

ADD ONE/NCC AND AP POLL 2009

followed, even if it comes at the expense of public safety. This result is up from 54% in 2008.

“It is encouraging to see the principles enshrined in the Constitution over 222 years ago are as essential to Americans today as they were when we were initially fighting for those fundamental liberties,” said National Constitution Center President and CEO Linda E. Johnson. “Public opinion is the foundation of our democracy, and as America’s Town Hall, the National Constitution Center is pleased to release this poll reflecting the American outlook, particularly during Constitution Week, as we celebrate the anniversary of the signing of this historic document.”

In a Preamble index of questions, when asked to rate the job performance of the government in fulfilling its mandate, as spelled out by the framers in the Preamble of the Constitution, the public gave lower marks for security-related tasks than for social concerns:

- Making sure the nation is safe from foreign and domestic threats: 58% good job; down from 62% in 2008
- Making sure all Americans feel safe, secure, and free: 53% good job; down from 58% in 2008
- Making sure all Americans are free to pursue happiness now and in the future: 46% good job; down from 55% in 2008
- Making sure all people are treated equally: 48% good job; basically unchanged from 47% in 2008
- Making America a better place: 43% good job; up slightly from 40% in 2008
- Promoting the well-being of all Americans, not just special interests: 38% good job; no percentage change from 2008

Complete poll results are available at <http://surveys.ap.org>.

The poll involved telephone interviews with 1,001 adults nationwide. The survey was conducted from September 3 through 8 by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Media, and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

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About the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

About the AP

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