

A WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT
January 20-25, 2006

As has been the case for a number of years, nearly all Americans say they would vote for a woman for president from their own political party if she were qualified. And while a significantly smaller majority thinks America is actually ready to elect a woman president, that number is the highest ever in a CBS News Poll.

92% of adults now say they would vote for a woman for president from their party if she were qualified for the job. This support has increased steadily over the past 50 years. In a Gallup poll conducted in 1955, 52% said they would support a woman for president. That number rose to 73% in 1975 and to 82% in 1987.

WOULD YOU VOTE FOR A WOMAN FOR PRESIDENT IF SHE WERE QUALIFIED?

	Now	12/1999	Gallup 7/1987	Gallup 8/1975	Gallup 4/1967	Gallup 2/1955
Yes	92%	91%	82%	73%	57%	52%
No	5	6	12	23	39	44

Significant majorities of all demographic groups say they would vote for a qualified woman from their own party for president.

Today, 55% think America is ready for a woman president. This is up 7 points from December 1999 and the highest number since CBS News starting asking the question in 1996. Still, 38% say the country is not ready for a woman to lead the country.

IS AMERICA READY FOR A WOMAN PRESIDENT?

	Now	12/1999	10/1996
Yes	55%	48%	40%
No	38	45	53

Men are actually more likely than women to say the country is ready for a woman to be president. 60% of men say so, compared to 51% of women. In 1999, both groups were divided on the issue. Younger Americans are also more likely to think America is ready for a woman Commander-in-Chief. Seniors are actually split on the question: 46% do not think the country is ready, while 44% say it is.

When it comes to politics, 61% of Democrats think the country is ready for a woman president, compared to 48% of Republicans. Liberals are also more likely than conservatives and moderates to believe America is ready for a woman to be president.

IS AMERICA READY FOR A WOMAN PRESIDENT?

	Now	12/1999
Total	55%	48%
Men	60%	46%
Women	51%	49%
18-29	64%	55%
30-44	53%	50%
45-64	57%	47%
65 and over	44%	37%
Whites	54%	46%
Blacks	52%	50%
Northeast	56%	51%
Midwest	50%	44%
South	53%	47%
West	62%	49%
Republicans	48%	47%
Democrats	61%	44%
Independents	55%	54%
Liberals	67%	48%
Moderates	51%	48%
Conservatives	53%	48%

This poll was conducted among a nationwide random sample of 1229 adults, interviewed by telephone January 20-25, 2006. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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q48 If your party nominated a woman for President, would you vote for her if she were qualified for the job?

	***** TOTAL RESPONDENTS *****						TOTAL
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	Dec99a
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	92	88	95	93	93	92	91
No	5	9	3	4	5	6	6
DK/NA	3	3	2	3	2	2	3

q49 Do you think America is ready to elect a woman president, or not?

Yes	55	48	61	55	60	51	48
No	38	44	34	37	34	42	45
Depends (Vol.)	3	2	1	5	3	3	3
DK/NA	4	6	4	3	3	4	4

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1229	
Total Republicans	372	360
Total Democrats	388	412
Total Independents	469	456
Total Men	515	590
Total Women	714	639