

NBC News Online Survey: Public Opinion on Nuclear Agreement with Iran
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**On Iran Nuclear Agreement, Americans Trust
 Obama over Republicans in Congress -
 But They Don't Trust Iran**

A majority of Americans – 54 percent – trust Barack Obama to do a better job handling an agreement with Iran over its nuclear program, compared to 42 percent who say they trust the Republicans in Congress. But nearly 7 in 10 Americans say that Iran is not likely to abide by the agreement that has been reached—and that mistrust may have a lot to do with one’s age.

The latest NBC News Online Survey conducted by SurveyMonkey found that half of Americans say they have been following the Iran nuclear talks somewhat or very closely, and nearly the same number think that Iran’s nuclear program is a major threat to the United States (53 percent).

There is a stark difference in opinion on how closely Americans are following this issue by age as well as how they evaluate Iran as a threat. Those who were witnesses to the Iranian hostage crisis of 1979-81 – Americans who are 45 years old and up – have followed this issue much more closely – with more than 6 in 10 following it very or somewhat closely. Attention among younger Americans between the age of 18 and 44 drops by nearly half (35% say they have followed it closely). Six in 10 Republicans say they are closely following the news of the negotiations, compared to about half of Democrats and independents.

Perceptions of Iran’s nuclear program as a threat also divides by age. About 6 in 10 older Americans perceive Iran to be a major threat, whereas about 4 in 10 of those under 45 think that Iran is a major threat.

<i>Iran’s nuclear program...</i>	All	Under 45	Over 45	Rep	Dem	Ind
Major threat	53	43	61	74	41	50
Minor threat	37	43	33	23	47	39
Not a threat at all	8	11	5	1	11	9

Party identification is an important divide in evaluating who would do a better job handling an agreement with Iran over its nuclear program. Nearly 9 in 10 Democrats say that Barack Obama would do a better job –and the same number of Republicans say Congressional Republicans will do a better job with the agreement. Independents split 52 – 44 in favor of the president’s handling of the agreement over the Republicans in Congress.

<i>Who will do a better job...</i>	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Barack Obama	54	11	87	52
Republicans in Congress	42	87	10	44

Americans are divided over the president’s handling of the situation with Iran, with 48 percent approving and 50 percent disapproving. The poll also found the President’s overall approval rating similarly divided (51-48), while his handling of the economy was 7 points higher on the approval side (53-46).

TOPLINES

Questions 8, 24-35 held for future release; questions 9-17 previously released.

1. In general, do you think things in this country are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	<u>Right Direction</u>	<u>Wrong Direction</u>	<u>DK/NA</u>
4.6-8.15	35%	64%	1%

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

	<u>Approve</u>			<u>Disapprove</u>			
	<i>Net</i>	Strongly	Somewhat	<i>Net</i>	Strongly	Somewhat	DK/NA
4.6-8.15	51%	19%	32%	48%	28%	20%	0%

[ROTATE 3 & 5]

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

	<u>Approve</u>			<u>Disapprove</u>			
	<i>Net</i>	Strongly	Somewhat	<i>Net</i>	Strongly	Somewhat	DK/NA
4.6-8.15	53%	21%	32%	46%	26%	20%	1%

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the situation with Iran?

	<i>Net</i>	<u>Approve</u>		<i>Net</i>	<u>Disapprove</u>		DK/NA
		Strongly	Somewhat		Strongly	Somewhat	
4.6-8.15	48%	16%	32%	50%	27%	23%	2%

[ROTATE 6-7]

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Democrats in Congress are handling their job?

	<i>Net</i>	<u>Approve</u>		<i>Net</i>	<u>Disapprove</u>		DK/NA
		Strongly	Somewhat		Strongly	Somewhat	
4.6-8.15	37%	7%	30%	61%	25%	36%	2%

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling their job?

	<i>Net</i>	<u>Approve</u>		<i>Net</i>	<u>Disapprove</u>		DK/NA
		Strongly	Somewhat		Strongly	Somewhat	
4.6-8.15	23%	1%	22%	75%	42%	33%	2%

20. How closely have you been following news about the United States negotiating an agreement with Iran about their nuclear program?

	<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Somewhat closely</u>	<u>Not too closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>DK/NA</u>
4.6-8.15	12%	38%	34%	16%	1%

21. Do you think that Iran's nuclear program is a major threat, a minor threat, or not a threat at all to the United States?

	<u>A major threat</u>	<u>A minor threat</u>	<u>Not a threat at all</u>	<u>DK/NA</u>
4.6-8.15	53%	37%	8%	2%

22. As you may know, the United States, along with five other nations, has negotiated the framework of an agreement with Iran to restrict that country's nuclear program. How likely do you think it is that Iran will abide by the agreement and not develop a nuclear weapon?

	<u>Very likely</u>	<u>Somewhat likely</u>	<u>Not too likely</u>	<u>Not at all likely</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>N/A</u>
4.6-8.15	4%	21%	37%	31%	7%	1%

23. Who do you trust to do a better job handling an agreement with Iran over its nuclear program?

	<u>Barack Obama</u>	<u>The Republicans in Congress</u>	<u>DK/NA</u>
4.6-8.15	54%	42%	4%

METHODOLOGY

The NBC News-SurveyMonkey Poll was conducted online April 6-8, 2015 among a national sample of 2,052 adults aged 18 and over. Respondents for this non-probability survey were selected from among those who have volunteered to participate in the SurveyMonkey Audience panel. This SurveyMonkey Audience project was run using a balanced sample. The process of sample balancing starts by setting targets for desired numbers of completed responses among certain groups (in this case: by gender, age, and race groupings). After that, a specified number of potential respondents are allocated to the project based on expected completion rates. Panelists are either linked directly to the survey from an email invitation, or routed to the survey after agreeing to take an additional survey after completing a prior one. Once the survey is put into the field, the system calculates actual completion rates by group, and uses that information to re-adjust the flow of new panelists to the survey.

SurveyMonkey panelists are emailed no more than once every three days, and on average panelists receive one email every two weeks. SurveyMonkey also imposes a daily limit on the number of surveys a panelist can take.

Data for this survey have been weighted for age, race, sex, education and region using the Census Bureau's *American Community Survey*, along with data from the *Kaiser Health Tracking Poll* on evangelicalism to reflect the demographic composition of the U.S.. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation rather than a probability sample, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. All surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, and measurement error.

To assess the variability in the estimates and account for design effects, we create a bootstrap confidence interval, meaning we use the weighted data to generate 1000 independent samples and calculate the standard deviation of the weighted average using those samples, producing an error estimate.

When analyzing the survey results and their accuracy, this error estimate should be taken into consideration in much the same way that analysis of probability polls takes into account the margin of sampling error. For example, if 47 percent of voters say they support Candidate A and 43 percent of voters support Candidate B, and the error estimate is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, Candidate A could be supported by as low as 44 percent of voters and

Candidate B could have as high as 47 percent of support. Therefore, Candidate A does not have a "lead."

The following table provides the unweighted sample sizes and the error estimate that has been calculated in place of the margin of sampling error for a variable that is expected to have close to an even split in most groupings (gender):

Group	Unweighted N	Plus or minus
Total sample	2052	3.0 percentage points
Republican	424	6.3 percentage points
Democrat	798	4.7 percentage points
Independent	796	4.6 percentage points
18-29	315	7.5 percentage points
30-44	376	6.2 percentage points
45-59	754	4.5 percentage points
60+	607	5.3 percentage points
White	1383	3.8 percentage points
Black	204	9.0 percentage points
Hispanic	317	7.2 percentage points
Other	148	12.3 percentage points