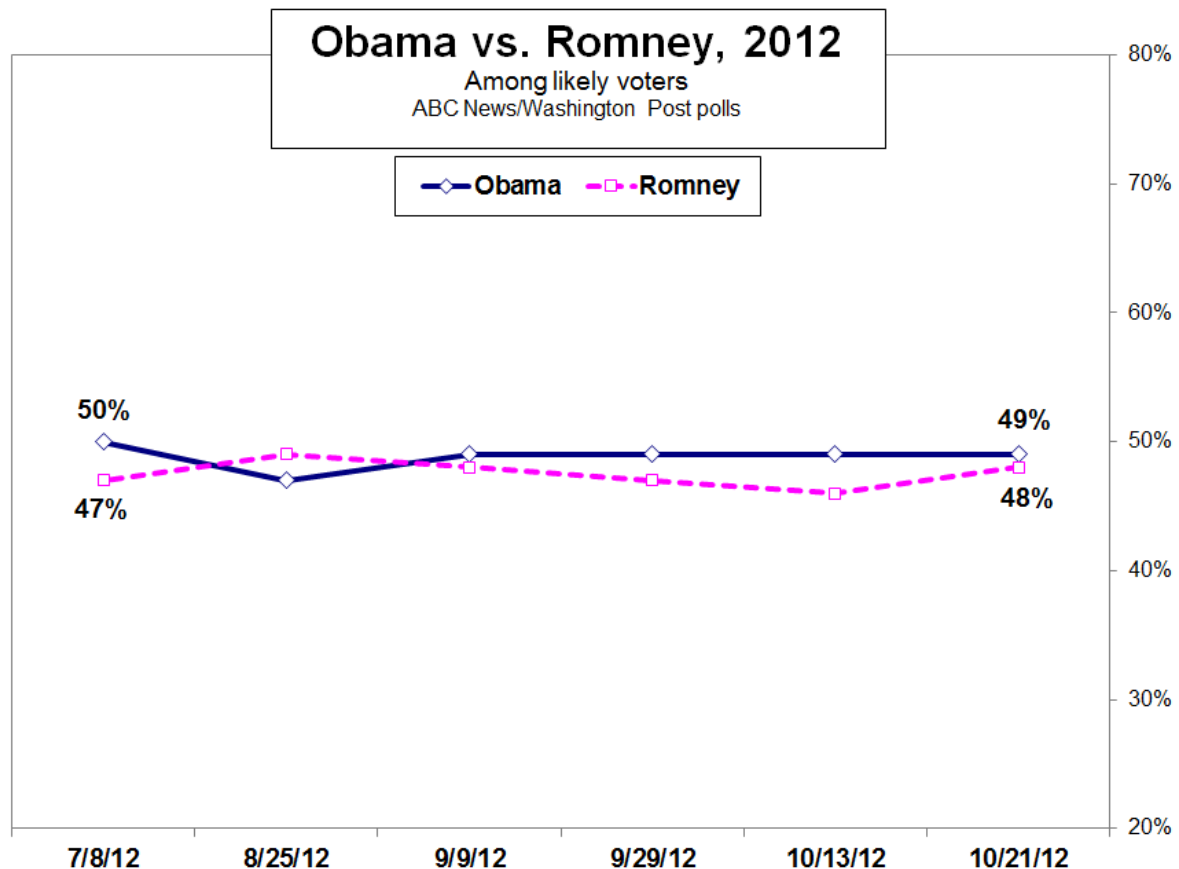


Debate Ahead, Romney Gains on Int'l Affairs – But Continues to Lag on Economic Priorities

Mitt Romney carries newfound competitiveness in trust to handle international issues into the final presidential debate, combined with his highest personal popularity of the 2012 campaign. But continued weakness in his perceived economic priorities is keeping the race a close one.

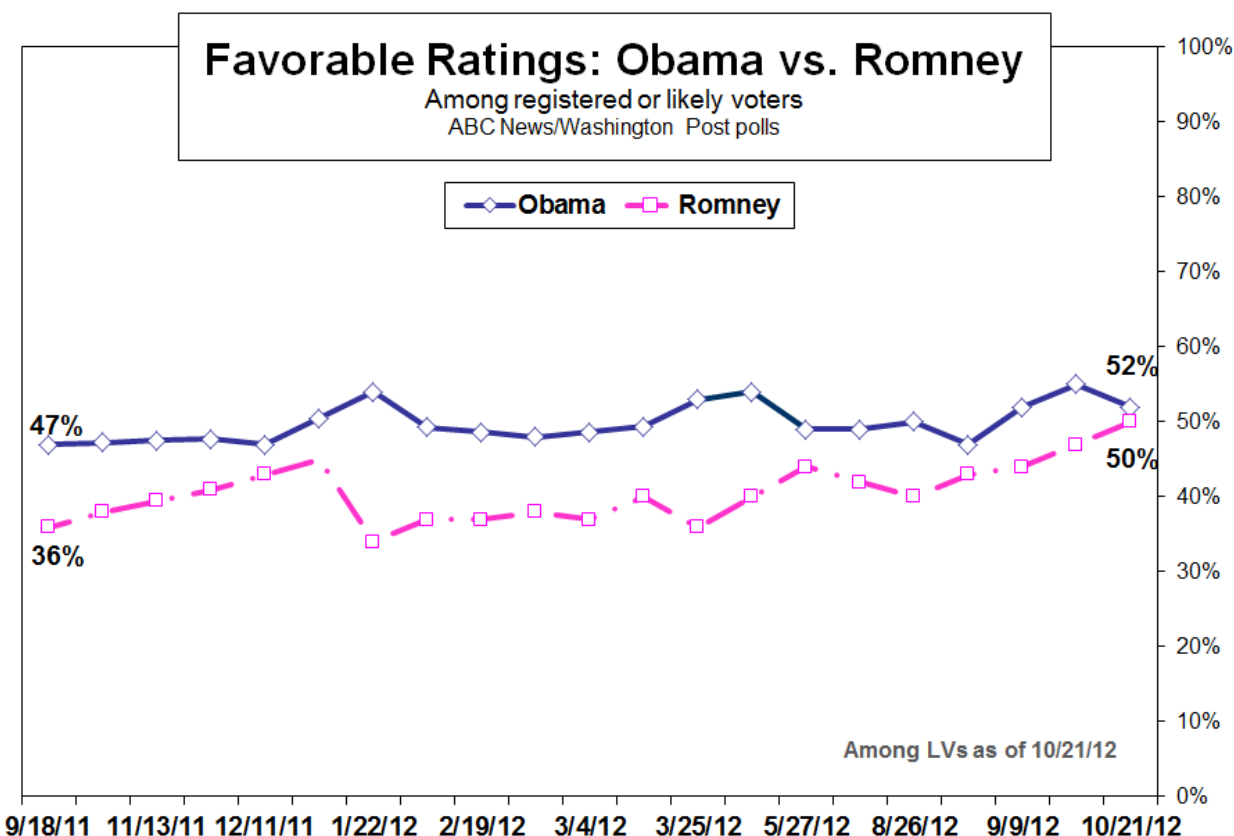
Among other shifts, after last week's second debate, which included a spirited exchange on women in the workplace, the contest now has its largest gender gap of the season – a 14-point lead for Barack Obama among women, vs. a 12-point advantage for Romney among men.

The result, as in previous ABC News/Washington Post polls since late summer, is essentially a dead heat between the candidates overall. In the first of what will be daily ABC/Post tracking polls for the rest of the contest, 49 percent of likely voters back Obama, 48 percent Romney.



With tonight's debate focused on foreign policy, the poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds Romney virtually tied with Obama in trust to handle international affairs (49-46 percent, Obama-Romney) and terrorism (47-46 percent), as well as to serve as commander-in-chief of the armed services (48-45 percent). That reflects a shift in Romney's favor; Obama led on terrorism by 11 points as recently as Sept. 29, and on international affairs by 7 points earlier this month.

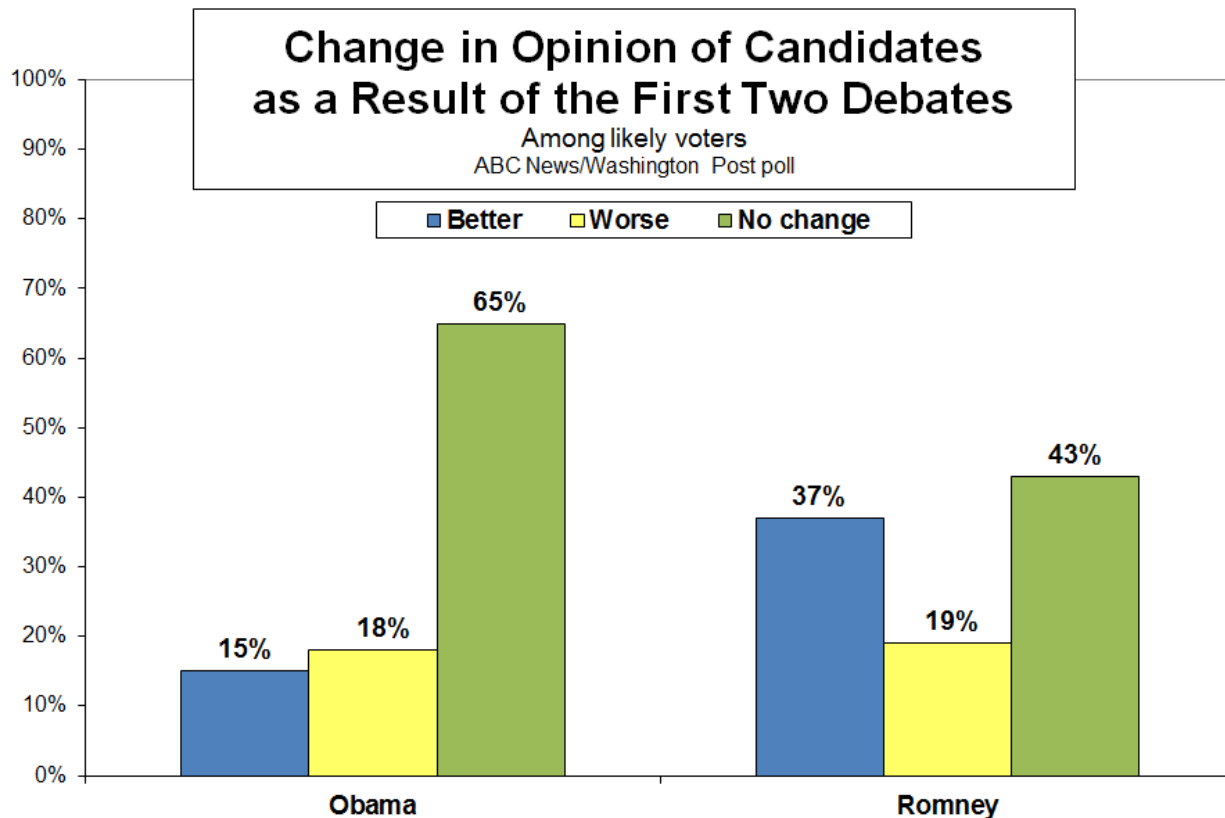
In another milestone for Romney, 50 percent of likely voters express a favorable opinion of him overall, while 47 percent see him unfavorably – his highest popularity score of the season, and one of the rare times he's been numerically above water in this measure. His personal popularity now roughly matches Obama's 52-46 percent, favorable-unfavorable.



While more pick Obama as winner of the second debate, these advances for Romney appear to reflect a carry-over effect of his first debate performance. Overall, 37 percent of likely voters say their opinion of Romney has improved as a result of the two debates, double the 19 percent who think less of him. Obama gets just an even split, 15 percent to 18 percent, better-worse. (The rest say the debates haven't changed their views of the candidates – 65 percent in Obama's case, 43 percent in Romney's).

Still, Obama clawed back some ground in the second debate – he's seen as having won it by 48-29 percent, compared with Romney's 71-17 percent in the first debate. And the number of likely

voters with a better opinion of Obama as a result of the two debates has advanced from 8 percent after the first debate to, as noted, 15 percent after the second. Those results underscore what's at stake in the candidate's last face-off tonight.



CHALLENGES – While Romney shows momentum on some underlying attributes, he also still faces some fundamental challenges. Obama is benefitting from slightly improving economic attitudes; as many likely voters now say the economy is improving as say it's worsening, 37 percent vs. 36 percent, numerically positive for the first time since spring in comparable data.

Most strikingly, a majority continues to think Romney, if elected, would favor the wealthy rather than the middle class, by 54-33 percent. Obama, by contrast, consistently has been seen by an overwhelming majority, now 66-15 percent, as having done more to favor the middle class than the wealthy.

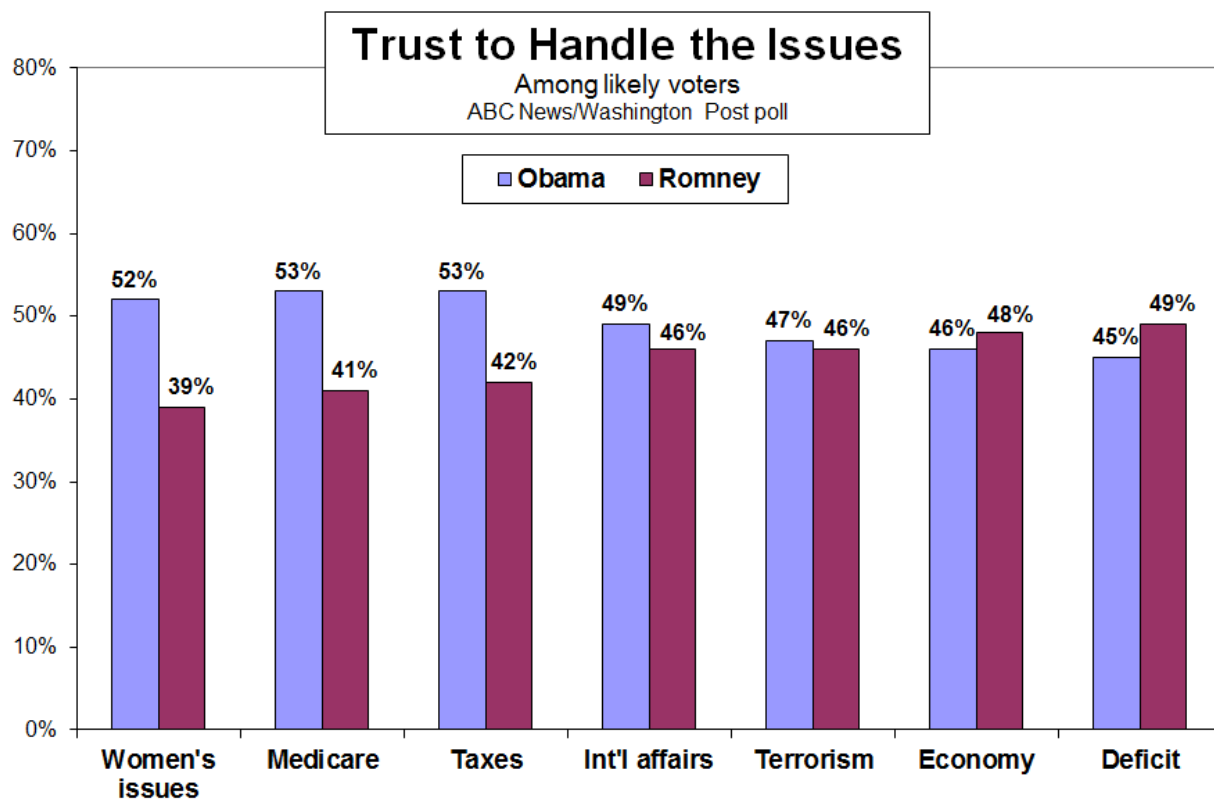
Overcoming this perception may be Romney's single biggest challenge ahead; one complication in his addressing it is Obama's advantage in two other areas: Better understanding the economic problems of average Americans, on which the president leads Romney by 7 points; and honesty and trustworthiness, on which Obama's up by 9.

ISSUES and APPROVAL – Obama has an unusual advantage on another issue, again likely reflecting skepticism about Romney's economic priorities: In trust to handle taxes, typically a

better issue for Republican candidates, Obama leads by 11 percentage points, 53-42 percent – the president’s biggest lead on taxes all season.

Obama also is competitive with Romney in trust to handle the deficit, (49-45 percent, Romney-Obama); that’s tightened from a wide Romney advantage in the spring and summer, perhaps reflecting some impact from Obama’s continued criticisms of Romney’s budget numbers. Obama, moreover, leads by 12 points on handling Medicare and by 13 points in trust to handle women’s issues. Women prefer Obama on women’s issues by a wide 18 points; men, by 7.

On trust to handle the economy – the election’s top issue and Obama’s greatest vulnerability – it’s another virtual dead heat, 48-46 percent, Romney-Obama.



Still, Obama’s job approval rating overall is 50 percent among likely voters, a point short of a majority. In historical terms, that can be adequate to win re-election (George W. Bush and, possibly, Harry S. Truman), but certainly not comfortably so.

While there have been shifts under the surface, it’s notable how little overall preferences have changed in this contest: Obama’s support among likely voters has been between 47 and 49 percent steadily since just before the conventions; Romney’s, 46 to 49 percent. And likely voter definitions with different turnout estimates produce essentially identical horse race results.

STATES and GROUPS – As well as close overall, the contest stands at 51-47 percent, Romney-Obama, in the nine battleground states designated by the ABC News Political Unit – well within the margin of sampling error, and not significantly different from the mid-month 51-46 percent, Obama-Romney, in these same states. But regardless of sampling error, the bigger number now is Romney's, another indication of the competitiveness he's showing.

Obama has a little pushback on another metric: The share of his supporters who describe themselves as "very enthusiastic" has advanced to 64 percent, his highest of the season, and matching his level at this time in 2008 (but below his peak that year). Romney's strong enthusiasm, at 58 percent, is numerically off its peak at mid-month, after the first debate.

Among groups, again perhaps reflecting the second debate, this poll finds a shift in Obama's direction among college-educated white women. They go for Obama over Romney by 55-42 percent now, vs. a preference for Romney by almost an identical margin, 56-42 percent, in mid-October. Other slight shifts mitigate the overall impact – Romney's gained among white men, especially among those who lack a college degree – but it explains the wider gender gap.

Romney leads by 15 points among whites overall, while Obama comes back with a vast 78-19 percent advantage among nonwhites. There's a hardening at the ideological poles, with Obama and Romney at their highest support of the campaign among liberals and "very" conservatives, respectively (88 percent of liberals for Obama, 89 percent of very conservatives for Romney). The fight's among moderates, now +16 points for Obama, and somewhat conservatives, +37 for Romney.

There's also extreme polarization among Democrats and Republicans, with a scant 3-point difference between the candidates among independents, 49 percent for Romney, 46 percent for Obama. A slight 5-point turnout advantage for Democrats makes the race essentially tied – and, if nothing breaks open, makes turnout the key to the 2012 race. Turnout's especially important since a third of likely voters say they plan to vote early – including 5 percent who already have.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 18-21, 2012, among a random national sample of 1,376 likely voters, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of sampling error of 3 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.

Partisan divisions in this survey, Democrats-Republicans-independents, are 34-29-33 percent among likely voters. Partisan divisions in the 2008 exit poll were 39-32-29 percent. "Battleground states" as designated by the ABC News Political Unit are Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin.

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
10/21/12	LV	92	64	28	8	5	3	*
10/13/12	LV	93	60	33	6	4	2	*
10/13/12	RV	88	54	34	11	6	5	1
9/29/12	RV	86	47	39	14	8	6	0
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.
10/21/12	RV	84	6	4	2	*	4	*
10/13/12	RV	85	7	4	1	1	1	1
9/29/12	RV	84	7	7	2	*	0	*
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. (IF CERTAIN TO VOTE) Do you think you'll (vote in person at your polling place on Election Day), or (vote before Election Day by early voting or mail-in ballot)?

		Vote in person	Early voting/ mail-in ballot	Already voted (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	RV	66	27	5	2
10/13/12	RV	67	30	2	1
11/2/08	RV	63	11	25	*
11/1/08	RV	63	13	23	*
10/31/08	RV	63	16	20	1
10/30/08	RV	64	17	18	1
10/29/08	RV	65	18	16	1
10/28/08	RV	65	19	15	1
10/27/08	RV	66	18	15	1
10/26/08	RV	67	18	14	1
10/25/08	RV	68	18	13	1
10/24/08	RV	69	19	11	1
10/23/08	RV	68	20	11	1
10/22/08	RV	66	20	13	1

4. (IF CERTAIN TO VOTE) 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)? (ASKED IF ALREADY VOTED) For whom did you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - among likely voters

		Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	49	48	*	2	1
10/13/12	LV	49	46	1	1	2
9/29/12	LV	49	47	*	2	1
9/9/12	LV	49	48	*	1	2
8/25/12	LV	47	49	1	1	1
7/8/12*	LV	50	47	*	2	2

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

Compare to:

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - among registered voters

		Obama	Romney	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
10/13/12	RV	50	43	1	3	*	3
9/29/12	RV	49	44	1	3	1	1
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."

5. (IF SUPPORT OBAMA OR ROMNEY) Will you definitely vote for (NAMED CANDIDATE - OBAMA/ROMNEY), or just probably?

		Definitely vote for	Probably vote for	No opinion
Obama				
10/21/12	LV	91	8	*
Romney				
10/21/12	LV	90	9	*

6. (IF SUPPORT/VOTED 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	
Obama								
10/21/12	LV	96	64	32	4	3	1	*
10/13/12	LV	95	60	35	4	4	1	*

10/13/12	RV	94	55	40	5	4	1	1
9/29/12	RV	91	51	40	9	7	2	0
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

10/21/12	LV	93	58	35	6	5	1	1
10/13/12	LV	93	62	31	7	4	2	1
10/13/12	RV	92	59	33	8	5	2	1
9/29/12	RV	87	48	39	13	6	7	*
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

7. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) 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
10/21/12	LV	50	31	19	48	8	40	2
10/21/12	RV	51	31	20	47	10	37	2
10/13/12	LV	50	32	18	48	9	40	2
10/13/12	RV	51	30	21	47	10	37	2
10/13/12		50	30	21	44	10	34	6
9/29/12	RV	49	25	24	49	12	37	2
9/29/12		50	26	24	46	12	34	4
9/9/12	RV	48	27	21	50	10	39	2
9/9/12		49	29	20	45	11	35	6
8/25/12	RV	47	26	21	50	13	37	3
8/25/12		50	27	23	46	13	33	4
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 LIKELY VOTERS) Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse or staying the same?

	Getting better	Getting worse	Staying the same	No opinion
10/21/12 LV	37	36	25	2
4/17/11* RV	29	44	27	*
10/28/10 LV	29	37	34	*
10/28/10	26	34	39	1
10/3/10	31	32	37	*
9/2/10	24	38	38	1
7/11/10	27	32	41	*
6/6/10	30	30	39	1
3/29/09	27	36	36	1
3/15/09	14	48	36	2
2/15/09	8	58	31	3
1/19/09	6	62	31	1
12/15/08	9	64	25	1
11/16/08	16	55	28	1
10/13/08	2	82	13	2

*"the national economy"
Call for full trend.

9. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of (ITEM)? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

Trend:

a. Barack Obama

		----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----		No opinion	
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
10/21/12 LV		52	37	15	46	10	36	2
10/7/12 RV		55	33	22	44	9	34	1
10/7/12		55	33	22	44	9	34	1
9/9/12 RV		52	34	18	45	13	33	3
9/9/12		52	34	18	45	13	33	3
9/2/12		47	28	19	49	14	34	4
8/26/12		50	29	20	47	13	34	4
8/5/12		49	31	19	47	12	35	4
5/27/12		49	29	20	48	14	34	3
4/15/12		54	31	24	43	13	30	3
3/25/12		53	33	19	45	14	31	2
2/26/12		48	26	22	50	12	38	2
1/22/12		54	30	24	43	12	31	3
12/11/11		47	24	23	50	15	35	3
9/18/11		47	23	24	49	15	33	6
4/17/11		52	34	18	46	13	34	2

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

b. Mitt Romney

		----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/21/12	LV	50	29	21	47	11	36	3
10/7/12	RV	47	26	21	51	14	37	2
10/7/12		47	26	21	51	14	37	2
9/9/12	RV	44	20	24	49	17	32	7
9/9/12		44	20	24	49	17	32	7
9/2/12		43	20	22	48	18	30	10
8/26/12		40	21	19	51	18	33	9
8/5/12		42	19	23	50	17	33	8
5/27/12		44	16	28	44	19	25	12
4/15/12		40	13	27	48	24	23	12
3/25/12		36	8	28	52	24	28	12
3/18/12		40	12	28	47	22	25	13
3/4/12		37	9	28	50	22	27	13
2/26/12		38	6	31	48	24	24	14
2/19/12		37	9	28	49	23	26	14
2/12/12		37	9	28	46	20	26	17
1/22/12		34	7	27	49	25	24	17
1/8/12		45	11	34	36	19	17	19
11/27/11		41	9	32	40	21	20	19
10/16/11		38	9	29	38	22	16	24
9/18/11		36	7	30	33	19	15	31
1/12/08		34	7	27	46	22	24	20
11/1/07		28	6	21	41	24	17	31
2/25/07		26	5	21	34	22	12	40
12/11/06		22	5	17	24	20	4	54

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

10/21/12 - Summary Table (among likely voters)*

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. Handling the economy	46	48	1	3	2
b. Handling taxes	53	42	*	2	2
c. Dealing with the federal budget deficit	45	49	*	4	2
d. Handling Medicare, the government health insurance program for seniors	53	41	*	2	4
e. Addressing women's issues	52	39	2	2	5
f. Handling international affairs	49	46	1	1	3
g. Handling terrorism	47	46	1	2	4

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

Trend:

a. Handling the economy

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	46	48	1	3	2
10/13/12	LV	48	47	*	2	3
10/13/12	RV	48	44	*	4	4
9/29/12	RV	47	47	*	4	2
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. Handling taxes

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	53	42	*	2	2
10/13/12	LV	48	46	*	3	3
10/13/12	RV	49	44	*	5	3
9/29/12	RV	49	44	*	4	2
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

c. Dealing with the federal budget deficit

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	45	49	*	4	2
10/13/12	LV	43	51	1	2	4
10/13/12	RV	44	47	*	4	5
9/29/12	RV	45	48	*	5	3
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

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

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	53	41	*	2	4
10/13/12	LV	54	41	1	3	2
10/13/12	RV	53	38	1	5	3
9/29/12	RV	47	43	*	6	3
9/9/12	RV	48	43	*	4	5
8/25/12	RV	42	45	1	7	5

e. Addressing women's issues

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
--	--	-------	--------	----------------	-------------------	---------------

10/21/12	LV	52	39	2	2	5
9/29/12	RV	54	36	2	4	6
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

f. Handling international affairs

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	49	46	1	1	3
10/13/12	LV	50	43	1	3	2
10/13/12	RV	50	40	1	5	3
9/29/12	RV	49	44	*	2	4
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

g. Handling terrorism

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	47	46	1	2	4
9/29/12	LV	52	41	1	2	3
9/29/12	RV	53	39	2	2	4
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

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

10/21/12 - Summary Table (among likely voters)*

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. Better understands the economic problems people in this country are having		51	44	2	3	1
b. Would be a better commander-in-chief of the military		48	45	1	2	3
c. Is more honest and trustworthy		49	40	3	6	3

Trend:

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

		Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	51	44	2	3	1
10/13/12	LV	51	42	2	4	1
10/13/12	RV	51	40	2	5	2
9/29/12	RV	52	39	2	6	1
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. Would be a better commander-in-chief of the military

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12 LV	48	45	1	2	3

Compare to:

	Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/08 LV	38	57	1	1	3
9/7/08 LV	26	69	1	2	2
8/22/08 RV	29	61	2	3	4

c. Is more honest and trustworthy

	Obama	Romney	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12 LV	49	40	3	6	3

Compare to:

	Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/19/08 LV	48	40	5	5	2
10/11/08 LV	45	41	5	7	2
9/22/08 RV	47	36	7	7	3
9/7/08 RV	38	44	5	7	6
8/22/08 RV	39	38	10	9	4
7/13/08 RV	43	40	7	6	4

12. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) 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
10/21/12 LV	66	15	6	13
10/13/12 LV	68	16	4	11
10/13/12 RV	68	17	4	11
9/29/12 RV	66	17	5	12
8/25/12 RV	62	23	6	9

13. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) 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
10/21/12 LV	33	54	9	5
10/13/12 LV	33	57	6	4
10/13/12 RV	31	58	5	6
9/29/12 RV	35	57	3	4
8/25/12 RV	32	58	5	5

14. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) I have a question about the presidential debate between (Obama) and (Romney) Tuesday night. From what you've seen, heard or read about it - who, in your opinion, won the debate?

	Obama	Romney	Neither/a draw a tie (vol.)	No opinion
10/21/12 LV	48	29	16	8
10/13/12 LV*	17	71	7	4
10/13/12 RV*	18	69	7	6

**I have a question about the first presidential debate..."

Compare to:

		Obama	McCain	Neither/a draw a tie (vol.)	No opinion
9/29/08	RV	38	24	22	16

15. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) As a result of the two presidential debates that have been held, do you have a better opinion of (Obama/Romney), a worse opinion of him, or haven't the debates changed your opinion of (Obama/Romney) one way or the other?

Trend:

a. Obama

		Better	Worse	Has not changed	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	15	18	65	1
10/13/12*	LV	8	19	72	1
10/13/12*	RV	9	19	70	2

b. Romney

		Better	Worse	Has not changed	No opinion
10/21/12	LV	37	19	43	1
10/13/12*	LV	37	14	47	2
10/13/12*	RV	35	14	48	3

*"As a result of the debate..."

Compare to:

a. Obama

		Better	Worse	Has not changed	No opinion
10/19/08*	LV	36	12	51	1
10/11/08*	LV	33	8	58	1
9/29/08*	RV	19	7	68	7

b. McCain

10/19/08*	LV	20	26	53	2
10/11/08*	LV	12	28	59	1
9/29/08*	RV	14	11	68	7

*10/19/08: "As a result of the presidential debates..."; 10/11/08: "As a result of the two presidential debates..."; 9/29/08: "As a result of the debate..."

*** END ***