

Newsweek Poll
The Economy, the Republicans and Obama
Princeton Survey Research Associates International

Final Topline Results
(3/6/09)

N = 1,203 adults, 18+
Margins of error: plus or minus 3.5
Interviewing dates: 3/4-5/09

Notes: Data are weighted so that sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density.

Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error. Sample size and margins of error for these subgroups are included in a separate methodology statement.

An asterisk () indicates a value less than 1%.*

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
58	Approve	33	86	51
26	Disapprove	49	6	29
<u>16</u>	Don't know	<u>18</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>
100		100	100	100

2. In general, government grows bigger as it provides more services. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing less services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	<u>Smaller</u>	<u>Bigger</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	44	44	12	=100
Republicans	67	24	9	=100
Democrats	23	65	12	=100
Independents	45	42	13	=100
TRENDS ¹				
8/2-9/1/02	46	47	7	
11/13-12/13/00	42	47	10	
1/12-15/89	41	48	11	
5/9-12/88	43	44	13 ²	
3/12-15/80	54	32	14	
6/19-23/78	53	36	11	
1/78	40	39	21	
4/10-15/76	40	44	16	

¹ 2000 and 2002 trends for this question are from Kaiser/Harvard School of Public Health. Trend from January 1978 is from Washington Post. All other trends from CBS/ New York Times.

² 5/9-12/88 trend number for DK also includes respondents who answered "depends."

3. Next, as I read you the names of some people in politics, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each one. If I mention someone you never heard of before this interview, just tell me. (First,) what about... **(INSERT READ AND RANDOMIZE a-d, THEN READ AND RANDOMIZE e-j)**

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Never heard of</u>	<u>Can't rate/DK</u>	
a. Barack Obama					
CURRENT TOTAL	72	22	*	6	=100
TRENDS					
9/10-11/08 ³	57	37	1	5	=100
7/9-10/08	56	32	*	12	=100
6/18-19/08	62	26	*	12	=100
5/21-22/08	55	40	1	4	=100
4/24-25/08	53	40	1	6	=100
4/16-17/08	57	36	1	6	=100
3/5-6/08	61	28	1	10	=100
7/2-3/07	56	19	11	14	=100
5/11-12/06	34	10	46	10	=100
b. Michelle Obama					
CURRENT TOTAL	69	13	1	17	=100
TRENDS					
9/10-11/08	50	34	1	15	=100
c. John McCain					
CURRENT TOTAL	55	37	*	8	=100
TRENDS					
9/10-11/08	57	36	*	7	=100
7/9-10/08	55	32	*	13	=100
6/18-19/08	49	37	1	13	=100
5/21-22/08	54	40	1	5	=100
4/24-25/08	51	41	1	7	=100
4/16-17/08	52	42	1	5	=100
3/5-6/08	55	35	1	9	=100
d. Sarah Palin					
CURRENT TOTAL	44	42	3	11	=100
TRENDS					
9/10-11/08	52	32	4	12	=100
e. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi					
CURRENT TOTAL	35	41	14	10	=100
TRENDS					
5/11-12/06	21	20	51	8	=100

³ Trend numbers from 9/10-11/08 based on Registered Voters.

Q3 Continued...

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Never heard of</u>	<u>Can't rate/DK</u>	
f. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid					
CURRENT TOTAL	23	28	33	16	=100
TRENDS					
5/11-12/06	15	14	55	16	=100
g. House Minority Leader John Boehner					
CURRENT TOTAL	21	17	44	18	=100
h. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell					
CURRENT TOTAL	23	16	41	20	=100
i. Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal					
CURRENT TOTAL	23	22	41	14	=100
j. Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty					
CURRENT TOTAL	16	12	52	20	=100

4. Now, thinking about the state of the economy... Would you say the national economy today is in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape, or poor shape?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	1	2	12	84	1	=100
(1/8-9/04)	2	25	46	26	1	=100
(11/6-7/03)	1	23	43	33	*	=100
(5/1-2/03)	2	18	49	30	1	=100
(7/18-19/02)	1	20	48	30	1	=100
(7/11-12/02)	2	21	48	28	1	=100
(9/96)	6	32	43	18	1	=100
(1/96)	3	25	43	28	1	=100
(1/93)	1	11	45	42	1	=100

5. Over the next 12 months, do you think economic conditions in the country as a whole will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	37	29	32	2	=100
(1/8-9/04)	41	12	43	4	=100
(11/6-7/03)	41	16	39	4	=100
(5/1-2/03)	46	11	41	2	=100
(7/18-19/02)	45	15	37	3	=100
(7/11-12/02)	45	16	35	4	=100
(1/10-12/01)	18	33	44	5	=100
(7/00)	15	24	55	6	=100
(10/98)	16	22	57	5	=100
(2/89)	25	22	49	4	=100

6. How confident are you that, as President, Barack Obama will be able to turn around the economy? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

<u>Current</u>		<u>1/14-15/09</u>
25	Very confident	23
40	Somewhat confident	48
16	Not too confident	17
17	Not at all confident	9
<u>2</u>	Don't know	<u>3</u>
100		100

7. How much longer do you think the current economic recession is likely to last? Would you say...**(READ)**

12	Less than 12 months
54	One to two years
23	Three to five years, OR
8	More than five years?
<u>3</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
100	

8. Which ONE of the following three statements best describes your opinion of the 800 billion dollar stimulus package recently signed into law by the President... **(READ)**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
15	It's the right amount of government spending to help turn the economy around, OR	11	20	14
40	It's a good start, but more spending will be needed for it to be effective, OR	19	61	36
37	It won't work and government should NOT be spending money for economic stimulus	59	14	41
<u>8</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100

9. Is it your impression that Republicans who have opposed Barack Obama's economic proposals have a plan of their own for turning the economy around, or not?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
31	Yes, have a plan of their own	45	22	29
58	No, do not	42	72	58
<u>11</u>	Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>
100		100	100	100

10. We'd like your views about how much the federal government has spent so far to help certain groups affected by the financial crisis. (First,) what about federal spending to help... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)?**
READ AS NECESSARY: Do you think there has been too much, too little, or about the right amount?

	<u>Too Much</u>	<u>Too Little</u>	<u>Right Amount</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Large banks and other financial institutions in danger of failing	62	8	21	9	=100
b. U.S. auto companies in danger of going bankrupt	58	12	24	6	=100
c. Homeowners facing foreclosure or who have already lost their homes to foreclosure	29	40	22	9	=100

11. Temporary nationalization is another way for the federal government to deal with large banks in danger of failing. This is where the government takes over a failing bank, cleans its balance sheets, and then quickly sells it off. In general, which do YOU think is the better way to deal with failing banks... **(READ)**

29 Government financial aid WITHOUT any government control of the bank, OR
 56 Nationalization, where the government takes temporary control?
 11 Neither/Other **(VOL.)**
 4 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 100

12. Do you favor or oppose allowing the tax cuts for Americans with annual incomes over \$250,000 to expire at the end of next year?

49 Favor
 42 Oppose
 9 Don't know
 100

13. Do you favor or oppose removing most U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of next year?

73 Favor
 20 Oppose
 7 Don't know
 100

Q14-15 and Q16-17 Rotated.

Now I have a few questions about the way the President, Congressional Democrats, and Congressional Republicans have conducted themselves since Barack Obama took office...

14. Do you think Barack Obama has made a reasonable effort to work with and listen to Congressional Republicans, or not?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
71	Yes, has	52	91	67
24	No, has not	42	6	27
5	Don't know	6	3	6
100		100	100	100

15. Do you think Congressional DEMOCRATIC leaders have made a reasonable effort to work with and listen to Congressional Republicans, or not?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
45	Yes, have	28	69	36
45	No, have not	63	25	51
10	Don't know	9	6	13
100		100	100	100

16. Do you think Congressional REPUBLICAN leaders have made a reasonable effort to work with and listen to Barack Obama, or not?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
40	Yes, have	55	29	41
52	No, have not	36	67	51
<u>8</u>	Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100

17. Do you think Congressional REPUBLICAN leaders have made a reasonable effort to work with and listen to Congressional Democrats, or not?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
37	Yes, have	54	27	36
55	No, have not	37	70	53
<u>8</u>	Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100

18. On big issues like the economy, which of the following do you think should be MORE important to your elected officials in Washington... **(READ AND ROTATE 1-2)**

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
51	Achieving bipartisanship, or working toward legislation that has support in both parties, even if it takes longer or less gets done, OR	58	46	51
40	Getting things done more quickly, even if it means some important legislation is passed without bipartisan support	34	46	40
<u>9</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100	100

D2. Regardless of how you might have voted in recent elections, in politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

26	Republican
34	Democrat
36	Independent
2	No party/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
1	Other party (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know
100	

Summary Table with Newsweek Poll averages for 1st Quarter Past Presidential Inauguration Years:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>
CURRENT TOTAL	26	34	36
TRENDS			
1/14-15/09	26	40	30
1 st Quarter 2005	31	34	28
1 st Quarter 2001	28	34	34
1 st Quarter 1997	30	31	33
1 st Quarter 1993	29	38	31

19. In general, would you describe your OWN political views as...(READ)

<u>Total</u>	
9	Very conservative
30	Conservative
37	Moderate
14	Liberal, OR
6	Very liberal?
<u>4</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
100	

Summary Table with Trends from Inauguration Years

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Total Liberal</u>
	<u>Conservative</u>		
CURRENT TOTAL	39	37	20
Republicans	66	27	6
Democrats	23	40	33
Independents	35	43	17
TRENDS ⁴			
1/14-15/09	39	34	22
January 2005	34	42	20
January 2001	35	38	20
June 1997	38	40	18
July 1994	39	39	19

20. In general, do you think the Republican Party is headed in the right direction or the wrong direction?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS

<u>Current</u>		<u>1/21-22/99</u>
45	Right direction	65
35	Wrong direction	23
<u>20</u>	Don't know	<u>12</u>
100		100

21. Do you think Republican leaders in Congress are in touch with the way the average Republican thinks and feels, or not?

BASED ON REPUBLICANS

<u>Current</u>		<u>1/21-22/99</u>
44	Yes, in touch	60
52	No, not in touch	32
<u>4</u>	Don't know	<u>8</u>
100		100

⁴ All trends from the Pew Research Center. First asked July 1994. No 1993 results available.

22. Do you identify MORE with the Republican Party based on...(READ)

BASED ON REPUBLICANS

<u>Current</u>		<u>10/22-23/08</u>
52	Issues like, taxes, economic growth, and national security, OR	52
38	Issues like abortion, immigration, guns, and family values?	38
5	(VOL.) Neither/Other	4
<u>5</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>6</u>
100		100

23. Do you think the Republican Party and its leaders today are too conservative, not conservative enough, or about right?

	<u>Too conservative</u>	<u>Not conservative enough</u>	<u>About right</u>	<u>DK</u>	
Total	34	29	28	9	=100
Republicans	20	38	39	3	=100
Conservative Republicans	16	50	31	3	=100
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	30	13	55	2	=100
Democrats	55	21	17	7	=100
Independents	26	32	30	12	=100

24. On another subject... Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh?

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Never heard of</u>	<u>DK</u>	
Total	27	46	6	21	=100
Republicans	48	28	3	21	=100
Conservative Republicans	57	20	3	20	=100
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	30	43	3	24	=100
Democrats	8	67	8	17	=100
Independents	30	41	7	22	=100

25. Do you think Rush Limbaugh has too much influence on the Republican Party today, too little influence, or about the right amount?

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>About the right amount</u>	<u>DK</u>	
Total	38	10	28	24	=100
Republicans	27	16	40	17	=100
Conservative Republicans	18	20	44	18	=100
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	48	9	30	13	=100
Democrats	52	7	17	24	=100
Independents	33	9	30	28	=100

26. Do you see Rush Limbaugh as one of the most important leaders of the Republican Party today, or don't you see him this way?

	<u>Yes, leader</u>	<u>No, do not</u>	<u>DK</u>	
Total	14	74	12	=100
Republicans	16	78	6	=100
Conservative Republicans	16	78	6	=100
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	15	79	6	=100
Democrats	18	67	15	=100
Independents	9	79	12	=100

END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT: That completes the interview. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

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The Economy, the Republicans and Obama
Princeton Survey Research Associates International

Methodology Statement
(3/6/09)

This poll was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International from February 4-5, 2009. Telephone interviews were conducted with 1,203 adults, 18 or older. Results are weighted so that the sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density. The overall margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for results based on 1,203 adults. Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error.

SAMPLE SIZE/MARGIN OF ERROR FOR SUBGROUPS:

318 Republicans (plus or minus 6.7)
387 Democrats (plus or minus 6.1)
453 Independents (plus or minus 5.7)

In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting surveys can also introduce error or bias to poll results.

**NEWSWEEK POLL:
The Economy, the Republicans and Obama
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE**

	<u>Total</u> (n= 1,203) %
<u>Gender</u>	
Men	49
Women	51
<u>Age</u>	
18-34	26
35-44	19
45-64	35
65+	17
Undesignated	3
<u>Party ID</u>	
Republican	26
Democrat	34
Independent	36
Other/Don't know	4
<u>Education</u>	
College graduate	28
Some college	23
No college	48
Undesignated	1
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	
White, non-Hispanic	72
Total Non-White	25
Black	10
Hispanic	10
Asian	3
Other/Mixed race	2
Undesignated	3