

Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg

Public Pessimistic On The Economy Most Pick Democrats Over Republicans On Health Care Reform

Americans are increasingly pessimistic about the U.S. economy, and continue to think it is on the wrong track, according to the latest Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll. More say that the economy is doing badly than say it is doing well, the lowest result in nearly five years. Most predict that the country will face a recession in the coming year. Women and those in lower income households are particularly concerned.

Health care issues are front and center in the presidential campaigns, driven by Democratic candidates who are proposing systemic change that would cover the estimated 47 million people who do not now have health insurance. Their proposals include a single-payer government run plan; one that would require everyone to buy health insurance while regulating the industry to keep costs down and providing government subsidy of those who can't afford to buy it on their own; and one that would impose a tax on big companies that don't provide health care to their workers. Republican candidates shy away from regulations or any whiff of universal health care, favoring approaches that leave the system as it is and focus instead on making insurance more affordable through tax credits.

The survey found that by more than two to one, the public thinks that the Democrats have better ideas than Republicans on health care and picked them as the party that would be best at recovering from recession. Independents, who the survey found are the most likely to be staying in a job to keep their health insurance, come down on the side of Democrats on this issue.

Most of the public, with the exception of those living in the highest income households, say they have not benefited from President George W. Bush's package of tax cuts, and all income groups are willing to give some of them up if it would provide health care for all Americans. Bush continues to garner low ratings, most voters disapprove of the job he's been doing, including one in four of his fellow Republicans. However, the Democratically led Congress comes in for even more approbation, reaching an all time low of 69% disapproval since the Poll asked the question.

Status of the National Economy

In the early spring of this year, amid a mixed economic environment that included the beginning of the housing slowdown and a run up in gas prices, public economic optimism took a decided downturn. This followed a period of increasing public economic optimism in 2006 that reached a high point in January 2007. The proportion of those who said the economy is doing well dropped eleven points between

January and April, leveled out over the summer, and has again turned downward, falling below 50% for the first time since March 2004.

Nearly half nationwide say that free international trade has hurt the U.S. economy, compared with 29% that think it has helped. This includes one in four who think it has hurt the economy "a lot."

The country's economic pessimism may be affecting the public's view of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke. The survey found Bernanke's approval rating at 38%, a drop of 12 percentage points from 50% approval found in a Bloomberg poll last June. In the current survey 17% disapprove, and a plurality of 45% were not sure of what kind of job the low profile Fed chief has been doing.

Table: Status of National Economy 2003 – 2007

Generally speaking, do you think the nation's economy these days is doing very well, or fairly well, or fairly badly, or very badly? (categories shown combine the very/fairly categories, "don't know" left out)

	<u>10/07</u>	<u>6/07</u>	<u>4/07</u>	<u>1/07</u>	<u>12/06</u>	<u>9/06</u>	<u>6/06</u>	<u>1/06</u>	<u>1/05</u>	<u>3/04</u>	<u>2/03</u>
Well	46	57	57	68	61	54	50	55	60	49	35
Badly	51	41	42	31	38	44	47	44	39	49	64

sources: Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg and L.A. Times Polls

More than half nationwide now say that the economy is doing poorly, compared to 41% who said that in June, and comprising a twenty percentage points increase from last January. The biggest drop in optimism has come among those in the lower income groups, where optimism reigned at the beginning of the year but lasted only a short while. In January, just over six out of 10 of those living in households making \$40,000 a year said the economy was doing well. That dropped to 43% in April, and in the current poll the numbers have completely reversed, with just under four in 10 lower income households saying it is doing well, and just over six in 10 saying it is doing badly. Nearly two out of three in this group say that recession is likely in the coming year.

Table: Economic Optimism by Household Income – January, April and October 2007

Do you think the nation's economy is doing...

(vertical table, in percentages. categories shown combine the very/fairly categories, "don't know" left out)

	ALL			<40K			\$40-\$59K			\$60-\$100K			\$100K+		
	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Jan</u>
Well	46	57	68	37	43	61	44	53	67	45	65	72	62	76	81
Badly	51	42	31	61	56	38	52	47	33	53	35	27	37	23	18

source: Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg Polls

Overall, 65% said it is very (22%) or somewhat (43%) likely that a recession will hit in the next 12 months. While those with the biggest financial struggle are always the hardest hit by economic woes, even among households making \$100,000 or more a year, nearly four in 10 said the economy is doing very (10%) or fairly (26%) badly, and nearly two-thirds of these most affluent foresee a recession in the near future.

Gender Gap

Women are very concerned about the economy while men are quite optimistic. Thirty-eight percent of women characterized the economy as doing well compared to 60% who said it is not, while men are the opposite – 56% of men said it is doing well, and 41% badly. Men are also more optimistic than women about the likelihood of avoiding a recession in the coming year, although majorities of both men (56%) and women (73%) think it will happen.

Republicans were the most optimistic – nearly seven in 10 think the economy is doing very well, compared to 29% of Democrats and 48% of independents – but the gender gap extends even within party and income groups. Seventy-two percent of Republican men were optimistic about the economy compared to of 65% of GOP women. Two thirds of Republican women forecast a recession, compared to just over half of men. Fully 82% of Democratic women see recession ahead, compared to 64% of men in their party.

Nearly six out of 10 men who live in the lowest income households were optimistic about the economy, compared to only 26% of of women, and among those making \$60,000 or more, 55% of men say the economy is doing well compared to 53% of women who say it is doing badly.

Table: Gender Gap in Economic Optimism and Likelihood of Recession

(horizontal table, in percentages. categories shown combine the very/fairly categories, "don't know" left out)

	Economy doing...		Recession in the coming year...	
	<u>Well</u>	<u>Badly</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Not Likely</u>
Gender				
Men	56	41	56	38
Women	38	60	73	21
Gender & Party ID				
<i>Democrats</i>				
Men	31	63	64	31
Women	28	70	82	12
<i>Republicans</i>				
Men	72	28	54	42
Women	65	34	67	30
Gender & HH Income				
<i>Less than \$40K</i>				
Men	59	41	44	46
Women	26	72	78	15
<i>\$40-\$60K</i>				
Men	55	41	61	36
Women	34	61	74	26
<i>\$60K+</i>				
Men	55	43	67	30
Women	46	53	74	24
Gender & Education				
<i>No College Degree</i>				
Men	49	47	57	36
Women	32	65	74	18
<i>College Degree</i>				
Men	71	28	54	43
Women	49	49	71	27

If the country does fall into recession, the public thinks that Democrats would do a better job than Republicans of extricating the nation from the downturn, by 44% to 33%. The exception were the highest income households, who looked to the GOP by an 11 point margin.

Sub Prime Mortgages

Just under three in 10 of the public think the government should stay completely out of one issue affecting the economy – the growing number of defaults on sub-prime mortgages. Twenty-eight percent said either that nothing at all should be done, or that the market should be allowed to correct itself. Two in 10 said either that federal housing authorities should help delinquent homeowners refinance loans at more favorable rates and the same share said that Congress should impose new regulations on mortgage brokers and adopt new standards for borrowers. Fifteen percent said that banks and wall street firms that knowingly promoted mortgages to people who could not afford to repay them should be prosecuted. Just under one in 10 each said that some combination of these things is the best idea.

Republicans were more than twice as likely as Democrats to want the government to stay out of the situation or nothing to be done, along with almost twice as many men who felt that way than women.

Low income families are most affected by the sub-prime mortgage problems and respondents in the lowest income households were more inclined to think that the government should get involved either by using federal funds to help delinquent borrowers refinance (23%) or by imposing regulations on brokers (22%) than were those in high income households. Fewer than one in five said that there should be no action taken, or to let the market correct itself. More than four out of ten of the most affluent thought nothing should be done, compared to 18% of that group who wanted the Fed to help out borrowers, and 15% who wanted more regulation of the mortgage market.

Taxes

The public is inclined to believe that the most effective way to stimulate the economy is by spending on health care and education rather than by returning money to taxpayers via tax cuts - by 52% to 36% they chose spending over cuts. Nearly six out of 10 Republicans disagreed with that approach, saying cuts are the better method, compared to 67% of Democrats and 49% of independents who favor spending.

Some of the public's disaffection with tax cuts may be explained by the survey's finding that 65% nationwide feel they have not personally benefited from the two trillion dollars in tax cuts that George W. Bush and the Republicans in Congress passed during Bush's presidency. Among those who said they did benefit, 57% think that tax cuts are the best economic stimulus, compared to only 27% of those who did not benefit.

Those who benefited the most from the tax cuts live in the highest income households. Nearly half of these respondents said they benefited a lot (21%) or a little (27%). More than seven in 10 of those in the least wealthy households said they have not benefited at all, along with just under two in three of those making between \$40,000 and \$100,000.

Table: Benefit From Tax Cuts, by Household Income

Have the tax cuts that George W. Bush enacted benefited you personally, or not? (IF YES) Have you benefited a lot or only a little?

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>
Benefited a lot	10	8	7	11	21
Benefited a little	19	13	26	21	27
Haven't benefited	65	71	64	66	47
D/know	6	8	3	3	5

The Bush administration's tax cut package includes a 15% cap on the tax on capital gains and dividend income, compared to the top rate of 38% on earned income. Most of the Republican candidates for president endorse this cut and promise to continue it if they are elected. The survey found that the candidates are mostly out of step with the public on this – only about two in 10 said they'd like to see the cap on capital gains continued while a 40% plurality said that it should be taxed at the same rate as earned income. Those in high income households are most likely to support a continuation of the lower rate on capital gains.

The Bush administration is currently considering the adoption of a plan to reduce corporate income tax rates. Bush and those who support such a cut argue that the United States has the second highest corporate tax rate in the world and that lowering the rates would allow the country's businesses to compete globally. Opponents of the tax reduction say that individuals are having to pay a higher share of the nation's taxes already because the share of taxes corporations pay has declined over the last decade, so that further cuts would put an even greater burden on individual taxpayers.

Only about a third of the public agrees with Bush's argument for cutting corporate taxes. A majority of 56% disapproved, including 39% who said they *strongly* disapprove. Disapproval cuts across socioeconomic lines, but not across the partisan divide. Those who identify with the Republican party approve of lowering the rate by 51% to 39% while Democrats disapprove by a very wide 69% to 25% and independents side with Democrats on this issue by nearly two to one - 59% to 29%.

Health Insurance Issues

More evidence of a public cooling toward tax cuts can be found in that six out of 10 said they'd be willing to repeal some of Bush's tax cuts in order to help pay for a health care program that insures all Americans. This is a proposal that has been endorsed by many of the Democratic candidates for president, and it is extremely popular among Democrats (82%) and firmly embraced by independents (59%). Almost six out of 10 Republicans, however, are opposed to the idea, along with 51% of those who say they've benefited from the cuts and also said they wouldn't be willing to give up tax cuts for universal health care coverage.

The public is divided when it comes to who exactly is responsible for health insurance coverage, with 29% saying it is the government's responsibility to cover its citizens, 23% saying it is employer's responsibility to cover their employees, and 24% saying it should be up to the individual to secure coverage without help from anyone. Another 19% said that the responsibility is shared.

The survey found that about one in four of those living in households making less than \$40,000 year do not have health insurance, and nearly all say that the problem is that they cannot afford it. Covering those

who cannot afford insurance or who are denied it because of pre-existing medical conditions or age is a hot issue in the presidential campaigns as they head toward the 2008 primaries. Thirteen percent overall say they are staying in a job mainly for fear of losing health insurance, a figure that includes two in 10 independents.

Universal Coverage

Democratic candidates N.Y. Senator Hillary Clinton and former North Carolina Senator John Edwards each endorse a plan that includes requiring Americans to buy health insurance much the way they are required to buy car insurance now, with regulations on the industry that would keep costs low and require insurance companies to cover the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions. Illinois Senator Barack Obama would support coverage for all children, but not for all adults. Just over half (51%) of the public support a universal coverage plan for all, the survey found. It was embraced by about six out of 10 Democrats and 53% of independents, while 52% of Republicans did not agree with such an approach.

Single Payer

A slim majority of 53% also support a single-payer government plan that would extend Medicare to all Americans, driven again by the enthusiastic support of Democrats (64%) and the somewhat less keen independents (51%). More than six out of 10 Republicans oppose such a plan.

Require Employers To Help Cover Health Care Costs

More popular than either of those was a proposal, endorsed by the top three Democratic presidential candidates, that would require large companies that do not offer health insurance to pay a tax to cover the costs of insuring Americans who cannot pay for insurance on their own. More than six in 10 agreed with this idea, including 32% who agreed strongly. Sizable majorities of Democrats (71%) and independents (62%) support it, and even nearly half of Republicans, who split 48% to 48%.

Tax Credits

Least popular is the Republican sponsored idea of tax credits to help taxpayers with health care costs, endorsed by the current Republican front runner former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, as well as others. The public split 44% to 45% over such a plan, one that would keep the current health system much as it is now, with no restrictions on who the health insurance companies must cover or at what price. Democrats liked the idea least, at 40%, with independents similarly unenthusiastic at 42% while 53% of Republicans thought the idea had merit.

- Analysis by Jill E. Darling

Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg National Survey
The 2008 Election, Health Care and the Economy

Field Dates: October 19-22, 2007

Release 2 – Bush Job Approval Rating, Congress, Economy and Health Care

Guide to Column Headings:

REG	Registered Voters
DEM	Self-described Democrats
IND	Self-described Independents
REP	Self-described Republicans
LIB	Liberal – political ideology
MOD	Moderate
CON	Conservative
MALE/FEMALE	Gender
L/\$40K, etc.	Household income
WORKG	Working
N/WRKG	Not working (includes retired, homemaker and students)
INSUR	Has health insurance
NO INS	No health insurance

Notes:

- (vol.) indicates a volunteered response
- ‘-’ indicates that a response added up to less than 0.5% of the question base
- The order of candidate names and the order of any arguments or statements are rotated in all questions that mention them.

REGISTERED VOTERS

Q1. Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?

----- Registered Voters -----

	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Right direction	23	12	21	36	7	19	36	29	18
Wrong track	66	80	66	51	85	71	54	61	71
Not sure	11	8	13	12	8	10	9	10	11
Refused	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

Q15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

----- Registered Voters -----

	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Approve (net)	35	8	29	71	7	26	58	40	30
Approve strongly	14	4	6	33	3	5	27	16	12
Approve somewhat	21	4	23	39	4	21	31	24	18
Disapprove (net)	60	89	67	24	92	70	37	55	64
Disapprove somewhat	12	11	18	10	13	16	10	12	13
Disapprove strongly	48	78	48	13	79	53	27	43	51
D/know (net)	5	3	4	5	1	4	5	5	6

Q16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

----- Registered Voters -----

	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Approve (net)	22	23	16	26	22	26	19	22	21
Approve strongly	4	5	2	4	5	2	4	5	3
Approve somewhat	18	18	14	22	17	24	15	18	19
Disapprove (net)	69	65	76	70	67	67	74	69	70
Disapprove somewhat	26	28	32	21	33	28	22	22	29
Disapprove strongly	43	37	44	49	34	39	53	46	40
D/know (net)	9	12	8	4	11	7	7	9	9

Q17. Do you think Congress supports Bush's political agenda too much or too little, or just about the right amount?

----- Registered Voters -----

	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Too much	33	52	37	8	59	37	17	33	33
Too little	37	15	35	64	16	32	54	35	39
About right	19	22	13	21	16	18	21	21	16
Not sure	10	10	12	7	6	12	8	10	11
Refused	1	1	3	0	3	1	0	1	1

ECONOMY QUESTIONS AMONG ALL ADULTS

Q18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ben Bernanke is handling his job as chairman of the Federal Reserve? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

-----All Adults-----

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Approve (net)	<u>38</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>36</u>
Approve strongly	<u>12</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>
Approve somewhat	<u>26</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>23</u>
Disapprove (net)	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>
Disapprove somewhat	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>
Disapprove strongly	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
D/know (net)	<u>45</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>50</u>

Q19. Generally speaking, do you think the nation's economy these days is doing very well, or fairly well, or fairly badly, or very badly?

-----All Adults-----

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Well (net)	<u>46</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>42</u>
Very well	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
Fairly well	<u>37</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>30</u>
Badly (net)	<u>51</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>54</u>
Fairly badly	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>
Very badly	<u>23</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>27</u>
D/know (net)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

Q20. In your opinion, how likely is it that the nation could face an economic recession sometime in the next year? Would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely or not likely at all?

-----All Adults-----

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Likely (net)	<u>65</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>64</u>
Very likely	<u>22</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>24</u>
Somewhat likely	<u>43</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>39</u>
N/likely (net)	<u>29</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>
Not very likely	<u>20</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>
Not likely at all	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
D/know (net)	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>

Q21. If the nation falls into a recession, which political party do you think would be best at restarting the country's economic growth: the Democratic party or the Republican Party?

-----All Adults-----

	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Democratic party	<u>44</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>48</u>
Republican party	<u>33</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>32</u>
Both equally (vol)	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>
Neither (vol)	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
Not sure	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>
Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

As you may know, a growing number of homeowners with sub-prime mortgages are finding it difficult to make payments and are going into default. These sub-prime mortgages, which usually have an adjustable interest rate, were typically sold to people with credit problems or other issues that barred them from getting lower -cost loans.

Q22. What do you think, if anything, should be done to help alleviate the sub- prime mortgage problem: Do you think... The government should stay out of it and let the market correct itself, or Federal housing authorities should help delinquent homeowners refinance loans at more favorable rates, or Congress should impose new regulations on mortgage brokers and adopt new standards for borrowers, or Banks and wall street firms that knowingly promoted mortgages to people who could not afford to Repay them should be prosecuted?, or should nothing in particular be done? I can Repeat these if you wish.

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Nothing should be done	5	6	4	4	6	6	4	6	6
Gov't stay out of it and let market correct itself	23	31	16	14	27	28	39	26	21
Federal housing authorities help delinquent homeowners refinance	20	18	21	23	19	21	18	22	17
Congress impose new regulations on mortgage brokers	20	18	22	22	19	19	15	17	22
Prosecute firms that knowingly promoted unaffordable mortgages	15	12	17	16	18	13	10	15	15
All of these things should be done (vol)	1	1	1	0	1	1	2	1	1
More than one of these things should be done (vol)	8	7	9	9	7	8	7	9	7
Not sure	8	6	10	11	3	4	5	4	11
Refused	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Q23. Generally speaking, do you believe that free international trade has helped or hurt the economy, or hasn't it made a difference to the economy one way or the other? (IF HELPED OR HURT) Do you believe it (helped/hurt) the economy a lot, or just some, or not too much?

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Helped (net)	29	37	21	19	27	37	33	32	27
Helped: a lot	7	10	4	3	5	8	10	9	6
Helped: some	16	22	11	11	16	23	18	18	14
Helped: not too much	3	4	2	1	5	4	1	2	4
Helped: not sure how much	3	1	4	4	2	2	4	3	3
Hurt (net)	47	44	49	51	49	44	46	47	50
Hurt: not too much	3	4	2	2	3	7	2	3	4
Hurt: some	17	16	17	16	18	16	22	21	14
Hurt: a lot	25	22	27	30	25	19	18	23	30
Hurt: not sure how much	2	2	3	2	3	2	4	1	2
No difference	12	11	14	13	15	9	12	11	10
D/know (net)	12	8	16	17	9	10	10	9	13

Now turning to the subject of taxes. As you may know, George W. Bush has cut taxes by two trillion dollars during his presidency...

Q24. Have the tax cuts that George W. Bush enacted benefited you personally, or not? (IF YES) Have you benefited a lot or only a little?

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Benefited (net)	<u>29</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>23</u>
Benefited a lot	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>
Benefited a little	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>13</u>
Haven't benefited	<u>65</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>69</u>
D/know (net)	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

Q25. Would you be willing or not willing to repeal some of Bush's tax cuts in order to help pay for a health care program that insures all Americans?

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Willing	<u>60</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>60</u>
Not willing	<u>31</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>30</u>
Not sure	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>
Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Q26. As you may know, George W. Bush cut the tax rate on capital gains and dividends to 15 percent, while the top tax rate on earned wages is 38 percent. Do you think the next president should continue to tax investment income at lower rates than salary income, or should the rate for investment income be raised, or should they both be taxed at the same rate?

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Continue to tax investment income at lower rates than earned income	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>18</u>
The rate for investment gains should be raised	<u>16</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
Taxed at the same rate	<u>40</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>38</u>
Neither should be taxed/don't believe in paying taxes (vol)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
Not sure	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>21</u>
Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

Q27. As you may also know, the Bush administration is considering a reduction in corporate income tax rates. Supporters of the tax reduction say the United States has the second highest corporate tax rate in the world and that lowering the rates would allow the country's businesses to compete globally. Opponents of the tax reduction say that individuals are having to pay a higher share in taxes because the share of taxes corporations pay has declined over the last decade. Would you approve or disapprove of the Bush administration lowering corporate income taxes? (IF APPROVE/DISAPPROVE) Would you (approve/disapprove) strongly or would you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Approve (net)	<u>34</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>
Approve strongly	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>
Approve somewhat	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>
Disapprove (net)	<u>56</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>58</u>
Disapprove somewhat	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>
Disapprove strongly	<u>39</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>44</u>
D/know (net)	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>

Q28. Which do you think is more effective in stimulating the nation's economy: An economic agenda focused on returning money to taxpayers through tax cuts, or an economic agenda focused on spending on such issues as health care and education?

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>WORKG</u>	<u>N/WRKG</u>
Tax cuts	<u>36</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>32</u>
Health care and education	<u>52</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>52</u>
Not sure	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>
Refused	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

HEALTH CARE QUESTIONS ASKED OF ALL ADULTS

Q43. Are you covered by any type of health insurance right now, or not? (IF NOT) Why do you not have health insurance: Is it because you cannot afford it, or because insurance companies won't insure you, or because you're getting along okay without it right now?

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>NOINS</u>
Have health insurance	<u>85</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>91</u>	--
No insurance (net)	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>100</u>
No ins - can't afford	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>74</u>
No in - won't insure	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
No ins - other reason (vol)	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	--	<u>1</u>	<u>25</u>
No insurance - getting along okay	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	--	--
D/know (net)	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	--	--	<u>1</u>	--	--	--	--

COMBINED RESPONSES FROM Q43

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	
Have ins	<u>84</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>91</u>	
No ins	<u>15</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	
D/know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	--	--	<u>1</u>	--	--	--	

Q44. Right now, are you or is anyone in your household staying in a job they want to leave mainly because of fear of losing your health care coverage or not?

	-----All Adults-----								
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>INSUR</u>
Yes	13	13	20	5	15	12	13	11	13
No	86	84	79	94	83	85	87	88	86
Not sure	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	1
Refused	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Q45 Which of the following statements comes closest to your view: "It is the government's responsibility to ensure that its citizens have health insurance," or "It is the employer's responsibility to ensure that their employees have health insurance," or "It is the responsibility of individuals to secure their own health insurance without the help of the government or their employer"?

	-----All Adults-----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>INSUR</u>	<u>NOINS</u>
Government's responsibility	29	39	34	13	31	29	29	29	27	42
Employer's responsibility	23	19	26	19	26	23	18	16	23	22
Individual's responsibility	24	13	21	45	18	26	29	34	25	18
Shared responsibility (vol)	19	20	17	18	17	20	21	18	19	17
Not sure	5	8	2	5	8	2	3	3	6	1
Refused	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Q46. When it comes to plans for solving America's health care issues, which party's presidential candidates do you think have the best ideas, the Democratic candidates or the Republican candidates? (ACCEPT "NEITHER" OR "BOTH" AS A VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE)

	-----All Adults-----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>INSUR</u>	<u>NOINS</u>
Democratic candidates	46	84	41	8	51	45	45	41	44	50
Republican candidates	22	1	15	61	14	18	25	36	23	22
Neither (vol)	11	5	16	10	9	10	17	9	11	12
Both (vol)	2	1	1	4	2	5	0	1	3	0
Not sure	18	9	26	17	23	22	13	12	19	16
Refused	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

(ROTATE NEXT FOUR QUESTIONS)

Q47. One proposal is that all Americans should be required to buy health insurance the way that drivers are now required to buy auto insurance. Insurance companies should be required to cover everyone, without exclusions or financial penalties for medical problems, with government subsidies for those who cannot afford to purchase a policy. Do you agree or disagree with this approach? (IF AGREE/DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or only somewhat?

	-----All Adults-----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>INSUR</u>	<u>NOINS</u>
Agree (net)	<u>51</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>59</u>
Agree strongly	<u>24</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>
Agree somewhat	<u>26</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>37</u>
Disagree (net)	<u>39</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>34</u>
Disagree somewhat	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>
Disagree strongly	<u>25</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>23</u>
D/know (net)	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>

Q48. One proposal would require large companies that do not offer health insurance to their employees to pay a tax to cover the costs of insuring Americans who cannot pay for insurance on their own. Do you agree or disagree with this approach? (IF AGREE/DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or only somewhat?

	-----All Adults-----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>INSUR</u>	<u>NOINS</u>
Agree (net)	<u>62</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>76</u>
Agree strongly	<u>32</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>38</u>
Agree somewhat	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>38</u>
Disagree (net)	<u>31</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>18</u>
Disagree somewhat	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
Disagree strongly	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>8</u>
D/know (net)	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

Q49. One proposal is that the government should give Americans a tax credit that will help make health insurance more affordable, while keeping the current health insurance system the same as it is now, with no restrictions on health insurance companies' ability to decide who to cover and at what price. Do you agree or disagree with this approach? (IF AGREE/DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or only somewhat?

	-----All Adults-----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>INSUR</u>	<u>NOINS</u>
Agree (net)	<u>44</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>50</u>
Agree strongly	<u>19</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>
Agree somewhat	<u>25</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>34</u>
Disagree (net)	<u>45</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>42</u>
Disagree somewhat	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>
Disagree strongly	<u>31</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>
D/know (net)	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

Q50. One proposal would create a government-run, government financed health insurance program that would cover all Americans. This program would be administered like the current Medicare for citizens 65 and over. Do you agree or disagree with this approach? (IF AGREE/DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or only somewhat?

	-----All Adults-----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>L/\$40K</u>	<u>\$40-59K</u>	<u>\$60-100K</u>	<u>M/\$100K</u>	<u>INSUR</u>	<u>NOINS</u>
Agree (net)	<u>53</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>70</u>
Agree strongly	<u>30</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>40</u>
Agree somewhat	<u>24</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>30</u>
Disagree (net)	<u>36</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>22</u>
Disagree somewhat	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>
Disagree strongly	<u>22</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>10</u>
D/know (net)	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>

How the Poll was Conducted: Release 2 Poll #547

The Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg Poll contacted 1,209 adults nationwide by telephone October 19 through 22, 2007, including 1,039 registered voters. Telephone numbers were chosen randomly from a list of all exchanges in the nation, allowing listed and unlisted numbers to be contacted. Multiple attempts were made to contact each number. Adults were weighted slightly to conform with their respective census proportions by sex, ethnicity, age, education, and national region. The margin of sampling error for all adults and registered voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For certain subgroups, the error margin may be somewhat higher. Poll results may also be affected by factors such as question wording and the order in which questions are presented. Interviewing was conducted by Interviewing Service of America, Inc. in Van Nuys, CA.