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## As War Progresses, Bush Approval Soars

**But support is divided along partisan lines, with a majority of Independents not supporting the President, an Ipsos Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll finds**

*Between March 18-20, 2003, and April 1-3, 2003, Ipsos US Public Affairs interviewed for the Cook Political Report a representative sample of 2,030 adult Americans nationwide, including 1,592 registered voters. The margin of error for the combined surveys is  $\pm 2.2\%$  for all adults,  $\pm 2.5\%$  for registered voters.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C., (April 7, 2003)** — In interviews with 1,592 registered voters conducted March 18-20, 2003, and April 1-3, 2003, the Ipsos Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll finds continued improvement in Presidential approval.

- A majority (54%) of registered voters say the country is heading in the right direction, while 39% say the country is on the wrong track.
- In the most recent poll, 63% of registered voters approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President, as compared to 56% in interviews conducted March 4-20, 2003.

**Presidential Job Approval is sharply divided along party lines, and except on issues related to the war in Iraq, among self-identified Independents, a majority fail to support President Bush.**

- 46% of Independents say the country is on the wrong track; 44% say the country is heading in the right direction.

	Registered Voters	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Right direction	54%	79%	31%	44%
Wrong track	39%	16%	61%	46%
(DK/NS)	7%	5%	8%	10%

- 49% of Independents disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy; only 42% approve.

	Registered Voters	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Total Approve	54%	84%	25%	42%
Total Disapprove	41%	12%	71%	49%

- 54% of Independents disapprove of President Bush's job performance on other domestic issues; only 39% approve.

	Registered Voters	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Total Approve	52%	81%	25%	39%
Total Disapprove	44%	15%	72%	54%

- 30% of Independents disapprove of President Bush's handling of foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism, 60% approve.

	Registered Voters	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Total Approve	67%	91%	43%	60%
Total Disapprove	30%	7%	54%	30%

- 34% of Independents say that if the election were held today, they would *definitely* vote for someone else; 30% of Independents would consider voting for someone else; 30% of Independents would definitely vote for George W. Bush.

	Registered Voters	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
Definitely vote for Bush	46%	80%	14%	30%
Consider someone else	20%	13%	24%	30%
Definitely vote for someone else	31%	5%	58%	34%

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#### **About Ipsos US Public Affairs**

*The survey was conducted by Ipsos 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 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/Cook Political Report poll and the Ipsos Consumer Attitudes and Spending by Household (CASH) Index poll are usually conducted the first and third week of every month, as part of Ipsos 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.*