

Nov. 21, 2003 — Study #491

◆◆◆◆ LOS ANGELES TIMES® POLL ALERT ◆◆◆◆

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Times Poll contacted 1,345 adults nationwide, including 1,144 registered voters and 662 Democratic primary and caucus voters, by telephone Nov. 15–18. Democratic primary and caucus voters are defined as registered Democrats and, in some states, independents and other voters who are permitted to vote in the Democratic primary or caucus in their respective states. Telephone numbers were chosen from a list of all exchanges in the nation. Random digit dialing techniques were used so that listed and unlisted numbers could be contacted. The entire sample of adults was weighted slightly to conform with census figures for sex, race, age and education. The margin of sampling error for all adults and registered voters is 3 percentage points in either direction; among Democratic primary/caucus voters it is 4 points. For certain subgroups the error margin may be somewhat higher. Poll results can also be affected by factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are presented.

NOTES

All answer frequencies are given in percentages.
 “–” indicates less than 0.5%.
 The wording of some questions has been abridged.

SELECTED RESULTS FROM THE TIMES POLL NATIONAL SURVEY November 15–18, 2003

(A full summary of results will be available at a later date through the Los Angeles Times Poll)

GUIDE TO COLUMN HEADINGS

- ALL All adults
- LIB Political liberals
- MOD Political moderates
- CON Political conservatives
- DEM Self-described Democrats
- IND Self-described independents
- REP Self-described Republicans
- MEN Men
- WOM Women
- DPC Democratic primary/caucus voters*

* Includes registered Democrats and, in some states, independents and other voters who are permitted to vote in the Democratic primary or caucus in that state.

Q5: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation in Iraq?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Approve	45	29	38	61	25	47	77	50	39
Disapprove	51	67	56	37	71	50	22	47	56
Don't know	4	4	6	2	4	3	1	3	5

Q6: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the war on terrorism?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Approve	59	42	56	74	42	63	84	64	55
Disapprove	35	53	35	24	50	31	15	33	37
Don't know	6	5	9	2	8	6	1	3	8

(ASKED OF VOTERS WHO ARE REGISTERED DEMOCRATS, INDEPENDENTS AND VOTERS WHO DO NOT REGISTER BY PARTY AND WHO ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE BUT WILL VOTE IN DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY/CAUCUS)

Q37: There are some Democratic candidates for president who opposed the U.S. war with Iraq because they did not believe Iraq posed an imminent threat to the United States. There are some Democratic candidates for president who supported the war with Iraq because they felt that Saddam Hussein was an imminent threat to the U.S. and that he had been stockpiling weapons of mass destruction. On balance, would you prefer a Democratic nominee who favored war with Iraq or one who opposed it? (STATEMENTS ROTATED)

	—Among Democratic Primary/Caucus Voters—								
	DPC	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	*	MEN	WOM
Favored war	39	19	49	48	26	54		49	29
Opposed war	46	64	35	39	59	34		36	55
Don't know	15	17	16	13	15	12		15	16

* Base for this question is too small to break out Republicans.

Q38: When voting in your state's primary or caucus, would you still vote for a candidate who agreed with you on most issues, but disagreed with your position on the war in Iraq, or would you not vote for a candidate who disagreed with your position on the war in Iraq even if they agreed with you on most issues, or would their position on the war not make a difference in your vote one way or the other?

—Among Democratic Primary/Caucus Voters—
 DPC LIB MOD CON DEM IND * MEN WOM

Vote for candidate who disagreed on war	24	35	16	22	28	25	25	22
Not vote for candidate who disagreed on war	20	15	26	17	22	22	20	21
Position on war makes no difference	47	45	47	48	42	45	50	44
Don't know	9	5	11	13	8	8	5	13

* Base for this question is too small to break out Republicans.

(ASKED OF EVERYONE)

Q48: All in all, do you think the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, or not?

Worth going to war	48	31	45	62	30	49	76	54	42
Not worth going to war	43	57	50	31	60	43	16	39	48
Don't know	9	12	5	7	10	8	8	7	10

(NEXT TWO QUESTIONS ROTATED)

Q49: Generally speaking, do you trust President Bush and his advisors to make the right decisions about Iraq, or not?

Trust	53	32	47	71	27	54	86	60	47
Do not trust	41	62	45	24	66	40	9	36	44
Don't know	6	6	8	5	7	6	5	4	9

Q50: Generally speaking, do you think President Bush and his advisors have a clear plan for handling the situation in Iraq, or not?

Clear plan	39	25	35	53	19	36	73	42	37
No clear plan	52	65	59	37	70	55	20	51	52
Don't know	9	10	6	10	11	9	7	7	11

Q51: Thinking back over the past three years, do you think George W. Bush's policies on terrorism and national security have made the country more secure, or less secure, or has it not made a difference one way or the other?

More secure	57	44	56	64	39	61	78	62	51
Less secure	12	16	13	9	21	12	3	10	14
No difference	27	34	29	22	37	26	16	25	29
Don't know	4	6	2	5	3	1	3	3	6

Q52: Since May 1st, when major combat operations in Iraq ended, there have been more than 250 U.S. troops killed in Iraq. Thinking now about the next six months, do you think that the number of U.S. troops killed in Iraq will increase over that period of time, or decrease, or stay about the same as they have been since May 1st?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Increase	47	56	50	40	62	46	34	42	52
Decrease	15	11	12	22	10	15	26	19	12
Stay the same	30	27	33	30	20	33	33	32	27
Don't know	8	6	5	8	8	6	7	7	9

(NEXT TWO QUESTIONS ROTATED)

Q53: Generally speaking, do you think the outcome of the war in Iraq has been worth the cost in U.S. military lives, or not?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Worth the cost	31	17	27	43	17	35	55	37	26
Not worth the cost	59	73	66	46	73	57	36	58	61
Don't know	10	10	7	11	10	8	9	5	13

Q54: Generally speaking, do you think the outcome of the war in Iraq has been worth the financial cost to the U.S., or not?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Worth the cost	35	25	30	47	20	37	61	38	33
Not worth the cost	57	69	62	45	71	56	33	56	58
Don't know	8	6	8	8	9	7	6	6	9

Q55: How do you feel about the possibility that the United States will become bogged down in a long and costly effort in Iraq? Do you feel very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not concerned at all?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Very concerned	54	64	54	46	74	46	34	48	59
Somewhat concerned	32	26	34	36	22	39	41	31	33
Not too concerned	11	9	9	14	2	12	19	16	6
Not at all concerned	2	1	3	3	2	3	5	4	1
Don't know	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1

Q56: Which of the following statements comes closest to your view: "The U.S. should keep military forces in Iraq until democracy is established there, even if that means continued U.S. casualties," or "The U.S. should keep military forces in Iraq until order is restored, but should not insist on establishing democracy if that means continued casualties," or "The U.S. should withdraw its forces from Iraq in order to avoid more casualties, even if that means order is not restored"?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Until democracy established	33	21	31	42	22	37	51	40	26
Until order restored	41	43	47	35	38	41	37	42	40
Withdraw forces	19	23	17	17	33	14	9	13	25
Don't know	7	13	5	6	7	8	3	5	9

Q57: Should the Bush administration allow the United Nations to take control in the reconstruction of Iraq or should the United States remain in control of the reconstruction of Iraq?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
UN take control	53	69	59	39	67	55	33	53	54
U.S. remain in control	38	21	35	52	22	37	62	43	34
Don't know	9	10	6	9	11	8	5	4	12

Q58: There are opposing views as to how many American military forces should be stationed in Iraq. Some want to increase the size of the military force in Iraq to speed up reconstruction and to insure the country's stability. Some want to decrease the size of the military force in Iraq so that the handover of the country to Iraqis will be faster and the Iraqi citizens will have more responsibility in governing their own country. What do you think? Do you think the U.S. military force should be increased or decreased in Iraq, or should the size of the military remain at its current level?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Increased	24	15	28	26	21	24	30	31	16
Decreased	35	44	35	29	48	32	24	28	42
Current level	29	29	29	31	21	31	37	31	28
Don't know	12	12	8	14	10	13	9	10	14

Q59: As you may know, President Bush asked for and Congress passed a bill giving an additional \$87 billion for the reconstruction of Iraq, Afghanistan and for U.S. military operations there. Do you approve or disapprove of this?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Approve	42	29	39	53	23	46	67	49	35
Disapprove	53	63	56	44	69	51	30	48	58
Don't know	5	8	5	3	8	3	3	3	7

Q60: Do you think of the war with Iraq as part of the war against terrorism, or as separate from the war against terrorism? (STATEMENTS ROTATED)

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Part	60	36	60	76	42	66	85	60	59
Separate	36	58	37	20	52	32	13	37	35
Don't know	4	6	3	4	6	2	2	3	6

Q61: Do you think the U.S. is winning the war in Iraq, or do you think the anti-U.S. insurgents in Iraq are winning the war, or is neither side winning the war in Iraq?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
U.S. winning	37	28	29	48	24	37	59	46	28
Insurgents winning	4	5	4	3	5	2	1	5	3
Neither winning	52	58	61	43	59	57	35	45	59
Don't know	7	9	6	6	12	4	5	4	10

Q62: Before the war with Iraq the Bush administration said it had reports indicating that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction. So far, however, no such weapons have been found in Iraq.

Which of the following statements best describes what you think: "The weapons of mass destruction are in Iraq and the United States will find them eventually," or "The weapons of mass destruction are not in Iraq, but Bush believed they were because he relied on intelligence reports that were not accurate," or "The weapons of mass destruction are not in Iraq, and Bush deliberately exaggerated that issue before the war"? (STATEMENTS ROTATED)

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Will find WMD	33	24	33	37	25	32	44	34	31
WMD not in Iraq, reports not accurate	29	24	33	31	25	30	30	30	28
WMD not in Iraq, Bush exaggerated	26	43	25	15	39	27	8	24	29
Don't know	12	9	9	17	11	11	18	12	12

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAID BUSH EXAGGERATED)

Q63: Do you think George W. Bush was justified in exaggerating the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, or not?

	ALL	LIB	MOD	*	DEM	IND	*	MEN	WOM
Justified	9	9	6		10	12		8	10
Not justified	84	89	80		86	77		88	81
Don't know	7	2	14		4	11		4	9

* Base for this question is too small to break out Conservatives and Republicans.

(ASKED OF EVERYONE)

Q64: George W. Bush has said that establishing democracy in all Arab and Muslim countries is an important goal for the United States. Which of the following three statements comes closest to your view: "The United States should promote democracy in Middle Eastern countries, even if that means intervening with military force in some of the countries," or "The United States should promote democracy in Middle Eastern countries, but should not intervene with military force," or "The United States should not be engaged in promoting democracy in Middle Eastern countries"? (STATEMENTS ROTATED)

	ALL	LIB	MOD	CON	DEM	IND	REP	MEN	WOM
Promote democracy, use military force	14	11	17	15	11	15	23	15	13
Promote democracy, no military force	50	54	50	49	51	53	48	51	50
Not promote democracy	29	31	29	28	33	26	22	30	28
Don't know	7	4	4	8	5	6	7	4	9

Q65: Opposition groups in Saudi Arabia have launched terrorist attacks to try to overthrow the government there. If the government of Saudi Arabia asks for help from the United States, would you support sending U.S. military troops to Saudi Arabia, or would you support sending U.S. civilian advisors, or would you not send any help?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Troops	21	19	22	22	12	31	22	25	17
Civilian advisors	31	30	29	32	30	26	35	30	31
Both (Vol.)	7	6	7	7	7	8	9	10	4
No help	30	35	29	29	38	28	22	26	34
Don't know	11	10	13	10	13	7	12	9	14

Tables compiled by RAY ENSLOW