

Rasmussen Reports

Daily Presidential Tracking Poll

Friday, October 03, 2008

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Friday again shows Barack Obama attracting 51% of the vote while John McCain earns 44%. For each of the past eight days, Obama has been at 50% or 51% and McCain has been at 44% or 45% ([see trends](#)). New polling shows Obama pulling away in [New Hampshire](#) and opening a growing lead in the [Electoral College](#) projections.

State By State Balance of Power						
Safe GOP (65)	Likely GOP (109)	Leans GOP (11)	Toss Up (89)	Leans Dem (47)	Likely Dem (71)	Safe Dem (146)
AK (3)	AR (6)	IN (11)	CO (9)	NH (4)	CT (7)	CA (55)
AL (9)	AZ (10)		FL (27)	NM (5)	IA (7)	DE (3)
ID (4)	GA (15)		NC (15)	OR (7)	ME (4)	DC (3)
KS (6)	MO (11)		NV (5)	PA (21)	MI (17)	HI (4)
KY (8)	MS (6)		OH (20)	WI (10)	MN (10)	IL (21)
LA (9)	MT (3)		VA (13)		NJ (15)	MD (10)
OK (7)	NE (5)				WA (11)	MA (12)
TN (11)	ND (3)					NY (31)
UT (5)	SC (8)					RI (4)
WY (3)	SD (3)					VT (3)
	TX (34)					
	WV (5)					

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Nationally, the number of voters who believe the country is heading in the right direction has fallen to 10%. That's down dramatically from the already low level of 24% just before Lehman Brothers collapsed and started the recent Wall Street debacle. Eighty-six percent (86%) now say that the nation has gotten off on the wrong track.

Obama is viewed favorably by 57% of voters, McCain by 52% ([see trends](#)). Forty-five percent (45%) believe taxes will go up if Obama is elected while 24% say the same about a McCain victory ([see crosstabs](#)).

Tracking poll results are based upon nightly telephone interviews and conducted on a three-day rolling average basis. Virtually all of the interviews for today's update were completed before the conclusion of the Vice Presidential debate. However, since even last Friday night's debate between the Presidential candidates failed to change the poll results, it is unlikely that last night's event had a significant impact in either direction.

During last night's debate, Alaska Governor Sarah Palin referenced a Ronald Reagan quote about government not being the solution to our problems. New polling data shows that American voters still strongly agree with [Reagan on that point](#).

Today, the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the financial bailout plan recently passed by the Senate. Polling from last night will be released at 10:30 this morning showing that a plurality of voters still oppose that plan.

The Rasmussen Reports [Balance of Power Calculator](#) shows Obama leading in states with 217 Electoral College votes while McCain has the edge in states with 174 votes. When "leaners" are included, Obama leads 264-185 ([see Quick Campaign Overview](#)). There are currently six states in the Toss-Up category—Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, Nevada, Ohio, and Virginia. If Obama were to win all the states that are currently leaning in his direction, he would need to win only one of those six toss-up states to become the nation's next President.

New polling was released yesterday for [North Carolina](#), [New Mexico](#), [Montana](#), [Kentucky](#) and [Nebraska](#). Other recent polls have been released for [Arizona](#), [California](#), [Colorado](#), [Florida](#), [Hawaii](#), [Kansas](#), [Maryland](#), [Michigan](#), [Minnesota](#), [Mississippi](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Ohio](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Tennessee](#), [Texas](#), and [Virginia](#).

[Rasmussen Markets](#) data shows Obama is now given a [66.7](#) % chance of winning in November (see market expectations for [key states](#)).

A total of 270 Electoral Votes are needed to win the White House (see [50-State Summary](#)).

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.