



CBS NEWS POLL
Tuesday, March 18, 2008
For immediate release

BARACK OBAMA AND REV. JEREMIAH WRIGHT
 March 16-17, 2008

Most voters have heard at least something about the controversial statements made by Reverend Jeremiah Wright, who has been Senator Barack Obama's pastor. However, while about a third say it has made them feel more negative about Obama, two in three say the statements have had no impact on their views of Obama.

HEARD ABOUT REV. WRIGHT'S COMMENTS?

(Among registered voters)

A lot	25%
Some	33
Not much/none	42

Interviewing for these questions was completed Sunday and Monday, before Barack Obama's speech on the subject today.

65% of those who have heard about the statements say their view of Obama is unchanged. Democrats are especially apt to say their views are unchanged. However, of those whose opinion is changed, the net impact is very negative. Six in ten Independent voters say they are unaffected, too. Republicans are the most likely to say their view has been affected: 47% say they've become less favorable.

HAVE WRIGHT'S STATEMENTS CHANGED YOUR VIEW OF OBAMA?

(Among voters who have heard about statements)

	All	Dems	Reps	Indeps
Made more favorable	2%	2%	0%	2%
Made less favorable	30	15	47	36
No difference	65	76	53	61

Overall, unfavorable views of Obama are up somewhat from February. His favorable ratings remain largely unchanged, but there has been some movement from undecided views to unfavorable views. Among Democratic primary voters, unfavorable views have doubled, but favorable views remain dominant: more than six in ten Democratic primary voters are positive.

VIEWS OF BARACK OBAMA

	All voters		Democratic primary voters	
	Now	2/07	Now	2/07
Favorable	44%	45%	63%	69%
Unfavorable	30	23	17	8
Undecided/ Haven't heard	26	32	19	22

Independent voters - a group Obama has successfully courted in many primaries and would try to draw in the General Election - still view him favorably, about the same as last month. Unfavorable views have risen among Republicans.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 844 adults nationwide, including 749 registered voters, interviewed by telephone March 15 - 17, 2008. Interviewing for the questions on Wright and Obama was conducted March 16-17, 2008 among a sample of 355 registered voters. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points and five points for those questions. The error for subgroups is higher.

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Barack Obama and Rev. Jeremiah Wright

March 16-17, 2008

q18 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 *	Feb08a
	%	%
Favorable	44	45
Not favorable	30	23
Undecided	18	23
Haven't heard enough	8	9
Refused	0	0

Interview dates for q18: March 15-17, 2008.

q81 How much have you heard or read about the controversy over statements made by Dr. Jeremiah Wright, who has been Barack Obama's minister?

A Lot	25
Some	33
Not much	20
Nothing at all	22
DK/NA	0

q82 Have Wright's statements affected your opinion of Obama?
(IF YES) Do they make you feel more favorable or less favorable towards Obama?

	* THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD OR READ ABOUT THE REV. WRIGHT CONTROVERSY *
Yes, more	2%
Yes, less	30
No difference	65
DK/NA	3

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Margin of error</u>
Total Registered Voters (q18)	749	4 pts.
Total Registered Voters (q81)	355	5 pts.
Total Registered Voters (q82)	286	6 pts.