

## Polling News & Notes

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**Obama Loses Younger Voters' Approval on Jobs and the Economy:** Young voters supported President Barack Obama by a healthy margin in the 2008 election, but a new [poll](#) conducted by the polling company, inc./womantrend, on behalf of Generation Opportunity, suggests Mr. Obama may find their support harder to gain in 2012. Only 31% of 18-29 year old poll respondents approve of his handling of the economy/youth unemployment, compared to 44% who disapprove. This age group faces an unemployment rate higher than 17% and a job market crowded with older workers who are unable to retire due to grim economic conditions.

Unfortunately for the president, his low approval number on the economy likely helped pull down his overall job approval rating with this age group to 53% in recent Gallup [tracking](#), down 22 points since his inauguration.

### Obama Job Approval with Voters 18-29 Years Old

	ECONOMY	OVERALL
APPROVE	31	53
DISAPPROVE	44	47

According to Paul Conway, the president of Generation Opportunity, young Americans are growing frustrated with President Obama because of a discouraging job market and general economic uncertainty that limits their windows of opportunity and makes it harder to achieve their goals. For example, 77% of respondents said they were delaying major life changes because of economic restraints, and 27% said they were delaying going back to school or enrolling in professional training programs. Neither is comforting for young Americans looking to make themselves more appealing to potential employers in a competitive hiring climate.

Sixty-one percent of these voters also said they would put a higher value on a candidate's position on the issues and record in office when they go to the polls in 2012, instead of on his or her charisma and likability. It's no wonder, considering that high unemployment and low opportunity were not the "hope and change," they were once promised.