

BARACK OBAMA

Obama Fulfilling the Expectations of Almost Half of Americans

A majority of respondents believe their president “inspires hope” and is “inexperienced.”

[SAN FRANCISCO – Nov. 12, 2009] – A year has passed since Barack Obama announced, to a global audience, that “change was coming to America.” A new poll conducted by Angus Reid Public Opinion shows that the U.S. President has fulfilled the expectations of almost half of Americans, but certain negative labels that emerged during the course of last year’s presidential campaign have not been completely set aside.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 1,011 American adults, 48 per cent of respondents claim Obama has performed about the same as they expected, while more than a third (36%) believe Obama has been worse, and 12 per cent think he has been better.

While three-in-five Democrats (61%) say Obama has fulfilled their expectations, the same proportion of Republicans think the president has underperformed.

Almost half of respondents (46%) believe it is too early to judge Obama’s accomplishments as President, while one-in-ten (10%) say he has accomplished much in his first year. Two-in-five Americans (40%) think Obama has done little in his first year as president.

KEY FINDINGS

- **48% of Americans think Obama has performed “about the same” as they expected**
- **46% think it is too early to judge Obama’s accomplishments; 40% say the President has done little in his first year**
- **“New Brand of Politics” and “Hope” messages still resonate with public...**
- **...but a majority of Americans believe the President is “inexperienced.”**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From November 4 to November 5, 2009, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,011 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.

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Four messages that Obama relied upon throughout the course of the 2008 campaign continue to resonate with a majority of Americans. Two-thirds of respondents (65%) think Obama represents a new brand of politics, 61 per cent claim he inspires hope, 56 per cent believe he has made progress in bringing change to America, and 52 per cent acknowledge that he has worked across party lines to get things done.

However, a majority of Americans also regard Obama as a person who is inexperienced (55%), who is more style than substance (52%) and who stands for big government (51%). Half of respondents, however, disagree with the notion that the U.S. president is too radical.

The Views of Voters

An examination of the sentiments of respondents who voted for Barack Obama in the 2008 presidential election reveals that three-in-five (60%) believe the candidate they supported is performing in roughly the same way they expected, while about one-in-five believe he has either done better (18%) or worse (19%).

A similar scenario ensues in the question related to the President's accomplishments so far, with two-thirds of Obama voters (67%) saying it is too early to issue a verdict, and 18 per cent stating that Obama has accomplished much.

Respondents who voted for John McCain in 2008 are clearly more skeptical about Obama's accomplishments (72% think the President has done little) and more likely to brand his performance as worse than they expected (62% feel this way).

Analysis

While the assessment of Obama's tenure is still closely tied to party allegiance—particularly on the question related to accomplishments—the survey has both good and bad news for the current administration.

A large proportion of Americans still see Obama as a new kind of politician, who inspires hope and is working to change the country. However, a majority of respondents perceives the president as inexperienced, even after almost nine months in office.

As the term progresses, the variation of responses related to "hope" and "experience" will be key to understanding how Americans relate to the President, and whether their expectations are actually surpassed.

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Barack Obama

Barack Obama was elected President of the United States one year ago. So far, has Barack Obama performed...

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Better than I expected	12%	10%	15%	11%	14%
About the same as I expected	48%	51%	47%	47%	50%
Worse than I expected	36%	34%	36%	38%	33%
Not sure	4%	6%	3%	5%	3%

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	Political Allegiance			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Better than I expected	12%	18%	5%	13%
About the same as I expected	48%	61%	32%	50%
Worse than I expected	36%	18%	61%	34%
Not sure	4%	3%	2%	2%

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Barack Obama					
Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?					
Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Barack Obama has accomplished little in his first year as President	40%	34%	36%	47%	39%
It is too early to judge Barack Obama's accomplishments as President	46%	47%	54%	40%	48%
Barack Obama has accomplished much in his first year as President	10%	12%	10%	9%	11%
Not sure	3%	6%	1%	3%	3%

Barack Obama				
Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?				
Political Allegiance				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Barack Obama has accomplished little in his first year as President	40%	21%	68%	43%
It is too early to judge Barack Obama's accomplishments as President	46%	60%	27%	48%
Barack Obama has accomplished much in his first year as President	10%	18%	4%	8%
Not sure	3%	1%	2%	1%

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Barack Obama

Here are a few things that have been said about Barack Obama. Do you agree or disagree with each one of them?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
He represents a new brand of politics	65%	26%	9%
He inspires hope	61%	33%	6%
He has made progress in bringing change to America	56%	35%	8%
He is inexperienced	55%	38%	7%
He has worked across party lines to get things done	52%	38%	9%
He is more style than substance	52%	39%	9%
He stands for big government	51%	34%	16%
He is too radical	37%	50%	13%

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Barack Obama		
Barack Obama was elected President of the United States one year ago. So far, has Barack Obama performed...		
Presidential Candidate Supported in 2008 Election		
	Barack Obama (D)	John McCain (R)
Better than I expected	18%	3%
About the same as I expected	60%	35%
Worse than I expected	19%	62%
Not sure	4%	1%

Barack Obama		
Which of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?		
Presidential Candidate Supported in 2008 Election		
	Barack Obama (D)	John McCain (R)
Barack Obama has accomplished little in his first year as President	15%	72%
It is too early to judge Barack Obama's accomplishments as President	67%	21%
Barack Obama has accomplished much in his first year as President	18%	4%
Not sure	1%	3%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is the public affairs practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://bit.ly/3z0u1l>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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