

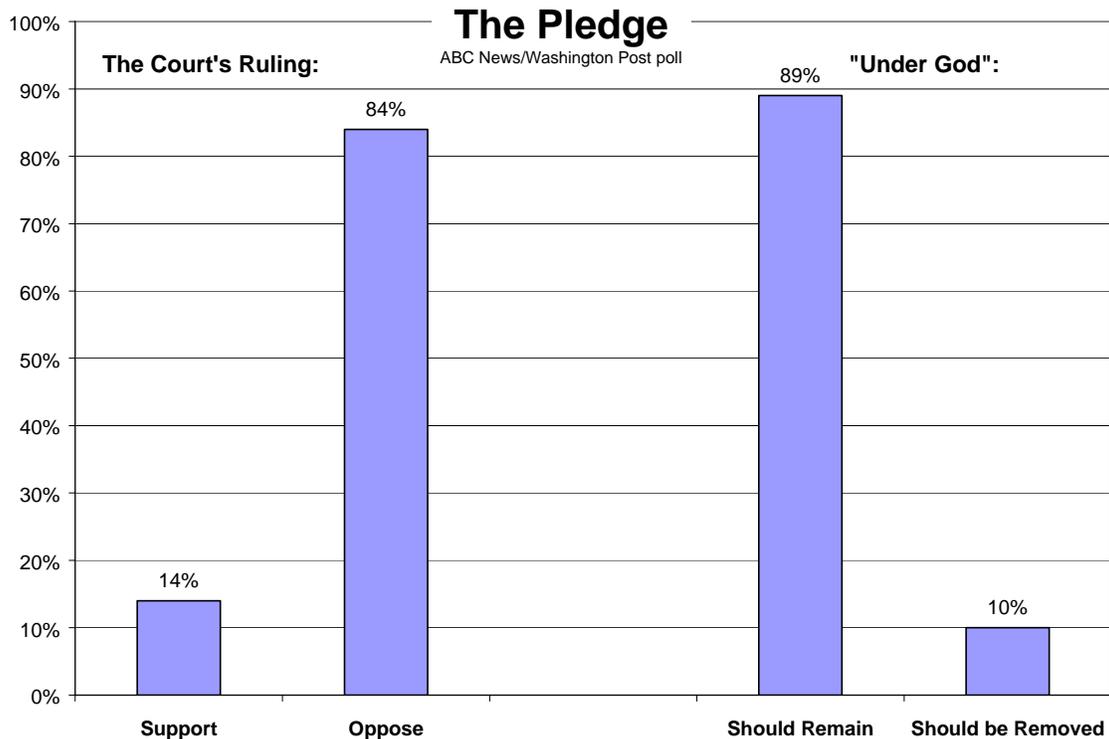
Americans Pledge Allegiance to the Pledge

The 9th Circuit may differ, but an overwhelming majority of Americans pledge allegiance to the pledge.

Eighty-four percent in an ABC News/Washington Post poll oppose last week's ruling by the federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that the pledge is unconstitutional because the phrase "under God," added by Congress in 1954, violates church-state separation.

Eighty-nine percent also say the phrase should remain in the pledge.

George W. Bush called the ruling "ridiculous" and both houses of Congress passed resolutions condemning it. Decided by a three-judge panel, the ruling was put on hold until the full court reviews it.



GROUPS – Overwhelming majorities across demographic groups oppose the court's decision, but there is some variation. Seventy-seven percent of younger Americans oppose the ruling; that rises to 91 percent of those 65 and older. And virtually all

Republicans oppose the ruling – 98 percent, compared to 78 percent of Democrats and 81 percent of independents.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone June 26-30, 2002, among a random national sample of 1,024 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, PA.

Analysis by Dalia Sussman.

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

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Full results follow. * = less than 0.5 percent

21. The Pledge of Allegiance says the United States is one nation "under God." A federal court in California has ruled that the Pledge cannot be recited in public schools because this phrase violates the constitutional separation of church and state. Do you support or oppose this court ruling?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
6/30/02	14	84	2

22. Do you think the phrase "under God" should (remain in the Pledge of Allegiance) or should (be removed from the Pledge of Allegiance)?

	Should remain	Should be removed	No opin.
6/30/02	89	10	1

END