

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

Obama at Majority Approval

Raleigh, N.C. – The latest PPP national poll finds President Obama with his best job approval rating in seven months, while oil drilling still receives majority support despite a plurality saying the Gulf coast spill makes them less likely to support further drilling.

50% of American voters now say they approve of the job Obama is doing, to 46% who disapprove. That is up from 46-48 last month, and is the first time he has been over 49% since posting a 51-43 spread in October 2009. Opinion on the health care law is largely unchanged, from 45-50 last month to 43-49 now.

Oil drilling off the American coast is supported by 55% of American voters, with 30% against it. Democrats oppose, 34-48. 43% of all voters say the oil spill off the Gulf coast makes them less likely to support further exploration, to only 21% who say it makes them more likely and 36% who say it makes no difference to them. Among conservatives, more (29%) say the spill makes them more likely to support drilling than those who say it makes them less likely (23%), as compared to liberals (17-67), moderates (17-49), Democrats (16-58), and independents (20-39). Republicans are split 28-28.

40% of Republicans and 44% of conservatives either agree with the Internet conspiracy theory that environmentalists perpetrated the oil spill to reduce support for oil drilling or are unsure.

“We have been seeing a number of signs lately that Democratic prospects are improving for the midterm elections,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Meanwhile a majority of Americans continue to support offshore drilling, although many of them have tempered their enthusiasm for it in light of the recent events in the Gulf.”

PPP surveyed 707 registered American voters from May 7th to 9th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.7%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

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?
Approve..... 50% *Not Sure*..... 4%
Disapprove..... 46%

Q2 Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion?
Support..... 43%
Oppose..... 49%
No Opinion..... 7%

Q3 Do you support or oppose drilling for oil off the American coastline?
Support..... 55%
Oppose..... 30%
Not Sure..... 15%

Q4 Does the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico make you more or less likely to support further drilling for oil off the American coastline, or does it not make a difference to you?
More likely..... 21%
Less likely..... 43%
Makes no difference..... 36%

Q5 Do you think the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was intentionally caused by environmentalists to reduce public support for offshore drilling?
Yes..... 9%
No..... 69%
Not Sure..... 22%

Q6 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?
Liberal..... 19%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 38%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.
Woman..... 52%
Man..... 48%

Q8 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..... 41%
Republican..... 35%
Independent/Other..... 24%

Q9 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.
Hispanic..... 10%
White..... 72%
African American..... 12%
Other..... 6%

Q10 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.
18 to 29..... 9%
30 to 45..... 28%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 21%

Q11 If you live in the Northeast, press 1. If the South, press 2. If the Midwest, press 3. If the West, press 4.
Northeast..... 26%
South..... 32%
Midwest..... 26%
West..... 17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	50%	87%	64%	14%
Disapprove	46%	10%	30%	83%
Not Sure	4%	3%	6%	2%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Health Care				
Support	43%	81%	55%	11%
Oppose	49%	15%	34%	85%
No Opinion	7%	4%	11%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Oil Drilling				
Support	55%	33%	47%	76%
Oppose	30%	54%	34%	13%
Not Sure	15%	13%	19%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion				
More likely	21%	17%	17%	29%
Less likely	43%	67%	49%	23%
Makes no difference	36%	16%	34%	48%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Enviros Intentionally Caused Oil Spill				
Yes	9%	3%	8%	14%
No	69%	87%	71%	56%
Not Sure	22%	10%	21%	30%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	50%	49%	51%
Disapprove	46%	46%	47%
Not Sure	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Health Care			
Support	43%	44%	42%
Oppose	49%	48%	51%
No Opinion	7%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Oil Drilling			
Support	55%	51%	61%
Oppose	30%	31%	28%
Not Sure	15%	18%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion			
More likely	21%	21%	22%
Less likely	43%	46%	39%
Makes no difference	36%	33%	39%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Enviros Intentionally Caused Oil Spill			
Yes	9%	8%	11%
No	69%	67%	71%
Not Sure	22%	26%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	50%	83%	14%	46%
Disapprove	46%	13%	84%	47%
Not Sure	4%	4%	2%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Health Care				
Support	43%	74%	10%	41%
Oppose	49%	17%	87%	49%
No Opinion	7%	9%	4%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Oil Drilling				
Support	55%	34%	76%	61%
Oppose	30%	48%	11%	25%
Not Sure	15%	18%	13%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion				
More likely	21%	16%	28%	20%
Less likely	43%	58%	28%	39%
Makes no difference	36%	26%	44%	41%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Enviros Intentionally Caused Oil Spill				
Yes	9%	4%	13%	12%
No	69%	77%	60%	68%
Not Sure	22%	19%	27%	20%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	50%	64%	41%	94%	45%
Disapprove	46%	32%	56%	3%	45%
Not Sure	4%	5%	4%	3%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Health Care					
Support	43%	45%	35%	91%	41%
Oppose	49%	41%	59%	3%	44%
No Opinion	7%	14%	6%	6%	15%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Oil Drilling					
Support	55%	48%	58%	44%	59%
Oppose	30%	33%	30%	29%	18%
Not Sure	15%	19%	12%	26%	24%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion					
More likely	21%	14%	20%	29%	29%
Less likely	43%	43%	43%	47%	35%
Makes no difference	36%	43%	37%	24%	35%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Enviros Intentionally Caused Oil Spill					
Yes	9%	10%	8%	15%	15%
No	69%	76%	72%	56%	47%
Not Sure	22%	14%	21%	29%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	50%	51%	48%	50%	50%
Disapprove	46%	44%	48%	45%	47%
Not Sure	4%	5%	4%	4%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Health Care					
Support	43%	49%	41%	44%	44%
Oppose	49%	47%	50%	50%	48%
No Opinion	7%	4%	9%	6%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Oil Drilling					
Support	55%	42%	62%	52%	59%
Oppose	30%	39%	25%	35%	23%
Not Sure	15%	19%	13%	14%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gulf Spill Affect Oil Drilling Opinion					
More likely	21%	16%	18%	21%	28%
Less likely	43%	52%	37%	46%	40%
Makes no difference	36%	32%	45%	33%	32%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Enviros Intentionally Caused Oil Spill					
Yes	9%	13%	10%	8%	9%
No	69%	63%	67%	73%	63%
Not Sure	22%	24%	22%	19%	28%

