

 Discuss this story  Printer Friendly Version  Email This Article

Published on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 by [ABC News](#)

Majority Expect U.S. Will 'Lose' War In Iraq

by Gary Langer

ABC News/Washington Post poll finds 51 percent think U.S. will lose war, 66 percent think Iraq was not worth fight; Dems, Pelosi get higher marks in approval and trust. A bare majority of Americans for the first time believe the United States will lose the war in Iraq, and a new high — two-thirds — say the war was not worth fighting. Yet the public divides on setting a deadline for withdrawal.

That mix of sentiments — unhappy with the war, unclear what to do about it — is keeping George W. Bush in deep disfavor. Just 35 percent approve of his job performance overall, a scant two points above his career low. And just 29 percent like how he's dealing with the situation in Iraq.



Residents gather at the scene of an explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, April 18, 2007. A parked car exploded near a private hospital in the central neighborhood of Karradah, killing 11 people and wounding 13, police said. (AP Photo/Hadi Mizban)

Moreover, in a shift, most Americans in this ABC News/ Washington Post poll now reject Bush's argument that winning in Iraq is necessary to win the broader war against terrorism. Fifty-seven percent disagree with that contention, up from 47 percent in January. That

echoes a change that appeared in January and continues today in which most (56 percent) now favor eventual withdrawal even if civil order is not restored.

Yet, given pro and con arguments (avoiding further casualties vs. potentially encouraging Iraqi insurgents), a pullout deadline is not widely popular.

The public divides about evenly, 51-48 percent, on setting any deadline. It's about the same specifically as on the effort by congressional Democrats to force withdrawal by no later than August 2008.

Democrats Lead Bush on Iraq but Broad Disapproval Pervades

Indeed, the Democrats in Congress haven't conclusively seized the reins on Iraq: Their approval for handling the war is low as well — 37 percent.

Nonetheless, they do continue to lead Bush, now by 25 points, in trust to handle it. By a similar margin most (58 to 34 percent) say the Democrats are taking the stronger role in Washington overall.

With Bush into his third year without majority approval — a trough unseen since Harry Truman's presidency — the Democrats are benefiting in other ways. Just over 100 days into their regime, 54 percent approve of the way the Democrats in Congress are doing their jobs; just 39 percent approve of the Republicans.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has a 53 percent approval rating, 18 points higher than Bush's (and 12 points higher than former Speaker Newt Gingrich's highest rating after the Republicans took control in 1995). And a shift toward Democratic self-identification that began after the Iraq War has accelerated this year.

Surge Plan Does Little to Sway Opinion

Specific to the war, Bush's "surge" of U.S. forces has not changed minds. The night he announced it, 61 percent opposed the idea. Today it's 65 percent. And 53 percent say the United States "is losing" the war, as well as the 51 percent who think it "will lose."

Expectations of losing the war have fluctuated; they're up 11 points since January but up a slighter five points since December. In December 2005, however, only 27 percent foresaw losing the war.

In another gauge, ABC/Post polls have asked three times if Americans were "hopeful" about the situation in Iraq. In March 2003, during the main fighting, it was 80 percent. In May 2004, 62 percent. Today, hopefulness about Iraq is down to 51 percent.

Congress Gets Higher Than Usual Low Marks

Congress as a whole has a 44 percent approval rating, a bit higher than its long-term average, 40 percent in data back 30 years.

As usual, people express a better view of their own representative's performance: Sixty-nine percent approve, compared with a long-term average (in this case since 1989) of 62 percent.

The somewhat better-than-average measures don't mean Congress is seen as highly productive: Just 26 percent think it's accomplished much (a "great deal" or "good amount") in the past three months.

The newly Republican 1995 Congress, which set more of a focus on the first 100 days, did marginally better — 33 percent.

In addition to his weak ratings overall and on Iraq, Bush hit new lows (by a single point) in this poll in his approval ratings for handling terrorism and ethics in government, and tied his low on handling immigration. The Democrats do better on each of these, save immigration.

There are now customary deep divisions among partisan and ideological groups. Just 12 percent of Democrats, 15 percent of blacks (the most loyal Democratic group) and 16 percent of liberals approve of Bush's job performance. By contrast, 71 percent of Republicans and 58 percent of conservatives remain by his side. In the political middle, 30 percent of moderates and 32 percent of independents approve.

This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone April 12-15, 2007, among a random national sample of 1,141 adults, including an oversample of African-Americans. The results from the full survey have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Copyright ©2007 ABC Inc., KGO-TV San Francisco.



Discuss this story



Printer Friendly Version

10 Comments so far

1.

[Saila](#) April 18th, 2007 1:22 pm

I wonder if people who are polled realize the true meaning of "winning the Iraq war".
Winning the Iraq war means:
Installing a puppet government in Iraq, getting Iraqi oil and gas contracts terribly in favor of the American oil companies, and leaving permanent military bases in Iraq until those natural resources run out. By killing thousands upon thousands of Iraqis and stealing their resources, the Americans may win the war, but they will lose their humanity in the process. It is like a bank robber killing the cops and running away with the stolen money. If this is what the American people want, I'm very sorry

for them.

2.

zeitgeist April 18th, 2007 1:46 pm

When are the ABC CBC NBC and CNN 'in-bed-withs' going to stop referring to this invasion of another sovereign as a War! Tell a lie often enough and we are supposed to take it as being true...is that the intended effect? It was/is nothing more, nothing less than a congressionally sanctioned 'Police Action' for the purpose of subjugation and plunder. Please get that through your heads' folks.

This slight of hand invasion was a failure from the moment it was conceived!

Peace, Best Wishes and Hope
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk1vEuhBuEU>

3.

Bane Richter April 18th, 2007 1:48 pm

Agreed Saila, it's a question that begs the question(s). From my perspective, war is a total loss. I wish the Post would ask something like: "Isn't war a waste?"

Look at today's headlines, another group of people taken out by bombs. Blowing up people is still a way to "get things done" apparently. John Stossel could use his trademark indignified sneer, "Is it good to blow people up?"

4.

Mendo Chuck April 18th, 2007 3:08 pm

Without Education teaching history who's to learn?

5.

andersdl April 18th, 2007 3:08 pm

The Iraq withdrawal date envisioned by the neocons is a no-brainer: it will happen when the last drop of oil is extracted from the Asian continent.

The 110 acre fortified "embassy" currently under construction in Bagdad and multiple military bases being constructed with 50+ year infrastructure will provide "logistics" support for the corporations extracting oil from Iraq and all other oil producing nations in Asia. Dealing with insurgents and other obstacles to extraction in Iraq and elsewhere is the cost of doing business.

The U.S. taxpayers will foot the bill for this cost of doing business while the corporations will profit from selling Asian oil to the highest bidder.

It will not be easy for Congress or others to upset this grandiose plan.

6.

willo April 18th, 2007 3:47 pm

The war was lost the moment we entered it. Only in the stupid imaginations of a bunch of Neocons was anything ever winable. Victory to them would be the total acquiescence of the Iraqi people and free will of oil companies to steal thier resources. Permanent military bases to control the resources of the entire region. We could have flat out bought most of the oil with the money we've wasted so far.

7.

willo April 18th, 2007 3:56 pm

They have bet the farm on this fiasco. With nothing to back up the floundering dollar, this is a last desperate attempt to leverage nothing with something. With the gigantic trade imbalance and the staggering national debt there is not much left to give the dollar value.

I say we bite the bullet, do the right thing and pull ourselves back up by solid hard work honesty and ingenuity. First we must get these monkey's off our backs. They are the ones responsible for our current dilema.

8.

Gail April 18th, 2007 4:15 pm

"The somewhat better-than-average measures don't mean Congress is seen as highly productive: Just 26 percent think it's accomplished much (a "great deal" or "good amount") in the past three months."

They have a long way to go; and if they don't insist on taking back their "oversight" responsibilities to ensure checks and balances, their accomplishments will miniscule.

9.

[Steve Hammons](#) April 18th, 2007 4:38 pm

An intelligent redeployment is not the same as "defeat" or "losing the war."

Most Americans now realize we were lied to by the Bush-Cheney administration and their associates.

They then took us to war in ways that have proven to be incompetent, creating a bloodbath for US troops and Iraqi civilians.

They seem to have made every mistake in the book during the occupation of Iraq.

Any "defeat" will be the responsibility of the Bush-Cheney administration, NOT the American people and NOT the US troops on the ground. See:

"Victory of Courage, Fellowship and Honor"

PopulistAmerica.com
December 17, 2006

http://www.populistamerica.com/victory_of_courage_fellowship_and_honor

10.

pangolin April 18th, 2007 5:32 pm

To be fair nobody is going to "win" this war unless you count China or perhaps France. The US military will probably retreat to desert bases where they can pretend they are winning something for another five years easy.

Meanwhile the US economy is about as sustainable as a hike in Death Valley at noon on June 21st with only a six pack of Pepsi to drink. We don't have a viable plan to get back from the path we're headed down.

Count the businesses in your town and ask what percentage of them rely on people driving as they do now. How many of them rely on coal-fired electricity to keep the lights on?

Our whole nation relies on Las Vegas style understanding of the planet to run things. "Never mind where the water's going to come from let's build some houses that you have to drive to get to."

We're stupid and we're going down unless people wake up FAST.

Join the discussion:

You must be [logged in](#) to post a comment. If you haven't registered yet, click [here](#) to register. (It's quick, easy and free. And we won't give your email address to anyone.)

FAIR USE NOTICE

This site contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available in our efforts to advance understanding of environmental, political, human rights, economic, democracy, scientific, and social justice issues, etc. We believe this constitutes a 'fair use' of any such copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes. For more information go to: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>. If you wish to use copyrighted material from this site for purposes of your own that go beyond 'fair use', you must obtain permission from the copyright owner.

Common Dreams [NewsCenter](#)

A non-profit news service providing breaking news & views for the progressive community.

[Home](#) | [Newswire](#) | [Contacting Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Donate](#) | [Sign-Up](#) | [Archives](#)

© Copyrighted 1997-2007_

www.commondreams.org