

# Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg

---

## NATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES SURVEY – AUGUST 2008

Field dates: August 15-18, 2008  
Press Release #1: National Politics

### OBAMA AND MCCAIN IN STATISTICAL TIE DAYS BEFORE THE START OF THE POLITICAL CONVENTIONS

**W**ith the Democratic Convention only days away, the presumptive Democratic nominee, Illinois Senator Barack Obama is in a tight race with his presumptive Republican opponent, Arizona Senator John McCain, according to a new Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll. The Democratic candidate is in a statistical tie with his Republican opponent. In a two-way matchup, Obama leads McCain by 45% to 43%. Ten percent are undecided and 2% would vote for someone else. In a matchup that included the minority candidates, 42% would vote for Obama, and 41% would support McCain. Four percent would vote for Independent Ralph Nader, 1% for Libertarian candidate Bob Barr, 1% for someone else and 11% are undecided. Both candidates seem to have solid support from their voters with just 12% of Obama's voters saying they might vote for someone else, and 5% are not sure; 13% of McCain's supporters said they might vote for someone else, while only 1% are still not sure. The race is still up for grabs with 10% undecided in the two-way race and 17% of voters saying they may vote for someone else or aren't sure about their vote. This so-called swing group is made up of more independents, somewhat more baby boomers, especially white baby boomers, whites, moderate Democrats, single voters and those living in the East and Midwest. Dominating the news during the polling interviewing period was the Russian invasion of Georgia. McCain was in the news condemning the attacks and using the crisis to strengthen his hold on foreign affairs, while Obama was vacationing in Hawaii. The Democratic was basically not in sight during the invasion and just speaking out once about it.

*If the election were held today, for whom would you vote? (In a two-way race)*

	<u>Registered Voters</u>
Democrat Barack Obama	45%
Republican John McCain	43
Someone else	2
Don't know	10

If the election were held today, for whom would you vote? (In a five-way race)

	<u>Registered Voters</u>
Democrat Barack Obama	42%
Republican John McCain	41
Independent Ralph Nader	4
Libertarian Bob Barr	1
Green Party Cynthia McKinney	--*
Someone else	1
Don't know	11

\*Less than 0.5%.

Are you certain you're going to vote for that candidate, or is it possible that you might end up voting for somebody else?

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>
Certain of vote	83%	86%
Might vote for other	12	13
Don't know	5	1

However, it is important to note, that Obama is doing as well or better than his Democratic counterparts before their conventions in 2000 and 2004. In LA Times pre-election polls in 2004, John Kerry was barely ahead of Republican candidate George W. Bush by two points (46% to 44%), and in 2000, Al Gore was losing to George W. Bush by nine points (48% to 39%). The enthusiasm of Obama's voters have not waned since a June Times/Bloomberg poll asked the question. McCain's voters, however, are getting more enthusiastic. As the poll found, almost eight out of 10 Obama voters are enthusiastic about his candidacy, including 46% who said "very" enthusiastic. McCain voters are feeling much more enthusiastic than they did in June when only 45% were happy voting for him. In the current poll 61% are enthusiastic about McCain, but only 27% are "very" enthusiastic. Worrisome to McCain's campaign was the enthusiasm of the conservative right voters. Results in this poll show that McCain may be breaking away some of the icy reception he has gotten from this group. Now, nearly three-fifths of evangelicals who support McCain are enthusiastic about their vote. He is seeing more enthusiasm from his voters – in the June poll only 47% were enthusiastic about a McCain candidacy.

### **Issues for Obama and McCain**

However, Obama's vulnerabilities have started to take shape with the barrage of negative ads by McCain's strategists honing in on his inexperience and lack of foreign policy expertise. They and McCain's surrogates have been beating the same drums about Obama – is he ready to lead, along with questioning his character. This poll shows that exploiting these issues appears to be an effective strategy. Positive feelings about Obama have declined since the Times/Bloomberg poll in June, while his negative rating has risen (going from a 32 point net positive to a 13 point net positive), although most of the decline has come from Republicans. In the June poll, 31% of Republicans had a positive opinion about the Democrat – now it is down to 13%. Obama has not convinced the American voters, especially independents that he is ready to lead. Voters are split as to whether the Democrat has the right experience to be president and almost a third have no confidence in his ability to deal wisely with an international crisis.

Also, which may be troubling for the Obama campaign is that more than a third of voters question how patriotic Obama is, while only 55% think his patriotism is strong. Just 9% question McCain's patriotism.

Obama started off his primary campaign as the candidate who would be honest and talk straight with the electorate. But times have changed and in campaigning against a Republican opponent, tactics change and more negative ads come out. Although voters usually say that negative ads are not effective, they really do work. And McCain's team has hammered away at Obama's character and the strategy may have paid off. In a June Times/Bloomberg poll, 39% thought Obama had more honesty and integrity than McCain and 30% thought that McCain was the honest one. Two months later, this poll shows that Obama's lead on this issue has dwindled and now McCain is seen as the one with more honesty (34% to 30%, although within the poll's margin of error). Of course, 22% think both are equally honest and have integrity, while 8% said neither of them have this character trait. More Republicans (72%) believe this of McCain than Democrats (56%) think that of Obama. Although more than a fifth of white voters believe that both candidates have this character trait equally, they give McCain a 15 point advantage.

*Electability of a black president:* More than seven in 10 voters said that the country is ready to elect a black man for president, while 17% said it wasn't. Among those who said the country wasn't ready, 60% are supporting McCain, while those who said the country is ready for a black president are backing Obama by 50%.

*Do you think the country is ready to elect a black man for president, or not?*

Registered Voters	<u>72%</u>	<u>17%</u>
	<u>Ready</u>	<u>Not Ready</u>
Barack Obama	50%	26%
John McCain	39	60
Don't know	11	14

Most voters said they would be comfortable voting for a black candidate for president, while more than a third know people who would feel uneasy, including 4% who didn't know anyone who would feel comfortable voting for a black president. Four percent said it would depend on the candidate and 6% were not sure. Yet, just 13% of voters thought everyone they knew would feel comfortable voting for a black president, while 42% believe they knew most people would be fine voting for a minority candidate. Among voters who said everyone or mostly everyone they knew would feel comfortable voting for a black candidate are soundly supporting Obama, while only at least some people they knew that would feel easy voting for a black candidate would support McCain.

*Do you think everyone you know, most people you know, or only some people you know would feel comfortable voting for a black candidate for president?*

	Reg. Voters	-----Registered Voters -----				
		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Whites</u>	<u>Blacks</u>
Everyone	13%	17%	12%	8%	12%	21%
Most people	42	48	47	34	42	47
Some people	31	26	33	33	31	24
No one (volunteered)	4	3	2	7	4	1
Depends cand (vol)	4	1	2	11	5	1
Don't know	6	5	4	7	6	6

*How about you personally? Would you feel comfortable voting for a black candidate, or not?*

	Registered Voters	-----Registered Voters -----				
		<u>Democrats</u>	<u>Independents</u>	<u>Republicans</u>	<u>Whites</u>	<u>Blacks</u>
Comfortable	83%	90%	89%	72%	83%	92%
Not comfortable	9	4	5	16	9	3
Depends cand (vol)	7	5	4	11	7	2
Don't know	1	1	2	1	1	3

Nearly half of all voters said race relations in America would stay the same if Obama were elected president, while 28% said it would get better and 17% said it would get worse. Nearly half of all white voters and 44% of black voters said race relations would stay the same, but 37% of blacks said it would get better. Under a McCain presidency, three-quarters of voters said race relations would stay the same, 6% said better and 12% said worse. White and black voters also think race relations would stay the same as they are now if McCain were elected president (76% and 60% respectively). But three in 10 black voters believe it would get worse under a Republican president.

*Race as an issue in presidential campaign:* More than two out of five voters don't think either candidate is using race as an issue in his campaign, but those who do think that race is being used think Obama is using race more than McCain is by 26% to 13%. And voters are somewhat divided over who is using race in a negative way.

*Which candidate do you think is using race as an issue in their presidential campaign: Barack Obama or John McCain, or are neither of them using race as an issue? (IF EITHER OR BOTH) (Is he/Are they) using race in a positive or negative way?*

	<u>Registered Voters</u>
Neither using race	48%
Obama/Positive way	13
Obama/Negative way	15
McCain/Positive way	3
McCain/Negative way	12
Both candidates/Positive way	4
Both candidates/Negative way	4
Obama/Positive-McCain/Negative	1

*Character issues: Patriotism:* The McCain campaign and Republican talking heads have questioned Obama's patriotism. One example they have used is that he didn't wear a flag pin on his lapel and the whispering of his father's Muslim background and subliminally questioned his heritage, by mentioning his upbringing in Indonesia and rumors about his being a Muslim. To this day, there are voters out there believing Obama is a Muslim and not a Christian. More than a third of all voters question Obama's patriotism, while 55% think his patriotism is strong. But Republicans (67%) and

conservatives (56%) strongly question his patriotism, while 41% of whites do as well; and nearly two out of five moderate voters also question him on this issue. Not surprisingly, among the 35% who question Obama's patriotism, almost four out of five are backing McCain. Obama has been courting the Christian right voters and talking about his faith more. But 59% who say they are part of the religious right have questioned his patriotism as do 45% who consider themselves evangelicals.

On the other hand, there isn't a question in most voters minds about McCain's allegiance to his country. Just 9% have questions about how patriotic he is, but 84% believe his patriotism is strong. Independents overwhelmingly (86%) believe McCain is a true American, compared to 57% who believe that of Obama.

*Do you think Barack Obama's/John McCain's patriotism is strong, or do you have questions about how patriotic he is?*

	RV's		Democrats		Independents		Republicans	
	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>
Patriotism strong	55%	84%	80%	77%	57%	86%	25%	94%
Have questions	35	9	12	13	31	7	67	4
Don't know	10	7	8	10	12	7	8	2

*Personality Trait:* Republican pundits and campaign staff for McCain have been saying that Obama is too arrogant and presumptuous, that he is an elitist. Nearly three out of five voters disagree with that assessment of the Democratic candidate, but 35% think that this statement applies. Of course, Republicans think he is arrogant by 58%, while conservatives are somewhat split (48% said the negative statement applies vs. 44% who said it did not).

And Democrats are trying to push McCain into a corner by saying his is too hot-tempered. Many in the Senate have said that McCain loses his temper on the Senate floor. Almost the same share of voters believe that of McCain (30%) as they did of Obama's arrogance, but more than half said it didn't apply to the Republican candidate. A similar share of independents (27%) think this of McCain as they did of Obama being too arrogant (28%).

*Issues and the candidates:*

The top issues that are uppermost in voters' minds are the economy (41%), war in Iraq (31%), rising gas prices (15%) and healthcare (12%). Among those who mention economy, Iraq and healthcare, they are supporting Obama. But voters mentioning rising gas prices are split between the two candidates.

Now looking at some issues individually:

*Nation's economy:* Obama beats McCain on who has better ideas for strengthening the nation's economy. Nearly half of voters think Obama is the candidate for the job, while more than a quarter thought that of McCain. In a similar question in the June Times/Bloomberg poll, it was 49% for Obama and 28% for McCain. Just about a fifth of voters in the current poll said neither or both would be good on this issue. Independents and moderates give this issue to Obama. Whites are somewhat divided, but giving Obama a four point edge over his opponent. Both men and women agree that Obama is the candidate to strengthen the nation's economy.

*Rising gas and oil prices:* Again, Obama wins this issue by 39% to 32% for McCain. With rising gas prices a concern for most Americans, this issue, along with the economy are important issues to have

in a candidate's column. White voters give McCain a six point advantage over his rival, while more than seven in 10 black voters said Obama would be best at dealing with the rising gas prices. Independents also give Obama an 11 point advantage over McCain, while moderates give the Democratic candidate a huge 25 point lead over his opponent. Men are split on who would be best on this issue, while women believe Obama would be best (43% to 30%).

*Change the ways things are done in DC:* A small majority believe Obama will substantially change the ways things are done in Washington, while just 16% think McCain will. This issue has always been a plus for Obama. He won it all through the primaries and he is now winning this issue against his Republican opponent, even though McCain bills himself as an independent and a maverick. But more than a fifth think neither of them will be able to change the culture in DC. At least three in 10 of both conservative and Republican voters also think neither candidate can change the goings on in the nation's capital. White voters on this issue believe Obama is better than McCain by almost three to one. Both men and women agree that Obama is the one to change the status quo in the capital.

*Iraq war:* McCain beats Obama as the candidate best on achieving success in Iraq by 43% to 36%. In the June poll, a similar question found that 44% of voters thought McCain would be best compared to 42% for Obama. Nearly half of all white voters think McCain would be best on dealing with the situation in Iraq, while 30% think Obama would be best on this issue. Independents are split – 38% for McCain and 35% for Obama. Among 18-29 year old voters, Obama has a 10 point advantage over McCain, while all other age groups think McCain is the best candidate to achieve success in Iraq. Men support McCain on this issue by a 13 point lead, but women are virtually split as to which candidate would be best.

*Cares more about people like me:* Obama wins this issue by 41% to 25%. Thirteen percent said both of them equally have this trait, while 12% said neither of them. But the support of voters for Obama on this issue has declined from a 50% to 23% lead in the June poll. White voters split their vote in this survey. Troubling for McCain is that not quite half of conservative voters believe McCain cares more about people like them. Moderates and liberals think Obama does. A small plurality of independents also think Obama cares more about people like themselves. All age groups except for senior citizens (65+) said that Obama cares about them, while the elderly are somewhat split, but giving a slight edge to McCain.

*Best protecting country from terrorism:* McCain has always won this issue and the results from this poll isn't any different. Nearly half (47%) said McCain would be best at protecting the country from terrorism, compared to 25% for Obama. More than one in eight said both of them equally will protect the country, while 7% said neither of them. In the June poll, 49% mentioned McCain, while 32% said Obama, 5% said both equally and 6% said neither of them.

<b>SUMMARY TABLE:</b>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Both</u>
<u>Who do you think:</u>				
Has better ideas for economy	45%	28	11	8
Would be best with rising gas prices	39%	32	14	7
Has more honesty and integrity	30%	34	8	22
Change things in Washington DC	51%	16	6	21
Best at achieving success in Iraq	36%	43	11	4
Cares more about people like you	41%	28	12	13
Would be best at protecting country from terrorism	25%	47	7	13

The poll asked two questions explaining both candidates' plans on Iraq and troop withdrawal and the other on dealing with the energy crisis.

The first one on Iraq – “Obama has opposed the war in Iraq from the start and opposed the surge of additional troops. He said he would withdraw all American combat troops from Iraq within sixteen months. McCain supports the war in Iraq and said the surge of additional troops has worked. He believes progress is being made in Iraq and we should stay and finish the job.” Slightly more voters preferred Obama’s plan to McCain’s by 48% to 42% . White voters are slightly more inclined to support McCain’s plan by a five point margin, while black voters overwhelmingly support Obama’s plan. Independents are solidly behind Obama’s Iraq plan by 11 points, while more moderates support Obama’s plan over McCain’s by 27 points. Nearly three out of 10 younger voters (less than 45 years old) support Obama’s plan while nearly half of the older voters support McCain’s. Both men and women back Obama’s plan in Iraq.

These results are different from the question on who would be best at achieving success in Iraq. In that question, McCain beats Obama by 43% to 36%. This may be that voters were not aware of the candidates’ positions on Iraq and once they heard the details, they were of a different opinion.

The second one is in dealing with the energy crisis, “McCain favors drilling for oil off the U.S. coastline, building more nuclear power plants and giving a \$5,000 tax credit to anyone who buys an energy efficient car. He also opposes imposing any new taxes on oil companies. Obama opposes off shore oil drilling, favors spending more on alternative energy sources and green jobs, and wants to give \$1,000 energy rebates to working families, paid for by higher taxes on oil company profits.” A small plurality of voters prefer Obama’s energy plan to McCain’s by 44% to 40%. Nearly half of independents also prefer Obama’s plan, as well as a majority of moderates. White voters lean toward McCain’s energy plan, while almost two-thirds of blacks prefer his opponent’s. Roughly two thirds of conservatives support McCain’s plan. Men and women differ on this issue. Men prefer McCain’s plan by 48% to 37%, while women support Obama’s plan by 51% to 33%.

### *Some demographics of the horserace:*

- It appears that Republicans are coalescing around their candidate in larger numbers than Democrats are to their candidate. Nine out of 10 Republicans are strongly backing McCain, compared to just 78% of Democrats backing Obama. Both candidates are vying for the much valued independent voters and this poll shows that they are giving Obama an 11 point advantage over his rival.
- To add to the softness of the Democratic vote, less than nine in 10 liberal Democrats are backing their candidate, while more than nine in 10 conservative Republicans are backing theirs.
- Roughly half of the 18-44 year old voters are supporting the Democrat, while the 45-64 year olds are split between the two and about half of the elderly voters (65+) are backing McCain. (The young and the elderly support their candidate with almost the same share of voters.)
- Half of white voters support McCain, compared to 37% who back Obama. But that is not surprising, considering since every election going back to Bill Clinton in 1992, LA Times exit polls show that white voters have supported Republican candidates. However, 84% of blacks are supporting Obama, while 7% support McCain. McCain's support among blacks is somewhat lower than his Republican counterparts in other presidential elections, but Republicans don't do well with this racial group. In LA Times exit polls: in 2004, George W. Bush received 14% of the black vote; in 2000, Bush received 9%; in 1996, Bob Dole got the support of 21% of blacks and in 1992, George H.W. Bush received 9% of the black vote.
- Voters with less than a college degree are split – 43% each candidate. College educated voters have been a mainstay of Obama's core group and he leads McCain by eight points with this group (49% to 41%).
- There is a gender gap with men swinging toward McCain giving the candidate an eight point advantage over his opponent, while women give Obama an 11 point lead over the Republican candidate. However, white men and white women both support the Republican candidate.
- Young men less than 45 years of age are split – 44% each – for both candidates; older men are supporting McCain by 49% to 38% and younger women are strongly backing Obama, while older women are split – 43% each.
- Married voters and single voters are voting for opposite candidates. Married voters are supporting McCain, while single voters are voting for Obama.
- What could be a problem for McCain is his strength among white evangelicals. In 2004, Bush received 78% of the white evangelical vote. McCain is now getting the support of 69% of this group. He has to increase their enthusiasm for voting for him.
- All regions except the South are supporting Obama.

### **Race and Politics In America**

With race front and center at times during this historic presidential race, most Americans, and especially non-white Americans, rate relations between the races in the U.S. as at best fair. Overall, only a third said that the situation is excellent or good. Nearly four in 10 whites gave the situation at least a good rating, compared to fewer than one in four blacks and even fewer - one in five - respondents of other backgrounds. Two-thirds of the public overall rated race relations as fair (48%) or poor (16%). That includes three out of five whites, and roughly three-quarters of blacks and other non-white Americans.



*Generally speaking, how would you rate race relations in the country today. Would you say they are excellent, good, fair, or poor?*

	<u>All</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Other</u>
Excellent/Good (net)	<u>33</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>20</u>
Excellent	3	3	3	4
Good	30	35	20	16
Fair/Poor (net)	<u>64</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>77</u>
Fair	48	49	40	51
Poor	16	11	33	26

A July 15<sup>th</sup> CBS News/New York Times poll found most Americans in agreement that there has been progress since the 1960s toward ending discrimination, but this survey supplies a caveat in that the public is not raving about how much progress has been made in more recent times. A 42% plurality said that racial discrimination has not changed much for the better or for the worse over the last decade, nearly three out of 10 said that the problem has gotten worse in the last 10 years and only a quarter said that things have improved in that time. Whites are nearly three times as likely as blacks to say that discrimination is less of a problem now than 10 years ago. Forty-two percent of blacks said that there is more discrimination now, 11% said less, and 41% said it is about the same.

#### *Is The Country Ready For A Black President?*

Despite the widespread feeling that difficulties between the races continue to persist, more than seven out of 10 registered voters, including 75% of both white and black voters, said they think the timing is right for the U.S. to elect a black President. Roughly three-fourths of Democrats and independents said that the country is ready, along with almost two-thirds of Republicans.

A majority of white voters, a group that at this point in time is backing McCain by 13 points in the two-way match-up, also agree that the country is ready for a black president, even if they aren't voting for this particular black candidate for the job – 56% of white voters who are not voting for Obama nonetheless said they think the country is ready for a black president. It could be argued that the very fact that there is an African-American major party candidate means the country has moved in that direction.

The survey did uncover some signs of discomfort with the idea. While most people said that they themselves were comfortable with the idea, a majority also indicated that they know people who would not be comfortable. For instance, 83% of white voters said that they personally would feel comfortable voting for a black candidate for president, but more than a third of that group said that only some of the people they know would feel comfortable about it or that no one they knew would. Only 12% of white voters said everyone they know would feel comfortable. Among blacks, 21% said everyone would be comfortable with it, 47% said most, and 25% said only some or none.

#### *Would An Obama or McCain Presidency Change Race Relations?*

A 42% plurality of voters overall said that neither candidate would make any difference for better or worse when it comes to race relations, but there is a core of optimism, especially among Obama voters, that an Obama presidency could bring positive change.

Nearly half of voters overall (47%) said things would probably not change if Obama is elected, but nearly one in three said they thought that race relations would improve. Another 17% said they thought the situation would get worse. Forty-five percent of Obama voters overall believe that an Obama presidency would improve the situation. Black voters were somewhat less optimistic – 37% said things would improve, while 44% said nothing would change.

Nearly three out of 10 Republicans said that an Obama presidency would worsen race relations, compared to 10% of Democrats and 15% of independents who said the same thing. Democrats are most optimistic – 39% said that things would get better, and 43% said that nothing would change. Half of independents think that things will remain the same and another 30% thought the situation might just get better.

Most voters – 76% - said that a McCain presidency would have little effect one way or the other on race relations, while 12% said that things would be worse, and only 6% thought he would bring any improvement to the situation. Three out of 10 black voters worried that things would get worse if McCain is elected, three times the number of white voters who said the same thing. Eighteen percent of Democrats think a McCain presidency would make race relations worse, compared to only 9% of independents and 6% of Republicans. Twelve percent of Republicans thought McCain could bring some positive change.

Nearly a third of registered voters overall believe that black elected officials are more inclined to protect people of their own racial group than are other elected officials. Nearly four in 10 Republicans believe that is the case, along with 28% of Democrats and 30% of independents. More than a third of blacks and 31% of whites also say that would be the case. Overall, 40% said all groups are equally likely to protect their own, 13% said that black officials are less likely, and 15% weren't sure.

### *Race and The Presidential Campaign*

A 44% plurality of voters said that neither candidate is using race as an issue in their presidential campaign, but 26% said that Obama has done so, and 13% said the same thing of McCain. Among the group who thinks race has played a role, 61% said it was used in a negative way and another 10% said that it has been used in both a positive and negative way. Partisanship plays a role in the perception of who is using race negatively – more than one out of five Democrats, nearly that number of liberals, and nearly three out of 10 black voters said that McCain has been using racial issues against Obama. Similarly, 28% of Republicans, 33% of conservatives and 17% of whites say the same thing about Obama's campaign against McCain.

White voters in this survey favor John McCain by 50% to 37% while black voters back Barack Obama by 84% to 7%. The racial split in the voters is unmistakable, and one question that comes to mind is, how much of that split can be attributed to the race of the candidate? This survey doesn't provide a definitive answer, but a look back at the recent voting past can provide some insight. Democratic candidates in recent presidential races, all of whom were white, have been able to count on the backing of between eight and nine out of 10 of African-Americans. White voters, on the other hand, have tended to back Republican candidates. Given the recent past, neither Republican candidate John McCain's thirteen point lead over his Democratic rival among whites nor Barack Obama's overwhelming lead among black voters is unusual.

Pre-election polls taken before elections in the last two decades show that white voters tend to settle on the Republican candidate pretty early and stick with them. In 2004, an August Times survey found white voters favoring the GW Bush/Cheney ticket over Kerry/Edwards by 13 percentage points, and in the general election in November, Bush won among whites by 15 points. Similarly a Times pre-election poll

taken just before the Democratic convention in 2000 found whites backing Bush over Gore by 55% to 36%. By election day, Gore had closed the gap among white voters some but not enough - a majority of whites voted for GW Bush in November, giving him an 11 point margin over the Democrat among that group.

Bill Clinton did better among white voters than the Democratic candidates who came after him but never garnered a majority or even a plurality of whites at the polls. In a Times Poll from August of 1992 - before the Democratic convention when independent candidate Ross Perot was barely on the radar - Bill Clinton had a 19 point lead over Republican incumbent GHW Bush among whites. By early October, however, Perot had gained a foothold among white voters and by late October, the independent candidate had made deep inroads into the white vote – 23% of that group backed him compared to 40% for Clinton and 32% for Bush. At the polls in November, 36% of white voters backed Clinton, 42% voted for GHW Bush and 31% voted for independent candidate Ross Perot. In 1996, whites backed Dole over Clinton by five percentage points.

**White and Black Vote In Previous Presidential Elections**

*Horizontal table*

	---- 2004 ----		--- 2000 ---		----- 1996 -----			----- 1992 -----		
	<u>Kerry</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Dole</u>	<u>Perot</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Perot</u>
All	48	51	48	48	49	41	8	43	37	19
White	42	57	43	54	42	47	9	36	43	21
Black	86	14	90	9	89	8	3	86	9	5

*Source: Los Angeles Times Exit Polls*

This survey finds McCain widening his lead to 13 percentage points over Obama among whites, up from the four points (within margin) found in last month’s Times/Bloomberg poll, a similar advantage to that enjoyed by his Republican predecessors.

It seems that there partisan politics accounts for most if not all of the racial split in the vote. But what about a racial division among Obama’s natural base – The Democrats? The survey does show a 16 point difference in support for Obama among white and black Democrats.

**2-Way Candidate Preference Among Affiliated Democrats**

	---- Affiliated Democrats ----		
	<u>All</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>
Obama	78	74	90
McCain	9	12	4
S/Else	2	2	0
D/know	11	12	6

However, again looking to the recent past, in the 2004 election, 95% of black Democrats voted for Kerry while 14% of white Democrats voted for Bush.

**Vote in 2004 Among Affiliated Democrats**

	---- Affiliated Democrats ----		
	<u>All</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Black</u>
John Kerry	88	86	95
George W. Bush	12	14	5

*Source: Los Angeles Times Exit Polls*

## *Other Issues*

Seventeen percent of white respondents said they would disapprove of a son or daughter marrying someone of another race, compared to 6% of blacks and 10% of those of other races and backgrounds who said the same thing. Most Americans – 72% - said they are in favor of programs designed to help minorities get better jobs and education, while only 17% said they are opposed to such programs. Sixty-eight percent of whites and 88% of blacks support such programs.

A plurality of almost four out of 10 said that the government has paid too little attention to the needs of blacks, Latinos and other ethnic groups. Others disagree - 24% said too much attention has been paid to the needs of minorities, while a similar one out of four said that the amount of attention paid has been just right. Whites and blacks differ on this, with whites four times as likely as blacks to say that too much attention has been paid. More than four out of five blacks said that too little attention has been paid, compared to 28% of whites. Only 5% of blacks are satisfied with government's attention to minority needs, compared to 30% of whites.

Nearly six out of 10 of the public overall said that whites, as a group, have more political influence than other groups. That figure rises to 72% among blacks, while 55% of whites think they have the most influence. One out of 10 each among conservatives and Republicans point to Latinos as having the most political influence.

Just over three in 10 said that all groups are prone to violence in equal measure, but 31% pointed to blacks and 19% to Latinos as being the most prone to violence. Black respondents were the most hard on their own group – 42% said that blacks as a group are more prone to violence, followed by 20% who said Latinos are the most violent. Twenty-nine percent of whites said that blacks are the most violent, and 20% said Latinos. Roughly a third of white respondents and about a quarter of black said all groups are equally violent.

---- *Analysis by Susan Pinkus and Jill Darling*

## *Survey Methodology*

The Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg Poll contacted 1,375 adults nationwide by telephone Friday through Monday. Included are 1,248 registered voters, 173 African-American adults, and 154 African-American registered voters. Telephone numbers were chosen randomly in separate samples of landline and cell phone exchanges in the nation, allowing listed and unlisted numbers to be contacted, and multiple attempts were made to contact each number. Cell phone exchanges were hand-dialed. Areas with higher concentration of African American households were disproportionately contacted in a separate random national sample to allow a more accurate analysis of that subgroup and weighted into proportion. The cell and landline samples were combined and adjusted for sample size and non-response. Adults in the combined sample were adjusted to the most recent estimates from the National Health Interview Survey for household phone types and to census proportions of sex, ethnicity, age, education, and national region. The margin of sampling error for all adults and all registered voters is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For black adults and registered voters it is plus or minus 8. For certain other subgroups, the error margin may be somewhat higher. Survey results may also be affected by combining samples and by factors such as question wording and the order in which they are asked. Interviews were conducted by Interviewing Service of America, Inc. in Van Nuys.

# Los Angeles Times / Bloomberg

## Data Tables – Survey 559 – Release #1 – August 19, 2008

Guide to column headings:

ALL	All respondents
REG	All registered voters – includes respondents in states that do not require or allow pre-registration
DEM,IND,REP	Affiliated Democrats, Independents and Republicans
LIB, MOD, CONS	Self-described liberal, moderates and conservatives
WHITE, BLACK	Non-Hispanic white alone, Non-Hispanic black alone

### Survey Notes:

- (vol) indicates a volunteered response
- ‘–’ indicates that a response added up to less than 0.5% of the question base
- The order of names and the order of any arguments or statements are rotated in all questions that mention them. Question order is also rotated, whenever required to eliminate order bias.
- Numbers are percentages, tables are read vertically
- Tables are among registered voters and those living in states that do not require registration to vote, unless otherwise noted.
- Unless otherwise noted, missing questions are operational, or will be published in a subsequent release

**Party affiliation: 34% Democrat, 29% independent, 29% Republican and 4% other party**

Q2. If the November 2008 general election for president were being held today and the choices were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, for whom would you vote: Obama or McCain, or would you vote for a candidate from some other party? *(Includes Leaners)*

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Obama	45	78	46	6	78	50	18	37	84
McCain	43	9	35	90	14	35	71	50	7
Other Candidate	2	2	4	1	1	4	1	2	2
Don't know	10	11	15	3	7	11	10	11	7

**Asked Of Voters Who Mention A Candidate**

Q3. Are you certain you're going to vote for that candidate, or is it possible that you might end up voting for somebody else?

	----- Registered Voters Who Mentioned A Candidate -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Certain	83	87	70	89	81	80	87	82	90
Not certain	14	8	25	10	17	14	12	15	7
Don't know	3	5	5	1	2	6	1	3	3

-- Vote in Q2--

	<u>OBAMA</u>	<u>MCCAIN</u>
Certain	83	86
Not certain	12	13
Don't know	5	1

Q4. What if the November general election for president were being held today and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, John McCain, the Republican, Independent Ralph Nader, Bob Barr, the Libertarian candidate, and Cynthia McKinney, the Green Party candidate for whom would you vote: Obama, McCain, Nader, Barr, or McKinney?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Obama	42	80	38	4	77	47	13	36	80
McCain	41	7	36	87	12	32	71	47	8
Nader	4	3	5	3	2	5	5	4	4
Barr	1	-	2	1	-	1	1	1	-
McKinney	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other Candidate	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	-
Don't know	11	9	16	4	7	13	9	11	8

-- Vote in Q2 --

	<u>OBAMA</u>	<u>MCCAIN</u>
Obama	90	1
McCain	1	93
Nader	4	3
Barr	1	1
McKinney	-	1
Don't know	4	1

**Asked of Obama Voters in Q2 and Q4**

Q5. Would you describe yourself as enthusiastic about the candidacy of Barack Obama, or not? (IF ENTHUSIASTIC):  
 Would you describe yourself as very or only somewhat enthusiastic about the candidacy of Barack Obama? (IF NOT)  
 Would you describe yourself as not too enthusiastic or not at all enthusiastic about the candidacy of Barack Obama?

	----- Obama Voters -----							
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS*</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Enthusiastic (net)	78	86	66	89	76	51	78	89
Very enthusiastic	46	55	32	51	44	33	43	72
Somewhat enthusiastic	32	31	34	37	32	19	35	17
N/Enthusiastic (net)	20	12	33	10	23	47	20	8
Not too enthusiastic	14	6	26	6	17	33	14	8
Not enthusiastic at all	6	6	7	5	6	13	7	-
Don't know (net)	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	3

\*Small base - N=99

*Asked of McCain Voters in Q2 and Q4*

Q6. Would you describe yourself as enthusiastic about the candidacy of John McCain, or not? (IF ENTHUSIASTIC):  
 Would you describe yourself as very or only somewhat enthusiastic about the candidacy of John McCain? (IF NOT) Would you describe yourself as not too enthusiastic or not at all enthusiastic about the candidacy of John McCain?

	----- McCain Voters -----				
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>
Enthusiastic (net)	<u>61</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>63</u>
Very enthusiastic	<u>27</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>
Somewhat enthusiastic	<u>34</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>36</u>
N/Enthusiastic (net)	<u>38</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>36</u>
Not too enthusiastic	<u>24</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>22</u>
Not enthusiastic at all	<u>14</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>
Don't know (net)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Q7. What issue or problem do you consider the top priority for candidates running for president to address this election?  
 (Two Replies Accepted)

	----- Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	
Nothing in Particular	3	4	1	1	1	4	2	2	5	
Economy in general	41	44	51	32	48	43	36	40	42	
War in Iraq	31	37	25	29	34	29	30	34	29	
Gas/oil/fuel - high cost	15	16	12	13	17	12	14	13	17	
Healthcare	12	17	11	9	18	12	9	11	16	
Illegal immigration	6	3	5	11	-	5	12	7	9	
Increase U.S. oil supply	5	2	3	10	4	9	3	6	3	
Taxes	5	1	1	12	1	9	5	6	1	
Education	4	4	5	4	7	3	3	4	3	
Budget deficit	4	4	2	4	4	2	4	4	4	
Environment	3	2	9	-	5	3	2	2	4	
Protecting U.S. from terrorist attacks	4	-	5	8	-	1	10	5	3	
Job loss / outsourcing / unemployment	3	5	4	-	3	4	4	3	3	
Social issues, such as abortion and gay rights	3	2	2	6	1	3	4	3	1	
Alternative energy sources	2	2	3	2	4	2	3	3	-	
Recession/rising inflation	2	3	1	1	4	1	1	1	-	
Homelessness/poverty	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	2	
Affordable housing	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	
Home foreclosures/sub-prime	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	
Afghanistan	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	
Threat countries /N. Korea etc.	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	
Middle East	1	1	-	2	-	1	1	1	1	
High food cost/ethanol issues	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	
Income inequities	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	
Other	6	5	8	6	7	6	5	6	2	
Don't know	3	3	3	4	2	4	3	3	5	

Q8. Do you have a positive or negative feeling about Barack Obama? (IF POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE) Is it very or only somewhat (positive/negative)?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Positive (net)	<u>48</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>86</u>
Very positive	<u>33</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>72</u>
Somewhat positive	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>14</u>
Negative (net)	<u>35</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>6</u>
Somewhat negative	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>
Very negative	<u>23</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>4</u>
Neutral/neither pos nor neg (vol)	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>
Haven't heard enough (vol)	<u>1</u>	-	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	-
Don't know (net)	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

Q9. Do you have a positive or negative feeling about John McCain? (IF POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE) Is it very or only somewhat (positive/negative)?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Positive (net)	<u>46</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>25</u>
Very positive	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>
Somewhat positive	<u>29</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>17</u>
Negative (net)	<u>38</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>54</u>
Somewhat negative	<u>20</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>23</u>
Very negative	<u>19</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>31</u>
Neutral/neither pos nor neg (vol)	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>
Haven't heard enough (vol)	-	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	-	-
Don't know (net)	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

Q10. Do you think the country is ready to elect a black man for president, or not?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Yes	<u>72</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>75</u>
No	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>

Q11. As you may know, John McCain will be 72 years of age at the time of the presidential election in November. Do you agree or disagree that McCain is too old to be president? (IF AGREE OR DISAGREE) Do you strongly (agree/disagree) or only somewhat (agree/disagree)?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Agree (net)	<u>32</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>46</u>
Strongly agree	<u>21</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>43</u>
Somewhat agree	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>3</u>
Disagree (net)	<u>65</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>50</u>
Somewhat disagree	<u>19</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>21</u>
Strongly disagree	<u>46</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>29</u>
Don't know (net)	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>



I am going to mention a few things that voters think about when deciding on their choice for president. Regardless of your choice for president, please tell me for each issue I mention, what you think about Barack Obama and John McCain. First,

Q12. Do you think Barack Obama has the right experience to be president, or not?

	----- Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	
Yes	44	73	40	11	65	52	19	37	81	
No	48	18	47	83	24	41	75	55	12	
Don't know	8	9	13	6	11	7	6	8	7	

Q13. Do you think John McCain has the right experience to be president, or not?

	----- Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	
Yes	80	74	75	94	72	79	90	84	65	
No	14	18	18	3	19	16	7	11	29	
Don't know	6	8	7	3	9	5	3	5	6	

Q14. Do you think Barack Obama has made it clear what he wants to accomplish if he is elected president, or not?

	----- Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	
Yes	52	71	48	36	71	54	37	46	83	
No	40	23	41	57	22	40	55	45	10	
Don't know	8	6	11	7	7	6	8	9	7	

Q15. Do you think John McCain has made it clear what he wants to accomplish if he is elected president, or not?

	----- Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	
Yes	53	48	48	68	47	49	63	57	40	
No	37	43	38	25	45	40	29	34	53	
Don't know	10	9	14	7	8	11	8	9	7	

Q16. Do you have a lot of confidence, some confidence, or no confidence in Barack Obama's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis?

	----- Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	
Confidence (net)	63	86	62	37	85	74	38	59	89	
A lot of confidence	27	46	23	6	43	32	8	21	59	
Some confidence	37	41	39	31	42	42	30	38	30	
No confidence	32	10	33	58	13	21	58	36	7	
Don't know (net)	5	3	5	5	2	5	4	5	4	

Q17. Do you have a lot of confidence, some confidence, or no confidence in John McCain's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Confidence (net)	<u>77</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>51</u>
A lot of confidence	<u>34</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>11</u>
Some confidence	<u>43</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>40</u>
No confidence	<u>19</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>39</u>
Don't know (net)	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>

Q18. Do you think race relations in America would get better, or worse, or would race relations stay about the same as they are now if Barack Obama were elected president?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Better	<u>28</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>37</u>
Worse	<u>17</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>
Stay the same	<u>47</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>49</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>44</u>
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>

Q19. Do you think race relations in America would get better, or worse, or would race relations stay about the same as they are now if John McCain were elected president?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Better	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>
Worse	<u>12</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>30</u>
Stay the same	<u>76</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>60</u>
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<u>1</u>

Q20. Do you think Obama's patriotism is strong, or do you have questions about how patriotic Obama is?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Patriotism strong	<u>55</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>86</u>
Have questions	<u>35</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>10</u>
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>
Refused	<u>1</u>	-	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	<u>1</u>	-	-

Q21. Do you think McCain's patriotism is strong, or do you have questions about how patriotic McCain is?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Patriotism strong	<u>84</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>70</u>
Have questions	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>20</u>
Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>
Refused	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	-	-	<u>1</u>

Q22. Do you think the following statement applies to Barack Obama or not: "He is too arrogant and presumptuous"?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Applies	35	19	28	58	15	37	48	39	15
Does not apply	59	76	68	33	82	59	44	55	75
Don't know	6	5	4	9	3	4	8	6	10

Q23. Do you think the following statement applies to John McCain or not: "He is too hot-tempered"?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Applies	30	38	27	15	32	35	20	27	38
Does not apply	56	45	57	74	47	55	67	59	44
Don't know	14	17	16	11	21	10	13	14	18

Q24. Who do you think has the better ideas for strengthening the nation's economy: Barack Obama or John McCain?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither of them (vol)	11	6	12	11	8	9	15	11	3
Barack Obama	45	74	44	10	71	51	19	38	73
John McCain	28	6	26	61	9	18	53	34	9
Both equally (vol)	8	8	6	11	7	15	5	7	12
Don't know	8	6	12	7	5	7	8	10	3

Q25. Who do you think would be best at dealing with the rising gas and oil prices: Barack Obama or John McCain?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither of them (vol)	14	9	23	11	12	15	16	16	4
Barack Obama	39	66	38	7	57	47	17	31	72
John McCain	32	11	27	65	16	22	55	37	12
Other candidate (vol)	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
Both equally (vol)	7	6	5	10	8	11	4	7	7
Don't know	8	7	7	6	6	5	8	8	5

Q26. Who do you think has more honesty and integrity: Barack Obama or John McCain?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither of them (vol)	8	5	10	6	10	7	9	8	3
Barack Obama	30	56	24	4	52	30	11	24	70
John McCain	34	10	27	72	8	29	59	39	6
Other candidate (vol)	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Both equally (vol)	22	24	30	12	27	26	15	22	14
Don't know	6	5	8	6	2	8	6	7	7

Q27. Who do you think will substantially change the way things are done in Washington: Barack Obama or John McCain?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither of them (vol)	21	11	24	30	16	13	32	24	4
Barack Obama	51	75	52	24	70	66	27	47	78
John McCain	16	5	13	32	6	12	27	17	8
Other candidate (vol)	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Both equally (vol)	6	5	6	6	5	4	8	5	7
Don't know	5	4	5	7	3	4	6	6	3

Q28. Who do you think would be best at achieving success in Iraq: Barack Obama or John McCain?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither of them (vol)	10	10	13	5	15	9	9	10	3
Barack Obama	36	61	35	11	56	45	13	30	68
John McCain	43	18	38	76	19	34	71	48	16
Other candidate (vol)	1	-	2	1	1	1	-	1	-
Both equally (vol)	4	3	8	1	5	5	3	4	5
Don't know	6	8	4	6	4	6	4	7	8

Q29. Who do you think cares more about people like you: Barack Obama or John McCain?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither of them (vol)	12	7	17	9	14	9	14	11	4
Barack Obama	41	73	37	5	61	45	19	34	80
John McCain	28	7	21	60	6	23	49	33	5
Other candidate (vol)	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Both equally (vol)	13	8	14	19	12	19	12	16	7
Don't know	6	5	11	6	7	4	6	6	4

Q30. Who would be best at protecting the country from terrorism: Barack Obama or John McCain?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither of them (vol)	7	7	13	1	11	9	2	6	2
Barack Obama	25	48	20	4	43	27	10	19	57
John McCain	47	20	41	80	25	33	77	53	21
Other candidate (vol)	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
Both equally (vol)	13	14	17	11	15	23	5	14	10
Don't know	8	11	7	4	6	8	5	7	10

Q31A Which candidate do you think is using race as an issue in their presidential campaign: Barack Obama or John McCain, or are neither of them using race as an issue?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither	44	50	47	36	51	46	39	45	42
Barack Obama	26	10	23	46	11	24	40	29	10
John McCain	13	23	14	4	20	18	5	10	32
Both (vol)	9	7	11	9	10	8	8	9	5
Don't know	8	10	5	5	8	4	8	7	11

**Asked Of Those Who Said That Either Or Both Candidates Are Using Race As An Issue**

Q31B. You said that [include previous answer]. [Is he/Are they] using race as an issue in the campaign in a positive or negative way?

	----- Voters Who Think Candidates are Using Race As An Issue -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK*</u>
Neither (vol)	6	4	3	8	5	7	5	7	1
Positive	18	21	15	20	17	32	8	17	18
Negative	61	58	65	59	58	47	73	61	63
Both (vol)	10	11	13	7	15	10	7	10	13
Obama pos / McCain neg (vol)	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	-
McCain pos / Obama neg (vol)	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Don't know	4	5	2	4	3	3	4	4	5

\*small N=77

**Combined Questions Q31A/Q31B:** Which candidate do you think is using race as an issue in their presidential campaign: Barack Obama or John McCain, or are neither of them using race as an issue? (IF EITHER OR BOTH) [Is he/Are they] using race as an issue in the campaign in a positive or negative way?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither using race	48	56	49	38	55	48	43	48	48
Obama - Not negative	13	9	8	20	9	19	10	14	8
Obama - Negative	15	2	16	28	3	6	33	17	3
McCain - Not negative	3	4	2	3	3	4	2	2	6
McCain - Negative	12	21	13	1	19	15	3	9	29
Both candidates / Not negative	4	6	7	1	6	5	2	4	5
Both candidates / Negative	4	2	4	7	4	3	6	5	1
Obama - Not negative / McCain - Negative	1	-	-	2	1	-	1	1	-
Obama - Negative / McCain - Not negative	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Q32. As you may know, Barack Obama has opposed the war in Iraq from the start and opposed the surge of additional troops. He said he would withdraw all American combat troops from Iraq within sixteen months. John McCain supported the war in Iraq and said the surge of additional troops has worked. He believes progress is being made in Iraq and we should stay and finish the job. Which position do you agree with more: Barack Obama's or John McCain's?

	----- Registered Voters -----								
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Neither/something else (vol)	6	5	6	5	7	4	4	6	4
Barack Obama	48	78	50	13	75	59	19	42	78
John McCain	42	14	39	79	16	32	73	47	16
Don't know	4	3	5	3	2	5	4	5	2

Q33. As you may know, in dealing with the energy crisis, John McCain favors drilling for oil off the U.S. coastline, building more nuclear power plants and giving a \$5,000 tax credit to anyone who buys an energy efficient car. He also opposes imposing any new taxes on oil companies. Barack Obama opposes off shore oil drilling, favors spending more on alternative energy sources and "green" jobs, and wants to give \$1,000 energy rebates to working families, paid for by higher taxes on oil company profits. Which candidate's plan do you prefer: John McCain's or Barack Obama's?

	----- Registered Voters -----									
	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>	
Neither/something else (vol)	9	7	13	6	10	8	8	8	9	
Barack Obama	44	72	47	9	66	53	20	40	64	
John McCain	40	15	34	81	19	33	65	46	19	
Don't know	7	6	6	4	5	6	7	6	8	

**Q34 to Q41 Asked of All Respondents**

Q34. Generally speaking, how would you rate race relations in the country today. Would you say they are excellent, good, fair, or poor?

	----- All Respondents -----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Excellent/good (net)	33	34	27	32	45	26	29	40	37	24
Excellent	3	3	4	3	2	3	2	3	3	3
Good	30	31	23	29	43	23	27	37	35	20
Fair/poor (net)	64	64	71	65	53	71	69	58	60	73
Fair	48	49	52	51	43	54	54	40	49	40
Poor	16	15	20	14	10	17	15	17	11	33
Don't know (net)	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3

Q35. To the best of your knowledge, do you think everyone you know, most people you know, or only some people you know would feel comfortable voting for a black candidate for president?

	----- All Respondents -----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Everyone	13	13	17	12	8	15	12	10	12	21
Most people	42	44	48	47	34	52	42	37	42	47
Some people	31	30	26	33	33	27	29	37	31	24
No one (vol)	4	3	3	2	7	2	4	5	4	1
Depends on candidate (vol)	4	5	1	2	11	1	8	4	5	1
Don't know	6	5	5	4	7	3	5	7	6	6

Q36. How about you personally? Would you feel comfortable voting for a black candidate for president, or not?

	----- All Respondents -----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Comfortable	83	84	90	89	72	94	78	81	83	92
Not comfortable	9	9	4	5	16	3	13	8	9	3
Depends on candidate (vol)	7	6	5	4	11	2	8	10	7	2
Don't know	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	3

Q37. In general, are you in favor of, or opposed to, programs designed to help minorities get better jobs and education? (IF FAVOR/OPPOSE) Are you strongly or only somewhat (in favor of/opposed to) these programs?

----- All Respondents -----										
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Favor (net)	<u>72</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>88</u>
Strongly favor	45	44	62	40	29	59	44	32	39	79
Somewhat favor	27	27	22	28	32	23	30	30	29	9
Oppose (net)	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>8</u>
Somewhat oppose	9	10	6	9	12	6	7	13	10	3
Strongly oppose	9	9	4	10	13	4	10	11	10	4
Don't know (net)	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>4</u>
Haven't heard (vol)	3	3	2	3	6	2	2	6	4	1

Q38. Do you think government has paid too much, too little, or the right amount of attention to the needs of blacks, Latinos and other racial or ethnic groups?

----- All Respondents -----										
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Too much	24	23	11	25	41	15	23	32	28	7
Too little	38	38	60	36	12	56	40	25	28	82
The right amount	25	27	20	25	34	20	25	32	30	5
Don't know	12	12	9	14	12	9	12	11	14	6
Refused	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-

Q39. Over the last ten years, has racial discrimination become more or less of a problem in the country, or has the problem remained about the same over the last ten years? (IF MORE/LESS) Is it much (more/less) of a problem than 10 years ago or only somewhat?

----- All Respondents -----										
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
More (net)	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>42</u>
Much more	12	11	14	11	11	11	12	11	10	24
Somewhat more	13	12	14	10	13	12	12	14	12	18
Less (net)	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>11</u>
Somewhat less	20	20	17	25	22	19	21	23	22	10
Much less	8	9	5	7	13	6	8	10	9	1
About the same	<u>42</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>41</u>
Don't know (net)	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

Q40. In your opinion, which groups or which kinds of people, if any, here in the United States have more political influence than other groups: Whites, or Asians, or blacks or Latinos, or is there some other group? (Two Replies)

----- All Respondents -----										
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
All equally	13	13	9	15	15	8	10	16	15	9
Whites	59	58	71	51	55	71	63	52	55	72
Blacks	6	6	7	5	6	5	5	8	6	5
Latinos	8	9	5	9	10	8	7	10	9	4
Asians	2	1	3	-	1	1	3	1	2	1
Other group	5	6	4	8	5	6	5	6	5	5
Don't know	11	11	7	14	11	6	10	11	12	8

Q41. In your opinion, which groups or which kinds of people, if any, here in the United States are more prone to violence than other groups: Whites, or Asians, or blacks or Latinos, or is there some other group? (*Two Replies*)

	----- All Respondents -----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
All equally	31	31	29	35	32	30	28	33	32	24
Whites	7	7	11	6	4	12	8	4	6	13
Blacks	31	31	32	28	32	31	29	35	29	42
Latinos	19	20	19	17	25	19	27	17	20	20
Asians	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1
Other group	3	2	2	4	3	3	2	2	2	2
Don't know	17	17	18	17	10	16	15	15	17	15

Q42. Do you think black elected officials are more, less, or equally likely than elected officials of other ethnic or racial groups to protect people of their own race or ethnicity?

	----- All Respondents -----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
More likely	32	32	28	30	39	37	21	39	31	35
Less likely	13	12	18	9	12	9	15	13	12	16
Equally likely	40	40	39	46	37	43	48	34	42	34
Don't know	15	16	15	15	12	11	16	14	15	15

Thinking about you and your family and friends...

Q43. Would you approve or disapprove if you had a son or a daughter who married someone from a different race or different ethnic group than your own, or wouldn't you care about that one way or the other? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Is that (approve/disapprove strongly or (approve/disapprove) somewhat?)

	----- All Respondents -----									
	<u>ALL</u>	<u>REG</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CONS</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>BLACK</u>
Approve (net)	30	30	35	35	19	35	29	25	28	40
Approve strongly	22	22	27	26	11	27	20	18	20	31
Approve somewhat	7	8	7	9	7	7	9	7	7	9
Disapprove (net)	15	16	11	12	23	10	14	19	17	6
Disapprove somewhat	8	8	6	6	12	5	7	9	9	1
Disapprove strongly	7	7	6	6	11	5	7	9	9	5
Don't care	52	51	51	50	55	53	53	53	51	52
Don't know (net)	4	4	3	3	4	2	4	3	4	2