

ABC NEWS.COM POLL: VIRTUAL VOTING – 7/18/99
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Thumbs Down for Now On Virtual Voting

With cybershopping such a hit, how about virtual voting?

Most Americans cast their ballot in the negative: Fifty-two percent say they'd oppose a system that would allow voting over the Internet, even if it could be made secure from fraud. And seven in 10 think that level of security is many years off.

But online balloting may find an audience yet. Support for the idea increases dramatically among younger adults, who know cyberspace best. Among 18- to 34-year-olds, 61 percent support secure Internet voting. Among their grandparents, only 19 percent agree.

Internet voting:	Age			
	All	18-34	35-49	50-64
Support	42%	61	45	28
Oppose	52	36	50	68

65+
19
69

The online journal Hotline last week cited a London Telegraph report that the British Home Office was exploring plans to boost voter turnout by linking polling stations to the Internet, allowing people to vote online from the comfort of their own homes. It noted, however, that security was a concern.

It's a worry here, as well: Only 24 percent of Americans think online voting could be made secure from fraud "any time in the near future." Sixty-two percent think it would take "many years," and seven percent think it'll never happen.

On this question, moreover, there's much less division among the ages: Even among younger adults, six in 10 think it'll be many years before online voting can be made sufficiently secure from fraud.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone July 14-18, 1999, among a random national sample of 1,018 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Field work by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, 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>

2. If it could be made secure from fraud, would you support or oppose a system allowing people to cast their vote for president and other political offices over the Internet?

	Support	Oppose	No opin.
7/18/99	42	52	5

3. Do you think an Internet voting system could be made secure from fraud any time in the near future, or do you think it will be many years before that's possible?

	Could be secure soon	Will take many years	Never (vol.)	No opin.
7/18/99	24	62	7	7