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Interview dates: Sept 28-Oct 2, 2012
Base: 1,328 registered voters (RV)
Base for Voting Intention: 1,075 Likely Voters (LV)

**Ipsos Poll conducted for Reuters
DAILY ELECTION TRACKING 10.02.12**

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters from Sept. 28 – Oct. 2, 2012. For the survey, a sample of 1,328 American registered voters (age 18 and over) was interviewed online. The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points for Registered Voters and 3.5 for Likely Voters. For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by gender, age, education, and ethnicity. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Figures marked by an asterisk () indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of a per cent. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.*

DAILY ELECTION TRACKER

Q1. If the 2012 Presidential Election were being held today and the candidates were [ROTATE] Barack Obama for president and Joe Biden for vice president, the Democrats, and Mitt Romney for president and Paul Ryan for vice president, the Republicans [END ROTATE], for whom would you vote?

	<u>All LIKELY Voters (LV)</u>	<u>All Registered Voters (RV)</u>	<u>Democrats (RV)</u>	<u>Republicans (RV)</u>	<u>Independents (RV)</u>
Barack Obama for president and Joe Biden for vice president, the Democrats	46%	43%	85%	6%	21%
Mitt Romney for president and Paul Ryan for vice president, the Republicans	41%	40%	8%	83%	34%
Wouldn't vote	2%	3%	1%	1%	12%
None / Other	4%	5%	1%	2%	16%
Don't know / Refused	7%	8%	5%	7%	17%

[ASK IF OBAMA OR ROMNEY SELECTED IN Q1]

Q2. Have you definitely decided to vote for [INSERT RESPONSE FROM Q1], or is there a chance you might change your mind before you vote? (n=1,149)

	<u>All Registered Voters (RV)</u>	<u>Democrats (RV)</u>	<u>Republicans (RV)</u>	<u>Independents (RV)</u>
Definitely will vote for candidate	86%	89%	88%	68%
Could change my mind	14%	11%	12%	32%

Q3. Have you already voted in the upcoming November general election by going to an early voting location, or by mailing in an early voting or absentee ballot, or not?

	<u>All Registered Voters (RV)</u>	<u>Democrats (RV)</u>	<u>Republicans (RV)</u>	<u>Independents (RV)</u>
Yes	6%	6%	4%	9%
No	94%	94%	96%	91%



[IF "No" at Q3, ASK Q4]

Q4. And do you plan to vote at an early voting location or by mailing in an early voting or absentee ballot? (n=1,262)

	All Registered Voters (RV)	Democrats (RV)	Republicans (RV)	Independents (RV)
Yes – I plan to vote at an early voting location	11%	13%	10%	8%
Yes – I plan to mail in an early voting ballot	6%	6%	8%	4%
Yes – I plan to mail in an absentee ballot	11%	10%	11%	17%
No – I do not plan to vote early	72%	71%	72%	71%

Q5. How much, if anything, have you heard about the violence in several Middle Eastern countries including Egypt, Libya and Yemen that included attacks on U.S. embassies or consulates?

	All Registered Voters (RV)	Democrats (RV)	Republicans (RV)	Independents (RV)
Heard a great deal	40%	40%	44%	43%
Heard a fair amount	34%	35%	36%	29%
Heard a little bit	21%	22%	17%	22%
Not heard anything at all	5%	3%	3%	7%
Familiar	74%	75%	80%	71%
Aware	95%	97%	97%	93%

Q6. Do you approve or disapprove about the way each leader is handling the current situation in the Egypt and Libya?

		All Registered Voters (RV)	Democrats (RV)	Republicans (RV)	Independents (RV)
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	Strongly approve	23%	43%	7%	11%
	Somewhat approve	16%	23%	9%	10%
	Lean towards approve	15%	15%	17%	18%
	Total approve	54%	80%	33%	39%
	Lean towards disapprove	10%	4%	13%	19%
	Somewhat disapprove	6%	2%	11%	7%
	Strongly disapprove	15%	3%	28%	20%
	Total disapprove	31%	9%	53%	46%
	Don't know	15%	0%	0%	0%
President Barack Obama	Strongly approve	20%	39%	2%	10%
	Somewhat approve	14%	25%	4%	10%
	Lean towards approve	12%	16%	9%	8%
	Total approve	46%	80%	15%	29%
	Lean towards disapprove	9%	4%	12%	11%
	Somewhat disapprove	8%	2%	14%	10%
	Strongly disapprove	24%	4%	47%	34%
	Total disapprove	41%	9%	73%	55%
	Don't know	13%	11%	12%	16%



CONTINUED...		<u>All Registered Voters (RV)</u>	<u>Democrats (RV)</u>	<u>Republicans (RV)</u>	<u>Independents (RV)</u>
Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney	Strongly approve	10%	3%	20%	6%
	Somewhat approve	12%	4%	24%	11%
	Lean towards approve	14%	8%	23%	16%
	Total approve	36%	14%	67%	32%
	Lean towards disapprove	12%	18%	5%	11%
	Somewhat disapprove	7%	12%	2%	6%
	Strongly disapprove	21%	34%	4%	24%
	Total disapprove	39%	64%	11%	42%
Don't know	24%	23%	22%	26%	

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	<u>All Registered Voters (RV)</u>
Strong Democrat	16%
Moderate Democrat	21%
Lean Democrat	7%
Lean Republican	6%
Moderate Republican	19%
Strong Republican	12%
Independent	14%
None of these	3%
DK	2%



How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ , i.e., $Y|\theta \sim \text{Bin}(n, \theta)$, where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of “yes”, or “1”, observed in the sample, so that the sample mean (\bar{y}) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ . This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian¹ statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one’s knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution ($\pi(\theta/y) \sim \beta(y+a, n-y+b)$), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on $\pi(\theta/y)$. Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that $a=1$ and $b=1$ and $y = n/2$. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect $1+L=1.3$ to account for complex weighting²

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2

¹ *Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition*, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003

² Kish, L. (1992). *Weighting for unequal Pi*. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 8, 2, 183200.