



WALTER H. CAPPS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ETHICS, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC LIFE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

“INTEGRITY, LEADERSHIP, TRUST”

A Report by

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And
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Scribbler's Ink

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I. Abstract

Last November, immediately following the presidential election, Wade Clark Roof, director of the Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion and Public Life at UC Santa Barbara and I asked more than 3,300 likely voters *“What qualities do you think the country needs most from the new president,”* and *“What actions would you like to see accomplished most by the new president and Congress?”*

The top three qualities they listed: honesty, integrity and leadership. The top actionable issues: the economy, ending the war in Iraq, health care reform and cutting or stabilizing taxes.

From April 28 through April 30, 2009, Professor Roof and I put our own “First 100 Days” poll into the field. We asked voters to grade President Obama, as well as congressional Republicans and Democrats on those attributes and issues they considered important from the November, 2008 survey. Here’s what we found:

When asked to rate Mr. Obama on the top three attributes voters said were important to them in the new president, 58% gave Mr. Obama positive marks for both his honesty and integrity, while 59% gave him positive marks for leadership.

However, when it comes to some of the issues Americans said they would like to see accomplished most, the nation is split on how they rank Mr. Obama’s leadership on both fixing the economy and health care reform. While 49% said that they feel Obama has offered good leadership on the economy, 50% gave him a negative score. In the area of health care reform, one issue Mr. Obama campaigned on, he received 46% positive numbers and a 49% negative score. And only 44% of likely voters gave him good marks for stabilizing or cutting taxes, perhaps as a result of Mr. Obama’s stimulus bill signed into law earlier this year that featured massive spending by the federal government.

Finally, on the issue of bringing the troops home from the Middle East, another issue rated as important by voters, Mr. Obama received a positive rating of 56%.

When asked to rate the overall performance of President Obama in his first 100 Days, more than 3,300 likely voters gave him a 54% positive job approval. Congressional Democrats scored only 38% positive numbers and Republicans came in at only 22% positive numbers.

The Capps survey was conducted by Zogby, International in Utica, New York. The poll included 3,367 likely voters and carries a margin of error of +/- 1.7 percentage points.

Congress continues to remain deeply scorned by voters. In the area of transparency, another attribute Americans said was important, Congress received only 18% positive marks, while Mr. Obama received a 50% positive grade. And when it comes to honesty and integrity, Congress received only 23% and 22% positive numbers compared to Mr. Obama's 58% in both categories.

When asked to rate Mr. Obama's leadership in "working with Congress," 63% gave him a positive score, while Congress received only 45% positive marks in "working with the president."

When it comes to "restoring trust in government" Mr. Obama received 50% positive numbers compared to only 18% positives for Congress. The ratings of Congress continue to reinforce the belief by many Americans that they don't know how to do anything but be polarizing.

II. Chart – Obama / Congress

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Outshines Capitol Hill

	Obama	Congress
Issue:	Positive Rating	Positive Rating
Honesty	58%	23%
Integrity	58%	22%
Transparency	50%	18%
Restoring Trust in Government	50%	18%
Fairness	58%	n/a
Intelligence	78%	n/a
Leadership	60%	n/a
Vision for Country	56%	n/a
Working with Obama/Congress	63%	45%

III. Conclusions

What's unique about the Capps survey is the longitudinal aspect of the study. We asked likely voters to grade President Obama and Congress on the qualities and issues *they* considered most important based on a Post-Election survey taken in November 2008.

Overall, Americans are encouraged about the start to Mr. Obama's presidency because they like him personally. They believe him to be honest and smart with

a positive vision for the country. Considering his high ratings on the key qualities Americans want to see most in a president, they trust him.

Mr. Obama's rating of 77% on intelligence shows strong crossover support from the GOP. According to John Zogby, this ability to show a high ranking on intelligence is helping those voters who are on the fence to still give Obama the benefit of the doubt on issues they may not support.

Further, voters gave Mr. Obama a 55% confidence rating when it comes to handling a crisis. And 59% and 57% expressed complete confidence in his ability to "improve America's image in the world," and "improve international relations by meeting with foreign leaders"; two additional issues Americans ranked as important after the November election.

However, Americans are split about whether Mr. Obama has the right solutions to some of the critical issues facing the country, particularly in the areas of the economy and health care reform. Although the results of both issues are far too early to be seen, they will continue to be closely scrutinized.

One interesting point is the fact that Mr. Obama has strong ratings from both the investor class as well as non-investors in Obama's attributes of intelligence, fairness, integrity, honesty, and leadership, indicating crossover support from both wealthy and working class Americans. This may foreshadow positive signs of support for future legislation Mr. Obama presents to Congress.

The survey supports the fact that Americans still hold their Congressional leaders in generally low esteem. A key indicator comes in response to the question asking voters to rate Congress on "restoring the public's trust in government." Congress scored a dismal 81% negative rating.

As the Capps study shows, Americans are still craving honesty, integrity, and leadership – and as long as Mr. Obama doesn't stumble, his ratings will remain high. One important aspect of this has been Obama's willingness to speak plainly and directly to the American people about what it will take to bring about a sustainable economic recovery and other issues. As long as he is perceived as communicating clearly and honestly, he should sustain the trust of the American people.

Looking at the first 100 Days of any president is something that has become more customary than reflective of serious assessment. The real measure of Mr. Obama's leadership won't come for another seven to nine months, maybe sooner, if voters see results from his economic policies as well as the equally critical issue of health care reform. Those outcomes will be the next great test Mr. Obama will face.

Finally, it's interesting to look at President Obama's current grades in light of some of the responses from the Capps post-election study that stood out from last November. They remain noteworthy pieces of advice for the new president:

"Work for America, not the party."

"...put the PEOPLE, not special interests, first."

"...clear vision to unify the country..."

"Help fix the American image."

"Leadership with substance, not just style."

"Become Ronald Reagan..."

"Be Abraham Lincoln..."

Surround [yourself] with opposing viewpoints and vote on the side of reason."

"Regular and direct communication with the American people."

"Intelligence, wisely chosen advisors..."

"Listening ability, a spirit of reconciliation."

"Unselfish strength and integrity..."

"...ability to listen to others with more knowledge."

"Enlightened leadership, compassion for those with other views."

"Diplomacy and consensus-building skills."

"Sense of personal responsibility to his leadership..."

"Intellectual but down-to-earth."

"Wisdom to protect America."

"Humility."

"Instill trust."

"Complete honesty, unquestionable integrity."

VII: Overview

PERFORMANCE	NEGATIVE			POSITIVE		
1. Rate performance of Barack Obama in his first 100 days?	29.2	15.9	45.1	18.7	35.5	54.1
2. Rate performance of Democrats in the 111th Congress in their first 100 days?	44.4	16.6	61.0	30.0	7.7	37.7
3. Rate performance of Republicans in the 111th Congress in their first 100 days?	45.4	29.7	75.1	18.7	3.8	22.4

TOP QUALITIES VOTERS SAY COUNTRY NEEDS MOST FROM PRESIDENT

5. Obama - Honesty	29.0	12.1	41.1	15.0	42.6	57.6
6. Obama - Integrity	29.3	11.6	40.8	14.0	44.1	58.1
10. Obama - Leadership	26.7	13.2	39.9	17.6	41.7	59.2

ADDITIONAL QUALITIES

7. Obama - Fairness	26.9	14.6	41.6	16.6	40.8	57.4
8. Obama - Intelligence	12.4	9.2	21.6	19.8	57.6	77.4
11. Obama - Vision for the country	35.7	7.8	43.4	13.6	41.5	55.0

OBAMA'S LEADERSHIP - ISSUES VOTERS SAY ARE MOST IMPORTANT

15. Obama's leadership - Fixing the Economy	37.5	12.0	49.5	24.6	24.8	49.4
16. Obama's leadership - Bringing troops home from the Middle East	20.9	20.1	41.0	35.7	20.7	56.4
18. Obama's leadership - Reforming health care	32.8	15.7	48.5	25.4	20.8	46.2
19. Obama's leadership - Stabilizing or cutting taxes	42.5	10.7	53.2	20.6	23.3	43.9

OBAMA / CONGRESS

5. Obama - Honesty	29.0	12.1	41.1	15.0	42.6	57.6
21. Congress - Honesty	50.4	25.0	75.4	19.4	3.5	23.0
6. Obama - Integrity	29.3	11.6	40.8	14.0	44.1	58.1
22. Congress - Integrity	51.4	25.4	76.8	18.2	3.5	21.7
9. Obama - Transparency	32.6	14.6	47.3	24.0	26.4	50.4
23. Congress - Transparency	54.4	25.7	80.1	14.4	3.4	17.8

20. Obama's leadership - Restoring the public's trust in government	40.3	8.0	48.4	19.8	30.5	50.3
25. Congress - Restoring the public's trust in government	57.1	24.0	81.0	13.8	3.8	17.7
17. Obama's leadership - Working with Congress	20.3	15.1	35.4	32.4	30.3	62.7
24. Congress - Working with the president	22.9	29.5	52.4	32.0	13.2	45.2

OBAMA'S ABILITY		No confidence	2	3	Complete confidence	
12. Obama's ability - Unite the country		37.6	13.9	51.5	27.0	20.2 47.3
13. Obama's ability - Improve America's image in the world		27.8	11.9	39.6	14.9	44.4 59.3
14. Obama's ability - Improve international relations by meeting with foreign leaders.		28.9	13.4	42.4	15.0	41.7 56.7

28. Based on his performance in his first 100 days as president, how confident are you that Obama has the character and the courage to do the right thing in handling a crisis?

Very confident	43.1	
Somewhat confident	12.4	55.4
Not very confident	10.1	
Not at all confident	32.7	42.9

4. How confident are you that Obama is moving the country in the right direction?

Very confident	35.3	
Somewhat confident	16.9	52.2
Not very confident	8.2	
Not at all confident	38.9	47.1

26. Based on his performance in his first 100 days as president, do you believe Obama makes decisions based on what's best for the country or based on what helps him politically?

Best for the country		49.8
Helps him politically		44.6

27. Based on his performance in his first 100 days as president, how satisfied are you with the leadership of Obama?

Very satisfied	38.8	
Somewhat satisfied	14.2	53.0
Somewhat dissatisfied	7.3	
Not at all satisfied	38.6	46.0

29. Based on his performance in his first 100 days as president, how optimistic are you that Obama will live up to Americans' expectations?

Much more optimistic	27.6	
Somewhat more optimistic	21.7	49.3
Somewhat less optimistic	11.7	
Much less optimistic	35.9	47.6

The First 100 Days: Leadership, Integrity, Trust

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I. Methodology and Sample Characteristics

Methodology

Zogby International was commissioned by Jim Lichtman to conduct an online survey of 3,367 voters.

A sampling of Zogby International's online panel, which is representative of the adult population of the U.S., was invited to participate from 4/28/09 to 4/30/09. Slight weights were added to party, age, race, gender, and education to more accurately reflect the population. The margin of error is +/- 1.7 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Sample Characteristics	Frequency	Valid Percent*
Sample size	3367	100
East	737	22
South	870	26
Central/Great Lakes	1004	30
West	737	22
Very likely to vote	3300	98
Somewhat likely to vote	67	2
Democrat	1301	39
Republican	1076	32
Independent/Minor party	990	29
18-29	603	18
30-49	1307	39
50-64	905	27
65+	536	16
18-24	200	6
25-34	618	18
35-54	1402	42
55-69	878	26
70+	252	8
<i>Did not answer age</i>	16	--
No college degree	1842	55
College degree	1507	45
<i>Did not answer education</i>	18	--
White	2382	73
Hispanic	290	9
African American	420	13
Asian/Pacific	46	1
Other/mixed	117	4

<i>Did not answer race</i>	112	--
Live in large city	1100	33
Live in small city	739	22
Live in suburbs	880	26
Live in rural area	630	19
<i>Did not answer live</i>	17	--
Liberal	730	22
Moderate	1461	44
Conservative	1131	34
<i>Did not answer ideology</i>	45	--
Roman Catholic	882	27
Protestant	1731	53
Jewish	65	2
Other/None	588	18
<i>Did not answer religion</i>	101	--
Born-again	788	47
Not born-again	902	53
Member of union	648	19
Not member of union	2703	81
<i>Did not answer union</i>	16	--
Parent of child under 17	939	28
Not parent of child under 17	2414	72
<i>Did not answer parent</i>	14	--
Married	2057	62
Single, never married	688	21
Divorced/widowed/separated	511	15
Civil union/domestic partnership	84	3
<i>Did not answer status</i>	28	--
My city or town	683	20
America	1754	52
The planet earth	865	26
NS/Refused	65	2
Armed forces	670	20
Not armed forces	2685	80
<i>Did not answer armed forces</i>	12	--
NASCAR fan	516	15
Not NASCAR fan	2830	85
<i>Did not answer NASCAR fan</i>	21	--
Attend services weekly+	394	12
Weekly	760	23
1-2 per month	364	11

Holidays	242	8
Rarely	1086	33
Never	408	13
<i>Did not answer services</i>	112	--
Investor class	1288	39
Non-Investor class	2030	61
<i>Did not answer investor</i>	49	--
Wal-Mart weekly	562	17
Few times a month	1052	32
1-2 a year	1050	32
Never	614	18
Other	52	2
<i>Did not answer Wal-Mart</i>	36	--
Valid passport	1697	51
No Valid passport	1647	49
<i>Did not answer passport</i>	23	--
<\$25,000	256	9
\$25,000-\$34,999	322	11
\$35,000-\$49,999	428	15
\$50,000-\$74,999	650	22
\$75,000-\$99,999	494	17
\$100,000 or more	762	26
<i>Did not answer income</i>	456	--
Male	1565	47
Female	1766	53
<i>Did not answer gender</i>	36	--

* Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.

II. Executive Summary

Based on his first 100 days in office, most survey respondents appear relatively satisfied with President Obama's performance, are confident in his abilities, and give him high marks on most of his attributes. However, we also find that people's opinions are split in several areas, and that he gets negative ratings on a couple of key issues.

Over half give Obama a positive rating on his overall performance, and about the same amount say they are satisfied with the leadership he has displayed during that time (Q27). Majorities rate him positively on the attributes of intelligence, leadership (Q10), integrity, honesty, fairness, and vision for the country, and say they have confidence in his ability to improve America's image in the world, and to improve international relations by meeting with foreign leaders.

Majorities also rate Obama's leadership positively in the areas of working with Congress and bringing troops home from the Middle East, and are confident that he has the character and courage to do the right thing in handling a crisis.

The gap narrows however when looking at the confidence people have that Obama is moving the country in the right direction (52% to 47%) , and in their belief that he makes decisions based on what's best for the country as opposed to what helps him politically (50% to 45%).

Respondents are split as to whether they give Obama positive or negative ratings on his leadership in restoring the public's trust in government (50% to 48%), fixing the economy (49% to 50%), and reforming healthcare (46% to 49%), as well as in the area of transparency (50% to 48%). Based on his performance thus far, respondents are also split as to whether they are more optimistic (50%) or less optimistic (48%) that Obama will live up to America's expectations.

Where Obama receives negative ratings from majorities is on his leadership in stabilizing or cutting taxes, and in the confidence people have in his ability to unite the country.

Generally speaking, Democrats, those living in the East, 50-64 year-olds, women, African-Americans, and those making under \$25,000 a year tend to give Obama the highest marks from a demographic standpoint

Switching our attention to the 111th Congress, we find that respondents are not as kind as they were to the president.

Six in ten give a negative rating to the Democrats overall performance in the first 100 days, and three quarters rate Republicans negatively as well. Large majorities also rate Congress negatively in the areas of restoring public trust in government, transparency, integrity, and honesty, and half say the same about how it works with the president.

III. Narrative Analysis

1. On a scale of one to four, with one being poor and four being excellent, how would you rate the overall performance of President Barack Obama in his first 100 days?
2. On a scale of one to four, with one being poor and four being excellent, how would you rate the overall performance of Democrats in the 111th Congress in their first 100 days?
3. On a scale of one to four, with one being poor and four being excellent, how would you rate the overall performance of Republicans in the 111th Congress in their first 100 days?

Table 1. First 100 Days Ratings

	Positive (4+3)	Negative (2+1)	Not sure
President Obama	54	45	1
111 th Congress Democrats	38	61	1
111 th Congress Republicans	23	75	3

Over half of likely voters nationwide give President Obama's performance in his first 100 days a positive rating (54%), but 45% give him a negative rating in that regard.

Democrats (91%) are more likely than Republicans (14%) and independents (50%) to give Obama a positive rating in his first 100 days, as are those living in the East (59%) compared to those in the Central/Great Lakes region (51%); Women (58%) vs. men (50%); those making less than \$25,000 a year (66%) compared to those making over \$100,000 a year (55%); and African Americans (81%) compared to Hispanics (64%) and whites (51%).

About two-fifths (38%) give the 111th Congressional Democrats a positive rating, however six in ten (61%) give them a negative one.

Democrats (72%) are more likely than Republicans (7%) and independents (26%) to give the 111th Congressional Democrats a positive rating, as are 50-64 year-olds (41%) compared to 18-29 year-olds (30%); women (42%) vs. men (33%); and African-Americans (70%) compared to Hispanics (52%) and whites (32%).

About a quarter (23%) give the 111th Congressional Republicans a positive rating, however three quarters (75%) give them a negative one.

Republicans (36%) are much more likely than Democrats (13%) and independents (19%) to give the 111th Congressional Republicans a positive rating.

4. How confident are you that President Obama is moving the country in the right direction?

Very confident	35%	Confident	52%
Somewhat confident	17		
Not very confident	8	Not confident	47
Not at all confident	39		
Not sure	1		

Respondents are relatively split as to whether they are confident (52%) or not confident (47%) that President Obama is moving the country in the right direction. Most respondents fall at one end of the spectrum or the other, as a third (35%) say they are very confident that Obama is moving the country in the right direction, and two fifths (39%) saying they are not at all confident that he is doing so.

Democrats (90%) are more likely than Republicans (11%) and independents (48%) to say they are confident that Obama is moving the country in the right direction, as are those living in the East (58%) compared to the West (50%) and Central/Great Lakes region (50%); 50-64 years-olds (56%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (49%); women (57%) compared to men (48%); African-Americans (82%) compared to Hispanics (63%) and whites (48%); and those making less than \$25,000 (64%) vs. those making over \$100,000 (53%).

5-11. On a scale of one to four, with one being poor and four being excellent, how would you rate President Obama in the following areas?

Table 2. Rating Obama's Attributes

	Positive (4+3)	Negative (2+1)	Not sure
Intelligence	77	22	1
Leadership	59	40	1
Integrity	58	41	1
Honesty	58	41	1
Fairness	57	42	1
Vision for the country	55	44	2
Transparency	50	47	2

Over three quarters (77%) give a positive rating to Obama's intelligence, while a fifth (21%) rate it negatively.

Democrats (97%) are more likely than Republicans (53%) and independents (78%) to give Obama a positive rating in intelligence, as are those in the East (82%) compared to those in the West (74%); 50-64 year-olds (87%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (74%); and African-Americans (94%) compared to whites (76%) and Hispanics (75%).

Six in ten (59%) give a positive rating to Obama's leadership, but two in five (40%) give him a negative rating in that regard.

Democrats (93%) are more likely than Republicans (23%) and independents (55%) to give Obama positive rating on leadership, as are those in the East (66%) compared to those in the South (58%), West (57%), and Central/Great Lakes region (57%); 30-49 year-olds (61%), 50-64 year-olds (60%), and those over 65 (60%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (53%); and African-Americans (89%) compared to Hispanics (68%) and whites (55%).

About six in ten (58%) give a positive rating to Obama's integrity, but two in five give it a negative rating (41%).

Democrats (92%) are more likely than Republicans (18%) and independents (57%) to rate Obama positively on integrity, as are women (61%) vs. men (55%); African-Americans (86%) compared to Hispanics (67%); and whites (54%); and those making under \$25K (66%) vs. those making over \$100K (58%).

About six in ten (58%) give a positive rating to Obama's honesty, but two in five rate it as negative (41%)

Democrats (92%) are more likely than Republicans (19%) and independents (55%) to give Obama a positive rating in honesty, as are those in the East (61%) vs. those in the West (55%); 50-64 year-olds (60%) compared to 18-29 year-olds (52%); women (61%) vs. men (55%); African-Americans (86%) compared to Hispanics (65%) and whites (54%); and those making under \$25K a year (63%) vs. those making over \$100K (54%).

About six in ten (57%) give a positive rating to Obama's fairness, but two in five give it a negative rating (42%).

Democrats (93%) are more likely than Republicans (21%) and independents (50%) to rate Obama positively on fairness, as are 50-64 year-olds (60%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (52%); African-Americans (87%); Hispanics (66%); and whites (53%); and those making under \$25K (66%) vs. those making over \$100K (59%).

Over half (55%) give a positive rating to Obama's vision for the country, but over two fifths (44%) rate it negatively.

Democrats (91%) are more likely than Republicans (15%) and independents (51%) to rate Obama positively on his vision for the country as are 30-49 year-olds (56%) and 50-64 year-olds (58%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (50%); women (60%) compared to men (50%); African-Americans (84%) compared to Hispanics (66%) and whites (51%); and those making under \$25K (64%) vs. those making over \$100K (55%).

Respondents are split as to whether they give Obama a positive (50%) or negative (47%) rating on transparency.

Democrats (84%) are more likely than Republicans (16%) and independents (43%) to rate Obama positively on transparency, as are those living in the East (56%) compared to those in the Central/Great lakes region (48%); women (54%) vs. men (47%); and African-Americans (77%) compared to Hispanics (57%) and whites (46%).

12-14. On a scale of one to four, with one being no confidence and four being complete confidence, how would you rate the level of confidence you have in President Obama's ability to do the following?

Table 3. Confidence in Obama's Abilities

	Confident (4+3)	Not confident (2+1)	Not sure
Improve America's image in the world	59	40	1
Improve international relations by meeting with foreign leaders	57	42	1
Unite the country	47	52	1

Six in ten (59%) are confident in Obama's ability to improve America's image in the world, but two in five (40%) are not.

Democrats (93%) are more likely than Republicans (20%) and independents (58%) to have confidence in Obama's ability to improve America's image in the world, as are those living in the East (66%) compared to those living in the Central/Great Lakes region (56%); and African-Americans (87%) compared to Hispanics (74%) and whites (55%).

Nearly six in ten (57%) are confident in Obama's ability to improve international relations by meeting with foreign leaders, but two in five (42%) are not.

Democrats (91%) are more likely than Republicans (17%) and independents (55%) to say they are confident in Obama's ability to improve international relations by meeting with foreign leaders; as are those living in the East (63%) compared to those in the West (56%), South (55%), and Central/Great Lakes region (54%); 18-29 year-olds (58%) vs. seniors (52%); African-Americans (86%) compared to Hispanics (71%) and whites (52%); and those making less than \$25K (65%) vs. those making more than \$100K (57%).

Respondents are divided over their confidence in Obama's ability to unite the country, with slightly more not being confident (52%) than confident (47%).

Democrats (82%) are more likely than Republicans (13%) and independents (39%) to say they have confidence in Obama's ability to untie the

country, as are those living in the East (52%) compared to those living in the West (44%); 50-64 year-olds (52%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (38%); women (51%) compared to men (44%); African-Americans (77%) compared to Hispanics (58%) and whites (42%); and those making under \$25K (59%) vs. those making over \$100K (50%).

15-20. On a scale of one to four, with one being poor and four being excellent, how would you rate President Obama's leadership in the following areas?

Table 4. Rating Obama's Leadership

	Positive (4+3)	Negative (2+1)	Not sure
Working with Congress	63	35	2
Bringing troops home from the Middle East	56	41	3
Restoring the public's trust in government	50	48	1
Fixing the Economy	49	50	1
Reforming health care	46	49	5
Stabilizing or cutting taxes	44	53	3

Over six in ten (63%) would positively rate Obama's leadership in working with congress, but a third (35%) would rate it negatively.

Democrats (91%) are more likely than Republicans (35%) and independents (55%); 50-64 year-olds (67%), 30-49 year-olds (65%), and seniors (63%) compared to 18-29 year-olds (51%); and African-Americans (88%) compared to Hispanics (73%) and whites (58%).

Over half (56%) rate Obama's leadership in bringing troops home from the Middle East as positive, but two in five (41%) rate it as negative.

Democrats (83%) are more likely than Republicans (28%) and independents (51%) to give Obama's leadership in bringing troops home from the Middle East a positive rating, as are those living in the East (62%) compared to those living in the West (53%); 50-64 year-olds (61%), 30-49 year-olds (58%), and seniors (56%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (48%); women (61%) vs. men (51%); and African-Americans (80%) compared to Hispanics (67%) and whites (53%).

Respondents are split when it comes to rating Obama's leadership in restoring public trust in government, as 50% rate it positive and 48% rate it negative.

Democrats (87%) are more likely than Republicans (12%) and independents (44%) to give Obama a positive rating on his leadership in restoring public trust in government, as are those living in the East (56%) compared to those living in the West (48%) and the Central/Great Lakes region (48%); women (55%) vs. men (45%); African-Americans (82%) compared to

Hispanics (62%) and whites (46%); and those making under \$25K (60%) vs. those making over \$100K (50%).

Respondents are also split as to whether they give Obama a positive (50%) or negative (59%) rating on his leadership in fixing the economy.

Democrats (87%) are more likely than Republicans (10%) and independents (42%) to positively rate Obama’s leadership in fixing the economy, as are those living in the East (56%) compared to those living in the South (48%), Central/Great Lakes (48%), and West (47%); 50-64 year-olds (52%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (45%); women (54%) compared to men (45%); African-Americans (83%) compared to Hispanics (63%) and whites (44%); and those making under \$25K (60%) vs. those making over \$100K (49%).

Respondents are pretty well split as to whether they rate Obama’s leadership in reforming healthcare as positive (46%) or negative (49%).

Democrats (79%) are more likely than Republicans (13%) and independents (39%) to rate Obama’s leadership in reforming health care as positive, as are 50-64 year-olds (52%) compared to 18-29 year-olds (42%); women (50%) vs. men (43%); African-Americans (78%) compared to Hispanics (60%) and whites (40%); and those making under \$25K (59%) vs. those making over \$100K (46%).

Over two fifths (44%) would positively rate Obama’s leadership in stabilizing or cutting taxes, but over half (53%) would rate it negatively.

Democrats (80%) are more likely than Republicans (10%) and independents (34%) to positively rate Obama’s leadership in stabilizing or cutting taxes, as are 50-64 year-olds (47%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (37%); women (49%) compared to men (39%); African-Americans (71%) compared to Hispanics (57%) and whites (39%); and people making under \$25K (55%) vs. people making over \$100K (46%).

21-25. On a scale of one to four, with one being poor and four being excellent, how would you rate Congress in the following areas?

Table 5. Rating Congress

	Negative (1+2)	Positive (3+4)	Not sure
Restoring the public’s trust in government	81	18	1
Transparency	80	18	2
Integrity	77	22	2
Honesty	75	23	2
Working with the president	52	45	2

Eight in ten (81%) would negatively rate Congress in the area of restoring the public's trust in government, while 18% would rate it positively.

Republicans (94%) are more likely than Democrats (64%) and independents (89%) to negatively rate Congress on restoring the public's trust in government, as are those in West (84%) compared to those in the Central/Great Lakes region (77%); men (86%) vs. women (77%); whites (86%) compared to Hispanics (70%) and African-Americans (58%); and those making over \$100K (84%) vs. those making under \$25K (73%).

Eight in ten (80%) would give Congress a negative rating in the area of transparency, while about one in six (18%) would rate it positively.

Republicans (93%) are more likely than Democrats (63%) and independents (89%) to negatively rate Congress on transparency, as are those living in the West (83%) compared to those in the Central/Great Lakes region (75%); 50-64 year-olds (83%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (76%); men (85%) compared to women (75%); whites (84%) compared to Hispanics (78%) and African-Americans (59%); and those making over \$100K (85%) vs. those making under \$25K (68%).

Three quarters (77%) would negatively rate Congress in the area of integrity, while nearly a quarter (22%) would rate it positively.

Republicans (94%) are more likely than Democrats (55%) and independents (87%) to rate Congress negatively in the area of integrity, as are those in the West (81%) compared to those in the Central/Great Lakes region (72%); men (84%) vs. women (71%); whites (82%) compared to Hispanics (65%) and African-Americans (50%); and people making over \$100K a year (80%) vs. those making under \$25K (67%).

Three quarters (75%) would give Congress a negative rating on honesty, while a quarter (23%) would rate it positively.

Republicans (93%) are more likely than Democrats (54%) and independents (84%) to give Congress a negative rating on honesty, as are those living in the West (80%) compared to those in the Central/Great Lakes region (70%); men (82%) vs. women (70%); whites (80%) compared to Hispanics (64%) and African-Americans (49%); and those making over \$100K (79%) vs. those making under \$25K (65%).

Half (52%) would negatively rate Congress on working with the president, but over two fifths (45%) would rate it positively.

Independents (64%) are more likely than Republicans (52%) and Democrats (43%) to rate Congress negatively on working with the president, as are 30-49 year-olds (55%) compared to seniors (47%); whites (55%) and

Hispanics (51%) compared to African-Americans (41%); and people making over \$100K (55%) vs. those making under \$25K (46%).

26. Based on his performance in his first 100 days as president, do you believe President Obama makes decisions based on what's best for the country or based on what helps him politically?

Best for the country	50%
Helps him politically	45
Not sure	6

Half (50%) say they believe that Obama makes decisions based on what's best for the country, while slightly less believe he bases his decisions on what helps him politically (45%).

Democrats (87%) are more likely than Republicans (9%) and independents (45%) to believe that Obama makes decisions based on what's best for the country, as are those in the East (55%) vs. those in the West (47%); 50-64 year-olds (53%) compared to 18-29 year-olds (47%); women (54%) vs. men (45%); African-Americans (79%) compared to Hispanics (60%) and whites (45%); and those making under \$25K (59%) vs. those making over \$100K (52%).

27. Based on his performance in his first 100 days as president, how satisfied are you with the leadership of President Obama?

Very satisfied	39%	Satisfied	53%
Somewhat satisfied	14		
Somewhat dissatisfied	7	Dissatisfied	46
Not at all satisfied	39		
Not sure	1		

Half (53%) say they are satisfied with Obama's leadership based on his first 100 days in office, two fifths of which say they are very satisfied (39%). However, 46% say they are dissatisfied with his leadership thus far, two fifths of which say they are not at all satisfied (39%).

Democrats (89%) are more likely than Republicans (13%) and independents (49%) to be satisfied with Obama's leadership in his first 100 days, as are those living in East (58%) compared to the Central/Great Lakes region (50%); 50-64 year-olds (57%) vs. 18-29 year-olds (50%); women (57%) compared to men (49%); African-Americans (81%) compared to Hispanics (64%) and whites (49%); and those making less than \$25K (62%) vs. those making over \$100K (54%).

28. Based on his performance in his first 100 days as president, how confident are you that President Obama has the character and the courage to do the right thing in handling a crisis?

Very confident	43%	Confident	55%
Somewhat confident	12		
Not very confident	10	Not confident	43
Not at all confident	33		
Not sure	2		

Over half (55%) are confident that Obama has the character and courage to do the right thing in handling a crisis based on his first 100 days in office, two fifths of which say they are very confident (43%). However, two fifths (43%) are not confident that he has the character and courage to do so, a third of which is not at all confident (33%).

Democrats (92%) are more likely than Republicans (14%) and independents (52%) to be confident that Obama has the character and courage to do the right thing in handling a crisis, as are those living in the East (60%) vs. those in the Central/Great Lakes region (53%); women (59%) compared to men (52%); African-Americans (85%) compared to Hispanics (64%) and whites (52%); and people making under \$25K (65%) vs. people making over \$100K (56%).

29. Based on his performance in his first 100 days as president, how optimistic are you that President Obama will live up to Americans' expectations?

Much more optimistic	28%	More optimistic	50%
Somewhat more optimistic	22		
Somewhat less optimistic	12	Less optimistic	48
Much less optimistic	36		
Not sure	3		

Based on his first 100 days in office, respondents are evenly split as to whether they are more optimistic (50%) or less optimistic (48%) that Obama will live up to Americans' expectations, with over a third (36%) saying that are much less optimistic that he will be able to do so.

Democrats (87%) are more likely than Republicans (12%) and independents (42%) to be more optimistic that Obama will live up to American's expectations based on his performance thus far, as are those living in the East (55%) vs. those in the Central/Great Lakes region (47%); 50-64 year-olds (53%) compared to 18-29 year-olds (42%); women (53%) vs. men (45%); African-Americans (80%) compared to Hispanics (62%) and whites (44%); and those making under \$25K (63%) vs. those making over \$100K (50%).

V. About the Capps Center

The Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life was established at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2002. The Center seeks to advance discussion of issues broadly relating to ethics, values and public life and to encourage civic participation.

The Center sponsors internships, research as well as courses on ethics, and lectures both in Santa Barbara and Washington, DC.

VI. About the Authors

Wade Clark Roof is the J.F. Rowny Professor of Religion and Society and Director of the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

He is the author or co-author of 14 books and over 100 articles in journals and books.

He recently received a Ford Foundation grant to study the 2008 Presidential Election and Prospects for Progressive Religious and Ethical Reflection in the United States.

Jim Lichtman has been writing and speaking on ethics to corporations, associations and schools since 1995. Feature stories and appearances include *USA Today*, the *Weekend Today Show in New York*, National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition*, and *CNN NewsNight with Aaron Brown*.

His Op-Ed pieces have appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *New York Daily News*, and *New York Times*. Jim's latest book, *WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?* features stories "about principles that matter," from Mario Cuomo to the Dali Lama to ordinary citizens.

Jim also serves on the National Advisory Board of the Walter H. Capps Center. His current ethics-related commentaries can be found at www.ethicsStupid.com.