



# HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY

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## **HPU POLL: NC REGISTERED VOTERS SAY ROMNEY WOULD DO BETTER IN CREATING JOBS, REDUCING DEFICIT**

**HIGH POINT, N.C., Aug. 29, 2012** – A new High Point University Poll of registered voters finds that 50 percent of survey respondents selected Mitt Romney as the presidential candidate who would do the best job at reducing the federal deficit, compared to 38 percent of voters who selected Obama for the same issue and 11 percent who weren't sure.

Romney was also chosen by 49 percent of respondents as the candidate who would be most effective at creating jobs, while 41 percent selected Obama and nine percent weren't sure.

The respondents were split between Obama and Romney regarding who would do a better job dealing with health care and defending the country from future terrorist attacks.

And although registered voters were divided over who would do the best job on health care, a 52 percent majority disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010.

“This poll shows that North Carolina’s registered voters are leaning toward Gov. Romney on some of the most important issues of the campaign,” says Martin Kifer, director of the HPU Poll and assistant professor of political science at HPU. “The relative confidence that voters have in candidates on the issues that are most important to them are one crucial element of how people make decisions about voting.”

### **Major Issues**

*Regardless of who you support, which of the presidential candidates—Mitt Romney or Barack Obama—do you think would do the best job of....*

Reducing the federal budget deficit:  
Romney – 50 percent

Obama – 38 percent  
Not sure 11 percent

Creating jobs:

Romney – 49 percent  
Obama – 41 percent  
Not sure – 9 percent

Dealing with immigration:

Romney – 47 percent  
Obama – 41 percent  
Not sure – 12 percent

Dealing with health care:

Romney – 47 percent  
Obama – 45 percent  
Not sure – 9 percent

Defending the country from future terrorist attacks:

Romney – 45 percent  
Obama – 45 percent  
Not sure – 9 percent

(n = 540, Margin of sampling error +/- 4.3 percent)

**Healthcare Legislation Approval**

*Do you approve or disapprove of the health care legislation passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010?*

Disapprove – 52 percent  
Approve – 41 percent  
Not sure – 7 percent

(n = 540, Margin of sampling error +/- 4.3 percent)

For the survey, the HPU Poll through SurveyUSA interviewed 600 state of North Carolina adults Aug. 19 – Aug. 23. Of the adults, 540 were registered to vote. This research was conducted using blended sample, mixed mode. Respondents reachable on a home telephone (75 percent of adults, 76 percent of registered voters) were interviewed on their home telephone in the recorded voice of a professional announcer. Respondents not reachable on a home telephone (25 percent of adults, 24 percent of registered voters), were shown a questionnaire on their smartphone, laptop, tablet, or other electronic device. In this research, consistent with findings in other states, cellphone respondents are more Democratic than are landline respondents. Romney leads by three points among landline respondents. Obama leads by 12 points among cellphone respondents. When the two groups are proportionally blended, the contest is, as reported here,

tied. Additional methodological explanation is available at:

<http://www.surveyusa.com/client/methodology6.aspx>

Additional details including crosstabs of these questions are available at the High Point University Survey Research Center website: <http://src.highpoint.edu/>

You can follow the HPU Poll on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SurveyResearchCenter> and Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HPUSurveyCenter>.

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