

**THE IOWA POLL**

SELZER & COMPANY  
 800 Iowa likely voters  
 Margin of error: ± 3.5 percentage points

Study #2064  
 October 30-November 2, 2012  
 925 contacts weighted by age and sex

Are you a resident of the state of Iowa?

- 100 Yes
- No
- Not sure

How likely is it you will vote in the November general election for president and other offices—will you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, probably not vote, or have you already voted?

Already voted	Definitely vote	Probably vote	Might or might not vote	Probably not vote	Refused/ Not sure
42	58	-	-	-	-

**(If definitely vote, ask:)** If the election for president were held today and the candidates were [BARACK OBAMA FOR THE DEMOCRATS/MITT ROMNEY FOR THE REPUBLICANS], for whom would you vote—[BARACK OBAMA/MITT ROMNEY] or for someone else? **(Rotate candidate names.)**

**(If already voted, ask:)** In the election for president, for whom did you vote—[BARACK OBAMA FOR THE DEMOCRATS/MITT ROMNEY FOR THE REPUBLICANS], or for someone else? **(Rotate candidate names.)** **(If not sure, ask:)** Do you just not want to tell, or do you not remember?

**(Ask only of those who do not name a first choice candidate:)** Toward which candidate would you say you are leaning, or support the most? **(If not sure, ask:)** Is there one candidate you favor just a little more?

	First Choice	Leaning (Based on all)	Total
Barack Obama	46	1	47
Mitt Romney	41	1	42
Someone else	4	-	4
Not sure (don't remember)	4	3	2
Don't want to tell	5	n/a	5

Would you say your mind is made up, or could you still be persuaded to vote for another candidate?

**Asked only of likely voters who named a candidate as first choice or lean. By adding in the no first choice option, based on all likely voters.**

	All	Obama supporters	Romney supporters
Mind is made up	88	95	96
Could still be persuaded to vote for another candidate	7	4	3
Not sure	-	1	1
No first choice	5	n/a	n/a

Within the last month, have any of the following happened to your opinion of the candidates—just answer yes or no. Have you: **(Read list. Rotate. Multiple responses accepted, so total may exceed 100%.)**

- 7 Changed your mind about which candidate is your first choice
- 71 Become more strongly committed to the candidate you already supported
- 9 Become less strongly committed to the candidate you already supported
- 20 None of these (VOL)
- 1 Not sure

Regardless of which candidate you support, would [BARACK OBAMA or MITT ROMNEY] do the best job of: **(Rotate candidate names. Read each item and repeat question. Rotate list.)**

	Obama	Romney	Neither (VOL)	Both (VOL)	Not Sure
Fixing the economy	45	44	5	1	5
Reducing the federal budget deficit	41	44	7	-	8
Handling relations with other countries	51	38	3	1	7

Regardless of which candidate you support, do you think [MITT ROMNEY or BARACK OBAMA]: **(Rotate candidate names. Read each item and repeat question. Rotate list.)**

	Obama	Romney	Neither (VOL)	Not Sure
Cares the most about people like you	52	37	5	6
Is the most honest	48	38	8	6
Is a stronger leader	50	42	2	6
Would be more likely to bring Republicans and Democrats together	37	43	13	7
Is the most trustworthy	49	39	6	6

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
48	49	3

How would you characterize your mood as we look toward election day—are you more inspired and optimistic or more angry and pessimistic?

Inspired and optimistic	Angry and pessimistic	Not sure
65	24	11

Speaking honestly, are you 100% confident your candidate for president is the best person for the job or do you have some misgivings, even if your concerns are small?

	All n=800	Obama supporters n=379	Romney supporters n=334
100% confident	66	73	65
Some misgivings	32	25	34
Not sure	2	2	1

How much of an effect will the outcome of this election have on you personally—will it affect you a lot, a little, or not much?

A lot	A little	Not much	Not sure
53	21	20	6

**(If definitely vote, ask:)** On the ballot is the question of retaining or removing four of Iowa’s Supreme Court justices. On Justice David Wiggins, will you vote yes to retain or no to remove him?

**(If already voted, ask:)** Did you cast a vote on the question of whether four Iowa Supreme Court justices should be retained? **(If yes, ask:)** On Justice David Wiggins, did you vote yes to retain or no to remove him?

		Will not vote/ did not vote (VOL)	
Yes to retain	No to remove		Not sure
38	34	6	22

**(If definitely vote, ask:)** What about the other three justices who are new to the court? Will you vote to retain all three, vote to remove one or two, or remove all three?

**(If already voted, ask:)** What about the other three justices who are new to the court? Did you vote to retain all three, vote to remove one or two, or remove all three?

			Will not vote/ did not vote (VOL)	
Retain all three	Remove one or two	Remove all three		Not sure
49	6	12	9	24

Did you happen to vote in the 2010 election that included races for governor and other statewide offices?

**(If yes, ask:)** Did you vote on the question of whether to retain or remove three Iowa Supreme Court justices?

**(If yes, ask:)** Did you vote to retain all three justices, to remove one or two, or to remove all three?

22	Did not vote
4	Voted in the election, but not on the retention questions
30	Voted to retain all three
4	Voted to remove one or two
25	Voted to remove all three
15	Not sure

### About the Poll

The Iowa Poll, conducted Oct. 30- Nov. 2 for The Des Moines Register by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, is based on interviews with 925 Iowans ages 18 or older. Interviewers contacted households with randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers. Responses were adjusted by age and sex to reflect the general population based on recent Census data.

Questions based on a subsample of 800 likely voters have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the percentages shown here by more than plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

To qualify as likely Iowa voters, respondents had to say they live in Iowa and will definitely vote or have already voted in the November 2012 general election. Republishing the copyright Iowa Poll without credit to The Des Moines Register is prohibited.