



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Voter opinions on the economy

Raleigh, N.C. – If you want a prism into why Democrats are struggling so much right now, this may sum it up: only 11% of voters across the country say that their economic situation has improved over the last year compared to 42% who think it has become worse. 47% say it's about the same as it was.

The GOP holds a 57-27 generic Congressional ballot lead with those voters who say their fortunes have worsened, while Democrats lead 49-33 with the folks who have improved or stabilized.

Voter opinions are mixed in laying blame for the current state of the economy. By a 47-42 spread they're more likely to hold George W. Bush responsible than Barack Obama. Simultaneously though they say Democrats as a whole bear more responsibility than Republicans by a 46-39 margin. The split on these questions overall is due largely to a split among independents who match the overall results in laying more blame on both Bush and the Democrats.

Overall just 11% of voters in the country rate the economy as excellent or good, with 34% saying it's fair and 53% calling it poor. Democrats are most likely to call it fair while a majority of both Republicans and independents call it poor.

“If Democrats are going to win this fall there's going to need to be a large increase in the proportion of voters who feel their economic situation's improved since Barack Obama took office,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Voters are going to keep ping ponging between the two parties until they feel one of them is really making progress in restoring prosperity.”

PPP surveyed 584 registered voters from January 29th to 31st. The margin of error is +/- 4.1%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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National Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve..... 48% *Not Sure*..... 4%
Disapprove..... 49%

Q2 Would you rate the current state of the economy as excellent, good, fair, or poor? If excellent, press 1. If good, press 2. If fair, press 3. If poor, press 4. If you're not sure, press 5.

Excellent..... 5% *Poor*.....53%
Good..... 6% *Not Sure*..... 2%
Fair34%

Q3 Do you think that George W. Bush or Barack Obama bears more responsibility for the current state of the economy? If George W. Bush, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Bush 47%
Obama..... 42%
Not Sure..... 10%

Q4 Do you think that Democrats or Republicans bear more responsibility for the current state of the economy? If Democrats, press 1. If Republicans, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Democrats 46%
Republicans..... 39%
Not Sure..... 15%

Q5 In the last year has your personal economic situation gotten better, worse, or stayed about the same? If better, press 1. If worse, press 2. If about the same, press 3.

Better..... 11%
Worse 42%
About the Same 47%

Q6 Who did you vote for President last year? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

McCain..... 45%
Obama 52%
Someone else/don't remember 3%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 19%
Moderate..... 40%
Conservative..... 41%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%

Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 38%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 28%

Q10 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 10%
White 74%
African American 12%
Other..... 4%





Q11 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	10%
<i>30 to 45</i>	23%
<i>46 to 65</i>	49%
<i>Older than 65</i>	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	6%	85%	50%
Disapprove	48%	90%	13%	25%
Not Sure	3%	4%	2%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
State of Economy				
Excellent	5%	2%	7%	10%
Good	7%	1%	11%	4%
Fair	34%	23%	44%	22%
Poor	52%	73%	34%	64%
Not Sure	2%	0%	3%	-

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Bush/Obama Economy Blame				
Bush	47%	10%	79%	53%
Obama	42%	74%	16%	29%
Not Sure	10%	16%	5%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Democrats/GOP Economy Blame				
Democrats	45%	79%	16%	41%
Republicans	40%	7%	68%	41%
Not Sure	15%	14%	16%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Personal Economic Status				
Better	11%	4%	17%	12%
Worse	42%	56%	30%	29%
About the Same	47%	39%	53%	59%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	82%	62%	18%
Disapprove	49%	17%	34%	77%
Not Sure	4%	1%	4%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
State of Economy				
Excellent	5%	9%	6%	3%
Good	6%	11%	7%	4%
Fair	34%	39%	38%	26%
Poor	53%	41%	46%	66%
Not Sure	2%	-	3%	1%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Bush/Obama Economy Blame				
Bush	47%	82%	62%	17%
Obama	42%	13%	29%	69%
Not Sure	10%	4%	9%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Democrats/GOP Economy Blame				
Democrats	46%	19%	32%	73%
Republicans	39%	72%	52%	11%
Not Sure	15%	9%	16%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Personal Economic Status				
Better	11%	16%	13%	5%
Worse	42%	34%	36%	53%
About the Same	47%	50%	51%	42%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	48%	49%	46%
Disapprove	49%	46%	51%
Not Sure	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
State of Economy			
Excellent	5%	6%	4%
Good	6%	6%	7%
Fair	34%	32%	35%
Poor	53%	53%	53%
Not Sure	2%	2%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bush/Obama Economy Blame			
Bush	47%	49%	45%
Obama	42%	41%	44%
Not Sure	10%	10%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Democrats/GOP Economy Blame			
Democrats	46%	43%	50%
Republicans	39%	39%	40%
Not Sure	15%	18%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Personal Economic Status			
Better	11%	11%	11%
Worse	42%	41%	44%
About the Same	47%	49%	45%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	83%	8%	48%
Disapprove	49%	13%	88%	48%
Not Sure	4%	3%	4%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
State of Economy				
Excellent	5%	8%	3%	4%
Good	6%	11%	1%	6%
Fair	34%	44%	25%	30%
Poor	53%	35%	70%	58%
Not Sure	2%	3%	0%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bush/Obama Economy Blame				
Bush	47%	75%	13%	51%
Obama	42%	19%	75%	36%
Not Sure	10%	7%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Democrats/GOP Economy Blame				
Democrats	46%	19%	79%	43%
Republicans	39%	67%	8%	39%
Not Sure	15%	14%	13%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Personal Economic Status				
Better	11%	16%	5%	10%
Worse	42%	30%	55%	43%
About the Same	47%	54%	40%	47%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	69%	39%	83%	54%
Disapprove	49%	27%	57%	17%	41%
Not Sure	4%	4%	4%	-	5%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
State of Economy					
Excellent	5%	19%	3%	6%	10%
Good	6%	11%	5%	12%	10%
Fair	34%	33%	32%	45%	24%
Poor	53%	30%	60%	35%	49%
Not Sure	2%	7%	0%	2%	7%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Bush/Obama Economy Blame					
Bush	47%	56%	42%	71%	57%
Obama	42%	41%	46%	24%	33%
Not Sure	10%	4%	12%	4%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Democrats/GOP Economy Blame					
Democrats	46%	33%	52%	22%	41%
Republicans	39%	44%	33%	69%	46%
Not Sure	15%	22%	15%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Personal Economic Status					
Better	11%	22%	8%	17%	7%
Worse	42%	30%	45%	31%	59%
About the Same	47%	48%	47%	52%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	60%	44%	47%	45%
Disapprove	49%	33%	50%	51%	49%
Not Sure	4%	7%	6%	2%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
State of Economy					
Excellent	5%	18%	2%	3%	6%
Good	6%	2%	6%	7%	9%
Fair	34%	26%	36%	33%	37%
Poor	53%	50%	54%	56%	48%
Not Sure	2%	4%	3%	1%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bush/Obama Economy Blame					
Bush	47%	49%	54%	46%	41%
Obama	42%	39%	39%	44%	45%
Not Sure	10%	12%	8%	10%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Democrats/GOP Economy Blame					
Democrats	46%	46%	44%	45%	52%
Republicans	39%	33%	41%	41%	34%
Not Sure	15%	21%	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Personal Economic Status					
Better	11%	22%	10%	11%	3%
Worse	42%	39%	43%	44%	39%
About the Same	47%	39%	47%	45%	58%

