

## Polls: Huge majority wants National Intelligence Director Clapper prosecuted for perjury

New polls show Americans in various states want the director of national intelligence held to account for lying

By [David Sirota](#)

Global Research, August 16, 2013

[Salon](#)

*There is no longer any doubt that Director of National Intelligence [James Clapper lied to Congress](#). Likewise, there is no doubt that his lie runs afoul of [federal law](#). And, of course, there is no doubt that in terms of its implications for oversight, constitutional precepts and privacy for millions of Americans, his lies were far more serious than those that have gotten [other people prosecuted for perjury](#).*

*The question now is whether his brazen dishonesty will become a political issue — or whether it will simply disappear into the ether.*

As evidenced by President Obama this week [attempting](#) to promote Clapper to head an “independent” NSA reform panel, the White House clearly believes it will be the latter. But a [set of new polls](#) out today suggests such a calculation may be wrong.



James Clapper (Credit: Reuters/Kevin Lamarque)

Commissioned by the Progressive Change Campaign Committee and Credo and conducted by Public Policy Polling in five ideologically diverse states, the surveys find that huge majorities want Clapper prosecuted.

The question posed to respondents was:

Edward Snowden revealed that the Director of National Intelligence lied to Congress about whether the government was collecting millions of phone and Internet records from ordinary Americans. The Director has since admitted he did not tell the truth. Do you think the Director of National Intelligence should be prosecuted for perjury?

In the Democratic states of California and Hawaii, 54 percent and 58 percent of voters, respectively, want him prosecuted. In middle-of-the-road Iowa, it's 65 percent. And in Republican Texas and Kentucky, it is 68 percent and 69 percent, respectively.

These are particularly striking numbers because the "not sure" numbers are relatively small. Oftentimes, Washington scandals have a Las Vegas-style quality to them in that what happens in D.C. stays in D.C. That often means voters don't have strong feelings about a controversy — or don't feel informed enough to have a strong opinion.

But in this case, the polls show relatively few voters expressing such a sentiment. That suggests not only that the NSA story has seeped into the national consciousness, but also that people are specifically aware of — and disgusted by — the rampant lying by the Obama administration.

PCCC is already [running a campaign](#) to try to force a formal investigation into the NSA's activities. Will we soon see ads by congressional candidates criticizing the administration's failure to prosecute Clapper? Last week, D.C. political operatives might have laughed at that idea.

But with these new polls, it doesn't seem so far-fetched. In fact, it seems more and more like shrewd politics — especially if the White House continues to grant de facto immunity to Clapper and [others](#) who hid potentially [illegal](#) and [unconstitutional](#) surveillance from Congress.

*David Sirota is a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist, magazine journalist and the best-selling author of the books "Hostile Takeover," "The Uprising" and "Back to Our Future." E-mail him at [ds@davidsirota.com](mailto:ds@davidsirota.com), follow him on Twitter @davidsirota or visit his website at [www.davidsirota.com](http://www.davidsirota.com).*

The original source of this article is [Salon](#)  
Copyright © [David Sirota](#), [Salon](#), 2013

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [David Sirota](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)