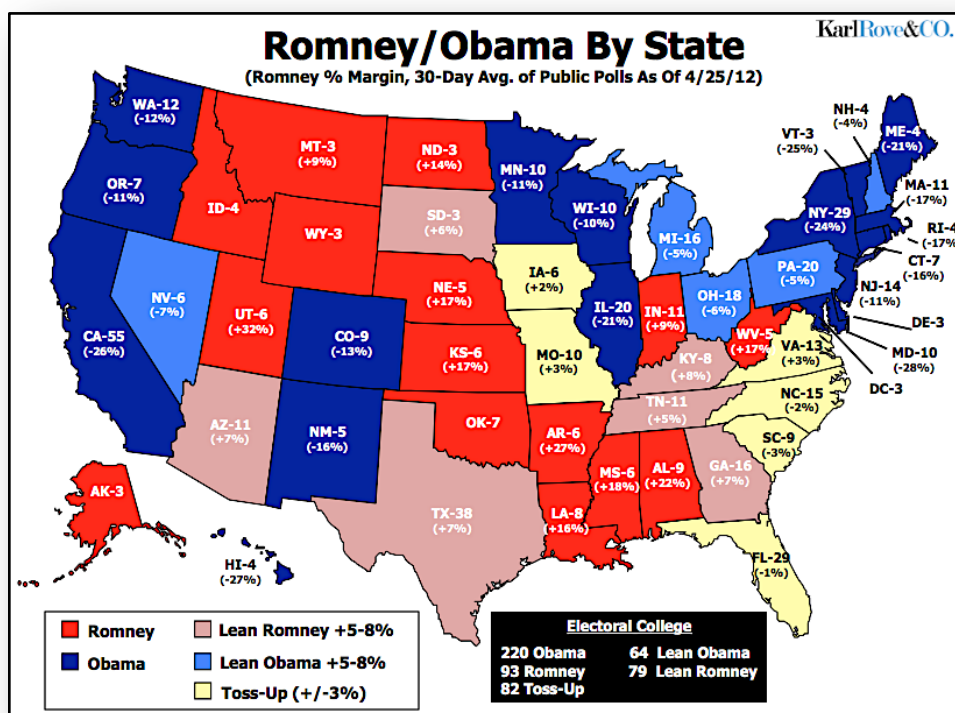


Introducing the 2012 Electoral College Map: With the 2012 primary election nearly over, more attention can be paid to the general election contest between President Barack Obama and presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney. National polls show it is going to be a tight race between the two candidates, with Obama leading Romney by only 3.9 points in the latest Realclearpolitics.com poll [aggregate](#). A closer look at how they match up on a state-by-state basis reveals the race to 270 Electoral College votes will likely come down to a handful of states.

In the first Karl Rove & Co. 2012 Electoral College map, there are 18 states (220 Electoral College votes) where Obama has a solid lead and 15 states (93 EC votes) polling solidly for Romney, according to the latest polling average in each state. There are six states with a combined 82 EC votes classified as “toss-ups” (IA, FL, MO, NC, SC, VA); five states (MI, NH, NV, OH, PA) with a combined 64 EC votes that “lean” Obama; and six states (AZ, GA, KY, SD, TN, TX) with a combined 79 EC votes that “lean” Romney. In other words, there are 17 states and a total of 225 Electoral College votes up for grabs.



These projections will change as more polls are conducted in the coming weeks. Keep an eye on the “toss-up” and “lean” states where Romney now has an advantage: just about all of the “lean-Romney” states are generally Republican-safe states, while all of the “lean-Obama” states will most likely move to the “toss-up” or “lean-Romney” column as the campaigns progress. See www.Rove.com/election for methodology and weekly updates.