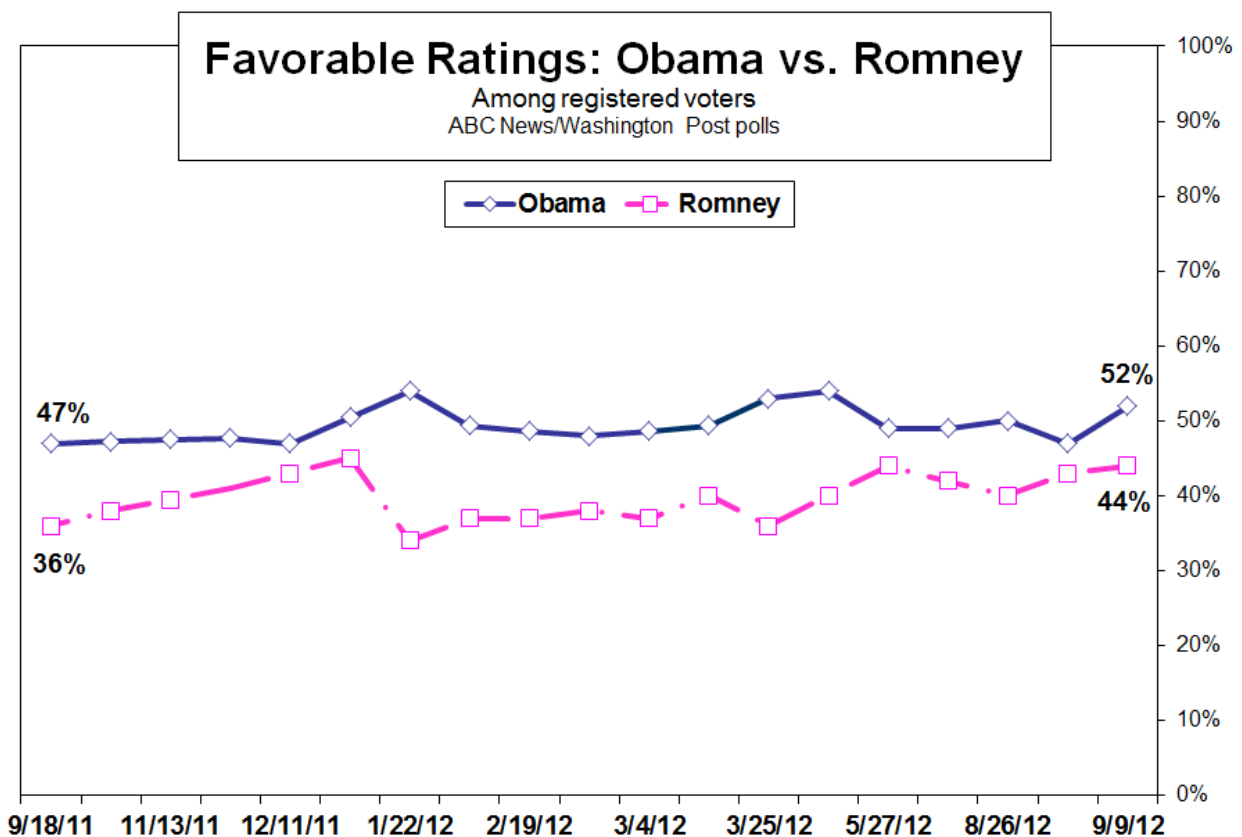


Obama Resurfaces in Favorability, Re-opening the Popularity Gap

Barack Obama crossed into majority favorability among registered voters for the first time since spring in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll, further evidence of a convention boost. Mitt Romney trails in popularity, albeit with a number near his own high.

The shifts in this survey poll re-open the popularity gap between Obama and Romney – now 8 points in Obama’s favor, 52 percent vs. Romney’s 44 percent, after closing to 4 points last week (within the margin of error), after the GOP convention and before the Democrats had their say.

Obama’s favorable vs. unfavorable ratings, 52-45 percent, are back in the positive zone, +7 percentage points, after dipping below the waterline last week, 47-49 percent. Romney, at 44-49 percent, remains underwater, for the 12th time out of 14 ABC/Post favorability polls this year.



Consistent with a larger ABC/Post political poll released yesterday, Obama has improved in his own party, with his with his popularity among Democrats matching his high for this election, 89 percent. He's at a new high among lower- and lower-middle income adults, and has moved back to positive ratings among women, 53-44 percent, after dipping negative among women, a first for Obama, immediately following the Republican convention.

Obama's rating among independent registered voters, by contrast, is essentially flat – 46-49 percent favorable-unfavorable this week, 45-51 percent last week. Nor did he see any change among political moderates in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#).

Romney's rating is essentially unchanged from last week's 43-48 percent, although with some notable results among subgroups – his best favorability scores since May among moderates (albeit just 40 percent) and independents (44 percent), and his best to date among "very" conservative registered voters, 81 percent favorable.

	Favorable-unfavorable ratings (among registered voters)					
	Obama			Romney		
	Now	9/2	8/26	Now	9/2	8/26
All	52-45%	47-49	50-47	44-49	43-48	40-51
Men	50-47	50-47	48-49	45-48	45-47	46-47
Women	53-44	46-50	51-45	44-50	41-48	34-55
Democrats	89-10	84-14	87-12	13-80	16-75	11-83
Republicans	12-88	7-92	11-88	86-12	89- 9	81-16
Independents	46-49	45-51	44-48	44-49	36-53	35-51
Liberals	82-16	78-21	81-17	13-83	14-82	10-82
Moderates	56-40	57-40	61-34	40-52	36-54	29-61
Conservatives NET	28-70	24-73	21-77	69-27	67-25	69-25
Somewhat cons.	36-62	30-67	22-75	62-32	61-31	67-24
Very cons.	16-84	13-84	19-80	81-18	78-14	71-27
Liberal Dems	95- 5	90- 9	92- 8	7-92	10-87	8-88
Conservative Reps	7-93	4-95	6-92	91- 9	92- 8	86-11
<\$50K	61-35	49-48	54-44	34-56	39-49	36-56
\$50-100K	39-61	41-55	46-49	59-39	49-43	43-47
\$100K+	50-47	55-42	44-54	47-49	42-51	48-48

HISTORY – While neither Romney (in particular) nor Obama are in a strong position in terms of personal popularity, others have done worse in previous post-convention polling – a comparative improvement especially for Romney, whose favorability ratings before the convention were the lowest for any presumptive nominee in pre-convention ABC/Post polls dating to 1984.

In previous post-convention polling, two candidates have received at least numerically lower favorability ratings than Obama's and Romney's now – John Kerry in 2004 and Mike Dukakis in 1988. Several others were either numerically lower than Obama now, or in a similar position.

		Post-convention favorability - registered voters		
		Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
Barack Obama	9/9/12	52	45	3
Mitt Romney	9/9/12	44	49	7
Barack Obama	9/7/08	58	36	7
John McCain	9/7/08	59	36	5
John Kerry	9/8/04	36	42	23
George W. Bush	9/8/04	51	39	11
Al Gore	9/6/00	59	32	9
George W. Bush	9/6/00	58	31	11
Bill Clinton	9/4/96	58	38	4
Bob Dole	9/4/96	50	38	12
Bill Clinton	8/23/92	54	36	10
George H.W. Bush	8/23/92	53	42	5
Mike Dukakis	9/19/88	42	36	22
George H.W. Bush	9/19/88	49	40	11
Walter Mondale	9/11/84	47	49	4
Ronald Reagan	9/11/84	60	38	2

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cell phone Sept. 5-9, 2012, among a random national sample of 837 registered voters. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 4 points, including design effect. The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by SSRS/Social Science Research Solutions of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

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Full results follow.

1. Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of (ITEM)? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

Among registered voters:

a. Barack Obama

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/9/12	52	34	18	45	13	33	3
9/2/12	47	28	19	49	14	34	4
8/26/12	50	29	20	47	13	34	4

8/5/12	49	31	19	47	12	35	4
5/27/12	49	29	20	48	14	34	3
4/15/12	54	31	24	43	13	30	3
3/25/12	53	33	19	45	14	31	2
2/26/12	48	26	22	50	12	38	2
1/22/12	54	30	24	43	12	31	3
12/11/11	47	24	23	50	15	35	3
9/18/11	47	23	24	49	15	33	6
4/17/11	52	34	18	46	13	34	2
4/25/10	57	37	20	42	12	30	2
1/15/10	58	38	19	40	13	27	2
11/2/08 LV	63	47	16	33	7	26	4
10/23/08 LV	63	47	16	34	7	27	3
10/11/08	64	44	20	33	12	21	3
9/7/08	58	35	23	36	12	24	7
8/22/08	62	37	25	34	13	21	4
6/15/08	62	34	27	34	11	22	4
4/13/08	57	28	30	39	14	24	4
1/10/08	63	31	32	30	14	16	7
11/1/07	51	20	31	36	16	20	13
2/25/07	56	22	34	29	15	14	15
1/19/07	49	NA	NA	28	NA	NA	23
12/11/06	47	25	23	22	15	7	30

b. Mitt Romney

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/9/12	44	20	24	49	17	32	7
9/2/12	43	20	22	48	18	30	10
8/26/12	40	21	19	51	18	33	9
8/5/12	42	19	23	50	17	33	8
5/27/12	44	16	28	44	19	25	12
4/15/12	40	13	27	48	24	23	12
3/25/12	36	8	28	52	24	28	12
3/18/12	40	12	28	47	22	25	13
3/4/12	37	9	28	50	22	27	13
2/26/12	38	6	31	48	24	24	14
2/19/12	37	9	28	49	23	26	14
2/12/12	37	9	28	46	20	26	17
1/22/12	34	7	27	49	25	24	17
1/8/12	45	11	34	36	19	17	19
11/27/11	41	9	32	40	21	20	19
10/16/11	38	9	29	38	22	16	24
9/18/11	36	7	30	33	19	15	31

*** END ***