



**NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY**
Social Research Laboratory

PO Box 15301, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011

www.nau.edu/srl

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For More Information:
Fred Solop, Director
NAU Social Research Laboratory
(928) 607-0488

**ARIZONANS CRITICAL OF BUSH'S IRAQ POLICY;
STATE DIVIDED OVER U.S. TROOP SURGE**

Fifty-six percent of Arizonans disapprove of the way President George W. Bush is handling the war in Iraq, according to results of a recent telephone survey. When asked about Bush's plan to send 20,000 more troops to Iraq, 49 percent of Arizonans favor the surge of troop strength and 47 percent oppose it. The President's legitimacy for conducting the war is waning in Arizona. More Arizonans now believe that Congress, rather than the President, should be primarily responsible for setting policy in Iraq: 41 percent prefer than Congress have this responsibility, versus 39 percent who say Iraq policy should be the responsibility of the President. Eleven percent of Arizonans want responsibility shared equally between the two branches.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted April 13-19, 2007 by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. The survey was conducted with 602 randomly-selected adults in Arizona. Survey results are valid at a +/- 4.1 percent margin of error, at a 95 percent confidence level.

ARIZONANS LACK CONFIDENCE IN BUSH'S HANDLING OF WAR

Arizona voted for George W. Bush in the last two election cycles, but now Arizonans are losing confidence in the President's ability to conduct war in Iraq, a central initiative of his time in office. Today, fifty-six percent of Arizonans disapprove of the way President Bush is

handling the war in Iraq. Only 40 percent of Arizonans approve of the way he is handling the war.

The major political parties do not see eye-to-eye on this issue. Almost three-quarters of Republicans (73%) approve of the way Bush is handling the war. In contrast, 88 percent of Democrats disapprove of the way the President is handling the war. Independents are closer to Democrats than Republicans on this issue, with two-thirds of Independents (68%) expressing disapproval of how Bush is handling the war.

Gender is not influencing attitudes on this issue. Thirty-eight percent of women approve of Bush's handling of the war and 57 percent disapprove. Among men, 42 percent approve and 55 percent disapprove of the way Bush is handling the war effort.

Fred Solop, Northern Arizona University pollster analyzed the results: "It's interesting to see how party affiliation has become an important lens through which Arizonans see the war in Iraq. Republicans in Arizona have unwavering support for their party's President, while Democrats strongly support the Democratic-controlled Congress. This issue is becoming a defining moment in political history and may very well shape the future of party politics Arizona beyond the Bush administration."

ARIZONANS SPLIT OVER WAR POLICY

Following the 2006 congressional elections, President Bush introduced a plan to send 20,000 more U.S. troops to Iraq. The goal of this policy initiative is to stabilize the nation. Attitudes toward this policy are split, with 49 percent of Arizona adults favoring the recent surge of troop strength and 47 percent opposing it.

Republicans and Democrats have opposite perspectives on this policy. Eighty percent of Republicans favor the policy of committing an additional 20,000 troops to Iraq while 82 percent of Democrats oppose this policy. Again, Independents align more closely with Democrats: Forty-one percent of Independents favor the recent surge and 53 percent oppose it.

More men support sending additional U.S. troops into Iraq, while more women oppose this new initiative. Fifty-six percent of men favor the President's new policy to send 20,000 more troops into Iraq. Only 42 percent of women favor the policy. More than half of all women (54%) oppose increasing troop strength in Iraq, in contrast to 41 percent of men.

A TUG OF WAR BETWEEN CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT

Today, Congress is responding to the President's handling of Iraq by demanding a timeframe for U.S. troop withdrawal. The President is currently refusing to sign this proposal into law but pressure is increasing. Arizonans are divided over which branch of government they think should be primarily responsible for conducting the war in Iraq. Forty-one percent of Arizonans believe Congress should play this role, while 39 percent say this is the role of the President. Eleven percent of Arizonans say both Congress and the President should share responsibility for conducting the war.

Once again, Republicans stand behind the President on this issue. Sixty-one percent of Republicans say the President should have primary responsibility for conducting the war in Iraq. Almost two-thirds of Democrats (63%) prefer that Congress have this responsibility. Slightly less than half of Independents (48%) think Iraq policy should be primarily handled by Congress and a third (32%) say it is the President's role.

There is a gender gap in the data on this issue as well. Forty-eight percent of women favor Congress having primary responsibility for the war in Iraq and 28 percent favor the President having this responsibility. The picture looks different for men where a third (33%) support Congress having this role and over half (51%) support the President.

Solop, the study director, commented, "While there's no apparent gender gap when it comes to evaluating how the President has handled the war so far, a significant gender gap emerges in the state when future conduct of the war is considered. This is a very conflictual issue in Arizona today. If the war continues much longer, this issue will spill over to electoral politics and will contribute to Arizona having contested elections in 2008."



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**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL
BACKGROUND MEMO**

Spring 2007

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between April 13-19, 2007. A random sample of 602 randomly-selected adults in Arizona was asked questions regarding politics in the state. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.1 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the war in Iraq?”

	Approve %	Strongly Approve %	Somewhat Approve %	Dis- approve %	Somewhat Disapprove %	Strongly Disapprove %	Don't Know %
Total	40	23	17	56	11	45	4
Republican	73	43	30	20	11	9	6
Democrat	10	4	6	88	8	80	1
Independent	29	16	13	68	11	57	3
Women	38	22	16	57	9	48	5
Men	42	23	19	55	14	41	3

"Regardless of how you feel about the war in general, do you favor or oppose President Bush's plan to send about 20,000 more U.S. troops to Iraq in an attempt to stabilize the situation there?"

	Favor %	Oppose %	Don't Know %
Total	49	47	4
Republican	80	17	4
Democrat	16	82	2
Independent	41	53	6
Women	42	54	5
Men	56	41	3

"Who do you think should be primarily responsible for setting U.S. policy in Iraq: Congress or the President?" [rotate options]

	Congress %	President %	Both %	Don't Know %
Total	41	39	11	9
Republican	20	61	15	5
Democrat	63	19	11	7
Independent	48	32	8	12
Women	48	28	14	11
Men	33	51	9	7