

President Barack Obama in Perilous Position Year Before Election: There is one year until Americans head to the polls for the next presidential election, and while the Republican primary field is still undecided, President Obama is in a dangerous - perhaps unprecedented - position going into next year's contest.

This chart shows how Mr. Obama compares to all other presidents since 1943 on key measurements of public sentiment (presidents who lost their reelection bids are shaded). His approval rating is lower (43%) than the relative approval ratings of any president who won reelection – lower even than two of the three presidents who lost. Additionally, no president has won reelection with as many Americans (74%) saying the country is on the wrong track or with so few (13%) saying they are “satisfied” with how things are going in the country a year before the election. Obama also has the lowest consumer confidence rating (60.9%) compared to the other presidents at this point in their terms since the University of Michigan began quarterly tracking this in 1952.

Presidential Standings in the Fall* the Year Before Their Re-Election Bid

*Polls are from Aug-Nov the year prior to the respective election year

President	Approve	Disapprove	Right Track	Wrong Track	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Consumer Confidence
Obama	43	50	17	74	11	88	60.9
Bush 43	62	34	43	47	41	57	89.6
Clinton	49	39	26	54	33	64	90.2
Bush 41	62	29	35	62	39	57	78.3
Reagan	45	43	-	-	35	59	89.3
Carter	31	55	-	-	19	77	62.1
Ford	44	43	-	-	-	-	75.6
Nixon	50	36	-	-	-	-	82.0
Johnson	37	50	-	-	-	-	92.9
Kennedy	58	28	-	-	-	-	94.4
Eisenhower	77	13	-	-	-	-	99.7
Truman	55	24	-	-	-	-	-
FDR	65	23	-	-	-	-	-

Sources: Presidential Job Approval Ratings (Gallup Historic Tracking 1943-2011); Direction of Country (NBC/WSJ Historic Tracking 1980-2011); American Satisfaction Survey (Gallup Historic Tracking 1979-2011); Consumer Confidence (University of Michigan Consumer Sentiment Index 1955-2011)

A lot can happen in a year, but if Mr. Obama was not able to impress the American people in the past three, it is not likely he will be able to do so in the one remaining before Election Day.