

For our final PurplePoll, we looked at voters nationwide and in the Purple Electorate. With just four days to go until the election, President Obama leads Governor Romney 47\% to 46\% nationally. In Purple States, Obama leads by two: $48 \%$ to $46 \%$. But with an incumbent holding only $47-48 \%$ of the vote across these key electorates, either candidate can still win. To put this in perspective, George W. Bush went into the final weekend of the 2004 election with an average of $48.9 \%$ of the national vote in the polls. He finished with $50.7 \%$ of the vote.

Romney holds a slight lead among independents nationally, 44\% to 43\%. In Purple States, Obama holds a 1-point advantage among independents (45\% to $44 \%)$. As we have seen before, views about the direction of the economy remain the strongest predictor of vote choice: President Obama gets $93 \%$ of voters who think the economy is getting better, while Governor Romney has 90\% of voters who think it is getting worse. The latest job numbers provide fodder for both sides: continued job growth, with a slight uptick in unemployment.

Next Tuesday, the voting will be complete. We cannot be certain who will win the race, but we know it will be close. If Governor Romney wins, he will most likely
face a divided Congress. If President Obama wins, he will be the first incumbent to have won re-election with a smaller share of the electorate than his first election since Franklin Roosevelt.

This election demonstrates the current state of American politics. Offices exchange hands, but elections continue to be close. The Purple States and congressional districts - determine party control. While this is the swing electorate, their "swings" are not particularly large. Partisans are louder than ever, but a shrinking share of the electorate. The future of American elections will remain Purple.

Methodology: Fielded 10/31-11/1, interviews of likely voters were conducted using a mixed methodology of automated telephone interviews of landline phones and online interviews of voters who predominantly or exclusively use cell phones. Seventy-five percent (75\%) of the interviews were conducted via phone, and $25 \%$ online with cell phone users. Total weighted $N$ size $=1000$ likely voters nationwide, with oversample to 1,000 in Purple States, margins of error +/-3.1.

| NOVEMBER 2012 MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE |  | NATIONAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | PURPLE STATES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | National | Male | Female | GOP | Ind | Dem | No Coll | Coll+ | Purple | Male | Female | GOP | Ind | Dem | No Coll | Coll+ |
| Sample Proportion |  | -- | 47 | 53 | 31 | 33 | 33 | 55 | 44 | -- | 47 | 53 | 31 | 32 | 35 | 55 | 44 |
| Are things in this country generally going in the right direction or are they pretty seriously off on the wrong track? | Right direction | 38 | 38 | 39 | 11 | 32 | 70 | 36 | 41 | 39 | 38 | 41 | 10 | 34 | 71 | 38 | 41 |
|  | Wrong track | 52 | 54 | 51 | 85 | 58 | 19 | 55 | 49 | 52 | 55 | 50 | 86 | 57 | 19 | 55 | 49 |
|  | Not sure | 9 | 8 | 10 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 9 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 10 |
| Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Barck Obama? | Favorable | 47 | 45 | 49 | 9 | 42 | 86 | 45 | 50 | 48 | 46 | 50 | 10 | 44 | 86 | 44 | 52 |
|  | Unfavorable | 47 | 51 | 45 | 87 | 50 | 11 | 50 | 44 | 48 | 51 | 45 | 87 | 50 | 12 | 52 | 42 |
|  | Not sure | 5 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| Do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Mitt Romney? | Favorable | 44 | 47 | 41 | 83 | 44 | 11 | 47 | 41 | 44 | 46 | 41 | 82 | 39 | 14 | 47 | 40 |
|  | Unfavorable | 48 | 47 | 49 | 11 | 47 | 83 | 45 | 50 | 49 | 48 | 51 | 11 | 51 | 82 | 47 | 52 |
|  | Not sure | 8 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president? | Approve | 44 | 41 | 46 | 8 | 38 | 83 | 42 | 46 | 45 | 43 | 48 | 8 | 40 | 83 | 43 | 49 |
|  | Disapprove | 48 | 52 | 45 | 87 | 51 | 12 | 50 | 46 | 48 | 52 | 45 | 87 | 49 | 14 | 52 | 44 |
|  | Not sure | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 12 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| TOTAL VOTE (early + election day): Obama vs. Romney | Obama | 47 | 44 | 49 | 8 | 43 | 85 | 45 | 49 | 48 | 45 | 51 | 8 | 45 | 85 | 45 | 52 |
|  | Romney | 46 | 47 | 44 | 88 | 44 | 10 | 48 | 43 | 46 | 48 | 44 | 88 | 44 | 12 | 49 | 42 |
|  | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
|  | Not sure | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 6 |
| Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same? | Better | 35 | 37 | 34 | 9 | 30 | 66 | 32 | 40 | 37 | 37 | 37 | 10 | 34 | 64 | 32 | 43 |
|  | Worse | 39 | 38 | 39 | 68 | 42 | 9 | 42 | 34 | 37 | 37 | 38 | 67 | 37 | 13 | 44 | 30 |
|  | Same | 24 | 23 | 25 | 21 | 26 | 23 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | 23 | 22 | 27 | 20 | 22 | 25 |
|  | Not sure | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Regardless of whom you support, and trying to be as objective as possible, who do you think will win the election in November Barack Obama, or Mitt Romney? | Obama | 48 | 47 | 48 | 17 | 43 | 81 | 45 | 51 | 48 | 47 | 49 | 19 | 45 | 76 | 44 | 53 |
|  | Romney | 38 | 41 | 34 | 70 | 37 | 10 | 42 | 33 | 38 | 43 | 33 | 67 | 37 | 14 | 44 | 30 |
|  | Not sure | 15 | 12 | 18 | 13 | 20 | 9 | 13 | 17 | 14 | 11 | 18 | 15 | 18 | 10 | 12 | 17 |




OBAMA JOB APPROVAL


DIRECTION OF ECONOMY


ROMNEY FAVORABILITY


