

# LYCOMING COLLEGE

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## News Release

### Bush Leads in Northern Pennsylvania, Lycoming College Poll Finds

President George W. Bush leads Senator John Kerry 53 to 36 percent across the northern tier of Pennsylvania, according to a Lycoming College poll released today. “Bush needs a strong showing in rural northern PA to counter Kerry’s strengths in the urban areas of the state. With 11 percent still undecided, the Bush campaign still has work to do to win the region by the margin they would like,” said Dr. Jonathan Williamson, assistant professor of political science and director of Lycoming’s polling institute.

Political science students under the direction of Dr. Williamson surveyed 451 likely voters from September 5-8 in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> congressional districts which comprise all or part of the following counties: Bradford, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lackawanna (excluding Scranton), Luzerne (excluding Wilkes-Barre), Lycoming, McKean, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, Wayne and Wyoming. The poll’s margin of error is +/- 4.6%

Among the 46% of respondents who feel the most important problem facing the country is Iraq, terrorism or homeland security, Bush leads Kerry 67% to 26%. Among the 29% of respondents who feel the most important problem is the economy or jobs, Kerry leads Bush 59% to 31%. “To make further inroads in the northern tier, Kerry would need to convince more voters their economic woes are more important than the war on terrorism,” said Williamson.

Both candidates receive the overwhelming support from members of their party. The poll results indicate Bush's advantage is a consequence of the pervasiveness of Republican identification by voters in Pennsylvania's northern tier. Among independents, the race is still a dead heat: 43 percent support Bush and 42 percent support Kerry with 15 percent still undecided.

Question: If the election for president were held today, would you vote for George W. Bush, the Republican or John Kerry, the Democrat?

	<b>All Respondents</b>	<b>Republicans</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Democrats</b>
<b>Bush</b>	53%	82%	43%	17%
<b>Kerry</b>	36	9	42	78
<b>Undecided</b>	11	9	15	5
<b>Percent of Total</b>	100%	49%	17%	31%