



**Interviews with 1,041 adult Americans conducted by telephone by Opinion Research Corporation on December 2-3, 2009. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.**

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**FOR RELEASE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 9 AM**

23. Do you think the safety and security of the United States are at stake in Afghanistan, or don't you think so?

Dec. 2-3  
2009

Yes, are at stake	64%
No, are not at stake	34%
No opinion	2%

24. Who do you have more confidence in when it comes to handling the situation in Afghanistan -- President Obama or the Democrats in Congress?

Dec. 2-3  
2009

Obama	44%
Democrats	31%
Both (vol.)	4%
Neither (vol.)	20%
No opinion	2%

25. What do you think is the most likely outcome for the U.S. in Afghanistan –a victory, a stalemate, or a defeat?

Dec. 2-3  
2009

Victory	29%
Stalemate	57%
Defeat	12%
No opinion	2%

26. Do you think that a victory is possible for the U.S. in Afghanistan, or do you think that a victory in Afghanistan is not possible?

Dec. 2-3  
2009

Victory is possible	58%
Victory is not possible	41%
No opinion	1%

NOTE: "Victory is possible" includes respondents who said victory is the most likely outcome in Question 25.

27. Do you think that a defeat is possible for the U.S. in Afghanistan, or do you think that a defeat in Afghanistan is not possible?

Dec. 2-3  
2009

Defeat is possible	60%
Defeat is not possible	38%
No opinion	2%

NOTE: "Defeat is possible" includes respondents who said defeat is the most likely outcome in Question 25.

**FOR COMPARISON**

What do you think is the most likely outcome for the U.S. in Iraq -- a victory, a stalemate, or a defeat?

	Jan. 11 <u>2007</u>	Dec. 15-16 <u>2006</u>
Victory	27%	27%
Stalemate	50%	50%
Defeat	18%	20%
No opinion	5%	3%

Do you think victory is possible for the U.S. in Iraq, or do you think a victory in Iraq is not possible?

Victory is possible	47%	48%
Victory is not possible	50%	50%
No opinion	5%	3%

Do you think defeat is possible for the U.S. in Iraq, or do you think a defeat in Iraq is not possible?

Defeat is possible	56%	62%
Defeat is not possible	39%	34%
No opinion	5%	4%

28. As you may know, it has been about three months since the general in charge of U.S. forces in Afghanistan formally requested additional troops. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view: (RANDOM ORDER)

	Dec. 2-3 <u>2009</u>
You think Obama took too much time to make this decision,	43%
You think that amount of time was necessary for Obama to make a thorough review and explore the different options available	56%
No opinion	1%

29. Just your best guess -- do you think each of the following is likely or unlikely to happen in Afghanistan in the next few years?

	Dec. 2-3 <u>2009</u>	Oct. 16-18 <u>2009</u>
a. Afghanistan will have a democratic government that will not be over-thrown by terrorists or the Taliban		
Likely	33%	31%
Unlikely	66%	68%
No opinion	1%	2%
b. Afghan military and police will be able to ensure safety and security in Afghanistan without assistance from the United States		
Likely	35%	31%
Unlikely	65%	69%
No opinion	*	*
c. Afghanistan will be able to prevent terrorists from using the country as a base of operations for planning attacks against the United States		
Likely	36%	33%
Unlikely	63%	66%
No opinion	1%	1%

32. Do you think the United States' action in Afghanistan is morally justified, or not?

Dec. 2-3  
2009

Morally justified 63%  
Not morally justified 35%  
No opinion 1%

**FOR COMPARISON**

Do you think the United States' action in Iraq is morally justified, or not?					
	Mar. 14-16 <u>2008</u>	June 22-24 <u>2007</u>	June 8-11 <u>2006</u>	Mar 10-12 <u>2006*</u>	Mar 29-30 <u>2003*</u>
Yes, morally justified	45%	42%	45%	47%	73%
No, not morally justified	52%	54%	47%	50%	24%
No opinion	3%	4%	8%	2%	3%

\*CNN/USA Today/Gallup polls

33. Did you happen to watch or listen to any of Obama's speech on Afghanistan on Tuesday night, or not?

Dec. 2-3  
2009

Yes 42%  
No 58%  
No opinion \*

34. Did the speech make you more likely or less likely to support Obama's policies in Afghanistan, or didn't it make any difference to you? (ASKED OF THOSE THAT WATCHED OBAMA'S SPEECH. RESULTS BASED ON 519 INTERVIEWS. SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 4.5 PERCENTAGE POINTS.)

Dec. 2-3  
2009

More likely 34%  
Less likely 16%  
Didn't make any difference 50%  
No opinion \*