



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL  
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**THE RACE FOR PRESIDENT: BEFORE THE FINAL DEBATE**  
 October 10-13, 2008

Voters have reacted to concerns about the economy, the state of the country, and their feelings about the two candidates' campaigns by moving clearly towards Barack Obama in the last week or so.

Heading into the final debate, the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden has widened its lead over the Republicans, John McCain and Sarah Palin. 53% of likely voters support Obama/Biden while 39% support McCain/Palin. Prior to last week's Town Hall debate, the Democrats held a 3-point edge among likely voters.

Independents have swung back and forth between the two candidates for the last month, but Obama has opened up a significant lead with this key group. More voters express confidence in Obama on the economy (the top issue for voters) than in McCain. And overall opinions of McCain have become more negative, while Obama's are positive.

<b>CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT</b>				
(Among likely voters)				
	Now	10/6	10/1	9/25/08
Obama-Biden	53%	48%	50%	48%
McCain-Palin	39	45	41	43
Undecided	6	5	6	6

Obama now leads McCain among independents by 18 points. McCain had an advantage with them last week.

<b>CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT AMONG INDEPENDENTS</b>				
(Among likely voters who are independents)				
	Now	10/6	10/1	
Obama	51	39%	44%	
McCain	33	49	39	
Undecided	10	7	11	

More than four out of five of each candidate's supporters now say their minds are made up and won't change before the election.

McCain may have damaged himself. 21% of voters say they have changed their opinion of McCain for the worse in the last few weeks, citing his negative attacks and his choice of Sarah Palin as his running mate. Obama holds a considerable edge over the Republican on having

the right "personality and temperament" to be President -- 69% say Obama does and 53% say McCain does.

However, these opinions may change again, and the McCain campaign attacks could have an effect. Some voters are bothered by Obama's past associations - 9% cite Bill Ayers, 11% Reverend Jeremiah Wright - as things from Obama's past that bother them.

#### **THE TONE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN**

The number of voters who say McCain is spending more time on the attack has increased eight points from last month. Obama's campaign continues to be seen as more positive in its tone overall than McCain's.

#### **WHAT ARE THE CANDIDATES SPENDING MORE TIME DOING?**

(Among registered voters)

	Obama		McCain	
	Now	9/25	Now	9/25
Explaining what he would do	63%	56%	31%	38%
Attacking the other candidate	27	35	61	53

Even a third of McCain backers say the Republican candidate has been spending more time attacking his opponent rather than explaining what he would do as president. Fewer Obama supporters say their candidate has been on the attack.

However, even though many voters say the McCain campaign has been on the attack, just 30% of registered voters say that overall this has been a more negative campaign. In October 2004, more voters - 41% - described that campaign as more negative than previous ones. 51% thought so immediately before Election Day.

#### **COMPARED TO PAST CAMPAIGNS, THIS YEAR HAS BEEN**

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/2004
More positive	15%	13%
More negative	30	41
About the same	53	44

Recently, the McCain campaign has gone after Obama about his relationship with former Weather Underground member Bill Ayers. In the 1990s, Obama sat on an education board with Ayers in Chicago.

When asked if there is anything in Barack Obama's background or past associations that bothers them, 9% mention Bill Ayers, just behind the 11% who volunteer Obama's former pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, and 4% that mention (incorrectly) that Obama is a Muslim. 56% of voters, however, say nothing about Obama's past bothers them.

As for the Republican candidate, seven in ten voters say nothing about McCain's past bothers them. 4% mention the Keating Five scandal that McCain was involved in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

In fact when asked specifically, more voters are aware of the Bill Ayres connection than they are of the Keating Five scandal.

**HOW MUCH HAVE YOU HEARD OR READ ABOUT...**

(Among registered voters)

	Bill Ayres	Keating Five
A lot	33%	18%
Some	31	29
Not much	17	28
Nothing at all	18	25

**VIEWS OF THE CANDIDATES**

Barack Obama has also gained on several personal qualities and maintains his edge on the country's most important issue.

Most voters are confident in Obama's handling of the economy, but now most are not confident in McCain. McCain is burdened by perceived ties to an unpopular president: most believe McCain would continue on Bush's economic course.

**HANDLING THE ISSUES**

- More voters are very confident in Obama handling the current economic crisis than are very confident in John McCain - but there is an opening here for either candidate. Fewer than one-quarter are very confident in either candidate.
- Obama has a dramatic lead on health care. Voters are almost three times more likely to be very confident in his handling it. Most voters are not confident in McCain handling health care.

**CONFIDENT...WOULD MAKE RIGHT DECISIONS ON...**

(Among registered voters)

	Obama		McCain	
	Now	10/6	Now	10/6
<b>The Economy (generally)</b>				
Very confident	22%	24%	12%	15%
Somewhat confident	38	34	36	38
Not confident	39	41	52	44
<b>Current Economic Crisis</b>				
Very confident	23%	-	14%	-
Somewhat confident	35	-	34	-
Not confident	41	-	51	-
<b>Health Care</b>				
Very confident	28%	-	10%	-
Somewhat confident	38	-	34	-
Not confident	33	-	54	-

- The McCain campaign has argued that Barack Obama would raise taxes - but voters are more apt to think McCain, not Obama, would raise taxes on people like them. Those earning less than \$50,000 a year are more likely to see McCain as the tax-raiser.

**WOULD ...RAISE YOUR TAXES?**

(Among registered voters)

	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>
Yes	46%	51%
No	41	38

- McCain continues to be hurt by his perceived ties to President Bush's economic policies - of which most voters disapprove.

**MCCAIN AS PRESIDENT WOULD...**

(Among registered voters)

Continue Bush's economic policies	55%
Change from Bush's economic policies	42

- o Republicans think McCain would change course from Bush.

**PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS**

69% say Obama has the "personality and temperament" to be President - far fewer, 53%, say this of McCain. Democrats are most likely to say McCain doesn't have presidential temperament, while just over half of independents say he does.

Obama holds on to his lead in "understanding the problems" of people - but neither candidate has made progress on this measure since earlier this month. In fact, fewer now than last week say each candidate understands their needs. McCain holds a large advantage on being seen as prepared to be President, as he has throughout the campaign - though that measure is not boosting his support, perhaps because more than half say Obama is as well.

**OBAMA AND MCCAIN PERSONAL QUALITIES**

(Among registered voters)

	<b>Obama</b>		<b>McCain</b>	
	<b>Now</b>	<b>10/1</b>	<b>Now</b>	<b>10/1</b>
Does he have the personality and temperament to be president?				
Yes	69%	--	53%	--
No	23	--	42	--
Does he understand your needs and problems?				
Yes	64%	67%	43%	46%
No	29	28	53	49

	Obama		McCain	
	Now	10/1	Now	10/1
Is he prepared to be president?				
Yes	51%	52	64%	60%
No	41	43	33	34

#### OVERALL VIEWS AND WHY THEY'VE CHANGED

Many voters perceive McCain to be on the attack against Obama, but those attacks do not appear to be working: Overall personal views of Obama are up; overall views of McCain are down.

#### OPINION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

(Among registered voters)

	Obama		McCain	
	Now	10/6	Now	10/6
Favorable	50%	46%	36%	40%
Unfavorable	32	34	41	38
No opinion/Don't know	17	19	22	21

Voters themselves report that their views of Obama have seen a net increase in recent weeks. But they are three times more likely to say their view of McCain has gotten worse instead of better lately.

#### HOW HAS YOUR OPINION OF ...CHANGED RECENTLY?

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain
Gotten better	17%	7%
Stayed same	76	72
Gotten worse	7	21

Voters give many reasons for their change. They include:

- o Obama's general debate performances and his views on health care (which he stated directly in the last debate) are the drivers behind these improved views.
- o Some voters also report that Obama's "calm and steady" demeanor, and his seeming "knowledgeable," has impressed them.

#### WHY HAS YOUR VIEW OF OBAMA IMPROVED?

(Among voters saying view has gotten better)

Debate performance	23%
His stand on health care	16
Seems knowledgeable	13
Seems calm/steady	11

- McCain's perceived attacks on Obama, and his naming Sarah Palin as his running mate, appear to be negatively impacting views of McCain.

**WHY HAS YOUR VIEW OF MCCAIN GOTTEN WORSE?**

(Among voters saying view has worsened)

His attacks on Obama	23%
Choice of Sarah Palin	22
Debate performance	10
Economic policies	10
He seems erratic/unsteady	10

Most registered voters do not believe the policies of either Barack Obama or John McCain would favor blacks over whites, or vice versa.

**IF ... ELECTED, POLICIES WOULD FAVOR...**

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain
Blacks over whites	15%	0%
Whites over blacks	0	20
Treat all the same	79	74

However, there are differences on this. 30% of McCain's supporters think Obama would favor blacks over whites. Among Obama supporters, 35% think McCain would favor whites over blacks.

Whites and blacks generally think each candidate would treat the two groups the same, but 16% of white voters think the policies in an Obama administration would favor blacks.

**WOULD OBAMA'S POLICIES...**

(Among white voters)

Treat whites & blacks equally	78%
Favor whites over blacks	0
Favor blacks over whites	16

**DEMOGRAPHICS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL VOTE**

Obama now enjoys leads with both men and women. Independents now back him by 18 points over McCain. 82% of voters who backed Hillary Clinton in the primaries now say they will back Obama - the highest number to date.

Voter registration has increased in many key states this year. 63% of those casting a ballot for the first time in 2008 are backing Obama.

McCain still leads among Republicans, conservatives and white evangelicals.

The race is now even among whites. McCain led among this group last week.

**VOTE FOR PRESIDENT: DEMOGRAPHICS**

(Among likely voters)

	-- Now --		-- 10/6 --	
	Obama	McCain	Obama	McCain
All	53%	39	48%	45
Men	53%	41	50%	43
Women	52%	37	45%	46
Republicans	10%	83	7%	87
Democrats	88%	8	87%	9
Independents	51%	33	39%	49
Moderate	62%	28	53%	40
Conservative	16%	77	19%	74
Clinton supporters	82%	14	67%	26
First time voters 2008	63%	36	n/a	n/a
Total Whites	45%	46	39%	54
White Evangelicals	27%	63	20%	75

**VIEWS OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin's image has worsened in this poll. Now, 32% of voters have a favorable opinion of her, but more -- 41% -- are unfavorable. Earlier in the month, opinions of her were more positive.

**OPINION OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

(Among registered voters)

	Biden		Palin	
	Now	10/6	Now	10/6
Favorable	43%	40%	32%	40%
Unfavorable	21	19	41	32
No opinion/Don't know	35	40	26	27

Voters' views of Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden are more positive and have not changed much; 43% now have a favorable opinion of him, while 21% are unfavorable.

**THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES**

Seven in 10 registered voters said they watched last week's "town hall" style presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain - the second in a series of three. Looking back, nearly half of all voters said that Obama won that debate, compared to only 14% who think McCain won. Voters who actually watched the debate were even more likely to say Obama won.

**WHO WON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE?**

(Among registered voters)

	All Voters	Debate Watchers
Obama	48%	57%
McCain	14	18
Tie (vol.)	14	17
Don't know/didn't watch (vol.)	24	8

Obama supporters overwhelmingly think their candidate won - nearly three in four say he did. McCain supporters are less inclined to say the same of McCain. Just 32% of McCain supporters think he won the debate, 24% say it was a tie and 16% think Obama won.

**WHO WON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE?**

(Among registered voters)

	All Voters	Obama Voters	McCain Voters
Obama	48%	76%	16%
McCain	14	2	32
Tie (vol.)	14	6	24
Don't know/didn't watch (vol.)	24	16	28

Expectations are high for Obama in the upcoming third and last debate between the candidates on October 15<sup>th</sup>. 65% of registered voters say they are very likely to watch. Nearly half of all registered voters and three in four Obama supporters think Obama will win this debate - numbers similar to those who said he won the last one. McCain supporters are not optimistic about their candidate - only four in 10 say they expect him to win.

**WHO WILL WIN THE 3<sup>rd</sup> PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE?**

(Among registered voters)

	All Voters	Obama Voters	McCain Voters
Obama	47%	75%	12%
McCain	19	3	44
Tie (vol.)	4	2	7
Don't know	30	20	37

**DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS, AND THE 2008 HOUSE VOTE**

The Democrats have a clear advantage going into the 2008 elections for seats in the House of Representatives. 48% of likely voters say they will be choosing the Democratic candidate in November, compared to 34% who will be voting for the Republican candidate.

**2008 HOUSE VOTE**

(Among likely voters)

	Now	9/2008
Democrat	48%	51%
Republican	34	32



Overall, Americans have a much higher opinion of the Democratic Party than the Republican Party, which may be due in part to the President's dismal approval rating of 24%. 52% of Americans view the Democratic Party favorably, compared to only 37% who say the same of the Republican Party.

**OPINION OF THE PARTIES**

	Democratic Party		Republican Party	
	Now	4/2008	Now	4/2008
Favorable	52%	52%	37%	33%
Not Favorable	38	41	54	58

Americans also believe the Democrats are better able to handle key issues facing the country today. Americans pick the Democrats over the Republicans as more likely to improve the health care system, make the right decisions about the economy, and make the right decisions about the war in Iraq.

**WHICH PARTY IS MORE LIKELY  
TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS ABOUT...?**

	Democratic Party	Republican Party
The health care system	55%	18
The economy	47%	29
The war in Iraq	44%	37

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 This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1070 adults nationwide, including 972 registered voters, interviewed by telephone October 10-13, 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 the sample of registered voters could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**The Race for President: Before the Final Debate**  
**October 10-13, 2008**

q1 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 **				Oct08a
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	%
A lot	65	70	67	58	60
Some	29	27	27	32	33
Not much	5	1	3	9	5
No attention so far	1	1	2	1	1
DK/NA	0	1	1	0	1

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?

Favorable	50	14	79	50	46
Not favorable	32	67	8	28	34
Undecided	15	15	12	18	16
Haven't heard enough	2	4	1	2	3
Refused	1	0	0	2	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	36	78	9	30	40
Not favorable	41	8	73	34	38
Undecided	20	13	16	31	17
Haven't heard enough	2	1	2	3	4
Refused	1	0	0	2	1

q4 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

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 Barack Obama and Joe Biden or John McCain and Sarah Palin?

	***** LIKELY VOTERS *****				
Obama/Biden	53	10	88	51	48
McCain/Palin	39	83	8	33	45
Other (Vol.)	1	1	0	2	0
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	0	0	1	0
Depends (Vol.)/Undecided	6	5	3	10	5
Refused	1	1	1	3	2

q6 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q7 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

\*LIKELY VOTERS WHO MADE A CHOICE\*

	Total	Obama	McCain	Oct08a
	%	Voters	Voters	%
	%	%	%	%
Mind made up	85	85	85	84
Too early to say for sure	15	15	14	16
DK/NA	0	0	1	0

q8 FOR FUTURE RELEASE

q9 How would you describe your feelings about Barack Obama/John 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 party nominee; or support him because you dislike John McCain/Barack Obama?

	Total	Obama	McCain	Oct08a
	%	%	%	%
Enthusiastic	50	57	42	51
With reservations	36	32	42	36
Party nominee	5	6	5	8
Dislike other candidate	7	5	10	4
DK/NA	2	0	1	1

q10 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, John McCain for President and Sarah Palin for Vice-President, the Republicans, Bob Barr for President and Wayne Allyn Root for Vice-President, the Libertarians, and Ralph Nader for President and Matt Gonzalez for Vice President, would you vote for Barack Obama and Joe Biden, John McCain and Sarah Palin, Bob Barr and Wayne Allyn Root, or Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzalez?

\*\*\*\*\* LIKELY VOTERS \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Obama/Biden	51	11	85	48	49
McCain/Palin	39	81	8	35	43
Barr/Root	1	0	0	2	1
Nader/Gonzalez	3	2	2	4	2
Other (Vol.)	0	0	0	1	0
Won't vote (vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
Depends (vol)/Undecided	4	4	3	6	4
Refused	2	2	2	4	1

q11 If the 2008 election for U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate in your district?

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08b
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican	34	73	6	30	32
Democratic	48	7	88	38	51
Other (Vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
Won't vote (Vol.)	2	0	0	5	0
Depends (Vol.)	9	10	2	15	9
DK/NA	7	10	4	12	8

q12-23 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q24 In general, is your opinion of the Republican party favorable or not favorable?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr08b
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	37	78	11	30	33
Not favorable	54	19	86	49	58
DK/NA	9	3	3	21	9

q25 In general, is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable or not favorable?

Favorable	52	23	84	44	52
Not favorable	38	74	12	34	41
DK/NA	10	3	4	22	7

q26-27 BLANK

q28 Is your opinion of Joe Biden favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Joe Biden yet to have an opinion?

					Oct08a
Favorable	43	18	64	41	40
Not favorable	21	44	5	19	19
Undecided	16	16	14	18	18
Haven't heard enough	19	21	16	21	22
Refused	1	1	1	1	1

q29 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	32	71	5	29	40
Not favorable	41	10	69	36	32
Undecided	16	12	13	23	12
Haven't heard enough	10	7	12	11	15
Refused	1	0	1	1	1

q30 Compared to past presidential campaigns, do you think the campaign this year has been more positive, more negative, or about the same as past campaigns?

					Oct04f
More positive	15	18	17	11	8
More negative	30	26	32	32	51
About the same	53	54	49	56	38
DK/NA	2	2	2	1	3

q31-32 BLANK

q33 Do you think Barack Obama has the right kind of temperament and personality to be a good president, or not?

Yes	69	49	87	68
No	23	46	8	21
DK/NA	8	5	5	11

q34 Do you think Barack Obama does or does not understand the needs and problems of people like yourself?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08d
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	64	37	90	58	67
No	29	53	7	33	28
DK/NA	7	10	3	9	5

q35 Do you think Barack Obama has prepared himself well enough for the job of President, or hasn't he?

Has prepared	51	16	80	50	52
Has not prepared	41	77	16	37	43
DK/NA	8	7	4	13	5

q36 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?

					Oct08a
Very confident	22	5	42	15	24
Somewhat confident	38	20	46	44	34
Not too confident	20	39	7	18	21
Not at all confident	19	36	4	22	20
DK/NA	1	0	1	1	1

q37 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?

					Mar08c*
Very confident	28	7	53	17	17
Somewhat confident	38	25	39	47	44
Not too confident	13	26	4	12	19
Not at all confident	20	41	3	21	16
DK/NA	1	1	1	3	4

\*Asked with intro: "Regardless of how you intend to vote for president in 2008..."

q38 How confident are you in Barack Obama's ability to make the right decisions about the current economic crisis -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	23	5	44	13
Somewhat confident	35	22	42	39
Not too confident	21	30	9	29
Not at all confident	20	43	4	19
DK/NA	1	0	1	0

q39 If he were elected President, do you think Barack Obama would raise taxes on people like yourself, or wouldn't he do that?

Would	46	74	26	45
Would not	41	17	65	36
DK/NA	13	9	9	19

q40 Do you know what Barack Obama's religion is? IF YES, ASK: What religion is he?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Protestant	26	19	33	24	22
Muslim	9	14	2	13	7
Baptist	4	2	5	4	4
Catholic	2	0	3	1	1
United Church of Christ	1	1	1	1	2
Other	1	2	0	2	4
DK/NA	57	62	56	55	60

q41-42 BLANK

q43 Do you think John McCain has the right kind of temperament and personality to be a good president, or not?

					Feb07a
Yes	53	88	24	54	49
No	42	10	70	39	27
DK/NA	5	2	6	7	24

q44 Do you think John McCain does or does not understand the needs and problems of people like yourself?

					Sep08d
Yes	43	82	15	40	46
No	53	14	82	55	49
DK/NA	4	4	3	5	5

q45 Do you think John McCain has prepared himself well enough for the job of President, or hasn't he?

Has prepared	64	88	42	67	60
Has not prepared	33	10	54	28	34
DK/NA	3	2	4	5	6

q46 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?

					Oct08a
Very confident	12	28	3	9	15
Somewhat confident	36	59	16	37	38
Not too confident	29	9	39	34	22
Not at all confident	23	3	41	20	22
DK/NA	0	1	1	0	3

q47 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?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*  
 \*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar08c*
	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	10	27	1	6	11
Somewhat confident	34	54	14	40	39
Not too confident	27	16	35	26	25
Not at all confident	27	2	49	23	19
DK/NA	2	1	1	5	6

\*Asked with intro: "Regardless of how you intend to vote for president in 2008..."

q48 How confident are you in John McCain's ability to make the right decisions about the current economic crisis -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	14	31	4	11
Somewhat confident	34	56	13	38
Not too confident	28	9	41	30
Not at all confident	23	3	42	20
DK/NA	1	1	0	1

q49 If he were elected President, do you think John McCain would raise taxes on people like yourself, or wouldn't he do that?

Would	51	26	73	46
Would not	38	66	19	35
DK/NA	11	8	8	19

q50 Do you know what John McCain's religion is? IF YES, ASK: What religion is he?

					May08a
Protestant	24	28	21	25	14
Catholic	2	3	2	3	4
Baptist	2	2	2	1	--
Episcopalian	1	0	1	0	--
Methodist	0	1	0	0	--
Other	1	0	1	2	--
DK/NA	70	66	73	69	82

q51-52 BLANK

q53 If John McCain were elected president, do you think he would generally continue George W. Bush's economic policies, or not?

Continue Bush policies	55	26	82	49
Not continue Bush policies	42	70	16	46
Don't know/No answer	3	4	2	5

q54 Has your opinion of Barack Obama changed over the past couple of weeks, or hasn't it changed? IF CHANGED, ASK: Has it changed for the better or for the worse?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Changed for the better	17	9	18	22
Changed for the worse	7	12	2	8
Not changed	76	79	79	70
DK/NA	0	0	1	0

q55 What is the main reason your opinion of Barack Obama has changed over the past couple of weeks?

\*\* AMONG THOSE WHOSE OPINION OF OBAMA CHANGED \*\*

	Total	Those who said better opinion
	%	%
Debate performance	19	23
Health care	11	16
Prepared/ Knowledge	9	13
Calm/steady	7	11
Economic policy/taxes	9	6
Not prepared/Inexperienced	3	0
Joe Biden	2	3
Handling attacks	2	2
Fresh ideas	2	2
Bill Ayers	2	0
Other	25	20
DK/NA	4	4

q56 Has your opinion of John McCain changed over the past couple of weeks, or hasn't it changed? IF CHANGED, ASK: Has it changed for the better or for the worse?

Changed for the better	7	9	3	10
Changed for the worse	21	10	28	22
Not changed	72	81	69	67
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q57 What is the main reason your opinion of John McCain has changed over the past couple of weeks?

\*\* AMONG THOSE WHOSE OPINION OF MCCAIN CHANGED \*\*

	Total	Those who said worse opinion
Sarah Palin	18	22
Attacks on opponent	18	23
Debate performance	11	10
Economic policy	9	10
Erratic/unsteady	8	10
Health care	7	9
Handling attacks	2	0
Prepared/Experience/	2	0
Other	20	14
DK/NA	2	2



q58 What do you think Barack Obama has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking John McCain?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\*

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08c
	%	%	%	%	%
Explaining	63	42	83	60	56
Attacking	27	44	12	29	35
Don't know/No answer	10	14	5	11	9

q59 What do you think John McCain has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking Barack Obama?

Explaining	31	46	20	31	38
Attacking	61	41	77	61	53
Don't know/No answer	8	13	3	8	9

q60 Regardless of how you intend to vote, is there anything about Barack Obama's background or past associations that bothers you, or not? IF YES, ASK: What bothers you?

Rev Jeremiah Wright	11	19	6	9
Bill Ayers/Weathermen	9	14	3	13
Muslim	4	7	2	4
Nothing	56	30	77	55
Other	15	25	6	16
DK/NA	5	5	6	3

q61 How much have you heard or read about the allegation by the McCain campaign that Barack Obama was associated with Bill Ayers, a former member of the radical domestic group called the Weathermen -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

A lot	33	28	40	31
Some	31	40	25	29
Not much	17	20	17	14
Nothing at all	18	12	18	25
DK/NA	1	0	0	1

q62 Regardless of how you intend to vote, is there anything about John McCain's background or past associations that bothers you, or not? IF YES, ASK: What bothers you?

Keating Five	4	1	6	5
Too much like GW Bush	4	0	7	5
Prisoner in Viet Nam	1	0	4	0
Age/too old	1	0	1	1
First Marriage	1	0	1	1
Nothing	70	85	59	68
Other	12	11	14	11
DK/NA	7	3	8	9

q63 How much have you heard or read about John McCain's involvement as one of the five senators known as the Keating Five in the savings and loan controversy in the late 1980s and early 1990s -- a lot, some, not much, or nothing at all?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **				
*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
A lot	18	14	20	20
Some	29	35	32	20
Not much	28	24	31	28
Nothing at all	25	27	17	33
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

q64 If Barack Obama is elected President, do you think the policies of his administration would favor whites over blacks, favor blacks over whites, or would they treat both groups the same?

Favor whites over blacks	0	0	0	0
Favor blacks over whites	15	29	5	14
Treat both the same	79	65	91	78
DK/NA	6	6	4	8

q65 If John McCain is elected President, do you think the policies of his administration would favor whites over blacks, favor blacks over whites, or would they treat both groups the same?

Favor whites over blacks	20	4	40	12
Favor blacks over whites	0	0	0	0
Treat both the same	74	93	51	83
DK/NA	6	3	9	5

q66 BLANK

q67 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to improve the health care system?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Apr08b
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican party	18	46	3	11	19
Democratic party	55	24	85	49	63
Both (Vol.)	2	3	2	2	1
Neither (Vol.)	11	13	4	16	9
DK/NA	14	14	6	22	8

q68 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to make the right decisions about the war in Iraq?

Republican party	37	75	12	33	34
Democratic party	44	11	78	37	50
Both (Vol.)	1	1	1	2	3
Neither (Vol.)	4	2	1	8	4
DK/NA	14	11	8	20	9

q69 Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican Party or the Democratic Party is more likely to ensure a strong economy?

** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Republican party	29	64	7	25	31
Democratic party	47	10	80	41	51
Both (Vol.)	3	4	1	5	2
Neither (Vol.)	7	10	3	8	6
DK/NA	14	12	9	21	10

q71-77 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q78 Which candidate do you think did the best job, or won, Tuesday night's presidential debate -- Barack Obama or John McCain?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **			
*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Obama	McCain
	%	Voters	Voters
	%	%	%
Barack Obama	48	76	16
John McCain	14	2	32
Tie/both equal (vol.)	14	6	24
Didn't watch (vol.)	19	13	23
DK/NA	5	3	5

q79 How likely is it that you will watch the presidential debate on television on Wednesday October 15th -- very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

Very likely	65	67	66
Somewhat likely	20	19	19
Not very likely	13	10	12
Won't watch debates (Vol.)	2	3	2
DK/NA	0	1	1

q80 Who do you think will win the next presidential debate -- Barack Obama or John McCain?

Barack Obama	47	75	12
John McCain	19	3	44
Tie (vol.)	4	2	7
DK/NA	30	20	37

q81 Did you watch or listen to the presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain on Tuesday, October 7th?

Watched	72	77	72
Did not watch	27	23	28
DK/NA	1	0	0

q82 Which best describes you? 1. November 4th will be the first time you vote, or 2. You voted for the first time earlier in 2008 or 3. You have voted in elections before 2008.

**\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\***

**\*\*\* Party ID \*\*\***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
First time this fall	8	6	6	12
Voted first earlier in 200	1	2	0	1
Voted before 2008	91	92	94	85
Don't know/No answer	0	0	0	2

q83-88 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q89 Have you been contacted on behalf of either Presidential candidate over the past couple of weeks whether it was by a letter, by e-mail, by telephone, or in person by a campaign worker? IF YES, ASK: For which candidate?

**\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\***

No contact	69	75	61	72
Yes, McCain	7	13	3	7
Yes, Obama	13	3	24	9
Yes, both	9	8	11	8
Yes, other	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	2	1	1	4

	<b>UNWEIGHTED</b>	<b>WEIGHTED</b>
Total Respondents	1070	
Registered Voters	972	902
Reg. Voters - Democrats	371	338
Reg. Voters - Republicans	295	263
Reg. Voters - Independents	306	301
<b>*Effective Likely Voters</b>		<b>699</b>

\*Every registered voter is included in the likely voter model, and is assigned a probability of voting, which is used to calculate the likely voter results. The sum of these probabilities is the effective number of likely voters.