Not So Fast:
Majority of Voters Nationally Think Congress Should Wait to Act on Economic Crisis

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This Marist Poll reports:

- **As Debate Over Economic Bailout Rages, Most Voters Nationwide, Regardless of Party, Want Congress to *Wait* Before Acting on Proposal:** 68% of registered voters across the country think it is more important for Congress to act but just not right away. 26% think it’s more important for lawmakers to do something this week to stabilize the nation’s financial industry.

**Question Wording:** Congress is debating a plan to assume the costs of the mortgage crisis with a $700 billion dollar bailout of the financial industry. Do you think it is more important for Congress to do something this week to stabilize the financial industry or more important for Congress to do something but not this week if more time is needed to understand the costs and risks?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered voters</th>
<th>This Week</th>
<th>Wait</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2008</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Voters Say Republicans to Blame:** A majority of registered voters nationwide say the Republicans are to blame for the country’s economic crisis. 54% believe members of the GOP are at greater fault than the Democrats. A quarter of the national electorate points a finger at the Democrats. 21% of voters say they just aren’t sure who is to blame.
Question Wording: Who do you think is more to blame for the economic crisis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered voters</th>
<th>The Democrats</th>
<th>The Republicans</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2008</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **The Economic Crisis and Presidential Politics:** Nearly half of the nation’s registered voters say Barack Obama will better handle an economic crisis. 49% of the electorate feels the Democrat is better suited to lead the country during today’s tough economic times compared with 43% who think McCain can better turn the financial tides.

**Question Wording:** Do you think John McCain or Barack Obama will better handle an economic crisis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered voters</th>
<th>John McCain</th>
<th>Barack Obama</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2008</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Obama Has the Plan…But, What About the Record?** Barack Obama has the better plan for handling the economy, according to many registered voters across the country. 48% report Obama’s outline is the one that can turn the nation’s economy around while 41% believe McCain’s plan is the right one for economic stability. However, more registered voters believe when it comes to the candidates’ records on the economy, McCain outpaces Obama 48% to 36%.

**Question Wording:** Which presidential candidate do you think has a better plan/record for handling the economy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registered voters</th>
<th>McCain</th>
<th>Obama</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Better plan</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Registered voters | McCain | Obama | Unsure  
--- | --- | --- | ---  
Better record  | 48% | 36% | 16%  
Democrats  | 18% | 65% | 17%  
Republicans | 86% | 5% | 9%  
Independents  | 45% | 33% | 22%  

**Nature of the Sample: 1,005 Americans**

This survey was conducted on September 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2008. 1,005 adults 18 years of age or older within the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. The results of the entire survey are statistically significant at ±3%. There are 879 registered voters. The results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at ±3.5%. The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations.