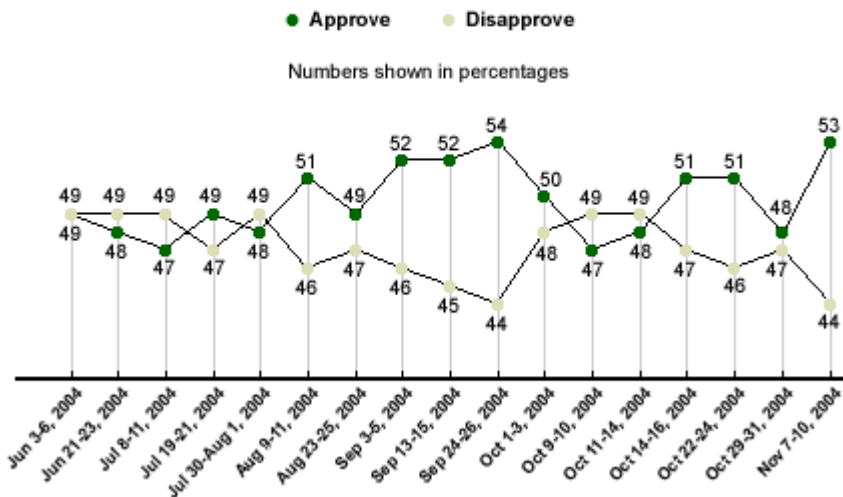


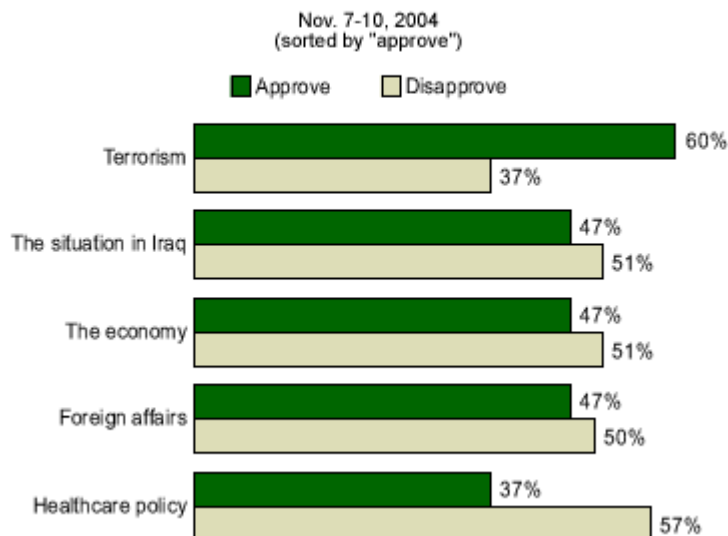
Presidential Job Approval

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?



Presidential Job Approval on the Issues



American Opinion About Presidential Job Approval

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

by Joseph Carroll

Current Ratings

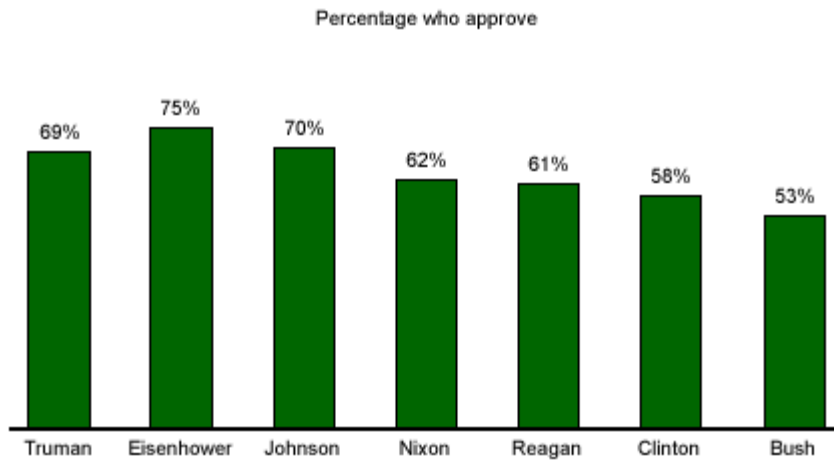
Gallup's latest poll finds that 53% of Americans approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president, while 44% disapprove. Historically, a post-election bounce is common for presidents, whether they are re-elected or not. Bush's approval rating increased five percentage points, from 48% to 53%, since Gallup's final pre-election survey. Bush's current 53% approval rating is the highest since late September. Throughout the month of October, approval of Bush averaged 49%.

The Nov. 7-10 poll also asked Americans to rate their approval of the president on five issues. Bush fares best on his handling of terrorism, with a 60% approval rating, and worst on healthcare policy, with a 37% approval rating. Less than half of all Americans approve of the way Bush is handling foreign affairs in general (47%), the situation in Iraq (47%), and the economy (47%). Approval of Bush's handling of these issues shows little change over the past several polls.

Historical Perspective

Although Bush received a modest five-point bounce in his approval rating after the election, his current 53% rating is

Presidential Job Approval Ratings First Post-Election Approval



actually the lowest of any of the last seven presidents who won a second term in the first poll conducted after their re-election. Bush's 53% approval rating compares with a 58% approval rating for Bill Clinton in November 1996, 61% for Ronald Reagan in November 1984, 62% for Richard Nixon in November 1972, 70% for Lyndon Johnson in November 1964, 75% for Dwight Eisenhower in November 1956, and 69% for Harry Truman in January 1949 after his re-election in November 1948.

These high ratings for presidents just after being re-elected by no means presage a successful second term. Gallup examined first-term job approval averages and second-term approval averages and finds that only two of the six presidents who served a second term in office since Truman (and including Truman) averaged a higher level of approval in their second terms.

Clinton's average approval rating in his first term in office was 50%. This increased to 61% in his second term, despite impeachment and the Monica Lewinsky scandal. Public approval of Reagan also increased in his second term, from 50% in his first term to 55% in his second term. Reagan's approval might have been even higher in his second term, but approval dropped in his last year in office because of the Iran-Contra scandal.

The presidents with lower job approval in their second terms include

Truman (with a 57% first-term average to a 35% second-term average), Eisenhower (70% to 60%), Johnson (74% to 50%), and Nixon (56% to 34%). Nixon's lower second-term average was undoubtedly caused by the Watergate scandal that led to his resignation in 1974.