



**Four in Ten with High Expectations  
For Obama's Second Term...  
Approval Rating at 50%**

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

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**This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:**

Looking ahead to President Barack Obama's second term in office, 40% of registered voters nationally expect his second go around to be better than his first term. 30% think it will be about the same while 28% believe it will be worse. Two percent are unsure.

"Expectations for President Obama's second term divide along party lines; Democrats are optimistic and Republicans are not," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "But, a majority of Democrats, Republicans, and independents believe the president is going to have more of a say than Congress in his second term."

While nearly three in four Democrats nationally -- 73% -- believe the president's second term will trump his first, independent voters temper their expectations. Four in ten independents -- 40% -- think it will be about the same as the last four years while 32% say it will be better. Not surprisingly, a majority of Republicans -- 59% -- report President Obama's second term will be worse than his first four years in office.

When it comes to the president's overall job performance, half of U.S. registered voters -- 50% -- approve of how he is doing in office while 44% disapprove. Six percent are unsure. This matches his approval rating just prior to his re-election, the highest rating he had achieved in more than three years. In October of 2009, 53% of voters gave the president high marks. 41% thought his performance fell short, and 6% were unsure.

When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in July of 2012, voters divided. 47% approved of how the president was doing his job while 47% disapproved. Six percent were unsure.

But, do voters think well of the president? 53% have a favorable view of President Obama while 44% have an unfavorable impression of him. Three percent are unsure.

In July, 49% of voters had a positive view of the president while 46% had an unfavorable one. Five percent, at the time, were unsure.

### **Majority Approves of Obama's Handling of Foreign Policy...Disapproves on Economy**

51% of registered voters approve of how President Obama is addressing foreign policy. 42% disapprove, and 7% are unsure. Little has changed on this question since McClatchy-Marist last reported it in March. At that time, 50% gave the president a thumbs-up, 45% said he fell short, and 5% were unsure.

On the economy, it's a different story. 44% of registered voters nationally approve of how the president is dealing with the economy while a majority -- 52% -- disapproves. Four percent are unsure. This is little changed from March when 46% gave the president high marks on the economy. 51%, then, believed he missed the mark, and 3% were unsure.

When it comes to the future of the U.S. economy, a majority of Americans -- 53% -- think the worst of the nation's economic conditions are still to come while 42% say the worst is over. Five percent are unsure. In McClatchy-Marist's March survey, 45% of adults nationally thought more bad economic news was ahead while 49% thought the nation had turned the economic corner. Six percent, then, were unsure.

On the personal side, 40% of American adults believe their financial situation will be about the same in the next year. 32%, however, think they will be worse off while 27% say they will be better off.

In December of 2008, 50% of Americans expected there to be little change in their economic situation in the coming year. This compares with 26% who thought they would be better off and 24% who said they would be worse off.

### **Obama in the Driver's Seat, Say Nearly Two-Thirds**

65% of registered voters nationally believe President Obama will have more of an influence over the direction of the nation in the next two years than the Republicans in Congress. However, about one in four -- 26% -- thinks the Republicans in Congress will hold sway while 3% report both will have an equal amount of influence. Six percent are unsure.

77% of Democrats and 61% of independents believe the president will have more input. Even a majority of Republicans -- 56% -- say the same.

Do Americans believe the nation is moving in the right or wrong direction? Well, it depends. Overall, a majority -- 55% -- thinks the nation is on the wrong path while 40% say it is on the

right one. Five percent are unsure. This is little changed from McClatchy-Marist's March survey when 53% said the country was off course. 43%, then, thought the nation was on the right track, and 4% were unsure. But, in the current survey, 70% of Democrats are positive about the country's trajectory compared with only 9% of Republicans and 35% of independents who share this view.

### **Political Environment Conducive to Compromise?**

When it comes to the degree of compromise voters expect from the president and the Republicans in Congress over the next four years, 45% think it will be about the same as it has been. 35% believe they will compromise more while 17% say they will be less willing to bend. Two percent are unsure.

While 54% of Democrats report there will be greater compromise, Republicans and independent voters are not as optimistic. Half of Republicans -- 50% -- and 51% of independents say the amount of compromise will change little from the first term.

### **Both Democrats and Republicans Go Too Far, Say Pluralities...Congressional Approval Ratings Low**

46% of registered voters nationally believe the Republican Party is too conservative. 32% believe it's ideologically about right while 15% say it is too liberal. Seven percent are unsure.

When it comes to the Democratic Party, 47% of voters believe it is too liberal. 41% say the party's ideology is about right, 8% think they are too conservative. Five percent are unsure.

Voters remain dissatisfied with the job performance of the Republicans in Congress. 67% disapprove of how they are doing while 26% approve. Seven percent are unsure. When McClatchy-Marist last reported this question in March of 2012, 62% thought the job performance of the GOP in Congress was subpar while 31% approved of their performance. Eight percent were unsure.

Looking at the Democrats in Congress, 58% say the job they are doing currently falls short. 35% approve of how they are doing, and 7% are unsure. Six months ago, 59% gave the Democrats in Congress low marks while 34% approved of their job performance. Seven percent, then, were unsure.

## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist National Poll of 1,246 Adults**

This survey of 1,246 adults was conducted December 4<sup>th</sup> through December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. 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 landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within  $\pm 2.8$  percentage points. There are 1,091 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.0$  percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

**Nature of the Sample**

		National Adults	National Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Registered Voters		88%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	34%
	Republican	n/a	27%
	Independent	n/a	37%
	Other	n/a	1%
Party Identification	Strong Democrats	n/a	21%
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	13%
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	14%
	Just Independents	n/a	8%
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	15%
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	10%
	Strong Republicans	n/a	18%
Political Ideology	Other	n/a	1%
	Very conservative	n/a	14%
	Conservative	n/a	28%
	Moderate	n/a	37%
	Liberal	n/a	15%
Gender	Very liberal	n/a	6%
	Men	49%	48%
Age	Women	51%	52%
	Under 45	37%	32%
Age	45 or older	63%	68%
	18 to 29	17%	13%
	30 to 44	20%	19%
	45 to 59	32%	34%
Race	60 or older	32%	34%
	White	70%	73%
	African American	11%	11%
	Latino	12%	11%
Region	Other	6%	5%
	Northeast	18%	18%
	Midwest	22%	22%
	South	37%	37%
Household Income	West	23%	23%
	Less than \$50,000	50%	48%
Education	\$50,000 or more	50%	52%
	Not college graduate	62%	60%
Marital Status	College graduate	38%	40%
	Married	53%	55%
Interview Type	Not married	47%	45%
	Landline	74%	77%
	Cell Phone	26%	23%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, 2012, N=1246 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points. National Registered Voters: N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

		National Registered Voters			
		Do you think President Barack Obama's second term will be better than the first, worse than the first, or about the same as the first term?			
		Better	Worse	About the same	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		40%	28%	30%	2%
Party Identification	Democrat	73%	4%	22%	1%
	Republican	12%	59%	29%	0%
	Independent	32%	26%	40%	2%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	80%	2%	18%	0%
	Soft Democrats	60%	4%	34%	2%
	Just Independents	28%	22%	44%	6%
	Soft Republicans	15%	45%	39%	0%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	6%	71%	23%	0%
	Very liberal-Liberal	71%	2%	27%	0%
	Moderate	45%	17%	37%	2%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	20%	52%	28%	0%
	Northeast	44%	24%	30%	3%
	Midwest	42%	31%	27%	1%
Household Income	South	39%	29%	31%	2%
	West	38%	27%	33%	1%
	Less than \$50,000	45%	25%	29%	1%
Education	\$50,000 or more	38%	30%	32%	1%
	Not college graduate	41%	27%	30%	2%
Race	College graduate	39%	30%	31%	1%
	White	33%	32%	33%	1%
	African American	77%	4%	14%	4%
Age	Latino	48%	22%	31%	0%
	18 to 29	50%	14%	34%	2%
	30 to 44	38%	26%	36%	0%
	45 to 59	38%	32%	29%	1%
Age	60 or older	41%	30%	27%	1%
	Under 45	43%	21%	35%	1%
Gender	45 or older	40%	31%	28%	1%
	Men	36%	32%	31%	1%
Marital Status	Women	44%	24%	30%	2%
	Married	33%	35%	31%	1%
Interview Type	Not married	49%	19%	29%	2%
	Landline	38%	31%	29%	2%
	Cell Phone	47%	17%	35%	1%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		50%	44%	6%
Party Identification	Democrat	86%	10%	4%
	Republican	13%	82%	5%
	Independent	46%	45%	9%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	95%	3%	2%
	Soft Democrats	79%	13%	8%
	Just Independents	40%	45%	15%
	Soft Republicans	17%	76%	8%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	6%	92%	2%
	Very liberal-Liberal	87%	7%	6%
	Moderate	58%	34%	8%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	22%	73%	6%
	Northeast	55%	36%	10%
	Midwest	50%	44%	6%
Household Income	South	46%	47%	7%
	West	51%	45%	3%
	Less than \$50,000	54%	41%	6%
Education	\$50,000 or more	47%	47%	7%
	Not college graduate	49%	44%	6%
Race	College graduate	50%	44%	6%
	White	42%	52%	6%
	African American	87%	6%	6%
Age	Latino	59%	33%	9%
	18 to 29	56%	32%	12%
	30 to 44	49%	45%	5%
	45 to 59	50%	43%	7%
Age	60 or older	47%	49%	4%
	Under 45	52%	40%	8%
Gender	45 or older	49%	46%	5%
	Men	45%	50%	5%
Marital Status	Women	54%	39%	7%
	Married	40%	53%	7%
Interview Type	Not married	62%	32%	6%
	Landline	48%	48%	4%
	Cell Phone	56%	32%	12%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	Registered Voters		
	Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president ?		
	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
	Row%	Row %	Row%
December 2012	50%	44%	6%
November 2012	50%	46%	4%
July 2012	47%	47%	6%
March 2012	48%	47%	5%
November 2011	43%	50%	7%
September 2011	39%	52%	9%
August 2011	44%	46%	10%
June 2011	45%	47%	8%
April 2011	44%	49%	6%
January 2011	48%	43%	9%
December 2010	42%	50%	8%
November 23, 2010	45%	48%	7%
October 28, 2010	48%	43%	9%
October 8, 2010	43%	50%	7%
September 22, 2010	45%	50%	5%
June 30, 2010	44%	45%	11%
March 31, 2010	46%	43%	11%
February 8, 2010	44%	47%	9%
December 8, 2009	46%	44%	10%
October 14, 2009	53%	41%	6%
August 12, 2009	55%	35%	10%
June 8, 2009	56%	32%	12%
April 27, 2009	55%	31%	14%
April 8, 2009	56%	30%	14%
Marist Poll National Registered Voters			



		National Registered Voters		
		Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of Barack Obama?		
		Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never Heard
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		53%	44%	3%
Party Identification	Democrat	89%	10%	1%
	Republican	15%	82%	3%
	Independent	48%	47%	5%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	96%	3%	1%
	Soft Democrats	82%	15%	3%
	Just Independents	42%	46%	12%
	Soft Republicans	22%	75%	3%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	7%	91%	1%
	Very liberal-Liberal	89%	9%	2%
	Moderate	65%	32%	3%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	24%	73%	3%
	Northeast	63%	35%	2%
	Midwest	55%	43%	2%
Household Income	South	49%	47%	4%
	West	49%	48%	3%
	Less than \$50,000	55%	41%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	52%	46%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	52%	45%	3%
	College graduate	54%	43%	3%
Race	White	45%	52%	3%
	African American	86%	10%	4%
	Latino	62%	35%	3%
Age	18 to 29	66%	32%	3%
	30 to 44	47%	48%	5%
	45 to 59	53%	45%	2%
	60 or older	51%	46%	3%
Age	Under 45	55%	41%	4%
	45 or older	52%	45%	3%
Gender	Men	48%	49%	3%
	Women	57%	40%	3%
Marital Status	Married	45%	52%	2%
	Not married	62%	34%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	50%	48%	2%
	Cell Phone	61%	33%	6%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	Registered Voters		
	Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of Barack Obama?		
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Unsure-Never Heard
	Row %	Row %	Row %
December 2012	53%	44%	3%
July 2012	49%	46%	3%
March 2012	50%	46%	3%
November 2011	47%	49%	4%
September 2011	46%	48%	5%
August 2011	52%	41%	8%
June 2011	50%	44%	6%
April 2011	48%	48%	5%
January 2011	53%	40%	8%
November 23, 2010	47%	49%	4%
October 28, 2010	54%	41%	5%
October 8, 2010	50%	47%	3%
September 22, 2010	49%	48%	3%
June 30, 2010	50%	43%	7%
March 31, 2010	53%	41%	6%
February 8, 2010	50%	44%	6%
December 8, 2009	55%	41%	4%
Marist Poll National Registered Voters			

		National Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		51%	42%	7%
Party Identification	Democrat	84%	11%	4%
	Republican	19%	74%	7%
	Independent	45%	46%	8%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	94%	5%	2%
	Soft Democrats	74%	19%	7%
	Just Independents	40%	39%	21%
	Soft Republicans	25%	67%	7%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	9%	88%	3%
	Very liberal-Liberal	85%	10%	5%
	Moderate	60%	32%	8%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	25%	69%	6%
	Northeast	58%	37%	5%
	Midwest	48%	43%	9%
Household Income	South	51%	43%	6%
	West	48%	45%	6%
	Less than \$50,000	52%	40%	8%
Education	\$50,000 or more	51%	44%	5%
	Not college graduate	49%	43%	9%
Race	College graduate	54%	42%	4%
	White	44%	49%	7%
	African American	80%	14%	6%
Age	Latino	61%	34%	4%
	18 to 29	60%	32%	8%
	30 to 44	49%	43%	8%
	45 to 59	51%	44%	5%
Age	60 or older	48%	45%	7%
	Under 45	53%	38%	8%
Gender	45 or older	49%	44%	6%
	Men	48%	45%	6%
Marital Status	Women	53%	40%	7%
	Married	42%	52%	6%
Interview Type	Not married	62%	31%	8%
	Landline	49%	47%	5%
	Cell Phone	58%	29%	13%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	Registered Voters		
	Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling foreign policy?		
	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
December 2012	51%	42%	7%
March 2012	50%	45%	5%
November 2011	49%	45%	6%
April 2011	46%	48%	6%
November 2010	44%	47%	9%
June 2009	54%	32%	14%
April 2009	55%	24%	21%
Marist Poll National Registered Voters			

		National Registered Voters			
		Who do you think will have more influence over the direction the nation takes in the next two years:			
		The Republicans in			
		Congress	President Obama	Both equally	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		26%	65%	3%	6%
Party Identification	Democrat	17%	77%	1%	6%
	Republican	36%	56%	4%	5%
	Independent	28%	61%	3%	8%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	11%	86%	0%	3%
	Soft Democrats	27%	64%	1%	8%
	Just Independents	20%	59%	5%	16%
	Soft Republicans	34%	56%	4%	6%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	34%	58%	4%	4%
	Very liberal-Liberal	18%	74%	1%	7%
	Moderate	27%	64%	3%	6%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	29%	62%	3%	6%
	Northeast	30%	64%	2%	4%
	Midwest	25%	64%	4%	8%
Household Income	South	28%	65%	3%	5%
	West	21%	68%	2%	9%
	Less than \$50,000	27%	64%	3%	6%
Education	\$50,000 or more	26%	67%	2%	6%
	Not college graduate	27%	64%	3%	6%
Race	College graduate	25%	67%	2%	6%
	White	28%	63%	2%	7%
	African American	16%	80%	1%	4%
Age	Latino	27%	69%	2%	2%
	18 to 29	29%	68%	1%	1%
	30 to 44	38%	52%	3%	7%
	45 to 59	24%	69%	2%	6%
Age	60 or older	21%	68%	3%	8%
	Under 45	34%	59%	3%	5%
Gender	45 or older	22%	68%	2%	7%
	Men	26%	67%	3%	4%
Marital Status	Women	26%	64%	2%	8%
	Married	25%	66%	2%	7%
Interview Type	Not married	27%	65%	3%	5%
	Landline	26%	65%	3%	6%
	Cell Phone	27%	65%	1%	7%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Registered Voters			
		Over the next four years, do you think that President Obama and the Congressional Republicans will compromise more, less, or about the same amount as they did in the past four years?			
		More	Less	About the same	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		35%	17%	45%	2%
Party Identification	Democrat	54%	8%	35%	3%
	Republican	23%	25%	50%	1%
	Independent	28%	19%	51%	2%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	53%	7%	38%	2%
	Soft Democrats	48%	9%	41%	2%
	Just Independents	15%	29%	52%	4%
	Soft Republicans	26%	19%	53%	2%
	Strong Republicans	19%	31%	48%	2%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	48%	8%	43%	0%
	Moderate	42%	14%	43%	1%
	Conservative-Very conservative	23%	25%	49%	3%
Region	Northeast	39%	18%	41%	2%
	Midwest	32%	16%	51%	2%
	South	35%	16%	48%	2%
	West	36%	21%	38%	4%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	36%	17%	44%	2%
	\$50,000 or more	36%	17%	46%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	32%	17%	49%	2%
	College graduate	41%	16%	41%	2%
Race	White	31%	18%	49%	2%
	African American	49%	7%	38%	6%
	Latino	48%	20%	32%	1%
Age	18 to 29	39%	14%	46%	0%
	30 to 44	38%	17%	44%	2%
	45 to 59	36%	17%	45%	1%
	60 or older	33%	17%	46%	3%
Age	Under 45	38%	16%	45%	1%
	45 or older	35%	17%	46%	2%
Gender	Men	33%	19%	46%	2%
	Women	37%	16%	44%	3%
Marital Status	Married	33%	19%	46%	2%
	Not married	38%	16%	43%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	33%	18%	46%	2%
	Cell Phone	41%	15%	43%	2%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Registered Voters			
		Do you think the Republican Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?			
		Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		15%	46%	32%	7%
Party Identification	Democrat	13%	67%	14%	7%
	Republican	20%	16%	60%	5%
	Independent	13%	51%	28%	8%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	9%	75%	10%	6%
	Soft Democrats	12%	63%	19%	6%
	Just Independents	15%	39%	27%	19%
	Soft Republicans	19%	31%	43%	6%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	19%	13%	66%	2%
	Very liberal-Liberal	5%	79%	12%	4%
	Moderate	9%	62%	23%	6%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	26%	18%	49%	7%
	Northeast	8%	53%	31%	8%
	Midwest	19%	45%	34%	2%
Household Income	South	15%	43%	33%	9%
	West	16%	47%	29%	8%
	Less than \$50,000	17%	43%	31%	10%
Education	\$50,000 or more	14%	50%	32%	3%
	Not college graduate	17%	39%	36%	9%
Race	College graduate	12%	58%	26%	4%
	White	16%	45%	33%	7%
	African American	16%	55%	19%	9%
Age	Latino	11%	41%	41%	7%
	18 to 29	17%	39%	40%	4%
	30 to 44	13%	48%	32%	7%
	45 to 59	16%	47%	31%	6%
Age	60 or older	14%	46%	30%	9%
	Under 45	15%	44%	35%	6%
Gender	45 or older	15%	47%	31%	7%
	Men	19%	43%	34%	4%
Marital Status	Women	11%	49%	30%	9%
	Married	16%	45%	34%	5%
Interview Type	Not married	14%	48%	29%	9%
	Landline	15%	45%	33%	7%
	Cell Phone	17%	50%	28%	6%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Registered Voters			
		Do you think the Democratic Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?			
		Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		47%	8%	41%	5%
Party Identification	Democrat	13%	10%	72%	5%
	Republican	86%	5%	8%	2%
	Independent	49%	8%	36%	6%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	8%	8%	81%	3%
	Soft Democrats	21%	11%	60%	8%
	Just Independents	40%	8%	36%	15%
	Soft Republicans	78%	8%	12%	3%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	93%	2%	5%	0%
	Very liberal-Liberal	13%	9%	72%	6%
	Moderate	40%	7%	47%	5%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	72%	7%	18%	3%
	Northeast	37%	6%	51%	6%
	Midwest	46%	10%	42%	2%
Household Income	South	49%	7%	38%	6%
	West	53%	7%	35%	5%
	Less than \$50,000	40%	8%	46%	7%
Education	\$50,000 or more	53%	7%	37%	3%
	Not college graduate	44%	9%	41%	6%
Race	College graduate	51%	6%	40%	3%
	White	53%	7%	35%	5%
Age	African American	12%	11%	72%	6%
	Latino	45%	8%	43%	3%
	18 to 29	33%	15%	51%	1%
Age	30 to 44	49%	7%	37%	7%
	45 to 59	51%	5%	38%	5%
	60 or older	47%	7%	40%	6%
Gender	Under 45	43%	10%	42%	5%
	45 or older	49%	6%	39%	5%
Marital Status	Men	53%	9%	35%	3%
	Women	41%	6%	46%	6%
Interview Type	Married	57%	5%	33%	4%
	Not married	34%	11%	49%	6%
Interview Type	Landline	50%	6%	39%	5%
	Cell Phone	37%	13%	44%	6%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.



		National Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republicans in Congress are doing in office?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		26%	67%	7%
Party Identification	Democrat	10%	84%	6%
	Republican	53%	39%	8%
	Independent	20%	72%	8%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	6%	91%	3%
	Soft Democrats	15%	77%	8%
	Just Independents	8%	72%	19%
	Soft Republicans	32%	60%	8%
	Strong Republicans	65%	29%	6%
Political Ideology	Very liberal-Liberal	12%	85%	2%
	Moderate	17%	74%	9%
	Conservative-Very conservative	41%	51%	8%
Region	Northeast	19%	73%	8%
	Midwest	28%	63%	9%
	South	28%	65%	6%
	West	24%	68%	7%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	23%	69%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	27%	66%	7%
Education	Not college graduate	27%	65%	9%
	College graduate	24%	71%	5%
Race	White	28%	65%	8%
	African American	14%	80%	6%
	Latino	17%	74%	9%
Age	18 to 29	26%	57%	17%
	30 to 44	33%	59%	8%
	45 to 59	24%	71%	5%
	60 or older	24%	71%	6%
Age	Under 45	30%	58%	12%
	45 or older	24%	71%	6%
Gender	Men	26%	67%	7%
	Women	25%	67%	8%
Marital Status	Married	31%	63%	6%
	Not married	19%	72%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	27%	67%	6%
	Cell Phone	22%	67%	11%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	Registered Voters		
	Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Republicans in Congress are doing in office?		
	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
December 2012	26%	67%	7%
March 2012	31%	62%	8%
November 2011	23%	70%	7%
September 2011	26%	67%	8%
August 2011	27%	62%	11%
June 2011	27%	63%	10%
April 2011	30%	63%	7%
Marist Poll National Registered Voters			

		National Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democrats in Congress are doing in office?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		35%	58%	7%
Party Identification	Democrat	70%	25%	5%
	Republican	7%	89%	4%
	Independent	24%	64%	12%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	81%	16%	2%
	Soft Democrats	52%	39%	9%
	Just Independents	10%	59%	32%
	Soft Republicans	8%	86%	6%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	4%	94%	2%
	Very liberal-Liberal	70%	26%	4%
	Moderate	37%	53%	9%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	13%	79%	7%
	Northeast	35%	57%	8%
	Midwest	38%	55%	7%
Household Income	South	33%	60%	7%
	West	34%	58%	8%
	Less than \$50,000	40%	52%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	31%	62%	6%
Education	College graduate	32%	61%	6%
	Not college graduate	36%	56%	9%
Race	White	28%	65%	7%
	African American	67%	25%	8%
	Latino	45%	48%	7%
Age	18 to 29	48%	33%	19%
	30 to 44	28%	62%	10%
	45 to 59	35%	60%	5%
	60 or older	33%	62%	5%
Age	Under 45	36%	50%	14%
	45 or older	34%	61%	5%
Gender	Men	30%	61%	9%
	Women	39%	55%	6%
Marital Status	Married	27%	67%	6%
	Not married	44%	46%	10%
Interview Type	Landline	32%	62%	5%
	Cell Phone	43%	43%	14%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	Registered Voters		
	Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democrats in Congress are doing in office?		
	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
December 2012	35%	58%	7%
March 2012	34%	59%	7%
November 2011	28%	65%	7%
September 2011	30%	63%	7%
August 2011	35%	55%	11%
June 2011	30%	60%	10%
April 2011	34%	60%	6%
Marist Poll National Registered Voters			

		National Adults		
		In general, thinking about the way things are going in the country, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?		
		Right direction	Wrong direction	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		40%	55%	5%
National Registered Voters		39%	56%	4%
Party Identification^	Democrat	70%	24%	6%
	Republican	9%	90%	1%
	Independent	35%	60%	5%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	78%	16%	5%
	Soft Democrats	63%	30%	7%
	Just Independents	23%	70%	7%
	Soft Republicans	13%	85%	2%
	Strong Republicans	5%	95%	0%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	69%	26%	6%
	Moderate	47%	48%	4%
	Conservative-Very conservative	17%	80%	2%
Region	Northeast	45%	50%	5%
	Midwest	39%	54%	7%
	South	38%	58%	3%
	West	40%	55%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	41%	53%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	40%	56%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	39%	55%	6%
	College graduate	42%	55%	3%
Race	White	32%	65%	4%
	African American	76%	20%	4%
	Latino	50%	43%	7%
Age	18 to 29	49%	42%	8%
	30 to 44	34%	62%	4%
	45 to 59	42%	55%	3%
	60 or older	39%	58%	4%
Age	Under 45	41%	53%	6%
	45 or older	40%	56%	3%
Gender	Men	38%	57%	5%
	Women	42%	53%	5%
Marital Status	Married	35%	61%	4%
	Not married	47%	48%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	38%	58%	4%
	Cell Phone	45%	47%	8%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1246 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	National Adults		
	In general, thinking about the way things are going in the country, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?		
	Right direction	Wrong direction	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
December 2012	40%	55%	5%
March 2012	43%	53%	4%
November 2011	25%	70%	4%
September 2011	22%	73%	5%
August 2011	21%	70%	10%
June 2011	32%	59%	9%
April 2011	31%	64%	5%
January 2011	41%	47%	12%
December 2010	34%	58%	8%
November 23, 2010	41%	53%	6%
October 28, 2010	38%	52%	10%
September 22, 2010	41%	56%	3%
July 6, 2010	37%	56%	7%
March 31, 2010	43%	53%	4%
February 8, 2010	38%	54%	8%
December 8, 2009	46%	46%	8%
October 14, 2009	47%	47%	6%
August 12, 2009	50%	42%	8%
June 8, 2009	50%	40%	10%
April 27, 2009	44%	44%	12%
April 15, 2009	49%	40%	11%
November 2007	23%	67%	10%
May 2007	26%	65%	9%
February 2007	29%	63%	8%
December 2006	31%	60%	9%
October 2006	33%	58%	9%
February 2006	34%	61%	5%
October 2005	31%	62%	7%
May 2005	38%	56%	6%
February 2005	47%	48%	5%
October 21, 2004	42%	55%	3%
October 07, 2004	39%	53%	8%
September 2004	38%	52%	10%
August 2004	40%	48%	12%
July 2004	37%	52%	11%
April 2004	43%	51%	6%
March 2004	43%	52%	5%
November 2003	45%	48%	7%
April 2003	55%	34%	11%
January 2003	42%	48%	10%
October 2002	45%	46%	9%
April 2002	60%	32%	8%
January 2002	60%	30%	10%
March 2001	41%	44%	15%
January 2001	56%	32%	12%
Marist Poll National Adults			

		National Registered Voters		
		Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the economy?		
		Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Registered Voters		44%	52%	4%
Party Identification	Democrat	80%	17%	3%
	Republican	9%	90%	2%
	Independent	38%	56%	6%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	90%	9%	1%
	Soft Democrats	69%	25%	6%
	Just Independents	28%	59%	13%
	Soft Republicans	14%	84%	3%
Political Ideology	Strong Republicans	4%	96%	0%
	Very liberal-Liberal	75%	20%	5%
	Moderate	51%	44%	4%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	21%	77%	3%
	Northeast	48%	48%	4%
	Midwest	42%	54%	4%
Household Income	South	41%	55%	4%
	West	48%	49%	3%
	Less than \$50,000	46%	50%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	55%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	43%	52%	5%
	College graduate	45%	52%	3%
Race	White	36%	60%	4%
	African American	88%	9%	2%
	Latino	51%	47%	2%
Age	18 to 29	45%	51%	4%
	30 to 44	39%	57%	4%
	45 to 59	46%	50%	4%
	60 or older	44%	53%	3%
Age	Under 45	41%	55%	4%
	45 or older	45%	51%	4%
Gender	Men	41%	55%	4%
	Women	47%	50%	3%
Marital Status	Married	38%	58%	3%
	Not married	51%	45%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	42%	54%	3%
	Cell Phone	49%	46%	5%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	Registered Voters		
	Do you approve or disapprove of how President Barack Obama is handling the economy?		
	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
December 2012	44%	52%	4%
March 2012	46%	51%	3%
November 2011	36%	59%	4%
September 2011	33%	61%	6%
June 2011	37%	58%	5%
April 2011	40%	57%	3%
January 2011	44%	48%	8%
November 23, 2010	42%	55%	4%
September 21, 2010	41%	56%	3%
June 30, 2010	46%	48%	6%
March 31, 2010	46%	49%	5%
December 8, 2009	45%	51%	4%
October 14, 2009	48%	47%	5%
August 12, 2009	52%	41%	7%
June 8, 2009	53%	41%	6%
April 8, 2009	54%	37%	9%
Marist Poll National Registered Voters			



		National Adults		
		When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:		
		The worst is yet to come	The worst is behind us	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		53%	42%	5%
National Registered Voters		53%	42%	5%
Party Identification^	Democrat	21%	72%	7%
	Republican	84%	13%	3%
	Independent	60%	37%	4%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	13%	79%	8%
	Soft Democrats	32%	63%	5%
	Just Independents	70%	25%	6%
	Soft Republicans	79%	19%	2%
	Strong Republicans	90%	8%	1%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	21%	72%	7%
	Moderate	45%	51%	4%
	Conservative-Very conservative	78%	19%	3%
Region	Northeast	48%	49%	3%
	Midwest	54%	43%	4%
	South	56%	39%	5%
	West	54%	39%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	56%	39%	5%
	\$50,000 or more	50%	46%	4%
Education	Not college graduate	56%	38%	5%
	College graduate	48%	47%	4%
Race	White	58%	38%	4%
	African American	28%	62%	10%
	Latino	54%	41%	5%
Age	18 to 29	52%	46%	2%
	30 to 44	56%	37%	7%
	45 to 59	52%	44%	4%
	60 or older	53%	41%	5%
Age	Under 45	54%	41%	4%
	45 or older	53%	42%	5%
Gender	Men	57%	39%	4%
	Women	50%	44%	6%
Marital Status	Married	57%	38%	5%
	Not married	50%	46%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	55%	40%	5%
	Cell Phone	49%	46%	5%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1246 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

	National Adults		
	When thinking about the U.S. economy, which statement comes closer to your view:		
	The worst is yet to come	The worst is behind us	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %
December 2012	53%	42%	5%
March 2012	45%	49%	6%
November 2011	53%	41%	5%
September 2011	61%	35%	3%
August 2011	68%	27%	6%
July 2011	53%	42%	6%
April 2011	57%	39%	4%
January 2011	39%	54%	7%
December 2010	53%	39%	8%
November 29, 2010	51%	45%	5%
October 28, 2010	47%	45%	8%
October 8, 2010	50%	46%	4%
September 21, 2010	52%	44%	4%
Marist Poll National Adults			

		National Adults		
		In the coming year, do you feel you will be economically better off, about the same, or worse off than you are now?		
		Better off	About the same	Worse off
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		27%	40%	32%
National Registered Voters		25%	41%	34%
Party Identification^	Democrat	46%	44%	11%
	Republican	7%	38%	55%
	Independent	20%	43%	36%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	46%	46%	8%
	Soft Democrats	42%	46%	12%
	Just Independents	11%	48%	41%
	Soft Republicans	8%	41%	51%
	Strong Republicans	6%	29%	65%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	40%	51%	9%
	Moderate	30%	43%	28%
	Conservative-Very conservative	13%	35%	52%
Region	Northeast	21%	49%	29%
	Midwest	27%	40%	33%
	South	31%	36%	33%
	West	27%	41%	33%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	28%	38%	34%
	\$50,000 or more	28%	43%	29%
Education	Not college graduate	28%	39%	33%
	College graduate	25%	43%	31%
Race	White	18%	43%	40%
	African American	58%	35%	7%
	Latino	49%	34%	17%
Age	18 to 29	49%	39%	12%
	30 to 44	32%	43%	26%
	45 to 59	23%	39%	38%
	60 or older	17%	41%	42%
Age	Under 45	40%	41%	19%
	45 or older	20%	40%	40%
Gender	Men	30%	39%	32%
	Women	25%	42%	33%
Marital Status	Married	21%	42%	37%
	Not married	35%	39%	27%
Interview Type	Landline	24%	39%	37%
	Cell Phone	37%	44%	19%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted December 4th through December 6th, N=1246 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: N=1091 MOE +/- 3.0 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

\*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.