

2012 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Two Contenders in U.S. Presidential Race Are Virtually Tied

Barack Obama keeps the upper hand on environment, education and health care, while Mitt Romney gains on the economy and job creation.

[NEW YORK – Jun. 12, 2012] - There is no clear frontrunner with less than five months to go before the United States presidential election, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,019 American adults, 47 per cent of decided voters (-2 since May) say they will vote for Republican challenger Mitt Romney in November, while 46 per cent (=) will cast a ballot for Democratic incumbent Barack Obama.

Romney's lead among male voters has diminished from 10 points in May to just four points this month (48% to 44%), while Obama is barely ahead among women (48% to 46%). The prospective Republican nominee can count on the support of 56 per cent of voters over the age of 55, while the Democratic candidate holds the support of 54 per cent of voters aged 18-to-34.

The two contenders are practically even among middle-aged voters (Romney 48%, Obama 47%) and Independents (Obama 44%, Romney 43%).

Issues

Respondents were asked which one of the two major candidates is best suited to deal with 11 issues. Obama holds the upper hand over Romney on the environment (37% to 27%), education (39% to 32%), health care (36% to 32%) and foreign policy (36% to 31%).

KEY FINDINGS

- **Mitt Romney (47%, -2) virtually tied with Barack Obama (46%, =)**
- **Ten-Point lead for Romney among male voters; Obama barely ahead for women**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From June 7 to June 8, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,019 randomly selected American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

CONTACT:

Mario Canseco, Vice President, Angus Reid Public Opinion, 877-730-3570, mario.canseco@angus-reid.com

The two contenders are practically even on crime (Romney 30%, Obama 29%).

Romney leads Obama on six categories: managing the deficit (38% to 28%), the economy (39% to 31%), energy and oil (36% to 30%), job creation (38% to 32%), immigration (35% to 31%), and government accountability (also 35% to 31%),

Momentum Score

Among all Americans, President Obama's momentum score is -19 (36% of respondents say their opinion of their president worsened in the past three months, while 17% say it has improved). Romney posted a momentum score of +2. Among Independents, Obama stands at -24, and Romney at -4.

Traits and Characteristics

Obama gets a higher score from respondents than Romney on four of the nine characteristics tracked: being a good speaker and communicator (72%), being in touch with ordinary Americans (42%), being honest and trustworthy (42%), and sharing their values (39%).

The two candidates posted similar scores on being able to unite the country and not divide it, agreeing with people on issues they care about, and dealing with labour unions effectively in the event of a dispute.

Romney holds a sizeable advantage on being a good economic manager (43%), and manages to edge Obama in bringing the kind of change America needs (37%).

Analysis

The national race remains tightly contested, with the two parties keeping their respective strengths among younger and older voters. The next five months will provide an opportunity for the two candidates to gain among middle-aged voters and Independents, who are staunchly divided at this point.

The biggest change observed from our last survey is the fact that Romney has gained on Obama on the economy and other related issues, such as managing the deficit and creating jobs. Obama is the preferred choice for the environment, education and health care, but has seen his rival increase his standing on topics the president used to dominate, such as government accountability and representing "change."

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About Angus Reid Public Opinion

Angus Reid Public Opinion is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.

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- 30 -

**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

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2012 U.S. Presidential Election

As you may know, there will be a presidential election on Nov. 6. Which one of the following candidates would you be most likely to support on Election Day?

– Based on 1,794 respondents who expressed a preference.

	Gender			Age			Party ID		
	All	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
Mitt Romney	47%	48%	46%	37%	48%	56%	9%	87%	43%
Barack Obama	46%	44%	48%	54%	47%	39%	89%	9%	44%
Some other candidate	6%	7%	6%	8%	6%	5%	2%	5%	13%

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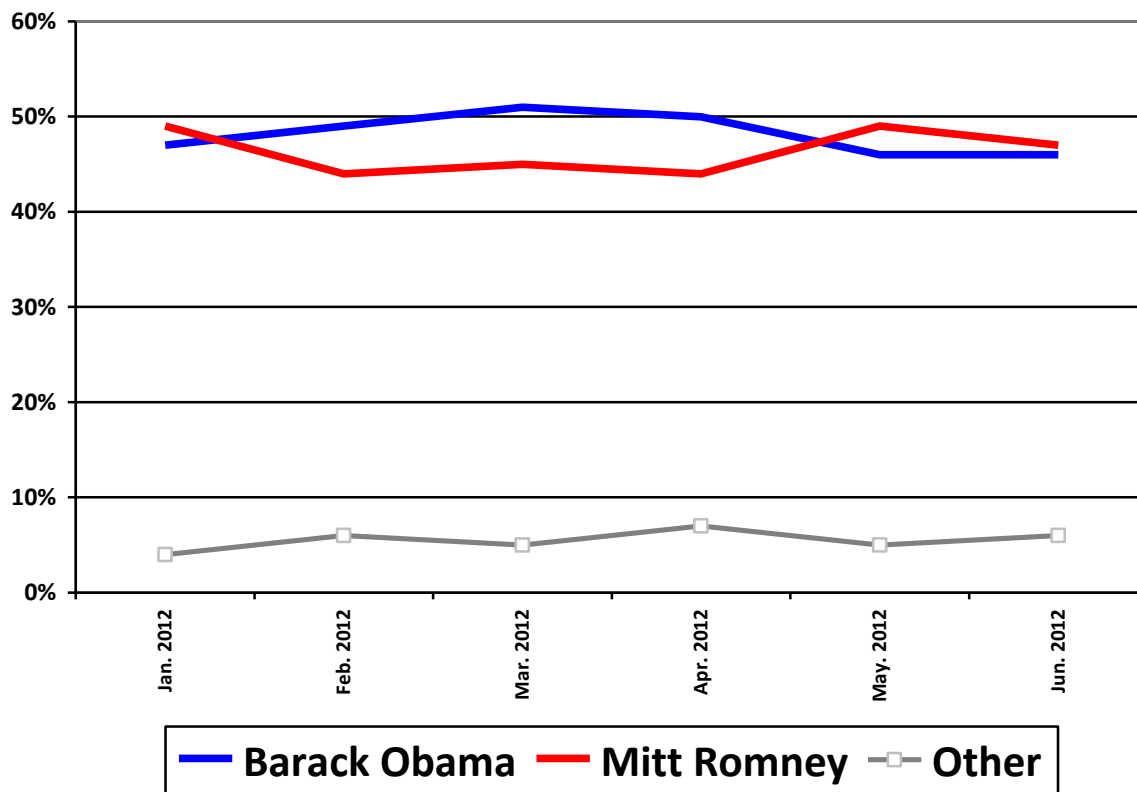
As you may know, there will be a presidential election on Nov. 6. Which one of the following candidates would you be most likely to support on Election Day?

	Jun. 2012	May 2012	Apr. 2012	Mar. 2012	Feb. 2012
Mitt Romney	47%	49%	44%	45%	44%
Barack Obama	46%	46%	50%	51%	49%
Some other candidate	6%	5%	7%	5%	6%

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Barack Obama (D) Vs. Mitt Romney (R)
Decided Voters



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The Presidential Candidates

Which of these presidential candidates is best suited to deal with each of the following issues?

	Barack Obama	Mitt Romney	Neither	Not sure
Crime	29%	30%	19%	22%
Health Care	36%	32%	18%	14%
Economy	31%	39%	16%	13%
Environment	37%	27%	16%	20%
Education	39%	32%	14%	15%
Job creation	32%	38%	16%	15%
Managing the deficit	28%	38%	20%	14%
Energy and Oil	30%	36%	17%	16%
Government Accountability	31%	35%	20%	13%
Foreign Policy	36%	31%	16%	17%
Immigration	31%	35%	18%	17%

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The Presidential Candidates

In the past three months, would you say your opinion of each of the following people has improved, stayed the same, or worsened? – **All Americans**

	Improved	Stayed the same	Worsened	Not sure	<i>Momentum Score</i>
Barack Obama	17%	43%	36%	4%	-19
Mitt Romney	26%	38%	24%	12%	+2

The Presidential Candidates

In the past three months, would you say your opinion of each of the following people has improved, stayed the same, or worsened? – **Independents**

	Improved	Stayed the same	Worsened	Not sure	<i>Momentum Score</i>
Barack Obama	12%	46%	36%	6%	-24
Mitt Romney	20%	21%	24%	15%	-4

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The Presidential Candidates

Here are some characteristics that people may find in politicians. Thinking specifically about Barack Obama / Mitt Romney, do you think he possesses each one of these characteristics? – ***“Yes, he does”***
for each leader listed – All Americans

	Barack Obama	Mitt Romney
Is honest and trustworthy	42%	34%
Generally agrees with you on issues you care about	41%	39%
Can unite America and not divide it	33%	32%
Shares your values	39%	36%
Can bring the kind of change America needs	34%	37%
Is in touch with the problems ordinary Americans face in their daily lives	42%	30%
Is a good speaker and communicator	72%	51%
Is a good economic manager	29%	43%
Can deal with labor unions effectively in the event of a dispute	37%	36%

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The Presidential Candidates

Here are some characteristics that people may find in politicians. Thinking specifically about Barack Obama / Mitt Romney, do you think he possesses each one of these characteristics? – **“Yes, he does”**
for each leader listed – Independents

	Barack Obama	Mitt Romney
Is honest and trustworthy	38%	27%
Generally agrees with you on issues you care about	37%	31%
Can unite America and not divide it	26%	26%
Shares your values	36%	28%
Can bring the kind of change America needs	25%	29%
Is in touch with the problems ordinary Americans face in their daily lives	38%	25%
Is a good speaker and communicator	73%	46%
Is a good economic manager	20%	40%
Can deal with labor unions effectively in the event of a dispute	31%	31%

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