

Voter Turnout Intentions Decline with Obama’s 2008 Coalition: Last [month](#) Polling News and Notes looked at the enthusiasm gap between supporters of Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama, in which Mr. Romney clearly had more “engaged” supporters. Today Gallup [revealed](#) Democrats are significantly less enthusiastic than they were in the past (only 39% of Democrats say they are enthusiastic about voting, compared to 61% in 2008 and 68% in 2004). This complacency appears to be driven by uncertainty within Mr. Obama's base. According to a July 13 Gallup [poll](#), among voter groups critical to Mr. Obama’s victory, there are fewer voters who say they are “definitely likely to vote” this year compared to in 2008.

In October 2008, 78% of young voters, 77% of Hispanics, 81% of independents, 87% of black voters, 85% of voters in the Midwest, 87% of Democrats and 92% of college graduates said they were “definitely likely to vote” on Election Day the following month.

That’s not the situation this time. Among the groups with a smaller number of voters saying they are “definitely likely to vote” this year are blacks (down 11 points to 76%), independents (-11 to 70%), Hispanics (-13 to 64%), and voters 18 to 29-year olds (-20 to 58%). Three groups Mr. Obama counted on - college graduates, Democrats, and Midwest voters - had either a smaller drop or in some cases matched the national decline in the number of definite overall national voters. In 2008, 85% of registered voters said they were definitely likely to vote. That number is down seven points to 78%.

	October-November 2008	May-July 2012	Difference
18 to 29 years old	78	58	-20
Hispanic	77	64	-13
Independent	81	70	-11
Black	87	76	-11
All registered voters	85	78	-7
Midwest	85	78	-7
College graduate	92	85	-7
Democrat	87	81	-6
Republican	89	87	-2
Conservative	87	85	-2
65 + years old	83	85	+2

What about those voters who were energized about Senator John McCain in 2008? At least three such groups – Republicans, self-described conservatives, and voters age 65 and older – are as much if not more certain today they will vote in November than they were in October 2008.

These numbers will change as the election draws closer, but Mr. Obama’s voters are much more uncertain they will go to the polls in the fall than Mr. Romney’s likely supporters. It will be interesting to see if the Obama campaign efforts to re-energize their core constituencies work.