

Rasmussen Reports

Voters Think More of Biden Than Palin

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Barack Obama's running mate, longtime Delaware Senator Joseph Biden, is now viewed more favorably than Republican vice [presidential candidate](#) Sarah Palin, primarily because the latter just can't close the deal with women.

But Palin continues to be an emotional lightning rod for voters.

Fifty-six percent (56%) now have a favorable view of Biden, including 25% who say that view is Very Favorable, according to a new Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey. Fifty-three percent (53%) view Palin favorably, but 35% say their opinion of her is Very Favorable.

Forty-seven percent (47%) have an unfavorable view of the first-term Alaska governor, compared to 41% who say that of Biden, a member of the Senate since 1973. Yet while just 21% have a Very Unfavorable opinion of Biden, 33% say that of Palin (see full demographic [crosstabs](#)).

Forty-nine percent (49%) say Biden is prepared to be president, but only 32% believe that of Palin. Over half of voters (56%) say Palin is not ready to be president, while just 34% say Biden is not prepared.

However, Palin still does slightly better than Biden when voters are asked to pick among all four candidates – Obama, McCain, Biden and Palin – for president.

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While 56% of men have a favorable view of Palin, just 49% of women feel that way. Sixty-two percent (62%) of women see Biden in a favorable light, compared to 51% of men.

Thirty-six percent (36%) of women have a Very Unfavorable opinion of Palin, but only 16% say the same of Biden.

In a survey released September 24, nearly a month after they were named the vice presidential candidates of their respective parties, [Palin was still viewed more favorably by voters than Biden, 54% to 49%](#). She also drew stronger feelings - pro and con.

After the October 2 debate between the two, the numbers began to change. Forty-five percent (45%) of voters thought Biden won the debate [37% thought Palin emerged victorious](#). Following the debate, 59% had a favorable opinion of Biden while 53% said the same about Palin. But opinions about Palin remained stronger.

Nationally, Obama has opened a stable lead over McCain in both the [Rasmussen Daily Presidential Tracking Poll](#) and the [Electoral College](#) projections.

Asked who they would vote for for president among the two presidential candidates and their running mates, 44% say Obama, 34% McCain, 12% Palin and seven percent (7%) Biden. Fifteen percent (15%) of men chose Palin for the first woman president, compared to nine percent (9%) of women voters.

Nearly one-out-of-five Republicans (19%) picked Palin, with 64% of GOP voters choosing McCain. Eighty percent (80%) of Democrats opted for Obama, with just seven percent (7%) picking Biden. Unaffiliated voters gave Palin the edge over Biden by six points.