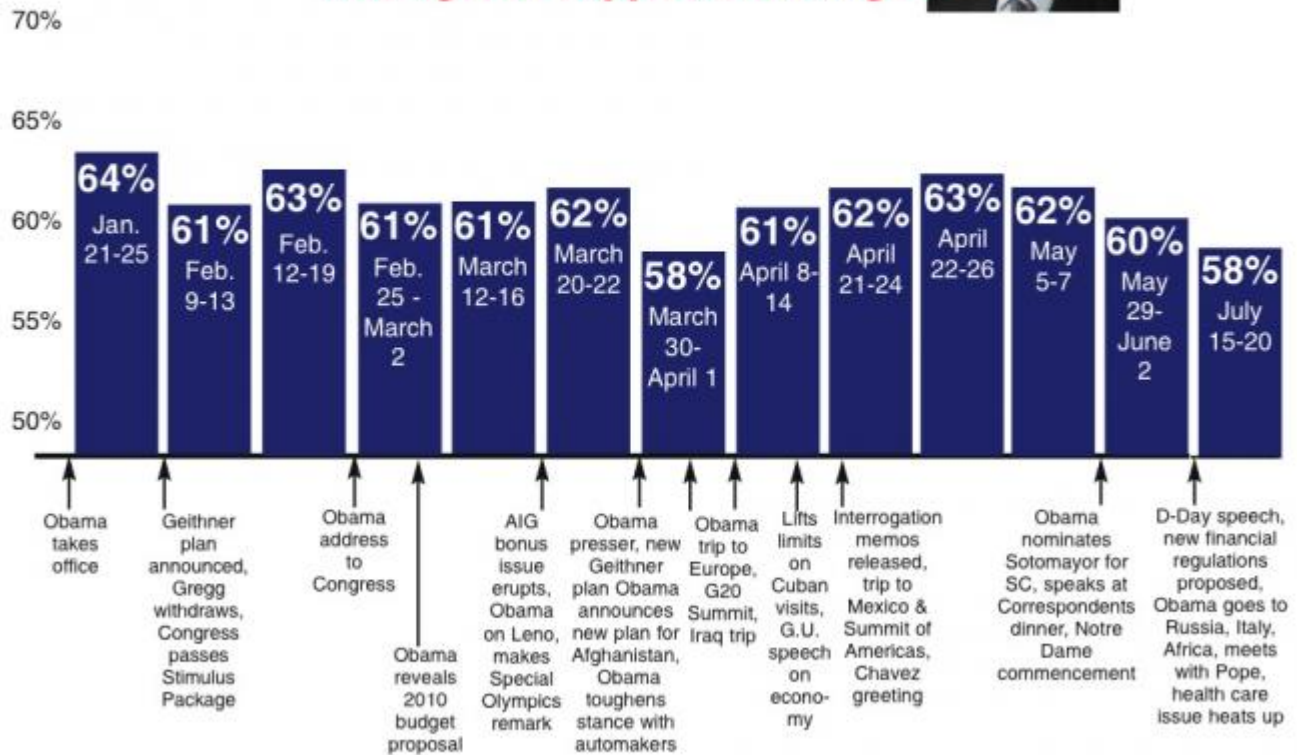


Obama Popularity: At Six Months

President Obama's average job rating is now 58%, the lowest of his presidency. This represents a 5-point fall since April in the Clarus averages. (See chart below)

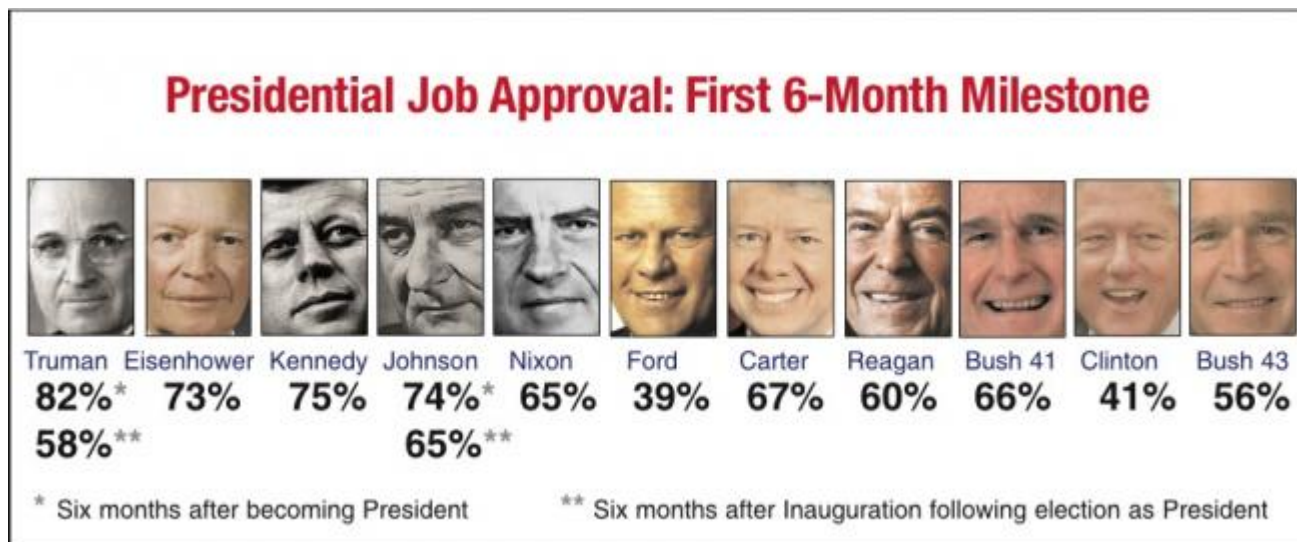
CLARUS PRESIDENTIAL BOXSCORE: President Obama's Average Job Approval Ratings



Obama Scores Lower Than Most Recent Presidents

At his first six-month presidential milestone, Barack Obama's job approval rating at 58% is

better than that posted by Bill Clinton (41%), George W. Bush (56%), and Gerald Ford (39%) at the same point in their presidencies. (See chart below)



However, Obama's first six-month average rating is below those attained by most of the Post-World War II presidents: Truman (82%), Eisenhower (73%), Kennedy (75%), Johnson (74%), Nixon (65%), Carter (67%), Reagan (60%), and Bush 41 (66%).

In the case of Truman and Johnson, we report both their first six-month ratings after assuming the presidency following the deaths of their predecessors (1945 for Truman, 1964 for Johnson) as well as the first six-month ratings following their post-election inaugurations (1949 for Truman, 1965 for Johnson) when they were elected to full terms in their own right.

Voters Wary of Obama on Domestic Issues

Fewer Americans approve of Barack Obama's handling of major domestic issues such as the economy and health care than disapprove. On the key issue of the economy, Obama's approval rating slipped from 59 percent in February to 55 percent in June to 47 percent in July. Obama scores much better on foreign policy issues, as the following Gallup survey results (July 17-19) indicate:

ISSUE	OBAMA APPROVAL	OBAMA DISAPPROVAL
Situation in Iraq	57%	36%
Foreign affairs	57	38
Situation in Afghanistan	56	34
The economy	47	49
Taxes	45	48
Health care policy	44	50

There is significant partisan polarization on the hot issue of the day, health care. While a strong 74 percent of Democrats approve of Obama's handling of the issue, only 11 percent of Republicans do. Importantly, and more troubling for Obama, is how Independents -- the critical swing vote -- rate him on health care: 40 percent approve, 55 percent disapprove.

Dr. Ron Faucheux
President



Clarus Research Group

Clarus Research Group is a full-service polling and research firm that offers public opinion surveys, focus groups, dial sessions, market studies, membership surveys, message testing and development, and micro-targeting for grass roots programs.

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