



CBS NEWS POLL  
 For Release: Wednesday, May 13, 2009  
 6:30 pm (EDT)

**PRESIDENT OBAMA, THE SUPREME COURT AND THE ECONOMY  
 May 6-12, 2009**

Americans continue to give President Barack Obama high marks, and increasing numbers say the country is heading in the right direction. And as the President decides who will replace retiring Supreme Court Justice David Souter, most are confident he will nominate good justices. 55% think he will, although a third are uneasy about whom he will name.

There are the expected partisan differences on this question. Over eight in 10 Democrats express confidence that President Obama will nominate good justices, but two in three Republicans are uneasy about whom he will choose.

Conservatives (60%) and white evangelicals (63%) also express uneasiness about Barack Obama's choice.

**PRES. OBAMA'S NOMINEES TO THE SUPREME COURT**

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Confident	55%	26%	83%	49%
Uneasy	35	66	10	38

But there were even more doubts in 2005 about President George W. Bush's ability to make good choices for the Supreme Court, shortly after Justice Sandra Day O'Connor retired. However, President Bush was much less popular than Barack Obama is now. The former President's approval rating was just 45% back then.

**NOMINEES TO THE SUPREME COURT**

	Obama	Bush (7/2005)
Confident	55%	46%
Uneasy	35	52

President Obama's overall approval rating today is 63%. This is down slightly from late April, but similar to his approval rating in March. 56% now approve of the President's handling of the economy.

**PRES. OBAMA APPROVAL RATING**

	Now	4/2009	3/2009
Overall	63%	68%	64%
The economy	56%	61%	61%

The percentage of Americans who say things in this county are heading in the right direction continues to inch up. 45% agree with that

sentiment, up four points from last month and the highest number since December 2003, shortly after the capture of Saddam Hussein.

**DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY**

	Now	4/2009	2/2009	10/2008	12/2003
Right direction	45%	41%	23%	7%	51%
Wrong track	48	50	68	89	43

The public's outlook for the economy is improving too. Even though Americans' assessments of the current economy remain grim, 32% think it is getting better, up six points from last month and the highest percentage since February 2004.

**THE ECONOMY IS GETTING...**

	Now	4/2009	2/2009	5/2008	5/2007	2/2004
Better	32%	26%	5%	3%	11%	33%
Worse	23	25	51	69	43	27
Staying same	44	48	42	27	44	39

Still, Americans don't expect the economic recession to end soon. One in 10 thinks it will last another six months, and 39% think it will last another year. 42% expect the recession will last two years or more.

**HOW MUCH LONGER WILL RECESSION LAST?**

Six months	13%
A year	39
Two years or more	42

**SWINE FLU**

Nearly half of Americans describe the H1N1 or swine flu outbreak as serious, but just as many think it is not. Only 12% say it is "very" serious.

**HOW SERIOUS A PROBLEM IS SWINE FLU?**

Very	12%
Somewhat	37
Not much	35
Not at all	14

Just one in ten are "very" concerned that a member of their household will catch swine flu. Americans residing in the South are more likely to express concern about getting swine flu than those in other regions of the country.

Women are also more likely than men to be very concerned about someone in their household contracting swine flu.

**CONCERNED A MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD WILL GET SWINE FLU**

	Very	Somewhat	Not Very	Not at all
Total	10%	27%	36%	26
Men	8%	21	39	33
Women	12%	32	34	20
Northeast	8%	23	37	29
Midwest	9%	27	33	31
South	15%	27	35	23
West	6%	30	41	23

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,874 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone May 6 -12, 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 two 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 POLL**  
**President Obama, The Supreme Court and The Economy**  
**May 6-12, 2009**

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

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				Apr09b
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Approve	63	34	87	59	68
Disapprove	26	54	5	28	23
DK/NA	11	12	8	13	9

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?

Right direction	45	19	67	42	41
Wrong track	48	74	26	52	50
DK/NA	7	7	7	6	9

q3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

Approve	56	27	81	52	61
Disapprove	33	64	10	33	29
DK/NA	11	9	9	15	10

q4-5 BLANK

q6 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	1	1
Fairly good	17	8	24	16	15
Fairly bad	45	48	41	46	40
Very bad	36	42	33	35	44
DK/NA	1	1	1	2	0

q7 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	32	16	40	35	26
Worse	23	35	15	22	25
Same	44	49	43	42	48
DK/NA	1	0	2	1	1

q8 How much longer do you think the current recession will last --- six months, a year, two years or more than two years?

					Apr09a
Six months	13	10	13	14	10
A year	39	34	46	36	38
Two years	23	25	21	24	23
More than 2 years	19	25	14	19	26
DK/NA	6	6	6	7	3

q9 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q10 BLANK

q11 How serious a problem would you say the H1N1 or swine flu is? Would you say it is a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, not too serious of a problem, or not a problem at all?

**\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\***

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very serious	12	12	12	11
Somewhat serious	37	32	42	36
Not too serious	35	37	33	35
Not at all serious	14	18	11	14
DK/NA	2	1	2	4

q12 How concerned are you that you or a member of your household will get the H1N1 or swine flu -- are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned or not at all concerned?

Very concerned	10	7	11	10
Somewhat concerned	27	30	29	23
Not very concerned	36	35	35	38
Not at all concerned	26	27	25	27
Already has it (Vol.)	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	1	1	0	2

q13 BLANK

q14 Do you have confidence that Barack Obama will nominate good justices to the Supreme Court, or are you uneasy about who he will choose?

Confidence	55	26	83	49
Uneasy	35	66	10	38
DK/NA	10	8	7	13

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1874	
Total Republicans	497	455
Total Democrats	656	652
Total Independents	721	768