



POLL MUST BE SOURCED:
NBC News/Marist Poll*

Obama's Request for Military Action against ISIS Receives Majority Support...

Many Americans Say Boots on the Ground are Needed

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This NBC News/Marist Poll reports:

In a poll conducted just hours after President Barack Obama made the case for congressional authorization to use military force against ISIS, a majority of Americans tells the NBC News/Marist Poll they support their congressperson voting for the use of U.S. military action against the Islamic militants. However, residents divide about whether or not President Obama's proposal will receive bipartisan support. With nearly seven in ten residents saying they are aware of the president's request, the news of possible military action against ISIS has permeated Americans' consciousness.

While the president is requesting limited use of U.S. ground troops, where do Americans stand? About two-thirds say at least some presence of ground forces are needed. In fact, about one in four Americans thinks a large number of boots on the ground is necessary. Not surprisingly, partisan differences exist.

Despite many Americans' belief that the U.S and its allies will be victorious in defeating ISIS, confidence in President Obama's strategy to combat ISIS is mixed.

When it comes to President Obama's legacy, Americans divide about whether the president will be remembered more for ending a war or for starting a new one.

"This challenge will bear on the president's legacy," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "By nearly two to one, Democrats think President Obama will still be remembered for ending a war, but by more than three to one, Republicans see the president's legacy as having started a new one."

*All references to the survey must be sourced as "NBC News/Marist Poll."

Poll points:

- 54% of Americans want their member of Congress to vote **to authorize U.S. military action against ISIS**. 32% are against such approval, and more than one in ten, 13%, is unsure. A majority of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents think their congressional representative should support the president's request.
- Residents divide about whether President Obama's proposal will have **bipartisan support in Congress**. 44% think it will not, and 40% believe it will. 16% are unsure. A majority of Democrats, 56%, and a plurality of Republicans, 44%, say the president's plan will not receive bipartisan support. A notable 20% of Republicans are unsure. Independents divide. 44% think partisanship will be put aside while 43% believe it will be front and center in the debate.
- About two-thirds of Americans, 66%, think **U.S. boots on the ground are necessary, to some degree, to combat ISIS**. This includes 26% who support sending a large number of U.S. ground forces and 40% who back deploying a limited number of troops on the ground. 26% do not want any ground forces involved, and 7% are unsure.
- Views about the use of ground troops differ based on party. 38% of Republicans, compared with 16% of Democrats and 25% of independents, support sending a large number of ground forces.
- Many Americans, 66%, are optimistic that **the U.S. and its allies will defeat ISIS**. There is little partisan difference of opinion on this question.
- Looking at Americans' level of **confidence in President Obama's strategy to combat ISIS**, there is a divide. 48% do not have very much faith in the president's approach. 45% express confidence in the president's proposal. Not surprisingly, 82% of Republicans have little or no confidence in the president's military strategy. Most Democrats, 71%, are confident in the president's approach. Independents are more divided: 44% express confidence and 49% do not.
- When it comes to **President Obama's legacy**, 44% of Americans say President Obama will be remembered more for starting a new war than ending one. 40% think the opposite will be true. A notable, 16%, are unsure. More than six in ten Republicans, 62%, and a majority of independents, 51%, believe President Obama's legacy will be defined by beginning a new war. 59% of Democrats think he will be remembered for ending a war.
- 69% of Americans have **heard about the president's request to use U.S. military force against ISIS**, and 31% have not.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: NBC News/Marist National Poll of 603 Adults

This survey of 603 adults was conducted February 11th and February 12th, 2015 by The Marist Poll sponsored and funded in partnership with NBC News. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed in English by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. 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 ± 4.0 percentage points. There are 526 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 4.3 percentage points. The error margin was not adjusted for sample weights and increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	National Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Registered Voters		87%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	34%
	Republican	n/a	28%
	Independent	n/a	36%
	Other	n/a	2%
Gender	Men	49%	47%
	Women	51%	53%
Age	Under 45	45%	42%
	45 or older	55%	58%
Age	18 to 29	22%	19%
	30 to 44	22%	22%
	45 to 59	27%	28%
	60 or older	28%	31%
Race	White	68%	71%
	African American	11%	11%
	Latino	13%	12%
	Other	7%	6%
Region	Northeast	18%	19%
	Midwest	22%	22%
	South	37%	37%
	West	23%	22%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	47%
	\$50,000 or more	51%	53%
Interview Type	Landline	55%	58%
	Cell phone	45%	42%

NBC News/Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted February 11th and February 12th, 2015, n=603 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points. National Registered Voters: n=526 MOE +/- 4.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults	
		Have you heard or read anything about President Obama's request to Congress to authorize U.S. military force against ISIS, the Islamic State Group, or not?	
		Yes	No
		Row %	Row %
National Adults		69%	31%
National Registered Voters		71%	29%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	70%	30%
	Republican	70%	30%
	Independent	71%	29%
Gender	Men	72%	28%
	Women	67%	33%
Age	18 to 29	52%	48%
	30 to 44	57%	43%
	45 to 59	78%	22%
	60 or older	84%	16%
Age	Under 45	55%	45%
	45 or older	81%	19%
Race	White	75%	25%
	Non-white	57%	43%
Region	Northeast	65%	35%
	Midwest	72%	28%
	South	73%	27%
	West	64%	36%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	66%	34%
	\$50,000 or more	75%	25%
Interview Type	Landline	75%	25%
	Cell phone	63%	37%

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[^]National Registered Voters: n=526 MOE +/- 4.3 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		President Obama has asked Congress to vote to allow the use of U.S. military force against ISIS, the Islamic State group. The president is requesting authorization for three years, with no geographic limitations. The president is also asking for flexibility for limited ground operations by the U.S. military, but rules out deploying a long-standing ground force. Do you want your member of Congress to vote for or against this authorization?		
		For	Against	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		54%	32%	13%
National Registered Voters		55%	33%	12%
Party Identification^	Democrat	60%	28%	12%
	Republican	52%	35%	12%
	Independent	51%	36%	13%
Gender	Men	59%	30%	11%
	Women	50%	35%	16%
Age	18 to 29	48%	37%	14%
	30 to 44	50%	38%	12%
	45 to 59	60%	28%	12%
	60 or older	56%	30%	14%
Age	Under 45	49%	38%	13%
	45 or older	58%	29%	13%
Race	White	53%	32%	16%
	Non-white	58%	34%	8%
Region	Northeast	42%	43%	15%
	Midwest	60%	32%	8%
	South	61%	26%	13%
	West	48%	34%	19%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	53%	33%	14%
	\$50,000 or more	59%	28%	12%
Interview Type	Landline	55%	32%	13%
	Cell phone	54%	33%	13%

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 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

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NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you think President Obama's proposal will or will not have bipartisan support in Congress?		
		Will	Will not	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		40%	44%	16%
National Registered Voters		39%	47%	14%
Party Identification^	Democrat	35%	56%	9%
	Republican	36%	44%	20%
	Independent	44%	43%	12%
Gender	Men	45%	41%	14%
	Women	35%	48%	17%
Age	18 to 29	43%	43%	14%
	30 to 44	40%	43%	17%
	45 to 59	34%	54%	12%
	60 or older	44%	38%	18%
Age	Under 45	41%	43%	16%
	45 or older	39%	46%	15%
Race	White	39%	46%	15%
	Non-white	41%	42%	16%
Region	Northeast	36%	49%	16%
	Midwest	40%	43%	17%
	South	43%	43%	14%
	West	38%	44%	17%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	42%	40%	19%
	\$50,000 or more	38%	51%	10%
Interview Type	Landline	37%	47%	17%
	Cell phone	44%	42%	14%

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NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you believe the United States and its allies will be able to or will not be able to defeat ISIS, the Islamic State group?		
		Will be able to	Will not be able to	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		66%	23%	11%
National Registered Voters		67%	23%	10%
Party Identification [^]	Democrat	67%	19%	14%
	Republican	69%	25%	7%
	Independent	65%	27%	8%
Gender	Men	66%	25%	9%
	Women	66%	22%	13%
Age	18 to 29	75%	20%	5%
	30 to 44	70%	23%	7%
	45 to 59	62%	23%	15%
	60 or older	60%	27%	14%
Age	Under 45	73%	21%	6%
	45 or older	61%	25%	14%
Race	White	64%	25%	12%
	Non-white	73%	20%	7%
Region	Northeast	67%	20%	12%
	Midwest	66%	23%	10%
	South	68%	22%	9%
	West	61%	27%	13%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	65%	24%	10%
	\$50,000 or more	66%	25%	9%
Interview Type	Landline	65%	24%	11%
	Cell phone	68%	22%	10%

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 MOE +/- 4.0 percentage points.

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NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults			
		When it comes to combating ISIS, the Islamic State group, do you support the United States:			
		Sending a large number of U.S. ground forces	Sending a limited number of U.S. ground forces	Not sending U.S. ground forces at all	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		26%	40%	26%	7%
National Registered Voters		26%	41%	26%	7%
Party Identification^	Democrat	16%	50%	28%	5%
	Republican	38%	36%	18%	8%
	Independent	25%	39%	29%	6%
Gender	Men	28%	35%	29%	8%
	Women	24%	45%	24%	7%
Age	18 to 29	23%	45%	27%	5%
	30 to 44	29%	42%	23%	5%
	45 to 59	27%	36%	28%	9%
	60 or older	25%	39%	25%	11%
Age	Under 45	26%	44%	25%	5%
	45 or older	26%	38%	27%	10%
Race	White	28%	40%	24%	7%
	Non-white	22%	43%	28%	8%
Region	Northeast	25%	42%	26%	8%
	Midwest	28%	40%	26%	6%
	South	28%	39%	27%	6%
	West	24%	41%	25%	10%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	30%	34%	28%	8%
	\$50,000 or more	24%	48%	23%	5%
Interview Type	Landline	24%	39%	29%	8%
	Cell phone	29%	42%	23%	7%

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NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		How much confidence do you have in President Obama's strategy to combat ISIS, the Islamic State group:				
		A great deal of confidence	A good amount	Not very much	None at all	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		12%	33%	27%	21%	6%
National Registered Voters		12%	33%	26%	23%	5%
Party Identification^	Democrat	22%	49%	20%	3%	6%
	Republican	4%	14%	35%	47%	0%
	Independent	9%	35%	27%	22%	6%
Gender	Men	15%	29%	26%	23%	8%
	Women	9%	37%	29%	20%	5%
Age	18 to 29	16%	43%	25%	9%	7%
	30 to 44	6%	34%	30%	22%	8%
	45 to 59	13%	30%	26%	24%	6%
	60 or older	11%	26%	28%	30%	4%
Age	Under 45	11%	39%	28%	15%	8%
	45 or older	12%	28%	27%	27%	5%
Race	White	6%	31%	31%	27%	4%
	Non-white	24%	37%	20%	10%	9%
Region	Northeast	6%	40%	34%	12%	8%
	Midwest	6%	36%	25%	25%	7%
	South	19%	28%	25%	25%	4%
	West	11%	33%	27%	21%	8%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	12%	30%	28%	23%	6%
	\$50,000 or more	12%	36%	27%	21%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	10%	33%	27%	24%	6%
	Cell phone	14%	33%	27%	18%	7%

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NBC News/Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you think President Obama will be remembered more for ending a war or more for starting a new one?		
		Ending a war	Starting a new one	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		40%	44%	16%
National Registered Voters		39%	46%	15%
Party Identification^	Democrat	59%	30%	11%
	Republican	18%	62%	20%
	Independent	37%	51%	12%
Gender	Men	45%	36%	19%
	Women	35%	51%	13%
Age	18 to 29	47%	48%	6%
	30 to 44	33%	51%	16%
	45 to 59	41%	43%	16%
	60 or older	36%	39%	24%
Age	Under 45	40%	49%	11%
	45 or older	39%	41%	20%
Race	White	34%	50%	16%
	Non-white	52%	34%	14%
Region	Northeast	44%	41%	15%
	Midwest	35%	47%	17%
	South	39%	46%	15%
	West	43%	41%	17%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	36%	47%	16%
	\$50,000 or more	43%	45%	12%
Interview Type	Landline	37%	45%	18%
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