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NATIONAL: PUBLIC DOESN'T TRUST IRAN ON NUKE DEAL

Obama job rating ticks up

West Long Branch, NJ – A **Monmouth University Poll** taken as the Iran nuclear talks dragged on over the weekend, but before the final agreement was announced, found that nearly half of the American public supports the idea of trying to negotiate a deal to rein in that country's nuclear capabilities. At the same time, few actually believe that Iran will live up to the terms of any such agreement.

About 3-in-4 Americans are aware that the U.S. has been negotiating with Iran to curb that country's nuclear program – 33% have heard a lot and 41% have heard a little. The talks in Vienna have now dragged on for more than two weeks. The poll found that nearly half (49%) of Americans feel that trying to work out a deal with Iran is a good idea, while 36% say it is a bad idea. Another 4% say it is both good and bad and 11% are unsure. Most Democrats (61%) say that talking with Iran on this issue is a good idea while most Republicans (55%) say it is a bad one. A plurality of independents (49%) feel the negotiations are a good idea.

Despite the feeling that getting Iran to the table has been a positive move, very few Americans expect that the Tehran government will live up to any nuclear agreement. A majority of 55% say they would not trust Iran at all to abide by terms that would dismantle its nuclear program and allow independent inspections. Just 35% would trust Iran a little and only 5% would have a lot of trust in Iran to abide by the terms of any agreement. This level of trust is similar to a Monmouth poll taken in January when 59% expressed no trust, 34% a little, and just 4% a lot.

"The pact with Iran faces an uncertain future in Congress. A major sticking point with the American public is a sense that Tehran really can't be trusted to keep its part of the bargain," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

The *Monmouth University Poll* also found that Pres. Barack Obama's job rating with the American public is now a narrowly positive 47% approve to 46% disapprove. This marks a slight improvement from the 44% approve to 46% disapprove rating he held in June. Currently, 80% of

Democrats approve of the president's job performance and an identical 80% of Republicans disapprove. Independents give Obama a slightly negative split at 42% approve and 48% disapprove.

Congress continues to earn a negative 18% approve to 69% disapprove job rating, virtually unchanged from prior polls. Currently, just 28% of Americans feel the country is heading in the right direction while 63% say it is on the wrong track, which is similar to the public mood measured in polls taken over the past few months.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from July 9 to 12, 2015 with 1,001 adults in the United States. This sample has a margin of error of ± 3.1 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Approve	47%	47%	49%	17%	42%	80%
Disapprove	46%	49%	36%	80%	48%	18%
(VOL) No opinion	7%	4%	15%	3%	10%	2%

TREND:	July 2015	June 2015	April 2015	January 2015	December 2014	July 2013
Approve	47%	44%	42%	43%	41%	42%
Disapprove	46%	46%	48%	48%	49%	51%
(VOL) No opinion	7%	10%	10%	8%	10%	6%
Unwtd N	1,001	1,002	1,005	1,003	1,008	1,012

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Approve	18%	18%	21%	23%	13%	22%
Disapprove	69%	73%	57%	67%	73%	71%
(VOL) No opinion	12%	9%	22%	10%	14%	7%

TREND:	July 2015	June 2015	April 2015	January 2015	December 2014	July 2013
Approve	18%	19%	21%	18%	17%	14%
Disapprove	69%	71%	67%	70%	73%	76%
(VOL) No opinion	12%	10%	12%	11%	11%	10%
Unwtd N	1,001	1,002	1,005	1,003	1,008	1,012

3. Would you say things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Right direction	28%	27%	32%	8%	26%	49%
Wrong track	63%	66%	54%	88%	64%	42%
(VOL) Depends	5%	4%	8%	2%	7%	5%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	3%	5%	3%	2%	4%

TREND:	July 2015	June 2015	April 2015	December 2014	July 2013
Right direction	28%	23%	27%	23%	28%
Wrong track	63%	68%	66%	69%	63%
(VOL) Depends	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
(VOL) Don't know	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%
Unwtd N	1,001	1,002	1,005	1,008	1,012

4. The United States is currently negotiating an agreement with Iran to curb that country's nuclear program. How much have you heard about this – a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
A lot	33%	37%	21%	41%	34%	32%
A little	41%	43%	35%	42%	42%	41%
Nothing at all	26%	20%	44%	17%	25%	27%

5. Do you think these negotiations are a good idea or bad idea?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Good idea	49%	49%	52%	38%	49%	61%
Bad idea	36%	39%	28%	55%	36%	24%
(VOL) Some of both	4%	3%	5%	3%	3%	4%
(VOL) Don't know	11%	10%	15%	4%	12%	11%

6. The U.S. is trying to get Iran to agree to dismantle its nuclear program and allow independent inspections. How much would you trust Iran to abide by the terms of such an agreement – a lot, a little, or not at all?

	TOTAL	REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
A lot	5%	4%	7%	1%	6%	7%
A little	35%	33%	43%	28%	33%	45%
Not at all	55%	58%	46%	71%	55%	45%
(VOL) Don't know	5%	4%	5%	1%	5%	3%

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from July 9 to 12, 2015 with a national random sample of 1,001 adults age 18 and older. This includes 700 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 301 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone, in English. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)			
26% Rep	49% Male	31% 18-34	66% White
43% Ind	51% Female	37% 35-54	12% Black
31% Dem		32% 55+	15% Hispanic
			7% Asian/Other

	TOTAL	MARGIN OF ERROR REGISTERED VOTER		PARTY ID		
		Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem
Unweighted N	1,001	840	161	268	402	288
moe	3.1%	3.4%	7.7%	6.0%	4.9%	5.8%

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