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**OBAMA GETS SPLIT APPROVAL RATING, HIGHEST IN 3 YEARS,
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;
SENATE SHOULD VOTE ON SUPREME COURT PICK, VOTERS SAY 2-1**

American voters give President Barack Obama a split 49 – 48 percent job approval rating, his best net score in almost three years, according to a Quinnipiac University National poll released today.

President Obama hasn't been above water on his job approval rating since a 48 – 45 percent score in a May 1, 2013, survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University Poll.

There are large gender, racial, age and partisan gaps in today's score:

- Men disapprove 53 – 43 percent while women approve 54 – 43 percent;
- White voters disapprove 57 – 40 percent while non-white voters approve 75 – 21 percent;
- Voters 18 to 34 years old approve 62 – 35 percent. Approval drops to 51 – 44 percent among voters 35 to 49 years old, to a negative 44 – 53 percent among voters 50 to 64 years old, to a negative 37 – 61 percent among voters over 65 years old;
- Democrats approve 92 – 7 percent while Republicans disapprove 89 – 8 percent. Independent voters disapprove 50 to 44 percent.

In this election year, American voters dislike Democrats in Congress a lot less than they dislike Republicans.

Democrats get a negative 32 – 62 percent job approval rating, their best rating since a negative 32 – 60 percent score October 1, 2013.

Republicans get a negative 15 – 81 percent job approval rating, virtually unchanged since December.

“Let's face it: Both parties are deeply unpopular, but the Democrats are the least reviled,” said Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

“And for President Barack Obama, some end-of-term numbers that may warm the heart in this ugly political season.”

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American voters say 62 – 33 percent that the U.S. Senate should consider the nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court rather than wait until there is a new president. Supporting action are Democrats 87 – 8 percent and independent voters 63 – 31 percent, with Republicans opposed 62 – 33 percent.

There is support for Senate consideration of Garland among men and women and among all age and racial groups listed.

Voters approve 48 – 27 percent of the nomination of Judge Garland. Again, Republicans are the only listed group opposed.

“He may never get the job or even get a chance to tell his story, but Americans think Judge Merrick Garland is the right person for the Supreme Court,” Malloy said.

Only 29 percent of American voters are “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the way things are going in the nation today, while 70 percent are “somewhat dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied.”

From March 16 – 21, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,451 registered voters nationwide with a margin of error of +/- 2.6 percentage points. Live interviewers call land lines and cell phones.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Ohio, Virginia, Iowa, Colorado and the nation as a public service and for research.

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	49%	8%	92%	44%	43%	54%	56%	45%
Disapprove	48	89	7	50	53	43	41	51
DK/NA	4	4	1	7	4	3	2	4
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	62%	51%	44%	37%	37%	44%	40%	75%
Disapprove	35	44	53	61	60	53	57	21
DK/NA	3	5	3	2	3	3	3	4

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	15%	26%	8%	9%	14%	15%	9%	17%
Disapprove	81	69	89	85	83	79	86	79
DK/NA	4	4	3	6	3	6	5	4
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	17%	16%	13%	15%	16%	15%	16%	12%
Disapprove	77	80	84	81	80	79	80	85
DK/NA	7	3	3	4	3	6	5	3

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	32%	7%	65%	20%	28%	36%	38%	29%
Disapprove	62	88	29	71	67	56	56	65
DK/NA	6	5	6	8	4	8	6	6
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Approve	39%	35%	28%	28%	24%	28%	26%	52%
Disapprove	52	62	67	66	72	63	67	44
DK/NA	9	4	5	6	4	10	7	4

20. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in the nation today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Very satisfied	3%	1%	7%	2%	2%	4%	5%	2%
Smwht satisfied	26	10	47	20	28	25	30	24
Smwht dissatisfied	33	31	33	36	34	32	34	33
Very dissatisfied	37	58	13	42	36	38	31	40
DK/NA	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Very satisfied	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%	3%	2%	6%
Smwht satisfied	33	24	29	20	24	20	22	39
Smwht dissatisfied	35	36	31	31	34	34	34	29
Very dissatisfied	29	37	36	45	40	42	41	25
DK/NA	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1

25. Do you approve or disapprove of President Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	48%	21%	75%	46%	46%	49%	58%	43%
Disapprove	27	52	4	27	29	24	20	30
DK/NA	25	27	21	28	24	27	21	28

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Approve	48%	47%	52%	44%	43%	45%	44%	61%
Disapprove	17	25	30	35	32	27	30	17
DK/NA	34	28	18	21	25	27	26	22

26. Do you think the Senate should consider the nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court, or do you think the Senate should not consider any Supreme Court nomination until there is a new President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	COLLEGE DEG	
							Yes	No
Consider Garland	62%	33%	87%	63%	61%	62%	77%	54%
Do not consider	33	62	8	31	33	33	21	39
DK/NA	5	5	5	5	6	5	2	7

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Consider Garland	65%	67%	62%	52%	58%	60%	59%	70%
Do not consider	28	28	34	44	37	37	37	22
DK/NA	7	5	4	4	6	3	4	7