

Poll: God Has Better Approval Ratings than Congress

WASHINGTON (RNS) More than half of U.S. voters approve of God's job performance, according to a new poll, making God more popular than all members of Congress.

The poll—which was conducted by the Democratic research firm Public Policy Polling (PPP)—surveyed 928 people and found that 52 percent of Americans approved of God's overall dealings, while only 9 percent disapproved.

Questions about God were asked as part of a larger survey assessing American opinions of congressional leaders in the midst of the ongoing debt ceiling debate in Washington.

God's approval rating exceeded that of House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, as well as both Democrats and Republicans in Congress, with each party receiving only a 33 percent approval rating.

God also polled significantly higher than the scandal-ridden media baron Rupert Murdoch: only 12 percent of those polled viewed him favorably, compared to 49 percent who viewed him unfavorably.

"Though not the most popular figure PPP has polled, if God exists, voters are prepared to give it (sic) good marks," PPP said in a July 21 press release.

The poll also gauged God's handling of specific "issues." When asked to rate God on the creation of the universe, 71 percent of voters approved and only 5 percent disapproved. Respondents were also generally appreciative of God's governance of the "animal kingdom," with 56 percent approving and 11 percent disapproving.

Younger respondents were more critical of God's handling of natural disasters, with those ages 18-29 expressing a 26 percent disapproval rating, compared to 12 percent disapproval among those 65 and older.

The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points.