2012 Election Project
Class Name
Student Name
Barack H. Obama II

Born August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Current Occupation: President of the United States

Educational Background
- 1983 B.A. in Political Science, International Relations – Columbia University
- 1991 J.D. – Harvard University School of Law

Professional Experience
- Community Organizer, Researcher, Law Professor, Civil Rights Attorney

Elected Office Held
- 1996 – 2004 Illinois State Senate
- 2004 – 2008 United States Senator from Illinois
- 2008 – Present United States President

Past Campaigns
- 1996 Illinois State Senate WON
- 1998 Illinois State Senate WON
- 2000 U.S. Congress, Illinois 1st District LOST in Primary
- 2002 Illinois State Senate WON
- 2004 United States Senate, Illinois WON
- 2008 United States President WON

Current Campaign
- Launched April 4, 2011

Catchphrase/Slogan “Forward”

Logo
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Polling Agency</th>
<th>Results</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 9-13, 2011</td>
<td>NBC/Wall Street Journal</td>
<td>Obama 49% - Romney 43%</td>
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<td>Obama 50% - Pawlenty 39%</td>
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<td>Jul 5-11, 2011</td>
<td>Quinnipac</td>
<td>Obama 47% - Romney 41%</td>
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<td>Obama 50% - Bachmann 38%</td>
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<td>Obama 50% - Perry 37%</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Obama 53% - Palin 34%</td>
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<td>Aug 17-18, 2011</td>
<td>Gallup</td>
<td>Obama 46% - Romney 48%</td>
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<td>Obama 47% - Perry 47%</td>
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<td>Obama 48% - Bachmann 44%</td>
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<td>Sep 23-25, 2011</td>
<td>CNN/Opinion Research</td>
<td>Obama 49% - Romney 48%</td>
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<td>Obama 51% - Paul 47%</td>
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<td>Obama 58% - Palin 37%</td>
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<td>Oct 9-10, 2011</td>
<td>Time Magazine</td>
<td>Obama 48% - Romney 44%</td>
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<td>Obama 51% - Perry 40%</td>
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<td>Dec 15-18, 2011</td>
<td>ABC News/Washington Post</td>
<td>Obama 49% - Romney 46%</td>
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<td>Obama 51% - Gingrich 43%</td>
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<td>Obama 50% - Paul 43%</td>
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<td>Mar 22-24, 2012</td>
<td>Rasmussen</td>
<td>Obama 43% - Romney 45%</td>
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<td>Obama 47% - Santorum 42%</td>
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<td>June 7-17, 2012</td>
<td>Pew Research</td>
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<td>Sep 6-12, 2012</td>
<td>Gallup</td>
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<td>Oct 11-16, 2012</td>
<td>UConn/Hartford Courant</td>
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<td>Oct 21-24, 2012</td>
<td>ABC News/Washington Post</td>
<td>Obama 47% - Romney 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 1-3, 2012</td>
<td>NBC News/Wall St Journal</td>
<td>Obama 48% - Romney 47%</td>
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Where Barack Obama stands on the issues.

**Gay Marriage**
In 2010, President Barack Obama signed the repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell restrictions on service by open members of the LGBT community in the military. He also declared his support for same-sex marriage in May 2012 (BBC, 2012).

**Minimum Wage/The Economy**
Barack Obama spoke repeatedly of making a living wage a priority in his campaigning. During his first term he signed into law legislation that bailed out the bank industry to keep them from going bankrupt as well as General Motors and Chrysler. He also signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that sought to stimulate the economy through government spending on public works projects.

**Women’s Healthcare**
Barack Obama has been generally pro-choice. According to Slate in 2008, he stated: "...there surely is some common ground when both those who believe in choice and those who are opposed to abortion can come together and say, 'We should try to prevent unintended pregnancies by providing appropriate education to our youth, communicating that sexuality is sacred and that they should not be engaged in cavalier activity, and providing options for adoption, and helping single mothers if they want to choose to keep the baby'. Those are all things that we put in the Democratic platform for the first time this year, and I think that’s where we can find some common ground, because nobody's pro-abortion. I think it's always a tragic situation. We should try to reduce these circumstances."

**The Death Penalty**
President Obama has been fairly conservative on the issue of capital punishment. In his book, *The Audacity of Hope*, published in 2006, he states that while he understands evidence shows “the death penalty does little to deter crime” he believes that some crimes are “so heinous that the community is justified in expressing the full measure of its outrage” by applying the death penalty. (Obama, 2006) In 2008, he also publicly disagreed with the Supreme Court when they ruled that the death penalty cannot be used on child rapists when the child survives. (ABC News, 2008)
President Barack Obama appeals to the following groups of people, based on opinion polling and endorsements:

- Registered Democrats
- Voters under 40
- Hispanic-Americans
- African-Americans
- Asian & Pacific Islander-Americans
- The LBGT Community
- Labor Unions
- Teachers
- Environmental Activists
- Hollywood Celebrities & Musicians
- Women's Rights & Feminist Movements

The following major publications have endorsed Barack Obama in the general election:

- The New York Times
- The Chicago Tribune
- The Detroit Free Press
- The Denver Tribune
- The Washington Post
- The Los Angeles Times
- The Kansas City Star
- The Seattle Times
- The St. Louis Post Dispatch
- The San Francisco Chronicle
- The Las Vegas Sun
- The Miami Herald
- The Salt Lake Tribune
- The New Yorker
- The Economist

Several current Democratic elected officials have also endorsed Barack Obama.
2012 ELECTION PROJECT
CANDIDATE MONEY TRACKER

2ND Quarter 2011 Fundraising Report (FEC)
Raised: $46 million
Spent: $11 million
Cash on Hand: $37 million

3RD Quarter 2011 Fundraising Report (FEC)
Raised: $42 million
Spent: $18 million
Cash on Hand: $61 million

4TH Quarter 2011 Fundraising Report (FEC)
Raised: $40 million
Spent: $20 million
Cash on Hand: $82 million

1ST Quarter 2012 Fundraising Report (FEC)
Raised: $68 million
Spent: $46 million
Cash on Hand: $104 million

2ND Quarter 2012 Fundraising Report (FEC)
Raised: $111 million
Spent: $117 million
Cash on Hand: $98 million

July 2012 Fundraising Report (FEC)
Raised: $49 million
Spent: $59 million
Cash on Hand: $88 million
News Update January 2012


President Obama rejected plans for a pipeline that would have taken oil from Canada that presently goes to American oil refineries and shipped it to the Gulf of Mexico to be sold on the international market to foreign refineries. This angered oil companies and Republicans, but was applauded by environmental activists and critics who say the project would have created almost no permanent jobs and only temporary construction jobs while the project is being built.

“Obama NLRB recess appointments thrill labor, infuriate business”, The Huffington Post (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/01/04/obama-nlrb-recess-appointments-labor-unions_n_1184285.html)

President Obama made three recess appointments (appointments that usually have to be confirmed by the Senate that are made while the Senate is not in session and are only valid until the Senate returns again at which point the appointments are over) to the National Labor Relations Board. The appointments made labor unions and workers’ rights groups happy, but angered business leaders who don’t want the labor board to be active.


President Obama proposed merging six different agencies that deal with commerce and trade into one agency. The plan was supposed to eliminate redundancies in government and save money. Republicans and Democrats both thought it was a good idea overall, but Republicans commented that they were worried that reducing the amount of appointed positions would give too much power to Obama appointees in the new combined agency.
Barack Obama has held the lead consistently throughout much of this race in the polls. He receives generally favorable coverage from the liberal news media and generally unfavorable coverage from the conservative news media. He, unlike the Republicans, has not had to fight a primary battle among several candidates, as he is already in office.

Additionally, President Obama has held a consistent fundraising advantage and he enters the last four months of the campaign with almost $100 million cash ready to spend. At the same time, he continues to raise more money. Many political scientists, journalists, and other experts are predicting he will eventually raise when combined the Democratic National Committee more than $1 billion, the most ever raised for a Presidential election even when accounting for inflation.

Barack Obama also has support from a wide group of people as he demographically wins almost every group except for white men and people over 40. His endorsements include some business leaders (but those are more likely to endorse his opponent), organized labor, people in academia, entertainers, and young people.

All of these factors (broad base of support, demography on his side, plenty of cash, lots of endorsements, lead in the polls, incumbency) lead me to conclude the Barack Obama will win the 2012 presidential election by a sizable margin at least electorally and possibly also in the popular vote- although that is likely to be closer (but probably not that close).