

October 21, 2008

## Europeans Perceive Stake in U.S. Election

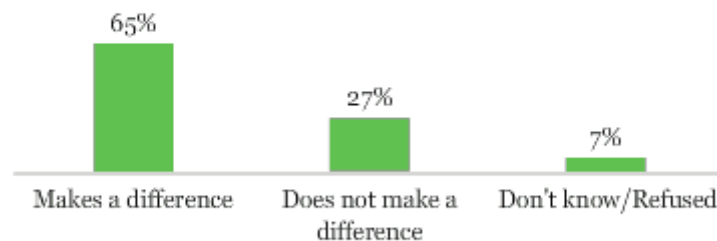
Obama favored over McCain in many European countries

by Zsolt Nyiri and Cynthia English

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Gallup Polls conducted throughout Europe find citizens there saying the outcome of the U.S. presidential election is relevant to their country. A median of 65% in 14 European countries interviewed between March and July of this year say who wins November's presidential election in the United States makes a difference to their country.

*Do you think who is elected president of the United States makes a difference in this country, or not?*

Median for 14 European countries



GALLUP POLL

A majority of respondents in 12 of 14 European countries surveyed say who is elected president of the United States affects their country. Four in five Britons (80%) say the new president will make a difference to their country and more than 70% of respondents in Ireland (77%), Norway (73%), and France (71%) agree. Austrians (40%) and Italians (41%) are the least likely among these countries to say who is elected U.S. president in November makes a difference to their country.

*Do you think who is elected president of the United States makes a difference to this country, or not?*

	<b>Makes a difference</b>	<b>Does not make a difference</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
United Kingdom	80%	17%	3%
Ireland	77%	21%	2%
Norway	73%	20%	7%
France	71%	15%	14%
Denmark	69%	27%	4%
Netherlands	69%	27%	4%
Poland	68%	23%	9%
Germany	62%	32%	5%
Finland	57%	40%	3%
Belgium	56%	30%	14%
Sweden	56%	38%	6%
Spain	51%	27%	21%
Italy	41%	33%	26%
Austria	40%	50%	10%

Due to rounding, not all rows will add to 100%.

GALLUP POLL

Most European countries are key military, diplomatic, and economic partners of the United States. Both U.S. presidential nominees have made trips to Europe in the last year to visit with leaders there and have stressed the importance of having strong relations with European allies, many of which express low approval of U.S. leadership.

*Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the leadership of the U.S.A.?*

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know/ Refused
Austria	8%	73%	19%
Spain	8%	57%	35%
Germany*	8%	78%	14%
Belgium	12%	64%	23%
Sweden	12%	68%	20%
France	13%	63%	25%
Netherlands*	18%	68%	14%
Italy	19%	32%	49%
Ireland	23%	66%	12%
United Kingdom	23%	61%	16%
Denmark	24%	55%	21%
Finland	26%	58%	16%
Norway*	31%	55%	13%
Poland*	32%	26%	42%

\*Data collected prior to 2008.

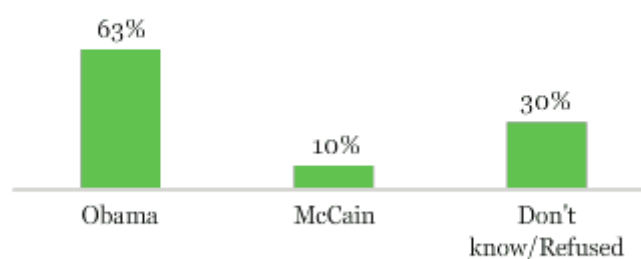
GALLUP POLL

Barack Obama took a well-publicized trip to the European region in July, which included a Berlin rally that drew about 200,000 people. His European trip also appeared to contribute to a boost in his support at home.

When Gallup asked respondents throughout Europe whom they would rather see elected president of the United States, Obama is the clear favorite in every European country polled. At the time these interviews were conducted, a median of 63% of respondents from 14 European countries said they would rather see Obama elected over John McCain (10%).

*Who would you personally rather see elected as president of the United States?*

Median for 14 European countries



GALLUP POLL

Respondents in the Netherlands and Norway are most likely to favor Obama, with 74% and 71%, respectively, choosing him over McCain. A majority of respondents in 12 of 14 European countries surveyed favor Obama over McCain for the next U.S. president. Spain and Poland are the exceptions, where Obama achieves a plurality of the vote. (Note the high percentage of respondents who had no opinion on who they would personally rather see elected president of the United States in these countries.)

*Who would you personally rather see elected  
president of the United States?*

	<b>Obama</b>	<b>McCain</b>	<b>Don't know/ Refused</b>
Netherlands	74%	10%	16%
Norway	71%	13%	16%
Denmark	69%	8%	23%
Ireland	67%	19%	14%
Belgium	64%	6%	30%
France	64%	4%	32%
Sweden	64%	6%	29%
Germany	62%	10%	27%
United Kingdom	60%	15%	25%
Austria	58%	10%	32%
Italy	56%	6%	38%
Finland	54%	14%	32%
Spain	49%	6%	45%
Poland	43%	24%	33%

Due to rounding, not all rows will add to 100%.

GALLUP POLL

During his campaign, Obama has made much of the fact that he opposed invading Iraq, while his opponent voted in favor of this military action. While approval of the war is now low in Europe, the governments of 6 of the 14 European countries polled joined the original coalition that supported U.S.-led military action in Iraq. However, only two of these countries had active troops in Iraq at the time Gallup conducted its polls -- Poland and the United Kingdom. Out of those who expressed an opinion, about one in four Poles (24%) say they would rather see McCain elected president of the United States than Obama, which is the highest percentage in the European countries polled.

### *European Involvement in Iraq*

Among 14 countries polled in 2008

	Original coalition members	Troops still in Iraq
Austria		
Belgium		
Denmark	X	
Finland		
France		
Germany		
Ireland		
Italy	X	
Netherlands	X	
Norway		
Poland	X	X
Spain	X	
Sweden		
United Kingdom	X	X

GALLUP POLL

#### **Line**

Obama and McCain have said strong relations between the United States and its European allies would be a high priority in their administration if elected president. In 12 of 14 European countries, a majority of residents interviewed by Gallup between March and July say who wins that election will make a difference in their country and, at the time Gallup conducted these interviews, most were favoring an Obama victory in November. While European preference will not likely affect U.S. voters grappling with domestic issues and concerns, their support for a new administration could go a long way toward restoring the approval of U.S. leadership globally.

#### **Survey Methods**

Results are based on telephone interviews with approximately 1,000 adults from March to July 2008, aged 15 and older, in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Data for approval of U.S. leadership was conducted prior to 2008 in Germany (January 2007), Netherlands (May 2007), Norway (May 2006), and Poland (May 2007). For results based on the total sample of national adults, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error is  $\pm 3$  percentage points. 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.