

Nov. 15, 2001 — Study #463

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

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Times Poll contacted 1,995 Americans nationwide by telephone Nov. 10–13. Telephone numbers were chosen from a list of all exchanges in the nation. 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 entire sample is plus or minus 3 percentage 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.
 “–” indicates less than 0.5%.
 The wording of some questions has been abridged.

SELECTED RESULTS FROM THE TIMES POLL NATIONAL SURVEY Nov. 10–13, 2001

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

GUIDE TO COLUMN HEADINGS

ALL	All U.S. adults
DEM	Self-described Democrats
IND	Self-described independents
REP	Self-described Republicans
LIB	Political liberals
MOD	Political moderates
CON	Political conservatives
WHT	Whites
BLK	Blacks
LAT	Latinos

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

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Right direction	65	55	66	80	63	64	71	68	36	70
Wrong track	22	30	20	14	25	23	19	20	43	18
Don't know	13	15	14	6	12	13	10	12	21	12

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

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve (Net)	86	77	86	97	77	89	94	88	68	89
Approve strongly	59	40	60	86	45	59	73	65	23	67
Approve somewhat	27	37	26	12	32	30	21	23	45	22
Disapprove (Net)	10	17	12	1	20	8	4	9	24	8
Disapprove somewhat	6	9	6	1	10	4	2	5	11	2
Disapprove strongly	5	8	6	–	10	3	2	4	13	6
Don't know	4	6	2	2	3	3	2	3	8	3

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

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve (Net)	66	47	64	92	56	66	76	70	32	80
Approve strongly	36	21	32	61	29	30	47	39	6	54
Approve somewhat	30	26	32	31	28	35	29	31	26	26
Disapprove (Net)	25	41	27	4	35	25	16	22	50	17
Disapprove somewhat	13	18	17	2	15	13	10	12	16	11
Disapprove strongly	12	23	10	2	20	12	6	10	34	7
Don't know	9	12	9	4	9	9	8	8	18	3

Overall, would you say Bush is a stronger leader than you expected him to be, a weaker leader than you expected, or is his leadership about what you expected it to be?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Stronger	54	53	55	56	50	62	52	58	37	52
What was expected	40	39	40	43	43	34	43	38	54	41
Weaker	4	6	5	1	5	3	3	3	8	4
Don't know	2	2	–	–	2	1	2	1	1	3

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the war in Afghanistan?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve (Net)	83	76	83	97	76	87	89	87	59	86
Approve strongly	64	51	62	86	56	61	74	67	38	65
Approve somewhat	20	25	21	11	20	26	15	20	21	21
Disapprove (Net)	11	16	14	1	21	8	5	8	30	8
Disapprove somewhat	5	7	7	1	10	4	2	4	11	5
Disapprove strongly	6	9	7	1	11	4	3	4	20	3
Don't know	6	8	3	2	3	5	6	5	11	6

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the anthrax situation in the United States?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve (Net)	<u>77</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>76</u>
Approve strongly	44	32	42	63	36	37	57	45	29	60
Approve somewhat	33	33	40	27	31	43	27	36	27	16
Disapprove (Net)	<u>13</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>18</u>
Disapprove somewhat	6	10	4	3	11	6	4	6	8	12
Disapprove strongly	7	11	6	2	11	6	4	4	23	5
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States Congress is handling its job?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve (Net)	<u>69</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>67</u>
Approve strongly	25	30	22	25	31	21	25	23	24	37
Approve somewhat	43	38	42	53	38	46	48	47	37	30
Disapprove (Net)	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>18</u>
Disapprove somewhat	11	12	13	7	14	11	9	11	12	13
Disapprove strongly	9	9	12	5	10	10	7	8	13	5
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>

How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time, or hardly ever?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Always/ Most of time (Net)	<u>49</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>71</u>
Just about always	6	6	5	9	8	7	6	6	4	8
Most of the time	43	42	38	53	41	42	45	44	23	62
Some of time/ Hardly ever (Net)	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>27</u>
Some of the time	42	41	49	34	43	46	40	42	59	23
Hardly ever	8	9	8	3	7	5	8	7	13	4
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Do you think President Bush has done an excellent job of explaining the developments in Afghanistan and at home since September 11th, or do you think he has done a good job, or only a fair job, or do you think he has done a poor job?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Excellent job	26	16	25	44	14	25	37	29	5	28
Good job	50	46	51	48	49	53	49	49	42	55
Fair job	18	29	17	7	27	18	11	18	28	13
Poor job	4	6	7	1	8	3	3	3	15	4
Don't know	2	3	-	-	2	1	-	1	10	-

Do you think the Bush administration is giving out too much information to the media about the war in Afghanistan and threats here at home, including the anthrax investigation, or about the right amount of information, or not enough information?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Too much	32	37	30	24	28	37	32	32	45	22
Right amount	52	44	50	69	46	50	58	54	29	62
Not enough	13	16	17	3	23	10	7	10	21	15
Don't know	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	5	1

Generally speaking, do you think the media are behaving responsibly when it comes to balancing national security with the right of the American people to know what is going on in Afghanistan, with the anthrax situation, and with other threats at home, or do you think the media are not behaving responsibly in that regard?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Responsibly (Net)	<u>48</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>56</u>
Very responsibly	16	20	18	12	16	19	13	15	23	18
Somewhat responsibly	32	35	26	31	39	32	27	31	34	38
Irresponsibly (Net)	<u>48</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>40</u>
Somewhat irresponsibly	31	26	35	39	27	30	36	34	21	25
Very irresponsibly	17	14	18	14	13	16	20	16	16	15
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>

Do you support the military attacks in Afghanistan, or do you oppose them?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Support (Net)	<u>87</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>86</u>
Support strongly	71	64	72	84	64	71	80	76	44	69
Support somewhat	16	19	15	11	17	18	13	14	29	18
Oppose (Net)	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>10</u>
Oppose somewhat	5	6	4	2	9	3	2	4	5	7
Oppose strongly	5	8	5	2	8	4	3	4	17	3
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

How much confidence do you have in the military to carry out a successful mission in Afghanistan against the Taliban government?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
A lot	71	63	72	82	64	73	77	75	55	66
Some	23	27	23	16	27	23	18	21	24	26
Not too much	3	6	2	1	6	2	2	2	7	6
None	2	3	2	-	3	1	2	1	11	2
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>

How much confidence do you have in the military to either capture or kill Osama bin Laden?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
A lot	35	28	32	45	30	35	39	36	21	45
Some	41	45	44	42	41	45	39	43	35	43
Not too much	15	18	16	7	18	14	12	14	22	10
None	6	7	5	3	7	4	6	5	15	2
Don't know	3	2	3	3	4	2	4	2	7	-

Just your best guess: How much longer do you expect the U.S. military attacks on Afghanistan will last?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Several more weeks	7	10	7	4	6	8	6	7	8	5
Several more months	31	27	30	34	32	33	29	32	26	29
A year	24	25	25	28	25	20	28	25	18	24
Longer than that	31	33	32	25	33	32	30	30	36	35
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAID THEY SUPPORT MILITARY ATTACKS IN AFGHANISTAN)

You said you support the military attacks on Afghanistan. Do you think you will still support the military attacks if they go on several more weeks? (IF YES) Several more months? (IF YES) For a year? (IF YES) Will you support the attacks for as long as it takes? (RECORDED LONGEST PERIOD OF SUPPORT)

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Several more weeks	5	6	5	5	6	5	5
Several more months	8	11	8	4	11	8	6
A year	5	7	4	5	7	4	5
As long as it takes	78	72	80	85	70	79	83
Don't know	4	4	3	1	6	4	1

Base for this question is not large enough to break out all subgroups.

Would you support the military attacks in Afghanistan even if they result in a substantial number of casualties among American troops, or would you oppose them in that case?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Support (Net)	73	64	78	83	65	72	81
Support strongly	55	44	58	68	43	54	66
Support somewhat	18	20	20	15	22	17	15
Oppose (Net)	19	28	15	10	25	20	14
Oppose somewhat	11	16	8	5	14	15	5
Oppose strongly	8	11	7	5	11	5	9
Depends (Vol.)	4	4	3	3	3	5	2
Don't know	4	4	4	4	7	3	3

Base for this question is not large enough to break out all subgroups.

(ASKED OF EVERYONE)

Which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you think can do a better job handling the major problems facing the country?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Democrats	28	57	20	3	46	27	16	23	55	33
Republicans	39	14	44	80	26	35	57	45	10	36
Both equally (Vol.)	13	13	13	9	12	16	11	12	15	17
Neither (Vol.)	8	6	12	3	10	9	5	8	13	3
Don't know	12	10	11	5	6	13	11	12	7	11

Generally speaking, would you say you favor smaller government with fewer services, or larger government with many services?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Smaller government	48	37	51	63	33	48	64	54	27	35
Larger government	41	53	37	29	58	38	28	35	58	55
Don't know	11	10	12	8	9	14	8	11	15	10

Do you think we are in an economic recession, or not?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
No recession	23	21	19	32	21	25	23	24	20	24
Recession	73	74	79	64	75	72	74	73	72	67
Don't know	4	5	2	4	4	3	3	3	8	9

The government passed a measure in September which provides \$15 billion dollars in direct aid and loan guarantees to the airline industry. The bill compensates the industry for losses following the September 11th attacks when airports were shut down for several days and air travel decreased due to public unease. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of compensating the airlines for their losses, using public funds?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve	53	51	55	55	59	48	54	52	54	56
Disapprove	40	42	41	36	38	46	39	41	37	37
Don't know	7	7	4	9	3	6	7	7	9	7

Would you approve or disapprove of extending unemployment benefits for people who lost their jobs either due to the attacks or because of layoffs which occurred in the aftermath of the attacks?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve	89	93	89	87	91	92	87	89	94	90
Disapprove	8	6	8	9	8	6	8	8	5	7
Don't know	3	1	3	4	1	2	5	3	1	3

In order to help stimulate the economy, lawmakers have been debating whether to provide a tax rebate to low-income taxpayers who did not earn enough money to pay the minimum taxes to qualify for the first rebate. Would you approve or disapprove of a measure which would provide tax rebate checks to taxpayers who didn't qualify for them the first time?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve	61	64	67	50	70	63	52	57	74	69
Disapprove	32	29	28	42	24	29	43	35	20	25
Don't know	7	7	5	8	6	8	5	8	6	6

Lawmakers have been debating whether to cut the corporate income tax rate in order to help stimulate the economy. Would you approve or disapprove of a measure which lowered corporate income taxes?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve	48	40	45	65	47	46	54	48	40	67
Disapprove	43	52	46	26	47	45	37	43	49	26
Don't know	9	8	9	9	6	9	9	9	11	7

Do you have a family member who is in the military or military reserves, or not? (IF IN MILITARY) Has that family member been sent to the Afghanistan region, or not? (IF IN MILITARY RESERVES) Has that family member been called to active duty because of the war on Afghanistan, or not? (IF CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY) Have they been sent to the Afghanistan region, or not?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	BLK	LAT
Not in military	73	75	71	72	73	72	74	75	68	64
In military (Net)	26	24	28	27	26	27	25	24	31	32
Sent	4	6	4	3	5	3	4	3	2	13
Not sent	21	19	23	24	21	24	21	21	29	20
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4

Tables compiled by RAY ENSLOW