



**CBS News Poll**  
**For release: November 11, 2010**  
**7:00 a.m. EST**

**After the Midterm Elections**  
**November 7-10, 2010**

The 2010 midterm elections marked a historic loss for the President’s party in a midterm election, and although the Republicans now control the House of Representatives, the public still wants them to work with the President and compromise in order to get things done.

**Desire for Compromise**

Most Americans call for compromise in Washington, a view that is shared by majorities across all political persuasions. 72% of Americans say the Republicans in Congress should make tradeoffs in order to get things accomplished; just 21% (and only 32% of Republicans) want Republicans in Congress to stick to their positions even if it means not getting as much done.

**Should Republicans in Congress Stick To Positions Or Compromise?**

|                    | All | Dems | Reps | Inds | Tea Partiers |
|--------------------|-----|------|------|------|--------------|
| Compromise         | 72% | 86%  | 60%  | 69%  | 55%          |
| Stick to positions | 21  | 9    | 32   | 25   | 38           |

Even most Tea Party supporters – who overwhelmingly backed Republican House candidates – want compromise, too, though 38% of them do not.

But Americans also want to see the President compromise. 78% of the public (and 88% of Republicans) want President Barack Obama to make compromises if that’s what it takes to get things done; just 16% want him to stick to his positions.

**Should President Obama Stick To Positions Or Compromise?**

|                    | All | Dems | Reps | Inds |
|--------------------|-----|------|------|------|
| Compromise         | 78% | 70%  | 88%  | 78%  |
| Stick to positions | 16  | 23   | 5    | 17   |

**The President**

President Obama’s job approval rating has not changed in the wake of last week’s midterm elections. 45% now approve, and as many disapprove. Americans have been divided in their views of the President for months.

**President Obama’s Overall Job Rating**

|            | Now | 10/2010 | 5/2010 | 4/2010 |
|------------|-----|---------|--------|--------|
| Approve    | 45% | 45%     | 47%    | 51%    |
| Disapprove | 45  | 47      | 43     | 39     |

A similar percentage – 46% -- approves of how he is handling foreign policy. 37% disapprove.

### President Obama's Handling of Foreign Policy

|            | Now | 7/2010 | 4/2010 | 4/2009 |
|------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| Approve    | 46% | 44%    | 48%    | 59%    |
| Disapprove | 37  | 41     | 38     | 23     |

### Views of the Parties

And last week's election results don't appear to have had an impact on Americans' views of either political party; the public continues to be divided in their views of the two major political parties. Despite the gains of last week, the Republican Party is viewed favorably by 42% of the public, while slightly more, 48%, view them unfavorably. Views of the Democratic Party are slightly more positive, but still mixed.

### Views of the Parties

|                  | Favorable | Unfavorable |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Democratic party | 46%       | 46          |
| Republican party | 42%       | 48          |

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,137 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone November 7-10, 2010. 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.