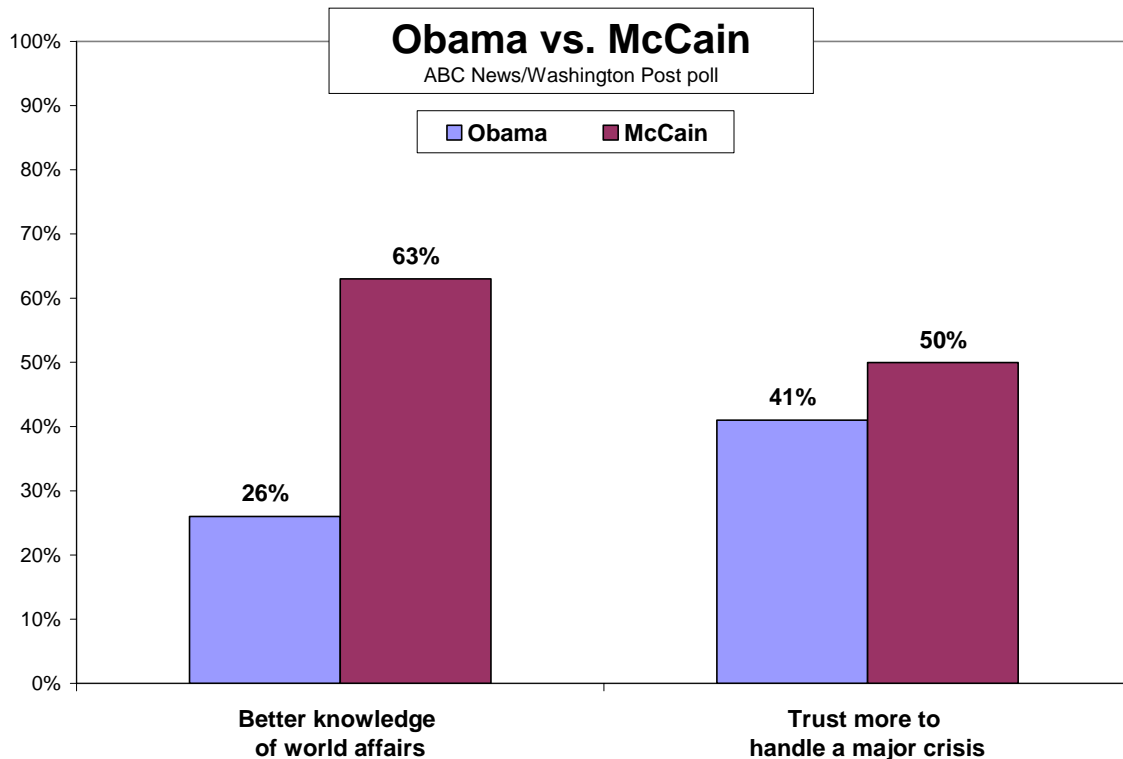


Doubts About Obama's Readiness Raise the Stakes for his Foreign Trip

Holes in Barack Obama's foreign affairs resume are spurring doubt about his readiness for a crisis – raising the stakes on his upcoming trip overseas and posing potential opportunity for his otherwise weaker Republican opponent, John McCain.

Obama continues to hold most of the advantages in the presidential race, in enthusiasm, levels of partisanship, personal qualities and trust on top domestic issues, notably No. 1, the economy; and he's improved in the past month among swing voter groups. But his experience gap vs. McCain shows up especially in global politics.

Americans by a wide margin, 63-26 percent, pick McCain as more knowledgeable on world affairs, rate him much more highly in terms of readiness for the world stage and military leadership alike, and put him ahead of Obama by 50-41 percent in trust to handle "an unexpected major crisis."



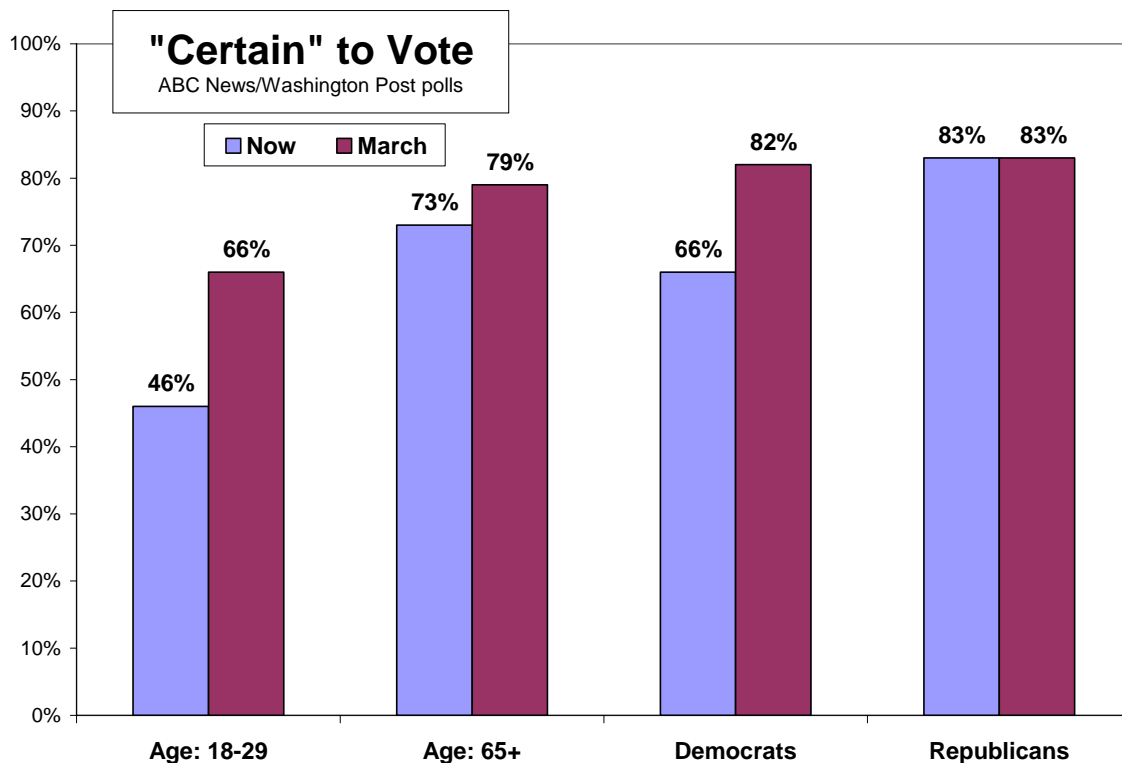
Obama remains strong on the home front. He leads McCain by 19 points in trust to handle the economy, 14 points on the deficit and 10 points on immigration, the latter a

turnaround from a McCain lead in the spring. By contrast, the two run about evenly in trust to deal with international affairs overall, as well as Iraq, Iran and the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. And McCain has a scant 6-point edge in trust to handle terrorism, though Obama's moved up on this measure since spring.

Obama scores on one international issue: Americans by 2-1 think he's better able to restore America's image abroad, overwhelmingly seen as having been damaged by George W. Bush. And McCain's competitiveness on foreign affairs is weakened by its relatively low importance overall: Just 28 percent call it "extremely important" in their vote, compared with 50 percent who say that about the economy. Iraq and terrorism, however, rate higher, at 42 and 37 percent "extremely important," respectively.

DYNAMICS – There are other dynamics well worth watching. Some pose risks for Obama: With the closely fought primaries over, attention to the race has subsided; now as last month, no more Americans are following the election closely than were at this point in 2004 (it's still a lot, 73 percent, but down from 84 percent in the spring).

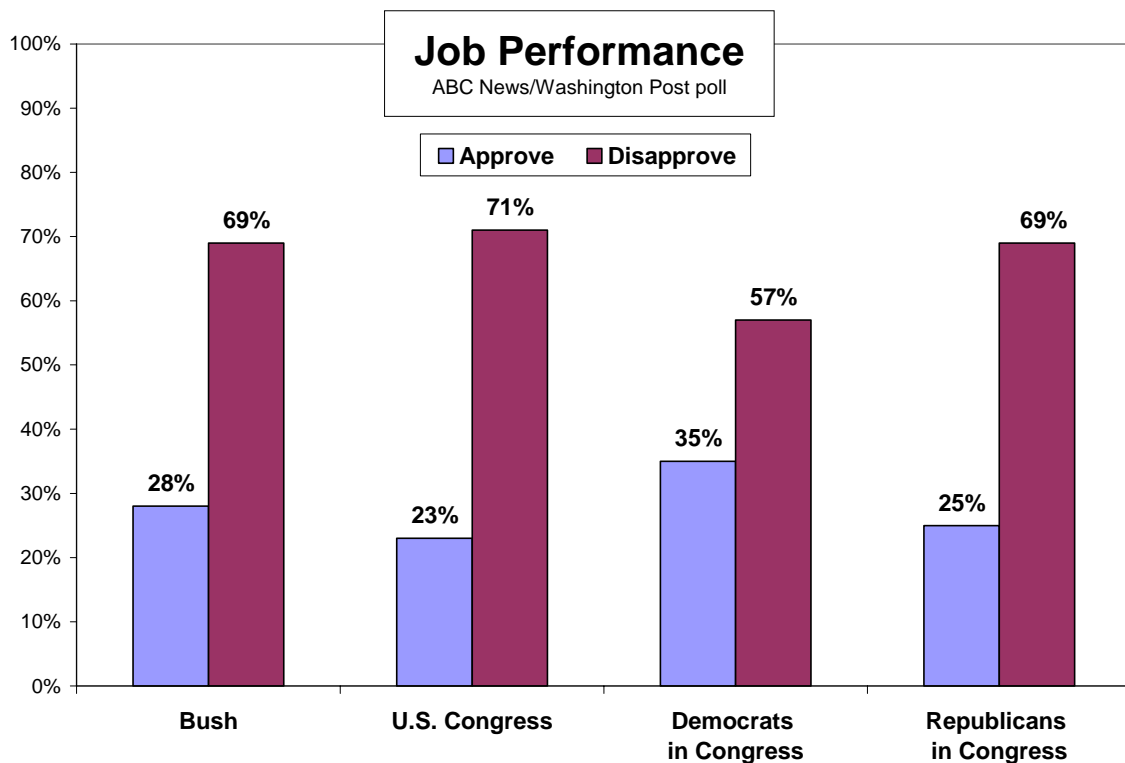
Intention to vote also has declined, especially among young adults – Obama's best age group – as well as among Democrats overall and former Hillary Clinton supporters in particular. In March 66 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds said they'd "definitely vote" in November; now it's 46 percent. (Turnout among young voters is not reliable.) Certain resolve to vote has gone from 82 percent to 66 percent among Democrats and from 77 percent to 58 percent among former Clinton supporters. And a third of onetime Clinton backers still shy from Obama, saying they'd vote for McCain or not at all.



There's another ding on Obama: Change has been his theme, and he leads mightily among voters looking mainly for "a new direction and new ideas" – but at the same time voters only divide evenly, 47-48 percent, on whether Obama's done enough to explain what "change" means. Among older Americans, who are more skeptical of change as a theme, 56 percent say he hasn't explained it well enough.

McCain, though, has troubles of his own: His profile includes a substantial "negative" vote, which can be harder to turn out at the polls – 30 percent of his supporters are more anti-Obama than pro-McCain. Obama's support, by contrast, is just 18 percent negative. (John Kerry's support was especially negative – at its peak, 61 percent anti-Bush rather than pro-Kerry.) And Americans only divide evenly on whether McCain shares their values; by contrast, they say by 56-39 percent that Obama does.

McCain's also hurt by an unusual Democratic edge in partisan allegiance: In this poll 37 percent of Americans identify themselves as Democrats vs. 24 percent Republicans, an effect of George W. Bush's broad unpopularity. (Partisanship is 37-27 percent among registered voters, but tightens to 33-32 percent among likely voters.)



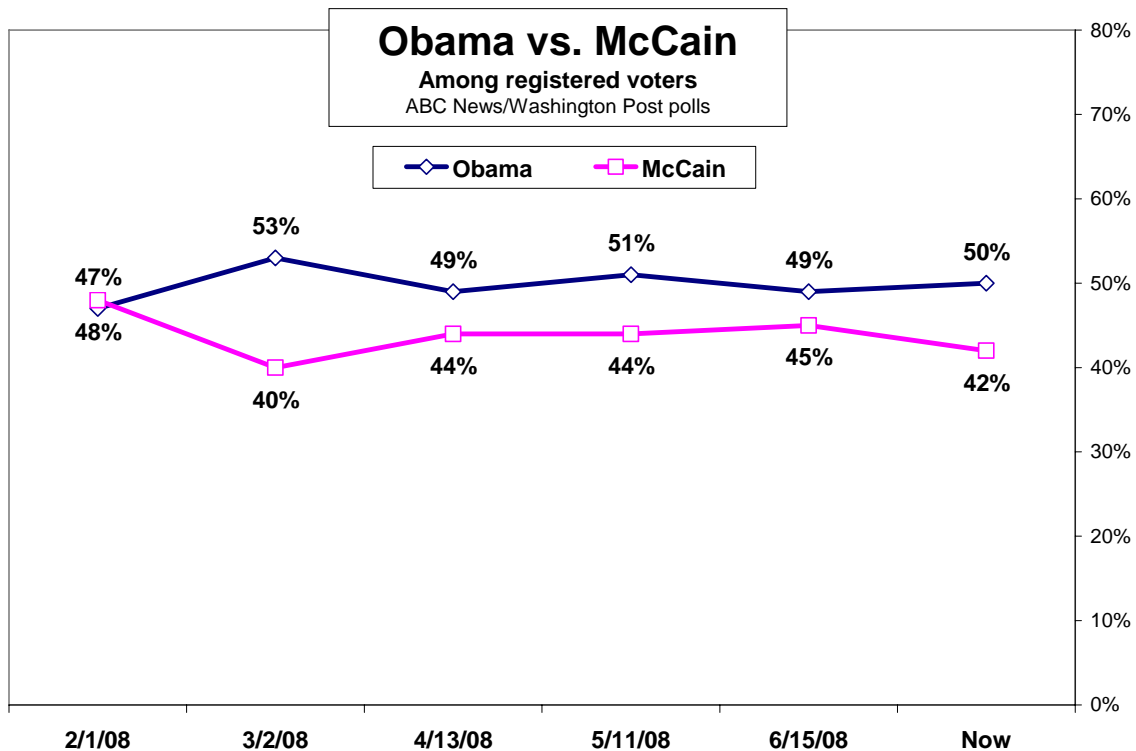
Bush, indeed, is a major millstone for McCain. Given the unpopular war and the struggling economy, Bush's job approval rating has reached a new low for the third month straight – at 28 percent approval, he now matches Jimmy Carter's low, surpassed only by Richard Nixon and Harry Truman. Bush hasn't seen majority approval in 42 months, a record. And Bush disapprovers favor Obama by a whopping 68-23 percent.

(Congress, at 23 percent approval, is rated even worse than Bush; it's 35 percent approval specifically for the Democrats in Congress, 25 percent for the Republicans.)

Another factor is changeability. Nearly three in 10 Americans say they could change their minds (or have no current preference). That seems to be evidenced by night-to-night variability in preferences; in this four-night poll, Obama held a much larger lead Sunday compared with Thursday through Saturday results. This nightly variability could be one reason some recent polls have differed; e.g., Newsweek had a 15-point Obama lead in a two-day poll in mid-June, when other contemporaneous polls did not; and Newsweek had that tighten to 3 points this past weekend, again in a two-day poll.

FLIP? – One apparently neutral factor is the question of flip-flopping, as each candidate tries both to appeal to the center as well as to keep his base invigorated. The bottom line is that inflexibility – the flipside of flip-flopping – is not in demand: Americans by a very lopsided 78-18 percent say it's more important for a candidate to “adjust his positions to changing circumstances” than to “hold positions without changing them.”

McCain and Obama alike, moreover, are seen equally as having flipped-flopped on the issues (by 47 and 49 percent, respectively). And they run evenly, 43-45 percent, in ratings on who's “more consistent in his positions.” On a related attribute, Obama leads McCain by 7 points as more honest and trustworthy, with sharp partisan divisions in those views.



HORSE RACE – All told, Obama leads McCain among registered voters by 8 points in this ABC/Post poll, 50-42 percent. Turnout makes a difference: It's 51-39 percent among

all adults overall, but narrows to a close 49-46 percent match among likely voters. As noted, Republicans are among those more likely to vote; young adults, less so.

These standings are perhaps slightly better for Obama than last month (albeit within the polls' error margins). But he has improved in key swing voter groups. Within the registered voter population, Obama has a 49-40 percent lead among independents, a 52-43 percent lead among married women and runs competitively, 46-43 percent, among white Catholics.

While "swing voters" is an overused term, it does apply to these groups – their allegiance shifts from election to election and they're big enough to tilt the balance. In exit polls, white Catholics have gone with the winner in eight of the last eight elections, all by significant margins. Independents have gone with the winner in six of the last eight elections (one of them by just 2 points, the others all significant.) And married women have gone with the winner in four of the last four elections (although two of them were by just 1 point, not a statistically significant margin).

GROUPS – The gender gap is back in force in this survey; the race is a dead heat, 45-45 percent, among men who are registered to vote, vs. a 54-39 percent Obama lead among women (who are more apt to be Democrats). Registered whites favor McCain by 50-42 percent; 94 percent of blacks favor Obama. (Democratic presidential candidates customarily win nine in 10 blacks.)

Voters under 30 favor Obama by a huge 66-30 percent; his challenge, again, is turning them out. At the other end of the age spectrum, seniors (who do turn out reliably) divide by 45-40 percent, McCain-Obama.

Working-class whites (defined here as whites who lack a college degree) favor McCain by 50-41 percent – as good for Obama as either Kerry or Al Gore's support in this group (they broke 61-38 percent for Bush in 2004, 57-40 percent in 2000).

	Vote Preference (among registered voters)	
	Obama	McCain
All	50%	42
Men	45	45
Women	54	39
Married women	52	43
Democrats	81	13
Independents	49	40
Republicans	13	85
Former Clinton supporters	66	23
White Catholics	46	43

Age 18-29	66	30
Age 30-64	50	44
Age 65+	40	45

A four-way trial heat, including independent Ralph Nader and Libertarian Bob Barr, doesn't make big changes: a 49-39 percent Obama-McCain race, with 5 percent for Nader and 2 percent for Barr, again among registered voters. (That assumes Nader and Barr are on the ballots in all 50 states, which is not a done deal.)

MOVABLES – As noted, 28 percent of adults say they could change their minds (or have no current preference), about the usual level of movable voters at this stage. Their numbers peak in the swing groups: Thirty-nine percent of white Catholics are movable, as are 35 percent of independents and 33 percent of married women.

But other groups also are among the most moveable: Forty-two percent of moderate or liberal Republicans, 36 percent of Democrats who supported Clinton in the primaries, 35 percent of moderates overall, 34 percent of whites, 31 percent of single men and 31 percent of under-30s.

Seniors are much less movable – 22 percent. Indeed a list of the least movables is instructive as well; beyond seniors they include strong partisans. It's the movables, of course, where the campaigns will spend most of their persuasive powers. Among the stalwarts, the question is more one of turnout.

	Most movable		Least movable
White Catholics	39%	Blacks	7%
Clinton supporters	36	Liberal Dems	12
Independents	35	Obama primary supporters	17
Moderates	35	Conservative Republicans	19
Moderate/liberal Republicans	42	Liberals	20
Whites	34	Age 65+	22
Married women	33	Conservatives	22
Unmarried men	31	Single women	23
Age 18-29	31		

ISSUES – Rather than asking Americans their single top issue, as previous ABC/Post polls have done, respondents in this survey rated the importance of 17 issues individually. The economy and the related issue of gas prices and energy policy topped the list, called “extremely important” by 50 and 48 percent, respectively.

One useful aspect of this approach is to see which issues rate low in importance; they include some hotly debated and closely covered ones. Gun control and “social issues such as abortion and gay civil unions” are toward the bottom, outranked by just one other issue: The candidates’ choice of vice-presidential running mates, rated as “extremely important” by just 15 percent.

	Extremely important
The economy	50%
Gasoline prices/energy policy	48
The war in Iraq	42
Health care	39
Social Security	38
Education	37
Campaign against terrorism	37
Ethics in government	37
The federal budget deficit	34
Taxes	30
Relations with other countries	28
Immigration issues	27
Global warming/envtl issues	27
Supreme Court appointments	26
Gun control	23
Abortion/gay civil unions	19
The candidates' VP choices	15

Obama has consistent leads among registered voters who rate each of these as extremely important, with two exceptions: They're even among those who rate social issues as extremely important, and among those who rate terrorism that important, McCain leads by 51-43 percent.

ATTRIBUTES – Experience, as noted, is a shortcoming for Obama; in one way of measuring it, somewhat more people see his level of experience as hurting his ability to serve effectively (49 percent) than as helping it (40 percent). Similarly more see McCain's age as hurting (43 percent) than as helping (33 percent).

Indeed Americans have compunctions overall about both candidates, somewhat more for McCain. Seventy-four percent say some things about McCain worry them; 66 percent say that about Obama. When this question was asked in 2000, concern about McCain (and about Bush) was lower than it is now; worry about Obama was about the same for Gore.

One last result cuts to one of the intangibles of politics, optimism. It can be an appealing feature in a candidate, and at this time in 2004 Bush was seen as an optimist by more people than Kerry (though later in the summer they evened up). In this poll the tables are turned: Many more see Obama as an optimist, 79 percent, as say that about McCain, just 54 percent.

It's reflected in vote choices: Among registered voters who see McCain as a pessimist, 72 percent favor Obama; among those who see Obama as a pessimist, 76 percent favor McCain. That suggests that, even as they duke it out on policy and personal attributes in the campaign fight ahead, both these candidates will want to keep smiling.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone July 10-13, 2008, among a random national sample of 1,119 adults, including an oversample of African Americans (weighted to their correct share of the national population), for a total of 209 black respondents. The results from the full survey have a 3-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, PA.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

1. How closely are you following the presidential race: very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

	---- Closely -----			---- Not closely -----			No
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not too	At all	opinion
7/13/08	73	32	41	26	14	12	1
6/15/08	75	34	41	25	12	13	*
5/11/08	83	39	44	17	13	5	0
4/13/08	84	37	47	16	11	5	*
3/2/08	84	42	42	15	11	4	*
2/1/08	81	35	46	19	12	7	*
1/12/08	79	32	47	21	15	6	*
12/9/07	72	21	51	28	19	8	*
11/1/07	67	21	46	33	22	12	0
9/30/07	69	21	48	30	21	10	*
7/21/07	70	22	48	30	20	10	*
6/1/07	66	18	48	34	22	13	*
4/15/07	66	20	45	34	20	14	*
2/25/07	65	20	44	35	25	10	*
Early 2004:							
7/25/04	73	34	39	27	15	12	*
6/20/04	78	33	45	22	15	7	*
5/23/04	74	33	41	26	17	9	*
4/18/04	75	30	45	25	16	9	0
3/7/04	75	33	42	25	18	7	*
2/11/04	75	30	45	25	15	10	*
1/18/04	66	22	44	35	22	13	*
10/29/03	54	15	39	45	30	15	0
9/13/03	56	16	40	44	27	17	*
Early 2000:							
7/29/00	51	16	35	49	25	24	*
7/23/00	50	14	36	50	25	25	*
6/11/00	49	13	36	51	26	25	0
4/2/00	53	17	36	47	24	23	0
3/11/00	61	21	40	38	21	17	0
2/27/00	70	24	46	30	20	10	*
2/6/00	65	19	48	34	21	13	0
1/16/00	50	11	39	50	26	24	*
12/15/99	45	12	33	55	31	24	*
10/31/99	61	16	45	38	25	13	*
7/17/95	36	7	29	63	33	31	*

7/8/92	76	28	48	24	16	8	*
1/27/92	51	14	37	48	25	23	1
5/25/88	76	25	51	25	19	6	*
8/23/87	50	9	41	49	31	18	*
6/1/87	50	11	39	49	32	17	*

2. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the presidential election in November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

	Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	Don't think will vote (vol.)	No opinion
7/13/08	69	11	8	7	5	*
6/15/08	71	9	8	7	4	*
3/2/08	78	9	7	4	2	*

3. If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Barack Obama, the Democrat) and (John McCain, the Republican), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE - REGISTERED VOTERS

	Obama	McCain	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No op.
7/13/08	50	42	1	3	1	2
6/15/08	49	45	1	3	1	3
5/11/08	51	44	*	2	1	1
4/13/08	49	44	*	3	3	2
3/2/08	53	40	*	2	1	3
2/1/08	47	48	1	1	1	2
1/19/07	47	45	*	3	1	4

NET LEANED VOTE - LIKELY VOTERS

	Obama	McCain	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No op.
7/13/08	49	46	1	2	0	2
6/15/08	47	48	1	2	0	2

NET LEANED VOTE - ALL ADULTS

	Obama	McCain	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No op.
7/13/08	51	39	1	4	2	3
6/15/08	48	42	1	4	1	4
5/11/08	51	44	*	3	1	1
4/13/08	49	44	*	3	3	2
3/2/08	52	40	*	3	2	3
2/1/08	49	46	*	2	1	3
1/19/07	47	45	*	3	1	3

3b. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE) Would you definitely vote for (CANDIDATE), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else? (IF CHANCE CHANGE MIND) Is there a GOOD CHANCE you'll change your mind, or would you say it's PRETTY UNLIKELY?

	Definitely vote for	-Chance NET	change Good	mind - Unlikely	No opinion
7/13/08	72	25	11	14	3
6/15/08	70	28	12	16	2
5/11/08	69	29	15	14	2
9/26/04 RV	82	16	4	12	2
9/8/04 RV	84	14	6	8	2
8/29/04 RV	81	18	7	11	1
8/1/04 RV	80	19	7	12	1
7/25/04 RV	78	20	7	13	2
7/11/04 RV	79	21	7	13	1
6/20/04 RV	73	26	12	14	*
6/20/04	71	28	13	15	1

Barack Obama:

	Definitely vote for	-Chance NET	change Good	mind - Unlikely	No opinion
7/13/08	75	21	9	12	4
6/15/08	72	25	7	18	3
5/11/08	71	26	13	13	3

John McCain:

	Definitely vote for	-Chance NET	change Good	mind - Unlikely	No opinion
7/13/08	68	31	14	17	1
6/15/08	69	31	17	13	1
5/11/08	66	32	17	15	2

4a. (ASKED OF LEANED OBAMA SUPPORTERS) Is your vote more for Obama or more against McCain?

	For Obama	Against McCain	No opinion
7/13/08	80	18	3

Compare to:

	For Kerry	Against Bush	No opinion
9/8/04 RV	41	55	4
7/25/04 RV	41	56	3
6/20/04 RV	43	55	1
6/20/04 All	44	55	1
5/23/04	38	61	1
3/7/04	38	61	1

4b. (ASKED OF LEANED MCCAIN SUPPORTERS) Is your vote more for McCain or more against Obama?

	For McCain	Against Obama	No opinion
7/13/08	69	30	1

Compare to:

	For Bush	Against Kerry	No opinion
9/8/04 RV	84	14	2
7/25/04 RV	81	17	2
6/20/04 RV	82	17	1
6/20/04 All	83	16	1

5/23/04	77	21	1
3/7/04	86	13	2

5. If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were {(Barack Obama, the Democrat), (John McCain, the Republican)}, {(Bob Barr, the Libertarian Party candidate), and (Ralph Nader, as an independent candidate)}, for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE - REGISTERED VOTERS

	Obama	McCain	Barr	Nader	Other (vol.)	None (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
7/13/08	49	39	2	5	1	2	1	2

NET LEANED VOTE - ALL ADULTS

	Obama	McCain	Barr	Nader	Other (vol.)	None (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
7/13/08	49	36	2	5	*	3	2	2

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
7/13/08	28	12	16	69	13	56	3
6/15/08	29	10	19	68	14	54	3
5/11/08	31	15	16	66	14	52	2
4/13/08	33	16	17	64	15	49	2
3/2/08	32	15	17	66	16	50	2
2/1/08	33	17	16	65	14	51	2
1/12/08	32	16	16	66	15	51	2
12/9/07	33	17	16	64	14	50	3
11/1/07	33	17	16	64	13	50	3
9/30/07	33	15	18	64	14	49	3
9/7/07	33	16	17	64	15	49	3
7/21/07	33	16	17	65	13	52	2

Call for full trend.

7. Under Bush, do you think America's image in the rest of the world has gotten better or gotten worse?

	Better	Worse	Same (vol.)	No opinion
7/13/08	10	82	6	2
12/21/03	32	59	6	3

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the U.S. Congress is doing its job?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
7/13/08	23	71	6
2/1/08	33	59	8
12/9/07	32	60	8
11/1/07	28	65	7
9/30/07	29	65	6
7/21/07	37	60	4
6/1/07	39	53	8
4/15/07*	44	54	3
2/25/07	41	54	5

1/19/07	43	50	8
12/11/06	37	57	6
11/4/06	RV 36	60	4
10/22/06	31	65	4
10/8/06	32	66	2
9/7/06	40	55	5
8/6/06	36	60	4
5/15/06	33	63	4
4/9/06	35	62	3
3/5/06	36	62	3
1/26/06	43	53	4
1/8/06	41	55	5
12/18/05	43	53	4
11/2/05	37	59	4
8/28/05	37	59	4
6/5/05	41	54	4
10/29/03	40	52	9
4/30/03	57	37	6
9/26/02	51	43	6
7/15/02	57	36	7
2/21/02	57	39	4
1/27/02	58	35	7
12/19/01	59	34	7
9/9/01	45	48	7
7/30/01	48	48	4
4/22/01	58	33	8
10/31/99	42	53	6
9/2/99	46	47	7
6/6/99	48	46	6
3/14/99	44	49	7
2/14/99	46	50	4
12/20/98	44	51	5
12/19/98	45	50	5
12/13/98	49	46	5
11/7/98	41	55	4
11/1/98	49	47	5
10/25/98	45	44	11
10/18/98	46	45	8
9/28/98	52	44	4
8/21/98	55	39	6
7/12/98	46	44	11
5/12/98	45	45	9
4/4/98	47	45	8
1/31/98	55	35	10
1/30/98	55	35	10
1/25/98	56	37	8
1/24/98	55	38	7
1/19/98	47	49	5
10/13/97	36	57	7
8/27/97	39	54	7
7/8/97	40	53	6
4/24/97	40	53	7
3/9/97	35	60	5
8/5/96	42	52	7
6/30/96	35	58	7
5/22/96	35	60	5
3/10/96	30	64	6
1/7/96	31	65	5
11/19/95	27	68	5
10/1/95	32	65	3
7/17/95	34	63	3
3/19/95	39	56	5
1/29/95	42	52	6

10/31/94	21	72	8
10/23/94	18	78	4
9/11/94	24	70	5
6/26/94	34	61	5
3/27/94	35	62	3
2/27/94	32	64	4
1/23/94	29	60	11
11/14/93	28	66	6
8/8/93	33	64	3
4/26/93	30	69	2
1/17/93	29	66	6
4/9/92	17	78	5
3/18/92	19	76	5
3/8/92	22	73	6
2/2/92	32	64	4
12/15/91	35	59	6
10/21/91	45	50	5
6/2/91	49	46	5
10/14/90	34	63	3
2/4/90	41	55	4
1/16/90	39	55	6
8/21/89	42	53	5
5/23/89	54	44	2
2/14/89	53	44	3
1/23/88**	43	53	4
6/1/87	56	40	4
6/22/85	54	37	9
5/83	33	43	24
6/81	38	40	22
6/79	19	61	20
9/78	29	49	22
6/77	34	42	24
6/75	29	54	17
8/74	48	35	17

* Strongly/somewhat follow asked 4/15/07 and others
**1/23/88 and previous: Gallup

9. Do you approve or disapprove of the way (ITEM) are doing their job?

7/13/08 - Summary Table

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
a. The Democrats in Congress	35	57	8
b. The Republicans in Congress	25	69	6

Trend:

a. The Democrats in Congress

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
7/13/08	35	57	8
2/1/08	39	54	7
12/9/07	40	53	6
11/1/07	36	58	6
9/30/07	38	57	5
7/21/07	46	51	2
6/1/07	44	49	6
4/15/07	54	44	2
10/8/06	48	50	3
5/15/06	39	58	4
11/2/05	41	54	5
6/5/05	42	56	3

6/6/99	51	42	7
3/14/99	51	42	7
7/8/97	45	49	6
4/5/95	36	60	4
10/31/94	39	53	8
10/23/94	36	59	5
9/11/94	41	53	6

b. The Republicans in Congress

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
7/13/08	25	69	6
2/1/08	30	63	7
12/9/07	32	63	5
11/1/07	32	63	6
9/30/07	29	67	4
7/21/07	34	64	2
6/1/07	36	58	6
4/15/07	39	59	2
10/8/06	35	63	2
5/15/06	33	64	3
11/2/05	35	61	4
6/5/05	42	56	2
6/6/99	41	52	7
3/14/99	40	56	4
7/8/97	40	54	6
9/15/96 RV	46	48	6
6/30/96	38	56	6
4/5/95	45	50	5
10/31/94	33	59	7
10/23/94	31	64	5
9/11/94	35	59	6

10. For each item I name, please tell me how important it will be in your vote for president this year. Will it be an extremely important issue, very important, somewhat important or less important than that?

7/13/08 - Summary Table*

	----- Important -----			-Not as important--			No
	NET	Extremely	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	op.
a. The economy	92	50	41	8	7	1	0
b. Immigration issues	63	27	36	37	29	7	1
c. The US campaign against terrorism	74	37	36	26	21	5	*
d. The federal budget deficit	72	34	38	27	21	5	1
e. Education	81	37	44	19	15	4	0
f. Social Security	73	38	35	27	23	3	0
g. Ethics in government	72	37	34	26	20	6	2
h. The candidates' choice for vice presidential running mates	48	15	33	49	35	14	3
i. Global warming and other environmental issues	58	27	31	42	26	16	*
j. The war in Iraq	83	42	41	17	14	3	*
k. Health care	78	39	39	22	15	7	*
l. Taxes	70	30	40	30	23	6	1
m. Social issues such as abortion and gay civil unions	39	19	20	61	30	31	1

n. Gasoline prices and energy policy	85	48	37	15	11	4	*
o. Gun control	50	23	27	49	29	20	*
p. Appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court	60	26	35	36	25	11	3
q. Relations with other countries	69	28	41	30	24	6	1

*Half sample asked items a-i, other half asked j-q.

11-16 previously released.

17. Regardless of who you may support, who do you trust more to handle [ITEM] - (Obama) or (McCain)?

7/13/08 - Summary Table*

	Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. The economy	54	35	2	6	3
b. The war in Iraq	45	47	1	4	3
c. Immigration issues	48	38	4	7	3
d. The U.S. campaign against terrorism	43	49	2	4	1
e. The federal budget deficit	50	36	3	8	3
f. The situation involving Israel and the Palestinians	42	44	2	5	6
g. International affairs	45	45	2	3	4
h. Social issues, such as abortion and gay civil unions	56	32	2	5	6
i. An unexpected major crisis	41	50	3	3	3
j. The situation involving Iran	44	46	1	6	4

*Full sample asked items a-b, half sample asked items c-f, other half sample asked items g-j.

Trend where available:

a. The economy

	Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
7/13/08	54	35	2	6	3
6/15/08	52	36	2	5	5
5/11/08	48	38	2	8	4
3/2/08	49	37	2	6	6

b. The war in Iraq

7/13/08	45	47	1	4	3
6/15/08	46	47	*	3	4
5/11/08	46	45	1	5	3
3/2/08	43	48	1	4	5

c. Immigration issues

7/13/08	48	38	4	7	3
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5/11/08	37	42	3	10	7
3/2/08	35	48	3	6	8

d. The U.S. campaign against terrorism

7/13/08	43	49	2	4	1
6/15/08	39	53	2	3	4
5/11/08	34	55	4	4	3
3/2/08	33	58	2	3	5

e. No trend.

f. No trend.

g. International affairs

7/13/08	45	45	2	3	4
6/15/08	43	49	2	2	3

h. No trend.

i. No trend.

j. No trend.

18. Please tell me whether the following statement applies to (Obama/McCain), or not?

7/13/08 - Summary Table*

	----- Obama -----			----- McCain -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
a. He would be a good commander-in-chief of the military	48	48	4	72	25	4
b. He's been flip-flopping on the issues	49	44	7	47	45	8
c. He shares your values	56	39	5	47	49	4
d. Some things about him worry you	66	33	1	74	23	3
e. He knows enough about world affairs to serve effectively as president	56	42	2	72	24	3

*Full sample asked item a; half sample asked items b-c, other half sample asked items d-e.

Trend where available:

a. He would be a good commander-in-chief of the military

	----- Obama -----			----- McCain -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
7/13/08	48	48	4	72	25	4

Compare to:

	----- Bradley -----			----- McCain -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
2/6/00	35	50	15	56	32	12

	----- Gore -----			----- Bush -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
9/6/00 RV	54	40	6	65	27	8

2/6/00	RV	45	48	8	58	35	7
2/6/00		45	47	8	57	35	8

b. No trend.

c. He shares your values

	----- Obama -----			----- McCain -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
7/13/08	56	39	5	47	49	4

Compare to:

	----- Kerry -----			----- Bush -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
11/2/05	NA	NA	NA	40	58	2
4/24/05	NA	NA	NA	47	51	2
1/16/05	NA	NA	NA	54	45	1
5/23/04	48	46	6	49	50	1

d. Some things about him worry you

	----- Obama -----			----- McCain -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
7/13/08	66	33	1	74	23	3

Compare to:

	----- Gore -----			----- Bush -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
2/6/00	62	35	3	59	38	3
1/16/00	65	31	4	59	36	5

	----- Bradley -----			----- McCain -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
2/6/00	58	33	9	55	36	10
1/16/00	51	38	11	50	37	13

e. He knows enough about world affairs to serve effectively as president

	----- Obama -----			----- McCain -----		
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.
7/13/08	56	42	2	72	24	3

Compare to:

	----- Gore -----			----- Bush -----			
	Yes	No	No opin.	Yes	No	No opin.	
9/6/00	RV	73	25	2	54	40	6
7/23/00	RV	67	29	4	52	42	5
7/23/00		66	29	5	52	42	6
4/2/00		71	23	6	57	36	7
2/27/00		70	25	5	55	39	6
2/6/00		69	26	5	52	42	6
1/16/00		65	28	8	49	40	10
12/15/99		68	27	6	54	38	8
11/14/99		NA	NA	NA	59	36	6

19. Regardless of who you may support, who do you think [ITEM] - (Obama) or (McCain)?

7/13/08 - Summary Table

	Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. is more honest and trustworthy	45	38	6	7	4
b. is more consistent in his positions	45	43	3	5	4
c. has better knowledge of world affairs	26	63	4	3	4
d. would do more to improve America's image abroad	62	30	2	3	2

Trend where available:

a. No trend.

b. No trend.

c. has better knowledge of world affairs

	Obama	McCain	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
7/13/08	26	63	4	3	4
5/11/08	24	65	4	2	5
3/2/08	24	64	4	3	5

d. No trend.

20. Which of these is more important to you in a candidate for president: (strength and experience) or (a new direction and new ideas)?

	Strength and experience	New direction and new ideas	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
7/13/08	46	47	5	*	1
6/15/08	43	50	6	1	1
5/11/08	47	43	9	1	1
4/13/08	49	43	6	1	1
3/2/08	45	46	7	1	1
2/1/08	51	39	7	1	1
1/12/08	47	43	9	*	1
12/9/07	54	38	6	*	1
11/1/07	49	41	8	1	1
9/30/07	52	40	7	1	1
7/21/07	50	41	6	*	2

21. On major issues, do you think it's better for a candidate to (hold positions without changing them), or to (adjust his positions to changing circumstances)?

	Hold positions	Adjust positions	No opinion
7/13/08	18	78	3

22. Overall, do you think (ITEM) would help or hurt his ability to serve effectively as president? Would it help/hurt a great deal or somewhat?

7/13/08 - Summary Table

----- Help ----- ----- Hurt ----- No diff. No

	NET	Great deal	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Great deal	(vol.)	op.
a. Obama's level of experience	40	17	23	49	28	22	6	4
b. McCain's age	33	12	22	43	26	17	21	2

Trend where available:

a. Obama's level of experience

	----- Help -----			----- Hurt -----			No diff.	No
	NET	Great deal	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Great deal	(vol.)	op.
7/13/08	40	17	23	49	28	22	6	4
4/13/08	38	16	22	51	26	25	6	6

b. No trend

23-24 previously released.

25. Would you say (Obama/McCain) is more of an optimist, or more of a pessimist?

7/13/08 - Summary Table

	Optimist	Pessimist	No opinion
Barack Obama	79	12	9
John McCain	54	33	12

Compare to:

George W. Bush

	Optimist	Pessimist	No opinion
8/1/04 RV	64	27	9
7/25/04* RV	72	22	6

John Kerry

	Optimist	Pessimist	No opinion
8/1/04 RV	65	22	12
7/25/04* RV	55	34	11

**What about (NAME) - would you say he's more of an optimist, or more of a pessimist?

26. Do you think (Obama/McCain) has or has not done enough to explain why he wants to be president?

7/13/08 - Summary Table

	Has done enough	Has not done enough	No opinion
Barack Obama	69	27	4
John McCain	60	36	4

27. Change has been a theme of Obama's campaign. Do you think he has or has not done enough to explain what he means by that?

	Has done enough	Has not done enough	No opinion
7/13/08	47	48	4

28. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Who did you want to see win the Democratic nomination for president this year - (Hillary Clinton) or (Barack Obama)?

NET LEANED SUPPORT

	Hillary Clinton	Barack Obama	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
7/13/08	41	54	2	3	1
6/15/08	39	59	1	1	1

29-30 previously released.

31-32 held for release.

END