



Polling Memo: 8/1/05

To: USAction Education Fund

From: SCG Research

Re: Poll Shows Deep Opposition to Bush Privatization Plan Among Voters Represented by Undecided Members of House Ways and Means Committee

A new poll conducted by SCG Research for the USAction Education Fund has found deep opposition to President Bush's plan to privatize Social Security. The poll was taken among voters represented by nine undecided members of the House Ways and Means Committee. Almost seventy percent of these voters oppose the President's plan for Social Security.

69.63% of voters surveyed in the nine Congressional Districts, including Congressman Foley's 16th District in Florida, opposed the Bush plan.

The poll also found that 68.46% of voters said they were less likely to vote for candidates who support the President's plan for Social Security.

The automated poll, sampled the opinions of 3,018 registered voters in nine Congressional Districts represented by Members of Congress who have not yet indicated their position on the President's Social Security privatization proposals. These included CO-7, CT-5, FL-16, FL-22, IA-1, IL-11, IN-2, MN-3 and PA-3.

The nation wide poll was conducted between July 14 and 20 and has a margin of error of +/- 1.8%.

Key findings include:

- By a margin of 69.58% to 30.42%, voters in these districts said they disapproved of President Bush's handling of Social Security.
- Seventy One percent of these voters think the Bush Social Security plan will cut their Social Security benefits.
- Sixty Nine percent think the Bush plan will make Social Security weaker.
- Over sixty nine percent say they oppose the President's plan for Social Security.
- Sixty Eight percent said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supports the Bush Social Security plan.

The results for voters in Florida's 16th CD closely mirror results in other Districts represented by undecided Ways and Means Committee Members.

Auto Poll Survey Results:

Question 1. First are you currently registered to vote?

		Question 1	
		% Registered	% Not Registered
National		95.24%	4.76%

State	District	Question 1	
		% Registered	% Not Registered
FL	16	94.85%	5.15%

(Only Registered Voters used in the responses that follow)

Question 2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of Social Security?

		Question 2	
		% Approve of Bush's handling of Social Security	% Disapprove of Bush's handling of Social Security
National		30.42%	69.58%

State	District	Question 2	
		% Approve of Bush's handling of Social Security	% Disapprove of Bush's handling of Social Security
FL	16	31.01%	68.99%

Question 3. Next, in your opinion will the Bush plan cut or protect your benefits?

		Question 3	
		% Think Bush plan will cut benefits	% Think Bush plan will protect benefits
National		71.69%	28.31%

State	District	Question 3	
		% Think Bush plan will cut benefits	% Think Bush plan will protect benefits
FL	16	68.25%	31.75%

Question 4. Now would you tell us if you think the Bush plan will make Social Security stronger or weaker?

		Question 4	
		% Think Bush plan will make Social Security Stronger	% Think Bush Plan will make Social Security Weaker
National		30.61%	69.39%

State	District	Question 4	
		% Think Bush plan will make Social Security Stronger	% Think Bush Plan will make Social Security Weaker
FL	16	34.52%	65.48%

Question 5. Overall, how do you feel about George Bush’s proposals on Social Security?

		Question 5	
		% Support Bush’s Social Security Proposals	% Oppose Bush’s Social Security Proposals
National		30.37%	69.63%

State	District	Question 5	
		% Support Bush’s Social Security Proposals	% Oppose Bush’s Social Security Proposals
FL	16	32.38%	67.62%

Question 6. Now, how about if your U.S. Congressman voted in favor of George Bush’s Social Security proposals. How would that affect your vote in the next election?

Are you more likely to vote for the Congressman if he supports the President’s plan, or are you less likely to vote for the Congressman if he supports the President’s plan?

		Question 6	
		% More likely to vote for candidate who supports Bush’s Plan	% Less likely to vote for candidate who supports Bush’s Plan
National		31.54%	68.46%

State	District	Question 6	
		% More likely to vote for candidate who supports Bush’s Plan	% Less likely to vote for candidate who supports Bush’s Plan
FL	16	34.65%	65.35%

Demographics:

Age				
	% 18-34	% 35-49	% 50-64	% 65 and older
National	11.65%	28.67%	26.77%	32.91%

State	District	Age			
		% 18-34	% 35-49	% 50-64	% 65 and older
FL	16	6.39%	25.97%	26.29%	41.35%

Gender				
	% Men			% Women
National		50.73%		49.27%

State	District	Gender		
		% Men		% Women
FL	16	52.05%		47.95%

Party Affiliation				
	% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Other
National	37.19%	38.15%	20.22%	4.44%

State	District	Party Affiliation			
		% Republican	% Democrat	% Independent	% Other
FL	16	43.46%	39.84%	14.34%	2.36%

Note: Survey was made of registered voters in each district. The results of the survey were weighted to assure that above demographic groups reflected the registered voters in the districts surveyed.

Numbers Surveyed in Each District:

State	CD	Initial Interviews	Not Registered	Total Completed Valid Surveys of Registered Voters
CO	7	202	20	182
CT	5	119	9	110
FL	16	136	7	129
FL	22	81	6	75
IA	1	899	26	873
IL	11	601	23	578
IN	2	162	16	146
MN	3	480	8	472
PA	3	489	36	453
Total		3169	151	3018