

Daily Presidential Tracking Poll

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Wednesday shows that 25% of the nation's voters Strongly Approve of the way that Barack Obama is performing his role as president. Thirty-six percent (36%) Strongly Disapprove, giving Obama a Presidential Approval Index rating of -11 ([see trends](#)).

Only [38% believe the current Congress is better than a group randomly selected from the phone book](#)

A plurality (43%) thinks names picked out of the phone book would do a better job. Fifty-nine percent (59%) believe that [election rules are rigged to benefit congressional incumbents](#)

In a potential Election 2012 matchup, President Obama attracts 47% of the vote and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney 43% ([see tracking history](#)). Matchup results are updated daily at 9:30 a.m. Eastern ([sign up for free daily e-mail update](#)). If former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is the GOP nominee, it's Obama 46% and Gingrich 43%.

Polling from last week showed former Senator Rick Santorum leading the president by a single point, 45% to 44%. Santorum had a big night on Tuesday, winning primary contests in Colorado, Minnesota and Missouri. Several Republican challengers have led Obama in a single poll. None other than Romney [have been ahead of the incumbent more than once](#) ([see tracking history](#) for all remaining candidates). Polling for Santorum vs. Obama will be updated in the next few days.

In the race for the GOP nomination, Romney leads nationally, but he remains a modest front-runner. It's [Romney 34%, Gingrich 27%, Santorum 18%](#) and Congressman Ron Paul at 11%. The poll was conducted on Monday before Santorum's recent victories. In head-to-head matchups among the GOP leaders, Romney leads Gingrich 46% to 40% and Santorum 50% to 38%. If it's a choice between Romney and Ron Paul, 58% prefer Romney and 30% pick Paul.

The Presidential Approval Index is calculated by subtracting the number who Strongly Disapprove from the number who Strongly Approve.

Overall, 50% of voters say they at least somewhat approve of the president's job performance. Forty-nine percent (49%) at least somewhat disapprove.

Erick Ericson of RedState.com says that Scott Rasmussen's new book, THE PEOPLE'S MONEY, is a "really fascinating read [that] [could be a blueprint to get the serious discussions moving on our nation's fiscal solvency.](#)"

Order [THE PEOPLE'S MONEY: How Voters Will Balance the Budget and Eliminate the Federal Debt.](#)

[Sixty-seven percent \(67%\) of voters favor ending the U.S. combat role in Afghanistan next year](#)

After trailing by a point last week, Republicans now have a two-point advantage on the [Generic Congressional Ballot](#).

(More Below)

If Israel attacks Iran, [48% of voters think the United States should help Israel](#)
. Another 37% think the United States should simply stand aside and do nothing. Only 2% believe our nation should help Iran.

Just [23% believe the federal government should provide ongoing support for the long-term unemployed](#)

. Thirty percent (30%) support some temporary retraining support, while 37% say the government should do nothing at all.

Most voters continue to [favor repeal of the president's health care law](#)

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Wall Street Journal

has called him "America's leading insurgent pollster" and

The Washington Post

says Scott is a "driving force in American politics."

Scott Rasmussen's new book is now available and you can order it today:

[The People's Money: How the American People Will Balance the Budget and Eliminate the Federal Debt.](#)

Scott shows how [politicians created the budget crisis by pursuing their own agenda and ignoring voters](#)

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Scott's earlier book,

[In Search of Self-Governance](#)

, dissects the issues brought about by an "unholy alliance" between government and big business.

The author notes, "Self-governance is about far more than politics and government. It requires a lot of the American people, and it has nothing to do with the petty partisan games played by Republicans and Democrats. Unfortunately, even after more than 200 years of success, there is an urgent need to defend this most basic of American values."

(More Below)

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. Obama's numbers are almost 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. It is also important to check the details of [question wording when comparing approval ratings](#) from different firms.

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](#)). Pollsters for Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton have cited our "[unchallenged record for both integrity and accuracy](#)"

[Learn more about the Rasmussen Reports track record over the years](#)

Daily tracking results are collected via telephone surveys of 500 likely voters per night and reported on a three-day rolling average basis. To reach those who have abandoned traditional landline telephones, Rasmussen Reports uses an online survey tool to interview randomly selected participants from a demographically diverse panel. 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](#) are available for [Platinum Members](#)

Like all polling firms, Rasmussen Reports weights its data to reflect the population at large ([see methodology](#)). Among 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. 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 34.7% Republicans, 33.6% Democrats, and 31.8% unaffiliated. Likely voter samples typically show a slightly larger advantage for the Republicans.

A review of [last week's key polls](#) is posted each Saturday morning.

To get a sense of longer-term trends, check out our [month-by-month review](#) of the president's numbers.