



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS AND DISSATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT
February 5-10th, 2010

The latest CBS News/New York Times Poll finds most Americans are now dissatisfied or even angry with government - and much of that frustration is directed at Congress, which now receives just a 15% approval rating. Levels of distrust and cynicism about government are at or near 15-year highs.

Dissatisfaction extends to both political parties as well - the Democratic and Republican parties are near record high unfavorable ratings in CBS News/New York Times Polls.

As Americans continue to worry about the economy, President Barack Obama's job approval rating is 46%, matching his previous low from early January. But he, not Congress or the Republicans, is more often viewed as representing and understanding Americans' interests and trying to work in a bipartisan manner.

DISSATISFACTION WITH WASHINGTON AND CONGRESS

Most Americans (70%) are dissatisfied or angry about the way things are going in Washington these days. Discontent cuts across party lines, although more Republicans and independents than Democrats express anger at Washington.

FEEL ABOUT HOW THINGS ARE GOING IN WASHINGTON?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Enthusiastic	3%	0%	6%	2%
Satisfied	26	14	41	22
Dissatisfied	53	65	46	51
Angry	17	20	7	22

Congress is viewed as being more out of touch with Americans than the President. Just 13% think most members of Congress are more interested in serving the people they represent, and eight in 10 say Congress is more interested in serving the needs of special interest groups.

MOST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS INTERESTED IN SERVING...

People they represent	13%
Special interest groups	80

By contrast, 57% of Americans say President Obama is more interested in serving the American people rather than interest groups.

PRESIDENT OBAMA INTERESTED IN SERVING...

American people	57%
Special interest groups	35

Congress' job approval is now 15% -- down 8 points from last month and approaching the record lows reached in the fall of 2008, shortly before Barack Obama was elected President. At 75%, disapproval of Congress matches the highest ever recorded in this poll.

	CONGRESSIONAL JOB APPROVAL				
	Now	1/2010	2/2009	10/30/2008	10/14/2008
Approve	15%	23%	26%	15%	12%
Disapprove	75	63	62	75	74

In addition, less than one in 10 Americans think most members of Congress have done a good enough job to deserve re-election. 81% say it's time to give new people a chance.

MOST MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DESERVE RE-ELECTION?

Yes	8%
No	81

Whether your party is the majority or minority party in Congress makes little difference: solid majorities of Republicans and Democrats disapprove of the job Congress is doing and say it's time to elect new people to Congress.

PARTISAN POLITICS: CONGRESS VS. PRESIDENT

Americans view President Obama as reaching out to Congressional Republicans -- 62% think he is. Only 29% think Republicans are trying to work with the President.

TRYING TO WORK TOGETHER

	Obama	Republicans
Yes	62%	29%
No	32	62

Americans prefer reaching out and even compromise: majorities think both sides - President Obama (72%) and Congressional Republicans (74%) - should compromise rather than stick to their positions.

More Americans think the President understands their needs and problems than say that about either Congressional Democrats or Republicans. Still, less than half thinks either the President, Republicans, or Democrats are offering reasonable solutions to the economic problems people are facing.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE PARTIES

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Dems</u>	<u>Reps</u>
Understands your needs and problems	60%	42%	35%
Has reasonable solutions to your economic problems	40%	29%	22%

HEALTH CARE AND THE 60 VOTE THRESHOLD

56% think President Obama and Congress are equally responsible for the difficulties in passing health care legislation.

MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM NOT PASSING

President Obama	5%
Congress	37
Both	56

Asked specifically which party in Congress is more responsible, a majority again blames both parties. But more who single out one party choose the Republicans over the Democrats.

Despite these difficulties, more than half of Americans think it is at least somewhat likely that a health care reform bill will pass this year.

Republicans, who are currently the minority party in the Senate, have threatened to use the filibuster -- a procedure in the U.S. Senate that effectively requires 60 votes to pass legislation - to hold back some Democratic legislation, including health care reform. In this poll, Republican Party constituents would like to keep that procedure in place. Not surprisingly, Democrats (and 49% of independents) would like to see it changed. Overall, 50% of Americans think the filibuster rule should be changed so that legislation is passed with a simple majority, while 44% say it should remain in place.

SHOULD FILIBUSTER REMAIN IN PLACE?

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	44%	61%	26%	46%
No	50	32	68	49

VIEWS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

Americans view both major political parties unfavorably. Favorable views of the Democrats have dropped 15 points since last summer. 51% now view the party that controls both houses of Congress and the Presidency unfavorably - near a high last seen in November 1994, just after the Republican takeover in Congress. Back then, 52% disapproved.

57% of Americans view the Republican party negatively - just below a high of 60% reached in October 2008. But favorable opinions of the party are up 7 points from last summer.

VIEWS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

	<u>Democratic</u>		<u>Republican</u>	
	Now	6/2009	Now	6/2009
Favorable	42%	57%	35%	28%
Unfavorable	51	32	57	58

The Democratic Party has the advantage on improving the health care system and creating jobs, while the Republicans now have the edge on

ensuring a strong economy. The Democratic Party has long held a lead on the latter.

WHICH PARTY WOULD DO BETTER ON...?

	<u>Health care</u>	<u>Creating jobs</u>	<u>Economy</u>
Republican Party	27%	36%	42%
Democratic Party	44	42	37
Neither (vol.)	15	8	8

ASSESSING THE PRESIDENT

President Obama's approval rating is now at 46% - down from last month and matching the previous all-time low reached earlier in January. His approval rating has hovered at or below 50% since late last year. 45% of Americans disapprove - his highest disapproval rating to date.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB APPROVAL RATING

	Now	1/18/2010	1/11/2010	12/2009	10/2009	4/2009
Approve	46%	50%	46%	50%	56%	68%
Disapprove	45	40	41	39	34	23

Americans give the President a net positive approval rating on handling terrorism and foreign policy, but they are less approving when it comes to domestic issues. Majorities of Americans disapprove of President Obama's handling of the budget deficit, health care, and the economy.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S APPROVAL RATINGS

	Approve	Disapprove
Overall	46%	45
Terrorism	55%	34
Foreign policy	47%	34
Economy	42%	52
Health care	35%	55
Budget deficit	31%	58

51% describe their feelings toward the Obama administration as dissatisfied or angry, while slightly fewer (47%) feel enthusiastic or satisfied.

More than half of Americans think President Obama has accomplished about what they expected him to in his first year in office, but the percentage who say he has accomplished less than expected has grown to 37% - an 11-point increase from just last month.

HOW MUCH HAS BARACK OBAMA ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS FIRST YEAR?

	Now	1/2010
More than expected	9%	14%
Less than expected	37	26
About as expected	51	56

And in terms of changing the way things are done in Washington - a promise President Obama campaigned on - half think he has not made much

progress, including one in five who say he has not made any progress at all.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S PROGRESS IN CHANGING WASHINGTON

A lot	9%
Some	39
Not much	30
None at all	20

Favorable views of the President have dropped since last summer, too, though slightly more Americans have a favorable opinion of him than an unfavorable one. 39% have a favorable opinion of the President, down from 50% last July and 60% just before he took office. 34% now view him unfavorably.

OPINION OF BARACK OBAMA

	Now	7/2009	4/2009	1/2009
Favorable	39%	50%	54%	60%
Not favorable	34	23	18	9

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND THE ECONOMY

The President has clearly slipped in public estimation in the last few months when it comes to economic issues - which Americans name as the most important problem facing the country. Now a majority of Americans disapprove of the president's handling of the economy. 58% also disapprove of President Obama's handling of the budget deficit - up fifteen points from July.

OBAMA APPROVAL RATINGS

	<u>Economy:</u>		<u>Budget deficit:</u>		
	Now	1/2010	7/2009	Now	7/2009
Approve	42%	41%	51%	31%	40%
Disapprove	52	47	41	58	43

Most Americans do not think that President Obama has a clear plan for creating jobs. 39% say he does, while 56% say he does not.

DOES PRESIDENT OBAMA HAVE A CLEAR PLAN FOR CREATING JOBS?

Does	39%
Does not	56

Most Democrats still approve of the President on these measures and think he has a clear plan for creating jobs, while most Republicans and independents do not.

Views of the economy remain pessimistic; 83% of Americans think it is in bad shape, and less than a quarter sees improvement on the horizon.

CONDITION OF THE ECONOMY

	Now	1/2010	12/2009	11/2009	4/2009	2/2009
Good	17%	17%	22%	19%	16%	5%
Bad	83	82	77	79	84	94

In fact, seven in 10 Americans expect the effects of the recession to last another two years or more.

More than half the public names the economy and jobs as the top problem facing the country, eclipsing other issues such as health care and war. And Americans are hurting financially: more than half say they are very or somewhat concerned that someone in their household will lose their job in the next year, and a third rate their finances as bad.

The year-long effort to pass health care reform has also taken a toll. Nearly half of all Americans think President Obama has spent too much time on health care, and more than half think he has spent too little time on the economy.

HOW MUCH TIME HAS PRESIDENT OBAMA SPENT ON...?

	The economy	Health Care
Too much	9%	48%
Too little	52	21
Right amount	35	28

Optimism about an economic rebound was high when President Obama first took office, but that optimism has declined significantly over the past year. Now fewer than half think the economy will be better by the time the President's term is up, down from three out of four Americans who said that last January. 16% think the economy will be worse after his term, while 36% don't think there will be much change.

BY THE END OF OBAMA'S TERM IN OFFICE, WILL THE ECONOMY BE...?

	Now	1/2009
Better	47%	75%
Worse	16	5
About the same	36	17

Few Americans - just 7% - blame the President's administration for the country's current economic woes or the budget deficit. 31% mostly blame the Bush Administration for the economy - more than blame Wall Street and the banks, Congress, or the Obama Administration. The Bush administration also gets far more blame for the current budget deficit.

WHO DO YOU BLAME MOST FOR THE...?

	Economy	Budget deficit
Bush administration	31%	41%
Wall Street and banks	23	NA
All of them/combo (vol.)	19	17
Congress	13	24
Obama administration	7	7
Someone else	5	10

THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC POLICIES

During his State of the Union address, President Obama talked about his economic policies designed to improve the economy and create jobs. Americans are divided about the effectiveness of his stimulus package, and are split as to whether the government should spend money to create jobs - and for most Americans, jobs are the priority.

Economic conditions have led to increased concerns about the price tag for health care reform. 53% now say that the U.S. cannot afford to fix health care now, up from 42% in September. 44% think health care reform is needed as part of fixing the overall economy.

HEALTH CARE REFORM AND THE ECONOMY

	Now	9/2009	7/2009
Have to fix health care to fix economy	44%	52%	49%
Can't afford to fix health care now	53	42	46

Democrats agree with the President's assertion that fixing the health care system is integral to improving the economy. Republicans think the country can't afford to fix health care now.

And when asked to choose between the two, more than half the public says their priority is jobs, not health insurance and health care costs.

When it comes to job creation, just 6% say the stimulus package has created jobs, but another 41% expect it will do so. 48% think it won't. These views have not changed much in recent months, but optimism about the impact of the stimulus package was much higher last summer.

STIMULUS PACKAGE AND JOBS

	Now	12/2009	7/2009
Has created jobs	6%	6%	4%
Has not, but will create jobs	41	44	53
Will not create jobs	48	45	41

The public has long been concerned about federal budget deficits, and Americans divide as to whether the government should spend money to create jobs given the current deficit's size. 47% say the federal government should spend money to create jobs, even if it means increasing the budget deficit, while 45% say the government should not spend money to create jobs and should instead reduce the deficit.

JOB CREATION AND THE DEFICIT

Govt should spend to create jobs	47%
Govt should lower deficit	45

At the same time, fewer than half are willing to decrease spending in areas such as health care or education, or decrease military spending, in order to lower the deficit.

IN ORDER TO LOWER DEFICIT, DECREASE SPENDING ON...?

	Health care And education	Military
Willing	30%	45%
Not willing	62	51

MANAGING THE BANKS

The President has proposed taxing the country's largest banks and financial institutions. Most Americans haven't yet heard enough about this proposal to have an opinion, but among those who have, nearly twice as many approve as disapprove of it.

TAXING THE LARGEST BANKS

Approve	28%
Disapprove	15
Don't know enough yet	56

56% do think regulations on the banking industry should be increased to prevent financial crises from happening again. Just 36% think regulations should not be increased because that will slow economic growth.

SHOULD BANK REGULATIONS BE INCREASED?

Yes	56%
No	36

Most Democrats support increased regulations, while a majority of Republicans oppose it.

60% think the banks have used the bailout money they received from the government to pay bonuses to employees, rather than stabilizing themselves so they can return to normal lending.

President Obama has proposed letting the Bush tax cuts expire for the wealthiest Americans (those with incomes of \$250,000 or more), which would increase their taxes. A majority of Americans, 62%, think this proposal is a good idea. Support is highest among those making under \$100,000, but even half of those with higher incomes agree.

VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT

Americans express general cynicism about government, as well as a preference for a smaller one.

At 70%, the percentage of Americans who think they don't have much say in what the government does is at its highest level since CBS News Polls began asking the question in 1996.

HOW MUCH SAY DO YOU HAVE IN WHAT THE GOV'T DOES?

	Now	9/2006	10/1996
Good deal	8%	8%	12%
Some	21	29	37
Not much	70	62	50

In addition, 78% now think the government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves. Just 18% now think government is run for the benefit of all the people.

GOVT IS RUN...

	Now	7/2004	8/1995	12/1985
By a few big interests	78%	64%	79%	54%
For benefit of all people	18	28	15	37

The poll also finds a desire for smaller government. 59% of Americans think the government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals, a percentage that has been consistent for many years. 56% would choose a smaller government providing fewer services over a bigger government providing more services, up from 48% last spring and the highest percentage in more than a decade.

SIZE OF GOVT PREFER?

	Now	4/2009	1/2002	11/2000	2/1996
Smaller, fewer services	56%	48%	46%	54%	61%
Bigger, more services	34	41	40	31	30

And there has been a slight drop in the percentage that trusts government most of the time or always, from 23% last year to 19% now. The percentage that trusts government only some of the time has risen dramatically in the past three decades.

TRUST GOVT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT?

	Now	8/2009	10/2008	10/2001	1/1999	1/1986	6/1976
Always	3%	2%	1%	10%	4%	5%	4%
Most of the time	16	21	16	45	29	37	30
Some of the time	74	68	74	42	64	54	58
Never (vol.)	7	7	9	2	2	1	5

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,084 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone February 5-10, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from random digit dial 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.

CBS NEWS/New York Times Poll
The President, Congress, and Dissatisfaction with Government
February 5-10, 2010

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

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Jan10b
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Approve	46	14	78	44	50
Disapprove	45	78	15	44	40
DK/NA	9	8	7	12	10

q2 Which comes closest to your feelings about the Obama administration -- enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Enthusiastic	10	1	23	7
Satisfied, not enthusiastic	37	14	56	38
Dissatisfied but not angry	38	60	17	39
Angry	13	22	2	14
DK/NA	2	3	2	2

q3 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	Jan10a
Right direction	33	13	61	27	36
Wrong track	62	85	33	68	55
DK/NA	5	2	6	5	9

q4 What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan10a
Economy/jobs	52	50	62	45	44
Health Care	13	11	16	11	14
War/Iraq/Afghanistan	3	2	2	5	8
Budget Deficit/National Debt	4	3	4	5	3
Big Government/Bureaucracy	3	6	0	2	1
Defense/Military	2	3	0	2	2
Other	19	22	12	24	25
DK/NA	4	3	4	6	3

q5 BLANK

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan10b
Approve	47	21	76	42	49
Disapprove	34	57	13	35	38
DK/NA	19	22	11	23	13

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan10b
Approve	42	16	74	37	46
Disapprove	52	82	21	56	48
DK/NA	6	2	5	7	6

q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling health care?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jan10b
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	35	9	66	31	40
Disapprove	55	83	22	60	54
DK/NA	10	8	12	9	6

q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the federal budget deficit?

					Jul09b
Approve	31	10	54	27	40
Disapprove	58	86	34	58	43
DK/NA	11	4	12	15	17

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

					Jan10b
Approve	55	24	83	55	60
Disapprove	34	63	10	31	33
DK/NA	11	13	7	14	7

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

Approve	15	19	14	13	23
Disapprove	75	72	82	72	63
DK/NA	10	9	4	15	14

q12 Do you think most members of Congress have done a good enough job to deserve re-election, or do you think it's time to give new people a chance?

					Oct06d*
Deserves re-election	8	3	14	8	16
Time for new person	81	86	75	81	70
Depends on candidates (vol.)	6	5	9	5	7
DK/NA	5	6	2	6	7

*Among registered voters)

q13 Do you think the future of the next generation of Americans will be better, worse, or about the same as life today?

					May09a
Will be better	25	16	34	25	25
Worse	46	58	33	47	42
About the same as life today	26	22	30	26	28
DK/NA	3	4	3	2	5

q14 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	39	9	71	36	50
Not favorable	34	73	6	30	23
Undecided	19	15	17	23	16
Haven't heard enough	6	2	4	10	11
Refused	2	1	2	1	0

q15 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

					Jan10a
Very good	1	0	1	0	2
Fairly good	16	11	24	14	15
Fairly bad	44	38	49	44	50
Very bad	39	50	25	42	32
DK/NA	0	1	1	0	1

q16 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	24	14	42	19	24
Worse	29	41	17	30	28
Same	45	45	41	48	48
DK/NA	2	0	0	3	0

q17 How much longer do you think the effects of the recession will last - six months, a year, two years, or more than two years?

Six months	4	2	6	3
A year	23	19	30	20
Two years	25	28	26	23
More than 2 years	45	49	35	49
DK/NA	3	2	3	5

q18 Who do you think is mostly to blame for the current state of the nation's economy -- 1. the Bush administration, 2. the Obama administration, 3. Wall Street and financial institutions, 4. Congress, or 5. someone else?

					Jul09b
Bush administration	31	15	49	30	30
Obama administration	7	15	2	5	4
Wall Street and financial	23	24	22	23	29
Congress	13	20	4	15	12
Someone else	5	6	1	7	7
All of the above (vol.)	9	10	8	10	6
Combination (vol.)	10	9	13	9	11
DK/NA	2	1	1	1	1

q19 From what you know so far, which comes closest to your own view? 1. The economic stimulus package has already created a substantial number of new jobs in the U.S. OR 2. It will create a substantial number of new jobs but hasn't done that yet OR 3. It will not create a substantial number of new jobs?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Dec09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Has already created jobs	6	2	12	5	6
Will create jobs but hasn't	41	23	60	40	44
Will not create new jobs	48	71	23	50	45
DK/NA	5	4	5	5	5

q20 Which comes closest to your view? 1. The U.S. needs to fix its health care system now as part of fixing the overall economy. OR 2. Because of the state of the economy, the U.S. cannot afford to fix its health care system right now.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep09b
Need to fix now	44	33	65	35	52
Can't afford to fix now	53	63	34	60	42
DK/NA	3	4	1	5	6

q21 BLANK

q22-q23 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q24 If a third political party were created, do you think that would give people like you more say in government, or wouldn't a third party make that much difference?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar96d
More say	31	25	23	40	36
Wouldn't make much difference	60	68	71	47	56
Depends (vol.)	4	3	2	5	5
DK/NA	5	4	4	8	3

q25 BLANK

q26 How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right -- just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug09a
Always	3	2	4	2	2
Most	16	6	27	15	21
Some	74	82	66	73	68
Never (vol.)	7	9	2	9	7
DK/NA	0	1	1	1	2

q27 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr09a
Smaller government	56	76	38	57	48
Bigger government	34	15	50	36	41
Depends (vol.)	4	2	6	3	5
DK/NA	6	7	6	4	6

q28 Which comes closer to your view? Government should do more to solve national problems, or government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jun09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Government should do more	35	17	58	32	34
Government is doing too much	59	78	38	63	56
DK/NA	6	5	4	5	10

q29 Which comes closest to your feelings about the way things are going in Washington -- enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

Enthusiastic	3	0	6	2
Satisfied but enthusiastic	26	14	41	22
Dissatisfied but not angry	53	65	46	51
Angry	17	20	7	22
DK/NA	1	1	0	3

q30 Would you say the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves, or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

					Jul04c
Few big interests	78	85	65	82	64
All people	18	12	32	11	28
DK/NA	4	3	3	7	8

q31 How much say do you think people like yourself have about what the government does -- a good deal, some, or not much?

					Sep06a
Good deal	8	8	11	6	8
Some	21	22	25	17	29
Not much	70	69	62	76	62
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	1

q32 As you may know, the budget deficit is the shortfall when the amount of money the government spends is more than the amount of money it takes in. How much have you heard or read about the federal government's current budget deficit -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

					Jul09b
A lot	42	45	39	42	30
Some	34	35	36	32	34
Not much	20	16	22	22	28
Nothing at all	3	3	3	3	7
DK/NA	1	1	0	1	1

q33 Which comes closer to your own view? The federal government should spend money to create jobs, even if it means increasing the budget deficit, OR The federal government should NOT spend money to create jobs and should instead focus on reducing the budget deficit.

Create jobs	47	26	70	45
Reduce budget deficit	45	68	28	44
DK/NA	8	6	2	11

q34 In order to reduce the federal budget deficit, would you be willing or not willing for the government to decrease spending in areas such as health care or education?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Willing	30	47	17	28
Not willing	62	45	79	62
Some, but not others (Vol.)	5	5	4	7
DK/NA	3	3	0	3

q35 In order to reduce the federal budget deficit, would you be willing or not willing to decrease military spending?

Willing	45	31	55	46
Not willing	51	66	42	48
Some, but not others (Vol.)	2	2	0	2
DK/NA	2	1	3	4

q36 Who do you think is mostly to blame for the federal budget deficit -- 1. the Bush administration, 2. the Obama administration, 3. Congress, or 4. someone else?

Bush administration	41	17	68	38
Obama administration	7	13	1	7
Congress	24	32	12	27
Someone else	10	12	5	11
All of the above (vol.)	10	16	7	9
Combination (vol.)	7	8	5	8
DK/NA	1	2	2	0

q37 Which is a bigger concern to you personally -- the economy and jobs OR health insurance and health care costs?

Economy and jobs	59	65	52	61
Health insurance and costs	27	19	36	25
Both equally (vol.)	13	14	11	13
Neither (vol.)	1	1	0	1
DK/NA	0	1	1	0

q38 BLANK

q39 The Obama administration has proposed letting the tax cuts passed in 2001 expire for households earning about \$250,000 a year or more. This would increase federal income taxes for those people. Do you think this proposal is a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea	62	43	84	58
Bad idea	31	51	10	33
DK/NA	7	6	6	9

q40 In general, is your opinion of the Republican Party favorable or not favorable?

					Jun09a
					%
Favorable	35	71	12	29	28
Not favorable	57	26	83	58	58
DK/NA	8	3	5	13	14

q41 In general, is your opinion of the Democratic Party favorable or not favorable?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jun09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	42	9	77	38	57
Not favorable	51	84	19	52	32
DK/NA	7	7	4	10	11

q42 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to improve the health care system?

Republican party	27	61	4	21	18
Democratic party	44	14	78	40	57
Both (Vol.)	3	1	4	4	2
Neither (Vol.)	15	17	11	18	8
DK/NA	11	7	3	17	15

q43 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to ensure a strong economy?

					Oct08b
Republican party	42	80	17	36	29
Democratic party	37	8	68	34	47
Both (Vol.)	4	4	5	3	3
Neither (Vol.)	8	5	4	13	7
DK/NA	9	3	6	14	14

q44 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to create new jobs?

					Dec09a
Republican	36	67	10	34	31
Democratic	42	14	76	36	42
Both (vol.)	5	5	7	3	3
Neither (vol.)	8	7	4	12	11
DK/NA	9	7	3	15	13

q45 Do you think most members of Congress are more interested in serving the people they represent, or more interested in serving special interest groups?

People	13	13	15	11
Special interest groups	80	77	78	83
DK/NA	7	10	7	6

q46 Do you think Barack Obama is more interested in serving the American people, or more interested in serving special interest groups?

People	57	28	87	55
Special interest groups	35	67	9	32
DK/NA	8	5	4	13

q47 Do you think Barack Obama is trying to work with Republicans in Congress in order to get things done, or isn't he?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb09b
	%	%	%	%	%
Work with Republicans	62	36	91	59	74
Not work with Republicans	32	59	7	33	20
DK/NA	6	5	2	8	6

q48 Do you think Republicans in Congress are trying to work with Barack Obama in order to get things done, or aren't they?

Work with Obama	29	41	18	29	31
Not work with Obama	62	48	77	60	57
DK/NA	9	11	5	11	12

q49 Which do you think Barack Obama SHOULD do -- compromise some of his positions in order to get things done, or stick to his positions even if it means not getting as much done?

Compromise	72	86	60	72
Stick to positions	22	10	36	21
Depends (Vol.)	3	2	2	3
DK/NA	3	2	2	4

q50 Which do you think the Republicans in Congress SHOULD do -- compromise some of their positions in order to get things done, or stick to their positions even if it means not getting as much done?

Compromise	74	58	87	75
Stick to positions	22	39	10	18
Depends (Vol.)	2	2	0	3
DK/NA	2	1	3	4

q51-52 BLANK

q53 As you may know, the Senate operates under procedures that effectively require 60 votes, out of 100, for most legislation to pass, allowing a minority of as few as 41 senators to block a majority. Do you think this procedure should remain in place, or do you think it should be changed so that legislation is passed with a simple majority?

Should remain	44	61	26	46
Should change	50	32	68	49
DK/NA	6	7	6	5

q54 In his first year 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?

					Jan10b
More	9	8	13	7	14
Less	37	52	24	37	26
About expected	51	39	62	51	56
DK/NA	3	1	1	5	4

q55 How much progress do you think Barack Obama has made in bringing real change to the way things are done in Washington -- a lot, some, not much or none at all?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot	9	8	15	5
Some	39	28	56	33
Not much	30	29	22	36
None at all	20	35	5	22
DK/NA	2	0	2	4

q56 Do you think Barack Obama does or does not understand the needs and problems of people like yourself?

					Oct08i*
Yes	60	31	89	57	64
No	37	67	8	39	29
DK/NA	3	2	3	4	7

*Among registered voters

q57 Do you think the Democrats in Congress do or do not understand the needs and problems of people like yourself?

Yes	42	22	68	35
No	54	76	29	59
DK/NA	4	2	3	6

q58 Do you think the Republicans in Congress do or do not understand the needs and problems of people like yourself?

Yes	35	58	23	28
No	62	39	76	66
DK/NA	3	3	1	6

q59 Do you think Barack Obama has offered reasonable solutions to the economic problems you and your family are facing, or not?

Yes	40	14	72	35
No	53	82	20	58
DK/NA	7	4	8	7

q60 Do you think the Democrats in Congress have offered reasonable solutions to the economic problems you and your family are facing, or not?

Yes	29	10	57	22
No	62	84	35	67
DK/NA	9	6	8	11

q61 Do you think the Republicans in Congress have offered reasonable solutions to the economic problems you and your family are facing, or not?

Yes	22	41	14	16
No	68	52	79	71
DK/NA	10	7	7	13

q62 In general, do you think the policies of the Obama Administration favor the rich, favor the middle class, favor the poor, or do they treat all groups equally?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favor the rich	22	29	11	26	12
Favor the middle class	24	10	35	24	25
Favor the poor	18	32	10	14	15
Treat all equally	25	13	37	26	40
DK/NA	11	16	7	10	8

q63 In trying to solve the economic problems facing the country, do you think Barack Obama has expanded the role of government too much, not enough, or about the right amount?

Too much	36	62	10	39
Not enough	21	18	21	24
About right	37	16	66	31
DK/NA	6	4	3	6

q64 Do you think Barack Obama has spent too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time trying to fix the nation's economy and create jobs?

Too much	9	14	6	9
Too little	52	63	37	55
Right amount	35	18	54	31
DK/NA	4	5	3	5

q65 Do you think Barack Obama does or does not have a clear plan for creating jobs?

Does	39	24	65	29
Does not	56	75	28	64
DK/NA	5	1	7	7

q66 By the end of Barack Obama's term in office, do you expect the economy to be better than it is today, worse than it is today, or about the same?

					Jan09a
Better	47	24	71	44	75
Worse	16	27	3	17	5
Same	36	48	23	37	17
DK/NA	1	1	3	2	3

q67 So far, do you think the Obama Administration has increased taxes for most Americans, decreased taxes for most Americans, or have they kept taxes the same for most Americans?

Increased	24	40	10	24
Decreased	12	5	21	10
Kept the same	53	46	60	53
DK/NA	11	9	9	13

q68-71 BLANK

q72 Do you think Barack Obama has spent too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time on changing the health care system?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Too much	48	72	23	50
Too little	21	13	20	27
Right amount	28	13	54	20
DK/NA	3	2	3	3

q73 Who do you think is more responsible for the recent difficulties in passing health care reform -- President Obama or Congress, or are they both equally responsible?

President Obama	5	11	1	3
Congress	37	19	59	33
Both equal	56	66	40	61
Neither (vol.)	1	3	0	1
DK/NA	1	1	0	2

q74 Do you think it is mainly the Republicans in Congress that are more responsible, or mainly the Democrats in Congress, or are both equally responsible?

AMONG THOSE WHO SAID CONGRESS OR BOTH in q73

Republicans	28	18	47	19
Democrats	12	24	4	10
Both	59	59	47	67
DK/NA	1	0	2	4

q75 How likely do you think it is that Congress will pass and President Obama will sign into law a health care reform bill -- very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

Very	16	9	23	16
Somewhat	38	35	45	34
Not very	28	33	20	30
Not at all	16	22	10	17
DK/NA	2	1	2	3

q76 From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's proposal for a new tax on the country's largest banks, or haven't you heard enough about the tax yet to say?

Approve	28	12	43	27
Disapprove	15	27	4	14
Haven't heard enough	56	56	51	59
DK/NA	1	5	2	0

q77 When it comes to government regulation of banks and financial institutions, which comes closer to your opinion: 1. The government should increase regulations on these institutions now to help prevent more financial crises from happening again in the future, OR 2. The government should NOT increase regulations on these institutions now, because that will discourage private investors and slow down economic growth.

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Should increase regulation	56	36	75	56	71
Should not increase	36	54	21	34	23
DK/NA	8	10	4	10	6

q78 Which of the following comes closest to your view of the way financial institutions have used federal funds they received from the government? 1. They have mostly used the funds to stabilize themselves so they can return to normal lending. OR 2. They have mostly used the funds to pay their own executives.

Mostly to stabilize	29	32	25	30
Mostly paid executives	60	55	68	57
DK/NA	11	13	7	13

q79 Many large banks and financial companies that received bailout money from the government have paid the money back. Which best describes your feelings about these companies now paying their employees bonuses -- are you angry, bothered but not angry, or are you not bothered by this?

					Jan10b
Angry	40	33	47	38	37
Bothered	35	37	35	33	33
Not bothered	23	29	15	26	28
DK/NA	2	1	3	3	2

q80-81 BLANK

q82 SEPARATE RELEASE

q86 Do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States safer from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or have the policies of the Obama Administration not affected the U.S.' safety from terrorism?

Safer	27	7	49	23	28
Less safe	25	44	9	23	22
No effect	44	41	39	49	41
DK/NA	4	8	3	5	9

q87 How likely do you think it is that there will be another terrorist attack in the United States within the next few months - very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

					Jan10a
Very likely	18	23	15	16	26
Somewhat likely	40	48	39	35	40
Not very likely	28	19	32	31	22
Not at all likely	10	7	11	11	8
DK/NA	4	3	3	7	4

Q88-q100 HELD FOR RELEASE

q101 How would you rate the financial situation in your household these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Dec09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	9	8	11	9	13
Fairly good	58	56	62	56	56
Fairly bad	24	26	21	26	20
Very bad	8	8	6	9	11
DK/NA	1	2	0	0	0

q102 Do you think your household's financial situation is getting better, getting worse or staying about the same?

Getting better	14	9	16	16	13
Getting worse	20	21	20	19	22
Same	66	69	64	65	64
DK/NA	0	1	0	0	1

q103 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?

					Jan10b
Can save and buy extras	25	28	21	25	22
Just enough to pay bills	57	55	63	55	53
Not enough to pay bills et	17	16	15	19	25
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	0

q104-106 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q107 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?

					Dec09b
Very concerned	31	31	34	28	29
Somewhat concerned	26	22	29	27	34
Not at all concerned	41	46	36	41	33
DK/NA	2	1	1	4	4

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1,084	
Total Republicans	315	299 (28%)
Total Democrats	347	329 (30%)
Total Independents	422	455 (42%)