

Results of SurveyUSA News Poll #19915

Geography: California  
Data Collected: 10/16/2012  
Release Date: 10/16/2012  
Percentages

**Obama Gets Up Off the Mat In Town-Hall Debate, California Says; Out-duels Romney 56% to 32%; Independents Split Evenly:** Immediately following tonight's town-hall-style presidential debate between Republican Mitt Romney and Democrat Barack Obama, SurveyUSA interviewed 800 California adults, of whom 656 watched the debate. Results of tonight's 10/16/12 debate follow (with results of the 10/03/12 Denver presidential debate in parenthesis). \* 56% say Obama was the clear winner tonight (compared to 34% who say Obama won the 1st debate in Denver ).

\* 32% say Romney was the clear winner tonight (compared to 48% who say Romney won the 1st debate in Denver).

\* 12% say there was no clear winner tonight. always, the caution that California is a "blue" state and more Democrats in California watch a debate than do Republicans. That's why it's important to study reaction along party lines: \* Democrats by 72 points say Obama was tonight's clear winner (Democrats gave Obama a 30-point margin in Denver).

\* Republicans by 41 points say Romney was tonight's clear winner (Republicans gave Romney a 65-point margin in Denver).

\* Independents split, 44% for Romney, 44% for Obama (Independents favored Romney by 34 points in Denver).

\* Every region of the state scored the debate for Obama. SurveyUSA's California research conducted exclusively for KABC-TV Los Angeles, KPIX-TV San Francisco, KFSN-TV Fresno, and KGTV-TV San Diego.

1 Did you watch tonight's debate?

800 Adults Credibility Interval: +/-2.7 pct points	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			Region			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Asian /	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Central	Greater	Inland	Bay Are
Yes	82%	87%	78%	75%	84%	90%	82%	79%	87%	88%	80%	77%	78%	74%	88%	83%	82%	86%	79%	76%	85%	78%	85%
No	16%	11%	21%	21%	16%	10%	16%	19%	12%	11%	19%	19%	22%	25%	10%	14%	17%	12%	20%	23%	11%	21%	15%
Not Sure	2%	3%	1%	4%	1%	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	4%	0%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	4%	1%	0%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Adults	100%	49%	51%	33%	27%	25%	15%	60%	40%	44%	6%	33%	17%	26%	43%	30%	25%	46%	23%	20%	38%	20%	22%

2 Was Mitt Romney the clear winner? Was Barack Obama the clear winner? Or, was there no clear winner?

656 Debate Watchers Credibility Interval: +/-3.9 pct points	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			Region			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Asian /	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Central	Greater	Inland	Bay Are
Mitt Romney	32%	37%	27%	29%	32%	34%	36%	30%	35%	38%	25%	25%	31%	62%	9%	44%	65%	30%	4%	40%	33%	33%	24%
Barack Obama	56%	52%	61%	66%	54%	50%	49%	60%	50%	52%	72%	63%	48%	21%	81%	44%	27%	57%	83%	53%	55%	56%	60%
No Clear Winner	12%	12%	12%	5%	14%	16%	15%	9%	15%	10%	3%	11%	22%	16%	10%	11%	8%	14%	13%	8%	12%	11%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Debate Watchers	100%	52%	48%	30%	28%	27%	15%	58%	42%	47%	6%	31%	16%	23%	46%	30%	25%	48%	22%	19%	39%	19%	23%

3 Who had a better connection with the audience?

656 Debate Watchers Credibility Interval: +/-3.9 pct points	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			Region			
		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Asian /	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Central	Greater	Inland	Bay Are
Mitt Romney	34%	38%	29%	30%	30%	36%	44%	30%	39%	40%	25%	26%	34%	68%	11%	41%	64%	32%	5%	36%	35%	36%	27%
Barack Obama	58%	52%	64%	64%	61%	54%	48%	62%	52%	53%	72%	63%	57%	25%	82%	48%	26%	61%	85%	52%	57%	57%	66%
Not Sure	8%	10%	7%	6%	9%	10%	9%	8%	10%	7%	2%	11%	8%	7%	6%	11%	9%	6%	10%	11%	8%	7%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Debate Watchers	100%	52%	48%	30%	28%	27%	15%	58%	42%	47%	6%	31%	16%	23%	46%	30%	25%	48%	22%	19%	39%	19%	23%

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4 Who answered the questions more precisely without beating around the bush?

656 Debate Watchers	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			Region			
Credibility Interval: +/-3.9 pct points		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Asian /	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Central	Greater	Inland	Bay Are
Mitt Romney	35%	41%	29%	30%	34%	39%	41%	32%	40%	42%	27%	28%	33%	68%	11%	47%	68%	33%	6%	42%	35%	39%	26%
Barack Obama	57%	53%	61%	63%	56%	54%	50%	60%	53%	53%	67%	62%	56%	24%	82%	46%	26%	59%	83%	52%	56%	55%	66%
Not Sure	8%	6%	9%	6%	9%	6%	9%	8%	7%	6%	6%	9%	11%	8%	7%	7%	5%	8%	11%	6%	9%	6%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Debate Watchers	100%	52%	48%	30%	28%	27%	15%	58%	42%	47%	6%	31%	16%	23%	46%	30%	25%	48%	22%	19%	39%	19%	23%

5 Who was more prepared?

656 Debate Watchers	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			Region			
Credibility Interval: +/-3.9 pct points		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Asian /	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Central	Greater	Inland	Bay Are
Mitt Romney	31%	35%	26%	25%	29%	35%	38%	27%	36%	36%	28%	23%	30%	63%	9%	38%	58%	30%	5%	32%	31%	35%	26%
Barack Obama	53%	48%	60%	62%	55%	47%	45%	58%	46%	47%	66%	60%	55%	23%	78%	42%	27%	56%	73%	48%	51%	56%	59%
Not Sure	16%	18%	14%	13%	17%	18%	17%	15%	17%	17%	6%	16%	15%	14%	13%	20%	15%	14%	22%	19%	18%	9%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Debate Watchers	100%	52%	48%	30%	28%	27%	15%	58%	42%	47%	6%	31%	16%	23%	46%	30%	25%	48%	22%	19%	39%	19%	23%

6 Who was more presidential?

656 Debate Watchers	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			Region			
Credibility Interval: +/-3.8 pct points		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	White	Black	Hispani	Asian /	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Central	Greater	Inland	Bay Are
Mitt Romney	35%	38%	30%	27%	38%	36%	41%	32%	38%	40%	26%	29%	31%	67%	10%	47%	66%	33%	6%	42%	32%	39%	29%
Barack Obama	61%	55%	68%	68%	62%	58%	51%	65%	55%	55%	72%	71%	58%	29%	88%	45%	30%	62%	90%	53%	62%	60%	69%
Not Sure	4%	6%	2%	5%	0%	6%	8%	3%	7%	5%	2%	0%	11%	4%	2%	8%	4%	5%	4%	5%	7%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Debate Watchers	100%	52%	48%	30%	28%	27%	15%	58%	42%	47%	6%	31%	16%	23%	46%	30%	25%	48%	22%	19%	39%	19%	23%

: KABC-TV Los Angeles, KFSN-TV Fresno, KGTV-TV San Diego, KPIX-TV San Francisco

**Statement of Methodology:** About the Poll: This poll was conducted by telephone in the voice of a professional announcer. Respondent households were selected at random, using Random Digit Dialed (RDD) sample provided by Survey Sampling, of Fairfield CT. All respondents heard the questions asked identically. The pollster's report includes the geography that was surveyed; the date(s) interviews were conducted, the number of respondents who answered each question and the theoretical margin of sampling error for each question. Where necessary, respondents were weighted using the most recent US Census estimates for age, gender, ethnic origin and region, to align the sample to the population. In theory, one can say with 95% certainty that the results would not vary by more than the stated margin of sampling error, in one direction or the other, had the entire universe of respondents with home telephones been interviewed with complete accuracy. There are other possible sources of error in all surveys that may be more serious than sampling error. These include: the difficulty of interviewing respondents who do not have a home telephone; the refusal by some with home telephones to be interviewed; the order in which questions are asked; the wording of questions; the way and extent to which data are weighted; and the manner in which specialized populations, such as likely voters, are determined. It is difficult to quantify the errors that may result from these and other factors. Research methodology, questionnaire design and fieldwork for this survey were completed by SurveyUSA of Clifton, NJ. This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.