

Polling News & Notes

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Americans Say Obama Has Accomplished Little: In his past State of the Union addresses, President Barack Obama promised to “seize this moment,” “carry the dream forward,” and proposed initiatives he said would help America “win the future.” As he prepares to deliver his third address on Tuesday, what do Americans feel he has achieved? According to the latest *Washington Post/ABC News poll*, more than double the number of Americans said “little or nothing” (27%) compared to those who said he has achieved a “great deal” (12%). A total of 52% of Americans said “not much, little/nothing,” while 47% said he has accomplished a “great deal or good amount.”

These numbers are almost as bad as President Bill Clinton’s numbers were right before the 1994 midterm election when Democrats suffered major losses and lost control of the House and Senate. In August 1994, only 36% of Americans told *Washington Post/ABC News* Mr. Clinton accomplished a “great deal or good amount,” while 64% said “not much, little/nothing.”

Obama has been president for about three years. Would you say he has accomplished a great deal during that time, a good amount, not very much or little or nothing?						
	Net	Great Deal	Good Amount	Net	Not Much	Little/Nothing
1/15/12	47	12	35	52	25	27
1/15/10	47	12	35	52	30	22
10/18/09	49	14	35	50	27	23
4/24/09	63	24	39	36	21	15
Compared to: Clinton						
8/16/94	36	6	30	64	39	25
1/23/94	47	11	36	53	33	19
4/26/94	37	5	32	63	38	25
(If not much/nothing) Who’s mainly responsible for that – Obama or Republicans in Congress?						
	Obama	Republicans	Neither	Both		
1/15/12	56	18	3	19		
1/15/10	52	20	6	20		
4/24/09	49	24	8	16		
Compared to: Clinton						
	Clinton	Republicans	Neither	Both		
8/16/94	48	26	5	20		
4/26/93	40	40	1	17		

Mr. Obama has routinely blamed his Republican colleagues for his setbacks, saying they “simply will not budge” and “refused to listen to the voices of reason and compromise,” for example. The American people feel differently, however, as 56% said he alone is responsible for his lack of accomplishments, compared to just 18% percent who said Congressional Republicans are to blame.

In August 1994, only 48% felt Mr. Clinton was responsible for a lack of progress while 26% blamed Congressional Republicans, a sentiment voters drove home in November by kicking out Mr. Clinton’s party and electing more Republicans to Congress. If history is any indication, these low numbers may be a sign Mr. Obama and his party are in for similar disappointments come November.