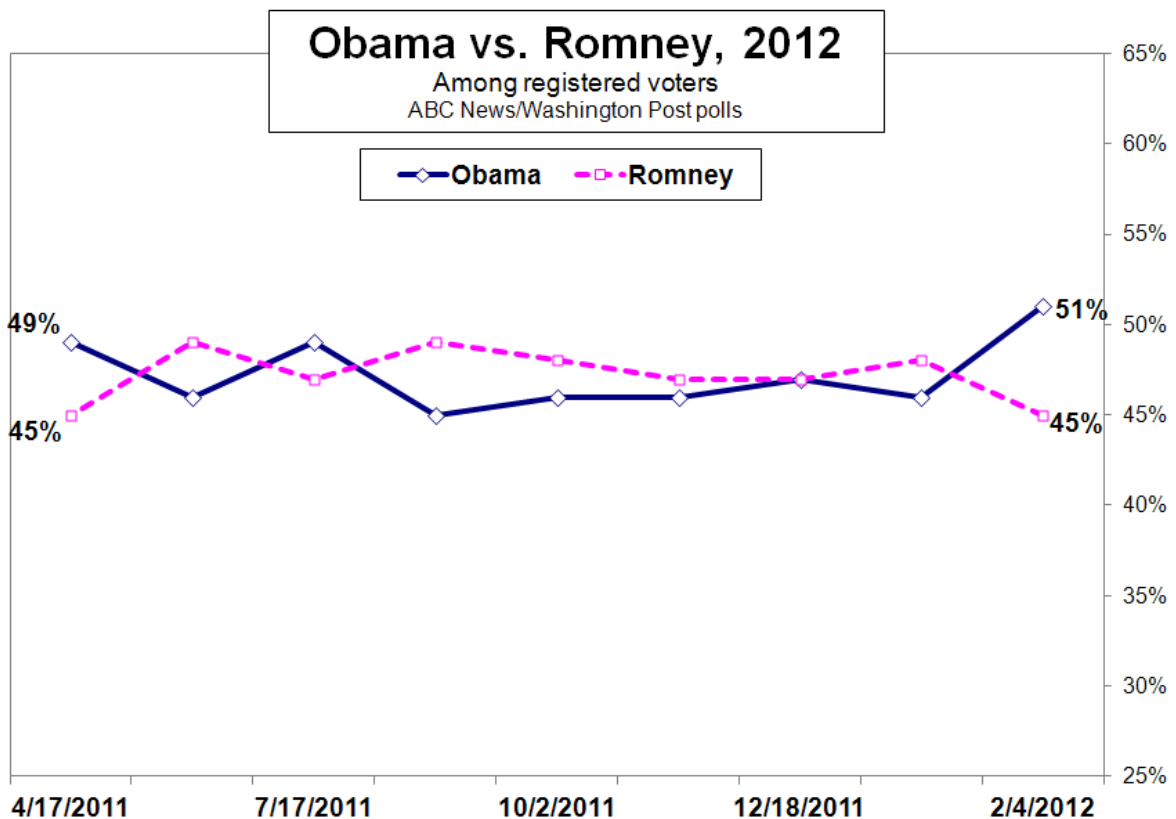


Economic Gains, Questions on Romney Boost Obama's Prospects for November

Mitt Romney has solidified his position for the Republican nomination but lost ground in the main event, with improved economic indicators and questions about Romney's wealth and taxes lifting Barack Obama to a head-to-head advantage for the first time this cycle.

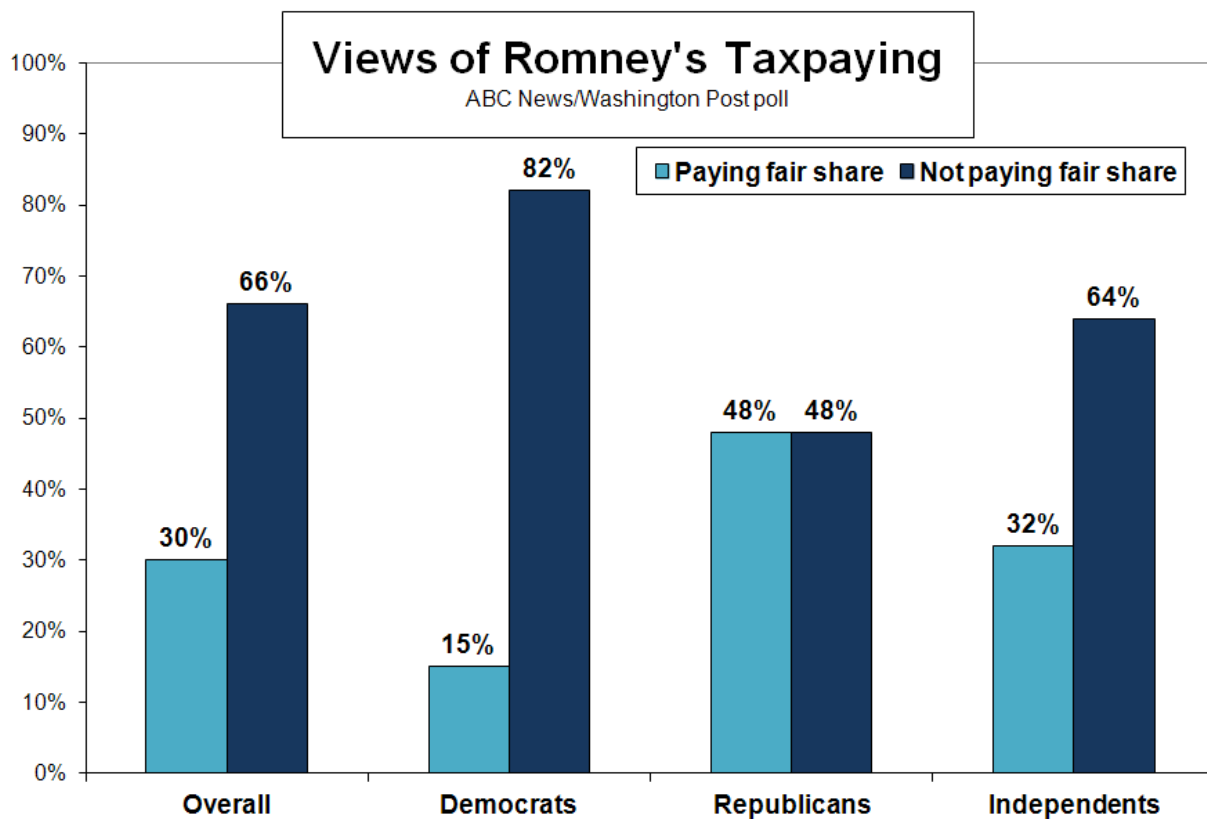
Fifty percent of Americans in this new ABC News/Washington Post poll approve of Obama's job performance, the most since spring. Fifty percent say he deserves re-election, better than Bill Clinton at the start of his re-election year and as good as George W. Bush a month before he won a second term. And Obama now leads Romney among registered voters by a slight 51-45 percent, the first time either has cracked 50 percent in a series of matchups since spring.



Two chief factors are at play. One is the economy's gradual but unmistakable improvement, marked by the newly reported January unemployment rate of 8.3 percent, the lowest since a month after Obama took office. The president's approval rating on handling the economy, while just 44 percent, is its best in 13 months.

The other: questions focused on Romney's wealth, his low tax burden and, relatedly, his ability to connect with average Americans. Notably, 52 percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), say the more they hear about Romney the less they like him – double the number who like him more.

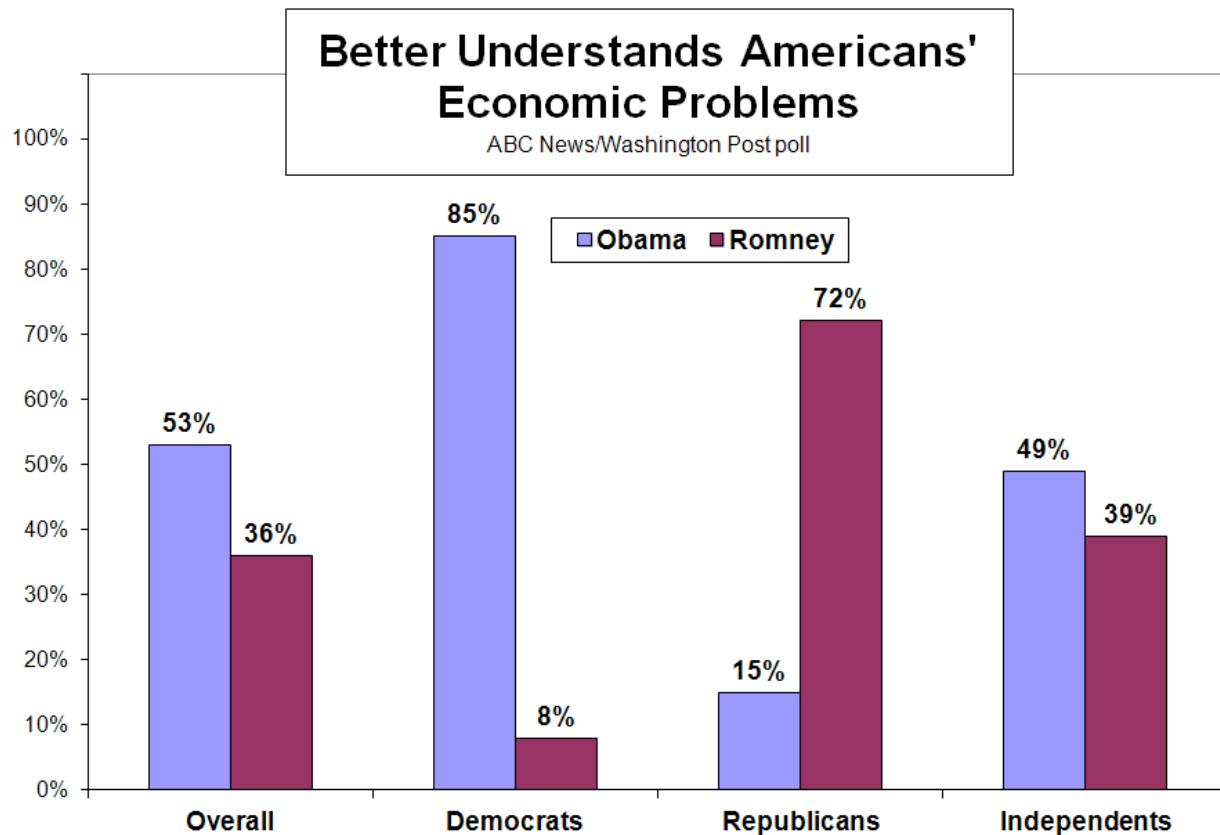
Based on his roughly 14 percent tax rate on 2010 income of about \$22 million, the public by a broad 66-30 percent says Romney is not paying his fair share of taxes; even nearly half of Republicans say so, as do half of very conservative Americans. The public by 53-36 percent, a 17-point margin, thinks Obama better understands the economic problems people are having. Obama leads Romney by 55-37 percent in trust to better protect the interests of the middle class, and remarkably, by 10 points, 52-42 percent, in trust to handle taxes.



While the situation may be unusual given Romney's particular wealth- and tax-related vulnerabilities, competitiveness on taxes can be a telling indicator. Mike Dukakis, Al Gore and John Kerry trailed on taxes in 1988, 2000 and 2004, and lost. Clinton and Obama led on taxes in 1992 and 2008, and won. (The record's not perfect; Clinton trailed on taxes in 1996, and won anyway.)

SCRIPT – Each election follows its own script, and there's time aplenty for 2012's to play out. Romney may be in a weakened position given the internecine GOP primaries, Obama in a better one given improved economic data and his well-received State of the Union address. Among

Americans who've heard or read about his address, 57 percent approve. Far fewer, 36 percent, approve of what they've been hearing from the Republican candidates overall.

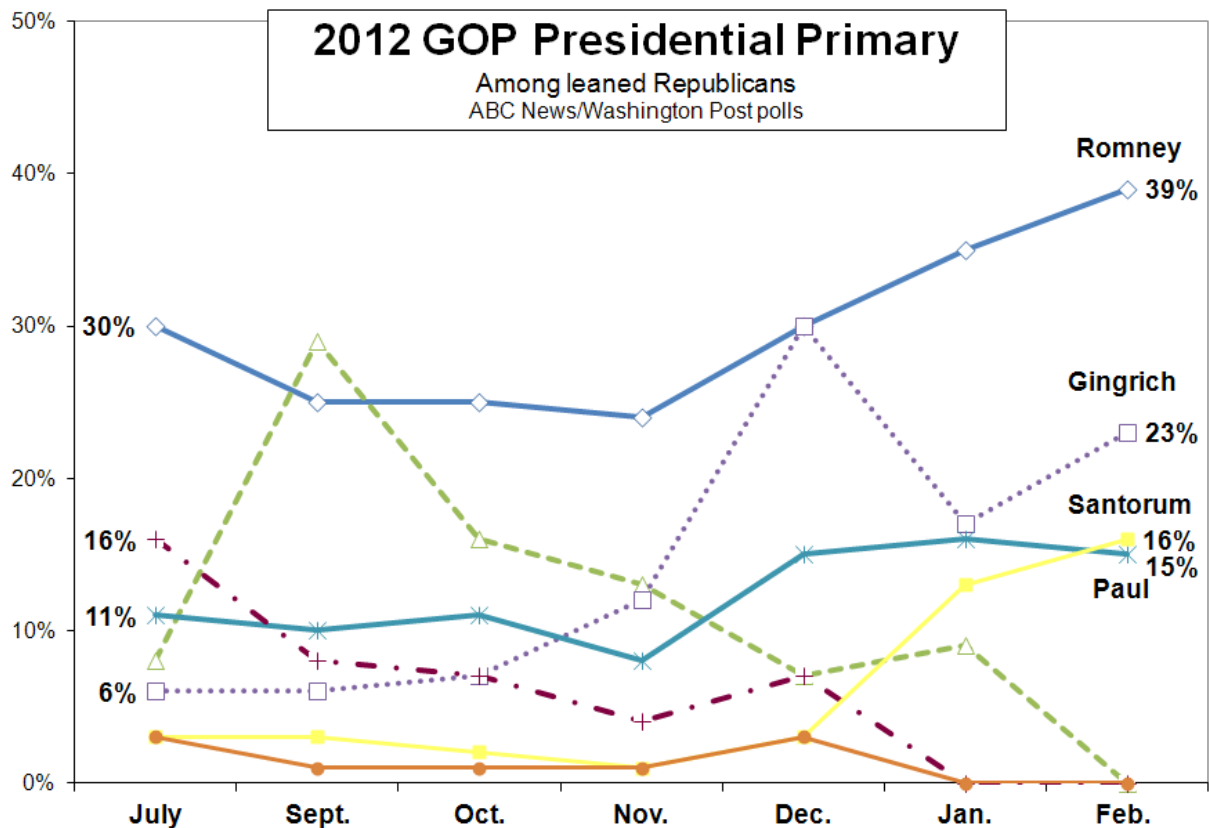


But it's true too that Romney's fortune – if elected he'd be one of the wealthiest presidents in history – is a delicate issue given the public's long-running economic discontent. Sixty-eight percent think the tax code favors the wealthy in this country; 56 percent feel that way strongly. Seventy-two percent favor raising taxes on millionaires; 59 percent say so strongly. Both include majorities of Republicans.

Life, though, is hardly more comfortable for Romney's top opponent, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. He trails Obama by 54-43 percent among registered voters. And while Obama's majority support against Romney is new, the president has held a majority against Gingrich in four out of five ABC/Post matchups since spring.

Moreover, while Americans by 52-24 percent like Romney less, rather than more, as they learn more about him, they say the same about Gingrich even more broadly, by 60-19 percent.

GOP RACE – In the GOP contest, among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, Romney leads Gingrich by a substantial margin, 39-23 percent, with 16 percent for Rick Santorum and 15 percent for Ron Paul. (It's very similar when winnowed to registered voters, 38-24-18-14 percent.)

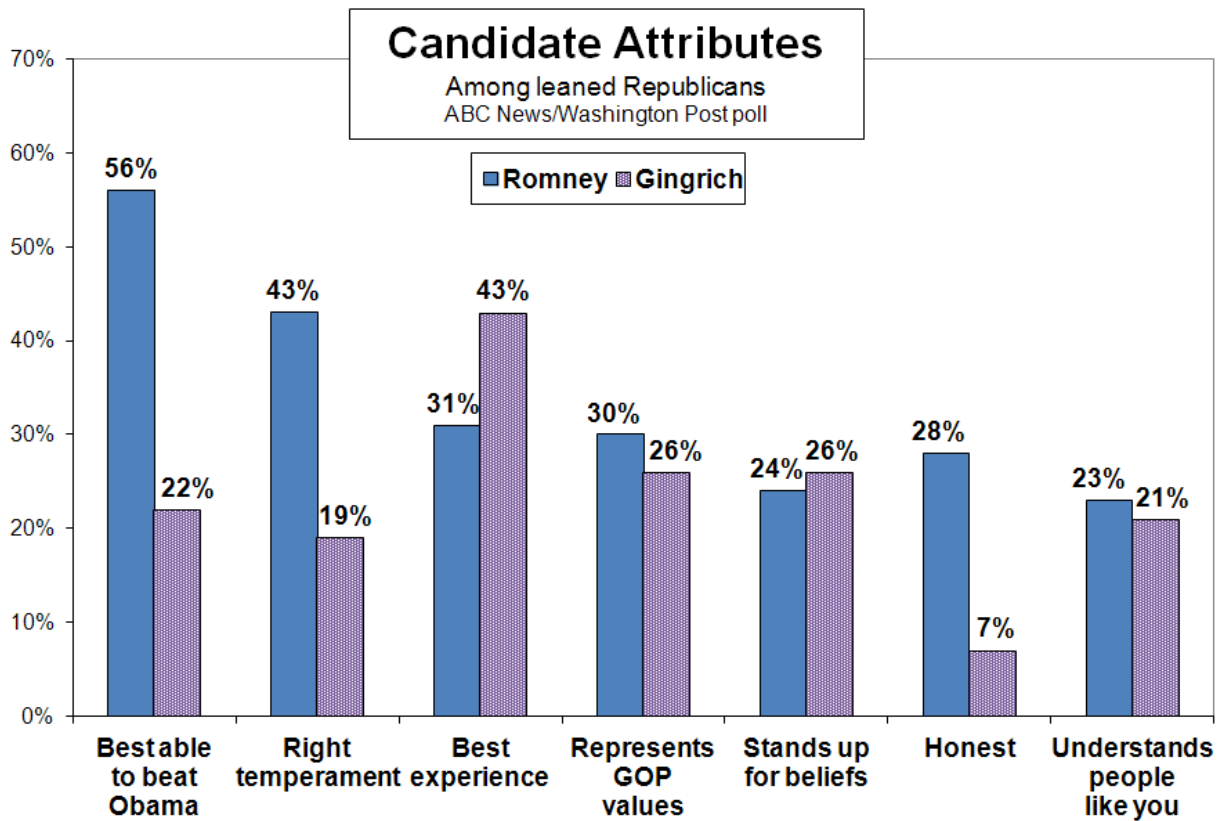


Despite his loss to Gingrich in South Carolina, 71 percent of leaned Republicans expect Romney to win the nomination, essentially the same as in mid-January, a week before that primary. And drop-outs may not make a difference: Those who don't support either Romney or Gingrich now divide about evenly between them as their second choice, 41 percent to 37 percent.

Romney, though, is not without challenges in his own party's nominating process. Electability remains his standard; 56 percent of leaned Republicans pick him over his competitors as best able to defeat Obama in November. (Gingrich has improved by 12 points on this score, but only to 22 percent.) On others, though, Romney's numbers are far softer:

- Gingrich leads by a dozen points among leaned Republicans as having the best experience for the job, moving ahead of Romney on this quality after essentially an even split last month.
- All four GOP candidates run about evenly on who better “understands the problems of people like you” – Romney 23 percent, Gingrich and Santorum 21 percent apiece, Paul 18. That makes empathy a relative weakness for Romney within the GOP tent, as well as beyond it.
- Romney also only runs about evenly with one or more of his competitors on three other qualities – best representing core Republican values, standing up for his beliefs and honesty and trustworthiness. The latter, though, is especially weak for Gingrich; a mere 7

percent rate him as the most honest and trustworthy candidate, last on the list by a wide margin.



One other quality again works for Romney: Forty-three percent say he has the best personality and temperament for the job. That dives to 19 percent for Gingrich, with Santorum and Paul close by.

Ratings on issues tell a similar tale. Romney leads his competitors in trust to handle the economy, 14 points ahead of Gingrich. But they're much closer on both social issues and the deficit, with 7-point improvements for Gingrich on both.

Romney's support for the nomination is its best to date among "somewhat" conservatives, 43 percent, and mainline Republicans (as opposed to Republican-leaning independents), 41 percent. He remains much weaker among very conservatives and strong supporters of the Tea Party movement, with 25 percent support in both groups.

RELIGION – Romney, a Mormon, generally has struggled to win support from evangelical Protestants in the primaries (though he did better in Saturday's caucuses in Nevada), a result again marked in this survey: He leads Gingrich among non-evangelical white Protestants by 51-24 percent, yet among their evangelical counterparts Gingrich has 30 percent support, Romney and Santorum 27 percent each. It should be noted, though, that in a general-election matchup

white evangelicals do side with Romney over Obama, 66-27 percent – and that’s as good as Gingrich does against Obama in this group, 64-30 percent.

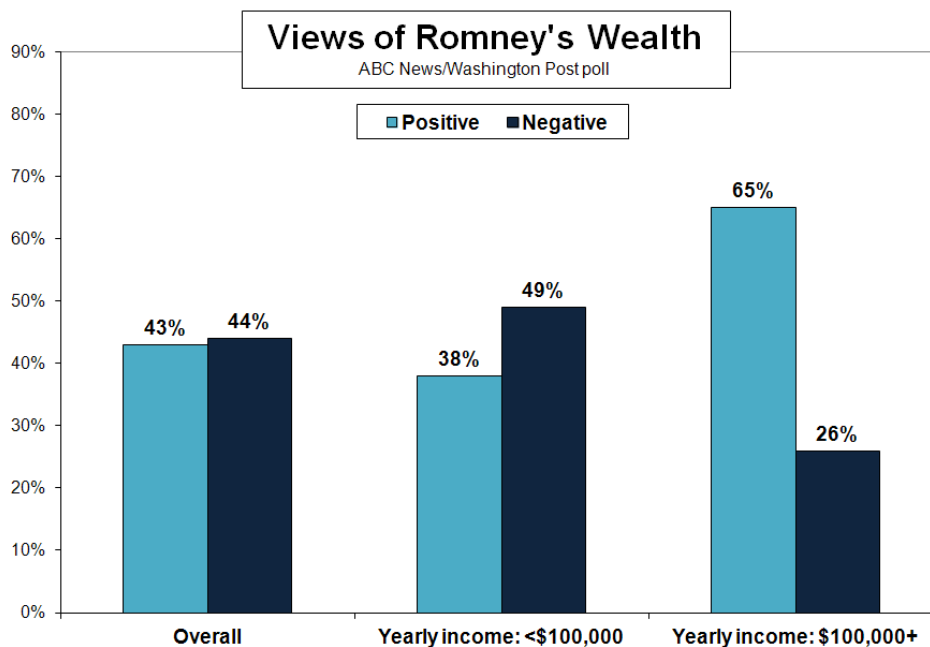
In another question, 38 percent of Americans say it’s important to them that a candidate for president shares their religious beliefs; 62 percent say not. Uniquely among evangelical white Protestants – just fewer than two in 10 Americans overall – this flips: Sixty-eight percent in this group call it important to have a candidate who shares their religious beliefs, 32 percent not.

In the primary that helps Gingrich; in the general election, though, it helps Romney vs. Obama, but only among those who say shared religious beliefs matter “a great deal.” Romney leads Obama in this group by 55-36 percent. Among all other Americans, though, Obama leads by a similar margin, 56-40 percent.

One further result finds that more people call Romney’s religion a major reason to oppose him, 17 percent, than a major reason to support him, 4 percent – a net negative by 13 points, stretching to 22 points among evangelical white Protestants (25 percent negative, 3 percent positive). However, 77 percent of Americans overall, and 71 percent of white evangelicals, say it’s not a major factor one way or the other.

POSITIVES and NEGATIVES – Romney’s business experience overall is a substantial net positive for him; 48 percent call it a major reason to support him, vs. just 12 percent who call it a major reason to oppose him. Digging deeper, though, there are compuncions: The public divides evenly, 43-44 percent, on whether Romney’s wealth is a positive (an achievement of the American dream) or a negative (a result of advantages others don’t have).

There’s a big income gap on this question. Among people with household incomes less than \$100,000 a year, just 38 percent see Romney’s success as an achievement of the American dream. Among those with higher incomes, this soars to 65 percent.

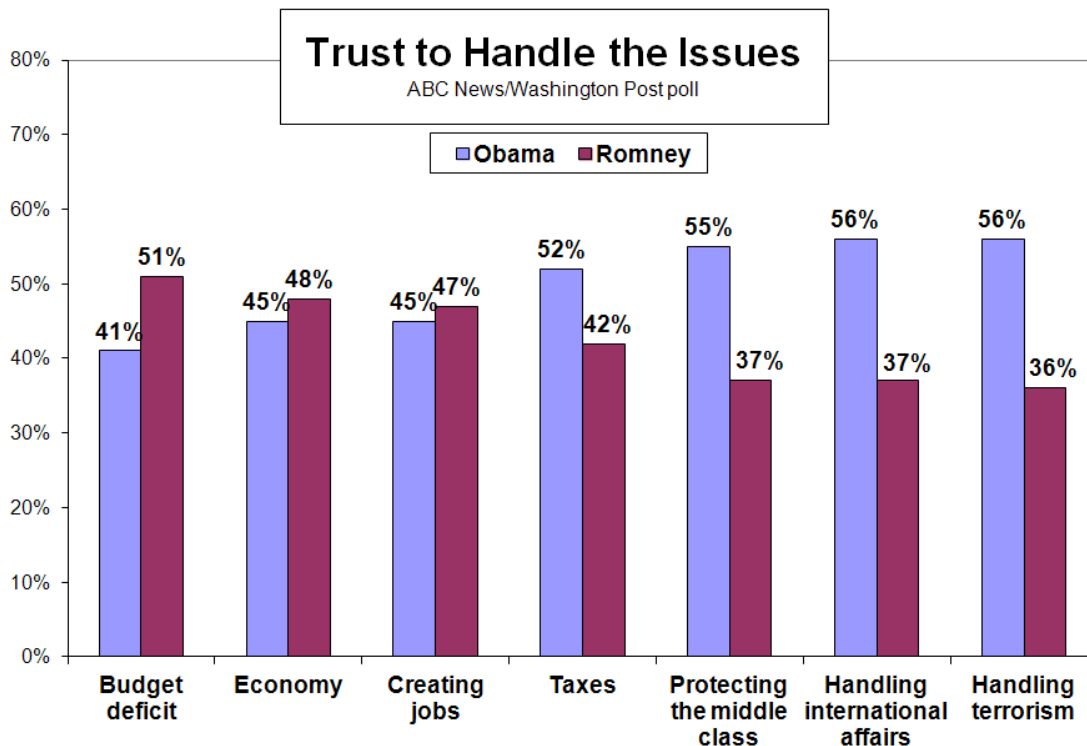


There's a division, as well, on his work buying and restructuring companies: Thirty-six percent think Romney cut more jobs than he created; 32 percent, created more than cut. The high number of undecideds makes this issue open ground for Romney and his opponents to contest.

For Gingrich, his work as speaker in the early 1990s is seen more as a major reason to oppose than to support him, 33 percent vs. 21 percent. Far more damaging are views of his work since leaving office as a consultant for companies with an interest in federal policy making: this is seen as a major reason to oppose rather than support him by 44-12 percent, net negative by 32 points.

Then there's Obama. His handling of the economy is a net negative, but by less than might be expected: Forty-seven percent call this a major reason to oppose him, 39 percent to support him, negative by 8 points. By contrast, his handling of the threat of terrorism is a broad net positive, by a 36-point margin.

OBAMA and ROMNEY/ ISSUES – There are continued challenges for Obama. A negative turn for the economy (watch gasoline prices) could be very damaging. His approval rating on creating jobs is flat this month at 44 percent. Just 38 percent approve of his handling of the deficit, while 58 percent disapprove, a serious weakness unless he can make the case that it was deficit spending that turned the economy. And fewer than half, 47 percent, approve of his handling of taxes, even if he's leading Romney on the issue.



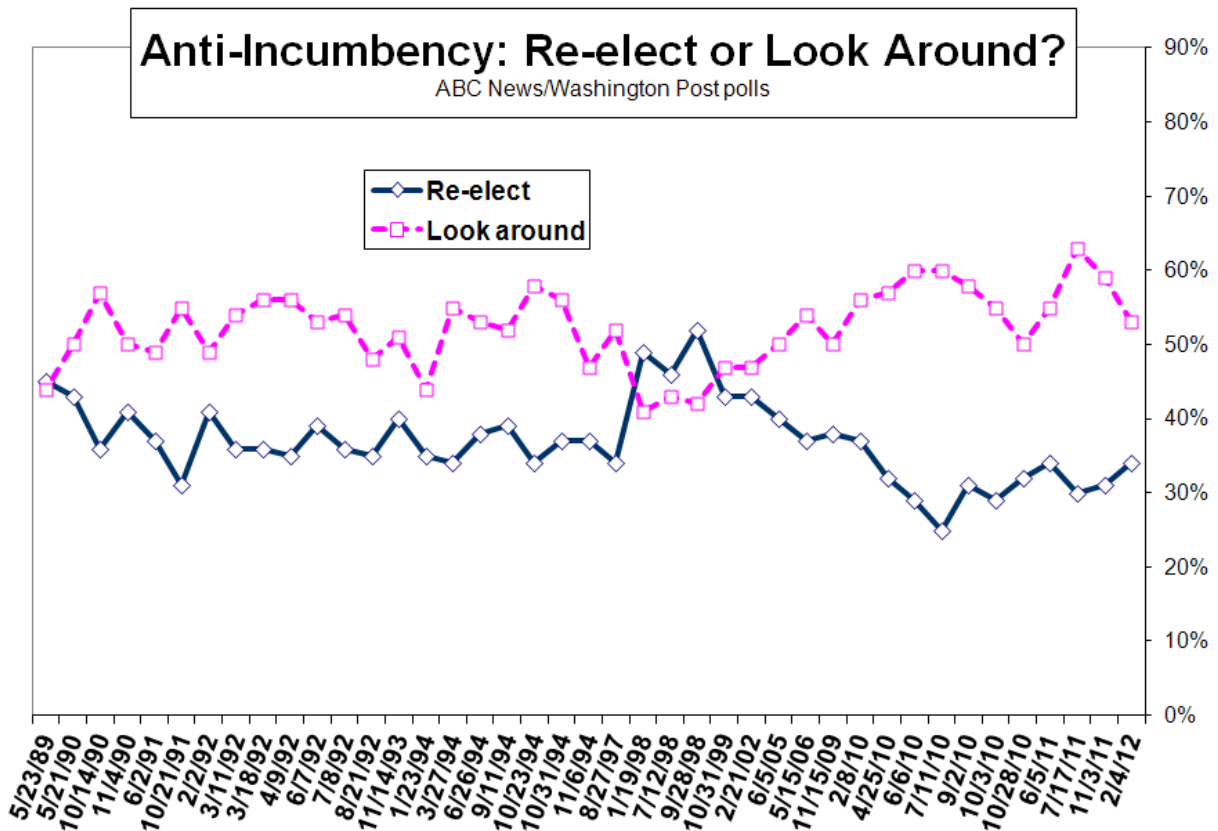
On the key issues, handling the economy overall and creating jobs, Romney and Obama are running about evenly – 48-45 percent and 47-45 percent, respectively; and on the deficit Romney opens a 10-point lead, 51-41 percent.

But Obama has other strengths, beyond trust on the middle class and his advantage on taxes. Challenged for lack of foreign policy and military knowledge in 2008, both are strong for him now: He leads Romney by 56-37 percent in trust to handle international affairs and by a similar 56-36 percent in trust to handle terrorism, two points he’s likely to stress in the campaign ahead.

Obama faces a record partisan gap: Eighty-five percent of Democrats approve of his job performance while just 9 percent of Republicans agree. Among independents - key swing voters in presidential elections – 47 percent approve while 50 percent disapprove, underscoring Obama’s work ahead.

More than anything, the 2012 campaign remains about the economy and its impact on public perceptions. A vast 89 percent continue to rate the economy negatively; however, the number who give it the worst rating, “poor,” has declined to 42 percent, from 50 percent in July. It matters: Among registered voters who say the economy’s merely not so good, Obama leads Romney by 62-35 percent. Among those who say it’s poor, Romney leads, 65-29.

Largely based on these levels of economic discontent, 75 percent describe themselves as dissatisfied or even angry with the way the federal government is working – broad continued rejection of the status quo, albeit down slightly from a record 80 percent in July and November alike. That can put incumbents at serious risk.



Indeed, on a basic measure of anti-incumbency, 53 percent of Americans say they're inclined to look for someone new to support for Congress, rather than vote to re-elect their representative. While a majority, that's down sharply from a record 69 percent in August – a result that buys some breathing room for incumbents generally, and for Obama in particular.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Feb. 1-4, 2012, among a random national sample of 1,000 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 4.0 points for the full sample. The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

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

Media contacts: [David Ford](#), (212) 456-7243, and [Julie Townsend](#), (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
2/4/12	50	29	22	46	11	36	3
1/15/12	48	25	23	48	11	37	4
12/18/11	49	25	24	47	13	34	4
11/3/11	44	22	22	53	15	37	3
10/2/11	42	21	21	54	14	40	4
9/1/11	43	21	22	53	16	38	3
8/9/11*	44	18	26	46	9	37	10
7/17/11	47	25	22	48	14	35	5
6/5/11	47	27	20	49	13	37	4
5/2/11**	56	29	27	38	14	24	6
4/17/11	47	27	21	50	12	37	3
3/13/11	51	27	24	45	12	33	4
1/16/11	54	30	23	43	15	28	3
12/12/10	49	24	25	47	15	32	4
10/28/10	50	27	23	45	11	34	5
10/3/10	50	26	24	47	13	34	3
9/2/10	46	24	22	52	14	38	3
7/11/10	50	28	22	47	12	35	3
6/6/10	52	30	22	45	12	33	4
4/25/10	54	31	23	44	11	33	3
3/26/10	53	34	20	43	8	35	3
2/8/10	51	29	22	46	12	33	3
1/15/10	53	30	24	44	13	32	2
12/13/09	50	31	18	46	13	33	4
11/15/09	56	32	23	42	13	29	2
10/18/09	57	33	23	40	11	29	3
9/12/09	54	35	19	43	12	31	3
8/17/09	57	35	21	40	11	29	3
7/18/09	59	38	22	37	9	28	4

6/21/09	65	36	29	31	10	22	4
4/24/09	69	42	27	26	8	18	4
3/29/09	66	40	26	29	9	20	5
2/22/09	68	43	25	25	8	17	7

*Washington Post

**Washington Post/Pew Research Center

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling [ITEM]? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

2/4/12 - Summary Table*

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
a. The economy	44	23	22	53	11	41	3
b. Creating jobs	44	20	24	51	13	38	5
c. Taxes	47	20	27	47	17	30	6
d. The federal budget deficit	38	18	20	58	14	44	4

*Half sample asked items a,b; other half sample asked items c,d.

Trend:

a. The economy

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
2/4/12	44	23	22	53	11	41	3
1/15/12	41	19	22	57	11	46	2
12/18/11	41	17	24	56	13	43	2
11/3/11	38	18	20	61	13	48	2
10/2/11	35	17	19	61	13	48	4
9/1/11	36	15	21	62	15	47	2
7/17/11	39	18	22	57	15	43	3
6/5/11	40	20	20	59	10	49	2
5/2/11*	40	18	22	55	16	39	4
4/17/11	42	23	19	57	11	46	2
3/13/11	43	22	21	55	13	41	2
1/16/11	46	22	24	51	13	38	2
12/12/10	43	21	22	54	15	39	3
10/28/10 RV	44	21	23	54	15	39	3
10/3/10	45	22	23	53	13	41	2
9/2/10	41	20	21	57	13	44	2
7/11/10	43	20	23	54	13	41	4
6/6/10	50	26	24	49	12	37	2
4/25/10	49	24	25	49	10	39	2
3/26/10	45	23	22	52	12	40	3
2/8/10	45	22	23	53	15	38	2
1/15/10	47	22	24	52	13	39	1
12/13/09	46	23	24	52	12	40	2
11/15/09	51	26	25	47	12	36	2
10/18/09	50	29	22	48	13	35	1
9/12/09	51	28	24	46	13	33	2
8/17/09	52	27	25	46	13	33	2
7/18/09	52	29	23	46	10	35	3
6/21/09	56	28	28	41	13	27	3
4/24/09	58	31	28	38	13	25	4
3/29/09	60	34	25	38	12	26	3
2/22/09	60	NA	NA	34	NA	NA	6

*Washington Post/Pew Research Center

b. Creating jobs

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
2/4/12	44	20	24	51	13	38	5
1/15/12	45	21	25	51	11	40	3
12/18/11	39	17	22	55	13	43	5
11/3/11	40	20	20	57	13	44	3
10/2/11	35	17	18	60	14	47	4
9/1/11	36	15	21	62	18	45	2
7/17/11	41	16	25	52	13	39	7
2/8/10	47	25	22	51	15	35	3

c. Taxes

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
2/4/12	47	20	27	47	17	30	6
1/15/12	45	21	24	47	13	34	8
11/3/11	41	21	20	53	18	35	6
10/2/11	42	22	20	51	14	37	7
7/17/11	45	24	21	47	13	34	8
1/16/11	50	23	27	44	14	31	6
8/17/09	51	23	28	40	12	28	8
4/24/09	56	NA	NA	38	NA	NA	6

d. The federal budget deficit

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
2/4/12	38	18	20	58	14	44	4
1/15/12	35	15	20	58	11	48	7
9/1/11	36	18	18	60	14	46	4
7/17/11	38	22	16	60	14	45	2
6/5/11	33	16	17	61	12	49	6
4/17/11	39	21	18	58	11	47	3
3/13/11	39	18	20	55	13	42	6
1/16/11	43	21	22	52	11	41	6
12/12/10	38	16	22	55	19	36	7
9/2/10	39	18	20	58	13	45	3
7/11/10	40	20	20	56	11	45	4
6/6/10	39	22	17	56	13	42	6
4/25/10	40	20	20	55	14	42	5
3/26/10	43	22	21	52	14	38	5
2/8/10	40	17	23	56	16	40	4
1/15/10	38	18	20	56	15	41	6
12/13/09	37	16	21	56	12	44	6
11/15/09	42	19	23	53	10	43	5
10/18/09	45	20	25	51	14	37	4
9/12/09	39	17	22	55	13	42	6
8/17/09	41	19	22	53	12	41	5
7/18/09	43	19	24	49	11	38	8
6/21/09	48	22	26	48	13	35	5
4/24/09	51	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	7
3/29/09	52	NA	NA	43	NA	NA	5

3. Do you happen to have heard or read about Obama's State of the Union address last week?

	Yes	No	No opinion
2/4/12	62	37	*

3a. (IF HEARD OR READ) Would you say you approve or disapprove of most of what he said?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
2/4/12	57	37	6

3/3a NET:

	NET	Approve	Disapprove	No op.	Did not hear or read	No opinion
2/4/12	62	36	23	4	37	*

4. Based on his performance in office so far, would you say Obama deserves a second term as president, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
2/4/12	50	48	2

George W. Bush:

10/24/04	LV	48	49	3
10/7/04	LV	51	47	2
9/8/04	RV	52	45	4

Clinton:

5/22/96		56	42	2
1/21/96		47	49	4
1/24/95		41	55	3
8/16/94		38	56	6

5. I am going to mention four phrases and ask you which one best describes how you feel about the way the federal government works. Do you feel enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	NET	Positive Enthusi- astic	Satis- fied	NET	Negative Dissat- isfied	Angry	None/ Other	No opinion
2/4/12	24	2	22	75	49	26	NA	*
11/3/11	20	2	18	80	49	31		*
7/17/11	20	2	18	80	54	25		1
6/5/11	30	3	27	69	44	25		1
10/28/10	27	4	23	72	51	21		1
10/3/10	29	4	25	71	46	25		*
9/2/10	22	2	20	78	52	25		*
7/11/10	36	4	32	64	43	21		1
6/6/10	30	2	28	69	45	25		1
4/25/10	30	4	26	69	51	18		1
2/8/10	32	3	29	67	48	19		*
10/29/03	42	2	41	57	42	15		*
11/4/02	LV	49	4	45	50	41	9	1
11/3/02	LV	50	5	45	49	40	9	1
11/2/02	LV	51	6	45	49	40	9	1
10/27/02		50	4	47	49	42	7	1
2/21/02		56	7	49	43	36	7	1
12/15/00		59	4	55	39	34	6	1
2/14/99		52	3	48	47	35	12	1
9/28/98		50	4	46	49	36	12	1
8/16/98*		41	2	39	57	46	11	1
1/19/98		46	2	43	53	45	8	1
8/27/97		34	2	33	64	52	11	1
3/17/96		29	2	27	70	54	16	1
5/14/95		48	3	45	50	41	9	1

1/4/95		29	2	27	69	53	16	*	1
11/6/94	RV	28	2	26	70	49	21	1	1
10/31/94		26	1	25	73	55	18	1	1
10/23/94		28	1	26	71	52	20	*	*
10/9/94		25	2	24	72	53	19	2	*
9/11/94		26	2	25	73	53	20	NA	*
3/27/94		30	1	29	68	48	20	1	1
2/28/93		33	4	29	66	50	16	*	*
10/4/92	RV	17	1	16	81	56	25	1	1
7/8/92		23	1	22	76	53	23	*	1
6/7/92		21	1	20	79	58	21	*	1
4/9/92		21	1	20	79	55	24	1	*
3/18/92		22	1	21	77	54	23	1	*
3/11/92		18	1	17	80	60	20	1	1

*After 8/16/98: No "None/other" option recorded.

6. On another subject, would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No	
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion	
2/4/12	11	*	11	89	46	42	*	
11/3/11	10	1	9	89	43	47	*	
7/17/11	10	1	9	90	40	50	*	
6/5/11	11	1	10	89	46	44	*	
1/16/11	13	1	12	87	45	41	*	
10/28/10	9	*	9	90	41	49	1	
10/3/10	9	1	8	90	40	50	*	
9/2/10	8	*	7	92	40	53	0	
7/11/10	10	1	9	90	44	46	0	
6/6/10	12	*	11	88	43	45	0	
1/16/09	5	1	5	94	32	62	*	
9/22/08	9	*	9	91	34	57	*	
4/13/08	10	1	9	90	39	51	*	
2/1/08	19	1	18	81	43	38	0	
12/9/07	28	3	25	72	40	32	*	
11/1/07	35	3	32	64	39	26	*	
4/15/07	42	5	37	57	37	20	*	
12/11/06	50	7	42	50	36	14	*	
10/22/06	55	10	45	45	28	17	*	
10/8/06	47	7	40	53	37	16	*	
3/5/06	43	5	38	57	37	19	*	
1/26/06	40	5	35	60	37	23	*	
12/18/05	45	5	39	55	38	17	*	
11/2/05	35	3	32	65	36	29	*	
9/11/05	40	3	37	59	37	22	1	
6/5/05	44	3	40	56	38	19	*	
4/24/05	37	2	35	63	44	20	*	
9/26/04	RV	46	3	43	53	38	15	1
8/29/04	RV	45	3	41	55	37	18	*
7/25/04		46	4	42	53	39	14	*
6/20/04		45	4	41	55	38	17	*
4/18/04		43	4	39	57	39	18	*
3/7/04		39	2	37	60	38	22	1
1/18/04		42	3	39	58	42	16	0
12/21/03		42	4	39	57	41	16	1
10/29/03		33	1	32	67	45	23	*
9/13/03		30	2	27	70	45	25	*
8/11/03		32	2	30	68	43	25	*
4/30/03		35	1	34	64	46	19	*
2/9/03		28	1	27	72	49	23	*
1/20/03		25	1	25	74	48	26	1

12/15/02		35	1	33	65	44	21	1
11/4/02	LV	28	1	27	72	55	17	1
11/3/02	LV	27	1	26	72	56	17	1
11/2/02	LV	29	1	28	71	54	17	*
9/26/02		31	2	28	69	50	19	*
7/15/02		39	3	36	61	44	17	1
2/21/02		30	1	29	69	51	18	*
1/27/02		31	1	29	69	50	19	*
9/20/01		38	3	35	60	47	14	2
9/9/01		33	1	32	66	47	19	*
7/30/01		50	3	46	50	39	12	*
4/22/01		50	3	47	50	40	9	*
1/15/01		70	10	59	29	24	6	1
10/27/00	LV	86	24	61	14	11	3	*
10/26/00	LV	86	24	61	14	11	3	*
6/11/00		74	17	57	26	19	6	*
2/27/00		80	25	55	20	14	5	*
10/31/99		74	18	56	26	18	7	1
9/2/99		76	19	57	23	16	6	1
3/14/99		80	22	58	19	15	4	1
11/1/98		73	12	61	26	21	5	1
11/1/98	LV	78	13	65	22	19	3	*
10/13/97		61	12	49	39	27	11	*

7. Do you think the current U.S. tax system favors the (middle class), favors the (wealthy), or treats both groups about equally? Do you think it favors the middle class/wealthy strongly or somewhat?

	---Favors middle class---			-----Favors wealthy-----			Both equally	No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly		
2/4/12	9	5	4	68	12	56	19	4

8. Do you support or oppose raising taxes on Americans with incomes over one million dollars a year? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
2/4/12	72	59	14	24	9	16	3
10/2/11	75	NA	NA	23	NA	NA	2

9-13a held for release.

14. How closely are you following the presidential race: very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

	---- Closely -----			---- Not closely -----			No opinion	
	NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not too	At all		
2/4/12	76	33	43	24	14	9	*	
1/15/12	71	30	42	28	16	12	*	
12/18/11	69	26	43	31	18	13	*	
11/3/11	65	24	41	34	17	17	*	
10/2/11	64	24	40	36	23	13	0	
9/1/11	66	25	40	34	20	14	*	
7/17/11	61	18	43	39	23	15	*	
6/5/11	61	22	39	38	23	15	*	
11/3/08	RV	91	64	28	8	5	4	*
11/2/08	RV	90	63	28	9	5	4	*
11/1/08	RV	90	61	29	10	6	4	*

10/31/08	RV	89	60	29	11	7	4	*
10/30/08	RV	89	59	29	11	7	4	*
10/29/08	RV	89	60	30	10	6	4	*
10/28/08	RV	90	59	31	10	6	4	*
10/27/08	RV	91	60	31	9	5	4	*
10/26/08	RV	90	60	30	9	5	4	*
10/25/08	RV	89	59	30	11	6	5	*
10/24/08	RV	89	60	28	11	6	5	*
10/23/08	RV	88	58	30	12	6	6	*
10/22/08	RV	89	57	32	11	6	5	*
10/21/08	RV	90	58	32	10	6	4	*
10/20/08	RV	90	57	34	10	6	4	*
10/19/08	RV	90	57	33	10	6	3	*
10/11/08	RV	92	59	33	8	4	4	*
9/29/08	RV	89	58	31	11	7	5	*
9/22/08	RV	91	55	36	9	5	4	0
9/7/08	RV	89	51	38	10	6	5	*
8/22/08	RV	84	42	42	16	11	5	*
7/13/08	RV	79	36	42	21	12	9	1
6/15/08		75	34	41	25	12	13	*
5/11/08		83	39	44	17	13	5	0
4/13/08		84	37	47	16	11	5	*
3/2/08		84	42	42	15	11	4	*
2/1/08		81	35	46	19	12	7	*
1/12/08		79	32	47	21	15	6	*
12/9/07		72	21	51	28	19	8	*
11/1/07		67	21	46	33	22	12	0
9/30/07		69	21	48	30	21	10	*
7/21/07		70	22	48	30	20	10	*
6/1/07		66	18	48	34	22	13	*
4/15/07		66	20	45	34	20	14	*
2/25/07		65	20	44	35	25	10	*

Call for full trend.

15. Thinking about what you're hearing from the candidates for the Republican nomination for president - overall would you say you approve or disapprove of most of what they've been saying?

	Approve	Disapprove	Depends (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	36	54	4	7

16/17. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state. Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?*

	Cert.	Prob.	50-50	Less than 50-50	Will not vote (vol.)	No primary/caucus (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
2/4/12	55	17	10	5	8	0	6	*
1/15/12	65	15	11	4	4	*	1	1
12/18/11	71	14	8	6	1	*	NA	*
2/1/08	68	10	9	8	4	*	1	0
1/12/08	69	12	12	4	3	*	*	0
12/9/07	74	11	9	3	2	*	NA	*
11/1/07	68	12	11	6	3	0	"	0

*Wording adjusted for respondents in states where primaries or caucuses have been held.

18/19/20. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) If the Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state was being held today, and the candidates were (Newt Gingrich), (Ron Paul), (Mitt Romney), (Rick Santorum). For whom would you vote? Which candidate would you lean toward?*

2/4/12 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE

	----- Among gen pop -----						
	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3	10/2	9/1	7/17
Michele Bachmann*	0	0	7	4	7	8	16
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	23	16	4	7
Newt Gingrich	23	17	30	12	7	6	6
Jon Huntsman*	0	*	3	1	1	1	3
Ron Paul	15	16	15	8	11	10	11
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3
Rick Perry	*	9	7	13	16	29	8
Mitt Romney	39	35	30	24	25	25	30
Rick Santorum	16	13	3	1	2	3	3
Other (vol.)	1	1	*	*	2	2	1
None of them (vol.)	1	2	1	2	5	5	2
Would not vote (vol.)	*	1	*	3	1	2	1
No opinion	5	6	4	9	7	5	8

	----- Among RVs -----						
	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3	10/2	9/1	7/17
Michele Bachmann*	0	0	7	4	7	9	17
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	23	17	5	7
Newt Gingrich	24	16	30	12	9	5	6
Jon Huntsman*	0	*	2	1	1	1	3
Ron Paul	14	16	15	9	9	10	10
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3
Rick Perry	*	9	6	14	17	30	8
Mitt Romney	38	36	30	25	25	25	30
Rick Santorum	18	13	4	1	2	3	3
Other (vol.)	1	1	*	0	2	2	1
None of them (vol.)	*	1	1	2	4	4	2
Would not vote (vol.)	0	1	1	1	1	1	*
No opinion	5	7	4	8	7	5	9

*Michele Bachmann and Jon Huntsman vote in 1/15 and 2/4 and Rick Perry 2/4 includes those who said they voted for them in previous primary/caucus. Those who chose Huntsman in 1/15 who have yet to vote were re-allocated to their second choice candidate.

21. (IF NAMED A CANDIDATE) Do you support (CANDIDATE) strongly, or somewhat?

	Strongly	Somewhat	No opinion
All candidates:			
2/4/12	45	54	*
2/4/12 RV	48	52	*
10/2/11	36	64	0
10/2/11 RV	38	62	0
9/1/11	34	66	*
9/1/11 RV	32	68	*
7/17/11	34	66	0
7/17/11 RV	35	65	0
Mitt Romney:			
2/4/12	42	57	*
9/1/11	15	84	1
7/17/11	29	71	0

22. (AMONG NON-ROMNEY SUPPORTERS) Is/Was your vote more for (CANDIDATE) or more against Romney?

	For candidate	Against Romney	No opinion
2/4/12	73	24	3

23. (AMONG ROMNEY SUPPORTERS) Is/Was your vote more for Romney, more against Gingrich, or what?

	For Romney	Against Gingrich	Other/neither/ not a factor (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	74	11	9	6

24/25. (IF NAMED A CANDIDATE) Who would your second choice be? Which candidate would you lean toward as your second choice?

2/4/12 - NET LEANED SECOND CHOICE

	----- Among gen pop -----				----- Among RVs -----			
	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3	2/4	1/15	12/18	11/3
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	11	9	NA	NA	10	9
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	17	NA	NA	NA	17
Newt Gingrich	31	24	20	13	32	26	21	14
Jon Huntsman	NA	NA	4	5	NA	NA	3	5
Ron Paul	11	16	12	9	11	14	13	9
Rick Perry	NA	12	11	13	NA	11	10	11
Mitt Romney	25	23	21	19	23	24	22	21
Rick Santorum	25	15	7	2	27	16	7	3
Other (vol.)	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1
No one/None of them (vol.)	4	3	5	4	3	3	6	4
Would not vote (vol.)	1	2	1	*	1	1	1	1
No opinion	3	2	7	6	3	2	5	5

26. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Just your best guess, who do you think will win the Republican nomination for president?

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	5
Newt Gingrich	15	7	35
Jon Huntsman	NA	*	2
Ron Paul	6	4	6
Rick Perry	NA	5	3
Mitt Romney	71	72	40
Rick Santorum	*	2	0
Other (vol.)	1	*	*
No opinion	7	9	8

27. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Regardless of who you may support, which of the Republican candidates do you trust most to handle (ITEM)?

Full item wording:

- The economy
- Social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage
- The federal budget deficit

2/4/12 - Summary Table

Social Federal

	Economy	issues	deficit
Newt Gingrich	23	22	27
Ron Paul	17	13	16
Mitt Romney	37	25	33
Rick Santorum	11	19	9
Other (vol.)	1	1	1
All of them (vol.)	1	*	1
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	1	1	*
No one/None of them (vol.)	7	6	7
No opinion	4	12	7

Trend:

a. The economy

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11	11/3/11	9/1/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	7	4	5
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	19	4
Newt Gingrich	23	17	25	13	7
Jon Huntsman	NA	3	3	2	*
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	11
Ron Paul	17	14	13	7	8
Rick Perry	NA	8	7	10	22
Mitt Romney	37	35	31	22	22
Rick Santorum	11	8	1	1	2
Other (vol.)	1	1	*	0	2
All of them (vol.)	1	1	*	1	0
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	1	1	*	2	2
No one/None of them (vol.)	7	3	6	2	4
No opinion	4	9	7	17	12

*11/3 and previous, "which of the Republican candidates do you think would do the best job handling the economy"

b. Social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	13
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA
Newt Gingrich	22	15	15
Jon Huntsman	NA	3	3
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA
Ron Paul	13	10	12
Rick Perry	NA	9	7
Mitt Romney	25	25	26
Rick Santorum	19	14	4
Other (vol.)	1	1	0
All of them (vol.)	*	1	*
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	1	*	*
No one/None of them (vol.)	6	6	6
No opinion	12	16	12

c. The federal budget deficit

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	9
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA
Newt Gingrich	27	20	25
Jon Huntsman	NA	2	2
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA
Ron Paul	16	15	15
Rick Perry	NA	7	6
Mitt Romney	33	33	25
Rick Santorum	9	8	2

Other (vol.)	1	0	0
All of them (vol.)	1	*	*
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	*	1	*
No one/None of them (vol.)	7	6	8
No opinion	7	8	9

28. Regardless of who you may support, would you say that the more you hear about [ITEM] (the more you like him), or the more you hear about [ITEM] (the less you like him)?

2/4/12 - Summary Table

	More you like	Less you like	Makes no diff. (vol.)	Haven't heard enough (vol.)	No opinion
a. Mitt Romney	24	52	12	6	6
b. Newt Gingrich	19	60	10	5	6

Trend among leaned Republicans:

a. Mitt Romney

	More you like	Less you like	Makes no diff. (vol.)	Haven't heard enough (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	37	39	14	4	7
10/2/11	38	35	10	11	6

b. Newt Gingrich

	More you like	Less you like	Makes no diff. (vol.)	Haven't heard enough (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	31	47	13	3	5

29. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Again, regardless of who you may support, which of the Republican candidates do you think [ITEM]? (IF NEEDED) I can repeat the list. Is it (Newt Gingrich), (Ron Paul), (Mitt Romney), or (Rick Santorum)?

Full item wording:

- Best understands the problems of people like you
- Best reflects the core values of the Republican Party
- Is the most honest and trustworthy
- Has the best chance to defeat Barack Obama in the general election
- Has the best experience to be president
- Is the most likely to stand up for what he or she believes in
- Has the best personality and temperament to serve effectively as president

2/4/12 - Summary Table

	Understands	Values	Honest	Defeat	Experience	Believes	Personality
Newt Gingrich	21	26	7	22	43	26	19
Ron Paul	18	11	21	7	10	21	12
Mitt Romney	23	30	28	56	31	24	43
Rick Santorum	21	20	24	2	4	17	15
Other (vol.)	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
All of them (vol.)	1	*	2	2	0	3	*
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	2	2	1	3	2	2	2
No one/None of them (vol.)	8	1	10	4	3	2	1
No opinion	6	10	7	4	7	5	6

Trend:

a. Best understands the problems of people like you

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11	11/3/11	9/1/11	7/17/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	14	6	9	11
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	21	3	5
Jon Huntsman	NA	3	5	1	1	2
Newt Gingrich	21	13	18	11	6	4
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	19	23
Ron Paul	18	16	13	7	8	9
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Rick Perry	NA	10	7	11	17	5
Mitt Romney	23	21	20	17	13	18
Rick Santorum	21	13	4	1	2	3
Other (vol.)	1	*	*	0	1	1
All of them (vol.)	1	2	1	1	1	1
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	2	*	1	2	3	1
No one/None of them (vol.)	8	12	10	6	8	4
No opinion	6	9	6	16	10	12

b. Best reflects the core values of the Republican Party

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11	11/3/11	9/1/11	7/17/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	13	5	10	11
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	13	3	4
Newt Gingrich	26	25	23	19	6	9
Jon Huntsman	NA	3	3	1	1	1
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	20
Ron Paul	11	9	10	4	6	8
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Rick Perry	NA	10	7	10	19	7
Mitt Romney	30	26	23	20	18	19
Rick Santorum	20	13	5	3	4	3
Other (vol.)	1	0	0	0	*	1
All of them (vol.)	*	1	1	1	1	*
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	2	1	1	2	5	1
No one/None of them (vol.)	1	4	4	2	2	1
No opinion	10	10	11	20	14	14

c. Is the most honest and trustworthy

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11	11/3/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	15	6
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	22
Newt Gingrich	7	11	13	8
Jon Huntsman	NA	3	5	2
Ron Paul	21	18	14	8
Rick Perry	NA	8	6	7
Mitt Romney	28	23	22	17
Rick Santorum	24	14	7	2
Other (vol.)	0	*	0	0
All of them (vol.)	2	1	1	1
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	1	2	1	2
No one/None of them (vol.)	10	12	12	7
No opinion	7	8	5	17

d. Has the best chance to defeat Barack Obama in the general election

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11	11/3/11	9/1/11	7/17/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	3	1	4	7
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	21	1	2
Newt Gingrich	22	10	28	5	5	6
Jon Huntsman	NA	1	3	*	1	2
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	NA	8	14

Ron Paul	7	7	9	3	4	3
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2
Rick Perry	NA	5	3	11	30	6
Mitt Romney	56	57	38	33	20	32
Rick Santorum	2	5	0	0	1	1
Other (vol.)	0	0	*	0	1	1
All of them (vol.)	2	5	3	6	4	7
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	3	1	2	2	5	2
None of them (vol.)	4	2	4	3	4	4
No opinion	4	7	8	13	10	11

e. Has the best experience to be president

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11	7/17/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	4	7
Herman Cain	NA	NA	NA	3
Newt Gingrich	43	34	43	16
Jon Huntsman	NA	2	3	2
Ron Paul	10	11	8	6
Rick Perry	NA	7	5	8
Mitt Romney	31	30	23	27
Rick Santorum	4	6	1	2
Sarah Palin	NA	NA	NA	11
Tim Pawlenty	NA	NA	NA	1
Other (vol.)	1	0	0	1
All of them (vol.)	0	*	0	2
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	2	1	1	1
No one/None of them (vol.)	3	2	4	4
No opinion	7	7	7	11

f. Is the most likely to stand up for what he believes in

	2/4/12	1/15/12	12/18/11
Michele Bachmann	NA	NA	17
Newt Gingrich	26	19	23
Jon Huntsman	NA	3	3
Ron Paul	21	19	16
Rick Perry	NA	11	6
Mitt Romney	24	24	20
Rick Santorum	17	12	4
Other (vol.)	1	0	*
All of them (vol.)	3	4	2
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	2	1	2
No one/None of them (vol.)	2	2	1
No opinion	5	5	6

g. Has the best personality and temperament to serve effectively as president

	2/4/12	1/15/12
Jon Huntsman	NA	4
Newt Gingrich	19	13
Ron Paul	12	9
Rick Perry	NA	8
Mitt Romney	43	40
Rick Santorum	15	12
Other (vol.)	1	0
All of them (vol.)	*	*
Any 2 or more equally (vol.)	2	2
No one/None of them (vol.)	1	2
No opinion	6	10

30. How much does it matter to you that a candidate for president shares your religious beliefs - does it matter a great deal, somewhat, not so much, or not at all?

	---- Matters -----			-- Does not matter ---			
	NET	Great deal	Smwt	NET	so much	Not at all	No opinion
2/4/12	38	18	20	62	16	46	*

Among leaned Republicans:

2/4/12	43	24	19	57	18	39	0
--------	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

31. In his work as a corporate investor, do you think Mitt Romney did more to (create jobs) or more to (cut jobs)?

	Create jobs	Cut jobs	No opinion
2/4/12	32	36	32

Among leaned Republicans:

2/4/12	51	24	24
1/15/12	50	28	23

32. Do you think of Romney's wealth as more of a (positive because it suggests he has achieved the American dream) or as more of a (negative because it suggests he benefited from opportunities that are not available to most people)?

	Positive	Negative	No opinion
2/4/12	43	44	13

Among leaned Republicans:

2/4/12	63	28	9
--------	----	----	---

33. Romney paid about a 14 percent federal tax rate on income of about 22 million dollars last year. Do you think he is or is not paying his fair share of taxes? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	--- Paying fair share ---			- Not paying fair share -			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
2/4/12	30	15	15	66	16	50	4

Among leaned Republicans:

2/4/12	49	30	19	48	15	32	3
--------	----	----	----	----	----	----	---

34. For each item I name, please tell me if it is a major reason to (support) that candidate, a major reason to (oppose) that candidate, or not a major factor?

2/4/12 - Summary Table

	Major reason to support	Major reason to oppose	Not a major factor	No op.
a. Romney's business experience	48	12	34	6
b. Romney's Mormon religion	4	17	77	2
c. Gingrich's performance as Speaker of the House in the early 1990's	21	33	37	9
d. Gingrich's consulting work for companies with an interest in federal policymaking	12	44	37	7
e. Obama's handling of the economy	39	47	13	2
f. Obama's handling of the threat of terrorism	56	20	21	3

2/4/12 - Summary Table, among leaned Republicans

	Major reason to support	Major reason to oppose	Not a major factor	No op.
a. Romney's business experience	67	5	24	4
b. Romney's Mormon religion	4	18	75	3
c. Gingrich's performance as Speaker of the House in the early 1990's	37	20	37	7
d. Gingrich's consulting work for companies with an interest in federal policymaking	14	35	44	7
e. Obama's handling of the economy	9	83	6	2
f. Obama's handling of the threat of terrorism	34	38	27	1

Trend:

a. Romney's business experience

	Major reason to support	Major reason to oppose	Not a major factor	No opinion
2/4/12	48	12	34	6

Among leaned Republicans:

2/4/12	67	5	24	4
12/18/11	62	9	24	5

b. Romney's Mormon religion

	Major reason to support	Major reason to oppose	Not a major factor	No opinion
2/4/12	4	17	77	2

Among leaned Republicans:

2/4/12	4	18	75	3
12/18/11*	18	13	64	5

*"Romney's religious beliefs"

c-f. No trend.

35/36. If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Barack Obama, the Democrat) and ([ITEM], the Republican), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Obama) or toward (ITEM)?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - GEN POP

2/4/12 - Summary Table

	Obama	Rep.	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
a. Mitt Romney	52	43	*	1	2	2
b. Newt Gingrich	55	40	*	1	2	1

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - REG VOTERS

2/4/12 - Summary Table

	Obama	Rep.	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
a. Mitt Romney	51	45	*	1	1	1
b. Newt Gingrich	54	43	*	1	1	1

Trend:

a. Mitt Romney

	Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	52	43	*	1	2	2
1/15/12	46	47	*	2	3	2
12/18/11	49	46	*	2	2	1
11/3/11	48	45	*	3	2	1
10/2/11	47	46	*	3	1	2
9/1/11	46	47	*	2	3	2
7/17/11	51	44	*	2	1	2
6/5/11	47	47	*	2	1	2
4/17/11	49	45	*	3	1	2
2/4/12 RV	51	45	*	1	1	1
1/15/12 RV	46	48	*	2	2	2
12/18/11 RV	47	47	*	2	2	1
11/3/11 RV	46	47	*	3	2	1
10/2/11 RV	46	48	*	2	1	2
9/1/11 RV	45	49	*	2	2	2
7/17/11 RV	49	47	*	2	1	1
6/5/11 RV	46	49	*	2	1	2
4/17/11 RV	49	45	*	3	1	1

b. Newt Gingrich

	Obama	Gingrich	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	55	40	*	1	2	1
1/15/12	53	38	*	4	4	2
12/18/11	51	42	1	3	2	1
6/5/11	52	42	1	3	1	1
4/17/11	54	39	*	3	2	1
2/4/12 RV	54	43	*	1	1	1
1/15/12 RV	52	40	*	3	3	2
12/18/11 RV	51	43	*	3	2	1
6/5/11 RV	50	44	1	2	1	2
4/17/11 RV	54	39	*	4	2	1

37. Regardless of who you support, which candidate do you trust to do a better job [ITEM] - (Obama) or (Romney)?

2/4/12 - Summary Table*

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. Handling the economy	45	48	1	4	2
b. Creating jobs	45	47	1	3	4
c. Protecting the middle class	55	37	1	4	2
d. Handling international affairs	56	37	1	3	3
e. Handling taxes	52	42	*	3	3
f. Handling the federal budget deficit	41	51	*	4	4
g. Handling terrorism	56	36	1	3	4

*Full sample asked item a; half sample asked items b,c,d; other half sample asked items e,f,g.

Trend:

a. Handling the economy

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	45	48	1	4	2

Compare to: "trust more to handle the economy"

		Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
11/3/08	LV	54	39	1	4	2
11/2/08	LV	54	40	1	4	1
11/1/08	LV	55	40	1	3	1
10/31/08	LV	54	40	1	3	2
10/30/08	LV	54	41	1	3	2
10/29/08	LV	53	41	1	2	2
10/28/08	LV	52	42	1	3	2
10/27/08	LV	52	43	1	3	2
10/26/08	LV	52	42	1	3	3
10/25/08	LV	53	42	*	3	2
10/24/08	LV	55	40	1	2	2
10/23/08	LV	56	39	1	2	2
10/22/08	LV	56	38	1	3	2
10/21/08	LV	55	38	1	4	2
10/20/08	LV	55	38	1	4	2
10/19/08	LV	55	39	1	4	1
10/11/08	RV	53	37	1	7	2
9/29/08	RV	50	43	1	3	2
9/22/08	RV	53	39	1	4	3
9/7/08	RV	47	42	1	4	6
8/22/08	RV	50	39	2	5	4
7/13/08		54	35	2	6	3
6/15/08		52	36	2	5	5
5/11/08		48	38	2	8	4
3/2/08		49	37	2	6	6

b. Creating jobs

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	45	47	1	3	4

Compare to: "trust more to handle creating jobs"

		Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
11/3/08	RV	52	38	*	7	2

c. Protecting the middle class

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	55	37	1	4	2

Compare to: "trust more to handle helping the middle class"

		Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/08	LV	62	31	1	4	2
10/11/08	RV	59	31	1	6	2

d. Handling international affairs

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	56	37	1	3	3

Compare to: "trust more to handle international affairs"

		Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/08	LV	46	49	1	1	2
9/29/08	RV	44	49	1	2	3
9/22/08	RV	48	46	0	3	3
9/7/08	RV	39	51	2	3	6
8/22/08	RV	43	51	1	2	3
7/13/08		45	45	2	3	4
6/15/08		43	49	2	2	3

e. Handling taxes

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	52	42	*	3	3

Compare to: "trust more to handle taxes"

		Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
11/2/08	LV	52	43	1	3	2
11/1/08	LV	52	41	1	3	3
10/31/08	LV	53	40	1	4	3
10/30/08	LV	52	41	*	4	3
10/29/08	LV	51	41	1	4	3
10/28/08	LV	52	41	1	4	2
10/27/08	LV	51	41	1	4	3
10/21/08	LV	51	43	1	3	2
10/20/08	LV	50	43	1	4	2
10/19/08	LV	52	42	1	4	2
10/11/08	RV	52	41	1	5	2
9/29/08	RV	48	46	*	3	3
9/7/08	RV	45	44	*	4	7
8/22/08	RV	44	45	1	5	5
6/15/08		48	40	1	6	6

f. Handling the federal budget deficit

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	41	51	*	4	4

Compare to: "trust more to handle the federal budget deficit"

		Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/7/08	RV	44	39	1	7	9
7/13/08		50	36	3	8	3

g. Handling terrorism

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	56	36	1	3	4

Compare to: "trust more to handle the U.S. campaign against terrorism"

	Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/23/08 LV	47	49	1	2	1
10/11/08 RV	43	49	2	4	3
9/29/08 RV	44	52	1	2	2
9/22/08 RV	44	48	1	3	4
9/7/08 RV	36	56	2	2	4
8/22/08 RV	38	52	3	5	2
7/13/08	43	49	2	4	1
6/15/08	39	53	2	3	4
5/11/08	34	55	4	4	3
3/2/08	33	58	2	3	5

38. Regardless of who you may support, who do you think better understands the economic problems people in this country are having - (Obama) or (Romney)?

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	53	36	2	7	3

39. Still thinking about the next election in November, right now, are you inclined to vote to re-elect your representative in Congress, or are you inclined to look around for someone else to vote for?

	Re-elect	Look around	Depends (vol.)	No opinion
2/4/12	34	53	3	9
11/3/11	31	59	3	8
8/9/11*	17	69	6	7
7/17/11	30	63	2	5
6/5/11	34	55	4	6
10/28/10	32	50	7	11
10/3/10	29	55	9	7
9/2/10	31	58	5	6
7/11/10	25	60	6	8
6/6/10	29	60	5	6
4/25/10 RV	32	57	7	4
2/8/10	36	56	4	4
11/15/09	38	50	6	5
5/15/06	35	55	6	4
6/5/05	40	50	8	3
2/21/02	40	48	7	6
10/31/99	41	47	8	3
9/28/99	44	46	NA	10
7/12/98	42	44	5	10
1/19/98	47	41	7	4
8/27/97	34	52	9	5
11/6/94 RV	37	47	7	8
10/31/94	35	56	2	7
10/23/94	32	58	4	6
9/11/94	36	53	4	7
6/26/94	35	54	6	5
3/27/94	32	56	6	7
1/23/94	32	46	10	12
11/14/93	38	52	5	5
8/21/92 RV	35	48	5	12
7/8/92	34	54	3	9
6/7/92	36	53	4	7
4/9/92	33	56	3	8
3/18/92	35	56	3	5

3/11/92	36	54	3	7
2/2/92	38	51	4	7
10/21/91	31	55	7	6
6/2/91	37	49	5	9
11/4/90 LV	41	50	NA	8
10/14/90	36	57	"	7
5/21/90	43	50	3	3
5/23/89	45	44	4	6

*Washington Post

40. On another subject, what is your view of the Tea Party political movement - would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat or oppose it strongly?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
2/4/12	43	12	31	45	20	25	12
1/15/12	40	13	28	50	23	27	10
12/18/11	42	13	28	45	20	26	13
11/3/11	43	14	29	44	20	24	13
10/2/11	42	12	30	47	20	27	11
9/1/11	47	13	35	45	18	27	8
7/17/11	44	13	31	46	23	24	10
6/5/11	46	13	33	44	21	24	10
4/17/11	42	16	26	49	21	27	10

*** END ***