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Obama Bump

According to the most recent statewide poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind™, 55% of New Jersey voters approve of the way President Obama is handling his job as president, an 8-point bump from April. Thirty six percent disapprove, showing a 6-point decline from April. The 19-point spread, 55%-36%, is a dramatic increase from 47%-42% as measured in early April.

Among Republicans Obama's approval rating increased by a third to 21% from 16%, while Democrats approval of the president increased by 9 points to 82% from 73%.

"The president has had a good month," said Peter Woolley, a political scientist and director of the poll. "In particular, his high profile in foreign policy is reflected in these numbers."

But people are still anxious about the future. Just one-third of Garden State voters (34%) say the country is "headed in the right direction," essentially unchanged from April (32%). Meanwhile, 51% say the country is "on the wrong track." Another 15% are unsure.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 804 registered voters statewide was conducted by telephone using both landlines and cell phones from May 16 through May 22, 2011 and has a margin of error of +/-3.5 percentage points.

*Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>
Radio actualities at 201.692.2846 For more information, please call 201.692.7032*

Methodology, Questions, and Tables

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from May 16, 2011, through May 22, 2011, using a randomly selected sample of 804 registered voters statewide. The margin of error for a sample of 804 randomly selected respondents is +/- 3.5 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers. PublicMind interviews are conducted by Opinion America of Cedar Knolls, NJ, with professionally trained interviewers using a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a land-line phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected. Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone-only-households, interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

Question: In your opinion, do you believe that the country is moving in the right direction or do you believe it has gotten off on the wrong track?

	All	Men	Women	Dem	Ind	Rep.
Right direction	34%	35	34	52	22	16
Wrong track	51%	50	51	31	57	75
Unsure/mixed	15%	15	15	17	20	9

Right/wrong direction trend

	2011			2010						
	Apr	Feb	Jan	Nov	Oct	Aug	My	Mar 30	Mar 3	Jan
Right direction	32%	39	35	31	30	33	34	42	38	35
Wrong track	57%	49	52	58	60	54	52	51	52	53
Unsure/mixed	11%	12	13	11	10	13	13	8	10	12

	2009							2008
	Oct 30	Oct 9	Sep	July	Apr	Mar	Jan	Oct
Right direction	41	41	44	49	51	51	34	13
Wrong track	50	49	46	41	37	37	52	78
Unsure/mixed	8	9	10	11	11	12	13	9

US2: In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	All	Men	Women	Dem	Ind	Rep.
Approve	55%	54	56	82	43	21
Disapprove	36%	38	34	9	40	73
Unsure	9%	8	11	8	18	5

Obama approval, previous measures

	2011			2010							2009						
	Apr	Feb	Jan	Nov	Oct	Aug	May	Mar 30	Mar 3	Jan	Oct 30	Oct 6	Sep	Jun	Apr	Mar	Jan*
Approve	47%	54	47	51	47	49	49	54	53	48	52	52	56	61	66	66	72
Disapprove	42%	36	41	40	43	40	40	37	38	41	37	35	36	29	22	21	10
Unsure	11%	10	12	9	10	11	11	9	9	11	10	12	8	10	12	13	18

*January 2009 question asked how Obama was handling his transition to the presidency.

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1. In your opinion, do you believe that the country is moving in the right direction or has it gotten off on the wrong track?

US2. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Sample Characteristics (%)

Gender

Male	50
Female	50

Age

18-29	12
30-44	26
45-59	32
60+	28
Ref.	2

In addition to being American, would you say you are...?

White	71
Black	14
Hispanic or Latino	8
Asian	3
Other/ref.	4

Public Employee Household?

yes	23
No	75
not sure/ref.	2

Party ID

Dem. + lean Dem.	47
ind. + unsure + ref.	20
Rep. + lean Rep.	33