

The 2008 Campaign

Trial Heats

		McCain	Clinton
Gallup Track	Apr. 18–22	47%	46%
Gallup/USAT	Apr. 18–20	45	49
Cook/RT	Apr. 17–20	45	45
Newsweek	Apr. 16–17	43	47
ABC/Post	Apr. 10–13	48	45

		McCain	Obama
Gallup Track	Apr. 18–22	46%	45%
Gallup/USAT	Apr. 18–20	44	49
Cook/RT	Apr. 17–20	45	44
Newsweek	Apr. 16–17	44	48
ABC/Post	Apr. 10–13	44	49

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

	Apr. 2008	Jul. 1979
Satisfied	15%	12%
Dissatisfied	83	84

A Democrat Versus a Republican

If the election for U.S. president were held today, would you be voting for the . . . ?

	Late Mar. 2008
Republican candidate	38%
Democratic candidate	46

Your Opinion of . . . ?

	Mar. 2008		
	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Republican Party	34%	15%	49%
Democratic Party	45	18	35

Do you think the next president should . . . ?

	Mar. 2008
Take a similar approach to that of George W. Bush	17%
Different approach	76

Partisan Identification—Yearly Averages

		Dem	Rep
2007 Gallup		51%	40%
2007 Pew		50	36

Note: These are the lowest numbers for the GOP since Gallup started compiling yearly averages twenty years ago and Pew started eighteen years ago. Gallup and Pew numbers include those who lean to one party or another.

Candidate Visibility

	April 7–13 2008	
	Heard about the most	Actual coverage*
Barack Obama	51%	56%
Hillary Clinton	24	46
John McCain	8	35

Note: * Actual coverage based on the Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism's Campaign Coverage Index for the week of April 7–13. Percentages show the number of stories where a candidate was a significant or dominant newsmaker.

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable . . . ?

	National Response			
	ABC/Post Apr. 2008		PSRA/Newsweek Apr. 2008	
	Impression of Fav	Unfav	Opinion of Fav	Unfav
Barack Obama	56%	39%	57%	36%
Hillary Clinton	44	54	49	47
John McCain	53	36	52	42

Democratic Defections?

Would you . . . ?

	Apr. 2008
ABC News/Washington Post	
Vote for Clinton if she won the nomination	61%
Would not	35
	Clinton Supporters
Vote for Obama if he won the nomination	61%
Would not	38

AEI's Election Watch: The State of the Race

April 24, 2008

Which best describes your reaction in November to McCain getting the Republican nod?

Diageo-Hotline (RV)

Late Mar. 2008

Vote for him enthusiastically	38%
Vote for him but mainly as a vote against the Democrat	40
Vote for the Democrat	7
Stay home on Election Day	4

If Obama/Clinton gets the Democratic nod, would you . . . ?

Diageo-Hotline (RV)

Late Mar. 2008

---If wins---

	Obama	Clinton
Vote for him/her enthusiastically	56%	49%
Vote for him/her but mainly as a vote against the Republican	22	30
Vote for the Republican	9	10
Stay home on Election Day	7	7

Just your best guess, which candidate do you think will win the Democratic nomination . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today

National Response

	Mar. 2008	Feb. 2008
Obama	52%	73%
Clinton	39	20

Who would you most like to see nominated as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate this year?

PSRA/Newsweek

Apr. 2008

	National	Dem.	Ind.
Obama	54%	51%	61%
Clinton	35	38	28

If you had to choose, which candidate would you, personally, like to see win . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today

Mar. 2008

	National	Rep.	Dem.
Obama	43%	37%	48%
Clinton	40	38	44

Does this statement best describe Clinton or Obama?

PSRA/Newsweek

Asked of Democrats
Apr. 2008

Is most likely to defeat
John McCain in November

Barack Obama	55%
Hillary Clinton	33

Do you think _____ looks down on _____, or respects _____?

Gallup/USA Today

Apr. 2008

	Respects avg. Americans	Looks down on
Barack Obama	69%	26%
Hillary Clinton	63	32
John McCain	71	22

	Respects work class	Looks down on
Barack Obama	70%	25%
Hillary Clinton	65	32
John McCain	69	24

Who would you like to see win the Democratic nomination for president this year?

ABC News/Washington Post

Asked of Democrats
Apr. 2008

Barack Obama	51%
Hillary Clinton	41

What's your opinion, do you think the length of the Democratic contest is . . . ?

ABC News/Washington Post

Asked of Democrats
Apr. 2008

Good for the Democrats	17%
Bad	32
No difference	50

Suppose that when the party's national convention starts this summer, neither Obama nor Clinton has enough delegate support to secure the Democratic presidential nomination.

Do you think . . . ?

PSRA/Newsweek

Asked of Democrats
Apr. 2008

The Democratic Party should consider nominating Al Gore to try to unite the party and break the delegate deadlock 49%
No, should not 43

Would you prefer that the next president be . . . ?

NBC/WSJ (RV)

Mar. 2008

Liberal 18% Moderate 41% Conservative 34%

Would you describe _____ as liberal, moderate, or conservative?

NBC/WSJ (RV)

Mar. 2008

	Liberal		Liberal
Obama	55%	Clinton	59%
	Conservative		
McCain	46%		

The President

Bush's Ratings

		Approve	Disapprove
Gallup/USAT	Apr. 18-20	28%	69%
Newsweek	Apr. 16-17	28	65
ABC/Post	Apr. 10-13	33	64
AP/Ipsos	Apr. 7-9	28	68
CBS/NYT	Mar. 28-Apr. 2	28	64

According to ABC News/Washington Post data, there is a 57 percentage point gap between Democrats and Republicans in their ratings of Bush, compared with a 54 percentage point gap for Clinton, 50 points for Reagan, and 34 points for Bush's father over the course of their respective terms.

Bush Approval—Yearly Averages

Gallup/USA Today

	Approve
2007	33%
2006	37
2005	46
2004	50
2003	60
2002	71
2001	68

Congress

Congress's Ratings

		Approve	Disapprove
AP/Ipsos	Apr. 7-9	23%	71%
Diag.-Hotline	Mar. 28-31	23	72
Fox News/OD	Mar. 18-19	20	67
NBC/WSJ	Mar. 7-10	19	69
Gallup/USAT	Mar. 6-9	21	71

Do you approve of the way _____ are handling their job?

Diageo/Hotline (RV)

Feb. 2008

	Approve	Disapprove
Democrats in Congress	37%	54%
Republicans in Congress	29	61

Congressional Approval—Yearly Averages

Gallup/USA Today

	Approve
2007	27%
2006	25
2005	36
2004	42
2003	47
2002	54
2001	56

What is your preference for the outcome of this year's congressional elections—a Congress controlled by . . . ?

NBC/WSJ (RV)

Mar. 2008

Democrats 49% Republicans 35%

Please tell me whether you think each of the following political officeholders deserves to be re-elected, or not. How about . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today

	My U.S. Representative	
	Deserves re-election	Does not
Feb. 2008 (NA)	63%	24%
Oct. 2006 (NA)	53	31
Oct. 2004 (NA)	62	21
Sep. 2000 (RV)	66	19
Oct. 1996 (LV)	62	19
Oct. 1994 (NA)	54	30
Oct. 1992 (RV)	48	30

Most members of Congress

	Deserve re-election		Do not
	re-election	Do not	
Feb. 2008 (NA)	41%	47%	
Oct. 2006 (NA)	39	51	
Oct. 2004 (NA)	51	33	
Sep. 2000 (RV)	54	30	
Oct. 1996 (LV)	55	26	
Nov. 1994 (NA)	39	45	
Oct. 1992 (RV)	29	50	

The Economy

How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?

Gallup/USA Today

	Excellent/	Only	Poor
	Good	fair	
Apr. 2008	17%	40%	43%
Jan. 2007	52	33	15

Right now, do you think economic conditions in the country as a whole are . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today

	Getting better		Getting worse
	Getting better	Getting worse	
Apr. 2008	9%	87%	
Jan. 2007	38	53	

Most Important Problem Facing the Country

Gallup/USA Today

	Apr. 2008
Economy in general	41%
Situation in Iraq/War	23
Fuel/oil prices	9
Health care	8
Unemployment/Jobs	6

Note: Only the top five shown.

Most Important Economic Problem Facing the Country

CBS News/New York Times

	Mar.–Apr. 2008
Gas/oil prices	21%
Housing/home mortgages	14
Jobs/unemployment	11
Personal finances	5
War/defense spending	5

Note: Only the top five shown.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

CBS News/New York Times

	Mar.–Apr. 2008	
	Approve	Disapprove
	21%	71%

Do you think a _____ president would do a better job handling the economy?

ABC News/Washington Post

	Apr. 2008
A Republican president	34%
A Democratic president	55

How confident are you in _____ ability to make the right decision about the economy

CBS News/New York Times

	Mar.–Apr. 2008	
	Very/somewhat confident	Not too/Not at all confident
Barack Obama	62%	36%
Hillary Clinton	62	37
John McCain	54	42

Please tell me if you think _____ would better handle . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today

	Feb. 2008	
Better handle the economy		
Obama	McCain	
47%	43%	
Clinton	McCain	
51	44	

Do you think the economy is now in a recession?

Gallup/USA Today

	Mar. 2008	Oct. 2007
Yes	76%	36%
No	22	58

How likely do you think it is that the United States will be in an economic depression within the next two years?

Gallup/USA Today

	Mar. 2008
Very likely	23%
Somewhat likely	36
Not too likely	28
Not at all likely	12

Would you say that you and your family are better off or worse off than four years ago?

NBC/WSJ (RV)

	Mar. 2008	May 2004
Better off	34%	42%
Worse off	43	33
About the same (vol.)	21	23

How would you rate the financial situation of your household . . . ?

CBS News/New York Times

	Mar.-		
	Apr. 2008	Feb. 2008	Apr. 2007
Good	72%	78%	83%
Bad	27	21	17

How would you rate your own personal financial situation?

PSRA/Pew

	Mar. 2008
Excellent shape	8%
Good shape	39
Only fair shape	34
Poor shape	17

Do you think your family's income is . . . ?

PSRA/Pew

	Feb. 2008
Falling behind the cost of living	
National	58%
\$100,000 or more	33
\$50,000-99,999	56
\$20,000-49,999	70
Less than \$20,000	73

In general, how easy is it for you to afford things in life that you want . . . ?

PSRA/Pew

	Feb. 2008
Very easy	9%
Easy	43
Difficult	33
Very difficult	12

Would you say things in _____ are going . . . ?

Harris Interactive

	Feb. 2008		
	The	Your	Personal
	country	state	life
In the right direction	23%	44%	76%
Wrong track	69	49	17

How would you rate the financial condition of the company or organization that employs you?

PSRA/Pew

	Feb. 2008
Excellent/good shape	69%
Only fair shape	21
Poor shape	6

Do you happen to know who is . . . ?

PSRA/Pew
Mar. 2008
Chairman of the U.S. Fed

Ben Bernanke (correct)	35%
Alan Greenspan	27
Don't know	25

Do you think a _____ president would do a better job resolving the situation in Iraq?

ABC News/Washington Post
Apr. 2008

A Republican president	35%
A Democratic president	52

Iraq

Did you follow General David Petraeus's report to Congress about how things in Iraq are going?

Pew Research Center
Apr. 2008 Sep. 2007

Followed very/ fairly closely	48%	52%
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Note: Only 6 percent said they followed this story most closely during the week of April 7-13. Ten percent of overall news coverage was given to this event.

Please tell me if you think _____ would better handle . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today
Feb. 2008
Better handle the situation in Iraq

Obama	McCain
40%	54%
Clinton	McCain
40	54

Do you think the United States is making significant progress toward restoring civil order in Iraq . . . ?

ABC News/Washington Post
Apr. 2008 Dec. 2006 Jun. 2004

Yes	40%	31%	51%
No	57	66	48

Do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq or not?

Gallup/USA Today

	Yes, a mistake	No
Apr. 2008	63%	36%
Mar. 2007	59	39
Mar. 2006	57	42
Mar. 2005	46	51
Apr. 2004	42	57

From what you have heard or read, would you say this troop increase [the surge] is making the situation in Iraq better, making it worse, or is it having no impact on the situation in Iraq so far?

CBS News

	The surge is making the situation		
	Better	No impact	Worse
Mar. 2008	42%	34%	13%
Jul. 2007	19	53	20

Do you think the United States should keep its military forces in Iraq until civil order is restored there, even if it means continued U.S. military casualties or do you think the United States should withdraw its military forces from Iraq in order to avoid further U.S. military casualties, even if that means civil order is not restored there?

ABC News/Washington Post

	Keep troops	Withdraw
Apr. 2008	41%	56%

2008 Senate Races

110th Congress Lineup: 49 Democrats, 49 Republicans, and 2 independents (who caucus with Democrats)

2008 Races: 23 Republicans, 12 Democrats

Democrats

<i>State</i>	<i>Senator/First Elected</i>	<i>Results of Last Election</i>	<i>Bush's Margin over Kerry</i>	<i>Status</i>
AR	Mark Pryor-2002	54-46	+9	Running
DE	Joe Biden-1972	58-41	-7	Running
IA	Tom Harkin-1984	54-44	+1	Running
IL	Richard Durbin-1996	60-38	-11	Running
LA	Mary Landrieu-1996	52-48	+15	Running
MA	John Kerry-1984	80-18	-25	Running
MI	Carl Levin-1978	61-38	-3	Running
MT	Max Baucus-1978	63-32	+20	Running
NJ	Frank Lautenberg-1982	54-44	-7	Running
RI	Jack Reed-1996	78-22	-20	Running
SD	Tim Johnson-1996	50-50	+22	Running
WV	Jay Rockefeller-1984	63-37	+13	Running

Republicans

<i>State</i>	<i>Senator/First Elected</i>	<i>Results of Last Election</i>	<i>Bush's Margin over Kerry</i>	<i>Status</i>
AK*	Ted Stevens-1968	78-11	+25	Running
AL	Jeff Sessions-1996	59-40	+25	Running
CO	Wayne Allard-1996	51-46	+5	Retiring
GA	Saxby Chambliss-2002	53-46	+17	Running
ID	Larry Craig-1990	65-33	+38	Retiring
KS	Pat Roberts-1996	83-09	+25	Running
KY	Mitch McConnell-1984	65-35	+20	Running
ME	Susan Collins-1996	58-42	-9	Running
MN	Norm Coleman-2002	50-47	-3	Running
MS	Thad Cochran-1978	85-15	+19	Running
MS**	Roger Wicker-appointed 2007	N/A	+19	Running
NC	Elizabeth Dole-2002	54-45	+12	Running
NE	Chuck Hagel-1996	83-15	+33	Retiring
NH	John Sununu-2002	51-47	-1	Running
NM	Pete Domenici-1972	65-35	+1	Retiring
OK	Jim Inhofe-1994	57-36	+32	Running
OR	Gordon Smith-1996	56-40	-4	Running
SC	Lindsey Graham-2002	54-44	+17	Running
TN	Lamar Alexander-2002	54-44	+14	Running
TX	John Cornyn-2002	55-43	+23	Running
VA	John Warner-1978	83-10	+9	Retiring
WY	Michael Enzi-1996	73-27	+40	Running
WY^	John Barrasso-appointed 2007	N/A	+40	Running

* Sen. Stevens was appointed in 1968. He was first elected in 1970.

** Sen. Wicker is running to fill the remainder of former-Sen. Trent Lott's term (through 2012).

^ Sen. Barrasso is running to fill the remainder of former-Sen. Craig Thomas' term (through 2012).

Bold indicates an open seat in 2008.

2008 House of Representatives Open Seats

110th Congress Lineup: 234 Democrats, 198 Republicans, and 3 vacancies

Democrats (8)

<i>District</i>	<i>Representative/First Elected</i>	<i>Bush's Margin over Kerry</i>	<i>Reason for Leaving</i>
ME-01	Tom Allen-1996	-12	Seeking other office-Senate
NJ-01	Robert Andrews-1990	-22	Seeking other office-Senate
AL-05	Robert "Bud" Cramer-1990	+21	Retiring
OR-05	Darlene Hooley-1996	+1	Retiring
NY-21	Michael McNulty-1988	-12	Retiring
CO-02	Mark Udall-1998	-17	Seeking other office-Senate
NM-03	Tom Udall-1998	-9	Seeking other office-Senate
MD-04	Albert Wynn-1992	-57	Lost in primary

Republicans (26)

<i>District</i>	<i>Representative/First Elected</i>	<i>Bush's Margin over Kerry</i>	<i>Reason for Leaving</i>
WY-AL	Barbara Cubin-1994	+40	Retiring
VA-11	Tom Davis-1994	+1	Retiring
CA-04	John Doolittle-1990	+24	Retiring
AL-02	Terry Everett-1992	+34	Retiring
NJ-07	Mike Ferguson-2000	+6	Retiring
MD-01	Wayne Gilchrest-1990	+26	Lost in primary
OH-07	David Hobson-1990	+14	Retiring
MO-09	Kenny Hulshof-1996	+18	Seeking other office-Governor
CA-52	Duncan Hunter-1980	+23	Retiring
IL-18	Ray LaHood-1994	+16	Retiring
KY-02	Ron Lewis-1994	+31	Retiring
LA-04	Jim McCrery-1988	+19	Retiring
NM-02	Steve Pearce-2002	+17	Seeking other office-Senate
PA-05	John Peterson-1996	+22	Retiring
MS-03	Chip Pickering-1996	+31	Retiring
OH-15	Deborah Pryce-1992	<1	Retiring
MN-03	Jim Ramstad-1990	+3	Retiring
OH-16	Ralph Regula-1972	+8	Retiring
AZ-01	Rick Renzi-2002	+8	Retiring
NY-26	Tom Reynolds-1998	+12	Retiring
NJ-03	Jim Saxton-1984	+2	Retiring
CO-06	Tom Tancredo-1998	+21	Retiring
NY-25	James Walsh-1988	-2	Retiring
FL-15	Dave Weldon-1994	+14	Retiring
IL-11	Jerry Weller-1994	+7	Retiring
NM-01	Heather Wilson-1998	-3	Seeking other office-Senate

And the Show Goes On...

Barack Obama is like a prize fighter who just can't land that knock-out blow. A victory in Ohio or Pennsylvania likely would have secured him the nomination, but Hillary Clinton has proven resilient in each case. It seems clear that the Democratic superdelegates will have the final say. Of course Clinton's deficit in pledged delegates means that she has more ground to make up in order to get to the magic number of 2,024.

Remaining Democratic contests

State (date)	Type	Delegates	State population rank (out of 50)
Guam (5/3)	Territorial Convention	9 (4.5)*	-
Indiana (5/6)	Modified Primary**	72	15
North Carolina (5/6)	Modified Primary	115	10
West Virginia (5/13)	Modified Primary	28	37
Kentucky (5/20)	Closed Primary	51	26
Oregon (5/20)	Closed Primary	52	27

Election Watch (5/22)

Puerto Rico (6/1)	Open Primary	55	-
Montana (6/3)	Open Primary	16	44
South Dakota (6/3)	Closed Primary	15	46

Total remaining 408.5

* Each of Guam's pledged delegates will have 1/2 a vote at the convention, by party rules.

** A Modified Primary is slightly more restrictive than an open primary. Independent or "unaffiliated" voters may vote in a party's modified primary, but registered members of other parties may not.

Delegate Count from Various Organizations (including Pennsylvania)

	Democrats	
	Obama	Clinton
ABC News	1715	1583
<i>New York Times</i>	1699	1545
The Green Papers	1720	1590
CNN	1714	1584
Fox News	1705	1575
CBS	1710	1584
AP	1714	1589
MSNBC	1720	1588
<i>Washington Post</i>	1694	1561

Counts include surveys of superdelegates.
Last updated April 23, 2008.

Delegates needed to win: 2,024
Total delegates: 4,047

Upcoming Election Watch: May 22

AEI's Election Watch series, which began in 1982, is the longest-running election program in Washington. The 2008 presidential election campaign has unfolded in unexpected ways. At this event, Election Watch panelists will discuss the results of the Indiana, North Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Oregon primaries. In addition, participants will consider how the presidential race is likely to affect the landscape for congressional and gubernatorial elections in 2008.

Other upcoming Election Watch dates:
July 31
September 18
October 23
November 6 (*Post-election Wrap-Up*)