# Marist College Institute for Public Opinion <br> Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 * Phone 845.575 .5050 • Fax 845.575.5111 www.maristpoll.marist.edu 

# Obama and Romney Vie for Lead Nationally 

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***
For Immediate Release: Monday, July 16, 2012

Contact: Lee M. Miringoff
Barbara L. Carvalho
Mary E. Azzoli
Marist College
845.575.5050

## This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

In the battle for the White House, President Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are locked in a close contest nationally. According to this McClatchy-Marist Poll, 48\% of U.S. registered voters including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate support President Obama compared with $46 \%$ for Romney. Less than one percent backs another candidate, and $6 \%$ are undecided.
"The race was close yesterday, it's close today, and may even be close on Election Day," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "You need to look no farther than the president's approval rating to see how divided the electorate is."

## Key points:

- Most Democrats -- 85\% -- are for Obama while most Republicans -- 89\% -- back Romney. Independent voters divide. Among this key voting block, 48\% support Romney compared with $44 \%$ for Obama.
- $92 \%$ of those who describe themselves as strong Democrats are behind Obama. Among soft Democrats, registered voters who are not strong Democrats or Democratic leaning independents, the president loses some ground. Among these voters, $77 \%$ support Mr. Obama, and $15 \%$ are for Romney. Most strong Republicans -- 92\% -- are for Romney. 83\% of those who describe themselves as soft Republicans say the same.
- Voters who express a high level of enthusiasm about voting in the presidential election divide. 50\% are for Obama compared with 47\% for Romney. Obama -52\% -- leads Romney -- 43\% -- among voters who say they are moderately enthusiastic. Among those with a low degree of enthusiasm about voting, 47\% support Romney compared with 38\% for Obama.
- Among registered voters who strongly support their choice of candidate, Obama -$54 \%$-- is ahead of Romney -- $46 \%$.
- There is a generational divide. $74 \%$ of voters under the age of 30 rally for the president. This compares with 20\% who favor Romney. Among those 30 to 44 years old, $49 \%$ support the president while $44 \%$ are behind Romney. Voters 45 to 59 divide. Among this group, 48\% back Romney compared with 45\% for Obama. Romney -- 57\% -- leads Obama -- 36\% -- among voters 60 and older.
- Gender matters. A majority of men -- $52 \%$ are for Romney while $40 \%$ are for Obama. Among women, a majority -- 55\% -- favor the president while $40 \%$ are behind Romney.


## More Than Seven in Ten Strongly Support Candidate

$71 \%$ of registered voters nationally report they are firmly committed to their choice of candidate. $21 \%$ are somewhat behind their pick while $6 \%$ say they might vote differently on Election Day. Two percent are unsure.

## Key points:

- $76 \%$ of Obama's backers strongly support him. This compares with $67 \%$ of Romney's supporters who have a similar intensity of support.


## Nearly Three in Four Voters Enthusiastic to Vote

$73 \%$ of registered voters nationally are enthusiastic to cast their ballot in November. This includes $37 \%$ who are very enthusiastic to do so and $36 \%$ who are somewhat enthusiastic about it. $15 \%$, however, are not too enthusiastic to vote, and $12 \%$ are not enthusiastic at all.

## Key points:

- Almost four in ten voters who support the president -- $39 \%$-- have a high degree of enthusiasm. A similar proportion of Romney's backers -- 38\% -- express a similar degree of enthusiasm.


## Voters Divide about Obama's Job Performance

47\% of registered voters approve of the job President Obama is doing in office. The same proportion -- 47\% -- disapproves, and 6\% are unsure.

Little has changed on this question since McClatchy-Marist last reported it in March. At that time, $48 \%$ applauded the president while $47 \%$ gave his job performance a thumbs-down. Five percent, at that time, were unsure.

## Talking Favorability

Looking at voters perceptions of the candidates, $49 \%$ of registered voters have a favorable view of President Obama. $46 \%$ have an unfavorable opinion of him, and $5 \%$ are unsure.

In March, half of voters -- 50\% -- thought well of Mr. Obama while $46 \%$ did not. Three percent, then, were unsure.

Voters also divide about Romney. $46 \%$ have a favorable impression of him while $42 \%$ do not. $12 \%$ are unsure.

In McClatchy-Marist's previous survey, $45 \%$ thought highly of Mr. Romney, and the same proportion -- $45 \%$-- had a lesser opinion of him. $10 \%$, at that time, were unsure.

## Obama, Romney Vie for Edge on Economy...Obama Tops on Foreign Policy

Which candidate do voters think will do a better job handling the economy? 46\% report Obama is the better candidate for the job while $44 \%$ say Romney is. $11 \%$ are unsure.

However, Obama has the edge over Romney when it comes to foreign policy. 47\% of registered voters nationally believe the president will do a better job handling this issue while $41 \%$ think Romney is better prepared to do so. $13 \%$ are unsure.

## Tax Cuts for All, Says Majority

President Obama wants to extend tax cuts for households earning less than \$250,000 annually but not for income above that. However, a majority of registered voters -- $52 \%$-think the tax cuts should apply to all income levels. $43 \%$ say the tax cuts should pertain just to the middle class, households that make less than $\$ 250,000$ a year. Five percent are unsure.

## Key points:

- Six in ten Obama backers -- $60 \%$-- believe the tax cuts should apply just to the middle class while 37\% say they should extended regardless of income. 67\% of Romney's backers report the tax cuts should apply to all income while $27 \%$ say they should be given to households who earn less than \$250,000 annually.


## Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist National Poll of 1,010 Adults

This survey of 1,010 adults was conducted July $9^{\text {th }}$ through July $11^{\text {th }}, 2012$. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within $\pm 3.0$ percentage points. There are 849 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within $\pm 3.5$ percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

## Nature of the Sample: Adults \& Registered Voters

|  |  | National Adults | Registered Voters |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Col \% | Col \% |
| National Adults |  | 100\% |  |
| Registered Voters |  | 84\% | 100\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | n/a | 36\% |
|  | Republican | n/a | 29\% |
|  | Independent | n/a | 34\% |
|  | Other | n/a | 1\% |
| Party Identification | Strong Democrats | n/a | 25\% |
|  | Not strong Democrats | n/a | 11\% |
|  | Democratic leaning independents | n/a | 12\% |
|  | Just Independents | n/a | 9\% |
|  | Republican leaning independents | n/a | 13\% |
|  | Not strong Republicans | n/a | 9\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | n/a | 20\% |
|  | Other | n/a | 1\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | n/a | 22\% |
|  | Moderate | n/a | 33\% |
|  | Conservative | n/a | 45\% |
| Support Tea Party | Yes | n/a | 28\% |
| Region | Northeast | 18\% | 18\% |
|  | Midwest | 22\% | 23\% |
|  | South | 37\% | 37\% |
|  | West | 23\% | 22\% |
| Gender | Men | 49\% | 48\% |
|  | Women | 51\% | 52\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 40\% | 36\% |
|  | 45 or older | 60\% | 64\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 19\% | 14\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 21\% | 22\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 36\% | 38\% |
|  | 60 or older | 24\% | 27\% |
| Race | White | 69\% | 71\% |
|  | African American | 11\% | 11\% |
|  | Latino | 15\% | 13\% |
|  | Other | 5\% | 5\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 50\% | 48\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 50\% | 52\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 61\% | 59\% |
|  | College graduate | 39\% | 41\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 73\% | 76\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 27\% | 24\% |


|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Tossup including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate |  |  |  |
|  |  | Barack Obama, the Democrat | Mitt Romney, the Republican | Other | Undecided |
|  |  | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% |
| Registered Voters |  | 48\% | 46\% | 0\% | 6\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | 85\% | 10\% | 0\% | 5\% |
|  | Republican | 6\% | 89\% | 1\% | 5\% |
|  | Independent | 44\% | 48\% | 0\% | 8\% |
| Party Identification* | Strong Democrats | 92\% | 5\% | 0\% | 3\% |
|  | Soft Democrats | 77\% | 15\% | 0\% | 7\% |
|  | Just Independents | 33\% | 44\% | 0\% | 24\% |
|  | Soft Republicans | 12\% | 83\% | 1\% | 4\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | 4\% | 92\% | 0\% | 4\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 85\% | 10\% | 1\% | 5\% |
|  | Moderate | 53\% | 40\% | 0\% | 6\% |
|  | Conservative | 25\% | 68\% | 1\% | 6\% |
| Tea Party Supporters |  | 19\% | 75\% | 1\% | 5\% |
| Enthusiasm about Presidential Election | High | 50\% | 47\% | 0\% | 3\% |
|  | Moderate | 52\% | 43\% | 0\% | 5\% |
|  | Low | 38\% | 47\% | 1\% | 14\% |
| Intensity of Support | Strongly support | 54\% | 46\% | 0\% | 0\% |
|  | Somewhat support | 42\% | 58\% | 0\% | 0\% |
|  | Might vote differently | 49\% | 51\% | 0\% | 0\% |
| Region | Northeast | 53\% | 37\% | 2\% | 8\% |
|  | Midwest | 41\% | 50\% | 0\% | 8\% |
|  | South | 45\% | 50\% | 0\% | 5\% |
|  | West | 54\% | 41\% | 0\% | 5\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 52\% | 43\% | 1\% | 5\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 46\% | 48\% | 0\% | 6\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 44\% | 47\% | 1\% | 8\% |
|  | College graduate | 52\% | 43\% | 0\% | 5\% |
| Race | White | 39\% | 55\% | 1\% | 5\% |
|  | African American | 78\% | 15\% | 0\% | 7\% |
|  | Latino | 67\% | 28\% | 0\% | 5\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 74\% | 20\% | 0\% | 7\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 49\% | 44\% | 0\% | 6\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 45\% | 48\% | 1\% | 6\% |
|  | 60 or older | 36\% | 57\% | 0\% | 6\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 59\% | 35\% | 0\% | 6\% |
|  | 45 or older | 41\% | 52\% | 1\% | 6\% |
| Gender | Men | 40\% | 52\% | 1\% | 7\% |
|  | Women | 55\% | 40\% | 0\% | 6\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 46\% | 49\% | 0\% | 5\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 52\% | 36\% | 0\% | 11\% |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, N=849 MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft
Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Would you say that you strongly support <candidate> somewhat support <candidate>, or do you think that you might vote differently on election day? |  |  |  |
|  |  | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Might vote differently | Unsure |
|  |  | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% |
| Registered Voters |  | 71\% | 21\% | 6\% | 2\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | 83\% | 13\% | 4\% | 1\% |
|  | Republican | 70\% | 21\% | 5\% | 4\% |
|  | Independent | 58\% | 31\% | 9\% | 2\% |
| Party Identification* | Strong Democrats | 90\% | 8\% | 2\% | 1\% |
|  | Soft Democrats | 61\% | 28\% | 9\% | 2\% |
|  | Just Independents | 63\% | 26\% | 10\% | 1\% |
|  | Soft Republicans | 50\% | 34\% | 10\% | 6\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | 82\% | 14\% | 3\% | 0\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 84\% | 10\% | 6\% | 0\% |
|  | Moderate | 61\% | 29\% | 9\% | 1\% |
|  | Conservative | 72\% | 21\% | 4\% | 3\% |
| Tea Party Supporters |  | 76\% | 18\% | 6\% | 1\% |
| Enthusiasm about Presidential Election | High | 93\% | 4\% | 2\% | 0\% |
|  | Moderate | 71\% | 22\% | 5\% | 1\% |
|  | Low | 32\% | 49\% | 13\% | 6\% |
| Presidential Choice | Barack Obama | 76\% | 17\% | 6\% | 1\% |
|  | Mitt Romney | 67\% | 25\% | 6\% | 3\% |
| Region | Northeast | 72\% | 21\% | 6\% | 1\% |
|  | Midwest | 65\% | 26\% | 6\% | 2\% |
|  | South | 77\% | 17\% | 5\% | 1\% |
|  | West | 67\% | 21\% | 8\% | 4\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 72\% | 18\% | 7\% | 2\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 70\% | 24\% | 5\% | 1\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 69\% | 20\% | 8\% | 2\% |
|  | College graduate | 75\% | 21\% | 3\% | 1\% |
| Race | White | 70\% | 21\% | 7\% | 2\% |
|  | African American | 94\% | 4\% | 2\% | 0\% |
|  | Latino | 64\% | 24\% | 8\% | 4\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 59\% | 25\% | 14\% | 2\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 63\% | 29\% | 4\% | 4\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 74\% | 20\% | 6\% | 0\% |
|  | 60 or older | 80\% | 14\% | 3\% | 3\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 61\% | 28\% | 8\% | 3\% |
|  | 45 or older | 76\% | 18\% | 5\% | 1\% |
| Gender | Men | 63\% | 26\% | 8\% | 2\% |
|  | Women | 79\% | 16\% | 4\% | 2\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 72\% | 21\% | 5\% | 2\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 69\% | 21\% | 7\% | 2\% |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, N=849 MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Thinking about November's presidential election, overall, would you say you are very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all about voting? |  |  |  |
|  |  | Very enthusiastic (High) | Somewhat enthusiastic (Moderate) | Not too enthusiastic (Low) | Not enthusiastic at all (Low) |
|  |  | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% |
| Registered Voters |  | 37\% | 36\% | 15\% | 12\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | 39\% | 39\% | 13\% | 9\% |
|  | Republican | 39\% | 34\% | 15\% | 11\% |
|  | Independent | 31\% | 34\% | 17\% | 17\% |
| Party Identification* | Strong Democrats | 49\% | 38\% | 9\% | 4\% |
|  | Soft Democrats | 25\% | 39\% | 19\% | 18\% |
|  | Just Independents | 29\% | 33\% | 16\% | 22\% |
|  | Soft Republicans | 22\% | 37\% | 24\% | 17\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | 54\% | 30\% | 9\% | 7\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 39\% | 35\% | 15\% | 12\% |
|  | Moderate | 31\% | 39\% | 15\% | 15\% |
|  | Conservative | 40\% | 33\% | 16\% | 11\% |
| Tea Party Supporters |  | 46\% | 35\% | 10\% | 10\% |
| Presidential Choice | Barack Obama | 39\% | 41\% | 14\% | 7\% |
|  | Mitt Romney | 38\% | 35\% | 17\% | 10\% |
| Region | Northeast | 34\% | 36\% | 18\% | 12\% |
|  | Midwest | 31\% | 37\% | 16\% | 16\% |
|  | South | 38\% | 38\% | 12\% | 13\% |
|  | West | 42\% | 32\% | 19\% | 8\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 37\% | 33\% | 15\% | 14\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 38\% | 35\% | 15\% | 12\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 31\% | 38\% | 16\% | 16\% |
|  | College graduate | 44\% | 32\% | 15\% | 9\% |
| Race | White | 36\% | 33\% | 16\% | 14\% |
|  | African American | 48\% | 37\% | 6\% | 9\% |
|  | Latino | 30\% | 50\% | 18\% | 3\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 21\% | 57\% | 10\% | 12\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 28\% | 35\% | 24\% | 13\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 39\% | 33\% | 14\% | 15\% |
|  | 60 or older | 47\% | 30\% | 13\% | 10\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 26\% | 44\% | 19\% | 12\% |
|  | 45 or older | 42\% | 32\% | 13\% | 13\% |
| Gender | Men | 35\% | 36\% | 17\% | 12\% |
|  | Women | 38\% | 36\% | 14\% | 12\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 38\% | 35\% | 15\% | 13\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 32\% | 40\% | 17\% | 11\% |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, N=849 MOE +/- 3.5 percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing as president? |  |  |
|  |  | Approve | Disapprove | Unsure |
|  |  | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% |
| Registered Voters |  | 47\% | 47\% | 6\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | 83\% | 13\% | 4\% |
|  | Republican | 7\% | 89\% | 3\% |
|  | Independent | 44\% | 47\% | 8\% |
| Party Identification* | Strong Democrats | 92\% | 6\% | 2\% |
|  | Soft Democrats | 71\% | 21\% | 9\% |
|  | Just Independents | 44\% | 46\% | 10\% |
|  | Soft Republicans | 12\% | 80\% | 7\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | 6\% | 92\% | 2\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 82\% | 12\% | 6\% |
|  | Moderate | 55\% | 41\% | 5\% |
|  | Conservative | 25\% | 70\% | 6\% |
| Tea Party Supporters |  | 23\% | 73\% | 4\% |
| Region | Northeast | 55\% | 39\% | 6\% |
|  | Midwest | 40\% | 53\% | 7\% |
|  | South | 45\% | 51\% | 4\% |
|  | West | 53\% | 39\% | 8\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 51\% | 45\% | 4\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 45\% | 50\% | 5\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 44\% | 50\% | 7\% |
|  | College graduate | 51\% | 44\% | 5\% |
| Race | White | 38\% | 57\% | 6\% |
|  | African American | 84\% | 11\% | 5\% |
|  | Latino | 72\% | 28\% | 0\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 76\% | 18\% | 6\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 47\% | 45\% | 8\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 45\% | 52\% | 3\% |
|  | 60 or older | 35\% | 58\% | 6\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 58\% | 35\% | 7\% |
|  | 45 or older | 41\% | 54\% | 5\% |
| Gender | Men | 41\% | 53\% | 6\% |
|  | Women | 53\% | 41\% | 6\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 45\% | 49\% | 6\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 55\% | 39\% | 6\% |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, $\mathrm{N}=849 \mathrm{MOE}+/-3.5$ percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Which candidate | do a better job | the economy: |
|  |  | Barack Obama | Mitt Romney | Unsure |
|  |  | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% |
| Registered Voters |  | 46\% | 44\% | 11\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | 81\% | 10\% | 9\% |
|  | Republican | 7\% | 84\% | 9\% |
|  | Independent | 42\% | 45\% | 13\% |
| Party Identification* | Strong Democrats | 93\% | 4\% | 3\% |
|  | Soft Democrats | 67\% | 17\% | 16\% |
|  | Just Independents | 38\% | 37\% | 24\% |
|  | Soft Republicans | 10\% | 79\% | 11\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | 5\% | 88\% | 7\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 82\% | 10\% | 9\% |
|  | Moderate | 51\% | 38\% | 11\% |
|  | Conservative | 24\% | 66\% | 10\% |
| Tea Party Supporters |  | 22\% | 72\% | 6\% |
| Region | Northeast | 51\% | 35\% | 14\% |
|  | Midwest | 37\% | 52\% | 12\% |
|  | South | 44\% | 45\% | 11\% |
|  | West | 53\% | 40\% | 7\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 50\% | 41\% | 9\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 45\% | 47\% | 9\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 45\% | 46\% | 10\% |
|  | College graduate | 47\% | 41\% | 12\% |
| Race | White | 37\% | 53\% | 10\% |
|  | African American | 88\% | 7\% | 5\% |
|  | Latino | 65\% | 27\% | 8\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 66\% | 14\% | 20\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 45\% | 44\% | 11\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 47\% | 46\% | 8\% |
|  | 60 or older | 34\% | 57\% | 9\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 53\% | 32\% | 14\% |
|  | 45 or older | 41\% | 50\% | 8\% |
| Gender | Men | 42\% | 50\% | 8\% |
|  | Women | 49\% | 38\% | 13\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 45\% | 47\% | 8\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 50\% | 32\% | 19\% |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, $\mathrm{N}=849 \mathrm{MOE}+/-3.5$ percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Which candidate | do a better job h | oreign policy: |
|  |  | Barack Obama | Mitt Romney | Unsure |
|  |  | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% |
| Registered Voters |  | 47\% | 41\% | 13\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | 79\% | 12\% | 9\% |
|  | Republican | 8\% | 76\% | 15\% |
|  | Independent | 45\% | 42\% | 14\% |
| Party Identification* | Strong Democrats | 87\% | 7\% | 6\% |
|  | Soft Democrats | 71\% | 16\% | 12\% |
|  | Just Independents | 46\% | 34\% | 20\% |
|  | Soft Republicans | 13\% | 68\% | 19\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | 4\% | 86\% | 10\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 79\% | 14\% | 8\% |
|  | Moderate | 56\% | 32\% | 11\% |
|  | Conservative | 24\% | 62\% | 14\% |
| Tea Party Supporters |  | 16\% | 74\% | 10\% |
| Region | Northeast | 55\% | 31\% | 13\% |
|  | Midwest | 41\% | 47\% | 12\% |
|  | South | 43\% | 44\% | 13\% |
|  | West | 51\% | 37\% | 12\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 48\% | 39\% | 13\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 48\% | 42\% | 10\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 44\% | 42\% | 14\% |
|  | College graduate | 51\% | 40\% | 9\% |
| Race | White | 40\% | 47\% | 12\% |
|  | African American | 71\% | 21\% | 8\% |
|  | Latino | 65\% | 28\% | 7\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 62\% | 24\% | 14\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 47\% | 38\% | 15\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 47\% | 42\% | 11\% |
|  | 60 or older | 39\% | 50\% | 11\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 53\% | 33\% | 15\% |
|  | 45 or older | 43\% | 45\% | 11\% |
| Gender | Men | 42\% | 49\% | 10\% |
|  | Women | 51\% | 33\% | 15\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 46\% | 44\% | 10\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 49\% | 32\% | 19\% |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, $\mathrm{N}=849 \mathrm{MOE}+/-3.5$ percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of Barack Obama? |  |  |
|  |  | Favorable | Unfavorable | Unsure-Never Heard |
|  |  | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% |
| Registered Voters |  | 49\% | 46\% | 5\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | 84\% | 12\% | 4\% |
|  | Republican | 8\% | 86\% | 6\% |
|  | Independent | 46\% | 48\% | 5\% |
| Party Identification* | Strong Democrats | 93\% | 6\% | 1\% |
|  | Soft Democrats | 72\% | 21\% | 8\% |
|  | Just Independents | 45\% | 45\% | 10\% |
|  | Soft Republicans | 16\% | 79\% | 5\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | 5\% | 90\% | 5\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 85\% | 12\% | 3\% |
|  | Moderate | 58\% | 38\% | 4\% |
|  | Conservative | 25\% | 68\% | 7\% |
| Tea Party Supporters |  | 24\% | 72\% | 4\% |
| Region | Northeast | 59\% | 36\% | 5\% |
|  | Midwest | 42\% | 51\% | 7\% |
|  | South | 46\% | 48\% | 6\% |
|  | West | 52\% | 44\% | 4\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 52\% | 44\% | 4\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 48\% | 47\% | 4\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 46\% | 48\% | 6\% |
|  | College graduate | 54\% | 41\% | 5\% |
| Race | White | 40\% | 55\% | 5\% |
|  | African American | 85\% | 7\% | 7\% |
|  | Latino | 68\% | 31\% | 1\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 75\% | 18\% | 6\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 48\% | 49\% | 3\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 46\% | 47\% | 7\% |
|  | 60 or older | 39\% | 56\% | 5\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 59\% | 37\% | 4\% |
|  | 45 or older | 43\% | 51\% | 6\% |
| Gender | Men | 41\% | 53\% | 6\% |
|  | Women | 56\% | 39\% | 5\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 47\% | 49\% | 4\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 54\% | 36\% | 10\% |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, $\mathrm{N}=849 \mathrm{MOE}+/-3.5$ percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Overall, do you have a favorable or an unfavorable |  |  |
| impression of Mitt Romney? |  |  |  |  |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, $\mathrm{N}=849 \mathrm{MOE}+/-3.5$ percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

|  |  | Registered Voters |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Which statement comes closer to your view: |  |  |
|  |  | Congress should extend the tax cuts only for the middle class, but not for the top $2 \%$, that is, households earning $\$ 250,000$ or more | Congress should extend the tax cuts for everyone, including the top $2 \%$, that is, households earning $\$ 250,000$ or more | Unsure |
|  |  | Row \% | Row \% | Row \% |
| Registered Voters |  | 43\% | 52\% | 5\% |
| Party Identification | Democrat | 57\% | 40\% | 3\% |
|  | Republican | 27\% | 67\% | 6\% |
|  | Independent | 41\% | 53\% | 7\% |
| Party Identification* | Strong Democrats | 62\% | 35\% | 3\% |
|  | Soft Democrats | 54\% | 43\% | 4\% |
|  | Just Independents | 36\% | 51\% | 13\% |
|  | Soft Republicans | 33\% | 61\% | 6\% |
|  | Strong Republicans | 19\% | 75\% | 5\% |
| Political Ideology | Liberal | 66\% | 31\% | 3\% |
|  | Moderate | 47\% | 47\% | 6\% |
|  | Conservative | 29\% | 67\% | 5\% |
| Tea Party Supporters |  | 18\% | 78\% | 4\% |
| Presidential Choice | Barack Obama | 60\% | 37\% | 3\% |
|  | Mitt Romney | 27\% | 67\% | 6\% |
| Region | Northeast | 46\% | 50\% | 4\% |
|  | Midwest | 44\% | 50\% | 6\% |
|  | South | 36\% | 58\% | 6\% |
|  | West | 48\% | 47\% | 5\% |
| Household Income | Less than \$50,000 | 41\% | 53\% | 6\% |
|  | \$50,000 or more | 48\% | 49\% | 3\% |
| Education | Not college graduate | 36\% | 58\% | 6\% |
|  | College graduate | 51\% | 45\% | 4\% |
| Race | White | 44\% | 50\% | 5\% |
|  | African American | 48\% | 47\% | 5\% |
|  | Latino | 36\% | 62\% | 2\% |
| Age | 18 to 29 | 29\% | 69\% | 2\% |
|  | 30 to 44 | 52\% | 44\% | 4\% |
|  | 45 to 59 | 43\% | 52\% | 5\% |
|  | 60 or older | 44\% | 50\% | 7\% |
| Age | Under 45 | 43\% | 54\% | 3\% |
|  | 45 or older | 43\% | 51\% | 6\% |
| Gender | Men | 41\% | 55\% | 4\% |
|  | Women | 44\% | 49\% | 7\% |
| Interview Type | Landline | 43\% | 52\% | 5\% |
|  | Cell Phone | 40\% | 52\% | 8\% |

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Registered Voters. Interviews conducted July 9th through July 11th, 2012, N=849 MOE $+/-3.5$ percentage points. Totals may not add to $100 \%$ due to rounding.
*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning
independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

