

**The Obama Factor On Midterm Votes:** It is not news President Barack Obama, whose Gallup job approval rating now stands at 44% approve and 51% disapprove, is a liability for Democratic candidates this cycle, but a new Gallup survey reveals just how he may directly impact fellow Democrats on the ballot in November. Thirty-two percent of registered voters told Gallup they want to send a message of opposition to Mr. Obama with their ballot this fall, while only 20% of registered voters said their vote will be a message of support. This is similar to 2010 and 2006, when 30% and 31%, respectively, said they wanted to send a message of opposition to the sitting president. In 2002 and 1998, both years where the president's party gained seats, 28% and 24%, respectively, voted in support of the president, while a small number (15% and 19%, respectively) voted for the opposition party as a way to rebuff the occupant of the Oval Office.

Intensity favors the Republicans, with 58% saying their opposition to Mr. Obama is what will drive them to vote for the GOP candidate. Only 38% of Democrats say they are motivated by their support for the president to vote for the Democratic candidate. The Republicans' number is the same as in 2010 when they won the House, but the number of Democrats supporting the president is lower than it was in 2010 (45%), a sign fewer Democrats may show up this year.

The Democratic Party's numbers are worse today than the Republicans' numbers in 2006 when the GOP lost both the House and Senate (then 39% of Republicans said they would vote to support President George W. Bush and 57% of Democrats said they would vote to oppose him). If this year's Democratic candidates have not distanced themselves enough from the unpopular president and his policies by now, it is unlikely they will be able to do so in the election's last 26 days.

*Registered Voters' Use of Midterm Election Vote to Send Message to President, by Political Party*

	<b>% Support</b>	<b>% Oppose</b>	<b>% No message</b>
<b>OBAMA 2014</b>			
Democrats/Democratic leaners	38	8	53
Republicans/Republican leaners	4	58	37
<b>OBAMA 2010</b>			
Democrats/Democratic leaners	45	4	48
Republicans/Republican leaners	2	58	38
<b>BUSH 2006</b>			
Democrats/Democratic leaners	2	57	37
Republicans/Republican leaners	39	4	54
<b>BUSH 2002</b>			
Democrats/Democratic leaners	8	31	57
Republicans/Republican leaners	51	1	46
<b>CLINTON 1998</b>			
Democrats/Democratic leaners	40	4	52
Republicans/Republican leaners	6	39	52

Based on registered voters.

**GALLUP**