



**NBC News/Marist Poll:  
Obama and Romney Neck and Neck in Nevada**

\*\*\* Complete Tables for Poll Appended \*\*\*

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**This NBC News/Marist Poll Reports:**

In the battle for Nevada's six electoral votes, President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are very competitive. Obama receives 48% to 46% for Mitt Romney, among registered voters in Nevada including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate. One percent supports another candidate, and 5% are undecided.

"President Obama is nowhere near the twelve percentage point victory he had in Nevada four years ago, but at 48%, he remains within striking distance to carry the state," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "Drilling down into the numbers, there is a gender gap and a generational divide which may tell the story on Election Day."

**Key points:**

- Looking at **party**, 82% of Democrats support Obama while 88% of Republicans are for Romney.
- Among independents, President Obama -- 50% -- is ahead of Romney -- 39%.
- Obama -- 47% -- and Romney -- 47% -- are tied among voters who have an **excellent or good chance of voting**.
- Among voters who express a **high level of enthusiasm** about voting in November, Obama receives 50% to 46% for Romney. Looking at those who are moderately enthusiastic, 52% are for Obama while 44% back Romney. Among those who have a low level of enthusiasm, Romney has 49% to Obama's 32%.
- Regardless of voters' **degree of interest** in the presidential contest, Obama and Romney are in a tight battle. Obama garners 49% to 46% for Romney among those with a high level of interest. Among those who express a moderate degree of interest, Romney takes 49% to 47% for Obama. Obama has 45% to Romney's 42% among those who have a low level of interest in the contest.

- A majority of voters who **strongly support** their choice of candidate -- 54% -- support Obama compared with 46% for Romney.
- There is a **gender** gap. Romney has majority support -- 52% -- among men compared with 41% for Obama. Obama has majority support -- 54% -- among women compared with 40% for Romney.
- Obama carries **younger voters**. Among those **under 30**, Obama has 54% while Romney receives 44%. A majority of voters who are 30 to 44 years of age -- 54% -- also back the president. 39% of these voters are behind Romney. The race is tied among voters 45 to 59 years old. Obama has 47% in this age group, and Romney has 47%. And, among voters 60 and older, Romney -- 53% -- leads Obama -- 41%.

### **Nearly Three in Four Express Strong Commitment to Candidate**

How strongly do registered voters in Nevada support their choice of candidate? 74% are firmly in their candidate's camp while 20% are somewhat behind their pick. Five percent might vote differently, and only 1% is unsure.

#### **Key points:**

- Almost eight in ten Obama supporters -- 79% -- are strongly committed to their choice of candidate while 69% of Romney's backers express a similar degree of support.

### **Half Very Enthusiastic About November Election**

When it comes to voter enthusiasm, 50% of Nevada voters are very enthusiastic about voting in November's presidential election. This compares with 32% who are somewhat enthusiastic and 10% who are not too enthusiastic. Seven percent are not enthusiastic at all.

#### **Key points:**

- 53% of voters who support the president are very enthusiastic about going to the polls in the fall while a similar 51% of Romney backers say the same.

### **Voters Divide about Obama's Job Performance**

While 46% of registered voters statewide approve of the job President Obama is doing in office, 47% *disapprove*. Seven percent are unsure.

### **Candidates Fare Favorably? Both Receive Mixed Reviews**

Looking at the favorability of the candidates, 48% of voters have a positive view of the president while 46% have a less than stellar one. Six percent are unsure.

Voters also divide about Romney. 44% have a favorable impression of him compared with 41% who do not. A notable 15% are unsure.

### **Nearly Half Say Position on Same-Sex Marriage Has Little Impact on Vote**

While 27% of voters say they are more likely to cast their ballot for Romney because he opposes same-sex marriage and 25% report they are more likely to support President Obama because he supports same-sex marriage, 47% say the issue matters little to their vote. Only 1% is undecided.

### **The Economy or Social Issues? Nearly Eight in Ten Say the Economy**

When it comes to the factor more important to their vote, 78% of the Nevada electorate believes the economy is the more pressing issue. 17%, though, report a candidate's position on social issues has a larger influence on their vote. Five percent are unsure.

Voters divide about the candidate who will do a better job handling the economy. 44% think the president is more adept at doing so while 44% say Romney is. 11% are unsure.

Looking at social issues, half -- 50% -- believe Mr. Obama is the candidate who more closely reflects their views. This compares with 40% who report Mr. Romney shares their stance on these issues. 10% are unsure.

#### **On other issues:**

- Half of voters -- 50% -- believe the president will do a better job at handling **foreign policy** while 40% think Romney is better suited to do so. 11% are unsure.
- 49% perceive Obama to be the candidate who **best understands voters' problems**. This compares with 40% who have this impression of Romney. 11% are unsure.
- Half -- 50% -- think Romney will do a better job **reducing the national debt**. 39% have this view of Obama. 11% are unsure.

### **Majority Views Economic Conditions as Inherited**

56% of registered voters in Nevada believe President Obama mostly inherited the country's economic conditions. 36%, though, say they are a result of his policies, and 8% are unsure.

Regarding the U.S. economy, a majority -- 52% -- believes the worst of the nation's economic conditions are over. 40% think there is more bad economic news ahead. Eight percent are unsure.

When it comes to the state of the economy over the next year, about one in three -- 33% -- thinks it will get better while 18% believe it will get worse. A plurality -- 44% -- says it will remain about the same, and 5% are unsure.

Looking at family finances, a majority of voters -- 54% -- report their personal finances will remain steady in the coming year. 35% think their financial picture will get better, and 11% say it will get worse.

### **Get the Nation Back on Track, Says Majority**

55% of the state's voters say things in the country are off on the wrong track. This compares with 39% who believe the nation is headed in the right direction. Six percent are unsure.

### **Heller-Berkley Senate Race a Virtual Dead Heat**

In the race for U.S. Senate in Nevada, Republican incumbent Dean Heller -- 46% -- and Democrat Shelley Berkley -- 44% -- are neck and neck among registered voters statewide including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate. 10% are undecided.