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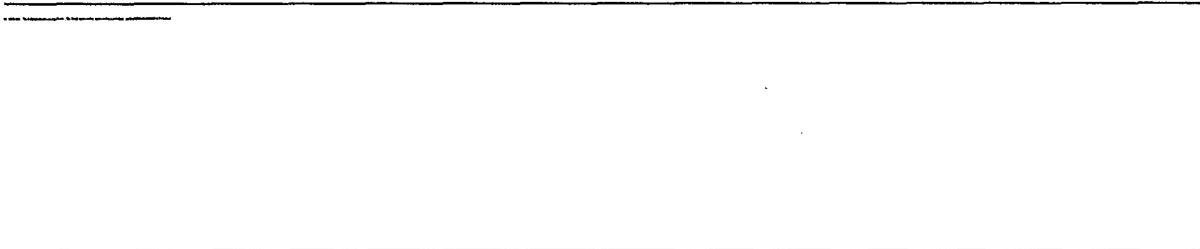
From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 3, 2010 5:38 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: New Poll: Approval Ratings for Administration Officials Drop Across the Board

From: John Podesta [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 4:22 PM
To: Neera Tanden; Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: FW: New Poll: Approval Ratings for Administration Officials Drop Across the Board

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Break out the kevlar vests.

From: Clarus Research Group, Ron Faucheux [mailto:Clarus_Research_Group_Ron_Fauche]
Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 4:17 PM
To: John Podesta
Subject: New Poll: Approval Ratings for Administration Officials Drop Across the Board



August

APPROVAL RATINGS FOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS DROP ACROSS THE BOARD

A July 2010 Clarus Poll of “news watchers” – a nationwide survey of registered voters who say they follow the news “closely” or “very closely” – finds that the job approval ratings of President Obama, his top aides and Cabinet officials have fallen considerably during the past seven months.

The July 2010 Clarus Poll shows that only two members of the Obama team, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (64 percent) and Defense Secretary Robert Gates (56 percent), were surveyed to have job approval ratings of more than 50 percent.

Michelle Obama, Obama’s opponent in the 2008 Democratic primaries, received the highest job rating in the “news watchers” survey, but her 64 percent rating in the July 2010 poll is down 11 points since the December 2009 Clarus Inner Circle poll.

Robert Gates, who is second with a 56 percent approval rating, suffered the biggest drop – down 13 points since December.

President Obama, who scored a 45 percent job approval rating in the July 2010 poll, is down 6 points from where he was seven months ago.

Of the nine officials tested, six have higher disapproval than approval ratings – Obama, Timothy Geithner, Janet Napolitano, Ken Salazar, Rahm Emanuel and Robert Axelrod,” said Ron Faucheux, president of Clarus. “President Obama’s advisers suffered steeper declines over the past seven months than did the president.”

Inner Circle Poll was conducted July 26-27, 2010 by the non-partisan Clarus Research Group, a Washington, D.C. based polling and research firm. The poll was not sponsored or paid for by any client, candidate or political party.

Findings:

Clinton and Gates owe their higher ratings to stronger bipartisan appeal. Clinton received 45 percent approval from Republicans and 57 percent from independents. Gates scored 45 percent from both Republicans and independents.

Both Obama and Clinton posted 90 percent approval scores among Democrats. Gates, who was first appointed to his current job by GOP President George W. Bush, received a 76 percent approval rating from Democratic news watchers.

Obama's ratings were more politically polarized: The president received a 35 percent job approval from independents and a dismal 14 percent from Republicans. Obama won the 2008 election by drawing 52 percent of independent voters.

In addition to Clinton and Gates, the only other administration official to have higher approval than disapproval ratings is Press Secretary Robert C. Gibbs (43 percent to 34 percent).

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, who has been on the hot seat because of the Gulf oil spill, scored the lowest job rating (22 percent) of all those tested.

Comparison of 2009 vs. July 2010 Inner Circle ratings:

	December 2009		July 2010		Change
	Approve	Disapprove	Approve	Disapprove	
President Barack Obama	51%	45%	45%	52%	Down 6
Secretary of Defense Robert Gates	69	20	56	29	Down 13
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	75	21	64	32	Down 11
Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar	*	*	22	39	--

Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano	*	*	39	48	--
Secretary of the Treasury Tim Geithner	44	45	33	46	Down 11
Deputy Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel	40	40	32	44	Down 8
Deputy Press Secretary Kristen Gibbs	50	33	43	34	Down 7
Deputy Advisor David E. Bonior	38	36	32	36	Down 6

included in December 2009 poll

METHODOLOGY: Clarus Inner Circle survey interviews were conducted live via telephone calls based on a sample of 636 U.S. registered voters who said they "closely" or "very closely" follow news and world events. Those who said they follow news and world events "fairly closely" or "not at all" were screened out. The margin of error for the sample is +/- 3.9 percent. The survey was conducted only among news watchers because some political insiders who were tested are not well known to the general public. The following question was asked of respondents: "I am now going to read the names of a number of public officials. For each one, please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing..." (EACH NAME WAS THEN READ)

Ron Faucheux, Ph.D., Clarus president and chief analyst, is the author and editor of seven books on politics and teaches at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute. For more information or for an interview, he can be reached at rfaucheux@ClarusRG.com. For more information on Clarus, go to www.ClarusRG.com.



**Dr. Ron Faucheux
President
Clarus Research Group**

**For more information about the poll, contact Ron Faucheux (rfaucheux@ClarusRG.com).
For more information about Clarus Research Group, go to www.ClarusRG.com.**

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