

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters from May 24-28, 2013. For the survey, a sample of 1,985 Americans, including 797 Democrats, 722 Republicans, and 296 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 2.5 percentage points for all adults, 4.0 percentage points for Democrats, 4.2 percentage points for Republicans, and 6.5 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

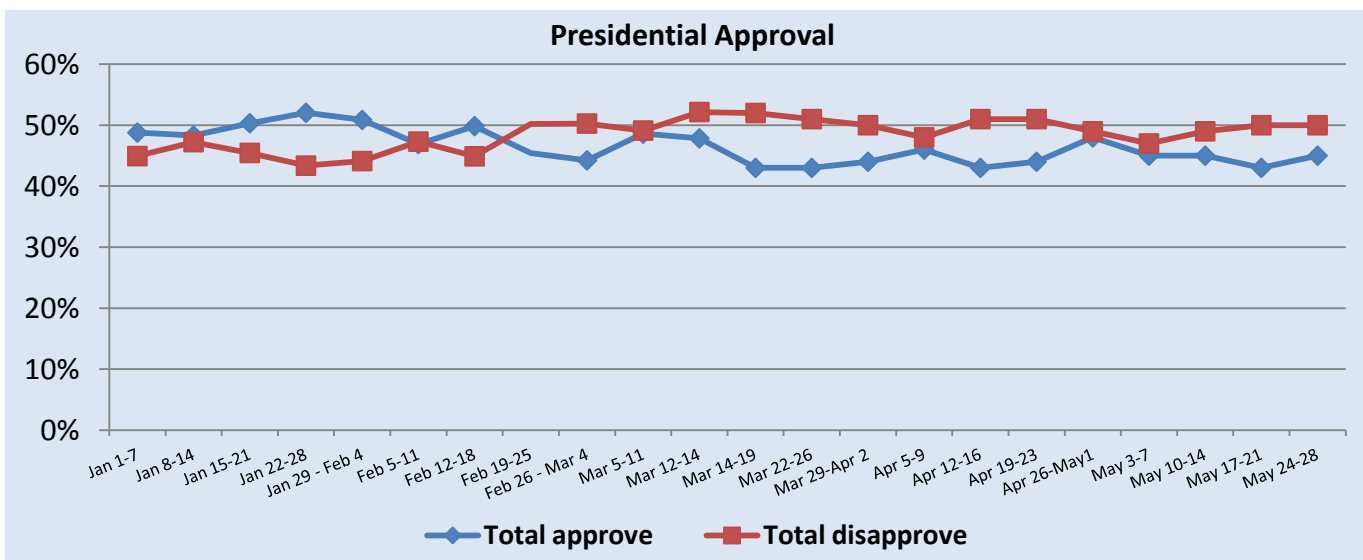
Q1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Right direction	27%	46%	7%	21%
Wrong track	58%	38%	88%	63%
Don't know	16%	17%	5%	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	21%	41%	4%	12%
Somewhat approve	19%	29%	4%	21%
Lean towards approve	4%	5%	1%	7%
Lean towards disapprove	4%	3%	6%	3%
Somewhat disapprove	12%	10%	15%	14%
Strongly disapprove	34%	10%	69%	39%
Not sure	6%	2%	2%	5%
Total approve	45%	75%	9%	39%
Total disapprove	50%	23%	90%	56%



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

All adults	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Healthcare	34%	21%	5%	2%	19%	19%
The war on terror	26%	24%	5%	2%	17%	25%
Iran	22%	20%	4%	2%	20%	32%
The US Economy	29%	23%	5%	2%	19%	21%
Immigration	28%	22%	5%	2%	17%	25%
Social Security	32%	19%	6%	2%	19%	22%
Medicare	32%	20%	5%	2%	19%	22%
Taxes	29%	23%	6%	2%	20%	20%
Gay marriage	37%	15%	6%	3%	16%	23%
Jobs and employment	30%	24%	5%	2%	17%	21%
The federal government deficit	22%	24%	6%	2%	23%	23%
Supporting small businesses	30%	25%	7%	2%	14%	23%
Education	33%	18%	6%	2%	18%	23%
Foreign policy	27%	24%	5%	2%	17%	26%
Women's rights	39%	15%	5%	3%	15%	23%
The environment	34%	15%	7%	3%	17%	24%
Israel	21%	21%	5%	2%	17%	34%

Democrats (n=797)	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Healthcare	66%	4%	2%	1%	15%	12%
The war on terror	52%	9%	3%	2%	13%	21%
Iran	44%	7%	3%	1%	17%	28%
The US Economy	58%	6%	3%	2%	16%	15%
Immigration	53%	8%	4%	1%	14%	20%
Social Security	63%	3%	3%	1%	15%	15%
Medicare	62%	4%	3%	1%	15%	15%
Taxes	57%	7%	3%	1%	19%	12%
Gay marriage	62%	6%	3%	1%	10%	17%
Jobs and employment	60%	6%	4%	1%	14%	14%
The federal government deficit	45%	9%	5%	1%	22%	19%
Supporting small businesses	59%	8%	6%	1%	11%	16%
Education	61%	6%	4%	1%	14%	15%
Foreign policy	53%	8%	3%	1%	13%	21%
Women's rights	71%	3%	2%	2%	9%	13%
The environment	63%	3%	5%	2%	11%	15%
Israel	40%	9%	4%	1%	16%	30%

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

Republicans (n=722)	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Healthcare	5%	59%	3%	1%	19%	12%
The war on terror	5%	61%	4%	1%	14%	15%
Iran	6%	51%	3%	1%	16%	22%
The US Economy	5%	63%	5%	2%	14%	11%
Immigration	6%	57%	4%	2%	15%	16%
Social Security	7%	54%	5%	2%	18%	14%
Medicare	9%	53%	5%	1%	18%	14%
Taxes	6%	57%	7%	3%	15%	12%
Gay marriage	20%	38%	5%	2%	19%	17%
Jobs and employment	5%	63%	3%	1%	15%	12%
The federal government deficit	3%	59%	5%	2%	18%	12%
Supporting small businesses	7%	61%	6%	1%	10%	14%
Education	10%	47%	4%	1%	19%	19%
Foreign policy	5%	59%	4%	1%	13%	18%
Women's rights	14%	44%	5%	1%	15%	21%
The environment	12%	42%	6%	3%	18%	19%
Israel	7%	54%	3%	1%	12%	22%

Independents (n=296)	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Healthcare	15%	12%	17%	5%	27%	24%
The war on terror	9%	14%	14%	4%	30%	29%
Iran	6%	10%	14%	6%	28%	35%
The US Economy	9%	14%	16%	2%	32%	28%
Immigration	12%	14%	15%	5%	26%	28%
Social Security	11%	8%	19%	3%	30%	29%
Medicare	11%	13%	13%	6%	29%	28%
Taxes	11%	16%	16%	3%	27%	28%
Gay marriage	25%	8%	14%	4%	22%	26%
Jobs and employment	13%	14%	16%	3%	28%	26%
The federal government deficit	7%	16%	16%	6%	30%	26%
Supporting small businesses	12%	19%	15%	2%	23%	28%
Education	16%	10%	16%	5%	26%	27%
Foreign policy	11%	14%	12%	4%	29%	31%
Women's rights	21%	5%	15%	6%	24%	30%
The environment	17%	7%	17%	6%	24%	30%
Israel	8%	13%	13%	4%	26%	36%



Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Core Political Approval 5.28.13

PARTY ID	<u>All Adults</u>
Strong Democrat	15%
Moderate Democrat	20%
Lean Democrat	9%
Lean Republican	6%
Moderate Republican	14%
Strong Republican	9%
Independent	15%
None of these	8%
Don't know	5%
<i>Total Democrat</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Total Republican</i>	<i>29%</i>

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 . 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:

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

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.*