

Hillary Clinton's Poll Numbers Come Back Down to Earth

By [msnbc](#)

Global Research, September 11, 2014

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Hillary Clinton's favorability ratings continue to tumble as she reenters the political fray, with 43% of respondents now saying they view her positively, according to a new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, down from a high of 60% in 2009.

But Clinton remains one of only two politicians polled whose favorability rating tops their unfavorable numbers (the other being her husband, former president Bill Clinton). Forty-one percent of respondents hold a negative view of the former first lady and potential 2016 presidential candidate, slightly fewer than those who hold positive views.

Clinton's numbers were [likely destined to fall back to earth](#) as she reentered domestic partisan politics. In recent months, she's increasingly weighed in on hot-button issues like gun control, which is likely to blunt her support among non-Democrats who may have liked her as secretary of state or as a private citizen, but would never support her as a presidential candidate.

George W. Bush's ratings, for instance, have climbed since he left office.

Her husband remains the most popular political figure surveyed, with 56% of respondents holding positive views of the former president and just 21% expressing a negative opinion.

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, who is also eyeing a presidential bid, breaks even with the same number holding favorable and unfavorable views. Among other potential GOP presidential contenders, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul has a net negative four point rating, Mitt Romney is down seven points, and Jeb Bush is down 11 points.

There is somewhat more intensity against Clinton than for her, with 26% saying they hold "very negative" views of Clinton and 21% holding "very positive" views of the former first lady.

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