

Clinton's Job Approval: Still High, but No Bounce

The bounce went to Al Gore, not to Bill Clinton.

Not that Clinton needed one. A week after the Democratic convention, 60 percent of Americans approve of his job performance, unchanged from its average the last year, regardless of his tub-thumping, convention-opening speech. Gore, meanwhile, is enjoying a bounce in support in his race to succeed Clinton.

Even without any improvement, Clinton's job rating is strong, and it's been quite stable: It hasn't dropped below 55 percent since April 1996. Indeed he's on track to become the first post-war president with a final-year approval rating that exceeds his career average.

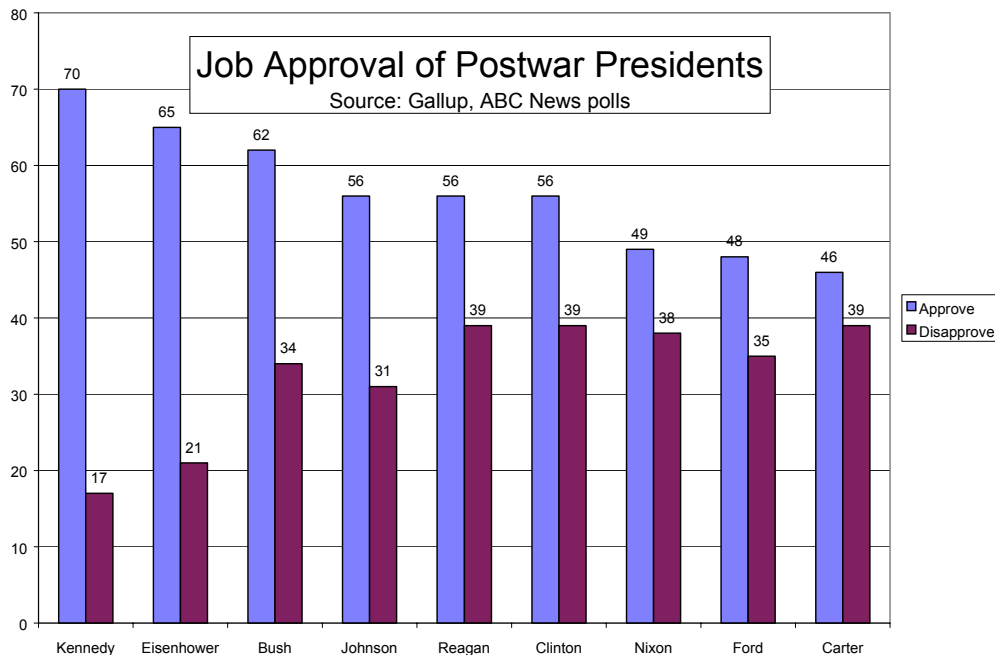
The economy's the main reason. Absent war, no factor influences presidential approval like consumer confidence. And consumer confidence, as measured in the weekly ABC News/Money magazine poll, remains near the 14-year high it reached in January.

Clinton's career job approval peaked at 69 percent shortly after the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke in January 1998. Its lowest was 43 percent, just five months after he took office and before the fruits of economic recovery reached Main Street.

In Clinton's case, of course, a high job approval rating isn't the same as a high personal approval rating. In an ABC News/Washington Post poll this week, 64 percent approved of Clinton's policies - but only 35 percent had a favorable opinion of him personally.

AVERAGE - Clinton's career average is 56 percent approval, identical to Ronald Reagan's and Lyndon Johnson's, and in the midrange for a postwar president.

Clinton's job performance			
	Approve	Disapprove	
Today	60%	35	
2000 average	60	37	
Career average	56	39	
Career high	69	27	1/30/98
Career low	43	50	6/28/93



GROUPS - Ratings of Clinton's job performance are highly partisan. Only about a quarter of Republicans approve of the way he's handled his job, compared to more than half of independents and almost nine in ten Democrats. Blacks, the most loyal Democratic group, give Clinton very high approval marks.

Approve of Clinton's job performance	
Democrats	89%
Independents	55
Republicans	26
Blacks	86%
Whites	56

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone August 16-20, 2000, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults. The results have a 3-point error margin. Field work by ICR- International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Dalia Sussman.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

69. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president?

-----Approve-----	-----Disapprove-----	No
NET Strongly Somewhat	NET Somewhat Strongly	op.

8/20/00	60	33	27	35	12	23	5
5/14/00	57	NA	NA	40	NA	NA	3
2/27/00	62	32	31	35	12	23	3
2/6/00	61	32	29	36	11	25	3
1/26/00	58	NA	NA	38	NA	NA	3

Call for full trend.

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