



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 8, 2004

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**Majority of 18 To 29 Year Olds Think Bush Favors
Reinstating the Draft, Annenberg Data Show**

About half of the country's 18 to 29-year-olds believe that President George W. Bush wants to reinstate the military draft, even though he and his challenger, Senator John F. Kerry have each insisted they oppose the idea, the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey show.

Older respondents were more likely than younger respondents to know that neither Republican candidate President George W. Bush nor Democratic candidate Senator John Kerry favors the draft.

"Young voters are much more misinformed about the presidential candidates' positions on the draft than the population in general," said Kate Kenski, a senior analyst at the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. "Only about a quarter of 18 to 29 year olds knew that neither President Bush nor Senator Kerry favors the draft compared to 42 percent of citizens overall. Given that young people are the ones to be affected most by a draft, they should know that there is no difference between the candidates on this issue."

Annenberg polling from September 27 through October 3 among 1,543 adults asked which candidate favors reinstating the draft. Thirty percent said Bush, 10 percent said Kerry, and 7 percent said both. Forty-two percent said "neither," and 11 percent said that they did not know. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus two percentage points.

But among 18 to 29-year-olds, 51 percent said Bush, 8 percent said Kerry, 7 percent said both would. Twenty-six percent said neither favored the idea, and 8 percent said they did not know. The margin of sampling error for the younger respondents was plus or minus 7 percentage points.

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Campaigning in Florida on September 22, John Kerry said that he did not support reinstating the draft: "If George Bush were to be re-elected, given the way he has gone about this war, and given his avoidance of responsibility in North Korea and Iran and other places, it is possible, I can't tell you. I will tell you this: I will not reinstate the draft."

But Bush insisted on Monday, October 4 in Iowa, that he was committed to retaining an all-volunteer military. "That is why we increased pay to make the all-volunteer army work. That's why we increased housing benefits. That's why we're making sure these troops are skilled. Secondly, in order to win the war on terror, we need specialized forces. This is specialty work. If you draft, you don't get the specialized force you need. We don't need a draft. We will not have a draft so long as I'm the President of the United States."

On Tuesday, October 5, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 402 to 2 to defeat a bill that would require "all young persons in the United States, including women, perform a period of military service or a period of civilian service in furtherance of the national defense and homeland security." The bill was introduced in January 2003 by Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., as a protest to U.S. involvement in Iraq. Rangel and all but two other Democrats voted against the bill. On Wednesday President Bush congratulated the House on its vote.

While 53 percent of Republicans gave the correct answer, just 37 percent of Democrats also said "neither" presidential candidate favors reinstating the draft. Eighteen percent of Republicans said that Bush favors reinstating the draft compared to 38 percent of Democrats and 30 percent of Independents.

Kenski said, "Candidate favorability ratings are associated with correctly stating that neither candidate favors a draft. Forty-nine percent of respondents who view Bush favorably know that neither candidate favors a draft, while just 37 percent of those who view him unfavorably answer the question correctly. In contrast, 39 percent of respondents who view Kerry favorably know that neither candidate favors a draft, while 52 percent of those who view him unfavorably correctly identify the candidates' position on this issue."

Respondents interested in public affairs were more likely to know the presidential candidates' positions on the draft. While 60 percent of citizens who reported that they were interested in government and public affairs "most the time" correctly said that neither candidate favors the draft, just 32 percent of respondents who were interested "some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all" gave that correct answer.

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Support for the Bush (and Kerry) position of keeping troops in Iraq until a stable government is established was associated with knowing the correct answer about the draft. Only 27 percent of those who wanted the troops brought home as soon as possible knew that neither Bush nor Kerry wants to reinstitute draft. Fifty-three percent of those who wanted troops to stay knew that correct answer.

Seventy-one percent of respondents said that they did not think that the U.S. should put the military draft back into operation, while 22 percent said that the draft should be put back into operation and 6 percent said that they did not know. The 18 to 29 year-olds were about as likely to favor the draft as were all respondents.

Kate Kenski, a senior research analyst at The Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, developed the research for this report. The National Annenberg Election Survey, the largest academic election poll, is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center (www.AnnenbergPublicPolicyCenter.org). It has been tracking the presidential campaign since October 7, 2003 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.

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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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Tables

A. Who favors reinstating the military draft -- George W. Bush, John Kerry, both or neither?

%	Bush	Kerry	Both	Neither	Don't know
Total	30%	10%	7%	42%	11%
18 to 29 yrs old	51%	8%	7%	26%	8%
30 to 44 yrs old	33%	8%	5%	43%	10%
45 to 64 yrs old	26%	10%	7%	47%	10%
65 yrs old or older	13%	16%	7%	47%	17%
Republicans	18%	14%	6%	53%	9%
Democrats	38%	7%	9%	37%	9%
Independents	30%	9%	6%	44%	12%
Females	32%	11%	8%	37%	12%
Males	29%	8%	5%	47%	10%
Whites	27%	11%	6%	45%	11%
African-Americans	43%	10%	10%	27%	10%
Latinos	40%	7%	19%	24%	10%
High school graduate or less	30%	12%	9%	35%	14%
Some college, associates degree, or technical training after high school	36%	9%	5%	40%	10%
Four-year college degree or more	24%	8%	4%	55%	9%
Household income below \$35,000	33%	11%	11%	32%	14%
\$35,000 to less than \$75,000	30%	10%	6%	45%	9%
\$75,000 or more	29%	7%	3%	51%	9%
Union household	39%	8%	8%	37%	8%
Northeast	30%	11%	5%	42%	13%
Midwest	27%	8%	5%	47%	13%
South	29%	10%	8%	42%	10%
West	35%	10%	9%	37%	9%
Conservatives	24%	12%	7%	47%	11%
Moderates	28%	11%	7%	42%	12%
Liberals	42%	5%	6%	38%	9%
Urban	32%	11%	5%	39%	12%
Suburban	30%	9%	6%	45%	10%
Rural	29%	10%	9%	39%	13%

B. Who favors reinstating the military draft -- George W. Bush, John Kerry, both or neither?

	Bush	Kerry	Both	Neither	Don't know
Some people seem to follow what is going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there is an election or not. Others are not that interested, or are interested in other things. Would you say you follow what is going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?					
Most of the time	22%	9%	3%	60%	5%
Some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all	35%	10%	8%	32%	14%
Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?					
U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there	23%	11%	4%	53%	9%
U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible	42%	8%	11%	27%	12%

C. Who favors reinstating the military draft -- George W. Bush, John Kerry, both or neither?

	Bush	Kerry	Both	Neither	Don't know
People Who View Bush:					
Favorably	23%	13%	4%	49%	11%
Unfavorably	38%	5%	8%	37%	12%
Neutral	36%	14%	12%	30%	8%
People who view Kerry:					
Favorably	37%	7%	7%	39%	10%
Unfavorably	19%	14%	5%	52%	10%
Neutral	38%	11%	9%	28%	15%

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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 is based on interviews conducted from September 27 through October 3, 2004. In that period, 2,436 adults were interviewed. From that group, 1,543 citizens were asked about which candidate, if any, favored reinstating the draft. In theory, in 19 out of 20 cases, results for all respondents will differ by no more than two percentage points, up or down, from what would have been obtained by interviewing all American citizens. For smaller groups, such as Republicans or young people, the margin of sampling error would be higher.

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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