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THE STIMULUS BILL AND THE BAILOUTS: WHO DESERVES HELP? February 18-22, 2009

On the eve of Barack Obama's first address to Congress as President, he maintains strong support from Americans. While many don't know enough about the specifics of the recently-passed stimulus bill to evaluate it, just over half thinks it will help the economy.

Americans express varying reactions to some of the bailouts recently proposed. They are supportive of the government providing help to struggling homeowners, but are divided in their feelings of relief or resentment about it.

More Americans are now opposed to providing assistance to ailing financial institutions; they are not confident banks will use bailout money wisely, and are skeptical that bank bailouts will help anyone other than bankers.

They firmly oppose helping out U.S. automakers, who now say they need another infusion of government help to avoid bankruptcy.

A growing percentage of Americans are feeling the effects of the recession themselves; a third says their personal financial situation is bad, up from a fifth one year ago.

AIDING THE NATION'S HOMEOWNERS

President Obama recently began unveiling his plan to address the housing and mortgage crisis. In general, Americans back the idea of government assistance to homeowners.

This idea is popular with Democrats and independents, but finds less favor among Republicans. Both homeowners and current renters support it.

SHOULD GOV'T PROVIDE HELP TO HOMEOWNERS?

	All	Dems	Reps	Inds
Yes	61%	73%	47%	59%
No	20	9	31	24
Don't know enough	14	14	16	11

However, there are mixed feelings. Some (35%) would be mostly relieved to see homeowners get aid, but as many (35%) are mostly resentful that it could help borrowers who took out mortgages they weren't certain they could pay. About a quarter don't know enough yet to say.

OBAMA'S PLAN TO AID HOMEOWNERS MAKES YOU FEEL ...

Relieved for people facing foreclosure	35%
Resentful of irresponsible homeowners	35
Don't know enough about plan yet	26

AID TO FINANCIAL COMPANIES

Only 39% of Americans approve of the government giving money to banks and financial institutions as a way of trying to fix the nation's economy. More, 50%, disapprove. Views on this are now slightly more disapproving than they were two weeks ago.

GOV'T PROVIDING MONEY TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

	Now	2/5/09	12/2008
Approve	39%	42%	46%
Disapprove	50	47	44

One important reason that Americans are not embracing the idea: they lack confidence that the money provided to financial institutions will be used in ways that benefit the entire economy. Most - 57% - express not much or no confidence in that linkage.

CONFIDENCE THAT MONEY TO BANKS WILL HELP ENTIRE ECONOMY?

A lot of confidence	2%
Some confidence	39
Not much/no confidence	57

Similarly, Americans say the Obama Administration's proposals to help the banking system would help only bankers, not all Americans.

OBAMA'S PROPOSALS TO HELP BANKS WOULD HELP ...?

All	Americans	298
Only	<i>y</i> bankers	59

However, as President Obama prepares to address Congress and the nation, there still may be room for Americans to learn more about the plan. While most Americans (76%) are following the financial bailout story, not all are following very closely - just 37% are keeping very close tabs on it. Those who are following it most closely are the least likely to support it.

Americans are clear that they want salaries of senior executives to be capped when a company takes government money.

SHOULD GOV'T LIMIT EXECUTIVE SALARIES IF COMPANIES GET FEDERAL MONEY?

Yes	83%
No	11

Republicans, Democrats and independents all agree on this. In keeping with this requirement, most Americans favor some government control:

just 28% think President Obama's plans would give the government too much control over the financial institutions. 34% see the control as being about right and 29% say it is too little.

AIDING THE AUTO COMPANIES

There is even less support for giving more money to the struggling auto industry: some auto makers have already received loans from the government and say they may need more to avoid bankruptcy. 68% of Americans would oppose giving auto companies any more money.

SHOULD GOV'T GIVE MORE AID TO AUTO COMPANIES?

Yes 22% No 68

THE STIMULUS BILL

Americans are optimistic the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill President Obama signed last week will help the country's economy; 53% think it will make things better, and just 13% think it will make things worse. 24% expect it to have no impact.

IMPACT OF STIMULUS BILL ON ECONOMY

Better 53% Worse 13 No impact 24

76% of Democrats and 45% of independents think the bill will improve the economy; just 32% of Republicans agree (35% think it will have no impact).

But many also think the stimulus bill alone will not be enough to end the recession. Half don't think the bill will shorten the length of the recession, and another 17% think it may shorten it but not significantly. Just 19% think the bill $\underline{\text{will}}$ shorten the recession significantly.

STIMULUS BILL'S EFFECT ON LENGTH OF RECESSION

Will	shorten significantly	19%
Will	shorten, not significantly	17
Will	not shorten	50

Four in five Americans have heard or read at least some about the stimulus package, including 40% who have heard or read a lot.

Nevertheless, many Americans are unable to judge specific aspects of the bill. Four in ten don't know enough to evaluate the amount of government spending included in the bill, and a similar percentage doesn't know whether the stimulus bill will create a significant number of new jobs. Half don't know enough to assess the amount of tax cuts included, and 51% can't compare the stimulus bill to other legislation in terms of amount of earmarks, or "pork," it contains.

Those who do have an opinion are divided about the job creation and government spending included in the bill. More think the bill includes too few tax cuts than has too many.

STIMULUS BILL SPECIFICS

JOBS:

Will create jobs	32%
Will not	28
Don't know enough	38

GOVT. SPENDING:

Too much	18%
Too little	16
Right amount	25
Don't know enough	39

TAX CUTS:

Too many	9%
Too few	20
Right amount	17
Don't know enough	51

CONTAINS EARMARKS OR "PORK":

More than typical	188
Less than typical	8
Same	21
Don't know enough	51

In principle, Americans favor tax cuts over government spending as a means of job creation. 50% think that tax cuts for businesses and individuals would do more to protect or create jobs, while 41% think increasing government spending on infrastructure, health care, education and other areas would be more effective.

But a majority believes that more government spending will nonetheless be necessary. Over two thirds of Americans expect that more money will be needed in the months ahead to stimulate the economy; just 18% think the stimulus bill is large enough.

SIZE OF STIMULUS BILL

Large	e enoug	gh as	it	is	18%
More	money	will	be	needed	69

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE ECONOMY

Now that he has signed the stimulus bill into law, 76% of Americans are confident in President Obama's ability to make the right decisions about the economy, including nearly a third who are very confident. More than half approve of the President's handling of the economy in general.

CONFIDENT OBAMA WILL MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS ON THE ECONOMY

Very	31%
Somewhat	45
Not	23

56% of Americans think they have a good understanding of Barack Obama's economic plans, but a sizeable number - 40% - say they do not. The percentage who say they do not understand is similar to the number who say they don't know enough about some specifics of the stimulus bill.

GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF OBAMA'S ECONOMIC PLANS

Yes	56%
No	40

Most Democrats (72%) say they have a good grasp of the President's plans for the economy; over half of Republicans (51%) say they do not.

Americans don't expect the economy to rebound overnight. Most (70%) think it will take two years or more for President Obama to make real progress on the economy.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE OBAMA TO MAKE REAL PROGRESS ON THE ECONOMY?

One year	16%
Two years	30
Three to four years	29
More than four years	11
Won't be able to	12

BIPARTISANSHIP

Just three Republicans - all members of the U.S. Senate - ultimately voted for the economic stimulus bill. A majority of Americans (63%) think Republicans opposed the bill mostly for political reasons rather than because they thought it would be bad for the economy. Not surprisingly, there are partisan differences on this question.

REPUBLICAN OPPOSITION TO STIMULUS BILL

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Mostly political reasons	63%	38%	81%	63%
Would be bad for the economy	29	50	14	30

Just 31% now think Republicans are trying to work in a bipartisan way with Barack Obama, down from 41% before the stimulus package was passed. Many don't view Congressional Democrats as working for bipartisanship either. President Obama, however, continues to be perceived by Americans as reaching out to Congressional Republicans - 74% say he is.

TRYING FOR BIPARTISANSHIP

	Now	2/5/2009
Obama is	74%	81%
Congressional Republicans are	31%	41%
Congressional Democrats are	45%	49%

While Americans think President Obama is trying for bipartisanship, 56% think that shouldn't be his priority - he should be sticking to the policies he promised in his campaign. On the other hand, an overwhelming majority think Republicans in Congress should be working in a bipartisan manner rather than sticking to their party's policies.

WHICH SHOULD BE A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR...?

	Pres.	Congressional
	Obama	Republicans
Bipartisanship	39%	79%
Sticking to policies	56	17

Congress's overall approval remains low, with just 26% approving of the job Congress is doing - the same number as last month.

EVALUATIONS OF PRESIDENT OBAMA

After one month in office, Barack Obama's overall approval rating remains favorable. 63% of Americans approve of the job he is doing as president - similar to the approval rating he received earlier this month. Nearly nine in 10 Democrats approve of the job he is doing as do 44% of Republicans. 38% of GOPers disapprove.

OBAMA OVERALL JOB RATING

	Now	2/5/2009
Approve	63%	62%
Disapprove	22	15
Don't know	15	23

More than half of Americans also approve of President Obama's handling of foreign policy, Iraq and the economy. A quarter, however, were unable to rate the President on the issues of foreign policy and Iraq.

OBAMA JOB RATINGS -

	Foreign policy	<u> Iraq</u>	Economy
Approve	57%	54%	57%
Disapprove	17	24	32
Don't know	26	22	11

The American public continues to be optimistic about the next four years with Barack Obama as President. 77% are, including 57% of Republicans.

Despite the withdrawal of three of President Obama's cabinet appointments, including former Senator Tom Daschle who backed out of being Secretary of Health and Human Services because of tax problems,

most Americans (76%) are confident that Barack Obama has made the right decisions regarding his cabinet appointments. Democrats are more likely to express confidence than Republicans.

CONFIDENT IN OBAMA'S DECISIONS ABOUT CABINET APPOINTMENTS

Very	28%
Somewhat	48
Not	22

Most (83%) think the President cares about their needs and problems, including more than half who say he cares about them "a lot;" and another 65% think he shares their priorities for the country.

"Change," a major theme of Barack Obama's presidential campaign, is something Americans see the President as still embracing. Three in four Americans think he is trying to bring about change in the way things are done in Washington.

PRESIDENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Cares about your needs & problems	83%
Trying to bring about change in D.C.	77%
Shares your priorities	65%

THE (BAD) CONDITION OF THE ECONOMY AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Americans continue to have a dismal opinion of the condition of the national economy. Now 91% of Americans think the economy is in bad shape, including 61% who say it is *very* bad. Just 8% of Americans think the economy is even fairly good.

And most Americans - 51% - think the economy is getting worse; only 8% think it is getting better. 40% think it is staying the same.

THINK THE ECONOMY IS GETTING ...

	Now	2/5/2009	12/2008
Better	8%	5%	8%
Worse	51	51	60
Staying the same	40	42	29

Nor do most think the economic recession will end any time soon. Nearly two in three Americans think the recession will last two years or more.

HOW LONG WILL THE RECESSION LAST?

	Now	2/5/2009	1/2009
Six months	6%	9%	5%
A year	27	30	25
Two years or more	63	53	68

When asked what economic problem is the most important facing the country today, 40% of Americans volunteer jobs and unemployment. The

housing and home mortgage crisis and the failure of the country's financial institutions are a distant second and third.

MOST IMPORTANT ECONOMIC PROBLEM

Jobs/unemployment	40%
Housing/home mortgages	10
Failure of financial institutions	7

Those priorities are no doubt connected to Americans' personal job insecurities. Although concern about personal unemployment has dropped slightly from last month, when it reached a historic high for this poll, it remains high. 64% of Americans say they are at least somewhat concerned that they or someone in their household might be out of work and looking for a job in the next twelve months. Almost four in 10 are very concerned.

CONCERN ABOUT HOUSEHOLD UNEMPLOYMENT OVER THE NEXT YEAR

	Now	2/5/2009	1/2009
Very concerned	38%	44%	30%
Somewhat concerned	26	28	32
Not at all concerned	35	27	38

THE RECESSION'S IMPACT ON AMERICANS' FINANCES

As Americans' assessment of the national economy worsens, the percentage who says their own financial situation is bad is also growing. Although most say their family financial situation is at least fairly good, now a third of all Americans say it is fairly or very bad, up from one in five a year ago.

CONDITION OF YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

	Now	8/2008	2/2008
Very good	12%	15%	18%
Fairly good	55	56	60
Fairly/very bad	32	28	21

And perceived purchasing power in relation to income continues to drop. Now over a quarter of Americans say their household income is enough to save and buy extras, a number that has slowly but steadily declined over the past year. 55% say they make just enough to pay their bills, while 17% say they do not make enough to make ends meet.

IS YOUR HOUSEHOLD INCOME ...?

	Now	1/2009	2/2008
Enough to save and buy extras	27%	29%	38%
Just enough pay bills	55	53	46
Not enough to pay bills	17	17	13

Not surprisingly, Americans who earn more are also more able to save. 57% of Americans who earn more than \$100,000 a year say they make enough to save and buy extras, while only 7% of those making \$30,000 or less say the same.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,112 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone February $18-22\ 2009$. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL The Stimulus Bill and the Bailouts: Who Deserves Help? February 18-22, 2009

ql Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ** *** Party ID ***						
	motol		_		J	Feb09a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	ı	
_	%	8	%	%		8
Approve	63	44	88	52		62
Disapprove	22	38	3	30		15
DK/NA	15	18	9	18		23
q2 Do you approve or disapp	rove of	the way	Barack	Obama	is	handling foreign policy?
Approve	57	39	73	54		50
Disapprove	17	31	7	17		15
DK/NA	26	30	20	29		35
DIC/ IVI	20	30	20	2,		33
q3 Do you approve or disapp	rove of	the way	Barack	Obama	is	handling the economy?
Approve	57	32	85	47		55
Disapprove	32	59	9	36		24
DK/NA	11	9	6	17		21
DR/ NA	11		O	Ι,		21
q4 Do you approve or disapp Iraq?	rove of	the way	Barack	Obama	is	handling the situation with
Approve	54	45	68	47		
Disapprove	24	32	11	31		
DK/NA	22	23	21	22		
q5 Do you approve or disapp	rove of	the way	Congre	ss is l	nand	dling its job?
Approve	26	19	36	20		26
Disapprove	63	72	48	70		62
DK/NA	11	9	16	10		12
DR/ NA		,	10	10		12
q6 Do you think Barack Obama is trying to work with Republicans in Congress in order to get things done, or isn't he?						
Work with Reps	74	61	91	67		81
Not work with Reps		32		26		12
	20		6			
DK/NA	6	7	3	7		7
q7 Do you think Republicans in Congress are trying to work with Barack Obama in order to get things done, or aren't they?						
Work with Ohama	21	Εĵ	1.0	20		41
Work with Obama	31	53	18	28		41
Not work with Obama	57	33	73	59		47
DK/NA	12	16	9	13		12

q8 Do you think Democrats in Congress are trying to work with the Republicans in Congress in order to get things done, or aren't they?

	* *				
		* * *	Party II) ***	
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Work with Republicans	45	32	62	38	49
Not work with Republicans	43	62	26	45	38
DK/NA	12	6	12	17	13

q9 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	0	0	0	0	0
Fairly good	8	11	7	7	5
Fairly bad	30	35	25	32	31
Very bad	61	54	68	60	63
DK/NA	1	0	0	1	1

q10 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	8	15	6	3	5
Worse	51	49	46	57	51
Same	40	35	46	38	42
DK/NA	1	1	2	2	2

q11 What do you think is the most important economic problem facing this country today?

Jobs and Unemployment	40	33	45	41
Housing/Home mortgage crisis	10	10	12	9
Failure of financial inst.	7	5	9	7
Budget / National Debt	2	3	1	3
Personal finances	2	3	2	1
Health care	2	0	3	2
Defense spending	2	6	2	1
Greed/People on Wall Street	2	3	2	2
Other	24	28	15	26
DK/NA	9	9	9	8

 ${
m q12~How~long~do~you~think~the~current~recession~will~last~---~six~months,~a~year,~two~years~or~more~than~two~years?}$

					Feb09a
Six months	6	6	7	6	9
A year	27	35	28	21	30
Two years	28	25	34	25	31
More than 2 years	35	32	28	43	22
DK/NA	4	2	3	5	8

q13 Beside the economy, which of these domestic policy areas do you want the President and Congress to concentrate on MOST right now -- health care, global warming, education, or Social Security?

	* *	TOTAL	RESPONI	ENTS **
		* * *	Party	ID ***
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Health care	40	37	44	39
Global warming	5	2	5	7
Education	27	32	27	24
Social Security	22	24	19	24
Something else/Combination	4	5	4	4
DK/NA	2	0	1	2

q14 SEPARATE RELEASE

q15-16 BLANK

q17 SEPARATE RELEASE

q18-19 BLANK

q20 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the next four years with Barack Obama as President?

					Jan09a
					%
Optimistic	77	57	96	73	79
Pessimistic	18	35	2	21	16
Don't know/No answer	5	8	2	6	5

 ${\tt q21}$ Do you think Barack Obama has the same priorities for the country as you have, or doesn't he?

Yes	65	48	89	54
No	28	45	6	36
DK/NA	7	7	5	10

q22 How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself -- a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

7]	Г Э	40	76	41	Aug08a1*
A lot	53	40	76	41	37
Some	30	37	21	35	34
Not much	8	13	2	12	14
Not at all	6	7	1	10	12
Don't know/No answer	3	3	0	2	3
*Registered voters					

q23 So far, do you think Barack Obama is trying to bring about real change in the way things are done in Washington, or isn't he doing that?

Is bringing change	77	66	95	67
Is not	18	30	3	24
DK/NA	5	4	2	9

q24 BLANK

q25 How confident are you in Barack Obama's ability to make the right decisions about putting together his Cabinet -- very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

	**	TOTAL	RESPOND	ENTS **
		***	Party	ID ***
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very confident	28	18	37	25
Somewhat confident	48	37	57	46
Not too confident	14	30	3	14
Not at all confident	8	13	1	12
DK/NA	2	2	2	3

q26 How confident are you in Barack Obama's ability to make the right decisions about the economy -- very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

					Jan09a
					%
Very confident	31	16	50	24	36
Somewhat confident	45	40	47	46	46
Not too confident	15	31	2	16	11
Not at all confident	8	13	1	12	4
DK/NA	1	0	0	2	3

q27 In response to the current economic crisis, do you think the President and Congress have moved too slowly, too quickly, or at about the right pace?

Too slowly	29	25	27	35
Too quickly	23	39	8	27
About right pace	43	31	62	34
Mixed (Vol.)	1	1	1	2
DK/NA	4	4	2	2

q28 From what you've seen or heard, do you think you have been able to get a good understanding of Barack Obama's economic plans, or not?

Yes	56	45	72	49
No	40	51	24	47
DK/NA	4	4	4	4

q29 How long do you think it will take the Obama Administration to make real progress on fixing the nation's economy -- one year, two years, three to four years, more than four years, or won't they be able to?

One year	16	15	22	12	17
Two years	30	23	37	29	38
Three to four years	29	28	27	30	18
More than four years	11	14	11	9	17
Won't be able to	12	19	1	17	7
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	3

q30 Congress passed and President Obama signed a stimulus package designed to get the economy moving again. How much have you heard or read about the stimulus package -- a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?

	* *	TOTAL	RESPONI	ENTS **
		* * *	Party	ID ***
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	용
A lot	40	37	48	35
Some	40	36	38	46
Not much	15	18	11	17
Nothing	4	9	3	2
DK/NA	1	0	0	0

q31 From what you know, what impact will the stimulus package have on the current economic crisis -- will it make things better, make things worse, or will it have no impact?

Better	53	32	76	45
Worse	13	21	3	16
No impact	24	35	13	28
DK/NA	10	12	8	11

q32 In general, the stimulus package provides tax cuts for individuals and businesses, extends unemployment benefits and tries to create jobs by spending money on technology and infrastructure programs like building highways. From what you know, do you think the package is large enough to stimulate the economy or will more money be needed in the months ahead to stimulate the economy?

Large enough	18	15	21	17
More money will be needed	69	73	67	68
No amount will stimulate(vol.	.) 4	6	1	5
DK/NA	9	6	11	10

q33 From what you know so far, do you think the economic stimulus package will create a substantial number of new jobs, or won't it create a substantial number of new jobs, or don't you know enough yet to say?

Will create jobs	32	24	43	26
Will not create jobs	28	35	16	34
Don't know enough	38	38	40	37
DK/NA	2	3	1	3

q34 From what you know so far, what do you think about the number of tax cuts for businesses and individuals included in the economic stimulus package -- are there too many tax cuts, too few tax cuts, about the right amount of tax cuts, or don't you know enough yet to say?

Too many	9	9	8	11
Too few	20	32	13	20
Right amount	17	10	19	19
Don't know enough	51	47	58	47
DK/NA	3	2	2	3

q35 From what you know so far, what do you think about the government spending on technology and infrastructure projects included in the economic stimulus package -- is there too much spending on technology and infrastructure projects, too little spending on technology and infrastructure projects, about the right amount of spending on technology and infrastructure projects, or don't you know enough yet to say?

	* *	TOTAL	TOTAL RESPONDENTS		
		* * *	Party	ID ***	
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	
Too much	18	25	11	21	
Too little	16	10	18	17	
Right amount	25	21	28	26	
Don't know enough yet	39	42	41	35	
DK/NA	2	2	2	1	

q36-41 BLANK

q42 Do you think the economic stimulus bill recently passed by Congress and signed by the President will shorten the length of the current recession, or not?

IF YES: Will the economic stimulus bill shorten the recession significantly, or not?

Yes, significantly	19	7	32	14
Yes, NOT significantly	17	13	20	18
No, will not shorten	50	67	31	57
DK/NA	14	13	17	11

q43 In your opinion, which will do MORE to protect or create jobs: increased government spending on infrastructure, health care, education and other fields, OR tax cuts that would put more money in the hands of individuals and businesses?

Increased gov't spending	41	31	57	34
Tax cuts	50	64	33	57
Both (Vol.)	3	1	5	3
DK/NA	6	4	5	6

q44 Most Republican members of Congress opposed the stimulus package. Do you think they opposed it mostly because they thought it would be bad for the economy or mostly for political reasons?

Bad for the economy	29	50	14	30
Political reasons	63	38	81	63
DK/NA	8	12	5	7

q45 As you may know, members of Congress sometimes add provisions to legislation that include government spending projects for their own home states and districts, sometimes known as "earmarks" or "pork." Do you think the economic stimulus package passed by Congress contains more "earmarks" or "pork" than is typical in legislation, less, about the same amount, or don't you know enough to say?

More	18	28	5	23
Less	8	2	15	6
About the same	21	19	23	21
Don't know enough	51	48	55	49
DK/NA	2	3	2	1

q48 Which do you think should be a higher priority for Barack Obama right now -- working in a bipartisan way with Republicans in Congress or sticking to the policies he promised during the campaign?

	* *	TOTAL 1	RESPONI	ENTS **
		* * *	Party	ID ***
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Working bipartisan way	39	59	25	40
Sticking to policies	56	39	69	56
DK/NA	5	2	6	4

q49 Which do you think should be a higher priority for Republicans in Congress right now -- working in a bipartisan way with Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress or sticking to Republican policies?

Working bipartisan way	79	73	95	69
Sticking to policies	17	23	4	25
DK/NA	4	4	1	6

q50 The federal government is providing money to banks and other financial institutions to try to help fix the country's economic problems. How much have you heard or read about this -- a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?

A lot	37	32	38	39
Some	39	40	40	38
Not much	17	17	19	15
Nothing at all	7	11	3	9
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

q51 Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government providing money to banks and other financial institutions to try to help fix the country's economic problems?

					Feb09a
					8
Approve	39	41	44	34	42
Disapprove	50	52	45	54	47
Depends (Vol.)	7	5	7	7	8
DK/NA	4	2	4	5	3

q52 BLANK

q53 Do you think the Obama administration's proposals to help the banking system will mostly benefit all Americans by addressing a big economic problem, or will it only benefit bankers?

All Americans	29	20	41	23
Bankers	59	67	50	63
DK/NA	12	13	9	14

q54 Do you think the Obama administration's economic plans would give the federal government too much control over banks and financial institutions, OR not enough control over banks and financial institutions, OR the right amount of control over banks and financial institutions?

Too much	28	43	12	33
Not enough	29	31	28	28
Right amount	34	20	51	26
DK/NA	9	6	9	13

q55 When it comes to the companies that are receiving financial assistance from the government, do you think the federal government should or should not put a limit on the amount of money that senior executives at those companies can earn?

	* *	TOTAL I	RESPONI	ENT	TS **
		* * *	Party	ID	* * *
	Total	Rep	Dem		Ind
	%	%	%		%
Should	83	80	89		81
Shouldn't	11	13	9		12
DK/NA	6	7	2		7

q56 The federal government has given some of the major U.S. auto companies more than \$13 billion dollars in loans to prevent them from going into bankruptcy. Some of those auto companies now say they need more money. Should the federal government give them additional financial assistance, or not?

More assistance	22	20	24	21
No more assistance	68	70	67	68
Depends (Vol.)	4	2	4	5
DK/NA	6	8	5	6

q57 The Obama administration has a plan to help homeowners refinance their mortgages, avoid foreclosure, and make more credit available for mortgages. Do you think the federal government should provide this financial help to homeowners, or shouldn't the federal government do this, or don't you know enough yet to say?

Government should help	61	47	73	59
Government shouldn't help	20	31	9	24
Don't know enough	14	16	14	11
Help some, not others (Vol.)	3	4	2	3
DK/NA	2	2	2	3

q58 BLANK

q59 The national debt is the total amount of money the government owes individuals, banks and other countries. How concerned are you that increasing the national debt will create hardships for future generations of Americans -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not concerned at all?

Very concerned	65	69	60	67
Somewhat concerned	26	20	31	26
Not very concerned	7	7	8	5
Not at all concerned	2	3	1	2
DK/NA	0	1	0	0

q60 Would you say right now that you are more concerned about dealing with the current economic crisis or more concerned about increasing the national debt?

Current economic crisis	74	63	82	75
National debt	20	33	14	17
DK/NA	6	4	4	8

q61 Thinking about the banks and financial institutions that are receiving financial assistance from the government, how much confidence do you have that the money they receive is being used in a way that will help improve the national economy - a lot of confidence, some confidence, not much confidence, or no confidence at all?

	* *	REDUCEI	SAMPLE^	* *
		***	Party ID	***
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot	2	1	2	2
Some	39	34	48	35
Not much	39	47	36	36
None	18	16	13	24
DK/NA	2	2	1	3
^Asked of 614 respondents. A	dded to	survey	on 2/20/2	2009

q62 Which comes closer to your view about the Obama administration's proposal to address the housing crisis: 1. I am mostly relieved that steps are being taken to help people facing foreclosure or 2. I am mostly resentful that the plan could help homeowners who may have taken out mortgages they weren't certain they could pay, or 3. I haven't heard enough about the proposal to say?

Relieved	35	22	49	33
Resentful	35	49	26	33
Haven't heard enough	26	29	20	31
DK/NA	4	0	5	3

^Asked of 614 respondents. Added to survey on 2/20/2009

q63 BLANK

q64-70 SEPARATE RELEASE

q71-72 BLANK

q73 How would you rate the financial situation in your household these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Jan09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	12	19	9	9	10
Fairly good	55	52	57	54	63
Fairly bad	21	17	22	23	19
Very bad	11	10	10	13	8
Don't know/No answer	1	2	2	1	0

q74 Think about your household income, would you say that it is more than enough so that you can save money or buy some extras, just enough to meet your bills and obligations, or is it not enough to meet your bills and obligations?

Can save and buy extras	27	34	22	27	29
Just enough to pay bills	55	54	62	49	53
Not enough to pay bills	17	12	16	22	17
Don't know/No answer	1	0	0	2	1

q75 How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you or someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

	* *	TOTAL F	RESPONDE	NTS **	
		***	Party II	***	
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very concerned	38	27	38	45	44
Somewhat concerned	26	27	25	26	28
Not at all concerned	35	45	36	27	27
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	1

q76-q78 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q79 In the past couple of years would you say you have felt MORE secure and confident that you can continue in your job as long as you want, or LESS secure and confident, or has there been NO change?

	* * *	CURRENTLY	EMPLOYED	* * *
More	24	28	10	32
Less	33	27	34	38
No change	42	45	54	29
DK/NA	1	0	2	1

q80 If you receive money from a tax cut, will you spend it, or use it to pay bills, save it, or invest it?

	***	TOTAL	RESPONDENTS	* * *
Spend	19	18	3 22	17
Pay bills	45	44	4 49	43
Save	26	3.2	1 18	29
Invest	6	ĺ	5 7	7
DK/NA	3	2	2 4	4

Total	Respondents	UNWEIGHTED 1112	WEIGHTED
Total	Republicans	315	293
Total	Democrats	397	403
Total	Independents	400	416