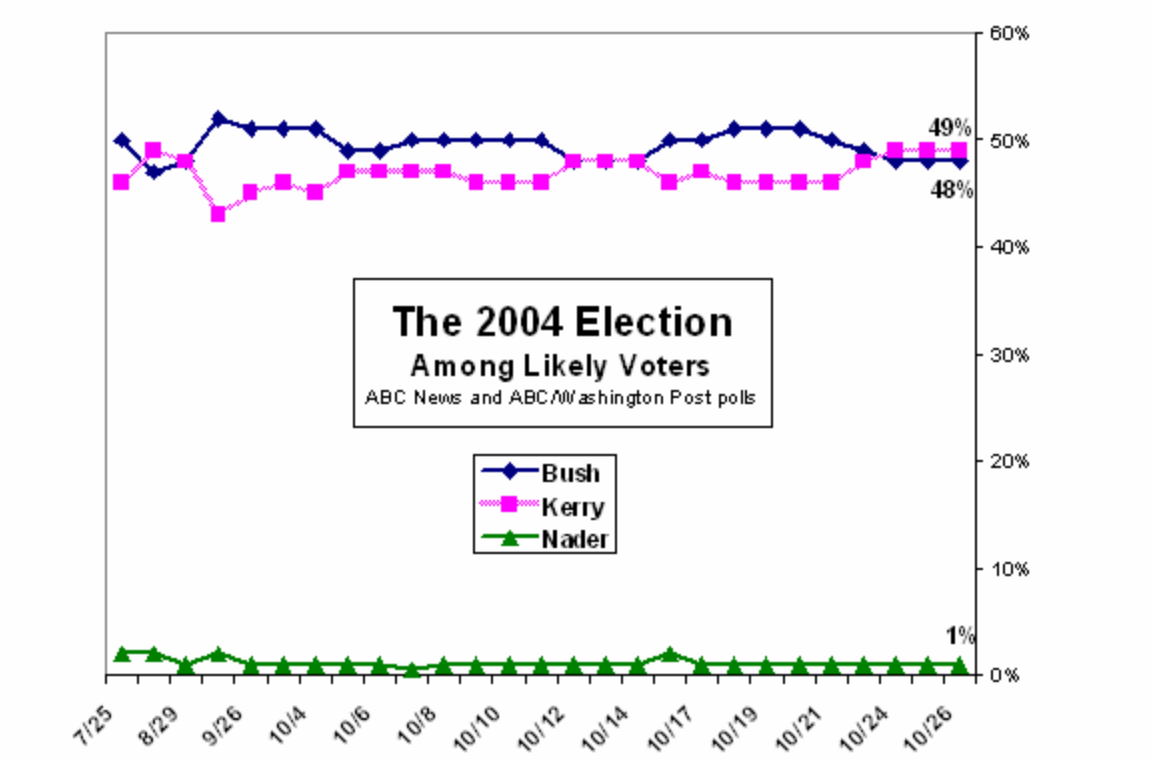
ABC NEWS POLL: CAMPAIGN TRACKING #21 – 10/26/04
EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2004

Anger Among Conservatives Rises But Still Doesn't Match Liberal Ire

Republican anger directed at John Kerry has risen in the past three weeks, but it still falls short of the ire Democrats direct at George W. Bush. That anger counters the greater enthusiasm Republicans feel for Bush – and it's one reason the race is close.

Bush overall has a nine-point advantage over Kerry in strong enthusiasm (down from its highest levels), while Kerry has a 20-point edge in the anger factor. The race may hinge on which of these sentiments turns out to be more powerful in driving people to the polls.

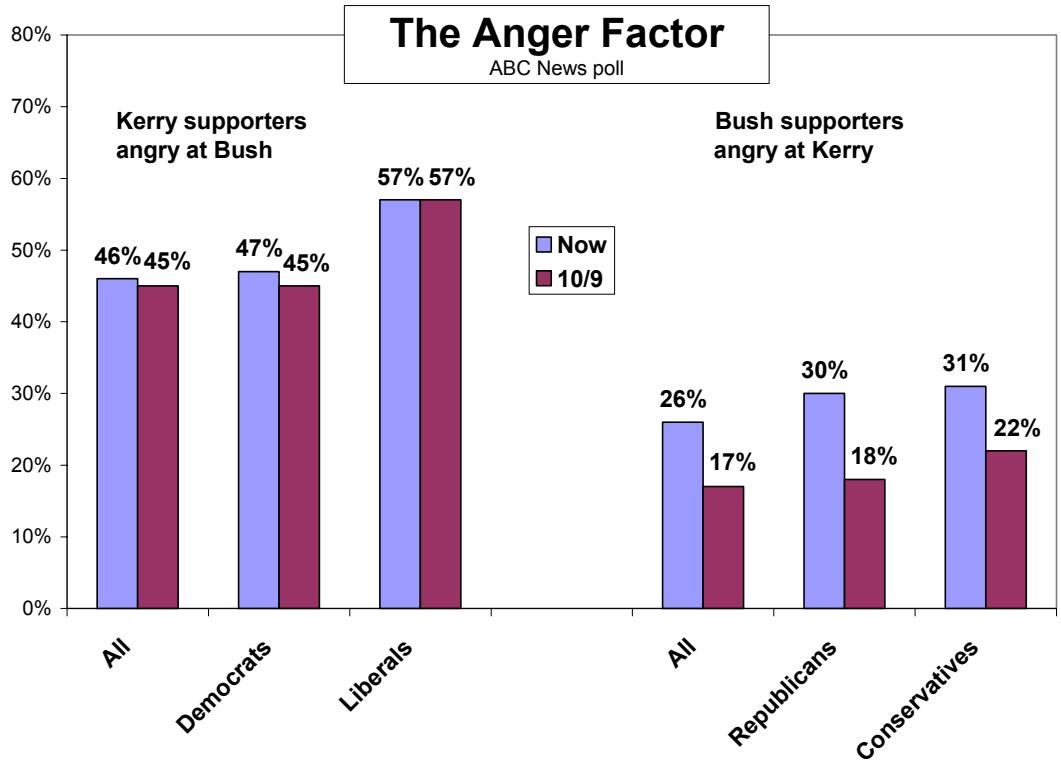
Turnout, of course, is key in a close race, and this one is: Same as the last two days, 49 percent of likely voters support Kerry and 48 percent favor Bush in the latest ABC News tracking poll, with one percent for Ralph Nader.



Today's result is from Saturday-Tuesday interviews, of which Monday and Tuesday nights were better for Bush, and Saturday and Sunday were two of Kerry's three best days since this tracking poll began Oct 1. A three-day average, excluding Saturday, shifts the numbers ever so slightly to 49-48 percent Bush-Kerry, still essentially a dead heat between them.

ANGER – Among likely voters who support Kerry, 46 percent are angry about Bush's policies, about the same as earlier this month. Among Bush supporters, fewer, 26 percent, are angry about the policies Kerry's proposed – but that's up from 17 percent previously.

Anger at Bush peaks among his ideological opposites, liberals, at 57 percent; and it's 47 percent among his political opposites, Democrats. Fewer conservatives or Republicans are angry at Kerry, 31 and 30 percent respectively. Again, though, that's up from 22 and 18 percent of conservatives and Republicans earlier this month.

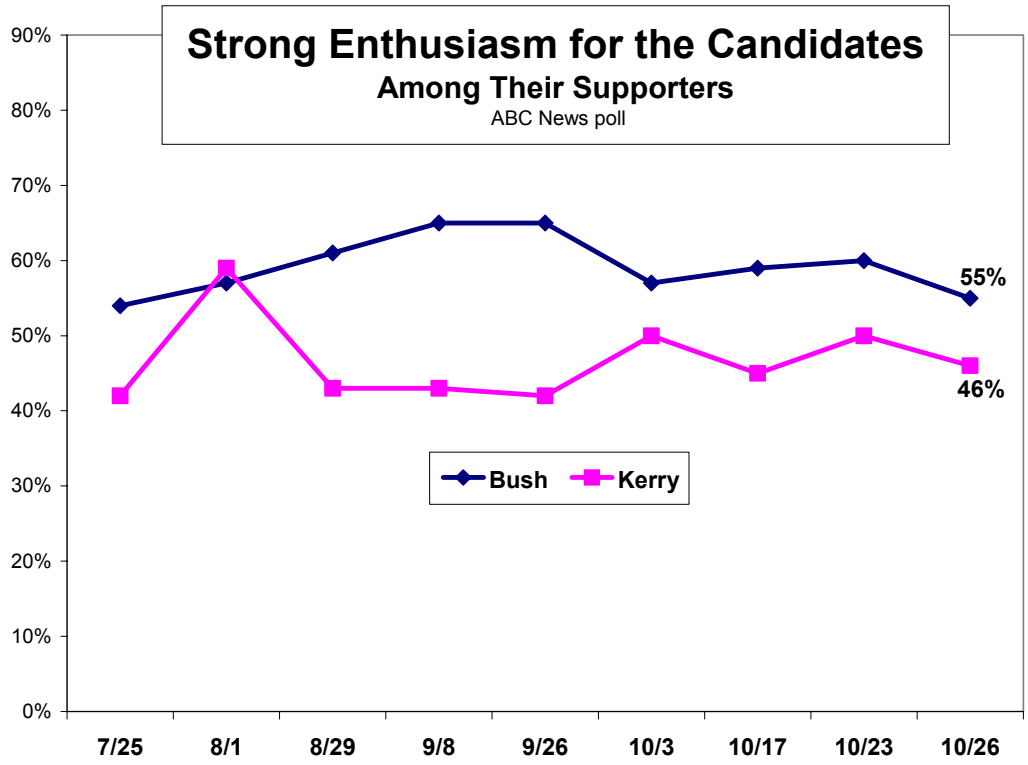


ENTHUSIASM – Enthusiasm is the flipside of anger, and here there's been some movement as well. Strong enthusiasm among Bush and Kerry supporters alike has decreased slightly in the last few days, perhaps as a result of the increased intensity of the candidates' rhetoric.

Today 55 percent of likely voters who support Bush are "very enthusiastic" about his candidacy, the fewest since late July, and down 10 points from its peak, 65 percent, on Sept. 26, shortly before the first presidential debate.

Among Kerry supporters, 46 percent say they're very enthusiastic, down four points from three days ago, also 13 points below its peak after his nominating convention.

While Bush has the advantage in enthusiasm, it's narrowed. His supporters were 22 points more apt to be "very enthusiastic" than Kerry's on Sept. 8, and 23 points more on Sept. 26. It got closer after Kerry's strong showing in the first debate.



SUPREME COURT – News this week of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist's thyroid cancer raised the issue of Supreme Court nominations as a possible factor in the campaign. This poll finds that likely voters trust Bush over Kerry to handle Supreme Court appointments, by 49-42 percent; it was 49-36 percent early last month, again right after Bush's convention.

Trust on Supreme Court appointments	
	Bush-Kerry
Now	49-42%
9/8	49-36

More Republicans and conservatives side with their man than Democrats and liberals with theirs. Eighty-nine percent of Republican likely voters and 81 percent of conservatives trust Bush more to handle Supreme Court appointments; that compares with three-quarters of Democrats and liberals for Kerry. (Bush also comes out ahead because there simply are more conservatives than liberals among likely voters, 35 percent to 20 percent.)

Trust on Supreme Court appointments	
	Bush-Kerry
Republicans	89-5%

Conservatives	81-13
Democrats	14-76
Liberals	15-76

Few voters volunteer the issue of court appointments as the single most important factor in their vote; nonetheless, in a close race any and every issue can matter. Rehnquist's illness gives both candidates an opportunity to invigorate their bases about the high court's importance in hot-button issues such as abortion and gay marriage.

NADER – Finally there's the Nader factor. He's attracted just one percent support across ABC News tracking polls. Aggregating all registered voters who support him indicates that his support comes far more from political independents than from Democrats or Republicans (although a bit more of the former), and that his supporters are younger – a third of them age 18 to 29 – less likely to be following the race very closely, and less apt to be political conservatives. Nader supporters also are much less apt to cite terrorism as their top issue, and much more apt to cite the economy.

This profile suggests Nader may take more support from Kerry than from Bush, since Kerry, too, does better with young and single voters and with those concerned with the economy. At the same time, with just one percent support, it's entirely possible that Nader is not drawing significantly from either Kerry or Bush, and instead mainly attracting supporters who otherwise wouldn't vote.

	Among registered voters	
	All	Nader supporters*
Democrat	34%	19%
Republican	32	11
Independent	29	61
Liberal	20	30
Moderate	41	43
Conservative	35	17
Following race very closely	55	30
Age 18-29	17	33
Married	63	41
Single	37	59
Male	47	57
Female	53	43
Priority: Terrorism	20	5
Iraq	21	13
Economy	24	39
Education	4	10
Health care	10	14
Something else	17	21

*Nader supporters, since 10/1; others, since 10/23

METHODOLOGY – This poll was conducted October 23-26 among a random national sample of 2,412 adults, including 2,107 registered voters and 1,709 likely voters. The results have a 2.5-point error margin for the likely voter sample. ABC News and The Washington Post are sharing data collection for this tracking poll, then independently applying their own models to arrive at likely voter estimates. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Cheryl Arnedt.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html.

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934, or Lisa Finkel, (212) 456-6190.

Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

3. (and 3a) If the 2004 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for (George W. Bush and Dick Cheney, the Republicans), (John Kerry and John Edwards, the Democrats), or Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo, the independents? Which candidate are you leaning toward?

Net Leaned Vote, Likely Voters:

	Bush	Kerry	Nader	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote	No op.
10/26/04	48	49	1	*	*	0	1
10/25/04	48	49	1	*	*	0	1
10/24/04	48	49	1	*	1	0	1
10/23/04	49	48	1	*	1	*	2
10/21/04	50	46	1	*	1	*	2
10/20/04	51	46	1	*	*	*	2
10/19/04	51	46	1	*	*	*	2
10/18/04	51	46	1	*	*	0	2
10/17/04	50	47	1	*	*	*	2
10/16/04	50	46	2	*	*	*	2
10/14/04	48	48	1	*	1	*	1
10/13/04	48	48	1	*	1	0	2
10/12/04	48	48	1	*	1	0	2
10/11/04	50	46	1	*	1	0	2
10/10/04	50	46	1	*	1	0	2
10/9/04	50	46	1	*	1	0	2
10/8/04	50	47	1	*	1	0	2
10/7/04	50	47	*	*	1	0	1
10/6/04	49	47	1	1	1	0	1
10/5/04	49	47	1	1	1	0	1
10/4/04	51	45	1	*	1	0	1
10/3/04	51	46	1	*	1	*	1
9/26/04	51	45	1	*	1	0	2
9/8/04	52	43	2	*	1	0	2
8/29/04	48	48	1	*	1	0	2
8/1/04	47	49	2	*	1	0	1
7/25/04	50	46	2	*	1	*	1

Net Leaned Vote, Registered Voters:

	Bush	Kerry	Nader	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote	No op.
10/26/04	47	47	1	1	1	*	2
10/25/04	47	47	2	*	1	*	2
10/24/04	47	47	2	*	1	*	2
10/23/04	49	45	1	*	1	*	3
10/21/04	50	44	1	*	1	*	3
10/20/04	51	44	1	*	1	*	3
10/19/04	51	44	1	*	1	*	2
10/18/04	51	44	1	*	1	*	3
10/17/04	49	46	1	*	1	*	3
10/16/04	49	45	2	*	1	*	3
10/14/04	47	48	2	*	1	*	2
10/13/04	47	47	2	*	2	*	2
10/12/04	47	47	2	*	2	*	2
10/11/04	48	46	2	*	1	*	2
10/10/04	48	46	1	*	1	*	3
10/9/04	48	47	1	*	2	*	3
10/8/04	48	46	1	*	2	*	3
10/7/04	48	47	1	*	2	*	2
10/6/04	49	46	1	1	2	*	2
10/5/04	50	45	2	*	1	*	2
10/4/04	52	43	2	*	1	*	2
10/3/04	50	45	2	*	1	*	2
9/26/04	51	44	2	1	1	*	2
9/8/04	50	44	2	*	2	*	2
8/29/04	48	47	2	*	1	*	2
8/1/04	44	50	2	*	1	1	2
7/25/04	48	46	3	*	1	*	1
7/11/04	46	46	4	1	2	1	1
6/20/04	44	48	6	*	1	*	1
5/23/04	46	46	4	*	1	1	1
4/18/04	48	43	6	*	2	1	*
3/7/04	44	48	3	*	1	2	2

4. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE) Will you definitely vote for (CANDIDATE), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else? (IF CHANCE CHANGE MIND) Is there a good chance you'll change your mind, or would you say it's pretty unlikely?

		Definitely vote	---Chance change mind---- NET	Good	Unlikely	No opin.
Likely voters:						
10/26/04	All	91	8	3	6	1
	Bush	90	9	2	7	*
	Kerry	93	7	2	4	1

Call for full trend.

5. (AMONG LEANED BUSH SUPPORTERS) How do you personally feel about the policies that Kerry has proposed - enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

		---------Positive--------- NET	Enthus.	Satis.	--------Negative--------- NET	Dissat.	Angry	No op.
10/26/04	LV	13	2	11	84	59	26	3
10/9/04	LV	19	2	17	77	60	17	4

6. (AMONG LEANED KERRY SUPPORTERS) How do you personally feel about the Bush administration's policies – enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	---------Positive---------			--------Negative---------			No
	NET	Enthus.	Satis.	NET	Dissat.	Angry	op.
10/26/04 LV	5	1	4	94	48	46	1
10/9/04 LV	6	1	5	94	48	45	*

7. Thinking about his candidacy for president so far, how enthusiastic are you about (Bush/Kerry) - very enthusiastic, fairly enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

10/26/04 - Summary Table - Among Likely Voters, Leaned Bush/Kerry Supporters

	----Enthusiastic---			-----Not Enthusiastic-----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	op.
a. Bush	91	55	36	9	8	1	*
b. Kerry	92	46	47	7	6	1	1

Trend:

	----Enthusiastic---			-----Not Enthusiastic-----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	op.
Bush:							
10/26/04 LV	91	55	36	9	8	1	*
10/23/04 LV	93	60	33	7	6	1	*
10/17/04 LV	93	59	35	6	6	1	1
10/3/04 LV	94	57	37	6	4	1	*
9/26/04 LV	94	65	29	5	4	1	1
RV	91	61	31	8	6	2	*
9/8/04 RV	95	63	32	5	4	*	*
8/29/04 RV	94	56	38	6	5	1	*
8/1/04 RV	90	53	37	10	8	2	*
7/25/04 RV	90	49	41	10	8	1	*
6/20/04 RV	90	50	40	9	7	2	*
All	90	48	42	10	8	2	*
Kerry:							
10/26/04 LV	92	46	47	7	6	1	1
10/23/04 LV	91	50	41	9	7	1	1
10/17/04 LV	94	45	49	6	5	1	*
10/3/04 LV	91	50	42	8	8	*	1
9/26/04 LV	85	42	43	13	10	4	1
RV	87	39	47	12	9	3	1
9/8/04 RV	85	39	46	14	10	4	1
8/29/04 RV	89	40	49	11	9	2	*
8/1/04 RV	92	56	36	7	6	1	1
7/25/04 RV	90	41	49	10	9	1	0
6/20/04 RV	85	34	51	15	12	3	0
All	83	33	50	17	13	4	0

8. Who do you trust to do a better job handling appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court, (Bush) or (Kerry)?

	Bush	Kerry	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
10/26/04 LV	49	42	*	3	5
9/8/04 LV	49	36	1	2	12
RV	46	36	1	3	15

END