

GALLUP POLL

September 12, 2008

Gallup Daily: McCain 48%, Obama 45%

Race moves closer

PRINCETON, NJ -- The latest Gallup Poll Daily tracking results for Sept. 9-11 show a slight, but not statistically significant, three percentage point advantage for John McCain over Barack Obama among registered voters, 48% to 45%.

Gallup Daily Election Polling Results for the Presidential General Election, Obama vs. McCain, trend since Aug. 20-22, 2008

National registered voters

■ % Obama ■ % McCain



Based on three-day rolling averages.

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These results, based on interviewing conducted Tuesday through Thursday, mark the first time since the Sept. 4-6 report that McCain does not have a statistically significant lead over Obama, and also reflect interviewing on Thursday that showed a very close race. It is unknown whether or not Thursday's results may have reflected any possible impact of Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin's widely publicized television interviews with Charles Gibson of ABC News, which began to be broadcast Thursday evening.

The story of the presidential race this year since early June has been a tendency for candidate support levels to return to near parity after one or the other candidate moves into a brief lead, so the days ahead will show whether or not this contest will once again settle back into a "too close to call" structure.

Obama and McCain were together Thursday at memorial services in New York at the site of the 9/11 terrorist attack, but both campaigns have now returned to hot and heavy campaigning, including ads directly attacking each other's positions on issues. (To view the complete trend since March 7, 2008, [click here](#).) -- Frank Newport

Gallup Daily Election Polling Results for the General Election, Sept. 9-11, 2008

Based on a three-day rolling average of national registered voters

Candidate	%
McCain	48
Obama	45
Other (vol.)	1
Neither (vol.)	2
No opinion	5
Number of interviews	2,726

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([Click here](#) to see how the race currently breaks down by demographic subgroup.)

Survey Methods

For the Gallup Poll Daily tracking survey, Gallup is interviewing no fewer than 1,000 U.S. adults nationwide each day during 2008.

The general-election results are based on combined data from Sept. 9-11, 2008. For results based on this sample of 2,726 registered voters, the maximum margin of sampling error is ± 2 percentage points.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on land-line telephones (for respondents with a land-line telephone) and cellular phones (for respondents who are cell-phone only).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.