CBS News Monthly Poll #2, March 2009

CBS News

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

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

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

How much confidence do you have in Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner's ability to handle the nation's financial crisis -- a lot, some, not much, or none at all?

Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government providing money to banks and other financial institutions to try to help fix the country's economic problems?

Which best describes your feelings about Barack Obama's policies toward the nation's banks and financial institutions -- mostly relieved that those institutions might start lending to home buyers and businesses again, or mostly resentful that the policies could benefit irresponsible managers and bankers?

Which comes closer to your view about companies receiving federal bailout money: 1. It is acceptable for these companies to pay bonuses to whomever they choose or 2. It is acceptable to pay bonuses to only mid- and lower-level employees who do not earn large salaries, or 3. It is unacceptable for these companies to pay employees any bonuses no matter who gets them.

How much have you heard or read about the 165 million dollars in bonuses that the insurance company AIG, one of the companies that received money from the federal government, is paying to some of its executives -- a lot, some, not much or nothing at all?
Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's handling of the situation with AIG and its payment of bonuses?

Do you think the media is spending too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time on the bonuses paid to AIG executives?

Do you think Barack Obama is spending too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time on the bonuses paid to AIG executives?

Do you think Congress is spending too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time on the bonuses paid to AIG executives?

Do you think Congress is spending too much time, too little time, or the right amount of time on trying to solve the country's economic problems?

Which best describes your feelings about AIG paying bonuses to some of its executives: are you angry, bothered but not angry, or are you not bothered by this?

As you may know, the insurance company AIG received federal assistance money this year, and recently paid some of its executives many millions of dollars in compensation bonuses. The CEO of the company said those bonuses were agreed to before the company ran into financial trouble, and there were contracts with employees that legally required them to make the payments. Which comes closer to your view: AIG really had to pay the bonuses, or AIG could have found a way not to pay them?

Even if AIG is legally obligated to pay these bonuses to their executives, do you think the federal government should or should not try to recover any of the money?

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Banks and financial institutions need to pay some employees large bonuses in order to hire and retain people with the necessary expertise.
How many AIG executives, who have received bonuses, do you think will give at least some of the money back -- most of them, about half of them, a few of them, or none of them?

How much control do you think members of the Obama Administration had over whether or not AIG paid the bonuses -- a lot, some, not much, or no control at all?

Should the Obama Administration have prevented AIG from paying the bonuses, or would this have been too much government involvement in how the company is run?

One suggestion has been to tax bonuses paid to executives at the rate of 90% if their company is receiving federal bailout money. Would you approve or disapprove of doing this for high income employees?

The federal government has given AIG more than $170 billion dollars in loans to prevent it from going into bankruptcy. If AIG needs more money to stay in business, should the federal government give it additional financial assistance, or not?

These last few questions are for background only. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you registered to vote in the precinct or election district where you now live, or aren't you?

Did you vote in the 2008 presidential election, did something prevent you from voting, or did you choose not to vote? IF VOTED, ASK: Did you vote for Barack Obama, John McCain, or someone else?

Are you now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?

Generally speaking, do you usually consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?
How would you describe your views on most political matters? Generally do you think of yourself as liberal, moderate, or conservative?

* 
name = AGE

text = How old are you?

* 
name = AGEA

text = Are you between 18 and 29, 30 and 44, 45 and 64, or are you over 64?

* 
name = EDUC

text = What was the last grade in school you completed?

* 
name = Q26

text = Did you complete the degree?

* 
name = HISP

text = Are you of Hispanic origin or descent, or not?

* 
name = RACE

text = Are you white, black, Asian, or some other race?

* 
name = INCN

text = Was it under $15,000, between $15,000 and $30,000, or between $30,000 and $50,000?

* 
name = INCA

text = Was your total family income in the year 2008 UNDER or OVER $30,000? Was it under or over $15,000?

* 
name = Q27

text = What type of telephone service is there in your home that you could use or be reached on? Is there both regular land line and cell phone service, or only regular land line service, or only cell phone service?

* 
name = Q28

text = Have we been talking on a cell phone, that is, a phone you can use outside your neighborhood?

* 
name = Q29

text = Just for statistical purposes, what is the zip code where you now live?

* 
name = Q30

text =
(ASKED ONLY OF HOUSEHOLD WITH BOTH LANDLINE AND CELL PHONES) We're trying to understand how people use their cell phones. Compared to that regular phone line, would you say you use this cell phone for more of your calls, or do you use the cell and the regular phone line about equally, or do you use this cell for fewer calls than your regular phone line?

* name = NPH
  text = Are there any other telephone numbers in your home that I could have dialed and reached you on I don't mean extensions, but different telephone numbers? IF NECESSARY, SAY: We need to know how hard or easy it is to reach people.

* name = NPH0
  text = Now I dialed you at (PHONE NUMBER), how many other numbers are there in your home?

* name = NM
  text = Would you be willing to have a reporter call you back to discuss some of these issues?

* name = DYOF
  text = *

* name = DAYS
  text = *

* name = FCLL
  text = *

* name = ORST
  text =