



CBS NEWS POLL
 For release: Tuesday, November 16, 2009
 7:00 AM (ET)

PRESIDENT OBAMA AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

November 13-15, 2009

President Barack Obama is being greeted warmly in China, but back in the U.S. his overall approval rating has slipped to 53%. Approval for his handling of the situation in Afghanistan has dropped as well; more Americans now disapprove than approve.

A majority of Americans still approve of the way President Barack Obama is handling his job as president, but this percentage is down three points. 53% of Americans approve of how he's handling his job, down from 56% last month.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB APPROVAL RATING

	Now	10/2009	6/2009	4/2009
Approve	53%	56%	63%	68%
Disapprove	36	34	26	23

The president's approval rating has dropped seven points among independents. 45% of independents now approve of how the president is handling his job; last month a majority of 52% approved.

Assessments of how President Obama is handling the war in Afghanistan have become more negative since early October. 38% now approve of how President Obama is handling the war -- but even more, 43%, disapprove. Disapproval has risen nine points, from 34% last month.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HANDLING OF AFGHANISTAN

	Now	10/2009	8/2009	4/2009
Approve	38%	42%	48%	58%
Disapprove	43	34	30	21
Don't know	19	24	22	21

Again, most of the change has occurred among independents. Last month, 44% of independents approved and 36% disapproved of the job President Obama was doing on Afghanistan. Now, more independents disapprove than approve: 49% disapprove, and just 30% approve.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HANDLING OF AFGHANISTAN

	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Approve	38%	23%	57%	30%
Disapprove	43	60	24	49
Don't know	19	17	19	21

50% of Americans approve of how the president is handling foreign policy - not much different from last month. But disapproval of his handling of foreign policy has risen as well - from 28% last month to 36% now.

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S HANDLING OF FOREIGN POLICY

	Now	10/2009	7/2009	4/2009
Approve	50%	48%	54%	59%
Disapprove	36	28	24	23
Don't know	14	24	22	18

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,167 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone November 13-16, 2009. 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 POLL
President Obama and Foreign Affairs
November 13-16, 2009

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

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct09a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	53	18	83	45	56
Disapprove	36	69	10	40	34
DK/NA	11	13	7	15	10

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

Approve	50	21	71	49	48
Disapprove	36	65	14	38	28
DK/NA	14	14	15	13	24

q6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation with Afghanistan?

Approve	38	23	57	30	42
Disapprove	43	60	24	49	34
DK/NA	19	17	19	21	24

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1167	
Total Republicans	311	282 (24%)
Total Democrats	414	430 (37%)
Total Independents	442	455 (39%)