



Coattails by Region: Bush's Re-Elect Scores Fade Outside the South, January – May.

Between May 3 and May 6 and May 17 and May 19, Ipsos Public Affairs interviewed a representative sample of 1567 registered voters nationwide. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.5%

For Immediate Release

Washington, DC (May 21, 2002) Democratic hopes in the 2002 midterm Congressional elections rest on faith that President George W. Bush's stratospheric political strength will inevitably come back down to earth before Election Day in November, and that Democratic candidates for Congress will benefit when that day comes. Since January, Bush has suffered double-digit declines in political standing, as measured by his "re-elect score" in the Ipsos-Reid/Cook Political Report surveys of registered voters. Overall, Bush has lost a net total of 13 points since January, with the largest losses in the Midwest and West.

If the election were held today, would you definitely vote to reelect George W. Bush for President, consider voting for someone else, or definitely vote for someone else?

	May 3 & May 17	Apr 19 & May 3	Apr 12 & Apr 19	Mar 14 & Apr 12	Mar 1 & Mar 14	Feb 15 & Mar 1	Feb 1 & Feb 15	Jan 18 & Feb 1	Jan 4 & Jan 18
ALL REG VOTERS (-13)									
Definitely vote to reelect	48	49	52	53	52	53	55	56	55
Definitely vote for other	24	23	21	22	22	20	18	18	18
Net Change	-2	-5	0	1	-3	-4	-1	1	0
NORTHEAST (-13)									
Definitely vote to reelect	43	44	46	50	50	49	53	58	50
Definitely vote for other	29	22	19	21	24	22	15	16	23
Net Change	-8	-5	-2	3	-1	-11	-4	15	0
MIDWEST (-21)									
Definitely vote to reelect	48	49	54	54	52	54	56	57	59
Definitely vote for other	23	20	17	21	23	19	16	15	13
Net Change	-4	-8	4	4	-6	-5	-2	-4	0
SOUTH (-5)									
Definitely vote to reelect	53	56	58	57	52	54	59	58	56
Definitely vote for other	20	20	21	22	22	20	17	17	18
Net Change	-3	-1	2	5	-4	-8	1	3	0
WEST (-17)									
Definitely vote to reelect	42	44	46	49	53	55	50	50	52
Definitely vote for other	28	30	27	22	21	22	26	26	21
Net Change	0	-5	-8	-5	-1	9	0	-7	0



Net Change represents the change since the previous poll in the gap between the number who would definitely vote to reelect Bush President and the number who would definitely vote for someone else. A negative change means movement away from Bush, a positive change is movement in favor of Bush.

In Congressional Preference, Republicans Hold Solid Leads in South, Midwest, and Democrats Rule Northeast. The West is Up For Grabs.

Despite Bush's declining political strength, Democrats have yet to take control of the midterm elections. When Bush was strong in January, Republicans enjoyed a small but surprising advantage in Congressional preference (in most midterm election years, the party of the President is at a disadvantage).

Since then, Democrats have managed only a net 2 point gain on Republicans in Congressional preference, with the gains confined largely to the Midwest and West. Democrats have actually lost significant ground (5 points) in the South since January.

And if the election were held today, would you want to see the Republicans or Democrats win control of the Congress?

	May 3 & May 17	Apr 19 & May 3	Apr 12 & Apr 19	Mar 14 & Apr 12	Mar 1 & Mar 14	Feb 15 & Mar 1	Feb 1 & Feb 15	Jan 18 & Feb 1	Jan 4 & Jan 18
ALL REG VOTERS (-2)									
REPUBLICANS	43	43	45	43	41	42	43	46	46
DEMOCRATS	40	41	39	41	42	41	41	39	41
Net Change	1	-4	4	3	-2	-1	-5	2	0
NORTHEAST (-1)									
REPUBLICANS	38	43	49	42	37	38	41	47	39
DEMOCRATS	46	44	41	44	48	49	47	40	46
Net Change	-7	-9	10	9	0	-5	-13	14	0
MIDWEST (-8)									
REPUBLICANS	44	41	42	40	37	41	45	48	48
DEMOCRATS	37	38	38	39	42	40	37	33	33
Net Change	4	-1	3	6	-6	-7	-7	0	0
SOUTH (+ 5)									
REPUBLICANS	45	45	46	44	43	44	45	45	46
DEMOCRATS	38	39	39	44	43	40	39	41	44
Net Change	1	-1	7	0	-4	-2	2	2	0
WEST (-10)									
REPUBLICANS	43	43	43	44	45	44	40	44	49
DEMOCRATS	42	43	40	34	34	38	43	41	38
Net Change	1	-3	-7	-1	5	9	-6	-8	0



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Net Change represents the change since the previous poll in the gap between the number who would prefer that Republicans control Congress minus the number who would prefer Democrats control Congress. A negative change means movement away from Republicans in favor of Democrats, a positive change is movement in favor of Republicans and away from Democrats.

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