

Republicans Gain with White, Working-Class Voters: There are more white, working class or blue-collar voters* who identify as or lean toward Republicans today than in 2008, according to a recent Pew Research [survey](#). In 2008, 52% of white voters with family incomes less than \$30,000 a year identified as or leaned Democrat, while 37% identified as or leaned Republican. Today Republicans are up six points to 43% and Democrats are down seven points to 45%, their advantage cut to a negligible +2 (they were +15 over Republicans in 2008). Similarly among white non-college graduates, 54% identify as/lean Republican today (up eight points from 2008), and only 37% identify as/lean Democrat (down six points from 2008).

According to Pew, “All of the GOP gain among whites over the past four years is in leaning [voters] among independents.” This shift may impact the presidential race in battleground states with high populations of blue-collar, independent voters who supported President Barack Obama in 2008, but have since been hit hard by the economy and are now disappointed with the incumbent and his party. Among these battlegrounds are Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and Wisconsin.

	2008			2012		
	Rep/ Ln Rep	Dem/ Ln Dem		Rep/ Ln Rep	Dem/ Ln Dem	
	%	%		%	%	
All voters	39	51	D+12	43	48	D+5
White	46	44	R+2	52	40	R+12
Black	6	88	D+82	8	87	D+79
Hispanic	28	66	D+38	29	61	D+32
<i>Among whites</i>						
Men	51	40	R+11	57	35	R+22
Women	42	49	D+7	47	44	R+3
18-29	42	49	D+7	46	45	R+1
30-49	49	42	R+7	54	38	R+16
50-64	45	45	Even	51	41	R+10
65+	46	44	R+2	54	38	R+16
\$75k+	52	41	R+11	54	41	R+13
\$30k-75k	47	46	R+1	55	38	R+17
<\$30k	37	52	D+15	43	45	D+2
<i>College grad</i>						
Yes	46	47	D+1	48	46	R+2
No	46	43	R+3	54	37	R+17

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Based on all registered voters interviewed in each year. Figures read across, with the percent not identifying with or leaning to either party not shown. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

* Working-class or blue-collar voters are generally described as white voters without a college degree who make