

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the CAR Polling Report, a regular review of public opinion research on issues of importance to REALTORS. We hope you will find this concise report interesting and useful.

Nationally, a Gallup poll release on February 26th shows that a majority of Americans (59%) believe that government aid to certain homeowners who cannot pay their mortgage is necessary to stabilize the housing market. Only 38% say such aid is not necessary. Even though Americans understand the necessity of such aid they are divided over whether aid to homeowners who cannot pay their mortgage is fair (46%) or unfair (51%). Most Americans (64%) are supportive of the federal government using 75 billion dollars to provide refinancing assistance to homeowners in order to prevent foreclosures.

The poll also shows that only 6% of the American people believe President Obama's plan to reduce the number of home foreclosures will make the housing market a lot better. More than half of the public (54%) believe the Obama plan will make the housing market a little better, 21% say it will make no difference and 15% say it will make things worse. The poll shows that the public is split over whether the Obama plan will (46%) or will NOT (48%) stabilize the housing market.

The nationwide poll of 1,013 was conducted February 20-22, 2009. To see more from this poll go to www.pollingreport.com/business.htm.

Statewide, earlier this month (2/10 and 2/11) Quinnipiac University released a survey of Connecticut voters.

The Economy

Connecticut voters approve (63%) of the way Obama is handling the economy. Approximately one in five voters (21%) disapprove of Obama's economic performance.

Most Connecticut voters (58% to 32%) support Obama's Economic Stimulus Package, with 52% "very confident" or "somewhat confident" it will work and 45% "not too confident" or "not confident at all." Voters seem confident in the stimulus package even though many (59%) believe that the Stimulus Package will not help them personally.

Looking at their own personal finances, only four percent of Connecticut voters say they are "excellent" while 44% say "good," 35% say "not so good" and 15% who say "poor" once again the lowest measure on this question. This is down slightly from the December 2007 (5% said excellent 48% said good) and significantly from the December 2001 (11% said excellent and 65% said good). Only 18% of Connecticut voters say they are better off than they were a year ago, while 60% say they are worse off and 21% say things are the same.

The US Senate

52% to 24%, CT voters are NOT satisfied with Dodd's explanation of accusations that he received preferential mortgage treatment. 56% of voters say the mortgage controversy make them less likely to vote for Dodd.

For the first time more CT voters say they probably/definitely will NOT vote for Senator Dodd (51%) than probably/definitely WILL vote for him (42%). In addition, 48% say they disapprove of the job Dodd is doing while only 41% approve of the job he is doing as Senator. These numbers suggest Dodd faces an extremely uphill battle for re-election.

Like his counterpart, Senator Lieberman also has an overall negative approval rating. Voters narrowly disapprove of the job he is doing in the Senate 48% to 45%. Republicans approve of Lieberman 75% to 20%. Democrats DISAPPROVE of Lieberman 70% to 21% and Independents split 48% to 46%. Lieberman's overall rating is an improvement from his Dec. 2008 job approval when only 35% of voters gave him a positive rating. When asked who they would vote for in 2012 if the candidates are Lieberman or State AG Richard Blumenthal, Blumenthal wins 58% to 30%. While 2012 is a long way off, the numbers show Lieberman's vulnerability among the electorate as a whole. Lieberman does well with Republicans, leading 67% to 23% but Blumenthal leads among Democrats 83% to 9% and among independent voters 55% to 29%.

The statewide poll, conducted from 2/4 to 2/8 2009, surveyed 1,603 registered CT voters. For full results go to <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x271.xml>.

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