

ABCNEWS.COM POLL: THIRD TERM - 10/1/00

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Clinton in 2000?

The comeback kid has done it again: Bill Clinton slightly outpoints George W. Bush in a hypothetical test of public preferences for president, after trailing Bush last winter.

Of course the 22nd Amendment prevents Clinton from seeking a third term. But the result does mark quite a change from January: Then Bush led in the hypothetical matchup by 51-42 percent. Now it's a slight Clinton edge, 45-40 percent.

	Clinton	Bush
10/1/00	45%	40
1/26/00	42	51

"Comeback" could be overstating it, since there's been more of a drop in Bush's support (down 11 points) than a gain in Clinton's (up three). (More people say they wouldn't vote for either one.) Also, the 45-40 percent number is among the general public. Among registered voters it's 44-41 percent. (This poll didn't try to isolate likely voters.)

Bush, of course, has more serious concerns. In January he led his real opponent, Al Gore, by a sizable margin; now it's a dead heat in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll.

GROUPS – Clinton is supported by some of the same groups that backed him in 1996. Men divide evenly, while women favor the president by a 10-point margin. Clinton also does better with younger Americans and, naturally, with Democrats.

	Clinton	Bush
Men	42%	42
Women	47	37
Age		
18-34	50	35
65+	34	48
Democrats	80	9
Independents	36	40
Republicans	6	87

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone Sept. 27-Oct. 1, 2000, among a random national sample of 1,008 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork 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>

75. Imagine that Clinton could run for a third term. If the election for president in November 2000 were being held today, and the candidates were Bill Clinton, the Democrat, and George W. Bush, the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Bush	Clinton	Other	None	Would not vote	No opin.
10/1/00	40	45	2	8	2	3
1/26/00	51	42	1	3	1	2

END