



**Interviews with 806 adult Americans, conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on February 7-8, 2009. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.**

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**FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 AT NOON**

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

Feb. 7-8  
2009

Approve 76%  
 Disapprove 23%  
 No opinion 1%

FOR COMPARISON  
 APPROVAL RATING FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA DURING THE TRANSITION

|                  | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>No opinion</u> |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jan 12-15, 2009  | 84             | 14                | 2                 |
| Dec. 19-21, 2008 | 82             | 15                | 3                 |
| Dec. 1-2, 2008   | 79             | 18                | 3                 |

*QUESTION WORDING: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his presidential transition?*

2. Do you think President Obama is doing a good job or a poor job on each of the following:  
 (RANDOM ORDER)

|  | <u>Good job</u> | <u>Poor job</u> | <u>No opinion</u> |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Providing strong leadership for the country</b><br>February 7-8, 2009                           | 80%             | 19%             | 1%                |
| <b>Handling foreign policy</b><br>February 7-8, 2009   | 76%             | 22%             | 2%                |
| <b>Handling the economy</b><br>February 7-8, 2009  | 72%             | 28%             | 1%                |
| <b>Handling policies on terrorism</b><br>February 7-8, 2009  | 68%             | 28%             | 3%                |
| <b>Choosing members of his Cabinet and other senior government officials</b><br>February 7-8, 2009 | 61%             | 38%             | 1%                |

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job? (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE. RESULTS BASED ON 397 INTERVIEWS IN VERSION A. SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 5 PERCENTAGE POINTS.)

|            | Feb. 7-8<br><u>2009</u> | Oct. 3-5<br><u>2008*</u> | Sept. 19-21<br><u>2008</u> | July 27-29<br><u>2008</u> | Oct. 12-14<br><u>2007</u> | Oct. 6-8<br><u>2006</u> |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Approve    | 29%                     | 23%                      | 22%                        | 22%                       | 22%                       | 28%                     |
| Disapprove | 71%                     | 76%                      | 78%                        | 77%                       | 75%                       | 63%                     |
| No opinion | *                       | 1%                       | 1%                         | 1%                        | 3%                        | 9%                      |

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|                    | Approve | Dis-approve | No opinion |                    | Approve | Dis-approve | No opinion |
|--------------------|---------|-------------|------------|--------------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| <b><u>2006</u></b> |         |             |            | <b><u>2002</u></b> |         |             |            |
| 2006 Mar 13-16     | 27      | 65          | 8          | 2002 Aug 5-8       | 46      | 43          | 11         |
| 2006 Feb 6-9       | 25      | 65          | 10         | 2002 Jul 26-28     | 53      | 36          | 11         |
| 2006 Jan 9-12      | 27      | 67          | 7          | 2002 Jul 9-11      | 54      | 36          | 10         |
| <b><u>2005</u></b> |         |             |            | 2002 Jun 3-6       | 52      | 38          | 10         |
| 2005 Dec 5-8       | 29      | 63          | 8          | 2002 May 6-9       | 57      | 33          | 10         |
| 2005 Nov 7-10      | 29      | 63          | 8          | 2002 Apr 8-11      | 57      | 34          | 9          |
| 2005 Oct 13-16     | 29      | 64          | 7          | 2002 Mar 4-7       | 63      | 28          | 9          |
| 2005 Sep 12-15     | 35      | 59          | 6          | 2002 Feb 4-6       | 62      | 28          | 10         |
| 2005 Aug 8-11      | 36      | 58          | 6          | 2002 Jan 7-9       | 62      | 29          | 9          |
| 2005 Jul 7-10      | 36      | 58          | 6          | <b><u>2001</u></b> |         |             |            |
| 2005 Jun 6-8       | 34      | 59          | 7          | 2001 Dec 6-9       | 72      | 19          | 9          |
| 2005 May 2-5       | 35      | 57          | 8          | 2001 Nov 8-11      | 73      | 19          | 8          |
| 2005 Apr 4-7       | 38      | 54          | 8          | 2001 Oct 11-14     | 84      | 10          | 6          |
| 2005 Mar 7-10      | 37      | 53          | 10         | 2001 Sep 7-10      | 42      | 44          | 14         |
| 2005 Feb 7-10      | 45      | 48          | 7          | 2001 Aug 16-19     | 50      | 37          | 13         |
| 2005 Jan 3-5       | 43      | 48          | 9          | 2001 Aug 3-5       | 47      | 42          | 11         |
| <b><u>2004</u></b> |         |             |            | 2001 Jul 19-22     | 49      | 37          | 14         |
| 2004 Dec 5-8       | 41      | 50          | 9          | 2001 Jun 11-17     | 51      | 34          | 15         |
| 2004 Nov 7-10      | 41      | 52          | 7          | 2001 May 10-14     | 49      | 34          | 17         |
| 2004 Oct 11-14     | 40      | 51          | 9          | 2001 Apr 6-8       | 55      | 32          | 13         |
| 2004 Sep 13-15     | 41      | 52          | 7          | 2001 Mar 5-7       | 55      | 28          | 17         |
| 2004 Aug 9-11      | 40      | 52          | 8          | 2001 Feb 1-4       | 53      | 32          | 15         |
| 2004 Jul 8-11      | 40      | 53          | 7          | 2001 Jan 10-14     | 50      | 40          | 10         |
| 2004 Jun 3-6       | 41      | 52          | 7          | <b><u>2000</u></b> |         |             |            |
| 2004 May 2-4       | 41      | 52          | 7          | 2000 Dec 2-4       | 56      | 34          | 10         |
| 2004 Apr 5-8       | 43      | 51          | 6          | 2000 Oct 6-9       | 49      | 42          | 9          |
| 2004 Mar 8-11      | 42      | 51          | 7          | 2000 Aug 29-Sep 5  | 48      | 42          | 10         |
| 2004 Feb 9-12      | 41      | 51          | 8          | 2000 May 18-21     | 39      | 52          | 9          |
| 2004 Jan 12-15     | 48      | 45          | 7          | 2000 Jan 7-10      | 51      | 42          | 7          |
| <b><u>2003</u></b> |         |             |            | <b><u>1999</u></b> |         |             |            |
| 2003 Dec 11-14     | 43      | 50          | 7          | 1999 Sep 23-26     | 37      | 56          | 7          |
| 2003 Nov 3-5       | 43      | 51          | 6          | 1999 Jul 13-14     | 39      | 51          | 10         |
| 2003 Oct 6-8       | 41      | 51          | 8          | 1999 Jun 11-13     | 41      | 53          | 6          |
| 2003 Sep 8-10      | 40      | 53          | 7          | 1999 Apr 13-14     | 45      | 47          | 8          |
| 2003 Aug 4-6       | 45      | 46          | 9          | 1999 Feb 12-13     | 41      | 54          | 5          |
| 2003 Jul 7-9       | 49      | 45          | 6          | 1999 Jan 15-17     | 50      | 46          | 4          |
| 2003 Jun 12-15     | 50      | 41          | 9          | <b><u>1998</u></b> |         |             |            |
| 2003 May 5-7       | 49      | 44          | 7          | 1998 Dec 15-16     | 42      | 52          | 6          |
| 2003 Apr 7-9       | 58      | 33          | 9          | 1998 Nov 13-15     | 41      | 54          | 5          |
| 2003 Mar 3-5       | 48      | 44          | 8          | 1998 Oct 29-Nov 1  | 44      | 47          | 9          |
| 2003 Feb 3-6       | 50      | 39          | 11         | 1998 Oct 9-12      | 47      | 46          | 7          |
| 2003 Jan 13-16     | 49      | 40          | 11         | 1998 Oct 6-7       | 44      | 48          | 8          |
| <b><u>2002</u></b> |         |             |            | 1998 Sep 11-12     | 55      | 36          | 9          |
| 2002 Dec 5-8       | 50      | 40          | 10         | 1998 May 8-10      | 44      | 48          | 8          |
| 2002 Nov 11-14     | 47      | 39          | 14         | 1998 Apr 17-19     | 49      | 40          | 11         |
| 2002 Oct 3-6       | 50      | 40          | 10         | 1998 Feb 13-15     | 57      | 33          | 10         |
| 2002 Sep 5-8       | 52      | 40          | 8          | 1998 Jan 30-Feb 1  | 56      | 35          | 9          |
|                    |         |             |            | 1998 Jan 16-18     | 42      | 47          | 11         |

*Congress Job Approval Trend Continued on the Next Page*

\* ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE

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|                   | Approve | Dis-approve | No opinion |                   | Approve | Dis-approve | No opinion |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|------------|-------------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| <b>1997</b>       |         |             |            | <b>1990</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1997 Dec 18-21    | 39      | 52          | 9          | 1990 Nov 2-4      | 26      | 63          | 11         |
| 1997 Oct 27-29    | 36      | 53          | 11         | 1990 Oct 25-28    | 24      | 68          | 8          |
| 1997 Aug 22-25    | 41      | 48          | 11         | 1990 Oct 18-21    | 23      | 64          | 13         |
| 1997 Jul 25-27    | 34      | 57          | 9          | 1990 Oct 11-14    | 28      | 65          | 7          |
| 1997 May 6-7      | 32      | 58          | 10         | <b>1988</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1997 Apr 18-20    | 30      | 59          | 11         | 1988 Sep 9-11     | 42      | 42          | 16         |
| 1997 Feb 24-26    | 37      | 48          | 15         | <b>1987</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1997 Jan 31-Feb 2 | 36      | 51          | 13         | 1987 Aug 24-Sep 2 | 42      | 49          | 9          |
| 1997 Jan 10-13    | 41      | 49          | 10         | <b>1986</b>       |         |             |            |
| <b>1996</b>       |         |             |            | 1986 Apr 11-14    | 42      | 37          | 21         |
| 1996 Oct 26-29    | 34      | 51          | 15         | <b>1983</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1996 Aug 5-7      | 39      | 49          | 12         | 1983 Apr 29-May 2 | 33      | 43          | 24         |
| 1996 May 9-12     | 30      | 65          | 5          | <b>1982</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1996 Apr 9-10     | 35      | 57          | 8          | 1982 Jun 11-14    | 29      | 54          | 17         |
| <b>1995</b>       |         |             |            | <b>1981</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1995 Sep 22-24    | 30      | 61          | 9          | 1981 Jun 19-22    | 38      | 40          | 22         |
| 1995 Aug 28-30    | 30      | 60          | 10         | <b>1980</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1995 Jul 7-9      | 35      | 55          | 10         | 1980 Jun 13-16    | 25      | 56          | 19         |
| 1995 May 11-14    | 34      | 57          | 9          | <b>1979</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1995 Apr 17-19    | 37      | 54          | 9          | 1979 Jun 1-4      | 19      | 61          | 20         |
| 1995 Mar 27-29    | 31      | 61          | 8          | <b>1978</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1995 Mar 17-19    | 32      | 59          | 9          | 1978 Sep 8-11     | 29      | 49          | 22         |
| 1995 Feb 24-26    | 35      | 53          | 12         | <b>1977</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1995 Feb 3-5      | 38      | 53          | 9          | 1977 Sep 9-12     | 35      | 44          | 21         |
| 1995 Jan 16-18    | 33      | 52          | 15         | 1977 Aug 5-8      | 36      | 44          | 20         |
| <b>1994</b>       |         |             |            | 1977 Jun 3-6      | 34      | 42          | 24         |
| 1994 Dec 28-30    | 23      | 66          | 11         | 1977 May 20-23    | 40      | 40          | 20         |
| 1994 Oct 22-25    | 23      | 70          | 7          | 1977 Mar 25-28    | 36      | 42          | 22         |
| 1994 Oct 7-9      | 21      | 73          | 6          | <b>1976</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1994 Jul 15-17    | 27      | 65          | 8          | 1976 Jan 23-26    | 24      | 58          | 18         |
| 1994 Mar 25-27    | 29      | 63          | 8          | <b>1975</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1994 Feb 26-28    | 28      | 66          | 6          | 1975 Oct 31-Nov 3 | 28      | 54          | 18         |
| <b>1993</b>       |         |             |            | 1975 Jun 27-30    | 29      | 54          | 17         |
| 1993 Nov 2-4      | 24      | 69          | 8          | 1975 Apr 18-21    | 38      | 48          | 14         |
| 1993 Aug 8-10     | 23      | 69          | 8          | 1975 Feb 28-Mar 3 | 32      | 50          | 18         |
| 1993 Jul 19-21    | 24      | 65          | 11         | <b>1974</b>       |         |             |            |
| 1993 Feb 26-28    | 27      | 54          | 19         | 1974 Oct 11-14    | 35      | 43          | 22         |
| <b>1992</b>       |         |             |            | 1974 Aug 16-19    | 47      | 34          | 19         |
| 1992 Mar 3 ^      | 18      | 78          | 3          | 1974 Apr 12-15    | 30      | 47          | 23         |
| <b>1991</b>       |         |             |            |                   |         |             |            |
| 1991 Oct 10-13    | 40      | 54          | 6          |                   |         |             |            |
| 1991 Jul 25-28    | 32      | 53          | 15         |                   |         |             |            |

^ Gallup/Newsweek

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Democratic leaders in Congress are handling their job? (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE. RESULTS BASED ON 409 INTERVIEWS IN VERSION B. SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 5 PERCENTAGE POINTS.)

|                       | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>No<br/>Opinion</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| February 7-8, 2009    | 60%            | 39%               | 2%                    |
| November 6-9, 2008    | 47%            | 50%               | 3%                    |
| October 3-5, 2008*    | 34%            | 64%               | 1%                    |
| September 19-21, 2008 | 44%            | 54%               | 2%                    |
| July 27-29, 2008      | 36%            | 63%               | 1%                    |

\*Asked of half sample

**FOR COMPARISON:**

*Do you approve or disapprove of what the Democratic leaders in the U.S. House and Senate have done so far this year?*

|                   | <u>Dec. 6-9<br/>2007</u> | <u>Oct.12-14<br/>2007</u> | <u>June 22-24<br/>2007</u> | <u>May 4-6<br/>2007</u> | <u>Mar. 9-11<br/>2007</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Approve</i>    | 39%                      | 43%                       | 42%                        | 49%                     | 47%                       |
| <i>Disapprove</i> | 56%                      | 51%                       | 49%                        | 44%                     | 40%                       |
| <i>No opinion</i> | 6%                       | 6%                        | 9%                         | 7%                      | 13%                       |

*Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Democratic leaders in Congress are handling the transition from Republican to Democratic control of Congress?*

|                   | <u>Dec. 15-17<br/>2006</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Approve</i>    | 61%                        |
| <i>Disapprove</i> | 28%                        |
| <i>No opinion</i> | 12%                        |

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republican leaders in Congress are handling their job? (ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE. RESULTS BASED ON 409 INTERVIEWS IN VERSION B. SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 5 PERCENTAGE POINTS.)

|                    | <u>Approve</u> | <u>Disapprove</u> | <u>No<br/>Opinion</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| February 7-8, 2009 | 44%            | 55%               | 1%                    |
| November 6-9, 2008 | 24%            | 73%               | 3%                    |
| October 3-5, 2008* | 27%            | 71%               | 2%                    |

\*Asked of half sample

(QUESTIONS 6 AND 7 ROTATED)

6. In your view, is Barack Obama doing enough to cooperate with the Republicans in Congress, or not?

Feb. 7-8  
2009

Yes, doing enough 74%  
No, not enough 25%  
No opinion 1%

FOR COMPARISON

CNN/TIME TRENDS

|                  | Yes, doing<br><u>enough</u> | No, not doing<br><u>enough</u> | <u>Not sure</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sept 13-14, 1995 | 51                          | 38                             | 11              |

*QUESTION WORDING: In your view, is President Clinton doing enough to cooperate with the Republicans in Congress, or not?*

7. In your view, are the Republicans in Congress doing enough to cooperate with the Barack Obama, or not?

Feb. 7-8  
2009

Yes, doing enough 39%  
No, not enough 60%  
No opinion 1%

FOR COMPARISON

CNN/TIME TRENDS

|                  | Yes, doing<br><u>enough</u> | No, not doing<br><u>enough</u> | <u>Not sure</u> |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Sept 13-14, 1995 | 31                          | 57                             | 12              |

*QUESTION WORDING: In your view, are the Republicans in Congress doing enough to cooperate with President Clinton, or not?*

8. As President, do you think Barack Obama will or will not be able to change the country?

|                     | Feb 7-8<br><u>2009</u> | Nov 6-9<br><u>2008</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Yes, will change    | 76%                    | 73%                    |
| No, will not change | 23%                    | 25%                    |
| No opinion          | *                      | 1%                     |

8/9. As President, do you think Barack Obama will or will not be able to change the country?  
(IF YES) Do you think the country will change for the better or change for the worse?

|                            | Feb 7-8<br><u>2009</u> | Nov 6-9<br><u>2008</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Yes, change for the better | 68%                    | 63%                    |
| Yes, change for the worse  | 8%                     | 9%                     |
| No, will not change        | 23%                    | 25%                    |
| No opinion                 | 1%                     | 2%                     |

10. As you may know, the U.S. Senate is expected to vote on a bill that would attempt to stimulate the economy by increasing federal government spending and cutting taxes at a total cost to the government of about eight hundred billion dollars. Based on what you have read or heard about this, do you favor or oppose the bill that the Senate is expected to vote on?

Feb 7-8  
2009

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Favor      | 54% |
| Oppose     | 45% |
| No opinion | 1%  |

11. If the Senate bill becomes law, do you think that would help the economy a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

Feb 7-8  
2009

|                |     |
|----------------|-----|
| Help a lot     | 16% |
| Help some      | 48% |
| Not much help  | 20% |
| No help at all | 16% |
| No opinion     | 1%  |

12. Thinking about both the tax cuts and new government programs in the Senate bill, do you think that bill will result in the government spending too much money, not enough money, or about the right amount of money?

Feb 7-8  
2009

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Too much money         | 55% |
| Not enough money       | 13% |
| About the right amount | 30% |
| No opinion             | 1%  |