



# WNBC/Marist Poll

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday February 17, 2006**

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

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## **National Poll: Voters Weigh in on White House Controversies**

This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

### ***Response to Hurricane Katrina most worrisome to voters***

- Among the many controversies surrounding the Bush Administration, its response to Hurricane Katrina is most troubling to voters. 66% of registered voters nationwide are bothered a great deal or a good amount by the administration’s response to Hurricane Katrina. Although Democrats are most critical, 64% of independents and 42% of Republicans are bothered by how the administration handled the disaster.

**Question Wording:** Does each of the following bother you a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or not at all about the Bush administration:

	A Great Deal	A Good Amount	Not Very Much	Not At All	Unsure
<b>Registered voters</b>					
<b>Its response to Hurricane Katrina</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Democrat	70%	15%	8%	7%	<1%
Republican	22%	20%	29%	27%	2%
Independent	45%	19%	18%	17%	1%
<b>The wiretapping of Americans without a warrant as part of their anti-terrorism program</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Democrat	60%	11%	12%	15%	2%
Republican	12%	6%	22%	57%	3%
Independent	41%	13%	16%	29%	1%

Registered voters	A Great Deal	A Good Amount	Not Very Much	Not At All	Unsure
<b>The indictment of Scooter Libby who was Vice President Cheney's chief of staff, for giving the name of a CIA agent to the press</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>5%</b>
Democrat	42%	18%	20%	15%	5%
Republican	16%	15%	31%	31%	7%
Independent	33%	23%	19%	21%	4%
<b>The Jack Abramoff lobbying scandal</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Democrat	34%	15%	22%	15%	14%
Republican	12%	13%	27%	26%	22%
Independent	32%	17%	20%	15%	16%

***Further investigate the vice president's hunting accident?***

- Most registered voters do not think there should be any further investigation of Vice President Cheney's shooting of Harry Whittington while hunting. Only a majority of Democrats thinks there should be.

**Question Wording:** From anything you may have seen, read, or heard about Vice President Cheney's shooting of Harry Whittington while hunting do you think there should be a further investigation of what happened?

Registered voters	Yes	No	Unsure
<b>February 2006</b>	34%	65%	1%
Democrat	53%	46%	1%
Republican	7%	92%	1%
Independent	37%	61%	2%

***Voters rate the president***

- 40% of registered voters nationwide approve of the job President Bush is doing in office, and 57% disapprove.

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

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
<b>February 2006</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Democrat	11%	87%	2%
Republican	81%	15%	4%
Independent	34%	62%	4%

<b>Registered voters</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
October 2005	41%	53%	6%
May 2005	47%	49%	4%
February 2005	51%	45%	4%
November 2004	49%	49%	2%
October 2004	49%	48%	3%
September 2004	49%	49%	2%
August 2004	49%	47%	4%
July 2004	49%	48%	3%
April 2004	51%	47%	2%
March 2004	52%	45%	3%
November 2003	53%	42%	5%
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%

- 59% of registered voters disapprove of President Bush’s handling of the situation in Iraq.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
<b>February 2006</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>2%</b>
Democrat	11%	88%	1%
Republican	79%	18%	3%
Independent	35%	64%	1%
October 2005	40%	56%	4%
May 2005	40%	56%	4%
February 2005	46%	51%	3%
October 2004	44%	53%	3%
September 2004	43%	55%	2%
August 2004	41%	55%	4%
July 2004	42%	55%	3%
April 2004	47%	51%	2%
March 2004	52%	45%	3%
November 2003	48%	47%	5%
April 2003	76%	20%	4%

- 58% of registered voters disapprove of President Bush's handling of the economy.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
<b>February 2006</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Democrat	13%	85%	2%
Republican	78%	19%	3%
Independent	34%	63%	3%
October 2005	37%	58%	5%
May 2005	40%	56%	4%
February 2005	45%	52%	3%
October 2004	44%	53%	3%
September 2004	42%	56%	2%
August 2004	46%	51%	3%
July 2004	47%	50%	3%
April 2004	47%	51%	2%
March 2004	40%	57%	3%
November 2003	46%	50%	4%
April 2003	50%	44%	6%

- 52% approve of the job President Bush is doing to combat terrorism.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
February 2006	52%	44%	4%
Democrat	29%	66%	5%
Republican	84%	13%	3%
Independent	48%	48%	4%
October 2005	51%	44%	5%
May 2005	48%	48%	4%
February 2005	57%	41%	2%
October 2004	53%	43%	4%
September 2004	52%	46%	2%
August 2004	52%	44%	4%
July 2004	53%	43%	4%
April 2004	55%	42%	3%
March 2004	61%	36%	3%
November 2003	59%	38%	3%
April 2003	78%	18%	4%

- 61% of Americans think the country is going in the wrong direction. Voters divide along partisan lines. Most Democrats and independents think the country is going in the wrong direction. Many Republicans think things are generally on the right track.

**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
February 2006	34%	61%	5%
Democrat	16%	80%	4%
Republican	68%	27%	5%
Independent	31%	64%	5%
October 2005	31%	62%	7%
May 2005	38%	56%	6%
February 2005	47%	48%	5%
October 2004	42%	55%	3%
September 2004	38%	52%	10%
August 2004	40%	48%	12%
July 2004	37%	52%	11%
April 2004	43%	51%	6%
March 2004	43%	52%	5%
November 2003	45%	48%	7%
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%

***Nature of the Sample: 1,132 Americans***

- This survey was conducted on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006. 1,132 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  $\pm 3\%$ . There are 931 registered voters. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at  $\pm 3.5\%$ . The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations.