



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE OBAMA PRESIDENCY: EXCEPTIONAL EXPECTATIONS
January 11-15, 2009

Barack Obama will replace the man who leaves office as the most unpopular president in 70 years. And the high expectations for the new President are astonishing.

68% think Barack Obama will be a good or very good president - 25 points higher than expectations for George W. Bush in January 2001 (43%), and 30 points higher than for George H.W. Bush as he assumed office in 1989 (38%).

WHAT KIND OF PRESIDENT WILL ... BE?

Table with 4 columns: Rating (Very good, Good, Average, Poor), Barack Obama, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush. Shows percentages for each category.

Nine in 10 Democrats expect Obama to be a good president, including 48% who think he will be a "very good" one. Republicans are less hopeful; still, more than a third of them (38%) say Obama will be a good president.

But presidents sometimes fall short of expectations. Today, only 17% think George W. Bush has been a good president, less than half the percentage who expected he would meet that standard.

GEORGE W. BUSH - WHAT KIND OF PRESIDENT?

Table with 3 columns: Rating (Very good, Good, Average, Poor), 1/2009, 1/2001. Shows percentages for each category.

In fact, looking back on his eight years in office, half of all Americans think George W. Bush has been a poor president. 33% think he has been an average president. This end-of-term evaluation is more negative than the ones Americans gave both the current President's predecessor, Bill Clinton, and the President's father, George H.W. Bush.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,112 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone January 11-15, 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.

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q11 What kind of President do you think Barack Obama will be -- a very good President, a good President, an average President, or a poor President?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **
 **** Party ID ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very good	28	9	48	19
Good	40	29	42	44
Average	20	40	8	21
Poor	4	10	1	4
DK/NA	8	12	1	12

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1112	
Total Republicans	281	237
Total Democrats	416	439
Total Independents	415	436