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Job Approval for Bush, on Decline all Summer, Stops Declining

"Rallying 'Round the President?"

Democrats Have Solidified Support Among Women, Older Adults, and Those in the Northeast and on West Coast

Between August 16 and August 18, 2002 and between September 3 and September 5, 2002, Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs interviewed a representative sample of 2,000 adults nationwide, including 1,554 registered voters. The margin of error for the combined surveys is $\pm 2.2\%$ for all adults and $\pm 2.5\%$ for registered voters.

WASHINGTON, D.C., (September 9, 2002) — President Bush's job approval has been declining all summer. That decline was driving voters to favor Democrats in the upcoming mid-term elections. The most recent Ipsos-Reid/Cook Political Report polls, conducted from August 16-18 and from September 3-5, 2002, show that the decline in President Bush's overall job approval ratings has ended.

Overall, do you approve, disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President? **(IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE, ASK:)** Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)? **(IF HAVE MIXED FEELINGS OR NOT SURE, ASK:)** If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approve or disapprove?

And when it comes to **(READ ISSUE)** do you approve or disapprove or have mixed feelings about the way George W. Bush is handling that issue?

(IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE, ASK:) Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)? **(IF HAVE MIXED FEELINGS OR NOT SURE, ASK:)** If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approve or disapprove?

	REGISTERED VOTERS						
	8/16-18& 9/3-5/02	8/2-4& 8/16-18/02	7/18-21& 8/2-4/02	7/11-14 & 7/18-21/02	6/21-23 & 7/11-14/02	2 nd Quarter (AMJ 02)	1 st Quarter (JFM 02)
Overall Job Approval							
Total Approve.....	63	64	66	67	70	73	77
Total Disapprove.....	33	33	31	30	28	25	21
Handling The Economy							
Total Approve.....	55	53	54	55	58	63	34
Total Disapprove.....	41	43	43	42	38	66	32
Handling Domestic Issues like Health care, Education, the Environment, and Energy							
Total Approve.....	54	51	53	53	54	56	61
Total Disapprove.....	42	36	44	43	43	40	36
Handling Foreign Policy Issues and the War on Terrorism							
Total Approve.....	68	69	71	74	74	74	83
Total Disapprove.....	29	28	25	22	23	23	15



Today, voters would still like to see Democrats win control of the congressional agenda, with 46% preferring that Democrats win the upcoming congressional elections and 41% preferring Republicans.

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

	REGISTERED VOTERS						
	8/16-18& 9/3-5/02	8/2-4& 8/16-18/02	7/18-21& 8/2-4/02	7/11-14 & 7/18-21/02	6/21-23 & 7/11-14/02	2 nd Quarter (AMJ 02)	1 st Quarter (JFM 02)
Republicans	41	42	43	44	44	44	43
Democrats	46	45	43	42	41	40	41
Neither (VOL).....	8	9	10	9	11	12	12
Not sure	5	4	4	5	4	4	4

"The trend toward Democrats in the Congressional vote during July and August has been built on the decline in President Bush's job approval during the summer months," says Thomas Riehle, President of Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs, which conducts the survey the first and third week of every month. "The trend toward a decline in Bush's overall job rating as well as the decline in his ratings of handling the economy and other domestic issues also seem to have ended. The end of the summer has brought a change in focus of news stories toward foreign policy and the potential for war with Iraq, which has led to a rallying around the president," reports Riehle.

Despite indications that the trend toward increasing Democratic preference has ended, Democrats have managed to solidify support among key demographic groups as the election season moves into the fall, including women, older voters, and voters in the Northeast and the on the West coast. The following table hilights some of the key Democratic support groups.

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

	Registered Voters						
	All	Likely Voters	Men	Women	Single Mothers	Non- college Women	College Women
Republicans	41	43	49	33	22	26	37
Democrats	46	46	38	53	72	60	50
Neither (VOL).....	8	7	9	8	5	7	8
Not sure	5	4	4	6	1	7	5

	Registered Voters							
	Region					Area Type		
	North- east	New England	Mid- Atlantic	East North Central	Pacific	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Republicans	35	35	37	37	41	34	44	43
Democrats	51	49	49	49	46	54	43	42
Neither (VOL).....	9	11	6	6	7	7	8	10
Not sure	5	5	8	8	6	5	5	5



Registered Voters								
	Counties				Older Voters		Age/Race	
	Strong Bush	Weak Bush	Weak Gore	Strong Gore	Depression Era Babies (1901-29)	Age 75+	Whites 18-44	Whites 45+
Republicans	50	41	46	27	35	35	50	44
Democrats	37	43	42	61	50	51	39	41
Neither (VOL).....	8	9	7	9	7	6	7	9
Not sure	5	7	5	3	8	8	4	6

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About Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs

The survey was conducted by Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs, the Washington, D.C.-based division of Ipsos, which is the world's fourth largest polling and market research organization, based in Paris. Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective public affairs research organization made up of Democratic and Republican campaign and political polling veterans. It was established in Washington in August 2001, and it is led by Thomas Riehle, who has more than 15 years of experience as a political pollster in Washington. The Ipsos-Reid/Cook Political Report poll and the Ipsos-Reid Consumer Attitudes and Spending by Household (CASH) Index poll are conducted the first and third week of every month, as part of Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs weekly omnibus polling service.

The political survey is designed in conjunction with Charlie Cook of the Cook Political Report. Founded in 1984, The Cook Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter that analyzes elections for the U.S. House, Senate, governor and President as well as domestic American political trends. The New York Times has called the publication, "a newsletter that both parties consider authoritative" while the dean of the Washington political press corps, the Washington Post's David Broder has called Charlie Cook, its editor and publisher, "perhaps the best political handicapper in the nation." Cook also writes two weekly columns that appear in National Journal magazine and CongressDaily/AM and on nationaljournal.com, and serves as a political analyst for Cable News Network's show "Inside Politics." Researched and written by a staff of five based in Washington, D.C., the Cook Political Report's subscribers are primarily the lobbyists and managers for the political action committees of the nation's major corporations, trade associations and labor unions as well as by news organizations, foreign governments and others with an interest in detailed, impartial information and analysis of Congressional, gubernatorial and presidential elections.