

PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

September, 2012: Post-Conventions

Presidential Campaign : 270 Electoral Votes Needed to Win

Now that the national party conventions are over and the initial post-conventions polling is in, the race still looks like the debates will be most important. For those of us living in the 41 states plus the District of Columbia where the race is already decided, we will not see much of the deluge of ads taking place in the “battleground” states.

Romney seems pretty well assured of receiving **191 electoral votes** from these states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Obama seems pretty well assured of receiving **237 electoral votes** from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

The battleground states represent 110 electoral votes and, in general, have been accepted as:

<u>State</u>	<u>Electoral Votes</u>
Colorado	9
Florida	29
Iowa	6
Nevada	6
New Hampshire	4
North Carolina	15
Ohio	18
Virginia	13
Wisconsin	<u>10</u>
TOTAL	110

Obama is looking stronger in most of these states since the convention. While Romney received virtually no “bounce” after the Republican convention, Obama clearly has received a 4%-6% “bounce” from the Democratic convention. However, voter suppression efforts in some states make it more difficult to definitively say that Obama is ahead among likely voters in those places, since some likely voters may be denied the chance to vote.

Among the battleground states, Obama is looking best in Colorado, Ohio, New Hampshire, Nevada, and Wisconsin. If he wins these states, he will have 284 electoral votes. He would win re-election, even without Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia. And he may win all or some of those. At the moment, Obama has a better chance to win Florida, while Romney has his best chances in North Carolina and Virginia.

Although I am very optimistic that Obama will be re-elected, we must remember that there are 4 debates and 7 weeks of campaigning until Election Day and things can change, several times.

So you can plan ahead, the 3 Presidential debates will be held October 3, 16 and 22. The Vice Presidential debate will be held October 11. All are scheduled from 6 to 7:30 pm PDT.

Further Thoughts

- Has there ever been a candidate for President who seems less prepared to handle foreign affairs than Mitt Romney? Romney not only is unprepared, he doesn't have a clue about diplomacy and seems ignorant about the world beyond our borders. George W. Bush also was greatly deficient in this area, but he allayed many people's fears by choosing Dick Cheney as his Vice President. Romney selected someone as unprepared as himself for VP. Of course, after the 2000 election, everyone who thought Cheney would be a foreign policy asset was proven to be grossly mistaken.
- In the end, I think there will be large numbers of people who will look at Romney and wonder what he really believes on any number of issues. He has and will continue to contradict himself. The latest is that the man who vowed to repeal "Obamacare" leading up to his nomination, now professes to like some of it and says he wants to keep some of it. He gives flip-floppers a bad name.
- The Republican convention was a failure. Far fewer people watched than watched the Democratic convention, no one talked about any of the speeches other than Ann Romney's or Clint Eastwood talking to what Jon Stewart described as an "Obama that only Republicans can see," and the candidate got no appreciable improvement or "bounce." On each of the three nights of the Democratic convention there was at least one terrific speech. Bill Clinton led the way, but Michelle Obama and the President were also excellent. Thus, the increase in support nationally and in many swing states for Obama after the Democratic convention ended.
- If the campaign continues as it has over the past two weeks, do not be surprised if, by the last two weeks of the campaign (perhaps after the final debate), many of those independent expenditure committees that have been spending millions to defeat Obama, turn most of their attention and money to the tight US Senate races and a few House races.
- Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu began trying to inject his own brand of far right politics into the U.S. election. Perhaps he sees that Romney, like George W. Bush, is ignorant about the Middle East, has surrounded himself with some of the same neocons who brought us the Iraq war, and will be as easily manipulated as Bush was when he became President.
- Monday, a video was released showing Romney at a fundraising event in May saying the following:

"There are 47 percent of the people who will vote for the President no matter what. All right, there are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it. That that's an entitlement. And the government should give it to them."

And they will vote for this president no matter what. These are people who pay no income tax..." "My job is not to worry about those people. I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives."

Since I am one of the 47% supporting the President, shouldn't I get a refund for all the taxes I supposedly didn't pay throughout my life? And I sure hope that Mr. Romney will tell me how to take personal responsibility for my life.