

**Newsweek Poll
Obama/Muslims
Princeton Survey Research Associates International**

Final Topline Results
(8/27/10)

N = 1,029 adults 18+ (697 landline interviews and 332 cell phone interviews)
Margins of error: plus or minus 3.7
Interviewing dates: 8/25-26/10

SAMPLE SIZE/MARGIN OF ERROR FOR TOTAL ADULTS SUBGROUPS:

314 Republicans (plus or minus 6.5)
334 Democrats (plus or minus 6.5)
310 Independents (plus or minus 6.9)

SAMPLE SIZE/MARGIN OF ERROR FOR REGISTERED VOTERS SUBGROUPS:

856 Registered voters (plus or minus 4.1)

284 Republican RVs (plus or minus 6.8)
280 Democrat RVs (plus or minus 7.1)
247 Independent RVs (plus or minus 7.8)

366 Obama-Approve RVs (plus or minus 6.3)
435 Obama-Disapprove RVs (plus or minus 5.6)

Notes: Data are weighted so that sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density.

Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error. Sample size and margins of error for these subgroups are included in a separate methodology statement.

An asterisk () indicates a value less than 1%.*

RVA. Which ONE of the following three statements best describes you... **(READ)**

- 76 Are you ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN you're registered to vote at your current address, OR
 7 Are you PROBABLY registered, but there is a chance your registration has lapsed, OR
 16 Are you NOT registered to vote at your current address?
 1 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 100

*1a/b. Suppose the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY... Would you vote for (ROTATE: the Republican Party's candidate or the Democratic Party's candidate) for Congress in your district? [IF OTHER/UNDECIDED, RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED] As of TODAY, do you LEAN more toward... (ROTATE: the Republican or the Democrat) (running for Congress in your district)?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS¹

	<u>Rep/Lean Rep</u>	<u>Dem/Lean Dem</u>	<u>Undecided/Other</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	45	45	10	=100
Republican RVs	94	4	2	=100
Democrat RVs	6	90	4	=100
Independent RVs	45	33	22	=100
2010 TRENDS (RVs)				
2/17-18/10	43	45	12	=100
2006 TRENDS (RVs)				
11/2-3/06	36	52	12	=100
10/26-27/06	38	49	13	=100
10/19-20/06	37	51	12	=100
10/5-6/06	38	51	11	=100
8/24-25/06	38	50	12	=100
8/10-11/06	39	51	10	=100
5/11-12/06	39	50	11	=100
3/16-17/06	39	50	11	=100
2002 TRENDS (RVs)				
10/24-25/02	46	43	11	=100
10/10-11/02	43	43	14	=100
9/26-27/02	40	47	13	=100
9/12-13/02	43	41	16	=100
8/28-29/02	40	45	15	=100
June 2002 ²	44	46	10	=100
February 2002	46	45	9	=100
1998 TRENDS (RVs)				
10/8-9/98	43	45	12	=100
9/24-25/98	43	48	9	=100
9/10-11/98	43	45	12	=100
8/20-21/98	41	47	12	=100

¹ Registered voters are defined as those who say they are 'absolutely certain' they are registered to vote at their current address in Question RVA.

² June 2002 and February 2002 trends from Pew Research Center.

*2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	47	45	8	=100
Republicans	8	88	4	=100
Democrats	82	14	4	=100
Independents	41	48	11	=100
TRENDS ³				
6/23-24/10	48	46	6	=100
2/17-18/10	48	40	12	=100
1/14-17/10 ⁴	49	38	13	=100
7/16-19/09 ⁵	57	32	11	=100
4/1-2/09	61	27	12	=100
3/4-5/09	58	26	16	=100

*3. How important is your view of Barack Obama in determining your vote for U.S. Congress this year? Is it...(READ)

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT RVs	39	29	13	16	3	=100
Obama-Approve RVs	34	34	14	17	1	=100
Obama-Disapprove RVs	44	25	12	16	3	=100
2006 TREND (8/10-11/06)						
Total RVs	35	27	14	22	2	=100
Bush-Approve RVs	30	34	16	18	2	=100
Bush-Disapprove RVs	40	21	13	24	2	=100
2002 TREND (9/26-27/02)						
Total RVs	30	28	15	24	3	=100
Bush-Approve RVs	30	32	14	21	3	=100
Bush-Disapprove RVs	34	19	13	32	2	=100
1994 TREND (10/27-28/94)						
Total RVs	33	24	15	23	5	=100
Clinton-Approve RVs	32	30	16	19	3	=100
Clinton-Disapprove RVs	38	19	13	25	5	=100

³ In June 2010, presidential job approval was asked as part of a list question with multiple items, including job approval for Republicans in Congress and Democrats in Congress.

⁴ January 2010 trends from PSRAI.

⁵ July 2009 trends from PSRAI.

4. How much do you think Barack Obama has been able to accomplish as president so far? Would you say... **(READ)**

21 A lot
 38 Some, OR
 31 Only a little?
 8 **(VOL.)** Nothing
 2 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 100

5. As president, do you think Barack Obama has governed more as... **(READ)**

36 A practical problem-solver, OR
 44 A political liberal?
 10 **(VOL.)** Neither/Both equally
 10 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 100

*6. Please tell me whether or not you think each of the following phrases applies to Barack Obama. How about... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? Does this apply to Obama, or not?

	<u>Yes. applies</u>	<u>Does not apply</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Shares your values				
CURRENT TOTAL	49	47	4	=100
2008 TRENDS (RVs) ⁶				
10/8-9/08	59	37	4	=100
5/21-22/08	50	42	8	=100
4/24-25/08	51	42	7	=100
4/16-17/08	53	39	8	=100
b. Understands the problems and concerns of people like you				
CURRENT TOTAL	52	46	2	=100
c. Is a good communicator				
CURRENT TOTAL	76	22	2	=100

⁶ In October 2008, question wording was slightly different: "Please tell me whether or not you think each of the following phrases describes BARACK OBAMA. What about...(INSERT: Shares your values)? Does this describe Obama or not?" Earlier trends had slightly different question wording: "Please tell me whether or not you think each of the following presidential candidates SHARES YOUR VALUES. What about...(INSERT: Barack Obama) Does he share your values, or not?"

- *7. We'd like your opinion of the way Barack Obama is handling certain aspects of his job. (First,) what about... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling this issue or problem?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. The economy				
CURRENT TOTAL	40	56	4	=100
TRENDS				
6/23-24/10	38	58	4	=100
4/1-2/09	48	41	11	=100
b. The situation in Iraq				
CURRENT TOTAL	51	41	8	=100
TRENDS				
6/23-24/10	41	51	8	=100
4/1-2/09	57	27	16	=100
c. The situation in Afghanistan				
CURRENT TOTAL	42	47	11	=100
TRENDS				
6/23-24/10	37	53	10	=100
4/1-2/09	55	27	18	=100
d. The war on terrorism				
CURRENT TOTAL	48	42	10	=100
TRENDS				
6/23-24/10	44	48	8	=100
e. Reform of the financial and banking industries				
CURRENT TOTAL	39	52	9	=100
TRENDS				
6/23-24/10	36	53	11	=100
f. Health care				
CURRENT TOTAL	43	51	6	=100
TRENDS				
6/23-24/10	43	51	6	=100
g. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico				
CURRENT TOTAL	52	40	8	=100
TRENDS				
6/23-24/10	33	60	7	=100
h. Taxes				
CURRENT TOTAL	39	49	12	=100
TRENDS				
4/1-2/09	48	37	15	=100
i. The federal budget deficit				
CURRENT TOTAL	32	58	10	=100
TRENDS				
4/1-2/09	42	45	13	=100

8. As president, do you think Barack Obama has been tough enough in dealing with terrorists, or not tough enough?

- 43 Yes, tough enough
 - 50 No, not tough enough
 - 7 Don't know
- 100

*9. Do you think the United States is winning or losing the war in Afghanistan?

<u>Current</u>	<u>6/23-24/10⁷</u>
27 Winning	26
41 Losing	46
14 (VOL.) Neither	19
<u>18</u> Don't know	<u>9</u>
100	100

10. Do you think the United States should stick with the current plan and start withdrawing troops from Afghanistan in July 2011 regardless of conditions on the ground there OR change plans and only start removing troops then if conditions permit it, OR start withdrawing from Afghanistan sooner than is planned?

- 27 Stick with the current plan
 - 33 Change plans, start withdrawal only if conditions permit
 - 32 Start withdrawal sooner/immediately
 - 8 Don't know
- 100

11. On another subject... Do you think Barack Obama and his administration are focused as much as they should be on working to improve the economy and jobs situation, or not?

- 42 Yes, focused as much as they should be
 - 55 No, not focused enough
 - 3 Don't know
- 100

12. Which of the following do you think bears more responsibility for the country's economic problems today...**(READ 1-3)**

<u>Current</u>	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
19 The economic policies of President Obama,	30	12	18
38 The economic policies of former President George W. Bush, OR	16	61	32
36 Both equally?	47	24	41
4 (VOL.) Neither	2	2	6
<u>3</u> (DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
100	100	100	100

⁷ In June 2010, respondents were asked about winning/losing the war in Afghanistan as part of a list question with another item (winning/losing the war in Iraq).

13. Do you think the recent legislation to reform big banks and Wall Street is likely to be effective in preventing another financial crisis, or is NOT likely to be effective?

34 Likely to be effective
 55 Not likely to be effective
11 Don't know
 100

14. As you may know, some top members of Barack Obama's economic team previously worked for large Wall Street firms. Does this make you less confident that Obama's economic team will do the right thing to improve the economy and protect the public from another financial crisis, or do their ties to Wall Street not have much effect on your confidence in them?

38 Makes less confident they will do the right thing
 52 Ties to Wall Street don't have much effect
10 Don't know
 100

15. Which ONE of the following do you think should have the higher priority for policy-makers in Washington RIGHT NOW... **(READ AND ROTATE 1-2)?**

37 Reducing the federal budget deficit (or)
 57 Federal spending to create jobs (or)
6 **(DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 100

16. Do you think Congress should allow the Bush tax cuts for persons in the top two percent income category to EXPIRE in 2011, or should Congress pass legislation to EXTEND the Bush tax cuts for the top two percent?

52 Allow Bush tax cuts to expire
 38 Extend Bush tax cuts
10 Don't know
 100

*17. Moving to a different topic... As far as you know, what is Barack Obama's religion? Is he a Christian, a Muslim, or something else?

<u>Current</u>	<u>6/18-19/08</u> ⁸	<u>4/24-25/08 RVs</u>
42 Christian (include volunteers of: Protestant, Church of Christ, Trinity Church, Baptist, Methodist, etc.)	61	52
24 Muslim/Follower of Islam (includes Islam/Islamic)	13	13
10 Something else	7	9
<u>24</u> Don't know	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>
100	100	100

⁸ June 2008 question wording was slightly different: As far as you know, what is Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's religion? Is he a Christian, a Muslim, or something else?

- *18. Thinking about U.S. Muslims – that is, followers of the Islam religion who live in the United States – do you personally know any U.S. Muslims, or not?

<u>Current</u>		<u>7/11-12/07</u>
41	Yes	36
58	No	63
*	(VOL.) Respondent is Muslim ⁹	n/a
<u>1</u>	Don't know	<u>1</u>
100		100

- *19. What is your overall opinion of Muslim Americans? As of today, is it... **(READ 1-4)**

	<u>Very favorable</u>	<u>Mostly favorable</u>	<u>Mostly unfavorable</u>	<u>Very unfavorable</u>	(VOL.) <u>Never heard of</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	16	45	13	7	*	19	=100
TRENDS ¹⁰							
8/1-18/07	10	43	18	11	1	17	=100
3/21-25/07	8	37	18	10	*	27	=100
7/7-17/05	9	46	16	9	*	20	=100
6/24/03-7/8/03	10	41	15	9	1	24	=100
2/25/02-3/10/02	8	46	14	8	2	22	=100
11/13-19/01	15	44	12	5	1	23	=100
3/5-18/01 ¹¹	7	38	16	8	4	27	=100
8/24/00-9/10/00 (RVs)	11	39	13	8	2	27	=100

20. If a group of Muslim Americans wanted to build a mosque in your local community, would that be okay with you, or would that NOT be okay with you?

72	Would be okay
23	Would NOT be okay
<u>5</u>	Don't know
100	

- *21. How worried are you, if at all, about radicals within the U.S. Muslim community? Are you... **(READ)**

<u>Current</u>		<u>7/11-12/07</u>
20	Very worried	16
32	Somewhat worried	38
27	Not too worried, or	25
19	Not at all worried?	18
<u>2</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>3</u>
100		100

⁹ Volunteered category added for the current survey.

¹⁰ Trends are from the Pew Research Center (Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, or Pew Research Center for the People & the Press).

¹¹ This Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life survey included an oversample of African-American adults.

22. Do you think most, many, only some, or very few Muslims living in the United States today... **(READ AND ROTATE a-b; THEN READ c-d IN ORDER)?**

	<u>Most</u>	<u>Many</u>	<u>Only some</u>	<u>Very few</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Support the goals of Al Qaeda and the Islamic fundamentalists	11	9	25	42	13	=100
b. Oppose the goals of Al Qaeda and the Islamic fundamentalists	35	13	20	15	17	=100
c. Support the use of violence by Muslims against non-Muslims	11	6	21	48	14	=100
d. Are peaceable and do not condone violence	48	14	16	13	9	=100

23. Thinking about Barack Obama and what he has said about issues like the proposal to build an Islamic cultural center and mosque a few blocks from the World Trade Center site in New York City... Do you think Obama favors the interests of Muslim Americans over other groups of Americans, or do you think he has generally been even-handed?

<u>Current</u>		<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
30	Favors the interests of Muslims	59	9	28
60	Has generally been even-handed	34	82	62
<u>10</u>	Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100

24. Some people have alleged that Barack Obama sympathizes with the goals of Islamic fundamentalists who want to impose Islamic law around the world. From what you know about Obama, what is your opinion of these allegations? Do you think they are... **(READ 1-4)**

<u>Current</u>		<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>	<u>Ind.</u>
7	Definitely true	14	3	5
24	Probably true	38	14	22
36	Probably not true, OR	33	37	37
25	Definitely not true?	7	42	28
<u>8</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100

Now I have just a few more questions so we can describe the people who took part in our survey...

- D2. In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

<u>Total</u>		<u>RVs</u>
27	Republican	32
35	Democrat	36
29	Independent	27
5	(VOL.) No party/Not interested in politics	3
1	(VOL.) Other party	*
<u>3</u>	Don't know	<u>2</u>
100		100

END OF INTERVIEW – THANK RESPONDENT:

That completes the interview. Thank you very much for your cooperation.