

THE WISCONSIN SURVEY

Sponsored by,
Wisconsin Public Radio and St. Norbert College

Part II: The War with Iraq

Survey Information:

- Survey Methodology: Random statewide telephone survey of Wisconsin residents. The random digit dial method selects for both listed and unlisted phone numbers. Eight attempts were made on each telephone number randomly selected to reach an adult in the household.
- Survey History: the survey has been conducted biannually since 1984.
- Data Collection Time Period: 10/16/02 - 10/27/02
- Survey respondents were first asked to rate how likely they were to vote. Only those who responded that they would probably or definitely vote were asked to complete the survey. In other words, respondents in this survey are likely voters.
- N = 382
- Error Rate: 5% at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error will be larger for subgroups.

Are we going in the right direction?

- A bare plurality say that we are going in the right direction as a country (47% said this compared to 44% saying we are going in the wrong direction). Only 9% were not sure.
- When given a choice between the economy, the war on terrorism, or Iraq, the vast majority (74%) said the war on terrorism was the most important problem facing the country, following by the economy at 7% and Iraq at 6%.

Support for and concerns about the possible war with Iraq

- Despite the overwhelming importance of the war on terrorism, 62% of respondents said they supported US military action to remove Saddam Hussein from power.
- Respondents were split on whether they felt President Bush has done enough to explain to the

American people why we need to invade Iraq. Forty-nine percent (49%) said he had not done enough to explain, while 48% felt he had.

- Most fear that Saddam Hussein may supply terrorists with weapons (78% said this), while only 7% feared an attack on the US. Four percent (4%) said they did not think either would happen and 8% said they feared that Saddam Hussein would both supply terrorists and directly attack the US.
- Fifty-two percent (52%) were worried we would move too quickly in this war, compared to 41% who feared not moving quickly enough, 3% who felt the timing would be right and 5% who were not sure.
- The majority feel we should wait for approval from both the United Nations and our allies (69% said we should wait for UN approval and 70% said we should wait for approval from our allies). Twenty-seven percent (27%) said we should not wait for UN approval and 24% said we should not wait for approval from our allies. Only 3% were not sure whether we should wait for UN approval and 5% said they were not sure whether to wait for approval from our allies.

Will the federal congressional election depend on how they voted on the Iraq resolution?

- Most said that their incumbent member of Congress's vote on the Iraqi resolution will not affect their vote in the election (59% said this), compared to 23% who said it will affect their vote. Fifteen percent (15%) said it would have some effect and 3% were not sure.
- Liberals were more likely to say it would affect their vote than conservatives, but there was no statistically significant relationship between whether a member of Congress's vote on the Iraqi resolution influenced a voter's election choice and the voter's party identification.

Should we have divided government?

- When asked whether they thought the majority in Congress should be of a different party than the president, 44% said they felt we should have Democratic majorities in Congress to check the president, while 35% said we should have Republican majorities to support the president. Twelve percent (12%) said it didn't matter and 8% were not sure.
- Answers to the above question rely partly on party identification and political ideology. Not surprisingly, Democrats overwhelmingly favor a Democratic majority in Congress, while Republicans do not. However slightly more Republicans favor divided government (a Democratic majority in Congress) than Democrats want a unified government. Seventeen percent (17%) of Republicans favored divided government, while 11% of Democrats favored a unified government (where the majority of Congress and the president are of the same party). Similarly, those who said they were somewhat conservative (53% of the sample said this) were split between whether they favored divided or unified government (40% favored divided and 43% favored unified).

PERCENTAGE RESPONSES

Q9. Generally speaking, would you say that things in the country are going in the right direction, or are they going in the wrong direction?

Right Direction 47%

Wrong Direction 44%

Not Sure 9%

Refused <1%

Q10. Which of the following do you think is the biggest problem facing the country right now: the Economy, the War on Terrorism, or the situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein? (ROTATE)

Economy 7%

War on Terrorism 74%

Iraq 6%

Not Sure 12%

Refused 1%

Q11. Would you support or oppose U.S. military action to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power?

Support 62%

Oppose 31%

Not Sure 7%

Refused 1%

Q12. Which concerns you more: that the United States might move too quickly to take military action against Iraq, or the United States might not move quickly enough?

Too Quickly 52%

Not Quickly Enough 41%

Timing is About Right 3%

Don't Know 5%

Refused 0

Q13. Are you more concerned that Iraq will directly attack the U.S. or are you more concerned that Iraq might supply weapons of mass destruction to terrorist organizations?

Attack US directly 7%

Supply Terrorists 78%

Both 8%

Neither 4%

Not Sure 3%

Refused 0

Q14. Do you think the Bush Administration has done enough to explain to the American people why we should invade Iraq?

Has Explained Enough 48%

Has Not Done Enough 49%

Don't Know 3%

Refused 1%

Q15. Do you think the US should wait for United Nations approval before invading Iraq?

Yes, SHOULD wait 69%

No, Should NOT wait 27%

Not Sure 3%

Refused <1%

Q16. How about our Allies? Should the US wait for approval from our allies before invading Iraq?

Yes, SHOULD wait 70%

No, Should NOT wait 24%

Not Sure 5%

Refused 1%

Q17. Will your vote for your representative for Congress in the upcoming election depend on how they voted on the resolution allowing the President to use force in Iraq or will it have no effect on your vote?

WILL affect my vote 23%

Will have NO effect on my vote 59%

Will have SOME effect on my vote 15%

Not Sure 3%

Don't Know 0

Q18. Which statement do you agree with MOST? Since the president is a Republican:

We need Democrats in charge of Congress to act as a check on the president's agenda 44%

We need Republicans in charge to support the president's agenda 35%

Will not make a difference (DO NOT READ) 12%

Not Sure 8%

Refused 1%