



**Congressional Overdrive?
48% Disapprove of Auto Rescue Plan
Democrats Keep It Close**

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Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Azzoli
Marist College, 845.575.5050

This Marist Poll reports:

- **Hit the Brakes...48% of Americans Disapprove of Federal Loans to Automakers:** The U.S. House of Representatives may have approved a \$14 billion plan to rescue the American auto industry, but nearly half of Americans say they disapprove of the government's intervention. With action on the legislation expected in the U.S. Senate as early as today, 48% of U.S. residents nationwide disapprove of Congress providing federal loans to the automakers while 41% approve of the federal assistance. Looking at registered voters in the United States, the numbers are similar. 48% of registered voters nationwide disapprove of the plan compared with 43% who support the action. There is a partisan divide on the issue. A majority of Democrats -- 53% -- *approve* of the measure while a majority of Republicans -- 61% -- *disapprove* of the plan. Independents are more in line with Republicans. 51% of these voters disapprove of providing federal loans to automakers compared with 40% who approve of the idea.

Question Wording: From what you have read or heard, do you approve or disapprove of Congress providing federal loans to American automakers?

	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
Residents	41%	48%	11%
Registered Voters	43%	48%	9%
Democrats	53%	36%	11%
Republicans	33%	61%	6%
Independents	40%	51%	9%

Nature of the Sample: 1,003 Americans

This survey was conducted on December 9th, 2008 through December 10th, 2008. 1,003 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 $\pm 3\%$. There are 883 registered voters. The results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations.