

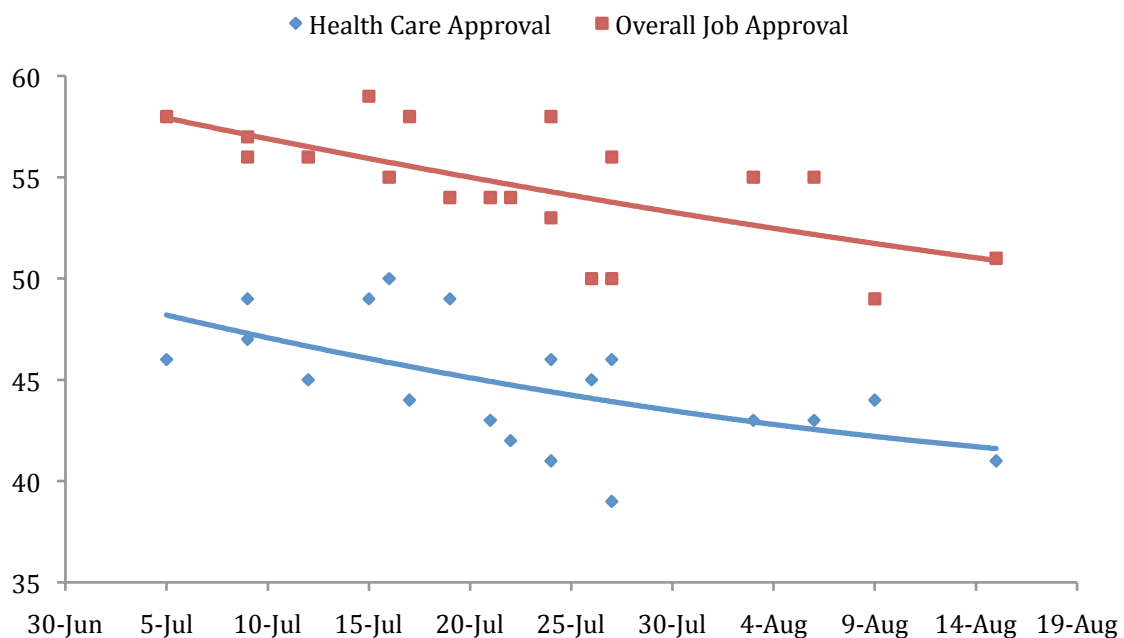
Polling News & Notes

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Health Care Debate Dragging Obama Down: As August draws to a close, it is clear this summer's health care debate has not been kind to President Obama's popularity. The graph below of all national polls since July 1 that measured both Obama's overall job approval and his job approval on health care shows both measures have declined significantly over the past six weeks. According to Pollster.com's regression analysis, President Obama's overall job approval now stands at 50.7%, while his health care job approval has fallen to 41.2%.

Obama Health Care Approval vs. Overall Job Approval

All Polls Since July 1



The latest [NBC News/Wall Street Journal](#) poll from (8/15-8/17) points to some causes of Obama's health care rating slide. 54% of Americans think health care reform efforts are "going too far and making the health care system worse," while 41% say reform is "not doing enough to make the health care system better." A plurality of 47% opposes the "public option," with 43% supporting it. Moreover, 54% believe that health care reform will eventually lead to a "government takeover" of the health care system. Even when President Obama's reform proposals are described in more detail without the inclusion of a public option and described as being paid for by "raising taxes on wealthier Americans," just 53% of Americans support it and 43% are opposed. That's a net drop of 8 points from July, when 56% were in favor and 38% opposed.

Even if President Obama does not insist on the inclusion of a "public option" in the health care reform proposal, the plan may remain unpopular. A [Rasmussen Reports](#) poll in Massachusetts, where health care reform included a universal mandate but not a public option, showed more voters think reform has been a failure (37%) than a success (26%).

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