

SARAH PALIN
July 9-12, 2009

If Sarah Palin is resigning her position as Alaska's Governor to run for president, she faces doubts - even from Republicans - about her ability to be an effective one. Less than one in four Americans - and only a third of Republicans - agrees with her former running mate John McCain and thinks she has the ability. Majorities think she doesn't.

In this CBS News Poll, conducted one week after Palin announced she would resign, these assessments are even more negative than they were among registered voters before last year's presidential election. Then, 37% of all registered voters thought Palin could be effective if it became necessary for her to take on the job.

DOES PALIN HAVE ABILITY TO BE AN EFFECTIVE PRESIDENT?

	Now		10/2008
	All	Republicans	Registered voters
Yes	22%	33%	37%
No	65	51	53

But many Americans agree with Palin's criticisms about news media coverage of her. 46% say the media has been harder on her than they are on other political figures. And that percentage rises to 66% among Republicans. Only 7% say the media has been comparatively easier on Palin.

HOW HAVE MEDIA TREATED PALIN?

	Now		9/2008
	All	Republicans	Registered voters
Harder	46%	66%	54%
Easier	7	1	10
Same	44	29	29

During the campaign, a majority of voters agreed that the media had been harder on Palin than they had been on the other candidates. And assessment of the media's coverage of the other 2008 female candidate, Hillary Clinton, was much the same as assessment of Palin's coverage: in May 2008, 45% of registered voters thought the media had been harder on Clinton than it had been on other candidates.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 944 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone July 9-12, 2009. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. 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. This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.