

THE GENDER GAP

Party Identification and Presidential Performance Ratings

The "gender gap" refers to differences between women and men in political attitudes and voting choices. A gender gap has been apparent in both party identification and evaluations of the performances of recent presidents.¹

PARTY IDENTIFICATION

A gender gap in party identification has been evident since the early 1980s. Larger proportions of women than men are Democrats.

	Democrats		Republicans	
	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
June 2004	39%	31%	28%	30%
May 2003	33%	27%	32%	34%
June 2002	39%	29%	30%	29%
June 2001	41%	30%	26%	27%
May 2000	37%	30%	29%	35%
June 1999	46%	27%	22%	30%
June 1998	35%	28%	27%	30%
June 1997	35%	34%	27%	26%
June 1996	44%	33%	26%	29%
June 1995	31%	25%	29%	36%
June 1994	38%	34%	25%	29%
June 1993	38%	30%	28%	30%
June 1992	36%	29%	32%	34%
May 1991	38%	26%	28%	31%
May 1990	38%	28%	30%	32%
June 1989	36%	32%	31%	31%
May 1988	41%	32%	29%	31%
May 1987	44%	35%	30%	31%
June 1986	40%	35%	29%	28%
May 1985	38%	30%	31%	28%
April 1984	40%	37%	28%	31%
June 1983	43%	32%	21%	25%

Source: CBS/New York Times.

PRESIDENTIAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS

A gender gap also is evident in ratings of presidential performance. In general, women are less likely than men to evaluate favorably the job performance of Republican presidents, and women are more likely than men to evaluate favorably the job performance of Democratic Presidents.

PRESIDENTIAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS (continued)

Women generally have been less likely than men to approve of the way recent Republican Presidents (George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan) have handled their job as President.

Approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
June 2004	45%	50%
May 2004	43%	50%
June 2003	60%	62%
May 2003	63%	69%
June 2002	76%	76%
May 2002	73%	78%
June 2001	46%	57%
May 2001	50%	58%

Approve of the way George H.W. Bush is handling his job as President

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
July 1992	30%	33%
July 1991	69%	72%
July 1990	61%	66%
July 1989	61%	72%

Approve of the way Ronald Reagan is handling his job as President

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
July 1988	43%	59%
July 1987	44%	54%
July 1986	58%	69%
July 1985	60%	65%
July 1984	49%	59%
July 1983	34%	51%
July 1982	38%	48%
July 1981	55%	63%

Women generally were more likely than men to approve of the way Bill Clinton, a Democrat, handled his job as President.

Approve of the way Bill Clinton is handling his job as President

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
January 1998	64%	54%
April 1997	59%	50%
March 1996	57%	47%
December 1995	53%	49%
May 1995	53%	48%
January 1995	51%	43%
July 1994	43%	42%
June 1994	49%	42%
April 1994	48%	48%
November 1993	49%	46%
July 1993	45%	38%
February 1993	61%	57%

Source for all presidential approval ratings: *Gallup Report*.