



# HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

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## **HPU POLL: OBAMA AT 48 PERCENT APPROVAL WITH NC REGISTERED VOTERS; HAGAN AT 30 PERCENT**

**HIGH POINT, N.C., Feb. 26, 2013** – A new HPU Poll finds that 48 percent of registered voters in North Carolina approve of President Barack Obama’s job performance. Only 30 percent of those same voters approve of the job Kay Hagan is doing as a senator.

However, 44 percent approve of the job their own member of Congress is doing. This is in contrast to the 11 percent who approved of the job the Congress as a whole was doing in the first HPU Poll of the spring.

The poll also found that a majority – 62 percent of registered voters in the state – see the country as being on the “wrong track” rather than going in the “right direction.” This is almost identical to the 63 percent that the HPU Poll in January found who thought the country was on the “wrong track.”

“The job approval readings are not a big surprise. There is still less than a majority of people who approve of the president’s job performance, but his rating is not particularly low,” said HPU Poll director Dr. Martin Kifer. A previous HPU Poll fielded in January gave President Obama a 46 percent approval rating. “And we see evidence that although North Carolinians do not approve of what Congress as a whole is doing, they are not particularly unhappy with the members of Congress representing their own districts.”

**Registered voters (February 2013) – presidential job approval**

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

Approve – 48 percent  
Disapprove – 49 percent  
Don't know/refuse – 3 percent

(registered voters surveyed Feb. 17–21, 2013, n = 419 and margin of sampling error approximately = +/- 5 percent)

**Previous results from registered voters (January 2013) – presidential job approval**

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

Approve – 46 percent  
Disapprove – 48 percent  
Don't know/refuse – 6 percent

(registered voters surveyed Jan. 27–31, n = 606 and margin of sampling error = +/- 4 percent)

**Registered voters (February 2013) – job approval for own member of Congress**

Do you disapprove or approve of the job your own representative is doing in the United States House of Representatives?

Approve – 44 percent  
Disapprove – 27 percent  
Don't know/refuse – 29 percent

(registered voters surveyed Feb. 17–21, 2013, n = 419 and margin of sampling error approximately = +/- 5 percent)

**Previous results from registered voters (January 2013) – congressional job approval**

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Congress is handling its job?

Approve – 11 percent  
Disapprove – 80 percent  
Don't know/refuse – 9 percent

(registered voters surveyed Jan. 27–31, n = 606 and margin of sampling error = +/- 4 percent)

### **Registered voters (February 2013) – Senator Hagan job approval**

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Kay Hagan is handling her job as United States Senator?

Approve – 30 percent  
Disapprove – 28 percent  
Don't know/refuse – 42 percent

(registered voters surveyed Feb. 17–21, 2013, n = 419 and margin of sampling error approximately = +/- 5 percent)

### **Previous results from registered voters (January 2013) – Senator Hagan job approval**

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Kay Hagan is handling her job as United States Senator?

Approve – 41 percent  
Disapprove – 29 percent  
Don't know/refuse – 30 percent

(registered voters surveyed Jan. 27–31, n = 606 and margin of sampling error = +/- 4 percent)

### **Registered voters (February 2013) – country direction**

Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Right direction – 29 percent  
Wrong track – 62 percent  
Don't know/refused – 9 percent

(registered voters surveyed Feb. 17–21, 2013, n = 419 and margin of sampling error approximately = +/- 5 percent)

### **Previous results from registered voters (January 2013) – country direction**

Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Right direction – 29 percent  
Wrong track – 63 percent  
Don't know/refused – 8 percent

(registered voters surveyed Jan. 27–31, n = 606 and margin of sampling error = +/- 4 percent)

“In the past month, we have seen little change in the way that people feel about the direction in which our country is headed,” said Dr. Sadie Leder, associate director of the HPU Poll. “The majority of those polled still believe that things are headed in the wrong direction.”

The most recent survey was fielded by live interviewers at the High Point University Survey Research Center calling on Feb. 17–21, 2013. The responses from a sample of all North Carolina counties came from 484 adults with landline or cellular telephones. This release is based on data from 419 self-identified registered voters within that larger set of responses. The Survey Research Center contracted with Survey Sampling International to acquire this sample. The survey has an estimated margin of sampling error of approximately five percentage points. The data are weighted when appropriate toward population estimates for cellular and landline telephone use, age, gender and race. In addition to sampling error, factors such as question wording and other methodological choices in conducting survey research can introduce additional error into the findings of opinion polls.

Further results and methodological details from the most recent survey and past studies can be found at the Survey Research Center website at <http://src.highpoint.edu/> A memo from the January 2013 HPU Poll is available at: <http://acme.highpoint.edu/~mkifer/src/21memoc.pdf>

Dr. Martin Kifer, assistant professor of political science, serves as the director of the HPU Poll, and Dr. Sadie Leder, assistant professor of psychology, serves as the associate director of the HPU Poll.

*At High Point University, every student receives an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment with caring people.<sup>SM</sup> HPU, located in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina, is a liberal arts institution with over 4,200 undergraduate and graduate students. It is ranked by U.S. News and World Report at No. 1 among Regional Colleges in the South and No. 1 among Up and Coming Regional Colleges in the South. Parade Magazine lists HPU in the top 25 private schools in the nation. HPU was selected in the 2012-2013 list of "Colleges of Distinction." The university offers 44 undergraduate majors, 43 undergraduate minors and 11 graduate degree programs. It is a member of the NCAA, Division I and the Big South Conference. Visit High Point University on the Web at [highpoint.edu](http://highpoint.edu).*

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