

USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL

FEBRUARY WAVE 1

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

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H: 119
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February 16-19, 2012

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted February 16-19, 2012 with a random sample of **–1,014—** adults, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with **95%** confidence that the margin of error is **±4** percentage points.

For results based on the sample of **–898—** registered voters, the maximum margin of sampling error is **±4** percentage points.

For results based on the sample of **–481—** Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, the maximum margin of sampling error is **±6** percentage points.

For results based on the sample of **–437—** Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, the maximum margin of sampling error is **±6** percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample includes a minimum quota of 400 cell phone respondents and 600 landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas among landline respondents by region. Landline numbers are chosen at random among listed telephone numbers, cell phone numbers are selected using random-digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member had the most recent birthday.

Samples are weighted by gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, adults in the household, and phone status (cell phone only/landline only/both, having an unlisted landline number, and being cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2011 Current Population Survey figures for the age 18+ non-institutionalized population living in U.S. telephone households. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting and sample design.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

16. Now I am going to read a list of some of the issues that will probably be discussed in this year's presidential election campaign. As I read each one, please tell me how important the candidates' positions on that issue will be in influencing your vote for president -- extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important. How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

2012 Feb 16-19 (sorted by "Extremely important")	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Extremely+ Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat+ Not important</u>
The economy	44	91	8
The federal budget deficit	37	78	21
The healthcare law passed in 2010	35	74	25
Unemployment	34	83	17
Terrorism and national security	33	74	25
Taxes	29	73	26
The gap between the rich and the poor	25	58	42
Social issues such as gay marriage and abortion	16	40	59
Immigration	15	49	50

FULL TREND RESULTS:

A. The economy

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	44	47	7	1	*
2008 Oct 23-26	55	40	4	*	*
2008 Jun 15-19	49	42	8	1	*
2008 Feb 8-10	41	48	9	2	*
2004 Oct 22-24	39	49	11	1	*
2004 Feb 6-8	38	48	12	1	1
2003 Dec 5-7	40	47	10	2	1
2003 Sep 19-21	49	42	9	*	*
2000 Aug 4-5	41	44	13	2	*
2000 Jul 25-26	35	51	12	2	*
2000 Apr 3-9	30	47	21	2	*
1996 Jul 18-21	34	54	10	1	2

B. Unemployment

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	34	49	14	3	*

Q.16 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

C. The federal budget deficit

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	37	41	17	4	1
2008 Oct 23-26	44	38	16	2	*
2008 Feb 8-10	30	43	22	4	1
2004 Feb 6-8	30	42	22	4	2
2003 Dec 5-7	32	43	23	2	*
2003 Sep 19-21	39	35	23	2	1
1996 Jul 18-21	32	46	17	2	2

D. Taxes

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	29	44	23	3	*
2008 Oct 23-26	40	41	17	2	*
2008 Jun 15-19	34	38	24	4	*
2008 Feb 8-10	27	42	27	4	*
2004 Feb 6-8	29	45	22	3	1
2003 Sep 19-21	36	41	20	2	1
2000 Aug 4-5	40	42	16	2	*
2000 Jul 25-26	33	44	19	3	1
1996 Jul 18-21	32	51	14	2	1

E. Immigration

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	15	34	37	13	1
2008 Oct 23-26 ^	25	32	33	9	*
2008 Jun 15-19 ^	27	32	31	10	*
2008 Feb 8-10 ^	26	34	30	9	1
2004 Feb 6-8	19	36	36	8	1

^ WORDING: Illegal immigration

Q.16 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

F. The Healthcare Law passed in 2010

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	35	39	19	6	1
2008 Oct 23-26 ^	41	37	19	3	*
2008 Jun 15-19 ^	41	39	17	3	--
2008 Feb 8-10 ^	37	42	17	3	*
2004 Oct 22-24 ^	33	47	18	2	*
2004 Feb 6-8 ^	38	44	16	2	*
2003 Sep 19-21 ^	43	42	13	2	*
2000 Aug 4-5	44	40	12	3	1
2000 Jul 25-26	37	47	14	2	*
2000 Apr 3-9	38	44	16	2	*

^ WORDING: Healthcare

G. Terrorism and National Security

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	33	41	22	3	*
2008 Oct 23-26 ^	42	38	17	3	1
2008 Jun 15-19 ^	41	35	20	4	*
2008 Feb 8-10 ^	40	37	19	4	*
2004 Oct 22-24 ^	45	40	13	2	*
2004 Feb 6-8 ^	43	42	11	3	1
2003 Dec 5-7 ^	48	40	10	2	*
2003 Sep 19-21 ^	49	38	11	2	*

^ WORDING: Terrorism

Q.16 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

H. Social Issues such as Abortion and Gay Marriage

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	16	24	31	28	1

For comparison (Abortion):

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2004 Feb 6-8	22	30	28	19	1
2000 Aug 4-5	29	27	22	20	2
2000 Jul 25-26	25	27	27	19	2
2000 Apr 3-9	26	27	30	15	2
1996 Jul 18-21	23	30	25	20	2

For comparison (Same-sex marriage):

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2004 Oct 22-24 ^	18	20	25	36	1
2004 Feb 6-8	22	22	23	31	2
1996 Jul 18-21 †	16	17	19	45	3

^ Asked of a half sample.

† WORDING: Gay marriages

I. The Gap between the Rich and the Poor

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2012 Feb 16-19	25	33	26	16	*