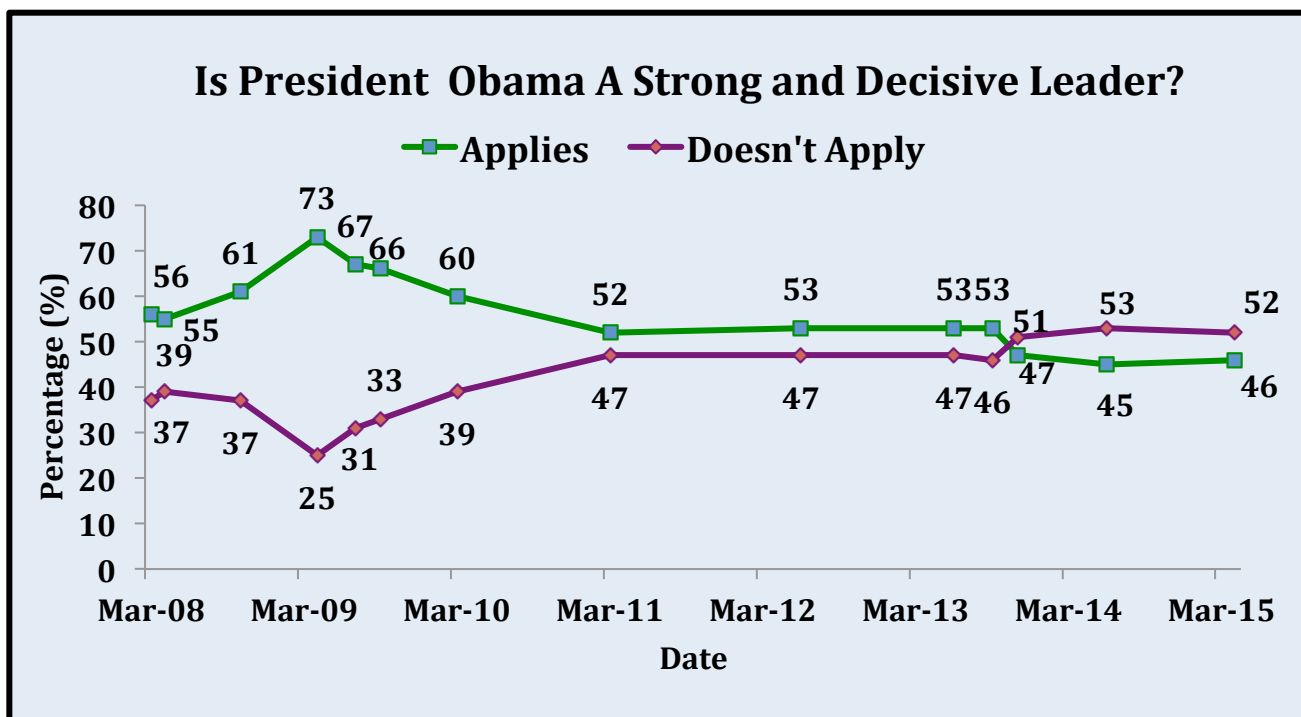


**President Obama's Leadership Image May Hurt Democrats In 2016:** After running his 2008 campaign promising hope and change, President Barack Obama will leave a legacy of messes for his successor. Since his presidency's beginning, Mr. Obama's image as a strong and decisive leader in Gallup polls has declined 27 points, from 73% in April of 2009 to 46% today. There was a 21-point drop alone during his first two years in office (73% to 52%), and another six points following his reelection in 2012 (53% to 47%). His lowest rating was last June, when it reached 45%, but he has increased just one point as of April 1, 2015. With sluggish economic growth following the recession, a botched rollout of ObamaCare, and ineffective foreign policy, it is not surprising that only 44% of Americans believe he can manage government effectively and only 36% believe he has a clear plan for solving the country's problems. He does have strengths: the Gallup [poll](#) also shows that over half of Americans find Mr. Obama honest and trustworthy and believe that he understands the problems Americans face in their daily lives (both 53%).

The decline of Mr. Obama's leadership image should serve as a message to 2016 hopefuls. Voters in both parties will likely look for candidates who appear to have strengths where Mr. Obama has weaknesses. By what they believe, what they say, and how they act, these candidates will demonstrate whether they are the strong and decisive leader the country will be looking for in its next president.



Source: Gallup