

The Rasmussen Reports

Daily Presidential Tracking Poll

Tuesday, September 30, 2008

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Tuesday—the first update with results based entirely upon interviews conducted following the first Presidential Debate--shows Barack Obama attracting 51% of the vote while John McCain earns 45%. Obama opened a five-point lead heading into Friday's debate and has retained a five or six point edge every day since ([see trends](#)).

Obama is now viewed favorably by 58% of voters, McCain by 55%. However, 40% have a Very Favorable opinion of Obama while 26% have a Very Unfavorable view. The comparable numbers for McCain are 26% Very Favorable and 24% Very Unfavorable.

Forty-six percent (46%) now say that Obama is too inexperienced to be President, 29% say McCain is too old (see [trends](#)).

Highlighting the gap between Wall Street and Main Street, the [Rasmussen Consumer Index](#) rose for the third straight day on Tuesday after the stock market fell 800 points on Monday. New polling data will be released later today on reaction to the economic "rescue" plan that failed in the House yesterday.

Also coming later today, confidence in the War on Terror remains high and a plurality now believes history will judge the U.S. mission in Iraq a success

New state polls were released last night Eastern for [Colorado](#), [Florida](#), [Ohio](#), [Pennsylvania](#), and [Virginia](#).

See a video [overview](#) of results from all five states. With these new state results, the Rasmussen Reports [Balance of Power Calculator](#) shows Obama leading in states with 200 Electoral College votes while McCain has the edge in states with 174 votes. When "leaners" are included, Obama leads 255-200 (see [Quick Campaign Overview](#)). A total of 270 Electoral Votes are needed to win the White House (see [50-State Summary](#)).

[Rasmussen Markets](#) data shows Obama is now given a [63.6%](#) chance of winning in November (see market results for [key states](#)). Market data shows that Obama's prospects improved overnight following the collapse on Wall Street Monday. The economy remains the top issue of Election 2008.

Daily tracking results are collected via telephone surveys of 1,000 likely voters per night and reported on a three-day rolling average basis. The margin of sampling error—for the full sample of 3,000 Likely Voters--is +/- 2 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence.

Like all polling firms, Rasmussen Reports weights its data to reflect the population at large ([see methodology](#)). Among other targets, Rasmussen Reports weights data by political party affiliation using a dynamic weighting process. During the final two months of Election 2008, party weighting targets are updated each Sunday (see [additional information](#)). For polling data released during the week of September 28-October 4, 2008, the partisan weighting targets used by Rasmussen Reports will be 39.0% Democratic, 33.4% Republican, and 27.6% unaffiliated. For the [preceding week](#), the partisan weighting targets were 39.0% Democratic, 33.5% Republican, and 27.5% unaffiliated.