

ICPSR 3811

Washington Post Poll, August 2003

The Washington Post

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Data Collection Description

Principal Investigator(s): The Washington Post

Title: Washington Post Poll, August 2003

ICPSR Study Number: 3811

Summary: This poll is part of a series of monthly surveys that solicit public opinion on the presidency and on a range of other political and social issues. The poll was conducted August 7-11, 2003. Respondents were asked to give their opinions of President George W. Bush and his handling of the war with Iraq. Views were also sought on the economic and human costs of the war with Iraq, the status of the nation's economy, the effect of the war and the economy on the 2004 election, and the respondent's personal investments and financial situation. Other questions addressed differences between the Democratic and Republican parties, and the respondents' religious attitudes on homosexuality. Background variables include age, political orientation, education, sex, ethnicity, religious orientation, likelihood of voting, and socioeconomic status.

Universe: Persons aged 18 and over living in households with telephones in the contiguous 48 United States.

Sample: Households were selected by random-digit dialing. Within households, the respondent selected was the adult living in the household who last had a birthday and who was home at the time of the interview.

Date of Collection: August 7-11, 2003

Unit of Observation: individuals

Data Collection Notes: (1) Additional information about sampling, interviewing, weighting, and sampling error may be found in the codebook. (2) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file. (3) This collection has not been processed by ICPSR staff. ICPSR is distributing the data and documentation for this collection in essentially the same form in which they were received. When appropriate, documentation has been converted to Portable Document Format (PDF), data files have been converted to non-platform-specific formats, and variables have been recoded to ensure respondents' privacy. (4) The codebook is provided by ICPSR as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site.

Data Source: telephone interviews

Restrictions: This data collection may not be used for any purpose other than statistical reporting and analysis. Use of these data to learn the identity of any person or establishment is prohibited.

Extent of Collection: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF)

Extent of Processing: REFORM.DOC/ REFORM.DATA

Data Format: SPSS portable file

File Specifications

<i>Part No.</i>	<i>Part Name</i>	<i>File Structure</i>	<i>Case Count</i>	<i>Variable Count</i>	<i>LRECL</i>	<i>Records Per Case</i>
1	Data file	-	1,003	82	-	-

United States Census Division Codes [CENSDIV]

=====

1	NEW ENGLAND	
	Connecticut	New Hampshire
	Maine	Rhode Island
	Massachusetts	Vermont
2	MIDDLE ATLANTIC	
	New Jersey	
	New York	
	Pennsylvania	
3	EAST NORTH CENTRAL	
	Illinois	Ohio
	Indiana	Wisconsin
	Michigan	
4	WEST NORTH CENTRAL	
	Iowa	Nebraska
	Kansas	North Dakota
	Minnesota	South Dakota
	Missouri	
5	SOUTH ATLANTIC	
	Delaware	North Carolina
	District of Columbia	South Carolina
	Florida	Virginia
	Georgia	West Virginia
	Maryland	
6	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL	
	Alabama	Mississippi
	Kentucky	Tennessee
7	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	
	Arkansas	Oklahoma
	Louisiana	Texas
8	MOUNTAIN	
	Arizona	Nevada
	Colorado	New Mexico
	Idaho	Utah
	Montana	Wyoming
9	PACIFIC	
	Alaska	Oregon
	California	Washington
	Hawaii	

United States Census Region Codes [REGION]

=====

1 EAST

Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

2 MIDWEST

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

3 SOUTH

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

4 WEST

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

ABC News Polling Methodology

By Daniel M. Merkle

Assistant Director of Polling, ABC News

ABC News polls of the general population are conducted by telephone among a random national sample of adults age 18 and over. Sampling and data collection, for most of these polls, are conducted by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pennsylvania. TNSI and its predecessor, Chilton Research Services, have been ABC News' primary field work provider since 1979. ABC News closely oversees TNS sampling and field work procedures.

Sampling

A sample of households in the continental United States is selected via random digit dialing (RDD) procedures, to insure that all possible listed and unlisted phone numbers are included with equal probability of selection. RDD samples are produced using the Genesys Sampling System from a sampling frame that includes all active telephone area codes and exchanges.

Before sampling, exchanges are stratified into nine regions as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau: New England, Middle Atlantic, East North Central, West North Central, South Atlantic, East South Central, West South Central, Mountain, Pacific. Counties within each region are then classified as metropolitan or non-metropolitan, using definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Within each of the resulting 18 strata, exchanges are grouped by state and then sorted by median county income as reported by the Census. These steps help ensure representativeness.

Sampling then occurs in three stages. First, a systematic random sample of telephone exchanges is selected within each stratum, by taking every n th exchange.

Next, telephone banks (the first two digits of the four-digit suffix) with more than one residential listing assigned in white pages directories are classified as working banks. A sample of four-digit suffixes is randomly selected from among working banks in each exchange, resulting in a self-weighting sample of households. This sample is checked against a database of known business telephone numbers to reduce business listings in the sample. The sampled phone numbers are pre-dialed via a non-ringing auto-dialer to reduce dialing of non-working numbers.

The third stage of sampling is respondent selection within the household, accomplished by last-birthday selection. Interviewers ask to speak to the household member age 18 or over at home who's had the last birthday. To compensate for the fact that women tend to be easier to reach, in-house selection is stratified by sex, with interviewers asking to speak with the male household member 75 percent of the time and the female 25 percent of the time. If a person of the selected sex is unavailable, the interviewer asks to speak with the person of the other sex who had the last birthday.

Interviewing

Phone numbers are released for interviewing in replicates by region to allow for sample control. In multi-night polls, numbers are called multiple times during the field period. Interviews are conducted via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI). The professional interviewers employed by TNSI, and their supervisors, are extensively trained in interviewing practices, including techniques designed to achieve the highest possible respondent cooperation.

Weighting

Final data are weighted using demographic information from the Census to adjust for sampling and nonsampling deviations from population values. Respondents customarily are classified into one of 48 cells based on age, race, sex and education. Weights are assigned so the proportion in each of these 48 cells matches the actual population proportion according to the Census Bureau's most recent Current Population Survey.

Sampling Error

Poll results may deviate from full population values because a sample, not a census, is interviewed. Sampling error can be calculated when probability sampling methods, such as those described here, are employed. The standard formula to calculate sampling error at the 95 percent confidence level is: $(\text{SQRT}(.25/\text{sample size})) * 1.96$. There can be other sources of differences in polls, such as the wording and order of questions.

Washington Post August Poll, August 7-11, 2003

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

INTERVIEWER: Get answer and then ask: Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

- 1 Approve STRONGLY
- 2 Approve SOMEWHAT
- 3 Disapprove SOMEWHAT
- 4 Disapprove STRONGLY
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling (READ ITEM)?

How about (NEXT ITEM)? **(IF NEEDED: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling (ITEM)?**

*****SCRAMBLE*****

- a. The situation in Iraq
- b. The economy
- c. Taxes
- d. The federal budget

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

3. If the 2004 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for (George W. Bush, the Republican) or for (the Democratic nominee for president)?

- 1 Bush
- 2 Democratic nominee
- 3 (VOL) Other **ASK Q3A**
- 4 (VOL) Neither **ASK Q3A**
- 5 (VOL) Would not vote
- DK/No opinion **ASK Q3A**
- NA/Refused **ASK Q3A**

3a. Which one are you leaning toward?

- 1 Bush
- 2 Democratic nominee
- 3 (VOL) Other
- 4 (VOL) Neither
- 5 (VOL) Would not vote
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

4. On another subject, do you support or oppose the current U.S. military presence in Iraq?

INTERVIEWER: Get answer and then ask: Do you support/oppose it strongly or somewhat?

- 1 Support STRONGLY
- 2 Support SOMEWHAT
- 3 Oppose SOMEWHAT
- 4 Oppose STRONGLY
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

5. All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not?

- 1 Yes, worth fighting
- 2 No, not worth fighting
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

6. Again thinking about the goals versus the costs of the war, so far in your opinion has there been an acceptable or unacceptable number of U.S. military casualties in Iraq?

- 1 Acceptable
- 2 Unacceptable
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

7. Do you think (the United States has to kill or capture Saddam Hussein for the war in Iraq to be a success), or do you think (the war in Iraq can be a success with Saddam Hussein removed from power, but not killed or captured)?

*****IF RESPONDENT SAYS "HE IS DEAD ALREADY", REPEAT QUESTION.*****

- 1 US must kill/capture Saddam Hussein
- 2 War can succeed without killing/capturing Saddam Hussein
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

8. How likely is it that Saddam Hussein (**INSERT ITEM**) ? Would you say that it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

DO NOT SCRAMBLE, ASK AS LISTED

- a. was personally involved in the September 11 terrorist attacks
- b. has provided assistance to Osama bin Laden and his terrorist network
- c. was trying to develop weapons of mass destruction
- d. had already developed weapons of mass destruction

- 1 Very likely
- 2 Somewhat likely
- 3 Not very likely
- 4 Not at all likely
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

9. Before the war began, do you think the Bush administration did or did not intentionally exaggerate its evidence that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, such as biological or chemical weapons?

- 1 Yes, they did exaggerate
- 2 No, they did NOT exaggerate
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

10. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Not so good
- 4 Poor
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

11. Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse or staying the same?

- 1 Getting better
- 2 Getting worse
- 3 Staying the same
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

12. Which is more important to you when you're judging the health of the economy: (the state of the stock market) or (the unemployment rate)?

- 1 Stock market
- 2 Unemployment rate
- 3 (VOL) Neither/Other
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

13. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of:

*****SCRAMBLE*****

- a. The Republican party
- b. The Democratic party

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

14. Would you say you, yourself are better off financially than you were when Bush became president, not as well off, or in about the same shape as then financially?

- 1 Better off
- 2 Not as well off
- 3 About the same
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

15. Overall, which party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans), do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years?

- 1 Democrats
- 2 Republicans
- 3 (VOL) Both
- 4 (VOL)Neither
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

16. Which political party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans), do you trust to do a better job handling (**INSERT ITEM**)?

*****SCRAMBLE*****

- a. The economy
- b. The U.S. campaign against terrorism
- c. Social Security
- d. Taxes
- e. The federal budget
- f. The issue of financial fraud and accounting irregularities by large business corporations

- 1 Democrats
 - 2 Republicans
 - 3 (VOL) Both
 - 4 (VOL)Neither
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

17. Generally speaking, which party's policies are better for the stock market, the (Republicans') or the (Democrats')?

- 1 Democrats
 - 2 Republicans
 - 3 (VOL) Both
 - 4 (VOL)Neither
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

18. As you may know, Bush recently approved a law that would reduce taxes on stock dividends. In general do you think the tax cut on stock dividends (is good for the economy), (is bad for the economy), or (won't make much difference to the economy)?

- 1 Good for economy
 - 2 Bad for economy
 - 3 Won't make much difference
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

19. Would you support or oppose a plan in which people who chose to could invest some of their Social Security contributions in the stock market?

- 1 Support
 - 2 Oppose
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

20. Who is mostly responsible for the current state of the economy: (President Bush), (the Democrats in Congress); (the Republicans in Congress), (the September 11 attacks); (the normal business cycle), or something else?

- 1 President Bush
 - 2 Democrats in Congress
 - 3 Republicans in Congress
 - 4 September 11 attacks
 - 5 Normal business cycle
 - 6 (VOL) Corporate greed
 - 7 (VOL) President Clinton
 - 8 Other **DO NOT RECORD VERBATIM**
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

21. As you may know, officials now say the federal budget is in deficit. How much responsibility do you think Bush bears for the budget deficit - a great deal, a good amount, just some or hardly any?

- 1 Great deal
 - 2 Good amount
 - 3 Just some
 - 4 Hardly any
 - 5 (VOL) None
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

22. Do you think the current national budget deficit is a problem or not?

- 1 Problem
 - 2 Not a problem
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q22=1*****

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

23. Would you say it's a problem that (demands immediate government action) or is it a problem that (will work itself out over time)?

- 1 Demands immediate government action
 - 2 Will work itself out over time
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

24. Now, thinking about all of your investments, including retirement savings at work, do you or your spouse currently have money invested in stocks or stock mutual funds, or not?

- 1 Yes, money invested
 - 2 No, no money invested
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q24=1*****

25. Do you or your spouse personally own any individual stocks directly, or do you own stocks only through mutual funds or a pension plan?

- 1 Own stocks directly
 - 2 Only through mutual funds/pension plan
- DK/No opinion
NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q24=1*****

26. How long would you say you have been investing in the stock market? Would you say less than five years, five to ten years, or more than ten years?

- 1 Less than five years
- 2 Five to ten years
- 3 More than 10 years
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

27. How much do rises and falls in stock market prices affect you personally-a great deal, somewhat, not much or not at all?

- 1 Great deal
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Not much
- 4 Not at all
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

On another topic...

36. Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to legally form civil unions, giving them some of the legal rights of married couples?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

911. What, if anything, is your religion? (DO NOT READ)

- 1 Agnostic
- 2 Atheist
- 3 Baptist
- 4 Catholic/Roman Catholic
- 5 Christian
- 6 Episcopalian
- 24 Islam/Muslim
- 7 Jewish
- 8 Lutheran
- 9 Methodist
- 25 Mormon/Latter Day Saints
- 10 Pentecostal
- 11 Presbyterian
- 12 Protestant
- 13 Southern Baptist
- 14 NONE
- 15 OTHER (Specify)

*****DO NOT SHOW BELOW ON SCREEN*****

- 16 RESERVED FOR CODING
- 17 RESERVED FOR CODING
- 18 RESERVED FOR CODING
- 19 RESERVED FOR CODING
- 20 RESERVED FOR CODING
- 21 Christian (Protestant)
- 22 Christian (Non-Protestant)
- 23 Other Non-Christian
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q911=5 "CHRISTIAN"*****

911A. Is that a Protestant denomination, or not?

- 1 Yes PUNCH Q911=21
- 2 No PUNCH Q911=22
- DK/No opinion PUNCH Q911=22
- NA/Refused PUNCH Q911=22

*****IF Q.911=3,4,6,8-13,21,22,25*****

911B. Would you consider yourself a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q911=3-13,15,21-25*****

37. Aside from weddings and funerals how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

- 1 More than once a week
- 2 Once a week
- 3 Once or twice a month
- 4 A few times a year
- 5 Seldom
- 6 Never
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

38. As you may know, the Episcopal church has given its bishops the option of allowing clergy to bless the committed relationships of gay or lesbian couples. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q911=3,4,5,7-13,15,21-25*****

39. Now thinking about your own religious faith or denomination, would you approve or disapprove of giving local churches the option of blessing committed relationships of gay or lesbian couples?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 3 (VOL) Don't go to church/Not involved in church
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q911=3-13,15,21-25 AND Q37=1-4*****

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

40. If the church you regularly attend decided to allow blessings of gay or lesbian couples, would you (continue to attend that church) or would you (look for another church to attend?)

- 1 Continue to attend that church
- 2 Look for another church
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

Now just a few more questions to help classify your answers:

*****ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2*****

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (READ LIST)

- 1 A Democrat (ASK D2b)
 - 2 A Republican (ASK D2b)
 - 3 An Independent (ASK Q.904)
 - 4 Or what? (ASK Q.904)
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)
- DK/No opinion (ASK Q.904)
 - NA/Refused (ASK Q.904)

*****ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2 IN SAME ORDER AS Q.901*****

904. Do you lean more towards the: (READ LIST)

- 1 Democratic Party
 - 2 Or, Republican Party
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)
- 3 (VOL) Neither
 - DK/No opinion
 - NA/Refused

*****ASK IF Q901=1 OR 2*****

*****INSERT ANSWER FROM Q901*****

D2b. Do you consider yourself a strong (Republican/Democrat) or not a very strong (Republican/Democrat)?

- 1 Strong (Republican/Democrat)
- 2 Not very strong (Republican/Democrat)
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ROTATE BY ASKING ALL REPUBLICANS IN BEGINNING OF QUESTION OR ALL DEMOCRATS IN BEGINNING QUESTION*****

32. Would you say you always vote (Republican), mostly vote (Republican), vote for (Republicans) and (Democrats) about equally, mostly vote (Democratic), or always vote (Democratic)?

- 1 Always vote Republican
- 2 Mostly vote Republican
- 3 Republicans and Democrats about equally
- 4 Mostly Democratic
- 5 Always Democratic
- 6 (VOL) Other parties/Neither
- 7 (VOL) Don't Vote
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

35. Thinking back to when you were growing up, did your parents usually vote for (Republicans) or (Democrats)?

- 1 Republicans
- 2 Democrats
- 3 (VOL) Both/Parents voted differently
- 4 (VOL) Independents
- 5 (VOL) Other
- 6 (VOL) Didn't vote
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

905. Are you registered to vote at your present address, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

33. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the 2004 Presidential election: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

- 1 Absolutely certain to vote
- 2 Will probably vote
- 3 Chances are 50-50
- 4 Chances are less than 50-50
- 5 (VOL) Don't think will vote
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

909. What was the last grade of school you completed?

- 1 8th grade or less
- 2 Some high school
- 3 Graduated high school
- 4 Some college (ASK IF TECHNICAL SCHOOL; IF YES, PUNCH CODE 3, FOR HIGH SCHOOL)
- 5 Graduated College
- 6 Post-graduate
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

*****IF Q.909 = 5, GRADUATED COLLEGE*****

909a. Was that an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or what?

- 1 Associates degree
- 2 Bachelors degree
- 3 Other
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

910. What is your age?

918. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?
(IF "YES," ASK:) Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?
(IF "NO," ASK:) Are you white, black, or some other race?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 White Hispanic
- 4 Black Hispanic
- 5 Hispanic (no race given)
- 6 Other race
- DK/No Opinion
- NA/Refused

34. How would you describe your family when you were growing up: poor, working class, middle class, upper middle class, or well-to-do?

- 1 Poor
- 2 Working class
- 3 Middle class
- 4 Upper middle class
- 5 Well-to-do
- DK/No opinion
- NA/Refused

919. If you added together the yearly incomes, before taxes, of all the members of your household for last year, 2002, would the total be: **(READ LIST)**

- 1 Less than \$30,000, or
- 2 \$30,000 or more **(SKIP TO Q.919.2)**
- NA/Refused **(SKIP TO 920)**

919.1 Would that be: **(READ LIST)**

- 1 Under \$8,000 **(SKIP TO 920)**
- 2 \$8,000 but less than \$12,000 **(SKIP TO 920)**
- 3 \$12,000 but less than \$20,000 **(SKIP TO 920)**
- 4 \$20,000 but less than \$30,000 **(SKIP TO 920)**
- NA/Refused **(SKIP TO 920)**

919.2 Would that be: **(READ LIST)**

- 1 \$30,000 but less than \$50,000
- 2 \$50,000 but less than \$75,000
- 3 \$75,000 but less than \$100,000
- 4 \$100,000 but less than \$150,000
- 5 Or more than \$150,000
- NA/Refused

*****ASK EVERY OTHER RESPONDENT*****

920.1 May a reporter from THE WASHINGTON POST call you to talk about some of the things we've been discussing?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No **(SKIP TO Q.921)**
- DK/No opinion **(SKIP TO Q.921)**
- NA/Refused **(SKIP TO Q.921)**

920.2 May I please have your first name, so the reporter will know who to ask for:

921. **RECORD GENDER**

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

*****END*****