



CBS NEWS POLL
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THE PRESIDENT, THE RECESSION AND THE DEFICIT
 February 11-14, 2011

The President – Half Approve of Job, Handling Egypt

President Barack Obama’s overall job approval rating is now 48%, similar to what it was last month. 41% disapprove of the way he is handling his job as president.

President Obama’s Overall Job Rating

	Now	1/2011	2/2010
Approve	48%	49%	46%
Disapprove	41	39	45

The President remains popular among those in his own party, while most Republicans disapprove of the job he is doing. Among independents, 42% approve while 39% disapprove – similar to last month.

President Obama’s Overall Job Rating

	Approve	Disapprove
Democrats	82%	11
Republicans	16%	77
Independents	42%	39

President Obama receives positive evaluations for his handling of the situation in Egypt – though more than one-quarter of Americans don’t have an opinion. Those who do have a viewpoint approve by more than a two-to-one margin.

President Obama’s Handling of Egypt Situation

	All	Dems	Reps	Inds
Approve	50%	76%	33%	41%
Disapprove	22	7	36	25
Don’t know	28	17	31	34

The Recession – No Recovery Yet

The National Bureau of Economic Research stated that the most recent economic recession ended in June 2009, but most Americans do not see it that way. 57% of Americans think it is not true that the recession is almost over and the economic recovery has begun, while 37% think that is true.

Recession Almost Over, Economic Recovery Begun

True	37%
Not true	57

The Deficit – Some Expect to Feel Pain

Some Americans – but not a majority – expect they will have to feel some personal pain in order to reduce the deficit. 49% think the government will have to cut programs that benefit them in order to lower the deficit, while nearly as many, 41%, think that won't be necessary.

To Lower Deficit, Necessary to Cut Programs that Benefit You?

Yes	49%
No	41

Both Republicans and independents expect this will be needed, while most Democrats do not.

Fewer, just 37%, think it will be necessary to increase taxes on people like themselves. Those expectations rise along with income; a majority of Americans with incomes of \$100,000 or more expect it will be necessary for them to pay higher taxes in order to lower the deficit.

To Lower Deficit, Necessary to Increase Taxes for People Like You?

		Less than		
	All	\$50k	\$50k-\$100k	\$100k+
Yes	37%	30%	40%	62%
No	59	66	55	36

This poll was conducted by telephone on February 11-14, 2011 among 1,031 adults nationwide. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line 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.