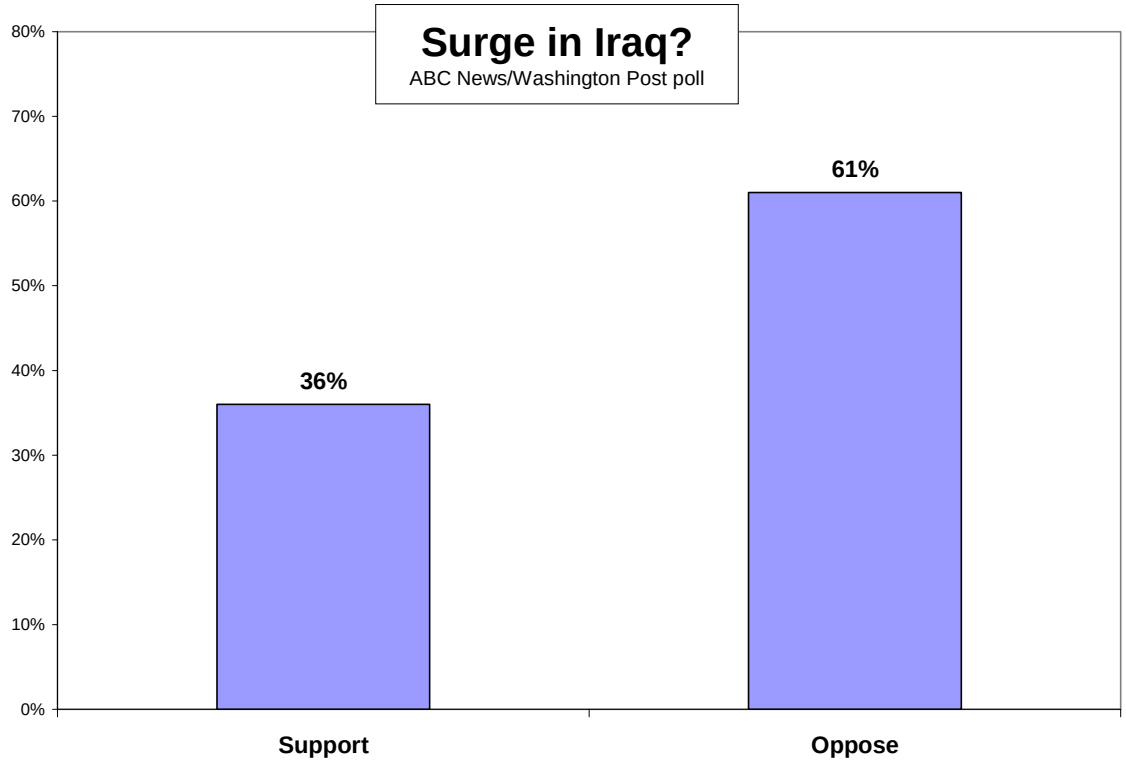
ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL: THE IRAQ ADDRESS – 1/10/07
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Six in 10 Oppose Troop Surge in Iraq; Most Doubt it'll Speed an End to War

Americans broadly reject George W. Bush's plan for a surge of U.S. forces into Iraq, with substantial majorities dismissing his arguments that it'll end the war more quickly and increase the odds of victory, an ABC News/Washington Post poll finds.

Indeed, rather than Bush bolstering public confidence, the national survey, conducted after his address to the nation on his new Iraq strategy, finds that a new high – 57 percent – think the United States is losing the war. Just 29 percent think it's winning.

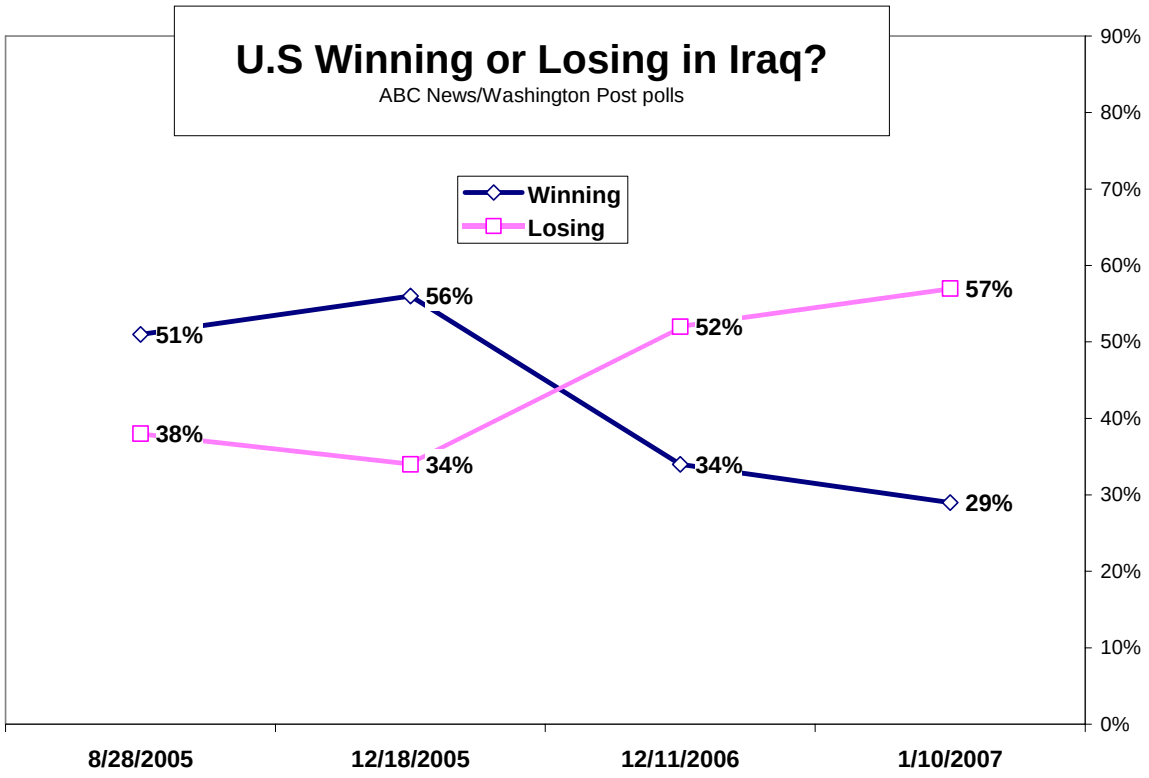


These and other results underscore the depth of the challenge Bush faces in reversing public skepticism on Iraq. Sixty-one percent of Americans oppose his proposal to send more than 20,000 additional U.S. military forces there; 36 percent support it. Fifty-eight percent continue to say the war was not worth fighting, essentially unchanged from a month ago. Sixty-four percent disapprove of how he's handling the situation.

Barely three in 10 accept Bush's assertion that a troop increase now will end the war more quickly; instead two-thirds think it won't make much difference in the length of the

conflict (48 percent) or instead will prolong it (19 percent). Similarly, while 36 percent think the surge will make victory more likely, more than six in 10 say it either won't change the odds of victory (53 percent) or will even make them worse (10 percent).

Intensity of sentiment, as well, is heavily against Bush. Just a quarter of Americans "strongly" support his proposal to send additional forces to Iraq; by contrast twice as many, 52 percent, strongly oppose it.



Nor do most Americans express faith in the Iraqi government, whose performance Bush portrayed as central in his strategy. Fifty-seven percent say they're not confident in the ability of the Iraqi government to meet its commitments in the effort to restore civil order.

Seven in 10, moreover, say U.S. military and economic aid to the Iraqis should be tied to their meeting performance benchmarks in stabilizing the country politically and economically – a requirement Bush himself did not propose. Notably, agreement on this question crosses partisan lines – about seven in 10 Republicans, Democrats and independents alike agree on tying aid to performance by the Iraqi government.

Partisanship is rife elsewhere. On the surge, for example, 73 percent of Republicans are in favor; that dives to 39 percent of independents, and a mere six percent of Democrats.

FIGHT? – Not everyone is spoiling for a political fight in Washington: While just over six in 10 Americans oppose the surge, somewhat fewer, 53 percent, think the Democrats in Congress should try to block it; instead 44 percent think they should stand aside.

That's because independents, who're more apt to shun political battles, divide almost evenly on this question, while Democrats and Republicans are diametrically opposed.

The Democrats also have a lessened advantage over Bush in overall trust to handle the situation in Iraq – a 47-36 percent lead, down from 56-32 percent in their post-election high last month. More, 12 percent, instead now say they don't trust either party to deal with the situation – perhaps a reflection of frustration with the available options.

AUDIENCE – In perhaps another sign of fatigue, Bush's audience – while broad by any standard – was far below his peak. Forty-two percent say they watched or listened to any of his speech last night. By contrast, 72 percent watched his address on March 17, 2003, announcing a two-day deadline for the start of the war.

As is often the case, people who tuned in to the address last night were more favorably inclined toward Bush's proposals. In general, supporters are more apt to watch policy addresses, while opponents are more likely to find something else to do. In this case, for instance, about half of Republicans tuned in, compared with 37 percent of Democrats. And the speech attracted 54 percent of Bush approvers on Iraq, but just 35 percent of disapprovers.

BETTER – A few trends are somewhat better for Bush than the overall views on his plan. Approval of his handling of the situation in Iraq is up by six points from last month, albeit just to 34 percent, and "strong" approval is up by nine points. But strong disapprovers still vastly outnumber strong approvers, 50 percent to 21 percent.

Also, the public divides about evenly on Bush's position that victory in Iraq is required for success in the war on terrorism more broadly: Forty-five percent accept this argument, while 47 percent reject it. This line of argument looks likes Bush's best prospect; among people who believe victory in Iraq is necessary, 66 percent support his proposed troop surge. Among those who say the war on terrorism can be won without victory in Iraq, by contrast, 87 percent oppose the surge.

One final result indicates that critics' use of language sometimes associated with the Vietnam war – such as "escalation" – hasn't influenced perceptions that the Iraq war will turn into a Vietnam-style involvement for the United States. Forty-four percent of Americans see another Vietnam in Iraq, but that's essentially unchanged from this fall, and indeed from its level a year and a half ago.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Jan. 10, 2007, among a random national sample of 502 adults. The results have a 4.5-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

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

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

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

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation in Iraq? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	Approve			Disapprove			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
1/10/07	34	21	13	64	14	50	2
12/11/06	28	12	16	70	13	57	2
10/8/06	35	21	14	64	10	54	1
9/7/06	41	25	16	57	10	47	2
8/6/06	36	21	15	62	10	52	2
6/25/06	37	21	17	62	11	52	*
5/15/06	32	19	13	66	13	53	1
4/9/06	37	21	16	62	11	51	1
3/5/06	40	23	17	59	12	47	*
1/26/06	39	24	15	60	10	50	1
12/18/05	46	31	15	53	10	43	1
11/2/05	36	20	15	64	13	51	1
9/11/05	38	NA	NA	62	NA	NA	1
8/28/05	42	28	14	57	11	46	1
6/26/05	43	25	18	56	12	44	1
6/5/05	41	NA	NA	58	NA	NA	1
4/24/05	42			56			2
3/13/05	39			57			4
1/16/05	40			58			2
12/19/04	42			57			1
9/26/04 RV	47			50			3
8/29/04 RV	47			51			2
7/25/04	45			53			2
6/20/04	44			55			2
5/23/04	40			58			2
4/18/04	45			54			1
3/7/04	46			53			1
2/11/04	47			52			1
1/18/04	55			42			2
12/21/03	60			39			2
12/14/03	58			38			4
11/16/03	48			48			4
10/29/03	47			51			2
10/13/03	51			47			2
9/29/03	50			47			3
9/13/03	52			46			2
9/7/03	49			47			4
8/24/03	56			37			7
8/11/03	56			41			3
7/10/03	58			41			2
6/22/03	67			30			2
4/30/03	75	"	"	22	"	"	2
3/27/03*	69			26			5
3/23/03	71			26			3
3/20/03	65			29			5
3/17/03	64			29			7
3/9/03	55			38			8
2/23/03	55			39			6
2/9/03	61			37			2
2/5/03	61			32			7
2/1/03	61			35			3
1/28/03	58			38			4
1/27/03	57			40			3
1/20/03	50			46			4

12/15/02	58	"	"	37	"	"	5
11/4/02 LV	56			40			4
11/3/02 LV	57			40			4
11/2/02 LV	56			41			3
10/27/02	57			38			5
9/26/02	58			39			3
9/14/02	65			31			4
8/29/02	52	"	"	36	"	"	12

*3/27/03 and previous: "The situation with Iraq and Saddam Hussein"

2. All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Worth fighting ----			--- Not worth fighting --			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
1/10/07	40	28	12	58	11	47	2
12/11/06	36	25	11	61	12	50	2
11/4/06 RV	44	33	12	53	10	44	2
10/22/06	40	28	12	57	11	47	2
10/8/06	35	25	10	63	13	50	2
9/7/06	42	29	13	56	11	45	2
8/6/06	39	29	10	59	12	47	1
6/25/06	40	25	15	58	13	45	2
5/15/06	37	24	14	62	12	50	1
4/9/06	41	30	11	58	10	48	1
3/5/06	42	29	14	57	11	46	1
1/26/06	44	32	12	55	13	42	1
1/8/06	43	30	13	55	12	43	2
12/18/05	46	33	14	52	11	42	1
11/2/05	39	25	13	60	12	48	1
8/28/05	46	33	12	53	9	44	1
6/26/05	46	33	13	53	10	43	1
6/5/05	41	29	12	58	12	46	1
4/24/05	44	31	13	54	12	42	2
3/13/05	45	34	11	53	11	42	2
1/16/05	44	32	12	55	10	45	1
12/19/04	42	31	11	56	10	47	2
10/3/04 LV	49	34	15	48	11	37	3
9/26/04 RV	46	35	12	51	8	42	3
9/8/04 RV	51	38	13	45	10	34	4
8/29/04 RV	48	34	14	50	11	39	2
7/25/04	49	36	13	48	11	37	3
6/20/04	47	32	14	52	13	39	2
5/23/04	48	35	13	50	13	37	1
5/6/04	49	NA	NA	47	NA	NA	5
4/18/04	51			47			2
3/7/04	52			44			3
2/11/04	48			50			2
1/18/04	56			41			3
12/21/03	59			39			2
12/14/03	53			42			5
11/16/03	52			44			4
10/29/03	54			44			2
10/13/03	54			44			2
9/13/03	61			37			2
9/7/03	54			42			4
8/24/03	57			37			5
8/11/03	61			35			4
7/10/03	57			40			3
6/22/03	64			33			3
4/30/03	70	"	"	27	"	"	4

2/2/92*	66	NA	NA	32	NA	NA	2
7/28/91	67			30			3
6/2/91	70			26			3
3/4/91	86	"	"	13	"	"	1

*2/2/92 and previous: "the Persian Gulf war"; 3/4/91: "this war"

3. Who do you trust to do a better job handling the situation in Iraq, (Bush) or (the Democrats in Congress)?

	Bush	Dems	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opin.
1/10/07	36	47	1	12	4
12/11/06	32	56	1	7	3
1/18/04	56	36	1	4	3
4/30/03	72	20	2	3	3

4. Did you happen to watch or listen to any of Bush's speech on Iraq tonight, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
1/10/07	42	58	0
3/17/03	72	28	*

5. Do you support or oppose Bush’s proposal to send approximately 22,000 additional U.S. military forces to Iraq? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	Support			Oppose			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
1/10/07	36	25	11	61	9	52	2

6. Do you think increasing the number of U.S. military forces in Iraq will (end the war more quickly), (make the war last longer), or not make much difference in the length of the war?

	End war more quickly	Make war last longer	Not make much difference	No opin.
1/10/07	29	19	48	4

7. Do you think the Democrats in Congress should or should not try to block Bush’s plan to send more troops to Iraq?

	Should	Should not	No opin.
1/10/07	53	44	3

8. Bush also proposed setting goals for the Iraqi government to meet to try to stabilize the country politically and economically. Do you think the United States should or should not reduce its military and financial support for Iraq if the Iraqi government fails to meet these goals?

	Should	Should not	No opin.
1/10/07	71	25	5

9. How confident are you in the ability of the Iraqi government to meet its commitments in the effort to restore civil order in Iraq – very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident, or not confident at all?

	------Confident------			------Not confident------			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opin.
1/10/07	41	4	37	57	30	26	3

10. All told, do you think the United States is winning or losing the war in Iraq?

	Winning	Losing	Neither/ tie (vol.)	No opinion
1/10/07	29	57	12	2
12/11/06	34	52	9	4
12/18/05	56	34	8	2
8/28/05	51	38	8	3

11. Do you think (the United States must win the war in Iraq in order for the broader war on terrorism to be a success), or do you think (the war on terrorism can be a success without the United States winning the war in Iraq?)

	US must win war in Iraq for success	Can be a success without US winning war in Iraq	No opin.
1/10/07	45	47	8

12. Do you think Bush’s plan makes the United States more likely to (win) the war in Iraq, more likely to (lose) the war in Iraq, or won’t it make much difference in the outcome?

	Win	Lose	Won’t make much difference	No opin.
1/10/07	36	10	53	2

13. Do you think the United States is heading for the same kind of involvement in Iraq as it had in the Vietnam war, or do you think the United States will avoid that kind of involvement this time?

	--------Same/Already in-------				
	NET	Same as Vietnam	Already in it (vol.)	Will avoid that	No opin.
1/10/07	44	38	5	50	6
10/22/06	45	40	5	50	5
6/5/05	45	42	3	52	3
Compare to: Afghanistan					
3/10/02	18	18	NA	77	5
Compare to: Serbia					
4/26/99	31	31	NA	65	4
Compare to: Bosnia					
11/29/95	33	33	NA	61	6
Compare to: Persian Gulf					
4/3/91*	8	8	NA	89	3
1/20/91*	11	11	NA	86	3
12/5/90	32	32	NA	66	3
11/15/90	26	26	NA	69	5
9/9/90	18	18	NA	78	4
8/20/90	22	22	NA	74	4

*Wording change: "Persian Gulf" in place of "Middle East"