

## The WMUR / CNN Poll

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September 13, 1999

### CLINTON STILL DOING A GOOD JOB, NOT A POPULAR PERSON

DURHAM, NH-President Bill Clinton is thought to be doing a good job as President by New Hampshire voters. However, his personal favorability ratings remain low.

These findings are based on the latest **WMUR / CNN Poll**, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center. The WMUR / CNN Poll is sponsored by WMUR TV, Channel 9 in Manchester, New Hampshire and CNN. We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to the "WMUR/CNN Poll", conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center.

### **Approve of His Work, Not of Him**

As the summer ends and the U.S. economy continues to hum, President Bill Clinton continues to get high approval ratings for his job as President. In the latest WMUR / CNN Poll, 60% of New Hampshire likely voters say they approve of the way Clinton is handling his job as President, 39% disapprove, and 1% are neutral. His approval ratings have remained unchanged since the May WMUR / CNN Poll when 61% approved of the job he was doing as President and 36% disapproved.

But these high job performance numbers do not mean that New Hampshire voters like President Clinton as a person. When asked if they have a favorable or an unfavorable

opinion of President Clinton, only 36% of New Hampshire voters say they have a favorable opinion of him, 57% have an unfavorable opinion, and 6% are neutral. These numbers are also unchanged since the May WMUR / CNN Poll when 38% had a favorable opinion of Clinton and 54% had an unfavorable opinion of him.

President Clinton looks to leave a mixed legacy as he heads toward his final year in office -- high approval for keeping the economy healthy but a stained personal reputation as a result of impeachment and numerous administration scandals.

### **It's Still the Economy**

The strong economy has kept Clinton's unfavorable numbers from damaging his job approval rating. Seventy-two percent of New Hampshire voters say they approve of the way President Clinton is handling the economy, 20% disapprove, and 8% are neutral. Again, these figures are unchanged since May when 74% approved of Clinton's handling of the economy and 18% disapproved.

### **Foreign Affairs**

Currently, 59% of New Hampshire likely voters say they approve of the way President Clinton is handling foreign affairs, 37% disapprove, and 4% are neutral. These figures are up somewhat since May when 54% approved of his handling of foreign affairs and 41% disapproved. The successful conclusion of NATO's campaign in Kosovo may be responsible for the increase. However, Clinton's foreign affairs approval ratings remain significantly lower than his economic approval ratings.

### **Sub-Group Analysis**

Approval for President Clinton's job as President is strongest among Democrats, Liberals, union households, divorcees, voters who are pro-choice, and voters who do not attend church. Republicans, Conservatives, regular church goers, and voters who are pro-life are most likely to disapprove of the way Clinton is handling his job as President.

Similarly, Democrats, Liberals, lower income voters, and voters who are pro-choice are most likely to have a favorable opinion of President Clinton. Republicans, Conservatives, and voters who are pro-life are most likely to have an unfavorable opinion of Clinton.

Majorities of all demographic subgroups approve of the way President Clinton is handling the economy.

In the handling of foreign affairs, Clinton's highest approval ratings again come from Democrats, liberals, lower income voters, and pro-choice voters. Disapproval for the way Clinton is handling foreign affairs is strongest among Republicans, Conservatives, and regular church goers.

### **WMUR/CNN Poll Methodology**

These findings are based on the most recent WMUR/CNN Poll, conducted by the University of New Hampshire Survey Center from September 5 through September 11, 1999.

A random sample of 702 likely New Hampshire primary voters was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.7 percent. Results reported for the other subgroups have potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

The data has been weighted to adjust for numbers of voters and telephone lines within households.

In the 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.

Respondents to the WMUR/CNN Poll were asked:

- "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 an unfavorable opinion of that person --or if you have never heard of him or her."
- "GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Clinton is handling his job as president?"
- "GENERALLY SPEAKING, do approve or disapprove of the way President Clinton is handling FOREIGN AFFAIRS?"
- "GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Clinton is handling THE ECONOMY?"

**Presidential Approval**

(Likely Voters)

	<u>May '99</u>	<u>Sept. '99</u>
Approve	61%	60%
Neutral, don't know	2	6
Disapprove	36	39

(N=672) (N=675)

**Favorability Rating - President Clinton**

(Likely Voters)

	<u>May '99</u>	<u>Sept. '99</u>
Favorable	38%	36%
Neutral	8	6
Unfavorable	54	57

(N=691) (N=692)

**Presidential Approval - Economy**

(Likely Voters)

	<u>May '99</u>	<u>Sept. '99</u>
Approve	74%	72%
Neutral, don't know	7	8
Disapprove	18	20

(N=666) (N=669)

**Presidential Approval - Foreign Affairs**

(Likely Voters)

	<u>May '99</u>	<u>Sept. '99</u>
Approve	54%	59%
Neutral, don't know	5	4
Disapprove	41	37

(N=671) (N=673)