

## **Time Off vs Tradition: Move the Fourth of July?**

Long weekends are lovely, but tradition trumps on the Fourth of July.

Unfazed by this year's midweek holiday, three-quarters of Americans say Independence Day should continue to be celebrated July 4, no matter what day of the week that is. Only a fifth want it moved to the nearest Monday, to make for a long weekend.

That result belies the popular notion of an overworked populace pining for longer vacations. (In reality only a quarter of Americans feel overworked.) Indeed majorities have favored a traditional July Fourth for more than 30 years, since the first poll on this subject back in 1967 (when the Fourth fell on a Tuesday).

	Independence Day:	
	Move it to a Monday	Keep it July Fourth
2001	20%	76
1985	21	75
1975	20	75
1967	33	64

Previous polls found similar results in 1975 (when the Fourth fell, more conveniently, on a Friday); 1978 (a Tuesday) and 1985 (a Thursday).

Traditionalism knows no partisanship: Three quarters of Democrats and Republicans alike prefer to keep the Fourth on the fourth. Indeed there's no group among which support for a built-in long Independence Day weekend exceeds about a quarter.

But the Fourth isn't *always* on the fourth: In 2004, when Independence Day falls on a Sunday, federal workers will get their day off on Monday, July 5.

**METHODOLOGY** - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone June 27-July 1, 2001, among a random national sample of 1,021 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:  
<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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Here are the full results:

100. As you may know, the Fourth of July holiday, also known as Independence Day, is next Wednesday. In the future would you prefer (moving Independence Day to the Monday nearest the Fourth of July, to make it a long weekend); or would you prefer (keeping it on July Fourth, no matter what day of the week that is)?

	Move it to make a long weekend	Leave as is, regardless of day	No opinion
7/1/01	20	76	4
5/4/85*	21	75	4
6/10/78	25	69	6
5/17/75	20	75	6
12/67	33	64	3

\*Harris 1967; Roper 1975-85; different wording.