

Polling News & Notes

Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • April 30, 2009

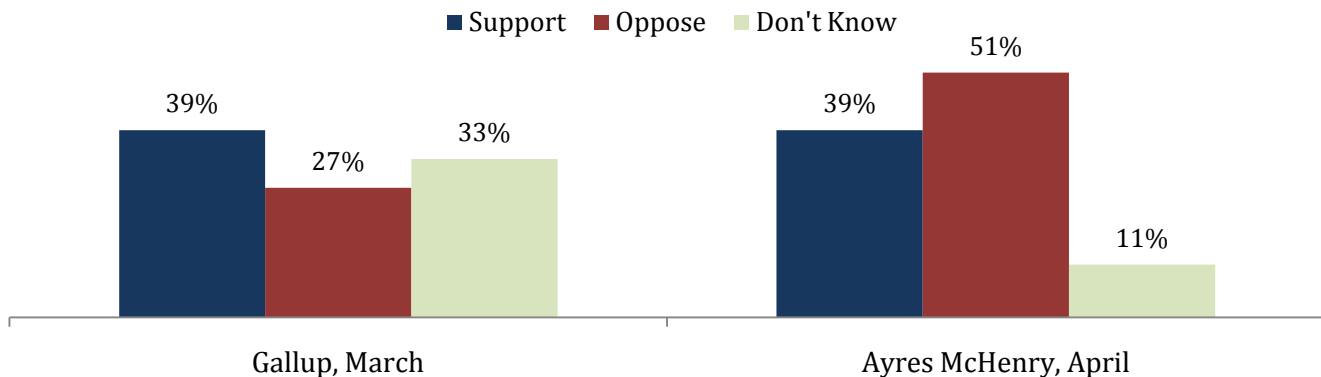
Opposition Growing to Obama’s Budget: A survey from [Resurgent Republic](#), a new conservative non-profit group, (conducted 4/13-41/6 by Ayres McHenry) has found that not only do American voters remain fundamentally center-right, but opposition to President Obama’s budget proposal is growing.

The Resurgent Republic poll that a wide majority of voters support smaller government rather than larger government (69% to 21%), and that voters believe government policies should promote opportunity to encourage growth, rather than promote fairness to encourage equality (63% to 31%). Even in the current economic environment, a narrow majority (50% to 47%) supports government leaving more things to the private sector rather than trying to do them itself.

	Statement A	Statement B	Difference
Statement A: Government should do more to solve problems and help meet the needs of people /OR/ Statement B: Government is trying to do more things than it can do well, things that should be left to the private sector and individuals	47%	50%	+3
Statement A: Government policies should promote fairness by narrowing the gap between rich and poor, spreading the wealth, and making sure that economic outcomes are more equal. /OR/ Statement B: Government policies should promote opportunity by fostering job growth, encouraging entrepreneurs, and allowing people to keep more of what they earn.	31%	63%	+32
Statement A: Larger government with more services and higher taxes /OR/ Statement B: Smaller government with fewer services and lower taxes	21%	69%	+48

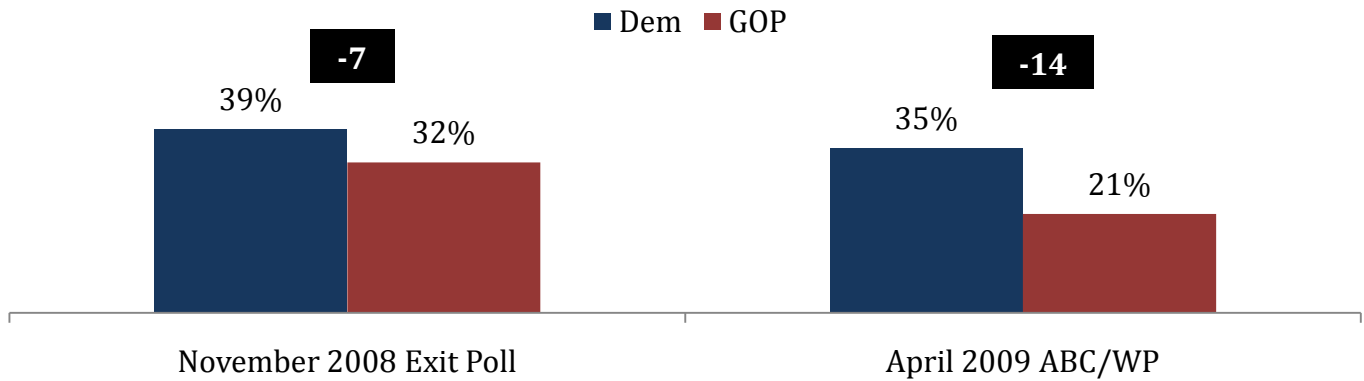
According to the Resurgent Republic survey, 51% of voters now oppose the Obama budget (38% strongly oppose) while just 39% support it (17% strongly), and 11% don’t know enough to offer an opinion. Among independents, the numbers are even higher—56% oppose the budget (39% strongly), compared to 33% supporting it (9% strongly). By comparison, a Gallup poll from a month ago (3/25) found that 39% of Americans had a positive impression of the Obama budget, 27% had a negative impression, and 33% didn’t know enough. Opposition to the Obama budget plan has increased from 27% to 51% over the past month.

Opposition Growing to Obama Budget



The recent ABC News/*Washington Post* poll (conducted 4/21-4/24) appears to be an outlier, with results unreflective of other polls. While the *Post* poll found higher support for President Obama and his agenda, its methodology makes it of questionable value.

First, the *Post* poll sampled all Americans, rather than just registered or likely voters, so it captured a significant number of adults who are ineligible to vote. Second, the poll found that just 21% of Americans identified themselves as Republicans, while 35% called themselves Democrats. This 14-point gap is twice as large as the actual Democratic advantage in last November's election.



While party identification changes over time as political movements ebb and flow, it would be very strange indeed for the Democrats' partisan advantage to double over the past few months.

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