Newsweek Poll
Obama, Health Care & the GOP
Princeton Survey Research Associates International

Final Topline Results
(2/19/10)

N = 1,009 adults, 18+
Margins of error: plus or minus 3.6
Interviewing dates: 2/17-18/10

SAMPLE SIZE/MARGIN OF ERROR FOR KEY SUBGROUPS:

908 Registered Voters (plus or minus 3.8)

488 Men (plus or minus 5.3)
521 Women (plus or minus 5.0)

259 Republicans (plus or minus 6.9)
319 Democrats (plus or minus 6.5)
399 Independents (plus or minus 5.8)

407 Conservatives (plus or minus 5.7)
379 Moderates (plus or minus 5.8)
172 Liberals (plus or minus 9.0)

Notes: Data are weighted so that sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density.

Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error. Sample size and margins of error for these subgroups are included in a separate methodology statement.

An asterisk (*) indicates a value less than 1%.

1a/b. To begin, suppose the elections for U.S. CONGRESS were being held TODAY… Would you vote for the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate (ROTATE) for Congress in your district? [IF OTHER/ UNDECIDED, RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED] As of TODAY, do you LEAN more toward... the Republican or the Democrat (ROTATE) (running for Congress in your district)?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	Rep/Lean Rep	Dem/Lean Dem	Undecided/Other	
CURRENT TOTAL	43	45	12	=100
2006 TRENDS (RVS)				
11/2-3/06	36	52	12	=100
10/26-27/06	38	49	13	=100
10/19-20/06	37	51	12	=100
10/5-6/06	38	51	11	=100
8/24-25/06	38	50	12	=100
8/10-11/06	39	51	10	=100
5/11-12/06	39	50	11	=100
3/16-17/06	39	50	11	=100
2002 TRENDS (RVS)				
10/24-25/02	46	43	11	=100
10/10-11/02	43	43	14	=100
9/26-27/02	40	47	13	=100
9/12-13/02	43	41	16	=100
8/28-29/02	40	45	15	=100
June 2002[1]	44	46	10	=100
February 2002	46	45	9	=100
1998 TRENDS (RVS)				
10/8-9/98	43	45	12	=100
9/24-25/98	43	48	9	=100
9/10-11/98	43	45	12	=100
8/20-21/98	41	47	12	=100

[1] June and February 2002 trends from Pew Research Center.

Questions 2 and 3 asked in random order.

2. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	DK	
CURRENT TOTAL	19	73	8	=100
TRENDS[2]				
4/1-2/09	22	69	9	=100
1/14-15/09	20	72	8	=100
12/3-4/08	21	72	7	=100
10/08-09/08 Financial meltdown	10	86	4	=100
6/18-19/08	14	80	6	=100
2/6-7/08	24	69	7	=100
8/1-2/07	24	69	7	=100
7/11-12/07	27	68	5	=100
7/2-3/07	24	67	9	=100
6/18-19/07	26	68	6	=100
5/2-3/07 Bush veto of Iraq funding bill	25	71	4	=100
3/14-15/07	28	64	8	=100
1/17-18/07	30	62	8	=100
12/6-7/06	31	59	10	=100
10/5-6/06 Foley scandal	25	67	8	=100
8/10-11/06	26	67	7	=100
5/11-12/06 NSA wiretapping	23	71	6	=100
3/16-17/06	30	64	6	=100
11/10-11/05	26	68	6	=100
9/8-9/05 Hurricane Katrina	28	66	6	=100
8/2-4/05	36	54	10	=100
10/21-22/04	40	56	4	=100
5/13-14/04 Prisoner abuse scandal	30	62	8	=100
4/8-9/04	36	59	5	=100
1/8-9/04	46	47	7	=100
12/18-19/03 Saddam's capture	46	47	7	=100
10/9-10/03	40	54	6	=100
4/03 Iraq War begins	50	41	9	=100
7/02	46	46	8	=100
9/01 Terrorist attacks	57	34	9	=100
6/01	43	52	5	=100
1/01	55	41	4	=100
6/00	47	45	8	=100
8/99	56	39	5	=100
9/98	54	42	4	=100
1/97	38	58	4	=100
3/96	28	70	2	=100
6/95	25	73	2	=100
8/94	24	71	5	=100
6/92 Recession	14	84	2	=100
3/91 Gulf War Victory	66	31	3	=100
9/90	37	58	5	=100
9/88	56	40	4	=100
11/85	51	46	3	=100

[2] Full trendline from 11/06 to present; earlier trends selected. Trends from 4/03, 6/00-6/01 and 6/95-8/99 from Pew Research Center; 11/85-6/92 from Gallup.

Questions 2 and 3 asked in random order.

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

Current		1/14-17/10[3]	7/16-19/09[4]	4/1-2/09	3/4-5/09
48	Approve	49	57	61	58
40	Disapprove	38	32	27	26
12	Don't know	13	11	12	16
100		100	100	100	100

4. Now thinking about the issue of HEALTH CARE REFORM… Please tell me if you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following is handling this issue. (First,) do you approve or disapprove of the way **(INSERT ITEM—READ AND RANDOMIZE)** (is/are) handling health care reform? **ALWAYS ASK B & C TOGETHER, BUT IN RANDOMIZE ORDER**

	Approve	Disapprove	DK	
a. Barack Obama	39	52	9	=100
b. Republicans in Congress	21	63	16	=100
c. Democrats in Congress	27	61	12	=100

5. As you may know, Barack Obama has proposed a plan to change this country's health care system. From what you have seen or heard about what he has proposed, what is your OVERALL opinion of Obama's health care reform plan – do you favor it or oppose it?

	Favor	Oppose	DK	
CURRENT TOTAL	40	49	11	=100
Men	38	53	9	=100
Women	42	45	13	=100
Republicans	15	78	7	=100
Democrats	72	17	11	=100
Independents	26	62	12	=100
Conservative	23	68	9	=100
Moderate	44	44	12	=100
Liberal	68	22	10	=100

[3] January 2010 trends from PSRAI.
[4] July 2009 trends from PSRAI.

6. Now I'm going to read you some SPECIFIC proposals people have made to change the health care system. As I read each one, please tell me if you personally favor or oppose this change. Here's the (first/next) proposal….
(INSERT ITEM—READ AND RANDOMIZE)

READ AS NECESSARY: Do you favor or oppose this proposal (to change the health care system)?
ALWAYS ASK ITEMS a-c AS A GROUP, IN ORDER:

		Favor	Oppose	DK	
a.	Requiring that all Americans have health insurance, with the government providing financial help to those who can't afford it	59	36	5	=100
b.	Requiring most businesses to offer health insurance to their employees, with tax incentives for small business owners to do so	75	20	5	=100
c.	If health coverage is required for everyone, imposing fines on individuals who don't obtain coverage and on larger businesses that don't offer it	28	62	10	=100
d.	Requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a pre-existing medical condition	76	19	5	=100
e.	Creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private plans	50	42	8	=100
f.	Creating a new insurance marketplace – the Exchange – that allows people without health insurance to compare plans and buy insurance at competitive rates	81	13	6	=100
g.	Preventing insurance companies from dropping coverage when people are sick	59	38	3	=100
h.	Imposing a tax on insurers who offer the most expensive health plans, the so-called Cadillac plans, to help pay for health care reform	34	55	11	=100

7. Now please think about the proposals I just described to you. ALL of these proposals are included in Barack Obama's health care reform plan. Having heard these details, what is your OVERALL opinion of Obama's plan – do you favor it or oppose it?

	Favor	Oppose	DK	
CURRENT TOTAL	48	43	9	=100
Men	43	49	8	=100
Women	52	38	10	=100
Republicans	18	74	8	=100
Democrats	83	10	7	=100
Independents	34	57	9	=100
Conservative	26	68	6	=100
Moderate	54	35	11	=100
Liberal	79	16	5	=100

8. Now on another subject… As I read you some different issues and problems, please tell me who you think has the better approach to dealing with each one – Barack Obama or Republicans in Congress. (First,) who do you think has the better approach on…**(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**?

READ AS NECESSARY: Barack Obama or Republicans in Congress?

	Barack Obama	Republicans in Congress	Same/no difference (Vol.)	Neither/ Other (Vol.)	DK	
a. The economy	46	30	2	14	8	=100
b. Creating jobs	49	26	2	13	10	=100
c. Tax policy	44	34	1	8	13	=100
d. Dealing with government debt and the federal budget deficit	42	33	1	14	10	=100
e. The war in Iraq	45	30	2	11	12	=100
f. The war in Afghanistan	46	27	2	12	13	=100
g. Dealing with Iran	40	30	2	11	17	=100
h. The use of military courts versus civilian trials for terrorism suspects	34	38	1	6	21	=100
i. Climate change legislation	38	26	1	11	24	=100

D2. Now I have just a few more questions so we can describe the people who took part in our survey… Regardless of how you might have voted in recent elections, in politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

Total		RVs
22	Republican	24
35	Democrat	36
39	Independent	38
2	**(VOL.)** No party/Not interested in politics	1
1	(**VOL.**) Other party	*
1	Don't know/Refused	1
100		100

D2a. In general, would you describe your OWN political views as...**(READ)**

Total		RVs
8	Very conservative	8
31	Conservative	33
36	Moderate	37
15	Liberal, OR	14
5	Very liberal?	4
5	**(DO NOT READ)** Don't know/Refused	4
100		100

END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT: That completes the interview. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Results are based on telephone interviews with a nationally representative sample of 1,009 adults, age 18 years and over. Interviewing was conducted February 17-18, 2010. The overall margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.6 percentage points for results based on the total adults. Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error. In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting surveys can also introduce error or bias to poll results.