60	135
Attend Church once or more/week	60	3	37	131
1-2 times a month	55	1	44	51
Less often	53	4	42	135
Never	40	3	57	147
Northern NH	46	3	51	66
Western NH	53	3	43	46
Central/Lakes	53	2	45	76
Hillsborough County	57	3	40	145
Seacoast	48	5	47	156
1st Cong. District	54	4	41	242
2nd Cong. District	49	2	48	247