

Exit polls 2012: How the vote has shifted

See how much voter groups have shifted in the 2012 exit polls, compared to 2008. Results for typical characteristics have a margin of error of four percentage points.

Last updated: Nov. 6, 2012

Questions% of voters '12Obama '12RomneyObama '08McCain

Sex	47%Male	45%	52%	49%	48%
	53Female	55	44	56	43
Age	19%18-29	60%	37%	66%	32%
	2730-44	52	45	52	46
	3845-64	47	51	50	49
	1665+	44	56	45	53
Party	38%Democrat	92%	7%	89%	10%
	32Republican	6	93	9	90
	29Independent or something else	45	50	52	44
Race	72%White	39%	59%	43%	55%
	13Black	93	6	95	4
	10Hispanic	71	27	67	31
	3Asian	73	26	62	35
	2Other	58	38	66	31
Education	3%No high school diploma	64%	35%	63%	35%
	21High school graduate	51	48	52	46
	29Some college/assoc. degree	49	48	51	47
	29College graduate	47	51	50	48
	18Postgraduate study	55	42	58	40

Income	41%Under \$50k	60%	38%	60%	38%
	31\$50k - \$99,999	46	52	49	49
	28\$100k or more	44	54	49	49
Sex by marital status	29%Married men	38%	60%	46%	53%
	31Married women	46	53	47	51
	18Non-married men	56	40	58	38
	23Non-married women	67	31	70	29
Ideology	25%Liberal	86%	11%	89%	10%
	41Moderate	56	41	60	39
	35Conservative	17	82	20	78
Religion	53%Protestant or other Christian	42%	57%	45%	54%
	25Catholic	50	48	54	45
	7Something else	74	23	73	22
	2Jewish	69	30	78	21
	12None	70	26	75	23
White evangelical	26%White evangelical or white born-again Christian	21%	78%	24%	74%
	74All Others	60	37	62	36
Financial situation vs. four years ago	25%Better today	84%	15%	37%	60%
	41About the same	58	40	45	53
	33Worse today	18	80	71	28

Top issues	59%The economy	47%	51%	---	---
	15Federal budget deficit	32	66	---	---
	5Foreign policy	56	33	---	---
	18Health care	75	24	---	---
Top qualities	21%Cares about people like me	81%	18%	---	---
	18Is a strong leader	38	61	---	---
	27Shares my values	42	55	---	---
	29Has a vision for the future	45	54	---	---
Nat'l economic condition	23%Excellent or good	90%	9%	26%	72%
	77Not so good or poor	38	60	54	44

SOURCE: Final exit poll results from interviews of randomly selected voters as they exited voting places across the country on Tuesday, Nov. 6. Florida, North Carolina, Ohio and Wisconsin polls included telephone interviews with early voters. The poll was conducted by Edison Media Research for the National Election Pool, The Washington Post and other media organizations. Typical characteristics have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus four percentage points; POLLING: Scott Clement, Jon Cohen and Peyton M. Craighill | GRAPHIC: Sisi Wei - The Washington Post. Published Nov. 6, 2012. — question not asked in 2008 exit poll. *** size of group too small to report results.