



CBS NEWS POLL

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THE RACE THIS WEEK

September 1-3, 2008

The race between Barack Obama and John McCain is now even, 42% to 42%. In polling conducted last weekend, the Obama-Biden ticket led McCain-Palin by eight points.

VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

(Among registered voters)

	Now	Post-Dem Conv.	Pre-Dem Conv.*
Obama-Biden	42%	48%	45%
McCain-Palin	42	40	42
Won't vote	1	2	2
Undecided	12	9	10

*Asked WITHOUT VPs

The enthusiasm gap still exists, but it has closed some: 55% of Obama's supporters are enthusiastic about their choice, and now so are 35% of McCain's (in our polling over the weekend, just 25% were enthusiastic)

DESCRIBE YOUR SUPPORT

(Among registered voters)

	Obama Voters		McCain Voters	
	Now	8/29-31	Now	8/29-31
Enthusiastic	55%	67%	35%	25%
With reservations	30	16	44	49
Party nominee	6	7	8	8
Dislike other candidate	7	8	11	17

Still, overall opinions of Obama and McCain are virtually unchanged from this weekend.

OPINIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

(Among registered voters)

	-- Barack Obama --			-- John McCain --	
	Now	8/29-31		Now	8/29-31
Favorable	38%	39%		37%	35%
Unfavorable	34	34		36	34
Undecided/ Haven't heard	27	26		27	30

McCain has one big deficit to make up: Just 44% of voters say he understands their needs and problems, compared with 60% who say that about Obama.

DOES HE UNDERSTAND THE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU?

(Among registered voters)

	-- Obama --		-- McCain --	
	Now	8/29-31	Now	8/29-31
Yes	60%	63%	44%	41%
No	34	31	47	48

The Republican, however, maintains his large advantage on the likelihood of being an effective commander-in-chief. 46% of voters say it is "very likely" McCain would be an effective commander-in-chief; compared to 24% who say that about Obama.

WOULD HE BE EFFECTIVE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF?

(Among registered voters)

	-- Obama --		-- McCain --	
	Now	8/29-31	Now	8/29-31
Very likely	24%	29%	46%	45%
Somewhat likely	36	34	31	32
Not likely	36	34	18	19

This week's polling continues to show voters waiting to decide about Sarah Palin. But in interviewing done yesterday, 83% of registered voters said that spouse and family of a candidate will NOT affect their votes.

INSIDE THE HORSE RACE

Obama continues to have a lead with women voters; while McCain has the edge with men.

Independents in this poll are divided. In polling conducted over the weekend Obama had a six-point advantage with this group.

A majority (69%) of Clinton supporters are backing Obama; up from 58% last weekend.

66% of white evangelicals are now backing McCain, up from 57% this weekend.

As has been the case, voters under age 45 are backing Obama, while older voters are supporting McCain.

McCain wins the support of married voters and Obama has the backing of voters who are not married. It should be noted that most married voters are older while those who are not married tend to be younger.

VOTE FOR PRESIDENT - Demographics

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain
All	42%	42
Men	41%	46
Women	43%	38
Republicans	5%	83
Democrats	78%	11
Independents	39%	36
Clinton supporters	69%	16
Whites	36%	47
White men	35%	51
White women	37%	44
Age < 45	46%	36
Age 45 and over	38%	47
Married	37%	48
Not married	50%	32
White evangelicals	18%	66

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 835 adults nationwide, including 734 registered voters, interviewed by telephone September 1-3, 2008. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points; for registered voters the sampling error could be plus or minus four percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

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September 1-3, 2008

q2 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				8/29-31 Aug08b1
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	38	9	66	37	39
Not favorable	34	67	13	27	34
Undecided	24	23	18	32	22
Haven't heard enough	3	1	3	3	4
Refused	1	0	0	1	1

q3 Is your opinion of John McCain favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John McCain yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	37	71	14	30	35
Not favorable	36	7	64	33	34
Undecided	24	20	20	33	22
Haven't heard enough	3	2	2	4	8
Refused	0	0	0	1	1

q5 If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President, the Democrats, and John McCain for President and Sarah Palin for Vice President, the Republicans, would you vote for Obama and Biden or McCain and Palin?

Obama/Biden	42	5	78	39	48
McCain/Palin	42	83	11	36	40
Other (Vol.)	3	0	1	6	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	1	1	2	0	2
Depends (Vol.)	5	5	3	7	3
DK/NA	7	6	5	12	6

q8 How would you describe your feelings about (Obama/McCain) as the Democratic/Republican) nominee -- would you say you enthusiastically support him; support him but have reservations about him; support him only because he is the likely party nominee; or support him because you dislike (McCain/Obama)?

	Total	Obama Voters	McCain Voters	
	%	%	%	
Enthusiastic	45	55	35	48
With reservations	37	30	44	31
Party nominee	7	6	8	7
Dislike other candidate	9	7	11	12
DK/NA	2	2	2	2

q11 Do you think Barack Obama understands the needs and problems of people like yourself?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				8/29-31
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Aug08b1
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	60	37	82	57	63
No	34	56	14	33	31
DK/NA	7	7	4	10	6

q14 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that Barack Obama would be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

Very likely	24	5	46	20	29
Somewhat likely	36	25	39	42	34
Not too likely	20	32	8	20	18
Not at all likely	16	32	6	13	16
DK/NA	4	6	1	5	3

q19 Do you think John McCain understands the needs and problems of people like yourself?

Yes	44	74	23	38	41
No	47	18	69	50	48
DK/NA	9	8	7	12	11

q22 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that John McCain would be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

Very likely	46	73	23	44	45
Somewhat likely	31	23	37	31	32
Not too likely	10	1	17	12	10
Not at all likely	8	1	17	6	9
Don't know/No answer	5	3	5	7	4

q21 Will a candidate's spouse and family affect your vote for President, or won't it make much of a difference? IF Yes: WHOSE family will have the most impact on your vote?*

Yes, Obama's family	7
Yes, McCain's family	2
Yes, Biden's family	0
Yes, Palin's family	0
Yes, Combination/All families	1
No effect	83
DK/NA	7

*Interviews for this question were conducted on September 3rd only.

	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED
Total Registered Voters	734	691
Total Republicans	229	215
Total Democrats	250	241
Total Independents	255	235