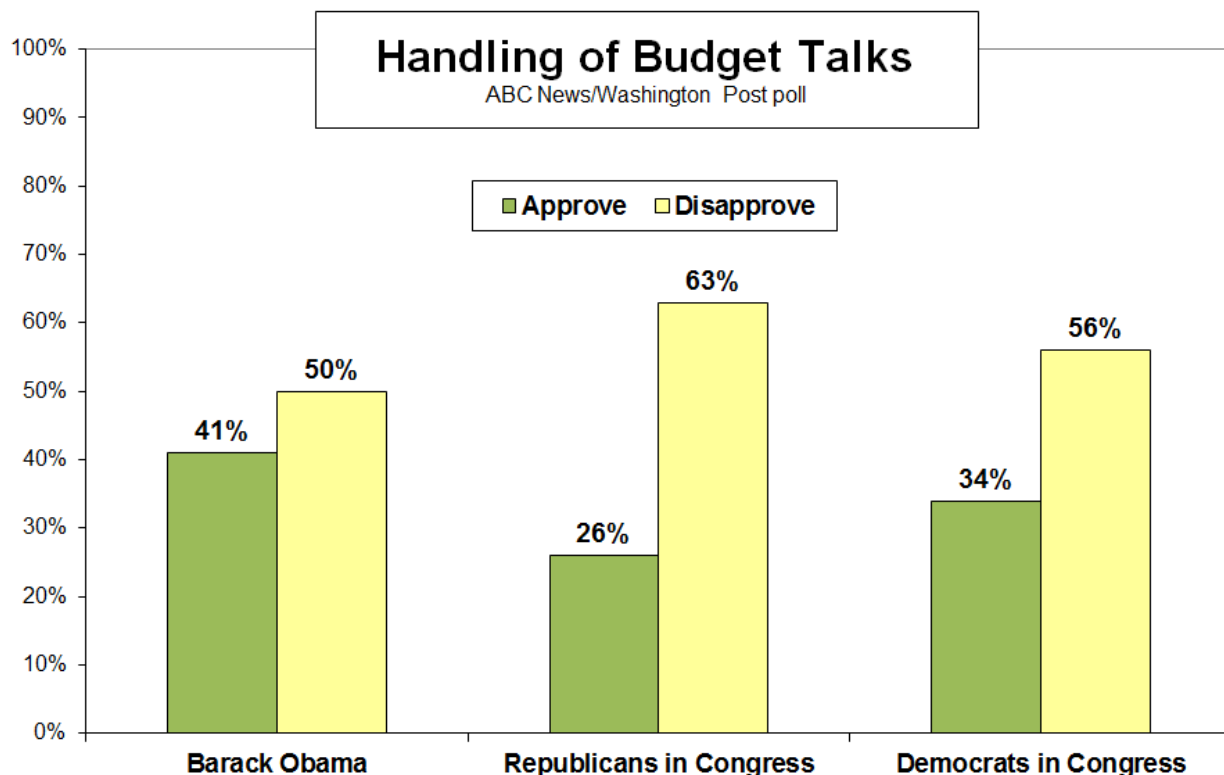


Disapproval on Budget Debate Puts the GOP at Greater Risk

A new ABC News/Washington Post poll finds the Republicans in Congress at greater risk of political damage in a government shutdown: Sixty-three percent of Americans disapprove of their handling of the budget debate, 13 points worse than Barack Obama's rating on the issue.

Neither side gets remotely positive scores, indicating plenty of irritation to go around. But Obama's 41-50 percent approval rating for handling the budget negotiations far exceeds the GOP's 26-63 percent. The Democrats in Congress fall between the two, at 34-56 percent.



While these views are highly partisan and ideological, the Republicans are weaker in their base. Seventy-one percent of Democrats and 61 percent of liberals approve of Obama's handling of the issue. Fewer Republicans or conservatives approve of the GOP's performance, 56 percent and just 40 percent, respectively.

Notably, even among those who call themselves “very” conservative, fewer than half, 45 percent, approve of how the Republicans in Congress are handling the issue. (Naturally, even fewer in this group, 17 percent, approve of Obama’s approach.)

In the political center, this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds that 56 percent of independents disapprove of Obama’s handling of the issue. But 66 percent disapprove of how the Republicans in Congress are dealing with it.

	-----	Approve-Disapprove	-----
	Barack	Republicans	Democrats
	Obama	in Congress	in Congress
All	41-50%	26-63%	34-56%
Democrats	71-21	13-80	56-35
Republicans	11-82	56-38	14-79
Independents	34-56	21-66	27-62
Liberals	61-33	11-80	48-43
Moderates	45-46	22-66	36-55
Conservatives NET	22-71	40-55	21-73
Somewhat cons.	26-66	37-58	22-70
Very cons.	17-79	45-52	20-77

The latest results echo ABC/Post results in mid-September, in which 49 percent of Americans said Obama wasn’t doing enough to compromise on a budget plan, while more, 64 percent, said the Republican leaders in Congress weren’t doing enough to compromise. Additionally, just 27 percent in that poll favored using a government shutdown as way to prevent implementation of the new federal health care law.

These views are roughly similar to results in ABC/Post polling after the brief shutdowns in 1995 and 1996. In late January 1996, Bill Clinton’s rating for handling the dispute, 42-50 percent, was essentially the same as Obama’s now; the Republicans’, 20-74 percent, was somewhat worse than now. Overall, today, as then, the president looks to be on firmer ground, the GOP less so.

	Budget debate: Approve-Disapprove	
	Obama/Clinton	Republicans in Congress
Now	41-50%	26-63%
Jan. 1996	42-50	20-74

Additionally, the public by 72-24 percent in 1996 said “partially shutting the government should not be used as a tool in budget negotiations” – again similar to current opposition to using the threat of a shutdown as a way to try to block the health care law.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cell phone Sept. 25-29, 2013, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points. The survey was produced for ABC

News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by SSRS/Social Science Research Solutions of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

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Full results follow.

1. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way (ITEM) is/are handling negotiations over the federal budget? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

9/29/13 - Summary Table

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strongly	op.
a. Barack Obama	41	21	19	50	15	35	10
b. the Republicans in Congress	26	9	17	63	21	42	11
c. the Democrats in Congress	34	14	19	56	20	36	11

*** END ***