

Sept. 2, 2002 — Study #473

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

## HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Times Poll contacted 1,372 Americans nationwide, including 1,163 registered voters, by telephone August 22–25. 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 and for registered voters 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. 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 August 22–25, 2002

*(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
MEN	Men
WOM	Women
EAS	Residents of the East
MID	Residents of the Midwest
SOU	Residents of the South
WES	Residents of the West
RV	Registered voters
DEM	Self-described Democrats
IND	Self-described independents
REP	Self-described Republicans

## AFTEREFFECTS OF 9/11

**Q44: Do you think that the events that have happened since September 11th have resulted in a fundamental change in the way Americans live their daily lives, or do you think that Americans have gone back to business as usual?**

	ALL	MEN	WOM	EAS	MID	SOU	WES
Fundamental change	45	43	46	51	43	39	48
Business as usual	52	53	51	46	54	57	48
Don't know	3	4	3	3	3	4	4

**Q45: Would you say that your life has changed in any way since the attack, or not? (IF CHANGED) Has it changed a lot or a little?**

	ALL	MEN	WOM	EAS	MID	SOU	WES
Hasn't changed	47	53	41	41	50	47	49
Changed a lot	16	14	19	20	13	18	14
Changed a little	36	33	39	38	37	34	36
Don't know	1	–	1	1	–	1	1

(ASKED OF THOSE WHOSE LIVES HAVE CHANGED)

**Q46: You said life has changed for you... Would you say your life has changed for the better, or for the worse, or would you say life has changed in ways that are both better and worse?**

	ALL	MEN	WOM	EAS	MID	SOU	WES
Better	31	32	32	33	28	42	18
Worse	13	13	12	14	14	11	12
Both better and worse	52	51	52	51	56	42	64
Neither (Vol.)	3	2	4	2	2	4	4
Don't know	1	2	–	–	–	1	2

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAID BETTER OR BOTH BETTER AND WORSE)

**Q47: In what way has your life changed for the better?** (ACCEPTED UP TO TWO REPLIES) (TOP SIX RESPONSES SHOWN)

	ALL	MEN	WOM	EAS	MID	SOU	WES
More aware/careful	28	25	30	31	26	27	26
More time with family/ friends	17	18	16	19	23	17	7
More patriotic	13	15	12	8	13	16	16
Understand what is important now	12	7	16	12	15	11	9
More religious/spiritual	10	8	11	12	7	9	11
More tolerant/ compassionate	10	9	10	7	16	7	11

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAID WORSE OR BOTH BETTER AND WORSE)

**Q48: In what way has your life changed for the worse?**

(ACCEPTED UP TO TWO REPLIES) (TOP FIVE RESPONSES SHOWN)

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	*
More suspicious/skeptical	11	9	12	17	13	9	
New fears of flying, terrorists, etc.	10	5	14	18	10	9	
Anxious	9	5	11	14	5	9	
Coping with increased security	9	15	4	6	5	8	
Stock market losses/ Loss of income	8	10	6	4	6	11	

\* Base for this question is too small to break out the WES subgroup.

(ASKED OF EVERYONE)

**Q49: How much, if any, have the events since September 11th shaken your own personal sense of safety and security?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>
A great deal	12	10	14	12	11	13	11
A good amount	25	18	32	32	22	21	27
Not too much	44	47	42	41	48	45	44
Not at all	18	25	11	15	18	20	18
Don't know	1	-	1	-	1	1	-

**Q50: How likely or unlikely do you think it is that you or a family member will be hurt or killed in a terrorist attack?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>
Likely	23	14	31	19	20	29	22
Unlikely	72	83	62	74	78	65	74
Don't know	5	3	7	7	2	6	4

**Q51: Would you say the attack on September 11th and the events that followed have contributed to your feeling more hopeful about the future, or less hopeful, or have those events not changed your hopes for the future?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>
No change	47	49	46	47	48	49	44
More hopeful	23	24	22	25	23	27	16
Less hopeful	27	24	30	26	27	23	35
Don't know	3	3	2	2	2	1	5

**Q52: Do you use commercial airlines to travel for business or pleasure more often, less often or with about the same frequency than you did before September 11th? (IF LESS OFTEN) Do you travel less frequently because of unease over terrorist attacks, or is it because of the hassle of higher security and longer lines in airports since September 11th, or is it for economic reasons, or is there some other reason you have cut back or stopped flying?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>
More often	3	2	4	2	1	4	4
About the same	72	77	68	69	76	73	72
Less often (Net)	19	16	22	23	17	17	18
Unease over terrorism	8	6	11	12	10	6	6
Hassle of higher security	4	3	4	3	3	4	5
Economic reasons	4	4	5	7	3	5	4
Other reasons	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Don't fly at all (Vol.)	4	2	5	4	5	4	3
Don't know	2	3	1	2	1	2	3

**Q53: Since September 11th, are you avoiding going to public places or major events or are you going to public places or major events just as often as you did before September 11th? By major events, I mean baseball games, or concerts, or theme parks like Disneyland, or public parks.**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>
Avoid public places/events	11	8	14	16	7	8	14
Not avoiding them	89	92	86	84	93	91	86
Don't know	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

**Q54: The anniversary of the September 11th attack is just about two weeks away. Some local communities as well as state governments will be participating in memorial events throughout that day. Do you think you will participate in a public memorial to commemorate the day, or will you commemorate the day alone or with family and friends, or don't you think you will do anything in particular to commemorate the day?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>	<u>EAS</u>	<u>MID</u>	<u>SOU</u>	<u>WES</u>
Will participate publicly	29	27	30	33	29	28	25
Will do it privately	41	39	43	43	37	43	41
Won't participate	18	22	15	15	20	20	18
No local events (Vol.)	7	7	7	6	7	5	9
Don't know	5	5	5	3	7	4	7

## TERRORISM & IRAQ

**Q38: A bill was passed by the House to create a cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security. Under that bill, the new department would combine federal agencies such as the Coast Guard, Secret Service, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), Immigration and Naturalization Service, Customs Service and the Transportation Security Administration. Are you in favor of or opposed to combining these agencies into one department?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Favor	59	60	48	62	73	68	51
Oppose	27	27	36	25	17	25	29
Don't know	14	13	16	13	10	7	20

**Q39: How much confidence do you have that a newly-created Department of Homeland Security will be able to protect the country from terrorist attacks?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
A lot	13	13	9	14	18	13	13
Some	55	56	52	52	64	58	53
Not too much	21	20	27	21	12	19	22
None at all	9	9	8	11	6	8	9
Don't know	2	2	4	2	-	2	3

**Q40: How much confidence do you have that the United States military will be able to protect the country from terrorist attacks?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
A lot	31	31	25	34	35	36	26
Some	52	52	57	50	53	50	55
Not too much	13	13	15	12	8	10	15
None at all	3	3	2	3	3	4	3
Don't know	1	1	1	1	1	-	1

**Q41: Do you think President Bush and his administration have formulated a clear policy for dealing with the war on terrorism, or do you think the Bush administration is reacting to events as they happen?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Clear policy	38	41	22	38	61	46	30
Reacting to events	55	53	72	55	32	49	61
Don't know	7	6	6	7	7	5	9

**Q42: How likely is it that there will be more terrorist attacks in the U.S. within the next six months?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Likely	64	64	66	59	68	61	67
Unlikely	30	31	27	37	28	35	25
Don't know	6	5	7	4	4	4	8

**Q43: President Bush and others have urged the American people to resume their normal lives and do the things they always do. What about you? Has your life returned to normal, or has your life started to get back to normal, or are you having difficulty getting your life back to normal?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Returned to normal	68	67	68	70	72	69	66
Starting to get back	13	13	15	13	8	10	17
Difficulty getting back	5	5	6	4	3	5	6
Didn't affect me (Vol.)	14	15	11	13	17	16	11

**Q64: How closely have you been following the news that the United States is considering taking military action against Saddam Hussein and Iraq? Have you been following it very closely, somewhat closely, not very closely or not closely at all?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Closely (Net)	76	79	70	80	80	81	71
Very closely	31	35	26	35	34	36	27
Somewhat closely	45	43	44	45	46	45	44
Not closely (Net)	23	20	29	20	18	19	27
Not very closely	15	14	20	13	12	13	17
Not closely at all	8	7	10	7	6	6	10
Don't know	1	1	1	-	2	-	2

**Q65: Do you think the United States should take military action in order to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq, or not? (IF YES OR NO) Do you feel strongly about that, or not so strongly?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Military action (Net)	59	60	53	53	73	60	58
Feel strongly	47	48	40	44	59	47	47
Feel not so strongly	12	12	13	9	14	13	11
No military action (Net)	29	30	36	32	15	28	29
Feel not so strongly	9	10	11	10	6	9	9
Feel strongly	20	20	26	22	9	19	21
Don't know	12	10	11	15	12	12	13

**Q66: Suppose President George W. Bush decides to order U.S. troops into a ground attack against Iraqi forces. Would you support or oppose that decision? (IF SUPPORT/OPOSE) Would you (support/oppose) it strongly, or (support/oppose) it somewhat?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Support (Net)	64	65	54	58	78	70	57
Support strongly	40	42	29	36	55	46	34
Support somewhat	23	24	25	22	23	24	23
Oppose (Net)	28	29	37	34	12	24	32
Oppose somewhat	9	8	10	12	4	8	9
Oppose strongly	20	20	27	22	8	17	23
Don't know	8	6	9	8	10	6	11

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT GROUND ATTACK)

**Q67: Would you continue to support a ground attack against Iraqi forces, even if that action resulted in substantial U.S. casualties, or not?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Would still support	71	72	59	73	78	80	61
Would not support	20	19	33	16	13	14	26
Don't know	9	9	8	11	9	6	13

COMBINATION TABLE OF Q66 & Q67:

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Support Bush decision...							
even if casualties	45	47	32	42	61	56	34
but not if casualties	13	12	17	10	10	10	15
but if casualties, not sure	6	6	4	6	7	4	8
Oppose it	28	29	38	34	12	24	32
Don't know	8	6	9	8	10	6	11

(ASKED OF EVERYONE)

**Q68: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The United States should take military action against Iraq only if that military action has the support of the international community"? (IF AGREE/DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly, or (agree/disagree) somewhat?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Agree (Net)	65	64	74	70	51	64	66
Agree strongly	43	43	50	46	33	44	42
Agree somewhat	22	21	24	24	18	20	24
Disagree (Net)	27	29	18	25	41	32	23
Disagree somewhat	10	12	8	9	15	11	10
Disagree strongly	17	17	10	16	27	21	13
Don't know	8	7	8	5	8	4	11

**Q69: Putting aside your personal feelings for a moment, do you think it is likely that the United States will take military action against Iraq in the next 12 months?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Likely	77	77	77	75	80	74	79
Unlikely	17	17	18	19	14	21	14
Don't know	6	6	5	6	6	5	7

**Q70: From what you have heard or read, do you think Saddam Hussein has supported Al Qaeda's terrorist activities, or not?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Yes	79	83	76	80	87	81	77
No	8	6	8	8	5	9	7
Don't know	13	11	16	12	8	10	16

**Q71: If the United States were to take military action against Iraq, do you think that would help to stabilize the situation in the Middle East, or do you think it would help to destabilize it, or don't you think military action against Iraq would affect the stability of that region one way or the other?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Stabilize	23	26	23	23	30	23	23
Destabilize	40	40	40	45	33	46	35
No effect	20	20	20	18	24	21	19
Don't know	17	14	17	14	13	10	23

**Q72: If the United States takes military action against Iraq, do you think the threat of terrorism against Americans at home and abroad would be reduced, or do you think an attack on Iraq would increase the threat of terrorism against Americans, or don't you think military action against Iraq would affect the threat of terrorism against Americans?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Reduced	17	16	14	14	24	19	15
Increased	66	68	74	71	51	66	66
No effect	10	11	7	11	14	11	10
Don't know	7	5	5	4	11	4	9

**Q73: Do you think the Bush administration is considering an attack against Iraq because Saddam Hussein is a threat to the United States, or do you think an attack is being considered for political gain?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Hussein is a threat	60	62	49	55	78	63	57
Political gain	27	27	37	31	12	28	26
Don't know	13	11	14	14	10	9	17

**Q55: Do you think it is necessary to give up some civil liberties in order to make the country safe from terrorism, or do you think some of the government's proposals will go too far in restricting the public's civil liberties?**

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>RV</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOM</u>
Necessary to give up some liberties	49	52	43	47	57	47	50
Government will go too far	38	37	42	43	32	42	35
Don't know	13	11	15	10	11	11	15

Tables compiled by RAY ENSLOW