



## 2012 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

# Obama Maintains Six-Point Lead Over Romney in U.S. Race

*Women continue to express a preference for Obama, but Romney edges the incumbent president among voters over the age of 55.*

[NEW YORK – Apr. 16, 2012] - Half of decided voters in the United States would support the incumbent president in a head-to-head contest against his probable rival in this year's election, a new Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,006 American adults, 50 per cent of decided voters (-1 since March) would cast a ballot for Democrat Barack Obama in November, while 44 per cent (-1) would back Republican Mitt Romney.

Obama has a four-point lead over Romney among male voters (48% to 44%) and a nine-point advantage among women (52% to 43%). While more than half of Americans aged 18-to-34 and 35-to-54 would support Obama, Romney is ahead among respondents over the age of 55.

Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich—who have not quit the race for the Republican nomination—continue to trail Obama. The incumbent president is ahead of Paul by 11 points (50% to 39%) and holds a 23-point lead over Gingrich (56% to 33%).

### Analysis

Romney trails Obama for the third consecutive month, but he attracts the largest proportion of Republicans (89%, compared to 77% for Gingrich and 74% for Paul). A big problem for Romney is his

### KEY FINDINGS

- **Barack Obama (50%, -1) keeps six-point lead over Mitt Romney (44%, -1)**
- **Obama still on top in contests against Ron Paul (50% to 39%) and Newt Gingrich (56% to 33%)**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From April 12 to April 13, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,006 randomly selected American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. 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.*

standing among Independents, where Obama holds a 20-point lead (55% to 35%). In stark contrast, Independents are practically split in an election pitting Obama against Paul (43% to 40%).

The gender gap continues to affect Romney, who trails Obama by nine points among female voters. Still, the incumbent's lead is larger in contests against Paul (19 points) and Gingrich (29 points).

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

## 2012 U.S. Presidential Election

Suppose that **Mitt Romney** was already the Republican Party's party nominee in 2012. Who would you vote for in the presidential election?  
– Based on 701 respondents who expressed a preference in this scenario.

	Gender			Age			Party ID		
	All	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>A third party candidate</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>11%</b>

## 2012 U.S. Presidential Election

Suppose that **Mitt Romney** was already the Republican Party's party nominee in 2012. Who would you vote for in the presidential election?

	Apr. 2012	Mar. 2012	Feb. 2012	Jan. 2012
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>A third party candidate</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>

## 2012 U.S. Presidential Election

Suppose that **Ron Paul** was already the Republican Party's party nominee in 2012. Who would you vote for in the presidential election?

– Based on 651 registered voters who expressed a preference in this scenario.

	Gender			Age			Party ID		
	All	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Ron Paul</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>A third party candidate</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>17%</b>

## 2012 U.S. Presidential Election

Suppose that **Ron Paul** was already the Republican Party's party nominee in 2012. Who would you vote for in the presidential election?

	Apr. 2012	Mar. 2012	Feb. 2012	Jan. 2012
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Ron Paul</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>A third party candidate</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>

## 2012 U.S. Presidential Election

Suppose that **Newt Gingrich** was already the Republican Party's party nominee in 2012. Who would you vote for in the presidential election?

– Based on 651 registered voters who expressed a preference in this scenario .

	Gender			Age			Party ID		
	All	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>24%</b>
<b>A third party candidate</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>18%</b>

## 2012 U.S. Presidential Election

Suppose that **Newt Gingrich** was already the Republican Party's party nominee in 2012. Who would you vote for in the presidential election?

	Apr. 2012	Mar. 2012	Feb. 2012	Jan. 2012
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>A third party candidate</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>