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## Winthrop Poll Results Show Latest Approval Ratings of National and S.C. Politicians

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# Winthrop Poll Results Show Latest Approval Ratings of National and S.C. Politicians

## Quick Facts

- More than three months after Barack Obama won a second term as president, 47.6% of all South Carolinians polled approve of the job he is doing.
- Three-in-four of all respondents and more than 80% of registered S.C. voters disapproved of the way Congress is doing its job. Regarding the S.C. General Assembly, 40% of S.C. residents approved and 35.1% disapproved.
- S.C. Governor Nikki Haley garnered higher approval ratings in this poll compared to the December Winthrop Poll. Ratings have climbed to 43.7% for registered voters, compared to disapproval of 39.1%. In December, those numbers were nearly even.



*Scott Huffmon*

## RESULTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2013 WINTHROP POLL ARE IN

PRES. OBAMA'S APPROVAL RATINGS BY S.C. RESIDENTS HOLDS STEADY AT 48%, ABOUT FOUR PERCENTAGE POINTS LOWER THAN HIS NATIONAL APPROVAL RATING, WHILE 46.5% GIVE HIM A THUMBS DOWN

RESPONDENTS GIVE GOV. HALEY HIGHER MARKS ON JOB PERFORMANCE SINCE DECEMBER WINTHROP POLL

ONLY ¼ OF S.C. RESPONDENTS APPROVE OF THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT

47.3% APPROVE OF SEN LINDSEY GRAHAM'S HANDLING OF JOB  
MORE THAN HALF THINK THAT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SC ARE GETTING BETTER AND ALMOST HALF THINK CONDITIONS GETTING BETTER ACROSS THE COUNTRY

ROCK HILL, S.C. - The results of the latest [Winthrop Poll](#), of 1,038 respondents living in South Carolina are in. The survey was in the field from Feb. 9-17.

After weights (for sex, age, and race) have been applied, results which use all respondents have a margin of error of approximately +/- 3.1% at the 95% confidence level. Results that use less than the full sample (e.g. just registered voters) will naturally have a higher margin of error, according to [Scott Huffmon](#), director of the Winthrop Poll

For additional information on [methodology](#), [click here](#).

### Among the Winthrop Poll findings:

- More than three months after **Barack Obama** won a second term as president, 47.6% of all South Carolinians polled approve of the job he is doing.
- Three-in-four of all respondents and more than 80% of registered S.C. voters disapproved of the way **Congress** is doing its job. Regarding the **S.C. General Assembly**, 40% of S.C. residents approved and 35.1% disapproved.
- **S.C. Governor Nikki Haley** garnered higher approval ratings in this poll compared to the December

Winthrop Poll. Ratings have climbed to 43.7% for registered voters, compared to disapproval of 39.1%. In December, those numbers were nearly even.

- **Governor Haley** garners a much higher approval rating—66.8% vs. 16.2% who disapprove of her job performance—among those who are registered to vote and say they are either Republicans or Independents who lean Republican.

- **U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham**, who is up for re-election in 2014, received a 48.4% approval rating among S.C. registered voters -- 12 points higher than his disapproval rating-- but his approval rating climbs to 71.6% among Republicans and those independents who lean toward the GOP.

- **Tea Party** membership continues to remain much lower than 2010 highs. In numbers similar to the [December Winthrop Poll](#), only about 1 in 10 Republicans and GOP leaning independents who are registered approve of the Tea Party consider themselves a member of the movement. Overall, only about 6% of all registered voters consider themselves members of the Tea Party movement. While membership in the Tea Party remains steady from December 2012, approval of the movement continues to drop across the board.

- Concerning **lifestyle questions**, only 41.7% respondents said they were close to their ideal weight, 23.2% reported experiencing significant physical pain recently, 1 in 10 reported depression, more than a third were stressed a lot, over a quarter were worried and only 22.1% engaged in vigorous exercise for at least 30 minutes daily or almost every day during the week with nearly 3 in 10 reporting NO physical exercise. Only 56% of respondents reported having eaten healthy the previous day. Nearly 43% of those with Internet in their homes frequently visit social networking sites.

- Fewer respondents think country is on the right track (36.3%) compared with those who say it is headed in the wrong direction (55%). Yet 48.3% said the **economic conditions** for the country as a whole are getting better, while 52.1% said conditions for S.C. are getting better.

- The **most important problems** facing the U.S. respondents said are, in order: the **economy**, the **budget deficit or debt**, **jobs or employment**, and **politicians/government**.

[See results here.](#)

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