



## Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday September 23, 2003**

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

### *President Bush and New York State Voters*

- **Approval rating:** President George Bush's approval rating is currently 44% among New York State's registered voters. 55% do not rate his job performance positively. This represents a significant drop in his standing among the state's voters and a return to a rating that approximates pre-September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 numbers.

**Question Wording:** Would you rate the job President George Bush is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
September 2003	<b>44%</b>	17%	27%	22%	33%	1%
April 2003	<b>58%</b>	29%	29%	19%	22%	1%
December 2002	<b>57%</b>	24%	33%	23%	19%	1%
April 2002	<b>72%</b>	33%	39%	17%	10%	1%
December 2001	<b>79%</b>	43%	36%	15%	5%	1%
April 2001	<b>40%</b>	11%	29%	30%	23%	7%

- **Is New York in Play for President Bush in 2004?** 32% of New York State voters definitely plan to vote for George Bush for president in 2004 and 48% definitely plan to vote against him.

**Question Wording:** Do you definitely plan to vote for George Bush for re-election as president in 2004 or do you definitely plan to vote against him?

	Vote For	Vote Against	Depends/Unsure
<b>Registered Voters</b>	32%	48%	20%

- **Handling Terrorism, Iraq, and the Economy:** 56% of registered voters approve of President Bush's handling of the war on terrorism, 45% approve of his handling of the situation in Iraq, and 36% approve of his handling of the economy.

**Question Wording:** Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush is handling the war on terrorism/situation in Iraq/economy?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
War on terrorism	56%	41%	3%
Situation in Iraq	45%	52%	3%
Economy	36%	61%	3%

### *Future Directions*

- **The Economy:** 26% of New York State voters think the U.S. economy is getting better and 42% think it is getting worse.

**Question Wording:** Do you think the U.S. economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying the same?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Better	Worse	Staying the same
U.S. Economy	26%	42%	32%

- **Iraq:** 25% of New York State voters think the situation in Iraq is getting better and 40% think it is getting worse.

**Question Wording:** Do you think the situation in Iraq is getting better, getting worse, or staying the same?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Better	Worse	Staying the same
Iraq	25%	40%	35%

- **Terrorism vs. Economy:** When thinking about the future, 54% of New York State voters are more concerned about jobs and the economy compared with 41% who are more concerned about the war on terrorism.

**Question Wording:** Thinking about the future, are you more concerned about the war on terrorism, or more concerned about jobs and the economy?

	War on Terrorism	Jobs/Economy	Unsure
Registered Voters	41%	54%	5%

***Nature of the Sample: 912 New York State Registered Voters***

This survey was conducted on September 15 through 18, 2003. 912 registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York State and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Results are statistically significant at  $\pm 3.5\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.