

Rasmussen Reports

Daily Presidential Tracking Poll

Monday, October 20, 2008

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Monday shows Barack Obama attracting 50% of the vote while [John McCain](#) earns 46%. Obama has been at the 50% level of support for seven of the past eight days while McCain has been at 45% or 46%. Obama's lead has been in the four to six point range on each of those eight days.

This suggests that the race may be tightening a bit. Prior to the past week, Obama had enjoyed a five to eight point advantage for several weeks.

McCain has regained his advantage among male voters, leading by five. However, Obama leads by eleven among women.

Still, from a broader perspective, the race remains very stable. Obama's support has ranged from 50% to 52% every day for twenty-five straight days while McCain's total has stayed between 44% and 46% ([see trends](#)).

Tracking Poll results are released every day at 9:30 a.m. Eastern and a FREE [daily e-mail update](#) is available.

Obama is viewed favorably by 54%, McCain by 53%.

[Colin Powell, in a poll conducted just prior to his endorsement of Obama for President, was viewed favorably by 80%](#) of voters nationwide. Yesterday's polling, the first conducted after Powell's endorsement, were quite consistent with the previous few days and did not show any immediate signs of movement.

Joe Wurzelbacher, better known as "[Joe the Plumber](#)," is viewed favorably by 44% and unfavorably by 41%. He earns his best reviews from middle-income voters and entrepreneurs.

Polling data on ACORN, the activist group at the center of several voter registration issues, will be released later today ([Premium Members](#) can get an [advance look](#) at the data now).

At noon Eastern today, new Presidential polling data will be released from [Virginia](#). At 6:00 p.m. Eastern, new results will be released for [Colorado](#), [Florida](#), [Missouri](#), [North Carolina](#), and [Ohio](#).

Rasmussen Reports data indicates that Obama currently has the edge in every state won by John Kerry four years ago. However, of the states won by George Bush, McCain is trailing in four and five others are considered a toss-up. As a result, [Electoral College projections](#) now show Obama leading 260-163. When "leaners" are included, Obama leads 300-174. A total of 270 Electoral Votes are needed to win the White House.

Take a moment to predict [how many Electoral College votes Obama will win](#) this year.

Recent statewide Presidential polls have been released for [Arizona](#), [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Delaware](#), [Florida](#), [Hawaii](#), [Illinois](#), [Kansas](#), [Kentucky](#), [Kansas](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Mississippi](#), [Missouri](#), [Montana](#), [Nebraska](#), [Nevada](#), [New Hampshire](#), [New Mexico](#), [North Carolina](#), [Ohio](#), [Oregon](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#), [Virginia](#), [Washington](#), and [Wisconsin](#).

Demographic crosstabs for all state polling are available for [Premium Members](#). [Learn More.](#) [Rasmussen Markets](#) data shows Obama is given a [84.8](#) % chance of winning in November (see market expectations for [key states](#)).

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. Results are also compiled on a full-week basis and crosstabs for the [full-week results](#) are available for [Premium Members](#).

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 October 19-25, 2008, the partisan weighting targets used by Rasmussen Reports will be 39.7% Democratic, 33.0% Republican, and 27.3% unaffiliated.