Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Core Political Approval 6.18.13

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters from June 14-18, 2013 . For the survey, a sample of 1,734 Americans, including 686 Democrats, 638 Republicans, and 232 Independents ages 18+ were interviewed online . The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.7 percentage points for all adults, 4.3 percentage points for Democrats, 4.4 percentage points for Republicans, and 7.3 percentage points for Independents. For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix .

The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by gender, age, education, and ethnicity. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Figures marked by an asterisk (*) indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of one per cent. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.

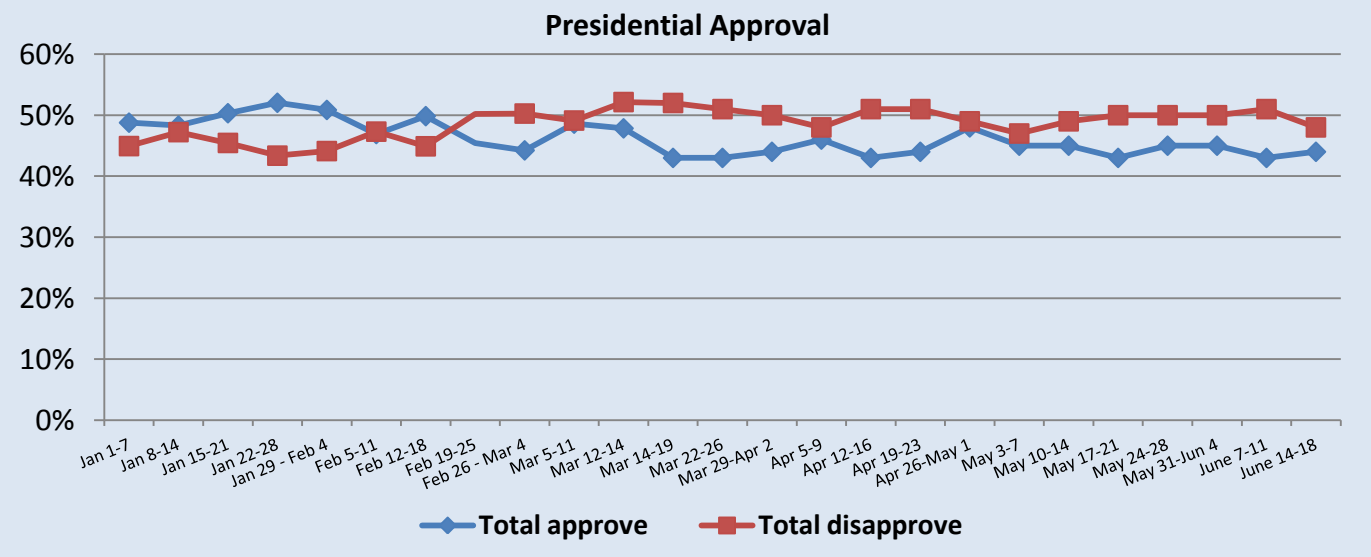
CORE POLITICAL APPROVAL

Q1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Right direction	25%	44%	9%	16%
Wrong track	59%	38%	85%	67%
Don't know	16%	18%	6%	16%

Q2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?
Q2a. Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)? (*Asked of those who selected "approve" or "disapprove"*) Q2b. If you had to choose, do you lean more towards approve or disapprove? (*Asked of those who selected "don't know"*)

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly approve	19%	35%	5%	16%
Somewhat approve	21%	34%	8%	20%
Lean towards approve	4%	5%	1%	4%
Lean towards disapprove	4%	3%	4%	2%
Somewhat disapprove	12%	10%	13%	15%
Strongly disapprove	32%	8%	69%	38%
Not sure	7%	4%	1%	7%
Total approve	*44%*	*75%*	*13%*	*40%*
Total disapprove	*48%*	*20%*	*85%*	*54%*



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Q3. In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?

All adults	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Independents	Other	None	Don't know
Healthcare	31%	22%	4%	2%	19%	22%
The war on terror	25%	25%	4%	2%	18%	26%
Iran	18%	21%	6%	2%	20%	33%
The US Economy	27%	24%	7%	2%	19%	22%
Immigration	28%	22%	5%	3%	18%	25%
Social Security	30%	21%	5%	2%	19%	23%
Medicare	29%	20%	5%	2%	20%	24%
Taxes	26%	24%	7%	2%	19%	22%
Gay marriage	38%	13%	7%	2%	16%	24%
Jobs and employment	29%	24%	6%	2%	18%	21%
The federal government deficit	22%	24%	7%	2%	21%	24%
Supporting small businesses	28%	24%	8%	3%	15%	23%
Education	29%	19%	7%	3%	19%	24%
Foreign policy	26%	23%	5%	3%	16%	27%
Women's rights	37%	15%	7%	2%	16%	24%
The environment	32%	16%	9%	3%	17%	24%
Israel	18%	23%	5%	2%	17%	35%

Democrats *(n=686)*	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Independents	Other	None	Don't know
Healthcare	62%	5%	2%	1%	13%	17%
The war on terror	50%	9%	2%	1%	15%	23%
Iran	36%	9%	5%	2%	15%	33%
The US Economy	55%	7%	5%	1%	15%	17%
Immigration	55%	7%	3%	2%	11%	22%
Social Security	58%	5%	3%	2%	14%	18%
Medicare	57%	4%	3%	2%	14%	20%
Taxes	55%	7%	5%	1%	15%	18%
Gay marriage	60%	5%	7%	2%	9%	16%
Jobs and employment	59%	6%	3%	1%	14%	16%
The federal government deficit	46%	10%	6%	1%	17%	19%
Supporting small businesses	55%	8%	8%	2%	9%	18%
Education	59%	3%	5%	3%	12%	18%
Foreign policy	52%	6%	3%	2%	11%	25%
Women's rights	67%	4%	3%	2%	9%	15%
The environment	61%	3%	9%	2%	10%	15%
Israel	36%	9%	4%	2%	14%	35%

Q3. In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?

Republicans *(n=638)*	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Independents	Other	None	Don't know
Healthcare	8%	61%	3%	2%	16%	10%
The war on terror	5%	62%	4%	3%	14%	13%
Iran	6%	51%	4%	2%	19%	18%
The US Economy	3%	63%	6%	3%	15%	11%
Immigration	8%	54%	6%	3%	17%	13%
Social Security	8%	55%	6%	2%	18%	11%
Medicare	7%	54%	3%	2%	20%	14%
Taxes	4%	61%	8%	4%	14%	10%
Gay marriage	27%	29%	6%	2%	16%	20%
Jobs and employment	6%	63%	5%	3%	13%	11%
The federal government deficit	4%	60%	6%	2%	17%	12%
Supporting small businesses	5%	63%	5%	2%	11%	13%
Education	8%	49%	6%	3%	18%	16%
Foreign policy	8%	58%	4%	2%	13%	14%
Women's rights	16%	39%	7%	2%	18%	18%
The environment	11%	46%	8%	2%	16%	16%
Israel	4%	57%	3%	2%	13%	21%

Independents *(n=232)*	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Independents	Other	None	Don't know
Healthcare	13%	11%	18%	3%	28%	27%
The war on terror	10%	12%	15%	3%	27%	33%
Iran	8%	9%	16%	3%	27%	38%
The US Economy	12%	10%	21%	3%	26%	28%
Immigration	11%	15%	15%	5%	25%	29%
Social Security	14%	10%	16%	5%	24%	30%
Medicare	14%	9%	17%	4%	25%	31%
Taxes	11%	14%	18%	5%	23%	29%
Gay marriage	22%	9%	16%	2%	20%	30%
Jobs and employment	12%	12%	21%	4%	24%	27%
The federal government deficit	10%	10%	20%	2%	25%	33%
Supporting small businesses	13%	10%	22%	4%	22%	29%
Education	12%	10%	16%	3%	27%	32%
Foreign policy	9%	12%	16%	6%	24%	32%
Women's rights	22%	8%	20%	3%	18%	30%
The environment	15%	6%	16%	5%	26%	31%
Israel	11%	10%	15%	4%	23%	37%

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PARTY ID	All Adults
Strong Democrat	13%
Moderate Democrat	20%
Lean Democrat	8%
Lean Republican	6%
Moderate Republican	13%
Strong Republican	10%
Independent	13%
None of these	11%
Don't know	5%
Total Democrat	*42%*
Total Republican	*29%*

How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ\, i.e., Y|θ~Bin(n,θ), where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of "yes", or "1", observed in the sample, so that the sample mean ($\bar{y}$) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian [1] statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one's knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution (π(θ/y)~β(y+a,n-y+b)), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on . Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that *a*=1 and *b*=1 and . Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2]

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below. Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2

[1] *Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003*

[2] *Kish, L. (1992). Weighting for unequal Pi . Journal of Official, Statistics, 8, 2, 183200.*