

**PRESIDENT OBAMA RECEIVES BOOST IN APPROVAL AFTER DEATH OF BIN LADEN**

May 2-3, 2011

- In the aftermath of the killing of Osama bin Laden by U.S. forces, President Barack Obama receives high marks for his handling of the situation (85%) as well as a double-digit jump in his overall approval rating (now 57%).
- 47% call the killing of bin Laden a major victory for the U.S., while another 40% call it a minor victory.
- But six in 10 think the threat of terrorism will increase over the next few months as a result of bin Laden's death.
- The President's approval ratings on handling terrorism, Afghanistan and foreign policy have also risen, but he receives his lowest rating to date on the economy - just 34% approve.

57% of Americans now approve of President Obama's overall job performance, up 11 points from two weeks ago and the first time his approval rating has been above the 50% mark since April 2010. The last time the President received a higher approval rating was in July 2009.

**Barack Obama's Overall Approval Rating**

	Now	2 weeks ago	4/2010	7/2009
Approve	57%	46%	51%	58%
Disapprove	37	45	39	30

President Obama receives a boost in his approval rating from independents and Republicans in this poll. Among independents, his rating has jumped eight points from two weeks ago. And while only 24% of Republicans approve of the President's job performance, that is up from 9%. More than eight in 10 Democrats approve.

**Barack Obama's Overall Approval Rating – Party ID**

	Now	2 weeks ago
Republicans	24%	9%
Democrats	86%	79%
Independents	51%	43%

The increase in President Obama's approval rating is larger than the bounce former President George W. Bush received in December 2003, after the capture of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

**Presidents' Overall Approval Ratings**

	After	Before
Killing of Osama bin Laden	57%	46% (Obama)
Capture of Saddam Hussein	58%	52% (G.W. Bush)

It's unclear, however, how long-lasting the increase in President Obama's approval rating will be. In a CBS News Poll conducted later in December 2003, President Bush received a 60% approval rating, but it was short-lived and his approval rating never reached that height again.

President Obama gets exceptionally high marks for his handling of the pursuit of Osama bin Laden specifically – 85% of Americans approve, including solid majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents.

#### Barack Obama's Handling of Pursuit of Bin Laden

	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Approve	85%	80%	94%	79%
Disapprove	7	12	2	9

Approval ratings for the President's handling of the threat of terrorism, the war in Afghanistan, and foreign policy in general have increased in the wake of the death of Osama bin Laden. 72% of Americans (including 53% of Republicans) approve of the President's handling of terrorism, his highest rating on the issue since talking office. At 61%, his rating on Afghanistan is also a record high. In last month's poll, only 39% approved of Mr. Obama's handling of foreign policy -- his lowest rating to date. Now, 52% approve.

#### Barack Obama's Approval Ratings on...

	Now	Before	
Threat of terrorism	72%	51%	(8/2010)
Afghanistan	61%	44%	(1/2011)
Foreign policy	52%	39%	(4/2011)

The improvement in President Obama's approval ratings on foreign policy matters does not extend to his handling of the nation's top domestic issue – the economy. More than half of Americans disapprove of his handling of the economy, while just 34% approve – the lowest rating of his presidency.

#### Barack Obama's Handling of the Economy

	Now	2 weeks ago	3/2011
Approve	34%	38%	39%
Disapprove	55	57	53

#### The Death of Bin Laden and the War on Terror

Americans see the killing of Osama bin Laden as a victory for the United States in the war against terror – 47% call it a major victory, while another 40% call it a minor victory. Just one in 10 doesn't think of it as a victory at all.

#### The Killing of Bin Laden and the War on Terrorism

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Major victory	47%	49%	54%	40%
Minor victory	40	41	36	43
Not a victory	11	9	10	15

Democrats are more likely than Republicans and independents to call the death of bin Laden a major victory.

But even as Americans view the death of bin Laden as a victory, they are also bracing for a possible terrorist attack in the U.S. in retaliation. The percentage of Americans that thinks a terrorist attack within the United States in the next few months is at least somewhat likely has risen 15 percentage points, from 54% in November to 69% today. It is now the highest it has been since mid-2004.

<b>Likelihood of a Terrorist Attack in the U.S. in the Next Few Months</b>					
	Now	11/2010	1/2009	7/2004	10/2001
Likely	69%	54%	34%	71%	88%
Not likely	29	44	63	27	10

In addition, six in 10 Americans think the threat of terrorism will increase over the next few months as a direct result of the death of bin Laden. However, far fewer, just 27%, expect that threat will carry over into the long term, and as many think it will lessen.

<b>As a Result of the Killing of Bin Laden, Will the Threat of Terrorism...?</b>		
	In the next few months	In the long term
Increase	62%	27%
Decrease	5	26
Stay the same	28	41

Despite increased concerns about terrorism against the U.S. in the near future, few feel much change in their own safety as a result of bin Laden's death. Just 14% say they feel less safe, and as many, 16%, say that his death makes them feel safer. 70% say bin Laden's death has had no effect on how safe they feel.

<b>Does the Killing of Bin Laden Make You Feel...?</b>	
More safe	16%
Less safe	14
No effect	70

Americans are mixed when asked if the killing of Osama bin Laden by the U.S. has brought a sense of closure for them concerning the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001: 50% say yes, and 45% say no. Opinions are similar among Americans who know a 9/11 victim, either directly or through a friend.

<b>Does the Killing of Bin Laden Bring You Closure for 9/11?</b>		
	Total	Know 9/11 Victim
Yes	50%	51%
No	45	49

A sizable minority think bin Laden may have been losing influence within his organization. While 50% of Americans believe Osama bin Laden was still in charge of the Al Qaeda terrorist network at the time of his death, 39% think other people were really running Al Qaeda.

### **The War on Terrorism and Afghanistan**

76% of Americans say the war against terrorism is going well for the U.S. – but most of them say it is going just somewhat well. 60% said it was going well five years ago, the last time the question was asked.

### How is the War on Terror Going?

	Now	8/2006
Very well	16%	8%
Somewhat well	60	52
Somewhat/very badly	18	38

Compared to five years ago, more now say the U.S. and its allies are winning the war on terror. But just as many call the war on terror a stalemate.

### Who is Winning the War on Terror?

	Now	8/2006
The U.S. & allies	44%	36%
Neither side	45	38
Terrorists	5	21

The U.S. military has been involved in Afghanistan for nearly 10 years, and 64% of Americans say bin Laden's death does not complete the U.S. mission there and in the surrounding region.

### Is the U.S. Mission in Afghanistan & Region Now Complete?

Yes, complete	32%
No, not yet	64

But 48% of Americans would reduce troop levels in Afghanistan now, up nine points since late last year. The percentage that would maintain troop levels there has doubled since then, to 40% now.

### Should U.S. Troop Levels in Afghanistan Now...

	Now	11/2009
Increase	6%	32%
Stay same	40	20
Decrease	48	39

Almost nine in ten Americans say they are very or extremely proud to be an American now, including 61% who are extremely so.

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This poll was conducted by telephone on May 2-3, 2011 among 532 adults nationwide who were first interviewed by CBS News for a 60 Minutes/Vanity Fair Poll April 28-May 1, 2011. 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 four 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**  
**May 2-3, 2011**

rq1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr11a
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	57	24	86	51	46
Disapprove	37	73	10	41	45
DK/NA	6	3	4	8	9

rq2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?

Approve	52	29	70	48	39
Disapprove	34	63	17	31	46
DK/NA	14	8	13	21	15

rq3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

Approve	34	12	56	27	38
Disapprove	55	84	33	57	57
DK/NA	11	4	11	16	5

rq4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation with Afghanistan?

	Jan11a				
Approve	61	54	72	55	44
Disapprove	29	36	22	30	38
DK/NA	10	10	6	15	18

rq5 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the threat of terrorism?

	Aug10b				
Approve	72	53	90	68	51
Disapprove	19	39	5	20	37
DK/NA	9	8	5	12	12

rq6 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama handled the pursuit of Osama bin Laden?

Approve	85	80	94	79
Disapprove	7	12	2	9
DK/NA	8	8	4	12

rq7 What is your impression of how the campaign against terrorism is going for the United States right now--very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

	Aug06b				
Very well	16	10	21	14	8
Somewhat well	60	58	68	54	52
Somewhat badly	13	22	7	12	26
Very badly	5	5	2	6	12
DK/NA	6	5	2	14	2

rq8 Who do you think is currently winning the war against terrorism -- the U.S. and its allies, neither side, or the terrorists?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug06b
	%	%	%	%	%
U.S. and allies	44	38	51	42	36
Neither side	45	50	45	42	38
Terrorists	5	8	1	8	21
DK/NA	6	4	3	8	5

rq9 As you may know, Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. forces in Pakistan. Do you think this is a major victory for the U.S. in the war against terrorism, a minor victory, or not a victory in the war against terrorism?

Major victory	47	49	54	40
Minor victory	40	41	36	43
Not a victory	11	9	10	15
DK/NA	2	1	0	2

rq10 As a result of the killing of Osama bin Laden, in the next few months do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	62	67	58	64
Decrease	5	2	8	3
Stay the same	28	27	33	24
DK/NA	5	4	1	9

rq11 How about in the long term? As a result of the killing of Osama bin Laden, in the long term do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase	27	34	20	30
Decrease	26	24	35	17
Stay the same	41	37	42	41
DK/NA	6	5	3	12

rq12 Now that Osama bin Laden has been killed, do you personally feel more safe from the threat of terrorism, less safe, or has this had no effect on how safe you feel?

More safe	16	15	18	14
Less safe	14	14	16	11
No effect	70	71	65	74
DK/NA	0	0	1	1

rq13 BLANK

rq14 Has the killing of Osama bin Laden by the U.S. brought a sense of closure for you concerning the events of September 11th, or hasn't it done that?

Has brought closure	50	58	57	39
Has not	45	42	41	52
DK/NA	5	0	2	9

rq15 Until he was killed, do you think Osama bin Laden was still in charge of the Al Qaeda terrorist network, or do you think other people had really been running Al Qaeda?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Osama in charge	50	52	60	38
Other people	39	40	32	45
DK/NA	11	8	8	17

rq16 Now that Osama Bin Laden has been killed, do you think that the United States has completed its primary mission in Afghanistan and the surrounding areas, or not?

Completed mission	32	22	34	35
Not completed mission	64	77	61	58
DK/NA	4	1	5	7

rq17 From what you have seen or heard about the situation in Afghanistan, what should the United States do now--should the US increase the number of US troops in Afghanistan, keep the number of US troops in Afghanistan as there are now, or decrease the numbers of troops in Afghanistan?

					Nov09b
					%
Increase	6	16	1	4	32
Keep the same	40	37	43	38	20
Decrease	48	42	54	46	39
DK/NA	6	5	2	12	9

rq18 BLANK

rq19 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?

					Nov10b
Very likely	21	24	18	23	15
Somewhat likely	48	37	50	54	39
Not very likely	22	34	21	15	32
Not at all likely	7	3	10	7	12
DK/NA	2	2	1	1	2

rq20 BLANK

rq21 How proud are you to be an American - Extremely proud, very proud, moderately proud, only a little proud or not at all proud?

Extremely proud	61	76	53	59
Very proud	25	17	29	26
Moderately proud	12	5	15	14
Only a little proud	1	1	2	1
Not at all proud	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	1	1	1	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	532	
Total Republicans	153	129 (24%)
Total Democrats	191	194 (36%)
Total Independents	188	209 (40%)