

U.S. POLITICS

Obama Remains Above 50% Mark Nine Months into Presidency

Congress gains five points in a month, but satisfaction with its performance remains low throughout the country.

[SAN FRANCISCO – Nov. 25, 2009] – Most adults in the United States remain satisfied with the performance of Barack Obama, while the U.S. Congress maintains markedly lower numbers, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,003 American adults, 51 per cent of respondents approve of Obama's performance, while 42 per cent disapprove.

It is important to note that the level of strong approval for the U.S. President (15%) is ten points lower than the level of strong disapproval (25%).

Democrats (80%) are overwhelmingly supportive of Obama, while Republicans (70%) remain dissatisfied. Independents are almost evenly divided (46% approve of the president's actions, 48% disapprove).

In stark contrast, only 27 per cent of respondents approve of the way Congress is handling its duties, while 62 per cent disapprove. Strong approval for Congress' actions stands at a dismal three per cent, while a third of respondents (34%) are strongly dissatisfied.

While 44 per cent of Democrats approve of the way Congress is acting, the proportion dwindles to 20 per cent amongst Independents and 16 per cent amongst Republicans.

KEY FINDINGS

- **51% approve of Barack Obama's performance as president**
- **27% approve of the performance of the U.S. Congress**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From November 17 to November 18, 2009, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,003 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.

CONTACT:

Ashley Grosse, Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs, 415.489.7105, ashley.grosse@angus-reid.com
Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 604-647-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

Analysis

While Obama remains above the 50 per cent mark, the survey shows that Independents—a key component of his victory in November 2008—are now divided in their assessment of his actions.

For Congress, the key challenge will be to reduce the high level of strong disapproval that is voiced by a third of respondents across the country—including 19 per cent of Democrats.

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U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?					
Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly approve	15%	12%	19%	13%	16%
Moderately approve	36%	48%	33%	31%	37%
Moderately disapprove	17%	13%	12%	20%	19%
Strongly disapprove	25%	22%	27%	29%	22%
Not sure	7%	6%	8%	8%	6%

U.S. Politics				
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?				
Party ID				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	15%	31%	2%	12%
Moderately approve	36%	49%	23%	34%
Moderately disapprove	17%	10%	21%	20%
Strongly disapprove	25%	6%	49%	28%
Not sure	7%	4%	4%	6%

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U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the United States Congress?					
Region					
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly approve	3%	1%	5%	3%	5%
Moderately approve	24%	25%	23%	23%	25%
Moderately disapprove	28%	32%	29%	26%	29%
Strongly disapprove	34%	30%	35%	37%	32%
Not sure	10%	12%	9%	11%	9%

U.S. Politics				
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the United States Congress?				
Party ID				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	3%	6%	1%	2%
Moderately approve	24%	38%	15%	18%
Moderately disapprove	28%	27%	31%	28%
Strongly disapprove	34%	19%	47%	44%
Not sure	10%	10%	6%	7%

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U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president? - TREND					
	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009	Aug. 2009	Jul. 2009
Approve	51%	51%	52%	54%	57%
Disapprove	42%	44%	41%	40%	33%
Not sure	7%	5%	7%	6%	10%

U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the United States Congress? - TREND					
	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009	Aug. 2009	Jul. 2009
Approve	27%	22%	24%	28%	34%
Disapprove	62%	67%	65%	63%	52%
Not sure	10%	11%	12%	9%	14%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a 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/3z0u11>

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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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