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**Subject:** Spotlight: Libya - ALR's National Polling Summary

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## March 23, 2011

# Anzalone Liszt Research National Polling Summary

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Friends,

Below you will find the weekly Anzalone Liszt Research National Polling Newsletter, which provides a pollster's take on data and trends that affect political campaigns.

With the ongoing changes with the situation in Libya, we decided to focus this week's newsletter on Americans' views towards the latest developments.

Following our analysis are additional news items and data we thought you'd enjoy.

John Anzalone and Jeff Liszt

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### **STORY THIS WEEK: SPOTLIGHT ON LIBYA**

As our attention remains focused on the Middle East, Americans' are concerned about the situation in Libya. A [CNN poll](#) found that 79% of Americans say they are concerned with the situation there, including 31% are "very concerned."

[CNN](#) also finds that a strong majority of Americans feel it is an important foreign policy goal to remove Qaddafi from power (77% say it is very or somewhat important, and the intense rating of "very important" has increased from 24% to 34% in the last 10 days). Though lower in intensity, this figure is similar to Americans' attitudes towards Saddam Hussein [in 2002](#) -- in April 2002, 83% of Americans believed it was important to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq, with 45% feeling it was "very" important. Due to Americans' strong desire to see Qaddafi removed, [a Pew survey](#) finds that only 27% feel that the United States has a responsibility to do something, 63% do not believe the US has a responsibility to take action. For comparison, [in 2007](#) 49% believed we had a responsibility to get involved in ethnic genocide in Darfur, and 47% believed we had a responsibility to stop fighting between ethnic groups in Kosovo).

SUPPORT FOR US ACTION

Americans are hesitant to support broad military action in Libya. A [Fox News poll](#) finds that only a quart (25%) of Americans favor getting involved in Libya (65% oppose), and when it comes to putting boots on ground, [CNN](#) finds that Americans are strongly opposed (70% oppose - 28% favor ground troops, though is down from 76% oppose just a week and a half ago). When asked specifically about the US establishing a no-fly zone, there is growing support. The numbers reverse when specifically discussing a no-fly zone, find [CNN poll](#). [Seventy percent](#) of Americans support the US and other countries establishing a no-fly zone, up from 56% 10 days ago. Republicans are most supportive of this action (77%), followed by Independents (70%) and Democrats (64%). Support narrows to 54% for the US using air attacks against Qaddafi.

Put into context, Americans have more optimism about the US military achieving its goals in Libya than did leading up to the interventions in Kosovo and Bosnia in the 90s. [Fifty-nine](#) percent of Americans are confident that the US will be able to accomplish its goals with few American casualties (18% very confident). In 1999, 56% were confident (16% very) that the US could accomplish their goals in Kosovo with few casualties, and in 1995, 40% were confident about the same in Bosnia (12% very).

Americans [are confident](#) that their efforts to protect civilians in Libya will succeed (70%), and they will be able to accomplish their goals without using ground troops (65%). In 1999, only 45% of Americans were confident that the US could accomplish their goals with sending in ground troops. Three-quarters believe that Qaddafi will be removed from power (75%, 29% are very confident of this).

#### OBAMA'S HANDLING OF LIBYA

Americans express growing approval to the way President Obama is handling the situation in Libya - [two](#) out this week show that 50% of Americans approve of the way he is handling it, and a [CBS poll](#) finds that even 43% of Republicans approve of how he's handled this, taken at the same time that the US launches strikes. In Britain, [44% of British](#) citizens feel David Cameron has done a good job handling the issue, while 35% feel he's done a poor job.

#### INTERNATIONAL REACTION

British citizens also expressed similar support levels to Americans 11 days ago when polled about the no-fly zone. A [YouGov](#) poll for the Sun newspaper found that 57% supported a no-fly zone, while 21% opposed (at the same time support in the US was 56%). Since then, two polls in Great Britain show conflicting results on public support of British involvement in Libya. A [YouGov poll](#) asked "do you think Britain, France, the US and other countries are right or wrong to take military action in Libya" and found that 45% supported this - 35% opposed. A [ComRes poll](#) asked more specifically about taking action against Gadhafi ('It is right for the US to take military action against Colonel Gaddafi's forces in Libya') and found stronger opposition - 35% support action - 43% opposed. By comparison, [in 2003](#), 54% of British citizens approved of the military attack on Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein (30% disapproved).

#### OTHER NEWS FROM THE POLLING AND POLITICAL WORLD

**Obama's handling of Japan** -According to [CBS](#), 73% approve of Obama's response to the crisis in Japan, consistent with Americans' high approval ratings for presidential handling of recent international natural disasters. Obama received an 80% approval rating for his response to the earthquake in Haiti, and George W. Bush received an 81% approval for the tsunami in South Asia. (CBS)

**Obama's approval rating** - Obama's approval rating is holding at the same levels as last month, 49% approve - 41% disapprove, according to [CBS](#).

**Nuclear energy** - A [majority](#) of Americans (53%) say that the crisis in Japan has NOT made them more fearful of a nuclear accident in the US, while 44% say they are more fearful. A [CNN](#) poll finds that 57% of Americans approve of the domestic use of nuclear energy and 68% believe that we should continue to operate all of them, but CNN did find that opposition to building *new* nuclear power plants has increased potentially in reaction to the crisis in Japan - 53% oppose doing so, up from 47% last year.

**Battleground 2012** - A [Democracy Corps](#) poll in 50 competitive battleground congressional districts finds that the new Republican majority in the House is at risk - finding that the GOP incumbents, identified by name, have an average approval rating of 35 percent across the 50 districts, with 25 percent disapproving.

**Are you smarter than an American** - [Newsweek](#) had 1,000 citizens take the official citizenship test and found 29% could not name the Vice President, 44% could not define the Bill of Rights, and 6% could not circle Independence Day on a calendar.\*

\*In case some of these people read our newsletter, the answers are: Joe Biden, the first 10 Amendments to the Constitution, and July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **PUBLIC POLLING**

<b>PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING</b>				
<b>Polling Firm</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sample</b>	<b>Approve</b>	<b>Disapprove</b>
CBS News	3/18-21/11	Adults	49%	41%
CNN/ORC	3/18-20/11	Adults	51%	47%
CNN/ORC	3/11-13/11	Adults	50%	47%
ABC/Wash. Post	3/10-13/11	Adults	51%	45%
Gallup	3/8-10/11	Adults	47%	45%
YouGov/Polimetrix	3/5-8/11	Adults	44%	48%
Gallup	3/5-7/11	Adults	46%	46%
Bloomberg	3/4-7/11	Adults	51%	43%

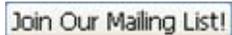
<b>SUPPORT FOR NO-FLY ZONE IN LIBYA</b>				
<b>Polling Firm</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sample</b>	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
CNN/ORC	3/18-20/11	Adults	70%	27%

CNN/ORC	3/11-13/11	Adults	56%	40%
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<b>CONFIDENCE IN LIBYA OUTCOMES</b>					
<b>Polling Firm</b>		<b>Very Confident</b>	<b>S'what Confident</b>	<b>Not Too Confident</b>	<b>No Confid</b>
CNN Poll. March 18-20, 2011. 1,012 adults.	The US will be able to accomplish its goals with very few or no American casualties	18%	41%	24%	16%
	The US effort to protect civilians from Qaddafi's military forces will succeed	22%	48%	19%	9%
	The US will be able to accomplish its goals WITHOUT sending in US ground troops	18%	37%	27%	15%
	Moammar Qaddafi will be removed from power in Libya	29%	46%	16%	7%

<b>DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY</b>				
<b>Polling Firm</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sample</b>	<b>Right Direction</b>	<b>Wrong Track</b>
YouGov/ Polimetrix	3/12-15/11	Adults	26%	56%
Bloomberg	3/4-7/11	Adults	28%	63%
Ipsos/Reuters	3/3-6/11	Adults	31%	64%
YouGov / Polimetrix	2/26-3/1/11	Adults	27%	57%
NBC/WSJ	2/24-28/11	Adults	31%	60%

<b>PARTY SELF ID</b>					
<b>Polling Firm</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Sample</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Ind / other</b>
Pollster.com Trend	3/22/11	Adults	31%	25%	36%



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