

## 2009-Missile Defense Survey—Key Findings

--America's support for a Missile Defense system continues at an extremely high level (88%), a 2 percentage point increase from 2008 and a 5 percentage point increase from 2007.

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**More than 3 out of 4 adults, 77%, feel “strongly” about their support, also a 2 percentage point increase from 2008 and an 8 percentage point increase from 2007.**

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**Currently, support ranges from 82% in the West and 83% in the Northeast to 91% in the South and 94% in the North Central region of the U.S.**

**Men and women are at the identical 88% support level.**

**Republican support went from 94% in 2008 to 95% in 2009. Democrat's support went from 82% in 2008 to 85% in 2009.**

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--When respondents were asked about the most important priority for the President and Congress to address, the economy is still at the top at 41% by a significant margin over health care (16%), education (13%), homeland security (11%) and national defense (10%).

Interestingly, “the economy” has actually declined as the most important priority from 45%, while education has increased from 8% last year, homeland security from 8% and national defense from 7%.

--A question about the most significant threat to the United States and our allies yielded comparable results as in 2008. Currently, 22% cite terrorism compared to 21% in 2008. The global economic recession was included this year for the first time and was mentioned by 15%. Dependence on Middle East oil declined to 14% from 24% in 2008.

--Public concern about a foreign country or terrorist organization launching a missile using a weapon of mass destruction against the United States remains unchanged from 2008. Last year 22% said it is a real threat and someone will do it and that is almost the same at 21%. Last year 36% said that there is a good chance that it could happen and 38% reported the concern this year.

--When asked about the threat posed by specific countries 65% are concerned about the threat posed by Iran, 57% are concerned about the threat posed by Pakistan and 56% are concerned about the threat posed by North Korea.

--Americans support several statements made by President Obama about Missile Defense. Specifically, when people were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement, “I actually believe that we need missile defense, because of Iran and North Korea and the potential for them to launch nuclear weapons,” 84% agreed with the statement and 14% disagreed.

Another statement, “The Czech Republic and Poland have been courageous in agreeing to host a defense against missiles. As long as the threat from Iran persists, we will go forward with a missile defense that is cost effective and proven.” More than three out of four Americans (77%) agreed with this statement and 19% disagreed.

--Regarding the missile defense budget, which will decrease by \$1.2 billion or 13% in 2010, 52% were opposed to decreasing the budget while 42% were in favor of decreasing the budget.

--When people were asked their first priority, for recommending to our national leaders where to divert funds for missile defense, 60% would use missile defense funds primarily for protecting the U.S. homeland, 33% would protect deployed U.S. Armed Forces and 5% would protect our allies.

--A question about research and development of new missile defense systems to protect against future missile threats is considered important to 77% of adults and not important to 21% of adults.

--More than half of adults (55%) favor missile defense in space if it makes us and our allies more secure, 23% believe that missile defense in space should only include communication and sensor satellites. Fifteen percent are opposed to missile defense in space for any reason or circumstances.