



behavior research center's

# Rocky Mountain Poll

NEWS RELEASE  
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62 PERCENT FAVOR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST IRAQ:  
NEARLY HALF FEAR WORLD WAR IF UN DOES NOT BACK THE U.S.

Phoenix, Arizona, November 15, 2002. Six of ten Arizonans favor President Bush taking military action against Iraq, but if the President decides he must proceed without the sanction of the United Nations, which he warned on Wednesday could happen if Iraq does not disarm its weapons of mass destruction, close to half fear such a military action could widen to a world war, presumably because of the possibility that Arab nations would unite against the United States.

The study, was completed just prior to Iraq's announcement on Wednesday that it will with "no conditions, no reservations" comply with the UN resolution to allow inspectors to return to Iraq and certify that Iraq has eliminated its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons along with long-range missiles to deliver them.

As well, if the Security Council does not, at some future point, vote to support military action against Iraq, support for war against that country drops from 62 to 44 percent and opposition rises from 27 to 46.

The declination in support for military action unsupported by the United Nations traces to sharp divisions in public opinion regarding what might be the consequences of such an action. Thus, 49 percent are concerned that Arab nations would unite militarily against the United States, 60 percent fear Arab nations might unite to cut off oil supplies to the United States, half believe non-Arab nations opposed to military action would take steps to strengthen their relationships with Arab nations at the expense of the U.S., and 45 percent express concern that such an action could widen to a world war. Support for war is much stronger among Republicans than Democrats.

Arizonans in this poll were also asked if a U.S. military action against Iraq without the support of the U.N. would likely be over quickly with a minimum loss of life. Fifty percent think not, 42 percent think it would be a short action and the balance – eight percent – are unsure.

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The findings outlined in this report are based on a survey of 551 adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County conducted between November 7<sup>th</sup> and November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center's independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit [www.brcpolls.com](http://www.brcpolls.com) to read this and other recent polls.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2002-IV-12) is based on 551 telephone interviews conducted from November 7th through November 12th, 2002, with adult heads of household throughout Maricopa County. In a sample of this size, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 4.2 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Arizona Consumer Confidence Study is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

**BELOW:** Statistical data

For this and other polls, see [www.brcpolls.com/results](http://www.brcpolls.com/results)

**STATISTICAL DATA**

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*“As you may know, Congress recently gave President Bush the authority to take military action against Iraq if he deems it necessary. In your opinion, should the President take military action against Iraq or should he not do so?”*

	TOTAL	REPUBLICAN	DEMOCRATS
Should	62%	77%	51%
Should not	27	17	41
Unsure	11	6	8

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*“If military action is not supported by the United Nations, should President Bush take military action against Iraq or should he not do so?”*

|            | TOTAL | REPUBLICAN | DEMOCRATS |
|------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| Should     | 44%   | 54%        | 35%       |
| Should not | 46    | 35         | 62        |
| Unsure     | 10    | 11         | 3         |

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**STATISTICAL DATA**

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*“If President Bush decides to go to war against Iraq without the support of the United Nations, do you think the following will definitely, probably, probably not or definitely not happen?”*

	DEFINITELY/ PROBABLY	PROBABLY NOT/ DEFINITELY NOT	UNSURE
Arab nations would unite to cut off oil supplies to the U.S.	60%	36%	4%
Non-Arab nations opposed to U.S. military action would strengthen their ties to the Middle East at the expense of the U.S.	50	39	11
Arab nations would unite militarily against the United States	49	44	7
Such a war might widen to become a world war	45	58	3

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*“If President Bush decided to go to war against Iraq without the support of the United Nations, do you think we will definitely, probably, probably not or definitely not win the war quickly with minimum loss of life.”*

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Definitely/probably        | 42% |
| Probably or definitely not | 50  |
| Unsure                     | 8   |

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