



## **NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll: Obama Up by 8 Percentage Points in Ohio**

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

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden lead Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan, 51% to 43%, among likely voters in Ohio, including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate. One percent supports another candidate, and 4% are undecided.

“Obama is over 50% in the battle for Ohio’s 18 electoral votes,” says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. “His advantage over Romney continues to be fueled by a wide lead among women and a close contest for the support of men.”

When NBC News/WSJ/Marist last reported this question in September, Obama and Biden -- 50% -- had a 7 point advantage over Romney and Ryan -- 43% -- among likely voters in Ohio, including those who were undecided yet leaning toward a candidate. One percent backed another candidate, and 6% were undecided.

### **Key points:**

- **Party ID.** Most Democrats who are likely to vote -- 95% -- are behind Obama while most Republicans who are likely to vote -- 91% -- back Romney. Among independent voters, 47% support Obama compared with 43% for Romney. Last month, 44% of independent voters backed Romney while 41% supported Obama.
- **Enthusiasm.** 56% of likely voters are very enthusiastic about voting in November. Looking at each candidate’s supporters, Romney’s backers who are likely to go to the polls -- 64% -- are slightly more enthusiastic than Obama’s supporters who are likely to cast a ballot -- 57%. In NBC News/WSJ/Marist’s September survey, Romney -- 62% -- and Obama -- 61% -- were on fairly equal footing when it came to enthusiasm.
- **Intensity of support.** 86% of Ohio likely voters are firmly committed to their choice of candidate while 12% somewhat support their pick. Two percent might change

their minds, and less than one percent is unsure. Among likely voters who support the president, 88% strongly support him compared with 83% of Romney's backers who report the same.

- **Gender.** Obama -- 56% -- has the advantage over Romney -- 39% -- among women who are likely to vote. Among men who are likely to cast a ballot, 48% are for Romney while 46% support Obama.
- **Age.** Younger voters favor the president. 60% of Ohio likely voters under the age of 30 support Obama compared with 33% for Romney. Obama -- 54% -- also leads Romney -- 41% -- among those who are 30 to 44. Looking at those 45 to 59, 47% support the president while 46% are behind Romney. Among those who are 60 and older, Obama receives 49% to 46% for Romney.

Looking at registered voters in Ohio including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate, 51% support Obama while 42% are for Romney. Two percent are behind another candidate, and 5% are undecided.

### **Majority Perceives Obama Favorably...51% Have Unfavorable Impression of Romney**

52% of Ohio likely voters have a favorable view of Obama while 44% have an unfavorable opinion of him. Three percent are unsure.

In NBC News/WSJ/Marist's September survey, similar proportions had these views. 51% of likely voters thought well of the president. 44% had a less than stellar view of him, and 5% were unsure.

Romney continues to have an image problem in Ohio. 51% of likely voters statewide have an *unfavorable* impression of Romney compared with 42% who have a positive opinion of him. Eight percent are unsure.

Last month, 50% of likely voters had an unfavorable view of Romney while 40% thought well of him. Nine percent, at the time, were unsure.

### **Veeps Don't Stand Out to Ohio Voters**

46% of likely voters in Ohio have an unfavorable opinion of Vice President Joe Biden. 44% have a positive view of him. 10% are unsure.

When NBC News/WSJ/Marist last reported this question in September, 46% had an *unfavorable* perception of Biden while 45% had a positive view of him. Nine percent, then, were unsure.

Looking at voters' impressions of Paul Ryan, a plurality of likely voters -- 44% -- views him *unfavorably* while 40% have a favorable opinion of him. 16% are unsure.

In September, likely voters divided. 42% had an unfavorable opinion of Ryan while 41% had a favorable one. 17% were unsure.

### **Obama Edges on Economy, Perceived Better on Foreign Policy**

Which candidate will do a better job handling the nation's economy? 48% of registered voters in the state think Obama is the candidate for the job while 44% believe Romney is better prepared to tackle the issue. Eight percent are unsure. Similar proportions of likely voters share these views. 48% have more confidence in the president to turn around the U.S. economy while 45% have this opinion of Romney. Seven percent are unsure.

When NBC News/WSJ/Marist last reported this question in September, 48% of registered voters thought Obama was the better candidate for the economy. 43% said Romney would do a better job on the issue. Nine percent were unsure.

On the issue of foreign policy, Obama -- 51% -- leads Romney -- 39%. Nine percent are unsure. Likely voters agree. 51% of these voters believe the president is more capable to deal with foreign policy issues while 40% say Romney is better skilled in this area. Eight percent are unsure.

Last month, Obama -- 52% -- was also perceived as the stronger candidate on foreign policy issues by registered voters. 38%, however, thought Romney surpassed Obama in this area. 10% were unsure.

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

When it comes to President Obama's job performance, 48% of registered voters approve while 46% disapprove. Six percent are unsure.

In NBC News/WSJ/Marist's previous survey, 49% gave the president high marks while 44% thought he fell short. Seven percent, at the time, were unsure.

### **A Nation Off Course?**

52% of registered voters in Ohio believe the nation is moving in the wrong direction. 42% disagree and believe it is traveling in the right one. Five percent are unsure.

In September, 51% said the nation needed a new course. 44% said the nation was on track, and 5% were unsure.

### **Brown Maintains Advantage Over Mandel in U.S. Senate Race**

50% of likely voters in Ohio, including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate, support Democrat Sherrod Brown in the race for U.S. Senate. 41%, however,

are for Republican Josh Mandel. One percent supports another candidate, and 7% are undecided.

Brown -- 49% -- was also ahead of Mandel -- 42% -- among likely voters statewide in NBC News/WSJ/Marist's previous survey. Nine percent, at that time, were undecided.

Among registered voters, including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate, Brown has 50% to 41% for Mandel. One percent supports another candidate, and 8% are undecided.