

**Newsweek Poll
Obama and God
Princeton Survey Research Associates International**

Final Topline Results
(7/11/08)

N = 1,209 registered voters
Margin of error: plus or minus 3
Interviewing dates: 7/9-10/08

SAMPLE SIZE/MARGIN OF ERROR FOR REGISTERED VOTERS SUBGROUPS:

1037	Registered voters (plus or minus 4)
315	Republicans (plus or minus 7)
324	Democrats (plus or minus 7)
357	Independents (plus or minus 6)
896	White (plus or minus 4)
124	Non-White (plus or minus 10)
492	Men (plus or minus 5)
545	Women (plus or minus 5)
169	18-39 (plus or minus 8)
384	40-59 (plus or minus 6)
444	60+ (plus or minus 5)
252	White Evangelicals (plus or minus 7)
187	White Catholics (plus or minus 8)
457	Other whites (plus or minus 5)
212	Hillary Clinton supporters (plus or minus 8)

Notes: Data are weighted so that sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density.

Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error. Sample size and margins of error for these subgroups are included in a separate methodology statement.

An asterisk () indicates a value less than 1%.*

Question 1a/b

1a/b. Suppose the presidential election were being held TODAY and the candidates were... Barack Obama, the Democrat; and John McCain, the Republican (choices rotated). Who would you be more likely to vote for? [IF OTHER/UNDECIDED, RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED] As of TODAY, do you LEAN more toward Obama, the Democrat; or McCain, the Republican?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Total Obama</u>	<u>Total McCain</u>	<u>Undec./Other</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	44	41	15	=100
Republicans	12	83	5	=100
Democrats	81	11	8	=100
Independents	34	41	25	=100
Whites	36	48	16	=100
Non-Whites	70	21	9	=100
Men	43	44	13	=100
Women	45	39	16	=100
18-39	56	33	11	=100
40-59	41	44	15	=100
60+	37	48	15	=100
Hillary Clinton Supporters	70	17	13	=100
White Evangelicals	23	60	17	=100
White Catholics	33	49	18	=100
Other Whites	45	40	15	=100
TRENDS				
6/18-19/08	51	36	13	=100
5/21-22/08	46	46	8	=100
4/24-25/08	47	44	9	=100
4/16-17/08	48	44	8	=100
3/5-6/08	46	45	9	=100
6/20-21/07	51	41	8	=100
5/2-3/07	52	39	9	=100
2/28-3/1/07	45	43	12	=100
1/24-25/07	48	42	10	=100
1/17-18/07	46	44	10	=100
12/6-7/06	43	45	12	=100
	<u>Total Kerry</u>	<u>Total Bush</u>	<u>Undec./Other</u>	
7/8-9/04	47	44	9	=100
	<u>Total Gore</u>	<u>Total Bush</u>	<u>Undec./Other</u>	
6/29-30/00	40	41	19	=100

2. Do you support... (INSERT CHOICE FROM Q1a) STRONGLY or only moderately?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

Strength of Support

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not strong</u>	
Obama	61	39	=100
McCain	39	61	=100
7/8-9/04			
Kerry	53	47	=100
Bush	70	30	=100

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	28	63	9	=100
TRENDS ¹				
4/16-17/08	28	65	7	=100
3/5-6/08	30	61	9	=100
2/6-7/08	30	60	10	=100
8/1-2/07	29	63	8	=100
7/11-12/07	29	64	7	=100
7/2-3/07	26	65	9	=100
6/18-19/07	26	65	9	=100
5/2-3/07	28	64	8	=100
3/28-29/07	33	60	7	=100
3/14-15/07	30	60	10	=100
2/28-3/1/07	31	61	8	=100
1/24-25/07	30	64	6	=100
1/17-18/07	31	62	7	=100
12/6-7/06	32	60	8	=100
11/9-10/06	31	63	6	=100
11/2-3/06	35	56	9	=100
10/26-27/06	37	53	10	=100
10/19-20/06	35	57	8	=100
10/5-6/06	33	59	8	=100
8/24-25/06	36	56	8	=100
8/10-11/06	38	55	7	=100
5/11-12/06	35	59	6	=100
3/16-17/06	36	58	6	=100
11/10-11/05	36	58	6	=100
9/29-30/05	40	53	7	=100
9/8-9/05	38	55	7	=100
8/2-4/05	42	51	7	=100
3/17-18/05	45	48	7	=100
2/3-4/05	50	42	8	=100
12/2-3/04	49	44	7	=100
10/27-29/04	46	47	7	=100
10/14-15/04	47	46	7	=100
9/30-10/2/04	46	48	6	=100
9/9-10/04	48	44	8	=100

¹ Full trendline from 1/04 to present; earlier trends selected. Approval figures for 8/25-9/5/01 from Pew Research Center.

9/2-3/04	52	41	7	=100
7/29-30/04	45	49	6	=100
7/8-9/04	48	46	6	=100
5/13-14/04	42	52	6	=100
4/8-9/04	49	45	6	=100
3/18-19/04	48	44	8	=100
2/5-6/04	48	45	7	=100
1/22-23/04	50	44	6	=100
1/8-9/04	54	41	5	=100
12/18-19/03	54	38	8	=100
11/6-7/03	52	40	8	=100
8/21-22/03	53	36	11	=100

4. We'd like your overall opinion of some people in politics. If I mention someone you have never heard of before this interview, just tell me. What about... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of him (her)?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Never heard of</u>	<u>Can't rate/DK</u>	
a. Barack Obama					
CURRENT TOTAL	56	32	*	12	=100
Republicans	31	55	1	13	=100
Democrats	82	12	*	6	=100
Independents	49	34	*	17	=100
TRENDS					
6/18-19/08	62	26	*	12	=100
5/21-22/08	55	40	1	4	=100
4/24-25/08	53	40	1	6	=100
4/16-17/08	57	36	1	6	=100
3/5-6/08	61	28	1	10	=100
7/2-3/07	56	19	11	14	=100
5/11-12/06	34	10	46	10	=100
b. John McCain					
CURRENT TOTAL	55	32	*	13	=100
Republicans	83	11	*	6	=100
Democrats	35	53	*	12	=100
Independents	54	27	0	19	=100
TRENDS					
6/18-19/08	49	37	1	13	=100
5/21-22/08	54	40	1	5	=100
4/24-25/08	51	41	1	7	=100
4/16-17/08	52	42	1	5	=100
3/5-6/08	55	35	1	9	=100

- 4c. Some people say that since Barack Obama became the presumed Democratic nominee for president, he has changed his position on key policy issues to try to gain political advantage. Do you agree or disagree?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	
53	Agree
32	Disagree
<u>15</u>	Don't know
100	

5. Do you think organized religion has too much influence on American politics today, too little influence, or about the right amount?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	33	25	34	8	=100
Republicans	16	33	45	6	=100
Democrats	45	20	29	6	=100
Independents	37	22	31	10	=100
TRENDS					
3/28-29/07	32	31	29	8	=100

6. Do you consider the United States a Christian nation, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Current</u>	<u>March 2005</u>	<u>March 2002</u>	<u>June 1996²</u>
69 Yes, would	71	67	60
26 No	26	25	34
<u>5</u> Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>
100	100	100	100

7. When our government leaders publicly express their faith in God, on balance, do you think it's good for the country, bad for the country, or doesn't have much effect either way?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Current</u>	<u>6/27-28/02</u>
54 Good for country	60
9 Bad for country	4
34 Not much effect	33
<u>3</u> Don't know	<u>3</u>
100	100

² March 2005, March 2002 and June 1996 trends taken from Pew Research Center.

8. Do you think George W. Bush's personal religious beliefs have had too much influence on the policies of his administration, too little influence, or about the right amount?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

Total

23	Too much influence
24	Too little influence
39	Right amount
<u>14</u>	Don't know
100	

9. In general, do you feel that the REPUBLICAN PARTY is friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Current</u>		<u>July 2005</u>	<u>August 2004</u>	<u>Mid-July 2003</u> ³
51	Friendly	55	52	52
30	Neutral	23	24	27
7	Unfriendly	9	10	10
<u>12</u>	Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100

10. In general, do you feel that the DEMOCRATIC PARTY is friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Current</u>		<u>July 2005</u>	<u>August 2004</u>	<u>Mid-July 2003</u> ⁴
33	Friendly	29	40	42
38	Neutral	38	34	36
18	Unfriendly	20	13	12
<u>11</u>	Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
100		100	100	100

11. How much influence do you think the religious right or Christian conservative movement has had on the REPUBLICAN PARTY in general -- too much influence, too little, or about the right amount?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Current</u>		<u>11/2-3/06</u>
38	Too much	34
17	Too little	23
33	Right amount	26
<u>12</u>	Don't know	<u>17</u>
100		100

³ July 2005, August 2004 and Mid-July 2003 trends taken from Pew Research Center.

⁴ Ibid.

12. How much influence do you think secular persons or non-believers who don't follow any religion have had on the DEMOCRATIC PARTY in general -- too much influence, too little, or about the right amount?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	
26	Too much
19	Too little
36	Right amount
<u>19</u>	Don't know
100	

13. Now I have some general questions about religion and presidential candidates... Please tell me whether or not you would vote for each of the following presidential candidates if nominated by your party. (First,) what if your party nominated... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? Would you vote for this person if qualified for the job?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Yes, would</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. An atheist, that is, someone who says they do not believe in God	44	51	5	=100
b. A Mormon, that is, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints	69	24	7	=100
c. A Muslim, that is, a follower of Islam	45	48	7	=100
d. A Jew	84	10	6	=100

14. How important is it to you that the President of the United States says he or she has a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Is it... **(READ)**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
32	Very important	44	27	27
27	Somewhat important	31	24	27
15	Not too important, OR	14	16	16
24	Not at all important?	10	31	29
<u>2</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100

15. Now I have a few more questions about the presidential candidates. From what you know about ... **(INSERT ITEM—READ AND ROTATE)** do you think religious faith plays an important role in his life, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Yes, important role</u>	<u>No, not important role</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Barack Obama	63	23	14	=100
b. John McCain	49	28	23	=100

16. As I read you some statements about Barack Obama, please tell me if each one is TRUE or FALSE, to the best of your knowledge. (First/Next)... **(INSERT ITEM—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**. (As far as you know) is this true or false?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>True</u>	<u>False</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Obama used a Koran for swearing into the U.S. Senate	12	49	39	=100
b. Obama attended an Islamic school in Indonesia during his youth	39	23	38	=100
c. Obama was raised as a Muslim	26	51	23	=100
d. Obama is a practicing Muslim today	12	69	19	=100
NET—Think one or more of these statements is true	52			

17. Do you think Barack Obama shares the views of his former pastor, the Reverend Jeremiah Wright... **(READ)**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	
13	A lot
32	Somewhat
20	Not too much, OR
24	Not at all?
<u>11</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know
100	

18. How, if at all, does what you've seen or heard about Barack Obama's relationship with Reverend Wright affect your chances of voting for him in November? Does it make you more likely or less likely to vote for Obama – or does it not make much difference either way?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
3	More likely	3	5	1
27	Less likely	44	12	30
67	Doesn't make much difference	50	81	65
<u>3</u>	Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100

19. In general, do you support or oppose faith-based initiatives, where the government funds churches and other houses of worship so they can provide social services, such as job training or drug treatment to people who need them?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	
70	Support
25	Oppose
<u>5</u>	Don't know
100	

20. Recently, Barack Obama has spoken out in support of faith-based initiatives. Does Obama's support for faith-based initiatives make you more likely or less likely to vote for him – or does it not make much difference either way?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
14	More likely	14	14	14
11	Less likely	15	8	13
71	Doesn't make much difference	69	74	71
<u>4</u>	Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100

21. Over the past year, John McCain has been endorsed by or campaigned with some activist religious leaders in the Christian Right. Does McCain's association with these leaders of the Christian Right make you more likely or less likely to vote for him – or does it not make much difference either way?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
10	More likely	21	3	8
20	Less likely	7	34	17
67	Doesn't make much difference	71	61	71
<u>3</u>	Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100

22. Thinking back to your own childhood and teen years, were you raised in the same religion you identify with today, or a different religion?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	
74	Same religion
22	Different religion
<u>4</u>	Don't know
100	

- D2. Regardless of how you might have voted in recent elections, in politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

- D2a. As of TODAY do you LEAN more toward the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>	
25	28	Republican
35	35	Democrat
33	33	Independent
3	1	No party/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
1	1	Other party (VOL.)
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	100	
39	42	Total Republican/Lean Republican
48	47	Total Democrat/Lean Democrat

**Newsweek Poll
Obama & God
Princeton Survey Research Associates International**

Methodology Statement
(7/11/08)

This poll was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International from July 9-10, 2008. Telephone interviews were conducted with 1,209 adults, 18 or older. Results are weighted so that the sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density. The overall margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for results based on 1,209 adults and plus or minus 3.6 percentage points for 1,037 registered voters. Voter registration status is self-reported. Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error.

SAMPLE SIZE/MARGIN OF ERROR FOR REGISTERED VOTERS SUBGROUPS:

1037	Registered voters (plus or minus 4)
315	Republicans (plus or minus 7)
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252	White Evangelicals (plus or minus 7)
187	White Catholics (plus or minus 8)
457	Other whites (plus or minus 5)
212	Hillary Clinton supporters (plus or minus 8)

In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting surveys can also introduce error or bias to poll results.

NEWSWEEK POLL: OBAMA & GOD		
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE		
	<u>Total</u> (n=1209) %	<u>Total RVs</u> (n=1037) %
<u>Gender</u>		
Men	49	49
Women	51	51
<u>Age</u>		
18-39	34	29
40-59	37	40
60+	25	27
Undesignated	4	4
<u>Party ID</u>		
Republican	25	28
Democrat	35	35
Independent	33	33
Other/Don't know	7	4
<u>Education</u>		
College graduate	28	33
Some college	22	23
No college	49	43
Undesignated	1	1
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>		
White, non-Hispanic	72	75
Total Non-White	26	23
Black	11	11
Hispanic	10	9
Asian	2	1
Other/Mixed race	3	2
Undesignated	2	2