



## **Voters Divide About Obama's Handling of the War in Afghanistan**

\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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### **This Marist Poll Reports:**

President Barack Obama's approval rating has hit a new low, and voters remain dissatisfied with his handling of the economy. And, now, there is also increased dissatisfaction with how the president is handling the war in Afghanistan.

According to this Marist Poll, 48% of registered voters nationally disapprove of how the president is dealing with the situation in Afghanistan while 44% approve. Seven percent are unsure.

When Marist last reported this question in June, a majority of registered voters -- 53% -- *approved* of how Mr. Obama was handling the conflict while 39% disapproved. Eight percent, at the time, were unsure.

The change has occurred among Republican and independent voters.

### **By party:**

- Nearly two-thirds of **Republican voters** -- 65% -- and a majority of **independents** -- 56% -- disapprove of the way the president is dealing with the war in Afghanistan. In June, those proportions were 53%, and 41%, respectively.
- Among **Democratic voters**, 67% approve of how President Obama is handling the situation while a similar proportion -- 70% -- did so a few months ago.

Voters also divide about how the President is handling the situation in Libya. 42% approve of the way he is dealing with it, and 42% disapprove. 16% are unsure. In June, 44% applauded the president on the issue while 40% thought his approach was flawed. 16% were unsure.

## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: National Poll of 1,042 Adults**

This survey of 1,042 adults was conducted on September 13<sup>th</sup> and September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in 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. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.0$  percentage points. There are 825 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.5$  percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

## Nature of the Sample: Adults

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Nature of the Sample - National Adults		
		National Adults
		Col %
<b>National Adults</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Registered Voters</b>		<b>79%</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>19%</b>
	<b>Midwest</b>	<b>22%</b>
	<b>South</b>	<b>37%</b>
	<b>West</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	<b>51%</b>
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>67%</b>
	<b>African American</b>	<b>10%</b>
	<b>Latino</b>	<b>11%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>67%</b>
	<b>Non-white</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	<b>42%</b>
	<b>45 or older</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Generation</b>	<b>Millennials (18-30)</b>	<b>22%</b>
	<b>Gen X (31-46)</b>	<b>23%</b>
	<b>Baby Boomers (47-65)</b>	<b>34%</b>
	<b>Silent-Greatest (Over 65)</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>49%</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Interview Type</b>	<b>Landline</b>	<b>72%</b>
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>28%</b>

**Marist Poll National Adults: Interviews conducted September 13th and September 14th, 2011, N=1042  
MOE +/- 3%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.**

## Nature of the Sample: Registered Voters

Nature of the Sample - Registered Voters		
		Registered Voters
		Col %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		<b>100%</b>
<b>Party Identification</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>34%</b>
	<b>Republican</b>	<b>26%</b>
	<b>Independent</b>	<b>39%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Support Tea Party</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Political Ideology</b>	<b>Liberal</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>42%</b>
	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Region</b>	<b>Northeast</b>	<b>18%</b>
	<b>Midwest</b>	<b>24%</b>
	<b>South</b>	<b>38%</b>
	<b>West</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Less than \$50,000</b>	<b>47%</b>
	<b>\$50,000 or more</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>70%</b>
	<b>African American</b>	<b>10%</b>
	<b>Latino</b>	<b>9%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>Race</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>70%</b>
	<b>Non-white</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 45</b>	<b>32%</b>
	<b>45 or older</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Generation</b>	<b>Millennials (18-30)</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<b>Gen X (31-46)</b>	<b>22%</b>
	<b>Baby Boomers (47-65)</b>	<b>39%</b>
	<b>Silent-Greatest (Over 65)</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>48%</b>
	<b>Women</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Interview Type</b>	<b>Landline</b>	<b>78%</b>
	<b>Cell Phone</b>	<b>22%</b>

**Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted September 13th and September 14th, 2011, N=825 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.**

## President Obama Handling of the War in Afghanistan

*Asked of Registered Voters*

**Question Wording:** Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the war in Afghanistan?

		Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the war in Afghanistan?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		44%	48%	7%
<b>Party Identification</b>	Democrat	67%	27%	7%
	Republican	27%	65%	9%
	Independent	38%	56%	6%
<b>Tea Party Supporters</b>		22%	72%	6%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	57%	38%	4%
	Moderate	53%	44%	4%
	Conservative	30%	61%	9%
<b>Region</b>	Northeast	47%	50%	3%
	Midwest	45%	48%	7%
	South	46%	46%	8%
	West	39%	51%	10%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	41%	50%	9%
	\$50,000 or more	49%	47%	5%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	42%	51%	8%
	College graduate	49%	46%	5%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	49%	44%	7%
	45 or older	42%	51%	7%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	47%	45%	8%
	30 to 44	52%	43%	5%
	45 to 59	43%	52%	5%
	60 or older	42%	50%	9%
<b>Generation</b>	Millennials (18-30)	47%	43%	9%
	Gen X (31-46)	49%	47%	4%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	45%	50%	5%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	39%	51%	11%
<b>Race</b>	White	42%	52%	6%
	Non-white	50%	41%	9%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	45%	50%	5%
	Women	44%	47%	9%
<b>Interview Type</b>	Landline	45%	48%	6%
	Cell Phone	42%	48%	10%

Marist Poll National Registered Voters: Interviews conducted September 13th and September 14th, 2011, N=825 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

## President Obama Handling of the Situation in Libya

*Asked of Registered Voters*

**Question Wording:** Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the situation in Libya?

		Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the situation in Libya?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
<b>Registered Voters</b>		42%	42%	16%
<b>Party Identification</b>	Democrat	61%	22%	17%
	Republican	19%	68%	13%
	Independent	41%	43%	16%
<b>Tea Party Supporters</b>		21%	70%	9%
<b>Political Ideology</b>	Liberal	67%	23%	10%
	Moderate	51%	33%	15%
	Conservative	22%	61%	16%
<b>Region</b>	Northeast	43%	46%	11%
	Midwest	44%	39%	17%
	South	42%	43%	15%
	West	41%	41%	18%
<b>Household Income</b>	Less than \$50,000	40%	43%	17%
	\$50,000 or more	47%	39%	14%
<b>Education</b>	Not college graduate	37%	45%	18%
	College graduate	51%	37%	12%
<b>Age</b>	Under 45	42%	39%	19%
	45 or older	43%	43%	14%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 29	47%	31%	22%
	30 to 44	38%	45%	17%
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<b>Generation</b>	Millennials (18-30)	48%	31%	21%
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	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	40%	43%	17%
<b>Race</b>	White	40%	44%	16%
	Non-white	48%	37%	15%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	45%	44%	12%
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<b>Interview Type</b>	Landline	44%	42%	14%
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