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September 14, 2012

Anzalone Liszt Research

National Polling Summary

Friends,

Below you will find the weekly Anzalone Liszt Research National Polling Summary, which provides a pollster's take on data and trends that affect political campaigns.

This week, we take a look at President Obama's post-convention bounce. Following our analysis are additional news items and data we thought you'd enjoy.

John Anzalone and Jeff Liszt

STORY THIS WEEK: Obama Gets Post-Convention Bounce

With only eight weeks left till the November 6th election, post-convention polling shows that President Obama has improved his standing, with nearly all of the polls released since the Democratic convention showing gains for Obama.

The latest CNN poll gives Obama a [6-point lead](#) among likely voters (52% Obama / 46% Romney), a 6-point net improvement from their most recent poll last week, where Obama and Romney were tied at 48%. This rise in support is echoed by a [6-point Obama lead](#) according to Gallup (50% Obama / 44% Romney), a 5-point net gain from his share a little over a week ago. The latest Reuters/Ipsos poll finds a similar sized, 6-point net bounce for Obama, giving him a [4-point lead](#) nationally (47% Obama / 43% Romney). And Fox News reports a [5-point lead](#) for Obama in their latest poll (48% Obama / 43% Romney), a net 7-point increase from the poll they ran prior to the conventions.

PRESIDENTIAL POLLING: PRE AND POST-CONVENTION							
	POST-CONVENTION			PRE-CONVENTION			
Poll	Obama	Romney	Net	Obama	Romney	Net	Net

							Shift
ABC/WaPo (RV)	50	44	+6	46	47	-1	+7
CNN/ORC (LV)	52	46	+6	48	48	0	+6
Gallup (RV)	50	44	+6	47	46	1	+6
Fox News (LV)	48	43	+5	44	45	-1	+6
Reuters/Ipsos (LV)	47	43	+4	44	45	-1	+5
ABC/WaPo (LV)	49	48	+1	47	49	-2	+3

The bump for Obama does not seem to be due simply to the Democratic convention coming after its Republican counterpart, as Gallup did not find any bump for Romney in its daily tracking polling following the GOP convention. In fact, Gallup found a net [1-point loss for Romney](#) immediately after Tampa, making him one of only three Presidential candidates - the others being John Kerry and George McGovern - and the first Republican, to see a net loss in Gallup's post-convention polling.

Although Obama's speech was not as highly received as the one he gave in 2008, which 73% percent rated positively, [60% of viewers still rated this year's speech as "excellent" or "good."](#) 7 points higher than the share who said the same for Romney's (53%). According to a finding released by the Pew Research Center's People and the Press project, both independents and women who watched the conventions were [much more positive towards Obama's speech](#) than Romney's, rating it higher by 11 points (57% Obama's / 46 % Romney's) and 12 points (62% Obama's / 50% Romney's), respectively.

Bill Clinton, however, received the highest marks. His speech was considered [the biggest highlight of the convention](#) by over a third of viewers (38%), and nearly a third of independents (29%), higher than any other address at either convention.

Candidate Attributes

In addition to his gains in the vote, the ABC/Washington Post poll also shows Obama making inroads on [who voters trust on the economy](#). Obama is now leading on the measure by 2 points (47% Obama / 45% Romney), after trailing Romney three weeks ago by 7 points (43% Obama / 50% Romney). The poll also shows leads for Obama in handling terrorism (51% Obama / 40% Romney), supporting small business (46% Obama / 45% Romney), handling international affairs (51% Obama / 38% Romney), and handling taxes (50% Obama / 43% Romney)--all areas typically considered strongholds for Republicans. The public also believes Obama better understands their economic problems than Romney (50% Obama / 40% Romney) and is a stronger leader (50% Obama / 42% Romney). A CNN/ORC International report shows that [Obama would better handle unemployment](#) than Romney would by 4 points (51% Obama / 47% Romney) and would more effectively manage the government by 3 points (48% Obama / 45% Romney), both up from last week.

Candidate Trust on the Issues			
<i>ABC/WaPo (N=826, RV) September 7-9, 2012</i>			
Poll	Obama	Romney	Net
International affairs	51	38	+13

Understands the economic problems of the people	50	40	+10
Terrorism	51	40	+9
Is a stronger leader	50	42	+8
Taxes	50	43	+7
The economy	47	45	+2
Small business	46	45	+1

Little Boost from Ryan Pick

Implicit in the lack of post-convention bump for Romney is that Paul Ryan's selection has also failed to give the Republican ticket much of a boost.

According to the pollster.com average of public polls, Romney was receiving 45% of the vote nationally prior to the Ryan pick, compared to 46% now. In comparison, Sarah Palin [added 4 points](#) to John McCain's support, moving him from 44% to 48%, according to RealClearPolitics' poll tracking archives.

Other polling specifically on the impact of the pick supports the notion that Ryan's impact so far has been minimal. A [USA Today/Gallup poll](#) found that only 17% of adults were more likely to vote for Romney after Ryan was chosen, 13% were less likely, and a full 66% remain unchanged; [numbers from a Reuters/Ipsos poll](#) indicate that while 26% of voters view Romney more favorably now that Ryan is his running mate, a similar 23% view him less favorably, with 51% not changing their favorability rating of the candidate.

The selection of Ryan does appear to have bolstered support for the ticket among the Republican base. Nearly three-quarters ([72%](#)) of Republicans think Ryan was a good choice for Romney, and in Ryan's home state of Wisconsin, Republicans' net support for Romney [increased by 10 points](#) following his addition to the ticket, according to PPP.

The Ryan-bump for Ryan

Ryan's own personal ratings are now better than Romney's, but voters remain largely split on him, both nationally and in his home state. Ryan is currently viewed favorably by a [4-point](#) margin (41% fav / 37% unfav) nationally, giving him a [better net rating than Romney](#) (43% fav / 48% unfav). But in Wisconsin, where the Romney campaign just announced a significant ad buy, [Ryan's net favorable rating](#) is no better than it is nationally, with 49% rating him favorably and 45% rating him unfavorably.

OTHER NEWS FROM THE POLLING AND POLITICAL WORLD

And he's the budget hawk? Paul Ryan's [startling admission](#) that they "haven't run the numbers" on Romney budget yet.

Great response ad to Obamacare/Medicare attacks: Congressman Bruce Braley (D-IA) uses clips of Clinton's DNC speech [to refute the charge](#) that Obamacare cut funding for Medicare.

Losing the base? Republicans [criticize](#) Mitt Romney's unexpected response to the unrest in Cairo.

Will super-PACs tip the Senate? Conservative super-PACs are out-spending their Democratic counterparts by [more than 2-to-1](#) in the seven closest Senate races this election cycle.

Al-Qaeda surrendered bin Laden? We don't typically pay much attention to what Rush Limbaugh says, but his [latest theory](#) that Al-Qaeda handed over Osama bin Laden to the Obama administration got our attention.

Missed a past newsletter? They can be found on our website, [HERE!](#)

Public Polling

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S JOB RATING

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Approve	Disapprove
<i>Gallup</i>	Sept 10-12	Adults	49%	42%
<i>CNN/Opinion Research</i>	Sept 7-9	Adults	51%	44%

PRESIDENTIAL HEAD TO HEAD

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Obama	Romney
<i>Gallup</i>	Sep 6-12	Reg. Voters	50%	44%
<i>CNN/Opinion Research</i>	Sep 7-9	Likely Voters	52%	46%
<i>Reuters/Ipsos</i>	Sep 7-10	Likely Voters	48%	45%

PARTY SELF ID

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Dem	Rep	Ind/Other
<i>Pollster.com Trend</i>	Sep 13	Adults	34.7%	26.1%	33.7%

GENERIC HOUSE BALLOT

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Dem	Rep
<i>Politico/GWU/Battleground</i>	Aug 5-9	Likely Voters	43%	45%
<i>NBC/WSJ</i>	Aug 16-20	Reg. Voters	47%	42%
<i>Reuters/Ipsos</i>	Sep 7-10	Reg Voters	49%	43%

OBAMA POPULAR VOTE SHARE PROJECTIONS

Polling Firm	Date	Polly Vote	Polls	Iowa Electronic Markets	Econometric Models	Index Models
<i>PollyVote</i>	Sep 13	51.9%	51.8%	53.4%	50.4%	53.1%

DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

Polling Firm	Date	Sample	Right Direction	Wrong Track
NBC News/Wall St. Journal	Aug 16-20	Adults	31%	61%
AP/GfK	Aug 16-20	Adults	35%	60%

CURRENT VOTE: BATTLEGROUND STATES

Pollster.com averages

State	Obama	Romney
FL	47.5%	46.7%
IA	45.9%	45.4%
MI	48.4%	44.1%
NV	49.2%	45.8%
NH	49.3%	45.3%
NC	45.5%	47.9%
OH	47.1%	45.5%
PA	48.9%	41.8%
VA	46.3%	46.7%
WI	49.0%	46.1%

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