



For release... **Thursday, January 14, 2010** ... 3 pp.

Contact: Peter Woolley 973.670.3239

New Jerseyans Skeptical of Health Care Reform

According to the most recent poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind™, the percentage of New Jersey voters who say the country is on the right track declined to 35% from 41% just before the November election.

Likewise, the president's approval numbers dipped below 50% for the first time, to 48%, down from 52% in October. The president's approval is lowest among those age 60 and over (38%) and highest with those under age 30 (60%). Those who have entitlement insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid, or veterans benefits give the president lower approval marks (41%) than those who have employer-provided and private health insurance (50%).

Republicans are convinced that they'll be worse off with the health care reforms that President Obama is currently proposing and Democrats and independents have a lot of doubt. Three of four (77%) Republicans say they'll be worse off with the proposed reforms, while only 9% say they'll be better off. A majority (55%) of independents say they'll be worse off, and more than a third (36%) say they're not sure. While a majority of Democrats (56%) say they'll be better off with health care reform, and few Democrats (15%) say they'll be worse off, 30% aren't sure. "In fact, at this point, neither the president nor congressional leaders have convinced the public that the bill they are working on is for the better," said Woolley.

The trust of Democrats and mistrust of Republicans is evidenced in the broader question about how health care reform will affect the whole country: seven in ten Democrats (70%) say the country will be better off, while nearly eight in ten Republicans (78%) say the country will be worse off. Those who already have government provided health insurance are just as likely as those who have employer provided insurance to say they and the country will be worse off with reform.

Overall, just a third of New Jersey voters (34%) say they'd advise their member of Congress to vote for the bill, while 44% say they'd advise against it and 22% just aren't sure. A majority of Democrats (61%) say they'd advise their member of Congress to vote for the bill. A majority of Republicans say they'd advise their member of Congress to vote against it. A majority of independents (56%) also say they'd advise their member to vote against it. And in a generic vote for a member of Congress, Republicans actually run even or ahead of Democrats by 46% to 44%.

"Health care legislation has become the defining partisan issue of our age," said Woolley. "Expect that its merits or demerits will not be debated fairly by party leaders or pundits steeped a perpetual campaign."

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 801 registered voters statewide was conducted by telephone from Jan. 4, 2010, through Jan. 10, 2010, and has a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percentage points.

*Methodology, questions, and tables are available 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

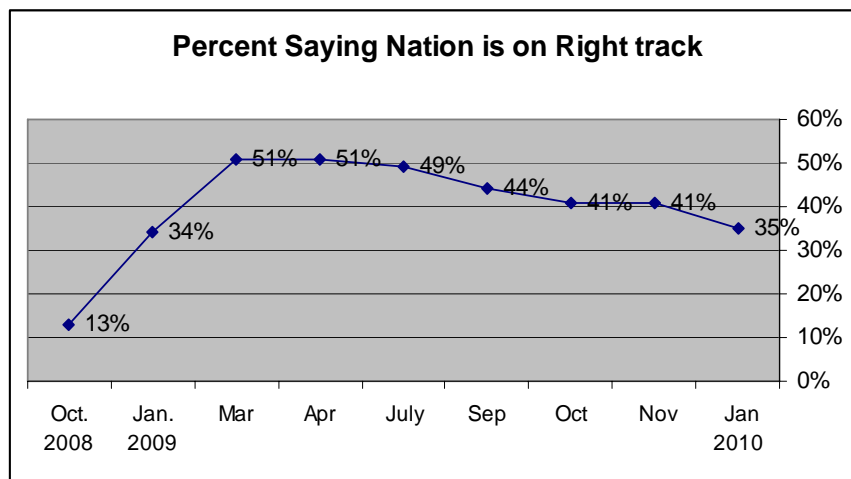
The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from Jan. 4, 2010, through Jan. 10, 2010, using a randomly selected sample of 801 registered voters statewide. The margin of error for a sample of 801 randomly selected respondents is +/- 3.5 percentage points. 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 professionally trained interviewers use 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. Results are mathematically weighted to match known demographics.

US1: 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	35%	30	39	58	30	10
Wrong track	53%	57	49	28	56	81
Unsure/Refused	12%	13	11	14	14	9

Right/wrong direction trend

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



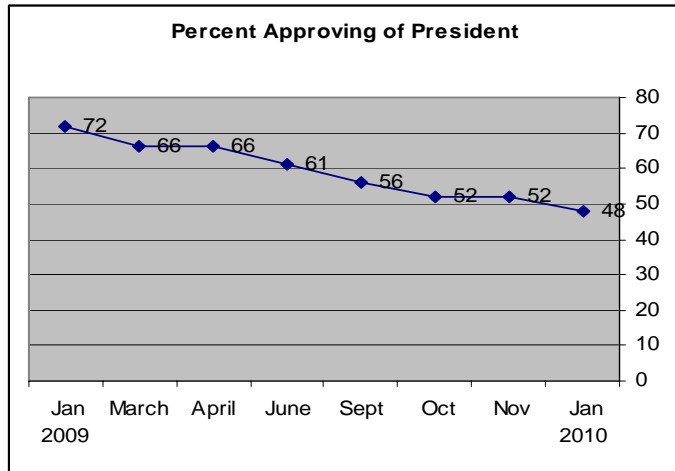
US2: In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	All	Party			Health Insurance		Age			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	private	public	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Approve	48%	79	45	15	50	41	60	54	50	38
Disapprove	41%	11	38	75	41	45	34	35	40	49
Unsure	11%	10	16	9	9	14	7	10	9	12

Obama approval, previous measures

	Oct 30	Oct 6	Sept	June	April	March	Jan.*
Approve	52%	52	56	61	66	66	72
Disapprove	37%	35	36	29	22	21	10
Unsure/Refused	10%	12	8	10	12	13	18

*January question asked how Obama was handling his transition to the presidency. Question US3 held for release



US3: Do you think you (and your family living there) will be better or worse off with the health care reforms that President Obama is currently proposing?

	All	Age				Party			Insurance		Oct	Aug	Jul
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Dem	Ind	Rep	private	public			
Yes, better	31%	39	36	31	24	56	9	9	30	31	33	33	35
No, worse	45%	41	37	45	54	15	55	77	46	47	44	46	34
unsure	24%	20	27	24	22	30	36	14	24	22	23	21	31

US4: Regardless of how it impacts you, do you think the country will be better or worse off with the health care reforms that President Obama is currently proposing?

	All	Age				Party			Insurance		Oct.
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Dem	Ind	Rep	private	public	
Yes, better	41%	32	50	41	35	70	28	13	42	40	43%
No, worse	45%	47	38	47	49	15	50	78	47	42	40%
unsure	14%	20	11	12	16	16	22	9	11	17	16%

US5: Would you advise your member of Congress to vote for or against a health care reform bill, or do you not have an opinion?

	All	Insurance		Age				Party			Oct.	Aug
		private	public	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Dem	Ind	Rep		
For	34%	34	32	27	38	37	29	61	19	8	37%	37%
Against	44%	45	42	44	35	46	50	11	56	77	37%	41%
Unsure	22%	20	25	30	27	16	21	27	24	14	26%	22%

US6: If elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for the [Republican Party's candidate] or the [Democratic Party's candidate] for Congress in your district?" If "other" or "unsure": "As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the [Republican] or the [Democrat]?"

<i>ROTATE</i>	All	Age				Party		
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Dem	Ind	Rep
Republican	38%	44	33	37	42	8	29	74
Lean Republican	8%	3	7	8	11	1	10	16
Democrat	36%	40	43	37	30	73	15	3
Lean Democrat	8%	13	9	7	8	15	7	1
Other	2%	--	1	2	2	--	9	1
Unsure	8%	--	8	10	7	4	31	5