

Obama's Lead Narrows, Especially with Key Groups: President Barack Obama's lead over Governor Mitt Romney fell eight points in the latest general election match-up in April's Pew Research for the People and the Press [survey](#). Last month he was ahead of Mr. Romney by twelve points, 54%-42%, and now only leads by four, 49%-45%. These results are among a slew of other recent national [polls](#) showing Mr. Romney gaining momentum after Senator Rick Santorum suspended his campaign last week, effectively ending the GOP nomination fight and turning voters' attention to the general election.

The Pew results also show Mr. Romney closing the gap or taking the lead with a number of important voting groups. In March, Mr. Obama polled ahead with all of the groups listed below, but now Mr. Romney is in the lead with independents, men, voters 65 and older, voters with some college education, Catholics, and voters who make between \$30,000 and \$74,999 a year – all groups that will be critical come November.

Mr. Obama, on the other hand, has seen his percentage fall with several of his base 2008 voter blocs: he is down two points with young voters, six points with college graduates, eight points with Catholics, and five points with women and independents.

	Obama March 7-11	Romney March 7-11	Obama April 4-15	Romney April 4-15	Obama Difference	Obama Approval
Total	54	42	49	45	-5	46
Independent	47	44	42	48	-5	44
Men	49	46	44	50	-5	43
Women	58	38	53	40	-5	51
18-29	63	35	61	33	-2	57
30-49	54	42	47	46	-7	49
50-64	55	41	47	46	-8	42
65+	48	48	44	50	-4	40
College Grad	59	39	53	42	-6	51
Some College	53	43	44	51	-9	47
HS or less	51	44	49	43	-2	45
\$30k-\$74,999	55	41	47	47	-8	N/A
> \$30k	60	34	56	37	-4	N/A
Catholic	53	44	45	50	-8	N/A

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, April 17, 2012

These voters have been losing favor with Mr. Obama since his inauguration, as his Gallup job approval [rating](#) is now below 50% with all but three of these groups. Now is the time for Mr. Romney to begin to make his case and convince these voters, who are obviously disappointed with Mr. Obama, why he is the better choice in November.