

Latino Decisions

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NEW LATINO DECISIONS POLL FINDS INCREASED DEMAND FOR ACTION ON IMMIGRATION, BROAD ENTHUSIASM FOR THE OBAMA ECONOMIC PLAN, AND VERY HIGH SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT

Action on immigration this year is identified as “extremely important” by 51% of Latino registered voters polled on the occasion of the President’s 100th day in office. This compares with only 40% just last November, when Latino voters supported the president by more than 2-1 against his Republican rival. Another 23% now describe it as “very” important. At that time, Hispanic registered voters appeared willing to give the new administration some time to deliver on the promised changes but, perhaps sensing an unusual opportunity and the president’s own recent statements on the matter, Latino voters appear to see action on immigration as increasingly urgent.

When presented with a comprehensive reform plan that included both tougher border enforcement as well as an adjustment of status for undocumented workers already here accompanied by penalties and a waiting period, a full 75% supported this approach, with 49% strongly supporting it.

Overall, like most other Americans, Latino voters identify the Economy as their principal concern, with 56% identifying the economy in general (and another 7% specifically referencing Jobs) as the most important issue for the new administration to face this year. Despite evidence of increasing impatience for immigration reform, immigration policy was a distant second (12%) as the most important issue. Just under 80% of all respondents felt that the President and Democratic Congress would be somewhat or very effective in addressing their identified concern. Support for several specific aspects of the Administration’s economic policy is also high, with 75% expressing confidence that their policies would make the economy better, and 73% specifically supporting the stimulus package passed by Congress.

The President enjoys unprecedented levels of popularity among Latino voters. Approximately 81% of Latino registered voters approve of the job the President is doing, and 57% of that is strong approval. By contrast, disapproval at any level totals only 16%. Similar to other demographic groups, the President’s current approval rating exceeds his estimated vote share from that group last November. Somewhat more surprisingly, Congress enjoys a 67% approval rating.

On the issue of thawing relations with Cuba, the Administration’s moves draw widespread Latino support. Specifically, when asked whether they approved or disapproved of recent policy changes over travel and remittances, as well as efforts to open dialogue with the regime, 78% of Latino voters approved of these steps, with 55% strongly approving. Somewhat more surprising was significant support among Cuban respondents, who favored these steps 56% to 40%, though we should point out that 36% of that 40% strongly disapproved. We caution, however, that the number of Cuban interviews is small, so these figures should be viewed as only suggestive. Nevertheless,

there may be general support for the Administration's policy shift even as the Cuban national-origin population remains deeply polarized on this issue and considerably less enthusiastic than non-Cuban Hispanics nationwide.

The poll was conducted by Latino Decisions, a cooperative venture of Pacific Market Research and Professor Matt Barreto of the University of Washington and Professor Gary Segura of Stanford University. The sample was of 600 self-identified Latino registered voters drawn from the 19 states with the largest Latino voter population, for a representative coverage of 93% of the Latino population. The poll was in the field April 24 – May 1, 2009. The margin-of-error is $\pm 4.0\%$. For additional information on the poll, the results, and other matters, you may contact Barreto at 909-489-2955 or Segura at 206-280-5069. Additional results can be found online at <http://www.latinodecisions.com>

Poll Results can be found on the next page

Latino Decisions – First 100 Days Poll
National survey of 600 Latino registered voters

With all the different issues the new Congress and new President must address, how important do you think it is that they should address immigration reform within their first year?

| | Apr 09 | Nov 08 |
|----------------------|--------|--------|
| Extremely important | 51 | 40 |
| Very important | 23 | 27 |
| Somewhat important | 14 | 19 |
| Not too important | 9 | 8 |
| Not at all important | 3 | 3 |

President Obama recently pledged to reform immigration policy. His immigration reform plan includes more border security, stiff fines for illegal residents, and a waiting period of several years before amnesty. Would you support or oppose the policy as described?

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Strongly support | 49 |
| Somewhat support | 26 |
| -- Support -- | 75 |
| Somewhat oppose | 9 |
| Strongly oppose | 8 |
| -- Oppose -- | 17 |

Overall, how much do you think President Obama is in touch with the issues and needs of the Latino community in the U.S.

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Very much | 43 |
| Somewhat | 34 |
| Only a little | 13 |
| Not that much | 7 |

Thinking about the situation of Latinos here in America? With Barack Obama being elected President, do you think things in America will get better; things will get worse, or pretty much stay the same for Latinos, over the next four years?

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Better | 67 |
| Worse | 6 |
| Stay the same | 22 |

Generally speaking, in the first 100 days of the new Presidency, do you approve or disapprove of the job Obama is doing?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Strongly approve | 57 |
| Somewhat approve | 24 |
| -- Approve -- | 81 |
| Somewhat disapprove | 5 |
| Strongly disapprove | 11 |
| -- Disapprove -- | 16 |

Latino Decisions – First 100 Days Poll
National survey of 600 Latino registered voters

What do you think is the most important issue that President Obama, and the new Congress should address during 2009?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| The economy | 56% |
| Immigration reform | 12% |
| Jobs | 7% |
| Health care | 6% |
| Education | 3% |
| Iraq | 3% |

Now that Barack Obama has been elected President, and the Democrats have a majority in the Congress, how effective do you think they will be at addressing this issue?

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Very effective | 39% |
| Somewhat effective | 40% |
| -- Effective -- | 79% |
| Not very effective | 9% |
| Not at all effective | 7% |
| -- Ineffective -- | 16% |

Generally speaking, in the first 100 days of the new Congress, do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Strongly approve | 31 |
| Somewhat approve | 36 |
| -- Approve -- | 67 |
| Somewhat disapprove | 10 |
| Strongly disapprove | 14 |
| -- Disapprove -- | 24 |

Overall, do you think the economic policies promoted by President Obama will help make the economy better, make the economy worse, or have no effect?

| | |
|-----------|----|
| Better | 75 |
| Worse | 11 |
| No effect | 8 |

Many people supported the Economic Stimulus Plan, where the government plans to spend an extra 780 billion dollars on things like roads, bridges, school construction, energy reform and other efforts in hopes of getting the economy growing again. Others opposed it as too expensive and unlikely to work. How about you – do you support the economic stimulus plan passed by Congress and signed by President Obama?

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Yes, supported | 73 |
| No, opposed | 23 |

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One of the first appointments Obama made as president was to name his former rival in the Democratic primary, Hillary Clinton, as Secretary of State, one of the highest cabinet positions. Do you support or oppose this decision to appoint Clinton to Secretary of State?

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Strongly support | 69 |
| Somewhat support | 16 |
| -- Support -- | 85 |
| Somewhat oppose | 3 |
| Strongly oppose | 8 |
| -- Oppose -- | 11 |

Recently, President Obama and his administration have taken a few steps toward a friendlier relationship with Cuba, including making it easier to travel and send money there, and allowing Cuba back into some diplomatic agreements. In exchange, Cuban president Raul Castro has said he would discuss human rights, freedom of the press and releasing political prisoners in Cuba. Would you say you approve or disapprove of friendlier relations with Cuba?

| | All | Cuban |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Strongly approve | 55 | 36 |
| Somewhat approve | 23 | 20 |
| -- Approve -- | 78 | 56 |
| Somewhat disapprove | 4 | 4 |
| Strongly disapprove | 13 | 36 |
| -- Disapprove -- | 17 | 40 |

Regarding the war in Iraq, President Obama has announced that U.S. forces will remain in Iraq for 18 months, and then a withdrawal will begin to bring U.S. troops home and transfer authority to Iraq? Do you support or oppose this policy?

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Strongly support | 59 |
| Somewhat support | 19 |
| -- Support -- | 78 |
| Somewhat oppose | 10 |
| Strongly oppose | 5 |
| -- Oppose -- | 15 |

When it comes to health care, do you think the Federal government should ensure that all people have health insurance, even if it means raising taxes, or do you think we should continue with the current health care system?

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Universal health care | 52 |
| Continue current system | 35 |