

Washington Post-ABC News Poll

This Washington Post-ABC News poll was conducted by telephone May 17 to 20, 2012, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults, including landline and cell phone-only respondents. The results from the full survey have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York.

*= less than 0.5 percent

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

| | ----- Approve ----- | | | ----- Disapprove ----- | | | No opinion |
|----------|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | |
| 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 |

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

5/20/12 - Summary table*

| | ----- Approve ----- | | | ----- Disapprove ----- | | | No opinion |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | |
| a. The economy | 42 | 20 | 22 | 55 | 11 | 44 | 2 |
| b. The situation in Afghanistan | 47 | 23 | 24 | 44 | 17 | 27 | 9 |
| c. International affairs | 48 | 30 | 18 | 46 | 15 | 31 | 6 |

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

Trend:

a. The economy

| | ----- Approve ----- | | | ----- Disapprove ----- | | | No opinion |
|-------------|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | |
| 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 |

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b. The situation in Afghanistan

| | ----- Approve ----- | | | ----- Disapprove ----- | | | No opinion |
|----------|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | |
| 5/20/12 | 47 | 23 | 24 | 44 | 17 | 27 | 9 |
| 4/8/12 | 48 | 23 | 25 | 43 | 14 | 29 | 9 |
| 3/10/12 | 46 | 26 | 20 | 47 | 17 | 29 | 7 |
| 7/17/11 | 53 | 24 | 29 | 43 | 14 | 29 | 5 |
| 6/5/11 | 52 | 23 | 29 | 41 | 15 | 26 | 7 |
| 5/2/11* | 60 | 28 | 32 | 29 | 15 | 14 | 11 |
| 4/17/11 | 44 | 17 | 27 | 49 | 17 | 31 | 7 |
| 1/16/11 | 49 | 19 | 30 | 41 | 17 | 24 | 10 |
| 12/12/10 | 45 | 17 | 28 | 46 | 16 | 30 | 10 |
| 7/11/10 | 45 | 20 | 25 | 45 | 14 | 31 | 10 |
| 4/25/10 | 56 | 20 | 36 | 36 | 16 | 20 | 7 |
| 3/26/10 | 53 | 25 | 29 | 35 | 15 | 20 | 12 |
| 1/15/10 | 50 | 22 | 28 | 45 | 18 | 27 | 6 |
| 12/13/09 | 52 | 24 | 28 | 44 | 13 | 32 | 4 |
| 11/15/09 | 45 | 23 | 23 | 48 | 16 | 32 | 6 |
| 10/18/09 | 45 | 22 | 23 | 47 | 17 | 31 | 7 |
| 9/12/09 | 55 | 23 | 33 | 37 | 17 | 21 | 7 |
| 8/17/09 | 60 | 25 | 35 | 33 | 14 | 19 | 7 |
| 7/18/09 | 62 | 33 | 29 | 30 | 13 | 17 | 8 |
| 4/24/09 | 63 | NA | NA | 26 | NA | NA | 11 |

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c. International affairs

| | ----- Approve ----- | | | ----- Disapprove ----- | | | No opinion |
|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|------------------------|----------|----------|------------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | |
| 5/20/12 | 48 | 30 | 18 | 46 | 15 | 31 | 6 |
| 4/8/12 | 47 | 24 | 23 | 44 | 11 | 33 | 9 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1/15/12 | 49 | 26 | 23 | 44 | 10 | 33 | 7 |
| 11/3/11 | 47 | 26 | 21 | 45 | 13 | 31 | 8 |
| 11/15/09 | 60 | 30 | 30 | 37 | 13 | 23 | 3 |
| 10/18/09 | 57 | 34 | 23 | 36 | 15 | 21 | 7 |
| 9/12/09 | 57 | 32 | 25 | 33 | 12 | 21 | 10 |
| 6/21/09 | 61 | NA | NA | 32 | NA | NA | 7 |
| 4/24/09 | 67 | | | 27 | | | 6 |
| 3/29/09 | 62 | " | " | 27 | " | " | 11 |

3. 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 opinion |
|---------------------|---|------|------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| | NET | Very | Smwt | NET | Not so | At all | |
| 5/20/12 | 77 | 33 | 44 | 23 | 11 | 12 | * |
| 2/4/12* | 76 | 33 | 43 | 24 | 14 | 9 | * |
| 1/15/12 | 71 | 30 | 42 | 28 | 16 | 12 | * |
| 12/18/11 | 69 | 26 | 43 | 31 | 18 | 13 | * |
| 11/3/11 | 65 | 24 | 41 | 34 | 17 | 17 | * |
| 10/2/11 | 64 | 24 | 40 | 36 | 23 | 13 | 0 |
| 9/1/11 | 66 | 25 | 40 | 34 | 20 | 14 | * |
| 7/17/11 | 61 | 18 | 43 | 39 | 23 | 15 | * |
| 6/5/11 | 61 | 22 | 39 | 38 | 23 | 15 | * |
| 6/15/08 | 75 | 34 | 41 | 25 | 12 | 13 | * |
| 5/11/08 | 83 | 39 | 44 | 17 | 13 | 5 | 0 |
| 4/13/08 | 84 | 37 | 47 | 16 | 11 | 5 | * |
| 3/2/08 | 84 | 42 | 42 | 15 | 11 | 4 | * |
| 2/1/08 | 81 | 35 | 46 | 19 | 12 | 7 | * |
| 1/12/08 | 79 | 32 | 47 | 21 | 15 | 6 | * |
| 12/9/07 | 72 | 21 | 51 | 28 | 19 | 8 | * |
| 11/1/07 | 67 | 21 | 46 | 33 | 22 | 12 | 0 |
| 9/30/07 | 69 | 21 | 48 | 30 | 21 | 10 | * |
| 7/21/07 | 70 | 22 | 48 | 30 | 20 | 10 | * |
| 6/1/07 | 66 | 18 | 48 | 34 | 22 | 13 | * |
| 4/15/07 | 66 | 20 | 45 | 34 | 20 | 14 | * |
| 2/25/07 | 65 | 20 | 44 | 35 | 25 | 10 | * |
| 6/20/04 | 78 | 33 | 45 | 22 | 15 | 7 | * |
| 5/23/04 | 74 | 33 | 41 | 26 | 17 | 9 | * |
| 4/18/04 | 75 | 30 | 45 | 25 | 16 | 9 | 0 |
| 3/7/04 | 75 | 33 | 42 | 25 | 18 | 7 | * |
| 2/11/04 | 75 | 30 | 45 | 25 | 15 | 10 | * |
| 1/18/04 | 66 | 22 | 44 | 35 | 22 | 13 | * |
| 10/29/03 | 54 | 15 | 39 | 45 | 30 | 15 | 0 |
| 9/13/03 | 56 | 16 | 40 | 44 | 27 | 17 | * |
| 6/11/00 | 49 | 13 | 36 | 51 | 26 | 25 | 0 |
| 4/2/00 | 53 | 17 | 36 | 47 | 24 | 23 | 0 |
| 3/11/00 | 61 | 21 | 40 | 38 | 21 | 17 | 0 |
| 2/27/00 | 70 | 24 | 46 | 30 | 20 | 10 | * |
| 2/6/00 | 65 | 19 | 48 | 34 | 21 | 13 | 0 |
| 1/16/00 | 50 | 11 | 39 | 50 | 26 | 24 | * |
| 12/15/99 | 45 | 12 | 33 | 55 | 31 | 24 | * |
| 10/31/99 | 61 | 16 | 45 | 38 | 25 | 13 | * |
| 7/17/95 | 36 | 7 | 29 | 63 | 33 | 31 | * |
| 7/8/92 | 76 | 28 | 48 | 24 | 16 | 8 | * |
| 1/27/92 | 51 | 14 | 37 | 48 | 25 | 23 | 1 |
| 5/25/88 | 76 | 25 | 51 | 25 | 19 | 6 | * |
| 9/23/87 | 50 | 9 | 41 | 49 | 31 | 18 | * |
| 6/1/87 | 50 | 11 | 39 | 49 | 32 | 17 | * |
| 2/4/12 and previous | "not too closely" instead of "not so closely" | | | | | | |

4. If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Barack Obama, the Democrat) and (Mitt Romney, the Republican), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Obama) or toward (Romney)?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE -- all adults

Other Neither Would not No

| | Obama | Romney | (vol.) | (vol.) | vote (vol.) | opinion |
|----------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|---------|
| 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 |

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE – registered voters

| | Obama | Romney | Other (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | Would not vote (vol.) | No opinion |
|-------------|-------|--------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| 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 |

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 | |
| Obama | | | | | | | |
| 5/20/12 | 91 | 48 | 43 | 9 | 4 | 5 | * |
| 5/20/12 RV | 93 | 51 | 41 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Romney | | | | | | | |
| 5/20/12 | 73 | 23 | 50 | 25 | 16 | 9 | 1 |
| 5/20/12 RV | 75 | 26 | 48 | 25 | 15 | 9 | 1 |

Compare to: (Among candidate's supporters) Thinking about his candidacy for president so far, how enthusiastic are you about [NAME] - very enthusiastic, fairly enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

6/15/08 - Summary table

| | --- Enthusiastic -- | | | ---- Not enthusiastic ---- | | | No opinion |
|-----------|---------------------|------|--------|----------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| | NET | Very | Fairly | NET | Not too | Not at all | |
| Obama RV | 91 | 52 | 39 | 9 | 7 | 2 | * |
| McCain RV | 74 | 19 | 55 | 25 | 19 | 6 | 1 |

6/20/04 - Summary table

| | ----Enthusiastic--- | | | -----Not Enthusiastic----- | | | No opinion |
|----------|---------------------|------|--------|----------------------------|---------|------------|------------|
| | NET | Very | Fairly | NET | Not too | Not at all | |
| Bush | 90 | 48 | 42 | 10 | 8 | 2 | * |
| Bush RV | 90 | 50 | 40 | 9 | 7 | 2 | * |
| Kerry | 83 | 33 | 50 | 17 | 13 | 4 | 0 |
| Kerry RV | 85 | 34 | 51 | 15 | 12 | 3 | 0 |

6. What is the single most important issue in your choice for president?

| | 5/20/12 | 1/15/12 | 11/3/11 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Economy/jobs | 52 | 51 | 56 |
| Health care/repealing Obamacare | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| Morals/family values | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| Ethics/honesty/corruption in government | 4 | 6 | 7 |

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| Beating Romney/re-electing Obama/Supporting the Democrats* | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Federal budget deficit | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Taxes | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Beating Obama/electing Romney/Supporting the Republicans* | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Gay marriage/gay rights | 1 | * | 0 |
| Education | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Social Security | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Terrorism/national security | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Abortion | 1 | * | 1 |
| Afghanistan/War in Afghanistan | 1 | 1 | * |
| Experience | 1 | 1 | * |
| Middle class Americans/helping the middle class | 1 | 1 | NA |
| Foreign policy | 1 | 1 | * |
| Gas/oil prices/energy/ethanol | * | * | * |
| Iran/Situation in Iran | * | * | 0 |
| Guns/Gun control | * | * | 0 |
| Environment | * | * | 1 |
| Immigration/illegal immigration | * | * | 1 |
| Leadership/strong leadership/good leader | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Banks/Financial institutions | * | NA | NA |
| Change | * | * | 1 |
| Housing/mortgages | 0 | 1 | * |
| Iraq/War in Iraq | NA | 1 | * |
| Other (SPECIFY) | 14 | 10 | 10 |
| No opinion | 4 | 7 | 5 |

*1/15/12 and previous "the/a Republican" instead of "Romney"

7. Thinking specifically about the economy, what is the most important economic issue in your choice for president?

5/20/12

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Unemployment and the job market | 46 |
| Federal budget deficit | 8 |
| Taxes | 6 |
| Health care costs | 5 |
| Financial and banking system | 3 |
| Home values and the housing market | 2 |
| Gas/fuel prices | 2 |
| Rising prices | 1 |
| Student loans | 1 |
| Social Security | 1 |
| Personal debt | * |
| Underwater loans | * |
| Other | 16 |
| No opinion | 8 |

8. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

| | ----- Positive ----- | | | ----- Negative ----- | | | No opinion |
|----------|----------------------|-----------|------|----------------------|-------------|------|------------|
| | NET | Excellent | Good | NET | Not so good | Poor | |
| 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 |
| 12/9/07 | 28 | 3 | 25 | 72 | 40 | 32 | * |
| 11/1/07 | 35 | 3 | 32 | 64 | 39 | 26 | * |
| 4/15/07 | 42 | 5 | 37 | 57 | 37 | 20 | * |
| 12/11/06 | 50 | 7 | 42 | 50 | 36 | 14 | * |
| 10/22/06 | 55 | 10 | 45 | 45 | 28 | 17 | * |

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 10/8/06 | 47 | 7 | 40 | 53 | 37 | 16 | * |
| 3/5/06 | 43 | 5 | 38 | 57 | 37 | 19 | * |
| 1/26/06 | 40 | 5 | 35 | 60 | 37 | 23 | * |
| 12/18/05 | 45 | 5 | 39 | 55 | 38 | 17 | * |
| 11/2/05 | 35 | 3 | 32 | 65 | 36 | 29 | * |
| 9/11/05 | 40 | 3 | 37 | 59 | 37 | 22 | 1 |
| 6/5/05 | 44 | 3 | 40 | 56 | 38 | 19 | * |
| 4/24/05 | 37 | 2 | 35 | 63 | 44 | 20 | * |
| 9/26/04 RV | 46 | 3 | 43 | 53 | 38 | 15 | 1 |
| 8/29/04 RV | 45 | 3 | 41 | 55 | 37 | 18 | * |
| 7/25/04 | 46 | 4 | 42 | 53 | 39 | 14 | * |
| 6/20/04 | 45 | 4 | 41 | 55 | 38 | 17 | * |
| 4/18/04 | 43 | 4 | 39 | 57 | 39 | 18 | * |
| 3/7/04 | 39 | 2 | 37 | 60 | 38 | 22 | 1 |
| 1/18/04 | 42 | 3 | 39 | 58 | 42 | 16 | 0 |
| 12/21/03 | 42 | 4 | 39 | 57 | 41 | 16 | 1 |
| 10/29/03 | 33 | 1 | 32 | 67 | 45 | 23 | * |
| 9/13/03 | 30 | 2 | 27 | 70 | 45 | 25 | * |
| 8/11/03 | 32 | 2 | 30 | 68 | 43 | 25 | * |
| 4/30/03 | 35 | 1 | 34 | 64 | 46 | 19 | * |
| 2/9/03 | 28 | 1 | 27 | 72 | 49 | 23 | * |
| 1/20/03 | 25 | 1 | 25 | 74 | 48 | 26 | 1 |
| 12/15/02 | 35 | 1 | 33 | 65 | 44 | 21 | 1 |
| 11/4/02 LV | 28 | 1 | 27 | 72 | 55 | 17 | 1 |
| 11/3/02 LV | 27 | 1 | 26 | 72 | 56 | 17 | 1 |
| 11/2/02 LV | 29 | 1 | 28 | 71 | 54 | 17 | * |
| 9/26/02 | 31 | 2 | 28 | 69 | 50 | 19 | * |
| 7/15/02 | 39 | 3 | 36 | 61 | 44 | 17 | 1 |
| 2/21/02 | 30 | 1 | 29 | 69 | 51 | 18 | * |
| 1/27/02 | 31 | 1 | 29 | 69 | 50 | 19 | * |
| 9/20/01 | 38 | 3 | 35 | 60 | 47 | 14 | 2 |
| 9/9/01 | 33 | 1 | 32 | 66 | 47 | 19 | * |
| 7/30/01 | 50 | 3 | 46 | 50 | 39 | 12 | * |
| 4/22/01 | 50 | 3 | 47 | 50 | 40 | 9 | * |
| 1/15/01 | 70 | 10 | 59 | 29 | 24 | 6 | 1 |
| 10/27/00 LV | 86 | 24 | 61 | 14 | 11 | 3 | * |
| 10/26/00 LV | 86 | 24 | 61 | 14 | 11 | 3 | * |
| 6/11/00 | 74 | 17 | 57 | 26 | 19 | 6 | * |
| 2/27/00 | 80 | 25 | 55 | 20 | 14 | 5 | * |
| 10/31/99 | 74 | 18 | 56 | 26 | 18 | 7 | 1 |
| 9/2/99 | 76 | 19 | 57 | 23 | 16 | 6 | 1 |
| 3/14/99 | 80 | 22 | 58 | 19 | 15 | 4 | 1 |
| 11/1/98 | 73 | 12 | 61 | 26 | 21 | 5 | 1 |
| 11/1/98 LV | 78 | 13 | 65 | 22 | 19 | 3 | * |
| 10/13/97 | 61 | 12 | 49 | 39 | 27 | 11 | * |

9. 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 |
|--------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 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 |

10. 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 |
|---------|-------|------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 34 | 49 | 8 | 7 | 3 |
| 1/15/12 | 29 | 54 | 9 | 6 | 2 |

11. 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 |
|---------|------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 19 | 22 | 48 | 10 |

12. Thinking about [ITEM], would you describe yourself as more (hopeful), or as more (anxious)? Is that very (hopeful/anxious) or somewhat (hopeful/anxious)?

5/20/12 - Summary Table

| | NET | Hopeful Very | Smwt | NET | Anxious Smwt | Very | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No op. |
|---|-----|--------------|------|-----|--------------|------|-------------|----------------|--------|
| a. Your personal finances in the next few years | 58 | 24 | 34 | 38 | 20 | 18 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| b. The national economy in the next few years | 54 | 21 | 33 | 42 | 20 | 21 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

13. In the past few years, have you or has anyone living in your household been laid off or lost their job?

| | Yes | No | No opinion |
|-----------|-----|----|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 35 | 65 | * |
| 7/17/11* | 29 | 71 | * |
| 12/12/10 | 34 | 65 | * |
| 11/15/09 | 30 | 70 | * |
| 9/12/09 | 27 | 73 | * |
| 4/24/09** | 23 | 77 | 0 |
| 2/22/09 | 18 | 82 | * |
| 12/14/08 | 18 | 82 | * |

*7/17/11 and previous: "last year..."

**4/24/09 and previous: "In the last few months..."

14. Thinking beyond your own household, do you have any close friends or immediate family members who have been laid off or lost their job in the last few years?

| | Yes | No | No opinion |
|----------|-----|----|------------|
| 5/20/12* | 71 | 29 | * |
| 7/17/11 | 71 | 29 | * |
| 12/12/10 | 72 | 28 | 0 |
| 4/24/09 | 63 | 36 | * |
| 2/22/09 | 60 | 40 | 1 |

*5/20/12 added "in the last few years"

15. Would you describe yourself as working class, middle class, upper middle class, or better off than that?

| | Worse off than work. class (vol.) | Working class | Mid. class | Upper mid. class | Better off than that | No opin. |
|---------|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 5/20/12 | 2 | 32 | 50 | 13 | 2 | 1 |
| 4/8/12 | 2 | 33 | 44 | 15 | 3 | 2 |
| 3/2/10* | 2 | 36 | 45 | 11 | 3 | 2 |

*ABC News

16. (IF WORKING CLASS, MIDDLE CLASS OR UPPER MIDDLE CLASS) Would you say you are struggling to remain in the (working/middle/upper middle) class, comfortable in the (working/middle/upper middle) class, or moving up beyond the (working/middle/upper middle) class?

| | Struggling to remain | Comfortable in current class | Moving up beyond current class | No opinion |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 5/20/12 | 42 | 47 | 9 | 1 |

WORKING CLASS:

| | Struggling to remain | Comfortable in working class | Moving up beyond working class | No opinion |
|---------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 5/20/12 | 52 | 32 | 13 | 3 |

MIDDLE CLASS:

| | Struggling to remain | Comfortable in mid. class | Moving up beyond middle class | No opinion |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 5/20/12 | 39 | 53 | 7 | 1 |
| 4/8/12 | 36 | 58 | 5 | 1 |
| 3/2/10* | 41 | 52 | 6 | * |

*ABC News

UPPER MIDDLE CLASS:

| | Struggling to remain | Comfortable in up. mid. class | Moving up beyond up. mid. class | No opinion |
|---------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 5/20/12 | 33 | 62 | 5 | 1 |

15/16 NET:

| | 5/20/12 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Worse off than working class (vol.) | 2 |
| NET Working class | 32 |
| Struggling to remain | 17 |
| Comfortable | 10 |
| Moving up | 4 |
| No opinion | 1 |
| NET Middle class | 50 |
| Struggling to remain | 19 |
| Comfortable | 26 |
| Moving up | 4 |
| No opinion | * |
| NET Upper middle class | 13 |
| Struggling to remain | 4 |
| Comfortable | 8 |
| Moving up | 1 |
| No opinion | * |
| Better off than that | 2 |
| No opinion | 1 |

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

5/20/12 - Summary table - all adults

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| a. Handling the economy | 46 | 47 | * | 3 | 3 |
| b. Creating jobs | 47 | 44 | 1 | 6 | 3 |

5/20/12 - Summary table - registered voters

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| a. Handling the economy | 47 | 47 | * | 3 | 3 |
| b. Creating jobs | 46 | 45 | 1 | 6 | 3 |

Trend:

a. Handling the economy

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 5/20/12 | 46 | 47 | * | 3 | 3 |
| 4/8/12 | 43 | 47 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| 2/4/12 | 45 | 48 | 1 | 4 | 2 |

b. Creating jobs

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 5/20/12 | 47 | 44 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 4/8/12 | 46 | 43 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 2/4/12 | 45 | 47 | 1 | 3 | 4 |

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

5/20/12 - Summary table - all adults

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| a. better understands the economic problems people in this country are having | 48 | 40 | 2 | 7 | 3 |
| b. better represents your own personal values | 47 | 43 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| c. has the better personal character to serve as president | 52 | 38 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| d. is more likely to stand up for what he believes in | 51 | 38 | 3 | 4 | 4 |

5/20/12 - Summary table - registered voters

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| a. better understands the economic problems people in this country are having | 48 | 40 | 2 | 8 | 2 |
| b. better represents your own personal values | 47 | 44 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| c. has the better personal character to serve as president | 52 | 39 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| d. is more likely to stand up for what he believes in | 50 | 39 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

Trend:

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

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 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. better represents your own personal values

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 5/20/12 | 47 | 43 | 1 | 7 | 3 |

Compare to:

| | Obama | McCain | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|-------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 10/19/08 LV | 53 | 43 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| 9/7/08 LV | 51 | 43 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 8/22/08 RV | 50 | 43 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 6/15/08 RV | 49 | 41 | 1 | 6 | 2 |

c-d No trend.

19. Who do you think would do more to advance the economic interests of [ITEM] - (Obama) or (Romney)?

5/20/12 - Summary Table

| | Obama | Romney | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| a. Middle class Americans | 51 | 42 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| b. Wealthy Americans | 24 | 65 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| c. You and your family | 46 | 43 | * | 6 | 5 |
| d. Financial institutions | 32 | 56 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| e. Small businesses | 45 | 47 | 1 | 3 | 4 |

Compare to: Who do you think cares more about protecting the economic interests of [ITEM] - (Obama) or (the Republicans in Congress)?

a. Middle class Americans

| | Obama | Reps | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|-------|------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 10/2/11 | 52 | 32 | 1 | 12 | 3 |
| 7/17/11 | 53 | 35 | 1 | 9 | 2 |

b. Wealthy Americans

| | Obama | Reps | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|-------|------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 10/2/12 | 17 | 70 | 5 | 6 | 2 |

c-e No trend.

20. 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 |
|---------|------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 56 | 34 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 4/8/12 | 52 | 37 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 1/15/12 | 55 | 35 | 5 | 2 | 4 |

21. Thinking about your own personal financial prospects, do you feel more like the system (gives you a fair chance), or do you feel more like the system (does not give you a fair chance)?

| | Fair | Not fair | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 48 | 47 | 2 | 3 |

22. Do you think the new federal regulations on banks and other financial institutions go too far in regulating these businesses, don't go far enough, or are about right?

| | Too far | Not far enough | About right | No opinion |
|---------|---------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 23 | 38 | 28 | 10 |

23. On another subject, do you think it should be legal or illegal for gay and lesbian couples to get married? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

| | Legal | | | Illegal | | | No opinion |
|---------|-------|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | |
| 5/20/12 | 53 | 39 | 14 | 39 | 7 | 32 | 8 |
| 3/10/12 | 52 | 36 | 17 | 43 | 7 | 36 | 5 |
| 7/17/11 | 51 | 32 | 19 | 45 | 9 | 36 | 4 |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| 3/13/11 | 53 | 36 | 17 | 44 | 9 | 35 | 3 |
| 2/8/10 | 47 | 31 | 16 | 50 | 9 | 42 | 3 |
| 4/24/09* | 49 | 31 | 18 | 46 | 7 | 39 | 5 |
| 6/4/06 | 36 | 24 | 13 | 58 | 7 | 51 | 5 |
| 8/28/05 | 39 | NA | NA | 58 | NA | NA | 3 |
| 8/29/04 RV | 32 | 18 | 14 | 62 | 10 | 52 | 5 |
| 3/7/04 | 38 | 24 | 14 | 59 | 11 | 48 | 3 |
| 2/22/04 | 39 | 25 | 13 | 55 | 6 | 49 | 6 |
| 1/18/04 | 41 | NA | NA | 55 | NA | NA | 4 |
| 9/7/03 | 37 | NA | NA | 55 | NA | NA | 7 |

*2009 "gay and lesbian" and "homosexual" wordings half sampled. 2005 "gay and lesbian", others "homosexual".

24. Do you think (each state should make its own laws) on same-sex marriage, or do you think (the federal government should make one law for all states) on this issue?

| | States should make own laws | Federal govt. should make law | No opinion |
|---------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 5/20/12 | 49 | 46 | 5 |

25. Do you approve or disapprove of Obama's recent announcement that he personally supports same-sex marriage? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

| | Approve | | | Disapprove | | | No opinion |
|---------|---------|----------|----------|------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| | NET | Strongly | Somewhat | NET | Somewhat | Strongly | |
| 5/20/12 | 51 | 36 | 15 | 41 | 7 | 35 | 8 |

26. Do you yourself have a friend, family member, or acquaintance who is gay or lesbian, or not?

| | Yes | No | No opinion |
|---------|-----|----|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 71 | 28 | 1 |
| 2/8/10 | 63 | 36 | 1 |
| 8/27/98 | 59 | 40 | 1 |

27. Switching topics, there have been reports recently that Romney bullied another student when he was in high school in the 1960s. Do you think this incident is a serious matter, or not serious?

| | Serious | Not serious | No opinion |
|---------|---------|-------------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 22 | 74 | 3 |

28. Do you think it is or is not fair to bring up things that a political candidate did in high school?

| | Fair | Not fair | No opinion |
|---------|------|----------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 22 | 75 | 3 |

29. Do you think this incident does or does not provide relevant information about Romney's personal character?

| | Does | Does not | No opinion |
|---------|------|----------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 25 | 72 | 3 |

30. And how about Obama – do you think things he did in high school do or do not provide relevant information about his personal character?

| | Do | Do not | No opinion |
|---------|----|--------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 24 | 70 | 6 |

31. 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?

5/20/12 - Summary Table

| | Major reason to support | Major reason to oppose | Not a major factor | No op. |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| a. Obama's support for allowing gays and lesbians to get married | 20 | 23 | 55 | 2 |
| b. The report that Romney bullied | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|---|
| another student in high school | 1 | 8 | 90 | 1 |
| c. Romney's work buying and restructuring companies before he went into politics | 21 | 21 | 54 | 4 |

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

| | Democrat | Republican | Independent | Other (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|----------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 32 | 22 | 38 | 7 | 2 |
| 4/18/12 | 34 | 23 | 34 | 5 | 3 |
| 3/10/12 | 31 | 27 | 36 | 3 | 3 |
| 2/12/12 | 34 | 23 | 37 | 5 | 1 |
| 1/15/12 | 32 | 25 | 36 | 5 | 2 |

908a. Would you say your views on most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative?

| | Liberal | Moderate | Conservative | Don't think in those terms (vol.) | No opinion |
|---------|---------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 5/20/12 | 22 | 35 | 37 | 3 | 3 |
| 4/18/12 | 22 | 44 | 29 | 2 | 3 |
| 3/10/12 | 23 | 37 | 37 | 2 | 1 |
| 2/12/12 | 21 | 39 | 37 | 1 | 2 |
| 1/15/12 | 19 | 42 | 37 | 1 | 2 |

END