

Feb. 6, 2003 — Study #481

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

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Times Poll contacted 1,385 Americans nationwide by telephone Jan. 30–Feb. 2. 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 Jan. 30–Feb. 2, 2003

(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
- MIN Minorities

President Bush stated publicly that he opposes a program of racial preferences for minority applicants at the University of Michigan. The Bush administration urged the Supreme Court to declare the University of Michigan’s admissions system unconstitutional. Do you approve or disapprove of the Bush administration decision to oppose the University of Michigan’s racial preference admissions program? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	MIN
Approve (Net)	55	44	54	77	43	53	68	59	46
Approve strongly	38	22	31	67	26	36	48	40	31
Approve somewhat	18	22	22	10	17	17	20	19	15
Disapprove (Net)	27	39	29	11	47	28	15	21	41
Disapprove somewhat	9	13	9	6	15	12	4	9	10
Disapprove strongly	17	26	21	5	32	16	11	12	31
Don’t know	18	17	17	12	10	19	17	20	13

How close do you think we are to eliminating discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities in America once and for all: Are we very close, fairly close, not too close or not close at all?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	MIN
Close (Net)	38	34	38	45	32	34	45	40	32
Very close	8	9	7	8	10	6	8	6	11
Fairly close	30	25	32	37	21	27	37	34	22
Not close (Net)	58	64	59	52	66	64	51	57	62
Not too close	31	30	34	36	38	33	27	32	28
Not close at all	28	34	25	16	28	32	24	26	33
Don’t know	4	2	3	3	2	2	4	3	6

When deciding who will be admitted, should colleges and universities consider only a student’s academic record or should some students be admitted in an attempt to balance the student body by looking at geographic location, ethnicity or gender as well as academic record?

	ALL	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	WHT	MIN
Academic record	57	46	58	73	50	57	65	62	45
Balance	33	46	35	17	46	35	24	29	43
Don’t know	10	8	7	10	4	8	11	9	12

Do you think affirmative action programs designed to help blacks and other minorities get better jobs and education go too far these days, or don't they go far enough, or are they just about adequate now?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>MIN</u>
Go too far	36	29	37	52	31	35	45	40	26
Don't go far enough	18	26	17	5	26	14	16	12	34
Adequate now	36	39	38	37	38	43	31	38	31
Don't know	10	6	8	6	5	8	8	10	9

Right now, how often do you think affirmative action programs designed to help women and minorities get better jobs and education end up depriving someone else of their rights—does that happen almost always, quite a lot, only occasionally or almost never?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>MIN</u>
A lot (Net)	34	30	28	48	33	29	41	37	27
Almost always	6	5	5	10	8	5	7	6	7
Quite a lot	28	25	22	38	25	24	34	31	20
Occasionally (Net)	56	65	62	45	57	65	48	53	63
Only occasionally	47	53	51	44	40	56	43	48	43
Almost never	9	12	12	1	17	9	5	5	20
Don't know	10	5	10	7	10	6	11	10	10

Would you favor or oppose an affirmative action program that gives preference in jobs and education to people who come from an economically disadvantaged background, regardless of their gender or ethnicity? (IF FAVOR OR OPPOSED) Would you (favor/oppose) that strongly or (favor/oppose) that somewhat?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>WHT</u>	<u>MIN</u>
Favor (Net)	60	68	60	48	69	60	53	56	68
Favor strongly	28	31	30	22	34	25	27	25	35
Favor somewhat	31	37	30	26	36	35	25	31	33
Oppose (Net)	31	23	29	43	24	33	36	33	25
Oppose somewhat	16	13	15	19	14	17	17	17	13
Oppose strongly	15	10	14	24	10	16	20	16	13
Don't know	9	9	11	9	7	7	11	11	7

Tables compiled by RAY ENSLOW