

FOX NEWS POLL

OPINION DYNAMICS

19 February 2009

Polling was conducted by telephone February 17-18, 2009, in the evenings. The total sample is 900 registered voters nationwide with a margin of error of ± 3 percentage points. Results are of registered voters, unless otherwise noted.

LV = likely voters

Democrats n=375, ± 5 ; Republicans n=319, ± 5.5 ; Independents n=166, ± 8

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

	Approve	Disapprove	(DK)
17-18 Feb 09	60%	26	14
Democrats	90%	5	5
Republicans	29%	53	18
Independents	62%	19	19
27-28 Jan 09	65%	16	19
Democrats	85%	2	12
Republicans	37%	36	27
Independents	64%	16	19

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?

	Approve	Disapprove	(DK)		Approve	Disapprove	(DK)
17-18 Feb 09	39%	50	10	18-19 Dec 07	25%	60	15
Democrats	62%	28	10	13-14 Nov 07	26%	61	14
Republicans	19%	74	8	23-24 Oct 07	25%	54	22
Independents	34%	53	13	9-10 Oct 07	24%	63	12
RECENT TREND				25-26 Sep 07	24%	63	13
27-28 Jan 09	40%	46	14	11-12 Sep 07	32%	56	11
13-14 Jan 09	23%	68	10	21-22 Aug 07	24%	60	17
9-10 Dec 08	20%	71	9	5-6 Jun 07	29%	55	15
1-2 Nov 08	18%	75	7	15-16 May 07	32%	53	15
1-2 Nov 08 LV	18%	75	7	17-18 Apr 07	35%	49	16
28-29 Oct 08	17%	76	6	27-28 Mar 07	30%	54	16
28-29 Oct 08 LV	18%	77	5	27-28 Feb 07	32%	49	20
20-21 Oct 08	19%	72	9	30-31 Jan 07	33%	44	22
20-21 Oct 08 LV	18%	73	8	16-17 Jan 07	32%	47	21
8-9 Oct 08	13%	77	10	4-5 Nov 06 LV	29%	57	13
22-23 Sep 08	17%	73	9	10-11 Oct 06 LV	31%	63	6
8-9 Sep 08	23%	68	8	12-13 Sep 06 LV	29%	53	18
19-20 Aug 08	20%	73	7	29-30 Aug 06	24%	61	15
22-23 Jul 08	21%	68	11	8-9 Aug 06	24%	58	17
17-18 Jun 08	19%	69	13	11-12 Jul 06	25%	61	14
28-29 Apr 08	22%	67	11	13-14 Jun 06	29%	59	12
18-19 Mar 08	20%	67	12	16-18 May 06	27%	56	17
19-20 Feb 08	22%	68	10	18-19 Apr 06	25%	52	23
30-31 Jan 08	22%	66	12	14-15 Mar 06	29%	55	16

ROTATE NEXT TWO QUESTIONS

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Democrats in Congress are doing?

	Dis	Approve	approve (DK)
17-18 Feb 09	46%	45	9
Democrats	78%	17	6
Republicans	15%	77	8
Independents	40%	46	14

PAST TREND

26-27 Jun 07	36%	49	15
24-25 Oct 06 LV	37%	46	17
26-27 Sep 06 LV	39%	48	13
2-3 May 06	36%	49	15
4-5 Apr 06	29%	51	20
28 Feb-1 Mar 06	36%	48	16
10-11 Jan 06	39%	41	20
8-9 Nov 05	33%	47	20

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Republicans in Congress are doing?

	Dis	Approve	approve (DK)
17-18 Feb 09	34%	56	10
Democrats	22%	70	8
Republicans	52%	39	9
Independents	29%	57	14

PAST TREND

26-27 Jun 07	30%	56	14
24-25 Oct 06 LV	34%	55	11
26-27 Sep 06 LV	34%	55	11
2-3 May 06	35%	53	12
4-5 Apr 06	29%	53	18
28 Feb-1 Mar 06	34%	53	13
10-11 Jan 06	37%	49	14
8-9 Nov 05	34%	50	16

5. Generally speaking, do you approve of disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing in picking his cabinet?

	Dis	Approve	approve (DK)
17-18 Feb 09	60%	32	7
Democrats	85%	10	5
Republicans	34%	58	8
Independents	61%	30	9

6. - 7. Please tell me whether you have a generally favorable or unfavorable opinion of each one of the following individuals. If you've never heard of a particular individual please just say so. (RANDOMIZE)
 SCALE: 1. Favorable 2. Unfavorable 3. (Can't say) 4. Never heard of

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Can't say	Never heard		Favorable	Unfavorable	Can't say	Never heard
Barack Obama									
17-18 Feb 09	68%	25	7	-	22-23 Sep 08	57%	33	10	-
Democrats	93%	5	2	-	8-9 Sep 08	57%	36	7	-
Republicans	37%	53	9	-	19-20 Aug 08	59%	35	6	-
Independents	77%	17	7	-	22-23 Jul 08	58%	33	8	-
PAST TREND					17-18 Jun 08	58%	32	10	-
13-14 Jan 09	76%	15	9	-	28-29 Apr 08	47%	42	11	-
9-10 Dec 08	68%	24	8	-	19-20 Feb 08	54%	33	12	-
1-2 Nov 08	57%	39	4	-	18-19 Dec 07	49%	33	15	3
1-2 Nov 08 LV	59%	38	3	-	13-14 Nov 07	50%	34	11	4
28-29 Oct 08	56%	40	4	-	11-12 Sep 07	51%	25	16	8
28-29 Oct 08 LV	56%	40	3	-	26-27 Jun 07	46%	30	17	8
20-21 Oct 08	60%	34	6	-	17-18 Apr 07	47%	23	19	11
20-21 Oct 08 LV	60%	35	4	-	30-31 Jan 07	41%	20	20	18
8-9 Oct 08	60%	34	7	-					

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Can't say	Never heard		Favorable	Unfavorable	Can't say	Never heard
Joe Biden									
17-18 Feb 09	59%	29	11	1	28-29 Oct 08	53%	36	9	2
Democrats	83%	8	8	1	28-29 Oct 08 LV	55%	37	7	2
Republicans	31%	56	12	1	20-21 Oct 08	56%	32	9	3
Independents	66%	22	10	2	20-21 Oct 08 LV	57%	33	7	2
PAST TREND					8-9 Oct 08	57%	29	12	1
13-14 Jan 09	58%	24	14	4	22-23 Sep 08	48%	31	18	3
9-10 Dec 08	54%	30	13	3	8-9 Sep 08	51%	29	15	4
1-2 Nov 08	55%	37	5	3	30-31 Aug 05	19%	16	27	37
1-2 Nov 08 LV	56%	37	5	2					

8. How confident are you that the new Obama administration will be able to make significant positive change for the country?
 SCALE: 1. Very confident 2. Somewhat confident 3. Not very confident
 4. Not at all confident 5. (Don't know)

	-- Confident --			-- Not confident --			
	TOTAL	Vry	Smwht	TOTAL	Ntvty	Not	(DK)
17-18 Feb 09	64%	28	36	33	18	15	2
Democrats	93%	49	44	7	6	1	1
Republicans	31%	4	27	66	32	34	3
Independents	68%	28	40	30	21	9	2
13-14 Jan 09	75%	29	46	24	15	9	2
Democrats	93%	45	48	6	3	3	1
Republicans	51%	14	37	48	30	18	1
Independents	75%	18	57	21	13	8	4

9. So far, do you think the Obama administration has started to bring real change to Washington or is it more of the same partisan politics?

	Real change	More of the same	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	45%	46	9
Democrats	68%	21	11
Republicans	18%	76	5
Independents	45%	43	12

10. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the people President Obama has selected to be in his Cabinet?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	17%	40	23	16	3
Democrats	30%	53	13	1	2
Republicans	3%	23	35	35	4
Independents	15%	47	23	11	3
13-14 Jan 09*	20%	40	26	8	6
9-10 Dec 08*	24%	41	20	8	7

*Previously: "President-elect"

11. Do you believe the United States is the best country in the world to live in, or is there another country that is better?

	United States is the best	Another country is better	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	90%	7	3
Democrats	88%	8	4
Republicans	96%	2	1
Independents	85%	11	4
27-28 Feb 07	86%	7	7

12. Given the tough economic times, have you considered leaving the United States and moving to another country?

	Yes	No	(Don't know/Refused)
17-18 Feb 09	10%	90	-
Democrats	11%	89	-
Republicans	8%	92	-
Independents	10%	90	-

13. Does the current economic situation in the United States make you feel more anger or more fear?

	Anger	Fear	(Both)	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	30%	42	14	14
Democrats	32%	43	12	13
Republicans	30%	45	15	10
Independents	30%	34	18	18

14. A year from now, do you think the nation's economy will be recovering, or will the country be deeper in recession?

SCALE: 1. Economy will be recovering 2. Country will be deeper in recession 3. (Don't know)

	Economy recovering	Deeper in recession	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	61%	31	7
Democrats	78%	18	4
Republicans	45%	46	9
Independents	60%	34	7

15. How closely have you been following news about the economic stimulus and spending plan that Congress passed last week that includes spending nearly \$800 billion dollars of taxpayer money?

	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not very closely	Not at all closely	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	45%	41	10	3	1
Democrats	45%	46	7	2	-
Republicans	42%	40	12	5	1
Independents	50%	34	12	4	-

16. Do you support or oppose the nearly 800 billion dollar economic stimulus and spending plan Congress passed last week?

	Support	Oppose	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	51%	40	9
Democrats	79%	14	7
Republicans	22%	70	9
Independents	45%	42	13

For reference: Do you support or oppose Obama's proposed economic recovery plan that would, among other things, use tax dollars to increase spending by the federal government by up to nearly one trillion dollars on infrastructure projects and tax cuts for middle class Americans?

	Support	Oppose	(Don't know)
13-14 Jan 09	58%	29	13
Democrats	79%	11	9
Republicans	30%	52	18
Independents	60%	29	10

17. (If support Q16, n=458, ±5%) Which one of the following best describes the main reason you support the economic stimulus and spending plan? (RANDOMIZE)

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
1. Best option and have to do something	37%	39%	34%	36%
2. Infrastructure and stimulus spending	17	14	21	27
3. Belief in Obama and the Democrats	14	19	2	9
4. Believe it will work	11	13	7	7
5. Tax cuts	9	8	20	7
6. (Other)	1	1	2	-
7. (Combination)	9	6	13	12
8. (Don't know)	2	-	3	3

18. (If oppose Q16, n=360, ±5%) Which one of the following best describes the main reason you oppose the economic stimulus and spending plan? (RANDOMIZE)

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
1. Too much pork spending	32%	28%	37%	25%
2. The cost -- too much spending	21	31	18	24
3. Don't think it will work	17	15	14	23
4. Not government's role	9	4	11	5
5. Not enough tax cuts	3	4	3	3
6. Not enough spending	1	2	1	-
7. (Other)	1	-	1	1
8. (Combination)	14	7	13	17
9. (Don't know)	2	9	1	1

19. Do you think the economic recovery legislation that passed last week is better described as a stimulus bill or a spending bill? (ROTATE)

	Stimulus bill	Spending bill	(Same thing)	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	31%	52	10	6
Democrats	51%	31	12	5
Republicans	12%	77	6	5
Independents	28%	54	9	9

20. In drafting the economic stimulus and spending plan, do you think Barack Obama has sincerely tried to reach out to Republicans and be bipartisan, or not?

	Yes	No	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	66%	28	6
Democrats	85%	10	5
Republicans	42%	52	6
Independents	71%	23	6

21. And do you think Republicans have sincerely tried to be helpful to Barack Obama and be bipartisan in drafting the economic stimulus and spending plan, or not?

	Yes	No	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	33%	60	8
Democrats	24%	69	7
Republicans	46%	47	8
Independents	28%	64	8

22. Do you think the economic stimulus and spending plan is too large, about the right size, or too small?

	Too large	About right	Too small	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	46%	30	14	10
Democrats	26%	46	19	9
Republicans	68%	15	8	9
Independents	51%	25	12	12

23. All in all, do you think Barack Obama's nearly \$800 billion dollar economic recovery plan will help or hurt the nation's economy, or will it not make much of a difference?

	Help the economy	Hurt the economy	No difference	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	49%	25	23	4
Democrats	75%	7	16	2
Republicans	21%	45	30	3
Independents	49%	25	20	5
27-28 Jan 09*	45%	18	29	8
Democrats	63%	5	25	7
Republicans	22%	36	36	6
Independents	43%	18	30	9

*Previously: proposed \$825 billion dollar

24. Do you think the economic recovery plan will help or hurt your personal financial situation, or will it not make much of a difference?

	Help	Hurt	No difference	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	24%	19	54	2
Democrats	38%	8	53	1
Republicans	12%	32	53	3
Independents	21%	19	58	3

25. Recently New York Senator Chuck Schumer said "the American people really don't care" if the economic recovery bill includes "poriky amendments." Do you care if the economic recovery bill includes earmarks or pork -- that is, spending on items that only benefit certain Congressional districts or pet projects in elected official's home state?

	Yes, I care	No, I don't care	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	79%	15	7
Democrats	76%	17	7
Republicans	84%	11	6
Independents	78%	15	7

26. Do you think it was necessary for Congress to pass legislation for the economy to improve or do you think the economy would have improved anyway?

	Legislation was necessary	Economy would have improved anyway	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	58%	34	8
Democrats	74%	22	4
Republicans	40%	51	9
Independents	56%	31	13

For reference: Congress is currently debating an economic stimulus plan. Do you think it is necessary that Congress pass such a plan for the economy to improve or will it improve anyway?

	Stimulus plan is necessary	Economy will improve anyway	(Not sure)
12-13 Dec 01	42%	44	14

27. Do you think it is good that President Obama has a Democratic Congress to increase his power, or do you wish there were more Republicans in Congress to provide a check on Obama's power?

SCALE: 1. Good there is a Democratic Congress to increase Obama's power
2. Wish there were more Republicans in Congress to provide a check on Obama's power
3. (Don't know)

	Good Congress increases power	Wish for more Republicans	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	48%	46	7
Democrats	80%	14	5
Republicans	12%	84	4
Independents	44%	45	10

28. Do you think the press is being too easy or too tough on the Obama administration?

	Too easy	Too tough	(Neither/Even handed)	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	42%	20	31	6
Democrats	21%	31	41	6
Republicans	70%	7	15	8
Independents	38%	18	40	4
19-20 Aug 08*	37%	24	31	8
Democrats	23%	33	37	7
Republicans	57%	13	26	4
Independents	34%	26	28	12

*Previously: "Regardless of your vote, do you think reports in the news media have been..."

29. When talking about the economic situation, Barack Obama says a failure to act now will turn crisis into a catastrophe and guarantee a longer recession -- do you think this description is too negative and Obama is intentionally overstating how bad things are, or is he giving what he thinks is an accurate description of the country's current economic situation?

	Too negative	Accurate	(Not negative enough)	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	22%	70	3	5
Democrats	12%	81	2	4
Republicans	35%	58	2	5
Independents	23%	66	5	6

30. Have you personally tried to reduce your household and personal spending because of concern about the economy?

	Yes	No	(Don't know/Refused)
17-18 Feb 09	79%	21	-
Democrats	83%	17	-
Republicans	78%	22	-
Independents	71%	28	1
28-29 Apr 08	75%	24	1
22-23 Apr 03	50%	49	1
3-4 Oct 01*	32%	67	1
14-15 Mar 01*	37%	61	2
7-8 Feb 01*	39%	58	3

*Previous: "concern about a possible recession or job loss?"

31. No matter how tight money gets, which one of the following do you consider to be your top must-have -- the one non-essential item that you will continue spending money on during tough times? (RANDOMIZE)

	All	Dem	Rep	Ind
1. Internet access	21%	18%	26%	22%
2. Entertainment such as cable TV and movies	21	23	21	15
3. Cell phone	17	18	12	23
4. Eating out at restaurants	10	11	11	10
5. Vacations	7	7	6	7
6. Cigarettes	4	6	3	2
7. Alcohol	3	3	3	3
8. Cosmetics	2	2	1	2
9. (Other)	3	3	2	2
10. (None)	10	7	12	11
11. (Don't know)	2	1	2	4

32. - 37. I'm going to read you a list of items, for each one please tell me whether you think it is the responsibility of the federal government or not. First, do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to [ITEM], or is that not the responsibility of the federal government? (RANDOMIZE)
SCALE: 1. Yes, is responsibility of federal government 2. No, is not the responsibility of the federal government 3. (Don't know)

	Yes	No	(Don't know)
Help rebuild communities affected			
by natural disasters	88%	10	2
Democrats	92%	5	2
Republicans	83%	16	1
Independents	90%	8	2
Make sure all Americans have food	68%	30	2
Democrats	83%	16	1
Republicans	52%	47	1
Independents	68%	29	3
Make sure all Americans			
have health care	66%	33	2
Democrats	85%	13	2
Republicans	41%	57	2
Independents	70%	28	2
Provide housing to those			
who cannot afford it	52%	45	3
Democrats	69%	28	3
Republicans	30%	68	2
Independents	60%	36	4
Make sure all Americans who			
want a job have a job	51%	47	2
Democrats	65%	33	2
Republicans	34%	64	1
Independents	50%	46	4
Rescue failing financial			
Institutions	28%	67	4
Democrats	40%	54	6
Republicans	17%	81	2
Independents	25%	70	5

38. If you and your family were to fall on hard times, who would you most likely turn to first for help? (RANDOMIZE)

SCALE: 1. Government programs 2. Family 3. Friends 4. Your church or religious community 5. (Combination) 6. (Don't know)

	Government	Family	Friends	Religious	(Comb.)	(DK)
17-18 Feb 09	10%	66	3	8	9	3
Democrats	15%	64	4	4	10	1
Republicans	6%	73	3	8	6	5
Independents	8%	56	3	16	12	5

39. Do you think Americans are starting to rely too much on the government and not enough on themselves?

	Yes	No	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	76%	20	3
Democrats	63%	32	5
Republicans	91%	7	1
Independents	76%	21	3

40. President Obama wants the White House to take greater control over the Census Bureau, which traditionally has reported solely to the Commerce Department. The results of the census affect the balance of political power in Congress and the distribution of federal funds and therefore the Census Bureau is typically managed by non-elected officials. Do you think it would be appropriate or inappropriate for the White House to take greater control over the Census?

	Appropriate	Inappropriate	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	30%	58	12
Democrats	46%	40	14
Republicans	17%	76	7
Independents	24%	63	13

Changing topics now ...

41. While in the Oval Office, do you think the president of the United States should wear a coat and tie at all times or are you okay with a more relaxed and casual dress code?

	Coat and tie should be required	Relaxed and casual is okay	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	26%	68	6
Democrats	19%	77	4
Republicans	37%	56	7
Independents	19%	77	4

42. Typically, once a year the president of the United States delivers a State of the Union or a formal presidential address to Congress. Would you rather have the broadcast networks carry their regular prime time entertainment programming or the hour-long presidential address?

	Regular programs	Presidential address	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	20%	74	6
Democrats	20%	76	5
Republicans	22%	74	4
Independents	17%	75	8

For reference: In a couple of weeks the President will deliver his State of the Union address. Would you rather have the broadcast networks carry their regular prime time entertainment programming or the State of the Union address?

	Regular programs	State of the Union	(Not sure)
22-23 Jan 97	34%	57	9

43. President Obama will be delivering a formal presidential address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday, February 24. How likely do you think it is that you will watch the address?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	54%	28	7	10	1
Democrats	64%	25	4	5	1
Republicans	47%	29	8	16	-
Independents	47%	31	9	12	1

For reference: President Clinton's State of the Union Address is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27. How likely do you think it is that you will watch the address?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	(Don't know)
21-22 Jan 98	35%	29	12	22	2

44. Overall, would you say you generally trust the federal government, or not?

	Yes	No	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	41%	54	5
Democrats	53%	43	4
Republicans	32%	63	5
Independents	35%	59	6
26-27 June 02	54%	36	10

ROTATE NEXT TWO QUESTIONS

45. In general, do you think most elected officials in this country are honest and ethical, or not?

	Yes	No	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	32%	63	4
Democrats	36%	58	6
Republicans	31%	67	2
Independents	28%	68	4

46. In general, do you think that most corporate CEOs are honest and ethical, or not?

	Yes	No	(Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	22%	73	5
Democrats	21%	73	6
Republicans	27%	68	5
Independents	20%	79	1
23-24 Jul 02	34%	54	12

POLITICAL IDENTIFICATION: When you think about politics, do you think of yourself as a Democrat or a Republican?

	Democrat	Republican	(Independent)	(Other)	(Refused/Don't know)
17-18 Feb 09	42%	35	18	3	2
27-28 Jan 09	44%	30	22	2	2
13-14 Jan 09	42%	32	21	2	4
9-10 Dec 08	43%	33	20	2	2
1-2 Nov 08 LV	42%	36	18	3	1
28-29 Oct 08 LV	41%	39	16	2	1
20-21 Oct 08 LV	43%	37	16	2	2
1-2 Nov 08	41%	36	18	4	1
28-29 Oct 08	40%	39	17	2	2
20-21 Oct 08	43%	36	16	2	3
8-9 Oct 08	41%	34	21	2	2
22-23 Sep 08	41%	34	21	2	2
8-9 Sep 08	41%	34	21	2	2
19-20 Aug 08	42%	35	20	1	2
22-23 Jul 08	42%	33	19	3	3