



# 2014 Troubles: Democrat Drag

*On The Campaign Trail, Obama Has Become Toxic For Democrats*

## OBAMA'S LOW APPROVAL IS PROVING PROBLEMATIC FOR 2014 DEMOCRATS

**Political Prognosticator Charlie Cook: Heading Into The Midterm Election With A Underwater Approval Rating "Is A Bad Thing For The President's Party."** "In politics and polling, as in real estate, underwater or 'upside down' approval ratings are not a good thing for an elected official. Moreover, in the case of a president heading into a midterm election, with the midterm often said to be a referendum on the incumbent president, this is a bad thing for the president's party. Every point decline creates just a bit more headwind against Democratic candidates facing difficult races across the country." (Charlie Cook, "Democrats Face Unfair Fight In The Midterms," [National Journal](#), 6/23/14)

- **Gallup: "Obama Has Been Operating In A Quite Constricted Zone In The Lower 40% Range All Year."** "The American people gave their elected executive officer an average 42% rating throughout the month of June, which was down from 44% the previous two months (April and May), but then quite close to the 42% in February and the 41% rating Americans gave him in January. In other words, from a big picture perspective, Obama has been operating in a quite constricted zone in the lower 40% range all year." (Frank Newport, "Obama's Job Rating In Context," [Gallup](#), 7/3/14)
- **NBC: Obama's Poll Numbers Are "Tanking" And "Cratering."** NBC'S SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: "Let's get to NBC's poll because foreign policy which for many, many years was a strong suit of the President's in the polls, is now suddenly tanking." NBC'S CHUCK TODD: "It is. It's cratering. If you think about it, let's go back to September. Syria. Then you have the crisis in Ukraine and then you have the situation with the Bergdahl trade, then we can talk about Iranian negotiations, then we can talk about the Middle East flaring up and now this situation with Iraq. Everything is a negative, and these are now creating a situation, lowest ever, lowest job rating, lowest approval rating among foreign policy." (NBC's ["Today Show"](#), 6/18/14)

**"President Barack Obama's Unpopularity Is A Drag On His Fellow Democrats, And No One Is Talking Seriously About Breaking The GOP Lock On The House In Midterm Elections."** "President Barack Obama's unpopularity is a drag on his fellow Democrats, and no one is talking seriously about breaking the GOP lock on the House in midterm elections, when the president's party traditionally loses seats." (Donna Cassata, "Female Candidates Boost Dems Hopes In Tough Year," [The Associated Press](#), 5/10/14)

*Democrats Are Suffering From An Enthusiasm Deficit*

**"The History-Making Coalition That Delivered The Presidency To Barack Obama In 2008 And Reelected Him In 2012 Has A Distinct Attitude Toward The 2014 Election: Meh."** (Aaron Blake, "Democrats Have An Enthusiasm Problem. Big Time," [The Washington Post](#), 6/26/14)

- **“Many Of Democrats’ Most Important Voters Are Still Very Casual About The Need To Vote In November.”** “Despite these efforts, many of Democrats' most important voters are still very casual about the need to vote in November.” (Aaron Blake, “Democrats Have An Enthusiasm Problem. Big Time,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/26/14)

**Democracy Corps Poll: Just 68 Percent Of Obama’s 2012 Coalition Who Are Considered “Likely Voters” In 2014 Say They Are “Almost Certain” To Vote This Year.** “A new poll from Democratic pollster Democracy Corps finds that just 68 percent of African Americans, Latinos, young people and unmarried women who voted in 2012 and are ‘likely’ to vote in 2014 -- the four key parts of Obama's coalition -- say they are ‘almost certain’ to vote in the upcoming midterm elections.” (Aaron Blake, “Democrats Have An Enthusiasm Problem. Big Time,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/26/14)

- **85 Percent Of Likely Voters Who Were Not Part Of The Obama Coalition Say They Are “Almost Certain” To Vote.** “17: The enthusiasm deficit for key members of the Obama coalition (68% who say they are almost certain to vote) versus other voters (85%).” (Aaron Blake, “Democrats Have An Enthusiasm Problem. Big Time,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/26/14)

**Among More-Enthusiastic Voter Groups – Republicans Are Favored By 18 Points.** “And the effect on the 2014 election is clear. While the less-enthusiastic ‘Rising American Electorate’ (the pollster's name for the Obama coalition) favors Democrats by 19 points, all of the other, more-enthusiastic voter groups combine to favor Republicans by 18 points.” (Aaron Blake, “Democrats Have An Enthusiasm Problem. Big Time,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/26/14)

## OBAMA IS UNDERWATER ACROSS MOST ISSUES

**53 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of Obama’s Handling Of His Job As President, Compared To 40 Percent Who Approve.** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

**51 Percent Of Voters Say Obama Doesn’t Have “Strong Leadership Qualities,” Compared To 47 Percent Who Say He Does.** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

**54 Percent Of Voters Say The Obama Administration Has Not Been Competent In Running Government, While 44 Percent Say It Has.** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

- **Voters Say Obama Is Not Paying Enough To What His Administration Is Doing 48-47 Percent.** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

### *Economy*

**Pew Poll: 56 Percent Of Voters Disapprove Of Obama’s Handling Of The Economy, Compared To 40 Percent Who Approve.** ([Pew Research Poll](#), 1805 A, MoE 2.7%, 7/8-14/14)

**55 Percent Of Voters Disapprove Of Obama’s Handling Of The Economy, Compared To 40 Percent Who Approve.** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

- **77 Percent Of Voters Describe The State Of The Economy As “Not So Good” Or “Poor,” While Just 23 Percent Describe It As “Good” Or “Excellent.”** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)
- **74 Percent Of Voters Think The Economy Is “Staying The Same” Or “Getting Worse,” While Just 26 Percent Say It Is “Getting Better.”** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

### *Healthcare*

## **58 Percent Of Voters Disapprove Of Obama's Handling Of Healthcare Compared To 40 Percent Who Approve.** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

- **Voters Oppose ObamaCare 55-43 Percent.** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

### ***Foreign Policy***

**Pew Poll: 54 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of Obama's Handling Of Foreign Policy, Compared To 35 Percent Who Approve.** ([Pew Research Poll](#), 1805 A, MoE 2.7%, 7/8-14/14)

**57 Percent Of Voters Disapprove Of Obama's Handling Of Foreign Policy, Compared To 37 Percent Who Approve.** ([Quinnipiac Poll](#), 1446 RV, MoE 2.6%, 6/24-30/14)

## **AND OBAMA'S UNPOPULARITY IS JUST ANOTHER CHALLENGE FACING DEMOCRATS IN KEY 2014 STATES**

**NPR Battleground Poll: Obama's Approval Ratings In "Key Battleground States That Will Decide Control Of The Senate...Are Lower Than They Are Nationally."** "In the key battleground states that will decide control of the Senate this November, President Obama's approval numbers are lower than they are nationally — but not much lower." (Mara Liasson, "NPR Poll: In Senate Battleground States, Obama Ratings Lag," [NPR](#), 6/19/14)

**"In The 12 States With Competitive Senate Races This Fall, Only 38 Percent Of Likely Voters Said They Approved Of The Way The President Is Handling His Job."** (Mara Liasson, "NPR Poll: In Senate Battleground States, Obama Ratings Lag," [NPR](#), 6/19/14)

- **58 Percent Disapprove Of The Way Obama Is Handling His Job.** ([NPR Poll](#), 1,000 LV, MoE 3.1%, 6/6-11/14)

**57 Percent Of Likely Battleground State Voters Have An Unfavorable Opinion Of Obama, Compared To 41 Percent Who Have A Favorable Opinion.** ([NPR Poll](#), 1,000 LV, MoE 3.1%, 6/6-11/14)

**58 Percent Of Battleground State Likely Voters Disapprove Of The Way Obama Is Handling The Economy, While 39 Approve.** ([NPR Poll](#), 1,000 LV, MoE 3.1%, 6/6-11/14)

**58 Percent Of Battleground State Likely Voters Oppose ObamaCare, Compared To 40 Percent Who Support It.** ([NPR Poll](#), 1,000 LV, MoE 3.1%, 6/6-11/14)

### ***Colorado***

**"Only 40% Of Coloradans Approve Of President Obama's Job Performance. Nearly Half, 49%, Disapprove."** ([NBC News/Marist Poll](#), 1,025 A, 3.2% MoE, 7/7-10/14)

**"The Affordable Care Act Is Considered A Bad Idea By 51% Of Colorado Residents Including 45% Who Strongly Hold This View. In Contrast, 36% View The Health Care Plan As A Good Idea Of Which 25% Strongly Have This Opinion."** ([NBC News/Marist Poll](#), 1,025 A, 3.2% MoE, 7/7-10/14)

### ***Iowa***

**"51% Of Iowans Disapprove Of The Job President Obama Is Doing In Office. 36% Approve."** ([NBC News/Marist Poll](#), 1,772 A, 2.5% MoE, 7/7-13/14)

**"49% Of Iowans Describe The Affordable Care Act As A Bad Idea Including 42% Who Hold This Opinion Strongly. Just 31% Of Adults Statewide Have A Positive View Of The Health Care Plan Including 22% Who Strongly Feel This Way."** ([NBC News/Marist Poll](#), 1,772 A, 2.5% MoE, 7/7-13/14)

### ***New Hampshire***

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**“A Majority Of New Hampshire Residents, 53%, Disapprove Of President Obama’s Job Performance. 39% Approve.”** ([NBC News/Marist Poll](#), 1,010 A, 3.3% MoE, 7/7-10/14)

**“51% Of State Residents Think The Affordable Care Act Is A Bad Idea Including 45% Who Strongly Feel That Way. Overall, 35% Of Adults Statewide View The Health Care Plan As A Good Idea But Just 26% Say They Hold This Opinion Strongly.”** ([NBC News/Marist Poll](#), 1,010 A, 3.3% MoE, 7/7-10/14)

### **Michigan**

**“Only 40% Of Michigan Residents Approve Of The Job President Obama Is Doing. 46% Disapprove.”** ([NBC News/Marist Poll](#), 1,010 A, 3.3% MoE, 7/7-10/14)

**“Half Of Michigan Residents Think The Affordable Care Act Is A Bad Idea Including 43% Who Strongly Feel That Way. Overall, 32% View The Health Care Plan As A Good Idea With Just 22% Saying They Strongly Hold This View.”** ([NBC News/Marist Poll](#), 1,010 A, 3.3% MoE, 7/7-10/14)

## **AS OBAMA REMAINS A DRAG ON HIS PARTY, REPUBLICANS’ CHANCES OF TAKING THE SENATE ARE LOOKING UP**

***The Washington Post’s Election Lab “Currently Gives Republicans An 86 Percent Chance Of Winning A Senate Majority.”*** “Election Lab, our midterm elections forecast, has been updated with a host of new features, including — most importantly — an updated forecast. Our model currently gives Republicans an 86 percent chance of winning a Senate majority.” (John Sides, “New Election Lab Forecast Suggests 86 Percent Chance That GOP Wins Senate,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/15/14)

- **Republicans Have a “Very Solid Chance Of Taking Back The Senate.”** “But for now, both our model’s prediction and current polls suggest the GOP has a very solid chance of taking back the Senate.” (John Sides, “New Election Lab Forecast Suggests 86 Percent Chance That GOP Wins Senate,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/15/14)
- **In May, *The Washington Post’s Election Lab* Gave Republicans “An 82 Percent Chance Of Re-Taking The Senate.”** “Today’s daily digit is the current forecast for the Senate. Almost every analyst sees a significant chance for GOP gains in the midterm. The forecasting model that underlies Election Lab is currently bullish about Republican chances in the Senate. Right now, the model estimates that Republicans have an 82 percent chance of re-taking the Senate.” (John Sides, “Introducing Election Lab: *The Washington Post’s* 2014 Midterm Forecast,” [The Washington Post](#), 5/5/14)

**Election Lab: Senate Democrat Candidates Continue To Face Electoral “Headwinds,” Given Republicans “A Good Chance Of Taking The Senate.”** “By itself, our forecasting model has always indicated that the GOP had a good chance of retaking the Senate. Nothing in the political landscape has shifted the model’s forecast. National conditions continue to provide headwinds for Democratic candidates. Most importantly, President Obama’s approval rating continues to be middling at best, and may even have declined slightly. Senate primaries have not yet produced the sorts of Republican candidates that arguably cost their party Senate races in 2010 and 2012.” (John Sides, “New Election Lab Forecast Suggests 86 Percent Chance That GOP Wins Senate,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/15/14)

- **Republicans Have “A Very Good Chance” Of Winning Red States And A Better Than 50 Percent Chance Of Claiming Iowa.** “At the moment, our model suggests that the GOP has a very good chance of winning the Republican-leaning states: Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, and Louisiana. That gives them five seats. They also have a better than 50-50 chance of winning Iowa, where Joni Ernst’s recent surge has made the race neck-and-neck—a trend that is consistent with what our model suggested about the Iowa race back in May.” (John Sides, “New Election Lab Forecast Suggests 86 Percent Chance That GOP Wins Senate,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/15/14)

**FiveThirtyEight: “If Republicans Sweep Those Nine Close Races (Plus South Dakota), The GOP Would Pick Up 10 Seats, Controlling 55 In The New Senate.”** “But right now, let’s take the polls’ word for it; if Republicans sweep those nine close races (plus South Dakota), the GOP would pick up 10 seats, controlling 55 in the new Senate. If Republicans lost all of them (including Georgia, Kentucky and Arkansas), they’d pick up only two seats — holding 47.” (Harry Enten, “Democrats Are In A Perilous Position In 2014 Senate Races,” [FiveThirtyEight](#), 7/15/14)

- **Democrats Are In A “Perilous” Position That Could Mean “A Minor Republican Gain To A GOP Romp.”** “In other words, the final outcome for the Senate could be anything from a minor Republican gain to a GOP romp. At the moment, the state of play seems manageable from a Democratic perspective, but the party’s position is perilous. A tiny shift could tip the canoe and spill a lot of Democrats overboard.” (Harry Enten, “Democrats Are In A Perilous Position In 2014 Senate Races,” [FiveThirtyEight](#), 7/15/14)

**Election Lab: In The U.S. House, Democrats “Have Less Than A 1 Percent Chance” At Retaking The House And Are Slated To Lose More Seats Than In 2012.** “The updated forecast for the House is nothing surprising. In line with what we’ve previously written, we estimate that the Democrats have less than a 1 percent chance of taking the House. Our model currently estimates that the Democrats will win 193 seats, down slightly from the 201 they controlled after the 2012 election and the 199 they currently control, given existing vacancies.” (John Sides, “New Election Lab Forecast Suggests 86 Percent Chance That GOP Wins Senate,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/15/14)