



VIEWER VOICES

COMMENTS & ANSWERS TO FAREED'S QUESTION OF THE WEEK

(to remove your name or entire comment please [email](#) webmaster)

Last week we asked “Has President Obama disappointed you or has he lived up to your expectations?”

67% of you said that Obama has met your expectations, 25% of you said you were disappointed and another 8% of you argued that it was too soon to cast judgment on Obama's presidency.

Here are some of your responses and comments:

Obama has most certainly not disappointed me; these things take time!

[Lee Vanderlin](#)

Salem, OR

No, Obama has not yet disappointed us only that he's got to prove to the whole world by closing Guantanamo Bay before the year ends. It was one of his major goals and it's got to be fulfilled before 2010.

Luke Mugerwa from Uganda

All politicians eventually disappoint. It is only a matter of degree to which they do so. He has not achieved anything promised in his first year, but on the other hand, he has not caused further damage. Perhaps that is the best we can expect given corporate lobbying and partisanship. To be fair he inherited a big hole. Regardless, it seems that real progress is very difficult anymore, but real damage is easy (i.e. last administration).

George B
San Diego

I am disappointed because he promised there would be no lobbyists in the administration and that the healthcare debate would be on C-SPAN. It proves that corruption is still intact in Washington and that the lesser the American people knows, the better it is for the politicians. But again, I am just an international student from Chad!

Abdel Al-HABBO

I am very happy with what President Obama has been able to do so far. It is a shame that we do not have serious talks between our two parties though. I have followed politics since I was in the Navy standing out on a pier in Norfolk, VA, with a 45 strapped to my hip waiting for the Cuban Missile Crisis to literally blow up in my face. We live in a serious world and I am delighted that someone who is smarter than me is in the Oval Office.

I look forward to your show each week.

[Deva Katir](#)

Congress has disappointed me far more than President Obama. President Obama has worked hard to do what he promised, but he does not rule on his own. He must work cooperatively with Congress and they seem to not be up to the task. The GOP has done the political calculus and decided it is in their best political interest to see the President, and by default the country, fail. The democrats are too busy enjoying their return to power to notice that the GOP does have some legitimate concerns and a few good ideas that could be useful as we move ahead. The President seems to want to tackle the big issues that face us and to use the best ideas out there, but Congress just wants to use the issues to win the next election.

Drew Lyon
Gering, NE

President Obama is a prime example of idealism meets pragmatism. It appears that the major players on the national and international scene have expressed their wishes through the assertion of brute financial, political and law profiling capabilities. The result, as I attempt to find some logic in President Obama's current actions, is disappointment. He needs to accept the possibility of being a one term president and actualize the freedom it would allow to correct major problems within our government such as an overhaul of the regulation of financial institutions, the tax code, excessive governmental bureaucracy, lobbying, the election process and other compromised issues. Granted, governing is a give and take process, but it seems like we, the American citizenry, have done far more giving than taking while the subsurface forces of self-serving monetary interests and greed have done far more taking.

Paul Ingle
Mesa, AZ

I shudder to think where we would be one year later if McCain had won the election! Talk about a real mess. Not that Obama is perfect, but he is head

and shoulders above McCain's ability to cope with all of the challenges facing our nation.

Dick Dixon

I am disappointed that President Obama brought in the same old people with the same old ideas. The policies put into place are still draining the pockets of hard working Americans while ever lowering the standard of living. More and more people are losing their jobs and their homes while the fat cats grow ever fatter on the policies of his advisers which is not what he promised in his campaign.

Elizabeth Foster
Woodland Hills, CA

Obama needs to bring back his ability to inspire by not being so analytical, use more passion and optimism. He has made a good start on climate control, joining the world community, the stimulus plan is working slowly and I like the emphasis on education. I hope we pass the Health Plan then we can get on to something else.

Having so many people with ties to Wall Street and giant financial firms in

his government is worrisome. I'm afraid he will get to think too much as they do by favoring big business. Whatever happened to the antitrust act? When banks were merging so fast in the last decade it was obvious that it needed to be stopped. Obama must push to break up the "too big to fail" entities.

Joan

I never thought President Obama would have an easy time creating bipartisanship, but then I never thought the Republican Party dumb enough to let Rush Limbaugh become its de facto leader either.

At this point, I don't think he could have done anything different to win over Republicans short of total capitulation, and thank God he didn't do that. Eight years of President Bush and that party were eight years too many, and it's time to move on in a big way.

So, no, I'm not disappointed in President Obama. In fact, I'm very proud of him in so many ways, not the least of which was his ability to convince the rest of the world that America is once again their friend. Like I've said before, Fared, we can get "there" from here. Let's just keep going up and make it happen!

Tom Middleton
Birmingham, AL

I suppose he is the only president who is doing both macro and micro management of the country! He will eventually succeed.

Sudhir Nair Johannesburg, South Africa

I am not disappointed with Obama as a person and leader, but in his reluctance to put energy and climate change on TOP of his agenda. Health care and all other issues that have filled the news are peanut issues compared with this. He campaigned on it, he spoke at the UN about it, he got the Nobel Peace Prize for this as a reason. But waited till the opposition is so totally negative, that may not regain leadership on this MOST IMPORTANT of all issues.

Clarence Maloney
Herat, Afghanistan

I'd vote for him again TODAY!!!

He's outstanding - but facing huge obstacles...give him more time

Robin Alexander

Disappointed is not the right word for me, but I do feel apprehensive in his ability to truly bring about change. Obama seems more focused on pleasing as many as possible instead of living up to his campaign war cry of change. True change will unfortunately engender anger and simply will not please everybody. I don't know if Obama is willing to fight for true change for America.

Jerod Topliff
Kansas City, MO

I believe that Obama's presidency is a work-in-process. Had we observed Michelangelo carving his Pieta out of a block of marble, we would have undoubtedly been disappointed, but hopeful, after the first few strikes of the mallet. It is too soon to make a meaningful judgment.

Richard
New York, NY

My wife (a French writer/ journalist) and I wish to thank you for the integrity and intelligence that you bring to the political talk show format. What? No screaming? No hyperbole?

It must be Fareed. Keep it up.

Of course we are disappointed by Obama. Relatively; relative to our oversized expectations. We are most disappointed by his appointment of Geithner and others of the Goldman "Bruderbund." Whether or not Obama can reform a country which is falling prey at an alarming rate to a system not of profit but of "profiteers" while at the same time he guarantees the entrenchment of many of the most powerful elements is a conundrum awaiting resolution.

Very dramatic times indeed.

Jaime Longhi
West Cornwall, CT

No, President Obama is not a god and he's not going to get everything done in a year. I think that he is doing a good job given the current economic climate. A climate created by the Republican party and helped along by the Congress. If any branch of government is a disappointment it's Congress. Although, I guess I shouldn't be surprised, Congress always was the most self-serving body in government. By the way why is China never included in any discussion about Afghanistan or Pakistan? They do share a border.

Melissa Cahill

President Obama is dealing with inherited challenges - Iraq, Afghanistan - while attempting to shift the style of U.S. foreign policy and deliver on significant campaign promises. With all of this in the first year of his presidency, success will allow President Obama even greater capability in the future, or failure will lead to general disillusionment.

Stephanie Schmidt
Madison, WI

Yes, he is living up to my expectations. Most importantly he is moving his promise forward to get me affordable health care with his victory in the House. This is most impressive, as he must herd cats.

Anonymous

President Obama is not the problem. The problem is his Democratic party has no backbone. The grade I would give at this point in President Obama's presidency - B to B-.

Jim Miller
Vail, AZ

No President can deliver on every promise, but President Obama, will deliver more than most. I feel he is a good man, at heart, and has our nation's best interests in mind. American's must get a realistic view on what is possible and what must be accomplished a step at a time. Give him time. He has the respect of most of the world because the world can see and believe, he has good intentions.

I am satisfied with his progress to date and I feel he will, in time, be thought of as one of the greatest leaders of the modern world. I am hopeful for America and the world.

Junab Ali
St Petersburg FL

I am still on the fence regarding his administration. Set aside the health care issue as few understand whether we, over 65, are getting screwed or not.

He seems to have done a reasonable job so far in trying to engage individuals to move in a more effective direction. Afghanistan is a disaster and we need to get out. We should take Pakistan's nuclear weapons and scientist's and leave that place to their own devices.

The whole area is a lost cause and we should abandon it with a caveat, that if you folks go beyond a certain point with your activities we will blow you into kingdom come.

Jack Shufelt
Clifton Park, NY

I think Obama has lived up to my expectations of him because I never really saw him as being radically different than other politicians who push change. I also never saw him as some hero that would come in and change Washington much at all. I saw him far more middle of the road on certain issues and never really showed other than rhetoric a desire to be different than other politicians. Maybe it's because I was a Clinton supporter at first and didn't really switch to Obama until after Clinton conceded.

The fact that the House voted for Health Care Reform for the first time ever definitely should show signs that he is living up to his rhetoric on health care from the campaign. I love politics but I think I'm far more realistic on politicians and their promises.

Bertina

Quite honestly, he has not disappointed me at all. That is, of course, because my expectations of him were never high. There is always a hard reality to encounter when a country elects a leader based on how well they can give a speech.

George Martin
Ontario, Ontario

Obama contained the financial crisis. He has health care passed in the house. he has restored credibility for the us in the world. He is creating jobs and helping home owners and the unemployed. He is reaching out to the Muslims and to the American Indians;

B Wilson

I'm more satisfied. I knew I was voting for an ideal but never expected the world saw my vision too. It's like a football game, you might not agree with every play, but you stand with the team to make the winning touchdowns. Go Obama, I'm one proud American.

Penny Green

However, there is one area where the administration is failing; they

repeatedly show naivety in handling business issues such as Wall Street, bail-outs and bonuses. I accept the case that the government had to step into business concerns to keep things from getting worse for the citizenry. BUT, I expect more accountability with my tax dollars; the administration's repeated attempt to rely on the conscience of the greedy, as opposed to binding regulation or the board control that would normally come with significant financial investment, is an embarrassing failure.

Cheryl Finley
Upstate NY

Has Obama disappointed me? No but the Americans in general are very disappointing. Through the 8 years of Bush's administration, they went through a downward spiral of bad economic and military maneuvers that conducted the country to the brink of abyss. And in one year only, the new president is expected to put the country back on its feet. This is wishful thinking. On the other side, I have been disappointed by the president in some ways: I would have like his economic stimulus program to start cutting US dependence on foreign oil. That is not even part of the plan. I would have liked him to impose more stringent rules on health insurance companies. Instead, he is trying to pass a bill that spread the country apart and may not at the end bring significant change. But overall, I am disappointed at the GOP which

tries to undermine everything the Obama's administration is trying to do to change things around.

Gilles Nadeau
Canada

Barack Obama was elected to be our president, not our king. I'm pleased that he has brought some confidence to a nation whose economy would be even worse without him, but he has underestimated the lengths to which Republicans will go to return to power. If some people are disappointed by his failure to work miracles, they have to understand how government works...or doesn't work. Obama has met my expectations; Congress has not.

Martin Bensky
Richland, Washington

Domestically, so far President Obama has not overtly disappointed us Americans and that in itself is like living up to expectations. Internationally, winning a Nobel Prize, whether deserved or not, so early in his presidential career is, of course, not for what he has achieved but it is, I assume, a novel way of putting pressure on what is still the world's most powerful institution as to what the world expects of him. 10 months in office is too short and too little

for this monumental task. Will he live up to expectations? I will give him one more year.

Saif Motani
Carrollton Texas

I am NOT DISAPPOINTED in President Obama. He has lived up to every hopeful expectation I had of him. He is tackling the enormous problems facing our country with courage and thoughtfulness and without bi-partisan support, unfortunately. Above all, I think, we need a thoughtful leader at this perilous time for our country and I am gratified that the country has someone of Obama's intelligence and ability in office.

I have been a student and observer of national and international politics for almost all of my 71 years and so know something of the history of the US presidency! Thank you for your thoughtful program...

Karen Clegg
Seattle, WA

President Obama is working with a government that has two political parties that are becoming so entrenched in political ideology that we are coming to a crisis as a divided nation. We must remember President Lincoln's words -

'a divided nation cannot stand'. President Obama has surrounded himself with the best and brightest and we are seeing the hope of tomorrow emerge in energy, environment, global peace with respect in the international community, and the huge problems with health care. The fact that he has put so much on his plate demonstrates the urgency of striking while he has the advantage of having the house and the senate willing to work with him on the most important impending issues. We are beginning to see the economy beginning to turn around. The score card for President Obama is an A+. We as a nation need to stop grouching and whining and get behind this president so we can quit dragging this nation into the 21st century but a nation willing to work for the highest expectations of our nation and we as a people.

Lynne Stevenson
Rawlins, Wyoming

Given what President Obama inherited, he has not disappointed me at all. Under the circumstances, he has exceeded my expectations. The "too small" stimulus (in the words of Paul Krugman) has contributed to the lack of rebounding of the economy and the continuing rise in the unemployment rate. Given the fight he had to wage to get even the first stimulus through Congress, he had no other option. The world sees this. The only people who

don't are the American people. From me, he gets an A on his achievements thus far.

Teetee Weisel
Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica
West Indies

I would like to see more strength and backbone in both his expressions and leadership. He plays it safe and political far too often...I don't see him walking his campaign talk. I suppose it is naive of me, but I believed as a Constitutional attorney he would understand the necessity of restoring our civil rights. It is disappointing that the man whom I voted for is not carrying out the promises made on the campaign trail with the spirit and integrity he demonstrated.

Susan Pierce
Los Angeles

Obama has not disappointed me because I expected nothing from him to begin with, People expected too much in too little time... Which wasn't going to happen, But since I expected nothing, And got nothing, I'm Okay, I feel I was right.

Jose Mendoza
Los Angeles, CA

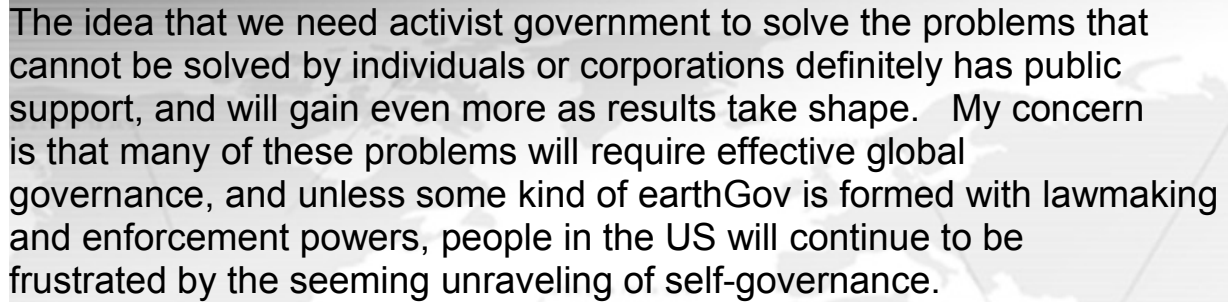
I believe we have a president that will keep trying, trip and fall at times, then get back up and try again until he gets most of the results he's looking for.

P.S. Keep up the GREAT work Fareed! I love your show!
I have a new interest in issues outside of America and your show keeps me looking for more. I'm learning, thanks to your show, you make it easy to understand the issues. Thanks Fareed!

Debbie Starling
Garland, TX

Obama remains a very shrewd, determined strategist, who is not interested in polls and popularity, but rather reversing the self-destructive course of the country piece by piece over the long haul of his time in office and afterward.

The economic problems he inherited are complex, deep-seated and structural, and will take years to turn around. His strengths are not acting impulsively, not being intimidated by the fear-mongering activists on the right, and standing up to groupthink on the left.



The idea that we need activist government to solve the problems that cannot be solved by individuals or corporations definitely has public support, and will gain even more as results take shape. My concern is that many of these problems will require effective global governance, and unless some kind of earthGov is formed with lawmaking and enforcement powers, people in the US will continue to be frustrated by the seeming unraveling of self-governance.

Pierre Bierre
Pleasanton CA

I haven't given up hope, but I am disappointed. I believe he went after health care too soon. We won't get the health care reform this country needs because we can't pay for it. If he would have dealt with the economy and corruption of congress first. Then withdrawing from the Middle East, he would have more support for health care reform and maybe even pay for it.

William in AZ

Obama has exceeded my expectations. I'm happy with the way his administration handled the economic crisis. Obama's actions have been more moderate than his campaign promises. He didn't yank troops out of

Iraq as I had feared, and his health care reform does not get rid of our existing health care system. Finally, the world is warming up to us again, which is necessary for our economic success.

David Nielsen, Mountain View, CA

President Obama has disappointed me on the first week on office. He had decided not to cut out lobbyists as he promised during the campaign. Now, he hasn't fixed the complex financial derivative market and/or brought the product-less finance market risks away from main street.

Ben Koh
Dallas, TX

Obama has not made me happy. He has not been able to convince the Israelis about the harm that they have done by rejecting his overtures over freeze building the settlements. This will be a death blow to the Israeli-Arab peace talks. Af-Pak initiative does not seem to be going anywhere. Much talk- no results over foreign policy initiatives!

J.L. Mehta, MD,PhD
Little Rock, AR

Early in Obama's presidential campaign he said that to solve the six most urgent problems of the government; energy, education, two wars, health care, decaying infrastructure and the federal debt, all must be tackled at the same time since they are intertwined. This was before the economy nearly collapsed. It has been fascinating to watch him accomplish this vision steadfastly yet amazingly fast for the immensity of it all.

Bettie Copeland
Houston, TX

PS Your 11/8/9 panel was excellent

I'm extremely proud of Pres. Obama's first 10 months. During the campaign he didn't promise to be perfect, he promised to get up every morning and work hard for the American people. Even before he took office, he was expected to solve a looming depression. Since his inauguration, he has done his best despite relentless Republican attacks for overspending. He has spend a lot of money, i.e., extended unemployment payments, help with COBRA health insurance payments, stimulus for all 50 states and two wars. I see a committed, intelligent man attempting to get our country back on the right track.

Ruth G. Harmon

Chattanooga, TN

Overall, President Obama has exceeded my expectations. I did not expect miracles, no matter who was elected, but I'm overall very satisfied.

However, I do believe he appears to have back-tracked on some of his campaign promises. For example, while I'm not gay, I have a gay brother and I believe that President Obama could have & should have suspended "don't ask, don't tell" back in January/February until the legalities could be finalized.

Kelly Day
Addison, TX

President Obama has moved to achieve up to my expectations, but our Senators and Representatives who are listening only to their loudest constituents are slowing down his progress.

Evan
Tampa, FL

President Obama makes me proud to be an American again. The challenges he has are monumental and complex. I like the way President Obama thinks through his challenges. There is no better person to take on the mess he was

delivered. I am tired of all the weak, fear- based people who lie because they couldn't think through a shopping list if they had to. I am also tired of all the opinions/assessments from egos that are threatened and would best be quiet rather than show their ignorance.

Anne Brown

Sorry but that is a rhetorical question. I am terrified by the man. I think he is over his head. I think he intends to sacrifice the majority for the few and I think it is very possible he will be a one term president. He does not have the savvy that President Clinton had. Clinton was able to save himself and get a second term and actually have a great presidency. Not Obama! I really believe he thinks it is his personal responsibility to right all the wrongs of blacks over the course of history. That is a recipe for disaster. If the democrats succeed in wresting control long-term the levers of power and start making decisions that resemble socialism I think you can expect a military coup. Finally someone has found a way to game the system in such a way as to destroy it. I think that is where we are headed.

Stephen A. Howell

I worked very hard in Indiana to help elect Barak Obama. I continue to support him--his job is a tough one, but he has not disappointed me. On the contrary, when I see how America's reputation in the world has changed, and how thoughtful and deliberate he is in his decision-making, I am proud of him. I only hope he can succeed in health care reform. That will secure his first term legacy in my opinion.

F. Powell
Bloomington, Indiana

No, Obama is doing exactly what he said he'd do. He has to play 3-dimensional chess in a tiddly winks town. I think he's doing admirably well and he's not backing down. The health care bill has passed the House with only one Republican vote. This shows that the Republicans don't care about the American people, all they care about is their own political gain. Ironically, this will only make things worse for them in the long run, in my opinion.

What does disappoint me is that you invited Peggy Noonan into a serious discussion as if she's a legitimate historian like the others on your panel this morning. She is a political hack who speaks in hypnotic tones as if we're a bunch of Kindergarten children in a Sunday School class. She could use some basic lessons from Kindergarten herself. For example, "don't interrupt."

Also, "if you're going to be cranky you should take a nap." You can tell her I said so.

Next time, you need to book Doris Kearns Goodwin who knows her history.

Thanks for your consideration.

Wanda LaCroix
Arlee, MT

Thank you, thank you, thank for the intelligent discussion today on the President with Peggy Noonan (who views things differently from me many times, but will provide rational supporting arguments) and Robert Caro (an inspired choice). It is so unusual to see an exchange of views on CNN that doesn't almost immediately disintegrate into nonsensical rhetoric (e.g., the health care bill will take away our freedom). Wow!

Sandra J Sames

This is no longer President Bush's economy. Unless Pres. Obama turns around high unemployment rate, his presidency will be a failed presidency no matter how successful health and energy policies. So far despite stimulus package, his 1 year in the office is a failure.



R.B. Gelot

In just a brief time in office, President Obama has already proven to me he has the intellect, morals, insight, and calm strength to lead our country now and in the future.

My only fear is that those of us who believe he is doing an outstanding job are not making our voices heard.

Jackie Morgan
Bristol, Virginia

Obama has disappointed me, he meekly capitulated to Netanyahu and reinforced by Clinton - a real stab in the back for Abbas.

John

I grew up white in Mississippi and from a very young age felt terrible pain over the way African Americans were treated. That behavior is not completely gone, but America and even some Mississippians are moving forward. To have Mr. Obama elected President was a dream come true for me. We aren't post racist, but we are moving in the right direction.

Mr. Obama would not have such a difficult job if George Bush had not cut taxes on the wealthiest Americans or lead us into an unwinnable war. President Obama is doing great!! I pray for his safety and for the American people to begin to appreciate his skill.

Margaret Sachs, Chapel Hill, NC

President Obama has disappointed us with his selection of the economic team, Ben Bernanke (one who could not see the housing collapse coming even after being a student of the great depression), Larry Summers, Tim Geithner (both of whom chided Borxley Born when she tried to warn the congress about the bust that was about to happen in the derivatives market). This time, we really hope they mop up the mess they made with having no proper regulation in place when it was needed the most.

President Obama has kept his promise of withdrawing from Iraq and that makes me happy, as that will save American lives. So, on the foreign policy front, he has succeeded with his actions. We have more respect throughout the world

Amit
Cary, NC

Well the opening round table was a waste! If you keep this up, you will go the way of Lou Dobbs. The Reagan partisan tainted the whole session. Selfish, greedy, partisanship may be the reality, but continuing to see the world through those eyes is the problem, not the solution.

[Chuck Wright](#)

President Obama understands the reality of expectation. Obviously Sen. Obama was listening when Sen. Kennedy told him he should have taken Nixon's offer on healthcare decades earlier, therefore President Obama is meeting my expectations as a skilled sausage maker. I will hold my judgement of His success till I taste the sausage.

[Pastor Mack](#)
[Rev. Roderick B Mackenzie](#)

P.S. Great interview with Musharraf, a couple of good Got yas.

GPS is on the only show that I make a point of seeing every week. You and the show are remarkable.

[Vyvyan Benlloch from Southern California.](#)

I can't see how President Obama is to blame for the unemployment in USA. We still struggle with the aftermath of the financial crisis, and all countries around the world suffer from an increase in the unemployment. This would have been the same also if McCain had been president. In all countries the unemployment goes up before it goes down. Please give him another year until people start spending again. The unemployment will start going down and the results of the stimulus will show results. I think the American people need to have more patience. Just think of what the whole world has been through. We cannot just press a button to get it back to normal. It takes time to build it all up again. The American people are lucky to have a president like Barack Obama. He absolutely needs bipartisan support.

[Berit Aspaas, Norway](#)

What has disappointed me greatly is the concerted effort the opposition is conducting to undermine and derail any effort of the President's. And then, like modern day snake oil salesmen, they blatantly distort the facts to suit their group-speak agenda. I find the tactics totally disingenuous and reprehensible.

I am one of those disaffected Republicans who has changed her party affiliation in total disgust.

Your show is wonderful and I really like the weekly quiz on the website...Keep up the excellent work.

Emily Drummond
Melbourne, FL

No! I won't know that until his term is up. None of what we are facing today is of his making. Our President must do what he must do - clean up someone else's mess and that I feel he's making an effort to accomplish. Those who feel he is a disappointment should examine their own lives. Have their personal problems ever disappeared on command. I must add, too, that those who feel his solutions smack of socialism must ask themselves too, if capitalism didn't/couldn't turn the trick, then what's in Plan B?

Howard Graves
Las Vegas