



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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PRESIDENT OBAMA AT THE 100-DAY MARK
April 22-26, 2009

President Barack Obama nears the 100 day mark in his presidency with a high approval rating overall and high marks on handling the most pressing issue, the economy. His high approval rating derives from strong support among Democrats and independents; fewer than a third of Republicans approve. Americans say he has accomplished at least as much as they expected so far.

President Obama is widely seen as a different kind of politician, and more say that difference reflects his governing style rather than his specific policies. He is a president Americans say cares about them and can unite different groups, yet is tough enough to make the hard decisions required of a president. Most say he has already made progress on critical issues, although there are doubts he will be able to end the recession and the war in Iraq by the end of his first term in office.

PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL RATINGS AT 100 DAYS

68% of Americans approve of the job Barack Obama is doing as president - a higher rating than his two immediate predecessors, George W. Bush (56%) and Bill Clinton (49%) received at this point in their presidencies, but a lower one than those given to both John F. Kennedy (83%) and Dwight D. Eisenhower (72%).

PRESIDENTIAL JOB APPROVAL: 100 DAYS

Table with 3 columns: President Name, Approve, Disapprove. Rows include Obama, G.W. Bush, Clinton, G.H.W. Bush, Reagan, Carter, Nixon, Kennedy, Eisenhower.

President George W. Bush received positive ratings for personal qualities such as leadership and trust, but there were concerns about his ability to handle foreign affairs. As for President Clinton, many were critical of his priorities in the early days of his presidency.

John F. Kennedy's approval remained high despite the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in the early months of his presidency. In fact, the 83% approval rating he received in May 1961 was his highest while president.

Like President Obama, President Ronald Reagan entered office at a time when the nation was struggling economically. The two presidents have very similar ratings at the 100-day mark. (It should be noted, however, that the unsuccessful assassination attempt made on President Reagan's life just 69 days into his presidency may also have boosted his rating.)

Nine in 10 Democrats now approve of the President's job performance; just 31% of Republicans do. These party divisions are similar to those experienced by Bill Clinton and George W. Bush at their 100-day mark. President Reagan received much more support from his opposition party, the Democrats, in 1981 than President Obama receives from Republicans today. Still, 65% of independents approve of the President's job performance, higher than George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and comparable to Ronald Reagan.

**APPROVAL OF PAST PRESIDENTS - BY PARTY ID**

	Obama	G.W. Bush	Clinton	Reagan
All	68%	56%	49%	67%
Republicans	31%	86%	26%	89%
Democrats	91%	35%	70%	53%
Independents	65%	56%	47%	64%

Majorities of Americans approve of the President's handling of many key issues. He receives his highest marks on his handling of the situation in Iraq (63%), a war the public increasingly describes as going well, and his lowest on his handling of the threat of terrorism (55%).

**PRES. OBAMA RATINGS ON HANDLING...**

	Approve	Disapprove
Iraq	63%	20
Economy	61%	29
Foreign policy	59%	23
Afghanistan	56%	21
Terrorism	55%	28

The economy, however, remains the country's top concern and 61% of Americans approve of the President's handling of it. His approval rating on the economy is significantly higher than President Clinton's at a similar point in time, and seven points higher than President Reagan's. Both those Presidents were confronted with a struggling U.S. economy in the early months of their presidencies.

**HANDLING OF THE ECONOMY - PAST PRESIDENTS**

	4/2009 Obama	5/1993 Clinton	4/1981 Reagan
Approve	61%	38%	54%
Disapprove	29	50	30

**PRESIDENT OBAMA: PROGRESS AND EXPECTATIONS**

When assessing President Obama's first few months on the job, 57% of Americans say he has accomplished about what they expected. Over twice as many say he has exceeded expectations as say he has fallen short of them.

**OBAMA'S ACCOMPLISHMENT AS PRESIDENT**

More	28%
Less	12
About what you expected	57

38% of Americans think President Obama will make good on all or most of his campaign promises. Another four in 10 think he will be able to keep some of them. These assessments are more optimistic than those received by President George W. Bush in the early months of his presidency.

**HOW MANY CAMPAIGN PROMISES WILL OBAMA BE ABLE TO KEEP?**

	Obama	G.W. Bush
All	1%	1%
Most	37	18
Some	42	57
Hardly any	16	21

In fact, more than half of the American public thinks President Obama has started to make progress on two key issues: getting the country out of economic recession and ending U.S. involvement in Iraq. 49% of do not think the President has started making progress on cutting taxes for the middle class, even though tax cuts were part of the President's economic stimulus plan that was passed in February. 39% think he has.

**HAS OBAMA MADE PROGRESS IN ...**

	Yes	No
Getting the country out of recession	52%	45
Ending U.S. involvement in Iraq	52%	40
Cutting taxes for the middle class	39%	49

While most view the President as making progress on the economy and the Iraq War, fewer Americans think he will be able to resolve these issues by the end of his first term. Only 37% think he will be able to get the country out of recession, and 44% say he will end U.S. involvement in Iraq.

**IN FIRST TERM, WILL OBAMA BE ABLE TO...**

	Yes	No
Get the country out of recession	37%	53
End U.S. involvement in Iraq	44%	45

Majorities think President Obama is at least somewhat likely to bring about significant reform in health care, immigration and energy policy in his first term, although the percentages that say reform in these areas is "very likely" are relatively low.

**IN HIS FIRST TERM, WILL OBAMA BE ABLE TO BRING ABOUT...**

	Health Care Reform	Immigration Reform	Change in U.S. Energy Policy
Very likely	16%	9%	27%
Somewhat likely	51	50	48
Not very likely	20	26	15
Not at all likely	9	9	8

59% approve of how the President is handling foreign policy, and the same number think the United States' image in the world has gotten better since Barack Obama has been president. Only one in ten think the U.S.' image has become worse.

**IMPACT OF OBAMA'S PRESIDENCY ON U.S. IMAGE IN THE WORLD**

Better	59%
Worse	11
No effect	25

But only four in ten Americans say U.S. foreign policy has changed a lot since Barack Obama has been president; most of those say the changes have mainly been good. 44% do not think the country's foreign policy has changed significantly since January 20th.

**HAS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY CHANGED SINCE OBAMA HAS BEEN PRESIDENT?**

Yes, mainly good	32%
Yes, mainly bad	9
No change	44

Americans were asked to volunteer what they like best and least about what Barack Obama has done so far as president. The economy and stimulus package top the list of what he has done best (16%), followed by just liking Obama and supporting his policies generally (7%).

As for what the public likes least about what President Obama has done, the answers are also economic: the bailouts - banks and auto - come out on top with 10%, followed by the economy and stimulus (6%).

Significant numbers could not come up with a specific answer on what they like best or least.

**VIEWS ON WHAT OBAMA HAS DONE SO FAR AS PRESIDENT**

	<u>Like Best</u>		<u>Like Least</u>
Economy/stimulus package	16%	Bank/auto bailout	10%
Like him/like his policies	7	Economy/stimulus	6
He's working hard	6	Spending too much	3
Reaching out to foreign leaders	5	Dislike him/policies	3
Nothing	6	Nothing	7
Don't know/no answer	27	Don't know/no answer	39

**PUBLIC OPTIMISM**

Americans remain optimistic about the next four years with Barack Obama as president. Nearly all Democrats are optimistic, but so are 41% of Republicans.

**NEXT FOUR YEARS WITH OBAMA AS PRESIDENT**

	Now	2/2009
Optimistic	72%	77%
Pessimistic	22	18

The percentage of the public that says the country is headed in the right direction now stands at 41%. While that percentage is similar to what it was earlier this month, it is significantly higher than before Barack Obama assumed office. 50% think the country is off on the wrong track, the lowest number since July 2003.

**DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY**

	Now	4/2009	2/2009	10/2008	7/2003
Right direction	41%	39%	23%	7%	46%
Wrong track	50	53	68	89	49

**VIEWS OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Obama is viewed by more than two-thirds of Americans as a different kind of politician.

**OBAMA: A DIFFERENT OR TYPICAL KIND OF POLITICIAN?**

Different	68%
Typical	25

And Americans say it is more his governing style than any specific policies that sets the President apart from other politicians.

**WHY IS OBAMA A DIFFERENT POLITICIAN?**

Governing style	40%
Policies	9
Both style and policies (vol)	13
Other reason	6
He's typical, not different	25

But to many Americans, the rest of Washington has yet to have even a stylistic change. 48% say Obama has made progress changing the "way things are done in Washington" - a promise that was central to his campaign - while 45% say he hasn't.

**OBAMA: PROGRESS CHANGING WASHINGTON?**

Yes	48%
No, not yet	45

Most Republicans say Obama hasn't made progress, but Democrats say he has.

President Obama continues to receive high personal favorable ratings (54%), though not quite as high as around the time of his inauguration in January.

**VIEWS OF BARACK OBAMA**

	Now	1/2009	12/2008
Favorable	54%	60%	55%
Not favorable	18	9	12
Undecided/Haven't heard	27	30	31

Democrats are strongly favorable (eight in ten are) and independents are favorable by more than a two-to-one margin, but half of Republicans view the President unfavorably, and a quarter of Republicans remain undecided about him.

At the 100-days mark of his Presidency, former President George W. Bush had favorable marks, too, though not as high as President Obama's are now.

**VIEWS OF OBAMA AND G.W.BUSH AT 100 DAYS**

	Obama (Now)	G.W. Bush (4/2001)
Favorable	54%	41%
Unfavorable	18	26
Undecided	27	31

Underpinning the President's strongly favorable personal ratings is the sense that he cares about people's needs and problems: 80% say so, and half say he cares a lot about them. This is unchanged from two months ago.

**DOES OBAMA CARE ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU?**

	Now	2/2009
A lot	54%	53%
Some	26	30
Not much/none	16	14

Even a majority of Republicans think President Obama cares about them at least some, though they are the least likely to say he cares a lot.

Another pledge the President made during the campaign was to be a more unifying force, bringing people together. Americans remain hopeful his Presidency will do that.

**WILL OBAMA UNITE OR DIVIDE AMERICANS?**

Unite	63%
Divide	25

President Obama overwhelmingly is seen as personally tough enough to make the hard choices a President must make.

**OBAMA: TOUGH ENOUGH TO MAKE HARD CHOICES?**

Yes, tough enough	74%
No, not tough enough	18

Almost a year ago, when he was locked in a battle for the Democratic nomination, somewhat fewer - about six in 10 - voters thought then-Senator Obama was tough enough.

Responding just after the President's first extended trips abroad, most Americans have confidence in his ability to deal with an international crisis.

**CONFIDENCE IN OBAMA TO DEAL WITH INTERNATIONAL CRISIS?**

Confident	62%
Uneasy	34

This measure, like many others in the poll, has a partisan cast - Democrats and independents have confidence but Republicans are uneasy. Back in the fall, when the President was still campaigning for election, fewer than half of all voters expressed confidence.

**THE MEDIA AND THE NEW PRESIDENT**

Throughout the election campaign, more voters thought the news media was easier on Barack Obama than on his opponents, including both John McCain and Hillary Clinton. A similar perception still persists. Four in 10 think that the news media has been easier on him compared to other presidents. Only one in five say the media has been harder on him.

100 days into the Clinton Presidency, more Americans said the media was harder on Bill Clinton than on other Presidents.

**TREATMENT BY NEWS MEDIA OF OBAMA COMPARED TO OTHER PRESIDENTS**

	Obama	Clinton (5/1993)
Harder	18%	29%
Easier	40	22
Same	38	46

## THE VICE PRESIDENT

In the CBS News/New York Times Poll's first measure of how Joe Biden is handling his job as Vice President, half of Americans approve and only 13% disapprove. But 38% don't have an opinion yet. Biden is not quite as well-known as former Vice-President Dick Cheney was at this stage of his term in 2001, and holds slightly lower approval and disapproval numbers.

### VICE PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL RATING

	Joe Biden Now	Dick Cheney 4/2001
Approve	50%	55%
Disapprove	13	16
No opinion	37	29

## THE FIRST LADY

Michelle Obama receives very high marks for how she is handling her role as First Lady - 84% approve. Former First Ladies Clinton and Reagan received lower marks, although both were first measured by CBS News further along in their husband's first terms.

### FIRST LADY APPROVAL RATING

	Michelle Obama Now	Hillary Clinton 2/1995	Nancy Reagan 1/1985
Approve	84%	51%	71%
Disapprove	6	41	14
No opinion	11	8	14

Nearly all Democrats approve, but so do 77% of Republicans.

Michelle Obama also receives her highest favorable ratings yet on the more personal evaluation. 67% have a favorable opinion of her, up from 50% earlier this month. Just 3% are unfavorable, and 30% don't have an opinion yet.

### OPINION OF MICHELLE OBAMA

	Now	4/6/2009	3/2009	2/2009
Favorable	67%	50%	53%	49%
Not favorable	3	5	7	5
Undecided/Don't know	30	42	38	44

Again, opinions are less partisan than they are for her husband. Nearly nine in 10 Democrats have a favorable opinion of her, and Republicans are also favorable by a more than five-to-one margin.

## THE ECONOMY

Assessments of the economy remain grim, but the percentage saying it is improving, while still low, is now the highest it has been in over four years.

Just 16% rate the economy as good, and 84% think it is bad. But 26% now say it is getting better, up from 20% earlier this month and the highest percentage that has felt that way since November 2004. About the same percentage, 25%, say it is getting worse, down substantially from recent polls.

	THE ECONOMY IS GETTING..					
	Now	4/6/2009	2/2009	4/2008	3/2006	11/2004
Better	26%	20%	5%	4%	13%	26%
Worse	25	34	51	70	39	29
Staying same	48	43	42	25	47	44

By a wide margin, the economy and jobs remain the most important problem facing the country today, volunteered by 58%. Health care and immigration come in second, mentioned by only 3%.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

President Obama receives the highest approval rating on handling foreign policy of any modern president at this early point in their presidencies.

Just over half of Americans think the war in Afghanistan is going badly. Majorities have felt that way in recent months.

	HOW ARE THINGS GOING FOR THE U.S. IN AFGHANISTAN?				
	Now	4/2009	3/2003	5/2002	12/2001
Well	38%	36%	76%	73%	93%
Badly	53	52	14	20	5

Just over a third think the U.S. should increase the number of troops in Afghanistan, something the Obama Administration has done recently; 29% think the number of troops should be decreased. 23% think the troop level there should remain the same.

But six in 10 Americans think the U.S. should not negotiate with the Taliban in Afghanistan. More oppose than support negotiation even if doing so could lead to less violence there.

## SHOULD U.S. NEGOTIATE WITH TALIBAN?

Yes	31%
No	61

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to think the U.S. ought to negotiate with the Taliban, but even 53% of them are against it.

In contrast, 71% now say the war in Iraq is going well - the highest percentage since May 2003. Only 24% think it is going badly.

**HOW ARE THINGS GOING FOR THE U.S. IN IRAQ?**

	Now	4/6/2009	4/2008	6/2007	5/2003
Well	71%	62%	40%	22%	72%
Badly	24	30	57	77	24

Just over half of the public supports the U.S. establishing relations with Iran, and views on this issue are highly partisan. 53% think the U.S. should establish diplomatic relations with Iran even while it has a nuclear program, and 37% think the U.S. should not do so. That goes further than the Obama Administration has suggested. 67% of Democrats support establishing relations, despite Iran's nuclear program, while just 36% of Republicans do.

**SHOULD U.S. ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH A NUCLEAR IRAN?**

	All	Dems	Reps	Inds
Yes	53%	67%	36%	48%
No	37	25	54	41

North Korea, another country with which the U.S. has had differences over its nuclear program, is not viewed as an urgent threat now -- just 18% think it requires military action. 66% perceive it as a threat that can be contained for now.

**CUBA**

The Obama Administration recently lifted some travel restrictions to Cuba to permit Americans with relatives there to visit. The public would go even further: there is strong support for permitting all Americans to travel to Cuba. 60% think the U.S. government should permit travel to and from Cuba for all Americans. 23% would permit it only for those with relatives there. Just 10% think no U.S. citizen should be allowed to travel there.

**TRAVEL TO CUBA**

For all U.S. citizens	60%
Only for those with relatives in Cuba	23
No travel to Cuba at all	10

There are partisan differences. A plurality - 47% - of Republicans think travel to Cuba should be permitted for everyone, but far more Democrats do (67%).

**OTHER ISSUES**

**Same Sex Marriage**

As measures legalizing same sex marriage take hold in more states, support for it has increased. At 42%, support for same sex marriage is the highest since CBS News starting asking about it in 2004.

**SAME SEX MARRIAGE: SAME SEX COUPLES SHOULD BE ALLOWED...**

	Now	3/2009	8/2008	5/2007
To legally marry	42%	33%	34%	30%
Civil unions	25	27	22	28
No legal recognition	28	35	39	26

As has historically been the case on this issue, liberals favor same sex marriage (69%), while conservatives favor either civil unions (28%) or no legal recognition (44%).

**Health Care**

Given a limited choice strictly among health care, education and energy policy, opinions are split, and Americans want the President and Congress to focus about equally on health care and education. Energy trails on this measure.

**EDUCATION, ENERGY AND HEALTH CARE: TOP PRIORITY?**

Health care	39%
Education	36
Energy	18

But Americans of all partisan stripes and income levels continue to say the healthcare system needs fundamental changes. Few say it needs only minor tweaks. Americans have felt this way at least since the early 1990s, when CBS News began asking the question.

**DOES THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM GENERALLY NEED...?**

	Now	9/2008	2/2005	9/1993
Minor changes	12%	14%	13%	7%
Fundamental changes	49	50	59	48
Completely rebuilt	38	35	27	42

**Immigration**

When it comes to what should be done about illegal immigrants currently working in the U.S., 44% would allow such workers to stay and apply for citizenship and 21% would allow them to stay as guest workers. Support for allowing them to stay has increased slightly compared to late 2007.

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WORKING IN U.S. SHOULD...**

	Now	12/2007
Stay & apply for citizenship	44%	38%
Stay as guest workers only	21	28
Be forced to leave U.S.	30	28

**Guns**

In the wake of recent tragic shootings, gun laws have come back into the national spotlight. But support for making gun laws more strict

has not risen; in fact it is slightly lower than it was around the time of the shootings at Virginia Tech. Support for making the laws stricter is much lower among those in gun-owning households.

<b>GUN LAWS SHOULD BE MADE...</b>			
	Now	4/2007	5/2000
More strict	60%	66%	71%
Less strict	7	4	3
Kept same	32	28	26

Certain assault weapons were banned from public sale in 1994, but the ban was allowed to expire in 2004. Now, while a majority favors a nationwide ban on assault weapons, support for a ban is lower than it was in 2000 - when the ban was in place - and opposition is higher.

<b>NATIONWIDE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS</b>		
	Now	3/2000
Favor	54%	67%
Oppose	41	27

#### **REPUBLICAN OPPOSITION**

Just three Republicans - all members of the U.S. Senate - supported the President's economic stimulus package, and not a single Republican voted for his budget. Seven in 10 think Republican members of Congress oppose the President's economic plans on taxes and government spending mostly for political reasons, rather than because they think those plans will be bad for the economy. Not surprisingly, there are partisan differences on this question.

<b>REPUBLICAN OPPOSITION TO OBAMA'S ECONOMIC PLANS</b>				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Inds
Mostly political reasons	70%	44%	85%	68%
Would be bad for the economy	23	50	9	23

But the public criticizes the rest of Congress, too. Congress receives an approval rating of only 28% in this poll, about the same as it has been since the start of the year.

#### **THE RECESSION'S IMPACT ON AMERICANS**

The recession's impact has been widespread, affecting seven in 10 Americans. But more Americans report that it has affected people they know than themselves personally.

48% say that for most of the people they know, the recession has caused hardship and major life changes. Another 38% say it has caused difficulties for people they know, but not major life changes.

Fewer say the recession has affected their own lives so drastically. Just 22% say it has caused hardship and major life changes. Another 47% say it has caused difficulties.

**IMPACT OF RECESSION...**

	On people you know	On you
Hardship, caused life changes	48%	22%
Difficult, no life changes	38	47
Not much effect	13	30

Some people think that the longer term impact of the recession may be felt in permanent changes in how Americans spend money, perhaps like the long-term impact on the financial behavior of people who personally experienced the Great Depression. 47% think Americans will continue to spend less money even after the recession is over. But as many, 48%, think people will revert to their pre-recession spending habits once the economy improves.

About three in 10 Americans say they can still afford to save and buy extras - about the same percentage that has been able to do so for the past seven months. 58% are concerned that they or someone else in their household will lose a job in the next year, including 32% who are very concerned. Earlier in April, 44% were very concerned about that.

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 973 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone April 22-26, 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.

An oversample of African Americans were interviewed for a total of 212 interviews with African Americans. The results then weighted in proportion to the racial composition of the adult population in the U.S. Census. The margin of error for the sample of African Americans is 7 points.

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

**CBS News/New York Times Poll**  
**President Obama at the 100-Day Mark**  
**April 22-26, 2009**

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Apr09a
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Approve	68	31	91	65	66
Disapprove	23	57	3	24	24
DK/NA	9	12	6	11	10

q2 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr09a
Right direction	41	16	61	35	39
Wrong track	50	76	32	54	53
DK/NA	9	8	7	11	8

q3 Regardless of your overall opinion of Barack Obama, what do you like BEST about what he has done so far as President?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Economic policy/Stimulus	16	16	16	16
Like him/like his policies	7	5	10	6
Working hard	6	3	7	6
Foreign Leaders outreach	5	3	7	5
Unite people	4	2	5	5
Working for little guy	3	2	3	2
Openness in government	3	0	2	4
Bank bailout	2	1	3	1
Iraq policy	2	1	1	4
Foreign policy	2	1	3	3
Change Washington D.C.	2	1	2	2
Nothing	6	10	1	8
Other	15	17	17	13
DK/NA	27	38	23	25

q4 Regardless of your overall opinion of Barack Obama, what do you like LEAST about what he has done so far as President?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Bank bailout/auto bailouts	10	6	14	8
Economic policy/stimulus	6	11	2	7
Dislike him/policies	3	2	2	3
Spending too much	3	5	3	3
Iraq policy	2	3	2	3
Foreign Leaders outreach	2	3	1	2
AIG bonuses	2	0	4	0
Release of torture memos	2	3	2	2
Nothing	7	0	8	10
Other	24	34	15	27
DK/NA	39	33	47	35

q5 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Economy/jobs	58	52	66	54	60
Immigration	3	1	2	4	1
Health Care	3	1	5	3	2
Abortion	2	1	0	3	0
Environment	2	0	4	2	0
Iraq	2	3	1	2	3
Budget Deficit/National Debt	2	4	1	3	2
Terrorism (general)	2	4	2	2	1
Moral Values/Family Values	2	3	0	2	3
Other	20	25	16	22	26
DK/NA	4	6	3	3	2

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

					Apr09a
Approve	59	32	83	51	59
Disapprove	23	46	5	29	19
DK/NA	18	22	12	20	22

q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

Approve	61	33	80	56	56
Disapprove	29	58	9	34	34
DK/NA	10	9	11	10	10

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation with Iraq?

Approve	63	35	82	60	59
Disapprove	20	46	9	18	25
DK/NA	17	19	9	22	16

q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation with Afghanistan?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	56	42	72	49	58
Disapprove	21	38	14	20	21
DK/NA	23	20	14	31	21

q10 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the threat of terrorism?

Approve	55	22	76	52
Disapprove	28	63	10	28
DK/NA	17	15	14	20

q11 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Approve	28	24	36	23	26
Disapprove	55	60	49	59	64
DK/NA	17	16	15	18	10

q12 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	1	1	1	0	1
Fairly good	15	6	21	14	10
Fairly bad	40	40	38	42	38
Very bad	44	52	40	44	51
DK/NA	0	1	0	0	0

q13 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	26	13	34	24	20
Worse	25	33	17	28	34
Same	48	51	46	48	43
DK/NA	1	3	3	0	3

q14-15 BLANK

q16 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

					Jan09a
Favorable	54	22	79	46	60
Not favorable	18	50	2	18	9
Undecided	15	20	9	17	22
Haven't heard enough	12	8	9	15	8
Refused	1	0	1	4	1

q17 BLANK

q18 In his first few months in office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished more than you expected, less than you expected, or about what you expected him to accomplish by now?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
More	28	17	38	25
Less	12	20	5	15
About expected	57	60	55	57
DK/NA	3	3	2	3

q19 Are you generally optimistic or pessimistic about the next four years with Barack Obama as President?

					Feb09b
					%
Optimistic	72	41	93	67	77
Pessimistic	22	50	4	23	18
Don't know/No answer	6	9	3	10	5

q20 Based on his first few months in office, do you think Barack Obama is a typical politician, or do you think he's a different kind of politician?

IF DIFFERENT, ASK: Do you think it's mostly his policies that make him a different kind of politician, or is it mostly his style of governing and personal qualities that make him different, or is there some other reason?

Typical	25	44	9	30
Different, policies	9	7	10	9
Different, style	40	29	52	36
Different, other	6	5	5	9
Different, both (vol)	13	7	20	9
DK/NA	7	8	4	7

q21 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?

A lot	54	23	77	49	53
Some	26	36	19	28	30
Not much	8	20	3	8	8
Not at all	8	20	0	8	6
Don't know/No answer	4	1	1	7	3

q22 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q23 How many of his campaign promises do you think Barack Obama will BE ABLE to keep -- all of them, most of them, some of them, or hardly any of them?

All of them	1	1	3	0
Most of them	37	17	53	32
Some of them	42	45	37	44
Hardly any of them	16	36	4	18
DK/NA	4	1	3	6

q24 Do you have confidence in Barack Obama's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis or are you uneasy about his approach?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct08e*
	%	%	%	%	%
Confidence	62	29	87	54	47
Uneasy	34	69	9	40	50
Don't know/No answer	4	2	4	6	3

\*Trend is among registered voters

q25 Do you think Barack Obama is tough enough to make the hard choices a President has to make or not?

					May08a*
Tough enough	74	49	94	69	58
Not tough	18	42	2	21	35
Don't know/No answer	8	9	4	10	7

\*Trend is among registered voters

q26 BLANK

q27 In general, which describes your feelings about the Obama Administration's approach to addressing the nation's economic problems -- enthusiastic, OR satisfied but not enthusiastic, OR dissatisfied but not angry, OR angry?

					Apr09a
Enthusiastic	21	9	31	18	28
Satisfied, not enthusiastic	43	25	55	40	40
Dissatisfied but not angry	24	42	9	29	22
Angry	10	23	2	10	9
DK/NA	2	1	3	3	1

q28 In the next four years, do you think Barack Obama's presidency will bring different groups of Americans together, or do you think it will divide them?

					Dec08a
Bring together	63	28	83	61	69
Divide	25	56	8	26	20
Don't know/No answer	12	16	9	13	11

q29 Compared to the way the news media have treated other presidents, have the news media been harder on Barack Obama, easier on Barack Obama, or have they treated him the same as other presidents?

Harder	18	8	29	12
Easier	40	69	22	42
The same	38	22	44	41
Don't know/No answer	4	1	5	5

q30 Since he has been President, do you think Barack Obama has started to make progress in bringing real change in the way things are done in Washington, or hasn't he done that yet?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Progress	48	24	69	40
Not yet	45	71	25	50
DK/NA	7	5	6	10

q31 Since Barack Obama has been President, do you think U.S. foreign policy has changed a lot or don't you think so?

IF YES, ASK: Do you think the changes have been mainly good or mainly bad?

Mainly good	32	11	51	24
Mainly bad	9	18	1	11
No change	44	52	36	48
Both good and bad (Vol.)	2	4	2	1
DK/NA	13	15	10	16

q32 Since Barack Obama has been President, do you think the United States' image in the world has gotten better, gotten worse, or has Barack Obama's presidency had no effect on the United States' image in the world?

Better	59	34	80	53
Worse	11	22	1	14
No effect	25	41	15	27
DK/NA	5	3	4	6

q33 BLANK

q34 Since he has been President, do you think Barack Obama has started to make progress in getting the country out of the economic recession, or hasn't he done that yet?

Progress	52	28	70	48
Not yet	45	70	27	48
DK/NA	3	2	3	4

q35 Do you think Barack Obama will be able to get the country out of the economic recession in his first term, or won't he be able to do that?

Will	37	24	47	35
Won't	53	67	42	57
DK/NA	10	9	11	8

q36 Since he has been President, do you think Barack Obama has started to make progress in cutting taxes for middle-class Americans, or hasn't he done that yet?

Progress	39	19	55	33
Not yet	49	72	33	52
DK/NA	12	9	12	15

q37 Since he has been President, do you think Barack Obama has started to make progress in ending U.S. military involvement in Iraq, or hasn't he done that yet?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Progress	52	39	66	46
Not yet	40	52	28	46
DK/NA	8	9	6	8

q38 Do you think Barack Obama will be able to end U.S. military involvement in Iraq in his first term, or won't he be able to do that?

Will	44	31	55	40
Will not	45	56	35	49
Reduced involvement (Vol.)	2	2	2	2
DK/NA	9	11	8	9

q39 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q40 How likely do you think it is that Barack Obama will be able to bring about significant health care reform in his first term -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?

Very likely	16	7	21	17
Somewhat likely	51	42	62	46
Not very likely	20	30	11	22
Not at all likely	9	17	2	12
Don't know/No answer	4	4	4	3

q41 How likely do you think it is that Barack Obama will be able to bring about significant immigration reform in his first term -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?

Very likely	9	6	13	6
Somewhat likely	50	38	61	46
Not very likely	26	33	19	30
Not at all likely	9	16	2	11
Don't know/No answer	6	7	5	7

q42 How likely do you think it is that Barack Obama will be able to make significant changes to U.S. energy policy in his first term -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not at all likely?

Very likely	27	15	40	20
Somewhat likely	48	48	46	48
Not very likely	15	23	9	18
Not at all likely	8	11	2	11
Don't know/No answer	2	3	3	3

q43 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q44 Many Republican members of Congress have the Obama Administration's economic plans on taxes and government spending. Do you think they are opposed to these plans mostly because they think they are bad for the economy or mostly for political reasons?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Bad for the economy	23	50	9	23
Political reasons	70	44	85	68
Both (Vol.)	3	3	3	4
Don't know/No answer	4	3	3	5

q45-46 BLANK

q47 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as Vice President?

Approve	50	29	70	41
Disapprove	13	25	4	15
DK/NA	37	46	26	44

q48 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Michelle Obama is handling her role as First Lady?

Approve	84	77	95	77
Disapprove	6	8	2	7
DK/NA	10	15	3	16

q49 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q50 Which comes closest to your view? Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, OR gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, OR there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

					Mar09a
					%
Allowed to legally marry	42	18	52	43	33
Civil unions	25	31	22	26	27
No legal recognition	28	49	21	25	35
DK/NA	5	2	5	6	5

q51 Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are currently working in the U.S.? 1) They should be allowed to stay in their jobs, and to eventually apply for US citizenship, or 2) They should be allowed to stay in their jobs only as temporary guest workers, but not to apply for U.S. citizenship, or 3) They should be required to leave their jobs and leave the U.S.

					Dec07a
Allowed to stay and apply	44	29	53	44	38
Stay as guest worker	21	29	21	18	28
Required to leave jobs and US	30	39	21	33	28
DK/NA	5	3	5	5	6

q52 Which of the following three statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the health care system in the United States? 1) On the whole, the healthcare system works pretty well and only minor changes are necessary to make it work better, 2) There are some good things in our health care system, but fundamental changes are needed, 3) Our healthcare system has so much wrong with it that we need to completely rebuild it.

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Sep09b
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	Rep	Dem	Ind		
	%	%	%	%	
Minor changes	12	16	5	16	14
Fundamental changes	49	53	52	44	50
Rebuild	38	31	43	37	35
Don't know/No answer	1	0	0	3	1

q53-q55 BLANK

q55-q61 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q62 Which of these THREE domestic policy areas do you want the President and Congress to concentrate on MOST right now -- health care, energy, or education?

Health care	39	30	52	31
Energy	18	19	12	23
Education	36	43	31	38
Something else/Combination	5	6	4	6
DK/NA	2	2	1	2

q63-64 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q65 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

					Apr09a
Very well	7	15	3	6	12
Somewhat well	64	59	66	64	50
Somewhat badly	20	17	24	18	23
Very badly	4	3	3	6	7
Don't know/No answer	5	6	4	6	8

q66 What is your impression of how the war in Afghanistan is going for the United States right now -- very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

Very well	1	2	0	0	3
Somewhat well	37	37	46	29	33
Somewhat badly	40	42	35	43	37
Very badly	13	11	12	15	15
DK/NA	9	8	7	13	12

q67 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Afghanistan, what should the United States do now -- should the U.S. increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, keep the same number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan as there are now, or decrease the number of troops in Afghanistan?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Apr09a
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	%
Increase	36	41	30	39	39
Keep the same	23	31	22	21	18
Decrease	29	15	40	25	33
DK/NA	12	13	8	15	10

q68 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q69 Do you think the United States should or should not negotiate with members of the Taliban in Afghanistan?

Should	31	8	36	38
Should not	61	88	53	55
DK/NA	8	4	11	7

q70 Do you think the United States should or should not negotiate with members of the Taliban, if such negotiations could lead to less violence in Afghanistan?

	* OPPOSE NEGOTIATIONS WITH TALIBAN *			
Should	38	32	45	36
Should not	56	55	49	62
DK/NA	6	13	6	2

q71 BLANK

q72 Do you think the United States should or should not establish diplomatic relations with Iran while Iran has a nuclear program?

Should	53	36	67	48
Should not	37	54	25	41
DK/NA	10	10	8	11

q73 Which of these comes closest to your opinion? 1. North Korea's development of weapons is a threat to the United States that requires military action right now. 2. North Korea's development of weapons is a threat that can be contained for now. 3. North Korea's development of weapons is not a threat to the United States at all.

					Oct06d
Requires action now	18	25	18	14	13
Can be contained	66	63	64	69	72
Not a threat	11	8	11	11	10
Don't know/No answer	5	4	7	6	5

q74 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q75 Do you think the United States should or should not re-establish diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar09a*
	%	%	%	%	%
Should	67	48	78	67	48
Should not	20	37	13	18	35
Don't know/No answer	13	15	9	15	17

\*Wording change: Do you think the United States should or should not establish diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba?

q76 Do you think the U.S. government should permit travel to and from Cuba for all Americans, or permit it only for those with relatives in Cuba, or should the U.S. government not permit any travel to and from Cuba?

Permit travel to all	60	47	67	59
Only for relatives	23	21	23	24
No travel at all	10	21	6	8
Don't know/No answer	7	11	4	9

q77 Do you think the federal government is doing all that it could be expected to do to care for the needs and problems facing U.S. military personnel returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, or not?

Doing all it could	20	17	19	23
Not	71	70	73	69
Don't know/No answer	9	13	8	8

q78 Do you favor or oppose a nationwide ban on assault weapons?

					Mar00a*
Favor	54	37	66	52	67
Oppose	41	58	31	43	27
DK/NA	5	5	3	5	6

\*wording change: Do you favor or oppose the nationwide BAN on assault weapons?

q79 In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now?

					Apr07b
More strict	60	44	73	56	66
Less strict	7	9	4	8	4
Kept as they are	32	46	21	34	28
Don't know/No answer	1	1	2	2	2

q80 Is your opinion of Michelle Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Michelle Obama yet to have an opinion?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

	*** Party ID ***				Apr09a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	67	46	86	58	50
Not favorable	3	8	1	2	5
Undecided	12	23	4	13	13
Haven't heard enough	18	20	7	26	29
Refused	0	3	2	1	3

q81 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q82-83 BLANK

q84 How would you describe the way most people you know have been affected by the recession? 1) The recession has been a hardship and caused major life changes, or 2) The recession has been difficult but not caused any major life changes, or 3) The recession has not had much effect one way or the other.

Hardship	48	38	54	47
Difficult	38	43	36	38
Not much effect	13	19	10	13
DK/NA	1	0	0	2

q85 How would you describe the way YOU have been affected by the recession? 1) The recession has been a hardship and caused major life changes, or 2) The recession has been difficult but not caused any major life changes, or 3) The recession has not had much affect one way or the other.

Hardship	22	16	22	25
Difficult	47	48	47	46
Not much affect	30	35	30	28
DK/NA	1	1	1	1

q86 Because of the recession, many people are changing the way they live and are now spending less on luxuries like entertainment and vacations, and even on necessities like food and clothes. When the recession is over, do you think most people will continue to spend less money or do you think people will spend the way they did before the recession began?

Continue to spend less	47	45	49	45
Spend as they did before	48	49	45	49
Depends (vol)	3	2	5	3
DK/NA	2	4	1	3

q87 Do you think the changes in people's lives that were caused by the recession have mostly been a good thing, or mostly a bad thing or neither?

Good	21	21	21	20
Bad	43	42	44	44
Neither	28	30	28	26
Both (vol)	5	4	4	8
DK/NA	3	3	3	2

q88 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?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Can save and buy extras	29	33	28	28	29
Just enough to pay bills	47	43	50	46	49
Not enough to pay bills et	23	23	21	25	22
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	1	0

q89 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?

Very concerned	32	30	29	35	44
Somewhat concerned	26	20	26	29	26
Not at all concerned	42	50	44	36	30
DK/NA	0	0	1	0	0

q90 BLANK

q91 Where do you usually get MOST of your news about what's going on in the world today -- from the newspapers, or radio, or television, or the Internet, or someplace else?

Newspapers	16	17	22	10
Radio	5	5	3	8
Television	60	64	61	57
Internet	15	11	13	19
Someplace else	1	1	1	1
Don't know/No answer	3	2	0	5

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	973	
Total Republicans	217	196
Total Democrats	411	372
Total Independents	345	405