

**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 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>. 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
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	87%	64%	14%
<b>Disapprove</b>	46%	10%	30%	83%
<b>Not Sure</b>	4%	3%	6%	2%

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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





**Crosstabs**

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

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

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

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







**Crosstabs**

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

