



CBS NEWS POLL

For release: Tuesday, September 2, 2008

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**REPUBLICAN CONVENTION CHANGES AND HURRICANE GUSTAV**

September 1-2, 2008

Three-quarters of Americans approve of the Republican National Committee's changing its convention activities while Hurricane Gustav hit the Gulf Coast.

**REPUBLICAN CONVENTION CHANGE BECAUSE OF GUSTAV**

Approve	75%
Disapprove	10

In contrast to Katrina three years ago, Americans who know enough to say approve of President Bush's handling of the federal response to Gustav by a 2 to 1 margin. However, many of those interviewed Monday and early Tuesday - about one-third - don't know enough yet to say.

**APPROVAL OF BUSH HANDLING RESPONSE TO GUSTAV**

Approve	50%
Disapprove	19
Don't know	31

President Bush received very low marks from the public for his handling of Katrina.

In the weeks after Katrina hit in 2005, more than half of Americans disapproved of Bush's handling of it.

**SEPTEMBER 2005: PRES. BUSH'S HANDLING OF RESPONSE TO KATRINA**

	9/05
Approve	38%
Disapprove	58
Don't know	4

The President's overall job approval fell only a little immediately after Katrina; 41% approved, little changed from the 45% approval rating he enjoyed in July 2005. But it never rose above 42% again. Bush's overall job approval stands at 28% today.

Overall, confidence in the federal government's ability to respond to a natural disaster is higher than it was in the days after Katrina in 2005.

**CONFIDENCE IN FED GOV'T DEALING WITH DISASTERS?**

	Now	8/2007	9/2005
A great deal	19%	16%	19%
Fair amount	54	43	32
Not much/none	26	39	49

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 342 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone September 1-2, 2008. 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 five percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

**CBS News Poll**  
**Hurricane Gustav**  
**September 1-2, 2008**

Q46 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Hurricane Gustav?

	Total Respondents
	%
Approve	50
Disapprove	19
DK/NA	31

Q47 Do you approve or disapprove of the decision by the Republican Party to cancel part of their convention activities because of Hurricane Gustav?

Approve	75
Disapprove	10
DK/NA	15

Q48 How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. government to respond to natural disasters - a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

		Aug07a
		%
A great deal	19	16
A fair amount	54	43
Not very much	17	30
None at all	9	9
DK/NA	1	2

Total Respondents: 342

