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Young Voters: Deep Divisions

Washington, D.C. - The opinions of young voters—registered voters age 18-29—are not dramatically different from those of all registered voters on the basic political questions of Bush approval ratings and his reelection. These young voters came of political age at a moment of intense partisan divisions and divisiveness, however, and it shows. It is as if young voters believe their side, whichever side that is, is the side that is always right and the other side is always wrong, as evidenced in this *Newsweek.com/Ipsos GeNext* Poll, conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

Young people are deeply divided on partisan grounds. You know—like their parents.

An earlier generation defined itself by its united stand against its elders, at least if you believed the rhetoric—"Don't trust anyone over 30." This generation looks an awful lot like its elders in its overall political views, and today's younger generation is characterized by the intense partisan divisions within the generation on many issues.

The *Newsweek.com/Ipsos GeNext* Poll was conducted among a representative sample of 350 young registered voters nationwide, identified from successive waves of Ipsos polls conducted January 2-18, 2004 with representative samples of adults nationwide. The margin of error is ± 5.3 percentage points.

Key Findings:

- While most young voters (60%) think the Bush Administration made the right decision when it invaded Iraq, most (56%) also believe that most of the burden of that policy is borne by people under age 30. That burden is felt especially on the Northeast and West coasts, and among young Catholic voters. Support for the war is highest among young voters with no college experience.
- Young voters divided evenly on the question of banning most abortions (with exceptions for rape, incest and a threat to the life of the mother). Few young voters, however, seem anxious to re-open the abortion debates that raged before they were born, prior to *Roe v. Wade*. By a 60%-38% margin, they support that Supreme Court decision.
- *Roe v. Wade* is a wedge issue that may favor the pro-choice side among young voters. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of pro-life young voters are more likely to vote for a President who would impose an anti-*Roe* litmus test on Supreme Court nominees, but nearly

three-quarters (74%) of pro-choice young voters are more likely to support a President who'd apply a pro-Roe litmus test to Supreme Court nominees.

- Young voters split 50%-47% on whether same sex marriage should be legal or not, but swing voters (those who have not decided for sure whether to vote to reelect Bush or vote for someone else) favor same sex marriage by a wider 55%-41% margin. When the question moves to a constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage, all young voters oppose the amendment by 43%-54%, and young swing voters oppose, 36%-60%.

The Associated Press Poll is conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Between January 2-18, 2004, the AP/Ipsos poll interviewed 350 registered voters age 18-29. The margin of error is ± 5.3 . Interviews of 774 registered voters for comparative results to all registered voters were conducted between January 5-7, 2004, with a margin of error of ± 3.6 .

Newsweek.com/Ipsos GeNext Poll of Registered Voters Age 18-29

Interview dates: January 2-18, 2004
Interviews: 350 registered voters age 18-29
Margin of error: ± 5.3

Comparative Results for All Registered Voters from AP/Ipsos Poll

Interview dates: January 5-7, 2004
Interviews: 774 registered voters
Margin of error: ± 3.6

1. All in all, thinking about how things have gone in Iraq since the United States went to war there in March 2003, do you think the Bush administration made the right decision-OR-made a mistake in going to war in Iraq?

Right decision 60
A mistake 37
Not sure 3

		Party I.D.		Vote for Bush Reelect			Education		
	Total Regis- tered Voters 18-29	Repub- licans	Demo- crats	Defin- itely vote to reelect	Consider someone else	Defin- itely vote for someone else	HS or less	Some college	College degree
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	143	163	128	102	120	98	155	96
Right decision	60%	87%	38%	97%	60%	21%	71%	57%	56%
A mistake	37%	12%	59%	3%	36%	74%	26%	41%	41%
(DK/NS)	3%	1%	3%	-	4%	5%	3%	2%	3%

- 1c. Do you agree or disagree: The Bush Administration policies in the war on terrorism and overthrow of Saddam Hussein have asked for a lot of sacrifices from people under age 30, who bear the burden of these policies, while asking no real sacrifice from people over age 30 to make those policies successful? **(IF AGREE OR DISAGREE, ASK:)** Do you (agree/disagree) strongly, or only somewhat? **(IF NOT SURE, ASK:)** Well, do you lean somewhat more to agree or disagree on that?

Total Agree	56
- Strongly agree	25
- Somewhat agree	31
Lean toward agree	-
Lean toward disagree	1
Total Disagree	41
- Somewhat disagree	25
- Strongly disagree	16
Not sure	2
Total Agree w/ Leaners	56
Total Disagree w/ Leaners	42

	Total Regis- tered Voters 18-29	Region				Religion			Investor	
		North- east	Mid- west	South	West	Protes- tants	White funda- menta- lists	Catholics	Yes	No
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	84	74	118	74	184	70	73	129	221
Agree	56%	63%	47%	52%	63%	53%	49%	67%	48%	61%
Disagree	42%	33%	53%	47%	36%	45%	48%	33%	50%	37%

2. On a different topic, do you agree or disagree: Abortion should be banned except in the case of pregnancies that result from rape or incest, or in any pregnancy that might threaten the life of the mother.

Agree	50
Disagree	49
Not sure	1

	Total Regis- tered Voters 18-29	Party Identification		Age			Region			
		Repub- licans	Demo- crats	18-21	22-25	26-29	North- east	Mid- west	South	West
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	143	163	96	112	140	84	74	118	74
Agree	50%	67%	34%	54%	57%	40%	45%	54%	57%	40%
Disagree	49%	31%	65%	44%	41%	59%	55%	43%	42%	59%
(DK/NS)	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	-	3%	1%	1%

2a. As you may know, the U.S. Supreme Court in its Roe versus Wade decision determined that states cannot ban abortion, because that would be an unconstitutional government intrusion into what should be a private decision. What is your opinion? Do you tend to...?

Agree with the Supreme Court Roe v Wade decision that says states should not be allowed to ban abortion..... 60

Disagree with Roe v Wade decision because you feel states should have the right to pass laws that ban abortion 38

Not sure 2

Opinion on Roe v. Wade	Total Regis- tered Voters 18-29	Party Identification		Age			Region			
		Repub- licans	Demo- crats	18-21	22-25	26-29	North- east	Mid- west	South	West
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	143	163	96	112	140	84	74	118	74
Agree	60%	38%	78%	69%	51%	61%	69%	55%	51%	66%
Disagree	38%	59%	21%	30%	45%	38%	28%	44%	47%	31%
(DK/NS)	2%	3%	1%	1%	4%	1%	3%	1%	2%	3%

Agree with the Supreme Court Roe versus. Wade decision that says states should not be allowed to ban abortion 60	Of Pro-Roe Young Voters, Percentage who are...	...More likely to support candidate who appoints pro- Roe judges to Supreme Court. 74
Disagree with the Supreme Court Roe versus. Wade decision because you feel states should have the right to pass laws that ban abortion 38	Of Anti-Roe Young Voters, Percentage who are...	...More likely to support candidate who appoints anti- Roe judges to Supreme Court. 65
Not sure 2		

On a different topic...

3. Should same-sex marriages be legal, or not?

Yes, should be legal 50
No, should not be legal 47
Not sure 3

		Party I.D.		Vote for Bush Reelect			Religion		
Opinion on Same Sex Marriage	Total Registered Voters 18-29	Rep- licans	Demo- crats	Defin- itely vote to reelect	Consider someone else	Defin- itely vote for someone else	Protes- tants	White funda- menta- lists	Catholics
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	143	163	128	102	120	184	70	73
Should be legal	50%	31%	64%	27%	55%	70%	38%	22%	58%
Should not be legal	47%	65%	34%	69%	41%	28%	59%	73%	36%
(DK/NS)	3%	4%	2%	4%	4%	2%	3%	5%	6%

		Gender		Age			Marital Status	
Opinion on Same Sex Marriage	Total Registered Voters 18-29	Male	Female	18-21	22-25	26-29	Married	Not married
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	190	160	96	112	140	110	240
Should be legal	50%	43%	58%	56%	46%	48%	39%	55%
Should not be legal	47%	54%	39%	39%	51%	50%	59%	41%
(DK/NS)	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%	2%	2%	4%

4. Would you favor or oppose a Constitutional Amendment that would define marriage as specifically involving a man and a woman, making same-sex marriages illegal and unconstitutional?

Favor constitutional amendment defining
marriage as specifically involving a man and a
woman, banning same-sex marriages 43
Oppose constitutional amendment 54
Not sure 3

		Party I.D.		Vote for Bush Reelect			Religion		
Opinion on Constitutional Amendment	Total Registered Voters 18-29	Rep- licans	Demo- crats	Defin- itely vote to reelect	Consider someone else	Defin- itely vote for someone else	Protes- tants	White funda- menta- lists	Catholics
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	143	163	128	102	120	184	70	73
Favor	43%	64%	26%	68%	36%	22%	51%	73%	34%
Oppose	54%	33%	72%	30%	60%	74%	45%	23%	62%
(DK/NS)	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

Opinion on Constitutional Amendment	Total Regis- tered Voters 18-29	Gender		Age			Marital Status	
		Male	Female	18-21	22-25	26-29	Married	Not married
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	190	160	96	112	140	110	240
Favor	43%	51%	34%	36%	48%	45%	54%	37%
Oppose	54%	45%	63%	58%	49%	54%	45%	58%
(DK/NS)	3%	4%	3%	6%	3%	1%	1%	5%

1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

	MSNBC.COM POLL: REGISTERED VOTERS 18-29	AP/Ipsos POLL: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
Right direction.....	48	49
Wrong track	49	46
Not sure	3	5

Right Direction/ Wrong Track	Total Regis- tered Voters 18-29	Party I.D.		Vote to Reelect Bush			Target States +		
		Repub- licans	Demo- crats	Defin- itely vote to reelect	Consider someone else	Defin- itely vote for someone else	Bush states	Battle- ground states	Gore states
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	143	163	128	102	120	105	143	102
Right Direction	48%	66%	31%	79%	44%	17%	55%	45%	45%
Wrong track	49%	31%	65%	18%	52%	79%	42%	54%	49%
(DK/NS)	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	1%	6%

+ **Bush states (22):** Bush wins with a two-party margin of more than 6 percent over Gore.
Battleground states (17): AZ, AR, FL, IA, ME, MI, MN, MO, NV, NH, NM, OH, OR, PA, TN, WA, WI.
Gore states (11 plus DC): Gore wins with a two-party margin of more than 6 percent over Bush.

2. 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?

	MSNBC.COM POLL: REGISTERED VOTERS 18-29	AP/Ipsos POLL: ALL REGISTERED VOTERS
Strongly approve	29	33
Somewhat approve.....	14	11
Lean toward approval	11	12
Still have mixed feelings	2	1
Lean toward disapproval.....	17	15
Somewhat disapprove	6	5
Strongly disapprove	21	22
Not sure	-	1
Total Approve	54	56
Total Disapprove	44	42
Mean Rating¹	4.3	4.4

		Party I.D.		Vote to Reelect Bush			Target States +		
	Total Regis- tered Voters 18-29	Repub- licans	Demo- crats	Defin- itely vote to reelect	Consider someone else	Defin- itely vote for someone else	Bush states	Battle- ground states	Gore states
Overall Job Approval									
<i>Base: Registered voters 18-29</i>	350	143	163	128	102	120	105	143	102
Approve	54%	87%	27%	99%	51%	6%	61%	57%	43%
Disapprove	44%	13%	71%	1%	45%	92%	37%	41%	56%

+ Bush states (22): Bush wins with a two-party margin of more than 6 percent over Gore.
 Battleground states (17): AZ, AR, FL, IA, ME, MI, MN, MO, NV, NH, NM, OH, OR, PA, TN, WA, WI.
 Gore states (11 plus DC): Gore wins with a two-party margin of more than 6 percent over Bush.