

PEW RESEARCH CENTER ELECTION QUESTIONS

This is the sequence of questions used to identify likely voters and determine their vote choice in the Pew Research Center's final pre-election poll in 2012.

Questions in **RED** are used to develop the likely voter scale. Respondents must say they are certain that they are registered to vote (or intend to register or vote, in states with same-day registration or no registration) in order to be included in the likely voter estimate. Those who say they have already voted (early voting or absentee) are considered likely voters. Questions in **BLUE** measure candidate preference.

ASK ALL:

THOUGHT How much thought have you given to Tuesday's presidential election...Quite a lot or only a little?

- 1 Quite a lot
- 2 Some **(VOL.)**
- 3 Little
- 4 None **(VOL.)**
- 9 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

CAMPNII How closely have you been following news about candidates for the 2012 presidential election... very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely? {Late 10-12} {QID:x990718-6g}

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Fairly closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not at all closely
- 9 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL:

REG Which of these statements best describes you? **[READ IN ORDER] [INSTRUCTION: BE SURE TO CLARIFY WHETHER RESPONDENT IS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THEY ARE REGISTERED OR ONLY PROBABLY REGISTERED]**

- 1 Are you ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN that you are registered to vote at your current address [OR]
- 2 Are you PROBABLY registered, but there is a chance your registration has lapsed [OR]
- 3 Are you NOT registered to vote at your current address
- 4 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Don't have to register
- 9 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REG=1) AND PROBABLY REGISTERED (REG=2):

STATEREG0 Are you registered to vote in **[INSERT STATE FROM SAMPLE]**, or in another state?

- 1 Registered in sample state
- 2 Another state
- 99 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK IF REGISTERED IN ANOTHER STATE:

STATEREG And what state is that?

- Code responses using two-digit state FIPS code
- 99 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL NON-REGISTERED VOTERS (REG=3,4,9):

STATENV0 Do you live in **[INSERT STATE FROM SAMPLE]**, or in another state?

- 1 Live in sample state
- 2 Another state
- 99 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK IF LIVE IN ANOTHER STATE:

STATENV And what state is that?

Code responses using two-digit state FIPS code

- 99 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK IF STATENV IS "DAY OF STATE" AND REG=3,4,9:

PLANREG Do you plan to register so that you can vote in Tuesday's election?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

COMPUTE REGFINAL HERE, AS FOLLOWS: A PERSON IS COUNTED AS "REGISTERED" (REGFINAL=1) IF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

- 1) ANSWERED ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN TO REG (REG=1)
 - 2) ANSWERED PROBABLY TO REG (REG=2) AND STATEREG IS "DAY OF" STATE
 - 3) ANSWERED "YES" TO PLANREG (PLANREG=1)
 - 4) STATEREG OR STATENV IS NORTH DAKOTA
- COUNT ALL OTHER RESPONDENTS AS "NOT REGISTERED" (REGFINAL=2)

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

PRECINCT Have you ever voted in your precinct or election district?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

OFTVOTE How often would you say you vote... **[READ]**

- 1 Always
- 2 Nearly always
- 3 Part of the time **[OR]**
- 4 Seldom
- 5 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Never vote
- 6 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Other response
- 9 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Don't know/Refused

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

WHERE Do you happen to know where people in your area go to vote? **[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: IF R EXPLAINS VOTING PROCEDURES OR SAYS WHERE SPECIFICALLY THEY GO TO VOTE CODE AS 'YES' (1). IF R EXPLAINS A 'NO' OR 'DK' ANSWER WITH WORDS FROM 3 OR 4, CODE AS 3 OR 4.]**

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 3 Vote absentee or by mail **(VOL.)**
- 4 Vote early at a central polling place or election office **(VOL.)**
- 9 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

Q.5 If the presidential election were being held TODAY, would you vote for **[READ AND RANDOMIZE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC TICKETS FIRST AND RANDOMIZE JOHNSON AND STEIN LAST WHERE APPLICABLE]?** **[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: Do not need to read entire list if respondent indicates a clear preference for one of the candidates]**
PROGRAMMING NOTE: PLEASE PROGRAM WHICH CANDIDATES WILL BE READ BASED ON THOSE THAT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT IN THEIR STATE USING RESPONSES TO STATEREG/STATENV (IF DK/REF TO STATEREG/STATENV, USE SAMPLE STATE).

[SHOW OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN ALL STATES]

- 1 the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan [OR]
- 2 the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden [OR]

[SHOW OPTION 3 ONLY IN STATES WHERE LIBERTARIAN PARTY IS ON BALLOT]

- 3 the Libertarian Party ticket headed by Gary Johnson [OR]

[SHOW OPTION 4 ONLY IN STATES WHERE GREEN PARTY IS ON BALLOT]

- 4 the Green Party ticket headed by Jill Stein

[SHOW OPTIONS 5, 8 AND 9 IN ALL STATES]

- 5 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Other candidate
- 8 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Don't know
- 9 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Refused

ASK IF OTHER OR DK (Q.5=5,8,9):

Q.5a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to **[READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.5]?**
PROGRAMMING NOTE: PLEASE PROGRAM WHICH CANDIDATES WILL BE READ BASED ON THOSE THAT APPEAR ON THE BALLOT IN THEIR STATE USING RESPONSES TO STATEREG/STATENV (IF DK/REF TO STATEREG/STATENV, USE SAMPLE STATE).

[SHOW OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN ALL STATES]

- 1 Romney and Ryan, the Republicans [OR]
- 2 Obama and Biden, the Democrats [OR]

[SHOW OPTION 3 ONLY IN STATES WHERE LIBERTARIAN PARTY IS ON BALLOT]

- 3 Johnson, of the Libertarian Party [OR]

[SHOW OPTION 4 ONLY IN STATES WHERE GREEN PARTY IS ON BALLOT]

- 4 Stein, of the Green Party

[SHOW OPTIONS 5, 8 AND 9 IN ALL STATES]

- 5 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Other candidate
- 8 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Don't know
- 9 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Refused

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

PLAN1 Do you plan to vote in the presidential election, have you ALREADY voted, or don't you plan to vote?

- 1 Plan to vote
- 2 Already voted
- 3 Don't plan to vote
- 9 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK IF PLAN TO VOTE (PLAN1=1):

PLAN3 How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain, or not certain?

- 1 Absolutely certain
- 2 Fairly certain
- 3 Not certain
- 9 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

Thinking more generally...

FOLGOV Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs **[READ]**?

- 1 Most of the time
- 2 Some of the time
- 3 Only now and then [OR]
- 4 Hardly at all
- 9 **[VOL. DO NOT READ]** Don't know/Refused

Later in the demographic section of the questionnaire, respondents were asked:

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

PVOTE08A In the 2008 presidential election between Barack Obama and John McCain, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote? {Late 10-12} {QID:pvote08a}

- 1 Voted
- 2 Did not vote (includes too young to vote)
- 8 Don't remember if voted **(VOL.)**
- 9 Refused **(VOL.)**

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGFINAL=1):

[IF RESPONDENT HAS ALREADY VOTED (PLAN1=2 AND EARLY1=1,2,3), CODE AS "10"]

SCALE10 I'd like you to rate your chance of voting in this year's presidential election on a scale of 10 to 1. If TEN represents a person who definitely will vote and ONE represents a person who definitely will NOT vote, where on this scale of 10 to 1 would you place yourself? {Late 10-12} {QID:scale10}

- _____ Rating
- 11 Don't know