

Released: November 03, 2008

REUTERS/ZOGBY Battleground 8-State Surveys: Obama Builds on Leads in OH & NV; Holds Margins in VA & PA

UTICA, New York - Reuters/Zogby telephone surveys of eight battleground states show Democrat Barack Obama in a very strong position to be elected President. The key findings in these polls show expanded Obama margins in Ohio and Nevada and continued leads in Pennsylvania and Virginia.

In the other states tested in this latest Reuters/Zogby package of state surveys, Florida, North Carolina and Missouri remain very close, while John McCain is holding his advantage in Indiana. Obama has leads of less than two points in Florida and Missouri, and McCain is ahead by the same margin in North Carolina.

Reuters/Zogby tested seven of these same states last week. Included this week was Pennsylvania, where McCain is making a major effort to win a state that went to the Democrats four years ago. West Virginia, where McCain had a 10-point lead last week, was not surveyed.

The surveys were conducted from Oct. 30 to Nov. 2. Sample sizes in each state ranged from 600-605, with a margin of error of +/-4.1%.

Here are the states where Obama leads, with each state's Electoral votes shown:

Pennsylvania (21)	Nov. 2
Obama	53.7%
McCain	40.0%
Other/Not Sure	6.3%

Obama trails McCain by just three points among white voters, and that is not enough of a lead for McCain. Obama is winning 98% of the African-American vote. The other keys are Obama's small lead among voters over age 65 and Catholics.

Ohio (20)	Nov. 2	Oct. 26
Obama	50.2%	49.7%
McCain	43.9%	45.1%
Other/Not Sure	5.9%	5.3%

Obama is now beating McCain among Independents, 60%-27%, an 18-point jump from last week. His other gain is among 18-29-year-olds, where he now leads by 30 points.

Virginia (13)	Nov. 2	Oct. 26
Obama	50.7%	52.0
McCain	44.6%	44.8
Other/Not Sure	4.7%	3.2

McCain made a small gain among Independents, but still trails the demographic group by 15. Obama continues to do a few points better among his own party than McCain does with the GOP. McCain increased his lead among white voters, and is now up, 61%-34%. He needs more than that to overcome Obama's 94% among African-Americans.

<i>Nevada (5)</i>	Nov. 2	Oct. 26
<i>Obama</i>	50.7%	48.2
<i>McCain</i>	42.9%	44.0
<i>Other/Not Sure</i>	6.4%	7.8

Obama made small gains with Independents (51%-33%) and men (46%-45%.) He trails by five with white voters, but Obama's three-to-one lead with Hispanics and 93% with the small African-American population give him a statewide lead outside the margin of error.

<i>Florida (27)</i>	Nov. 2	Oct. 26
<i>Obama</i>	47.5	49.7
<i>McCain</i>	46.2	46.4
<i>Other/Not Sure</i>	6.4%	3.9

We found a two-point drop for Obama, but the dynamic of the race remains the same. Obama still holds a big lead with Independents, but McCain wins 89% of Republicans to Obama's 85% of Democrats. We found more undecided Democrats (4.6%) than Republicans (2.7%.) McCain has a 13-point lead with white voters. Turnout and get out the vote efforts will decide Florida.

<i>Missouri (11)</i>	Nov. 2	Oct. 26
<i>Obama</i>	47.4%	48.2%
<i>McCain</i>	45.7%	45.7%
<i>Other/Not Sure</i>	6.9%	6.2%

McCain gained a bit among Independents, but still trails with them, 57%-28%. He also cut Obama's lead among Hispanics in half to eight points. Obama's has reduced his losses among Democrats to 10% from 16% a week ago.

Here are the states where McCain leads, with each state's Electoral votes shown:

<i>North Carolina (15)</i>	Nov. 2	Oct. 26
<i>McCain</i>	49.3%	46.4%
<i>Obama</i>	47.7%	49.7%
<i>Other/Not Sure</i>	3.1%	3.9

The lead has changed from a week ago. McCain increased his total among men from a week ago, from 46% to 53%. Obama is up seven points with Independents, but McCain is doing slightly better with Republicans than Obama is with Democrats. McCain rules in the western parts of the state, and Obama in the East and Raleigh-Durham area. Who will turn out in greater numbers: rural whites or African-Americans?

<i>Indiana (11)</i>	Nov. 2	Oct. 26
<i>McCain</i>	49.1%	50.2
<i>Obama</i>	43.9%	44.0
<i>Other/Not Sure</i>	7.0%	5.8

There is just a one-point change from a week ago, but Obama has erased McCain's six-point lead among Independents to gain a tie with them.

For a detailed methodological statement on this survey, please visit:

<http://www.zogby.com/methodology/readmeth.dbm?ID=1373>

(11/3/2008)