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BUSH'S STANDING ON THE BRINK OF WAR
by G. Donald Ferree, Jr.

George W. Bush has committed the prestige of his office and his political assets to his Iraq policy. He brings to the issues of peace and war a set of public perceptions which, on the whole, reflect moderate support, if down some from the levels he enjoyed in Wisconsin about a year ago. These conclusions are based on analysis of results from the most recent Badger Poll™, which interviewed some 507 randomly chosen state residents between March 4 and 12, inclusive.

When it comes to the job Bush is doing overall, without reference to any specific policy area, just over half rate the President as either excellent (18%) or good (35%). Just under half call his performance fair (30%) or poor (16%). As a group, men are modestly more likely to give Bush higher ratings, as may be seen in the detailed tables following this summary. Republicans, almost nine in ten of whom rate him either excellent or good, are markedly more positive than Democrats, three in ten of whom accord him ratings this positive, with Independents falling in the middle.

As noted at the outset, Bush's overall ratings have been higher in the recent past here in Wisconsin. A special table below summarizes results from identical questions posed on earlier surveys in the Badger Poll series. Both last March and last June, two thirds graded Bush overall as good or better, three in ten fair or poor. This declined modestly to last September, and further in January. In February, there seems to have been a mild uptick, followed by March's approximation of January's results. Some of these poll to poll differences are quite small, indeed small enough that one may have only limited confidence that they reflect real shifts in the population as opposed to random fluctuations due to who was selected to be interviewed.

On balance, just over one in three (36%) expect the US economy to be in about the same shape a year from now as it currently is. Among those who foresee a change, those thinking it will be better outnumber those who expect it to be worse by about two to one (39%-21%). The three readings prior to this all found about four in ten expecting the economy not to change much. January and February, found slightly less hope on balance for the next year than we now find, while September was generally similar. The contrast, however, is relatively sharp with the earlier readings from last June and March. A year ago, more than half felt the economy would improve over the (then) next year, while only one in eight felt it would worsen. June's reading was more measured, but still showed greater optimism than has since been the case.

Selected Questions Related to Presidential Rating
Polls from March 2002 to March 2003

	MAR03	FEB03	JAN03	SPT02	JUN02	MAR02
Overall rating						
Excellent	18%	19%	16%	19%	25%	28%
Good	35	39	38	45	44	40
Fair	30	25	29	23	22	22
Poor	16	16	14	12	8	7
Short-term outlook US economy						
BETTER	39%	33%	33%	37%	43%	56%
WORSE	21	23	23	18	9	12
SAME	36	42	42	41	46	31

Responses such as Don't Know/Refused are omitted

Respondents were also asked to rate George W. Bush's performance on a number of specific aspects of his job. Naturally, these do not need to move in tandem (and they do not). Moreover, the overall rating at any given time may reflect a different mix of more specific perceptions as different areas of presidential activity take on different emphases in the minds of the public.

When it comes to "foreign policy", Bush is rated in March 2003 somewhat lower than overall as President. Specifically, just under one in two rate him excellent (46%) or good (33%) in this area. On the other hand, just OVER one in two call his foreign policy performance either fair (30%) or poor (23%). Similar patterns are found for groups defined by gender or self-described partisan preference, but each of these groups tends to rate his foreign policy performance weaker than his overall handling of his job.

At the individual level, one can compare the President's overall rating with that given him on foreign policy, or other areas. This is shown in the tables below for a series of "constructed items" relating how he fared on different issues. For instance, some six in ten (62%) rated Bush the same overall as on foreign policy (e.g. excellent on both, or good on both, or fair on both, or poor on both). One in four (26%) gave him a higher rating on his overall performance than on foreign policy (e.g. excellent overall, but good or lower on foreign policy, or good on overall job handling but either fair or poor on foreign policy, and so on). Conversely, one in ten (9%) gave him a higher grade on foreign policy than overall.

This question was also put in January of this year, and September of last. In January, Bush's foreign policy rating was very similar to what it is now. Last September, it was higher. Moreover, in September, there was little difference between Bush's overall rating and how he was viewed in terms of his handling of foreign policy.

A companion item asked how Bush was doing handling "problems here at home", without specifying a more particular area. Perceptions overall are less positive here than they were for foreign policy or for general performance. Specifically, only four in ten chose excellent (6%) or good (33%) to characterize Bush, contrasted with six in ten who felt that fair (35%) or poor (25%) was more like it.

In this general area, men do not differ much at all from women as a group. Such is not the case for partisanship, however. While seven in ten Republicans

grade Bush as good or higher, the comparable figure among self-described Democrats is only one in seven. Independents fall in the middle. The pattern of lower ratings for domestic policy (without using these words) and foreign policy tends to hold up at the individual level as well. Those who differentiate between Bush' overall rating and domestic performance break onesidedly in terms of thinking better of him overall than on this area. Those who think he is doing better on foreign policy than domestic policy outnumber those taking the opposite position, if less sharply.

In January, the public's perception of Bush's dealing with problems here at home was similar to March's findings, if anything a bit more critical, but any difference is small. Last September, on the other hand, Bush was seen as doing better in this area than he is now, although then as now, "problems here at home" was not an area of relative strength.

Narrowing the focus to "handling the economy" produces a further fading of ratings. Overall, only about one in four now accord Bush ratings of excellent (5%) or good (22%). Seven in ten, on the other hand, call it fair (39%) or poor (32%). Men are modestly more positive (or less negative) than women as a group. Once again, Republicans are more supportive than Democrats (with almost nine in ten of the latter rating Bush no higher than fair, with the comparable figure among GOP adherents standing at under one in two. On this area, Independents are a good deal closer to Democrats than to Republicans, and even among Bush's fellow partisans, ratings are decidedly more reserved than was the case on some of the earlier measures.

At the individual level, fully half of all respondents graded Bush lower on the economy than overall. One in four thought he deserved a lower grade on the economy than on domestic policy more generally. Comparing his present ratings on the economy to those earlier measured reveals that there has been little or no net change in the past three months, with January, February, and March ratings on the economy within a point or two of one another. Last September, however, while the economy was the weakest area examined, it found Bush getting somewhat higher ratings than since the first of the year. A slightly different type of question asked respondents about their outlook for the US economy over the next year (this was later in the questionnaire, after some other ratings items still to be discussed).

Bush was also rated in terms of four more specific aspects of "foreign policy". Overall, he does best with "dealing with terrorism", followed by "dealing with Iraq", and "dealing with foreign leaders". The weakest area is "dealing with foreign leaders".

Overall, two thirds rate Bush either excellent (20%) or good (46%) on handling terrorism, while one in three think ratings of fair (25%) or poor (9%) are more like it. Gender and partisan patterns are similar to those found on most areas earlier, with men and Republicans most positive, and Democrats least.

At the individual level, most rated Bush identically overall and on this area, but those who felt terrorism deserved a higher assessment than his performance overall outnumbered those making a contrary distinction by more than two to one. This pattern was even stronger if one compared foreign policy generally with terrorism. Across time, Bush's current ratings seem at least as high as those found in January or February. Comparisons with last September are more complicated. Then, a few more chose excellent or good, contrasted with fair or poor. But ratings tended to cluster relatively more at the extremes than is now the case, (that is excellent or poor, as opposed to the more "middle" ratings of good and fair.

Specifics on Presidential Performance

	MAR03	FEB03	JAN03	SPT02
Foreign policy				
EXCELLENT	13%		12%	20%
GOOD	33		32	41
FAIR	30		34	23
POOR	23		20	15
Problems at home				
EXCELLENT	6%		6%	12%
GOOD	33		30	40
FAIR	35		39	29
POOR	25		24	18
Economy				
EXCELLENT	5%	4%	4%	6%
GOOD	22	26	23	30
FAIR	39	38	38	36
POOR	32	31	31	25
Dealing with terrorism				
EXCELLENT	20%	20%	18%	32%
GOOD	46	43	42	40
FAIR	25	23	26	17
POOR	9	13	12	11
Dealing with Iraq				
EXCELLENT	18%	19%	11%	22%
GOOD	31	30	31	30
FAIR	26	25	28	23
POOR	23	24	26	20
Dealing with North Korea				
EXCELLENT	8%	6%	7%	
GOOD	21	30	26	
FAIR	36	30	31	
POOR	24	23	21	
Dealing with foreign leaders				
EXCELLENT	11%		10%	19%
GOOD	36		39	40
FAIR	33		35	27
POOR	17		9	12

Responses such as Don't Know/Refused Omitted

As noted, Iraq (recall the survey was conducted when it was still unclear whether a UN resolution would be forthcoming), was the next most positive specific area. Overall, half called Bush's performance dealing with Iraq either excellent (18%) or good (31%) while an equal number opted for fair (26%) or poor (23%). The balance was very similar in February, which represented a slight improvement from January, but (an equally modest) falloff from September.

Current readings show men more positive than women. This is an area of special partisan split, with eight in ten Republicans calling Bush's performance at least good, and seven in ten Democrats calling it no better than fair. Individual level distinctions find just under six in ten rating Bush the same overall as on Iraq, while those rating him higher overall than on Iraq outnumber by almost two to one those rating him higher on Iraq than overall. If the comparison is to foreign policy, again most rate Iraq the same as the more general rating, but here those who see a distinction are at least as likely to think Iraq is an area of relative strength as to feel it is weaker than foreign policy generally.

In overall terms, "dealing with leaders" of other countries (which was the last area asked about), is on a rough par with Iraq, although views are less polarized. Roughly equal numbers call this aspect of Bush's performance either excellent (11%) or good (36%), as think that fair (33%) or poor (17%) is more apt. This reflects a lesser tendency to be strongly positive or negative (e.g. excellent or poor, contrasted with good or fair) than was the case with Iraq specifically. Partisan and gender patterns tend to mirror those for perceptions of Bush's dealing with Iraq.

"Voting" for President

	MAR03	JUN02	MAR02
Recalled 2000 vote			
BUSH	38%	45%	41%
GORE	30	29	30
NADER	3	3	3
BUCHANAN	*	1	*
SOMEONE ELSE	2	1	2
DIDN'T HAPPEN TO VOTE	19	17	18
INELIGIBLE (VOL.)	2	1	1
If had to do over			
BUSH	45%	55%	53%
GORE	32	27	25
NADER	4	5	4
BUCHANAN	*	*	*
SOMEONE ELSE	5	2	5
WOULD NOT VOTE	8	5	6
INELIGIBLE (VOL.)	--	*	1

Responses such as Don't Know or Refused are omitted

Across time, this areas seems to have slipped some from September (when six in ten called Bush either excellent or good) to January. Change since then has been modest, although there is little evidence of improvement. Most rate Bush the same overall as on this area at the individual level. If they do make a distinction, however, respondents are about twice as likely to see this area as weaker than his overall performance than to make the opposite distinction. If one compares dealing with foreign leaders to foreign policy overall, there is little NET tendency to make a distinction in one direction rather than another.

The final area was "dealing with North Korea", which as noted is where Bush does least well among foreign policy areas (but about as well as on the economy

overall). Only three in ten respondents rated Bush as either excellent (8%) or good (21%) in this area, contrasted with the six in ten who opted for fair (36%) or poor (24%). Bush's current ratings for his dealing with this other member of the "axis of evil" is modestly down since February. It is now also lower than it was in January but distinctions are down.

Once again, partisan differences are evident, with Republicans quite a bit more positive than Democrats, and Independents closer to Democrats than Republicans. Gender, however is much more muted. Compared to both overall ratings and foreign policy ratings, the largest single group rates Bush the same on both these more general areas and dealing with North Korea. If a distinction IS made, however, respondents are more likely to rate either general area (and particular overall job handling) more positively than the opposite.

Two questions (actually asked immediately after the overall rating) requested respondents to revisit the 2000 election and report how they had originally voted and how they would vote if given the chance to do it all over again.

Bush "wins" retrospectively, by a 38% to 30% margin over Al Gore, with Nader garnering 3% and Buchanan less than one half a percent. The remainder claimed to have voted for someone else, not voted, not to have been eligible or otherwise did not answer the question.

It should be noted that it is not at all uncommon for the winner of an election to do better in such questions than he or she actually did in the polls. (Bush narrowly lost the state in actuality). To some extent this seems to reflect a rallying around the winner (with people "remembering" voting for the incumbent, and the extent of the phenomenon varies. Indeed, in March 2002, Bush did at least as well as he now does, and by June of last year, even more "recalled" voting for him. Partisan patterns make sense, with Republicans onesidedly for Bush, and Democrats strongly, if not quite so solidly for Gore.

Respondents were also asked how they would vote "if you had it to do all over again". Bush increases his margin over Gore to 45% to 32%, with Nader hovering at 4%, and one in eight saying they either would not vote or would cast a ballot for someone else. This remains some positive news for Bush, although - not inconsistent with a number of other items, it suggests he is not in quite as strong a position as he was last year. Last March, Bush "won" the re-enacted matchup by a 53%-25% margin. By June, that was a perhaps modestly greater edge at 55%-27%. While this latter distinction is too small to put too much faith in as reflecting a real shift in the population, Bush's current status in this regard is somewhat less secure.

Statewide Marginals and Percentages for Key Groups

What follows is the exact question wording for each of the items referred to in the release. All results shown are for the basic sample of state residents. The first column is the percentage of the entire sample giving each response. The second and third reports the percentages for men and women separately. The fourth, fifth, and sixth columns show self-described Democrats, Independents, and Republicans. Columns seven through ten group respondents by age.

Q01. INTERVIEWER: (DO NOT ASK) Enter respondent's gender

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
MALE	49%	100%	--%	37%	61%	55%	55%	47%	47%	54%
FEMALE	51	--	100	63	39	45	46	53	53	47

Q02. How would you rate the job George W. Bush is doing as President?
Excellent, good, fair or poor?

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Excellent	18%	22%	15%	1%	17%	44%	12%	18%	21%	18%
Good	35	35	36	29	37	44	40	40	33	31
Fair	30	29	30	41	32	9	29	28	29	32
Poor	16	13	18	28	14	4	15	13	17	18
TOO SOON TO TELL(vol.)	*	--	*	*	--	--	--	--	--	1
DON'T KNOW	1	1	1	1	*	--	2	2	--	1
REFUSED	*	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--

BUSH04. In the 2000 presidential election, did you vote for Bush, Gore, Nader, Buchanan, someone else, or didn't you happen to vote in that election?

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
BUSH	38%	40%	36%	7%	37%	87%	27%	41%	40%	38%
GORE	30	25	34	59	23	5	16	22	33	43
NADER	3	4	2	2	8	--	7	4	2	2
BUCHANAN	*	1	--	--	1	1	--	1	--	--
SOMEONE ELSE	2	2	2	3	5	--	--	--	6	2
DIDN'T HAPPEN TO VOTE	19	21	18	24	18	4	40	24	12	11
INELIGIBLE (VOL.)	2	2	2	4	1	1	9	1	--	--
DON'T KNOW	2	3	2	1	4	1	--	1	4	3
REFUSED	3	3	4	2	4	1	--	6	3	1

BUSH05. If you had it to do all over again, would you vote for Bush, Gore, Nader, Buchanan, someone else, or wouldn't you vote?

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
BUSH	45%	49%	41%	15%	44%	88%	43%	47%	47%	41%
GORE	32	27	36	65	23	8	32	26	32	38
NADER	4	4	3	4	7	1	9	4	3	3
BUCHANAN	*	*	--	--	1	--	--	1	--	--
SOMEONE ELSE	5	4	6	6	8	--	2	4	8	6
WOULD NOT VOTE	8	9	7	6	7	2	11	10	3	7
INELIGIBLE (VOL.)	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
DON'T KNOW	3	3	3	2	5	1	4	1	4	4
REFUSED	4	4	3	3	5	*	--	7	3	1

BUSH05X. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM, from BUSH04, BUSH05) Comparison of reported vote, preference if had to do over again ("For" means for Bush, "against" means prefer other candidate, "other" means no vote, ineligible, DK, etc.)

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
BOTH FOR BUSH	35%	38%	33%	6%	35%	83%	25%	39%	38%	35%
WAS AGAINST/NOW FOR	3	4	2	4	2	1	3	1	3	5
WAS OTHER/NOW FOR	7	8	6	6	7	4	16	7	6	2
WAS FOR/NOW AGAINST	1	*	2	*	1	2	--	2	1	1
BOTH AGAINST	31	26	36	58	31	5	21	24	37	40
WAS OTHER/NOW AGAINST	9	10	8	16	8	3	21	9	5	6
WAS FOR/NOW OTHER	1	2	1	*	2	2	2	1	1	3
WAS AGAINST/NOW OTHER	1	2	1	1	3	--	--	1	1	3
BOTH OTHER	12	11	12	9	12	1	12	16	8	7

GWB04. How would you rate the job George W. Bush is doing handling foreign policy? Excellent, good, fair or poor?

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
EXCELLENT	13%	15%	12%	1%	12%	32%	7%	14%	15%	12%
GOOD	33	34	32	22	29	49	29	33	34	32
FAIR	30	29	30	42	31	11	41	27	27	29
POOR	23	22	23	32	25	7	24	22	23	24
DON'T KNOW	2	1	3	3	3	*	--	4	1	4
REFUSED	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

GWB05. How would you rate the job George W. Bush is doing dealing with problems here at home? (PROMPT FOR CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY)

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
EXCELLENT	6%	5%	6%	1%	5%	13%	2%	7%	6%	7%
GOOD	33	34	32	13	32	58	35	36	37	25
FAIR	35	35	35	44	34	23	38	35	32	37
POOR	25	25	24	40	27	6	20	21	25	31
DON'T KNOW	2	1	3	2	2	--	3	2	1	1
REFUSED	*	1	--	--	--	--	2	--	--	--

GWB06. How would you rate the job George W. Bush is doing handling the economy? (PROMPT FOR CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY)

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
EXCELLENT	5%	6%	5%	2%	3%	13%	6%	7%	5%	3%
GOOD	22	24	19	9	16	41	25	23	23	16
FAIR	39	36	42	34	44	35	35	39	37	42
POOR	32	33	32	54	34	9	33	29	33	36
DON'T KNOW	2	1	3	1	3	2	--	2	1	4
REFUSED	*	1	*	*	--	--	2	--	--	--

GWB07. Dealing with terrorism? (PROMPT FOR CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY)

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
EXCELLENT	20%	27%	14%	2%	18%	49%	16%	20%	24%	17%
GOOD	46	45	46	44	54	37	47	44	43	52
FAIR	25	22	28	36	21	11	31	27	21	23
POOR	9	6	12	18	7	2	7	9	11	8
DON'T KNOW	1	*	1	*	--	1	--	1	1	1
REFUSED	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

GWB08. Dealing with Iraq? (PROMPT FOR CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY)

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
EXCELLENT	18%	23%	13%	3%	15%	44%	15%	19%	21%	13%
GOOD	31	32	30	25	32	36	32	30	31	31
FAIR	26	23	29	36	25	12	26	29	23	29
POOR	23	20	26	35	26	6	27	21	24	24
DON'T KNOW	2	2	2	2	2	1	--	2	1	3
REFUSED	*	--	*	--	--	*	--	--	--	1

GWB08A. Dealing with North Korea? (PROMPT FOR CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY)

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
EXCELLENT	8%	8%	8%	1%	8%	19%	3%	11%	9%	6%
GOOD	21	25	18	10	18	40	25	21	23	17
FAIR	36	34	37	45	32	23	28	38	39	34
POOR	24	24	23	33	33	8	32	17	20	31
DON'T KNOW	11	9	13	11	8	11	12	13	10	11
REFUSED	*	--	*	--	--	*	--	--	--	1

GWB09. Dealing with leaders of other countries? (PROMPT FOR CATEGORIES AS NECESSARY)

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
EXCELLENT	11%	12%	10%	2%	10%	23%	6%	15%	10%	7%
GOOD	36	41	31	24	34	51	44	27	42	39
FAIR	33	29	37	45	32	19	39	38	27	30
POOR	17	17	18	25	21	6	9	17	18	22
DON'T KNOW	3	2	4	5	2	1	2	4	3	2
REFUSED	*	--	*	--	--	*	--	--	--	1

GWBX1. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of overall rating with foreign policy

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Overall higher	26%	29%	24%	22%	32%	23%	29%	30%	25%	24%
Both same	62	60	64	60	58	75	61	59	64	63
Foreign higher	9	8	9	14	7	3	6	8	10	9
One/Both DK	3	2	4	4	3	*	5	4	1	4

GWBX2. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of overall rating with problems at home

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Overall higher	40%	47%	33%	33%	42%	49%	41%	40%	37%	43%
Both same	51	49	54	54	50	49	43	51	59	47
Problems home higher	7	4	10	11	6	3	11	7	4	8
One/Both DK	2	2	3	2	2	--	6	2	1	2

GWBX3. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of overall rating with handling economy

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Overall higher	51%	56%	46%	44%	56%	62%	50%	51%	51%	51%
Both same	42	37	46	48	38	33	32	44	43	42
Economy higher	4	4	5	7	3	3	13	3	4	3
One/Both DK	3	2	4	2	3	2	5	2	1	5

GWBX4. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of overall rating with dealing with terrorism

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Overall higher	12%	11%	13%	11%	14%	11%	10%	16%	9%	14%
Both same	59	56	62	56	53	69	59	60	62	51
Terrorism higher	27	32	24	32	32	19	26	22	28	34
One/Both DK	2	2	2	1	*	1	5	2	1	1

GWBX5. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of overall rating with dealing with Iraq

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Overall higher	26%	25%	26%	24%	33%	20%	26%	28%	25%	24%
Both same	57	53	61	56	51	66	53	55	57	61
Iraq higher	15	19	10	17	14	13	16	15	17	12
One/Both DK	3	3	2	3	2	2	5	3	1	4

GWBX6. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of overall rating with dealing with North Korea

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Overall higher	37%	41%	34%	33%	43%	40%	42%	37%	37%	36%
Both same	44	43	44	43	45	44	37	41	45	47
North Korea higher	7	7	8	12	3	5	7	9	9	5
One/Both DK	12	9	14	11	8	11	15	13	10	12

GWBX7. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of overall rating with dealing with foreign leaders

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Overall higher	28%	30%	25%	19%	31%	38%	21%	31%	26%	29%
Both same	54	53	56	55	55	54	52	54	56	54
Leaders higher	14	14	14	21	12	7	21	11	16	14
One/Both DK	4	3	5	5	3	1	7	4	3	3

GWBF2. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of foreign policy with problems at home

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Foreign higher	30%	36%	24%	30%	27%	37%	27%	31%	28%	33%
Both same	52	48	55	48	51	54	49	47	57	53
Problems home higher	15	14	16	18	18	8	19	18	14	11
One/Both DK	3	2	4	4	4	*	6	4	1	4

GWBF4. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of foreign policy with dealing with terrorism

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Foreign higher	9%	8%	9%	9%	6%	9%	7%	11%	8%	7%
Both same	48	42	54	49	46	56	41	47	50	51
Terrorism higher	40	48	33	39	45	33	52	37	41	38
One/Both DK	3	2	4	4	3	1	--	5	1	4

GWBF5. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of foreign rating with dealing with Iraq

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Foreign higher	14%	11%	16%	13%	12%	13%	16%	14%	14%	11%
Both same	64	63	65	68	66	62	58	62	63	70
Iraq higher	19	24	15	14	17	24	26	19	21	14
One/Both DK	3	3	4	4	4	2	--	4	2	6

GWBF6. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of foreign rating with dealing with North Korea

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Foreign higher	29%	31%	26%	29%	32%	29%	31%	26%	30%	28%
Both same	48	47	48	46	46	52	41	46	47	53
North Korea higher	12	12	11	13	12	8	16	14	13	6
One/Both DK	12	10	15	12	11	11	12	14	10	14

GWBF7. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of foreign rating with dealing with foreign leaders

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Foreign higher	17%	17%	17%	13%	17%	25%	10%	21%	14%	20%
Both same	59	59	59	59	58	63	52	57	65	57
Leaders higher	19	21	17	21	20	10	36	17	17	17
One/both DK	5	3	6	7	5	2	2	6	4	6

GWBD3. (CONSTRUCTED ITEM) Comparison of problems home with handling economy

	GENDER			PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
	TOT	M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
Problems home higher	25%	23%	27%	25%	31%	24%	29%	26%	24%	25%
Both same	65	65	65	65	57	67	48	64	71	64
Economy higher	7	10	5	8	8	7	17	7	4	8
One/Both DK	3	2	4	2	4	2	6	2	2	4

QD05. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
DEMOCRAT	34%	26%	41%	100%	--%	--%	39%	31%	32%	34%
REPUBLICAN	26	29	23	--	--	100	29	28	24	25
INDEPENDENT	26	33	20	--	100	--	16	23	29	33
OTHER	8	8	9	--	--	--	7	13	8	4
NONE	4	4	5	--	--	--	4	5	3	4
DON'T KNOW	1	*	1	--	--	--	3	--	1	--
REFUSED	1	1	1	--	--	--	2	*	1	1

QD11. In what year were you born? (ENTER FOUR-DIGIT YEAR) (Calculated and grouped as below)

	TOT	GENDER		PARTISANSHIP			AGE IN YEARS			
		M	F	DEM	IND	REP	<30	<45	<60	60+
18-29	13%	15%	12%	16%	8%	15%	100%	--%	--%	--%
30-44	30	29	31	28	26	33	--	100	--	--
45-59	31	30	31	30	34	28	--	--	100	--
60 and over	24	26	21	24	29	23	--	--	--	100
DK/REFUSED	3	1	5	3	3	2	--	--	--	--

* denotes less than .5%

-- denotes 0%

HOW THE POLL WAS DONE

This BADGER POLL™ was conducted by the University of Wisconsin Survey Center as part of its ongoing program of research designed to benefit the research community and the people of Wisconsin, under the direction of G. Donald Ferree, Jr., Associate Director for Public Opinion Research of the Center. The media sponsors of the survey are the (Madison) Capital Times, and the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel. The BADGER POLL™ is intended to be a "poll of record" for the state, investigating matters of concern to Wisconsinites including politics, culture, and their daily lives, adhering to the highest standards of polling methodology and rigorous independence.

A total of 507 randomly chosen state residents were interviewed for this survey by telephone between March 4 and 12, inclusive. Telephone numbers were generated by computer in proportion to the number of adults living in each area of the state. Theoretically, results from this survey have a "margin of error" of a little over +/- 4%. This means that, had we asked every eligible resident in Wisconsin, exactly these questions at the time the survey was conducted, there is only a one in twenty chance that the answers would differ by more than that in either direction from what we report here. There could be differences because of changes in question wording, events occurring in the meantime, or any of the practical difficulties involved in taking a scientific survey. Results based on subgroups are subject to a larger "margin of error".