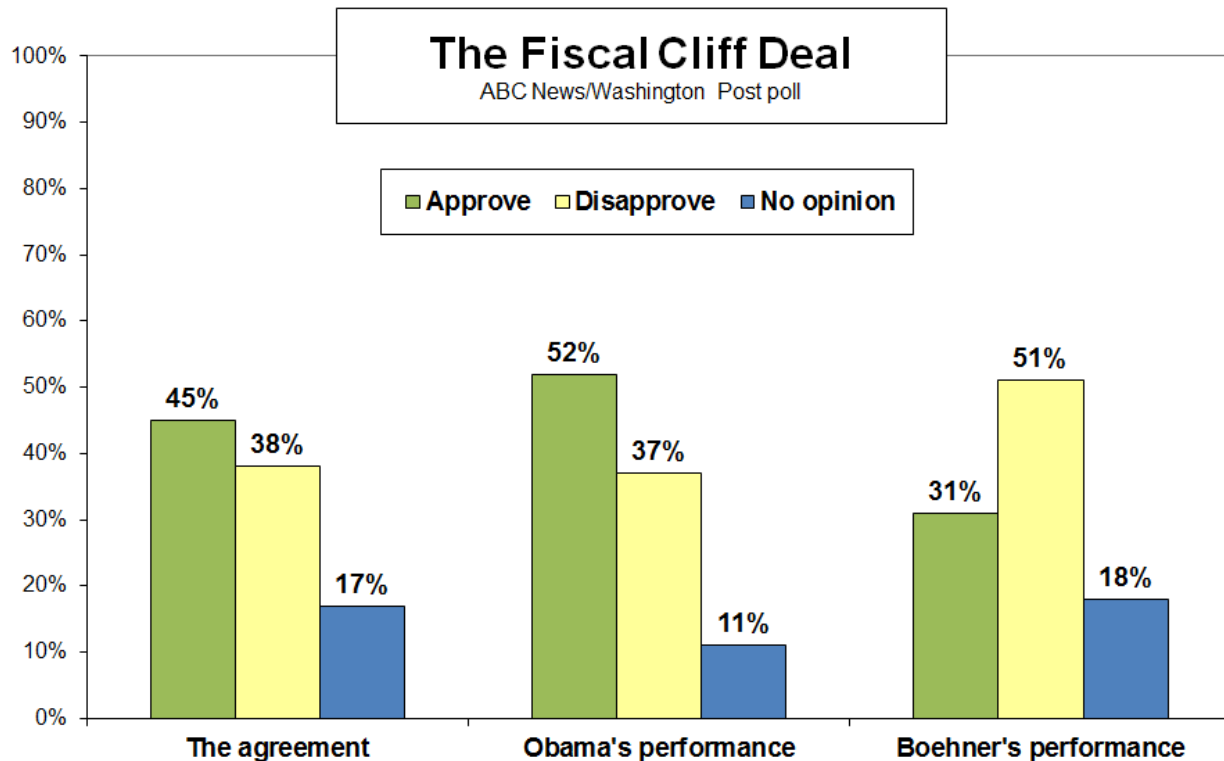


Public Lukewarm on Cliff Deal, But Obama Bests Boehner

Americans give a lukewarm response to last week's agreement to avoid the fiscal cliff, albeit with higher marks for the deal to President Obama than to House Speaker John Boehner.

More people in this ABC News/Washington Post poll approve than disapprove of the agreement, but just by a 7-point margin, 45 to 38 percent, with a substantial 17 percent undecided. Moreover, intensity is on the negative side: "Strong" critics of the deal outnumber its strong proponents by 2-1.

At the same time, Obama gets majority approval for his handling of the negotiations, 52-37 percent, while Boehner's score is reversed – just 31 percent approve of his performance on the cliff talks, while 51 percent disapprove. Boehner's positive score is up 6 percentage points from a month ago, but remains a broad 21 points behind the president's.



Among those who favor the agreement, twice as many approve of Obama’s handling of the negotiations than Boehner’s, 86 vs. 43 percent. Indeed, this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds that Boehner lacks majority approval for his work on the fiscal cliff talks from any group. And while Obama breaks even on intensity of sentiment, strong approval of Boehner’s performance falls to the single digits.

Tellingly, among Democrats, 81 percent approve of Obama’s handling of the talks, including 44 percent who approve “strongly.” But among Republicans, Boehner gets just 38 percent approval overall, and a mere 10 percent strong approval.

The inclusion of tax increases for high-income Americans is likely a factor. People who describe themselves as “very” conservative are negative across the board – 67, 66 and 57 percent, respectively, disapprove of the deal, Obama’s work on it and Boehner’s role as well. Boehner gets roughly the same level of disapproval from very conservatives as he does from liberals.

Political independents, for their part, split about evenly on the deal itself and on Obama’s handling of negotiations, but most disapprove of Boehner’s performance.

	Fiscal cliff approve-disapprove-don't know		
	The deal	Obama	Boehner
All	45-38-17%	52-37-11	31-51-18
Democrats	66-19-16	81-12- 7	27-56-16
Republicans	26-63-11	27-66- 7	38-49-13
Independents	40-44-16	46-43-11	32-52-17
Liberals	60-23-17	74-16-10	28-55-17
Moderates	52-34-14	60-31- 9	28-58-14
Conservatives NET	32-56-12	36-58- 6	37-49-14
Somewhat cons.	37-50-13	40-54- 6	38-45-18
Very cons.	24-67- 9	29-66- 6	34-57- 9
Men	41-44-15	49-42- 9	34-50-16
Women	48-33-19	55-33-12	28-52-20
Whites	40-45-15	43-46-11	31-52-16
Nonwhites NET	54-27-20	69-21-11	31-48-21
Blacks	64-19-17	83-11- 6	24-64-13
College grad	45-44-11	47-43-10	28-58-15
Non-grad	44-37-19	54-35-11	32-48-19
Less than \$50K	49-33-18	60-30-10	33-48-19
\$50-100K	40-46-14	45-46- 9	28-57-15
\$100K-plus	43-48- 9	41-54- 5	34-55-11
18-29	45-30-25	53-31-16	37-37-26
65-plus	43-43-14	43-46-10	35-52-13

Approval of the deal itself surpasses disapproval among groups including women, nonwhites and lower- to middle-income adults. Men, whites, seniors, college grads and those with \$50,000-plus incomes are more evenly divided.

Still, as noted, strong criticism of the deal surpasses strong support, 25 percent vs. 12 percent. That's largely because strong disapproval jumps to 50 percent among very conservatives, 45 percent among Republicans and 40 percent among people in the \$100,000-plus income bracket.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cell phone Jan. 2-6, 2013, among a random national sample of 1,000 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 4 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 Gregory Holyk.

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 (ITEM) to avoid the "fiscal cliff?" Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

1/6/13 - Summary Table

Full wording:

- a. the agreement reached by Congress and the Obama administration
- b. the way Barack Obama handled budget negotiations
- c. the way House Speaker John Boehner handled budget negotiations

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
a. The agreement	45	12	32	38	13	25	17
b. Barack Obama	52	26	26	37	9	28	11
c. John Boehner	31	7	24	51	21	30	18

Trend:

a. No trend.

b. the way Barack Obama handled budget negotiations

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/6/13	52	26	26	37	9	28	11
12/9/12*	49	27	22	42	11	30	10

**is handling" and "so-called fiscal cliff"

c. the way House Speaker John Boehner handled budget negotiations

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
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	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/6/13	31	7	24	51	21	30	18
12/9/12*	25	8	17	49	20	29	26

**"is handling" and "so-called fiscal cliff"

*** END ***