



# WNBC/Marist Poll

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## New York State: President Bush After Katrina

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**All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll**

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This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

- President Bush drops to lowest point:** In the aftermath of the devastation on the gulf coast, President Bush’s job performance rating has reached a personal low with New York State voters. Only 33% of registered voters approve of the job the president is doing, his combined excellent and good scores. This is a sharp contrast from four years ago when 79% of New Yorkers rated President Bush positively after the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Democrats are most critical of President Bush. Only 14% of Democrats approve of the job he is doing, and 64% rate his job performance as poor. African American voters also give the president low scores. 19% of African American voters rate the job the president is doing as either excellent or good, and 59% rate his job performance as poor. 61% of Republicans still rate the president positively.

**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 2005	<b>33%</b>	10%	23%	22%	44%	1%
April 2005	<b>43%</b>	16%	27%	23%	34%	<1%
October 2004	<b>39%</b>	19%	20%	18%	42%	1%
September 2004	<b>40%</b>	19%	21%	21%	39%	<1%
April 2004	<b>38%</b>	14%	24%	22%	39%	1%
January 2004	<b>52%</b>	22%	30%	19%	28%	1%
September 2003	<b>44%</b>	17%	27%	22%	33%	1%
April 2003	<b>58%</b>	29%	29%	19%	22%	1%

<b>Registered voters</b>	<b>Excellent/ Good</b>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
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%
<b>September 2005</b>						
<b>Region</b>						
Upstate	<b>36%</b>	11%	25%	25%	38%	1%
New York City	<b>26%</b>	7%	19%	16%	57%	1%
Suburbs	<b>38%</b>	13%	25%	22%	39%	1%
<b>Party</b>						
Democrat	<b>14%</b>	4%	10%	21%	64%	1%
Republican	<b>61%</b>	22%	39%	22%	17%	<1%
Non-enrolled	<b>31%</b>	6%	25%	22%	46%	1%
<b>Race</b>						
White	<b>37%</b>	12%	25%	23%	40%	<1%
African American	<b>19%</b>	3%	16%	19%	59%	3%
Latino	<b>28%</b>	7%	21%	25%	47%	<1%

- **The president is hard hit by Hurricane Katrina:** 62% of New York State's registered voters disapprove of President Bush's handling of Hurricane Katrina, including 81% of Democrats and 79% of African American voters. A majority of Republicans do approve of the president's handling of the situation.

**Question Wording:** Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush has handled Hurricane Katrina?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
Hurricane Katrina	34%	62%	4%
<b>Region</b>			
Upstate	42%	54%	4%
New York City	23%	73%	4%
Suburbs	34%	64%	2%
<b>Party</b>			
Democrat	17%	81%	2%
Republican	56%	39%	5%
Non-enrolled	37%	59%	4%
<b>Race</b>			
White	38%	59%	3%
African American	20%	79%	1%
Latino	25%	68%	7%

- **The president receives better scores for Hurricane Rita:** 58% of New York State’s registered voters approve of the job President Bush did handling Hurricane Rita, a significant turnout from what followed Katrina.

**Question Wording:** Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush has handled Hurricane Rita?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
Hurricane Rita	58%	35%	7%
<b>Region</b>			
Upstate	64%	29%	7%
New York City	47%	46%	7%
Suburbs	63%	31%	6%
<b>Party</b>			
Democrat	44%	48%	8%
Republican	81%	14%	5%
Non-enrolled	55%	38%	7%
<b>Race</b>			
White	62%	31%	7%
African American	49%	49%	2%
Latino	52%	39%	9%

- **What if it happened here:** New York State’s voters divide over whether it is possible to fully evacuate their communities. 52% of registered voters think it is possible and 48% do not. But it all depends upon where people live. Voters in the New York City metropolitan area are especially wary. 62% of voters in New York City do not think it is possible to evacuate their neighborhoods. 66% of voters in the suburbs surrounding New York City do not believe their communities could be fully evacuated.

**Question Wording:** In the event that an evacuation of your community was required, do you think it is very possible, possible, not very possible, or impossible to have a full evacuation of your community?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	Very Possible	Possible	Not Very Possible	Impossible
September 2005	14%	38%	17%	31%
<b>Region</b>				
Upstate	19%	54%	14%	13%
New York City	12%	26%	19%	43%
Suburbs	10%	24%	20%	46%

- What do voters see as the bigger threat...it depends:** 50% of registered voters in the state fear an evacuation might happen as a result of a terror attack, and 45% are concerned the need could arise from a natural disaster or weather emergency. Again, what people think could cause such a large scale evacuation depends on where they live. 68% of New York City voters think an evacuation is more likely to be precipitated by a terror attack. 52% of upstate voters and 57% of suburban voters are more likely to see a natural disaster or weather emergency as the bigger potential threat.

**Question Wording:** What do you think is the greater threat to the area where you live natural disasters, such as emergency weather events or a terrorist attack?

Registered Voters	Weather	Terrorism	Unsure
September 2005	45%	50%	5%
Region			
Upstate	52%	44%	4%
New York City	24%	68%	8%
Suburbs	57%	39%	4%

- A more immediate impact...the cost of fuel:** 63% of New York voters see the rising prices at the gas pump as a major problem. An additional 20% describe the problem as a crisis.

**Question Wording:** Do you think rising gas prices are a crisis, a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all?

Registered Voters	Crisis	A Major Problem	A Minor Problem	No Problem at All
September 2005	20%	63%	14%	3%
Region				
Upstate	23%	60%	13%	4%
New York City	17%	69%	12%	2%
Suburbs	19%	62%	18%	1%

- Paying for gas...New Yorkers are worried:** Registered voters throughout the state are concerned about how to afford the price of gas. 67% of voters are worried about how to afford the rise in prices.

**Question Wording:** How much do you worry about being able to afford gas, a great deal, some, not very much, or not at all?

<b>Registered Voters</b>	A Great Deal	Some	Not Very Much	Not at All
September 2005	30%	37%	15%	18%
<b>Region</b>				
Upstate	32%	44%	12%	12%
New York City	30%	32%	13%	25%
Suburbs	28%	30%	24%	18%
<b>Income</b>				
Less than \$50,000	42%	28%	12%	18%
\$50,000 or more	26%	40%	18%	16%

- **And who is to blame?** 39% of registered voters in the state point a finger at the oil companies followed by 22% who lay the blame on President Bush. 13% view OPEC as the cause of higher gas prices followed by 11% who see it as a result of the hurricanes in the gulf. 9% blame the situation in Iraq, 4% think it is because of state and local taxes, and 2% cite the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East as the reason for higher fuel prices.

**Question Wording:** What do you think is most to blame for the high cost of gas today:

<b>Registered Voters</b>	September 2005
Oil companies	39%
President Bush	22%
OPEC	13%
Hurricanes in gulf	11%
Situation in Iraq	9%
State and local taxes	4%
Arab/Israeli conflict	2%

**Nature of the Sample: 707 NYS Registered Voters**

The survey of 707 registered voters was conducted on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005. 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  $\pm 4\%$ . The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.