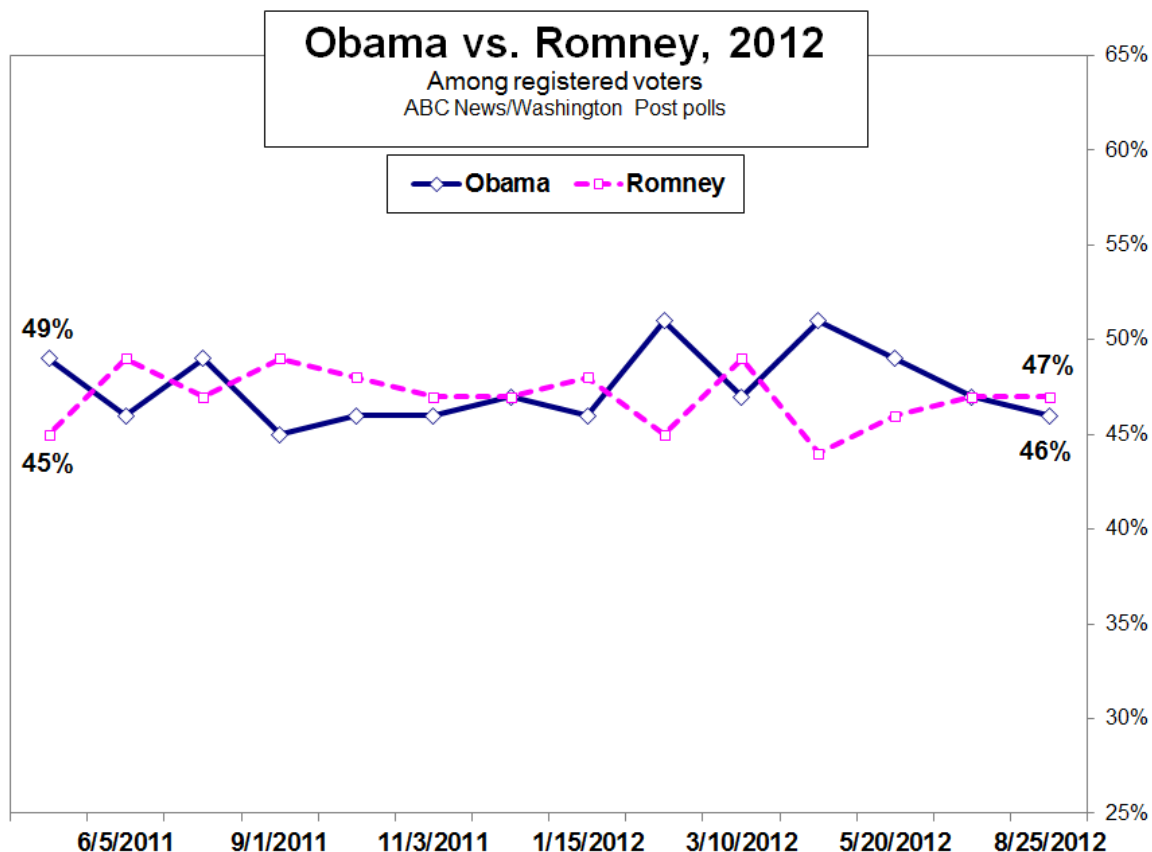


Solid Chances, Serious Challenges Greet Romney at his Convention

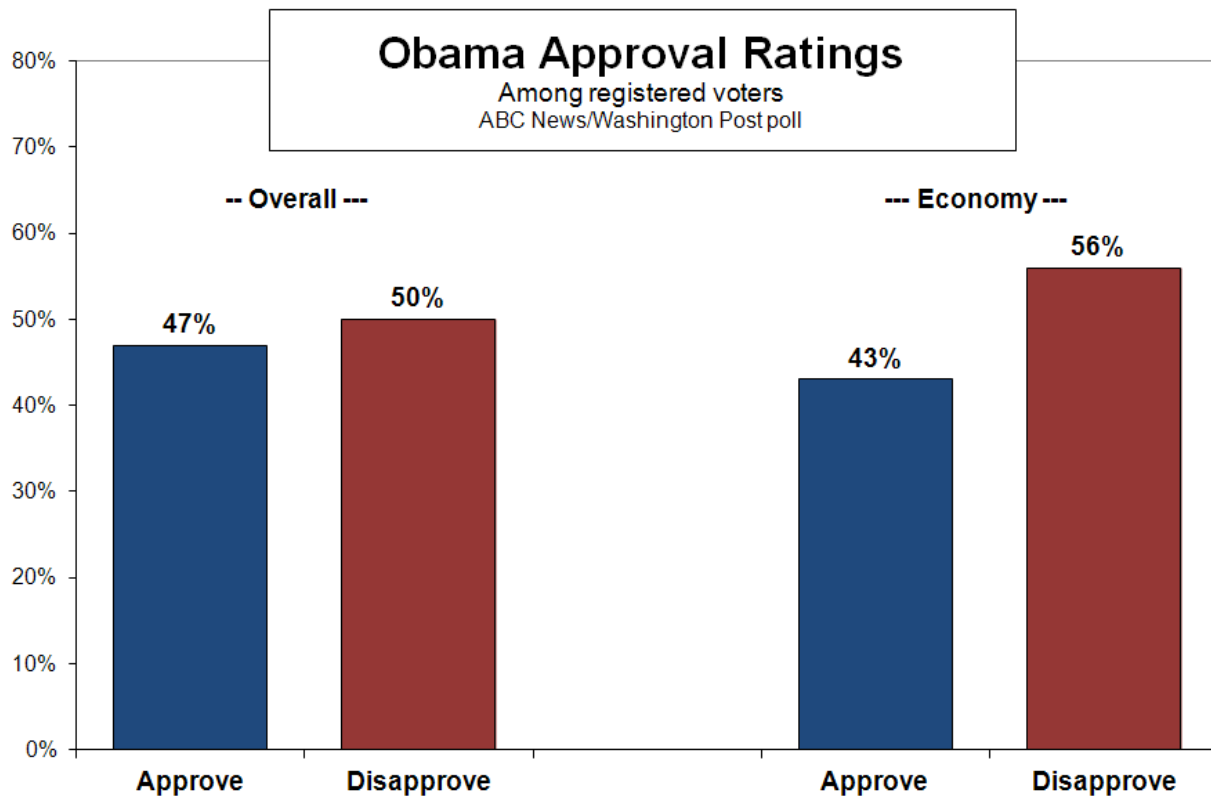
Mitt Romney heads into his nominating convention with a solid shot at the presidency but substantial challenges en route – including broad perceptions among a downturn-battered public that, if elected, he'd favor wealthy Americans over the middle class.

That view complicates Romney's job winning over the economically distressed white voters among whom his fortunes may depend. It's also expressed in his persistent weakness in personal popularity overall, as well as his shortfall against Barack Obama in views he understands the economic problems ordinary Americans are having.

Registered voters by a substantial 58-32 percent in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll think Romney would do more to favor the wealthy than the middle class – the opposite of views on Obama's priority. Obama has a slight 7-point edge in better understanding the public's economic straits, and another wide lead, 61-27 percent, as seeming more friendly and likeable.



As he seeks to address those weaknesses, Romney grasps his party's presidential nomination with pushback on at least two fronts: Better alignment with public preferences for more limited government, and steady dissatisfaction with Obama's economic performance. Fifty-six percent of registered voters disapprove of Obama's work on the economy; largely as a result, fewer than half, 47 percent, approve of his job performance overall.

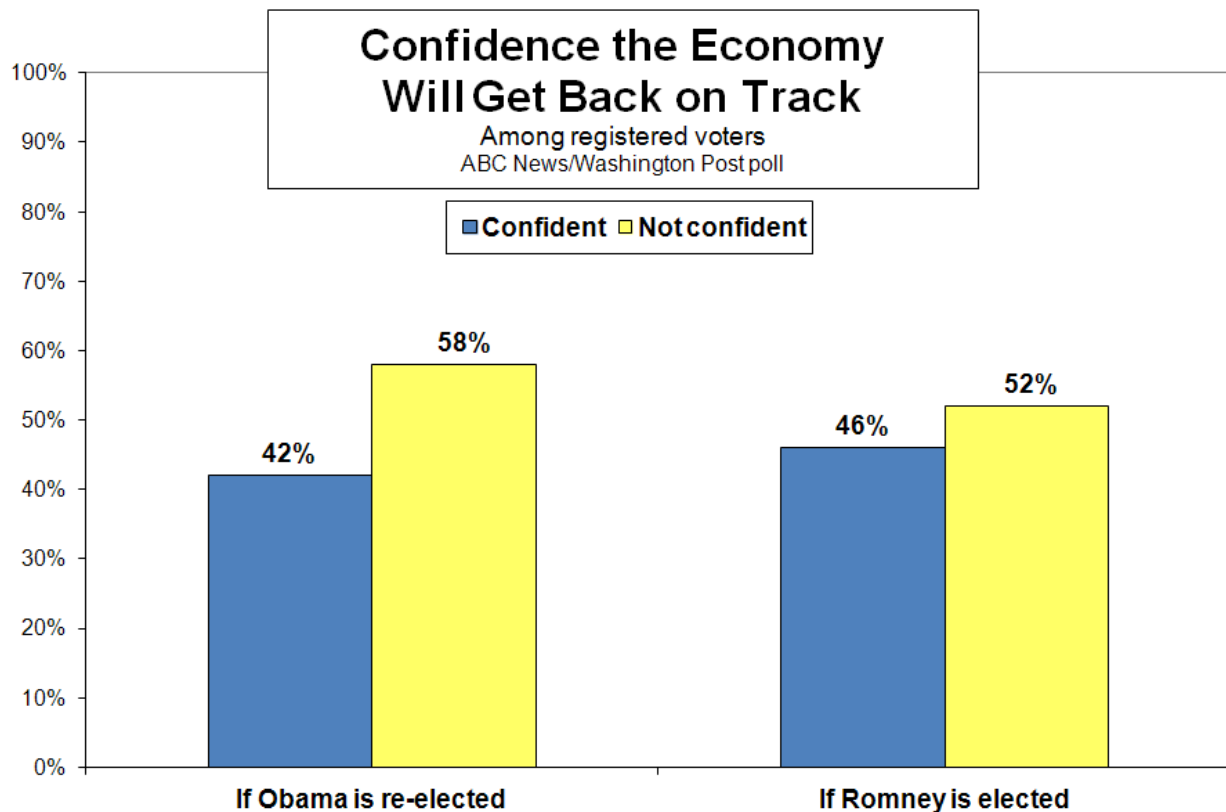


These competing sentiments boil down to essentially a dead heat in vote preferences. Among registered voters in this national survey, 47 percent support Romney, while 46 percent favor Obama, a split well within the margin of sampling error.

It's the seventh time in 14 ABC/Post surveys this cycle that Romney's held a scant (even 1-point) numerical edge. That marks his continued opportunity, but also his difficulties taking full advantage of Obama's weaknesses, particularly on the still-struggling economy. Eighty-five percent of registered voters say it's in bad shape, and, in a related result, seven in 10 say the country's seriously off on the wrong track – two highly hazardous numbers for incumbents.

Indeed, Obama's support has slipped numerically in each of the last four ABC/Post polls – from 51 percent in April to 46 percent now – as economic sentiment has worsened amid persistent unemployment and a resumption in rising gasoline prices.

Romney, crucially, has a slight, seven-point lead among registered voters in trust to handle the economy, 50-43 percent. And he benefits from the fact that 58 percent say they're not confident the economy would improve under a second Obama term. But 52 percent aren't confident it would improve under Romney, either – suggesting that beyond criticizing Obama's economic performance, Romney could benefit by sharpening his argument that he'd do better.

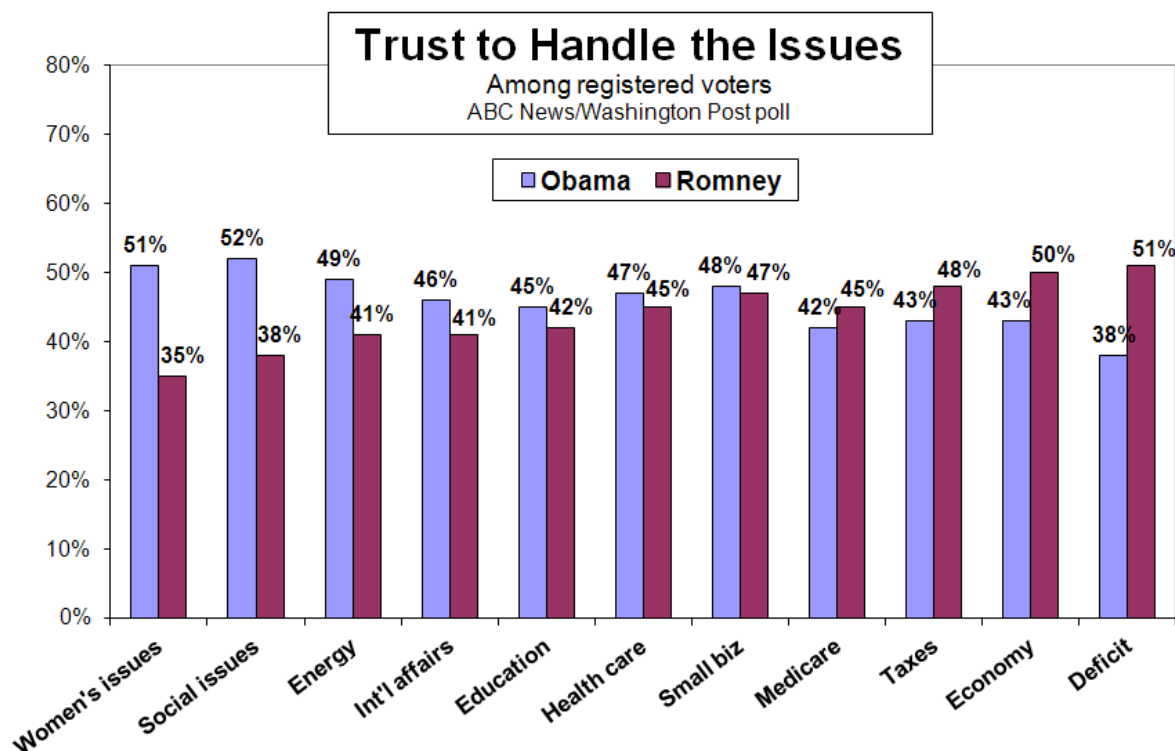


Among other results, this survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds a weak reception for Paul Ryan as Romney's vice presidential running mate – 54 percent of registered voters approve of the choice, somewhat lower than the customary levels in past elections. Still, that rises to 85 percent of "very" conservative registered voters and as many of those who strongly favor the Tea Party political movement, good for Romney in the GOP base.

Overall, though, two-thirds of registered voters say Ryan's selection will make no difference in their vote, while the rest divide essentially evenly on whether it makes them more or less likely to back the GOP ticket. And there is a risk: Registered voters by a broad 62-33 percent oppose Ryan's proposal to restructure Medicare. To date that does not look to have impacted trust to handle the issue, about an even division between Obama and Romney. That's in fact a plus for Romney, given the traditional Democratic advantage on Medicare. The question is how it plays out in the campaign ahead.

It's been tough so far for either candidate to gain much resonance. Apart from two polls with slight advantages for Obama in February and April, he and Romney have been essentially tied in

12 other ABC/Post matchups since April 2011. And while they're basically even in trust to handle one issue on which Obama has opportunity, Medicare, they're also tied on another, assisting small business, on which Romney's sought to portray Obama as out of touch.

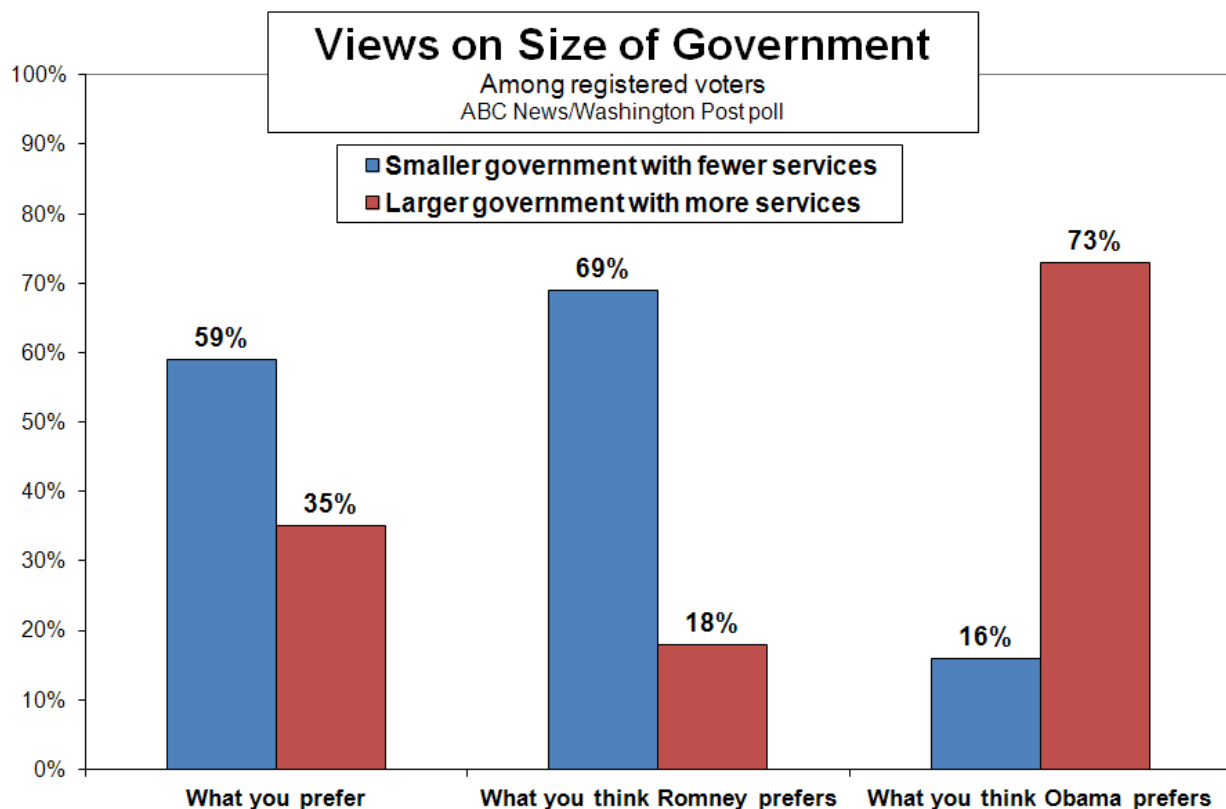


The two are essentially even in trust to handle several other contentious issues, as well, including health care policy and education. Romney prevails in trust to handle the federal deficit. But Obama holds a big advantage, 52-38 percent, in trust to handle “social issues such as abortion and gay marriage,” and leads Romney by 16 points on “addressing women’s issues.” (Neither of those has changed since spring.)

By extension of views on women’s rights, Romney’s overall support from registered women voters, a persistent difficulty for him, is just 43 percent, compared with his 51 percent support among men. (Obama, by contrast, has 49 percent support from registered women voters, 42 percent from men.)

Atop all these issues, the weight of public expectations represents another hurdle for Romney to address. Despite the dead-heat horse race, and the economy’s continued straits, 56 percent of registered voters say they expect Obama ultimately to win a second term.

GOVERNMENT and POLICY – As noted, stated preferences on the size of government favor Romney. Fifty-nine percent of registered voters say they prefer smaller government with fewer services over larger government with more services. Sixty-nine percent ascribe the same preference to Romney. But 73 percent think Obama, instead, prefers larger government.

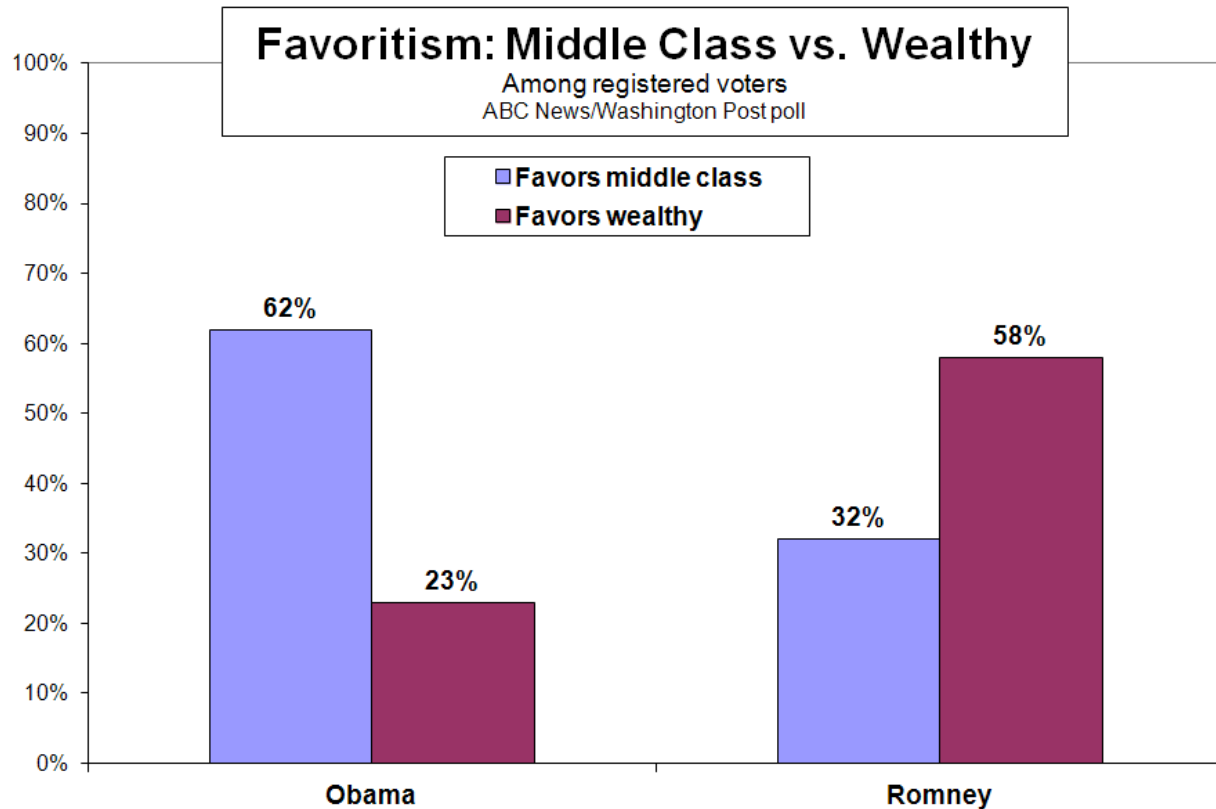


That result presents Romney with an unquestioned opportunity to pin the “big government” tag on Obama. But there are limits to the approach, and responses available to the Democratic camp.

For one, even while they profess a preference for smaller government, registered voters by 51-37 percent also say they think the government would do better trying to create jobs by “spending money on projects like roads, bridges and technology development” rather than by cutting taxes – an argument more in tune with Obama’s position than Romney’s. It matters: While those who prefer cutting taxes favor Romney by a vast 69-24 percent, those who see government spending as a better jobs-maker favor Obama by 62-31 percent.

Views of fairness – an Obama theme – also represent a potential shoal for Romney. Registered voters by an 18-point margin, 54-36 percent, see “unfairness in the economic system that favors the wealthy” as a bigger problem than “over-regulation of the free market that interferes with growth and prosperity,” again showing more alignment with the Democratic argument. And again the connection with vote preference is profound – 87-11 percent for Romney among those focused on over-regulation; 71-20 percent for Obama among those concerned with fairness.

Beyond these, the Obama campaign may be seeking to keep a focus on Romney’s personal wealth – and by extension the sense he’d favor the wealthy over the middle class – by continuing to call for fuller release of his tax returns.



Registered voters divide exactly evenly on whether or not fuller tax disclosure by Romney is needed, but just two in 10 call the issue a major factor in their vote. (That rises sharply among Obama supporters, likely the reason his campaign keeps on it.) Seventy-two percent, by contrast, call Obama's handling of the economy a major factor.

Again, though, Obama can find a reply: By 52-34 percent, more continue to blame the economy's current condition not on Obama, but on his predecessor, George W. Bush.

GROUPS and MOVERS – At 47-46 percent, Romney-Obama, vote preferences among registered voters now show a difference compared with all adults, who divide 49-42 percent in Obama's favor, a result indicating the pressure on Obama's side to register and turn out its base. (Among likely voters, at 49-47 percent, Romney-Obama, the race is similar to its level among registered voters.)

There's room to move: More than half of Romney's and Obama's supporters alike are less than "very" enthusiastic about their candidate. Fifteen percent say there's a chance they may change their minds, plenty enough to shake up the contest. Moreover, majorities say they're anxious about how their preferred candidate would perform in office (53 percent in Obama's case, and more, 62 percent, in Romney's), and four in 10 say they're seeking more information about the candidates – two more subtle indicators of the potential for movement.

Preferences – on policies and between candidates alike – of course are associated with partisan and ideological affiliation. Obama leads by 84-14 percent among liberals, while Romney holds numerically his best advantage to date among conservatives, 77-16 percent (though it was very similar in March). There are easily more conservatives than liberals among registered voters; Obama makes it back among moderates.

Independents, who often have been swing voters in national elections, divide narrowly, 47-43 percent between Romney and Obama among registered voters – a bit softer for Romney than last month. Obama's helped by the fact that Democrats outnumber Republicans by 7 points among registered voters in this survey (as they did in the 2008 exit poll). At the same time, his 83 percent support among Democrats lags Romney's 91 percent among Republicans.

	Obama-Romney (among registered voters)
Overall	46-47%
Men	42-51
Women	49-43
Married men	35-59
Unmarried men	51-41
Married women	40-55
Unmarried women	57-32
Democrats	83-11
Republicans	5-91
Independents	43-47
Liberals	84-14
Moderates	50-40
Conservatives NET	16-77
Somewhat cons.	18-73
Very cons.	14-82
Liberal Dems	92- 7
Conservative Reps	1-97
18-39	51-38
65+	43-51
White	37-55
Nonwhite	76-18
Less than \$50K	50-41
\$50-100K	45-50
\$100+	42-51
College grad.	47-49
Non-grad.	45-45
Prefer	
Smaller govt.	29-66
Larger govt.	73-19

Better way to create jobs	
Cutting taxes	24-69
Spending on projects	62-31
Bigger problem	
Economic unfairness	71-20
Over-regulation	11-87

Among other groups, Romney holds a broad 55-37 percent advantage among whites overall, while Obama has 76 percent support from nonwhites. As noted, economically stressed whites may be of particular interest; among those with incomes under \$50,000, Romney has 50 percent support in this group – indicating opportunity to improve, if he strikes the right message.

TONE and REACHOUT – Another potential factor is the campaign’s tone, an issue on which there are criticisms on both sides: More than half of registered voters say each candidate has been mainly attacking his opponent rather than addressing the issues.

Slightly more say that about Romney than said it about John McCain at about this time in 2008. But vastly more say it about Obama now – 56 percent – than did in late August 2008, just 29 percent. The question here is whether that change in tone draws more voters to a more-combative candidate Obama – or sends them away.

A final issue, and a potentially critical one, is voter contact – and on this measure, Obama has the high ground. As of this point, relatively few of Romney’s supporters, 18 percent, say they’ve been contacted by a representative of his campaign. Far more Obama supporters – 31 percent – say they’ve been contacted by Obama’s campaign. The ground game is one key battle Obama won four years ago. For Romney, once his convention’s over, it’s another important box to check.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Aug. 22-25, 2012, among a random national sample of 857 registered voters (out of 1,002 adults overall), including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 4 points for the full sample and registered voters alike. 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. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the presidential election in November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

		Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	Don't think will vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
8/25/12		68	9	9	9	5	NA	*
8/25/12	RV	81	8	6	3	1		*
7/8/12		69	10	9	7	4		1
7/8/12	RV	81	9	8	2	*	"	*

Call for full trend.

2. If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Barack Obama and Joe Biden, the Democrats) and (Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, the Republicans), for whom would you vote? Which candidates are you leaning toward, (Barack Obama and Joe Biden, the Democrats) or (Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, the Republicans)?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - GEN POP

	Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	49	42	2	4	3	1
7/8/12*	46	46	*	3	2	3
5/20/12	49	45	1	3	2	1
4/8/12	51	43	*	2	3	1
3/10/12	46	47	*	2	3	2
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

*7/18/12 and prior: "Barack Obama, the Democrat" and "Mitt Romney, the Republican".

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - RVs

		Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	RV	46	47	2	3	2	1
7/8/12*	RV	47	47	*	2	*	4
5/20/12	RV	49	46	*	3	1	1
4/8/12	RV	51	44	*	2	3	1
3/10/12	RV	47	49	*	1	2	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

*7/18/12 and prior: "Barack Obama, the Democrat" and "Mitt Romney, the Republican".

3. (IF SUPPORT OBAMA OR ROMNEY) Will you definitely vote for (OBAMA/ROMNEY), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for (CANDIDATE NOT NAMED)? (IF

CHANCE CHANGE MIND) Would you say (there's a GOOD CHANCE) you'll change your mind, or would you say (it's PRETTY UNLIKELY)?

		Definitely vote for	- Chance change mind - NET	Good	Unlikely	No opinion
8/25/12		81	17	6	10	3
8/25/12	RV	83	15	6	9	2
7/8/12*		77	21	8	13	3
7/8/12	RV	79	19	6	13	2
11/3/08	LV	94	5	2	3	1
11/2/08	LV	94	5	2	3	1
11/1/08	LV	94	6	2	3	1
10/31/08	LV	93	7	3	4	1
10/30/08	LV	93	7	2	4	1
10/29/08	LV	92	7	3	5	1
10/28/08	LV	91	9	3	5	*
10/27/08	LV	91	9	3	5	*
10/26/08	LV	91	9	3	6	*
10/25/08	LV	91	9	3	6	*
10/24/08	LV	91	9	4	5	1
10/23/08	LV	91	9	4	5	1
10/22/08	LV	90	9	4	5	1
10/21/08	LV	89	10	5	5	1
10/20/08	LV	89	10	4	6	1
10/19/08	LV	88	10	5	6	1
10/11/08	LV	88	11	4	7	1
9/29/08	RV	82	17	8	9	1
9/22/08	RV	83	16	8	8	1
9/7/08	RV	79	20	8	12	1
8/22/08	RV	73	24	11	13	3
7/13/08	RV	72	25	10	15	3
6/15/08	RV	72	26	11	16	2
5/11/08	RV	69	28	15	14	3
Obama:						
8/25/12	RV	84	14	6	8	2
7/8/12	RV	81	17	4	13	2
Romney:						
8/25/12	RV	82	16	5	10	3
7/8/12	RV	77	21	8	13	2

4. (IF SUPPORT OBAMA OR ROMNEY) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting (Obama/Romney), somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

		---- Enthusiastic ----			--- Not enthusiastic ---			No opinion
		NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	
8/25/12		84	41	43	16	10	6	1
7/8/12		85	41	44	14	9	6	1
5/20/12		83	36	46	17	10	7	1
8/25/12	RV	85	45	40	14	10	4	1
7/8/12	RV	88	44	44	12	8	4	*
5/20/12	RV	84	39	45	16	9	6	*
Obama:								
8/25/12		86	43	43	13	7	6	1
7/8/12		90	48	43	9	6	3	1
5/20/12		91	48	43	9	4	5	*

8/25/12	RV	88	48	39	11	7	4	1
7/8/12	RV	91	51	40	8	5	3	1
5/20/12	RV	93	51	41	7	4	4	0

Romney:

8/25/12		81	39	42	19	12	6	*
7/8/12		79	34	46	20	12	8	1
5/20/12		73	23	50	25	16	9	1

8/25/12	RV	83	42	41	17	12	4	*
7/8/12	RV	85	38	47	15	11	4	*
5/20/12	RV	75	26	48	25	15	9	1

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

		----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion	
8/25/12	50	27	23	46	13	33	4	
8/25/12 RV	47	26	21	50	13	37	3	
7/8/12	47	24	24	49	15	34	4	
5/20/12	47	26	21	49	13	36	3	
4/8/12	50	30	20	45	10	35	6	
3/10/12	46	28	18	50	11	39	4	
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

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling the economy? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

		----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
8/25/12		44	20	23	54	12	42	3
8/25/12	RV	43	20	22	56	11	45	2
7/8/12		44	21	23	54	13	41	2
5/20/12		42	20	22	55	11	44	2
4/8/12		44	23	21	54	12	42	2
3/10/12		38	20	18	59	9	50	2
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

7. (IF SUPPORT OBAMA OR ROMNEY) Regardless of your support, how do you feel about how (OBAMA/ROMNEY) would perform as president for the next four years - very anxious, somewhat anxious, not so anxious or not anxious at all?

		----- Anxious -----			----- Not anxious -----			No
		NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
8/25/12		60	21	40	37	13	24	3
8/25/12	RV	57	20	37	39	12	26	4

Obama:

		----- Anxious -----			----- Not anxious -----			No
		NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
8/25/12		57	24	33	40	13	28	2
8/25/12	RV	53	23	30	44	12	32	3

Romney:

		----- Anxious -----			----- Not anxious -----			No
--	--	---------------------	--	--	-------------------------	--	--	----

	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
8/25/12	63	16	47	32	13	20	5
8/25/12 RV	62	17	44	33	12	21	5

8. How much more information, if any, would you like to have about the candidates and issues before the election - would you like a lot more information, some, a little, or do you have enough information as it is?

	NET	More A lot	Some	NET	Little Little	Enough	No opinion
8/25/12	41	24	17	58	7	50	1
8/25/12 RV	41	23	18	58	7	51	1

9. Do you think things in this country (are generally going in the right direction) or do you feel things (have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track)?

	Right direction	Wrong track	No opinion
8/25/12	31	67	3
8/25/12 RV	29	69	2
7/8/12	33	63	4
4/8/12	33	64	3
1/15/12	30	68	2
11/3/11	22	74	3
9/1/11	20	77	3
6/5/11	32	66	2
1/16/11	38	60	3
12/12/10	31	67	2
10/28/10 RV	27	71	2
6/6/10	37	60	3
3/26/10	38	60	2
1/15/10	37	62	1
11/15/09	44	55	2
10/18/09	44	54	2
8/17/09	44	55	1
6/21/09	47	50	3
4/24/09	50	48	2
3/29/09	42	57	1
2/22/09	31	67	2
1/16/09	19	78	3
12/14/08	15	82	3
10/25/08 LV	13	85	2
10/11/08 RV	8	90	2
9/22/08 RV	14	83	3
8/22/08	19	78	2
6/15/08	14	84	2
5/11/08	16	82	2
1/12/08	21	77	2
11/1/07	24	74	2
6/1/07	25	73	2
1/19/07	26	71	3

Call for full trend.

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

8/25/12 - Summary Table GEN POP

Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
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a. Handling the economy	44	46	*	5	4
b. Dealing with the federal budget deficit	39	48	*	8	5
c. Handling health care policy	49	42	*	6	3
d. Dealing with social issues such as abortion and gay marriage	55	34	2	5	4
e. Handling energy policy	49	37	1	5	8
f. Supporting small business	49	42	1	4	4
g. Handling international affairs	48	37	2	6	8
h. Handling education	47	37	2	6	8
i. Handling taxes	46	44	1	5	5
j. Handling Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors	43	42	1	7	7
k. Addressing women's issues	53	32	1	6	8

*Full sample asked item a; half sample asked items b-f; other half sample asked items g-k.

8/25/12 - Summary Table RVs

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. Handling the economy	43	50	*	4	3
b. Dealing with the federal budget deficit	38	51	0	7	3
c. Handling health care policy	47	45	*	6	2
d. Dealing with social issues such as abortion and gay marriage	52	38	1	5	4
e. Handling energy policy	49	41	*	3	7
f. Supporting small business	48	47	1	3	2
g. Handling international affairs	46	41	1	6	5
h. Handling education	45	42	2	7	5
i. Handling taxes	43	48	*	5	3
j. Handling Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors	42	45	1	7	5
k. Addressing women's issues	51	35	1	7	6

*Full sample asked item a; half sample asked items b-f; other half sample asked items g-k.

Trend:

a. Handling the economy

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	44	46	*	5	4
8/25/12 RV	43	50	*	4	3
7/8/12	44	49	1	4	3
7/8/12 RV	45	48	1	3	3
5/20/12	46	47	*	3	3
5/20/12 RV	47	47	*	3	3
4/8/12	43	47	1	5	5
4/8/12 RV	44	48	1	4	3
2/4/12	45	48	1	4	2
2/4/12 RV	44	50	1	3	2

b. Dealing with the federal budget deficit

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	39	48	*	8	5
8/25/12 RV	38	51	0	7	3
7/8/12	42	52	1	3	2
4/8/12	38	51	*	5	6

2/4/12	41	51	*	4	4
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c. Handling health care policy

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	49	42	*	6	3
8/25/12 RV	47	45	*	6	2
7/8/12	46	45	1	5	3
4/8/12	48	38	*	7	6

d. Dealing with social issues such as abortion and gay marriage

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	55	34	2	5	4
8/25/12 RV	52	38	1	5	4
4/8/12	46	38	1	5	10

e. Handling energy policy

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	49	37	1	5	8
8/25/12 RV	49	41	*	3	7
4/8/12	42	47	1	2	7

f. Supporting small business

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	49	42	1	4	4
8/25/12 RV	48	47	1	3	2
4/8/12	47	45	1	4	4

g. Handling international affairs

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	48	37	2	6	8
8/25/12 RV	46	41	1	6	5
4/8/12	53	36	*	7	4
2/4/12	56	37	1	3	3

h. Handling education

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	47	37	2	6	8
8/25/12 RV	45	42	2	7	5

i. Handling taxes

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	46	44	1	5	5
8/25/12 RV	43	48	*	5	3
7/8/12	46	45	*	5	4
4/8/12	45	42	*	7	5
2/4/12	52	42	*	3	3

j. Handling Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors

	Both	Neither	No
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	Obama	Romney	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
8/25/12	43	42	1	7	7
8/25/12 RV	42	45	1	7	5

k. Addressing women's issues

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	53	32	1	6	8
8/25/12 RV	51	35	1	7	6
4/8/12	53	34	1	4	8

11. Regardless of who you may support, who do you think [ITEM] - (Obama) or (Romney)?

8/25/12 - Summary Table GEN POP

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. Better understands the economic problems people in this country are having	49	37	2	9	3
b. Seems like the more friendly and likeable person	64	25	5	3	3

8/25/12 - Summary Table RVs

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. Better understands the economic problems people in this country are having	47	40	1	9	2
b. Seems like the more friendly and likeable person	61	27	6	4	2

Trend:

a. Better understands the economic problems people in this country are having

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	49	37	2	9	3
8/25/12 RV	47	40	1	9	2
7/8/12	50	40	2	6	3
5/20/12	48	40	2	7	3
4/8/12	49	37	2	9	4
2/4/12	53	36	2	7	3

b. Seems like the more friendly and likable person

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	64	25	5	3	2
8/25/12 RV	61	27	6	4	2
7/8/12	63	27	5	2	4
4/8/12	64	26	3	2	4

12. Please tell me whether the following statement applies to (ITEM), or not: He has strong personal character.

8/25/12 - Summary Table GEN POP

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Obama	73	24	3
b. Romney	63	31	5

8/25/12 - Summary Table RVs

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Obama	70	27	2
b. Romney	64	31	5

Compare to:

Bush:

	Yes	No	No opinion
7/30/01	68	30	2
11/4/00	70	26	5

Gore:

	Yes	No	No opinion
11/6/00	58	37	5

13. Do you think [ITEM]'s views on most issues are too (liberal) for you, too (conservative) for you, or just about right?

8/25/12 - Summary Table GEN POP

	Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	No opinion
a. Obama	39	9	46	6
b. Romney	14	36	39	10
c. Paul Ryan	8	30	35	27
d. Joe Biden	34	7	36	22

8/25/12 - Summary Table RVs

	Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	No opinion
a. Obama	44	7	43	6
b. Romney	14	35	43	8
c. Paul Ryan	7	31	38	23
d. Joe Biden	36	8	38	18

Trend:

a. Obama

	Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	No opinion
8/25/12	39	9	46	6
8/25/12 RV	44	7	43	6
4/8/12	40	10	44	6
4/17/11	39	8	48	4
9/2/10	45	9	45	2
4/25/10	39	5	53	3
1/15/10	37	7	54	2
11/15/09	40	7	52	2
9/12/09	39	5	53	3
4/24/09	33	4	62	2
1/16/09	29	4	65	2
10/31/08 LV	39	3	56	2
10/21/08 LV	40	2	55	4
10/20/08 LV	39	2	55	4
10/11/08 RV	37	4	55	4

6/15/08	36	5	52	7
3/2/08	31	6	56	7

b. Romney

		Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	No opinion
8/25/12		14	36	39	10
8/25/12	RV	14	35	43	8
4/8/12		13	33	42	12

c-d. No trend.

14. 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
8/25/12		15	1	14	84	39	45	1
8/25/12	RV	15	1	14	85	40	45	*
8/5/12*		13	1	12	87	42	44	*
5/20/12		17	1	16	83	47	36	*
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

*Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation
Call for full trend.

15. Who do you think is more responsible for the country's current economic problems - (Barack Obama) or (George W. Bush)?

		Obama	Bush	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12		32	54	8	5	1
8/25/12	RV	34	52	8	5	1
5/20/12		34	49	8	7	3
1/15/12		29	54	9	6	2

16. If [ITEM], how confident are you, if at all, that the country will get back on track economically in the next year or two - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

8/25/12 - Summary Table GEN POP

		--- Confident ---			--- Not confident ---			No
		NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
a. Obama is re-elected		43	13	30	56	19	38	1
b. Romney is elected		43	9	34	55	22	33	1

8/25/12 - Summary Table RVs

	--- Confident ---			--- Not confident ---			No
	NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
a. Obama is re-elected	42	14	28	58	18	40	1
b. Romney is elected	46	11	35	52	21	32	1

17. Generally speaking, would you say you favor (smaller government with fewer services), or (larger government with more services)?

	Smaller govt. fewer services	Larger govt. more services	No opinion
8/25/12	56	38	7
8/25/12 RV	59	35	6
8/5/12*	55	40	5
9/1/11	56	38	6
10/28/10 RV	57	37	5
4/25/10	56	40	4
1/15/10	58	38	4
6/21/09	54	41	4
1/16/09	53	43	4
6/15/08	50	45	5
11/1/07	50	44	5
6/20/04	50	46	4
11/4/02 LV	61	34	5
11/3/02 LV	60	34	5
11/2/02 LV	62	34	3
7/15/02	53	42	6
1/27/02	54	41	5
10/9/00 RV	58	32	10
10/1/00 RV	58	33	9
7/23/00	59	34	7
4/2/00	56	38	7
8/16/98	59	35	6
8/5/96	63	32	5
2/28/93	67	30	2
7/8/92	55	38	7
7/13/88	49	45	6
7/8/84	49	43	7

*Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation: "... many services"

18. What about Obama - would you say Obama favors (smaller government with fewer services), or (larger government with more services)?

	Smaller govt. fewer services	Larger govt. more services	No opinion
8/25/12	15	73	11
8/25/12 RV	16	73	11
9/1/11	18	70	12
10/28/10 RV	14	75	10
4/25/10	15	77	8

19. What about Romney - would you say Romney favors (smaller government with fewer services), or (larger government with more services)?

	Smaller govt. fewer services	Larger govt. more services	No opinion
8/25/12	65	21	14
8/25/12 RV	69	18	13

20. What do you think is a better way for the government to try to create jobs - (by cutting taxes); or (by spending money on projects like roads, bridges and technology development)?

		Cutting taxes	Spending on projects	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12		33	52	7	3	5
8/25/12	RV	37	51	6	3	4

21. What do you think is the bigger problem in this country - (unfairness in the economic system that favors the wealthy), or (over-regulation of the free market that interferes with growth and prosperity)?

		Unfairness	Over-regulation	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12		56	34	5	1	3
8/25/12	RV	54	36	5	2	3
5/20/12		56	34	5	2	3
4/8/12		52	37	4	2	5
1/15/12		55	35	5	2	4

22. Do you think Obama does more to favor the (middle class) or more to favor the (wealthy)?

		Favor middle class	Favor wealthy	Treat equally (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12		61	24	6	8
8/25/12	RV	62	23	6	9

23. As president do you think Romney would do more to favor the (middle class) or more to favor the (wealthy)?

		Favor middle class	Favor wealthy	Treat equally (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12		30	60	5	6
8/25/12	RV	32	58	5	5

24. Do you approve or disapprove of Romney's choice of Paul Ryan as his vice presidential running mate? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

		NET	Approve Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Disapprove Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
8/25/12		51	26	26	30	9	21	19
8/25/12	RV	54	30	24	30	8	22	15

Compare to:

		Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
Palin 9/4/08		60	34	6
Lieberman 8/7/00		60	19	21
Cheney 7/29/00		61	15	24
Kemp 8/15/96	RV	67	14	19

25. Does Romney's choice of Paul Ryan for vice president make you more likely to vote for Romney, less likely, or won't it make any difference in your vote?

	More likely	Less likely	No difference	No opinion
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8/25/12	14	14	70	2
8/25/12 RV	16	15	67	2

Compare to:

	More likely	Less likely	No difference	No opinion
Obama's choice of Biden:				
11/2/08 LV	25	15	60	*
11/1/08 LV	28	14	58	*
9/29/08 LV	26	14	60	*
9/4/08 RV	22	11	66	1

McCain's choice of Palin:				
11/2/08 LV	18	44	38	*
11/1/08 LV	17	46	37	*
9/29/08 LV	24	32	43	*
9/4/08 RV	25	19	55	1

Kerry's choice of Edwards:				
7/25/08 RV	24	9	66	*

Gore's choice of Lieberman:				
8/7/00 All	15	10	73	2

Bush's choice of Cheney:				
7/29/00 RV	14	6	78	2

Dole's choice of Kemp:				
8/15/96 RV	18	6	75	1
8/14/96 RV	20	7	71	1
8/13/96 RV	21	7	70	3
8/12/96 RV	17	6	74	3
8/11/96 RV	16	5	76	3
8/10/96 RV	14	7	75	4

Bush's choice of Quayle:	More likely	Less likely	No difference	Not voting for Bush	No opinion
9/19/88 RV	7	19	68	4	2
8/18/88 All	11	14	67	5	3
8/17/88 All	13	10	72	2	3

Dukakis' choice of Bentsen:	More likely	Less likely	No difference	Not voting for Dukakis	No opinion
9/19/88 RV	20	6	71	2	1
7/17/88 All	13	8	73	2	4

Mondale's choice of Ferraro:	More likely	Less likely	No difference	No opinion
7/12/84 RV	22	19	49	10

26. As chairman of the House Budget Committee, Ryan proposed a budget that would cut federal spending; cut taxes, including those paid by wealthy Americans and corporations; and restructure the Medicare and Medicaid insurance programs. Given what you know about this budget plan, would you say you support it strongly, support it somewhat, oppose it somewhat or oppose it strongly?

----- Support -----	----- Oppose -----	No opinion
NET Strongly Somewhat	NET Somewhat Strongly	

8/25/12	47	20	27	44	17	28	9
8/25/12 RV	47	22	25	45	16	29	8

27. Under Ryan's Medicare plan, starting in 10 years people no longer would receive specific Medicare benefits when they turn 65. Instead they would receive a credit for money that they could use to buy insurance, either from the private market or from the government. How do you feel about this proposal to restructure Medicare - 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
8/25/12	31	11	20	64	21	43	5
8/25/12 RV	33	12	21	62	20	42	5

28. So far during this campaign, do you think [NAME] has been mainly (attacking his opponent) or mainly (addressing the issues)?

8/25/12 - Summary Table GEN POP

	Attacking his opponent	Addressing the issues	No opinion
a. Obama	53	38	8
b. Romney	55	35	10

8/25/12 - Summary Table RVs

	Attacking his opponent	Addressing the issues	No opinion
a. Obama	56	36	8
b. Romney	54	37	8

Trend:

a. Obama

	Attacking his opponent	Addressing the issues	No opinion
8/25/12	53	38	8
8/25/12 RV	56	36	8
10/11/08 RV	26	68	6
8/22/08 RV	29	64	8

b. Romney

	Attacking his opponent	Addressing the issues	No opinion
8/25/12	55	35	10
8/25/12 RV	54	37	8

Compare to: McCain

	Attacking his opponent	Addressing the issues	No opinion
10/11/08 RV	59	35	6
8/22/08 RV	48	45	7

29. Have you personally been contacted by a representative of the [CANDIDATE] campaign, either by phone, in-person, or online asking you for your support, or not?

8/25/12 - Summary Table GEN POP

Yes	No	No opinion
-----	----	------------

a. Obama	18	81	1
b. Romney	11	88	*

8/25/12 - Summary Table RVs

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Obama	20	79	1
b. Romney	13	86	*

Compare to:

Have you personally been contacted by a representative of the [CANDIDATE] campaign, either by phone or in-person, asking you for your support, or not?

		Yes	No	No opinion
10/22/08 Obama	LV	21	78	1
10/22/08 McCain	LV	14	85	1
9/26/04 Bush	LV	18	82	*
9/26/04 Kerry	LV	17	82	1

30. Romney has released his tax returns for the past two years. Do you think he should release his tax returns from previous years, or is two years enough? Do you feel that way STRONGLY or SOMEWHAT?

	NET	Should release	NET	Is enough	No
		Strongly		Somewhat	opinion
8/25/12	48	38	9	46	16
8/25/12 RV	47	39	8	47	16

31. For each item I name, please tell me if it will be a major factor in your vote, a minor factor, or not a factor.

8/25/12 - Summary Table GEN POP

	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor	No opinion
a. Obama's handling of the economy	71	17	11	2
b. Romney's position on releasing his tax returns	20	31	47	2
c. Paul Ryan's proposal to restructure Medicare	48	28	22	2
d. Differences between the (Democrats) and the (Republicans) on women's issues	48	26	24	2

8/25/12 - Summary Table RVs

	Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor	No opinion
a. Obama's handling of the economy	72	17	10	1
b. Romney's position on releasing his tax returns	20	30	49	1
c. Paul Ryan's proposal to restructure Medicare	50	29	20	2
d. Differences between the (Democrats) and the (Republicans) on women's issues	50	25	23	1

Trend:

a. Obama's handling of the economy

Major factor	Minor factor	Not a factor	No opinion
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8/25/12	71	17	11	2
8/25/12 RV	72	17	10	1

Compare to:

	Major reason to support	Major reason to oppose	Not a major factor	No opinion
7/8/12	36	43	19	2
4/8/12	32	46	19	3
2/4/12	39	47	13	2

b-d. No trend.

32. Just your best guess, who do you think will win the presidential election this year - (Obama) or (Romney)?

	Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	No opinion
8/25/12	59	34	*	7
8/25/12 RV	56	37	*	8
7/8/12	58	34	1	8

Compare to: Just your best guess, who do you think will win the presidential election this year - (Obama) or (the Republican candidate)?

	Obama	Rep. candidate	No opinion
3/10/12	54	40	6
1/15/12	46	49	5
12/18/11	46	49	5
10/2/11	37	55	8

33. 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 opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
8/25/12	44	13	31	42	18	24	14
8/25/12 RV	46	14	32	43	18	26	11
8/5/12*	41	12	29	46	19	27	13
4/8/12	41	12	29	45	21	24	14
3/10/12	44	15	29	43	17	26	13
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 **