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Interview dates: November 3-5, 2004  
Interviews: 1,000 adults, 844 registered voters  
Margin of error:  $\pm 3.1$  for all adults,  $\pm 3.4$  for registered voters

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL  
CONDUCTED BY IPSOS-PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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***AP/Ipsos Poll: Americans Say Iraq and Terrorism Should Be Top Priorities  
For Bush's Second Term***

*The Associated Press Poll is conducted by Ipsos-Public Affairs. Between November 3-5, 2004, the AP-Ipsos poll interviewed a representative sample of 1,000 adults nationwide, including 844 registered voters. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 for all adults and +/- 3.4 for registered voters. Margin of error for subgroups may be higher.*

**Washington, D.C., November 9, 2004** — With a clear win for George W. Bush in the election, registered voters first and foremost task the President with addressing the situation in Iraq (27%) and fighting terrorism (23%).

Q. I'm going to read you a list of issues and I'm going to read the list twice. Please tell me which one issue should be the highest priority for President Bush in his second term.

	<b>REGISTERED VOTERS</b>
The situation in Iraq.....	27
Terrorism.....	23
The economy .....	18
Health care.....	14
Unemployment.....	7
Education .....	7
Taxes .....	2
(NOT READ) Other .....	2
Not sure .....	-

On dealing with Iraq, most (71%) registered voters say U.S. troops should stay in place until the situation is stabilized. Just over a quarter (28%) think troops should be brought back home immediately. Support for the troops to stay until Iraq is stable is higher among Republicans (92%) and Independents (80%; vs. 52% of Democrats), men over 45 (85%), college graduates (77%), suburban men (84%) and residents of the Oil Patch (81%). Also people who say terrorism should be Bush's top priority also want to keep troops in Iraq for now (91%).

Q. Should the United States keep troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or should the United States bring its troops home from Iraq immediately?

	<b>REGISTERED VOTERS</b>
Keep troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized..	71
Bring its troops home from Iraq immediately .....	28
Not sure .....	1

Members of minority groups (62%) and Democratic women (54%) stand out in their belief that U.S. troops should be brought home immediately. Opinion is evenly divided among those who disapprove of Bush's performance in office (50% stay, 48% come home) and those who say the country is headed down the wrong track (52% stay, 48% come home).

Fewer registered voters name any single domestic issue as the highest priority. The economy (18%) and health care (14%) are cited most often, followed by unemployment (7%), education (7%) and taxes (2%).

### More Voters Prefer Balanced Budget Over Tax Cuts

Although taxes fall at the lower end of the list of priorities, two-thirds of registered voters say they prefer balancing the budget (66%) to cutting taxes (31%). The preference for a balanced budget has increased slightly since earlier this year in March (61%).

**(ASKED OF HALF THE REGISTERED VOTERS.)**

Q. If you had to choose, would you prefer balancing the budget or cutting taxes?

	<b>REGISTERED VOTERS</b>	
	<i>11/3 - 5/04</i>	<i>3/19 - 21/04</i>
Balancing the budget .....	66	61
Cutting taxes .....	31	36
Not sure .....	3	3

When the choice is between balancing the budget and spending more on social programs, a majority (55%) favor spending more on education, health care and economic development than balancing the budget. Just over four in ten (44%) favor balancing the budget instead; the public's preference for a balanced budget over spending has risen eight percent since March of this year.

**(ASKED OF HALF THE REGISTERED VOTERS.)**

Q. If you had to choose, would you prefer balancing the budget or spending more on education, health care, and economic development?

	<b>REGISTERED VOTERS</b>	
	<i>11/3 - 5/04</i>	<i>3/19 - 21/04</i>
Balancing the budget.....	44	36
Spending more on education, health care, and economic development .....	55	62
Not sure.....	1	2

### Vote Count Seen as Fair

Most (88%) registered voters are confident that the votes in their state were counted accurately, in line with expectations before the election (89% on October 28-31). Just one in ten (12%) lack confidence in the count conducted in their state.

Q. How confident are you that the votes in your state were counted accurately?

	REGISTERED VOTERS		
	Post Election	Pre-Election	
	11/3 - 5/04	10/28 - 31/04	10/18 - 20/04
Very confident.....	58	54	53
Somewhat confident.....	29	35	37
Not very confident.....	7	8	7
Not at all confident.....	5	3	3
Not sure.....	1	-	-
<b>Total Confident .....</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Total Not Confident .....</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

Doubt is slightly more prevalent among minorities (28% not confident), men without a college education (20%), residents of the Deep South (20%), people in low income households (19%), Democratic women (18%), and young voters (17%). However, even in these groups majorities still say they are at least somewhat confident.

### Half Say Vote Increased Their Confidence in Fairness of Elections

Before the election, in an October 22-24 AP/Ipsos poll, six in ten (61%) registered voters said it was likely there would not be a clear winner of the Presidential election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and half (51%) expected the results to be challenged in court. The relatively smooth conduct and conclusion of the 2004 election appears to have appeased the concerns of many.

Just over half (54%) of registered voters say the election results increased their confidence in the fairness of the U.S. electoral system. That said, the system still had its critics: Four in ten (39%) feel less confident now.

Q. Have the results of the election made you feel more or less confident in the fairness of this country's electoral system?

	REGISTERED VOTERS
More confident .....	54
Less confident.....	39
(NOT READ) Neither.....	6
(NOT READ) Both.....	1
Not sure .....	-

Women (46%; 52% unmarried women), members of minority groups (62%), city dwellers (47%), Democratic women (68%; vs. 49% of Democratic men), low income earners (51%) and those saying the country is on the wrong track (67%) all feel less confidence now in the fairness of the system.

### Some American Voters Hopeful, Others Disappointed by Election Results

The re-election of George W. Bush triggered a range of reactions among registered voters. Compared to the weekend before the election, opinions have grown more intense, but on balance positive views edge out more negative ones.

A majority (58%) say they feel “hopeful” about the election results. By comparison, an October 28-31 Ipsos-Public Affairs poll found that 35% thought a Bush win would make them feel hopeful. Almost half (46%) feel proud, and over a third feel “excited” (37%; 26% in the pre-election poll).

Q. Do any of the following words describe your own personal feelings about the results of the 2004 presidential election?

	REGISTERED VOTERS		
	Yes	No	Not Sure
Angry.....	24	76	-
Proud.....	46	53	1
Excited.....	37	63	-
Hopeful.....	58	42	-
Disappointed.....	48	51	1
Surprised.....	29	71	-
Depressed.....	27	73	-

On the negative side, about half (48%) say they feel disappointed; before the election 31% expected to feel this way. Three in ten feel surprised (29%; 6% before), depressed (27%) or angry (24%; 13% before the election).

There is little overlap between voters who feel hopeful and those who feel disappointed.

Hopefulness is especially strong among:

- Republicans (88%) -- and over half (56%) of Independents
- Men (62%; 65% married men) and seniors (68%)
- Whites (61%)
- Southerners (68%; 75% in the Oil Patch) and rural residents (69%)
- Those who say their financial situation is good (74%)
- Those who say terrorism should be the President’s top priority (88%)
- Those who prefer Supreme Court nominees who would overturn Roe v. Wade (81%)
- Those who say the country is headed in the right direction (90%)

Disappointment is particularly keen among:

- Democrats (84%)
- Registered voters under age 30 (62%)
- Women (53%), especially unmarried women (61%) and women who are college graduates (59%)
- Non-whites (68%)
- Residents of the Great Lakes and Pacific regions (58% each)
- Urban residents (57%)

- Low-income earners (57%)
- Those who say Iraq should be the President's top priority (57%)
- Those who say new Supreme Court justices should uphold Roe v. Wade (63%)
- Those who disapprove of Bush's performance in office (93%)

Suburban women (52%) are more often disappointed than suburban men are (41%).

### Young Voters Especially Disappointed by Bush Win

Registered voters under age 30 voice some of the most negative reactions to Bush's re-election. Six in ten are disappointed (62%) by the election result, and a third are angry (34%) or depressed (33%). Majorities say they do not feel excited (73%), proud (63%), or hopeful (53%). However, most (68%) also say they are not surprised.

### Bush's Ratings Better, But Still Not Positive

Even with Bush's win, the public's views of his administration remain as divided as at any point in the past year. Half (51%) say the country is headed down the wrong track (46% right direction); views have grown somewhat more favorable over the past month.

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

	ALL ADULTS						
	11/3 - 5/04	10/28 - 31/04	10/18 - 20/04	10/4 - 6/04	9/20 - 22/04	9/7 - 9/04	8/3 - 5/04
Right direction.....	46	44	41	40	45	44	39
Wrong track .....	51	53	56	56	52	52	59
Not sure .....	3	3	3	4	3	4	2

Registered voters remain split between those who approve (51%) and disapprove (48%) of Bush's overall handling of the Presidency. One in three voters either strongly approve (33%) or strongly disapprove (34%) of Bush's performance, with views as polarized now as at any point this year.

Q. 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?

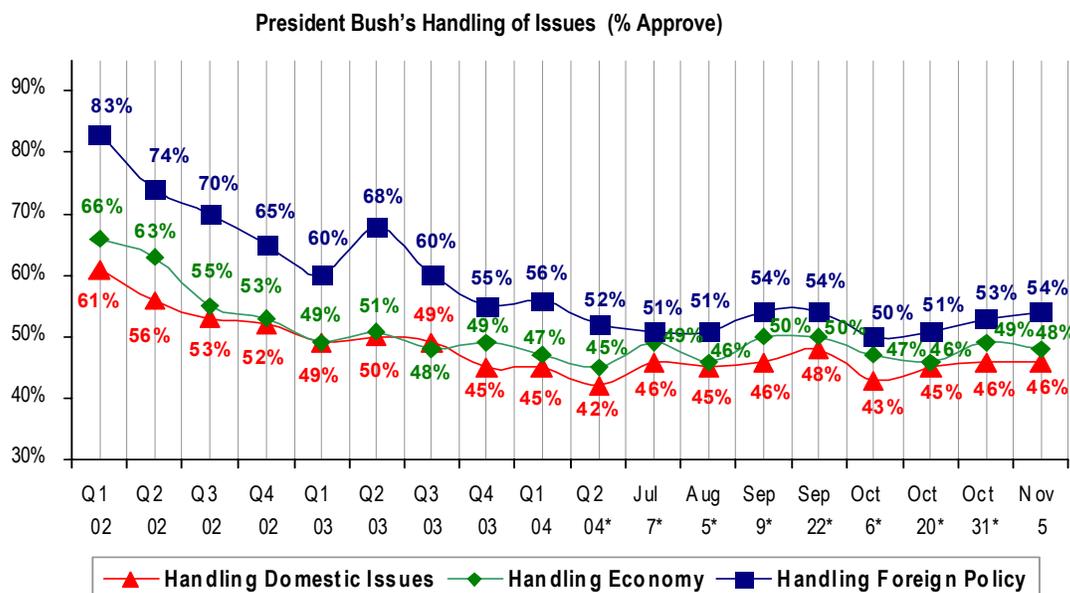
	REGISTERED VOTERS						
	11/3 - 5/04	10/28 - 31/04	10/18 - 20/04	10/4 - 6/04	9/20 - 22/04	9/7 - 9/04	8/3 - 5/04
Strongly approve.....	33	32	32	31	33	33	30
Somewhat approve .....	12	9	8	9	11	12	10
Lean toward approval .....	6	9	8	8	10	8	9
Still have mixed feelings .....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lean toward disapproval.....	9	12	14	12	10	11	13
Somewhat disapprove .....	5	4	5	6	3	4	5
Strongly disapprove .....	34	32	32	33	32	31	32
Not sure .....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Approve.....</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Total Disapprove.....</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>

Likewise, Bush receives mixed marks for his handling of the economy (48% approve, 51% disapprove), other domestic issues (46%-52%), and the situation in Iraq (48%-51%). Bush's relative strength remains his handling of foreign policy and the war on terrorism (54% approve, 46% disapprove).



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## Approval Rating on Specific Issues



**METHODOLOGY:** Interview dates: November 3-5, 2004 (844 U.S. registered voters)  
Margin of error:  $\pm 3.4$  for registered voters

Source, AP/Ipsos 2004

\* Handling of foreign policy issues and the war on terrorism was asked of half the registered voters from April through October 2004

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