



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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BREAD AND BUTTER AND POLITICS: THE ECONOMY AND THE FALL CAMPAIGN
 March 28th - April 2nd, 2008

The Democratic nomination contest continues to be tight, with Barack Obama keeping his narrow lead, and looking ahead to the fall, both Democrats lead Republican John McCain by just five points. On the nation's top issue - the economy - voters give an advantage to both Democratic candidates: more express a lot of confidence in Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama's abilities to make the right decisions on the economy and on health care than in John McCain.

RIGHT DECISIONS ABOUT THE ECONOMY

(Among registered voters)

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Confident
Clinton	23%	39	37
Obama	17%	45	36
McCain	11%	43	42

Historically, Democrats have been seen by voters as better able to deal with economic issues.

Both Democrats fare better than McCain on a compassion measure, too: about one in three voters see each of the Democrats as caring a lot about people like themselves. Only 17% describe McCain that way.

DOES...CARE ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU?

(Among registered voters)

	A lot	Some	Not much/None
Obama does	36%	42	20
Clinton does	32%	36	30
McCain does	17%	46	34

Part of this may be the perception - long linked to his Republican party - that McCain's policies would favor the rich over the middle class. The Democratic candidates, by contrast, are seen as more likely to favor the middle class.

IF ELECTED, THEIR POLICIES WOULD FAVOR...

(Among registered voters)

	Rich	Middle class	Poor	All same
Obama	13%	30	18	33
Clinton	23%	29	13	28
McCain	53%	16	0	23

Clinton and Obama are also viewed as better able to make the right decisions about health care. Clinton has her largest edge here: 27% are "very confident" in her ability to handle the issue, compared to 17% who say that about Obama, and 11% about McCain.

RIGHT DECISIONS ABOUT HEALTH CARE

(Among registered voters)

	Very Confident	Somewhat Confident	Not Confident
Clinton	27%	34	38
Obama	17%	44	35
McCain	11%	39	44

AMERICAN VALUES AND UNITY

All three candidates are seen as sharing the values that Americans try to live by, and none more so than Obama, who leads all three candidates on this measure. 70% say Obama shares America's values. Nearly as many, two-thirds, say McCain does too. 60% say this about Hillary Clinton.

DOES ... SHARE VALUES OF AMERICANS?

(Among registered voters)

	Yes	No
Obama	70%	21
McCain	66%	27
Clinton	60%	34

The biggest gap between Obama and Clinton on this comes from Republicans. Most Republicans, 52%, think Obama shares America's values but far fewer, only 27%, think Clinton does. Independents and Democrats think they both do, but Obama fares better here, too, by 13 points. Republicans and Independents both think McCain shares America's values, and half of Democrats do.

PERCENT SAYING EACH CANDIDATE DOES SHARE AMERICA'S VALUES

(Among registered voters)

	Dems	Reps	Inds
Obama does	82%	52%	68%
Clinton does	84%	27%	55%
McCain does	50%	89%	68%

On the broader issue of national unity, only Barack Obama is seen by a majority of voters as a candidate who would unite the country. Nearly six in ten think he would do so as President. By comparison, half say Hillary Clinton would not be able to do so. Voters are divided on whether McCain would or not.

WOULD...UNITE THE COUNTRY?

(Among registered voters)

	Yes	No
Obama	59%	32
Clinton	42%	51
McCain	45%	46

Part of this may be due to the perception that Obama's campaign, more than the others, has brought different races together, or because his campaign theme has often focused on seeking unity.

PREFERENCES FOR THE NOMINATION AND PRESIDENCY

The preferences of Democratic primary voters nationwide (those who have already participated in a Democratic primary held this year, or still plan to) remain as they were a few weeks ago. The race is tight, with Obama keeping his narrow lead.

CHOICE FOR DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

(Among Democratic primary voters)

	Now	3/08	2/2008	1/2008
Obama	46%	46%	54%	27%
Clinton	43	43	38	42
Undecided/DK	8	8	7	16

Each candidate's supporters say they strongly favor their choice.

Obama remains the preferred Democratic nominee among all voters nationwide, now by seven points over Hillary Clinton, up from two points in mid-March. Obama's narrow leads with registered Democrats and Independents are within the margin of error. Two weeks ago, Independents supported him by a larger margin.

What has changed is that Obama is now the choice of Republicans, though many of them don't want either candidate. In mid-March, Clinton led Obama among Republicans, 35% to 27%. (Of course, that can just as easily be due to Republicans thinking Obama might be easier to beat as Republicans liking his candidacy). But it is they who have given Obama what is now a larger lead over Hillary Clinton among all registered voters than he had a few weeks ago.

ALL VOTERS: CHOICE FOR DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

(Among ALL registered voters)

	All	Dems	Reps	Inds	All - 3/08
Obama	41%	45%	40%	36%	39%
Clinton	34	42	23	33	37
Someone else	10	3	22	10	10
Undecided/DK	15	10	15	21	14

Expectations that Obama will eventually be the nominee have grown in the last two weeks: today more than two-thirds of Democratic voters think he will ultimately win, up from 55% in mid-march.

WHO DO YOU EXPECT TO WIN DEM NOMINATION?

(Among Democratic primary voters)

	Now	3/08
Obama	69%	55%
Clinton	21	31

Obama has convinced those primary voters that he is the more electable candidate. 56% think Obama is better positioned to defeat John McCain in the fall. Only 32% think Hillary Clinton is.

WHO IS BETTER ABLE TO BEAT MCCAIN IN NOVEMBER?

(Among Democratic primary voters)

Obama is	56%
Clinton is	32

But those perceptions don't quite match the outcomes in the questions pairing the Republican against the two Democrats: both Obama and Clinton outperform McCain "if the election were being held today," and by the same amount. If Obama wins the Democratic nomination, he currently would lead Republican nominee John McCain in a nationwide matchup, 47% to 42%, a difference unchanged from two weeks ago. If Hillary Clinton rallies to win the nomination, she fares equally well against McCain, leading 48% to 43% in this poll.

IF THE CANDIDATES WERE..., WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

(Among registered voters)

	Now	3/08		Now	3/08
Obama	47	48%	Clinton	48	46%
McCain	42	43	McCain	43	44
Undecided/DK	7	6	Undecided/DK	5	6

As for the Democratic campaign, Democratic primary voters divide on its tone so far. 41% think it is no different than usual in its balance between negative and positive tones. 34% think it is more positive than usual. Fewer, 24%, think it has been more negative.

VIEWS OF THE CANDIDATES

Overall views of the candidates among all voters remain almost exactly as they were two weeks ago. Obama still has the highest favorable rating, and largest gap of favorable to unfavorable views, of the three. Hillary Clinton remains the best known of the three, and views of her nationwide remain mixed.

OPINIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

(Among all registered voters)

		Not	Undecided/
	Favorable	Favorable	Haven't heard
Obama	43%	24	33
McCain	35%	29	35
Clinton	38%	39	22

Obama's ratings today look much like they did in February, before the Jeremiah Wright controversy erupted. Unfavorable views of Obama today (24%) have receded from the 30% found in a March 16-17th CBS News Poll, taken amid the controversy, and are now comparable to the 23% they were in February. His favorable rating of 43% remains near the 45% mark of February.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1368 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone March 28- April 2, 2008. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

CBS News/New York Times Poll
Bread and Butter Politics: The Economy and the Fall Campaign
March 28 - April 2, 2008

q1-27 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q28 How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2008 presidential campaign -- a lot, some, not much, or no attention so far?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				Mar08a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	60	57	63	58	52
Some	30	36	27	30	35
Not much	6	6	6	8	10
None at all	4	2	5	4	2
Don't know/No answer	0	0	0	0	1

q29 Who would you like to see the Democratic party nominate as its presidential candidate in 2008 -- Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Dem.	Mar08a
					Primary Voters	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Clinton	34	23	42	33	43	37
Obama	41	40	45	36	46	39
Someone else/None (vol)	10	22	3	10	3	10
Undecided (vol)	9	5	8	14	7	7
DK/NA	6	10	2	7	1	7

q30 Would you describe your support for (selected candidate) as strongly favoring (selected candidate), or do you like (selected candidate) but with reservations, or do you support (selected candidate) because you dislike the other candidate?

		Feb08a
Strongly favor	64	68
Like but with reservations	26	26
Dislike other candidate	9	4
Don't know/No answer	1	2

q31 Regardless of who you support, who do you expect to finally win the Democratic nomination for President in 2008 -- Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama?

					Mar08a	
Clinton	19	18	23	15	21	31
Obama	67	71	66	66	69	53
Someone else(Vol.)	1	2	0	2	0	1
DK/NA	13	9	11	17	10	15

q32 Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Hillary Clinton yet to have an opinion?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	38	11	59	33	39
Not favorable	39	72	18	40	41
Undecided	18	12	19	23	15
Haven't heard enough	4	4	4	3	4
Refused	1	1	0	1	1

q33 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	43	20	60	41	44
Not favorable	24	45	12	20	28
Undecided	25	27	19	30	80
Haven't heard enough	8	6	9	7	8
Refused	0	2	0	2	0

q34 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	35	66	14	35	38
Not favorable	29	7	48	24	31
Undecided	24	19	26	27	21
Haven't heard enough	11	7	12	11	10
Refused	1	1	0	3	0

q35 If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or John McCain?

Obama	47	8	78	40	48
McCain	42	86	15	41	43
Other (Vol.)	1	0	0	3	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	3	1	3	4	2
Depends (Vol.)	2	2	2	4	2
Don't know/No answer	5	3	2	8	4

q36 If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, would you vote for Hillary Clinton or John McCain?

Clinton	48	7	82	39	46
McCain	43	90	12	44	44
Other (Vol.)	1	0	0	3	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	3	1	2	6	3
Depends (Vol.)	2	0	3	3	2
Don't know/No answer	3	2	1	5	4

q37 Compared to past presidential campaigns, do you think the Democratic nomination campaign this year has been more positive, more negative, or about the same as past campaigns?

***** REGISTERED VOTERS *****

	*** Party ID ***				Dem. Primary
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Voters
	%	%	%	%	%
More positive	34	6	37	26	34
More negative	24	36	23	24	24
About the same	41	58	39	49	41
Don't know/No answer	1	0	1	1	1

q38 Who do you think has the best chance of beating John McCain in the general election in November...Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama?

						Feb08a*
						%
Clinton	28	19	34	27	32	28
Obama	57	65	54	53	56	59
Both equally (vol.)	5	2	6	5	6	6
Neither (vol.)	3	6	1	5	1	1
DK/NA	7	8	5	10	5	6

*Democratic primary voters

q39 Regardless of how you intend to vote for president in 2008, how confident are you in Hillary Clinton's ability to make the right decisions about health care -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	27	5	46	20
Somewhat confident	34	22	39	38
Not too confident	16	26	10	14
Not at all confident	22	45	4	25
DK/NA	1	2	1	3

q40 Regardless of how you intend to vote, do you think Hillary Clinton would be the kind of president who would be able to unite the country or wouldn't she be that kind of president?

					Feb08a
Would unite the country	42	16	63	37	34
Not that kind of president	51	82	31	50	56
DK/NA	7	2	6	13	10

q41 How much do you think Hillary Clinton cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself -- a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Feb08a*
A lot	32	11	51	24	46
Some	36	31	37	38	35
Not much	14	24	8	15	10
Not at all	16	33	3	20	8
DK/NA	2	1	1	3	1

*Democratic primary voters

q42 How confident are you in Hillary Clinton's ability to make the right decisions about the economy -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident or not at all confident?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	23	5	42	12	19
Somewhat confident	39	22	43	49	37
Not too confident	17	30	11	15	20
Not at all confident	20	42	5	22	21
DK/NA	1	1	0	2	3

q43 If Hillary Clinton is elected President, do you think the policies of her Administration will favor the rich, favor the middle class, favor the poor, or will they treat all groups the same?

Rich	23	34	13	26
Middle	29	21	39	23
Poor	13	22	8	11
Treat groups the same	28	12	36	32
Don't know/No answer	7	11	4	8

q44 Do you think Hillary Clinton shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't she?

Yes	60	27	84	55
No	34	67	12	35
DK/NA	6	6	4	10

q45 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q46 Regardless of how you intend to vote for president in 2008, how confident are you in Barack Obama's ability to make the right decisions about health care -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	17	4	30	10
Somewhat confident	44	31	46	52
Not too confident	19	29	14	19
Not at all confident	16	31	7	16
DK/NA	4	5	3	3

q47 Regardless of how you intend to vote, do you think Barack Obama would be the kind of president who would be able to unite the country or wouldn't he be that kind of president?

Would unite the country	59	41	76	53	67
Not that kind of president	32	51	19	33	25
DK/NA	9	8	5	14	8

q48 How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself -- a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb08a*
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	36	9	56	30	63
Some	42	49	34	46	28
Not much	11	22	5	9	5
Not at all	9	17	3	11	2
DK/NA	2	3	2	4	2

*Democratic primary voters

q49 How confident are you in Barack Obama's ability to make the right decisions about the economy-- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	17	2	33	8	20
Somewhat confident	45	34	47	51	46
Not too confident	21	32	13	23	19
Not at all confident	15	29	6	14	12
DK/NA	2	3	1	4	3

q50 If Barack Obama is elected President, do you think the policies of his Administration will favor the rich, favor the middle class, favor the poor, or will they treat all groups the same?

Rich	13	20	6	16
Middle	30	24	38	23
Poor	18	28	10	20
Treat groups the same	33	18	41	34
Don't know/No answer	6	10	5	7

q51 Do you think Barack Obama shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

Yes	70	52	82	68
No	21	40	10	19
DK/NA	9	8	8	13

q52 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q53 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, how confident are you in John McCain's ability to make the right decisions about health care -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	11	30	2	7
Somewhat confident	39	56	25	42
Not too confident	25	8	37	26
Not at all confident	19	3	32	16
DK/NA	6	3	4	9

q54 Regardless of how you intend to vote, do you think John McCain would be the kind of president who would be able to unite the country or wouldn't he be that kind of president?

**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****

***** Party ID *****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Would unite the country	45	74	26	44	51
Not that kind of president	46	19	67	39	39
DK/NA	9	7	7	17	10

q55 How much do you think John McCain cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself -- a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

A lot	17	37	6	15
Some	46	55	38	49
Not much	18	5	26	18
Not at all	16	2	28	14
DK/NA	3	1	2	4

q56 How confident are you in John McCain's ability to make the right decisions about the economy -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	11	29	2	8	11
Somewhat confident	43	58	33	45	47
Not too confident	21	7	29	23	24
Not at all confident	21	4	34	17	14
DK/NA	4	2	2	7	4

q57 If John McCain is elected President, do you think the policies of his Administration will favor the rich, favor the middle class, favor the poor, or will they treat all groups the same?

Rich	53	16	79	51
Middle	16	29	8	14
Poor	0	0	0	0
Treat groups the same	23	48	8	22
Don't know/No answer	8	7	5	13

q58 Do you think John McCain shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

Yes	66	89	50	68
No	27	6	43	23
DK/NA	7	5	7	9

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1368	
Total Republicans	382	352
Total Democrats	535	554
Total Independents	451	462
Democratic Primary Voters	510	469