



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL  
For release: Thursday, October 30, 2008  
6:30 pm (EDT)

**THE CAMPAIGN: FIVE DAYS TO GO**  
**October 25-29, 2008**

Barack Obama has reached key thresholds with voters when it comes to overcoming some of his perceived weaknesses: more than half say he is prepared for the job, and nearly half are confident in his ability to handle an international crisis. Most voters expect the Democratic nominee to reach across the aisle, and say he understands and cares about them. And Obama benefits from a surge in early voting and first time voters.

But polarization remains: more than half of those currently supporting John McCain say they would be "scared" of an Obama presidency. And the remaining uncommitted voters resemble current McCain voters more than they do Obama supporters.

As the race for the presidency enters its final days, this poll finds the Democratic ticket with an eleven point lead over the Republicans among likely voters (including those who lean toward a candidate), with just 5% undecided.

**CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT**

(Among likely voters including leaners)

Obama-Biden	52%
McCain-Palin	41
Undecided	5

Among likely voters excluding those who lean toward a candidate, the margin is the same.

More than nine in 10 of each candidate's voters say they have made up their minds about who to vote for. Fewer than one in ten of either candidate's voters say they could still change their minds.

**IS YOUR MIND MADE UP?**

(Among likely voters with a candidate choice)

	Obama voters	McCain voters
Yes	93%	91%
No, too soon	7	9

17% of registered voters say they have already voted (by absentee ballot or at early voting sites), and by a large margin they have voted for Barack Obama over John McCain. Half of those who already have voted are Democrats, a majority is female, and 16% are black. Most live in the South and West; the largest states in those regions permit early voting.

## FEELINGS ABOUT THE ELECTION

Emblematic of the intense feelings surrounding this election: many voters say they would feel scared about the future if one of the candidates gets elected. 57% of McCain voters say they would be scared if Obama is elected president; a smaller, but sizeable number of Obama voters - 47% - say they would be scared about a McCain presidency.

### FEELINGS ABOUT ELECTION OF OBAMA

(Likely Voters)

	Obama Voters	McCain Voters
Excited	49%	1%
Optimistic/not excited	40	5
Concerned/not excited	9	37
Scared	1	57

On the flip side, Obama voters are much more excited (49%) about the Illinois Senator being elected president than McCain backers are about their candidate (22%). This finding parallels the enthusiasm gap that has existed throughout this campaign.

### FEELINGS ABOUT ELECTION OF MCCAIN

(Likely Voters)

	Obama Voters	McCain Voters
Excited	1%	22%
Optimistic/not excited	10	59
Concerned/not excited	42	18
Scared	47	0

Back in 2004, supporters of the Democratic candidate, John Kerry, (58%) were more likely to say they would be scared if George W. Bush was re-elected than Bush supporters (44%) were at the prospect of a Kerry presidency. But neither of those 2004 candidates inspired a lot of excitement.

Another sign of strong feelings: about half of each candidate's supporters say it is extremely important that their candidate be elected president.

### IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CANDIDATE IS ELECTED

(Likely Voters)

	Obama Voters	McCain Voters
Extremely	55%	51%
Very	32	34
Somewhat	10	12
Not very	2	3

The McCain voters who are scared of an Obama presidency feel uneasy about the Illinois Senator's ability to handle an international crisis, and do not think he shares the values of most Americans. These voters are more likely to be older, and many are evangelical Christians.

Those Obama voters who would be scared if McCain is elected think McCain does not understand their needs and problems. These voters are more likely to be women, and liberal, and about a quarter of them are African American.

#### **THE CANDIDATES ON THE ISSUES**

Both candidates have campaigned on their ability to bring people together and to cross party lines. On that question they have both made their case. About two in three voters say each could reach "across the aisle" in a bi-partisan spirit, if elected.

#### **COULD THEY WORK WITH THE OTHER PARTY?**

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain
Yes	70%	66%
No	26	31

However, voters see big differences in the candidates on most critical issues. No surprise that the economy dominates: nearly nine in 10 Americans say the condition of the economy is bad, nearly six in 10 say the economy is getting worse, and most voters - 55% - pick the economy and jobs as the issue that is most important in their presidential choice - far ahead of terrorism and national security, health care, gas prices, and the war in Iraq combined.

**THE ECONOMY:** 60% of likely voters who pick the economy and jobs as the most important issue are voting for or leaning towards Barack Obama, compared to 36% for John McCain.

When asked directly, a majority of voters - 54% - thinks that the policies of Barack Obama will make the economy better if he is elected president, while only a third thinks so of John McCain.

#### **WILL THE POLICIES OF BARACK OBAMA/JOHN McCAIN...?**

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain
Make the economy better	54%	32%
Make the economy worse	27	31
No effect/don't know	19	36

Voters who make less than \$50,000 a year are particularly likely to think that Obama's policies will help the economy - 61% say so. Voters of lower income levels are skeptical that McCain's policies will help the economy.

**TAXES:** Although Obama is viewed as better on the economy, McCain has a slight edge on the issue he and Sarah Palin (and Joe the Plumber) focus on - taxes. 50% of voters think Barack Obama will raise taxes on people like themselves - slightly more than the 46% who thinks so of John McCain. Earlier this month, slightly more thought McCain would raise their taxes than thought Obama would.

**WOULD BARACK OBAMA/JOHN McCAIN RAISE TAXES ON PEOPLE LIKE YOU?**

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain
Yes	50%	46%
No	44	47

Voters making less than \$50,000 a year think McCain and not Obama will raise their taxes, while the opposite is true of those making more than \$50,000 a year. White working class voters - white voters making less than \$50,000 a year without a college education - agree with lower income voters overall that McCain would raise their taxes while Obama would not.

There is a much greater divide on which candidate would raise taxes on big business. Eight in 10 voters think Obama would raise taxes on big business, while seven in 10 voters think McCain would not.

**WOULD BARACK OBAMA/JOHN McCAIN RAISE TAXES ON BIG BUSINESS?**

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain
Yes	80%	22%
No	15	72

**HEALTH CARE:** Most voters think Barack Obama is the candidate who would increase health care coverage for more Americans. 66% of Americans think the policies of an Obama administration would result in more Americans with health care, while only 23% think this would happen under the policies of John McCain.

**IRAQ:** Voters also see a clear difference between the candidates on Iraq: eight in 10 voters think Obama's policies would result in less military involvement in Iraq, while more than half think McCain's policies would result in more military involvement.

**WILL THE POLICIES OF BARACK OBAMA/JOHN McCAIN RESULT IN...?**

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain
<b><u>Health Care Coverage</u></b>		
More people with health care	66%	23%
Fewer people with health care	10	33
No effect/don't know	24	44
<b><u>Iraq</u></b>		
More military involvement in Iraq	7%	56%
Less military involvement in Iraq	80	18
No effect/don't know	13	26

## STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES: OBAMA

Obama continues to benefit from an overall positive personal image among voters; favorable views of him are considerably higher than negative ones. Voters overwhelmingly think he understands their problems and shares their values, and two-thirds think Obama is at least somewhat likely to be a good Commander-in-Chief.

In other national security and readiness questions where Obama has trailed McCain, Obama is at or around some key thresholds: a slim majority thinks he's ready to be President - although it is down a bit from last week. Voters have more confidence now in Obama's dealing with a potential international crisis than they did in September. But just as many voters are uneasy about him on this.

### VIEWS OF BARACK OBAMA

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/23	9/2008
Favorable	51%	52%	48%
Unfavorable	34	31	32
Undecided/Not sure	15	17	20

Shares Americans' values?

Yes	65%	-	66%
No	31	-	27

Understands your needs and problems?

Yes	64%	68%	66%
No	32	28	27

Will be effective Commander in Chief?

Likely	64%	-	61%
Not likely	35		37

Is prepared to be president?

Yes	51%	56%	48%
No	42	38	46

Can deal with int'l crisis?

Confident	47%	-	41%
Uneasy	50	-	53

## STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES: MCCAIN

John McCain's strengths and weaknesses are almost the mirror opposite of Obama's: McCain is ready, but seen as less empathetic and less likeable. Most voters see him as prepared for the job, but they are divided on whether or not they like him.

McCain has not convinced most voters that he understands their needs and problems - but the number who says he does has risen since last

week. And McCain is just barely over the 50%-threshold on voter confidence in his ability to handle an international crisis; on this question he does not have much of an edge over Obama.

#### VIEWS OF JOHN MCCAIN

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/23	9/2008
Favorable	41%	39%	39%
Unfavorable	43	46	42
Undecided/Not sure	16	14	19
Shares Americans' values?			
Yes	64%	-	61%
No	31	-	33
Understands your Needs and problems?			
Yes	49%	42%	49%
No	47	53	45
Will be effective Commander in Chief?			
Likely	76%	-	73%
Not likely	22	-	25
Is prepared to be president?			
Yes	67%	64	71%
No	28	32	24
Can deal with int'l crisis?			
Confident	51%	-	49%
Uneasy	47	-	47

#### MCCAIN AND THE PRESIDENT

53% of all voters think that John McCain would continue the policies of George W. Bush. The President's current job approval rating of 22% matches his all-time low. 53% of voters think McCain would generally continue those policies, while 41% think he would not.

#### WOULD MCCAIN GENERALLY CONTINUE PRES. BUSH'S POLICES?

(Among registered voters)

Yes	53%
No	41

#### THE TONE OF THE CAMPAIGN

Nearly all registered voters have seen television ads for both Barack Obama and John McCain, and they see clear differences in their tone. More voters think most of Obama's television ads explain what he

stands for, while a majority of voters think most of McCain's ads attack Barack Obama.

**DID MOST OF THE CAMPAIGN COMMERCIALS YOU SAW...?**

(Among voters who saw campaign ads)

	Obama ads	McCain ads
Explain what the candidate stands for	50%	21%
Attack the other candidate	30	64
Both (vol.)	15	12

Still, only a third of voters think the overall campaign has been more negative than past presidential campaigns. 35% say it has been more negative, 15% say it has been more positive and 48% say it's about the same. Before the 2004 election, slightly more than half thought the campaign was more negative than usual.

**COMPARED TO PAST CAMPAIGNS, THIS YEAR HAS BEEN...?**

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/2004
More positive	15%	8%
More negative	35	51
About the same	48	38

**THE IMPACT OF THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES**

A third of voters say the Vice Presidential candidates will matter a great deal in their vote. And these voters are more likely to back Obama than McCain. Joe Biden continues to be viewed as the candidate who is prepared to be vice president. Overall, Biden enjoys net positive ratings from voters; while Sarah Palin's are more negative. Fewer voters today say she is prepared to be Vice President than thought so earlier in October.

**PREPARED TO BE VICE-PRESIDENT**

(Among registered voters)

	<u>Biden</u>		<u>Palin</u>	
	Now	10/6	Now	10/6
Yes	74%	75%	35	42%
No	18	14	59	50

**VOTER CONFIDENCE**

Confidence in the vote counting process is about the same as it was four years ago. Three in four voters are at least somewhat confident that votes will be counted correctly in their state - 32% are very confident.

**CONFIDENCE THAT VOTES WILL BE  
COUNTED PROPERLY IN YOUR STATE**

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/2004
A lot	32%	35%
Some	44	44
Not much	14	13
No confidence	9	6

About a third of all voters are at least somewhat concerned that they will encounter problems that might prevent them from voting or prevent their own vote from being counted accurately - slightly more than were concerned in 2004.

**CONCERN THAT YOUR OWN VOTE WON'T BE COUNTED**

(Among registered voters)

	Now	10/2004
Very concerned	10%	10%
Somewhat concerned	25	19
Not very/at all concerned	65	70

Black voters - who overwhelmingly support Barack Obama - are far more likely to be concerned than white voters. 60% of black voters are at least somewhat concerned that their vote will not be counted properly or that they may be prevented from voting, compared to only 31% of white voters. White Obama and white McCain voters express the same level of concern (or lack of concern).

**CONCERN THAT YOUR OWN VOTE WON'T BE COUNTED**

(Among registered voters)

	Whites	Blacks
Very concerned	7%	27%
Somewhat concerned	24	33
Not very/at all concerned	69	40

**THE UNCOMMITTED VOTERS: THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE**

In all, 11% of likely voters are now uncommitted -- they have not yet chosen a candidate, or their minds could still change. That's slightly lower than the 13% of uncommitted voters in last week's CBS News/New York Times Poll. Nearly all of these uncommitted voters say they plan to vote.

Before the 2004 presidential election, about the same percentage of voters were uncommitted. In the CBS News/New York Times Poll conducted in the final days before the 2004 election, about 10% of voters said they were uncommitted. But in the same period in 2000, more -- 16% -- were uncommitted.

As in the last poll, these voters are mostly white, and 57% are 45 or older. Just over half are women, and most live in the Midwest and South, with just under half in rural areas. Two thirds have not



graduated from college, and more than half have incomes of \$50,000 or more.

Uncommitted voters are not ideologues or strong partisans. 44% describe themselves as independents, while fewer call themselves Republicans (32%) and even fewer still are Democrats (24%). More than half are moderates. But they are Bush voters; 50% of them voted for George W. Bush in 2004 (just 32% supported John Kerry).

**UNCOMMITTED VOTERS' POLITICAL VIEWS**

(Among likely uncommitted voters)

Republican	32%
Democrat	24
Independent	44

2004 vote:

Bush	50%
Kerry	32

Liberal	13%
Moderate	52
Conservative	28

They have similar overall views of each candidate; about one in four have favorable opinions of Obama and McCain, but most are undecided or have yet to form an opinion of either.

**UNCOMMITTED VOTERS' VIEWS OF THE CANDIDATES**

(Among registered uncommitted voters)

	Obama	McCain
Favorable	23%	23%
Unfavorable	13	10
Undecided	64	67

If they do turn out to vote, it's possible these voters may support John McCain. Most don't see Obama as prepared for the job, but they do think he shares their values and understands them. McCain is viewed as prepared by most uncommitted voters, and as sharing their values. 44% of them see him as a moderate, like themselves (half see Obama as a liberal).

Uncommitted voters give George Bush low approval ratings, but most do not connect McCain to Bush; just over half thinks McCain would not continue Bush's policies.

**WOULD MCCAIN CONTINUE BUSH'S POLICIES?**

(Among registered uncommitted voters)

Yes	39%
No	55

But more think Obama would improve the economy than say McCain would. While just over half think Obama would raise taxes for individuals, nearly as many think McCain would as well.

Only about one in three of these voters say the vice presidential running mates will have a great deal of influence in their vote for president. That said, they view Joe Biden as much more prepared for the position than Sarah Palin. Two thirds say that Biden is prepared for the job of vice president, while six in ten say Palin is not.

#### **NEW VOTERS**

13% of registered voters say the 2008 election is the first time they have voted, and while about a third of them voted for the first time in a primary or caucus earlier this past year, most will be voting for the first time November 4.

Not surprisingly, 71% of new voters are between the ages of 18 and 29. 25% are black. 46% identify themselves as Democrats; just 25% call themselves Republicans.

These new voters favor Obama over McCain by two to one.

#### **NEW VOTERS' PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE**

(Among likely voters including leaners)

Obama-Biden	60%
McCain-Palin	31
Undecided	5

#### **DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS**

Obama holds a large lead among women and independents. He also leads, but by a smaller margin, among men. McCain leads among whites overall and among white men.

#### **VOTE FOR PRESIDENT: DEMOGRAPHICS**

(Among likely voters including leaners)

	Obama	McCain
All	52%	41
Men	50%	43
Women	54%	40
Republicans	10%	85
Democrats	86%	9
Independents	54%	37
Liberal	92%	6
Moderate	56%	38
Conservative	20%	71

**VOTE FOR PRESIDENT: DEMOGRAPHICS**

(Among likely voters including leaners)

	Obama	McCain
Total Whites	46%	48
White men	44%	51
White women	47%	46

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1439 adults nationwide, including 1308 registered voters, interviewed by telephone October 25-29, 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 Campaign: Five Days to Go**  
**October 25-29, 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 **				Oct08d
	Total	*** Party ID ***			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
A lot	72	72	72	72	69
Some	23	24	23	22	26
Not much	3	2	4	4	5
No attention so far	1	2	2	1	1
DK/NA	1	0	0	1	0

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	51	14	82	49	52
Not favorable	34	72	8	27	31
Undecided	13	11	8	23	15
Haven't heard enough	2	2	2	0	2
Refused	0	1	0	1	0

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	41	81	11	36	39
Not favorable	43	6	74	39	46
Undecided	15	12	11	23	13
Haven't heard enough	1	0	2	1	1
Refused	0	1	2	1	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	51	10	85	53	52
McCain/Palin	40	84	9	34	39
Other (Vol.)	1	1	0	1	2
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
Depends (Vol.)/Undecided	4	3	3	5	5
Refused	4	2	3	7	2

q6 Well as of today, do you lean more toward Barack Obama and Joe Biden or more toward John McCain and Sarah Palin?

***** LIKELY VOTERS *****					
*** Party ID ***					
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct08d
	%	%	%	%	%
Obama	52	10	86	54	54
McCain	41	85	9	37	41
Won't vote (Vol.)	1	1	1	0	1
Other	0	0	0	1	2
DK/NA	6	4	4	8	2

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	Oct08d
	Voters	Voters	Voters	
	%	%	%	%
Mind made up	92	93	91	91
Too early to say for sure	8	7	9	9
DK/NA	0	0	0	0

q8 In the 2008 Presidential election, did you vote for Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President, the Democrats, or John McCain for President and Sarah Palin for Vice President, the Republicans?

* LIKELY VOTERS (Already Voted) *				
*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Obama/Biden	55	7	90	50
McCain/Palin	35	83	3	36
Other (Vol.)	4	8	3	0
Don't know/Refused	6	2	4	14

q9 How would you describe your feelings about (Obama/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 (McCain/Obama)?

* LIKELY VOTERS WHO MADE A CHOICE *				
	Total	Obama	McCain	Oct08d
	Voters	Voters	Voters	
	%	%	%	%
Enthusiastic	59	69	47	57
With reservations	31	25	39	31
Party nominee	2	2	2	5
Dislike other candidate	7	3	10	7
DK/NA	1	1	2	0

q10 What is your biggest concern, if any, about (Obama/McCain) as a candidate for President?

OBAMA VOTERS ABOUT OBAMA		MCCAIN VOTERS ABOUT MCCAIN	
	%		%
Inexperienced	27	Economic policy	18
Economic policy	11	His age	14
Foreign policy/nati' sec.	6	Not conservative	8
Not sure about him	5	Like Pres. Bush	5
His age	4	Policies too vague	3
Can't deliver on promises	3	Can't deliver on promises	2
Policies too vague	3	Sarah Palin	2
Nothing	11	Nothing	14
Other	20	Other	26
Don't know	10	Don't know	8

q11 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	Oct08b
	%	%	%	%	%
Obama/Biden	52	9	85	54	51
McCain/Palin	39	79	8	33	39
Barr/Root	1	1	0	1	1
Nader/Gonzalez	2	2	1	3	3
Other (Vol.)	0	1	0	1	0
Won't vote (vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
Depends (vol)/Undecided	3	4	3	4	4
Refused	3	4	3	4	2

q12 If Barack Obama is elected as President, what best describes your feelings about what he will do in office 1. excited, 2. optimistic, but not excited, 3. concerned, but not scared, or 4. scared?

* LIKELY VOTERS WHO MADE A CHOICE *			
	Total	Obama	McCain
	Voters	Voters	Voters
	%	%	%
Excited	26	49	1
Optimistic, not excited	25	40	5
Concerned, not scared	22	9	37
Scared	26	1	57
Don't know/No answer	1	1	0

q13 If John McCain is elected as President, what best describes your feelings about what he will do in office 1. excited, 2. optimistic, but not excited, 3. concerned, but not scared, or 4. scared?

\* LIKELY VOTERS WHO MADE A CHOICE \*

	Total Voters %	Obama Voters %	McCain Voters %
Excited	10	1	22
Optimistic, not excited	32	10	59
Concerned, not scared	32	42	18
Scared	26	47	0
Don't know/No answer	0	0	1

q14 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?

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

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

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	Oct08d %
Republican	36	79	4	31	36
Democratic	48	7	89	40	48
Other (Vol.)	1	0	0	3	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	0	0	0	0	0
Depends (Vol.)	7	7	3	11	8
DK/NA	8	7	4	15	7

q15 In deciding who you would like to see elected President this year, which one of the following issues will be most important to you - 1. Terrorism and national security, 2. the economy and jobs, 3. health care, 4. the war in Iraq, 5. gas prices and energy policy, 6. illegal immigration, or 7. something else?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

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

	Total %	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	Oct08d %
The economy and jobs	55	48	62	52	55
Terrorism and nat'l. security	13	23	3	13	11
Health care	9	3	14	8	8
Gas prices and energy policy	7	7	5	7	3
The war in Iraq	6	4	7	8	11
Illegal immigration	4	5	3	3	2
Something else	6	7	5	6	8
DK/NA	0	3	1	3	2

q16-17 BLANK

q18 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct08d
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	22	53	5	14	22
Disapprove	70	35	92	77	72
DK/NA	8	12	3	9	6

q19 Do you feel things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

Right direction	11	23	3	8	11
Wrong track	85	68	96	89	85
DK/NA	4	9	1	3	4

q20 How would you rate the condition of the national economy these days? Is it very good, fairly good, fairly bad, or very bad?

Very good	1	2	1	1	0
Fairly good	10	21	2	8	13
Fairly bad	41	49	34	41	35
Very bad	48	28	62	49	51
DK/NA	0	0	1	1	1

q21 Do you think the economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?

Better	8	14	3	8	11
Worse	57	41	69	59	57
Same	32	44	25	30	30
DK/NA	3	1	3	3	2

q22-23 BLANK

q24 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	Oct08d
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	43	17	67	40	43
Not favorable	25	51	7	21	20
Undecided	13	15	9	17	18
Haven't heard enough	18	17	17	21	19
Refused	1	0	0	1	0

q25 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	36	69	12	32	31
Not favorable	41	10	63	44	40
Undecided	14	14	13	15	17
Haven't heard enough	10	7	12	9	12
Refused	0	0	0	0	0



q26 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?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct08d
	%	%	%	%	%
More positive	15	9	19	17	15
More negative	35	35	37	31	30
About the same	48	53	41	51	53
DK/NA	2	3	3	1	2

q27 Which party currently has more members in the U.S. House of representatives--the Republicans or the Democrats?

Republicans	21	17	25	20
Democrats	62	66	58	64
DK/NA	17	17	17	16

q28-29 BLANK

q30 Do you think Barack Obama does or does not understand the needs and problems of people like yourself?

Yes	64	35	87	65	68
No	32	59	11	30	28
DK/NA	4	6	2	5	4

q31 Do you think Barack Obama shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

					Sep08b
Yes	65	33	88	67	66
No	31	61	10	27	27
DK/NA	4	6	2	6	7

q32 Do you think Barack Obama has prepared himself well enough for the job of President, or hasn't he?

					Oct08d
Has prepared	51	19	76	53	56
Has not prepared	42	78	16	40	38
DK/NA	7	3	8	7	6

q33 Do you have confidence in Barack Obama's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis or are you uneasy about his approach?

					Sep08c
Confidence	47	11	75	49	41
Uneasy	50	87	21	47	53
DK/NA	3	2	4	4	6

q34 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that Barack Obama would be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08d
	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	33	7	57	28	31
Somewhat likely	31	21	32	40	30
Not too likely	17	36	3	15	21
Not at all likely	18	33	8	15	16
DK/NA	1	3	0	2	2

q35 Do you think of Barack Obama as more of a liberal, moderate, or a conservative?

Liberal	57	80	42	53
Moderate	28	10	40	30
Conservative	8	4	10	10
DK/NA	7	6	8	7

q36 How much confidence do you have in Barack Obama's ability to appoint qualified people to jobs in his Administration -- a lot, some, a little, or none at all?

A lot	44	12	72	41
Some	25	27	19	30
A little	12	25	2	12
None at all	17	34	6	14
DK/NA	2	2	1	3

q37 BLANK

q38 Do you think John McCain does or does not understand the needs and problems of people like yourself?

					Oct08d
Yes	49	84	24	45	42
No	47	13	72	50	53
DK/NA	4	3	4	5	5

q39 Do you think John McCain shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

					Sep08b
Yes	64	92	42	65	61
No	31	7	51	30	33
DK/NA	5	1	7	5	6

q40 Do you think John McCain has prepared himself well enough for the job of President, or hasn't he?

					Oct08d
Has prepared	67	91	45	70	64
Has not prepared	28	6	46	27	32
DK/NA	5	3	9	3	4

q41 Do you have confidence in John McCain's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis or are you uneasy about his approach?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08c
	%	%	%	%	%
Confidence	51	90	22	48	49
Uneasy	47	9	77	49	47
DK/NA	2	1	1	3	4

q42 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that John McCain would be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

					Sep08d
Very likely	47	80	20	47	42
Somewhat likely	29	19	36	31	31
Not too likely	11	0	22	10	13
Not at all likely	11	1	20	10	12
DK/NA	2	0	2	2	2

q43 Do you think of John McCain as more of a liberal, moderate, or a conservative

					Feb07a
Liberal	9	5	13	10	15
Moderate	35	54	19	36	34
Conservative	47	37	58	45	28
DK/NA	9	4	10	9	23

q44 How much confidence do you have in John McCain's ability to appoint qualified people to jobs in his Administration -- a lot, some, a little, or none at all?

A lot	30	59	10	27
Some	31	33	28	33
A little	17	4	28	17
None at all	20	2	33	22
DK/NA	2	2	1	1

q45-47 BLANK

q48 Thinking about the amount of information you have received about the candidates over the course of the presidential campaign, would you say you have received enough information to make an informed decision about who to support as president, or not?

Yes, enough	88	90	90	83
No, not enough	10	8	9	14
Enough about one (vol.)	1	0	0	2
DK/NA	1	2	1	1

q49 BLANK

q50 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

	*** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ***				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct08d
	%	%	%	%	%
Approve	15	15	19	12	17
Disapprove	75	79	71	77	70
DK/NA	10	6	10	11	13

q51 How about the representative in Congress from your district? Do you approve or disapprove of the way your representative is handling his or her job?

Approve	50	49	56	44	51
Disapprove	31	33	28	31	28
DK/NA	19	18	16	25	21

q52 If Barack Obama is elected president do you think his policies would make the economy better, make the economy worse or wouldn't his policies have any effect on the economy?

	*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***			
Better	54	18	82	55
Worse	27	59	4	24
No effect	13	18	9	12
DK/NA	6	5	5	9

q53 If Barack Obama is elected president, do you think his policies will lead to greater U.S. military involvement in Iraq, less U.S. military involvement in Iraq or won't his policies have any effect on U.S. military involvement in Iraq?

Greater involvement	7	7	6	9
Less involvement	80	75	82	81
No effect	9	14	8	7
DK/NA	4	4	4	3

q54 If Barack Obama is elected president, do you think his policies would result in more people having health care coverage, fewer people having health care coverage or wouldn't his policies have any effect on health care coverage?

More people covered	66	45	84	66
Fewer people covered	10	18	3	10
No effect	18	29	10	17
DK/NA	6	8	3	7

q55 If Barack Obama is elected president, do you think he will be able to work with members of both parties in order to get things done, or will he not be able to?

Will be able	70	42	91	72
Will not	26	51	8	24
Don't know/No answer	4	7	1	4

q56 BLANK

q57 If he were elected President, do you think Barack Obama would raise taxes on people like yourself, or wouldn't he do that?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct08b
	%	%	%	%	%
Would	50	81	30	44	46
Would not	44	14	64	50	41
DK/NA	6	5	6	6	13

q58 If he were elected President, do you think Barack Obama would raise taxes on big business, or wouldn't he do that?

Would	80	80	81	80
Would not	15	17	13	16
DK/NA	5	3	6	4

q59 If he were elected President, do you think Barack Obama would bring about real change in the way things are done in Washington, or wouldn't he do that?

					Sep08b
Would	64	42	84	62	65
Would not	31	51	12	34	29
DK/NA	5	7	4	4	6

q60 BLANK

q61 If John McCain is elected president do you think his policies would make the economy better, make the economy worse or wouldn't his policies have any effect on the economy?

Better	32	62	12	28
Worse	31	7	51	30
No effect	29	23	32	32
DK/NA	8	8	5	10

q62 If John McCain is elected president, do you think his policies will lead to greater U.S. military involvement in Iraq, less U.S. military involvement in Iraq or won't his policies have any effect on U.S. military involvement in Iraq?

Greater involvement	56	32	73	57
Less involvement	18	30	9	17
No effect	21	32	13	20
DK/NA	5	6	5	6

q63 If John McCain is elected president, do you think his policies would result in more people having health care coverage, fewer people having health care coverage or wouldn't his policies have any effect on health care coverage?

More people covered	23	41	10	22
Fewer people covered	33	9	53	31
No effect	37	39	32	40
DK/NA	7	11	5	7

q64 If John McCain is elected president, do you think he will be able to work with members of both parties in order to get things done, or will he not be able to?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Will be able	66	86	51	64
Will not	31	11	45	32
Don't know/No answer	3	3	4	4

q65 BLANK

q66 If he were elected President, do you think John McCain would raise taxes on people like yourself, or wouldn't he do that?

					Oct08b
Would	46	25	64	44	51
Would not	47	68	27	50	38
DK/NA	7	7	9	6	11

q67 If he were elected President, do you think John McCain would raise taxes on big business, or wouldn't he do that?

Would	22	29	18	18
Would not	72	62	78	75
DK/NA	6	9	4	7

q68 If he were elected President, do you think John McCain would bring about real change in the way things are done in Washington, or wouldn't he do that?

					Sep08b
Would	39	67	18	36	37
Would not	57	28	78	60	59
DK/NA	4	5	4	4	4

q69 BLANK

q70 If John McCain were elected president, do you think he would generally continue George W. Bush's policies, or not?

Continue Bush policies	53	21	81	52
Not continue Bush policies	41	70	16	43
Some/not others (vol.)	3	6	1	3
Don't know/No answer	3	3	2	2

q71 BLANK

q72 Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion? 1. The Presidential candidates' choices for Vice President will have a great deal of influence on my vote. OR 2. I will vote based mostly on the presidential candidates, not on whom they choose for Vice President.

					Sep08d
VP choices have influence	32	27	32	35	32
Vote on pres. candidates	65	70	65	61	65
Don't know/No answer	3	3	3	4	3

q73 Do you think Joe Biden is prepared for the job of Vice President, or isn't he?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Is prepared	74	65	85	70	75
Is not prepared	18	27	8	20	14
DK/NA	8	8	7	10	11

q74 Do you think Sarah Palin is prepared for the job of Vice President, or isn't she?

Is prepared	35	63	15	32	42
Is not prepared	59	30	80	63	50
DK/NA	6	7	5	5	8

q75-76 BLANK

q77 How important is it to you personally that John McCain wins the 2008 election for president -- is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important or not that important at all?

	** LIKELY VOTERS **
	McCain
	Voters
	%
Extremely important	51
Very important	34
Somewhat important	12
Not that important at all	3
DK/NA	0

q78 How important is it to you personally that Barack Obama wins the 2008 election for president -- is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important or not that important at all?

	Obama
	Voters
Extremely important	55
Very important	32
Somewhat important	10
Not that important at all	2
DK/NA	1

q79 Have you seen any commercials on television for Barack Obama?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	95	95	94	96
No	5	5	6	4
Don't know/No answer	0	0	0	0

q80 Did most of Barack Obama's television commercials that you saw explain what Barack Obama stands for, or did most of the commercials attack John McCain?

\* REGISTERED VOTERS WHO HAVE SEEN OBAMA ADS \*

	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Explain	50	22	74	48
Attack	30	48	13	34
Both (Vol.)	15	22	9	14
Don't know/No answer	5	8	4	4

q81 Have you seen any commercials on television for John McCain?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

Yes	93	92	95	90
No	7	7	4	10
Don't know/No answer	0	1	1	0

q82 Did most of John McCain's television commercials that you saw explain what John McCain stands for, or did most of the commercials attack Barack Obama?

\* REGISTERED VOTERS WHO HAVE SEEN McCAIN ADS \*

Explain	21	31	11	23
Attack	64	45	80	64
Both (Vol.)	12	20	8	10
Don't know/No answer	3	4	1	3

q83-84 BLANK

q85 In general, who do you think has a better chance of getting ahead in today's society -- white people, black people, or do white people and black people have about an equal chance of getting ahead?

	***** TOTAL RESPONDENTS *****			
	Total	Whites	Blacks	Jul08a
	%	%	%	%
White people	26	22	47	39
Black people	4	4	1	6
Equal	64	68	43	51
DK/NA	6	6	9	4

q86 Do you think most people you know would vote for a presidential candidate who is black, or not?

Would	71	71	65	69
Would not	14	14	19	19
DK/NA	15	15	16	12



q87 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the U.S. have stayed out?

\*\* TOTAL RESPONDENTS \*\*

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Sep08c
	%	%	%	%	%
Did the right thing	39	70	16	35	39
Should have stayed out	54	23	81	54	55
DK/NA	7	7	3	11	6

q88 How would you say things are going for the U.S. in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

					Oct08b
Very well	10	22	2	9	7
Somewhat well	43	62	27	43	42
Somewhat badly	25	10	33	29	25
Very badly	18	3	35	14	23
DK/NA	4	3	3	5	3

q89 How concerned are you that in the next 12 months you or someone else in your household might be out of work and looking for a job -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

					Oct08d
Very concerned	37	25	47	37	35
Somewhat concerned	31	30	31	32	26
Not at all concerned	32	45	22	30	38
DK/NA	0	0	0	1	1

q90 Is your family financially better off today than it was four years ago, worse off financially, or is it about the same as it was four years ago?

					Sep08b*
Better off	23	35	14	22	29
Worse off	36	18	47	39	33
About the same	41	47	38	38	36
DK/NA	0	0	1	1	2

\*Among registered voters

q91-92 BLANK

q93 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\*\*

First time voter	9	5	9	11
Voted earlier in 2008	4	5	6	1
Voted before	87	90	85	87
DK/NA	0	0	0	1

q94 How much confidence do you have that the votes for president will be counted properly this November -- a lot, some, not much, or no confidence at all?

**\*\* REGISTERED RESPONDENTS \*\***

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

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct04f
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	32	36	27	37	35
Some	44	43	47	42	44
Not much	14	13	15	13	13
No confidence at all	9	9	11	7	6
DK/NA	1	0	0	1	2

q95 How concerned are you that you will encounter problems that might prevent you from voting or prevent your vote from being counted accurately -- very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?

					Oct06d
Very concerned	10	8	14	7	16
Somewhat concerned	25	22	30	22	17
Not very concerned	24	23	24	27	22
Not at all concerned	41	47	32	44	45

	<b>UNWEIGHTED</b>	<b>WEIGHTED</b>
Total Respondents	1439	
Total Republicans	448	433
Total Democrats	530	533
Total Independents	461	473
Total Registered Voters	1308	1234
Republicans - Reg. voters	420	387
Democrats - Reg. voters	490	478
Independents - Reg. voters	398	369
Effective Likely Voters		1005