



National Public Radio National Survey

Key Findings From a National Survey
of 800 Likely Voters

March 10-12 & 14, 2009



Project #09065

GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER RESEARCH

Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies and Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research are pleased to present National Public Radio with the key findings of a national telephone survey of 800 likely voters. The survey, which was completed March 10-12, and 14, 2009, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.46 percentage points ($\pm 3.46\%$) in 95 out of 100 cases.

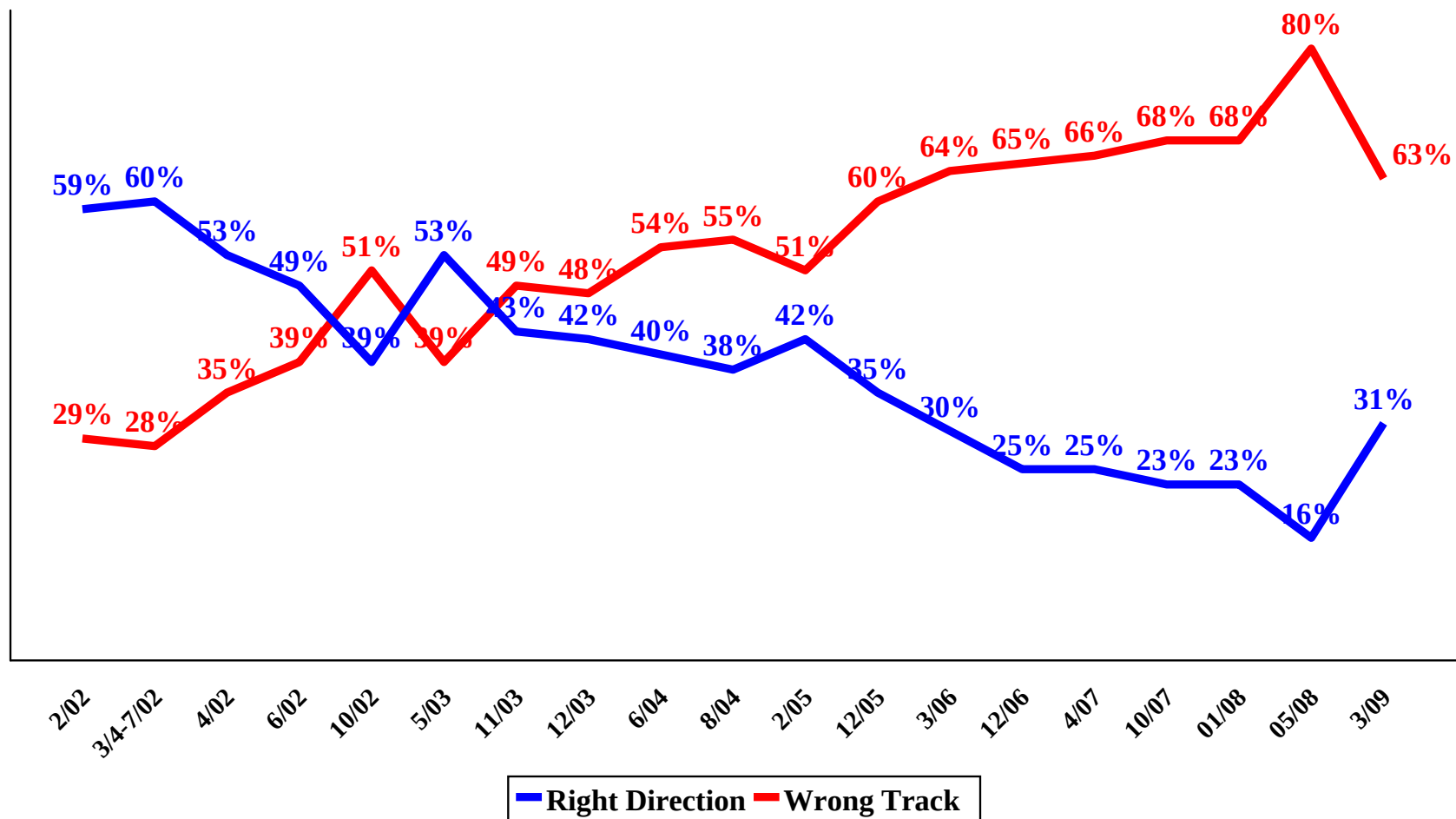
The survey was developed by the two firms and NPR. This is our twenty-seventh survey in the NPR series.



Political Environment

**There has been an uptick in the mood of voters,
but they do remain pessimistic about the
direction of the country.**

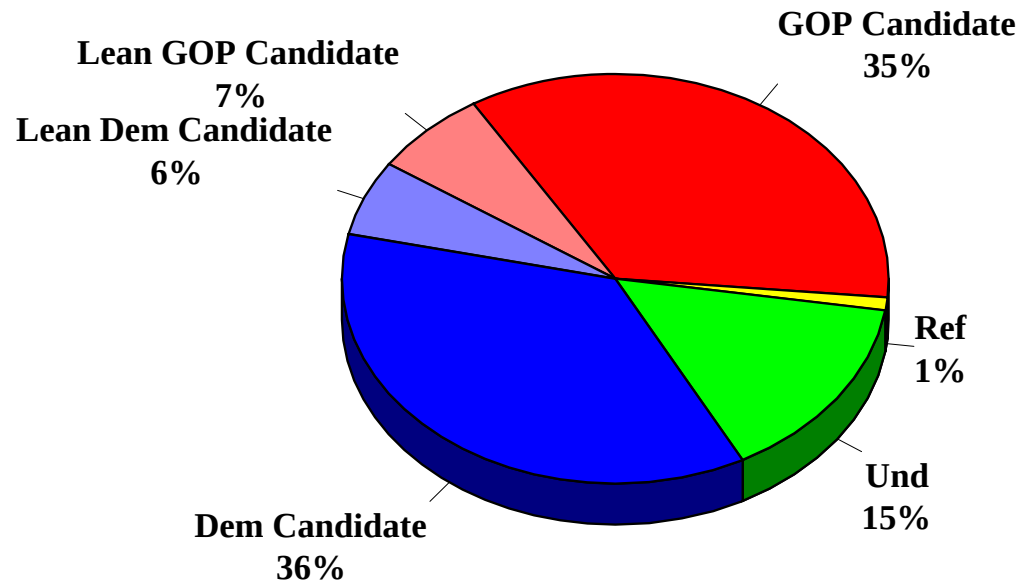
National Mood Trend



The generic ballot is a dead heat.

“If the 2010 elections for United States Congress were being held today, for whom would you vote... Well, if the election for Congress were held today and you had to decide right now in your own district where you live which candidate would you lean... the Republican candidate...or...the Democratic candidate”

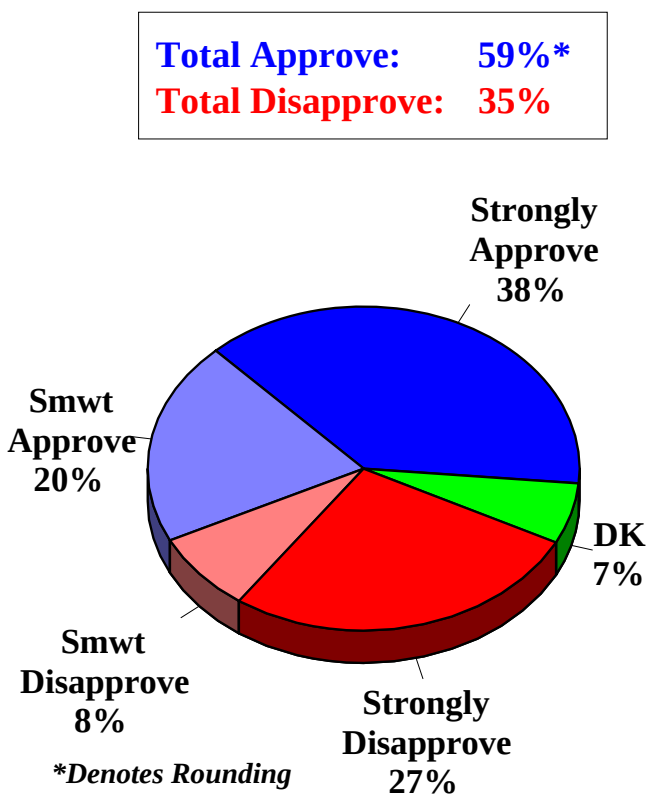
Total GOP Candidate:	42%
Total Dem Candidate:	42%



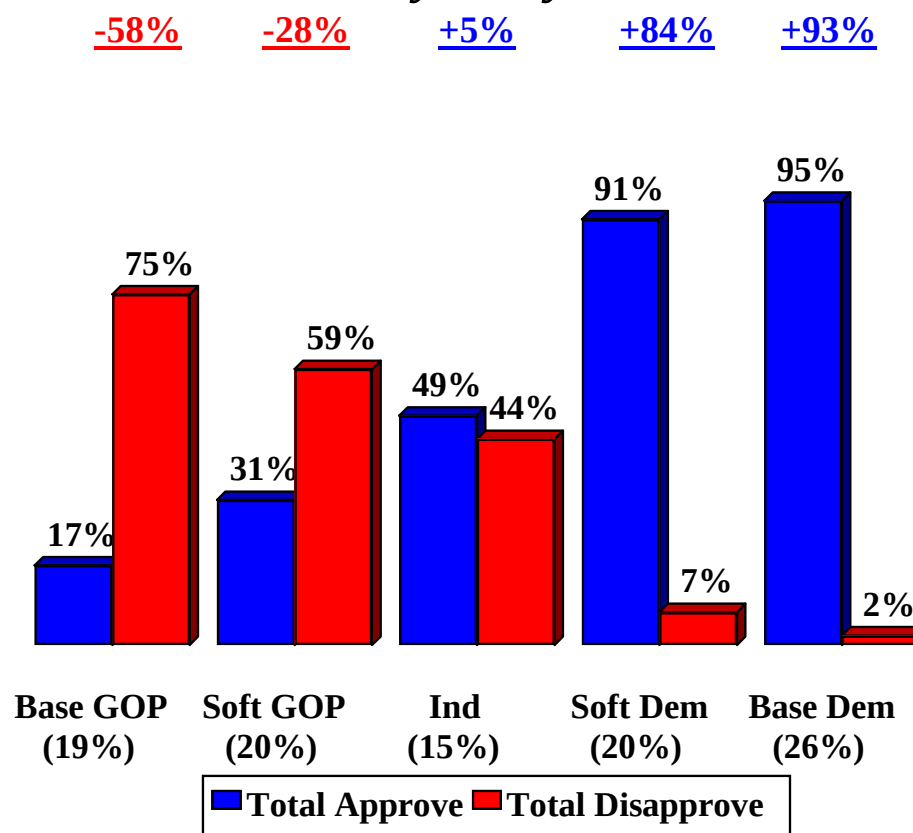
A significant majority of voters approve of how Obama is handling his job as President.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?”

Overall

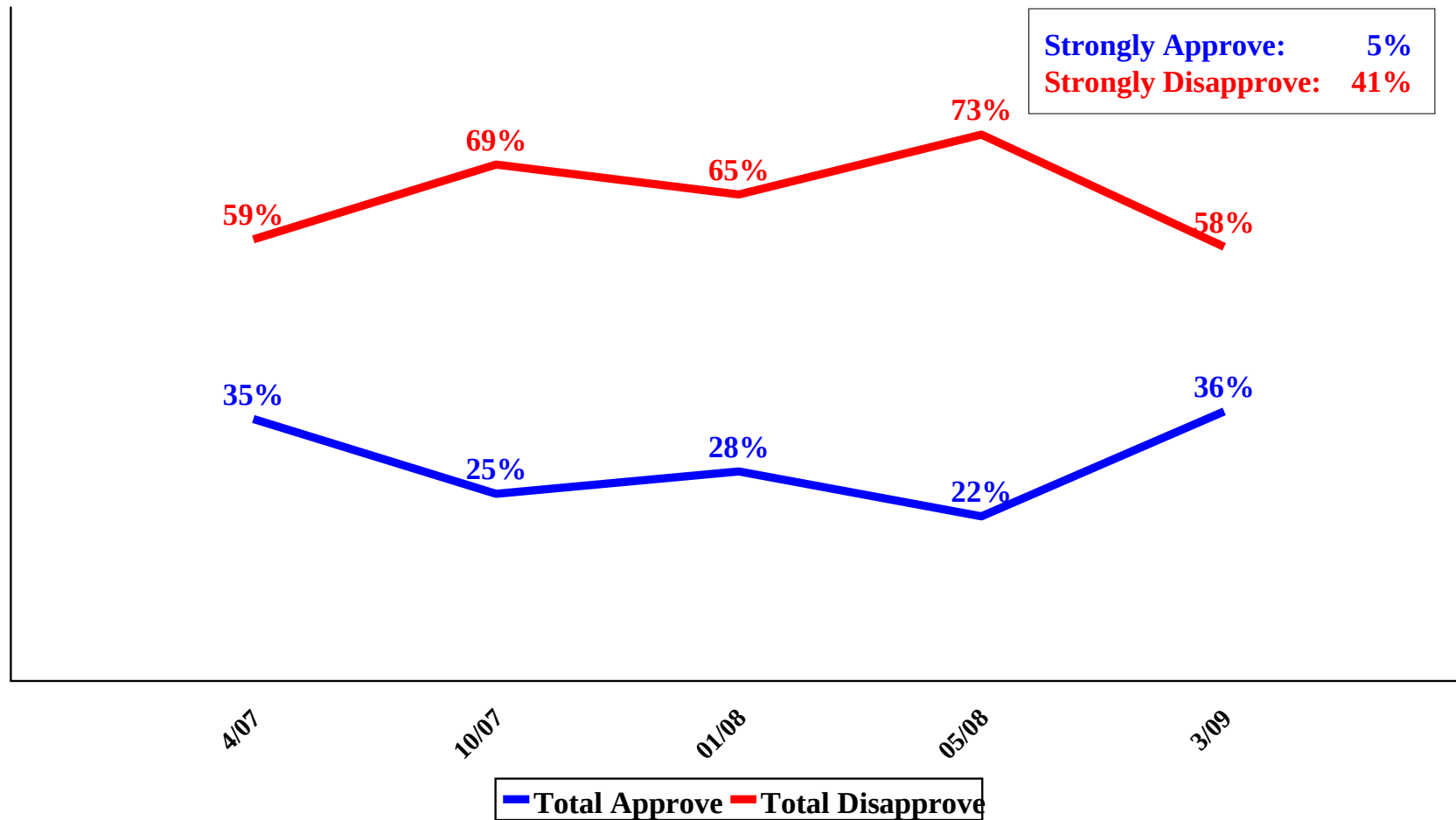


By Party



Although Congressional approval has improved a net 29 points, a majority still disapprove of the job Congress is doing.

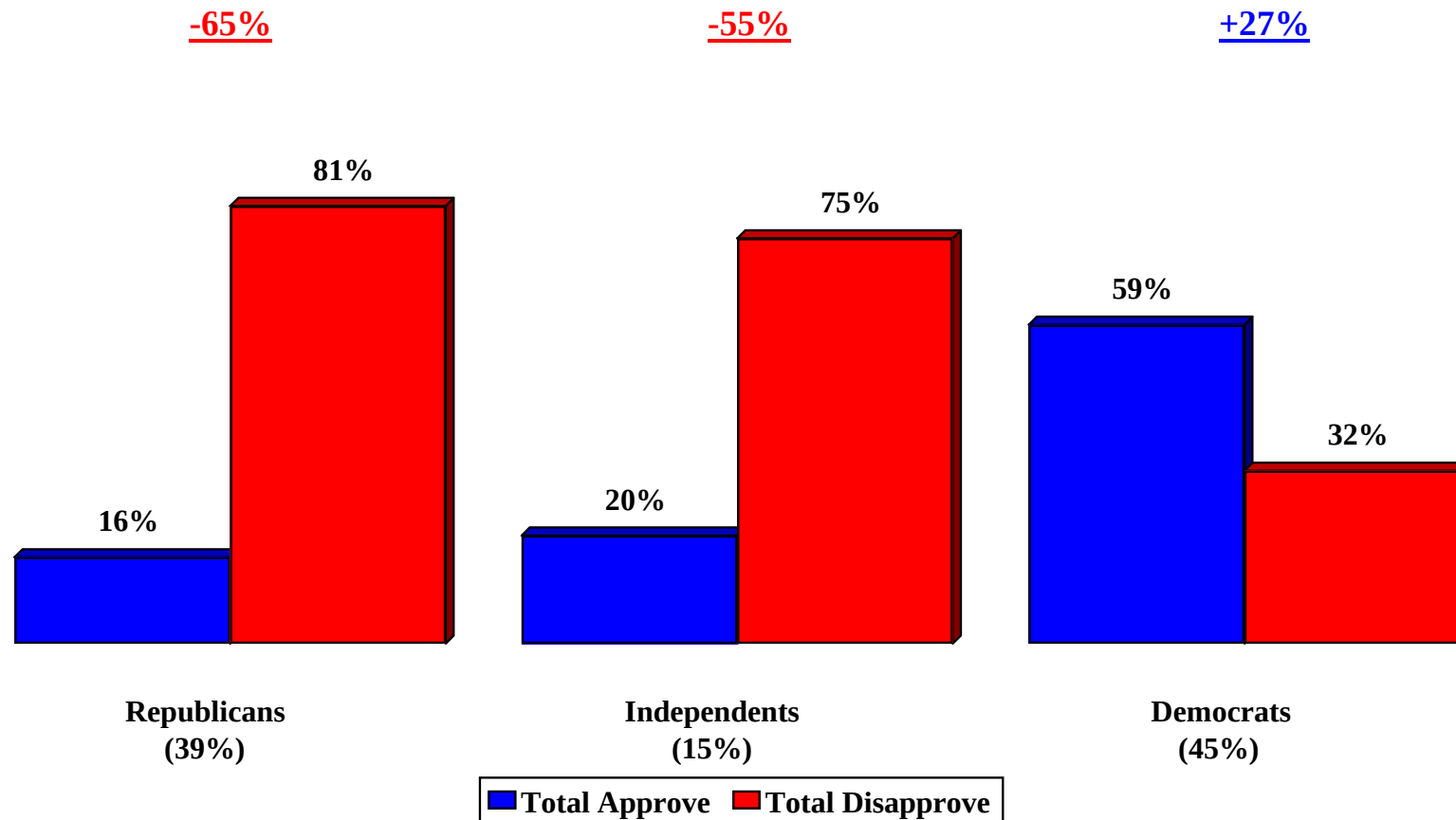
Congressional Approval Trend



Dems approve of the job Congress is doing, while GOPers and Inds overwhelmingly disapprove.

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is handling its job?”

By Party



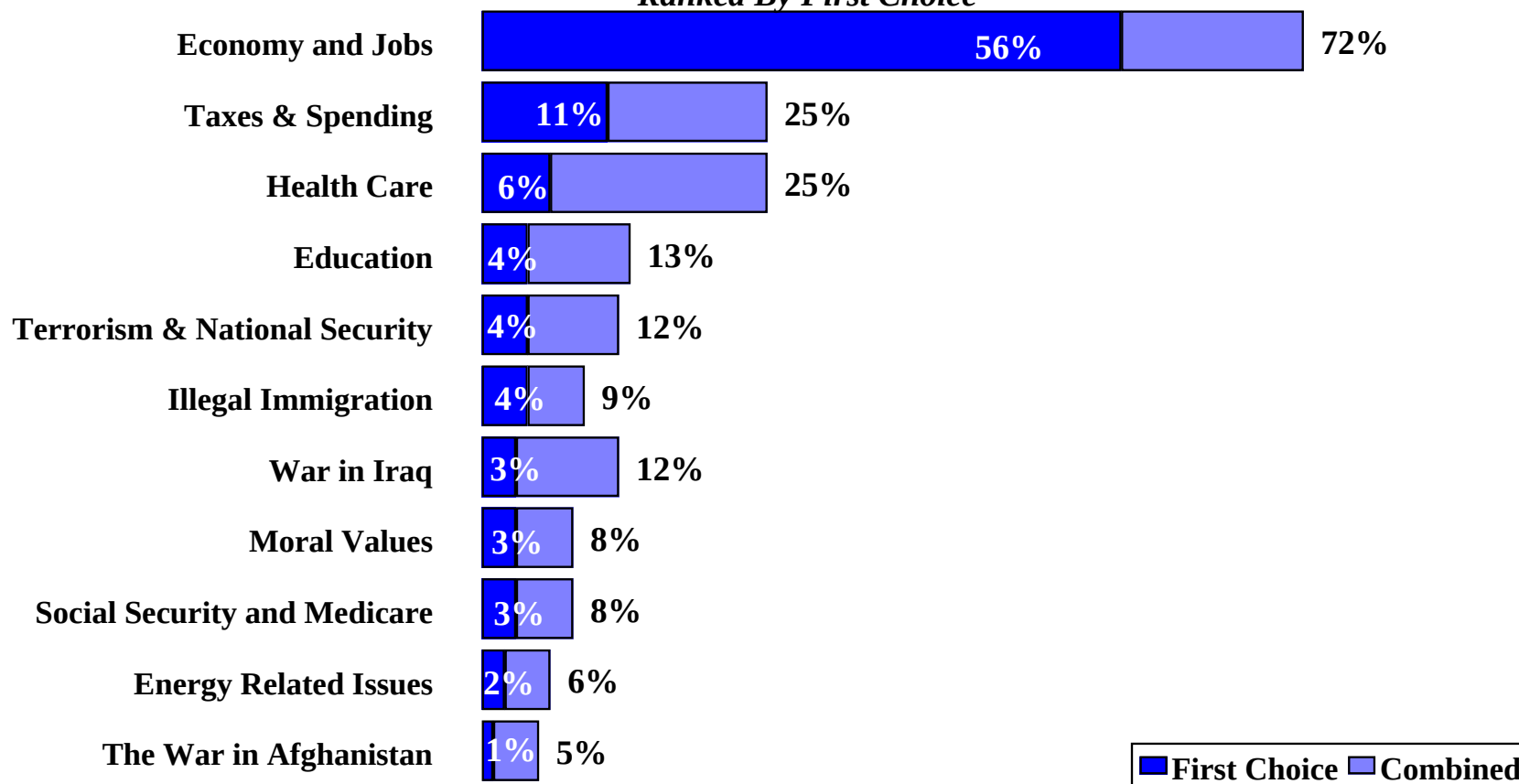


Issues

Voters overwhelmingly say President Obama and Congress should be paying the most attention to the economy/jobs.

“Which ONE of the following issues do you think the President and Congress should be paying most attention to? And which of the following is NEXT most important to you in deciding how to vote?”

Ranked By First Choice

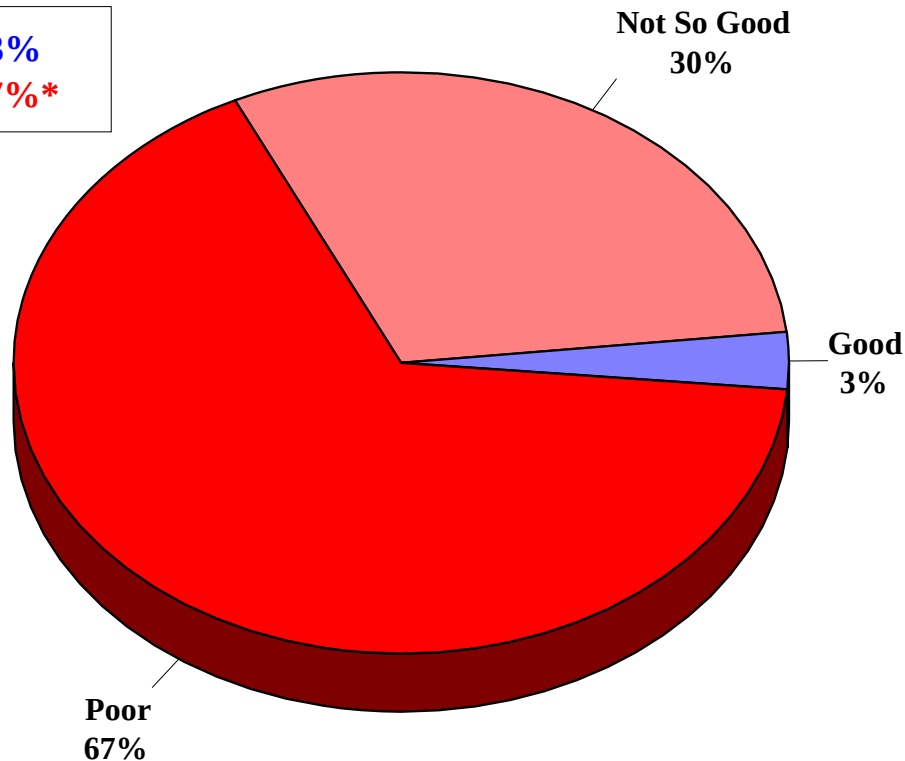


The vast majority of voters say the state of the economy is poor.

“Now I would like to talk you about the state of the economy. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?”

Overall

Total Excellent/Good:	3%
Total Not So Good/Poor:	97%*



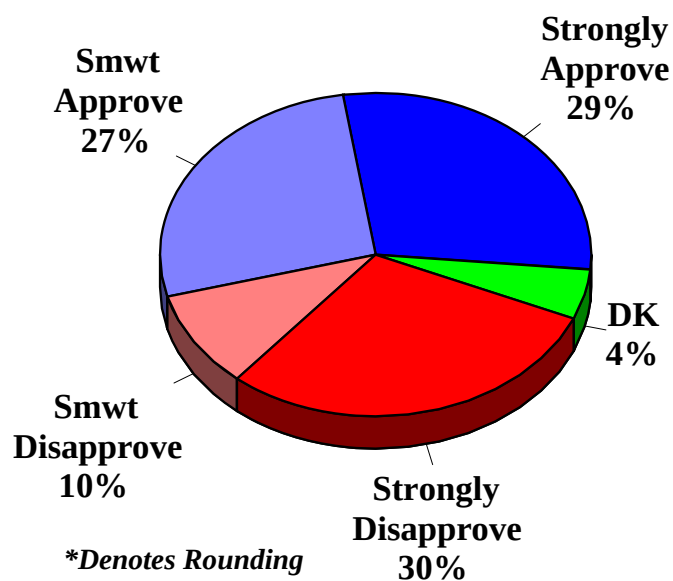
*Denotes Rounding

More than half of voters approve of the way Obama is handling the economy. Democrats are especially supportive.

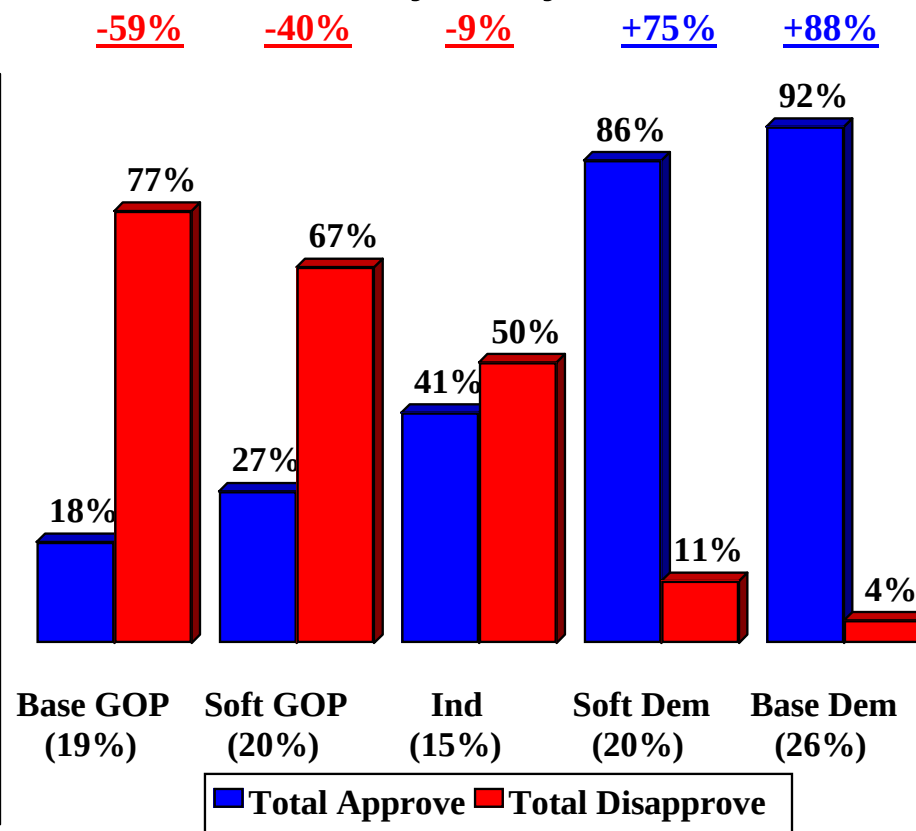
"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?"

Overall

Total Approve: 56%
Total Disapprove: 39%*

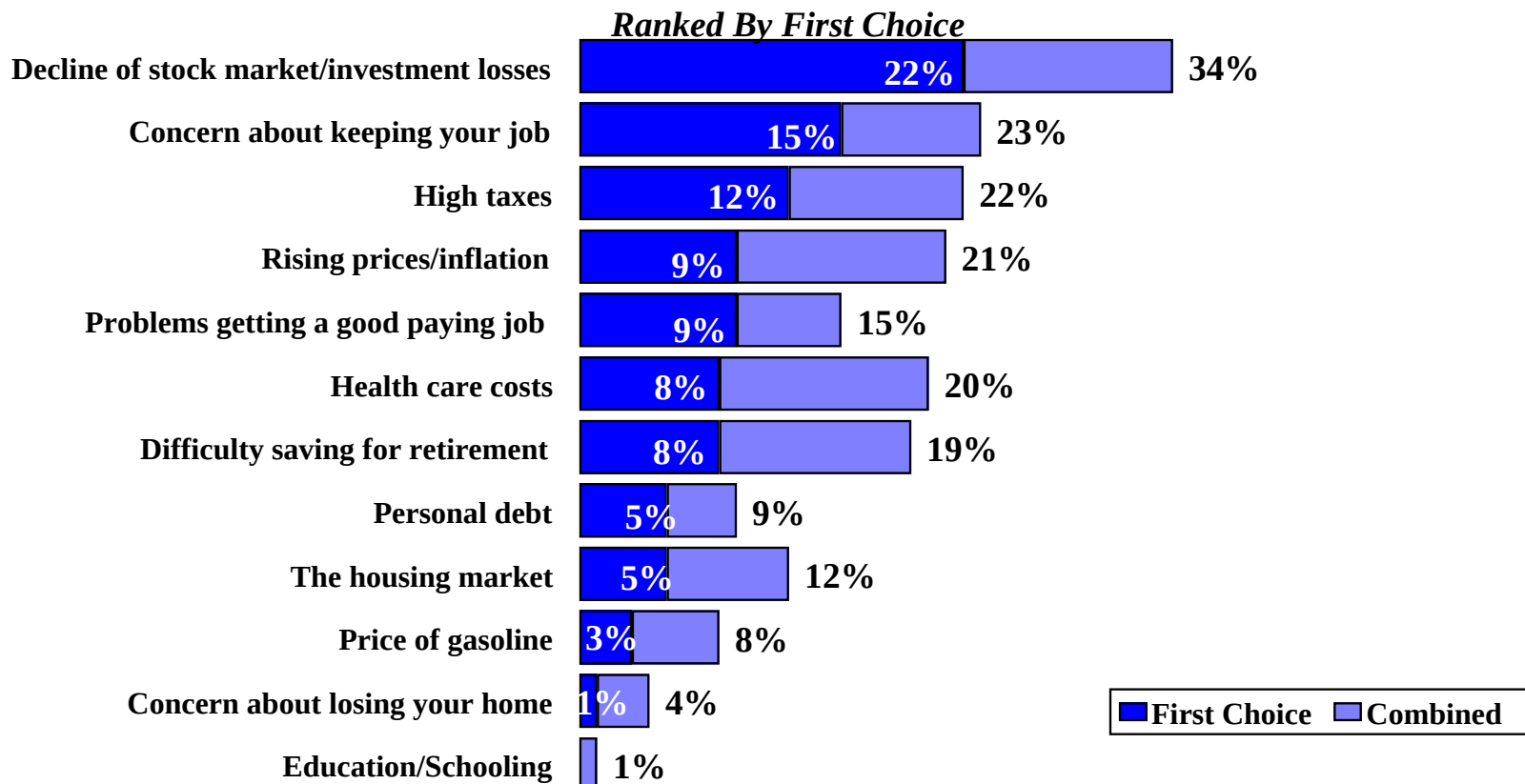


By Party



Voters say the decline in the stock market, concerns about keeping their job, high taxes, and rising prices are the most important economic issues.

“Which of these is the single most important economic issue facing you and your family? If it's a different economic issue than the ones on the list, just tell me that. :) And which of the following is NEXT most important economic issue facing you and your family”

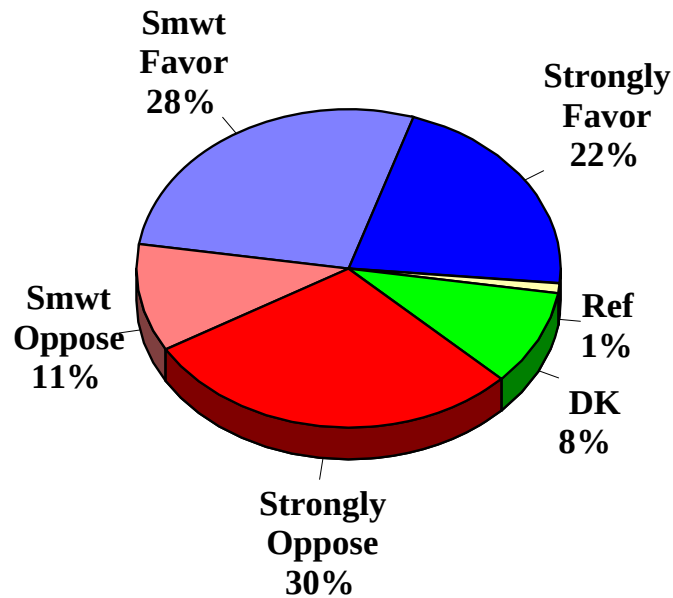


Voters favor Obama's plan for the federal budget, but intensity is against it.

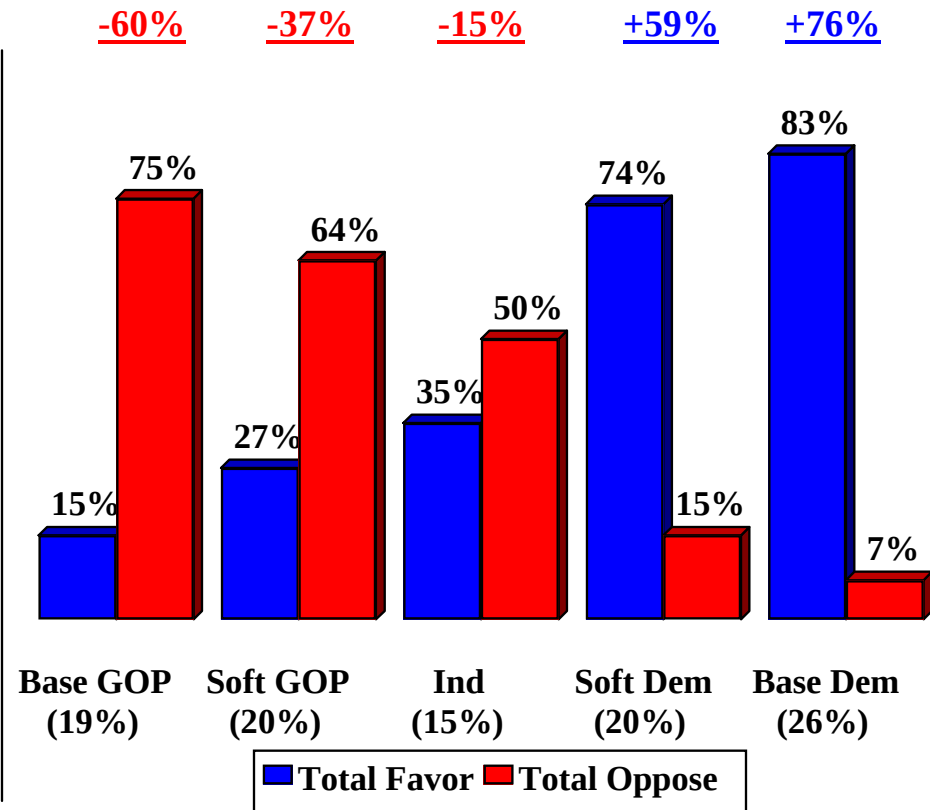
"Do you favor or oppose President Obama's plan for the federal budget?"

Overall

Total Favor: 49%*
Total Oppose: 40%*



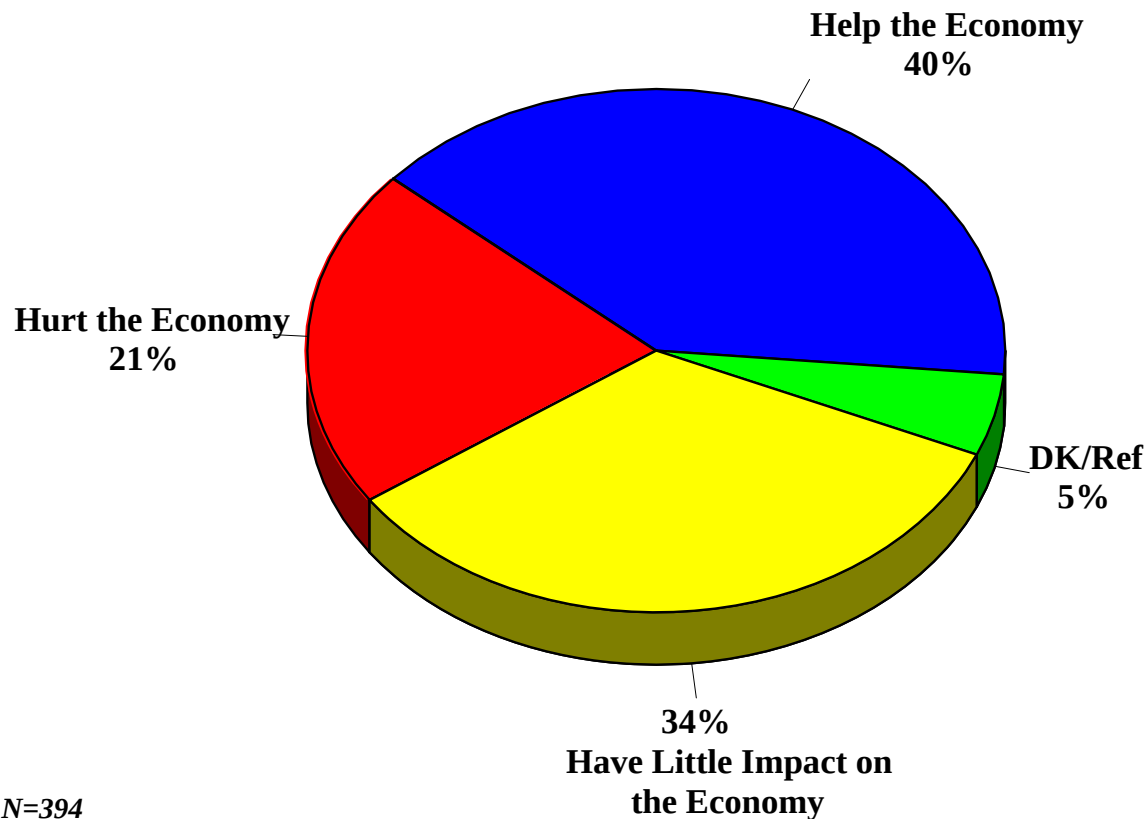
By Party



*Denotes Rounding

A plurality of voters think the stimulus will help the economy.

“Do you think that the stimulus bill will... help the economy, hurt the economy, or have little impact on the economy?”[^]



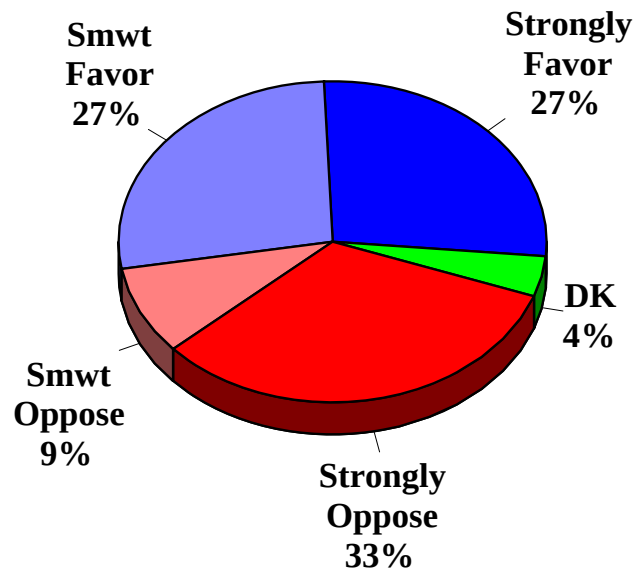
[^] Split Sample: N=394

A majority of voters favor the economic stimulus bill. Intensity is divided.

“Do you favor or oppose the economic stimulus bill recently signed into law by President Obama?”[^]

Overall

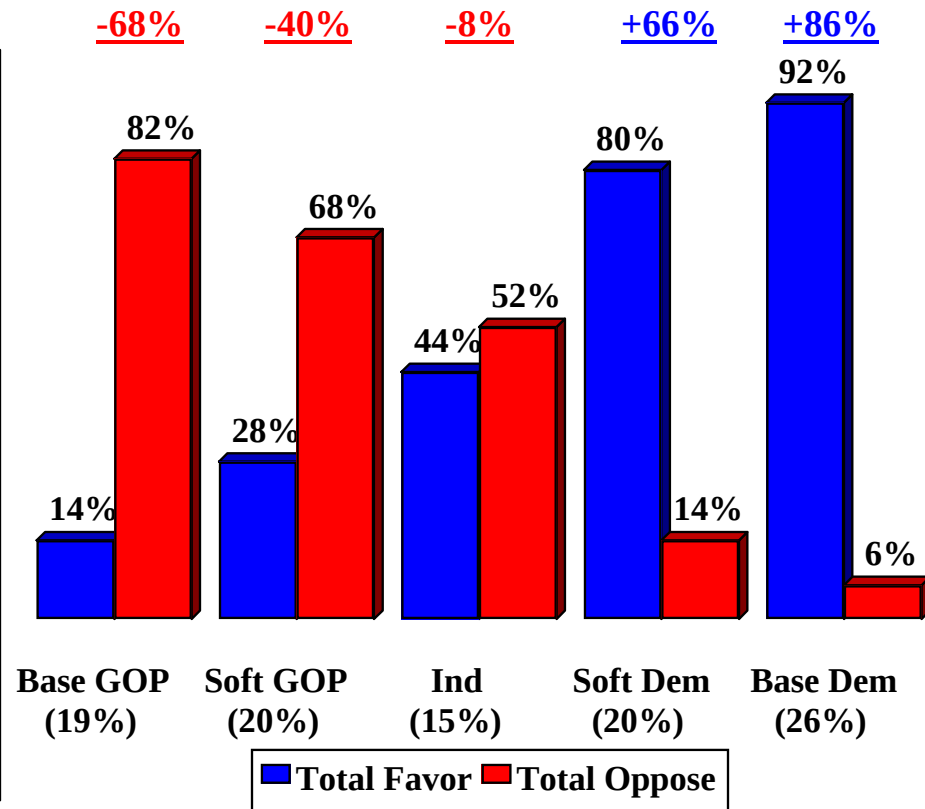
Total Favor:	55%*
Total Oppose:	42%



*Denotes Rounding

[^] Split Sample: N=406

By Party



More than half of voters favor the Democrats' view on the budget and taxes.

“Next, I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.”

“On the issue of budget and taxes...”

43%

Republicans say that the Democratic budget is a job-killer that leaves all of us less economically secure. It takes \$1.4 trillion dollars in higher taxes from American families and small businesses when they can least afford it. These tax increases will hurt the small businesses that create most new jobs and force middle class Americans to tighten their belts to pay for a huge new energy tax while the federal government goes on a wasteful spending spree.

...Or...

52%

Democrats say that President Obama's budget will put the middle class first again, by cutting taxes for those earning under \$250,000 and small businesses and asking the very wealthiest and big corporations to pay their share. Bush's approach hurt average people and the economy. This budget cuts Bush's deficit in half and raises taxes on the wealthy to make health insurance more affordable. To grow the economy, it cuts taxes for 95 percent of Americans.

Just over half of voters favor the Democrats' stance on the budget and energy.

"Next, I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right."

"On the issue of the budget and energy... "

42%

Republicans say the Democratic budget creates a huge new tax on energy that will send American jobs overseas to places like China and India, and raise taxes on anyone who uses electricity or drives a car. America needs to develop alternative energy sources like wind, solar, and biofuels and tap proven energy reserves here at home. But energy taxes that fall disproportionately on the poor and middle class are unfair and wrong.

...Or...

53%

Democrats say President Obama's budget will help build a clean energy economy that creates jobs, kick starts new businesses and cuts our dependence on foreign oil. We're falling behind Germany and Japan in renewable energy and it's time for America to lead again. The plan caps global warming pollution, makes corporate polluters pay a fee and rewards alternative energy like wind and solar while cutting taxes for the middle class.

A slight majority of voters back the Democrats' view on the budget and health care.

"Next, I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right."

"On the issue of budget and health care..."

42%

Republicans say that health care reform must preserve choice, promote competition, and reward healthy lifestyle choices. The Democratic budget, however, will create an undependable and inefficient government-run health care system that would lead to rationing of care, runaway costs, and bureaucrats making health care decisions that should be made by doctors and patients.

...Or...

53%

Democrats say President Obama's budget finally addresses health care, after years of skyrocketing costs and millions losing health insurance, particularly now. The budget for the first time sets aside the funds for health care reform, but the president is calling on both parties and business to work together to ensure that affordable insurance is available to all. By addressing health care costs, we help small business, employees and American companies.

A narrow majority of voters agree with the Democrats' position on the issues of the budget and the deficit.

“Next, I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.”

“On the issue of the budget and the deficit...”

45%

Republicans say that the Democratic budget puts the government before the people. It is a combination of out-of-control spending and job-killing taxes that breaks their promise of fiscal responsibility. It penalizes charities with higher taxes. It redistributes wealth by giving government checks to people who don't pay taxes. It will prolong the recession and leave a mountain of debt for our children and grand children to pay off.

...Or...

51%

Democrats say that President Obama's budget commits America to cutting the federal deficit in half in four years. Thanks to irresponsible policies from both parties, Obama has inherited a trillion-dollar deficit, but this is the first budget to honestly account for all costs and it reduces our deficit by cutting spending and restoring Clinton-era tax rates for the wealthiest. It returns us to greater responsibility, cutting the deficit while meeting national needs.



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