

**INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312**

**IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL [information@publicpolicypolling.com](mailto:information@publicpolicypolling.com), OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

## **Obama and Romney tied nationally heading into last debate**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Barack Obama and Mitt Romney are dead even at 48% headed into tomorrow's debate, based on an average of PPP's national tracking between Friday and Sunday. Barack Obama had a small lead in Friday interviews, Mitt Romney had a slight advantage on Saturday, and the candidates were dead even on Sunday.

Our tracking isn't providing any real surprises along demographics lines. Obama is up 50/46 with women, 61/33 with Hispanics, 85/9 with African Americans, and 50/39 with young voters. Romney is up 51/44 with men, 57/39 with whites, and 51/47 with seniors. One key for Romney is that he's up 51/41 with independents, which helps him make up for the party identification advantage Democrats have nationally.

Obama's approval rating is 45% with 50% of voters disapproving of him, making it important that he make a compelling case for voters tomorrow night about why his first term has been a success. Romney's favorability rating is back on positive ground at 49/45, while Obama's is dead even at 48/48.

Here's the state of the race headed into the final debate: it's tied nationally, and the candidates are within 2 points of each other on the most recent PPP surveys in the critical swing states of Florida, Iowa, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and Wisconsin. It could not be a whole lot closer.

“The stakes couldn't be much higher for tomorrow's debate,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It's one of the final opportunities for the candidates to try to break away from each other- if it comes out as a draw this is likely to remain a toss up through the final two weeks.”

PPP surveyed 1,200 likely voters nationally between October 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.8%. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. The national tracking poll is done on behalf of Americans United For Change.



## National Survey Results

**Q1** The candidates for President are Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 48%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 48%  
*Undecided*..... 4%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Barack Obama?

*Favorable*..... 48%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 48%  
*Not sure*..... 4%

**Q3** Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 45%  
*Disapprove*..... 50%  
*Not sure*..... 4%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

*Favorable*..... 49%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 45%  
*Not sure*..... 5%

**Q5** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 56%  
*Man*..... 44%

**Q6** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 41%  
*Republican*..... 34%  
*Independent/Other*..... 24%

**Q7** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

*Hispanic*..... 9%  
*White* ..... 74%  
*African-American* ..... 12%  
*Other*..... 6%

**Q8** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

*18 to 29*..... 15%  
*30 to 45*..... 24%  
*46 to 65*..... 39%  
*Older than 65*..... 22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	50%	44%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	48%	46%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	48%	50%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	48%	46%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	5%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	45%	47%	43%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	47%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	49%	47%	53%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	45%	47%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	7%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	80%	13%	41%
Mitt Romney	48%	16%	84%	51%
Undecided	4%	3%	3%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Favorability</b>				
Favorable	48%	79%	14%	42%
Unfavorable	48%	18%	82%	51%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
Approve	45%	77%	13%	37%
Disapprove	50%	18%	84%	57%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
Favorable	49%	19%	84%	51%
Unfavorable	45%	76%	12%	40%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	61%	39%	85%	59%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	48%	33%	57%	9%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	4%	7%	4%	6%	4%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	48%	59%	40%	80%	58%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	48%	35%	57%	12%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	6%	3%	9%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	45%	62%	37%	80%	59%
<b>Disapprove</b>	50%	36%	58%	14%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	2%	5%	6%	2%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	49%	39%	57%	15%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	45%	54%	39%	76%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	7%	5%	10%	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>48%</b>	50%	46%	48%	47%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>48%</b>	39%	49%	50%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>4%</b>	10%	5%	3%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>48%</b>	51%	47%	48%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>48%</b>	41%	50%	48%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	8%	2%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>45%</b>	53%	43%	44%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>50%</b>	45%	52%	51%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	3%	5%	5%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>49%</b>	47%	49%	49%	52%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>45%</b>	49%	46%	45%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>5%</b>	4%	6%	6%	5%

