

THE GRANITE STATE POLL

SUPPORT FOR BUSH UP WITH WAR SUCCESS

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

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DURHAM, NH -- President George W. Bush's approval rating in New Hampshire has increased to more than 70 percent largely because of support for the war with Iraq.

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 six (506) adults were interviewed between April 11 and April 22, 2003. 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 and click on Press Releases.)

Granite State Rallies Around Bush

In times of war, Americans rally to support their troops and their Commander in Chief, and the recent war with Iraq is no exception to that rule. New Hampshire residents are showing their support by giving President George W. Bush his highest job approval ratings in a year. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 71 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of the job Bush is doing as president, only 23 percent disapprove, and 6 percent are neutral. Bush's approval ratings are up somewhat from February and are at their highest level since April 2002. A year ago, 81 percent of New Hampshire adults approved of his performance as president, 13 percent disapproved, and 6 percent were neutral. "The slow economy had caused support for Bush to slip, but he has gained renewed support with the prosecution of the war," said Andrew Smith, Director of the UNH Survey Center. "Bush has maintained high approval levels in spite of the poor economy by focusing attention on his successful handling of terrorism at home and abroad."

Bush's personal favorability ratings are up as well and have regained much of the ground he had lost in the past year. Currently, 72 percent of New Hampshire adults say they have a favorable opinion of Bush, 23 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him, and 5 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 very high +49, up from +35 in February and is approaching the +62 rating he enjoyed in April 2002.

Foreign Affairs

Bush's response to the September 11 attacks and the war in Afghanistan had been responsible for his high personal favorability and job approval ratings. Support for his handling of foreign affairs dropped as these events were replaced in the headlines with bad economic news. But with the onset of war with Iraq, support for Bush's handling of foreign affairs has increased. When asked about the job Bush is doing handling foreign affairs, 72 percent of New Hampshire residents say they approve, 25 percent disapprove, and 3 percent are neutral. 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

While Bush is getting credit for his handling of foreign affairs, he gets only average marks for his handling of the economy. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 56 percent of New Hampshire residents say they approve of the job President Bush is doing handling the economy, 38 percent disapprove, and 6 percent are neutral. This is only a slight increase since February when 51 percent approved of Bush's handling of the economy, 43 percent disapproved, and 6 percent were neutral. But given the slow pace of economic recovery in New Hampshire, these figures are remarkably high. Should economic growth return in 2003, Bush will be in solid position for reelection in 2004.

Iraq

The Bush administration's handling of the situation in Iraq has been unpopular for some time overseas, but gets high marks in New Hampshire. In the most recent Granite State Poll, 79 percent of New Hampshire adults say they approve of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq, only 18 percent disapprove, and 2 percent are neutral. This represents a significant gain since February when only 56 percent of Granite Staters approved of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq.

General approval of the administration's Iraq policy is high and so is support for the war itself. Eighty percent of New Hampshire adults say they support the war in Iraq, only 13 percent oppose the war, and 7 percent are neutral.

SUB-GROUP ANALYSIS

Bush's high overall and foreign affairs approval ratings and his high personal favorability ratings come from all groups of New Hampshire residents with the exception of Democrats and liberals. 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.

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
Approve	92%	87%	81%	75%	65%	71%
Neutral	2	4	6	5	4	6
Disapprove	6	9	13	21	30	23
(N)	(687)	(724)	(685)	(658)	(646)	(503)

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
Approve	75%	69%	70%	62%	51%	56%
Neutral	8	6	7	6	6	6
Disapprove	18	25	23	32	43	38
(N)	(684)	(725)	(688)	(644)	(644)	(502)

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
Approve	88%	86%	76%	69%	60%	72%
Neutral	4	4	5	4	4	3
Disapprove	7	10	19	36	36	25
(N)	(685)	(722)	(690)	(644)	(646)	(506)

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
Favorable	88%	84%	78%	69%	64%	72%
Neutral/SK	4	5	6	7	7	5
Unfavorable	8	11	16	29	29	23
(N)	(678)	(726)	(693)	(651)	(651)	(503)

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
Approve	56%	79%
Neutral	7	2
Disapprove	37	18
(N)	(646)	(503)

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

"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)

	Feb. 2003	Apr. 2003
Favor	55%	80%
Neutral	7	7
Oppose	38	13
(N)	(645)	(506)

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 11 to April 22, 2003. A random sample of 506 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 Rating - Overall

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 71%	<u>Neutral</u> 6%	<u>Disapprove</u> 23%	<u>(N=)</u> 503
Democrat	43	7	51	171
Independent	71	10	19	99
Republican	93	2	5	215
Liberal	45	6	49	97
Moderate	68	7	25	214
Conservative	91	3	6	153
Union household	65	3	32	63
Non-union	72	6	22	436
5 Years or less in NH	71	1	27	66
6 to 10 years	62	5	32	38
11 to 20 years	74	6	19	97
More than 20 years	71	6	23	297
18 to 34	68	9	23	113
33 to 49	74	3	23	183
50 to 64	75	4	21	118
65 and over	62	8	30	72
Male	72	5	23	243
Female	70	6	23	260
High school or less	78	8	14	135
Some college	71	6	23	136
College graduate	70	4	26	143
Post-graduate	61	4	35	86
Less than \$30K	61	13	27	76
\$30K to \$60K	76	3	21	157
\$60K to \$75K	77	3	21	41
\$75K to \$100K	71	2	28	68
More than \$100K	77	5	18	67
Married	73	5	22	308
Divorced/separated	73	7	20	99
Never married	63	6	32	94
Protestant	72	7	21	201
Catholic	78	2	20	163
Other	58	7	35	126
Northern NH	56	8	36	68
Western NH	65	4	31	48
Central/Lakes	74	5	21	78
Hillsborough County	74	4	21	153
Seacoast	74	7	19	156

Presidential Approval Rating - Economy

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 56%	<u>Neutral</u> 6%	<u>Disapprove</u> 38%	<u>(N=)</u> 502
Democrat	25	3	71	170
Independent	50	12	37	99
Republican	84	4	12	214
Liberal	36	4	60	98
Moderate	51	5	44	214
Conservative	77	6	17	151
Union household	48	3	49	63
Non-union	58	6	36	435
5 Years or less in NH	66	1	33	66
6 to 10 years	55	5	40	38
11 to 20 years	56	10	34	97
More than 20 years	54	6	40	296
18 to 34	56	6	38	112
33 to 49	56	6	38	184
50 to 64	63	3	33	118
65 and over	48	9	43	71
Male	56	5	39	241
Female	57	7	36	261
High school or less	64	5	31	136
Some college	51	8	40	136
College graduate	55	6	39	142
Post-graduate	52	3	45	85
Less than \$30K	46	6	47	75
\$30K to \$60K	58	6	36	157
\$60K to \$75K	67	7	26	42
\$75K to \$100K	60	3	37	68
More than \$100K	63	2	35	65
Married	59	5	36	308
Divorced/separated	57	5	38	100
Never married	46	8	46	92
Protestant	58	5	37	200
Catholic	60	7	33	162
Other	49	5	46	127
Northern NH	36	8	56	67
Western NH	54	5	41	47
Central/Lakes	58	5	37	79
Hillsborough County	61	8	31	152
Seacoast	60	4	36	157

Presidential Approval Rating - Foreign Affairs

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 72%	<u>Neutral</u> 3%	<u>Disapprove</u> 25%	<u>(N=)</u> 506
Democrat	47	4	49	172
Independent	68	8	24	102
Republican	93	0	7	215
Liberal	46	4	51	99
Moderate	70	4	26	214
Conservative	90	1	9	154
Union household	67	1	31	63
Non-union	73	4	23	439
5 Years or less in NH	67	0	33	66
6 to 10 years	66	5	29	38
11 to 20 years	73	4	23	97
More than 20 years	74	3	23	298
18 to 34	69	4	27	113
33 to 49	76	3	21	185
50 to 64	75	2	24	119
65 and over	65	4	32	72
Male	74	3	23	244
Female	70	4	26	262
High school or less	79	6	15	137
Some college	72	2	26	136
College graduate	72	3	25	144
Post-graduate	62	1	37	86
Less than \$30K	61	7	32	76
\$30K to \$60K	75	3	22	159
\$60K to \$75K	79	3	18	41
\$75K to \$100K	73	0	27	68
More than \$100K	76	1	23	67
Married	74	3	24	310
Divorced/separated	77	4	19	100
Never married	61	5	34	94
Protestant	72	3	25	201
Catholic	82	2	16	164
Other	58	6	36	128
Northern NH	53	7	40	68
Western NH	67	4	29	48
Central/Lakes	77	2	21	78
Hillsborough County	76	3	21	154
Seacoast	74	3	23	158

Presidential Approval Rating - Handling of Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Approve</u> 79%	<u>Neutral</u> 2%	<u>Disapprove</u> 18%	<u>(N=)</u> 503
Democrat	62	3	35	169
Independent	74	3	23	102
Republican	95	1	4	215
Liberal	55	4	41	97
Moderate	80	2	18	214
Conservative	94	0	6	154
Union household	78	1	21	62
Non-union	80	2	18	437
5 Years or less in NH	73	4	22	66
6 to 10 years	65	5	29	38
11 to 20 years	83	3	14	97
More than 20 years	81	1	18	296
18 to 34	76	4	20	113
33 to 49	82	1	16	184
50 to 64	80	1	19	118
65 and over	75	4	21	71
Male	82	2	16	242
Female	77	2	20	261
High school or less	87	4	9	137
Some college	79	2	18	135
College graduate	77	2	21	144
Post-graduate	72	0	28	84
Less than \$30K	71	7	23	76
\$30K to \$60K	83	1	16	158
\$60K to \$75K	81	3	16	41
\$75K to \$100K	78	0	22	67
More than \$100K	83	0	17	67
Married	81	2	17	309
Divorced/separated	80	3	16	99
Never married	72	2	26	93
Protestant	81	2	17	201
Catholic	86	1	13	164
Other	68	4	28	125
Northern NH	64	4	32	67
Western NH	75	2	23	48
Central/Lakes	80	2	18	77
Hillsborough County	84	3	13	153
Seacoast	83	1	16	158

Favor or Oppose War with Iraq

STATEWIDE	<u>Favor</u> 80%	<u>Neutral</u> 7%	<u>Oppose</u> 13%	<u>(N=)</u> 506
Democrat	61	12	26	172
Independent	79	5	16	101
Republican	96	2	2	216
Liberal	58	11	31	99
Moderate	81	7	12	213
Conservative	91	5	4	154
Union household	77	3	20	64
Non-union	81	8	12	438
5 Years or less in NH	81	4	15	66
6 to 10 years	76	16	8	38
11 to 20 years	82	7	11	96
More than 20 years	80	6	14	300
18 to 34	81	10	9	113
33 to 49	83	7	10	185
50 to 64	81	5	14	119
65 and over	72	6	23	72
Male	84	6	10	244
Female	76	8	15	262
High school or less	88	5	7	138
Some college	81	8	11	136
College graduate	80	8	12	144
Post-graduate	66	7	26	85
Less than \$30K	74	11	15	77
\$30K to \$60K	81	8	11	159
\$60K to \$75K	82	4	14	42
\$75K to \$100K	80	3	17	67
More than \$100K	84	3	13	67
Married	81	6	12	309
Divorced/separated	83	7	10	101
Never married	73	9	18	94
Protestant	82	5	12	200
Catholic	88	4	8	165
Other	68	12	20	129
Northern NH	65	9	26	68
Western NH	76	10	14	48
Central/Lakes	77	9	14	79
Hillsborough County	84	6	10	154
Seacoast	85	6	9	157

Favorability Rating - President George W. Bush

STATEWIDE	<u>Favorable</u> 72%	<u>Neutral</u> 4%	<u>Unfavorable</u> 23%	<u>Don't Know</u> 1%	<u>(N=)</u> 503
Democrat	47	5	47	1	172
Independent	69	8	21	2	102
Republican	94	0	6	0	216
Liberal	47	3	47	4	99
Moderate	69	7	24	0	215
Conservative	92	1	7	0	154
Union household	66	7	26	1	64
Non-union	73	4	22	1	438
5 Years or less in NH	67	3	28	1	66
6 to 10 years	69	3	28	0	36
11 to 20 years	74	7	19	0	97
More than 20 years	73	3	23	1	300
18 to 34	75	4	21	0	112
33 to 49	71	5	22	2	185
50 to 64	78	3	20	0	120
65 and over	63	4	33	0	72
Male	74	3	22	1	244
Female	70	5	24	1	262
High school or less	79	6	15	0	138
Some college	72	4	23	1	136
College graduate	72	2	25	1	143
Post-graduate	60	5	34	1	86
Less than \$30K	64	9	26	1	75
\$30K to \$60K	78	1	21	1	159
\$60K to \$75K	80	0	20	0	42
\$75K to \$100K	70	6	24	0	68
More than \$100K	74	3	21	1	67
Married	73	3	23	1	311
Divorced/separated	71	7	21	1	100
Never married	69	4	26	1	93
Protestant	72	5	22	0	202
Catholic	81	3	15	1	164
Other	59	3	37	1	127
Northern NH	58	3	36	3	67
Western NH	67	2	29	2	48
Central/Lakes	73	3	24	0	80
Hillsborough County	78	3	19	0	153
Seacoast	73	7	19	1	158