

ABC NEWS POLL: THE VICE-PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE - 10/5/00
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Veep Debate: We Have a Winner

The vice-presidential debate delivered something the top of the ticket could not: a clear winner, in the person of Republican nominee Dick Cheney.

Among a random national sample of 539 registered voters who watched the debate, 43 percent called Cheney the victor, compared to 24 percent for Democrat Joe Lieberman - a 19-point Cheney win. Twenty-seven percent called it a tie.

	Who won?
Cheney	43%
Lieberman	24
Tie	27

That's a dramatically different result than Tuesday night's, when viewers divided about evenly on who won the first presidential debate - 42 percent picked Al Gore, 39 percent George W. Bush. It's also a surprising outcome, because it's Lieberman who's received rave reviews for his performance on the stump - and Cheney tepid ones.

But did it change vote preferences? Again, hardly any. Among viewers who supported the Democratic ticket going into the debate, 91 percent still felt that way after it. And among those who went in supporting the GOP ticket, 96 percent stayed right there.

The horse-race result hardly changed. (Again, this is among registered voters who tuned in, not among all likely voters.)

Vote preference - registered voters who watched the debate	Before debate		After debate	
Bush/Cheney	49%		51	
Gore/Lieberman	45		44	
Nader/LaDuke	2		1	
Buchanan/Foster	1		1	

HOW SO - Cheney satisfied his rooters, while Lieberman did not. Among supporters of the Republican ticket, 74 percent said Cheney won the debate. But among supporters of the Democratic ticket, only 51 percent said Lieberman won.

Among:	Who won?		
	Cheney	Lieberman	Tie
Bush/Cheney supporters	74%	1	20
Gore/Lieberman supporters	12	51	32

Similarly, more than three-quarters of Republicans called Cheney the winner, while only about half of Democrats picked Lieberman. And independents picked Cheney by a two-to-one margin, 38 to 17 percent, with 37 percent calling it a tie.

So thorough was Cheney's win that he even overcame the gender gap. Men picked him as the winner by a much wider margin - but he beat Lieberman among women, as well. On Tuesday night, by contrast, more men called Bush the winner, more women picked Gore.

	Who won the debate:		
	All	Men	Women
Lieberman	24%	19%	30%
Cheney	43	48	38
Tie	27	28	26

Cheney also got the edge among all age groups, and in each region of the country.

METHODOLOGY - This survey was conducted by telephone among a random-sample panel of 539 registered voters who watched Thursday's debate. Respondents were initially interviewed in the week leading up to the debate. The results have a 4.5-point error margin. Fieldwork by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

Here are the full results:

1. Who, in your opinion, won the debate?

	Lieberman	Cheney	Tie	No opin.
10/5/00	24	43	27	5

For comparison:

	Gore	Bush	Tie	No opin.
10/3/00	42	39	13	5

2. The candidates in November's presidential election are (Al Gore and Joseph Lieberman, the Democrats,) (George W. Bush and Dick Cheney, the Republicans), (Ralph Nader and Winona LaDuke of the Green Party) and (Pat Buchanan and Ezola Foster of the Reform Party). If the election were being held today, who would you vote for - (Gore), (Bush), (Nader) or (Buchanan)?

	Gore	Bush	Buchanan	Nader	Other	No op.
Vice-presidential debate:						
10/5/00 post-debate	44	51	1	1	0	1
10/4/00 pre-debate	45	49	1	2	*	1
First presidential debate:						
10/3/00 - post-debate	45	49	1	2	*	2
10/1/00 - pre-debate	45	48	1	3	1	2

