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Public Policy Polling research discovers a variety of beliefs

One in five Republican voters believes Barack Obama is the 'antichrist' and nearly a third of all Americans think a secret power elite controls the world, according to new research on conspiracy theories.

The surprising results form part of the PPP's in-depth study of how political affiliation can dictate the likelihood of an individual believing in various conspiracy theories.

The research found 34 per cent of Republicans polled believe a New World Order controls the world, compared with 35 per cent of independent voters and just 15 per cent of Democrats.

While a total of 44 per cent of Americans think the Bush administration deliberately misled the public over weapons of mass destruction in an effort to start the Iraq war, that breaks down to 72 per cent of Democrats and just 27 per cent of Republicans.

Other conspiracy theory beliefs have similar political overtones. Thirty-seven per cent of voters believe global warming is a hoax, but only 23 per cent of Democrats believe it is compared to over half of Republican voters.

28 percent of voters think Saddam Hussein was in some way connected to the September 11 attacks. 33 per cent of Republicans believe this while 78 per cent of Democrats disagree with them.

Some conspiracy theories saw Democrat and Republican voters more united however, with a total 51 per cent of Americans thinking there was a larger conspiracy at work in the assassination of President John F Kennedy, and more than one in ten believing in Bigfoot. A combined 29 per cent of US voters also believe aliens exist, while 21 per cent think an alien craft crashed at Roswell in 1947.

More PPP results

- * 6% of voters believe Osama bin Laden is still alive
- * 20% of voters believe there is a link between childhood vaccines and autism, 51% do not
- * 7% of voters think the moon landing was faked
- * 14% of voters say the CIA was instrumental in creating the crack cocaine epidemic in

America's inner cities in the 1980's

* 15% of voters think the medical industry and the pharmaceutical industry "invent" new diseases to make money

* 11% of voters believe the US government allowed 9/11 to happen, 78% do not agree

