

April 28, 2001 — Study #458

◆◆◆◆ LOS ANGELES TIMES® POLL ALERT ◆◆◆◆

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Times Poll contacted 813 adults nationwide by telephone April 21–26. In addition, separate samples of 512 Californians and 322 Alaskans were contacted. Telephone numbers were chosen from a list of all exchanges in the nation, California and Alaska. Random-digit dialing techniques were used so that listed and unlisted numbers could be contacted. The entire sample was weighted slightly to conform with census figures for sex, race, age, education and region. The margin of sampling error for the national sample is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, for California it is 4 points and for Alaska it is 5.5 points. For certain subgroups the error margin may be somewhat higher. Poll results can also be affected by other factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are presented.

NOTES

All answer frequencies are given in percentages. Totals may exceed 100% in questions where more than one response was accepted. Totals may be less than 100% where some answer categories are not shown. “–” indicates less than 0.5%. The wording of some questions has been abridged.

SELECTED RESULTS FROM THE TIMES POLL NATIONAL SURVEY April 21–26, 2001

(A full summary of results will be available at a later date through the Los Angeles Times Poll)

GUIDE TO COLUMN HEADINGS

NAT	All U.S. adults
EAS	Residents of the East
MID	Residents of the Midwest
SOU	Residents of the South
WES	Residents of the West
CAL	Residents of California

Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Right direction	44	46	45	35	55	46
Wrong track	43	40	43	58	24	40
Don't know	13	14	12	7	21	14

When it comes to ensuring a healthy environment for the future, do you think the country is going in the right direction or is it seriously off on the wrong track?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Right direction	41	36	39	39	50	43
Wrong track	48	47	52	52	40	47
Don't know	11	17	9	9	10	10

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Approve	57	47	64	55	63	54
Disapprove	33	43	29	33	24	32
Don't know	10	10	7	12	13	14

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the nation's environmental issues?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Approve	41	29	45	46	43	33
Disapprove	38	52	33	35	33	42
Don't know	21	19	22	19	24	25

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Approve	52	47	54	52	54	48
Disapprove	32	32	37	37	22	39
Don't know	16	21	9	11	24	13

What's the most important problem facing this country today? (ACCEPTED UP TO TWO REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Economy/Jobs	27	28	27	29	24	22
Crime/Drugs	15	14	15	12	20	10
Education	15	15	15	16	11	21
Environment	13	19	8	13	9	7
Morals/Family values	10	4	14	10	11	8

Do you think the Bush administration is doing too much or too little in terms of protecting the environment, or do you think the Bush administration is doing just about the right amount in terms of environmental protection?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Too much	1	-	3	2	-	2
Too little	41	56	36	31	42	48
Right amount	36	29	35	47	29	33
Don't know	22	15	26	20	29	17

Do you think protecting the environment should be a top priority of the Bush administration, or an important issue but not the top priority, or a not so important issue, or not an important issue at all?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Important (Net)	88	93	84	90	84	90
Top priority	15	23	14	13	11	14
Not top priority	73	71	70	78	73	76
Not important (Net)	10	4	13	9	16	8
Not so important	7	3	10	5	9	7
Not at all important	4	1	3	4	7	2
Don't know	2	3	3	1	-	2

Generally speaking, would you say that George W. Bush cares more about the needs of the environment than he does about the needs of business, or does he care more about the needs of business than he does about the environment?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
More about environment	13	12	15	16	9	9
More about business	58	62	62	58	52	69
Both equally (Vol.)	10	10	13	9	8	7
Don't know	19	16	10	17	31	15

Are you concerned, or not concerned, that George W. Bush will go too far in allowing development and exploration of natural resources in wilderness land?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Concerned	49	65	47	44	41	55
Not concerned	40	26	45	42	47	34
Don't know	11	9	8	14	12	11

Have you heard or read about President Bush's recommendation about opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska for oil and gas exploration? (IF HEARD OR READ)

Have you heard or read a great deal, or only some, or not too much?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Great deal/Some (Net)	44	50	44	43	38	44
Great deal	16	14	17	17	15	15
Some	28	35	27	26	23	29
Not much/Nothing (Net)	54	49	56	52	61	55
Not too much	13	14	16	11	13	9
Nothing	41	36	40	41	48	46
Don't know	2	1	-	5	1	1

Geologists estimate that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska could supply enough oil to fuel U.S. consumption for between six months and three years. Supporters of drilling say the country needs to do whatever it can to expand oil supplies. Opponents of drilling say it would damage the environment in an unspoiled part of the country. What do you think? Do you approve or disapprove of drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Approve	34	25	32	40	37	32
Disapprove	55	63	62	46	52	57
Don't know	11	12	6	14	11	11

The Bush administration has upheld some of President Clinton's environmental regulations, including a rule that increases protection of wetlands and another that greatly expands the list of businesses that must tell the public details of their emissions of lead into the air, soil and water. From what you know, do you think the Bush administration upheld these rulings out of concern for the environment or for political reasons?

	<u>NAT</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>	<u>CAL</u>
Concerned about environment	22	22	23	21	21	21
Political reasons	54	52	58	54	54	63
Both (Vol.)	9	10	8	10	6	3
Don't know	15	16	11	15	19	13

Tables compiled by RAY ENSLOW