



Rock Bottom

New Polls Suggest Democrats Have Reason To Be Worried In 2014

OBAMA'S APPROVAL RATING HAS HIT NEW LOWS

The Washington Post/ABC News Poll: "Democrats Face Serious Obstacles As They Look To The November Elections" With Obama's Approval Rating At A "New Low" Of 41 Percent. "Democrats face serious obstacles as they look to the November elections, with President Obama's approval rating at a new low and a majority of voters saying they prefer a Congress in Republican hands to check the president's agenda, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. Obama's approval rating fell to 41 percent, down from 46 percent through the first three months of the year and the lowest of his presidency in Post-ABC News polls." (Dan Balz and Peyton M. Craighill, "Post-ABC News Poll Shows Democrats At Risk In November As Obama's Approval Rating Falls," [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

- **52 Percent of Americans Disapprove Of Obama's Job Performance.** ([The Washington Post/ABC Poll](#), 1000A, MoE 3.5%, 4/24-27/14)

"Obama's Low Rating Could Be A Significant Drag On Democratic Candidates This Fall — Past Elections Suggest That When Approval Ratings Are As Low As Obama's, The President's Party Is Almost Certain To Suffer At The Ballot Box In November." (Dan Balz and Peyton M. Craighill, "Post-ABC News Poll Shows Democrats At Risk In November As Obama's Approval Rating Falls," [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

- **"The Decline In Obama's Approval Rating In The Most Recent Poll Was The Result Of Lower Support Among Both Democrats And Independents."** (Dan Balz and Peyton M. Craighill, "Post-ABC News Poll Shows Democrats At Risk In November As Obama's Approval Rating Falls," [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)
- **74 Percent Of Democrats Approve Of Obama's Job Performance – Just "One Point Higher Than His Lowest Ever In Post-ABC Surveys."** "At this point, 74 percent of Democrats say they approve of his job performance, one point higher than his lowest ever in Post-ABC surveys. The worry for Obama and his party is that many of the Democrats who disapprove of Obama's performance simply won't show up in November." (Dan Balz and Peyton M. Craighill, "Post-ABC News Poll Shows Democrats At Risk In November As Obama's Approval Rating Falls," [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

The Atlantic's Molly Ball: "This Is Absolutely A Low Point For Obama." BALL: "This is absolutely a low point for Obama, for his entire presidency. And there are a lot of democrats who really did think he had turned a corner. A lot of democrats who thought after a steady stream of good headlines on ObamaCare in particular that maybe that was something that was just sort of temporary, that now that the website's working and people are enrolled that people would start feeling t better about Obama. you see what's driving this, he's got a low rating on health care but also a low rating on the economy and a very low rating on his handling of the situation on Ukraine. and you know, the headlines for Obama in recent weeks have really been all about foreign affairs. And there hasn't been a lot of good news for the United States there." (CNN's ["New Day"](#), 4/29/14)

MSNBC: Obama May Be “Politically Toxic” For Democrats. MSNBC’s MIKA BRZEZINSKI: “Turning to politics as we get closer to critical the midterm elections. New signs that President Obama may be politically toxic for Democratic candidates. According to a new Washington Post/ABC news poll, the President’s approval rating is now at 41% among registered voters, the lowest in this poll since the start of his presidency. He’s also struggling on the major issues of the day. Only 42% approve of his handling of the economy, 37% approve of his implementation of the Affordable Care Act, and 34% approve his handling of the situation in Ukraine. And when voters were asked specifically if they’d rather have Democrats in control in Congress to support President Obama’s policies or Republican majority to keep him in check, 53% sided with Republican majority. Only 39% want Democrats in charge.” (MSNBC’s [“Morning Joe,”](#) 4/29/14)

AMERICANS REMAIN PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE ECONOMY, AN OMINOUS SIGN FOR 2014 DEMOCRATS

“Pessimism About The Economy Also Persists, With More Than Seven In 10 Describing The Economy In Negative Terms.” (Dan Balz and Peyton M. Craighill, “Post-ABC News Poll Shows Democrats At Risk In November As Obama’s Approval Rating Falls,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

- **“Public Attitudes About The Future Of The Economy Are Anything But Rosy. Just 28 Percent Say They Think The Economy Is Getting Better, While 36 Percent Say It Is Getting Worse And 35 Percent Say It’s Staying The Same.”** (Dan Balz and Peyton M. Craighill, “Post-ABC News Poll Shows Democrats At Risk In November As Obama’s Approval Rating Falls,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

54 Percent Of Americans Disapprove Of Obama’s Handling Of The Economy, Compared To 42 Percent Who Approve. ([The Washington Post/ABC Poll](#), 1000A, MoE 3.5%, 4/24-27/14)

Views On The Economy Correlate With Congressional Vote Preference And On Which Party Should Control Congress – Regardless Of Party Affiliation – Suggesting That “Democrats Are In Serious Need Of A Positive Shift In Economic Views.” “Other results also mark the extent of the difficulties facing Obama and his party alike. A form of statistical analysis called regression finds that, as noted above, views on the economy correlate both with congressional vote preference, and views on which party should control Congress, independently of partisan affiliation. That suggests that the Democrats are in serious need of a positive shift in economic views.” (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

- **“That May Be Hard To Accomplish. While 50 Percent Of Democrats Say The Economy’s In Good Shape, That Plummets Not Only Among Republicans But Independents As Well, To 12 And 22 Percent, Respectively.”** (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)
- **“And While 46 Percent Of Democrats See Improvement In The Economy, Again Just 22 Percent Of Independents, And 15 Percent Of Republicans, Agree.”** (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)
- **“The Results Suggest The Corrosive Effects Of The Long Downturn On The President’s Popularity: Among Those Who Say The Economy Is In Bad Shape, Obama’s Overall Approval Rating Has Lost 20 Points Since February 2012, From 46 Percent Then To 26 Percent Now.”** (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

WHILE OBAMA HAS URGED DEMOCRATS TO RUN ON HIS HEALTH CARE LAW, THE POLLS SUGGEST OTHERWISE

“ObamaCare, For Its Part, Is A Subject The Republicans Have Sought To Turn To Their Advantage In The Midterm Elections, And The Poll Results Show Ample Opportunity.” (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

While Obama’s Hailed ObamaCare’s Success, The Law And His Rating For Handling “Have Lost Ground, Both Down From Their Levels Last Month.” “The president faces other challenges. While he’s hailed insurance exchange sign-ups as a marker of the Affordable Care Act’s success, the program and his rating for handling it have lost ground, both down from their levels late last month after the Healthcare.gov website was stabilized.” (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

Just 37 Percent Of Americans Approve Of Obama’s Handling Of ObamaCare’s Implementation, Down 7 Points From March, While 57 Percent Disapprove. ([The Washington Post/ABC Poll](#), 1000A, MoE 3.5%, 4/24-27/14)

- **50 Percent Say ObamaCare’s Implementation Is “Going Worse Than They Expected When It Began, While 41 Percent Say It’s Going Better – “Another Sign Of The Persistent Antipathy That Has Dogged ObamaCare From The Start.”** “Despite the website’s improvements, half say the law’s implementation is going worse than they expected when it began, vs. 41 percent better – another sign of the persistent antipathy that’s dogged obamacare from the start.” (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

Kaiser Family Foundation Poll: More Americans View ObamaCare Unfavorably By An Eight-Point Margin – 46 Percent Unfavorably, 38 Percent Favorable. ([Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 1,504 A, 3% MoE, 4/15-21/14)

According To Kaiser’s Latest Poll, Americans’ Opinion Of ObamaCare Remain “Exactly Where It Was Last Month.” “But the latest Kaiser Health Tracking Poll finds that this news did little to change the public’s impressions of the law, with overall opinion remaining exactly where it was last month.” (Liz Hamel, Jamie Firth and Mollyann Brodie, Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: April 2014, [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 4/29/14)

- **The New Findings Show “A More Negative Tilt” Towards ObamaCare Than Before The Faulty Exchanges Launched In October 2013.** “This is a slight improvement over polls taken from November through January, but still represents a more negative tilt to opinion than was measured in Kaiser tracking surveys before the troubled launch of the exchanges last October.” (Liz Hamel, Jamie Firth and Mollyann Brodie, Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: April 2014, [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 4/29/14)

The Washington Post/ABC Poll: 44 Percent Say ObamaCare Has Made The Overall Health Care System In This Country Worse While Just 24 Percent Say It’s Made The System Better And 29 Percent Say The System Is About The Same. ([The Washington Post/ABC Poll](#), 1000A, MoE 3.5%, 4/24-27/14)

- **29 Percent Of Americans Say The Quality Of Their Health Care Has Declined As Result Of ObamaCare, While Just 14 Percent Say It Has Gotten Better And 53 Percent Say It Has Remained The Same.** ([The Washington Post/ABC Poll](#), 1000A, MoE 3.5%, 4/24-27/14)
- **“Six In 10 Blame The ACA For Increasing Costs Nationally, And 47 Percent Think It’s Caused Their Own Health Care Expenses To Rise.”** (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

Kaiser Poll: Americans Cited That Health Coverage Was Too Expensive Or They Couldn’t Afford Health Coverage (39 Percent) As The Primary Reason That They Don’t Have Insurance. ([Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 1,504 A, 3% MoE, 4/15-21/14)

- **The Cost Of Health Insurance On The ObamaCare Exchanges Was The Primary Reason That Americans Chose To Forego Enrolling And Subject Themselves To The Individual Mandate**

Penalty. “When reminded of the law’s requirement for individuals to get coverage or pay a fine and asked to choose the main reason they haven’t gotten coverage this year, cost again turns up as the biggest barrier for the uninsured; over a third (36 percent) say they tried to get coverage but it was too expensive.” (Liz Hamel, Jamie Firth and Mollyann Brodie, Kaiser Health Tracking Poll: April 2014, [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 4/29/14)

- **When Asked How ObamaCare How They Have Been Negatively Affected By ObamaCare, 62 Percent Cited Cost As The Primary Reason.** ([Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 1,504 A, 3% MoE, 4/15-21/14)

OBAMA’S APPROVAL RATINGS ARE ALSO LAGGING ON THE FOREIGN POLICY FRONT

“Separately, A Current Issue On The World Stage Offers No Respite For Obama: Given Continued Tensions Over Ukraine, Just 34 Percent Of Americans Approve Of How He’s Handling That Situation, 8 Points Fewer Than Early Last Month.” (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

- **“Forty-Six Percent Disapprove, With Two In 10 Withholding Judgment.”** (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

WITH THESE POLL NUMBERS, IT’S NO WONDER THE ELECTORAL MAP FOR 2014 IS STARTING TO LOOK LIKE 2010

“2014 Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election.” “All that said, 2014 is starting to look a lot like the 2010 election. And that’s a very good thing if you are a Republican.” (Scott Clement, “The 2014 Election Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

Mirroring 2010, Voters Prefer A Republican Congress To Keep Obama’s Agenda In Check

“Registered Voters By 53-39 Percent In The National Survey Say They’d Rather See The Republicans In Control Of Congress As A Counterbalance To Obama’s Policies Than A Democratic-Led Congress To Help Support Him.” (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

- **“It Was Similar In Fall 2010, When The Republicans Took Control Of The House Of Representatives And Gained Six Senate Seats.”** (Gary Langer, “Public Preference For A GOP Congress Marks A New Low In Obama’s Approval,” [ABC News](#), 4/29/14)

Democrats Have An Enthusiasm Problem With Their Base

The Washington Post/ABC Poll Shows That Democrats Have “Major Enthusiasm Problems Within Their Base” That Will “Make It Difficult – If Not Impossible – For Them To Rebuild The Winning Coalition” Of 2012. “A new Washington Post-ABC News poll offers fresh evidence that Democrats are facing major enthusiasm problems within their base that make it difficult -- if not impossible -- for them to rebuild the winning coalition put together by President Obama in 2012.” (Scott Clement, “The 2014 Election Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

“While Nearly Seven In 10 Of All Registered Voters Say They Are ‘Absolutely Certain’ To Vote In November, Several Key Democratic Constituencies Are Much Less Committed To Voting.” (Scott Clement, “The 2014 Election Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

- **“Barely Half Of Voters Ages 18 To 39 Are Certain About Voting (53 Percent) And 55 Percent Of Non-Whites Describe Themselves As Certain To Cast A Ballot.”** (Scott Clement, “The 2014 Election Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

“The Turnout Gap Is Smaller Among Self-Identified Partisans, With Democrats Six Percentage Points Less Apt Than Republicans To Be Certain Voters (72 Percent Vs. 78 Percent).” (Scott Clement, “The 2014 Election Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

- **“Closing That Gap, However, Could Be Difficult, Given That Democrats Are More Than Twice As Apt To Rate Themselves ‘50-50’ Or Less Likely To Vote; 15 Percent Of Democrats Say This, Compared With 5 Percent Of Republicans.”** (Scott Clement, “The 2014 Election Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

“Beyond Core Partisans, Independents Who Tilt Democratic Are Strikingly Less Motivated.” (Scott Clement, “The 2014 Election Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

- **“Nearly Three-Quarters Of Independents Who Lean Republican Are ‘Certain’ Voters (74 Percent), Compared With Just 50 Percent Of Democrats.”** (Scott Clement, “The 2014 Election Is Starting To Look A Lot Like The 2010 Election,” [The Washington Post](#), 4/29/14)

Among Youth Voters – Republican Enthusiasm For The Midterm Elections Outpaces Democrat Enthusiasm

Harvard University Poll: Less Than One In Four Youth Voters Plan To Vote In The Upcoming Congressional Midterm Elections, “With Republicans Significantly More Likely To Head To The Polls Than Democrats.” “Fewer than one in four young U.S. voters plans to vote in this year's congressional midterm elections, with Republicans significantly more likely to head to the polls than Democrats, according to a poll released on Tuesday.” (Scott Malone, “Young Republicans Likelier To Vote In Midterms Than Democrats: Survey,” [Reuters](#), 4/29/14)

- **The Poll Found That 44 Percent Of Youth Who Voted For Romney In 2012 Say They “Definitely” Plan On Voting In The Midterms, While Only 35 Percent Of Those Who Voted For Obama Plan To Vote.** “In addition, traditional Republican constituencies seem to be showing more enthusiasm than Democratic ones for participating in the upcoming midterm elections and are statistically more likely to say they will ‘definitely be voting.’ For example, 44 percent of those who voted for Mitt Romney in 2012 say they will ‘definitely be voting,’ a statistically significant difference compared to the 35 percent of 2012 Barack Obama voters who say the same.” (“Low Midterm Turnout Likely, Conservatives More Enthusiastic, Harvard Youth Poll Finds,” [Harvard University Institute Of Politics](#), 4/29/14)

Harvard University’s Institute Of Politics’ Polling Director John Della Volpe: “The Republican Constituencies Are More Enthusiastic And More Likely To Participate Than The Democrats.” (Scott Malone, “Young Republicans Likelier To Vote In Midterms Than Democrats: Survey,” [Reuters](#), 4/29/14)

Reuters: “Young Republican Voters Are More Enthusiastic About Voting Than Democrats.” “With a little more than six months to go before the 2014 Congressional elections, where Republicans aim to retake a majority in the U.S. Senate to offset the power of President Barack Obama, young Republican voters are more enthusiastic about voting than Democrats.” (Scott Malone, “Young Republicans Likelier To Vote In Midterms Than Democrats: Survey,” [Reuters](#), 4/29/14)