

THE DALAI LAMA

Most Americans Endorse President Obama's Meeting with Dalai Lama

A majority of respondents believe the Buddhist spiritual leader should have an official welcome similar to the one offered to other religious leaders.

[NEW YORK – Feb. 15, 2010] – A few days prior to the Dalai Lama's scheduled visit to the United States, a clear majority of Americans support a meeting between the Buddhist spiritual leader and President Barack Obama, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,004 American adults, 64 per cent of respondents agree with President Obama meeting the Dalai Lama in the U.S. Clear majorities of Democrats (65%), Republicans (59%) and Independents (63%) are in favour of this meeting.

The Chinese government has repeatedly warned that a meeting between President Obama and the Dalai Lama would "cause serious damage to Sino-U.S. relations."

Almost three-in-five Americans (57%) believe the U.S. should provide an official welcome to the Dalai Lama similar to the welcome offered to other religious leaders.

Support is considerably lower for allowing the Dalai Lama to visit the U.S. without an official welcome (17%) or barring the Buddhist spiritual leader from visiting the U.S. (6%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **64% agree with President Obama meeting the Dalai Lama in the U.S.**
- **57% want the U.S. to provide an official welcome to the Dalai Lama similar to the welcome offered to other religious leaders**
- **40% would be interested in seeing the Dalai Lama speak if he came to their town or city**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From February 9 to February 10, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,004 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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United States Public Opinion Poll

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In all, 40 per cent of respondents say they would be "very interested" or "moderately interested" in seeing the Dalai Lama speak if he came to their town or city, while 53 per cent are "not too interested" or "not interested at all."

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The Dalai Lama

As you may know, the Dalai Lama, the Buddhist spiritual leader, is scheduled to visit the United States this month. Some people think allowing the Dalai Lama to enter the U.S. strains our country's relations with China. Other people think that the Dalai Lama is a respected religious leader and relations with China should have no impact on the U.S.'s decision to welcome him. Thinking about this, which of these statements comes closest to your own view?

	Total	Party ID		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent
The Dalai Lama should be barred from visiting the U.S.	6%	7%	6%	5%
The Dalai Lama should be allowed to visit the U.S., but no official welcome should be provided for him	17%	16%	22%	17%
The U.S. should provide an official welcome to the Dalai Lama similar to the welcome offered to other religious leaders	57%	64%	54%	62%
Not sure	20%	14%	18%	16%

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The Dalai Lama				
How interested would you be in seeing the Dalai Lama speak if he came to your town/city?				
		Party ID		
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Very interested	18%	25%	10%	18%
Moderately interested	22%	24%	18%	26%
Not too interested	20%	21%	22%	21%
Not interested at all	33%	26%	43%	31%
Not sure	7%	5%	6%	3%

The Dalai Lama				
Do you agree or disagree with President Barack Obama meeting the Dalai Lama in the U.S.?				
		Party ID		
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	28%	37%	22%	27%
Moderately agree	36%	38%	37%	36%
Moderately disagree	9%	8%	10%	11%
Strongly disagree	7%	4%	14%	7%
Not sure	20%	13%	18%	19%

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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 Public Opinion 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.

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.

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. More information on our electoral record can be found at:
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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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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