
ABC News Pre-Election Poll #1, October 1998

ABC News

ICPSR 2647

ABC NEWS PRE-ELECTION POLL #1, OCTOBER 1998

(ICPSR 2647)

Principal Investigator

ABC News

First ICPSR Version

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Inter-university Consortium for

Political and Social Research

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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News

ABC NEWS PRE-ELECTION POLL #1, OCTOBER 1998 (ICPSR 2647)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, fielded October 8-11, 1998, sought respondents' views on the upcoming November 2, 1998, congressional elections. Respondents were asked for their opinions of President Bill Clinton and his handling of the presidency and foreign affairs, as well as their views on the United States Congress and the state of the nation's economy. Those queried were asked which party they intended to cast their votes for in the congressional elections, which party they felt was better equipped to handle our nation's problems, and how likely it was that they would vote in November. Given what respondents knew about the Monica Lewinsky issue, they were asked for their opinions on the future of Clinton's second term. They were also asked for their views on the United States House of Representatives' recent vote to hold hearings into whether Clinton should be impeached, how their congressional representative's stance on that issue had influenced their electoral decisions, and how concerned they were with Clinton's behavior. Background information on respondents includes age, sex, race, education, political party, political orientation, voter registration and participation history, and family income.

NOTE: (1) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file. (2) This collection has not been processed by ICPSR staff. ICPSR is distributing the data and documentation for this collection in essentially the same form in which they were received. When appropriate, hardcopy documentation has been converted to machine-readable form and variables have been recoded to ensure respondents' anonymity. (3) The codebook is provided as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided through the ICPSR Website on the Internet.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DOC

Cases: 1,208
Variables: 64

ABC News/Washington Post Poll Region Code List

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1	NEW ENGLAND Connecticut Rhode Island	New Hampshire Vermont	Maine	Massachusetts
2	MIDDLE ATLANTIC New Jersey	New York	Pennsylvania	
3	EAST NORTH CENTRAL Illinois Michigan	Indiana	Ohio	Wisconsin
4	WEST NORTH CENTRAL Iowa Nebraska	Kansas North Dakota	Minnesota South Dakota	Missouri
5	SOUTH ATLANTIC Delaware Georgia Virginia	District of Columbia Maryland West Virginia	North Carolina	Florida South Carolina
6	EAST SOUTH CENTRAL Alabama	Kentucky	Mississippi	Tennessee
7	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL Arkansas	Louisiana	Oklahoma	Texas
8	MOUNTAIN Arizona Nevada	Colorado New Mexico	Idaho Utah	Montana Wyoming
9	PACIFIC Alaska Washington	California	Hawaii	Oregon

No polling is conducted in Alaska or Hawaii.

TNS INTERSEARCH
Horsham, PA

#DL-9301
October 15,1998

ABC PRE-ELECTION POLL

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling from TNS Intersearch.
We are doing a survey for ABC on some current events.

Our research experts have randomly selected the person in your household that I should speak to, so that all types of people will be represented in our survey. Thinking of all the male/female adults 18 years of age and older, living in this household and who are currently at home . . . may I please speak to the one who last had a birthday? (IF NO MALE/FEMALE IN THE HOUSEHOLD, ASK: Then may I please speak to the female/male who last had a birthday?) (REPEAT INTRODUCTION IF NEEDED)

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president? (GET ANSWER, THEN ASK: Do you feel that way strongly, or only somewhat?)

- 1 Approve Strongly
- 2 Approve Somewhat
- 3 Disapprove Strongly
- 4 Disapprove Somewhat
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling foreign affairs?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is doing its job?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way your own representative to the U.S. House of Representatives in Congress is handling his or her job?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

5. Do you think the member of Congress from the area where you live deserves to be re-elected, or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

6. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as very good, good, bad or very bad?

- 1 Very good
- 2 Good
- 3 Bad
- 4 Very bad
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

7. How do you feel about the direction of the nation's economy in the next few years - would you say you're very worried about it, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

- 1 Very worried
- 2 Somewhat worried
- 3 Not too worried
- 4 Not worried at all
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

8. Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years?

- 1 Democrats
- 2 Republicans
- 3 (VOL) Both equally
- 4 (VOL) Neither
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

9. The November election is for all seats for the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as some U.S. Senate, some governorships and local races. How closely are you following the upcoming election -- very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely or not closely at all?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Somewhat closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not closely at all
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

10. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the next election for Congress - are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, or are the chances 50-50 or less that you will vote?

- 1 Absolutely certain to vote
- 2 Probably vote
- 3 Chances 50-50 or less
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE AND REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE****

11. Thinking about the U.S. House of Representatives election in November in the congressional district where you live, if that election were being held today, for whom would you vote: the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

- 1 (SKIP TO Q.13) Democrat
- 2 (SKIP TO Q.13) Republican
- 3 Neither (VOL)
- 4 (SKIP TO Q.13) Would Not Vote (VOL)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

****AUTHOR NOTE: SCRAMBLE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN IN SAME ORDER AS Q.11****

12. Who would you lean toward, the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Neither (VOL)
- 4 Would Not Vote (VOL)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

13. Is one of the reasons you support this candidate to express support for Clinton, to express opposition to Clinton, or would you say that Clinton is not a factor?

- 1 Express support
- 2 Express opposition
- 3 Not a factor
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE STATEMENTS IN PARENTHESES

14. Given what you know about the Monica Lewinsky issue, do you think Clinton should (remain in office as president), or should he (resign the Presidency)?

- 1 Remain in office
- 2 Resign presidency
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

15. Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not impeach Clinton and remove him from office?

- 1 Congress should impeach Clinton
- 2 Congress should not impeach Clinton
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

16. Do you think Congress should or should not censure or officially reprimand Clinton for his actions in the Lewinsky matter?

- 1 Should censure
- 2 Should not censure
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

17. Do you think Congress should or should not order Clinton to pay a fine because of the Lewinsky matter?

- 1 Yes, Congress should order Clinton to pay a fine
- 2 No, Congress should not order Clinton to pay a fine
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling the investigation of the Lewinsky issue?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

19. As you may know, the U.S. House of Representatives recently voted to hold hearings into whether or not Clinton should be impeached. Do you approve or disapprove of the decisions to hold impeachment hearings?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

20. Do you think the Clinton/Lewinsky matter has damaged Clinton's ability to serve effectively as president, or not? (IF YES ASK: Has it damaged it a great deal, or only somewhat?)

- 1 Yes, great deal
- 2 Yes, only somewhat
- 3 Has not damaged ability to serve
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

21. How do you feel about Bill Clinton's personal behavior - would you say you're (READ LIST)

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: REPEAT IF NECESSARY)

- 1 Not concerned about it;
- 2 Concerned about it, but not upset;
- 3 Upset about it, but not angry; or
- 4 Angry about it
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

Now, just a few more questions to help classify your answers...

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (READ LIST)

- 1 (SKIP TO Q.905) A Democrat
 - 2 (SKIP TO Q.905) A Republican
 - 3 An Independent
 - 4 Or what?
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)
- 8 DK/No opinion
 - 9 NA/Refused

904. Do you lean more towards the: (READ LIST)

- 1 Democratic Party
 - 2 Or, Republican Party
 - 3 (VOL)Neither
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)
- 8 DK/No opinion
 - 9 NA/Refused

905. Can you tell me whether you are registered to vote at your present address?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

906. In talking to people about elections, we often find out that a lot of people aren't able to vote because they were not registered, or they were sick, or they just didn't have time. How about you-do you remember for sure whether you voted in the November, 1996 presidential election when Bill Clinton ran against Bob Dole and Ross Perot?

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Yes | 1 |
| No | 2(SKIP TO Q.908) |
| DK/No opinion | 8(SKIP TO Q.908) |
| NA/Refused | 9(SKIP TO Q.908) |

907. Which candidate did you vote for? (DO NOT READ LIST)

Clinton	1
Dole	2
Perot	3
Other	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

59. What about four years ago in the fall of 1994, when elections for the United States House of Representatives were held. Do you remember for sure whether you voted in that election to select your congressional district's representative to the United States House?

1	Yes
2	No
8	DK/No opinion
9	NA/Refused

60. (Yes Q. 59) Which candidate for House did you vote for, the Democratic candidate or the Republicans candidate?

1	Democratic
2	Republican
8	DK/No opinion
9	NA/Refused

908. Would you say your views in most political matters are very liberal, liberal, moderate, conservative, or very conservative?

1	Very liberal
2	Liberal
3	Moderate
4	Conservative
5	Very conservative
6	(VOL)Don't think in those terms
8	DK/No opinion
9	NA/Refused

909. What was the last grade of school you completed?

- 1 8th grade or less
- 2 Some high school
- 3 Graduated high school (ASK IF SCHOOL WAS A
TECHNICAL SCHOOL; IF IT WAS, ENTER 3)
- 4 Some college
- 5 Graduated College
- 6 Post-graduate
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

910. In what year were you born?

- -- ?
- DK/No opinion 8888
- NA/Refused 9999

RECODE

Then you are (SUBTRACT YEAR OF BIRTH FROM 1998) years of age?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Then you are (SUBTRACT YEAR OF BIRTH FROM 1997) years of age?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

918. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?

(IF "YES," ASK:) Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?

(IF "NO," ASK:) are you white, black, or some other race?

- 1 White
- 2 Black
- 3 White Hispanic
- 4 Black Hispanic
- 5 Hispanic(no race given)
- 6 Other Race
- 9 NA/Refused

919. If you added together the yearly incomes, before taxes, of all the members of your household for last year, 1997, would the total be: (READ LIST)

- 1 Less than \$30,000, or
- 2 (SKIP TO Q.919.2)\$30,000 or more
- 9 (SKIP TO Q.921) (DO NOT READ)NA/Refused

919.1 Would that be: (READ LIST)

- 1 (SKIP TO Q.921)Under \$8,000
- 2 (SKIP TO Q.921)\$8,000 but less than \$12,000
- 3 (SKIP TO Q.921)\$12,000 but less than \$20,000
- 4 (SKIP TO Q.921)\$20,000 but less than \$30,000
- 9 (SKIP TO Q.921)(DO NOT READ) NA/Refused

919.2 Would that be: (READ LIST)

- 1 \$30,000 but less than \$50,000
- 2 \$50,000 but less than \$75,000
- 3 Or more than \$75,000
- 9 (DO NOT READ)NA/Refused

921. RESPONDENT'S SEX:

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

CLOSING Thank you very much for your time and cooperation.

END