

Dec. 21, 2001 — Study #463

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

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Times Poll contacted 1,995 Americans nationwide by telephone November 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. Totals may exceed 100% in questions where more than one response was accepted. “–” 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
WHT	Whites
BLK	Blacks
LAT	Latinos

How concerned are you that new measures enacted to fight terrorism in this country could end up restricting some of our civil liberties? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not concerned at all about that?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	WHT	BLK	LAT
Concerned (Net)	<u>55</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>
Very concerned	18	23	15	12	16	26	19
Somewhat concerned	37	39	39	35	35	39	46
Not concerned	<u>43</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>33</u>
Not too concerned	22	19	26	25	24	21	12
Not concerned at all	21	17	18	26	22	13	21
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Some people say that in order to fight terrorism, government agencies should be given broader powers to tap telephone lines and monitor cell phones and other wireless communications. Would you approve or disapprove of such a move? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Would you (approve/ disapprove) strongly or (approve/disapprove) only somewhat?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve (Net)	<u>59</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>62</u>
Approve strongly	34	33	32	42	36	19	40
Approve somewhat	25	26	27	27	26	29	22
Disapprove (Net)	<u>36</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>33</u>
Disapprove somewhat	14	14	14	14	14	15	11
Disapprove strongly	22	22	24	15	20	29	22
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>

Some people say that in order to fight terrorism, government agencies should be given broader powers to monitor Internet communications and be given the legal authority to read all private e-mails. Would you approve or disapprove of such a move? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Would you (approve/disapprove) strongly or (approve/disapprove) only somewhat?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	WHT	BLK	LAT
Approve (Net)	<u>51</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>44</u>
Approve strongly	27	27	24	32	30	15	23
Approve somewhat	24	22	26	24	24	26	21
Disapprove (Net)	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>51</u>
Disapprove somewhat	17	16	16	18	17	23	12
Disapprove strongly	28	29	30	22	25	31	39
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

Some people say that in order to fight terrorism, law enforcement should be allowed to stop people whose ethnicity resembles that of the terrorists. Would you approve or disapprove of such a move? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Would you (approve/disapprove) strongly or (approve/disapprove) only somewhat?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>BLK</u>	<u>LAT</u>
Approve (Net)	<u>47</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>44</u>
Approve strongly	<u>27</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>28</u>
Approve somewhat	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>
Disapprove (Net)	<u>49</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>53</u>
Disapprove somewhat	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>16</u>
Disapprove strongly	<u>29</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>37</u>
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>

Which annoys you more about the government today: that it intrudes into the private lives of citizens, or that it doesn't do enough to protect citizens?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>BLK</u>	<u>LAT</u>
Intrudes into private lives	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>28</u>
Doesn't protect citizens	<u>51</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>54</u>
Don't know	<u>26</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>

What do you think is the greater danger in this country: individuals and groups that abuse the freedoms we have, or individuals and groups that want to limit the freedoms we have?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>BLK</u>	<u>LAT</u>
Abuse freedoms	<u>57</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>63</u>
Limit freedoms	<u>31</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>29</u>
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>

Have you made any emergency preparations or are you taking any precautions for dealing with anthrax or any other type of threat, or not? (IF YES) What have you done as a precaution or to prepare? (ACCEPTED UP TO EIGHT REPLIES)

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>BLK</u>	<u>LAT</u>
No precautions	<u>81</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>72</u>
Obtained gas masks	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
Taking Cipro or other anthrax medication	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>
Bought/Got prescription for Cipro or other anthrax medication	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Stockpiled water/food	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Opening mail carefully	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>
Made emergency plans with family/friends	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Educating myself	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
Avoid public places	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
Other	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

In light of September 11th's attack, should the United States toughen restrictions on visas for foreign students and other visitors to the United States?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>BLK</u>	<u>LAT</u>
Yes	<u>84</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>71</u>
No	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>23</u>
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

Generally speaking, do you think the U.S. admits too many immigrants into the country, not enough or just about the right number of immigrants into the country?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>BLK</u>	<u>LAT</u>
Too many	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>46</u>
About right	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>47</u>
Not enough	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>

Specifically, do you think that the applications of people applying for immigration from Arab countries should be scrutinized more closely than applications from other countries, or should all applications be scrutinized exactly the same?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>BLK</u>	<u>LAT</u>
Scrutinize Arabs	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>
All the same	<u>77</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>85</u>
Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>

Tables compiled by RAY ENSLOW