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*Washington Post* End of Trial Poll,  
February 1999

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*The Washington Post*

ICPSR 2722



WASHINGTON POST END OF TRIAL POLL, FEBRUARY 1999

(ICPSR 2722)

Principal Investigator

The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version

June 1999

Inter-university Consortium for  
Political and Social Research

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## DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON POST END OF TRIAL POLL, FEBRUARY 1999 (ICPSR 2722)

SUMMARY: This special topic poll, fielded February 12-14, 1999, sought respondents' views on the February 12, 1999, acquittal of President Bill Clinton by the United States Senate, as well as the state of the country in the wake of the impeachment trial. Those queried were asked for their opinions of President Bill Clinton and his handling of the presidency, foreign policy, the situation in Iraq, and the economy, as well as their views of Vice President Al Gore, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Texas Governor George W. Bush, Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, former president of the American Red Cross Elizabeth Dole, and congressional Democrats and Republicans. Looking ahead to the 2000 congressional and presidential elections, respondents were asked whether their congressional choices would be influenced by how the candidates voted during the impeachment hearings and trial of Clinton, and for whom they would vote in the presidential race, given a choice between Democrat Gore and Republican Bush. A series of questions addressed the Senate's acquittal of Clinton, including whether respondents approved of the acquittal, their views on the impeachment process, who was to blame for the entire situation, and whether Clinton should face criminal charges for his actions. Additional questions addressed respondents' faith in the government and who was best able to handle the problems of the country. Background information on respondents includes age, sex, race, political party, political orientation, voter registration and participation history, education, 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: 1,010

Variables: 78





ABC News/Washington Post Poll Region Code List

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

No polling is conducted in Alaska or Hawaii.



TNS INTERSEARCH  
Horsham, PA

#DL-10316  
February 12, 1999  
Final

WASHINGTON POST END OF TRIAL POLL

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling from TNS Intersearch. We are doing a survey for The Washington Post 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:) Is that approve/disapprove strongly or approve/disapprove somewhat?

- 1 Approve, strongly
- 2 Approve, somewhat
- 3 Disapprove, strongly
- 4 Disapprove, somewhat
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

2. Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

- 1 Right Direction
- 2 Wrong Track
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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

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

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the situation in Iraq?

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

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling the nation's economy?

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

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Al Gore is handling his job as vice president?

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

8. Do you think Gore has the honesty and integrity to serve effectively as president some day?

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

9. 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

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

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

11. I am going to mention four phrases and ask you which one best describes how you feel about the way the federal government works. Do you feel enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

- 1 Enthusiastic
- 2 Satisfied but not enthusiastic
- 3 Dissatisfied but not angry
- 4 Angry
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

12. How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Would you say just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

- 1 Just about always
- 2 Most of the time
- 3 Only some of the time
- 4 (DO NOT READ) None
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

13. Who do you trust to do a better job coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years - Clinton or the Republicans in Congress?

- 1 Clinton
- 2 Republicans in Congress
- 3 (DO NOT READ) Both equally
- 4 (DO NOT READ) Neither
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: SCRAMBLE ITEMS\*\***

14. I'm going to read you a few names. For each, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of that person, or perhaps you don't know enough to say. How about (READ LIST)?

- 1 Favorable
- 2 Unfavorable
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

- a. Bill Clinton. Get answer than ask: Do you feel that way strongly or only somewhat?
- b. Al Gore
- c. Hillary Clinton
- d. George W. Bush, who is the governor of Texas
- e. Republicans in Congress
- f. Democrats in Congress
- g. Kenneth Starr
- h. Elizabeth Dole

***AUTHOR NOTE:USE STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT FOLLOW FOR BILL CLINTON ONLY***

- 1 Favorable, strongly
- 2 Favorable, somewhat
- 3 Unfavorable, strongly
- 4 Unfavorable, somewhat
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

15. 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 (DO NOT READ) Both equally
- 4 (DO NOT READ) Neither
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

17. 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 NAMES IN PARENTHESES\*\***

18. Thinking about the next U.S. House of Representatives election in the Congressional District where you live, if that election were being held today, for whom would you vote: **ROTATE IN PARENTHESES** (the Democratic candidate) or (the Republican candidate)?

- 1 (SKIP TO Q.20) Democrat
- 2 (SKIP TO Q.20) Republican
- 3 Neither (VOL)
- 4 (SKIP TO Q.20) Would Not Vote (VOL)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.18\*\***

19. 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

**\*\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATION IN PARENTHESES\*\*\***

20. If the election for president in the year 2000 were being held today, and the candidates were (Vice President Al Gore, the Democrat), and (Texas Governor George W. Bush, the Republican), for whom would you vote?

- 1 Al Gore
- 2 George W. Bush
- 3 (DO NOT READ) Neither
- 4 (DO NOT READ) Would not vote
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

21. Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about things in the news. As you may know, the Senate has found Bill Clinton not guilty of the impeachment charges against him, meaning he can remain in office. Do you approve or disapprove of the Senate vote finding Clinton not guilty of the impeachment charges?

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

22. How do you feel about the way the impeachment and trial process worked: would you say you are pleased, satisfied but not pleased, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

- 1 Pleased
- 2 Satisfied but not pleased
- 3 Dissatisfied but not angry
- 4 Angry
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

23. Do you think the Senate should censure or officially reprimand Clinton for his actions in the Monica Lewinsky matter, or should it drop the case without censuring Clinton? GET ANSWER THAN ASK: Do you feel that way strongly or only somewhat?

- 1 Should censure, strongly
- 2 Should censure, somewhat
- 3 Drop case, strongly
- 2 Drop case, somewhat
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

25. If your U.S. Senator voted to convict and remove Clinton from office, will that make you more likely to support your senator in the next election, more likely to oppose your senator for re-election, or won't it make much difference in your vote?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 3 No difference
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

26. And what if your U.S. Senator voted NOT to convict and remove Clinton from office, will that make you more likely to support your senator in the next election, more likely to oppose your senator for re-election, or won't it make much difference in your vote?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 3 No difference
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

26a. Now thinking back to the impeachment vote last December in the US House of Representatives, do you happen to know whether your Representative in the House voted in favor of impeaching Bill Clinton, voted against impeaching him, or don't you happen to recall how your representative voted? INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS YES, THEY REMEMBERED HOW THEY VOTED, ASK "DID THEY VOTE FOR IMPEACHMENT OR AGAINST IT?"

- 1 In favor
- 2 Against
- 3 Do not recall how voted
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused



**ASK IF Q26a= 1 or 2 "in favor" or "against"**

26b. Will that vote make you more likely to support your representative in the next election, more likely to oppose your representative, or won't it make much difference in your vote?

- 1 Support
- 2 Oppose
- 3 No difference
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

27. Clinton still could face criminal charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. That could happen while he's still in office, or after he leaves office. Do you think Clinton should or should not face criminal charges at some point?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No (SKIP TO Q.28)
- 8 DK/No opinion (SKIP TO Q.28)
- 9 NA/Refused (SKIP TO Q.28)

**\*\*AUTHOR NOTE: ASK Q.27a IF 27=1\*\***

27a. Should he face criminal charges while he's still in office, or after he leaves office?

- 1 While in office
- 2 After leaves office
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

28. Do you think the Republicans had a fair chance to present their case against Clinton in the Senate, or not?

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

29. Considering everything, who do you think is more to blame for the impeachment trial -- Clinton himself, for his actions; or the Republicans in Congress, for pursuing the case against him?

- 1 Clinton himself
- 2 Republicans in Congress
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

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.59) |
| DK/No opinion | 8 (SKIP TO q.59) |
| NA/Refused    | 9 (SKIP TO q.59) |

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 this past November, 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 (SKIP TO q.908)
- 8 DK/No opinion (SKIP TO q.908)
- 9 NA/Refused (SKIP TO q.908)

60. (Yes Q. 59) Which candidate for The House did you vote for, the Democratic candidate or the Republican 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 1999) years of age?

1 Yes  
2 No

Then you are (SUBTRACT YEAR OF BIRTH FROM 1998) 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, 1998, would the total be: (READ LIST)

Less than \$30,000, or 1  
\$30,000 or more 2(SKIP TO Q.919.2)  
(DO NOT READ) NA/Refused 9(SKIP TO Q.920)

919.1 Would that be: (READ LIST)

Under \$8,000 1(SKIP TO Q.920)  
\$8,000 but less than \$12,000 2(SKIP TO Q.920)  
\$12,000 but less than \$20,000 3(SKIP TO Q.920)  
\$20,000 but less than \$30,000 4(SKIP TO Q.920)  
(DO NOT READ) NA/Refused 9(SKIP TO Q.920)

919.2 Would that be: (READ LIST)

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

920.1                    May a reporter call you to talk about some of the things we've  
                             been discussing?

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

920.2                    May I please have your first name, so the reporter will know  
                             who to ask for:  
                             (TYPE IN RESPONSE)

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921. RESPONDENT'S SEX:

1	Male
2	Female

CLOSING Thank you very much for your time and cooperation.

\*\*\*END\*\*\*