

Vigil for Peace

Poll: Nearly two-thirds of Americans say Afghan war isn't worth fighting

By Scott Wilson and Jon Cohen, Tuesday, Washington Post, March 15, 2011

Nearly two-thirds of Americans now say the war in Afghanistan is no longer worth fighting, the highest proportion yet opposed to the conflict, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

Nearly three-quarters of Americans say Obama should withdraw a “substantial number” of combat troops from Afghanistan this summer, the deadline he set to begin pulling out some forces. Only 39 percent of respondents, however, say they expect him to withdraw large numbers.

The finding signals a growing challenge for President Obama as he decides how quickly to pull U.S. forces from the country beginning this summer. After nearly a decade of conflict, political opposition to the battle breaks sharply along partisan lines, with only 19 percent of Democratic respondents and half of Republicans surveyed saying the war continues to be worth fighting.

Two-thirds of independents hold that position (that the war is not worth fighting), **according to the poll, and nearly 80 percent said Obama should withdraw a “substantial number “of troops from Afghanistan this summer.** Barely more than a quarter of independents say the war is worth its costs, and for the first time a majority feel “strongly” that it is not.

The growing opposition presents Obama with a difficult political challenge ahead of his 2012 reelection effort, especially in his pursuit of independent voters.

It's Time to End the Afghanistan War

The Vigil for Peace was initiated by the Albany Friends Meeting and Peace Action. Find out how you can work for peace. Call 518-463-5907

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