

U.S. POLITICS

U.S. President Obama Falls Below 50% for the First Time in Tenure

Approval for Congress remains in the mid-twenties, and almost two-thirds disapprove of the legislative branch.

[SAN FRANCISCO – Jan. 25, 2010] – Public satisfaction with the performance of Barack Obama has dropped at the start of 2010 and the United States Congress maintains a paltry approval rating, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,003 American adults, 47 per cent of respondents (-3 since December) approve of Obama's performance, while 44 per cent (=) disapprove.

In a trend that began in November, the level of strong approval for the U.S. President (15%) continues to be considerably lower than the level of strong disapproval (26%).

Democrats (75%, -2) are still overly satisfied with Obama, while Republicans (77%, +1) are disappointed. Independents remain almost evenly divided in their assessment of Obama (46% approve of the president's actions, 48% disapprove).

Just 25 per cent of Americans (-1) approve of the way Congress is handling its duties, while 65 per cent (+3) disapprove. Strong approval for Congress' actions stands at three per cent, while more than a third of respondents (36%) say they are strongly dissatisfied.

While 43 per cent of Democrats approve of the way Congress is acting, the proportion falls to 13 per cent amongst Independents and 12 per cent amongst Republicans.

KEY FINDINGS

- **47% (-3) approve of Barack Obama's performance as president**
- **24% (-1) approve of the performance of the U.S. Congress**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From January 21 to January 22, 2010, 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

U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?					
	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly approve	15%	18%	14%	15%	13%
Moderately approve	32%	29%	36%	31%	35%
Moderately disapprove	18%	21%	16%	20%	17%
Strongly disapprove	26%	22%	26%	26%	28%
Not sure	8%	9%	8%	9%	7%

U.S. Politics				
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?				
	Party ID			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	15%	28%	6%	8%
Moderately approve	32%	47%	12%	38%
Moderately disapprove	18%	11%	27%	18%
Strongly disapprove	26%	5%	50%	30%
Not sure	8%	8%	5%	6%

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

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%	5%	4%	1%	2%
Moderately approve	21%	14%	19%	27%	19%
Moderately disapprove	29%	32%	34%	25%	27%
Strongly disapprove	36%	35%	34%	35%	42%
Not sure	11%	14%	10%	12%	10%

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%	4%	4%	0%
Moderately approve	21%	39%	8%	13%
Moderately disapprove	29%	28%	29%	30%
Strongly disapprove	36%	18%	53%	47%
Not sure	11%	11%	7%	10%

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

U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president? - TREND					
	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009
Approve	47%	50%	51%	51%	52%
Disapprove	44%	44%	42%	44%	41%
Not sure	8%	6%	7%	5%	7%

U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the United States Congress? - TREND					
	Jan. 2010	Dec. 2009	Nov. 2009	Oct. 2009	Sept. 2009
Approve	24%	25%	27%	22%	24%
Disapprove	65%	64%	62%	67%	65%
Not sure	11%	10%	10%	11%	12%

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

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>

- 30 -

**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>

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