



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT

September 12-16, 2008

While Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin remains popular and continues to energize supporters of the Republican ticket, there are some concerns. More than half of registered voters do not think she is prepared for the job of Vice President, and a majority express concern about Palin being able to take over the presidency, if necessary. Even supporters of John McCain cite "inexperience" as what they like least about her. Palin's unfavorable rating is also up eight points from last week.

Most voters think McCain chose Palin as his running mate to help him win in November; just one in five say it was because she was well-qualified for the job. On the other hand, 57% of voters think Joe Biden was picked by Barack Obama because he is well-qualified.

Even voters backing the Republican ticket - 53% - say that the choice of Palin was to help McCain win the election.

WHY WAS ... CHOSEN AS VP CANDIDATE?

(Among registered voters)

	Biden	Palin
Well qualified	57%	17%
Help win the election	31	75

Even so, more than twice as many McCain voters are enthusiastic about the pick of Palin as Obama voters are about Biden. Both candidates' supporters are at least satisfied with their Vice Presidential nominees.

FEELINGS ON VP CHOICES

	<u>Joe Biden</u> Among Obama Voters	<u>Sarah Palin</u> Among McCain Voters
Enthusiastic	27%	69%
Satisfied	58	27
Dissatisfied	8	4
Angry	1	0

White evangelicals who are backing McCain are especially excited about the choice of Palin - 78% say they are enthusiastic.

VP CANDIDATE QUALITIES

Biden clearly has the advantage on experience. 65% of voters say if something were to happen to Obama and he could not finish his term, Biden would be qualified to be president. There are doubts about Palin, however. 62% say they would be concerned about her becoming president if something were to happen to McCain.

IF NECESSARY, WOULD ... BE QUALIFIED TO SERVE AS PRESIDENT?

(Among Registered Voters)

	Biden	Palin
Qualified	65%	33%
Concerned	24	62

32% of McCain backers say they would be concerned about Palin; while 10% of Obama backers think that of Biden.

Biden, the veteran Senator, continues to be viewed as the VP candidate who is prepared for the job. Palin's numbers on this measure have not improved from early last week and the percentage who say she is not prepared has risen.

But a majority of voters still say the first-term Alaska Governor is someone they can relate to. White women with children especially say they can relate to Palin - 68% do.

VP CANDIDATE QUALITIES

(Among registered voters)

	<u>Biden</u>		<u>Palin</u>	
	Now	9/8/08	Now	9/8/08
Prepared to be Vice President				
Yes	74%	70%	42%	47%
No	11	13	52	42
Someone you can relate to				
Yes	43%	40%	55%	60%
No	42	41	42	34

When voters are asked what they like most about Joe Biden, experience is the top mention (15%), followed by honesty (6%), being outspoken (5%) and his foreign policy credentials (5%). As for the Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin, voters volunteer that she's a woman (7%), she's outspoken (7%), that she's tough (5%) and that she's a fresh face (5%) as traits they like most about her.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT ...?

(Among registered voters)

	Biden		Palin
Experience	15%	She's a woman	7%
Honesty	6	Outspoken	7
Outspoken	5	Tough/fighter	5
Foreign policy	5	Fresh face	5
Nothing	14	Nothing	21
Don't know	37	Don't know	18

Inexperience (15%) tops the list when voters are asked what they like least about Palin; followed by being too conservative (4%) and Palin's stance on abortion. Biden's chatty way has gotten him into some hot water at times and voters in this poll cite talking too much and making too many gaffes (8%) as what they like least about Biden; being a Washington insider is second.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE LEAST ABOUT ...?

(Among registered voters)

	Biden		Palin
Too many gaffes	8%	Inexperience	15%
Washington insider	5	Too conservative	4
Stance on issues	3	Abortion stance	4
Nothing	17	Nothing	23
Don't know	47	Don't know	23

Obama voters (and McCain voters) cite inexperience as what they like least about Palin. Obama voters are more likely to mention her stance on abortion. McCain backers cite Biden's stance on the issues as what they like least about him (7%), while those voting for the Democrats cite his gift for gaffes (11%).

The fact that Palin is a woman is what Obama voters like most about her (12%). 9% of McCain backers cite Biden's experience as what they like about him - the top mention.

Both Vice Presidential candidates continue to receive net overall positive ratings from voters. Voters are less familiar with Biden, a six-term Senator, than they are with Palin. Just two weeks ago 66% of voters were unable to offer an opinion of Palin, that number is now down to 30%. But her unfavorable rating is up eight points from last week.

OPINIONS OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

(Among registered voters)

	<u>Biden</u>			<u>Palin</u>		
	Now	9/8	9/1	Now	9/8	9/1
Favorable	38%	37%	37%	40%	44%	22%
Unfavorable	17	22	16	30	22	11
Undecided/Unknown	45	42	47	30	34	66

Palin appears to be the more polarizing candidate. While 37% of McCain voters have an unfavorable impression of Biden, more Obama backers - 59% - feel that way about Palin.

In addition, 36% of women now hold a favorable opinion of Palin; 47% of women viewed her favorably last week.

THE OTHER WOMAN CANDIDATE

One figure that looms large over this presidential election is former Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. She is now viewed favorably by 51% of voters, including 58% of women.

Those who supported Clinton in the primaries are not fully embracing the new woman in the race: 48% of Clinton voters say they have an unfavorable view of Palin; 20% view her positively. Furthermore, six in 10 say Palin is not someone they relate to, but 66% do say they relate to Barack Obama.

VIEWS AMONG CLINTON SUPPORTERS

Opinion of:	Biden	Palin
Favorable	63%	20%
Unfavorable	3	48
Undecided/DK enough	34	33
Relate to:	Obama	Palin
Yes	66%	35%
No	31	64

Even though 65% of registered voters who cast their vote for Clinton in the Democratic primary plan to vote for Obama and Biden; 25% say they will cast their vote for the Republican ticket of McCain and Palin. Among likely voters who backed Clinton, Obama does slightly better.

CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT

(Among Clinton supporters)

	Reg. Voters	Likely Voters
Obama-Biden	65%	70%
McCain-Palin	25	22

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1133 adults nationwide, including 1004 registered voters, interviewed by telephone September 12-16, 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 and registered voters could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

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q22 Is your opinion of Joe Biden favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Joe Biden yet to have an opinion?

**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	38	11	61	36	37
Not favorable	17	38	2	14	22
Undecided	17	18	16	18	15
Haven't heard enough	28	33	21	32	27
Refused	0	0	0	0	0

q23 Is your opinion of Sarah Palin favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Sarah Palin yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	40	77	11	40	44
Not favorable	30	5	53	26	22
Undecided	15	10	17	17	17
Haven't heard enough	15	8	19	17	17
Refused	0	0	0	0	0

q50 Regardless of how you intend to vote, what do you like MOST about Joe Biden?

Experience	15	9	18	18
Honest	6	6	7	4
Foreign policy	5	1	8	4
Outspoken	5	4	6	5
Easy to relate	2	2	2	1
Understands/cares	2	1	2	2
Family	2	3	2	1
Nothing	14	25	6	14
Other	12	8	17	13
DK/NA	37	41	32	38

q51 Regardless of how you intend to vote, what do you like LEAST about Joe Biden?

Too many gaffes	8	5	9	9
Washington insider	5	6	4	7
Stance on issues	3	6	0	4
Can't to relate	2	3	0	2
Democrat	2	4	1	2
Liberal	2	5	0	2
Dishonest	2	3	0	2
Nothing	17	8	26	13
Other	12	15	12	11
DK/NA	47	45	48	48

q52 Regardless of how you intend to vote, what do you like MOST about Sarah Palin?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Outspoken	7	8	6	8
Female	7	2	13	5
Fighter/tough	5	9	3	4
Fresh face/fashionable	5	7	4	6
Easy to relate	4	4	2	7
Understands/cares	4	9	1	3
Honest	4	11	1	2
Like her	3	5	2	3
Intelligent	2	4	2	1
Working Mom	2	3	3	1
Family	2	1	2	3
Everything	1	1	1	0
Nothing	21	4	33	23
Other	15	21	6	13
DK/NA	18	11	21	21

q53 Regardless of how you intend to vote, what do you like LEAST about Sarah Palin?

Not experienced	15	16	16	14
Abortion stance	4	1	7	4
Too conservative	4	1	2	9
Family	3	1	6	1
Record as Governor	3	5	3	3
Dishonest	3	0	6	1
No foreign policy	2	4	0	1
Too religious	2	1	3	2
Moving too fast	2	1	1	3
Stance on Issues	2	0	2	6
Everything	2	0	3	0
Nothing	23	38	11	21
Other	12	10	16	11
DK/NA	23	22	24	24

q54 Which best describes your feelings about Barack Obama's selection of Joe Biden as his Vice-Presidential nominee -- enthusiastic, or satisfied but not enthusiastic, or dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	Total	Obama	McCain
	%	Voters	Voters
	%	%	%
Enthusiastic	16	27	6
Satisfied	48	58	38
Dissatisfied	21	8	33
Angry	1	1	2
DK/NA	14	6	21

q55 When Barack Obama chose Joe Biden as his running mate, do you think it was MORE because he thinks Joe Biden is well-qualified for the job, or MORE because he thinks Joe Biden would help him win the election?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Well-qualified	57	38	76	52
Help win the election	31	47	14	39
Both equally (vol)	5	5	6	4
DK/NA	7	10	4	5

q56 Do you think Joe Biden is prepared for the job of Vice President, or isn't he?

					Sep08a
Is prepared	74	64	81	76	70
Is not prepared	11	21	4	8	13
DK/NA	15	15	15	16	17

q57 Do you think Joe Biden is someone you can relate to, or not?

Yes	43	21	65	36	40
No	42	61	23	48	41
Don't know/No answer	15	18	12	16	19

q58 Which best describes your feelings about John McCain's selection of Sarah Palin as his Vice-Presidential nominee -- enthusiastic, or satisfied but not enthusiastic, or dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	Total	Obama	McCain
	%	Voters	Voters
	%	%	%
Enthusiastic	33	5	69
Satisfied	21	12	27
Dissatisfied	29	52	4
Angry	10	20	0
DK/NA	7	11	0

q59 When John McCain chose Sarah Palin as his running mate, do you think it was MORE because he thinks Sarah Palin is well-qualified for the job, or MORE because he thinks Sarah Palin would help him win the election?

Well-qualified	17	33	7	13
Help win the election	75	51	90	81
Both equally (vol)	6	14	1	5
DK/NA	2	2	2	1

q60 Do you think Sarah Palin is prepared for the job of Vice President, or isn't she?

Is prepared	42	77	12	45	47
Is not prepared	52	16	82	47	42
DK/NA	6	6	6	8	11

q61 Do you think Sarah Palin is someone you can relate to, or not?

**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	55	88	28	56	60
No	42	11	68	37	34
Don't know/No answer	3	1	4	7	6

q78 If Barack Obama is elected President and cannot finish his term in office, do you think Joe Biden would be qualified to serve as President, or would you be concerned about him?

Qualified	65	53	77	62
Concerned	24	32	16	25
Don't know/No answer	11	15	7	13

q79 If John McCain is elected President and cannot finish his term in office, do you think Sarah Palin would be qualified to serve as President, or would you be concerned about her?

Qualified	33	69	8	32
Concerned	62	29	89	60
Don't know/No answer	4	2	3	8

q80-q83 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q84-q87 BLANK

q88 Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Hillary Clinton yet to have an opinion?

					Aug08b1
Favorable	51	15	79	51	52
Not favorable	35	71	7	34	36
Undecided	12	13	10	13	11
Haven't heard enough	2	0	3	2	1
Refused	0	1	0	0	0

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1133	
Registered Voters	1004	
Republicans - Reg. Voters	305	298
Democrats - Reg. Voters	402	382
Independents - Reg. Voters	297	262