

## **Polling News & Notes**

Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • June 19, 2014

**Obama Job Approval On Foreign Policy Hits New Low:** President Barack Obama's solid approval rating on his handling of foreign policy has been a small consolation for his team as they watched his overall job approval rating and his approval on handling the economy deteriorate over the last five years. His overall approval dropped almost twenty points since he took office and his approval rating on the economy fell fifteen points over the same period, while his approval on foreign policy hovered at or above 50% for almost all of his first term and beginning of his second. However, according to a new NBC News/WSJ poll, Americans no longer give the president passing grades on foreign policy.

Mr. Obama's approval on foreign policy is at a new low (37%) according to the NBC News/WSJ June survey, while his disapproval rating is at an all-time high of 57%. In the summer of his first year in office, his approval/disapproval on the issue was flipped at 57%/33%. He again saw high numbers following the death of Osama Bin Laden in May 2011 (57% approve/35% disapprove), and maintained a steady approval of around 50% through 2013. The president's foreign policy approval first dipped below 40% this past April, and given the lack of leadership he continues to demonstrate on today's pressing foreign policy issues – accelerating turmoil in Iraq, release of five Taliban prisoners, and a failed "reset" with Russia to name just a few – this new low is likely his new normal.

