

U.S. POLITICS

Americans Evenly Divided on How President Obama is Performing

Numbers for Congress improve after a particularly low showing in June.

[NEW YORK – Jul. 29, 2010] – The approval rating for U.S. President Barack Obama did not improve dramatically this month, while slightly more Americans than last month are voicing a favorable opinion of the U.S. Congress, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,013 American adults, 45 per cent of respondents (+1 since June) approve of Obama's performance, while 46 per cent (-4) disapprove.

The level of strong approval for the U.S. President (12%, -2) continues to trail the level of strong disapproval by double digits (28%, -3).

Four-in-five Republicans (82%, +1) are dissatisfied with Obama, while a similar proportion of Democrats (78%, +1) are content with the American president.

As was the case last month, a majority of Independents (53%, -7) disapprove of Obama's performance, while about two-in-five approve of it (38%, +3).

The approval rating for the U.S. Congress stands at 23 per cent this month (+5), while 64 per cent of respondents disapprove of its actions (-8).

The level of strong approval is four per cent (+2), while a third of Americans (35%, -5) are strongly dissatisfied.

KEY FINDINGS

- **45% (+1) approve of Barack Obama's performance as president**
- **23% (+5) approve of the performance of the U.S. Congress**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 22 to July 23, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,013 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. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

This month, Congress received more favorable reviews across the entire political spectrum. Two-in-five Democrats (42%, +6) provide a positive assessment of the legislative branch, along with 16 per cent of Independents (+5) and 12 per cent of Republicans (+5).

Analysis

The disapproval rating for Obama is no longer at the 50 per cent mark, but Americans are evenly split in their assessment of their president. Obama managed to close the approval gap among Independents (from -25 in June to -15 this month), but did not manage considerable gains among Democrats or Republicans.

Congress—following a month dominated by discussions about financial reform—bounced slightly from its dismal showing in June. The West and the South continue to be the areas where more than a third of respondents are "strongly dissatisfied" with the legislative branch.

Follow us on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AngusReidGlobal>

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, 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	12%	8%	12%	14%	12%
Moderately approve	33%	41%	33%	30%	32%
Moderately disapprove	18%	19%	17%	17%	21%
Strongly disapprove	28%	21%	29%	33%	26%
Not sure	9%	12%	9%	7%	9%

U.S. Politics				
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president?				
Party ID				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	12%	27%	3%	6%
Moderately approve	33%	51%	12%	32%
Moderately disapprove	18%	12%	24%	22%
Strongly disapprove	28%	5%	58%	31%
Not sure	9%	5%	2%	7%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, 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	4%	1%	3%	5%	5%
Moderately approve	19%	20%	21%	20%	17%
Moderately disapprove	29%	29%	28%	29%	29%
Strongly disapprove	35%	30%	32%	36%	41%
Not sure	13%	19%	17%	10%	8%

U.S. Politics				
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the United States Congress?				
Party ID				
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	4%	7%	3%	3%
Moderately approve	19%	35%	9%	13%
Moderately disapprove	29%	25%	30%	30%
Strongly disapprove	35%	22%	53%	41%
Not sure	13%	12%	4%	13%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's performance as president? - TREND					
	Jul. 2010	Jun. 2010	May 2010	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010
Approve	45%	44%	48%	46%	48%
Disapprove	46%	50%	45%	45%	45%
Not sure	9%	6%	7%	9%	8%

U.S. Politics					
Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the United States Congress? - TREND					
	Jul. 2010	Jun. 2010	May 2010	Apr. 2010	Mar. 2010
Approve	23%	18%	25%	24%	24%
Disapprove	64%	72%	63%	63%	66%
Not sure	13%	10%	12%	13%	10%

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, 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 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/>

- 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:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Public Affairs, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com