

The 2008 Campaign

Trial Heats

		Obama	McCain
CBS/NYT	Sep. 12-16 (LV)	49%	44%
Quinnipiac	Sep. 11-16 (LV)	49	45
Gallup Track	Sep. 14-16 (RV)	47	45
Diag./Hotline	Sep. 14-16 (RV)	45	42
Rasmussen	Sep. 14-16 (LV)	47	48

Partisan Identification

		Dem	Rep
July 2008	Gallup	47%	37%
August 2008	Pew	51	38
Sep. 5-7, 2008	Gallup	48	47
2007 Average	Gallup	51	40
2007 Average	Pew	50	36

Note: The 2007 averages 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.

Opinion of the Candidates

Please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of these people . . . ?

	Sep. 5-7, 2008	
	Favorable	Unfavorable
Barack Obama	62%	35%
John McCain	63	33

Is your opinion of . . . ?

CNN/ORC	Sep. 5-7, 2008	
	Favorable	Unfavorable
Barack Obama	60%	34%
John McCain	60	33

Candidate Visibility

Pew Research Center	Sep. 5-8, 2008	
	Heard about the most	
Barack Obama	28%	
John McCain	54	

The Enthusiasm Contest

When it comes to your vote for _____, would you say that you are . . . ?

NBC News/Wall Street Journal	Sep. 6-8, 2008	
	Obama supporters	McCain supporters
Excited	55%	34%
Satisfied	33	44
Lesser of two evils	12	22

Do you support _____ strongly or only moderately?

PSRA/Newsweek	Sep. 10-11, 2008	
	Obama supporters	McCain supporters
Strongly support	67%	71%
Moderately support	33	29

	July 2008	
	Obama supporters	McCain supporters
Strongly support	61%	39%
Moderately support	39	61

Trust More?

Regardless of how you might vote, which candidate do you trust more to handle . . . ?

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	Sep. 8-9, 2008	
	Obama	McCain
The situation in Iraq	39%	52%
Health care	49	35
The economy	46	42
The war on terrorism	35	55
Energy independence	44	42

Regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me if you think Barack Obama or John McCain would better handle the economy?

Gallup/USA Today	Sep. 5-7, 2008		Aug. 2008
	Barack Obama	48%	54%
John McCain	45	38	

If John McCain is elected president, do you think he would . . . ?

PSRA/Newsweek
Sep. 10–11, 2008

Carry out the policies of Bush	47%
Have different policies	48

From what you know about Barack Obama, do you think he . . . ?

PSRA/Newsweek
Sep. 10–11, 2008

Has enough experience in politics and government to be a good president	47%
Does not	46

Vice Presidents

All in all, how important is your preference for vice president in determining your vote for president this year? Is your preference . . . ?

PSRA/Newsweek
September 2008

Very important	42%
Somewhat important	40
Not too important	11
Not at all important	7

Does Barack Obama/John McCain's selection of Joe Biden/Sarah Palin make you . . . ?

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics
September 2008

	More likely to vote for Obama/McCain	Less likely to vote for Obama/McCain
Joe Biden	35%	25%
Sarah Palin	41	31

Now we would like to get your overall opinion of some people in the news. As I read each name, please say if you have a . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today
September 2008

	Favorable	Unfavorable
Joe Biden	49%	30%
Sarah Palin	53	28

Based on what you know about the [Republican/Democratic] vice presidential nominee [Sarah Palin/Joe Biden], do you think . . . ?

Pew Research Center
September 2008

	Is qualified to be president if necessary
Joe Biden	66%
Sarah Palin	52

In your view, has the media's coverage of Sarah Palin during the presidential campaign been . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today
September 2008

Unfairly positive	21%
About right	36
Unfairly negative	33

Defections

Historical Defection Rates

National Exit Polls
Percentage Defecting in Presidential Elections

	Democrats	Republicans
1980	26%	9%
1984	25	7
1988	17	8
1992	10	10
1996	10	13
2000	11	8
2004	11	6

Source: Network/AP Consortium Exit Polls.

2008 Defections: A Snapshot

Gallup/USA Today
September 2008

Democrats for McCain	11%
Republicans for Obama	8

Note: Sample is a weekly aggregate from Sep. 1-7, 2008.

Who Will Win

Regardless of how you plan to vote, who do you really believe will win the 2008 presidential election . . . ?

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics
September 2008 July 2008

Barack Obama	41%	51%
John McCain	40	27

The President

Bush's Ratings

		Approve	Disapprove
AP/GfK	Sep. 10-14	33%	64%
Fox/OD	Sep. 8-9	32	64
NBC/WSJ	Sep. 6-8	34	61
CNN/ORC	Sep. 5-7	28	70
Gallup/USAT	Sep. 5-7	33	64

Party Breakdown, Bush Approval

	September 2008 Approve of Bush
Republicans	71%
Independents	31
Democrats	4

Bush Approval—Yearly Averages

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

Congress

Congress's Ratings

		Approve	Disapprove
Tarrance/Lake	Sep. 7-11	19%	72%
Fox/OD	Sep. 8-9	23	68
Gallup/USAT	Sep. 5-7	20	73

Congressional Approval—Yearly Averages

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

If the elections for Congress were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your Congressional district?

	September 2008
Gallup/USA Today	
Democratic candidate	48%
Republican candidate	45

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

	My U.S. Representative Deserves	
	re-election	Does not
Gallup/USA Today		
Jul. 2008 (NA)	57%	29%
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
Jul. 2008 (NA)	36%	52%
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 and the Mood

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

	The Gallup Organization	
	Better	Worse
Sep. 2008	14%	81%
Jan.-Feb. 2008	15	76
Jan. 2007	38	53

How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?

The Gallup Organization

	Excellent/Good	Poor
Sep. 2008	19%	45%
Jan. -Feb. 2008	19	42
Jan. 2007	52	15

Note: "Only fair" responses not shown.

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

Gallup/USA Today

	Sep. 2008	July 1979
Satisfied	20%	12%
Dissatisfied	79	84

Most Important Problem Facing the Country

Gallup/USA Today

	August 2008
Economy in general	38%
Situation in Iraq/War	19
Fuel/oil prices	15
Poor leadership/corruption	9
Energy	9

Note: Only the top five shown.

Which of the following economic problems concerns you the most . . . ?

CNN/ORC

	September 2008
Price of gasoline	35%
Availability of good jobs	28
High taxes	18
Mortgage/home values	18

Have recent price increases in gasoline caused any financial hardship for you or your household?

CNN/ORC

	Sep. 2008	Feb. 2000
Yes, caused hardship	63%	40%
No, did not	37	60

Consumer Confidence Trend

University of Michigan/Reuters

	Index of Consumer Sentiment
Sep. 2008	73.1
Jan. 2008	78.4
Sep. 2007	83.4

Wall Street Woes

Now I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one . . . ?

The Gallup Organization

	Great deal/Quite a lot of confidence		
	June 2008	2004	2000
Banks	32%	53%	46%
Big business	20	24	29

As far as people in charge of running _____ are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?

Harris Interactive

	A great deal of confidence		
	Feb. 2008	2007	2004
Major companies	14%	16%	12%
Wall Street	11	17	17

Overall, would you say that Wall Street and what it does . . . ?

Harris Interactive

	April 2006
Benefits the country	73%
Harms	23

Please tell me if you tend to agree or disagree with the following statements about Wall Street.

Harris Interactive

	April 2006	
	Agree	Disagree
Wall Street is absolutely essential because it provides the money business must have for investments	71%	25%
Most people on Wall Street would be willing to break the law if they believed they could make a lot of money and get away with it	63	35

Which best describes your level of involvement in the stock market?

Pew Research Center

	Nov. 2007
I trade stocks and other funds pretty regularly	7%
I have some long-term investments like retirement accounts, but don't trade stocks regularly	43
I don't have any money in the stock market	46

Iraq and Foreign Policy

Do you think the United States is or is not making significant progress toward restoring civil order in Iraq?

ABC News/Washington Post

	Sep. 2008	Dec. 2006
Making significant progress	52%	31%
Is not	40	66

In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Iraq, do you think the United States . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today

	September 2008
Made a mistake in sending troops to Iraq	58%
Did not	41

In general, how would you say things are going for the U.S. in Iraq . . . ?

Gallup/USA Today

	Sep. 2008	Jan. 2007
Very well	13%	3%
Somewhat well	39	25
Somewhat badly	26	33
Very badly	21	38

Do you favor or oppose the U.S. war in Iraq?

CNN/ORC

	Sep. 2008	Jan. 2007
Favor	37%	31%
Oppose	61	67

Do you think the U.S. campaign against terrorism is going . . . ?

ABC News/Washington Post

	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2002
Very well	14%	10%
Fairly well	48	60
Not too well	20	21
Not well at all	14	8

In general, do you think the United States is adequately prepared to deal with another terrorist attack, or not?

CBS News

	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2007
Prepared	52%	39%
Not prepared	39	56

Upcoming Election Watch: October 23

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 our next event, Election Watch panelists will continue to focus on the 2008 campaign in its entirety.

Other upcoming Election Watch dates:
November 6 (*Post-election Wrap-Up*)

2008 Senate Races

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

Democrats (12)

State	Senator/First Elected	Results of Last Election	Bush's Margin over Kerry	Status
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 (23)

State	Senator/First Elected	Results of Last Election	Bush's Margin over Kerry	Status
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

Current Lineup: 236 Democrats, 199 Republicans.

Democrats (7)

<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-Senator
NJ-01	Robert Andrews-1990	-22	Lost in Senate primary
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-Senator
NM-03	Tom Udall-1998	-9	Seeking other office-Senator

Republicans (29)

<i>District</i>	<i>Representative/First Elected</i>	<i>Bush's Margin over Kerry</i>	<i>Reason for Leaving</i>
UT-03	Chris Cannon-1996	+57	Lost in primary
WY-AL	Barbara Cubin-1994	+40	Retiring
TN-01	David Davis-2006	+36	Lost in primary
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
NY-13	Vito Fossella-1997	+10	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-Senator
PA-05	John Peterson-1996	+22	Retiring
MS-03	Chip Pickering-1996	+31	Retiring
OH-15	Deborah Pryce-1992	<1	Retiring
MN-03	Jim Ramsted-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	Lost in Senate primary

Note: According to Charlie Cook's *Political Report*, 16 of the Republican open seats are vulnerable, 8 are toss-ups, and 5 are likely/lean Democrat. Democrats are defending 7 seats. He considers only one a toss-up.