# Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg

## NATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY – DECEMBER 2008

Field dates: December 6-8, 2008 Press Release: **Transition To The Obama Presidency** 

### GOOD WILL TOWARD PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA

mericans are hopeful, optimistic and proud of Barack Obama winning the most historic presidential election this country has seen, according to a new Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll. About three-quarters of all Americans have mentioned a positive adjective in describing their feeling about Obama winning the election. Although it is a small sample of blacks, more than two out of five of all blacks said they were proud, while whites are more evenly split between hopeful and optimistic. Just 8% of whites said proud. Interestingly, 29% of Republicans and 31% of conservative Republicans said they are afraid of an Obama administration (perhaps still feeling animosity after the brutal negative campaigning against Obama). Yet, there is a reservoir of good will surrounding him and the team he is assembling, although many think he won't be able to fulfill all of his campaign promises.

Which of the following comes closer to how you feel about Barack Obama winning the presidential election: Would you say you feel:

	All	<b>Democrats</b>	<b>Independents</b>	<b>Republicans</b>
Positive (Net)	<u>74</u> %	<u>96</u> %	<u>71</u> %	<u>32</u> %
Hopeful	31	41	34	15
Optimistic	26	28	25	14
Proud	14	27	9	2
Other Positive (vol)	2		4	1
Negative (Net)	<u>22</u>	3	<u>24</u>	<u>65</u>
Disappointed	7		9	22
Pessimistic	6	1	7	13
Afraid	9	1	8	29
Other Negative (vol	) 1	1		1
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	2

#### **Transition and Cabinet Appointments**

The country has to wait until Inauguration Day on January 20<sup>th</sup> when Obama will be sworn in as president, but he has been moving very quickly in announcing key cabinet positions and an economic team. Almost eight in 10 approve of the way President-elect Obama is handling the transition, including 49% who said strongly approve. Most demographic groups approve of the transitional period, including 55% of Republicans and 72% of conservatives.

In addition to approving of Obama handling his transition, almost three-quarters approve of the appointments Obama has made so far, including 42% who said strongly approved. Even more Republicans and conservatives approve of his cabinet picks so far (48% for Republicans and 61% for conservatives).

The public also strongly approves of the appointments of Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State (65% approve) and retaining the current Defense Secretary Robert Gates (75%). Conservatives were split about the Clinton appointment by 49% approve, 45% disapprove, compared to 77% to 12% approval for Gates. Sixty percent of Republicans *disapprove* of Clinton, while 81% of Republicans *approve* of Gates.

Respondents are not bothered with Obama appointing many former Clinton administration insiders. More than three out of five respondents believe that although Obama has appointed former Clinton administration insiders, they know their way around Washington and will be able to affect real change, while a quarter think the opposite. Republicans are the only ones who think these former Clinton insiders won't bring change to Washington. Nearly half of conservatives think Obama's appointments will affect change.

To add to the public's confidence in the new president, roughly six out of 10 said they had a good idea where Barack Obama wants to lead the country, while more than seven in 10 said the President-elect will be able to accomplish at least some of the goals he outlined during the campaign. Almost three-fifths also think Obama's appointments are consistent with his campaign pledge to make bipartisan appointments, more than a fifth said they aren't consistent with his promises.

Would you say you have a good idea where Barack Obama wants to lead the country, or are his goals not very clear?

	All	<b>Democrats</b>	Independents	Republicans
Good idea	59%	75%	58%	31%
Not a good idea	32	21	33	58

During the course of his administration, do you think Barack Obama will be able to accomplish many, some, or only a few of the goals he outlined in his campaign?

	All	<b>Democrats</b>	Independents	Republicans
All of them (vol)	1%	1%	1%	3%
Many of them	26	44	17	10
Some of them	44	43	55	27
Few of them	25	10	24	46
None of them (vol)	2	1	2	8

The public is also feeling confident that the Democrats and Republicans in Congress will be able to work together in a bipartisan way. More than seven in 10 said they have a lot of confidence (23%) or some confidence (48%) that this will happen over the next two years. Perhaps, one reason for this optimism in both parties working together is Obama. He campaigned on a united America theme, no blue and red states, but the United States of America and his desire to pick away at the status quo and to work across both aisles of Congress and the public expects Congress to follow his example.

#### **Economic and Other Issues**

*Obama's Economic Team*: Obama has said that the U.S. has only one president at a time, but with the deepening financial crisis and the abundance of home foreclosures, his economic team has been working closely with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and the Bush administration to try and turn the economy around. As part of this, the President-elect has also offered up a new stimulus package that would increase jobs by 2.5 million through infrastructure projects and an increase in unemployment benefits, among other things. About four out of five of those surveyed said that they have a lot (29%) or some confidence (50%) that Obama's economic team will able to resolve the nation's financial crisis. And four out of 10 said that Obama's economic policies will make their overall situation better, just 15% said worse and 37% said there would not be any change. However, the country is divided over whether Obama should work directly with the current president – 48% said he should work directly with George W. Bush and 46% said he should wait until he becomes president next month.

In a Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll conducted in October, more than four out of five of those interviewed thought the country was seriously off on the wrong track, but in this new poll, that negative number has dropped 20 points to about two-thirds. It would appear that the public's good feelings about President-elect Obama has given the American people hope and optimism. He is in the honeymoon period. However, feelings about the economy are still exceedingly gloomy, (more than 90% said the economy is doing badly) worse than when respondents were asked the question during the 1991 recession.

Although respondents have at least some confidence that Obama's economic team can resolve the economic crisis, they are pragmatic enough to think it won't come at a cost. Roughly four out of 10 respondents said that Obama's economic policies will cause their taxes to go up, while almost the same share said it would remain the same. Just 14% thought their taxes would go down. Among households with income of \$50,000 or more, 44% thought their taxes would go up, compared to 42% of households earning less than \$50,000 saying their taxes would remain the same. Among whites, 42% thought their taxes would go up compared to most blacks who thought their taxes would remain the same.

In the President-elect's speech on election night, he talked about the economy and the deepening financial crisis and the need for all Americans to sacrifice, but nearly half (49%) said they would not be willing to pay higher taxes to help solve the financial crisis, while 40% said they would. Nearly half of Democrats said they are willing to ante up to pay for more taxes, but almost three-quarters of Republicans are not. Independents are split over this issue. Respondents with household income of \$75,000 or more would be willing to see their taxes increase.

*Issues*: Besides resolving the financial crisis, 38% said that the Iraq war should be the number one priority, while 24% thought healthcare should be number one, compared to 14% who thought energy should and 12% who thought tax cuts.

During the campaign, Obama set forth a proposal on healthcare in order to cover the 46 million people who are uninsured. He made that one of the cornerstones of his campaign. However, 46% don't think he will be able to provide affordable health care coverage for all Americans, while 41% think he will. Former President Bill Clinton in his first term in office gave this huge issue to his wife, Hillary Clinton to solve. She failed – either because of lack of transparency on the part of her committee or the powerful health care lobbyists in Washington. This issue has not been tackled since then because of the enormity and complexity of the task. The public, however, seems to have a realistic view and realize that it will take a while, perhaps not in Obama's first term to provide universal coverage for all Americans.

But nearly three-fifths do think the President-elect will be able to reduce the country's dependence on oil and increase the nation's use of alternative energy, while roughly three in 10 don't think he will be able. Republicans don't think Obama will be able to solve the energy issue, but Democrats and independents do.

More than two-thirds of the public trust Obama to protect America's national security. This was not one of his strong issues when campaigning against Hillary Clinton in the primaries or John McCain in the general election. But he has appointed strong men and women to key posts – along with Clinton and Gates, Susan Rice, as Ambassador to the United Nations, General Jim Jones (Marines Retired), National Security Advisor, Arizona Senator Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, and Eric Holder, Attorney General. All demographic groups trust Obama to protect the country from terrorism, except Republicans (57% don't).

Another key campaign promise that Obama campaigned on was to withdraw all combat troops from Iraq within 16 months. He now says he will talk to the commanders on the ground and act responsibly. Just 46% of those surveyed said that Obama will make good on his promise to remove troops in the timetable he laid out, but 38% don't think he can keep that promise and another 16% are undecided. However, only 11% are upset and 12% are pleased that he won't be able to withdraw troops then. Not surprising, 66% of Democrats and 55% of liberals believe Obama will fulfill his pledge, as well as 43% of independents.

Obama wants an inclusive administration and would like to govern in a more centrist way, but 41% think that liberal Democrats will be able to pressure him to pass a more liberal agenda than he promised during his campaign, while almost the same share believe he will push back and not succumb to a liberal agenda. On the other hand, just over half believe that Republicans in Congress will not be able to block parts of President-elect's agenda they don't like. Even 55% of Republicans said their party won't be able to block getting Obama's agenda through.

*Michelle Obama:* Michelle Obama has a 53% favorable rating, 11% unfavorable, while 36% are unsure or don't know enough about her. Compared to other First Ladies:

	Michelle Obama	<u>Laura Bush</u>	Hillary Clinton	<u>Barbara Bush</u>	Nancy Reagan
	Now	8/2004	8/1992	<u>8/1992</u>	<u>1/1981</u>
Favor	53%	72%	39%	83%	43%
Unfavorable	13	14	26	9	19
Don't Know/					
Haven't Heard	d 34	14	35	8	38

What is your impression of (Michelle Obama/Laura Bush/Hillary Clinton/Barbara Bush/ Nancy Reagan)?

Source: current poll, LA Times/Bloomberg poll, earlier polls, LA Times poll

*One last thing* – *George W. Bush:* George W. Bush is seen as going down in history as one of the worst presidents. More than 60% of Americans said that Bush will go down in history as either a below average (23%) or poor (39%) president. Even Republicans are not that enamored with him – just 36% thought he will be thought of as an above average president, 38% an average president and 22% as a below average president.

Compared to other modern day presidents:

	GW Bush	Clinton	Bush Sr.	Reagan
	Now	<u>1/99</u>	<u>1/93</u>	<u>9/91</u>
Above average	<u>11</u> %	<u>37</u> %	<u>38</u> %	<u>28</u> %
Outstanding	4	10	6	8
Above average	7	27	32	20
Average	<u>24</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>39</u>
Below average	<u>62</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>33</u>
Below average	23	16	17	18
Poor	39	19	6	15

Source: current poll, LA Times/Bloomberg poll, earlier polls, LA Times poll

Analysis by Susan H. Pinkus

# Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg

Data Tables – Survey 563 – Release 1/2 – December 9, 2008

Guide to column headings:

ALL	All adults
REGIS	All registered voters
DEM,IND,REP	Affiliated Democrats, Independents and Republicans
MALE, FEMALE	Gender
L/\$50K, \$50K+	Household annual income less than \$50,000, or \$50,000 and up

Survey Notes:

- (vol) indicates a volunteered response
- '-' indicates that a response added up to less than 0.5% of the question base
- Numbers are percentages, tables are read vertically
- Tables are among all respondents unless otherwise noted.
- Unless otherwise noted, missing questions are operational, or are published in a later release

The order of candidate names and the order of any choices, arguments, or statements are rotated in all questions that mention them. Question and group order is also rotated, whenever required to eliminate order bias.

#### Survey Methodology

How the Poll Was Conducted: The Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg Poll contacted 1,000 adults nationwide by telephone December 6-8, 2008. Included are 910 registered voters. Telephone numbers were chosen randomly in a sample of landline exchanges in the nation, allowing listed and unlisted numbers to be contacted. Ported cell phone numbers were hand-dialed and multiple attempts were made to contact each number. The sample was adjusted to census proportions of sex, ethnicity, age, education, and national region. The margin of sampling error for adults and registered voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points in each case. For smaller subgroups, the error margin may be higher. Survey results may also be affected by factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are asked. Interviews were conducted by Interviewing Service of America, Inc. of Van Nuys.

Los Angeles Times and Times/Bloomberg polls may be accessed online at http://latimes.com/timespoll

Q1. Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE FE	MALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	\$50K+
Right direction	23	24	29	21	16	24	22	23	20
Wrong track	64	65	65	63	74	64	65	67	69
Not sure	13	11	6	16	10	12	13	10	11

Q2. How do you think George W. Bush will go down in history -- as an outstanding, above average, average, below average, or poor president?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	EMALE	L/\$50K	\$50K+
Above average (net)	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
Outstanding	4	4	2	2	10	3	4	3	3
Above average	7	7	1	5	26	7	8	6	9
Average	<u>24</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>22</u>
Below average (net)	<u>62</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>65</u>
Below average	23	24	22	29	13	24	21	18	25
Poor	39	40	57	33	9	38	40	42	40
Don't know (net)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>

Q3. Do you have a lot, some or no confidence that the Democrats and Republicans in Congress over the next two years will be able to work together in a bipartisan way?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	MALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
A lot	23	24	35	17	8	19	26	24	20
Some	48	49	56	52	33	50	47	52	46
None	23	21	5	26	53	28	18	18	28
Don't know	6	6	4	5	6	3	9	6	6

Now turning to some questions about President-elect Barack Obama... First,

Q4. Which of the following comes closer to how you feel about Barack Obama winning the presidential election? Would you say you feel hopeful, or optimistic, or proud, or disappointed, or pessimistic, or afraid?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE F	EMALE	L/\$50K	<u>\$50K+</u>
None (vol)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	-	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	2	-	<u>1</u>	2
Positive (net)	<u>74</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>70</u>
Hopeful	31	32	41	34	15	35	28	37	26
Optimistic	26	26	28	25	14	28	25	17	31
Proud	14	15	27	9	2	11	16	19	11
Positive other(vol)	2	1	-	4	1	3	2	3	2
Negative (net)	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>27</u>
Disappointed	7	7	-	9	22	7	7	6	9
Pessimistic	6	6	1	7	13	5	7	4	9
Afraid	9	9	1	8	29	6	11	8	9
Negative other (vol)	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-
Don't know (net)	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>

Q5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President-elect Barack Obama is handling the transition? (IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) Do you strongly or only somewhat (approve/disapprove)?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE FE	EMALE	L/\$50K	\$50K+
Approve (net)	<u>79</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>77</u>
Strongly approve	49	52	78	41	19	50	49	52	41
Somewhat approve	30	28	19	37	36	31	29	29	36
Disapprove (net)	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	-	<u>10</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Somewhat disapprove	4	4	-	3	11	3	5	5	3
Strongly disapprove	6	6	-	7	19	6	6	5	7
Don't know (net)	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>

Q6. Would you say that you have a good idea where Barack Obama wants to lead the country, or would you say his goals are not very clear?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Yes	59	57	75	58	31	57	60	60	57
No	32	34	21	33	58	34	31	34	34
Don't know	9	9	4	9	11	9	9	6	9

Q7. During the course of his administration, do you think Barack Obama will be able to accomplish many, some, or only a few of the goals he outlined in his presidential campaign?

e	ÂLL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE F	EMALE	L/\$50K	\$50K+
All/many (net)	27	<u>28</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>18</u>	12	27	<u>26</u>	35	<u>15</u>
Many of the goals	26	27	44	17	10	$\overline{26}$	25	34	14
All of them (vol)	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
Some/few (net)	<u>69</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>79</u>
Some of the goals	44	44	43	55	27	44	45	38	<u>79</u> 52
Few of the goals	25	24	10	24	46	23	26	24	28
None of them (vol)	2	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Don't know (net)	$\frac{2}{2}$	$\frac{2}{3}$	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	3	2	2	<u>3</u>
COMBINED FURTHER F	ROM Q.	7							
	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FI	EMALE	L/\$50K	\$50K+
S/Many/All	71	72	89	73	39	72	70	74	66
Few	24	24	10	24	47	22	26	23	28
None	2	2	0	2	8	3	1	1	3
D/know	3	2	1	1	6	3	3	2	3

As you may know, Barack Obama has announced some appointments for cabinet positions in his administration.

Q8. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the appointments Barack Obama has made so far? (IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or only somewhat?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE F	EMALE	L/\$50K	<u>\$50K+</u>
Approve (net)	<u>74</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>68</u>
Strongly approve	42	45	71	32	13	40	44	47	35
Somewhat approve	32	31	22	40	35	37	27	34	33
Disapprove (net)	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>
Somewhat disapprove	7	8	-	10	19	7	7	7	9
Strongly disapprove	6	6	1	3	22	6	6	3	7
Don't know (net)	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>

Q9. In your opinion, are Barack Obama's appointments consistent, or not consistent, with his campaign pledge to make bipartisan appointments to help change the tone of the debate in Washington? (IF NOT CONSISTENT) Are you pleased or unhappy about that?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE F	EMALE	L/\$50K	\$50K+
Consistent	<u>58</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>54</u>
Not consistent (net)	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>46</u>	27	<u>20</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>
Not consistent/pleased	6	7	2	7	11	7	6	7	7
Not consistent/unhappy	12	12	8	8	28	14	10	12	12
Not consistent/neutral (vol)	) 4	3	-	7	4	5	2	2	6
Not consistent/ns/ref	1	1	-	2	3	1	2	1	-
Don't know (net)	<u>19</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>21</u>

Q10. Which of the following comes closer to your view of the appointments that Barack Obama has made so far: "Barack Obama has appointed former Clinton administration insiders who won't bring any real change to the way things are done in Washington," or "Barack Obama has appointed people who know their way around Washington and so will be able to affect real change"?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE FE	MALE	L/\$50K	<u>\$50K+</u>
Clinton insiders / no change	25	25	7	27	59	28	23	19	32
Know their way around									
/bring real change	62	63	87	56	29	63	61	68	53
Don't know	13	12	6	17	12	9	16	13	15

Q11. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's appointment of Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State? (IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or only somewhat?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE F	EMALE	L/\$50K	<u>\$50K+</u>
Approve (net)	<u>65</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>61</u>
Strongly approve	44	46	70	37	13	42	46	51	37
Somewhat approve	21	21	17	22	20	22	19	18	24
Disapprove (net)	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>33</u>
Somewhat disapprove	10	9	4	13	14	9	10	8	12
Strongly disapprove	18	18	7	17	46	18	19	18	21
Don't know (net)	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

Q12. Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's choice to keep current Defense Secretary Robert Gates on as Secretary of Defense? (IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or only somewhat?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE FE	EMALE	L/\$50K	<u>\$50K+</u>
Approve (net)	<u>75</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>76</u>
Strongly approve	46	47	42	45	54	45	46	46	45
Somewhat approve	29	29	29	36	28	30	29	27	31
Disapprove (net)	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>
Somewhat disapprove	3	4	3	5	4	4	3	3	5
Strongly disapprove	9	9	12	3	9	13	4	15	4
Don't know (net)	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>

Q13. Do you think Barack Obama should be working directly with George W. Bush in solving the nation's financial crisis at this time, or do you think he should wait until he is inaugurated as President on January 20th?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	MALE	L/\$50K	\$50K+
Work with GW Bush	48	48	40	53	58	47	49	43	53
Wait	46	45	54	39	41	47	44	51	39
Don't know	6	7	6	8	1	6	7	6	8

Q14. Do you have a lot of confidence, some confidence or no confidence that Barack Obama's economic team will be able to resolve the nation's financial crisis?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE FE	MALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
A lot	29	31	54	20	8	30	29	40	17
Some	50	49	42	63	41	51	50	42	60
None	16	16	2	13	44	16	15	14	19
Don't know	5	4	2	4	7	3	6	4	4

Q15. Do you think that Barack Obama's economic policies will make your overall financial situation better, or worse, or don't you expect his policies will affect your financial situation much?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	MALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Better	40	41	67	32	9	40	39	44	32
Worse	15	15	2	14	44	14	16	10	21
No change	37	36	27	43	36	40	34	36	39
Don't know	8	8	4	11	11	6	11	10	8

Q16. Do you think that Barack Obama's economic policies will cause your own taxes to go up, to go down, or to remain about the same as they are now?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Go up	37	37	17	41	72	35	39	31	44
Go down	14	14	22	11	4	14	13	20	8
Same	41	42	53	41	22	47	36	42	39
Don't pay taxes (vol)	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-
Don't know	8	7	7	7	2	4	11	6	9

Q17. Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes to help solve the nation's financial crisis?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Willing	40	42	49	46	18	45	35	39	44
Not willing	49	48	40	44	75	45	52	50	46
Don't pay taxes (vol)	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	-
Don't know	10	9	9	9	6	9	12	8	10

Q18a. Besides resolving the financial crisis, there are other issues that Barack Obama can address when he takes office in January. I'm going to ask you to rank the following four issues: Health care, energy, the Iraq war, and tax cuts, from number one - what you think should be his top priority, to number four. ich of these issues should be Obama's first priority: Health care, energy, the Iraq war, or tax cuts?

#### **TOP PRIORITY**:

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Health care	24	23	29	23	18	23	26	31	19
Energy	14	15	9	15	27	18	11	10	17
Iraq war	38	38	40	40	27	38	37	33	42
Tax cuts	12	13	10	11	21	13	11	14	13
All equally (vol)	8	7	8	9	6	6	10	9	4
Don't know	4	4	4	2	1	2	5	3	5

#### AMONG THOSE WHO NAMED AN ISSUE AS FIRST PRIORITY

Q18b Which of these issues should be Obama's second priority: Health care, energy, the Iraq war, or tax cuts? (CHOICES WERE ISSUES NOT ALREADY MENTIONED)

#### **SECOND PRIORITY**:

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	<b>MALE</b>	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Health care	30	29	31	31	21	23	36	26	31
Energy	20	19	14	23	22	21	19	17	20
Iraq war	28	30	35	22	34	33	24	36	24
Tax cuts	21	21	20	23	23	23	20	20	25
Don't know	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	-

----- Among Those Whose 1st Priority Was ------

	<u>HLTHCARE</u>	ENERGY	<b>IRAQWAR</b>	TAXCUTS
Health care	-	33	50	24
Energy	31	-	21	17
Iraq war	48	44	-	59
Tax cuts	20	23	29	-

#### AMONG THOSE WHO NAMED AN ISSUE AS SECOND PRIORITY

Q18c. Which of these issues should be Obama's third priority: Health care, energy, the Iraq war, or tax cuts? (CHOICES WERE ISSUES NOT ALREADY MENTIONED)

THIRD PRIORITY:									
	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	MALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Health care	25	25	28	22	26	31	19	25	25
Energy	32	31	34	33	22	27	36	33	34
Iraq war	16	16	9	19	25	14	18	15	21
Tax cuts	26	26	28	24	27	26	26	27	18
Don't know	1	2	1	2	-	2	1	-	2

	Among Those Whose 1 <sup>st</sup> Priority Was									
	HLTHCARE	ENERGY	IRAQWAR	<b>TAXCUTS</b>						
Health care	-	40	31	37						
Energy	31	-	42	36						
Iraq war	28	31	-	27						
Tax cuts	40	29	25	-						
Not sure	1	-	2	-						

#### AMONG THOSE WHO NAMED AN ISSUE AS A THIRD PRIORITY

Q18d. Which of these issues should be Obama's fourth priority: Health care, energy, the Iraq war, or tax cuts? (CHOICES WERE ISSUES NOT ALREADY MENTIONED)

#### FOURTH PRIORITY:

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	MALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Health care	17	18	7	20	33	20	15	13	21
Energy	32	33	42	25	26	32	32	39	25
Iraq war	12	11	10	13	13	11	13	11	10
Tax cuts	39	38	41	42	28	37	40	37	44

Q19. Do you think Barack Obama will be able to provide affordable health care coverage for all Americans, or not?

	ALL	<u>REGIS</u>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Will be able	41	41	67	31	13	37	44	52	31
Won't be able	46	48	27	48	80	49	44	37	56
Don't know	13	11	6	21	7	14	12	11	13

Q20. Do you think Barack Obama will be able to reduce the country's dependence on oil and increase the nation's use of alternative energy, or not?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE FE	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Will be able	57	57	77	51	31	58	55	60	54
Won't be able	31	30	11	35	58	32	29	29	36
Don't know	12	13	12	14	11	10	16	11	10

Q21. Do you or do you not trust Barack Obama to protect America's national security?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	MALE	L/\$50K	<u>\$50K+</u>
Trust	69	69	93	69	34	74	65	75	60
Don't trust	21	22	4	21	57	17	23	16	28
Don't know	10	9	3	10	9	9	12	9	12

Q22. As you may know, during the campaign, Barack Obama said he would withdraw all combat troops from Iraq in sixteen months. When he is president, do you think Obama will make good on his pledge to withdraw combat troops from Iraq in sixteen months, or not? (IF NOT) Will that please or upset you?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE F	EMALE	L/\$50K	\$50K+
Will make good	<u>46</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>39</u>
Won't make good (net)	<u>38</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>44</u>
Won't/pleased	12	13	4	11	27	12	12	12	15
Won't/upset	11	12	10	9	16	13	10	12	12
Won't/neither(vol)	9	10	6	10	15	12	6	9	10
Won't/don't know	6	5	3	9	4	2	9	5	7
Don't know (net)	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>17</u>

Q23. Do you think that liberal Democrats in Congress will, or will not, be able to pressure Barack Obama to pass a more liberal agenda than he promised during his campaign? (IF WILL/WILL NOT) Would you be pleased or upset if that happened?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE F	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Will (net)	<u>41</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>45</u>
Will/pleased	17	16	17	20	13	17	17	17	18
Will/upset	16	17	5	17	34	14	16	13	20
Will/neutral (vol)	7	6	5	8	10	8	5	6	7
Will/ns/ref	2	2	4	2	1	2	2	4	1
Will not (net)	<u>38</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>38</u>
Will not/upset	7	8	6	6	10	7	8	8	6
Will not/pleased	20	21	27	19	15	25	15	21	20
Will not/neutral (vol)	9	9	11	9	4	8	10	9	10
Will not/ns/ref	2	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	1
Don't know (net)	<u>21</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>

Q24. Do you think that conservative Republicans in Congress will or will not be able to block Barack Obama from implementing the parts of his agenda they do not like? (IF WILL/WILL NOT) Will you be pleased or upset if that happens?

	ALL	<b>REGIS</b>	DEM	IND	REP	MALE F	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Will (net)	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>33</u>
Will/pleased	12	13	9	13	21	12	13	16	10
Will/upset	13	15	15	17	7	15	12	16	13
Will/neutral (vol)	8	5	3	11	5	9	6	5	8
Will/don't know	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Will not (net)	<u>51</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>55</u>
Will not/upset	21	23	21	14	39	22	21	21	21
Will not/pleased	19	19	29	16	7	20	17	16	21
Will not/neutral (vol)	8	8	5	9	8	9	7	8	9
Will not/don't know	4	2	4	5	1	2	5	4	4
Don't know (net)	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>

Q25. On another subject, what is your impression of Michelle Obama? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about her to say?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	<u>REP</u>	MALE FI	EMALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Haven't heard	<u>26</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>20</u>
Favorable (net)	<u>53</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>53</u>
Very favorable	32	34	46	31	12	26	36	37	29
Somewhat favorable	21	21	21	19	26	21	22	17	25
Unfavorable (net)	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>
Somewhat unfavorable	8	8	2	8	16	8	7	7	8
Very unfavorable	5	6	1	4	15	3	6	6	5
Don't know (net)	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>14</u>

Q26. Generally speaking, do you think the nation's economy these days is doing very well, or fairly well, or fairly badly, or very badly?

	ALL	REGIS	DEM	IND	REP	MALE FE	MALE	<u>L/\$50K</u>	<u>\$50K+</u>
Very well	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1
Fairly well	7	7	7	7	11	6	8	8	4
Fairly badly	31	31	25	34	37	36	26	30	31
Very badly	60	59	66	55	51	56	63	60	63
Not sure	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	1

Q31. As you may know, the three U.S. automakers -- General Motors, Ford and Chrysler -- appeared before Congress to say that their companies are on the verge of bankruptcy and to ask for taxpayer-funded loans to help them survive. Do you think the government should or should not rescue the three U.S. automakers? (IF SHOULD RESCUE) In your opinion should the Treasury use a portion of the \$700 billion bailout fund Congress created in October to make loans to the carmakers, or should they fund it some other way?

	ALL	L/40K	<u>\$40-\$59K </u>	\$60-100K	M/\$100K	DEM	IND	REP	MALE F	EMALE
Rescue with bailout \$	30	31	28	32	35	29	37	25	28	31
Rescue with other \$	17	21	13	11	21	21	20	8	20	15
Do not rescue	42	42	48	48	36	39	32	59	43	41
Don't know	11	6	11	9	8	11	11	8	9	13
	18-44	<u>45+</u>	<b>SECURE</b>	SHAKY	<u>WHITE N</u>	NON/WHT	EAST M	<b>DWEST</b>	SOUTH	WEST
Rescue with bailout \$	26	34	28	31	28	35	34	32	30	22
Rescue with other \$	20	16	19	16	15	23	18	15	18	18
Do not rescue	46	38	41	43	47	31	38	41	42	48
Don't know	8	12	12	10	10	11	10	12	10	12

Q32. If the federal government does not provide assistance to the three automakers and the American automobile companies go out of business, would that be a major problem, or a minor problem or not a problem at all for the country?

Problem (net) Major problem Minor problem Not a problem at all Don't know (net)	ALL <u>88</u> 62 26 <u>8</u> <u>4</u>	<u>L/40K</u> <u>84</u> 54 30 <u>9</u> 7	<u>\$40-\$59K \$</u> <u>88</u> 66 22 <u>10</u> <u>2</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u> <u>91</u> 63 28 <u>8</u> <u>1</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u> <u>91</u> 63 28 <u>7</u> <u>2</u>	DEM 90 63 27 <u>7</u> <u>3</u>	<u>IND</u> <u>90</u> 65 25 <u>8</u> <u>2</u>	REP 88 63 25 9 3	<u>MALE</u> <u>F</u> <u>89</u> 62 27 <u>9</u> <u>3</u>	EMALE <u>88</u> 62 26 <u>8</u> <u>4</u>
Problem (net) Major problem Minor problem Not a problem at all Don't know (net)	<u>18-44</u> <u>89</u> 54 35 <u>8</u> <u>3</u>	<u>45+</u> <u>88</u> 70 18 <u>8</u> <u>4</u>	<u>SECURE</u> <u>91</u> 66 25 <u>7</u> <u>2</u>	<u>SHAKY</u> <u>86</u> 56 30 <u>10</u> <u>4</u>	<u>WHITE N</u> <u>90</u> 62 28 <u>7</u> <u>3</u>	<u>NON/WHT</u> <u>84</u> 62 22 <u>11</u> <u>5</u>	EAST MI 90 65 25 <u>6</u> 4	<u>1DWEST</u> <u>96</u> 70 27 <u>2</u> <u>1</u>	SOUTH <u>88</u> 60 28 <u>10</u> <u>2</u>	<u>WEST</u> <u>80</u> 54 25 <u>13</u> <u>8</u>