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Public Release Date: June 23, 2003 – 7:00 p.m. (EST)

Support for Bush Trending Downward but Still Strong

President Bush is in good position in the long run, but recent support for Bush and the Republicans has declined from its peak during the war in Iraq.

Between June 3-5, 2003, and June 17-19, 2003, Ipsos-Public Affairs interviewed for the Cook Political Report a representative sample of 2,000 adult Americans nationwide, including 1,553 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., (June 23, 2003) — In interviews with 1,553 registered voters conducted June 3-5, 2003, and June 17-19, 2003, the Ipsos-Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll finds support for George W. Bush and the Republicans trending downward during the 2nd quarter, but overall, Bush's support is still strong.

Increased Support for Bush Gained during the War in Iraq is Now Gone

- During the war with Iraq, support for George W. Bush in the next election surged.
 - The net difference between those who said they would definitely vote for Bush and those who said they would definitely vote for someone else was +19.
- However, the additional support for George W. Bush's reelection gained during the war is now gone.
 - In the most recent Ipsos-Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll, the net difference between those who said they would definitely vote for Bush and those who said they would definitely vote for someone else was +11.

	Presidential Reelection		
	6/3-19/03	5/6-22/03	4/1-17/03
Definitely reelect Bush	42%	44%	47%
Consider someone else	24%	23%	22%
Definitely vote for someone else	31%	31%	28%
Net Difference	+11	+13	+19

Bush is in Strong Shape as the 2nd Quarter Ends

- Support for Bush in the next election steadily declined through the first three quarters of 2002, before stabilizing in the 4th quarter.
- Support for Bush increased during the 2nd quarter, largely due to a sharp increase, during the war in Iraq, in the number of people who responded they would definitely vote to reelect Bush as President.

	Presidential Reelection					
	2 nd Quarter AMJ '03	1 st Quarter JFM '03	4 th Quarter OND '02	3 rd Quarter JAS '02	2 nd Quarter AMJ '02	1 st Quarter JFM '02
Definitely reelect Bush	44%	41%	44%	42%	50%	54%
Consider someone else	23%	23%	25%	29%	25%	24%
Definitely vote for someone else	30%	33%	28%	26%	22%	20%

Additional Support for Republicans Gaining Control of Congress has Dissipated

- Support for Republican control of Congress also reached a peak in April, during the war with Iraq.
 - The net difference between those who said they would want the Republicans to win control of Congress and those who said they would want the Democrats to win control of Congress was +7.
- The Republican advantage has dissipated, as Americans now prefer Democratic control of Congress by a narrow margin.
 - In the most recent Ipsos-Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll, the net difference between those who said they would want the Republicans to win control of Congress and those who said they would want the Democrats to win control of Congress was -4.

	Generic Congressional Vote		
	6/3-19/03	5/6-22/03	4/1-17/03
Republicans	41%	43%	47%
Democrats	45%	44%	40%
Neither	10%	9%	9%
Net Difference	-4	-1	+7

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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.