

# 2012 Convention Delegate Study

## WELCOME TO THE 2012 CONVENTION DELEGATE STUDY

This is a survey of the political views of delegates to the 2012 national party conventions. Your input is very important to us.

We take great care to preserve the confidentiality of our study participants. The information from completed questionnaires is reported only in summary statistical form, thereby ensuring confidentiality of responses. Your responses will NEVER be linked to your name. In fact, we will never ask you for your name or to provide any information that would identify you.

We have provided a postage paid return address envelope. Please complete the survey and return it to us in that envelope. Once we take your completed survey out of the envelope, we will destroy the envelope so that your name is not linked to your survey responses.

1. First, what was your **official classification** as a delegate in 2012? (*Select only one*)

**Democrats:**

- Congressional district
- At-large
- Super delegate

**Republicans:**

- Congressional district
- At-large

2. Please indicate in **which years** you were a delegate to a national convention. (*Please check all that apply*)

- Before 1996
- 1996
- 2000
- 2004
- 2008
- 2012

3. How old were you when you first became active in politics? \_\_\_\_\_ years old

4. Please circle the number that best describes how strongly you **support your political party**.

Not very  
strongly



Very strongly

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5. How would you compare the importance of your party activity with your involvement in these other kinds of activity? Would you say your party work is: 1) Less Important, 2) About as Important, or 3) More Important:

	Less important	About as important	More important
Activity on behalf of a demographic group (e.g. gender, race, ethnicity, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity on behalf of a geographic place (e.g. your state, community, neighborhood, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity on behalf of a religious group (e.g. Evangelical Christian, Catholic, Jewish, Muslims, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity on behalf of my occupation (e.g. Labor Union, Business Group, Teacher's Union, Professional Association, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity on behalf of an issue or broad ideological group (e.g. conservative groups, liberal groups, Environmental Rights, Gun Rights, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. We are interested in people's **reasons for being involved in politics**. How important is each of the following reasons for your own participation in politics? (*Choose one in each row*)

	Not at all important	Not very important	Quite important	Extremely important
Personal friends or members of my family are active in the party.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I want to see particular candidates elected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Party work helps me make business or professional contacts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am strongly attached to the party and I want to give it my support.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I enjoy the friendships and social contacts I have in the party.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I like the fun and excitement of conventions and campaigns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I want to have a personal career in politics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I want to get the party and its candidates to support the policies I believe in.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I want to advance the goals of groups/associations I belong to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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7. You have attended at least one national presidential nominating convention. In thinking about decisions made at conventions, how do feel about the following statements?

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Agree	Agree strongly
It is best to minimize disagreement within the party.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶
One should stand firm for a position even if it means resigning from the party.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶
The party should play down some issues if it will improve the chances of winning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶
The party should select a nominee who is strongly committed on the issues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶
Choosing a candidate with broad electoral appeal is more important than a consistent ideology.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶

8. Next, we would like to know how you feel about the decisions made by your party's elected officials. Please place yourself on the scale between the two opposing positions.

**Elected officials should stand up for their principles no matter what.**

           ◀      ▶      ▲

**Elected officials should compromise with their opponents in order to get things done for the country.**

▼      ◀◀

**When making decisions on important issues, elected officials should represent the views of the voters in their states and districts.**

           ◀      ▶      ▲

**When making decisions on important issues, elected officials should represent the core principles of and the core groups in their party.**

▼      ◀◀

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9. Please indicate whether you were involved in each of the following presidential campaigns.

2000
  2004
  2008
  2012

10. What types of activities did you engage in during the **2012 presidential campaign**? Please check all of the activities in which you were involved.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Voter registration/get out the vote drives | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephoning                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Poll watching                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Distributing literature/putting up signs   | <input type="checkbox"/> Campaign organization/campaign office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund raising                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Rallies/campaign events               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mass mailing                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Small meetings/teas/coffees           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media or internet production/publicity     |  |

11. Please indicate how much of your activity in the 2012 presidential campaign was **motivated by commitments** to the party, to a candidate, or to an issue position or specific group. *(Mark only one box in each row).*

	None	Some	A lot
I was committed to party work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I wanted to help a particular candidate.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I wanted to work for an issue position or specific group.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. Here is a seven-point scale on which the political views that people might hold are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative.

First, where would you place yourself on this scale? Then, we're interested in where you would place other persons and groups on this scale. *(Mark only one in each row).*

	Extremely Liberal		Moderate			Extremely Conservative	
Yourself	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Barack Obama	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Mitt Romney	<input type="checkbox"/>						
The national Democratic party	<input type="checkbox"/>						
The national Republican party	<input type="checkbox"/>						
The national electorate	<input type="checkbox"/>						

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13. Which one of the opinions expressed below best agrees with your view on the abortion issue?

- By law, abortion should never be permitted.
- The law should permit abortion only in cases of rape, incest or when the woman's life is in danger.
- The law should permit abortion for reasons other than rape, incest, or danger to the woman's life, but only after the need for the abortion has been clearly established.
- By law, a woman should always be able to obtain an abortion as a matter of personal choice.

14. Recently, there has been a good deal of discussion about marriages and other legal relationships between same-sex couples. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of the **proper legal status of marriage**?

- The law should define marriage only as a union between one man and one woman.
- The law should define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, but recognize legal agreements between same-sex couples.
- The law should define marriage as a union between two people regardless of their gender.

15. Some people believe that we should spend **much more money for defense**. Others feel that **defense spending should be greatly decreased**. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

**Greatly increase  
defense spending**

**Greatly decrease  
defense spending**

- ◀      ▶      ▲      ▼      ◀◀

16. Some people feel that the government in Washington should make every effort to **improve the social and economic position of Blacks**. Others feel that the government should **not make any special effort to help Blacks** because they should help themselves.

**Government  
should help  
blacks**

**Blacks should help  
themselves**

- ◀      ▶      ▲      ▼      ◀◀

17. Some people think the government should **provide fewer services**, even in areas such as health and education in order to reduce spending. Other people feel it is important for the government to **provide many more services** even if it means an increase in spending. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

**Government  
provide many  
fewer services,  
reduce spending  
a lot**

**Government  
provide many  
more services,  
increase spending  
a lot**

- ◀      ▶      ▲      ▼      ◀◀

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18. Please place yourself on the scale between the two opposing positions on health insurance.

**Government should  
provide a public  
health insurance  
plan for all  
Americans**

**All Americans  
should be  
responsible for  
their own health  
insurance plans.**



19. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. *(Choose one in each row)*

	Disagree strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree slightly	Agree strongly
The federal government should make it more difficult for people to buy a gun than it is now.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶	▲
Because of past discrimination, racial minorities should be given preference in hiring and promotion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶	▲
One of the major threats to the future of the United States is illegal immigration.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶	▲
Government monitoring of electronic communications by private U.S. citizens is necessary to gain information about terrorist plans and to protect American lives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶	▲
Religiously-affiliated institutions should be required to offer contraceptive coverage in their insurance plans.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶	▲
In order for the U.S. to fund government obligations, it is important that Congress periodically raise the federal debt ceiling.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	◀	▶	▲

## **2012 Convention Delegate Study**

20. We are interested in whether you are a member of any of the following organizations or associations. Please mark the circle for each type of group that you are a member of.

- Conservative religious groups (e.g. Family Research Council, Concerned Women for America, Christian Coalition)
- Liberal religious groups (e.g. Interfaith Alliance, Call to Renewal)
- Teacher's associations or unions (e.g. NEA, AFT)
- Pro-Life groups
- Pro-Choice groups
- Ethnic or racial associations or groups (e.g. LULAC, NAACP)
- Environmental groups (e.g. The Sierra Club, Greenpeace)
- Civil Liberties groups (e.g. ACLU)
- Liberal political advocacy or candidate support groups (e.g. NOW, People for the American Way, Move-On.org, EMILY's List)
- Conservative political advocacy or candidate support groups (e.g. American Conservative Union, Concerned Women for America, Club for Growth, Tea Party)
- Gun owner's associations (e.g. NRA)
- LGBT groups (e.g. Human Rights Campaign)
- Professional or Occupational groups (e.g. Business group, Chamber of Commerce, Professional Associations, etc.)

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21. Please indicate your **feelings toward** each of the following **groups** and **political figures** on what we call a "feeling thermometer." Here's how it works. If you don't feel particularly warm or cold toward a group or person, then you should place them in the middle, at the 50 degree mark. If you have a warm feeling, or feel favorable toward them, you would give them a score somewhere between 50 and 100 degrees, depending on how warm your feeling is toward that person or group. On the other hand, if you don't feel very favorable toward a person or group – that is, if you don't care much for them – then you would place them somewhere between 0 and 50 degrees. Remember, 50 degrees means you feel neutral.

*(Please choose one rating in each row)*

	Unfavorable				Neutral				Favorable			
	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Feminists	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Christian fundamentalists	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Gay men and lesbians	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Labor unions	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Big business	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Tea Party	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Occupy Wall Street	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Mormons	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Atheists	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	
Muslims	0°	10°	20°	30°	40°	50°	60°	70°	80°	90°	100°	

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22. Please tell us how much you agree with each of the following statements concerning **women and men in politics** (Choose one in each row).

	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>Disagree moderately</b>	<b>Disagree slightly</b>	<b>Agree slightly</b>	<b>Agree moderately</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>
Women are taught not to want political careers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women are underrepresented among political leaders because they have fewer opportunities than men to prepare for leadership positions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is almost impossible to be a good wife and mother and hold public office too.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most men in the party organization try to keep women out of leadership roles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Many people will not vote for women candidates.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women who seek political careers often find they are not taken seriously.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Most men are better suited emotionally for politics than are most women.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women don't support other women who run for political office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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23. Who did you most prefer as your party's nominee for president in 2012?

### 2012 Democrats

- Barack Obama
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2012 Republicans

- Michele Bachmann
- Herman Cain
- Newt Gingrich
- Jon Huntsman
- Ron Paul
- Rick Perry
- Mitt Romney
- Rick Santorum
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

24. Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female

25. Which of the following best describes you?

- White, non-Hispanic
- Hispanic
- African-American/Black
- American Indian/Native American
- Asian
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

26. In what year were you born? 19 \_\_ \_\_

27. What is your current marital status? Are you:

- Single, never married
- Married
- Separated
- Divorced
- Widowed

28. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

- High school or less
- Some college/Vocational training
- College graduate
- Some post graduate training
- Post-graduate degree

29. What is your present religion, if any? (*Please be as specific as possible. e.g. Southern Baptist, Presbyterian Church in the USA, Disciples of Christ, Reform Jew, None*):

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34. In terms of religion, do any of the following terms describe you? Please check all that apply.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> progressive              | <input type="checkbox"/> humanist                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> traditional              | <input type="checkbox"/> secular                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ecumenical               | <input type="checkbox"/> atheist                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mainline                 | <input type="checkbox"/> fundamentalist               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> charismatic/Pentecostal  | <input type="checkbox"/> born again/evangelical       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deist                    | <input type="checkbox"/> agnostic                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> non-traditional believer | <input type="checkbox"/> spiritual, but not religious |

35. How often do you **attend** worship services?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Never              | <input type="checkbox"/> Once or twice a month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seldom             | <input type="checkbox"/> Once a week           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year | <input type="checkbox"/> More than once a week |

36. Which comes **closest** to your view of the Scriptures:

- A good book but not the word of God
- The inspired word of God, but it contains human errors
- The inspired word of God, with no errors but not to be taken literally
- The actual word of God, to be taken literally, word for word

37. How much **guidance** does your religion provide in your day-to-day living?

- No guidance
- Some guidance
- Quite a bit of guidance
- Great deal of guidance

38. Now we would like to ask you some questions about the religion of the 2012 presidential candidates.

a. Do you happen to know what Mitt Romney's religion is?

- Protestant
- Catholic
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Mormon
- Not religious
- Something else \_\_\_\_\_

b. Do you happen to know what Barack Obama's religion is?

- Protestant
- Catholic
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Mormon
- Not religious
- Something else \_\_\_\_\_

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39. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	<b>Disagree strongly</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neither Agree nor Disagree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Agree strongly</b>
Factual evidence from the natural world is the source of true beliefs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The great works of philosophy and science are the best source of truth, wisdom, and ethics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
It is hard to live a good life based on reason and facts alone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
To understand the world, we must free our minds from old traditions and beliefs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Values are more important than factual evidence in making moral decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

40. Please indicate your approximate before tax annual family income in 2012.

- \$29,999 or less
- \$30,000 to \$52,499
- \$52,500 to \$74,999
- \$75,000 to \$124,999
- \$125,000 to \$250,000
- Over \$250,000

41. In what state do you live? \_\_\_\_\_

42. How would you describe the area in which you live?

- Small Town/Rural
- Suburbs of a Small/Medium City
- Small/Medium City
- Suburbs of a Large City
- Large City