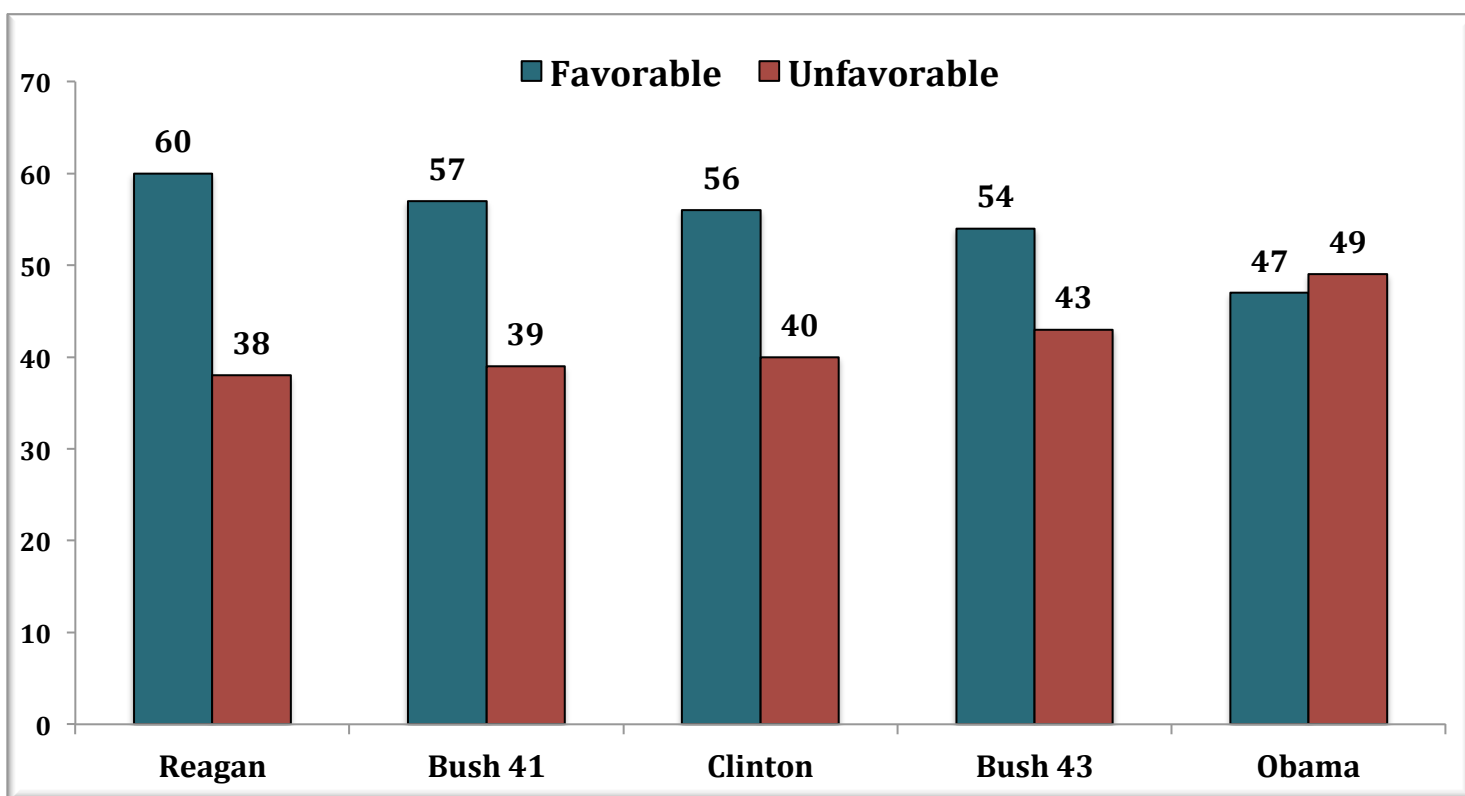


Obama Has Lowest Pre-Convention Popularity of Any Recent Incumbent: The ABC News/Washington Post [poll](#) released two days before President Barack Obama's DNC acceptance speech found him less popular than the last four incumbent presidents were when they accepted re-nomination. Ronald Reagan's favorability was at 60% in 1984, George H.W. Bush's was 57% in 1992, Bill Clinton's was 56% in 1996, and George W. Bush's was 54% in 2004.

All of these presidents were viewed much more favorably than unfavorably, with Ronald Reagan's unfavorables at 38%, George H.W. Bush's at 39%, Bill Clinton's at 40%, and George W. Bush's at 43%. The same cannot be said for Mr. Obama, as his ratings are underwater for the first time in the ABC/Washington Post poll. Forty-seven percent of likely voters said they have a favorable opinion of Mr. Obama while 49% said their opinion of him is unfavorable.



On the other hand, Mitt Romney is closing the likeability gap. His favorable rating is up eight points since April to 43%, putting him only four points behind Mr. Obama. With 10% of voters saying they still have no opinion of Mr. Romney but only four percent left undecided about Mr. Obama, the Republican challenger has more room to grow.