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Subject: The Death of Osama Bin Laden - ALR's National Polling Summary

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May 5, 2011

Anzalone Liszt Research National Polling Summary

Friends,

Below you will find the weekly Anzalone Liszt Research National Polling Newsletter, which provides a take on data and trends that affect political campaigns.

Before we get into our weekly polling analysis - the tornadoes and violent storms have devastated the south including in our own state of Alabama. We encourage everyone to visit [Red Cross](#) and give what you can to the people affected. Also, for those in DC looking to help, John is co-sponsoring a We Are Alabama fund May 10th to benefit victims of the storms. View the details and RSVP [here](#).

With the nation gripped by the details of the killing of Osama bin Laden, we would be remiss to not dedicate this week's newsletter to Americans' attitudes surrounding it.

Following our analysis are additional news items and data we thought you'd enjoy.

John Anzalone and Jeff Liszt

STORY THIS WEEK: PUBLIC OPINION ON THE DEATH OF OSAMA BIN LADEN

As information continues to come out about the United States' successful strike that killed Osama bin Laden, polling data reflects that Americans are (not surprisingly) very engaged and experiencing a range of emotions about the news. A [Washington Post poll](#) conducted Monday night found that 68% of Americans had heard "a lot" about it, and 28% had heard "a little." Almost universally, 93% approve of the raid, and 79% consider the killing of Osama bin Laden "important," according to a [Gallup poll](#). [Washington Post/Pew](#) also measured Americans' personal reactions to the news, finding that we are relieved (72%), proud (60%), happy (58%), and afraid (10%). The Post also put together a word cloud with responses to how people felt about it [here](#).

A [Gallup poll](#) finds that 60% of Americans feel it was better for the US to kill bin Laden, while 33% think it would have been better to capture him alive. Further, [CNN](#) finds that a majority of Americans believe the US government should release a picture of bin Laden's, while 39% believe they should not.

Americans are also wondering what the long term effects of bin Laden's death will be for the United States. [Washington Post/Pew](#) finds that a majority of Americans are worried about al Qaeda attempting a major attack against the US in retaliation (22% say they worry "a great deal" and 45% worry "somewhat"). The same survey finds that 88% of Americans feel that the US will have to take further military action to reduce the threat of terrorism and that 62% have a great or good deal of confidence in the government to prevent further attacks (only 17% have no confidence at all).

Nearly every American credits the troops for the killing of bin Laden, [according to Gallup](#) - 86% give the troops a "great deal" of credit (96% give them a great deal or some), followed by the CIA/US intelligence agencies (89% give them some credit). President Obama receives more credit (76% great/some) than his predecessor (51% give President Bush a great deal or some credit).

Initial polling conducted in the midst of the news suggests that the killing of bin Laden has given President Obama a boost in his approval rating. A [CBS/NY Times survey](#) measured an 11 point increase in Obama's approval since last month (from 46% to 57%). The [Washington Post/Pew survey](#) found a 9-point jump from a mid-September one-night poll conducted on Monday (from 47% to 56%).

Obama's approval ratings on Afghanistan have surged (60% approve, up from 44% in April), as well as his rating on the threat of terrorism (69% approve, up from 56% in February 2010). By comparison, after Saddam Hussein was captured in 2003, President Bush experienced a bump between 5 to 10 points in most polls; however, the bump evaporated after a few weeks. The bump does not seem to have impacted Obama's standing on domestic issues. His approval remains underwater on [the economy](#), 40% approve of the job he's doing, down from 42% in April.

Gallup has tracked presidents' approval ratings during times of crisis and showed boosts in job approval that are short-lived - (taken directly from [pollster.com analysis](#)):

- Following the positive resolution of the Cuban missile crisis, President John F. Kennedy's approval rating jumped from 61% in mid-October 1962 to a high of 76% in December. It returned to 61% six months later.
- The taking of 52 American hostages in Iran in November 1979 followed by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan the next month helped boost the approval ratings of President Jimmy Carter from 32% to 52%. As the hostage crisis dragged on, it pulled Carter's approval rating down to 32% by June 1980.
- President George H.W. Bush hit a high of 89% job approval during Operation Desert Storm in January 1991. Bush's approval quickly began a steady decline in March 1991.
- Following the Sept. 11 attacks, George W. Bush experienced the biggest historic jump in president approval ratings in the modern polling era, from 51% to 90%. Bush's ratings then steadily declined over the course of his presidency, interrupted briefly by two upward spikes following the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003 (an 11 point gain) and the capture of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in December 2003 (a 7 point increase).

OTHER NEWS FROM THE POLLING AND POLITICAL WORLD

Youth Vote. According to [CIRCLE](#) (Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement), only 22.8% of all eligible young people ages 18-29 voted in the 2010 midterm elections. These voters voted Democratic by a 55% - 42% margin. This is down from 51% turnout in 2008.

Social Security and Medicare. According to [Gallup](#), 67% of Americans believe that Social Security and Medicare costs are already creating a crisis for the federal government, or will do so within the next ten years.

Correspondents Dinner. President Obama and Seth Meyers cracked us up in their speeches at Saturday House Correspondents' Dinner. If you haven't already, check it out ([Obama's](#) and [Meyers'](#)).

PUBLIC POLLING

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING				
Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Approve	Disapprove
CBS/NY Times	5/2-3/11	Adults	57%	37%
Gallup	4/23-26/11	Adults	43%	48%
CBS/NY Times	4/15-20/11	Adults	46%	45%
Gallup	4/17-19/11	Adults	42%	49%

CREDIT FOR FINDING AND KILLING OSAMA BIN LADEN					
Polling Firm		Great deal	Moderate amount	Not much	None at all
USA Today/ Gallup Poll May 2, 2011 N=645 Adults	The US military	89%	9%	1%	1%
	The CIA	62%	26%	4%	2%
	Barack Obama	35%	36%	16%	12%
	George W. Bush	22%	30%	22%	25%

DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY				
Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Right Direction	Wrong Track
Newsweek / Daily Beast	5/2-3/11	Adults	27%	60%
CBS/NY Times	4/15-20/11	Adults	26%	70%
Marist	4/10-14/11	Reg Voters	31%	64%
Ipsos/Reuters	4/7-11/11	Adults	25%	69%

PARTY SELF ID					
Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Dem	Rep	Ind / other
Pollster.com Trend	5/5/11	Adults	31%	29%	32%

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