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Daily Presidential Tracking Poll

Thursday, March 11, 2010

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The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Thursday shows that 24% of the nation's voters Strongly Approve of the way that Barack Obama is performing his role as President. Forty-two percent (42%) Strongly Disapprove giving Obama a Presidential Approval Index rating of -18 ([see trends](#)).

Thirty-seven percent (37%) give the [President good or excellent marks for handling the economy](#) while 47% say he's done a poor job in this area. On national security, the numbers are 41% good or excellent and 33% poor. On a generic basis, [voters trust Republicans more than Democrats on both issues](#).

[Thirty-four percent \(34%\) believe unemployment will be higher in a year](#) while 29% believe it will be lower.

Twenty-five percent (25%) say the [U.S. is generally heading in the right direction](#).

The Presidential Approval Index is calculated by subtracting the number who Strongly Disapprove from the number who Strongly Approve. It is updated daily at 9:30 a.m. Eastern (sign up for free [daily e-mail update](#)). Updates are also available on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Overall, 44% of voters say they at least somewhat approve of the President's performance. Fifty-four percent (54%) disapprove.

[Washington](#) Senator Patty Murray leads all announced Republican challengers but could still find herself in a competitive race. In [New Hampshire](#), a pair of Republicans enjoy a solid lead in that open seat race.

The latest polling data can always be found on the [Rasmussen Reports home page](#), updated with new data at least six times daily.

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Today, Americans are united in the belief that our political system is broken, that politicians are corrupt, and that neither major political party has the answers.

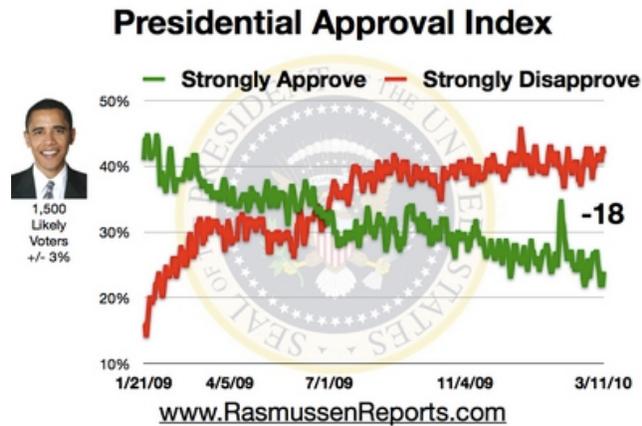
We don't want to be governed from the left, the right, or the center. We want to govern ourselves.

In Search of Self-Governance
By Scott W. Rasmussen

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Fifty-seven percent (57%) believe that [passage of the proposed health care legislation will hurt the economy](#). Just 25% believe it will help. [Forty-two percent \(42%\) favor the President's health care plan](#) while 53% are opposed. Fifty-five percent (55%) say that [Congress should scrap the current health care legislation and start over](#).

Scott Rasmussen and Doug Schoen have an article in today's *Wall Street Journal* explaining "[Why Obama Can't Move the Health Care Numbers](#)." Other recent *Wall Street Journal* columns by Scott addressed how [President Obama is losing independent voters](#), [health care reform](#), the [President's approval ratings](#), and how [Obama won the White House by campaigning like Ronald Reagan](#). Scott's new book, *In Search of Self-Governance* is available from [Rasmussen Reports](#) and at [Amazon.com](#).

If you'd like Scott to speak at your meeting, retreat, or conference, contact [Premiere Speakers Bureau](#).

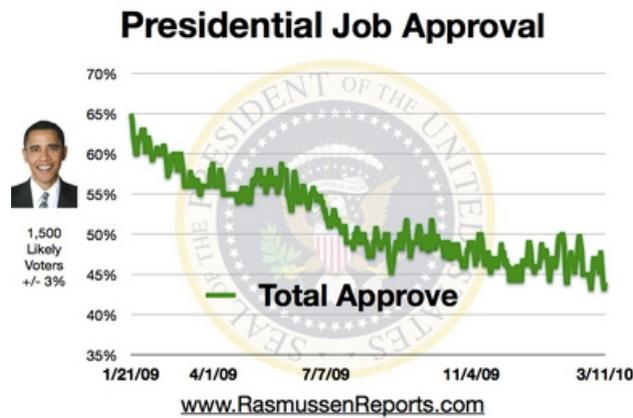
You can also learn about his favorite place on earth or his time working with [hockey legend Gordie Howe](#).

See our 2010 Senate polling from [Nevada](#), [Colorado](#), [Arkansas](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [California](#), [Indiana](#), [Wisconsin](#), [Washington](#), [Delaware](#), [Florida](#), [Illinois](#), [Kentucky](#), [Louisiana](#), [Maryland](#), [Missouri](#), [New Hampshire](#), [North Dakota](#), [Ohio](#), [Oregon](#), [Connecticut](#), [Illinois](#), [North Carolina](#) and [Iowa](#).

Rasmussen Reports has also released polls on the 2010 governor's races in [Arizona](#), [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Connecticut](#), [Florida](#), [Kansas](#), [Illinois](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Maryland](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Nebraska](#), [New York](#), [Ohio](#), [Oklahoma](#), [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Rhode Island](#), [South Carolina](#), [Wisconsin](#), and [Texas](#).

It is important to remember that the Rasmussen Reports job approval ratings are based upon a sample of likely voters. Some other firms base their approval ratings on samples of all adults. President Obama's numbers are always several points higher in a poll of adults rather than likely voters. That's because some of the President's most enthusiastic supporters, such as young adults, are less likely to turn out to vote. It is also important to check the details of [question wording when comparing approval ratings](#) from different firms.

(More Below)



Rasmussen Reports has been a pioneer in the use of automated telephone polling techniques, but many other firms still utilize their own operator-assisted technology ([see methodology](#)). Pollsters for Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton have cited our "[unchallenged record for both integrity and accuracy](#)."

Data from the *Washington Post* confirms that Rasmussen Reports was well ahead of other media coverage on the [Massachusetts Senate race](#).

In the 2009 New Jersey Governor's race, automated polls tended to be more accurate than operator-assisted polling techniques. On reviewing the state polling results from 2009, [Mickey Kaus offered this assessment](#), "If you have a choice between Rasmussen and, say, the prestigious N.Y. Times, go with Rasmussen!"

During Election 2008, liberal blogger Nate Silver said that the Rasmussen tracking poll "[would probably be the one I'd want with me on a desert island](#)."

In 2008, Obama won 53%-46% and our final poll showed Obama winning 52% to 46%. While we were pleased with the final result, Rasmussen Reports was especially pleased with the stability of our results. On every single day for the last six weeks of the campaign, our daily tracking showed Obama with a stable and solid lead attracting more than 50% of the vote.

An analysis by Pollster.com partner Charles Franklin "found that despite identically sized three-day samples, [the Rasmussen daily tracking poll is less variable than Gallup](#)." During Election 2008, the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll was the least volatile of all those tracking the race.

We also have provided a [summary of our 2008 state-by-state Presidential results](#) for your review.

In 2004 George W. Bush received 50.7% of the vote while John Kerry earned 48.3%. Rasmussen Reports was the only firm to project both candidates' totals within half a percentage point by projecting that Bush would win 50.2% to 48.5%. (see our [2004 results](#)).

See also our 2008 state results for [Senate](#) and [governor](#). See 2006 results for and [governor](#).

[Pollster.com](#) founder Mark Blumenthal noted that "independent analyses from the [National Council on Public Polls](#), [the American Association for Public Opinion Research](#), the [Pew Research Center](#), the [Wall Street Journal](#) and [FiveThirtyEight.com](#) have all shown that the horse-race [numbers produced by automated telephone surveys did at least as well as those from conventional live-interviewer surveys in predicting election outcomes](#)."

Daily tracking results are collected via telephone surveys of 500 likely voters per night and reported on a three-day rolling average basis. The margin of sampling error—for the full sample of 1,500 Likely Voters—is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence. Results are also compiled on a full-week basis and crosstabs for [full-week results](#) are available for [Premium Members](#). Like all polling firms, Rasmussen Reports weights its data to reflect the population at large ([see methodology](#)).

Among other targets, Rasmussen Reports weights data by political party affiliation using a dynamic weighting process. While partisan affiliation is generally quite stable over time, there are a fair number of people who waver between allegiance to a particular party or independent status. Since the November 2008 election, the number of Democrats in the country has declined while the number of unaffiliated voters has grown.

Our baseline targets are established based upon [separate survey interviews with a sample of adults nationwide](#) completed during the preceding three months (a total of 45,000 interviews) and targets are updated monthly. Currently, the baseline targets for the adult population are 35.3% Democrats, 32.8% Republicans, and 31.9% unaffiliated. Likely voter samples typically show a slightly smaller advantage for the Democrats.

A review of last week's [key polls](#) is posted each Saturday morning. Other stats on Obama are updated daily on the Rasmussen Reports [Obama By the Numbers](#) page. We also invite you to review other [recent demographic highlights](#) from the tracking polls. To get a sense of longer-term trends, check out our [month-by-month review of the President's numbers](#).

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The Rasmussen Reports [Election Edge™](#) Premium Service offers the most comprehensive public opinion coverage available anywhere.

Scott Rasmussen, president of Rasmussen Reports, has been an independent pollster for more than a decade.

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