

Center for the Study of Local Issues –

Fall 2012 Survey: Telephone vs. Online Results

(Telephone results are in highlighted columns. All values are in percentages)

1. Would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?

	Right - Phone	Right - Online	Wrong - Phone	Wrong - Online	Unsure/D.k. - Phone	Unsure/D.K. - Online
County-right/wrong direction	50	31	36	45	14	25

2. How you would rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County - excellent, good, only fair or poor?

	Excellent - Phone	Excellent - Online	Good- Phone	Good - Online	Fair - Phone	Fair - Online	Poor - Phone	Poor - Online	Unsure/Don't know -- Phone	Unsure/ Don't know -- Online
County - economic conditions	5	4	43	60	39	33	12	4	2	0

3. Thinking now about your personal circumstances, indicate whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.

Economic circumstance – does it apply?	Applies - Phone	Applies - Online
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	59	59
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	31	25
Facing the possibility of unemployment	14	14
Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	38	41
Delay in making a major purchase such as a home or car	38	32
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	27	17

4. The county’s Health Department is asking the public to help it identify approaches to having people achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Do you have any recommendations?
(See Appendix A for answers given by online respondents.)

5. The Health Department is also looking for input about ways in which it can work with disadvantaged groups in the county to improve their health outcomes. Do you have any suggestions in this regard? (See Appendix A for answers given by online respondents.)

6. The upcoming November elections will feature a variety of state and local ballot items for citizens to consider. Please indicate whether you support or oppose the items below.

	Support – Phone	Support - online	Oppose – Phone	Oppose – Online	Unsure – Phone	Unsure – Online	N.A. – Phone	N.A. - Online
Legalizing same sex marriage	43	50	46	45	7	5	4	0
Allowing the creation of a sixth casino in Prince George’s County, table games at all casinos and more slot machines overall.	34	26	57	70	6	5	3	0
Allowing the party leaders in the relevant central committee to break a tie when the county council cannot pick a replacement county executive or council member.	57	36	25	40	13	25	6	0

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

	Approve		Disapprove		No answer	
	Phone	Online	Phone	Online	Phone	Online
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?	44	43	50	57	6	0

8. For whom would you vote if presidential elections were today and the candidates were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney?

For whom would you vote if the presidential election was today?	Phone	Online
Barack Obama	42	47
Mitt Romney	47	51
Undecided	7	0

9. What is the most important issue or factor shaping your vote for president?
(See Appendix B for answers given by the online respondents)

10. Which of the following best describes your political beliefs: Conservative, Moderate or Liberal?

	Phone	Online
Conservative	36	31
Moderate	43	51
Liberal	17	18
Other/No Answer	4	0

11. With which political party, if any, are you registered?

	Phone	Online
Democrat	42	35
Republican	38	37
Unaffiliated	15	25
Other party	1	3
Not registered to vote	3	0
No Answer	1	0

12. Below are some categories relating to education. Please indicate the category in which the highest level of your formal education falls.

	Phone	Online
less than a high school diploma	1	0
a high school diploma	12	6
some college	24	16
Completed a 2 year associate college degree	8	14
Completed a 4 year bachelor's degree	25	24
post graduate work	27	39
Something else	1	3
Other/No Answer	1	0

13. Regarding race, how would you describe yourself?

	Phone	Online
White	83	93
Black/African-American	10	4
Hispanic/Latino	2	1
Asian	2	0
Other	2	2
No answr	2	0

14. Regarding income, which category does your annual household income fall?

Income	Phone	Online
Less than \$50,000	19	10
\$50,000-100,000	37	43
\$100,001-150,000	22	26
Over \$150,000	22	21
No answer	100	100

15. Gender:

	Phone	Online
Men	35	46
Women	65	54

Appendix A: Health Department Questions

4. The county’s Health Department is asking the public to help it identify approaches to having people achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Do you have any recommendations?

(These were the open-ended comments presented verbatim in the order they were received.)

<p>1. Increase exercise ""recess"" in schools. When a child is having problems in school - they cut their recess. When there is any activity at the school - they cut their recess. Also - recess is simply ""going outside"" it does not mean they will exercise. In addition - recess is only about 20 min long after all is said and done. 2. School snacks. My child has the opportunity to eat an ice cream bar at 10:45 AM. In fact, the cafeteria pushes the snack time as I have learned that it is more monetarily advantageous for them. When did our schools food program become a business that requires a profit?</p>
<p>1 Education on the importance of healthy diet and adequate exercise. 2 Adequate sidewalks and trails to enable folks to walk more. 3 Cleaner air</p>
<p>Are you kidding. Since when is that the job of the government, They have a lot more important things to deal with and shouldn't be wasting tax payer \$</p>
<p>Ask your doctor.</p>
<p>change the weight/height parameters that not many can live within have free/low cost things available to low income people...pool. Exercise...maybe a bike borrowing program like I saw in London Cheaper food prices...or maybe some county coupons have fast food stop frying everything...encourage healthier places to open</p>
<p>Children need to be educated about healthy eating and healthy living. PE should be part of the curriculum. many adults are ignorant about healthy diets and are unable to teach their children about making healthy choices.</p>
<p>communication campaign</p>
<p>Discuss how do people find motivation --- Get the word out about exactly how much protein is needed in a given day --- so that people can eat a vegetarian meal with protein supplement --- meaning meat, if they choose and can afford and/or beans, eggs, cheese, milk, etc. (fish, of course). We know we're supposed to eat at least five fruits/veggies per day, but how much protein and how much in whole grains?</p>
<p>Easy to remember health tips--""eat this, not that"" types of things, or replacing less healthy items with more healthy items</p>
<p>eat healthy and exercise</p>
<p>eat less calories than you burn</p>
<p>Eating healthy is also expensive. It is too easy for people to go to the fast food restaurant and order off the ""value"" menu. Perhaps the Health Department could provide coupons or vouchers for fresh fruit and vegetables. Or perhaps they could work with the local farmers to provide produce that is often thrown away.</p>
<p>Eliminate drive-thru windows. At least people using fast food would have to get out of the car to buy it.</p>
<p>encourage businesses especially those with office employees to move around more regularly and not sit for 4to6 hours at a time</p>
<p>Find a way to make healthy foods more affordable and make people more aware of healthy, tasty easy to make recipes.</p>
<p>Find a way to market a way to save time and still exercise. I think that people don't feel they have the extra time required.</p>

Find something to do with the money spent on this project that is more productive
Food needs to have a place in the school curriculum. It has to include information and education about shopping and preparing nutritious meals using wholesome ingredients within a given budget. I have recently heard, on NPR, description of cooking program for middle school students that is based on these aspects of food preparation. It is taught through the school, perhaps on an after school basis and includes meal planning, shopping and preparation of simple, nutritious meals that a middle schooler could prepare. Although it was developed for low income families it could be modified to apply to families of any income group. This is Home Ec with a contemporary twist and is needed as part of the regular curriculum in my opinion as is Physical Education (not solely team sports).
Free or reduced gym memberships, or deals to help those who don't make enough to afford a membership, less expensive.
Get more farmers' markets and organic markets, e.g., Roots in the county, to make eating better food easier. Get a Wegman's here or a Whole Foods in Severna Park.
government can't force people to live healthy - I am a RN and spend lots of time educating people but a certain percentage remain noncompliant and will remain so!!~ We live in a car ruled geographic area and our communities are becoming less and less "walker friendly & bike friendly".
Healthy lunches at schools are a huge start.
I do not believe this should be part of their charter--in fact I am reasonably sure it is not. The federal government is trying to manage every aspect of our lives--the County government does not need to jump on this issue too.
I think it would be helpful to require fast food places and restaurants to include the calorie count on all items on their menus. Having that information helps people to make better decisions.
I think one of best ways to get people to maintain a healthy weight is to stress the costs of leading a leading a unhealthy lifestyle. I reached my healthy weight in the Spring and at WW I think our leader said it best when some of the people in the group were complaining about the cost of buying healthy food. She said what do you think the long term cost is for diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease? Buying healthy food and adopting healthy attitudes towards food is a small price to pay compared to the HUGE price we will all pay for people who do not choose the healthy road.
I'm a big believer in a well-balanced diet with limited dining out and fast food. Also a limit on the amount of starches and sugary beverages and foods
Increase the cost of empty calories by changing the nature of farm subsidies away from cereals and corn. As a result simple nutrient deficient carbohydrates and meat will become more expensive. Its an overabundance of cheap calories that leads to obesity.
Individual common sense. Government stay out. You cannot legislate against stupidity.
Just what they have already been saying and that is to eat more vegetables and fruits and to get mere exercise.
Make fruits and vegetables more affordable for poor people.
Make the roads in the county more accessible to bike and pedestrian traffic. Have the county's growth plan favor development around foot accessible shopping. Promote shopping direct from Maryland farmers.
Measure BMI and invite over 33s to participate in intensive coaching
Mind your own business! My health is not your concern. I make no claim on you.
No really. Just keep on telling the same story. Michelle Obama has provided a good track to run

on.
No, people need to take responsibility for their own eating and exercising habits.
offer low cost exercise classes
Our elected officials should lead by example. So, the Health Department could easily produce PSA's for showing on Baltimore metro television stations and cable channels that picture elected State, national and County officials actually doing those things in real life that constitute leading a healthy lifestyle. Examples could be John Leopold jogging after work and Chris Trumbauer kayaking on the South River.
Partner with the Departments of Aging & Disabilities, Recreation and Parks, Social Services, and the Boards of AACPS, AACC, & AACPL, as well as the MD Department of Labor (through Director of Anne Arundel County One-Stop Career Centers) and the MD Dept. of Health to establish/enhance healthy weight education programs that clearly show trends in obesity and its links to trends in unhealthy food consumption & inadequate exercise, and also its links to trends in declining success in education and in work and the early onset of critical and deadly deceases. Make these materials accessible to the general public and create adequately equipped, adequately staffed, and adequately accessible active training programs at the public facilities of the above listed departments and agencies to serve Anne Arundel County citizens of all ages.
Promote safety so that people (adults and children) can engage in outdoor activities. Promote outdoor activities - bicycling, sports such as tennis, informal baseball, basketball, volleyball at County parks. Promote other activities that keep people occupied and away from between-meal snacks such as participating in bands, drama clubs, chorus. Belonging to Scouts, YMCAs and YWCAs or other sport/social organizations should be encouraged.
Provide more activities such as exercise classes for adults thru Parks and Rec.
Public service announcements about exercise options and healthy eating
Question prompted me to look at Health Dept. website. Good information there, but I haven't seen any advertisement or promotion to drive people there. The county has put in a good deal of money to promote recycling - which is beneficial. Perhaps same needs to be done to highlight what already exists in the Dept. about healthy living. Maybe sending info home with children from school or put inserts in bills already being mailed to residents if doing a specifically mailing isn't cost effective. Good recipes, etc. on site. What about putting printed materials in local grocery stores?
Reinstitute the draft. Not necessarily a military draft, but a civic duty draft. Every citizen, upon graduating from high school, or college if there is no break in enrollment, should have to serve two years in public service. Much like the military, these people would attend a six week preparatory session, away from home, where they are on a regimented schedule. They get up as a group and attend breakfast as a group, exercise as a group and work as a group. They are not free to leave the facility. With regular exercise, work and a healthy diet this might work. Plus we would benefit from the work they performed.
Since on average obese people incur higher medical costs, pro rate health care premiums based on percentage of body fat. Healthier, lighter people should pay less.
smaller plates and/or portion size. less salt
sponsor exercise and healthy eating lectures
sport facilities seem to be all over subscribed. We need more fields for soccer, baseball, football where kids and adults can get out and get exercise. The ones that are used are over used and dangerous due to poor conditions.
Stay out of peoples business

Tax junk food at a higher rate like cigarette
tax on extreme over weight
The County Health Department should use its limited funds to assist with vaccinations, etc. and not morph into some sort of Weight Monitoring Organization.
The government should not be involved in this issue. With the condition of the economy, taxes, falling home values, traffic congestion, etc. etc., my weight is none of your business
The lack of sidewalks along most county connecting streets makes it impossible to walk anywhere . Think about changing zoning ordinances to require installation of sidewalks.
The public health department can help by continuing to pursue education in nutrition and awareness campaigns about the links between obesity and chronic conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Focus extra attention with young people in the schools as we want create a lifestyle and culture of healthy eating. We are starting to see some traction on things like portion size reduction and greater awareness about the links between obesity and poor health. Remove Soda Machines from schools and eliminate most of the poor snack choices in the vending machines.
They need to promote the ageless formula: Eat less + exercise more = weight loss. Truth is they need to promote healthy foods and recipes. And tell people what types of foods are generally not good for them (I have not eaten a donut in 30 years -- not worth the extra time on the treadmill. Did you know you must walk X miles to work off a single donut?).
This is a major problem. Some of the contributing factors are related to how we develop land for usage. If there was more of an effort to develop walkable communities, where access to grocery stores and other amenities could be done by walking, more people would do so. Having parks in communities is also good. Finally, I think that there needs to be a coordinated public health campaign that targets all of our community groups- all ages, genders and races.
Walk more, take the stairs even when you don't have to, stop with the jumbo sodas and barrels of popcorn at the movies!
Walk more; eat fewer carbohydrates.
While I think choices on school menus have improved in the last few years, schools should do more to promote healthy lifestyles outside of school by encouraging walking and biking, limiting computer/sedentary time, etc. For adults, it is unfortunate that many of us spend over 2-3 hours per day commuting. I truly think that improvements to our transportation infrastructure would help us gain some time out of the car - and I know I would use my extra time getting more exercise. I would also be less inclined to grab fast food if I have more time to cook healthy meals.
Years ago it was common for people to throw litter from their cars. There was a national campaign to stop this. Older individuals may remember the American Indian with a tear in his eye. This was very effective. How about something like that for obesity?

5. The Health Department is also looking for input about ways in which it can work with disadvantaged groups in the county to improve their health outcomes. Do you have any suggestions in this regard?

(These were the open-ended comments presented verbatim in the order they were received.)

Health education available at rec centers and in schools.
alternative health care resources that are affordable. My daughter uses Planned Parenthood for normal pap smear exams and birth control pills because they provide good care and it's more affordable then care covered by her insurance with co-pays!
As I cannot argue that I am in this category my only suggestion is that they talk with folks who are in that group AND WHO WANT THEIR HELP!
Assure that the delivery plan for the proposal listed under item 4 (above) begins with sensitivity to language, culturally appropriate structures and early delivery points for materials, efforts, resources and accessibility for disadvantaged groups in the county, and that it ends with a reassessment of relative needs all disadvantaged groups and geographic areas of our county, dictating adjustment of resources to need those needs.
Attend functions (set up a booth, with free handouts, food samples) the disadvantage groups are most likely to attend. Have a monthly session in the food court at the mall.
Awareness: are disadvantaged groups taking full advantage of health assistance programs that are in existence? My limited experience with obtaining public benefits indicated it can be difficult. Also, await the full implementation of the Affordable Health Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare)--not exactly sure how that will improve the health of disadvantaged groups, but at least more affordable options will be available.
Cooking classes based around diet, nutrition and health. Smoking cessation assistance. Advertisements about the ugliness of smoking in communities more effected by nicotine addiction.
Discounts for prescriptions for middle income families and seniors-----and lower costs for medical specialists.
Distribute info about healthy living via local food pantries. Provide transportation to Health Dept. for vaccinations, etc. Aomehow debunk myths that eating healthy has to be more expensive. Not necessarily true.
Don't know the types of programs available at this time. Perhaps people on food stamps should receive education when they receive them. It would also make sense to allow the disadvantaged to use food stamps at farmers markets to purchase healthy food.
Education is a big part of it. People especially those without a history of wealth, are poor at planning for long term outcomes. Its more important for the gain or loss to be obvious and immediate.
Education is key here, but it needs to be done by groups that disadvantaged individuals trust. In other words, the messages need to come from people to whom they can relate and whose opinions they value.
Education on Health issues and help to THOSE that truly need it.

Ensure the working poor have access to fresh fruits and vegetables by continuing farmers markets with subsidies if needed. Ensure that recipients of "food stamps" can use their benefit card at farmers markets. Look into supporting food co-operative programs with farmers. The programs that are developed must be communicated to disadvantaged groups. This means getting in front of people in their community. Look for independent contractors (presenters) who the audience can relate to. In the Hispanic Community try to find someone who is bilingual. In the African American community try to find someone who is African American. Most effective is a presenter who the audience can relate to. For example a speaker who shares their experience participating in a food co-op is much more likely to move someone to explore this option. Stay away from generic power-point presentations created by a government agency or health insurance company.

Exercise is under emphasized. Walking, biking, sports and outdoor activities need to be condoned.

Fast food is a killer. Just because it's cheap doesn't make it a good deal.

Go into these groups or where they are and present healthy seminars. They won't come to you.

Health outcomes? Recovery from illness/disease? Prevention? Question unclear. If you mean ways to help to recover quicker . . . must harder to get a person to change. Prevention is perhaps the easiest. Make information available and perhaps distributed to concentrated areas where higher rates of disease occur (not just disadvantaged areas).

healthy eating lectures

Healthy meals in schools and other public facilities. Make fruit and vegetables more easily accessible to those not living near grocery stores.

Host free wellness expos at community centers in low income neighborhoods

I am not sure how information regarding free services for disadvantaged groups is distributed or communicated. I think the health department could probably do a better job of getting that information out to the right people.

I am not sure how you qualify "disadvantage" but again I go to the schools. I cannot force adults to make right choices but my taxes pay for the choices made for our kids.

I don't have any suggestions, but this is a topic that concerns me.

I think that significant assistance is being given to disadvantaged groups currently. They are being given much more attention than is being given to getting the middle class population activated. The disadvantaged do need to be indoctrinated in conforming to rules, regulations, and health issues such as personal care.

I was behind a woman at a register using WIC to buy groceries and she had to put back the frozen vegetables that she had because the program didn't cover organic vegetables! So here is someone trying to buy a better food product for herself and her family and couldn't. Absolutely ridiculous!

I would focus on mental health --- discuss with Pathways -- AAMC program, etc. Also work with churches and schools --- my church has partnered with another church and we are working with a school --- we are providing food to go home with elementary school children on weekends so that kids have food over the weekend --- 7 meals, I believe (Friday night, 3 on Sat. and 3 on Sunday). The schools could identify what other needs of their disadvantaged families are not being met.

I would recommend practical advice with grocery shopping, meal preparation, etc. It's quite sad that fast food is not only convenient, but it appears to be cheap. In reality, investing a small amount of time in preparing a healthy meal can be cheaper than fast food.
I would say community meetings with the people who need it the most would probably be best. It doesn't have to be complicated, just think about what you are putting into your body. Instead of drinking all of those sugary drinks you can just as easily drink water and it doesn't cost you a cent. Two fruits and vegetables is a great place to start, since you don't want to set people up to fail. Get out and walk, again it doesn't cost anything.
improve school lunches
Improving health outcomes requires changing the cultures of families and neighborhoods. Government agencies are poorly equipped to accomplish this feat.
Low income immigrants eat a lot of fast food and fry a lot of food. IDEAS. healthy eating booths at county health fairs, Spanish literature at the Farmers Market, food samples to try in public areas and schools, even booths outside Shoppers in Parole...more info. available on cholesterol and diabetes prevention
Make basic healthcare inexpensive
Make them carry their own weight. Why should they concern themselves with healthy choices if they know the nanny state will always take care of them.
making healthy food available is not any good if there is no money to buy them. perhaps produce vouchers.
Mobil unites
monitor their health habits
More availability of fresh fruits and vegetables with instruction on how to prepare.
More birth control available.
More food stores/outlets/restaurants that offer healthier options.
my ex is homeless...no i.d. ..no teeth....no hope...doesn't have insurance maybe the county could supply a van to the arundel house of hope to transport these men and woman to a dentist for dentures...work clothes...hair cuts...and to workforce development to learn skills...help with housing...as they are now...they live on the street and have to steal for food...can't get warm.. Mark has so much potential...has no phone...no one to help...he needs a doctor and a rehab...apply for social security or job
no
No
No idea
Not really. It is hard to eat healthily on a small income. Generally the cheapest foods are the worst for you.
Provide mobile services to the disadvantaged groups. Increase use of social media. Provide preventive care.
See the preceding comment for ideas that could be adapted for a specific group.
The Health Department could offer recipes that use healthy ingredients and that are also cost effective. It can be hard to come up with healthy meals on a limited income.

The Health Dept. needs to let more people know that there are programs to help finance their health issues like the REACH program, etc. Many people that qualify do not even know it exists.

Work through the school system -- they have identified disadvantaged children through the free lunch/reduced-lunch program and can provide additional information to assist families.

Work with pastors to change church dinners to include fruit and veggies. Identify areas of low access to fresh fruit and veggies. Set up farmers markets at times and places convenient for those groups.

Work with government to limit what can be bought with food stamps

Total

Appendix B: Most important factor for voting for Presidential candidate.

9. Most important factor for voting for...Barack Obama (these were the open-ended comments presented verbatim in the order they were received.)

1. The economy 2. Development of a National Energy Policy
1. Economy 2. Overseas involvement 3. national security
Continued economic recovery
Desire to support the middle class and rights of ALL citizens.
economy
Environmental issues
Finding a person who is the least out of touch. People forget that the president cannot effect change by himself. He doesn't have that kind of power. Get rid of all those old guys in Congress, then we'll start seeing some improvement
From what I've ready, Romney is a complete nut and Ryan is even worse.
I don't believe Mitt Romney would be an improvement.
I don't entirely approve of the job Obama has done, but I am a huge supporter of women's rights, and I don't feel like the Republican Party is in support of the things I support.
I have three issues - Women's rights, economy and foreign policy. I think the president is working towards, or handling those issues in the correct manner.
I read that Obama wants to keep the government funding for college grant money and special education money for the schools. Romney wants to take away government money for these and wants to privatize the funding. Oh yeah? Who has the money to do that and would they give us enough funding.
I think President Obama faced perhaps the most difficult economic crisis this country has ever faced when he too office and did a remarkable job preventing the Greatest Depression. Had he not saved the banks and the automotive industry, this country would have seen the return of bread lines. He also had to get us out of two unnecessary and costly wars and did what President George W. Busch could not do -- bring Osama bin Laden to justice -- and prevent another terrorist attack on our country. He deserves four more years.
Ideology. The poor need help. Not everyone has the ability to pull oneself up by ones bootstraps.
If there was a more viable Democratic candidate - I would vote for that person. The Republicans do not represent the rights of most women. I've been shocked by some of the remarks made by Republicans - women would be taken back to the last century in terms of fair and equal wages, protection from crimes against women and many other areas if the Republican party runs the White House. The Republican Congress has been an embarrassment to the USA in the past 4 years. Republicans in general don't seem to represent the average low or middle income citizen. So - I have to go for who I feel will work more for the working class of our country. I believe racism in the Republican Congress was an underlying factor during Obama's presidency. However, I think in general - politicians need to be held to the same standards that the average American citizen has to live by.
It's the economy, stupid."" - Bill Clinton

Jobs, of course and the economy. But I think we have to reinvent ourselves. Our economy is not forward looking enough --- we need to fix our infrastructure and we need to examine what the jobs of the future will be --- if many things are done by technology and robots, we won't have enough jobs to go around We can't keep going back to war to make more jobs.
medical health for everyone our kids need an education
More social issues than the economy, but really social issue and economic are closely tied together. Not sure how much influence the president truly has on the economy. Plus, worried if Obama is a lame duck how will any resolution related to sequestration be achieved.
My concern is for the middle and lower classes. I STRONGLY feel that households making over\$250,000 should pay a higher tax rate, and the top 1 - 2% income earners in the country should pay a much higher tax rate than the lower 98%.
My vote will be based on women's issues, health care, and the budget. Really don't support President Obama but very concerned Mitt Romney would undo the country moving into the right direction.. even if a very very slow move forward. I don't want to go back 4 years.
No social conscience in current Republican party
Now after all the months of total BS.....the biggest issue I see.....and have not heard one word about is --next president's ability to appoint Supreme Court justices. MAJOR ISSUE. One or two more conservatives would drastically change the social landscape of US. But we spend more time on Big Bird and the ""Binder of Women"". Ridiculous.
Passion, I want a president that cares for all of his people. Not a certain percent. I believe Barack is that man.
Personal integrity
President Obama wants a ""fair shot"" for all. Opportunity for education, jobs, raising the standard of living for families and for affordable health care will be there to make the US a stronger country.
Romney would set women and minorities back to old standards. Romney would engage in war with Iran or some other country.
Romney's attitude of I'm big and important and i know what is best for you and the country so i will tell you what it is AFTER I'm president is a real turnoff for me. It's my way or the highway is not the way to deal with other nations or the USA.
Scientific ignorance and denialism
Social issues - let people have the right to plan their own families as they see fit and love who they want.
Sometime I feel it doesn't matter who is president, my life doesn't change all that much. It is more important that the Executive and Legislative branches of government work together.
The economy, including such items as: jobs, balancing revenue resources and reducing expenditures, preserving/reinstating appropriate regulations, completing implementation of the Affordable Healthcare Law while acting to reduce the costs of healthcare.
The economy.

The protection of the lower and middle classes. A country such as ours can not be considered great with the amount of poverty, homelessness and hunger that exists here. And if we are more concerned with not raising taxes on the very wealthy by even a small percentage than we are with improving our infrastructure, our education, our health care system, and the lives of our citizens in general, then this is not the America that our Founders intended it to be.
The right wing has taken over the Republican party and I do not support anything they stand for.
there should be higher tax on the wealthy
Troop Withdrawal and No Tax breaks for wealthy
Who I can trust, and Mitt Romney has changed his mind too many times for me to feel comfortable with him. I am not entirely happy with President Obama's job performance, but I have a sense of what he would do now that he has been President. I have no idea what ""President Romney"" would do once in office.
Women's issues and the economy
Women's reproductive health and other human rights issues.

Most important factor for voting for...Mitt Romney (these were the open-ended comments presented verbatim in the order they were received)

Barack Obama wants to move us to a socialist government, and has completely botched the economy. He is a narcissistic embarrassment.
Barack Obama's assault on our economic freedom.
Controlling and regulating the costs of health care. Increase accountability of providers so that when you ask ""How much does this cost"", the answer isn't ""what kind of insurance do you have?"" , but is a cost or cost estimate that's the same for every patient.
Economic issues. Experience
Economy
economy I also think the way Libya has been handled is a disgrace.....Obama blames everyone else for his misdeeds throwing everyone under the bus except himself...he is a disgrace! This was the tipping point for me.
Economy and candidates vision for America
Economy and lack of a set of goals that the president set out for his second term. I don't know why he needs 4 more years.
Economy and national security. Not gay marriage and other special issues for special people.
Economy and spending. Our government wastes enormous amounts of money. How can we possibly give grants and support to all of the other countries? We are writing checks that we can't support. It is just like the budget in my house. If I do not have the money then I cut or go without. WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY.
Economy, jobs and repeal of Obamacare
feeling of who will allow the economy to grow more quickly
Getting our economy going in a positive direction quicker.
growing the economy.

In the infamous words of Bill and Hillary Clinton: ""It's the economy, stupid."" That about sums it up.
Jobs, Jobs, and Jobs. That is the government needs to get out of the way so private industry can create jobs, Not the tax payers/pols
Lack of knowledge leadership on the economy and world issues.
Large government vs. small government
Mitt isn't perfect (who is?) but Barack is way too socialist for me. I think he's dangerous. Ron Paul seems to make the most sense to me but the media labels him ""crazy"" to discredit him. It's SAD that the media always takes sides (mostly for Obummer). Don't you think most of the media should try to be UN-biased? I do. The 24 hour news cycle doesn't help either. BOTH parties ignore the invasion of illegals. BOTH parties ignore the looming financial crisis and massive debt. All least Paul Ryan talks about it. The sad thing is...everybody claims they want to get the budget under control. As soon as any politician tries to make the first move, people and the media go nuts and prevent it. Really, we will deserve what's coming to us. It's like everybody complains about our litigious society and they sure don't hesitate to sue and try to cash in...do they? So, basically, most people and their politicians are frauds. CUT THE BUDGET. CUT SPENDING. SECURE OUR BORDERS AND STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. ONLY ENGAGE IN MILITARY CONFLICTS WHEN IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY. MAKE POLITICANS PUBLIC SERVANTS AGAIN (yeah, O.K.) INSTEAD OF LETTING THEM RAPE THE SYSTEM. EMBRACE FREEDOM, NOT SOCIALISM. LIVE BY THE CONSTITUTION.
Moral decline in U.S.
Mr. Obama is trying to buy votes by giving goodies to people. Americans should be able to work hard to be successful and not be punished for that. So many of my friends have lost jobs and homes and many more are in danger of this. Obama is killing private industry in this Country. He is dividing this Country into Social group and pitting them against each other. I am not wealthy but i work hard for what I have. It is getting impossible to make ends meet now. It makes me sick when I talk to people that are sitting around collecting goodies from the Govt. (that I am paying for) and living large while I am working my butt of so they can do so. I get collection calls for late bills and they get free cell phones. The company I work for is hurting too. I see how much expenses and fees have gone up over the last three years. We cannot hire new employees because we cannot afford to. Our prices to our clients has also had to go way up just to cover the high cost of doing business. Why can't this President see how much damage he is doing. Obama has never been in business, never needed for anything, never been in the real world other than Govt. HE DOES NOT HAVE A CLUE.
Mr. Obama has had 4 years to establish a plan to fix our economy.... I'm still waiting to see one. I hear the Democrats speak of recovery, and yet every day I see another local shop closing. More and more of my friends and family members are out of work. This is the most important issue for me. I do not trust anyone in the Obama administration. Mr. Obama is arrogant, and has no command of the issues. I'm not thrilled with Mitt Romney either. It is a dismal time for our nation. Where are the leaders?

Obama is changing the country for the worse, not for the better. By destroying the essential equality of our disparate groups--through class favoritism and class warfare tactics he has made the country more disunited than it has been since the Civil War. He has vastly accelerated the deterioration of the economy and is destroying the country's very future. He is incapable of vision or leadership. He has no pragmatic sense at all, but is a slave to ideological blindness. He appears to feel no obligation to the country's future, and is utterly bereft of sensible ideas. The country is now in a near crash condition, in poor condition to negotiate future challenges, which neither candidate is likely to ameliorate. Romney might postpone the inevitable a bit; more of Obama will hasten it. We will be fortunate to avoid extensive civil conflict and a national breakup in the coming years.
Our president's class warfare and divisiveness.
Proven experience as a manager
Proven, competent leader whose ideology is not radically far left and is truly interested in leading the country for all American's. Stop the class warfare, quit trying to turn this country in to pseudo-socialist one and return us to those principles that got us where we are.
Regaining World leadership and serving as a model in all areas including morality, economics, production, finance, defense and science to name a few.
Religious freedom. I am appalled at the HHS mandate that forces religious based employers to provide insurance coverage for free birth control, abortifacant drugs, etc., when those services violate the religious beliefs of that organization. I stand with the US Catholic bishops: We WILL NOT comply. Why must every election come down to a choice between two evils?
Restoring our economic vitality with special emphasis on reducing the size, scope and cost of government at all levels.
Spending of the government beyond what they have to spend. So they have to borrow. My heart aches for our children and grandchildren who will be paying off those loans. We need a budget.
Stop spending my money
the ability to manage the government and to work with Congress.
The ECONOMY
The economy & leadership capabilities
the economy, jobs and wanting to take this country back to its original founding principal of limited government and a balanced budget.
The economy; it has become a national security issue.
The economy.
the economy...with pro-life issues a very close second
The inability of the president and congress to control runaway spending and the national debt.
The national debt
The overspending of money The values about life The values of same sex marriage
The president has failed to lead. He is too busy being on talk shows and campaigning (even before the race began). He is putting the safety of our nation at risk as the US is no longer seen as a leader.
Too much big government.
welfare, health care, military
Who can best lead our nation and especially the divided Congress who won't even pass a budget.

