



Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Core Political Approval 05.06.2015

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters May 2-6, 2015. For the survey, a sample of 1,678 Americans, including 704 Democrats, 574 Republicans, and 206 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, 4.2 percentage points for Democrats, 4.7 percentage points for Republicans, and 7.8 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. To see more information on this and other Reuters/Ipsos polls, please visit <http://polling.reuters.com/>.

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?

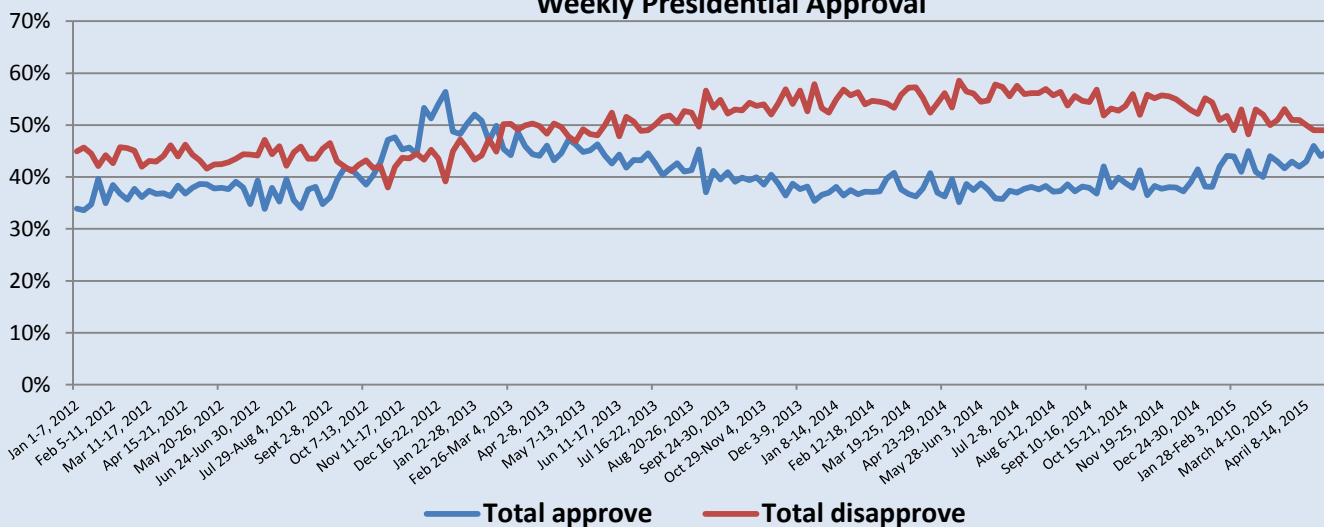
	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Right direction	30%	52%	9%	24%
Wrong track	56%	35%	84%	60%
Don't know	14%	13%	7%	16%

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	23%	42%	5%	10%
Somewhat approve	19%	32%	4%	25%
Lean towards approve	2%	3%	1%	4%
Lean towards disapprove	2%	2%	2%	1%
Somewhat disapprove	13%	9%	16%	21%
Strongly disapprove	33%	9%	68%	34%
Not sure	7%	3%	3%	5%
Total approve	44%	77%	11%	40%
Total disapprove	49%	20%	86%	55%

Weekly Presidential Approval



Q3. In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following? (Data based on interviewing from April 27-May 6, 2015; n=792)

All adults (n=792)	Democratic	Republican	Independents	Other	None	Don't know	DEM/REP
	Party	Party					PARTY DIFF
Healthcare	31%	24%	4%	2%	12%	26%	8%
The war on terror	19%	26%	5%	2%	15%	35%	-7%
Iran	16%	23%	5%	1%	16%	38%	-7%
The US Economy	27%	23%	7%	2%	13%	28%	3%
Immigration	25%	25%	4%	1%	14%	30%	*%
Social Security	28%	19%	6%	1%	15%	30%	9%
Medicare	29%	20%	5%	1%	13%	32%	9%
Taxes	25%	24%	5%	2%	13%	31%	1%
Gay marriage	33%	15%	5%	1%	12%	33%	18%
Jobs and employment	32%	22%	6%	1%	11%	29%	10%
The federal government deficit	21%	24%	6%	1%	14%	32%	-3%
Supporting small businesses	27%	22%	7%	2%	11%	32%	6%
Education	29%	20%	5%	1%	15%	30%	10%
Foreign policy	22%	25%	4%	1%	13%	35%	-3%
Women's rights	34%	14%	7%	1%	14%	30%	19%
The environment	32%	15%	6%	2%	14%	31%	17%
Israel	16%	23%	5%	2%	14%	39%	-7%
Syria	16%	19%	5%	2%	18%	41%	-4%
Energy policy	26%	20%	5%	1%	14%	34%	6%

Q4. Please think ahead now to the next Presidential election in one year's time, in 2016. If the 2016 Republican presidential primaries were being held today, for whom of the following would you vote? (Asked of Republicans and Independents)

	Total	Republicans	Independents
Governor Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida	11%	16%	7%
Governor Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas	9%	12%	7%
Senator Marco Rubio, senator from Florida	8%	11%	5%
Senator Rand Paul, senator from Kentucky	7%	9%	7%
Governor Scott Walker, governor of Wisconsin	7%	9%	6%
Senator Ted Cruz, senator from Texas	6%	8%	4%
Benjamin Carson, author and retired neurosurgeon	6%	8%	5%
Governor Chris Christie, governor of New Jersey	5%	7%	6%
Donald Trump, businessman and television personality	5%	5%	5%
Senator Rick Santorum, former senator from Pennsylvania	2%	2%	1%
Carly Fiorina, former Senate candidate and business executive	1%	2%	2%
Senator Lindsey Graham, senator from South Carolina (added 5/4/15, n=367)	2%	1%	2%
Wouldn't vote	31%	10%	44%

Q5. Regardless of your personal preference, if the Republican Presidential Primaries came down to these candidates, for whom would you vote? *(Asked of Republicans and Independents)*

	Total	Republicans	Independents
Governor Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida	23%	31%	15%
Governor Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas	23%	28%	20%
Senator Marco Rubio, senator from Florida	21%	29%	18%
Wouldn't vote	33%	12%	48%

Q6. Please think ahead now to the next Presidential election in one year's time, in 2016. If the 2016 Democratic presidential primaries were being held today, for whom of the following would you vote? *(Asked of Democrats and Independents)*

	Total	Democrats	Independents
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	43%	56%	28%
Vice President Joe Biden	8%	9%	8%
Senator Elizabeth Warren, senator from Massachusetts	7%	8%	8%
Senator Bernie Sanders, senator from Vermont	6%	8%	8%
Jim Webb, former Senator from Virginia and former Secretary of the Navy	4%	3%	7%
Governor Andrew Cuomo, governor of New York	3%	2%	8%
Governor Martin O'Malley, governor of Maryland	1%	1%	3%
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, senator from New York	1%	1%	1%
Wouldn't vote	26%	12%	31%

Q7. Regardless of your personal preference, if the Democratic Presidential Primaries came down to these candidates, for whom would you vote? *(Asked of Democrats and Independents)*

	Total	Democrats	Independents
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	49%	61%	34%
Senator Elizabeth Warren, senator from Massachusetts	16%	17%	20%
Vice President Joe Biden	13%	14%	17%
Wouldn't vote	22%	8%	30%

PARTY ID	All Adults
Strong Democrat	12%
Moderate Democrat	23%
Lean Democrat	9%
Lean Republican	6%
Moderate Republican	13%
Strong Republican	11%
Independent	12%
None of these	8%
Don't know	5%
Total Democrat	44%
Total Republican	30%

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., $Y|\theta \sim \text{Bin}(n, \theta)$, 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 ($\pi(\theta|y) \sim \beta(y+a, n-y+b)$), 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 $\pi(\theta|y)$. 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 $y=n/2$. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

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

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect $1+L=1.3$ to account for complex weighting²

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.*