

# Daily Presidential Tracking Poll

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Saturday shows that 27% of the nation's voters Strongly Approve of the way that Barack Obama is performing his role as President. Forty percent (40%) Strongly Disapprove giving Obama a Presidential Approval Index rating of -13 ([see trends](#))

Voters continue to see [deficit reduction as the top priority](#) with [health care reform](#) a distant second.

In a [state-by-state look at the 2010 Senate races](#)

Larry Sabato concludes "It will be surprising if the GOP doesn't make some progress in whittling down the large Democratic majority." However, he cites a wide range of possible outcomes stretching from a one-or-two seat gain for Democrats to a seven-or-eight seat gain for the Republicans.

Check out our review of [last week's key polls to see "What They Told Us."](#)

The Presidential Approval Index is calculated by subtracting the number who Strongly Disapprove from the number who Strongly Approve. It is updated daily at 9:30 a.m. Eastern (sign up for free [daily e-mail update](#)). Updates are also available on [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)

Overall, 47% of voters say they at least somewhat approve of the President's performance. Fifty-two percent (52%) now disapprove.

It is important to remember that the Rasmussen Reports job approval ratings are based upon a sample of likely voters. Some other firms base their approval ratings on samples of all adults. President Obama's numbers are always several points higher in a poll of adults rather than likely voters. That's because some of the President's most enthusiastic supporters, such as young adults, are less likely to turn out to vote.

(More Below)

In [Arizona](#) Senator John McCain could face a serious primary challenge from the right. Former Congressman J.D. Hayworth is essentially even with McCain in the first Rasmussen Reports poll of the race.

[California Senator Barbara Boxer continues to hold a comfortable lead in her 2010 re-election bid](#) but her support remains below the 50% level. In California's race for Governor it's a toss-up between Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman.

Scott Rasmussen has had several columns published in the *Wall Street Journal* recently addressing how [President Obama is losing independent voters, health care reform](#), President's approval ratings, and how [Obama won the White House by campaigning like Ronald Reagan](#). Scott Rasmussen to speak at your meeting, retreat, or conference, contact [Premiere Speakers Bureau](#). You can also learn about Scott's favorite place on earth or his time [working](#) with legend Gordie Howe.

(More Below)

Rasmussen Reports has been a pioneer in the use of automated telephone polling techniques, but many other firms still utilize their own operator-assisted technology ([see methodology](#))

[Pollster.com](#) founder Mark Blumenthal noted that "independent analyses from the [National Council on Public Polls](#), the [American Association for Public Opinion Research](#), [Pew Research Center](#), [Wall Street Journal](#) have [lives](#) that the horse-race numbers and produced by automated telephone surveys did at least as well as those from conventional live-interviewer surveys in predicting election outcomes.?"

In the 2009 New Jersey Governor's race, automated polls tended to be more accurate than operator-assisted polling techniques. On reviewing the state polling results from 2009, [Mickey Kaus offered this assessment](#)

?If you have a choice between Rasmussen and, say, the prestigious N.Y. Times, go with Rasmussen!?"

Additionally, an analysis by Pollster.com partner Charles Franklin found that despite identically sized three-day samples, the Rasmussen daily tracking poll is less variable than Gallup. During Election 2008, the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll was the least volatile of all those tracking the race. That stability is one reason that Nate Silver of fivethirtyeight.com said that the Rasmussen tracking poll ["would probably be the one I'd want with me on a desert island."](#)

A Fordham University professor [interviewed in Election 2008](#). We also have provided a [summary of our results](#). In 2008, Obama won 53%-46% and our final poll showed Obama winning 52% to 46%. While we were pleased with the final result, Rasmussen Reports was especially pleased with the stability of our results. On every single day for the last six weeks of the campaign, our daily tracking showed Obama with a stable and solid lead attracting more than 50% of the vote.

In 2004 George W. Bush received 50.7% of the vote while John Kerry earned 48.3%. Rasmussen Reports was the only firm to project both candidates' totals within half a percentage point by projecting that [Bush would win 50.2% to 48.5%](#). (see our [2004 results](#))

Daily tracking results are collected via telephone surveys of 500 likely voters per night and reported on a three-day rolling average basis. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 1,500 Likely Voters is +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence. Results are also compiled on a [full-week basis](#) and crosstabs for [full-week results](#) [Premium Members](#)

Like all polling firms, Rasmussen Reports weights its data to reflect the population at large ([see methodology](#)). Other targets, Rasmussen Reports weights data by political party affiliation using a dynamic weighting process. While partisan affiliation is generally quite stable over time, there are a fair number of people who waver between allegiance to a particular party or independent status. Over the past five years, the number of Democrats in the country has increased while the number of Republicans has decreased.

Our baseline targets are established based upon [separate survey interviews with a sample of adults nationwide](#) completed during the preceding three months (a total of 45,000 interviews) and targets are updated monthly. Currently, the baseline targets for the adult population are 37.5% Democrats, 32.2% Republicans, and 30.3% unaffiliated. Likely voter samples typically show a slightly smaller advantage for the Democrats.

A review of [past weeks](#) is posted Saturday morning. Other stats on Obama are updated daily on the [Rasmussen Reports Obama By the Numbers](#) page.

review other [recent demographic highlights](#) from the tracking polls.