



IPSOS-REID Poll Results: Opposition to Eliminating Major League Baseball Teams But If They Gotta Go, Let's Take Away Florida's Teams!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2001

Contact: Thomas Riehle, President Ipsos-Reid U.S. Public Affairs

Telephone 202.463.7300

thomas.riehle@ipsos-reid.com

Ipsos-Reid Express Poll on Major League Baseball

Between November 9 to November 13, 2001, Ipsos-Reid interviewed a representative sample of 1000 U.S. adults nationwide by telephone. The margin of error is +/- 3.1%.

52% of Americans, and 59% of baseball fans, call baseball contraction a bad plan.

If a U.S. team must be eliminated in addition to Montreal's Expos, Americans agree: Take away Florida's teams.

"By a wide margin, Americans agree that baseball's plan to contract by two teams is a bad idea (52%) rather than a good idea (30%). Among baseball's constituency, the 53% of Americans who say they are at least somewhat interested in baseball, the margin is even wider in opposition, with 59% opposed and only 33% in favor. Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig has a lot of explaining to do before America, and America's baseball fans, will come around to support the proposed action by the owners," reports Thomas Riehle, President, U.S. Public Affairs at Ipsos-Reid, the international polling firm.

1. How interested are you in Major League Baseball? Would you say you are . . .

Very interested.....	20
Somewhat interested	33
Not very interested	19
Not at all interested	29
Not sure	-

2. As you may have heard, Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced a plan by the owners to eliminate two major league teams before the beginning of next season. Do you think this is a good plan or a bad plan for baseball? **(IF RESPONDENT SAYS "GOOD PLAN" OR "BAD PLAN", ASK:) Do you think it is a very (good/bad) or only a somewhat (good/bad) plan?**

Good Plan (net)	30
Very good plan.....	12
Somewhat good plan	18
Bad Plan (net).....	52
Very bad plan.....	23
Somewhat bad plan	29
Not Sure	17

	All	Democrats	Independents	Republicans	Interested in Baseball	Not Interested in Baseball
Good plan	30%	26%	26%	36%	33%	28%
Bad plan	52	61	50	45	59	45
Not sure	17	13	24	19	8	28



“If it has to happen, Americans agree—after eliminating the failed franchise in Montreal, the best candidate to be the second team eliminated would be one of the Florida-based baseball teams, either the Tampa Bay Devil Rays or the Florida Marlins. A total of only 21% would choose either the Kansas City Royals (12%) or the Minnesota Twins (9%) as the U.S. team to eliminate, while 22% would choose the Marlins and a whopping 35% have their sights aimed at the Devil Rays. With a total of 57% of all Americans (and 63% of those interested in baseball) choosing one of the Florida teams as the best candidate for elimination, the message is clear. The rest of America is saying, ‘Florida, we are coming to take away one of your baseball teams,’” Riehle reports.

(Q.3 ASKED ONLY IF RESPONDENT SAYS “BAD PLAN” IN Q.2.)

3. Should Congress pass a law to prevent Major League Baseball from eliminating two major league teams, or not?

Think it's a bad plan and...	
Support Congressional law to block it	10
Oppose Congressional law to block it	42
Not sure about Congressional law.....	--
Think it's a good plan.....	30
Not sure about the plan	17

4. It seems likely that the Montreal Expos are one of the two teams that will be eliminated by Major League Baseball. If you had to choose, which of the following four teams do you think should be the other team eliminated?

Tampa Bay Devil Rays.....	35
Florida Marlins	22
Kansas City Royals	12
Minnesota Twins	9
Other/None/Not sure.....	22

	<u>All</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Interested in Baseball</u>	<u>Not Interested in Baseball</u>
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	35%	39%	32%	34%	39%	31%
Florida Marlins	22	21	25	22	24	20
Kansas City Royals	12	14	8	12	13	12
Minnesota Twins	9	9	5	10	10	8
Other/None/Not sure	22	18	30	22	15	30

	<u>All</u>	<u>Northeast</u>	<u>Midwest</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	35%	27%	37%	34%	41%
Florida Marlins	22	30	24	17	21
Kansas City Royals	12	12	10	14	12
Minnesota Twins	9	8	7	11	7
Other/None/Not sure	22	24	23	24	18