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National Poll

This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

President Bush: Ratings and Re-election Prospects

- **Job Performance.** 70% of registered voters nationwide approve of the job President Bush is doing in office. This represents a 14% increase in President Bush's approval rating from pre-war levels.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of the job George Bush is doing as president?

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
April 2003	70%	23%	7%
February 2003	56%	34%	10%
January 2003	57%	34%	9%
October 2002	65%	27%	8%
April 2002	74%	17%	9%
January 2002	81%	11%	8%
November 2001	85%	8%	7%
March 2001	50%	24%	26%
January 2001	50%	20%	30%

Democrats	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
April 2003	47%	42%	11%
February 2003	31%	55%	14%
January 2003	28%	61%	11%
October 2002	41%	45%	14%
April 2002	55%	30%	15%
January 2002	71%	19%	10%

Republicans	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
April 2003	97%	2%	1%
February 2003	89%	6%	5%
January 2003	90%	6%	4%
October 2002	89%	9%	2%
April 2002	97%	2%	1%
January 2002	96%	2%	2%

Independents	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
April 2003	66%	27%	7%
February 2003	54%	37%	9%
January 2003	51%	36%	13%
October 2002	65%	26%	9%
April 2002	73%	19%	8%
January 2002	81%	9%	10%

- **Handling the War with Iraq:** 76% of registered voters approve of President Bush's handling of the war in Iraq.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush is handling the war in Iraq?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
April 2003	76%	20%	4%

- **Handling the Economy:** 50% of registered voters approve of President Bush's handling of the economy.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush is handling the economy?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
April 2003	50%	44%	6%

- **Handling the War on Terrorism:** 78% of registered voters approve of President Bush's handling of the war on terrorism.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush is handling the war on terrorism?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
April 2003	78%	18%	4%

- **Minds Made Up?** 40% of registered voters definitely plan to vote to re-elect President Bush in 2004 and 30% definitely plan to vote against him. The remaining 30% are not committed either way.

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?

Registered voters	For	Against	Depends	Unsure
April 2003	40%	30%	14%	16%
February 2003	36%	34%	10%	20%
January 2003	37%	35%	12%	16%
October 2002	42%	29%	11%	18%
April 2002	41%	24%	15%	20%
January 2002	43%	21%	13%	23%

- **Direction of the Country:** A majority of Americans think the country is currently headed in the right direction.

Question Wording: In general, thinking about the way things are going in the country, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?

Americans	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
April 2003	55%	34%	11%
January 2003	42%	48%	10%
October 2002	45%	46%	9%
April 2002	60%	32%	8%
January 2002	60%	30%	10%
March 2001	41%	44%	15%
January 2001	56%	32%	12%

Democratic Field for 2004

- **Up for Grabs.** 39% of Democratic voters nationwide are undecided about whom to support for their party's nomination for president in 2004.

Question Wording: If the next Democratic presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Democrats	April 2003	Feb 2003	Jan 2003	Oct 2002
Joseph Lieberman	17%	18%	20%	21%
Richard Gephardt	13%	8%	9%	18%
John Kerry	10%	14%	14%	6%
John Edwards	5%	4%	7%	3%
Al Sharpton	4%	5%	3%	3%
Gary Hart	3%	6%	5%	n.a.
Howard Dean	3%	< 1%	1%	1%
Carol Moseley Braun	3%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Bob Graham	2%	3%	6%	n.a.
Dennis Kucinich	1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10%
Undecided	39%	42%	35%	38%

- **Issues.** Domestic issues such as health care, education, and the economy far out distance other concerns on the minds of Democratic voters.

Question Wording: Which of the following issues are you most interested in hearing about during the campaign?

Democrats	April 2003	Jan 2003
Domestic issues like health care or education	42%	37%
The economy	40%	39%
Homeland security	7%	8%
The situation in Iraq	4%	9%
The war against terrorism	4%	5%
Unsure	3%	2%

Another Clinton White House?

- **To run or not to run.** Democratic voters nationwide divide over whether they would like to see Hillary Clinton run for president.

Question Wording: Would you like to see Hillary Clinton run for president someday or not?

Democrats	Yes	No	Unsure
April 2003	49%	46%	5%

- **If so, when?** Most Democrats who want to see her run for president, don't care when.

Question Wording: Would you like to see Hillary Clinton run for president in 2004, 2008, 2012, or does the year not matter to you? (Asked of Democrats and Democratic leaning Independents who would like to see her run for president)

Democrats	2004	2008	2012	Does not matter
April 2003	18%	18%	2%	62%

Nature of the Sample: 963 Americans

This survey was conducted on April 15th and 16th, 2003. 963 adults 18 years of age or older within the continental United States were interviewed by telephone.

Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. The results of the entire survey are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. There are 747 registered voters, and the results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. There are 301 Democrats or Democratic leaning Independents in the sample. The results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at $\pm 5.5\%$. The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations.