

**Table 8.4 Share of the vote at presidential elections and in the final Gallup poll, United States, 1936–2012**

Polls work. The average difference between Gallup's final survey and the winner's share of the vote in 20 American presidential elections is below 3 per cent. Even this divergence is not all error because opinions may change between the last survey and the election.

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	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Share of vote (%)</b>	<b>Final Gallup survey (%)</b>	<b>Difference</b>
2012	Obama	50.9	49.0	1.9
2008	Obama	53.0	55.0	2.0
2004	Bush, G.W.	50.7	49.0	1.7
2000	Bush, G.W.	47.9	48.0	0.1
1996	Clinton	49.2	52.0	2.8
1992	Clinton	43.3	49.0	5.7
1988	Bush, G.H.W.	53.0	56.0	3.0
1984	Reagan	59.2	59.0	0.2
1980	Reagan	50.8	47.0	3.8
1976	Carter	50.1	48.0	2.1
1972	Nixon	61.8	62.0	0.2
1968	Nixon	43.5	43.0	0.5
1964	Johnson	61.3	64.0	2.7
1960	Kennedy	50.1	50.5	0.4
1956	Eisenhower	57.8	59.5	1.7
1952	Eisenhower	55.4	51.0	4.4
1948	Truman	49.5	44.5	5.0
1944	Roosevelt	53.8	51.5	2.3
1940	Roosevelt	55.0	52.0	3.0
1936	Roosevelt	62.5	55.7	6.8
			Average:	2.5

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Source: Gallup (2012).

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