

Capital Survey Research Center

CONFIDENCE IN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS SURVEY

March 7-8, 12-15, 2007

453 Registered Voters

SME +/- 4.6%

Introduction

The Confidence in National Institutions survey was designed to measure the level of confidence that Alabama registered voters have in national institutions, organizations, and leaders.

Only the U. S. military receives a majority rating of “Great Confidence” followed by volunteer organizations, like the Red Cross.

When “Great Deal of Confidence” and “Some Confidence” are combined, the ratings remain relatively the same with the exception that professional unions for actors and athletes receive the lowest combined confidence rating.

The highest ratings of “No Confidence” are given to religious leader Jerry Falwell and radio talk hosts Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity. The lowest ratings of “No Confidence” are given to the U. S. Military and the U. S. Supreme Court.

When “Low Confidence” and “No Confidence” ratings are combined, only Jerry Falwell receives a majority no confidence rating, followed by the National Democratic Party and radio talk show hosts Rush Limbaugh and Sean Hannity. The U. S. Military gets the lowest combined ratings of some or no confidence.

Since 1999, except for the U. S. Military, confidence in national institutions, organizations and leaders has declined significantly. By far the greatest decline in confidence is in business corporations (30%) followed by the U. S. Congress, radio talk show hosts Rush Limbaugh, the National Christian Coalition, religious leader Pat Robertson, network news channels and Wall Street financial markets.

Confidence in National Institutions, Organizations and Leaders

	GDC	SC	LC	NC	DK
U. S. Military	69.9%	21.0%	3.2%	3.3%	2.7%
Voluntary Organizations (Red Cross)	47.8%	35.2%	7.9%	7.6%	1.6%
U. S. Presidency	31.8%	31.2%	14.2%	20.1%	2.6%
FOX Cable television news	30.3%	41.5%	9.9%	9.6%	8.7%
Federal programs (Social Security)	29.3%	37.7%	22.7%	8.4%	1.9%
ABC/CBS/NBC Network television news	26.5%	36.7%	21.3%	12.9%	2.6%
U. S. Supreme Court	24.3%	45.0%	18.2%	7.7%	4.9%
National Rifle Association or NRA	22.9%	33.1%	19.9%	8.9%	15.2%
CNN Cable television news	20.2%	41.3%	15.9%	14.4%	8.2%
National Christian Coalition	19.1%	34.6%	15.1%	16.2%	15.1%
Labor unions (AFL-CIO / Teamsters)	18.0%	28.4%	20.1%	19.2%	14.3%
National Republican Political Party	15.5%	38.4%	16.8%	23.0%	6.3%
Federal programs (FEMA)	14.2%	39.4%	27.4%	13.8%	5.2%
National Democratic Political Party	13.7%	31.0%	22.3%	27.7%	5.3%
Talk radio (Limbaugh / Hannity)	13.0%	19.4%	17.3%	32.9%	17.4%
Religious leader Pat Robertson	12.8%	23.6%	18.4%	29.4%	15.8%
Wall Street financial markets	12.7%	44.0%	19.4%	10.3%	13.5%
Religious leader Pat Robertson	12.8%	23.6%	18.4%	29.4%	15.8%
National Newspapers USA Today / Times	11.9%	34.9%	18.7%	17.3%	17.1%
U. S. Congress	9.8%	43.0%	32.6%	10.3%	4.3%
Public opinion polls (Gallop / Harris)	9.2%	35.5%	25.0%	14.0%	16.3%
Business corporations	8.7%	30.3%	18.7%	8.2%	34.0%
Labor unions (Actors / Athletes)	8.2%	19.8%	23.0%	26.0%	23.0%
Religious leader Jerry Falwell	7.8%	23.5%	19.8%	34.7%	14.2%
Lawyers and the legal profession	6.5%	46.5%	27.1%	17.8%	2.1%
Great Deal of Confidence (GDC)					
Some Confidence (SC)					
Little Confidence (LC)					
No Confidence (NC)					
Don't Know (DK)					

Combined “Great Deal of Confidence” and “Some Confidence” Ratings

	2007	2003	1999	+/-
	GDC/SC	GDC/SC	GDC/SC	
U. S. Military	91%	94%	92%	-1
Voluntary Organizations (Red Cross)	83%	87%	92%	-9
FOX Cable television news	72%			
U. S. Supreme Court	69%	76%	77%	-8
Federal programs (Social Security)	67%			
ABC/CBS/NBC Network television news	64%	71%	75%	-11
U. S. Presidency	63%			
CNN Cable television news	61%			
Wall Street financial markets	57%	45%	67%	-10
National Rifle Association or NRA	56%	54%	59%	-3
Federal programs (FEMA)	54%			
National Republican Political Party	54%	54%	58%	-4
National Christian Coalition	54%	55%	66%	-12
U. S. Congress	53%	72%	67%	-14
National Newspapers USA Today / Times	47%	62%		
Labor unions (AFL-CIO / Teamsters)	46%	47%	55%	-9
National Democratic Political Party	45%	49%	54%	-9
Public opinion polls (Gallop/Harris)	45%	52%	55%	-10
Business corporations	39%	62%	69%	-30
Religious leader Pat Robertson	37%	40%	49%	-12
Religious leader Jerry Falwell	32%	33%	41%	-9
Talk radio (Limbaugh / Hannity)	32%	36%	44%	-12
Professional unions (Actors/Athletes)	28%			
Great Deal of Confidence (GDC)				
Some Confidence (SC)				

Combined “Low Confidence” and “No Confidence” Ratings

	LC/NC
Religious leader Jerry Falwell	55%
National Democratic Political Party	50%
Talk radio hosts (Limbaugh / Hannity)	50%
Professional unions (Actors / Athletes)	49%
Religious leader Pat Robertson	47%
U. S. Congress	43%
Federal programs (FEMA)	41%
National Republican Political Party	40%
Labor unions (AFL-CIO / Teamsters)	39%
Public opinion polls (Gallop / Harris)	39%
National Newspapers USA Today / Times	36%
U. S. Presidency	34%
ABC/CBS/NBC Network television news	34%
Federal programs (Social Security)	31%
National Christian Coalition	31%
CNN Cable television news	30%
Wall Street financial markets	29%
National Rifle Association or NRA	29%
Business corporations	27%
U. S. Supreme Court	25%
FOX Cable television news	20%
Voluntary Organizations (Red Cross)	16%
U. S. Military	6%
Great Deal of Confidence (GDC)	
Some Confidence (SC)	
Little Confidence (LC)	
No Confidence (NC)	
Don't Know (DK)	

“No Confidence” Ratings

	NC
Religious leader Jerry Falwell	35%
Talk radio hosts (Limbaugh / Hannity)	33%
National Democratic Political Party	28%
Religious leader Pat Robertson	29%
Professional unions (Actors / Athletes)	26%
National Republican Political Party	23%
U. S. Presidency	20%
Labor unions (AFL-CIO / Teamsters)	19%
National Newspapers USA Today / Times	17%
National Christian Coalition	16%
Federal programs (FEMA)	14%
Public opinion polls (Gallop / Harris)	14%
ABC/CBS/NBC Network television news	13%
U. S. Congress	10%
CNN Cable television news	14%
FOX Cable television news	10%
Wall Street financial markets	10%
Federal programs (Social Security)	8%
National Rifle Association or NRA	9%
Business corporations	8%
Voluntary Organizations (Red Cross)	8%
U. S. Supreme Court	7%
U. S. Military	3%
Great Deal of Confidence (GDC)	
Some Confidence (SC)	
Little Confidence (LC)	
No Confidence (NC)	
Don't Know (DK)	

Demographics

Party I. D.

Democrat	37.3%
Republican	31.7%
Independent	26.3%
Don't Know	4.7%

Age

18-24	2.5%
25-34	3.7%
35-50	23.9%
51-64	33.7%
65 or Older	36.0%

Education

Less than HS	8.3%
HS Graduate	24.4%
Some college	27.9%
College Graduate	19.1%
Graduate Degree	19.4%

Gender

Male	44.3%
Female	55.7%

Race

Black / A-A	20.0%
White / Caucasian	78.0%
Other	2.0%

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