

## Polling News & Notes

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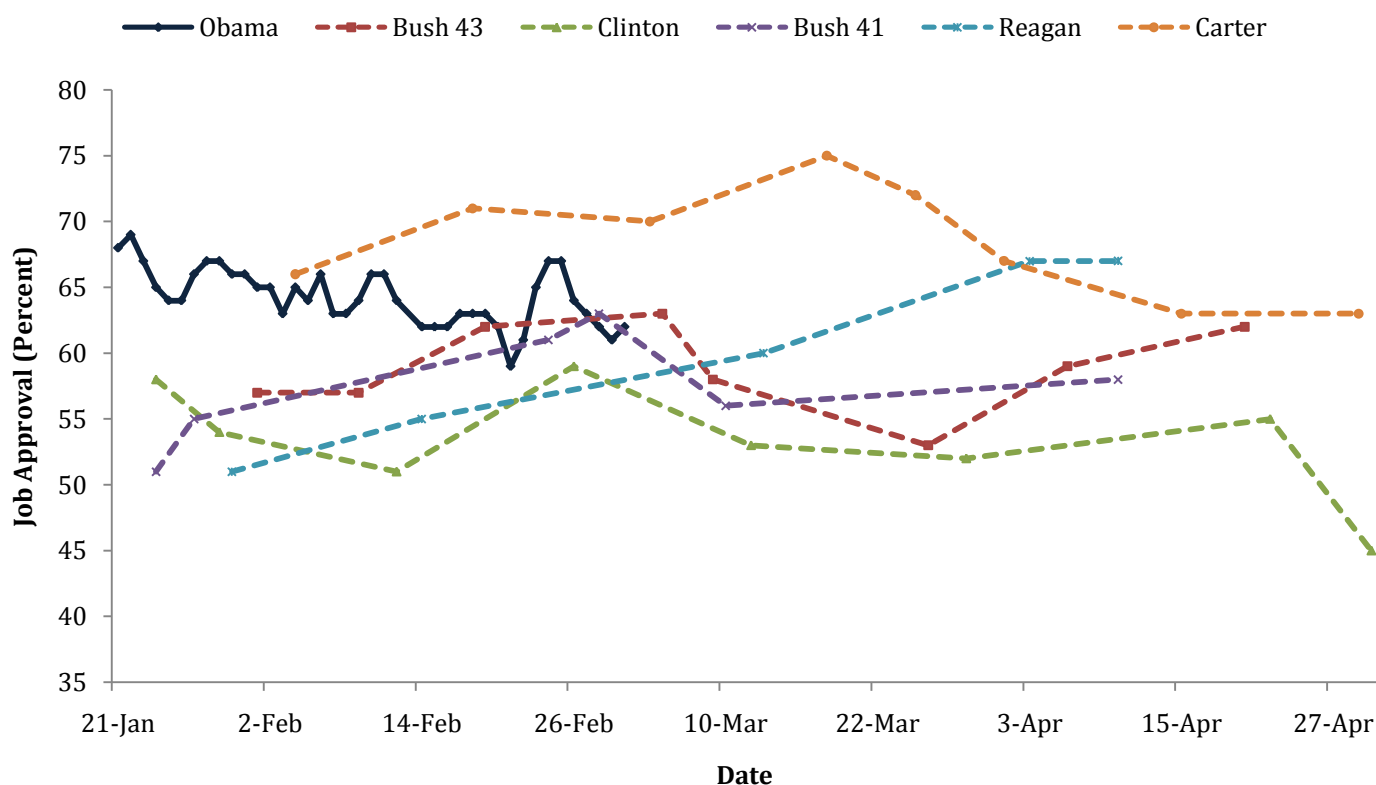
**President Obama's Job Approval Rating in Perspective:** While the latest Gallup poll (3/3-3/5) shows 62% of Americans approve of the way President Obama has been doing his job, how does that compare with how other recent presidents fared in their first months in office? Obama's approval rating is approximately on par with that of several of his predecessors: George W. Bush had a 63% approval rating in a March 5-7, 2001 poll, and George H. W. Bush was also at 63% in a February 28-March 2, 1989 poll.

But early approval ratings may not offer much information about the rest of a president's first term. For example, at this point in his presidency, Clinton held a 53% approval rating in a March 12-14 poll and saw his approval-rating fall as low as 37% by early June 1993. But heading into his re-election in October 1996, he was back up to a 58% approval rating. On the other hand, Carter was as high as 75% in March 1977, only to see his approval-rating fall to 31% over the summer of 1980.

It's too soon to say whether Obama will end his first term more like Clinton or Carter, but one thing is clear: Obama may have won the widest electoral victory since 1988, but six weeks into his presidency, his approval rating is average, rather than extraordinary.

## Presidential Job Approval: The First Four Months

(Gallup Polls: Jan. 20 to Apr. 30)



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