**Elections of '98**

**Clinton and His Predecessors: He Usually Ranks Low**

**Question:** ...[R]ate the leadership abilities of the following past and present political figures...[Do] you think their leadership qualities are, or were, outstanding, above average, average, below average, or poor...?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Outstanding</th>
<th>Above Average</th>
<th>Outstanding/Above Avg.</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Below Avg./Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Roosevelt</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Truman</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Eisenhower</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John F. Kennedy</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Nixon</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Carter</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Reagan</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Bush</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Clinton</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Survey by the *Washington Post*, October 27-30, 1995.

A Gallup series from last April shows huge pluralities ranking Clinton's ethical standards lower than Bush's, Reagan's and Carter's. A plurality, though not so large a one, does give Clinton the edge over Nixon.

**Question:** We'd like to know whether you think Bill Clinton's ethical standards are higher or lower than some recent presidents. Are Clinton's ethical standards higher or lower than those of...when he was president?

**...George Bush**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Higher</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Same (vol.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**...Ronald Reagan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Higher</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Same (vol.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**...Jimmy Carter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Higher</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Same (vol.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**...Richard Nixon**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Higher</th>
<th>Lower</th>
<th>Same (vol.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Survey by the Gallup Organization for CNN/USA Today, April 11-13, 1997.

18 THE PUBLIC PERSPECTIVE, APRIL/MAY 1998
Carter Wins on "Character"; Nixon Looks Strong on "Most Important President"

**Question:** I would like to ask you to rate the character of each of the following political figures. For each one, please tell me whether you think their character—that is, their values and ethics—is or was very high, high, average, low, or very low.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figure</th>
<th>Very high/High</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Low/Very low</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Carter</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin Delano Roosevelt</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Reagan</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John F. Kennedy</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Clinton</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Nixon</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Survey by Hart and Teeter Research for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, February 26-March 1, 1998.

**Question:** Of all the US presidents who have been elected since you first started following politics, which one do you think has done the best job?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reagan</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bush</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nixon</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roosevelt</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truman</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eisenhower</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Question:** Which one of the following do you think will be regarded by history as the most important president of this generation?...John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton?

**Question:** Which one of the following do you think will be regarded by history as the most important president of this generation?...Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Kennedy in list</th>
<th>Without Kennedy or Johnson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kennedy</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nixon</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reagan</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bush</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Gerald Ford did not get any "votes."

**Source:** Survey by The Hart and Teeter research companies for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, April 30-May 3, 1994.
Elections of '98

Lots Who Say They Approve Clinton's Handling of the Presidency Don’t Approve of Clinton

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling his job as president?

Question: Whether you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling his job as president, what is your impression of Bill Clinton as a person? Do you approve or disapprove of him...

Question: Which of the following statements best describes your own point of view? I like Bill Clinton personally and I like his policies; I don’t like Bill Clinton personally but I like his policies; I don’t like Bill Clinton personally and I don’t like his policies; I like Bill Clinton personally but I don’t like his policies.


Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as president?

Question: From what you have heard, read, or remember about some of our past presidents, please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way they handled their job as president.


Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 30-February 1, 1998.
Clinton’s Ethics: A Resounding Negative

**Question:** Do you think Bill Clinton is a leader you can trust, or do you have some doubts and reservations?

- Leader you can trust: 38%
- Doubts and reservations: 62%


**Question:** Do you believe Bill Clinton conducts himself in a personally ethical manner?

- Yes: 46%
- No: 51%
- Not sure: 15%


**Question:** Do you think Bill Clinton shares the moral values most Americans try to live by, or doesn’t he?

- Does: 41%
- Does not: 51%
- Don’t know/No answer: 8%


**Question:** ...After each [statement] please tell me whether each applies to Clinton or not....?

* ...has high personal moral and ethical standards*

- Yes: 28%
- No: 66%


* ...is honest and trustworthy*

- Yes: 35%
- No: 60%


**Question:** So far, would you say Bill Clinton’s personal conduct since he’s been president is better than you expected, worse than you expected, or about what you expected?

- Better than expected: 8%
- About what was expected: 39%
- Worse than expected: 42%
- DK/NA: 9%


**Question:** Do you think questions about Bill Clinton’s character hurt his ability to be an effective moral leader seriously, somewhat, or not at all?

- Seriously: 31%
- Somewhat: 31%
- Not at all: 34%


**Question:** Does the Lewinsky matter make you more likely or less likely to consider high moral character as very important when you vote in the next presidential election—or does it not make much difference either way?

- More likely: 42%
- Less likely: 3%
- Not much difference: 52%


**Question:** Of these two men, would you rather have your child grow up to be like: Bill Gates or Bill Clinton?

- Bill Gates: 47%
- Bill Clinton: 24%
- Neither (vol.): 20%
- Not sure: 9%

But Many Have Not Wanted To Read Him Out of Office

**Question:** Are you satisfied that Bill Clinton has the honesty and integrity to serve effectively as president?

![Pie Chart]


**Question:** Do you think Bill Clinton has the honesty and integrity to serve as President of the United States or not?

![Pie Chart]

**Source:** Survey by the Los Angeles Times, January 23-24, 1998.

**Question:** Do you think Bill Clinton is honest and trustworthy enough to be president or don’t you think so?

![Pie Chart]

Should Clinton Resign or Be Impeached?

Based on What You Know Now?

**Question:** Based on what you have read or heard, do you believe that President Clinton should be impeached and removed from office, or don't you feel that way?

[Graph showing percentages for Not sure, Should be impeached, Should remain in office]


**Question:** Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...the President [Bill Clinton] has lost the confidence of the American people and should resign?

[Graph showing percentages for Agree, Disagree]

**Source:** Survey by Louis Harris and Associates, February 18-23, 1998.

For His Sexual Conduct?

**Question:** If it is true that Bill Clinton had an extramarital affair with a former White House intern, do you think this is cause for impeachment or not? [If not] Do you think he should resign, or not?

[Graph showing percentages for Yes impeach, No, but resign, No, not resign]

**Source:** Survey by the Los Angeles Times, January 29-31, 1998.

**Question:** If it turns out that President Clinton had a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office or not?

[Graph showing percentages for Yes, No]


**Question:** If the President of the US had consensual sex with an intern, do you think the President should be impeached?

[Graph showing percentages for Yes, No]

**Source:** Survey by Opinion Dynamics for Fox News, March 10-11, 1998.

**Question:** If the evidence shows that Bill Clinton made an unwanted sexual advance toward Kathleen Willey in the White House, do you think that Clinton should be impeached and be removed from office for this, or don't you feel that way?

[Graph showing percentages for Yes, No]

If He Lied About His Conduct Under Oath?

Question: If it turns out that President [Bill] Clinton lied under oath about having a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office or not?

Yes, should be impeached 50%
No, should not be impeached 46%


Question: If the evidence shows that ...Bill Clinton lied under oath about making a sexual advance toward Kathleen Willey...do you think that Clinton should be impeached and be removed from office for this, or don’t you feel that way?

Yes, should be impeached 49%
No, should not be impeached 47%


Question: If the allegations are true that President Clinton made an unwanted sexual advance against Kathleen Willey and then lied about it under oath during his testimony in the Paula Jones case, should the president...


If He Encouraged Another to Lie?

Question: If it is true that Bill Clinton tried to obstruct justice by influencing Monica Lewinsky to lie about the extramarital affair under oath, do you think this is cause for impeachment or not? If not, do you think he should resign, or not?

No, not resign 31%
No, but resign 9%
Yes, impeach 61%


Question: If it turns out that President [Bill] Clinton encouraged Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath about the nature of their relationship, do you think that he should be impeached and removed from office or not?

No, should not 49%
Yes, should be impeached 51%


Question: If it turns out that President [Bill] Clinton obstructed justice by encouraging Monica Lewinsky to lie under oath, what do you think should happen...1. Clinton should admit his mistakes and apologize, 2. He should resign, 3. Congress should begin impeachment proceedings, or 4. the matter should be dropped?

Congress impeach 15%
Resign 23%
Admit/Apologize 34%
Matter dropped 21%


Congress impeach 15%
Resign 26%
Admit/Apologize 36%
Matter dropped 17%