

18-29 Year-Olds' Views on the Presidential Election

Kerry Weakly Favored, Economy Top Issue

The following are among the key findings from a telephone survey conducted by CBS News on behalf of CIRCLE and MTV among 876 18-29 year-olds from September 8-13, 2004. The margin of error for this survey is +/-3%.

Bush and Kerry

- 46% of young registered voters favor Kerry and 40% favor Bush.
- 49% of young people disapprove of Bush's performance as president and 44% approve of Bush's performance.
- 29% of Kerry supporters support him because they dislike the other candidates, versus 5% of Bush supporters who support him because they dislike the others.
- 55% of Bush supporters say they strongly support their candidate compared to 33% for Kerry.
- 54% of young registered voters say Bush does not share their priorities compared to 40% for Kerry.
- 52% like President Bush personally, compared to 47% for Kerry.
- 41% of all young people say they would like to hang out with Bush for a day compared to 28% for Kerry.
- 35% say they would like to have Kerry as a teacher compared to 22% for Bush.

The Issues

- 35% chose the economy/jobs as the most important issue influencing their vote compared to 22% who chose terrorism and national security, 15% who chose the war in Iraq, and 12% who chose education.
- 49% think we did the right thing in taking action against Iraq, while 45% believe we should have stayed out.
- 59% think another terrorist attack is at least somewhat likely.
- 58% thinks that the country has gone seriously off track.

Critical Election

- 74% think that this is one of the most, if not the most, important election in their lifetime.
- 34% of registered voters say they are paying a lot of attention to this year's campaign compared to 16% in 2000.
- 75% of young people say they are registered to vote.