

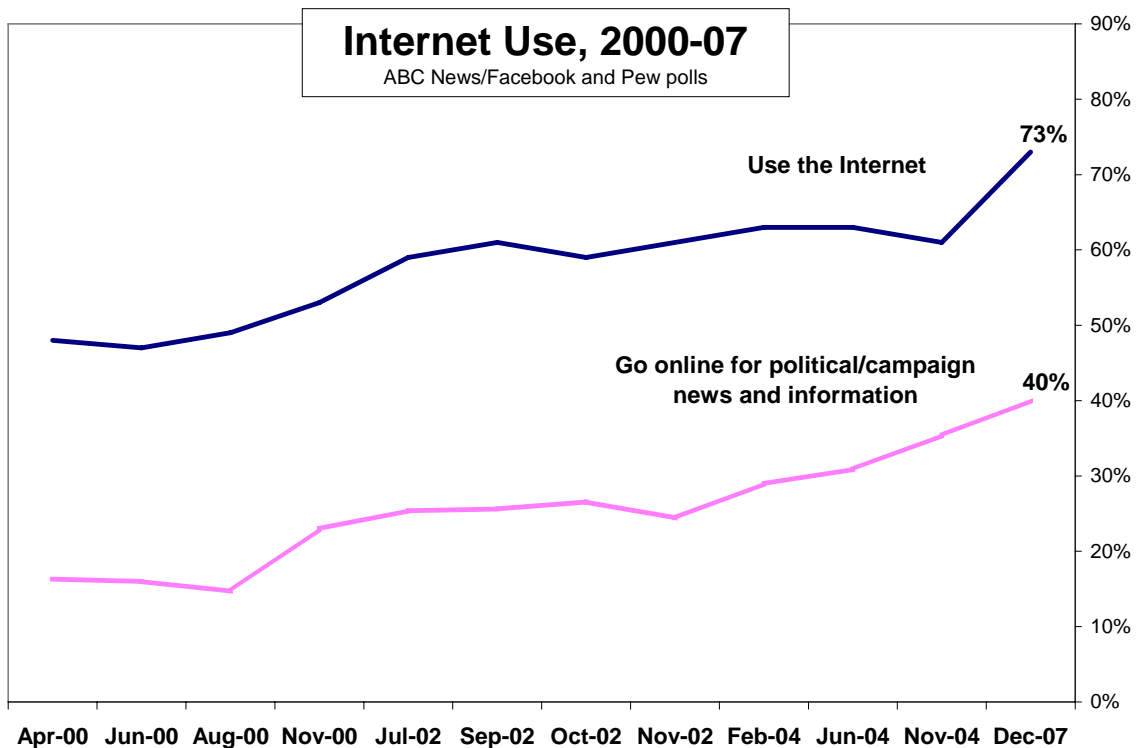
Politics and the Internet Meet in the Rise of the Wired Electorate

It could be the new maxim of 21st century politics: To find voters, look online.

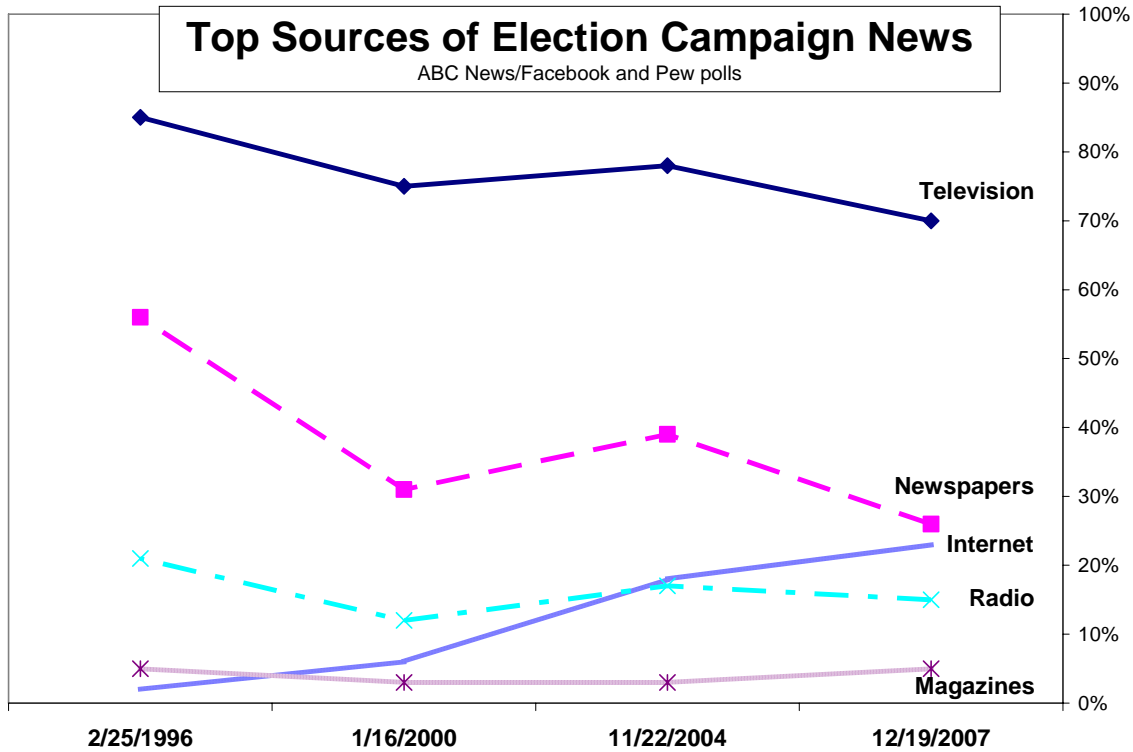
They're there in increasing numbers, in a politically diverse population that's growing, expanding its Internet activities and highly distinctive, with remarkable levels of political and social engagement. It's a group with the size and clout to change the way election politics happen in America.

For the first time in polls since 1996, this ABC News/Facebook survey finds the Internet rivaling newspapers as one of Americans' top two sources of news about the presidential election. It's also the only election news source to show growth, doubling since 2000.

One reason is the Internet's advance overall: Seventy-three percent of adults now go online, the most in polls since the dawn of the Internet age. Forty percent use the Internet specifically for news and information about politics and the election, surpassing the previous high, 35 percent in a 2004 survey.



Television remains predominant; 70 percent say it's one of their top two election news sources. But while still far ahead, that's down by 8 points since 2004 and by 15 points since 1996 in Pew polls. Newspapers follow, named by 26 percent as a top election news source – vastly down from 60 percent in 1996. Catching up with newspapers, 23 percent now cite the Internet as a main source of election news – twice the level seven years ago.



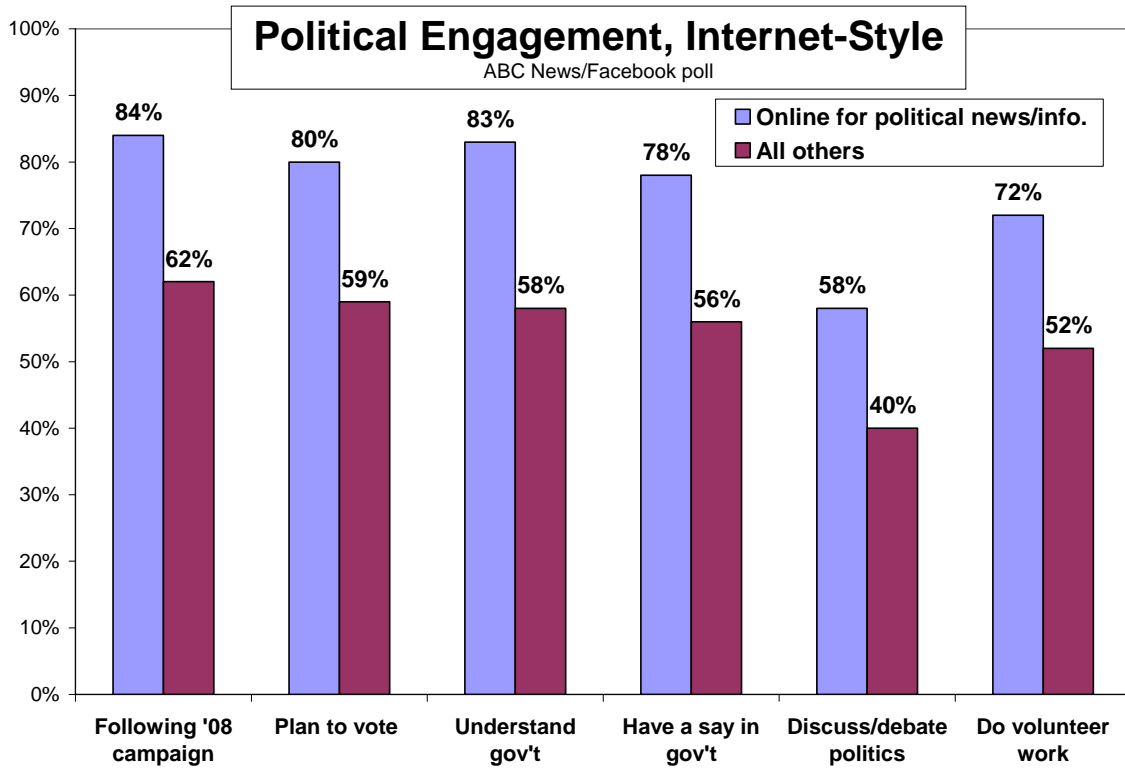
This national survey marks the partnership between ABC News and Facebook, the social networking site, in 2008 election coverage. The two organizations, with WMUR-TV in Manchester, N.H., are sponsoring a pair of debates among the presidential candidates in New Hampshire that air starting at 7 p.m. Eastern this Saturday, Jan. 5.

ENGAGEMENT – The four in 10 adults who use the Internet for election information are highly attuned to politics; compared with other adults, they're 22 points more likely to be following the campaign closely, 21 points more apt to plan to vote in an upcoming primary or caucus, 13 points more apt to report having voted 2004 and 10 points more likely to report being registered. That's engagement.

Other measures of political involvement point the same way. Eighty-three percent who go online for political information say they understand what's going on in government, and 78 percent feel they have a say in what it does. These comfort levels drop very sharply among other Americans, to 58 and 56 percent, respectively – 25 and 22 percentage points lower.

Social engagement is higher, as well: Rebutting onetime notions of isolation in cyberspace, 72 percent of people in the online political population report doing volunteer work for a church, charity or community group; volunteerism drops to 52 percent among other adults.

Online political participation, moreover, extends to in-person political discourse. Fifty-eight percent in the online political population regularly discuss or debate political issues with others in a face-to-face setting. Far fewer other Americans say they talk politics, 40 percent.



At the same time, even for the online political population, the Internet itself is more of a tool for information than for discussion. While nearly six in 10 regularly talk about politics with others face-to-face, far fewer, 6 percent, regularly engage in political discussions online (and just 10 percent ever do). That's one of many areas in which the intersection of the Internet and politics may yet develop further.

YOUNG VOTERS – Differences in engagement are especially striking among young adults – a group that, overall, tends to turn out at the polls in comparatively low numbers. Younger people are disproportionately apt to go online for political news – and those who do so are much more politically involved than others their age.

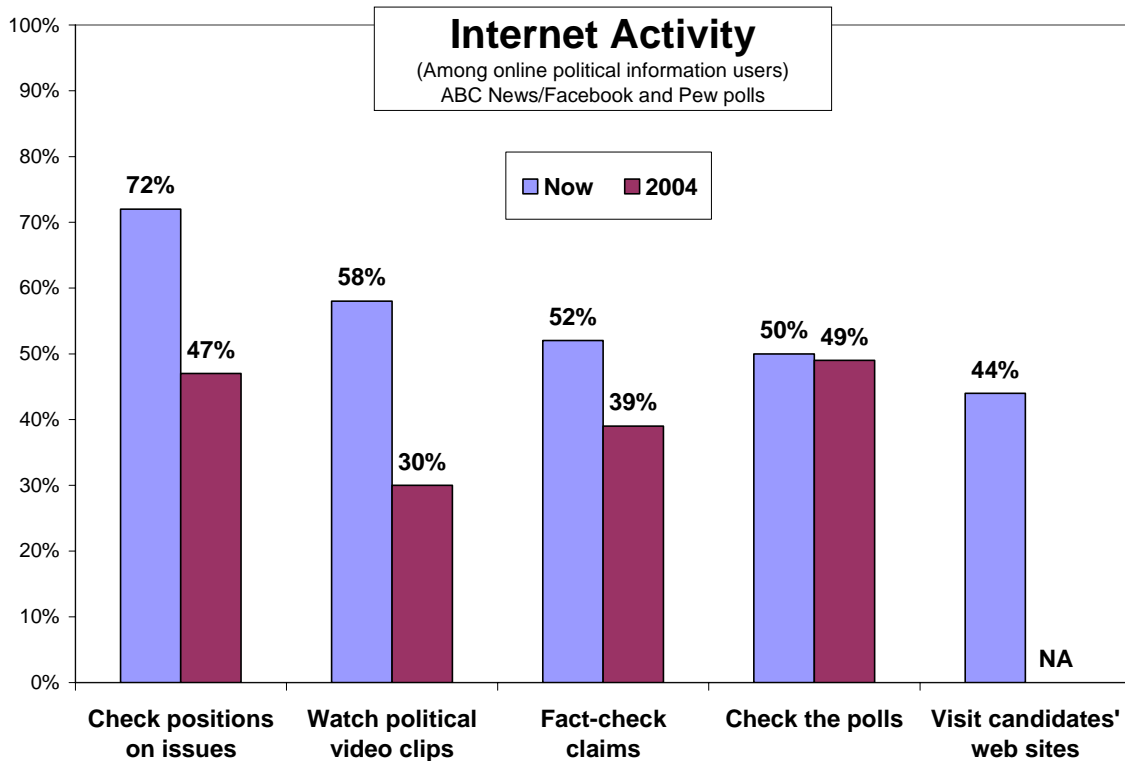
Among people under age 30 who go online for political information, 84 percent are following the 2008 campaign closely, including 33 percent “very” closely, compared

with just 51 percent and 10 percent, respectively, of people the same age who don't look into politics online. They're also 25 percentage points more likely to say they'll vote, 21 points more apt to feel they have a say in what the government does and 16 points more likely to participate in volunteer work. Particularly in the search for young voters, online's the locale.

	Among 18- to 29-year-olds	
	Online political information users	Not users
Closely following campaign	84%	51%
Following it "very" closely	33	10
"Certain" to vote	68	43
Have a say in gov't	78	57
Understand gov't	85	65
Do volunteer work	69	53

ACTIVITIES – By far the top use of the Internet for political information is to look into the candidates' positions on the issues; 72 percent of the online political population does so, sharply up from its level in a 2004 Pew poll, 47 percent.

Given the expansion of broadband access, the steepest growth is in viewing candidate- or election-related video over the Internet. Now the second most common online political information activity, it's nearly doubled, from 30 percent in 2004 to 58 percent now. And among those under age 30 who go online for politics, it's higher still – 70 percent.

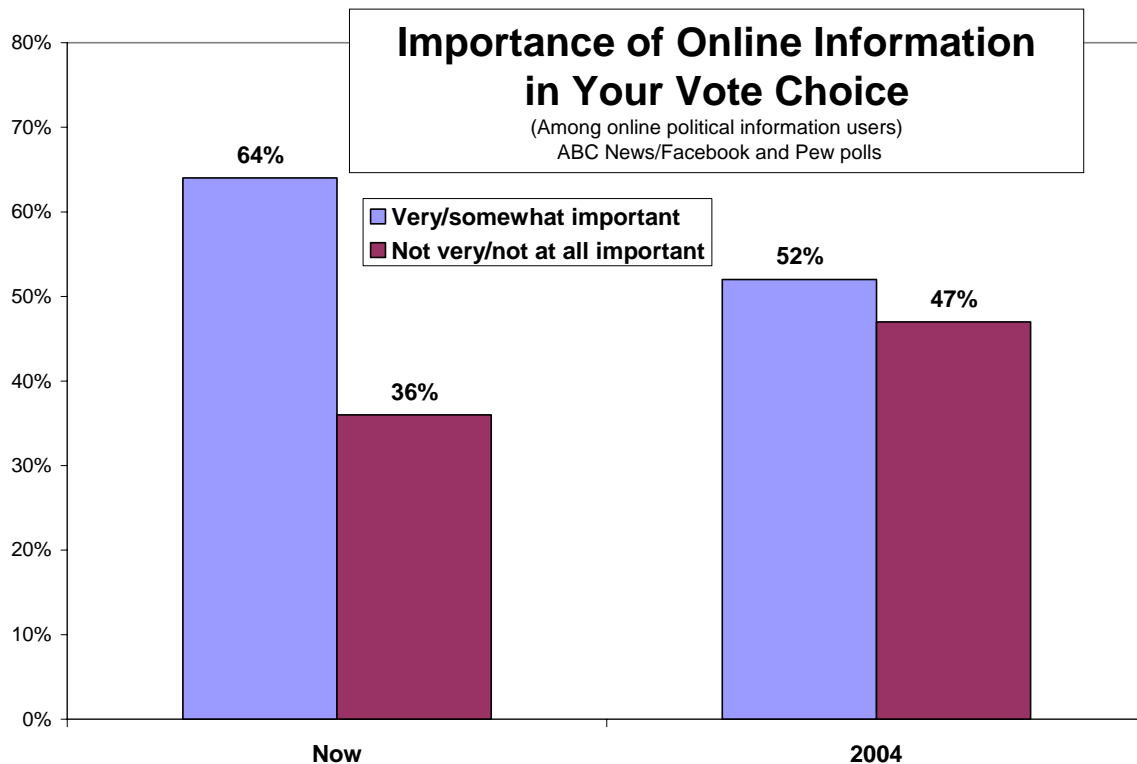


Among other top activities of the online political population, 52 percent use the Internet to check the accuracy of claims made by or about the candidates (up from 39 percent in Pew's 2004 poll), 50 percent check the candidates' standings in the polls, 44 percent visit the candidates' own websites and 43 percent – another sharp increase from 2004 – check information on the candidates' voting records in office.

About three in 10 online political users have looked up candidates' endorsements or ratings by interest groups online, sent or received e-mails about the candidates or campaigns, or looked up information on where or when to vote. Just shy of two in 10 have signed up for online alerts about the latest political or election news.

All these represent huge numbers of individuals. With the online political population at about 90 million overall, the number who look at political video clips is about 52 million people; visited candidates' websites, about 40 million; signed up for online news alerts, roughly 16 million.

Other activities are less prevalent, yet large enough to be strongly influential – with far more potential. The presidential candidates already have produced enormous fundraising results online, even though just 5 percent of Internet users have donated. Also, relatively few use social networking sites for political information or participate in online discussions or chat groups about the election (both these peak among people under 30).



Given all these activities, the Internet's role in decision-making has grown. Among people who go online for political news and information, 64 percent call it an important

source of information in their ultimate vote choice – up from 52 percent in 2004. And again there’s a difference by age: Among under-30s in the online politics population, far more, 80 percent, say it’s important in their decision making.

MULTI-SOURCING – The Internet to a large extent is being used as an additional information source, not a replacement one. Among people who go online for political information, many also use other political news sources – television (77 percent), newspapers (63 percent), radio (55 percent) and magazines (35 percent). Use of these sources is at similar levels whether or not people go online.

Still, while multiple sources are used, there are differences in extent or frequency of use. People who go online for political news and information are much more likely to cite this as one of their two main sources of election news (44 percent, rising to 57 percent of those under 30), and less apt than others to cite television as a main source (57 percent).

Use of the Internet for political news and information in some cases means using traditional media outlets online – more for television sources than for newspapers. Asked the top few websites they use for election news, 37 percent mention cable TV websites and an additional 33 percent mention network news websites; 10 percent mention newspaper websites. News portals, which link to any of an array of primary sources, are cited by 31 percent. (Multiple answers were accepted.)

EASE and TRUST – Using the Internet is about convenience and content alike. Among those who go online for political information, 52 percent say convenience is the chief reason; 34 percent say it’s either because other sources don’t give them the information they want or because the Internet offers information that’s not available elsewhere.

Still, trust and confidence in the traditional news media is as high among the online political population (62 percent) as it is among other Americans (and, contrary to conventional wisdom, actually peaks among under-30s). The difference runs in the other direction: Trust in so-called “new media” sources on the Internet is nearly 20 points lower among people who don’t go online for political information (43 percent) than among those who do. It’s lower still, 31 percent, among those who are offline entirely.

	Online political users	All others	Entirely offline
Trust traditional media	62%	64	61
Trust “new media”	62	43	31

In an even bigger gap, online users of political information are much more likely than other Americans to say the Internet plays a positive role in election campaigns, 71 percent to 29 percent.

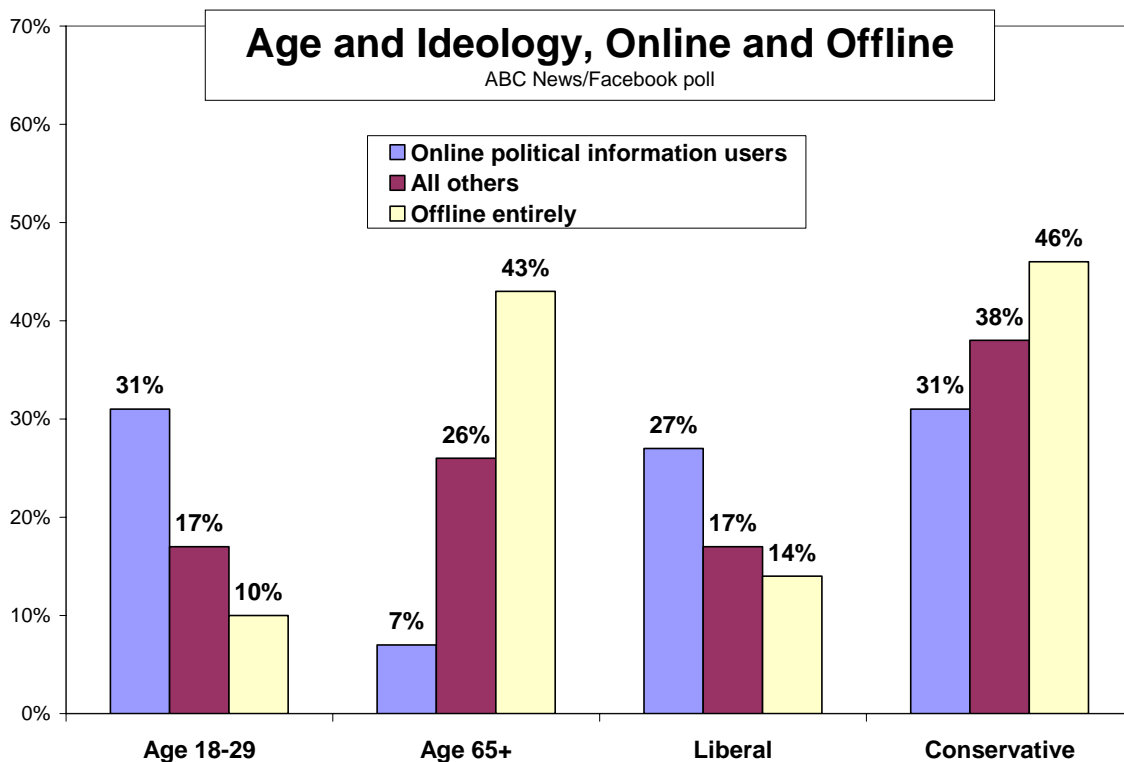
Convenience, meanwhile, shows up in another finding, on usability: Eighty-one percent in the online political population say they generally can find what they’re looking for on the Internet, up from 70 percent in 2004.

AGE and ATTITUDES – The online political population, as noted, is comparatively young – 71 percent are under 50 (compared with half of other adults) and nearly a third are under 30 (compared with 17 percent of other adults). Just 7 percent are over 65, compared with 26 percent of other adults. (Among the 27 percent of adults who don't use the Internet at all, 43 percent are seniors.)

It follows that online political information users hold some views associated with younger age groups – more likely to support gay civil unions, legal abortion and a legal-status program for illegal immigrants.

Online political information users also are more apt than other Americans to define themselves as liberals, 27 percent vs. 17 percent, and somewhat less apt to be conservatives, 31 percent vs. 38 percent. Conservatism peaks, at 46 percent, among people who don't use the Internet at all.

In other respects, however, similarity is the rule. There are no substantial differences between online adults and the broader public in assessments of the country's direction overall, George W. Bush's work in office, or whether the war in Iraq was worth fighting; in support for the death penalty; in being a self-identified feminist; or, with a few exceptions, in emotional responses to politics today (such as anger, hopefulness or frustration).



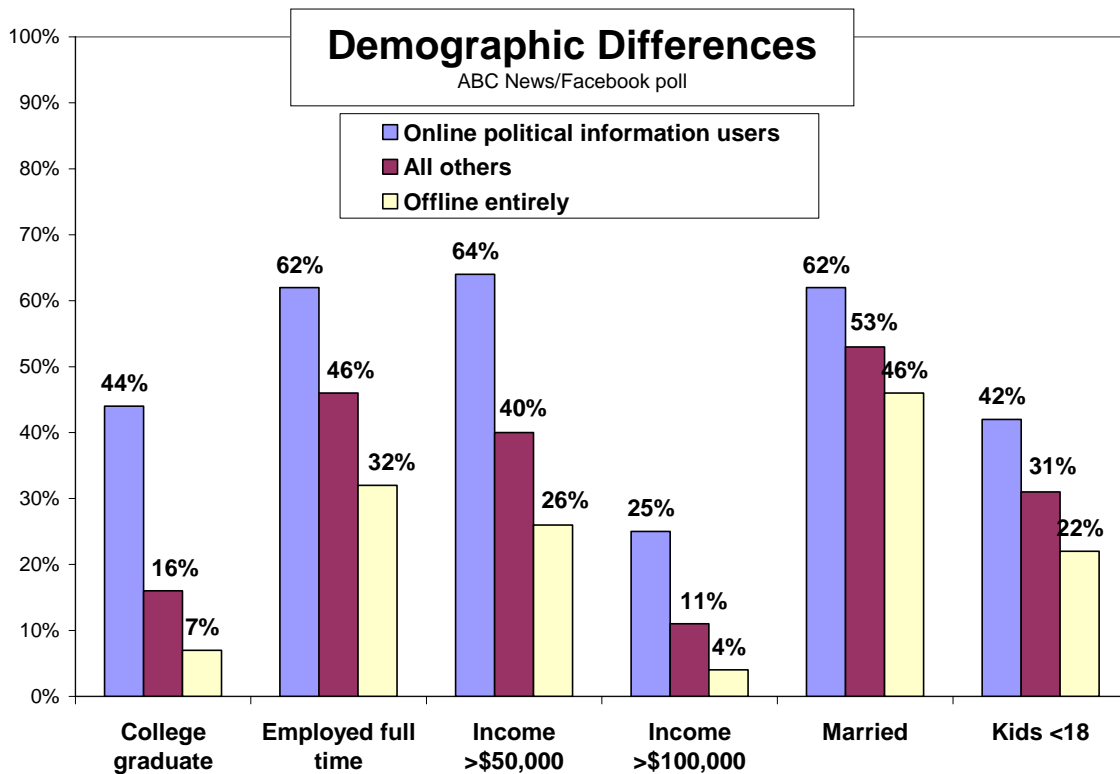
Partisan allegiance – the share of Democrats, independents and Republicans – is about the same among the online political population as among others.

Preferences in candidate support reflect the age differential. In the Democratic race, Barack Obama, who’s more popular with younger adults, does better with the online political information population (33 percent support) than with others (22 percent). There’s almost no such difference for Hillary Clinton (who leads Obama in both groups). And there are no Obama-sized differences in the Republican race; the greatest are that Mitt Romney does 8 points better, and John McCain a scant 5 points worse, with the online political population.

Gaps for Obama again are prominent in hypothetical general-election match-ups. His support against either Rudy Giuliani or Mike Huckabee is about 10 points higher in the online political population than it is among other Americans.

GROUPS – There are demographic differences beyond age in the online political information population. A remarkable 44 percent are college graduates, for example, compared with 16 percent of others (and just 7 percent of those who don’t use the Internet at all).

Sixty-four percent report household incomes over \$50,000 a year, compared with 40 percent of other adults (and 26 percent of entirely offline adults). Indeed 25 percent report \$100,000-plus incomes, again well over the level for other adults.



People who go online for political information are 9 points more likely than all other Americans to be married, 11 points more apt to have kids under 18 at home and 16 points more apt to have a full-time job. By and large these follow age or education, which themselves, along with income, are strong predictors of Internet use.

There are some interesting attitudinal differences within subgroups; for instance, women in the online political information group are 15 points more likely than other women to identify themselves as liberals. But some of the most striking differences are among conservatives; those in the online information population are noticeably more in agreement on some issues than are conservatives more broadly.

For example, in the online political population, 71 percent of conservatives approve of Bush’s performance, 71 percent say the war in Iraq was worth fighting and 51 percent say the country’s going in the right direction overall. Among all other conservatives, not just those who go online for political news and information, these numbers are sharply lower. There’s no such difference in attitudes among liberals or moderates.

	Conservatives	
	Online political	All others
Approve of Bush	71%	51%
War worth fighting	71	48
Country going in right direction	51	29

INTERNET VOTING – Finally, for all their use of the Internet, the online political population is divided evenly – as are all Internet users overall – on whether they’d support allowing people to vote online, assuming such a system could be made secure from fraud. Adults who don’t use the Internet at all, meanwhile, oppose the idea by well over a 2-1 margin.

A broad concern in both populations is whether online voting indeed could be made secure. Fewer than two in 10 Americans see that happening any time soon – down from a 1999 poll. Two-thirds think it will take many years before it’s possible, and one in 10 think it’ll never happen – including equal numbers of online and offline Americans alike.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Facebook poll was conducted by telephone Dec. 16-19, 2007, among a random national sample of 1,142 adults, including an oversample of 18- to 29-year-olds for a total of 274 respondents under age 30 (weighted back to their correct share of the national population). The results have a margin of sampling error of 3 points for the full sample, 4.5 points for the online political information population and 4 points for others. 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. "Online political" = Internet users who go online for news and information about politics and the election campaign.)

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

12/19/07

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No op.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
All	34	16	18	62	13	49	4
Online political:							
Yes	36	21	15	63	11	52	1
No	32	12	20	61	14	47	7

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

12/19/07

	Right direction	Wrong track	No opinion
All	22	75	3
Online political:			
Yes	26	73	1
No	20	76	4

3. How closely are you following the 2008 presidential race: very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

12/19/07

	---- Closely ----			---- Not closely ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not too	At all	
All	71	29	42	29	18	10	1
Online political:							
Yes	84	38	45	16	12	4	0
No	62	22	40	37	23	15	1

4. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the 2008 presidential primary or caucus in your state. Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

12/19/07

	Cert.	Prob.	50-50	<50-50	Won't vote (vol.)	No opin.
All	67	13	10	6	4	0
Online political:						
Yes	80	11	5	3	1	0
No	59	14	14	8	6	0

5. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) If the 2008 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were: (Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd, or Dennis Kucinich), for whom would you vote?

----- 12/19/07 -----
 All Online political Not online political

Hillary Clinton	44	41	45
Barack Obama	27	33	22
John Edwards	11	11	11
Bill Richardson	2	3	2
Joe Biden	2	1	3
Dennis Kucinich	3	5	1
Chris Dodd	*	1	*
Other/none (vol.)	4	3	5
No opinion	7	1	10

6. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) If the 2008 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were: (Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Tom Tancredo, Ron Paul, or Fred Thompson), for whom would you vote?

	----- 12/19/07 -----		
	All	Online political	Not online political
Rudy Giuliani	30	30	29
Mike Huckabee	14	15	13
Mitt Romney	14	19	11
Fred Thompson	10	10	9
John McCain	14	11	16
Ron Paul	6	6	6
Duncan Hunter	1	2	1
Tom Tancredo	1	1	1
Other/none (vol.)	3	2	4
No opinion	7	5	9

7-10. If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (read names) for whom would you vote?

12/19/07

	Giuliani	Clinton	Other/neither/ wouldn't vote (vol.)	No opinion
All	47	45	5	3
Online political:				
Yes	50	46	4	*
No	44	45	6	5

	Huckabee	Clinton	Other/neither/ wouldn't vote (vol.)	No opinion
All	42	50	6	2
Online political:				
Yes	44	50	4	1
No	41	50	6	3

	Giuliani	Obama	Other/neither/ wouldn't vote (vol.)	No opinion
All	41	48	7	3
Online political:				
Yes	40	55	3	1
No	42	44	10	4

	Huckabee	Obama	Other/neither/ wouldn't vote (vol.)	No opinion
All	35	52	9	5
Online political:				
Yes	36	57	4	2
No	35	48	11	6

11. On another subject, all in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

12/19/07

	----- Worth fighting -----			--- Not worth fighting ---			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	op.
All	36	21	14	62	12	50	3
Online political:							
Yes	37	24	13	62	12	49	1
No	35	20	15	62	12	50	3

12. Would you support or oppose a program giving illegal immigrants now living in the United States the right to live here legally if they pay a fine and meet other requirements?

12/19/07

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
All	49	46	5
Online political:			
Yes	54	42	4
No	46	49	5

13. Do you think homosexual couples should or should not be allowed to form legally recognized civil unions, giving them the legal rights of married couples in areas such as health insurance, inheritance and pension coverage?

12/19/07

	Should	Should not	No opinion
All	54	43	4
Online political:			
Yes	65	33	2
No	46	49	5

14. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

12/19/07

	----- Legal -----			----- Illegal -----			
	NET	All cases	Most cases	NET	Most cases	All cases	No opinion
All	55	20	35	43	25	18	2
Online political:							
Yes	61	23	38	37	25	13	1
No	50	17	33	47	25	22	3

15. On another subject, do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

12/19/07

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
All	65	30	5
Online political:			
Yes	64	33	3
No	66	28	6

16. On another subject, do you ever go online to access the Internet, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	73	27	0
2/13/07*	63	37	0
12/10/06	66	34	*
11/12/06	62	38	*
10/22/06	68	32	*
5/22/06	67	33	*
6/05	69	31	*
11/22/04	61	39	0
6/04	63	37	0
4/04	66	34	*
2/04	63	37	0
12/14/03	64	36	0
8/3/03	63	37	0
6/24/03	62	38	0
5/03	63	37	0
3/25/03	58	42	0
3/19/03	56	44	0
3/11/03	62	38	0
2/03	64	36	0
12/22/02	57	43	0
11/24/02	61	39	0
10/02	59	41	0
9/02	61	39	0
7/02	59	41	0
5/19/02	58	42	0
4/02	62	38	0
1/02	61	39	0
12/01	58	42	0
11/01	58	42	0
10/01	56	44	0
9/01	55	45	0
8/01	59	41	0
2/01	53	47	0
12/00	59	41	0
11/00	53	47	0
10/00	52	48	0
9/00	50	50	0
8/00	49	51	0
6/00	47	53	0
4/00	48	52	0
10/99	50	50	0
8/99	52	48	0
7/99	49	51	0
6/99	50	50	*
12/98	42	58	0
11/98	37	63	*
9/98	42	58	*
4/98	36	64	0
4/96	21	79	*

*2/13/07 and previous: Pew, "...or to send and receive email?"

17. (INTERNET USERS) Do you ever look online for news or information about politics and the campaign, or not? (IF YES) Did you happen to do this yesterday, or not?

	----- Ever -----				
	NET	Yesterday	Not yesterday	No	No opinion
12/19/07	55	17	38	45	0
8/31/06*	53	19	34	46	*
11/22/04	58	18	40	42	*
6/04	49	13	36	51	*

2/04	46	13	33	54	*
11/24/02	40	13	27	60	*
10/02	45	11	34	55	*
9/02	42	9	33	57	*
7/26/02	43	9	34	57	0
11/00	43	16	27	57	*
8/00	30	8	22	70	*
6/00	34	7	27	66	*
4/00	34	7	27	66	*
3/31/00	35	10	25	65	*
*8/31/06 and previous: Pew					

16/17 NET (AMONG ALL ADULTS, AS AVAILABLE):

	Online for political news/info.	
12/19/07	40	
11/22/04*	35	
6/04	31	
2/04	29	
11/24/02	24	
10/02	27	
9/02	26	
7/02	25	
11/00	23	
8/00	15	
6/00	16	
4/00	16	
*11/22/04 and previous: Pew		

18. In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the traditional news media, such as newspapers, news magazines, TV and radio news - when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly - a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

12/19/07		----- Confident -----		--- Not confident ---		No	
	NET	Grt. deal	Fair amt.	NET	Not much	None	opin.
All	63	14	50	36	29	8	*
Online political:							
Yes	62	13	49	38	32	6	*
No	64	14	50	35	27	9	*

19. Now thinking about so-called new media sources on the Internet, in general, how much trust and confidence do you have in new media on the Internet when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately, and fairly - a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?

12/19/07		----- Confident -----		--- Not confident ---		No	
	NET	Grt. deal	Fair amt.	NET	Not much	None	opin.
All	51	6	45	41	29	12	8
Online political:							
Yes	62	7	55	36	33	3	1
No	43	5	38	45	26	19	13

20. How much do you use (ITEM) to get news or information specifically about political candidates in the 2008 election - a great deal, somewhat, not much or not at all?

12/19/07 - Summary table

	-- Great deal/Smewhat --			--- Not much/at all ---			No opin.
	NET	Grt. deal	Smwt.	NET	Not much	At all	
a. Internet							
All	46	15	30	54	17	38	*
Online political:							
Yes	84	31	53	16	12	4	0
No	20	5	15	80	19	60	*
b. Television							
All	79	41	38	21	13	7	0
Online political:							
Yes	77	35	42	23	16	7	0
No	81	46	35	19	12	8	0
c. Radio							
All	48	17	31	52	22	29	0
Online political:							
Yes	55	20	35	45	20	25	0
No	44	16	29	56	24	32	0
d. Print newspapers							
All	60	23	37	40	20	20	0
Online political:							
Yes	63	23	40	37	22	15	0
No	58	23	35	42	18	24	0
e. Magazines							
All	33	6	27	67	24	43	*
Online political:							
Yes	35	6	29	65	28	36	0
No	32	7	25	68	21	48	*

Trend

a. Internet

	-- Great deal/Smewhat --			--- Not much/at all ---			No opinion
	NET	Grt. deal	Smwt.	NET	Not much	At all	
12/19/07	46	15	30	54	17	38	*
7/21/07*	47	24	23	53	19	34	0
12/21/03	37	15	22	63	21	42	*

*7/21/07 and previous: "...about the political candidates."

b-e. No trend.

21. How have you been getting MOST of your news about the presidential election campaign? From television, from newspapers, from radio, from magazines, or from the Internet? (ACCEPT TWO ANSWERS)

	TV	Newspapers	Radio	Mag.	Internet	Other	No op.
12/19/07							
All	70	26	16	5	23	2	*
Online political:							
Yes	57	22	20	6	44	1	*
No	79	28	14	5	9	3	1
11/22/04*	78	39	17	3	18	4	2
11/12/00** RV	70	39	15	4	11	1	*
2/14/00	73	33	15	2	7	2	1

1/16/00	75	31	12	3	6	3	1
11/10/96**	72	60	19	11	3	4	1
9/8/96	75	44	14	5	2	2	1
4/25/96	81	48	21	6	2	3	1
2/25/96	85	56	21	5	2	1	1
11/92	82	57	12	9	NA	6	1

*11/22/04 and previous: Pew.

**11/12/00 and 11/10/96: "How did you get most of your news..."

Totals more than 100% due to multiple responses.

22. (USE INTERNET FOR POLITICAL NEWS) What are the top few websites that you use to get news or information about the 2008 election - any that you have bookmarked, or that you've used in the past few days.

	12/19/07
Cable TV news websites	37
Network TV news websites	33
National newspaper websites	10
News portal websites	31
Candidates' websites	2
Other	20
None	3
No opinion	12

Totals more than 100% due to multiple responses.

23. How much of a role if any do you feel that your friends and family play in helping to shape your political opinions - a large role, moderate, small, or none at all?

	12/19/07	----- Plays role -----			---- No role ----			No
		NET	Large	Moderate	NET	Small	None	opinion
All		39	11	28	61	26	35	*
Online political:								
Yes		41	10	31	58	28	30	*
No		37	11	26	63	24	38	1

24. Do you ever discuss or debate political issues with other people in a face-to-face setting, or not? IF YES: How often do you do that - very often, somewhat often, not so often or not often at all?

	12/19/07	-- Very/Smwhat ---			--- Not so/at all ---			No
		NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not so	At all	No
All		46	10	36	24	20	4	29
Online political:								
Yes		58	15	43	26	23	3	17
No		40	7	32	22	18	5	38

25. Do you ever discuss or debate political issues with other people online, or not? IF YES: How often do you do that - very often, somewhat often, not so often or not often at all?

	12/19/07	-- Very/Smwhat ---			--- Not so/at all ---			No
		NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not so	At all	No
All		3	1	2	3	2	1	95

Online political:

Yes	6	2	4	5	3	2	90	0
No	1	1	1	1	*	*	98	0

26. If it could be made secure from fraud, would you support or oppose a system allowing people to cast their vote for president and other political offices over the Internet?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
12/19/07			
All	44	54	3
Online political:			
Yes	50	50	1
No	40	57	4
7/18/99	42	52	5

27. Do you think an Internet voting system could be made secure from fraud any time in the near future, or do you think it will be many years before that's possible?

	Could be secure soon	Will take many years	Never (vol.)	No opinion
12/19/07				
All	18	67	11	4
Online political:				
Yes	18	69	11	1
No	18	65	11	6
7/18/99	24	62	7	7

28. (INTERNET USERS) Have you sent or received e-mails about the candidates or campaigns, either with personal acquaintances or from groups or political organizations, or do you not happen to have done this?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	24	76	*
Online political:			
Yes	31	69	0
No	15	85	*
12/4/06*	15	85	*
11/22/04	36	64	1

*12/4/06 and previous: Pew; "or did you not happen to have done this" added in 2006.

29. (INTERNET USERS) Did you subscribe or sign up to receive email from any of the presidential campaigns this year, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	5	95	0
Online political:			
Yes	6	94	0
No	2	98	0
11/22/04*	6	93	1

*Pew

30. (INTERNET USERS) Have you ever signed up to receive e-mail newsletters or other online alerts containing the latest news about politics or the election, or do you not happen to have done this?

Yes	No	No opinion
-----	----	------------

12/19/07	13	87	0
Online political:			
Yes	18	82	0
No	8	92	0
11/22/04*	11	89	*

*Pew, without "or do you not happen to have done this?"

31. (USE INTERNET FOR POLITICAL NEWS) In general, when you go online to look for news and information about politics, campaigns and elections, how often are you able to find the information you are looking for - always, most of the time, only some of the time, or never?

	--- Always/Most ---			--- Some/Never ---			No
	NET	Always	Most	NET	Some	Never	opinion
12/19/07	81	32	49	18	15	3	1
11/22/04*	70	23	47	25	17	8	5
11/24/02	72	23	49	23	18	5	4

*11/22/04 and previous: Pew

32. (INTERNET USERS) Do you ever do any of the following online?

(12/4/06 and previous: Pew)

a. Visit any of the candidates' Web sites on the Internet

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	28	71	*
	Online political:			
	Yes	44	56	*
	No	10	90	*

b. Participate in on-line discussions, chat groups or message boards about the elections

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	5	95	0
	Online political:			
	Yes	7	93	0
	No	1	99	0
11/22/04*	Online political	8	92	0
1/04	Online political	13	87	0
11/02	Online political	7	92	1
11/00	Online political	8	92	*
11/98	Online political	13	87	*

*Pew: "on-line discussion or chat groups."

c. Get information about a candidate's voting record

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	28	72	0
	Online political:			
	Yes	43	57	0
	No	9	91	0
11/22/04	Online political	27	73	*
11/02	Online political	34	65	1
11/00	Online political	33	67	*
11/98	Online political	30	70	*

d. Get information about when or where to vote

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	24	76	0

	Online political:			
	Yes	29	71	0
	No	16	84	0
11/22/04	Online political	23	77	0
11/02	Online political	22	77	1
11/00	Online political	16	84	*
11/98	Online political	12	88	*

e. Contribute money online to a candidate running for public office

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	5	95	0
	Online political:			
	Yes	7	93	0
	No	1	99	0
12/4/06	Online	3	97	*
11/22/04	Online	4	96	*
	Online political	5	94	*
11/02	Online	2	98	*
	Online political	5	94	1
11/00	Online political	5	95	*

f. Look for more information about candidates' positions on the issues

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	50	50	0
	Online political:			
	Yes	72	28	0
	No	23	77	0
12/4/06*	Online	29	71	*
11/22/04	Online	34	66	*
	Online political	47	52	*
1/04	Online political	52	48	0
11/02	Online	29	71	*
	Online political	64	35	1
11/00	Online political	69	31	*

*Pew, 12/4/06, included "or voting records."

g. Find out about endorsements or ratings of candidates by organizations or groups

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	22	78	0
	Online political:			
	Yes	33	67	0
	No	9	91	0
12/4/06*	Online	14	85	1
11/22/04	Online	18	82	*
	Online political	26	73	*
11/02	Online	16	83	*
	Online political	38	61	1

*Pew, 12/4/06: "look online for candidate endorsements or ratings"

h. Find out how the candidates were doing in the public opinion polls

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	35	64	*
	Online political:			
	Yes	50	49	*
	No	17	83	0
11/22/04	Online political	49	51	0

i. Check the accuracy of claims made by or about the candidates

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	35	65	*
	Online political:			
	Yes	52	48	*
	No	15	85	0
12/4/06*	Online	21	78	*
11/22/04	Online	28	71	1
	Online political	39	60	1

*Pew, 12/4/06: "use the internet to check the accuracy..."

j. Watch video clips about the candidates or the election that are available online

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	40	60	0
	Online political:			
	Yes	58	42	0
	No	18	82	0
12/4/06	Online	19	81	*
11/22/04	Online	21	79	*
	Online political	30	70	*

k. Visit a social network site like Facebook or MySpace to get information about a candidate or sign up as a "friend" for a candidate or group

		Yes	No	No opinion
12/19/07	Online	9	91	0
	Online political:			
	Yes	11	89	0
	No	7	93	0
11/26/07*	Online likely voters	9	91	0

*Pew wording, 2006: "I'm going to read a list of things you may or may now have done online in the months leading up to the November elections. Just tell me if you happen to do each one, or not"; 2004: When you went online to get information about the elections, did you ever do any of the following?"

33. (USE INTERNET FOR POLITICAL NEWS) Which of the following comes closest to describing why you go online to get news and information about the 2008 election?

	12/19/07
Because you can get information on the Web that is not available elsewhere	12
Because getting information online is more convenient for you	52
Because the Web offers new sources that reflect your own interests or values	6
Because you don't get all the news and information you want from traditional news sources such as the daily newspaper or the network TV news	22
Some other reason (vol.)	7
No opinion	1

34. (USE INTERNET FOR POLITICAL NEWS) When you go online looking for political or campaign information, would you say most of the sites you go to share your point of view, don't have a particular point of view, or challenge your own point of view?

Share point	No point	Challenge	No
-------------	----------	-----------	----

	of view	of view	point of view	opinion
12/19/07	27	43	23	8
12/4/06*	28	34	20	18
11/22/04	26	32	21	21

*12/4/06 and previous: Pew

35. (USE INTERNET FOR POLITICAL NEWS) How important, if at all, has the Internet been in terms of providing you with information to help you decide how to vote in the November election? Very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important.

	---- Important ----			----- Not important -----			Didn't	No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not very	Not at all	vote (vol.)	op.
12/19/07	64	18	46	36	23	13	NA	0
11/22/04*	52	19	33	47	20	27	2	1

*Pew

36. Which of these comes closer to your own view: (Overall, the Internet plays more of a positive role in the election campaign because it provides easy and direct access to information about the candidates); OR (Overall, the Internet plays more of a negative role in the election campaign because so much information there is unchecked or unreliable).

	Positive	Negative	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
12/19/07					
All	46	39	2	3	10
Online political:					
Yes	71	23	3	1	2
No	29	50	2	4	15
7/21/07	48	39	3	5	5

37. Now I'm going to read you some statements that may or may not describe your own feelings about politics and government. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each one.

12/19/07 - Summary table

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
a. People like me don't have any say about what the government does			
All	35	65	*
Online political: Yes	22	78	*
Online political: No	43	56	1
b. Politics and government are so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on			
All	31	68	1
Online political: Yes	17	83	1
Online political: No	41	58	1
c. Voting is a waste of time			
All	9	90	1
Online political: Yes	3	97	0
Online political: No	13	86	1
d. Whatever its faults, the United States still has the best system of government in the world			

All	81	17	1
Online political: Yes	80	18	2
Online political: No	82	17	1

Trend:

a. People like me don't have any say about what the government does

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			No opinion
	NET	Strngly	Smewht	NET	Strngly	Smewht	
12/19/07	35	NA	NA	65	NA	NA	*
12/15/00	38	20	19	61	36	25	1
12/4/95*	52	29	23	47	28	19	1
10/21/91	47	NA	NA	52	NA	NA	1
7/13/91	41	NA	NA	57	NA	NA	2

*Post/Kaiser/Harvard

b. Politics and government are so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			No opinion
	NET	Strngly	Smewht	NET	Strngly	Smewht	
12/19/07	31	NA	NA	68	NA	NA	1
12/15/00	41	19	22	58	33	25	1
8/1/99*	50	26	24	50	28	21	1
10/21/91**	69	NA	NA	30	NA	NA	*
7/13/83	69	NA	NA	30	NA	NA	1

*Post/Kaiser/Harvard

**10/21/91 and previous: "Sometimes politics and government seem so complicated..."

c. Voting is a waste of time

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			No opinion
	NET	Strngly	Smewht	NET	Strngly	Smewht	
12/19/07	9	NA	NA	90	NA	NA	1
12/15/00	11	6	5	88	77	12	1
8/1/99*	16	8	8	83	14	69	*

*Post/Kaiser/Harvard

d. Whatever its faults, the United States still has the best system of government in the world

	----- Agree -----			----- Disagree -----			No opinion
	NET	Strngly	Smewht	NET	Strngly	Smewht	
12/19/07	81	NA	NA	17	NA	NA	1
12/15/00	89	71	18	11	4	7	*
5/6/96	83	NA	NA	15	NA	NA	2
9/11/94	84	NA	NA	12	NA	NA	3
4/9/92	85	NA	NA	14	NA	NA	1

38. Please tell me if each of the following does or does not describe your own personal feelings about American politics today.

(6/3/07: Washington Post/Harvard/Kaiser)

		Yes	No	No opinion
a. Angry				
12/19/07	All	45	55	1
	Online political: Yes	43	57	0
	Online political: No	46	53	1
6/3/07		50	49	1

b. Hopeful					
12/19/07	All	69	30	1	
	Online political: Yes	72	28	*	
	Online political: No	66	32	2	
6/3/07		62	37	1	
c. Inspired					
12/19/07	All	24	76	*	
	Online political: Yes	21	78	*	
	Online political: No	26	74	1	
6/3/07		20	79	1	
d. Frustrated					
12/19/07	All	78	22	*	
	Online political: Yes	79	21	0	
	Online political: No	78	22	*	
6/3/07		80	19	*	
e. Pessimistic					
12/19/07	All	49	48	3	
	Online political: Yes	47	52	1	
	Online political: No	50	46	5	
6/3/07		51	45	3	
f. Proud					
12/19/07	All	41	57	1	
	Online political: Yes	37	62	1	
	Online political: No	44	55	1	
6/3/07		29	70	2	

39-40. In the last year or so, have you done any volunteer work for any church, charity or community group? (IF VOLUNTEERED) Was that a one-time thing, or do you do volunteer work on an occasional basis, or on a regular basis?

12/19/07

	----- Yes, have volunteered -----					
	NET	One-time	Occasional	Regular basis	No	No opin.
All	60	4	28	27	40	0
Online political:						
Yes	72	5	33	34	28	0
No	52	4	25	23	48	0

41. Do you consider yourself to be a feminist, or not?

12/19/07

	Yes	No	No opinion
All	25	70	5
Online political:			
Yes	28	71	2
No	24	70	6

Political party identification:

12/19/07

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other	No opinion
All	34	29	29	6	2
Online political:					
Yes	35	31	28	4	1

No	34	27	29	7	3
----	----	----	----	---	---

Ideology:

12/19/07

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Other	No opinion
All	21	40	35	1	2
Online political:					
Yes	27	41	31	1	*
No	17	40	38	2	3

Age:

12/19/07

	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
All	23	18	18	23	18
Online political:					
Yes	31	20	20	22	7
No	17	16	17	24	26

Sex:

12/19/07

	Men	Women
All	48	52
Online political:		
Yes	48	52
No	48	52

Education:

	Less than H.S.	H.S. grad.	Some college	College graduate	Post-graduate	No opinion
All	15	32	26	18	9	*
Online political:						
Yes	5	20	31	29	15	*
No	21	40	23	11	5	0

Income:

	Less than \$35K	\$35K to \$50K	\$50K to \$75K	\$75K to \$100K	\$100K or more	No opinion
All	30	17	21	12	17	2
Online political:						
Yes	17	16	22	17	25	1
No	39	18	20	9	11	3

END