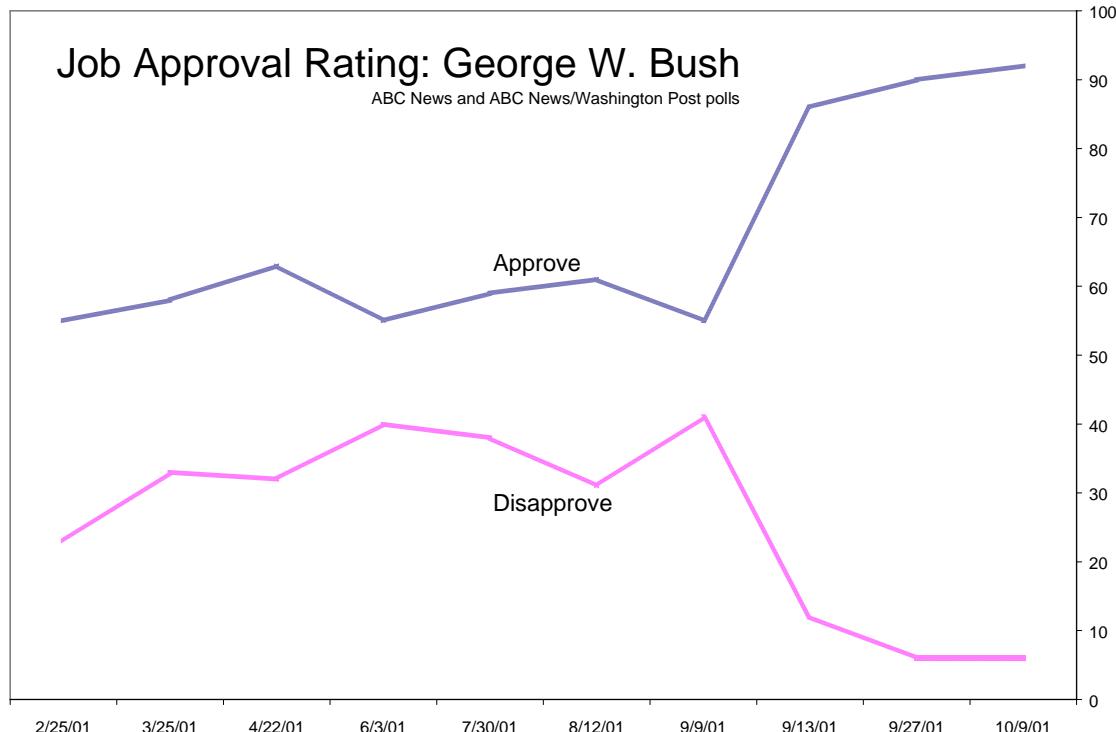


ABC NEWS POLL: WAR ON TERRORISM
FOR RELEASE AFTER 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2001

U.S. Public Puts a Brave Face On the Uncertainties of War

Americans are putting a brave face on the uncertainties of war, voicing record levels of support for the president; endorsing further, broader military action; and even expressing majority confidence that the nation could deal with a chemical or biological attack.

George W. Bush's job approval rating soared to 92 percent in this poll, the highest on record in ABC News polls, and Gallup polls before them, dating to the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. Seventy-six percent approve "strongly" of Bush's performance.



While jitters exist, their intensity has eased. Thirty-six percent express a "great deal" of worry about more major terrorist attacks – but that's down from 49 percent the night of Sept. 11. Thirty-seven percent express high-level anxiety specifically about a biological or chemical attack.

While high-level concern has moderated, people aren't in denial: Eight in 10 do express worry about more attacks, if not necessarily a "great deal" of worry. But that has not

increased lately: Despite the air strikes on Afghanistan and news coverage of two cases of anthrax exposure in Florida, the public is keeping reasonably cool.

	Worried	"Very" worried
Further terror attacks		
Oct. 9	82%	36
Sept. 11	87	49
Biological/chemical attacks		
Oct. 9	80	37

In a more personal gauge, 44 percent are worried that they, or a close relative or friend, might be the victim of a further terrorist attack. Again, though, this has not increased since the night of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Worries on these issues tend to run higher among women than among men. Fifty-four percent of women express worry that they or a loved one might be the victim of a terror attack; this falls to 33 percent of men. And 44 percent of women express a “great deal” of concern about further terrorism, compared to 28 percent of men.

READINESS – Three gauges show the extent to which the public has placed its trust in the hands of government. First, seven in 10 Americans now say the country is “doing all it reasonably can do” to try to prevent further terrorism – a reversal from the majority view that government could have done more to prevent the Sept. 11th attacks.

	Yes	No
10/9: Gov't is doing all it can to prevent terrorism	71%	27
9/13: Gov't did all it could to prevent Sept. 11 th attacks	31	65

Additionally, three-quarters of Americans express at least some confidence in the federal government’s ability to respond effectively to a biological attack, despite some reports to the contrary. And more than six in 10 also express some confidence in their local authorities’ ability to deal with bioterrorism.

This confidence is not deep, however: Just 23 percent are “very” confident the federal government can deal effectively with bioterrorism, and fewer are very confident in their local authorities.

Bioterrorism:	Confident	"Very" confident
Fed gov't can respond effectively	74%	23
Local agencies can respond effectively	62	18

THE WAR – Support remains very high for the current U.S. military action against targets in Afghanistan, and for possible future action. Ninety-two percent support the air strikes. Seventy-six percent support sending “a significant number of U.S. ground troops” to overthrow the Taliban. And 87 percent support military action against other countries that assist or shelter terrorists.

	Support
Air strikes vs Afghanistan	92%
Ground troops vs Taliban	76
Action vs other pro-terror countries	87

Support for all these is as high among women as it is among men – an extraordinary result, since women usually are less apt to support the use of military force. It's another sign of the extent to which the public has closed ranks.

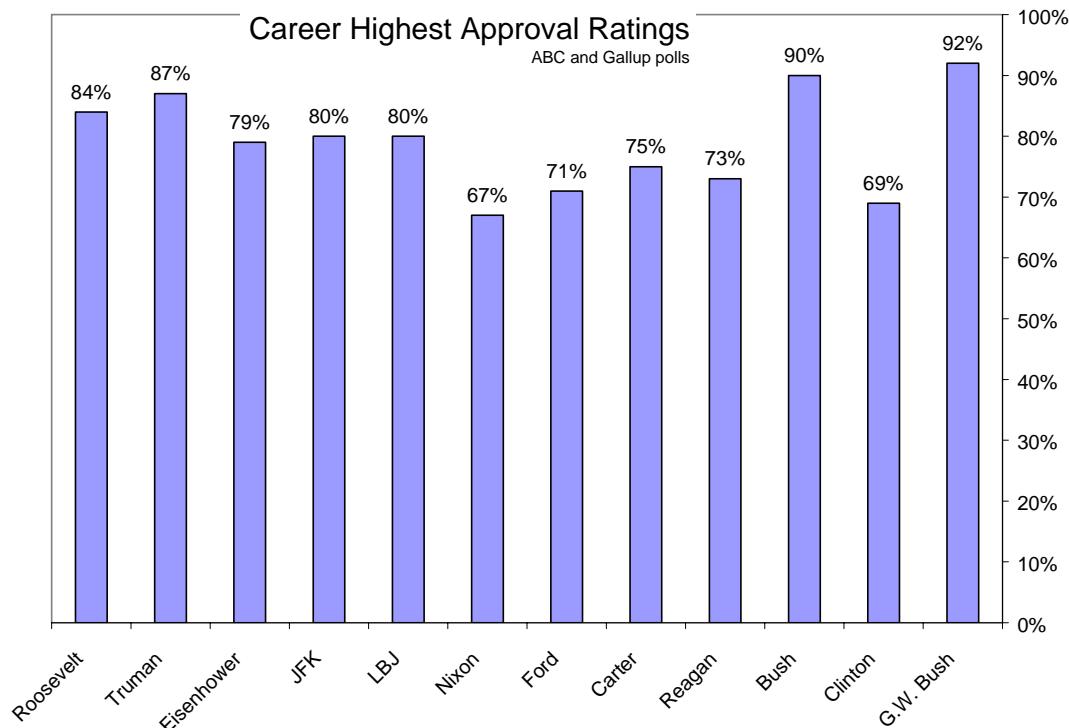
BACK to BUSH – It's unlikely that any figure underscores the public's closing of the ranks as well as the president's job approval rating. On Sept. 9 just 55 percent approved of his work in office – fewer than usual at that point in a presidency – and only 26 percent approved strongly.

Since then Bush's approval rating has soared by 37 points, the sharpest climb on record, to a record high. And his "strong" approval has increased nearly threefold.

Partisan and ideological divisions have diminished radically: Eighty-seven percent of liberals and 88 percent of Democrats approve of the president's performance, and two-thirds in both these groups approve strongly.

Among Republicans, meanwhile, Bush's job approval rating is 99 percent – probably as close to 100 as any president has ever come.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 8-9, 2001,



among a random national sample of 1,009 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Field work by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

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

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Here are the full results (*=less than 0.5 percent)

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

	Approve			Disapprove			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	
10/9/01	92	76	16	6	3	3	1
9/27/01*	90	70	20	6	3	3	4
9/13/01	86	63	23	12	6	5	2
9/9/01	55	26	29	41	22	20	3
8/12/01	61	28	33	31	17	14	8
7/30/01	59	28	30	38	22	17	3
6/3/01	55	27	28	40	22	18	6
4/22/01	63	33	30	32	16	16	5
3/25/01	58	NA	NA	33	NA	NA	8
2/25/01	55	NA	NA	23	NA	NA	22

*Washington Post

2. Do you support or oppose the U.S.-led air strikes on Afghanistan that began this week? Do you support/oppose this STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

	Support			Oppose			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	
10/9/01	92	76	16	6	4	2	1
10/7/01	94	83	11	4	2	2	2

3. Would you support or oppose sending a significant number of U.S. ground troops into Afghanistan to overthrow the Taliban government?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
10/9/01	76	21	4
10/7/01	75	21	4

4. Would you support or oppose U.S. military action against other countries that assist or shelter terrorists?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
10/9/01	87	10	2
9/11/01	84	11	5

5. How concerned are you about the possibility there will be more major terrorist attacks in the United States - is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much, or not at all?

	Concerned			Not concerned			No op.
	NET	Grt. deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	None	
10/9/01	82	36	46	18	12	6	*
10/7/01	81	41	40	18	13	4	1
9/27/01*	83	43	39	17	12	5	*
9/11/01	87	49	38	12	7	4	1
6/13/97	62	21	41	38	24	14	*
6/2/97	63	22	41	37	28	9	*
8/5/96	74	31	43	26	18	8	*
4/20/95	78	38	40	21	16	5	1

*Washington Post

6. Are you personally worried that you or a close relative or friend might be the victim of a further terrorist attack in this country, or is that something you're not especially worried about?

	Worried	Not worried	No opinion
10/9/01	44	55	1
9/11/01	47	52	1
6/2/97	21	78	1
8/5/96	29	71	*
5/14/95	25	75	x
4/20/95	32	67	1
6/28/93	9	91	*

7. Do you think the United States government is doing all it reasonably can do to try to prevent further terrorist attacks, or do you think it should do more?

	US doing all it can	US should do more	No opin.
10/9/01	71	27	2

Compare to:

Do you think the United States government did all it reasonably could do to try to prevent these attacks, or do you think it could have done more?

	US did all it could	US could have done more	No opin.
9/13/01	31	65	4
9/11/01	43	44	13

8. Specifically, how concerned are you about the possibility of a terrorist attack in the United States using biological or chemical weapons - is that something that worries you a great deal, somewhat, not too much or not at all?

	-----Concerned-----			-----Not concerned-----			No op.
	NET	Grt.deal	Somewhat	NET	Not much	None	
10/9/01	80	37	43	20	13	7	*

9. How confident are you in the federal government's ability to respond effectively to a biological or chemical attack in the United States - very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not confident at all?

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No op.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
10/9/01	74	23	51	25	19	6	1

10. How confident are you in the ability of your local government, police and health agencies to respond effectively to a biological or chemical attack in the area where you live - very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not confident at all?

	-----Confident-----			-----Not confident-----			No op.
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	
10/9/01	62	18	44	37	26	11	1

END