



Contact: Thomas Riehle 202-463-7300 [thomas.riehle@ipsos-na.com](mailto:thomas.riehle@ipsos-na.com)  
Public Release Date: July 14, 2003 – 7:00 p.m. (EST)

### **Approval of Bush's Job Performance Slipping, Especially with Older Voters**

***Among Americans age 50 and older, majorities now disapprove of his handling of the economy, other domestic issues.***

*Between June 17-19, 2003, and July 8-10, 2003, Ipsos-Public Affairs interviewed for the Cook Political Report a representative sample of 2,000 adult Americans nationwide, including 1,531 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., July 14, 2003** — In interviews with 1,531 registered voters conducted June 17-19, 2003, and July 8-10, 2003, the Ipsos-Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll finds overall support for President George W. Bush still strong among older and younger voters, but down substantially from an April peak during the Iraq war. However, on specific aspects of job approval not related to foreign affairs, Bush is faring much worse, especially among voters age 50 and older.

Historically, the attitudes of voters age 50 and older are particularly important because voter turnout increases dramatically over age 50.

#### **Overall approval is still strong since peaking during the war in Iraq**

- During the war with Iraq, job approval for George W. Bush surged.
  - In late April, 2003, the net difference between those who said they approved of the way Bush was handling his job as President and those who disapproved was +33 overall, and +28 among Americans age 50 or older.
- While approval has declined somewhat since the end of the shooting war in Iraq, overall job approval for George W. Bush remains strong.
  - In the most recent Ipsos-Public Affairs/*Cook Political Report* Poll, 59% of registered voters said they approved of the way George W. Bush was handling his job as President, and 55% of Americans age 50 or older said they approved of the way George W. Bush was handling his job as President.

	Overall Presidential Approval			
	<u>4/1-17/03</u>		<u>6/17/03 - 7/8/03</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 50+</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 50+</u>
Total Approve	65%	62%	59%	55%
Total Disapprove	32%	34%	39%	42%
Net Difference	+33	+28	+20	+13

*Job Approval on economy has dropped substantially among voters age 50 and older*

When it comes to handling the economy, older Americans are significantly more likely to disapprove of the job Bush is doing.

- During the war in Iraq, a majority (54%) approved of Bush's handling of the economy; today, barely half (50%) still approve of Bush's handling of the economy.
- However, among respondents age 50 and older, a majority now disapprove of the way Bush is handling the economy.

	Economic Job Approval			
	<u>4/1-17/03</u>		<u>6/17/03 - 7/8/03</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 50+</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 50+</u>
Total Approve	54%	54%	50%	44%
Total Disapprove	42%	43%	47%	53%
Net Difference	+12	+11	+3	-9

*Voters age 50 and older also disapprove of Bush's handling of domestic issues*

On domestic issues like health care, education, the environment and energy, Americans age 50 or older currently disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing.

- During the war in Iraq, a majority (53%) approved of Bush's handling of domestic issues. Now voters are split, 49% approve and 47% disapprove.
- Among voters age 50 and older, a majority now disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling domestic issues.
  - Among older Americans, the overall net change from the peak during the war in Iraq to the present is -13.

	Domestic Issues Job Approval			
	<u>4/1-17/03</u>		<u>6/17/03 - 7/8/03</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 50+</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Age 50+</u>
Total Approve	53%	52%	49%	45%
Total Disapprove	44%	45%	47%	51%
Net Difference	+9	+7	+2	-6

**For more information on this release, please contact:**

**Thomas Riehle**  
**President**  
**Ipsos-Public Affairs**  
**202.463.7300**  
[thomas.riehle@ipsos-na.com](mailto:thomas.riehle@ipsos-na.com)

#### **About Ipsos-Public Affairs**

*Ipsos-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 August 2001 in Washington, D.C., and is headed by veteran pollster Thomas Riehle, who has more than 15 years of experience as a political pollster in Washington. The division conducts strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of U.S. and international organizations. Typically, the division's studies are based on opinion research, not only public opinion, but often elite stakeholder, corporate and media opinion. Ipsos-Public Affairs is a member of the Ipsos Group, the second largest survey-based marketing research company in the world. 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-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.*