



Latino Policy Coalition

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TWO IN THREE LATINO VOTERS OPPOSE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE WAR IN IRAQ; BELIEVE THE WAR WAS A MISTAKE, ACCORDING TO NEW NON-PARTISAN SURVEY

Nearly Half of Respondents Have Family Member, Close Friend Fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan

SACRAMENTO, CA – Latino voters overwhelmingly oppose President Bush's request for additional funding for the war in Iraq and strongly believe the war was a mistake, according to a new non-partisan survey of Latino voters conducted by Lake Research Partners for the Latino Policy Coalition, a national non-partisan consortium of leading Latino research organizations and scholars. Of particular interest, the survey found that almost half of Latinos surveyed said they have a close relationship with someone who is currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

"The war in Iraq continues to have resonance among Latino voters and they have a remarkable level of personal connectedness to the issue," said Celinda Lake, president of Lake Research Partners, who conducted the non-partisan poll for the Latino Policy Coalition. "During last year's election, eighty-five percent (85%) of Latino voters said the war in Iraq would be an important part of their decision. We are finding that the issue has become even stronger among Latino voters and their belief that the war was a mistake has grown considerably."

According to the national survey, an overwhelming number of Latino voters (66%) oppose President Bush's request of Congress for an additional \$100 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, half of voters (51%) strongly oppose extending the requested funds. Even among self-identified Latino Republicans, only a bare majority (53%) favor giving President Bush the additional funds while thirty-six percent (36%) oppose.

"Latino families are among this nation's most patriotic in sending their sons and daughters to the armed services, and war," said Jim Gonzalez, Chair of the Latino Policy Coalition. "Yet for Latino voters in this nationwide poll, the War in Iraq is overwhelmingly considered a mistake, and Latino voters want to cut off Bush's funds for the war. What's really compelling is that this is the opinion of the Latino families, and friends, of those who are currently serving."

Indeed, the survey found that a stunning forty-six percent (46%) of Latinos say they have a close family member (19%), close friend (16%), or both a close family member *and* close friend (11%) currently serving in the military in Iraq or Afghanistan. The survey also found that two-thirds (66%) of Latino voters now believe going to war with Iraq was a mistake, up eight percent from September 2006. Even among Latinos who have a close relationship with someone who currently serves in Iraq or

Afghanistan, sixty-three percent (63%) believe it was a mistake, compared to sixty-eight percent (68%) among those who do not have a relationship to someone currently serving.

"The very high percentage of Latino respondents who indicate that they have a family member or close friend currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan is again indicative of the commitment this community has to serving the country," concluded Luis Fraga, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science at Stanford University. "As in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, Latinos continue to serve the nation in times of war. This should give great pause to those who question the loyalty and patriotism of Latinos to the U.S. Perhaps most importantly, it behooves our nation's leaders to reconsider our current policy given how severely most Latinos are questioning the effectiveness of our current military efforts."

METHODOLOGY

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached 1000 Latino registered and likely voters in the 23 states with the highest Latino population density. These states include: California, TX, FL, NY, IL, Arizona, NJ, New Mexico, Colorado, GA, NV, NC, WA, MA, VA, PA, CT, MI, OR, MD, IN, OH, and WI. The survey was conducted March 13 and 21, 2007. Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from files of registered voters. The data were weighted slightly by age and national ancestry. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.1 percentage points.

About the Latino Policy Coalition

The Latino Policy Coalition is a national non-partisan non-profit consortium of the country's leading Latino research organizations and scholars. These organizations are dedicated to measuring through nationwide polls public policy issues affecting the Latino community. Chaired by former SF Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, the LPC's mission is to help define Latino community concerns on key contemporary issues in order to stimulate public policy debate among local, state and national elected officials. For more information please visit our website at www.latinopolicycoalition.org

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