

Media Alert

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CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESIDENCY



ZOGBY INTERNATIONAL POLL FINDS AMERICANS SEEK GREATER INCLUSIVENESS AND CIVILITY AMONG NATIONAL AND STATE LEADERS

The Electorate is looking beyond the bitterness evident in the hard-fought campaigns of 2004. Nine in ten (91%) respondents said that President Bush “should meet regularly with the congressional leaders of the other Party”, and 89% said that he should “reach out to people and organizations that did not support him.”

“These and other results of the poll are stunning,” John Zogby said. “Overall, the potential for consensus is high. On eleven of the fourteen issues tested, Zogby found that less than one in five voters were unwilling to listen to the other side. These included serious issues requiring attention: a new minimum wage, the environment, national education policy, universal health care, the budget deficit, foreign relations, a national energy policy, social security reform, the war in Iraq, immigration policy, and stem cell research. Notably, equal numbers of conservatives and liberals including self-described very conservative and very liberal voters) indicated a willingness to listen to the other side.”

As evidence, Zogby pointed out that from four in five to almost all voters he surveyed agreed with the following bipartisan statements:

- I want my elected officials to work toward the good of the nation, rather than the good of their party 98%
- A member of the political party to which you do not belong can be a patriot 91%
- It is in the best interests of the country for our leaders to set a less partisan tone so we can move forward 89%
- I would like to see my elected officials working more closely with the leaders from the opposing party 89%
- I want my elected officials to find common ground and overlapping goals rather than focusing on areas of disagreement 88%

These and other insights strengthen the initiative on Civility and Inclusive Leadership launched by the Center for the Study of the Presidency on January 13, 2005.

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