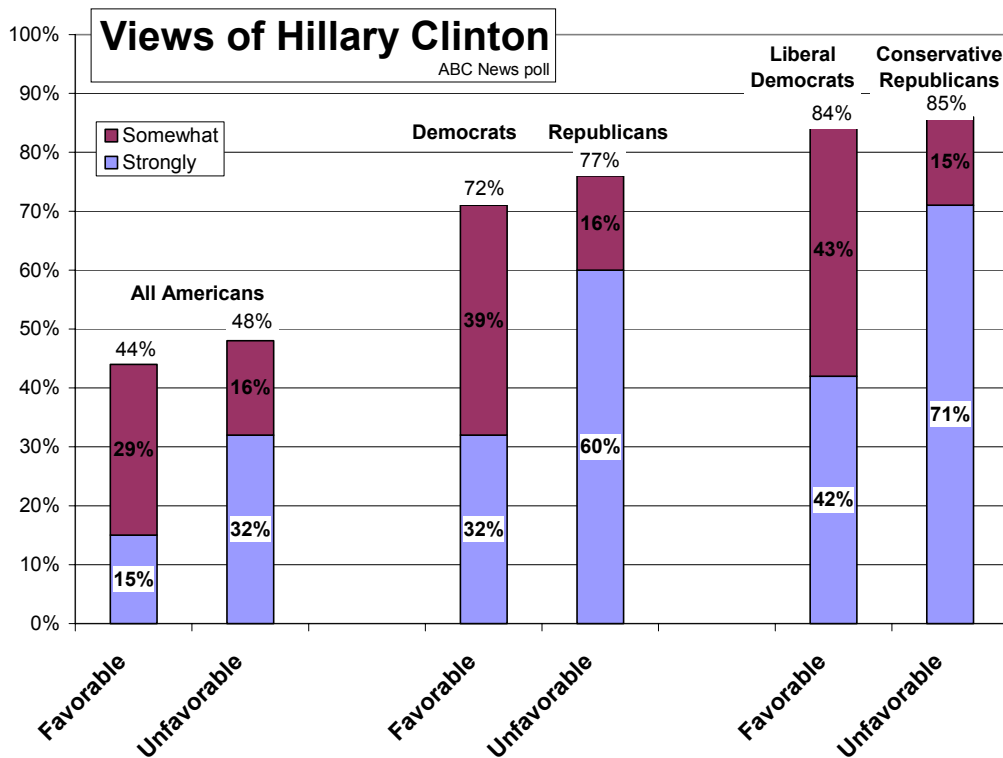


Steep Obstacles Face Mrs. Clinton on the National Political Stage

Nearly two and a half years after her husband left the White House, Sen. Hillary Clinton is poorly positioned to take it back: Most Americans don't want her ever to run for president, and her presence on the national stage is a deeply polarizing one.

While 44 percent of Americans express a favorable opinion of Mrs. Clinton, 48 percent view her unfavorably – an unusually high negative rating, and an unusually strong one. More than twice as many people view her "strongly" negatively as strongly positively. And she's no more popular among women than among men.

Mrs. Clinton's popularity largely is limited to Democrats, and is countered, and exceeded in intensity, by her unpopularity among Republicans. Sixty percent of all Republicans, and 71 percent of conservative Republicans, view her strongly unfavorably. By contrast, just 32 percent of all Democrats, and 42 percent of liberal Democrats, view her strongly favorably. (Moreover, conservative Republicans outnumber liberal Democrats by 2-1.)

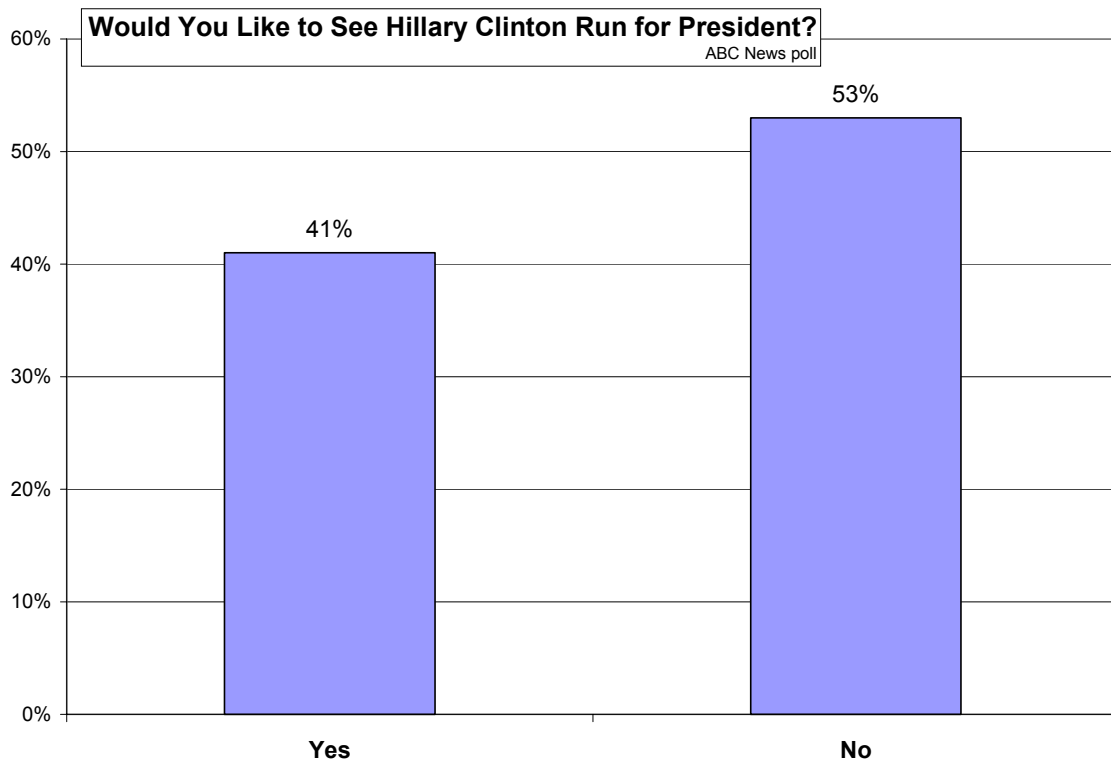


Mrs. Clinton's popularity peaked, apparently on a wave of sympathy, during the Monica Lewinsky scandal in 1998, when 64 percent of Americans held a favorable impression of her. By September 1999, that had dropped to 49 percent.

Mrs. Clinton's memoir, "Living History," is being published this week, and she's the subject of an ABC News special with Barbara Walters airing Sunday at 7 p.m. Eastern time.

HILLARY IN '08? – In a stark example of the problems Mrs. Clinton would face as a national candidate, only about four in 10 Americans say she should ever run for president, while a majority, 53 percent, says she never should run. Again, there's no substantive difference between women and men.

Even among the party core, enthusiasm for a Clinton candidacy is hardly overwhelming – 60 percent of liberals, 58 percent of Democrats and 52 percent of nonwhites would like to see her run. Again they're outmatched on the other side: A Clinton candidacy is opposed by 56 percent of whites, 60 percent of older Americans, 70 percent of conservatives and 76 percent of Republicans.



CLINTON vs DEMS, BUSH – Given her within-party popularity – and high name recognition – Mrs. Clinton leads among Democrats (and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party) in a hypothetical matchup for the 2004 presidential nomination. Her 37 percent support far outstrips Sen. Joseph Lieberman, with 14 percent; and Rep. Richard Gephardt, with 10 percent. The remaining seven announced candidates receive support in the single digits.

Mrs. Clinton is supported by 43 percent of Democratic women and 29 percent of men, leading among both groups. As well as among women, she does better among lower-

income and less-educated Democrats.

	'04 preference among leaned Dems
Clinton	37%
Lieberman	14
Gephardt	10
Kerry	7
Edwards	6
Graham	4
Dean	3
Sharpton	2
Moseley Braun	1
Kucinich	1

But among the broader public she trails by 24 points in a head-to-head general election matchup against George W. Bush, 58 percent to 34 percent. Six in 10 men and 55 percent of women favor Bush. And Bush wins support from 92 percent of Republicans, while Mrs. Clinton wins far fewer Democrats (67 percent). Independents prefer Bush by 55-31 percent.

Perhaps most troublesome to Mrs. Clinton is the relatively tepid support from her base – far weaker than what a national candidate would expect. Her support among Democrats (67 percent) and liberals (62 percent) falls well short, for example, of Al Gore's 86 and 80 percent support from these groups in the 2000 election.

While Clinton fatigue is a likely factor, it's hard to blame her husband entirely for her deficit. Fifty-five percent of Americans approve of the way Bill Clinton handled his job as president (down 10 points from just before he left office, but about the same as his two-term average). Mrs. Clinton, though, only wins 55 percent of her husband's approvers – 37 percent of them defect to Bush. And Bush wins 87 percent of those who disapprove of Bill Clinton's work in office.

	Preference for president:	
	Bush	Clinton
All	58%	34
Men	61	31
Women	55	36
Bill Clinton's work:		
Approve	37	55
Disapprove	87	7
Whites	62	29
Nonwhites	37	56
Midwest	65	27
South	62	31
West	55	36
Northeast	46	44

Liberals	30	62
Moderates	56	35
Conservatives	77	20
Democrats	26	67
Independents	55	31
Republicans	92	7

In the interview airing Sunday night on ABC, Mrs. Clinton told Barbara Walters she would not run for president in 2004. If asked to run, she said, "Absolutely, I'd say no."

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News poll was conducted by telephone May 28-June 1, 2003, among a random national sample of 1,029 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, PA.

Analysis by Gary Langer and Dalia Sussman.

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

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934

Results follow.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. If the 2004 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were (George W. Bush, the Republican), and (Hillary Clinton, the Democrat), for whom would you vote?

	Bush	Clinton	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote	No opin.
6/1/03	58	34	*	4	2	2

2. Would you like to see Hillary Clinton run for president at some point - if not in 2004 then another year - or is that something you would not like to see?

	Would like to see	Would not like to see	No opin.
6/1/03	41	53	7

3. Thinking back to when Bill Clinton was in office, would you say you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton handled his job as president?

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			No op.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
6/1/03	55	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	2
2/25/01*	59	NA	NA	37	NA	NA	4
1/15/01**	65	36	29	32	10	22	3
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

10/31/99	59	NA	NA	38	NA	NA	3
9/2/99	58	28	30	38	13	25	4
6/6/99	58	30	28	38	12	26	4
4/26/99	60	NA	NA	37	NA	NA	3
3/14/99	64	38	26	34	9	25	3
2/14/99	68	46	22	30	7	23	2
2/12/99	67	NA	NA	31	NA	NA	2
2/7/99	66	45	21	33	9	24	1
1/30/99	65	43	22	33	7	26	2
1/19/99	66	NA	NA	32	NA	NA	2
1/13/99	63	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	3
1/10/99	62	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	1
12/20/98	67	48	20	30	6	23	3
12/19/98	66	47	19	31	7	24	3
12/13/98	64	43	21	35	10	25	2
12/11/98	60	NA	NA	37	NA	NA	3
11/22/98	61	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	5
11/7/98	63	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	1
11/1/98	65	41	25	33	10	23	1
*2/25/01 "handled"							
**1/15/01 "has handled"							
***8/20/00 and previous: "is handling"							
Call for full trend.							

(Separated in questionnaire) 4. On another subject, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Hillary Clinton? IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE: Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	opinion
6/1/03	44	15	29	48	32	16	8
9/2/99	49	NA	NA	44	NA	NA	7
6/6/99	59	NA	NA	35	NA	NA	6
3/14/99	60	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	4
2/14/99	63	NA	NA	31	NA	NA	6
11/1/98	64	NA	NA	31	NA	NA	5
11/1/98 LV	60	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	3
8/21/98	64	NA	NA	28	NA	NA	8
8/19/98	64	NA	NA	32	NA	NA	4
Call for full trend.							

5. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) If the 2004 Democratic presidential primary in your state were being held today, and the candidates were: (Hillary Clinton, Joseph Lieberman, Richard Gephardt, John Kerry, John Edwards, Al Sharpton, Bob Graham, Howard Dean, Dennis Kucinich or Carolyn Moseley Braun), for whom would you vote?

Net Leaned Vote:

	6/1/03	4/30/03	1/20/03	7/15/02*
Hillary Clinton	37	NA	NA	NA
Lieberman	14	29	27	10
Gephardt	10	19	14	5
Kerry	7	14	10	6
Edwards	6	4	11	3
Graham	4	3	NA	NA
Dean	3	3	3	1
Sharpton	2	3	7	NA
Moseley Braun	1	6	NA	NA
Kucinich	1	2	NA	NA
Other	*	1	1	3
None	3	1	4	*

Wouldn't vote	2	0	0	0
No opinion	11	14	24	18

*Gore 46, Daschle 8

END