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# THE OHIO POLL\*

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## **STRICKLAND AND BUSH: A CONTRAST IN REGISTERED VOTER APPROVAL**

Cincinnati, OH--Sixty-nine percent of Ohio registered voters approve of the job Ted Strickland is doing as Ohio governor. By contrast, 31 percent of Ohio registered voters approve of George W. Bush's performance as president.

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 October 19 and October 31, 2007.

As the 2008 elections draw near, political observers will be monitoring Ohio registered voter evaluations of two office holders who won't be on the ballot next year: Ohio Governor Ted Strickland and President George W. Bush. Evaluations of the performance of Strickland, a Democrat, and/or Bush, a Republican, could be a factor influencing the choices voters make next November.

### **GUBERNATORIAL APPROVAL**

The latest Ohio Poll finds 69 percent of Ohio registered voters approve of Ted Strickland's performance as governor, 16 percent disapprove and 15 percent neither approve nor disapprove.

Strickland's approval rating among registered voters was 70 percent in May.

At the present time, 75 percent of Ohio Democratic registered voters, and 65 percent of Ohio Republican registered voters, approve of Strickland's performance as governor.

### **PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL**

The latest Ohio Poll also finds 31 percent of Ohio registered voters approve of George W. Bush's performance as president, 66 percent disapprove and three percent neither approve nor disapprove.

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Bush's approval rating among Ohio registered voters is now the lowest of his presidency. The president's approval rating has dropped 58 percentage points since his highest approval rating of 89 percent among registered voters, recorded in November 2001.

A majority of Republicans (60%) say they approve of the president's performance at the present time. However, a majority of Independent (68%) registered voters, and most Democratic (95%) registered voters disapprove of Bush's performance.

White evangelical Protestants, a key Republican constituency in recent presidential elections, are nearly split in their evaluations of the president. Fifty-percent of white evangelical Protestants say they approve of Bush's performance as president, while 47 percent disapprove and four percent neither approve nor disapprove.

#### Foreign Affairs, Iraq and the Economy

President Bush's approval ratings in foreign affairs, the situation with Iraq and the economy are similar to his overall ratings among registered voters.

Thirty-three percent of Ohio registered voters approve of Bush's handling of foreign affairs, while 66 percent disapprove and two percent neither approve nor disapprove.

Thirty-one percent of Ohio registered voters approve of Bush's handling of the situation with Iraq, while 67 percent disapprove and two percent neither approve nor disapprove.

Thirty-four percent of Ohio registered voters approve of Bush's handling of the economy, while 64 percent disapprove and two percent neither approve nor disapprove.

The Ohio Poll will regularly monitor voter sentiment on factors and issues related to vote choice through the remainder of the 2008 election season.

### **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 October 19 and October 31, 2007.

A random sample of 713 registered voters from throughout the state was interviewed by telephone.

In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 3.8 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 Governor Strickland is handling his job as governor?”
- “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?”

**Governor Strickland -- Overall Job Approval  
Registered Voters**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
October 2007	69%	16%	15%	(N=698)
May 2007	70	15	15	(N=647)

**President Bush -- Overall Job Approval  
Registered Voters**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
October 2007	31%	66%	3%	(N=711)
May 2006	36	62	2	(N=695)
April 2005	48	51	1	(N=691)
March 2004	48	51	1	(N=644)
February 2004	50	49	1	(N=645)
October 2003	56	40	4	(N=637)
September 2003	57	42	2	(N=596)
April 2003	75	22	3	(N=658)
February 2003	65	31	4	(N=637)
September 2002	71	27	2	(N=676)
June 2002	77	21	1	(N=573)
April 2002	82	16	1	(N=612)
November 2001	89	9	2	(N=615)
July 2001	61	31	8	(N=585)
February 2001	62	24	14	(N=636)

**President Bush – Approval Handling Foreign Affairs  
Registered Voters**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
October 2007	33%	66%	2%	(N=708)
May 2006	36	63	1	(N=695)
April 2005	44	54	3	(N=693)
March 2004	48	49	3	(N=645)
February 2004	47	51	2	(N=647)
September 2003	55	44	1	(N=598)
April 2003	73	22	5	(N=656)
February 2003	64	30	6	(N=631)
September 2002	69	28	3	(N=673)
June 2002	77	19	4	(N=573)
April 2002	77	19	4	(N=612)
November 2001	86	8	6	(N=613)
July 2001	58	23	19	(N=585)

**President Bush – Approval Handling Situation With Iraq  
Registered Voters**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
October 2007	31%	67%	2%	(N=709)
May 2006	33	65	2	(N=697)
April 2005	46	53	1	(N=692)
September 2003	56	42	1	(N=598)
April 2003	82	17	1	(N=658)

**President Bush – Approval Handling the Economy  
Registered Voters**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Neither/ Don't Know</u>	
October 2007	34%	64%	2%	(N=710)
May 2006	38	61	1	(N=695)
April 2005	41	57	2	(N=693)
March 2004	40	58	2	(N=647)
February 2004	42	57	1	(N=645)
September 2003	49	51	1	(N=598)
April 2003	56	40	5	(N=656)
February 2003	55	40	5	(N=635)
September 2002	65	31	4	(N=675)
June 2002	67	25	7	(N=572)
April 2002	70	24	6	(N=612)
November 2001	74	21	5	(N=610)
July 2001	59	30	11	(N=586)

## Ohio Poll #110

## Governor Strickland--Overall Job Approval

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Registered Voters		69%	16%	15%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	76%	12%	12%
	30 to 45	65%	17%	18%
	46 to 64	68%	19%	14%
	65 and over	76%	13%	11%
Race	African-American*	78%	16%	6%
	White	69%	15%	15%
Sex	Male	72%	16%	12%
	Female	67%	16%	17%
Education	Less than high school*	74%	20%	6%
	High school graduate	70%	14%	16%
	Some college	73%	16%	11%
	College graduate	66%	17%	17%
Religious Preference	Protestant	68%	16%	15%
	Catholic	76%	13%	11%
	White Evangelical Protestant	65%	17%	18%
Union Membership	Union household	69%	19%	12%
	Non-union household	69%	16%	15%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	72%	16%	13%
	Northwest Ohio	57%	28%	15%
	Central Ohio	75%	13%	12%
	Southeast Ohio*	68%	14%	18%
	Southwest Ohio	69%	13%	19%
Area of Dominant TV Influence	Cincinnati area	66%	13%	21%
	Cleveland area	70%	17%	14%
	Columbus area	74%	14%	13%
	Dayton area*	73%	16%	11%
	Other area	67%	20%	14%
Ideology	Liberal	71%	19%	10%
	Moderate	75%	13%	13%
	Conservative	62%	19%	19%
Party Identification	Democrat	75%	13%	12%
	Independent*	68%	13%	19%
	Republican	65%	19%	16%

Ohio Poll #110, October 2007  
 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 #110

## President Bush--Overall Job Approval

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Registered Voters		31%	66%	3%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	22%	78%	1%
	30 to 45	31%	68%	1%
	46 to 64	35%	61%	4%
	65 and over	33%	62%	6%
Race	African-American*	5%	93%	1%
	White	34%	62%	3%
Sex	Male	33%	63%	4%
	Female	29%	69%	2%
Education	Less than high school*	33%	67%	
	High school graduate	32%	66%	2%
	Some college	30%	67%	3%
	College graduate	31%	64%	5%
Religious Preference	Protestant	34%	62%	3%
	Catholic	32%	65%	3%
	White Evangelical Protestant	50%	47%	4%
Union Membership	Union household	30%	69%	1%
	Non-union household	30%	66%	3%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	27%	69%	4%
	Northwest Ohio	45%	53%	3%
	Central Ohio	23%	75%	2%
	Southeast Ohio*	18%	82%	
	Southwest Ohio	38%	58%	3%
Area of Dominant TV Influence	Cincinnati area	42%	54%	5%
	Cleveland area	29%	68%	4%
	Columbus area	24%	75%	1%
	Dayton area*	27%	72%	0%
	Other area	33%	64%	3%
Ideology	Liberal	15%	84%	1%
	Moderate	20%	77%	2%
	Conservative	56%	38%	5%
Party Identification	Democrat	5%	95%	1%
	Independent*	27%	68%	5%
	Republican	60%	35%	5%

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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.

## Ohio Poll #110

## President Bush--Approval Handling Foreign Affairs

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Registered Voters		33%	66%	2%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	38%	62%	
	30 to 45	31%	69%	1%
	46 to 64	37%	60%	2%
	65 and over	30%	68%	2%
Race	African-American*	5%	95%	
	White	37%	61%	2%
Sex	Male	41%	57%	2%
	Female	25%	73%	2%
Education	Less than high school*	39%	61%	
	High school graduate	33%	66%	1%
	Some college	33%	65%	2%
	College graduate	34%	64%	2%
Religious Preference	Protestant	35%	64%	2%
	Catholic	33%	66%	1%
	White Evangelical Protestant	47%	52%	1%
Union Membership	Union household	29%	70%	1%
	Non-union household	33%	65%	2%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	32%	66%	2%
	Northwest Ohio	44%	55%	1%
	Central Ohio	26%	72%	2%
	Southeast Ohio*	8%	92%	
	Southwest Ohio	37%	61%	2%
Area of Dominant TV Influence	Cincinnati area	39%	60%	1%
	Cleveland area	34%	64%	3%
	Columbus area	25%	73%	2%
	Dayton area*	30%	67%	3%
	Other area	32%	67%	0%
Ideology	Liberal	11%	88%	1%
	Moderate	23%	75%	2%
	Conservative	59%	39%	2%
Party Identification	Democrat	7%	92%	1%
	Independent*	29%	66%	5%
	Republican	62%	36%	2%

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## Ohio Poll #110

## President Bush--Approval Handling Situation with Iraq

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Registered Voters		31%	67%	2%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	27%	73%	
	30 to 45	33%	65%	2%
	46 to 64	35%	63%	2%
	65 and over	29%	69%	1%
Race	African-American*		100%	
	White	36%	62%	2%
Sex	Male	36%	61%	2%
	Female	27%	72%	1%
Education	Less than high school*	31%	69%	
	High school graduate	29%	70%	1%
	Some college	32%	66%	1%
	College graduate	35%	62%	3%
Religious Preference	Protestant	34%	64%	2%
	Catholic	35%	64%	1%
	White Evangelical Protestant	48%	51%	1%
Union Membership	Union household	33%	67%	1%
	Non-union household	30%	68%	2%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	30%	66%	3%
	Northwest Ohio	43%	57%	
	Central Ohio	21%	79%	0%
	Southeast Ohio*	17%	83%	
	Southwest Ohio	38%	61%	1%
Area of Dominant TV Influence	Cincinnati area	41%	57%	2%
	Cleveland area	31%	65%	4%
	Columbus area	20%	80%	0%
	Dayton area*	32%	68%	
	Other area	32%	68%	
Ideology	Liberal	12%	87%	1%
	Moderate	21%	77%	2%
	Conservative	58%	40%	3%
Party Identification	Democrat	4%	95%	0%
	Independent*	30%	60%	10%
	Republican	61%	37%	2%

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## Ohio Poll #110

## President Bush--Approval Handling the Economy

		Approve	Disapprove	Neither
Ohio Registered Voters		34%	64%	2%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29	18%	79%	3%
	30 to 45	34%	63%	2%
	46 to 64	35%	63%	2%
	65 and over	46%	54%	1%
Race	African-American*	6%	94%	
	White	38%	60%	2%
Sex	Male	38%	60%	3%
	Female	31%	68%	2%
Education	Less than high school*	19%	81%	
	High school graduate	29%	68%	3%
	Some college	34%	66%	0%
	College graduate	42%	55%	4%
Religious Preference	Protestant	38%	60%	2%
	Catholic	40%	59%	1%
	White Evangelical Protestant	53%	45%	2%
Union Membership	Union household	32%	65%	4%
	Non-union household	34%	64%	2%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	31%	67%	3%
	Northwest Ohio	41%	59%	1%
	Central Ohio	25%	71%	4%
	Southeast Ohio*	23%	74%	3%
	Southwest Ohio	44%	55%	1%
Area of Dominant TV Influence	Cincinnati area	43%	56%	1%
	Cleveland area	32%	66%	3%
	Columbus area	25%	71%	4%
	Dayton area*	43%	56%	1%
	Other area	34%	65%	1%
Ideology	Liberal	8%	90%	1%
	Moderate	27%	71%	2%
	Conservative	58%	40%	2%
Party Identification	Democrat	7%	93%	1%
	Independent*	36%	59%	6%
	Republican	64%	33%	3%

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