Public Opinion Polls and the 2008 Presidential Election

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Professional Standards

- [http://www.aapor.org/standardsethics](http://www.aapor.org/standardsethics)
Typical pre-election polling questions

- Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a –

A. Republican,
B. Democrat,
C. Independent?

Based on registered voters.
Presidential approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

A. Approve  
B. Disapprove
Presidential Job Approval
Five Presidents Who Served First Term and Were Re-elected

Congressional approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

A. Approve
B. Disapprove
Congressional approval, 1/1/1990 through 11/01/2007
Current trend estimate is 23.5%
Congressional Parties Job Approval/Disapproval
Latest: 08/05/2007

Current Democratic Estimate: 35.1
Current Republican Estimate: 30.6
Rating the U.S. economy

- How do you rate the U.S. economy –
  A. Excellent/Good
  B. Only fair/poor
Views of Economy as Low as in Early 90s

Excellent/Good  Only Fair/Poor

Iraq War: Right or Wrong?

Considering everything, do you think the United States did the right thing in going to war with Iraq, or do you think it was a mistake?

A. Did the right thing
B. It was a mistake
C. Not sure
Iraq War: What to do now?

Regardless of whether we should have invaded Iraq, what should we do now?

A. Keep U.S. troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized
B. Bring U.S. troops home as soon as possible
C. Not sure
Iraq: Bring the Troops Home?
Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

- Keep troops in Iraq
- Bring troops home
- Don’t know/Refused
In general, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

A. Satisfied
B. Dissatisfied
Presidential-election vote:

- If the presidential election were today, would you vote for:
  
  A. John McCain
  
  B. Barack Obama
Electoral-vote projection
(3 November 2008 at www.electoral-vote.com)

Obama 353  McCain 185  Tied 0

Dem pickups (vs. 2004): CO FL IA NV NM NC OH VA = 101
Projected electoral votes (based on state polls) omitting the “too-close-to-call" & tied states in which neither candidate has a margin of 5% or more over his opponent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obama</th>
<th>McCain</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>311</td>
<td>132</td>
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Too-close-to call: 95
Ties: 0
Final Electoral College Map – 2008
(50 states + DC)

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/epolls/maps/obama_vs_mccain/
Final Electoral College Map – 2008
(3,077 counties, parishes, & boroughs)

http://www.princeton.edu/~rvdb/JAVA/election2008/
Links to election-poll results

2008 Presidential election
- http://www.electoral-vote.com/
- Proslavery Origins of Electoral College

2008 U.S. Senate races

2008 U.S. House races

2008 U.S. Gubernatorial races
Links to other useful polling & elections websites