



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Majority of Americans Think New Iraq Regime Has As Much or More Power Than U.S. Has There, But Still Doubt Bush Plan, Annenberg Data Show

Almost three fifths of the American public believe the new Iraqi government has as much or more power than Americans have there, but about as many still feel that George W. Bush has no clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey shows.

Polling of 2,073 adults from June 28, the day of the official transfer of power, through Thursday night showed that 20 percent of the public believed the new Iraq government would have more power, 39 percent believed it would have about as much power there as the United States, and 31 percent said the United States would have more power there. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus two percentage points.

But when asked if they thought Bush had a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, 57 percent said he did not, while 35 percent said he did. The 35 percent was actually a modest improvement when compared to the 12 days before the transfer (June 16-27), when only 31 percent said he had a clear plan.

Thirty percent of the public thought the transfer of power would lead to an increase in terrorist attacks on Americans and other foreigners in Iraq, while 8 percent thought the attacks would now decrease and 57 percent said they would stay at about the same level.

Fifty percent of the respondents said they thought the number of United States troops in Iraq should be reduced to no more than "a few thousand" in six months or less. But only 14 percent said they expected the troop level to drop that much that soon. Fifty-nine percent said it would be "more than a year" (the latest choice offered by the question they were asked) before that level was reached. There are now 140,000 American troops in Iraq.

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There was very little change in public attitudes about Iraq between the June 16-27 and June 28-July 8 periods. One other statistically significant shift was in the percentage approving of Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq. That went up from 38 percent to 42 percent. But 53 percent, down from 57, still disapproved.

In the latest polling, 46 percent said the war in Iraq had been worth waging, while 49 percent said it had not. In the earlier period, 43 percent said it had been worth it and 51 percent said it had not, but those changes falls within the polls' margins of sampling error.

There were clear partisan differences on the answers. For example, 27 percent of Republicans, compared to only 16 percent of Democrats, said Iraqis now have more power than the United States in Iraq. Seventy percent of Republicans, compared to 52 percent of Democrats, said Iraqis have equal or greater power. And 21 percent of Democrats, compared to 7 percent of Republicans, said American troops in Iraq should be reduced to a few thousand "right away."

Young people were also especially skeptical about the transfer of power. Forty-one percent of those 18 to 29 said the United States had more power than the Iraqis, compared to just 17 percent of those 65 and older. They were also more likely to think terrorist attacks would now increase.

That National Annenberg Election Survey, the largest academic election poll, is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania (www.AnnenbergPublicPolicyCenter.org). It has been tracking the presidential campaign since October 7, and interviewing will continue until after Election Day. Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson is the director of the survey. Ken Winneg is the managing director of the survey. Adam Clymer is the political director of the survey.

Another major election project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center is FactCheck.org, a project that tries to hold politicians accountable by exposing false or misleading campaign statements. It is available online at www.FactCheck.Org.

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Questions

A. As you may know, on June 28th, in Iraq, the United States transferred power to a new Iraqi government. Do you think the official transfer of power in Baghdad means the new Iraq Government will have more power than the United States has in Iraq, the United States will have more power, or they will have about equal power?

	Iraqis more power	United States more power	Equal Power
Total	20%	31%	39%
Republicans	27%	21%	43%
Democrats	16%	41%	36%
Independents	18%	30%	43%
Men	18%	38%	36%
Women	22%	24%	42%
Whites	21%	29%	41%
African-Americans	14%	38%	35%
Latinos	11%	42%	30%
High school graduate or less	18%	28%	40%
Some college	23%	31%	39%
College degree or more	21%	35%	38%
18-29 years old	15%	41%	37%
30-44	20%	34%	34%
45-64	23%	28%	42%
65 and over	22%	17%	46%
Household income below \$35,000	18%	31%	38%
\$35,000 to less than \$75,000	20%	29%	43%
\$75,000 and over	26%	35%	36%
Union household	24%	32%	40%
Conservatives	25%	26%	40%
Moderates	18%	30%	42%
Liberals	15%	40%	38%
Northeast	20%	29%	42%
Midwest	18%	32%	40%
South	21%	30%	38%
West	21%	34%	38%

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B. Now that there has been an official transfer of power in Iraq, do you think the terrorist attacks against Americans and other foreigners will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

	Increase	Decrease	Stay about the same
Total	30%	8%	57%
Republicans	26%	11%	58%
Democrats	34%	7%	57%
Independents	30%	8%	58%
Men	29%	10%	57%
Women	30%	7%	56%
Whites	28%	9%	59%
African-Americans	40%	7%	44%
Latinos	39%	8%	41%
High school graduate or less	31%	10%	51%
Some college	33%	6%	59%
College degree or more	24%	9%	65%
18-29 years old	38%	8%	51%
30-44	24%	10%	60%
45-64	31%	6%	58%
65 and over	25%	10%	58%
Household income below \$35,000	34%	10%	50%
\$35,000 to less than \$75,000	30%	7%	60%
\$75,000 and over	26%	9%	63%
Union household	38%	9%	51%
Conservatives	26%	11%	58%
Moderates	28%	7%	59%
Liberals	38%	7%	53%
Northeast	31%	6%	59%
Midwest	27%	9%	59%
South	31%	11%	53%
West	29%	7%	58%

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C. How long do you think it SHOULD be before there are only a few thousand American troops in Iraq – Right away, three months, six months, a year, or more than a year?

	Right away	Three months	Six months	A year	More than a year
Total	14%	15%	20%	19%	21%
Republicans	7%	12%	21%	25%	28%
Democrats	21%	21%	16%	15%	19%
Independents	15%	14%	22%	19%	22%
Men	11%	13%	19%	18%	30%
Women	17%	17%	21%	19%	14%
Whites	13%	14%	20%	19%	24%
African-Americans	26%	18%	19%	16%	10%
Latinos	11%	24%	14%	17%	17%
High school graduate or less	16%	16%	19%	17%	18%
Some college	15%	15%	22%	20%	19%
College degree or more	11%	14%	19%	18%	30%
18-29 years old	17%	21%	20%	17%	17%
30-44	17%	15%	18%	18%	22%
45-64	12%	14%	22%	20%	25%
65 and over	12%	10%	18%	19%	19%
Household income below \$35,000	18%	19%	20%	17%	15%
\$35,000 to less than \$75,000	15%	15%	22%	19%	23%
\$75,000 and over	10%	13%	20%	22%	28%
Union household	17%	15%	22%	16%	22%
Conservatives	10%	14%	21%	21%	24%
Moderates	15%	13%	21%	20%	22%
Liberals	21%	21%	19%	14%	18%
Northeast	18%	15%	21%	17%	17%
Midwest	14%	11%	23%	18%	22%
South	14%	17%	18%	20%	21%
West	12%	18%	18%	19%	25%

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D. How long do you think it WILL be before there are only a few thousand American troops in Iraq – Three months, six months, a year, or more than a year?

	Three months	Six months	A year	More than a year
Total	4%	9%	20%	59%
Republicans	2%	10%	24%	55%
Democrats	7%	8%	17%	62%
Independents	3%	8%	19%	64%
Men	3%	7%	18%	65%
Women	5%	11%	21%	53%
Whites	3%	9%	21%	60%
African-Americans	9%	14%	16%	47%
Latinos	8%	19%	24%	35%
High school graduate or less	5%	13%	20%	51%
Some college	3%	7%	23%	61%
College degree or more	3%	5%	16%	70%
18-29 years old	6%	12%	20%	54%
30-44	5%	9%	17%	62%
45-64	3%	9%	21%	61%
65 and over	2%	6%	23%	54%
Household income below \$35,000	7%	11%	24%	51%
\$35,000 to less than \$75,000	3%	9%	19%	64%
\$75,000 and over	2%	5%	17%	70%
Union household	4%	5%	19%	65%
Conservatives	4%	10%	22%	56%
Moderates	4%	8%	19%	61%
Liberals	4%	10%	18%	63%
Northeast	7%	7%	20%	56%
Midwest	1%	8%	20%	61%
South	4%	10%	20%	58%
West	5%	11%	18%	60%

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Survey Methodology

The National Annenberg Election Survey (NAES) is a survey conducted each presidential election by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

The 2004 National Annenberg Election Survey is based on telephone interviews which began October 7, 2003 and will continue past Election Day.

The sample of telephone exchanges called was randomly selected by a computer from a complete list of thousands of active residential exchanges across the country. Within each exchange, random digits were added to form a complete telephone number, thus permitting access to both listed and unlisted numbers. Within each household, one adult was designated by a random procedure to be the respondent for the survey. The interviewing is conducted by Schulman, Ronca, Bucuvalas, Inc.

The results have been weighted to take account of household size and number of telephone lines into the residence and to adjust for variation in the sample relating to geographic region, sex, race, age and education.

This report deals with interviewing conducted from June 28 through July 8, when 2,073 people were interviewed, and from June 16 through June 27 when 1,087 were interviewed.

In theory, in 19 cases out of 20 the results for the latest interviews will differ by no more than two percentage points, up or down, from what would have been obtained by interviewing all American adults. For the earlier interviews, it would be plus or minus three percentage points. For smaller subgroups the margin of sampling error would be higher, and some questions were not asked of all respondents, which would also lead to a higher potential sampling error.

In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting any survey of public opinion may introduce other sources of error into the poll. Variations in the wording and order of questions, for example, may lead to somewhat different results.

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