



THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER
For The People & The Press

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92% View Obama as Good Communicator

SUPPORT FOR STIMULUS PLAN SLIPS, BUT OBAMA RIDES HIGH

Also inside...

- Stimulus opponents say it won't work
- Opposition highest among the most attentive
- GOP leaders gets poor marks, even within party
- Obama in a word: Intelligent

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92% View Obama as Good Communicator

SUPPORT FOR STIMULUS PLAN SLIPS, BUT OBAMA RIDES HIGH

After weeks of intense debate over President Obama's economic stimulus plan, a narrow majority of Americans (51%) who have heard about the \$800 billion plan say it is a good idea, while 34% say it is a bad idea. In January, the balance of opinion regarding the plan was more positive: 57% of those who had heard about the proposal viewed it positively, compared with just 22% who viewed it negatively.

Reaction to the proposal has become much more politicized since January. The balance of opinion among Republicans, which was fairly evenly divided in January, has turned considerably more negative. More than six-in-ten Republicans (63%) who have heard about the proposal now say it is a bad idea – up 20 points in about a month. Increasing percentages of independents (up 12 points since January) and Democrats (up seven points) also see the proposal as a bad idea. Still, nearly half of independents (49%) and 70% of Democrats view the plan positively.

Notably, support for the proposal is now much lower than it was in January among those who have heard a lot about the economic stimulus. By 49% to 41%, those who have heard a lot about the proposal now see it as a good idea; in January, those who had heard a lot favored it by more than two-to-one. There has been less change among those who have heard less about the proposal.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 4-8 among 1,303 adults reached on landlines and cell phones, finds that concerns over the stimulus proposal's effectiveness – rather than its cost – are fuelling opposition to the plan. A large majority of those who oppose Obama's plan (61%) say it will not be effective – including those who cite concerns about “pork” or “special interests.” By contrast, 27% specifically cite the bill's overall price-tag or its impact on the government's debt.

More Opposition toward Obama's Stimulus Package

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Feb 4-8				
Good idea	51	24	70	49
Bad idea	34	63	15	36
Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>
	100	100	100	100
Jan 7-11				
Good idea	57	37	75	53
Bad idea	22	43	8	24
Don't know	<u>21</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>23</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Change in bad idea</i>	<i>+12</i>	<i>+20</i>	<i>+7</i>	<i>+12</i>

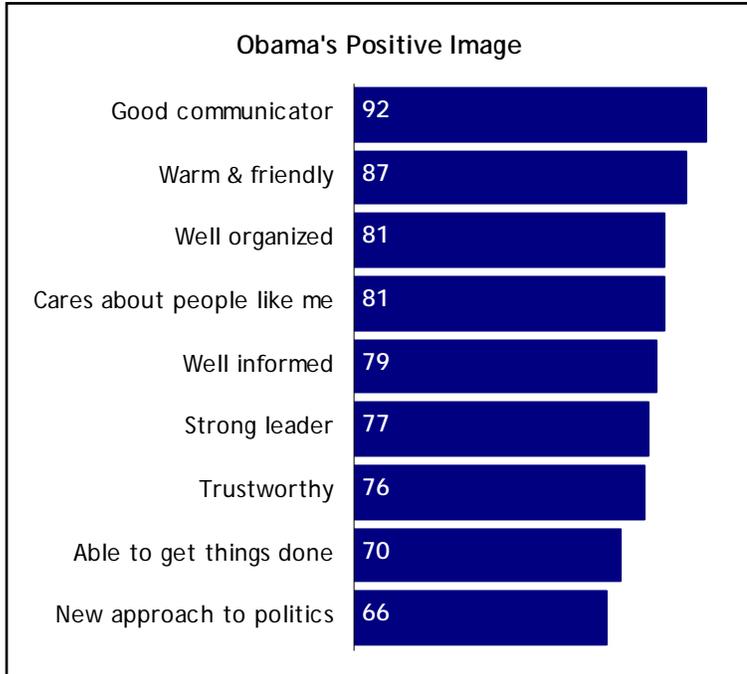
Based on those who have heard “a lot” or “a little” about Obama's proposal.

Main Reason You Think the Stimulus Plan Is a Bad Idea?

%	
61	Ineffective
34	Wrong priorities/Won't work
21	Pork/Special interests
6	Money won't fix problems
3	No accountability/oversight
27	Price-tag is too high
14	Debt increase/future costs
13	Costs too much
9	Too much government
7	Bank bailouts unsuccessful
5	Other
7	Don't know/No answer

Based on 454 respondents who say they think the plan is a bad idea. Figures add to more than 100% due to multiple responses.

The survey finds that, after nearly a month in office, Obama’s personal image is extremely strong. Overwhelming majorities view Obama as a strong leader (77%) and trustworthy (76%), while an even higher percentage (92%) says he is a good communicator. Moreover, the belief that Obama represents a break from politics as usual is widespread, despite the highly partisan reaction to his economic stimulus proposal. About two-thirds of Americans (66%) – including a narrow majority of Republicans – say that Obama “has a new approach to politics in Washington”; that compares with 25% who say his approach is “business as usual.”



Obama’s 64% job approval rating is higher than the initial marks for his two most recent predecessors, George W. Bush (53%) and Bill Clinton (56%). Somewhat fewer Americans (56%) approve of his handling of the economy, though only about a quarter (24%) disapproves; 20% offer no opinion.

With the congressional debate over the stimulus proposal at a crucial point, the public is evenly divided over whether Obama and Republicans on Capitol Hill are working together; 45% say they are not working together while 43% say that they are. However, by nearly four-to-one (61% to 16%), those who say Obama and the Republicans are not cooperating blame Republicans, rather than Obama, for the failure to work together.

Moreover, only about a third of Americans (34%) approve of the job that Republican leaders in Congress are doing, while 51% disapprove. The balance of opinion toward Democratic congressional leaders is much more positive; 48% approve of the job that they are doing compared with 38% who disapprove.

Tax Cuts Seen as More Stimulative than Spending

Among the many provisions in the massive economic stimulus package, two have received particular attention: the overall balance between new spending and tax reductions, and a proposal to require that spending in the legislation be limited to American-made products and services.

In principle, more Americans say that tax cuts for individuals and businesses – rather than spending on programs and infrastructure projects – will do more right now to stimulate the economy and create jobs. Nearly half (48%) says that tax cuts will do more for the economy, while 39% views government spending as more effective.

As expected there is a sizable partisan gap over the best way to stimulate economic growth. Republicans by more than two-to-one (63% to 26%) see tax cuts as

more effective; Democrats, by a much smaller margin (47% to 41%), say that government spending on infrastructure and other projects will be a better way to jump-start the economy.

By contrast, the idea of requiring that spending in the stimulus plan be limited to U.S.-made goods and services wins broad support across partisan lines. Two-thirds of Americans think such a requirement is a good idea because it keeps jobs in America, while just 24% see it as a bad idea because other countries might retaliate by not buying American products and services. Wide majorities of Democrats (70%), Republicans (66%) and independents (63%) all agree that it would be a good idea for the plan to require that spending be limited to U.S.-made goods and services.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>More effective way to stimulate economy...</i>				
	%	%	%	%
Tax cuts for indivs. & businesses	48	63	41	47
Spending on programs & infrast.	39	26	47	39
Both equally (Vol)	4	3	4	4
Don't know	9	8	8	10
	100	100	100	100
<i>Requiring that money is spent on US goods/services...</i>				
Good idea - keeps jobs in the U.S.	66	66	70	63
Bad idea - risks trade retaliation	24	24	21	28
Both (Vol)	2	2	2	2
Neither (Vol)	2	2	2	3
Don't know	6	6	5	4
	100	100	100	100

Views of Obama's Plan

Just under half of Americans (46%) say they have heard a lot about Obama's stimulus plan, while 45% say they have only heard a little about it and just 7% report having heard nothing at all. Those who have heard a lot about the plan express the most skepticism, with 41% saying it is a bad idea compared with 28% of those who have heard only a little. This stands in contrast to the balance of opinion a month ago, when people who had heard a lot about the plan were more likely to back it than those who had heard only a little.

Beyond the wide political division over Obama's proposal, there also are substantial income and class differences. Just 39% of those in the top category for family income – those making \$100,000 or more a year – say the stimulus proposal is a good idea, while 47% view it negatively. The proposal draws considerably more support among those with low incomes: by wide margins, those with family incomes of less than \$30,000 see the proposal as a good idea.

Similarly, while those who say they are in the professional or business class are evenly divided over the stimulus plan (43% good vs. 43% bad), majorities of those who say they are struggling (59%) or working class (52%) view it positively.

Opposition among Those Who Have Heard the Most

	<i>Heard about the plan</i>	
	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>
Feb 4-8	%	%
Good idea	49	52
Bad idea	41	28
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>
	100	100
Jan 7-11		
Good idea	63	53
Bad idea	25	21
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>26</u>
	100	100
<i>Change in bad idea</i>	+16	+7
Feb N	665	538

Affluent Americans More Skeptical of Obama's Stimulus Proposal

	<u>Good idea</u>	<u>Bad idea</u>	<u>DK</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	
Total	51	34	15=100	1,203
\$100k or more	39	47	14=100	212
\$75k-99,999	41	46	13=100	154
\$50k-\$74,999	49	35	16=100	200
\$30k-49,999	54	32	14=100	196
Less than \$30,000	60	28	12=100	285
<i>Self-described class</i>				
Prof/Business	43	43	14=100	427
Working	52	32	16=100	557
Struggling	59	28	13=100	143
College grad	47	38	15=100	458
Some college	51	31	18=100	296
HS or less	53	34	13=100	442
18-29	66	24	10=100	161
30-49	46	37	17=100	363
50-64	48	38	14=100	387
65+	45	36	19=100	277
Conservative	36	50	14=100	462
Moderate	53	31	16=100	496
Liberal	71	14	15=100	204
<i>Obama job</i>				
Approve	70	17	13=100	739
Disapprove	5	87	8=100	241

Based on those who have heard a lot or a little about the stimulus plan (91% of the public).

Working Together?

The public is divided over whether President Obama and Republican leaders in Congress are working together in the effort to craft an economic stimulus plan. Among those who say the White House and GOP are not working together, most blame Republican leaders rather than Obama.

More than four-in-ten (43%) say Obama and Republican leaders are working together, while a similar proportion (45%) say they are not. There is little partisan difference, with 40% of Republicans, 46% of Democrats and 44% of independents saying the White House and GOP leaders are working together.

Among those who say the president and GOP leaders are not working effectively together to quickly craft an economic stimulus package, about six-in-ten (61%) say Republicans leaders are to blame. Just 16% blame Obama and 10% say they are both to blame.

Are Barack Obama and Republican Congressional Leaders...				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Working together	43	40	46	44
Not working together	45	48	44	45
Don't know	12	12	10	11
	100	100	100	100
N	1,303	345	447	420
<i>Among those who say not working together</i>				
Blame Rep leaders	61	26	86	62
Blame Obama	16	40	1	14
Blame both (Vol)	10	15	3	12
Blame Dem leaders (Vol)	4	9	1	3
Other (Vol)	2	1	2	2
Neither/DK (Vol)	7	9	7	7
	100	100	100	100
N	647	182	223	201

Democrats who say the two sides are not working well together overwhelmingly blame Republican leaders; fully 86% say they are at fault. Republicans are more divided, with 40% blaming Obama and 26% blaming their party's congressional leaders; 15% of Republicans say both sides are to blame. Most independents who say Obama and Republican leaders are not working well together blame GOP leaders (62%), compared with 14% who blame Obama and 12% who blame both sides.

Job Approval Ratings

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (64%) say that they approve of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president, while just 17% disapprove. This represents a substantially better initial job approval rating than either of his immediate predecessors. In the Pew Research Center's February 2001 survey, George W. Bush received a 53% approval rating, while Clinton garnered a 56% rating at the same point in 1993.

By contrast, just over half of Americans (51%) disapprove of the job Republican leaders in

Contrasting Job Approval Ratings: Obama vs. Congressional Leaders			
	App- rove	Dis- approve	DK
	%	%	%
Barack Obama	64	17	19=100
Dem leaders in Congress	48	38	14=100
Rep leaders in Congress	34	51	15=100

Congress are doing, while barely a third (34%) approve. This is almost identical to the public's rating of Republicans in Congress on the eve of the 2006 midterm election in which the GOP lost their majorities in both the House and the Senate. In October 2006, 33% approved and 56% disapproved of their performance.

Republicans themselves are not overwhelmingly supportive of their party's congressional leaders at this point. Just 55% of Republicans say they approve of the job the party's congressional leaders are doing, while 33% disapprove. This is down 15 points from a 70% approval rating among Republicans in October 2006.

By comparison, more Americans approve (48%) than disapprove (38%) of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing. This represents a substantial improvement from last summer, when just 31% approved and 58% disapproved of their performance. The jump in approval comes mostly from Democrats. Today 76% of Democrats like the job their party's leaders in Congress are doing, up from 53% in August 2008.

Republican Leaders	Oct 2006	Feb 2009	Change
Total	33	34	+1
Republican	70	55	-15
Democrat	12	24	+12
Independent	28	32	+4

Democratic leaders	Aug 2008	Feb 2009	Change
Total	31%	48%	+17
Republican	14	21	+7
Democrat	53	76	+23
Independent	23	41	+18

Approval of Republican leaders not asked in August 2008.

Obama receives somewhat lower ratings for the way he is handling the economy than he does for his handling of his job as president overall. Still, a majority of Americans (56%) approve of the way Obama is handling the economy, while just 24% disapprove (another 20% offer no opinion.)

Fully three-quarters of Democrats (75%) give Obama high marks for the way he is handling the economy, but even more (88%) approve of the job he is doing overall. And while a majority of independents (54%) approve of Obama's handling of the economy, this is slightly less than the 63% who approve of his job performance overall. Republicans offer low marks on both accounts; only 34% approve of Obama's handling of the economy and the same percentage approves of his overall performance as president so far.

	Handling Overall Job		Handling Economy		diff
	App-rove %	Dis-app %	App-rove %	Dis-app %	
Total	64	17	56	24	-8
Republican	34	41	34	46	0
Democrat	88	3	75	7	-13
Independent	63	14	54	28	-9

One-Word Impressions

The public's impression of Barack Obama has changed substantially since the presidential campaign. When asked for a one-word description of Barack Obama, more are using words like *intelligent*, *honest*, *confident* and *smart*, and fewer are using words like *inexperienced*, *change*, *young* and *new*.

In the current survey, the terms *intelligent* or *intellectual* come up the most frequently, mentioned by 33 of the 660 people asked this question. This is followed by *change* (17 people) and *honest* (16).

By contrast, the most frequently cited word during the campaign was *inexperienced*, mentioned by 55 of the 629 registered voters interviewed in September. Currently, 15 people mention the word *inexperienced*. *Change* was the second most widely used word in September, mentioned by 36 people; it remains the second most commonly used word, though only 17 people mention it today. In September, 20 people used the term *young* or *youthful* to describe Obama; just five people used one of these words in the current survey.

There are a number of words that appear in the list of one-word impressions of Barack Obama today that were absent or rare in September. *Confident*, *smart*, *great*, *determined* and *sincere* are all among the top 20 words used to describe the president. None of these words was mentioned by four or more people in the September pre-election survey.

From Candidate to President: One-Word Impressions of Obama			
#	<u>September 2008</u>	#	<u>February 2009</u>
55	Inexperienced	33	Intelligent/Intellectual
36	Change	17	Change
20	Intelligent/Intellectual	16	Honest
20	Young/Youthful	15	Confident
15	Charismatic	15	Inexperienced
14	New	14	Hope/Hopeful
12	Energetic/Energy	13	Smart
12	Hope/Hopeful	13	Socialist
12	Liberal	12	Good
10	Honest	11	Charismatic
9	Fresh	10	Great
9	Scary	9	Fantastic
8	Different	9	Leader
		9	Trying
		8	Determined
		8	Different
		8	Liberal
		8	President
		8	Sincere

Figure shows number of respondents who offered each response; these numbers are not percentages. Sept 2008 figures are based on registered voters.

Impressions of President Obama

Despite some setbacks in his first few weeks in office, Obama's personal image is very positive. Compared with his two most recent predecessors early in their administrations, Obama matches or surpasses both for being trustworthy, well-informed and warm and friendly.

The president's top rating is as a communicator: 92% say he is a good communicator, even more than said this about Bill Clinton in January 1993 (84%). Nearly as many (87%) see Obama as warm and friendly, considerably more than the 67% who said this about George W. Bush in February 2001 and about the same number who said this about Clinton in early 1993 (90%).

Wide majorities also say Obama impresses them as well-organized (81%), caring about people like themselves (81%), well-informed (79%), a strong leader (77%), and trustworthy (76%). Although Republicans are less likely than Democrats and independents to assign each of these positive traits to Obama, more than half do so.

Seven-in-ten Americans (70%) say Obama is able to get things done. Again, Republicans are not as positive as Democrats or independents about Obama, but even on this measure, nearly half of Republicans (48%) say he *is* able to get things done while 33% say he is not.

Obama's Strong Personal Image			
	Obama Feb 2009 %	Bush Feb 2001 %	Clinton Jan 1993 %
A good communicator	92	-	84
Not a good communicator	6	-	11
Neither/Don't know	<u>2</u>	-	<u>5</u>
	100		100
Warm and friendly	87	67	90
Cold and aloof	8	21	7
Neither/Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>
	100	100	100
Well organized	81	66	-
Not well organized	12	22	-
Neither/Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	-
	100	100	
Cares about people like me	81	-	-
Doesn't care	14	-	-
Neither/Don't know	<u>5</u>	-	-
	100		
Well informed	79	62	79
Not well informed	15	27	14
Neither/Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100
A strong leader	77	-	-
Not a strong leader	13	-	-
Neither/Don't know	<u>10</u>	-	-
	100		
Trustworthy	76	60	63
Not trustworthy	15	28	29
Neither/Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100
Able to get things done	70	60	-
Not able to get things done	15	18	-
Neither/Don't know	<u>15</u>	<u>22</u>	-
	100	100	

A New Approach to Politics?

From the beginning of his presidential campaign, Obama stressed that he would take a different approach to politics in Washington, promising both a change in ethical standards and a more bipartisan effort in making policy. When asked to choose whether the president's approach to politics is a new one or is "business as usual," two-thirds (66%) say he has a new approach.

The perception that Obama is taking a new approach is widespread. Even a small majority of Republicans (51%) thinks he has a new approach, while 40% say he does not. Within the ranks of Republicans, conservative members of the party are split about evenly on this question (44% say he has a new approach, 46% say he does not). But nearly two-thirds of moderate and liberal Republicans (65%) see the president as taking a new approach. An identical 65% of independents agree, as do 80% of Democrats.

	A new approach %	Business as usual %	DK
Total	66	25	9=100
Men	61	33	6=100
Women	71	18	11=100
White	63	27	10=100
Black	78	16	6=100
18-29	73	19	8=100
30-49	65	28	7=100
50-64	65	29	6=100
65+	61	23	16=100
College grad	62	30	8=100
Some college	67	26	7=100
HS or less	68	22	10=100
Republican	51	40	9=100
Democrat	80	13	7=100
Independent	65	28	7=100
White evang. Prot	64	27	9=100
White mainline Prot.	62	27	11=100
Black Protestant	78	15	7=100
White non-Hisp Cath	64	28	8=100
Unaffiliated	71	22	7=100

Obama also gets good marks for his approach from a reliably Republican group that he has courted – white evangelical Protestants. Nearly two-thirds of evangelicals (64%) say Obama is taking a new approach to politics in Washington; just 27% say it's business as usual.

Overall, about as many Americans describe Barack Obama as "middle of the road" (40%) as say he is liberal (38%), while just 13% describe him as conservative. The balance of opinion about George W. Bush eight years ago was similar – roughly equal proportions thought of him as middle of the road (39%) and conservative (44%), with very few (7%) describing him as liberal.

Most Republicans (58%) see Obama as liberal, and conservative Republicans are especially likely to say this (70%). A plurality of both Democrats (46%) and independents (47%) describe Obama as middle of the road.

	All %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %
Obama 2009				
Liberal	38	58	31	37
Middle of road	40	23	46	47
Conservative	13	12	16	10
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
	100	100	100	100
Bush 2001				
Liberal	7	6	7	9
Middle of road	39	41	36	41
Conservative	44	47	48	41
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates among a nationwide sample of 1,303 adults, 18 years of age or older, from February 4-8, 2009 (976 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 327 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 114 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2007 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,303	3.0 percentage points
Republicans	345	6.0 percentage points
Democrats	447	5.5 percentage points
Independents	420	5.5 percentage points

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

ABOUT THE CENTER

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of seven projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
FEBRUARY 2009 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
FEBRUARY 4-8, 2009
N=1,303

ASK ALL:

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

		----- Gallup -----				
		Bush	Clinton	Bush	Reagan	Carter
		<u>Feb 2001</u>	<u>Feb 1993</u>	<u>Feb 1989</u>	<u>Feb 1981</u>	<u>Feb 1977</u>
64	Approve	53	56	63	55	71
17	Disapprove	21	25	13	18	9
<u>19</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>26</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=660]:

Q.2F1 What ONE WORD best describes your impression of Barack Obama? Just the one word that best describes him. [OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE].

NOTE: The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

<u>February 2009</u>		<u>--Based on RVs--</u> <u>September 2008</u>	
33	Intelligent/Intellectual	55	Inexperienced
17	Change	36	Change
16	Honest	20	Intelligent/Intellectual
15	Confident	20	Young/Youthful
15	Inexperienced	15	Charismatic
14	Hope/Hopeful	14	New
13	Smart	12	Energetic/Energy
13	Socialist	12	Hope/Hopeful
12	Good	12	Liberal
11	Charismatic	10	Honest
10	Great	9	Fresh
9	Fantastic	9	Scary
9	Leader	8	Different
9	Trying	7	Enthusiastic
8	Determined	7	Unqualified
8	Different	6	Committed
8	Liberal	6	Good
8	President	6	Innovative
8	Sincere	6	Inspiring/Inspiration
7	Arrogant	6	Liar
7	Awesome	6	Socialist
7	Competent	5	Dishonest
7	Energetic	5	Fake
6	Dedicated	5	Leader
6	Excellent	5	Phony
6	Fresh/Refreshing	5	Unknown
6	Naive	4	Arrogant
5	Committed	4	Idealist
5	New	4	Interesting
5	Outstanding	4	Opportunist
5	Young	4	Uncertain
4	Amazing	(N=629)	
4	Capable		
4	Dynamic		
4	Enthusiastic		
4	Fair		
4	Integrity		
4	Okay		
4	Good speaker		
4	Strong		
4	Surprising		

Q.3F2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Thinking about some issues...

Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]
How about [NEXT ITEM]?

		(VOL.)		
		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
a.	The economy	56	24	20=100
	TREND FOR COMPARISON <i>G.W Bush Feb 2001</i>	50	22	28=100

Q4b AND Q4c HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ROTATE Q.5 AND Q.6

ASK ALL:

Q.5 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republican leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- <u>approve</u>	Don't <u>know</u>
February, 2009	34	51	15=100	February, 1999	37	51	12=100
Early October, 2006	33	56	11=100	January, 1999	38	50	12=100
June, 2006	30	53	17=100	Early December, 1998	38	49	13=100
March, 2006	32	50	18=100	November, 1998	41	48	11=100
January, 2006	33	52	15=100	Early September, 1998	44	37	19=100
Early November, 2005	33	50	17=100	Early August, 1998	43	37	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	52	16=100	June, 1998	42	38	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15=100	May, 1998	40	41	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15=100	April, 1998	41	40	19=100
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17=100	March, 1998	43	39	18=100
Early February, 2004	41	42	17=100	January, 1998	43	41	16=100
January, 2003	48	37	15=100	November, 1997	41	43	16=100
June, 2002	50	34	16=100	August, 1997	42	44	14=100
May, 2002	49	34	17=100	June, 1997	33	50	17=100
February, 2002	56	24	20=100	May, 1997	40	44	16=100
Early September, 2001	43	39	18=100	April, 1997	40	44	16=100
June, 2001	40	40	20=100	February, 1997	44	42	14=100
May, 2001	45	36	19=100	January, 1997	38	47	15=100
April, 2001	45	30	25=100	November, 1996	40	43	17=100
January, 2001	43	36	21=100	July, 1996	38	48	14=100
July, 2000	36	46	18=100	June, 1996	36	50	14=100
May, 2000	40	42	18=100	April, 1996	39	46	15=100
March, 2000	38	43	19=100	March, 1996	35	51	14=100
February, 2000	40	43	17=100	February, 1996	33	53	14=100
January, 2000	39	41	20=100	January, 1996	36	54	10=100
December, 1999	38	42	20=100	October, 1995	36	51	13=100
October, 1999	34	50	16=100	September, 1995	36	50	14=100
Late September, 1999	34	46	20=100	August, 1995	38	45	17=100
August, 1999	40	44	16=100	June, 1995	41	45	14=100
July, 1999	36	45	19=100	April, 1995	44	43	13=100
June, 1999	37	46	17=100	March, 1995	43	39	18=100
May, 1999	38	44	18=100	December, 1994	52	28	20=100
March, 1999	38	47	15=100				

ROTATE Q.5 AND Q.6

ASK ALL:

Q.6 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
February, 2009	48	38	14=100
August, 2008	31	58	11=100
January, 2008	31	53	16=100
November, 2007	35	50	15=100
October, 2007	31	54	15=100
July, 2007	33	54	13=100
June, 2007	34	49	17=100
April, 2007	36	43	21=100
March, 2007 ¹	37	42	21=100
February, 2007	41	36	23=100
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27=100
Early October, 2006	35	53	12=100
June, 2006	32	50	18=100
March, 2006	34	46	20=100
January, 2006	34	48	18=100
Early November, 2005	36	44	20=100
Early October, 2005	32	48	20=100
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19=100
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20=100
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19=100
Early February, 2004	38	42	20=100
June, 2002	47	36	17=100
May, 2002	42	37	21=100
February, 2002	49	30	21=100
Early September, 2001	49	30	21=100
June, 2001	50	28	22=100

NO QUESTIONS 7-8

1 In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

ASK ALL:

Q.9 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of Barack Obama so far. (First,) does Barack Obama impress you as... [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]

		Bush <u>Feb 2001</u>	Clinton <u>Jan 1993</u>
a.	76 Trustworthy or	60	63
	15 NOT trustworthy	28	29
	1 Neither particularly (VOL.)	4	3
	<u>8</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100

		Bush <u>Feb 2001</u>	Clinton <u>Jan 1993</u>
b.	87 Warm and friendly or	67	90
	8 Cold and aloof	21	7
	2 Neither particularly (VOL.)	6	1
	<u>3</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>
	100	100	100

			Clinton <u>Jan 1993</u>
c.	92 A good communicator or		84
	6 NOT a good communicator		11
	* Neither particularly (VOL.)		1
	<u>2</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)		<u>4</u>
	100		100

		Bush <u>Feb 2001</u>
d.	70 Able to get things done or	60
	15 NOT able to get things done	18
	2 Neither particularly (VOL.)	7
	<u>13</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>15</u>
	100	100

		Bush <u>Feb 2001</u>	Clinton <u>Jan 1993</u>
e.	79 Well informed or	62	79
	15 NOT well informed	27	14
	1 Neither particularly (VOL.)	4	2
	<u>5</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100

		Bush <u>Feb 2001</u>
f.	81 Well organized or	66
	12 NOT well organized	22
	1 Neither particularly (VOL.)	3
	<u>6</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>
	100	100

Q.9 CONTINUED...

NO ITEM g

- h. 81 Someone who cares about people like me or
14 Someone who doesn't care about people like me
1 Neither particularly (VOL.)
4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100
- i. 77 A strong leader or
13 NOT a strong leader
1 Neither particularly (VOL.)
9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100

NO ITEM j

		Bush
		<u>Feb 2001</u>
k.	38 Liberal,	7
	40 Middle of the road or	39
	13 Conservative	44
	2 None particularly (VOL.)	2
	<u>7</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8
	100	100

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Finally, I am going to read some opposite phrases. Tell me which one best reflects your impressions of Bill Clinton, so far? Does Bill Clinton impress you as ...

<u>Jan</u>	
<u>1993</u>	
68	Liberal or
19	Conservative
6	Neither particularly (VOL.)
<u>7</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	

ASK ALL:

Q.10 Do you think that [READ AND ROTATE]:

- 66 Barack Obama has a new approach to politics in Washington [OR]
25 Barack Obama's approach to politics in Washington is 'business as usual'?
9 Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]
100

QUESTION 11 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 12 AND 13

QUESTIONS 14 THRU 22 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.23 How much, if anything, have you heard about the economic stimulus plan being proposed by President Obama that may cost about \$800 billion? **[READ]**

		Jan ¹ <u>2009</u>
46	A lot	33
45	A little	53
7	Nothing at all	13
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	<u>1</u>
100		100

IF HEARD 'A LOT' OR 'A LITTLE' (Q.23=1,2), ASK [N=1,203]:

Q.24 From what you've read and heard, do you think this plan is a good idea or a bad idea?

		Jan ² <u>2009</u>
51	Good idea	57
34	Bad idea	22
<u>15</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>21</u>
100		100

IF 'BAD IDEA' (2 IN Q.24) ASK [N=454]:

Q.25 What is the MAIN REASON you think this plan is a bad idea? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

61 Ineffective [NET]

- 34 Wrong priorities/Won't work
- 21 Too much Pork/special interests
- 6 Money won't solve the problem/Just a band aid
- 3 Insufficient oversight/accountability

27 Price tag [NET]

- 13 Costs too much
- 14 Too much national debt/deficit spending/Spending money we don't have

- 9 Should not be the government's role
- 7 Bank bailouts were unsuccessful
- 5 Other
- 7 Don't know/Refused/Non-response/uncodeable

IF 'DON'T KNOW' (9 IN Q.24) ASK [N=187]:

Q.26 What, if anything, troubles you about Obama's economic stimulus plan, or haven't you heard enough about it to say? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**

Q.26 RESULTS NOT SHOWN; USED FOR QUALITATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

¹ In January 2009, the question referred to the "economic stimulus package being proposed by President-elect Obama."
² In January 2009, the question referred to "this proposal."

ASK ALL:

Q.27 What do you think will do more right now to stimulate the economy and create jobs [**READ AND ROTATE**]:?

- 48 Tax cuts to individuals and businesses [OR]
 - 39 Spending on programs and infrastructure projects
 - 4 Both equally [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
 - 9 Don't know/Refused [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
- 100

ASK ALL:

Q.A There has been some discussion about whether or not the stimulus plan should require that spending be limited to American made products and services. Which comes closer to your view on such a requirement? [**READ AND ROTATE**]

- 66 It's a good idea because it keeps jobs in America [OR]
 - It's a bad idea because other countries might retaliate
 - 24 by not buying American products and services
 - 2 Both [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
 - 2 Neither [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
 - 6 Don't know/Refused [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
- 100

ASK ALL:

Q.28 In developing a plan to stimulate the economy and create jobs, are [**ROTATE**; Barack Obama and Republican leaders in Congress, Republican leaders in Congress and Barack Obama] working together or not working together?

IF 'NOT WORKING TOGETHER' (2 IN Q.28) ASK:

Q.29 Who do you think is most to blame for them not working together? [**READ AND ROTATE**]

- 43 Working together
 - 45 Not working together
 - 7 Barack Obama to blame
 - 27 Republican leaders in Congress to blame
 - 5 Both to blame [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
 - 1 Neither to blame [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
 - 2 Democrats/Democratic leaders [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
 - 1 Other to blame [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
 - 2 Don't know who is to blame [**VOL. DO NOT READ**]
 - 12 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)
- 100

QUESTIONS 30 THROUGH 48 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/	<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
				Preference	Party	Ref	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
February, 2009	24	36	34	3	1	2=100	13	17
January, 2009	25	37	33	3	*	2=100	11	16
December, 2008	26	39	30	2	*	3=100	8	15
Late October, 2008	24	39	32	2	*	3=100	11	15
Mid-October, 2008	27	35	31	4	*	3=100	9	16
Early October, 2008	26	36	31	4	*	3=100	11	15
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2=100	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2=100	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2=100	12	17
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3=100	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2=100	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3=100	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2=100	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4=100	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3=100	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3=100	11	14
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2=100	12	18
Yearly Totals								
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1=100	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1=100	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9=100	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					