
THE OHIO POLL*

FOR RELEASE

June 2, 2006

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BUSH, TAFT APPROVAL RATINGS HIT RECORD LOWS IN OHIO

Cincinnati, OH--The latest Ohio Poll finds President George W. Bush's approval rating at 35 percent, the lowest presidential approval rating recorded by the Ohio Poll since it began in 1981. Governor Bob Taft's approval rating of 26 percent is also the lowest gubernatorial approval rating recorded by the Ohio Poll.

These findings are based on the latest Ohio Poll, conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. The Ohio Poll is sponsored by the University of Cincinnati. The Poll was conducted between May 9 and May 21, 2006.

BUSH OVERALL APPROVAL RATING HITS RECORD LOW AT 35 PERCENT

President George W. Bush's approval rating in Ohio is now at the lowest point in his presidency. Thirty-five percent of Ohioans approve of President Bush's overall performance, 63 percent disapprove and two percent neither approve nor disapprove.

Bush's approval rating (35%) is the lowest rating of a president's performance recorded by the Ohio Poll since it began in 1981. Prior to this Ohio Poll, the lowest presidential approval rating given by Ohioans was a 45 percent approval rating of former President Bill Clinton's performance in September 1994.

As has been the case for much of his presidency, Ohio Democrats and Republicans offer vastly different ratings of Bush's performance. While just 13 percent of Ohio Democrats approve of the president's performance, 63 percent of Republicans approve. However, Bush's overall approval rating among Ohio Republicans has dipped from 84 percent in April 2005.

**We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to the "Ohio Poll," sponsored by the University of Cincinnati. The name, "Ohio Poll," is registered with the Ohio Secretary of State.*

FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC RATINGS SIMILAR TO OVERALL APPROVAL

President Bush's approval ratings in foreign affairs and the economy are similar to his overall ratings, and his ratings in these areas are also the lowest of his presidency.

Thirty-five percent of Ohioans approve of Bush's handling of foreign affairs, while 63 percent disapprove and two percent neither approve nor disapprove.

Thirty-three percent of Ohioans approve of Bush's handling of the situation with Iraq, while 65 percent disapprove and two percent neither approve nor disapprove.

Thirty-seven percent of Ohioans approve of Bush's handling of the economy, while 62 percent disapprove and two percent neither approve nor disapprove.

TAFT APPROVAL RATING HITS RECORD LOW AT 26 PERCENT

The latest Ohio Poll also finds Governor Bob Taft's approval rating at its lowest point since he took office. Twenty-six percent of Ohioans approve of Taft's performance as governor, 65 percent disapprove and nine percent neither approve nor disapprove.

Taft's approval rating (26%) is the lowest gubernatorial approval rating recorded by the Ohio Poll in its 25 year history. Former Governor Richard Celeste received the previous record low approval rating in 1983. In the April 1983 Ohio Poll, 32 percent of Ohioans approved of Governor Celeste's performance as governor, 45 percent disapproved and 23 percent neither approved nor disapproved.

Ohio Democrats and Republicans are in closer agreement when rating Governor Taft's performance than when rating President Bush's performance. Twenty-two percent of Ohio Democrats approve of Taft's performance as governor, while 29 percent of Republicans approve.

Ohio Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the most recent Ohio Poll conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati between May 9 and May 21, 2006.

A random sample of 841 adults from throughout the state was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.4 percent.

In addition to sampling error, there are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias.

Reported percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.

Results reported for subgroups have potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

Respondents to the Ohio Poll were asked:

- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling his job as president?”
- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling foreign affairs?”
- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?”
- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the economy?”
- “Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the way Governor Taft is handling his job as governor?”

President Bush -- Overall Job Approval

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
May 2006 (Latest)	35%	63%	2%	(N=837)
April 2005	49	50	1	(N=839)
March 2004	46	51	3	(N=851)
February 2004	49	49	2	(N=836)
October 2003	54	41	5	(N=803)
September 2003	55	43	2	(N=803)
April 2003	76	20	4	(N=838)
February 2003	63	31	6	(N=841)
September 2002	71	25	4	(N=899)
June 2002	76	21	3	(N=813)
April 2002	80	17	2	(N=822)
November 2001	87	10	3	(N=825)
July 2001	60	29	10	(N=827)
February 2001	60	24	16	(N=809)

President Bush -- Approval Handling Foreign Affairs

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
May 2006 (Latest)	35%	63%	2%	(N=836)
April 2005	43	54	3	(N=841)
March 2004	46	50	4	(N=850)
February 2004	47	51	2	(N=838)
September 2003	52	46	2	(N=807)
April 2003	74	21	6	(N=835)
February 2003	61	31	7	(N=835)
September 2002	70	27	4	(N=896)
June 2002	74	19	7	(N=812)
April 2002	74	20	7	(N=822)
November 2001	83	10	7	(N=824)
July 2001	54	22	24	(N=827)

President Bush -- Approval Handling Situation With Iraq

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
May 2006 (Latest)	33%	65%	2%	(N=838)
April 2005	46	53	1	(N=841)
September 2003	53	44	2	(N=808)
April 2003	82	16	2	(N=837)

President Bush -- Approval Handling the Economy

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
May 2006 (Latest)	37%	62%	2%	(N=837)
April 2005	41	58	1	(N=842)
March 2004	38	59	3	(N=853)
February 2004	40	58	2	(N=839)
September 2003	45	53	2	(N=804)
April 2003	57	37	6	(N=834)
February 2003	53	40	7	(N=839)
September 2002	63	32	5	(N=897)
June 2002	66	26	8	(N=815)
April 2002	71	22	7	(N=821)
November 2001	72	21	7	(N=820)
July 2001	58	30	12	(N=828)

Governor Taft -- Overall Job Approval

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
May 2006 (Latest)	26%	65%	9%	(N=829)
April 2005	34	55	11	(N=836)
February 2004	47	43	10	(N=830)
September 2003	44	46	10	(N=805)
April 2003	40	50	10	(N=834)
February 2003	40	48	12	(N=838)
September 2002	66	25	9	(N=891)
June 2002	62	23	15	(N=805)
April 2002	59	21	20	(N=820)
November 2001	69	16	16	(N=816)
July 2001	65	15	20	(N=835)
April 2001	61	16	23	(N=798)
February 2001	68	15	18	(N=805)
July 2000	63	14	24	(N=837)
April 2000	69	11	21	(N=841)
October 1999	63	9	27	(N=854)
May 1999	62	9	29	(N=834)
March 1999	49	8	43	(N=829)

Ohio Poll #104

President Bush--Overall Job Approval

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		35%	63%	2%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	34%	63%	3%
	30 to 45	36%	62%	2%
	46 to 64	36%	63%	1%
	65 and over	36%	64%	1%
Race	African-American	8%	92%	
	White	38%	60%	2%
Sex	Male	36%	62%	2%
	Female	34%	64%	2%
Education	Less than high school	27%	73%	0%
	High school graduate	35%	63%	2%
	Some college	36%	62%	3%
	College graduate	42%	55%	2%
Religious Preference	Protestant	37%	61%	2%
	Catholic	36%	63%	2%
Union Membership	Union household	30%	68%	2%
	Non-union household	37%	61%	2%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	38%	60%	2%
	Northwest Ohio	42%	55%	3%
	Central Ohio	26%	74%	0%
	Southeast Ohio*	26%	74%	
	Southwest Ohio	36%	62%	2%
Ideology	Liberal	17%	82%	1%
	Moderate	24%	71%	5%
	Conservative	51%	48%	2%
Party Identification	Democrat	13%	86%	1%
	Independent	19%	79%	2%
	Republican	63%	34%	2%

Ohio Poll #104, May 2006
 Institute for Policy Research
 University of Cincinnati

*Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

Ohio Poll #104

President Bush--Approval Handling Foreign Affairs

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		35%	63%	2%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	32%	66%	1%
	30 to 45	35%	64%	1%
	46 to 64	34%	65%	1%
	65 and over	40%	57%	3%
Race	African-American	9%	91%	
	White	38%	61%	2%
Sex	Male	40%	59%	1%
	Female	30%	68%	2%
Education	Less than high school	31%	68%	0%
	High school graduate	37%	60%	3%
	Some college	34%	65%	1%
	College graduate	37%	63%	0%
Religious Preference	Protestant	36%	62%	2%
	Catholic	39%	60%	1%
Union Membership	Union household	32%	67%	1%
	Non-union household	36%	62%	2%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	38%	61%	1%
	Northwest Ohio	42%	54%	3%
	Central Ohio	22%	76%	2%
	Southeast Ohio*	29%	71%	
	Southwest Ohio	33%	65%	2%
Ideology	Liberal	16%	83%	1%
	Moderate*	27%	71%	3%
	Conservative	50%	49%	1%
Party Identification	Democrat	14%	86%	0%
	Independent	21%	77%	2%
	Republican	62%	37%	1%

Ohio Poll #104, May 2006
 Institute for Policy Research
 University of Cincinnati

*Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

Ohio Poll #104

President Bush--Approval Handling Situation with Iraq

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		33%	65%	2%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	28%	68%	4%
	30 to 45	35%	63%	2%
	46 to 64	35%	63%	2%
	65 and over	32%	65%	2%
Race	African-American	7%	93%	
	White	36%	62%	3%
Sex	Male	37%	61%	2%
	Female	29%	68%	3%
Education	Less than high school	24%	75%	1%
	High school graduate	35%	62%	3%
	Some college	31%	65%	3%
	College graduate	40%	59%	1%
Religious Preference	Protestant	35%	62%	2%
	Catholic	39%	61%	1%
Union Membership	Union household	32%	66%	2%
	Non-union household	33%	64%	2%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	37%	60%	3%
	Northwest Ohio	41%	54%	4%
	Central Ohio	25%	75%	
	Southeast Ohio*	17%	83%	
	Southwest Ohio	33%	65%	2%
Ideology	Liberal	16%	82%	2%
	Moderate	20%	78%	2%
	Conservative	47%	50%	2%
Party Identification	Democrat	13%	86%	1%
	Independent	19%	80%	2%
	Republican	57%	41%	2%

Ohio Poll #104, May 2006
 Institute for Policy Research
 University of Cincinnati

*Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

Ohio Poll #104

President Bush--Approval Handling the Economy

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		37%	62%	2%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	36%	63%	1%
	30 to 45	35%	63%	2%
	46 to 64	36%	63%	1%
	65 and over	43%	56%	2%
Race	African-American	11%	89%	
	White	40%	59%	2%
Sex	Male	43%	56%	1%
	Female	31%	67%	2%
Education	Less than high school	31%	69%	0%
	High school graduate	33%	65%	2%
	Some college	38%	61%	1%
	College graduate	48%	50%	2%
Religious Preference	Protestant	39%	59%	2%
	Catholic	38%	61%	1%
Union Membership	Union household	35%	62%	3%
	Non-union household	37%	62%	1%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	37%	60%	2%
	Northwest Ohio	36%	60%	4%
	Central Ohio	33%	66%	0%
	Southeast Ohio*	27%	73%	1%
	Southwest Ohio	39%	61%	0%
Ideology	Liberal	18%	81%	1%
	Moderate	29%	66%	5%
	Conservative	53%	46%	1%
Party Identification	Democrat	12%	87%	0%
	Independent	26%	73%	1%
	Republican	66%	32%	2%

Ohio Poll #104, May 2006
 Institute for Policy Research
 University of Cincinnati

*Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation.

Ohio Poll #104

Governor Taft--Overall Job Approval

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Residents		26%	65%	9%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	36%	55%	9%
	30 to 45	28%	60%	13%
	46 to 64	19%	75%	5%
	65 and over	22%	70%	8%
Race	African-American	30%	64%	6%
	White	25%	65%	9%
Sex	Male	23%	71%	6%
	Female	28%	60%	12%
Education	Less than high school	41%	49%	10%
	High school graduate	23%	69%	8%
	Some college	19%	69%	12%
	College graduate	27%	67%	6%
Religious Preference	Protestant	26%	66%	8%
	Catholic	24%	67%	9%
Union Membership	Union household	23%	73%	4%
	Non-union household	27%	63%	11%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	16%	71%	12%
	Northwest Ohio	20%	65%	15%
	Central Ohio	21%	76%	4%
	Southeast Ohio*	55%	42%	3%
	Southwest Ohio	35%	58%	6%
Ideology	Liberal	17%	76%	7%
	Moderate*	32%	62%	7%
	Conservative	31%	61%	9%
Party Identification	Democrat	22%	70%	8%
	Independent	34%	57%	9%
	Republican	29%	63%	8%

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*Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup because of the potential for larger variation