

# *New Survey Says Most U.S. Voters Support End of Blockade of Cuba*

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Havana, March 12 (RHC) -- A new survey in the United States has revealed that a majority bi-partisan voters back the Barack Obama administration's new policy towards Cuba and the end of the over 50-year U.S. economic, commercial and financial blockade of the island nation.

The poll released on Wednesday by "Beyond the Beltway," an initiative by the Benenson Strategy Group and SKDKnickerbocker, showed that most U.S. voters back the lifting of restrictions on trade, trips as well as the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Washington and Havana.

A total 64 percent of those surveyed supported the end of the blockade, including 74 percent of Democrats, 51 percent of Republicans and 64 percent of independent voters.

Meanwhile, a large 72-percent majority of voters favored the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, greater trade exchange and more trips to Cuba. Some 64 percent of Republicans under 50 years of age say that recent political changes are beneficial for

the interests of Cuba and the United States, the poll revealed as cited by Cubadebate website.

This national survey explains the tendencies we have observed over the past few years as they continue towards firm bipartisan support for our new course of action about Cuba, said Ricardo Herrero, director of CubaNow, a group of activists based in the U.S. city of Miami that advocates the opening towards Cuba.

The Benenson Strategy Group is a Democrat-oriented survey entity, which has also launched polls for New Jersey Senator Bob Menendez, a Cuban-American senator who openly supports Washington's blockade of Cuba.

The survey seems to confirm other polls carried out shortly after the December 17th announcement by Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro about the re-establishment of diplomatic relations. Such polls revealed solid support against the blockade and for the re-establishment of relations.

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