USA TODAY/GALLUP POLL

PRE-DEBATES POLL

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

Note: Q.18-19 should be cited as a Gallup poll.

Results are based on telephone interviews conducted September 24-27, 2012 with a random sample of –1,446— 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 ±3 percentage points.

For results based on the sample of –1,301— registered voters, the maximum margin of sampling error is ±3 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 per 1,000 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.

Finally,

20. Do you think each of the following groups in the United States would be better off in four years if Barack Obama is elected or if Mitt Romney is elected? How about—[RANDOM ORDER]?

2012 Sep 24-27 *(sorted by "Advantage")*	Obama	Romney	Same/No difference (vol.)	No opinion	Advantage
Racial and ethnic minorities	67	25	4	4	O, +42
Lower-income Americans	66	30	2	2	O, +36
Women	57	35	5	3	O, +22
Young adults	54	41	3	3	O, +13
Senior citizens	53	42	4	2	O, +11
Middle-income Americans	53	43	2	1	O, +10
Small business owners	47	47	2	3	Even
Men	35	51	8	6	R, +16
Investors	26	67	3	4	R, +41
Upper-income Americans	20	75	3	3	R, +55