

**Poll of Rhode Island Voters
about the John Bolton Nomination**

Submitted by:

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I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics

Methodology

Zogby International conducted interviews of 604 likely voters chosen at random in Rhode Island. All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y., from April 15, 2005 through April 17, 2005. The margin of error is +/- 4.1 percentage points. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, gender, to more accurately reflect the voting population. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Sample Characteristics

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Sample size	604	100
CD1	302	50
CD 2	302	50
Very likely to vote	469	78
Somewhat likely to vote	135	22
Democrat	259	43
Republican	99	16
Independent/Minor party	246	41
Vote for Chafee 2000	259	43
Voted for Weygand 2000	97	16
Voted for someone else 2000	269	45
18-29	101	17
30-49	238	40
50-64	167	28
65+	89	15
18-24	71	12
25-34	53	9
35-54	286	48
55-69	116	19
70+	70	12
Did not answer age	8	--

Sample Characteristics (continued)	Frequency	Valid Percent*
White	524	88
Hispanic	30	5
African American	24	4
Asian/Pacific	6	1
Other/mixed	12	2
Did not answer race	9	--
Progressive/very liberal	103	17
Liberal	116	19
Moderate	177	29
Conservative	155	26
Very conservative	5	1
Libertarian	4	1
Not sure of ideology	44	7
Roman Catholic	362	60
Protestant	143	24
Jewish	16	3
Muslim	9	2
Other (religion)	70	12
Born-again (only Protestants)	27	19
Not born-again (only Protestants)	115	81
Did not answer religion	5	--
Member of union	143	24
Not member of union	461	76
Less than \$15,000	25	6
\$15,000-\$24,999	29	6
\$25,000-\$34,999	37	8
\$35,000-\$49,999	69	15
\$50,000-\$74,999	87	19
\$75,000 or more	208	46
Did not answer income	150	--
Male	290	48
Female	314	52

* Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.

II. Narrative Analysis

5. *If the election for Senate were held today and the candidates were Lincoln Chafee and someone else, for who would you vote?*

Chafee	46%
Someone else	25
Not sure	28

6. *Please tell me if your overall opinion of Lincoln Chafee is very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable, or you are not familiar enough to form an opinion?*

Very favorable	20%		
Somewhat favorable	54	Favorable	74%
Somewhat unfavorable	13		
Very unfavorable	7	Unfavorable	20
Not familiar	5		
Not sure	1		

7. *How closely have you been following the Bolton nomination?*

Very closely	12%		
Somewhat closely	27	Closely	39%
Not very closely	27		
Not at all	35	Not closely	62
Not sure	0		

8. *Should Senator Chafee vote for or against John Bolton for the next US Ambassador to the United Nations?*

Vote for	17%
Vote against	32
Not sure	51

9. Which of the following issues is **most** important to you as a voter?

Reforming social security	25%
US role in the world	37
End of life issues	2
Iraq	16
Tax reform	9
Abortion	4
*Other	3
Nothing/not sure	4

***Other:** All/combination of above (16); Environment (6); Education (4); Economy and jobs (3); Immigration (2); Healthcare; The deficit; U.S. citizens

More than one in three (37%) voters say the United States role in the world is the most important issue, followed by one in four (25%) who say reforming social security. Another 16% claim Iraq is the most important issue to them.

Those who voted for Senator Chafee in 2000 are slightly more likely to say that reforming Social Security (30%) is the most important issue to them as a voter, followed by one in five (21%) who say it is the role of the US in the world. Among those who say they voted for someone else, more than half (56%) say the US role in the world is most important. More than two in five (43%) of those who say they would vote for Lincoln Chafee for Senate if the vote were held today say the US role in the world is most important to them. One in three of those who say they would vote for someone else for senator agree. Likely Chafee voters are more than twice as likely to say the role of the US in the world over reforming Social Security is the most important issue to them as voters (43% vs. 20%).

More than three in four (77%) voters under 30 say that the US role in the world is the most important issue to them. Among voters 30 and 64, the US role in the world is slightly more important than reforming Social Security and among voters 65 and older, reforming Social Security handily beats out the other issues.

Nearly half (49%) of men are concerned about the role of the United States in the world, while women are more likely to be concerned about reforming Social Security (32%) than this country's role in the world (26%).

10. Which of the following best describes when a Senator should vote against a Presidential nominee? When the nominee, in the Senator's judgment. . .?

Lacks credibility because of past statements and performance	72%
Has ideological or policy differences with the Senator	35
Has abused his/her authority in government positions	74
Has used government positions to advance his/her personal views at the expense of the government's	55
Has tried to get other officials fired based on policy or personal differences	60
None of the above	1
Other/not sure	3

11. Do you agree or disagree that Senator Chafee should vote for a nominee that is unpopular in Rhode Island and that he personally dislikes if the administration asks him to do so?

Agree	11%
Disagree	72
Not sure	17

By nearly seven to one (72% vs. 11%), voters believe that Senator Chafee should not vote for a nominee who is unpopular in Rhode Island, even if the Bush administration asks him to do so.

A significant majority in nearly all sub-groups believe that Senator Chafee should not vote for a nominee who is unpopular in Rhode Island, including 72% of Republicans and 83% of Independents. Women (85%) are much more likely than men (59%) to say that the senator should not vote for someone unpopular with Rhode Islanders simply because the White House asks him to. Voters in the 2nd Congressional District (80%) are more adamant about not voting for someone unpopular in Rhode Island than are those in the 1st Congressional District (65%).

12. Generally speaking, when Lincoln Chafee and the Republican leadership disagree, is Senator Chafee more likely to vote his conscience or buckle under political pressure?

Vote his conscience	79%
Buckle under	11
Not sure	10

13. Now I want you to imagine that the President has nominated someone to represent the United States at the United Nations. Which of the following characteristics should a Senator take into account when deciding to vote for or against the nominee?

Credibility with other countries	69%
Respect for the UN and its mission	66
Belief that working through the UN can make the U.S. stronger and safer	70
Ability to bring countries together to solve problems	84
Other/not sure	2

More than four in five (84%) believe that a senator should consider whether or not a nominee has the ability to bring countries together to solve problems when deciding to vote for a nominee for the United Nations. Seventy percent of respondents say that a nominee should believe that working through the UN can made the US stronger and safer and 69% believe that a nominee for US Ambassador to the UN should have credibility with other countries. Two in three (66%) believe that such a nominee should respect the UN and its mission.

A majority in nearly every sub-group believes that the most important characteristics a senator should consider is the ability to bring countries together to solve problems.

14-21. Now I'm going to read you a series of a nominee's accomplishments and previous statements. After I read each item, please tell me whether you think the nominee should or should not be the next U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

Table 1. Nominee Statements/Accomplishments

If nominee. . .	Should be Next Ambassador	Should not be Next Ambassador	Not sure
. . .intimidated and requested the removal of multiple U.S. intelligence officers who disagreed with his policy conclusions.	8	86	7
. . .said "The [UN] Secretariat Building in New York has 38 stories. If you lost 10 stories today, it wouldn't make a bit of difference."	12	72	16
. . .believes that it is not in U.S. interests to recognize international law.	9	86	5
. . .believes that countries have no legal obligation to pay dues to the UN.	9	82	9
. . .believes that the U.S. should not support UN action to stop genocide and mass murder	7	89	4

If nominee. . .	Should be Next Ambassador	Should not be Next Ambassador	Not sure
. . .put nuclear negotiations in jeopardy by insulting North Korea.	10	85	5
. . .promoted faulty intelligence on Iraqi weapons.	6	87	7

22. *The previous quotations, beliefs, and acts are those of John Bolton, President Bush’s nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Knowing what you know now, do you think Senator Chafee should vote for or against John Bolton for the next U.S. Ambassador to the UN?*

Vote for	11%
Vote against	81
Not sure	8

After a series of statements and accomplishments were read, respondents are overwhelmingly opposed to the confirmation of John Bolton as US Ambassador to the UN. Prior to the statements, respondents were asked if Senator Chafee should vote for or against John Bolton as UN Ambassador – 17% thought the senator should vote for Bolton, while 32% thought he should vote against Bolton. More than half (51%) were not sure.

However, after the statements are read, more than four in five (81%) believe that Senator Chafee should vote against the nomination of Secretary Bolton for UN Ambassador, while support for his confirmation dropped from 17% to 11%. Those who said they are not sure dropped from 51% to just 8%.

Table 2. Vote For/Against Bolton

	Vote For	Vote Against	Not sure
Pre-statements	17	32	51
Post statements	11	81	8
Difference	-6	+49	-43

In every case among the sub-groups listed in the table below, those saying that Senator Chafee should vote against the nomination of Secretary Bolton for Ambassador to the UN increased dramatically and those saying not sure decreased equally as dramatically. Significantly, among those who say they would vote for Senator Chafee for senate if the election were held today, 85% say the senator should vote against Bolton after the statements are read, a fifty-seven percentage point increase pre-statements and among those who are not sure how they will vote, 79% say the senator should vote against Bolton, a forty-seven percentage point increase after the statements are read.

Only among Republicans, is there an increase in those saying he should vote for the nomination of Bolton, up 6 percentage points. In all other cases illustrated, those saying Chafee should vote in favor of the nomination decreased.

Table 3. Vote For/Against Bolton Demographic Breakdowns

	Vote For			Vote Against			Not sure		
	Pre-	Post	Diff	Pre-	Post	Diff	Pre-	Post	Diff
Dem	14	2	-12	26	94	+68	60	4	-56
Rep	27	33	+6	14	62	+48	59	5	-54
Ind	16	12	-4	46	75	+29	38	14	-24
18-29	8	4	-4	11	95	+84	81	1	-80
30-49	16	8	-8	29	86	+57	55	6	-49
50-64	15	11	-4	52	75	+23	34	13	-21
65+	32	26	-6	29	63	+34	39	11	-28
Voted Chafee 2000	29	16	-13	29	74	+45	41	10	-31
Voted Weygand 2000	20	16	-4	43	71	+27	37	13	-24
Voted someone else 2000	6	5	-1	30	91	+61	65	4	-61
Men	20	12	-8	22	80	+58	58	8	-50
Women	15	10	-5	41	82	+41	44	8	-36
White	15	11	-4	32	81	+49	53	8	-45
Hispanic	17	--	-17	41	100	+59	42	--	-42
African American	42	5	-37	26	95	+69	32	--	-32
1st CD	17	12	-5	22	80	+58	62	8	-54
2nd CD	17	10	-7	42	82	+40	41	8	-33
Vote for Chafee 2006	16	10	-6	28	85	+57	56	5	-51
Vote for someone else 2006	22	12	-10	39	76	+37	38	13	-25
Not sure of vote 2006	14	12	-2	32	79	+47	54	8	-46

23. *If Senator Chafee voted for John Bolton for the next US Ambassador to the UN, would you be much more likely, somewhat more likely, somewhat less likely, or much less likely to vote for him in 2006, or would it make no difference in your vote?*

Much more likely	5%		
Somewhat more likely	4	More likely	9%
Somewhat less likely	20		
Much less likely	36	Less likely	56
No difference	33		
Not sure	3		

While Senator Chafee enjoys high favorable ratings (more than seven in ten give him a very or somewhat favorable rating), more than half (56%) say they would be likely to vote against Senator Chafee if he votes for John Bolton as the next Ambassador to the UN, including more than one in three (36%) who say they would be much less likely to

support Chafee. One in three (33%) voters say his vote for or against Bolton would make no difference in their support or opposition to him, while 9% say they would be more likely to support Chafee in 2006.

More than four in five (85%) voters under 30 say they would be less likely to support Senator Chafee if he voted in favor of Senator Bolton's nomination for Ambassador to the UN. A majority of 30 to 49 year olds (59%) and a plurality of 50 to 64 year olds (49%) say they would be less likely to vote for Senator Chafee in 2006 if he votes for Secretary Bolton. Nearly half (46%) of voters 65 and older say Chafee's vote for Bolton would make no difference in their support for him in 2006, while this group is slightly more likely to say they would be less likely to vote for the senator (26%) than to vote for him (20%).

Among Democrats, 73% say they would be less likely to vote for Chafee in 2006, while 34% of Republicans, and 46% of Independents say they would be less likely to vote for him in the next election. Two in three men (66%) say they would be less likely to vote for Lincoln Chafee as senator in 2006, while 46% of women agree.

Half (51%) of the voters in the 1st Congressional District and 60% in the 2nd Congressional District say they would be less likely to support the senator in a reelection bid if he votes in favor of the John Bolton nomination.

Among those who say they would vote for Senator Chafee in 2006 if the election were held today, 60% say they would be less likely to support him if he voted in favor of the Bolton nomination, while 44% of those who expressed interest in someone else say they would be less likely to vote for him in such an instance.