

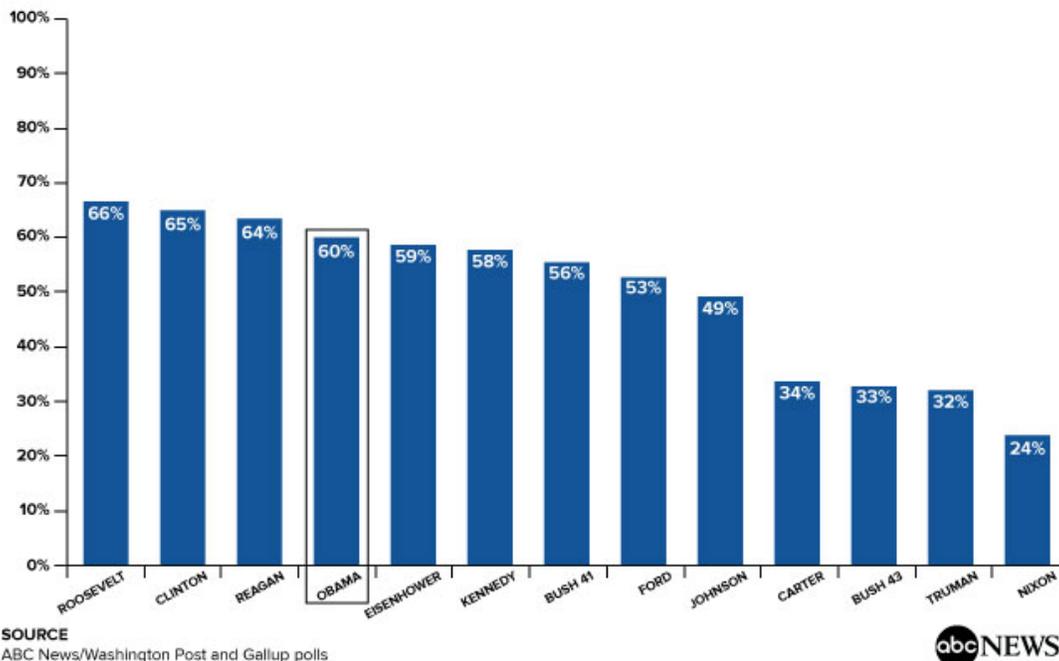
THANKS, OBAMA

President Obama leaves office enormously popular, both overall and on a variety of issues, according to the final job approval polls of his presidency:

Poll	Approve	Disapprove	Net-Approval
ABC/Washington Post	60%	38%	+22
Gallup	57%	38%	+19
Monmouth	56%	38%	+18
NBC/Wall Street Journal	56%	40%	+16

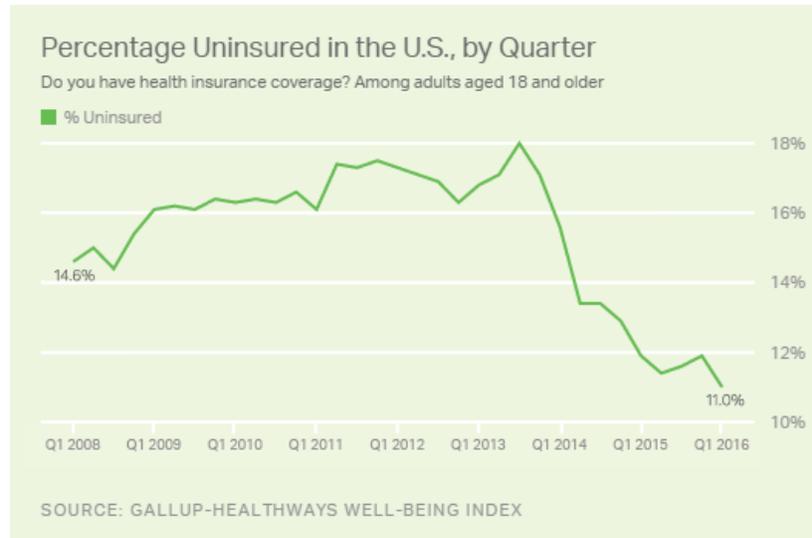
All of these polls show the President's approval rating above 55% as he leaves office, good enough to put him among the most popular presidents of the polling era, according to data compiled by [ABC News](#).

PRESIDENTIAL JOB APPROVAL UPON LEAVING OFFICE



This upswing in popularity comes as the public begins to reflect on the president's many accomplishments, and President Obama has assembled a record that is admired by policy wonks and the general public alike:

- Pulling the country out of the Great Recession, and overseeing an economy that created over 11 million jobs during 75 consecutive months of private sector job growth. Under Obama the unemployment rate has been cut in half, going from 10% at the peak of the Great Recession to 4.7% today.
- During his presidency, the Dow Jones Industrial Average more than doubled, going from 7,949 to 19,804.
- Expanding access to affordable health insurance to over [20 million](#) Americans and bringing the country's uninsured rate to historic lows (11%).



- Leading the international community in the crafting of a landmark climate accord.
- Signing a deal to close Iran's path to a nuclear weapon.
- Bringing Osama bin Laden to justice while reducing the number of US combat troops in the Middle East.
- Implemented the [Clean Power Plan](#), which established the first standards for carbon emissions from power plants and will reduce the power sector's carbon pollution by 35%.
- Took steps to [protect](#) undocumented children, who were brought into the U.S. by their parents at a young age, from deportation.
- Oversaw a period of victory after victory in the fight for [LGBT equality](#). In addition to Obama-appointed justices providing the margin for victory in the Obergefell case, the Human Rights Campaign tallied more than 125 changes to federal regulations and policies that expanded LGBT rights and the appointment of over 250 openly LGBT people to federal positions during the Obama years.

It also bears mentioning that beyond his real world accomplishments, the very existence of an African-American man named Barack Obama in the White House is an unalloyed

symbol that the highest ideals of this country can be more than just ideals.

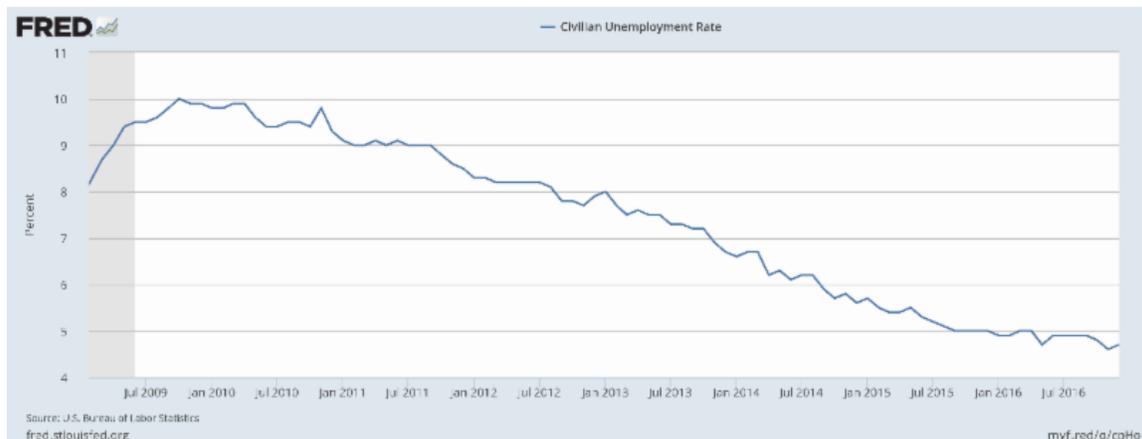


Photo by Jonathon Ernst/Reuters

High Approval on the Economy

President Obama's popularity is no doubt buoyed largely by the fact he is leaving behind a [strong economy](#), with GDP growing by 3.5% in the final quarter of 2016 and a record-setting 75 consecutive months of [positive job growth](#). President Obama took steps to ensure equal pay for [women](#), his policies saved the American auto industry, and he has done all of this while reducing the budget deficit.

During the Obama years the unemployment rate has fallen from a post-recession peak of 10%, to 4.7% today:



These economic accomplishments are not lost on the American people, and the President leaves office with 61% of Americans approving of the way he has handled the [economy](#).

Popularity Extends Beyond Economic Issues

Further, the president's numbers in this survey are strong when it comes to handling the threat of terrorism (53%) and health care (52%).

As for President Obama's legacy on healthcare, according to multiple surveys the Affordable Care Act is now more [popular](#) than it has ever [been](#) (49% support / 47% oppose in the CNN poll, 45% call it a good idea to 41% saying a bad idea in the NBC/WSJ poll). Only 26% of Americans say they have confidence that Congressional Republicans can replace the law with something better. This may well be a case of public perceptions catching up to reality - the uninsured rate is now at an all-time [low](#) and the rise in health care costs have [slowed](#) since the ACA's implementation. While President Obama took on considerable political cost to expand access to affordable health care, it appears public opinion may be moving

in his direction on the issues as he prepares for private life.

The Obama years have also been a time when the United States' image abroad has [improved](#). The Obama administration oversaw the successful operation to take out Osama bin Laden, while also overseeing a precipitous decline in the number of US service members killed in action [abroad](#).

All this said, President Obama should not get too cocky about leaving office so popular, as he is not even the [most popular](#) person in his own home.



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