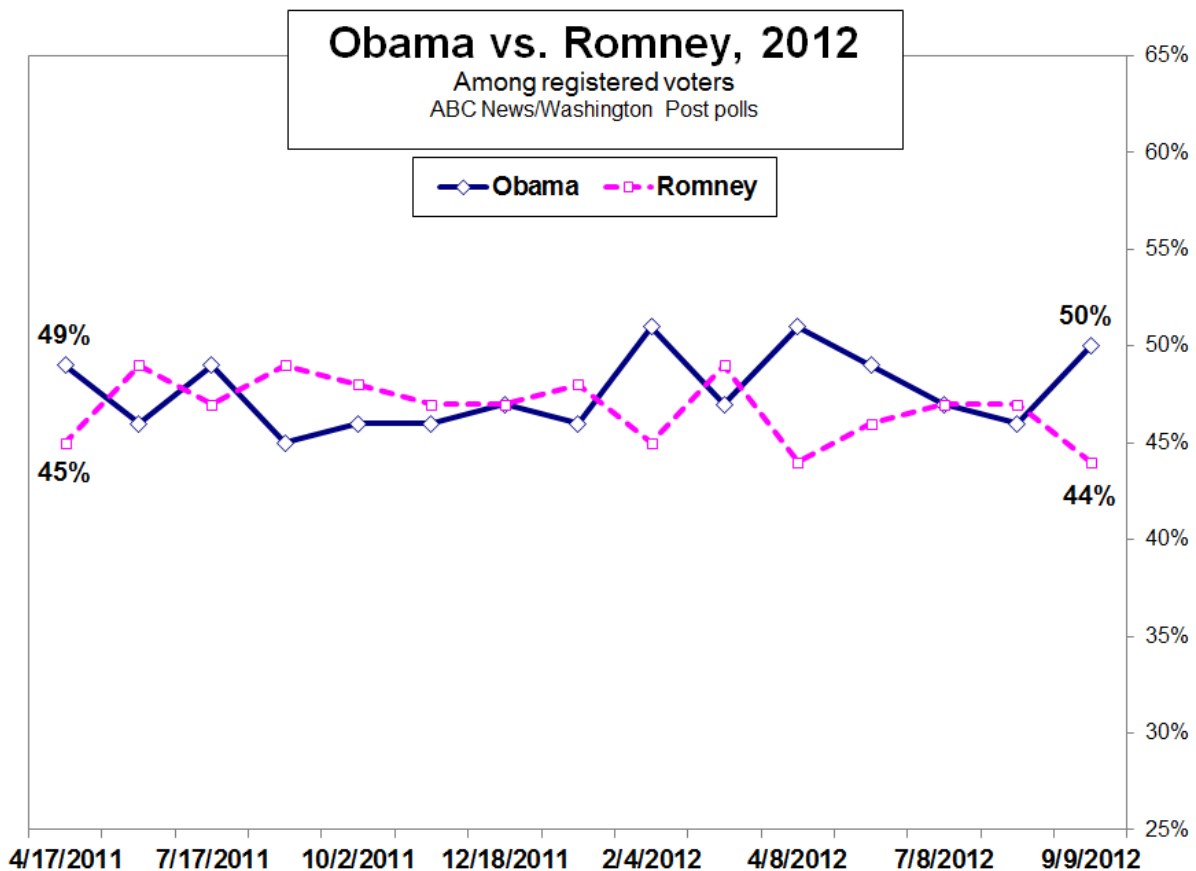


Obama Gains a Convention Boost – But Not Among Likely Voters

Barack Obama has emerged from the nominating conventions in his best position against Mitt Romney since spring, a 50-44 percent race among registered voters in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll. But Romney recovers to a virtual dead heat among those most likely to vote, keeping the contest between them wide open.

Obama is the greater beneficiary of the back-to-back nominating conventions. For the first time he's numerically ahead of Romney in trust to handle the economy, the key issue of the 2012 contest, albeit by a scant 47-45 percent. Obama's seized a 15-point lead in trust to advance the interests of the middle class. And strong enthusiasm among his supporters is up by 8 points from its pre-convention level; Obama now leads Romney by 10 points in "very" enthusiastic support.

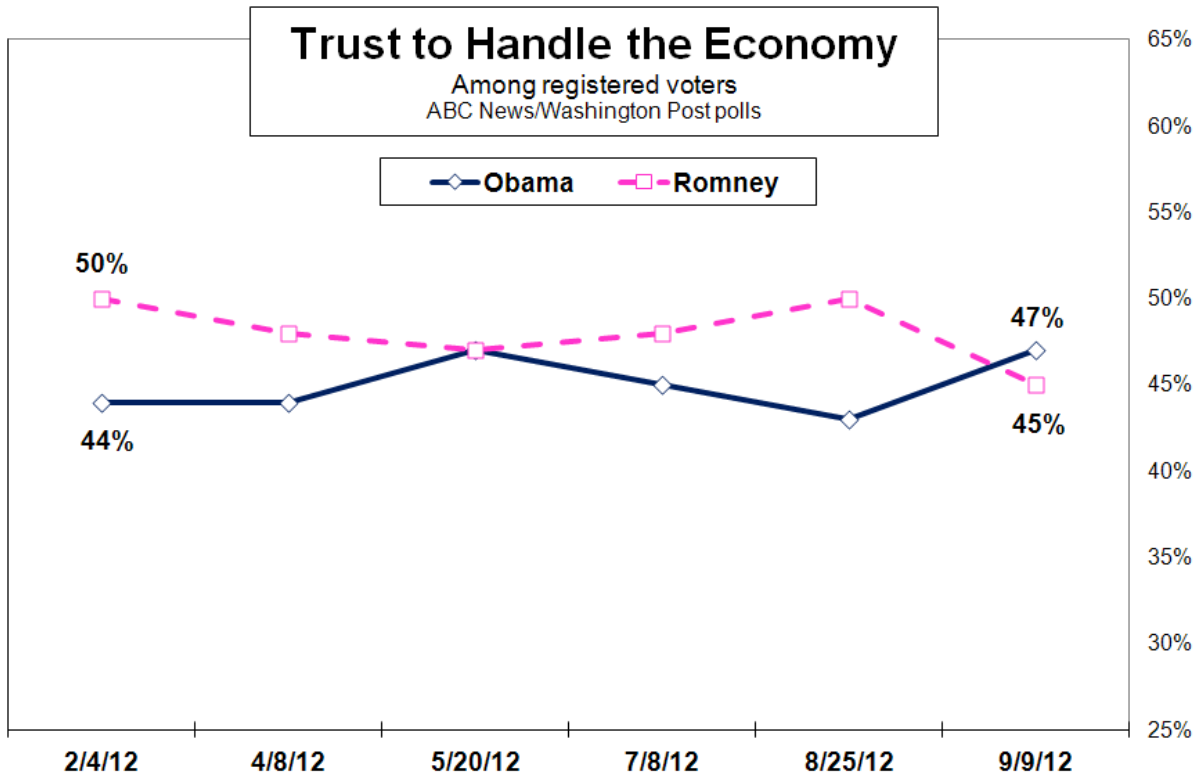


The 50-44 percent race among registered voters compares with a 46-47 percent Obama-Romney contest immediately before the conventions; while those shifts are within the survey's margin of

sampling error, Obama is at his best vs. Romney since an ABC/Post poll in early April. That's the case even though fewer than half, 48 percent, approve of Obama's job performance in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#).

The main change has been a shift among Democrats, coalescing around their party's nominee. Obama's support from Democrats who are registered to vote has advanced by 8 percentage points since before the conventions, to a near-unanimous 91 percent, matching his best; the number defecting to Romney has dropped by 6 points, to a mere 5 percent. Among other groups, Obama's support has reached a new high among men, while Romney is at new lows among moderates, whites and higher-income voters, all in ABC/Post polls since April 2011.

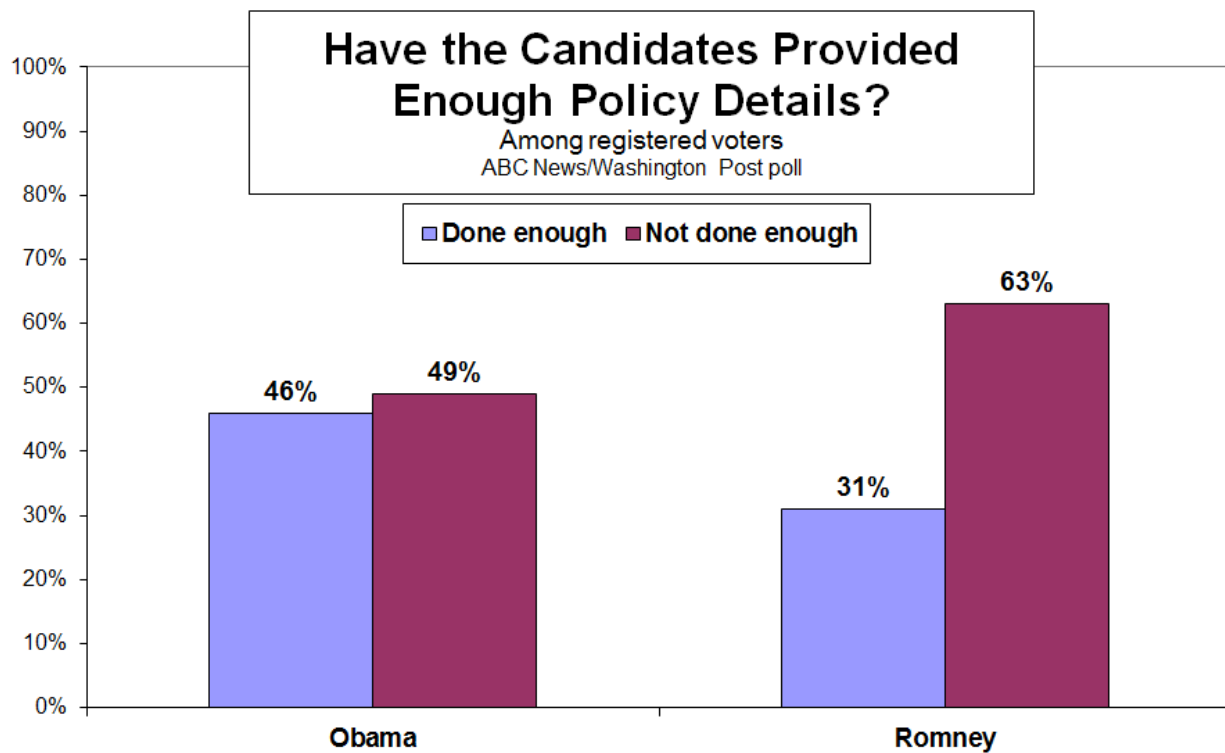
Additionally, there's been a shift in preferences in the eight tossup states identified by the ABC News Political Unit: Registered voters in these states now favor Obama over Romney by 54-40 percent, vs. 42-48 percent in these same states before the party conventions. And in the states with mid-levels of unemployment, it's 51-43 percent, vs. 40-53 percent pre-convention, further suggesting some progress for Obama in his economic arguments.



As noted, though, among likely voters – people who say they're both registered and certain to vote – the race squeezes shut at 49-48 percent, Obama-Romney, essentially unchanged since before the conventions (+2 Romney then, +1 Obama now, well within sampling error.) That means that Romney's supporters express greater intention to vote – a challenge for Obama's ground game, and a suggestion that the race could come down to turnout.

Obama faces another reality: No incumbent with an approval rating below 50 percent in September of an election year has been re-elected in ABC/Post polls dating to the Reagan presidency. However, one came close: Not in September, but in early August 2004, George W. Bush had just 48 percent approval among registered voters. That went to 52 percent the next month, en route to his re-election. (Among other presidents, it seems that only Harry Truman won re-election with less than majority approval as the election approached, but the only pre-election data point available is a Gallup poll from late June 1948, showing 40 percent approval.)

Romney has his own challenges; beyond his lack of traction on the economy, he's broadly seen as having failed to provide specifics of his governing plan – in effect a negative assessment of his convention presentation. Registered voters by 63-31 percent say Romney has not provided enough details on the policies he'd pursue as president. They divide much more evenly, 46-49 percent, on whether Obama has or hasn't given enough details on what he'd do in a second term.



Other results suggest opportunities for Romney. The “build that” theme may have legs; Romney is far more apt than Obama to be seen as understanding what it takes to build a successful small business, and registered voters by 53-35 percent think government programs make it harder, not easier, for small businesses to succeed – a position the opposite of what Obama has expressed. At the same time, Obama and Romney run evenly in trust to support small businesses, suggesting that Romney has yet to capitalize on this issue.

More broadly, registered voters by a 13-point margin, 53-40 percent, say government programs do more to interfere with people's lives than to improve them, a position again more in tune with Romney's image as an advocate of smaller government than with Obama's.

ATTRIBUTES – Obama's advantages, in turn, include a persistent lead over Romney in empathy; registered voters by 50-40 percent think Obama better understands the economic problems people are having, and continue to rate him as more personally likeable, by a broad and steady 61-27 percent. (When the two views are tested against each other, empathy independently predicts vote preferences to a far greater degree than does likeability.)

Obama is at his best against Romney in another attribute, being seen as the stronger leader, 50-42 percent; and runs numerically ahead, albeit not significantly, in being better able to work with both sides in Congress, 46-41 percent.

On a personal level, building on his advantage in likeability, registered voters by wide margins would prefer to have Obama to dinner at their home, think he is more likely than Romney to be "a loyal friend," and would rather have Obama care for them if they were sick.

On an attribute related more to crisis management than to personality, however, voters divide much more closely on who they'd rather have as the captain of a ship in a storm – Obama, 46 percent, or Romney, 43 percent. And this measure more strongly predicts vote preference.

	Obama	Romney	Gap
Rather have to dinner at your home	52%	33	19 pts
Who would make a more loyal friend	50	36	14
Prefer to have care for you if you were sick	49	36	13
Prefer as the captain of a ship in a storm	46	43	3

In a more general question on political values, registered voters by 65-23 percent say it's more important that they trust what a candidate says than that they agree with that candidate. And trust in what both candidates are saying is weak, but better for Obama: Registered voters by 49-42 percent say his campaign is saying things it believes to be true, rather than intentionally trying to mislead people. On Romney these numbers go negative, albeit not significantly, 43-48 percent.

ISSUES – Among issues, the economy reigns, and with 53 percent of registered voters disapproving of how Obama's handled it, Romney should have chances. Barely a third say the country is better off than it was when Obama took office, and 38 percent think it would be better if Romney had been in charge.

Still, that's not a solid breakthrough. While 43 percent say the economy's gotten worse under Obama's presidency, most, 57 percent, don't think it would have done any better under Romney. And while 20 percent say they personally have gotten better off under Obama, essentially no more, 24 percent, think they'd have done better under a Romney presidency.

Obama, moreover, has newfound competitiveness on related issues – for the first time running about evenly with Romney in trust to handle the deficit, and scoring 50-43 percent against him in trust to handle taxes – not a statistically significant margin given the sample size, but still a slight

improvement, and Obama's best numerically this year. In general, it's a problem for Republicans when a Democrat is competitive on taxes and the deficit.

Beyond the economy, Obama has regained a significant, 11-point advantage over Romney in trust to handle terrorism, up from a scant 4-point gap in the spring. Obama has a 13-point lead in trust to handle international issues, an 11-point lead on social issues such as abortion and gay marriage and his widest advantage, 21 points, in trust to address women's issues. (Obama's lead on women's issues is similar among women and men alike). The candidates are rated more closely on health care generally and Medicare specifically, but the latter is an issue on which Obama's moved into a numerical edge, if not a significant one.

GROUPS – As noted, Obama's support among men who are registered to vote is his highest of this election, 48 percent; and among women, at 51 percent, his best since May; the gender gap is its smallest in more than a year. (Unusually, Obama's support is numerically higher among unmarried men than it is among unmarried women, the latter a core Democratic support group.)

Obama has his highest support among whites since April; 41 percent, while Romney's 52 percent in this group is a new low for him. And the contest stands at 47-45 percent among registered voters with household incomes more than \$100,000 a year, Obama's first numerical advantage, and Romney's again lowest support to date, in this group. Further, Obama now leads by 56-39 percent among registered voters who've done postgraduate work, compared with a 47-49 percent contest in this group before the conventions.

Vote preferences among liberals remain similar to pre-convention levels (84 percent for Obama); but he's doing better with moderates, 56-33 percent, Obama's best in this group since May and a new low for Romney. Romney, additionally, has slipped to 73 percent support among conservatives, numerically his lowest since February; Obama's 25 percent support among conservatives is his best since February, and up 9 points from just before the conventions.

Obama-Romney vote preference among registered voters	
All	50-44%
Men	48-45
Women	51-44
Democrats	91- 5
Republicans	6-89
Independents	46-48
Liberals	84-13
Moderates	56-33
Conservatives	25-73
Whites	41-52
Nonwhites	76-21
HS or less	51-43
Some college	45-49
College grad	46-47

Post-grad	56-39
<\$50K	55-39
\$50-100K	46-50
\$100K+	47-45
18-39	57-35
40-49	46-46
50-64	50-47
65+	43-52
Married men	38-55
Married women	45-51
Unmarried women	58-35
Unmarried men	64-29
Tossup states	54-40
State unemployment:	
High	51-44
Medium	51-43
Low	41-49

As mentioned, Obama has improved to a near-unanimous 91 percent support among Democrats, up from 83 percent before the conventions and matching his best; that occurred chiefly among Democratic men, who also moved in their preference for Obama vs. Romney on the economy.

Romney, for his part, has a similar 89 percent support among Republicans, essentially unchanged from two weeks ago. The two run evenly among independents, 46-48 percent, Obama-Romney, similar to the ABC/Post pre-convention poll.

Thirty-two percent of registered voters in this poll identify themselves as Democrats, 26 percent as Republicans and 37 percent as independents, continuing a record four-year preponderance of independents in partisan preferences. The split is almost identical among likely voters, 33-27-36 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents. Democrats outnumbered Republicans by 7 points in the 2008 election.

Among reasons for the closer race between likely voters vs. all registered voters is that Obama does better among people with lower household incomes, \$50,000 or less, and they're less likely to say they're certain they'll vote. Certainty to vote also is lower in related groups, including unmarried and younger adults, and racial minorities. And Romney does a bit better among independents who are likely to vote, with 54 percent support, vs. 48 percent among all registered voters.

OTHERS – Among other results, few registered voters – 18 percent – think the Romney campaign is using the issue of race in the election; most of them, 15 percent overall, think it's doing so inappropriately. More, 31 percent, think the Obama campaign is using the issue of race – 20 percent, inappropriately.

There are substantial differences across racial groups. Nonwhites are three times as apt as whites to think Romney’s campaign is using race as an issue, and doing so inappropriately. On the other hand, whites and nonwhites in about equal numbers think Obama’s campaign is using race as an issue – but whites are much more likely than nonwhites to think he’s doing so inappropriately.

	Romney using race as an issue			Obama using race as an issue		
	NET	Appropriately	Inapp.	NET	Appropriately	Inapp.
Whites	12%	2	10	33%	8	24
Nonwhites	37	7	30	27	20	7

Separately, preferences overall continue to revolve largely around views of Obama – not surprising, since re-election campaigns tend to be a referendum on the incumbent. Three-quarters of Obama supporters say they’re mainly “for” him, not mainly against Romney. Many fewer Romney voters, 45 percent, are mainly “for” Romney; half instead are chiefly against Obama. That said, affirmative support for Romney among his supporters is up by 8 points from July, a helpful trend for the challenger.

Finally, just 13 percent of registered voters say they might change their minds, down from 19 percent in July. But an indirect measure of movability – based on the anxiousness voters feel about their candidates and their interest in additional information – finds that more, 22 percent, remain persuadable, including about equal numbers of Obama and Romney supporters alike.

That result suggests that opportunity remains for both candidates to change the current dynamic. But the door may not stay open for long: at 32 percent, the number who are interested in more information about the candidates has dropped by 9 points from its pre-convention level.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 7-9, 2012, among a random national sample of 826 registered voters, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. 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 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. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) How closely are you following the 2012 presidential race: very closely, somewhat closely, not so closely, or not closely at all?

----	Closely	-----	----	Not closely	-----	No
NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not so	At all	opinion

9/9/12	RV	80	44	36	19	11	9	*
5/20/12	RV	82	38	44	18	9	8	*
2/4/12*	RV	79	37	43	20	12	8	*
1/15/12	RV	76	33	43	24	14	10	*

* 2/4/12 and previous "not too closely" instead of "not so closely"
Call for full trend.

2. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) 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.
9/9/12	RV	83	7	6	4	*	NA	0
8/25/12	RV	81	8	6	3	1	NA	*
7/8/12	RV	81	9	8	2	*	NA	*

Call for full trend.

3. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) 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

		Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	50	44	1	2	1	2
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".

4. (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
9/9/12	RV	85	13	4	8	2
8/25/12	RV	83	15	6	9	2
7/8/12*	RV	79	19	6	13	2

*7/8/12 and prior: "Will you definitely vote for (NAMED CANDIDATE), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else?"
Call for full trend.

		Definitely vote for	- Chance NET	change Good	mind - Unlikely	No opinion
Obama:						
9/9/12	RV	86	11	4	7	3
8/25/12	RV	84	14	6	8	2
7/8/12	RV	81	17	4	13	2
Romney:						
9/9/12	RV	85	14	5	9	*
8/25/12	RV	82	16	5	10	3
7/8/12	RV	77	21	8	13	2

5. (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	
9/9/12	RV	90	51	39	9	5	5	*
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:								
9/9/12	RV	93	56	38	7	3	3	0
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:								
9/9/12	RV	87	46	40	13	7	6	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

6a. (IF SUPPORT OBAMA) Is your vote more for Obama, or more against Romney?

		For Obama	Against Romney	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	75	22	3
7/8/12	RV	75	23	3

Compare to:

		For Obama	Against McCain	No opinion
7/13/08	RV	81	16	3
For Kerry Against Bush No opinion				
9/8/04	RV	41	55	4
7/25/04	RV	41	56	3
6/20/04	RV	43	55	1
5/23/04		38	61	1
3/7/04		38	61	1

6b. (IF SUPPORT ROMNEY) Is your vote more for Romney, or more against Obama?

		For Romney	Against Obama	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	45	50	5
7/8/12	RV	37	59	4

Compare to:

		For McCain	Against Obama	No opinion
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7/13/08	RV	70	28	2
		For Bush	Against Kerry	No opinion
9/8/04	RV	84	14	2
7/25/04	RV	81	17	2
6/20/04	RV	82	17	1
5/23/04		77	21	1
3/7/04		86	13	2

7. 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
9/9/12	49	29	20	45	11	35	6
9/9/12	RV 48	27	21	50	10	39	2
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

8. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) 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
9/9/12	RV	45	24	21	53	8	45	2
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

9. (IF DISAPPROVE OF OBAMA ON ECONOMY) Do you think Obama has the wrong economic policies or do you think Obama has the right economic policies but they need more time to work?

		Wrong policies	Need more time	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	82	13	5

10. (IF SUPPORT OBAMA OR ROMNEY) Regardless of your support, how do you feel about how (SUPPORTED CANDIDATE) 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
9/9/12	RV	60	26	34	38	11	27	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
9/9/12	RV	59	29	30	39	12	27	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
9/9/12	RV	60	22	38	36	10	26	4
8/25/12	RV	62	17	44	33	12	21	5

11. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) 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?

		----- More -----			--- Little/enough ---			No
		NET	A lot	Some	NET	Little	Enough	opinion
9/9/12	RV	32	19	13	67	6	61	1
8/25/12	RV	41	23	18	58	7	51	1

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

9/9/12 - Summary Table*

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a.	Handling the economy	47	45	*	3	4
b.	Dealing with the federal budget deficit	44	47	0	7	3
c.	Handling health care policy	47	44	1	4	4
d.	Dealing with social issues such as abortion and gay marriage	50	39	1	5	4
e.	Handling terrorism	51	40	3	4	3
f.	Supporting small business	46	45	1	3	5
g.	Handling international affairs	51	38	*	2	9
h.	Handling taxes	50	43	1	2	4
i.	Handling Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors	48	43	*	4	5
j.	Addressing women's issues	55	34	1	3	7
k.	Advancing the interest of the middle class	53	38	1	4	4

*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
9/9/12	RV	47	45	*	3	4
8/25/12	RV	43	50	*	4	3
7/8/12	RV	45	48	1	3	3
5/20/12	RV	47	47	*	3	3
4/8/12	RV	44	48	1	4	3
2/4/12	RV	44	50	1	3	2

b. Dealing with the federal budget deficit

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
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9/9/12	RV	44	47	0	7	3
8/25/12	RV	38	51	0	7	3
7/8/12	RV	43	51	1	3	2
4/8/12	RV	37	54	1	6	2
2/4/12	RV	39	52	*	4	4

c. Handling health care policy

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	47	44	1	4	4
8/25/12	RV	47	45	*	6	2
7/8/12	RV	48	44	1	5	3
4/8/12	RV	49	40	*	5	6

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

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	50	39	1	5	4
8/25/12	RV	52	38	1	5	4
4/8/12	RV	47	39	1	6	7

e. Handling terrorism

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	51	40	3	4	3
4/8/12	RV	47	43	1	4	5
2/4/12	RV	54	38	2	2	4

f. Supporting small business

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	46	45	1	3	5
8/25/12	RV	48	47	1	3	2
4/8/12	RV	49	44	1	2	4

g. Handling international affairs

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	51	38	*	2	9
8/25/12	RV	46	41	1	6	5
4/8/12	RV	56	37	*	3	4
2/4/12	RV	55	38	1	3	4

h. Handling taxes

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	50	43	1	2	4
8/25/12	RV	43	48	*	5	3
7/8/12	RV	46	46	*	5	3
4/8/12	RV	48	43	1	4	4
2/4/12	RV	49	45	*	2	4

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

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	48	43	*	4	5
8/25/12	RV	42	45	1	7	5

j. Addressing women's issues

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	55	34	1	3	7
8/25/12	RV	51	35	1	7	6
4/8/12	RV	54	37	1	4	4

k. Advancing the interests of the middle class

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	53	38	1	4	4
5/20/12*	RV	50	44	1	4	2

**advance the economic interest of middle class Americans"

13. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Regardless of who you may support, who do you think [ITEM] - (Obama) or (Romney)?

9/9/12 - Summary Table*

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a.	Better understands the economic problems people in this country are having	50	40	3	4	3
b.	Is the stronger leader	50	42	2	2	5
c.	Seems like the more friendly and likeable person	61	27	5	3	3
d.	Would work better with both (Democrats) and (Republicans) in Congress	46	41	1	8	4

*Full sample asked items a-b; half sample asked item c; other half sample asked item d.

Trend:

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

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	50	40	3	4	3
8/25/12	RV	47	40	1	9	2
7/8/12	RV	51	40	2	5	2
5/20/12	RV	48	40	2	8	2
4/8/12	RV	49	38	2	8	2
2/4/12	RV	52	37	2	7	2

b. Is the stronger leader

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	50	42	2	2	5
7/8/12	RV	46	44	3	2	6
4/8/12	RV	48	42	1	5	5

c. Seems like the more friendly and likable person

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12	RV	61	27	5	3	3
8/25/12	RV	61	27	6	4	2

7/8/12	RV	63	26	5	2	4
4/8/12	RV	64	28	3	2	3

d. would work better with both (Democrats) and (Republicans) in Congress

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	46	41	1	8	4

Compare to:

	Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/29/08 RV	45	47	3	3	3
8/22/08 RV	49	37	6	4	4

14. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) 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?

9/9/12 - Summary Table

	--- Confident ---			--- Not confident ---			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not so	At all	
a. Obama is re-elected	46	19	27	53	17	36	1
b. Romney is elected	49	14	35	50	19	31	1

Trend:

a. Obama is re-elected

	--- Confident ---			--- Not confident ---			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not so	At all	
9/9/12 RV	46	19	27	53	17	36	1
8/25/12 RV	42	14	28	58	18	40	1

b. Romney is elected

	--- Confident ---			--- Not confident ---			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not so	At all	
9/9/12 RV	49	14	35	50	19	31	1
8/25/12 RV	46	11	35	52	21	32	1

15. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you think Romney has or has not done enough to provide details about the policies he would pursue as president?

	Has done enough	Has not done enough	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	31	63	7

16. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you think Obama has or has not done enough to provide details about the policies he would pursue in a second term as president?

	Has done enough	Has not done enough	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	46	49	5

17. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Changing topics, would you say you, yourself are better off financially than you were when Obama became president, not as well off, or in about the same shape as then financially?

	Better off	Not as well off	About the same	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	20	32	47	*
5/20/12	16	30	53	1
1/15/12	15	30	54	1
11/3/11	13	34	52	1
9/1/11	15	35	50	*
7/18/09	8	27	64	*
G.W. Bush				
10/5/04 LV	30	30	40	1
10/29/03	22	27	50	1
9/13/03	21	30	49	*
8/11/03	17	25	58	1
Clinton:				
6/11/00	34	14	50	2
7/19/98	30	15	52	3
3/1/98	32	9	57	1
6/23/96	29	22	49	0
2/27/94	12	17	71	*
G.H.W. Bush:				
1/17/93	27	28	44	1
8/9/92	22	32	45	1
6/7/92	19	32	49	*
3/11/92	20	33	46	1
2/2/92	19	31	49	*
12/15/91	17	33	49	*
10/21/91	20	27	53	1
3/4/91	19	18	63	1
Reagan:				
1/16/89	42	18	39	1
1/18/87	37	23	40	1
9/8/86	41	20	39	1

18. (IF NOT AS WELL OFF OR SAME SINCE OBAMA) How much, if at all, do you blame Obama for the fact that you haven't gotten better off financially since he took office - do you think he deserves a lot of the blame for that, some, a little or none at all?

	----- Blame -----			- Little/No blame -			No
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Little	None	opinion
9/9/12 RV	48	22	26	50	18	31	2

19. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) If Romney had been president since 2009 instead of Obama, do you think you yourself would be better off financially than you are now, not as well off, or in about the same shape financially?

	Better off	Not as well off	About the same	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	24	28	38	9
5/20/12 RV	21	23	46	10

20. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Now thinking about the country's economy as a whole, would you say the economy has gotten better since Obama became president, gotten worse, or remained about the same?

	Better	Worse	Same	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	32	43	24	1

21. (IF ECONOMY GOTTEN WORSE OR SAME) How much, if at all, do you blame Obama for the fact that the economy has not gotten better since he took office - do you think he deserves a lot of the blame for that, some, a little or none at all?

	----- Blame -----			- Little/No blame -			No
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Little	None	opinion
9/9/12 RV	71	37	34	29	15	14	*

22. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) If Romney had been president since 2009 instead of Obama, do you think the economy would be better than it is now, worse, or about the same?

	Better off	Not as well off	About the same	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	38	29	28	6

23. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Would you say the country has become safer from terrorism since Obama became president, less safe, or has safety from terrorism remained the same?

	Safer	Less safe	Same	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	40	12	47	1

24. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) If Romney had been president since 2009 instead of Obama, do you think the country would be safer from terrorism than it is now, less safe, or about the same?

	Safer	Less safe	Same	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	16	23	53	7

25. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you think Obama does or does not understand what it takes to build a successful small business in this country?

	Does understand	Does not understand	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	48	48	5

26. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you think Romney does or does not understand what it takes to build a successful small business in this country?

	Does understand	Does not understand	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	66	28	7

27. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) In general, do you feel that government programs do more to (improve) people's lives, or do more to (interfere with) people's lives?

	Improve	Interfere	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	40	53	8
9/8/04 RV	46	44	11

28. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you feel that government programs mainly (help small businesses succeed) or mainly (make it harder for small businesses to succeed)?

	Help to succeed	Harder to succeed	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	35	53	12

29. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Thinking again about the election, for each item I name, please tell me if it is a major reason for you to (support) that candidate, a major reason for you to (oppose) that candidate, or not a major factor in your vote?

9/9/12 - Summary Table

	Major reason to support	Major reason to oppose	Not a major factor	No op.
a. Romney's work buying and restructuring companies before he went into politics	28	25	45	2
b. Obama's handling of the economy	34	41	23	2

Trend:

a. Romney's work buying and restructuring companies before he went into politics

	Major reason to support	Major reason to oppose	Not a major factor	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	28	25	45	2
7/8/12 RV	23	25	49	3
5/20/12 RV	21	21	54	4

b. Obama's handling of the economy

	Major reason to support	Major reason to oppose	Not a major factor	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	34	41	23	2
7/8/12 RV	39	43	17	1
4/8/12 RV	33	48	18	2
2/4/12 RV	37	48	13	2

30. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) In his work as a corporate investor, do you think Romney did more to (create jobs) or more to (cut jobs) in the United States?

	Create jobs	Cut jobs	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	38	45	17
7/8/12* RV	36	42	22
2/4/12 RV	33	37	30

*7/8/12 added "in the United States"

31. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you think the Obama campaign is saying things it believes to be true, or is intentionally misleading people?

	Believes to be true	Misleading people	Both (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	49	42	4	4

32. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you think the Romney campaign is saying things it believes to be true, or is intentionally misleading people?

	Believes to be true	Misleading people	Both (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	43	48	3	6

33-34 held for release.

35. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you think the Romney campaign is using the issue of race in the election, or has been staying away from that as an issue? (IF YES) Has the campaign been using it appropriately or inappropriately?

	----- Using race -----			Not using	No
	NET	Appropriately	Inappropriately	race	opinion
9/9/12 RV	18	4	15	72	10

36. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Do you think the Obama campaign is using the issue of race in the election, or has been staying away from that as an issue? (IF YES) Has the campaign been using it appropriately or inappropriately?

	----- Using race -----			Not using	No
	NET	Appropriately	Inappropriately	race	opinion
9/9/12 RV	31	11	20	61	8

37. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) What's more important to you - that you (trust what) a political candidate says, or that you (agree with what) they say?

	Trust	Agree	Both (Vol.)	Neither (Vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	65	23	8	2	3

38. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) On a ship in a storm, who would you rather have as the captain, (Obama) or (Romney)?

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	46	43	*	7	4

39. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Who do you think would make a more loyal friend, (Obama) or (Romney)?

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	50	36	3	6	5

40. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Who would you prefer to have take care of you if you were sick, (Obama) or (Romney)?

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	49	36	1	11	4

41. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Who would you rather invite to dinner at your home, (Obama) or (Romney)?

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/9/12 RV	52	33	7	6	2

*** END **