

# THE WMUR GRANITE STATE POLL

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

### BUSH APPROVAL RATINGS STILL LOW IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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DURHAM, NH – New Hampshire residents are largely dissatisfied with the job George W. Bush is doing as president. Approval for Bush's handling of the economy has improved somewhat but he receives poor marks for his handling of foreign affairs, especially Iraq.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR Granite State Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The Granite State Poll is sponsored by the WMUR-TV, Manchester and University of New Hampshire. Five hundred nine (509) randomly selected adults were interviewed by telephone between July 6 and July 20, 2004. 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/pres72204.pdf](http://www.unh.edu/survey-center/pres72204.pdf) )

#### **Approval Holds**

With less than four months remaining before the November presidential election, President George W. Bush continues to be plagued by poor job approval ratings in New Hampshire. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 46 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the way Bush is handling his job as president, 50 percent disapprove, and 4 percent are neutral. This marks the first time that half of Granite State adults say they disapprove of Bush's performance as President. "Bush's continued low approval ratings make him increasingly vulnerable in New Hampshire, a state that he narrowly won in 2000," said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center.

#### **Economic Approval Rating**

Approval of the job Bush is doing handling the economy has improved, but remains low. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 49 percent of New Hampshire residents say they approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, 47 percent disapprove, and 5 percent are neutral. The percentage who approve of Bush's handling of the economy is up from 43 percent in April. "The US and New Hampshire economies have been growing strongly in the past year and it appears Bush is starting to get some credit for the economic recovery," said Dr. Smith.

#### **Foreign Affairs & Iraq**

With the economy improving, the greatest challenge facing the Bush administration continues to be the situation in Iraq. New Hampshire adults give Bush low scores for his handling of foreign affairs in general, and Iraq in particular. In the most recent Granite State Poll, only 41 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the way President Bush is handling foreign affairs, 56 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral. In the Spring Granite State Poll, 48 percent approved of Bush's handling of foreign affairs, 48 percent disapproved, and 4 percent were neutral.

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Despite the handing of sovereignty to an interim Iraqi government, Granite Staters are more dissatisfied with the Bush administration's handling of Iraq than at any time in the past. When asked if they approved of the way Bush is handling the situation with Iraq, only 42 percent approve, 55 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral. The percentage who approve of the Bush administration's handling of Iraq is down from 49 percent in April.

And for the first time, less than half of New Hampshire residents support having gone to war with Iraq. Currently, only 47 percent of New Hampshire adults support the United States having gone to war with Iraq, 47 percent oppose the U.S. having gone to war, and 6 percent are neutral. Support for the war in Iraq has decreased 12 percentage points since the April Granite State Poll.

### **Subgroup Analysis**

Bush gets his highest approval ratings from Republicans, conservatives, Protestants, those making more than \$100,000 annually, Protestants, and people who attend church weekly. Democrats, liberals, union households, residents of Western New Hampshire, and those with post-graduate educations have the most unfavorable opinion of Bush.

Republicans and conservatives are the strongest supporters of U.S. involvement in Iraq while Democrats and liberals are most opposed to the war.

### **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 6 to July 20, 2004. A random sample of 509 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. Included in this sample were 464 likely November voters. The margin of error for the likely voter sub-sample is plus or minus 4.5 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 '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 '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 '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 '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 '04	47%	6%	47%	(498)
Apr. '04	59	4	37	(536)
Feb. '04	54	3	43	(509)
Oct. '03	65	5	30	(496)
June '03	69	4	28	(513)
Apr. '03	77	4	20	(506)

**Presidential Approval Rating - Overall**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u> 46%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u> 4%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u> 50%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u> 503</b>
Registered Democrat	17	1	82	101
Undeclared	40	5	54	167
Registered Republican	88	0	12	119
Not registered	57	5	37	13
Democrat	15	3	82	223
Independent	43	13	44	62
Republican	82	1	17	201
Liberal	22	3	75	116
Moderate	43	2	56	185
Conservative	73	2	25	159
Union household	35	5	60	81
Non-union	49	4	48	407
5 years or less in NH	35	1	64	63
6 to 10 years	42	6	52	41
11 to 20 years	40	2	58	105
More than 20 years	51	4	45	278
18 to 34	39	2	59	109
35 to 49	49	6	45	161
50 to 64	46	0	53	145
65 and over	47	6	47	69
Male	50	4	46	244
Female	43	4	53	259
High school or less	49	9	42	145
Some college	49	1	50	128
College graduate	47	3	50	111
Post-graduate	39	1	60	110
Less than \$30K	46	2	53	54
\$30K to \$60K	40	5	55	136
\$60K to \$75K	55	2	43	58
\$75K to \$100K	43	2	54	69
More than \$100K	50	1	49	62
Married	51	5	45	351
Divorced/separated	45	5	50	61
Never married	29	1	71	83
Protestant	53	5	42	190
Catholic	51	2	47	160
Other	31	3	67	134
Attend 1 or more/week	60	3	37	130
1-2 times a month	54	1	46	57
Less often	40	3	57	152
Never	38	6	57	144
Northern NH	49	4	47	65
Western NH	39	5	57	48
Central/Lakes	54	8	38	79
Hillsborough County	45	2	53	154
Seacoast	45	4	51	158
1st Cong. District	50	4	46	267
2nd Cong. District	42	4	54	236

**Presidential Approval Rating - Economy**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u></b> <b>49%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b>5%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u></b> <b>47%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>499</b>
Registered Democrat	17	4	79	100
Undeclared	45	3	53	167
Registered Republican	86	2	12	119
Not registered	57	5	37	13
Democrat	20	4	76	220
Independent	43	10	47	61
Republican	82	2	17	199
Liberal	24	2	74	114
Moderate	46	3	51	184
Conservative	75	2	22	157
Union household	38	4	59	81
Non-union	51	5	44	403
5 years or less in NH	42	5	53	62
6 to 10 years	48	4	48	41
11 to 20 years	48	1	51	105
More than 20 years	50	5	44	277
18 to 34	47	1	52	106
35 to 49	53	7	39	163
50 to 64	47	3	51	145
65 and over	42	5	53	68
Male	52	5	43	241
Female	46	4	51	258
High school or less	52	9	39	144
Some college	47	2	51	127
College graduate	50	3	47	111
Post-graduate	45	3	52	110
Less than \$30K	34	6	61	54
\$30K to \$60K	39	6	55	134
\$60K to \$75K	57	7	36	57
\$75K to \$100K	57	2	41	69
More than \$100K	53	3	43	63
Married	52	4	44	349
Divorced/separated	44	9	47	60
Never married	37	2	61	82
Protestant	58	4	38	190
Catholic	50	5	45	159
Other	33	4	63	133
Attend 1 or more/week	59	7	35	128
1-2 times a month	60	1	39	57
Less often	48	2	50	154
Never	36	7	57	142
Northern NH	47	6	47	65
Western NH	51	2	48	47
Central/Lakes	52	7	41	79
Hillsborough County	48	3	49	152
Seacoast	48	5	47	156
1st Cong. District	52	4	45	265
2nd Cong. District	45	6	49	234

**Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u> 41%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u> 3%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u> 56%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u> 499</b>
Registered Democrat	13	2	85	100
Undeclared	37	2	61	167
Registered Republican	79	1	20	117
Not registered	42	5	53	13
Democrat	12	1	86	221
Independent	38	10	52	62
Republican	73	1	26	197
Liberal	17	2	81	113
Moderate	34	2	64	185
Conservative	68	2	30	158
Union household	35	4	61	81
Non-union	42	3	56	403
5 years or less in NH	32	0	68	62
6 to 10 years	47	2	50	41
11 to 20 years	31	2	67	104
More than 20 years	44	3	52	276
18 to 34	28	1	70	107
35 to 49	46	4	51	162
50 to 64	41	0	59	143
65 and over	40	7	53	68
Male	46	3	50	244
Female	35	2	62	255
High school or less	40	6	54	145
Some college	42	2	56	126
College graduate	44	3	54	110
Post-graduate	36	0	64	110
Less than \$30K	38	5	57	53
\$30K to \$60K	36	4	61	134
\$60K to \$75K	50	0	50	58
\$75K to \$100K	39	1	60	69
More than \$100K	48	1	51	62
Married	47	2	51	347
Divorced/separated	39	6	55	61
Never married	16	4	80	82
Protestant	48	4	47	189
Catholic	44	2	53	157
Other	23	1	76	134
Attend 1 or more/week	52	4	44	128
1-2 times a month	43	3	54	57
Less often	34	2	64	152
Never	35	2	63	142
Northern NH	33	4	63	64
Western NH	34	4	62	46
Central/Lakes	47	4	48	79
Hillsborough County	41	1	58	152
Seacoast	42	2	55	158
1st Cong. District	46	2	52	266
2nd Cong. District	35	3	62	233

**Presidential Approval Rating - Handling of Iraq**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Approve</u> 42%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u> 3%</b>	<b><u>Disapprove</u> 55%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u> 501</b>
Registered Democrat	13	2	86	99
Undeclared	37	1	62	167
Registered Republican	80	2	18	119
Not registered	47	0	53	13
Democrat	14	1	86	220
Independent	40	9	51	62
Republican	74	1	25	201
Liberal	22	2	76	115
Moderate	35	1	64	184
Conservative	67	2	32	158
Union household	32	4	64	80
Non-union	45	2	53	405
5 years or less in NH	33	1	66	62
6 to 10 years	47	1	52	41
11 to 20 years	32	4	65	105
More than 20 years	47	2	51	277
18 to 34	31	3	66	108
35 to 49	47	3	50	162
50 to 64	42	0	58	145
65 and over	42	5	53	67
Male	49	3	48	243
Female	35	3	62	258
High school or less	46	5	49	145
Some college	43	3	54	128
College graduate	46	1	53	110
Post-graduate	31	1	68	109
Less than \$30K	40	5	54	55
\$30K to \$60K	37	2	61	135
\$60K to \$75K	50	2	48	58
\$75K to \$100K	40	0	60	69
More than \$100K	44	0	56	62
Married	47	2	51	347
Divorced/separated	44	2	54	61
Never married	21	5	73	84
Protestant	50	3	47	191
Catholic	45	2	53	157
Other	26	2	71	134
Attend 1 or more/week	54	4	42	127
1-2 times a month	42	0	58	57
Less often	35	3	62	153
Never	39	2	59	144
Northern NH	37	7	56	64
Western NH	41	0	59	48
Central/Lakes	47	5	48	79
Hillsborough County	42	2	56	152
Seacoast	41	3	56	157
1st Cong. District	46	3	51	265
2nd Cong. District	38	3	60	236



**Support / Oppose War with Iraq**

<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b><u>Support</u></b> <b>47%</b>	<b><u>Neutral</u></b> <b>6%</b>	<b><u>Oppose</u></b> <b>47%</b>	<b><u>(N=)</u></b> <b>498</b>
Registered Democrat	19	3	78	97
Undeclared	47	8	46	168
Registered Republican	76	4	21	116
Not registered	69	0	31	13
Democrat	22	4	74	219
Independent	52	12	36	62
Republican	74	4	22	198
Liberal	26	4	70	115
Moderate	45	4	52	184
Conservative	69	5	26	158
Union household	38	3	59	81
Non-union	50	6	44	402
5 years or less in NH	41	5	54	61
6 to 10 years	57	2	40	41
11 to 20 years	43	2	54	105
More than 20 years	48	7	45	275
18 to 34	45	6	49	109
35 to 49	54	7	39	161
50 to 64	45	4	51	142
65 and over	36	3	61	67
Male	57	4	39	241
Female	39	7	54	257
High school or less	49	9	42	145
Some college	51	3	46	125
College graduate	51	7	42	110
Post-graduate	38	3	59	109
Less than \$30K	49	6	46	54
\$30K to \$60K	43	4	53	132
\$60K to \$75K	61	6	33	58
\$75K to \$100K	43	8	50	69
More than \$100K	46	4	49	63
Married	50	6	44	345
Divorced/separated	42	6	52	61
Never married	38	5	57	84
Protestant	54	5	41	189
Catholic	53	6	41	157
Other	31	5	64	133
Attend 1 or more/week	57	5	38	128
1-2 times a month	58	2	40	56
Less often	43	3	53	152
Never	39	8	52	142
Northern NH	42	6	52	64
Western NH	51	3	46	46
Central/Lakes	51	5	44	79
Hillsborough County	49	3	48	153
Seacoast	45	10	45	157
1st Cong. District	50	7	43	264
2nd Cong. District	44	4	52	234