

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2010

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

Obama Improves, More See Bush Responsible for Economy

Raleigh, N.C. – After an unusually bad July in PPP’s national poll, President Barack Obama has seen a lot of improvement on several fronts. His national approval rating has rebounded, moving from 48-47 in June, to 45-52 last month, back to 47-48 now. For five of the last eight months, Obama has been one point above or below breaking even; in others, he was two points below and four points above.

PPP has asked voters’ approval of Obama’s health care plan for 12 months now, and with 46% approving and 48% disapproving, that is the highest level of approval and the second best approval margin since the first month, September 2009, when it was 45-46. This marks a huge shift since July (40-53).

In another improvement for Obama, 50% still say they prefer having Obama as president, compared to 43% who would rather have George W. Bush back. In April, Obama won only 48-46. While independents this year generally favor Republican candidates and disapprove of Obama, they prefer Obama against Bush, 53-36, versus April’s 49-37.

When asked who they think is more responsible for the state of the economy, 49% picked Bush, to 40% choosing Obama. Independents say Bush, 52-38. Fewer Republicans, 75%, pick Obama than Democrats pick Bush, 81%.

Of the last five presidents, 41% think Obama reminds them most of Bill Clinton, to 35% who say Jimmy Carter, 6% Ronald Reagan, and the Bushes each at 2%. Democrats say Clinton, 63-13. Republicans say Carter, 57-24, as do independents, 37-30.

“July could’ve been a blip on the radar. Obama’s more overt use of Bush in his stump speech of late could resonate with voters, particularly with independents who don’t want to return to past economic policies,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 606 American voters from August 6th to 9th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.0%. 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.



National Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance?
Approve..... 47% *Not sure* 5%
Disapprove..... 48%

Q2 Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion?
Support..... 46%
Oppose..... 48%
No opinion..... 7%

Q3 Do you think George W. Bush or Barack Obama is more responsible for the current state of the economy?
George W. Bush 49%
Barack Obama..... 40%
Not sure 10%

Q4 Would you rather have Barack Obama or George W. Bush as President right now?
Barack Obama..... 50%
George W. Bush 43%
Not sure 7%

Q5 Out of the last 5 Presidents: Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush, who do you think Barack Obama is most similar to?
Jimmy Carter 35%
Ronald Reagan..... 6%
George H.W. Bush..... 2%
Bill Clinton..... 41%
George W. Bush 2%
Not sure 15%

Q6 Who did you vote for President in 2008?
John McCain..... 45%
Barack Obama..... 48%
Someone else/Don't remember 7%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?
Liberal..... 19%
Moderate..... 42%
Conservative..... 39%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.
Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.
Democrat..... 39%
Republican..... 35%
Independent/Other..... 25%

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.
18 to 29..... 11%
30 to 45..... 25%
46 to 65..... 49%
Older than 65..... 16%





Q12 How would you describe your current employment status? If you are employed full time, press 1. If you are employed part time, press 2. If you are unemployed and looking for work, press 3. If you are a student, press 4. If you are a homemaker, press 5. If other, press 6

<i>Full Time</i>	46%
<i>Part Time</i>	10%
<i>Unemployed</i>	8%
<i>Student</i>	3%
<i>Homemaker</i>	8%
<i>Other</i>	25%

Q13 Have you ever smoked Marijuana? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you don't care to say, press 3.

<i>Yes</i>	27%
<i>No</i>	63%
<i>N/A</i>	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	6%	86%	34%
Disapprove	49%	92%	7%	53%
Not sure	5%	2%	6%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Health Care				
Support	46%	6%	84%	43%
Oppose	48%	91%	7%	44%
No opinion	7%	3%	9%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bush/Obama Econ Responsibility				
George W. Bush	49%	10%	85%	54%
Barack Obama	40%	76%	9%	27%
Not sure	10%	14%	6%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bush vs. Obama				
Barack Obama	50%	7%	90%	46%
George W. Bush	43%	87%	4%	31%
Not sure	7%	6%	6%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Similarity				
Jimmy Carter	35%	62%	9%	32%
Ronald Reagan	6%	4%	8%	4%
George H.W. Bush	2%	1%	3%	2%
Bill Clinton	41%	20%	63%	24%
George W. Bush	2%	1%	2%	9%
Not sure	15%	12%	14%	29%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	85%	57%	16%
Disapprove	49%	12%	35%	81%
Not sure	5%	3%	7%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Health Care				
Support	46%	88%	57%	13%
Oppose	48%	7%	33%	84%
No opinion	7%	5%	10%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Bush/Obama Econ Responsibility				
George W. Bush	49%	90%	61%	16%
Barack Obama	40%	6%	24%	76%
Not sure	10%	5%	15%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Bush vs. Obama				
Barack Obama	50%	92%	61%	17%
George W. Bush	43%	6%	28%	78%
Not sure	7%	2%	12%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Similarity				
Jimmy Carter	35%	9%	27%	56%
Ronald Reagan	6%	5%	9%	3%
George H.W. Bush	2%	1%	2%	2%
Bill Clinton	41%	64%	45%	25%
George W. Bush	2%	4%	2%	1%
Not sure	15%	16%	15%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	47%	49%	44%
Disapprove	49%	46%	52%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Health Care			
Support	46%	49%	42%
Oppose	48%	44%	51%
No opinion	7%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bush/Obama Econ Responsibility			
George W. Bush	49%	52%	45%
Barack Obama	40%	37%	44%
Not sure	10%	11%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bush vs. Obama			
Barack Obama	50%	54%	45%
George W. Bush	43%	39%	47%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Similarity			
Jimmy Carter	35%	30%	40%
Ronald Reagan	6%	4%	8%
George H.W. Bush	2%	1%	3%
Bill Clinton	41%	47%	34%
George W. Bush	2%	2%	2%
Not sure	15%	15%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	82%	10%	44%
Disapprove	49%	14%	86%	49%
Not sure	5%	4%	4%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Health Care				
Support	46%	80%	10%	43%
Oppose	48%	12%	88%	47%
No opinion	7%	8%	3%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bush/Obama Econ Responsibility				
George W. Bush	49%	81%	11%	52%
Barack Obama	40%	10%	75%	38%
Not sure	10%	8%	13%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bush vs. Obama				
Barack Obama	50%	84%	10%	53%
George W. Bush	43%	11%	83%	36%
Not sure	7%	5%	7%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Similarity				
Jimmy Carter	35%	13%	57%	37%
Ronald Reagan	6%	7%	3%	9%
George H.W. Bush	2%	3%	0%	3%
Bill Clinton	41%	63%	24%	30%
George W. Bush	2%	1%	1%	4%
Not sure	15%	13%	15%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	60%	38%	90%	45%
Disapprove	49%	33%	58%	7%	45%
Not sure	5%	7%	4%	3%	9%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Health Care					
Support	46%	67%	36%	90%	41%
Oppose	48%	23%	57%	7%	55%
No opinion	7%	10%	7%	3%	5%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Bush/Obama Econ Responsibility					
George W. Bush	49%	63%	43%	80%	38%
Barack Obama	40%	23%	47%	13%	52%
Not sure	10%	13%	11%	7%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Bush vs. Obama					
Barack Obama	50%	60%	42%	90%	41%
George W. Bush	43%	27%	51%	7%	41%
Not sure	7%	13%	6%	3%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Similarity					
Jimmy Carter	35%	27%	40%	7%	41%
Ronald Reagan	6%	13%	4%	7%	14%
George H.W. Bush	2%	3%	2%	3%	-
Bill Clinton	41%	37%	37%	70%	32%
George W. Bush	2%	3%	2%	-	5%
Not sure	15%	17%	15%	13%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	56%	38%	50%	44%
Disapprove	49%	42%	53%	46%	53%
Not sure	5%	3%	9%	4%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Health Care					
Support	46%	57%	42%	48%	37%
Oppose	48%	40%	52%	45%	54%
No opinion	7%	3%	6%	7%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bush/Obama Econ Responsibility					
George W. Bush	49%	51%	44%	52%	46%
Barack Obama	40%	40%	43%	38%	43%
Not sure	10%	9%	12%	10%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bush vs. Obama					
Barack Obama	50%	62%	43%	53%	43%
George W. Bush	43%	36%	44%	42%	49%
Not sure	7%	1%	13%	5%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Similarity					
Jimmy Carter	35%	22%	31%	39%	37%
Ronald Reagan	6%	8%	10%	5%	2%
George H.W. Bush	2%	5%	1%	1%	3%
Bill Clinton	41%	49%	40%	41%	37%
George W. Bush	2%	5%	3%	1%	2%
Not sure	15%	10%	15%	13%	20%

	Base	Employment Status					
		Full Time	Part Time	Unemployed	Student	Homemaker	Other
Obama Approval							
Approve	47%	44%	54%	43%	73%	31%	53%
Disapprove	49%	50%	44%	50%	21%	67%	43%
Not sure	5%	6%	1%	7%	5%	2%	3%

	Base	Employment Status					
		Full Time	Part Time	Unemployed	Student	Homemaker	Other
Health Care							
Support	46%	43%	57%	38%	63%	33%	51%
Oppose	48%	50%	38%	45%	32%	64%	44%
No opinion	7%	7%	5%	17%	5%	3%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Employment Status					
		Full Time	Part Time	Unemployed	Student	Homemaker	Other
Bush/Obama Econ Responsibility							
George W. Bush	49%	46%	64%	46%	73%	31%	53%
Barack Obama	40%	42%	27%	42%	16%	55%	41%
Not sure	10%	12%	9%	12%	11%	14%	6%

	Base	Employment Status					
		Full Time	Part Time	Unemployed	Student	Homemaker	Other
Bush vs. Obama							
Barack Obama	50%	46%	59%	55%	79%	31%	55%
George W. Bush	43%	44%	36%	43%	21%	60%	40%
Not sure	7%	10%	5%	2%	-	9%	5%

	Base	Employment Status					
		Full Time	Part Time	Unemployed	Student	Homemaker	Other
Obama Similarity							
Jimmy Carter	35%	34%	35%	46%	16%	40%	32%
Ronald Reagan	6%	7%	4%	4%	5%	5%	6%
George H.W. Bush	2%	1%	1%	-	-	8%	2%
Bill Clinton	41%	42%	47%	27%	73%	30%	41%
George W. Bush	2%	2%	3%	4%	-	-	1%
Not sure	15%	13%	9%	18%	5%	17%	18%

	Base	Smoked Marijuana		
		Yes	No	N/A
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	50%	47%	37%
Disapprove	48%	45%	49%	52%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Smoked Marijuana		
		Yes	No	N/A
Health Care				
Support	46%	48%	46%	43%
Oppose	48%	44%	49%	45%
No opinion	7%	8%	5%	12%

	Base	Smoked Marijuana		
		Yes	No	N/A
Bush/Obama Econ Responsibility				
George W. Bush	49%	58%	45%	51%
Barack Obama	40%	35%	45%	29%
Not sure	11%	7%	10%	20%

	Base	Smoked Marijuana		
		Yes	No	N/A
Bush vs. Obama				
Barack Obama	50%	56%	48%	46%
George W. Bush	43%	38%	46%	38%
Not sure	7%	6%	6%	16%

	Base	Smoked Marijuana		
		Yes	No	N/A
Obama Similarity				
Jimmy Carter	34%	36%	33%	37%
Ronald Reagan	6%	9%	5%	3%
George H.W. Bush	2%	2%	2%	1%
Bill Clinton	41%	37%	44%	36%
George W. Bush	2%	3%	1%	6%
Not sure	15%	14%	15%	17%

