

**Newsweek Poll
Post-Conventions
Princeton Survey Research Associates International**

Final Topline Results
(9/12/08)

N = 1,038 registered voters, screened from 1,204 adults. 18+
Margin of error: plus or minus 3.8
Interviewing dates: 9/10-11/08

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%.*

1a/b. If the presidential election were being held TODAY, would you be more likely to vote for... the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden ; or the Republican ticket of John McCain and Sarah Palin (choices rotated)? [IF OTHER/UNDECIDED, RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED] As of TODAY, do you LEAN more toward Obama and Biden, the Democrats; or McCain and Palin, the Republicans?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Total</u> <u>Obama/Biden</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>McCain/Palin</u>	<u>Other candidate</u>	<u>Undecided</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	46	46	*	8	=100
Republicans	3	91	0	6	=100
Democrats	85	10	0	5	=100
Independents	44	43	1	12	=100
Hillary Clinton Supporters	77	16	0	7	=100
18-39	59	32	1	8	=100
40-59	41	51	1	7	=100
60+	42	50	*	8	=100
Whites	37	55	*	8	=100
Non-Whites	75	17	*	8	=100
White Men	37	56	1	6	=100
White Women	37	53	*	10	=100
White Evangelicals	22	69	0	9	=100
White Catholics	33	59	0	8	=100
Other Whites	48	44	1	7	=100
TRENDS					
7/9-10/08	44	41	2	13	=100
6/18-19/08	51	36	2	11	=100
5/21-22/08	46	46	1	7	=100
4/24-25/08	47	44	2	7	=100
4/16-17/08	48	44	2	6	=100
3/5-6/08	46	45	1	8	=100
6/20-21/07	51	41	2	6	=100
5/2-3/07	52	39	2	7	=100
2/28-3/1/07	45	43	2	10	=100
1/24-25/07	48	42	1	9	=100
1/17-18/07	46	44	1	9	=100
12/6-7/06	43	45	1	11	=100
	<u>Total Kerry</u>	<u>Total Bush</u>	<u>Undec./Other</u>		
9/9-10/04	43	49	8		=100
	<u>Total Gore</u>	<u>Total Bush</u>	<u>Undec./Other</u>		
9/7-8/00	47	39	14		=100

Note: Trends based on slightly different question wording that did not include vice presidential candidates' names.

2. Do you support... (Q1a CHOICE: Obama and Biden /McCain and Palin) STRONGLY or only moderately?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

Candidate Preference/Strength of Support

<u>Current Total</u>		<u>07/9-10/08</u>
	<u>Obama Voters</u>	
31	Strong	27
15	Not Strong	17
	<u>McCain Voters</u>	
33	Strong	16
13	Not Strong	25
<u>8</u>	Undecided/Other	<u>15</u>
100		100

Candidate Preference/Strength of Support

	<u>Strong</u>	<u>Not strong</u>	
Obama/Biden	67	33	=100
McCain/Palin	71	29	=100
Trends			
7/9-10/08 ¹			
Obama	61	39	=100
McCain	39	61	=100
9/9-10/04			
Kerry/Edwards	60	40	=100
Bush/Cheney	72	28	=100

3. If you could vote separately for VICE PRESIDENT, would you be more likely to vote for... Joe Biden, the Democrat; or Sarah Palin, the Republican (choices rotated)?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

CURRENT TOTAL	<u>Biden</u>	<u>Palin</u>	<u>Neither/Other</u>	<u>DK</u>	
	43	46	3	8	=100
WHITE WOMEN	36	51	3	10	=100
7/29-30/04	<u>Edwards</u>	<u>Cheney</u>	<u>Neither/Other/DK</u>		
	55	36	9		=100

¹ Note: Trend based on results that did not include vice presidential candidates.

4. All in all, how important is your preference for VICE PRESIDENT in determining your vote for president this year?
Is your preference for vice president... **(READ)**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>Obama</u> <u>Supporters</u>	<u>McCain</u> <u>Supporters</u>	<u>White</u> <u>Women</u>
42	Very important to your vote	40	44	44
40	Somewhat important to your vote	37	44	41
11	Not too important	14	8	8
7	Not at all important	8	4	7
*	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	1	*	*
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

- 5a/b. Now, thinking about the election for U.S. Congress... If the election were being held TODAY, would you be more likely to vote for... the Democratic Party's candidate or the Republican Party's candidate (choices rotated) for Congress in your district? [IF OTHER/UNDECIDED, RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED] As of TODAY, do you LEAN more toward the Democrat or the Republican (choices rotated in same order) for Congress in your district?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	
49	Total Democrat
41	Total Republican
*	Neither/Other
<u>10</u>	Don't know
100	

6. Regardless of which individual candidates you now support for president and Congress, in general, which PARTY would you rather see control the political agenda in Washington over the next four years... the Democrats or the Republicans (choices rotated)?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	
47	Democrats
41	Republicans
6	Neither/Other
<u>6</u>	Don't know
100	

7. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people in politics. If I mention someone you have never heard of before, 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	57	37	1	5	=100
TRENDS					
7/9-10/08	56	32	*	12	=100
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	57	36	*	7	=100
TRENDS					
7/9-10/08	55	32	*	13	=100
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
c. Joe Biden					
CURRENT TOTAL	49	32	4	15	=100
TREND					
5/11-12/06	24	16	49	11	=100
d. Sarah Palin					
TOTAL	52	32	4	12	=100
WHITE WOMEN	59	26	2	13	=100
e. Michelle Obama					
CURRENT TOTAL	50	34	1	15	=100
TREND					
6/18-19/08	49	22	7	22	=100
f. Cindy McCain					
CURRENT TOTAL	48	26	4	22	=100
TREND					
6/18-19/08	33	19	12	36	=100

7. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people in politics. If I mention someone you have never heard of before, 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>	
g. Hillary Clinton					
CURRENT TOTAL	53	43	0	4	=100
TRENDS					
5/21-22/08	53	43	*	4	=100
4/24-25/08	47	49	*	4	=100
4/16-17/08	49	47	*	4	=100
3/5-6/08	56	40	*	4	=100
7/2-3/07	55	38	1	6	=100
5/11-12/06	51	45	1	3	=100

8. Which ONE of the following candidate qualities is MOST important in determining your vote for president this year... **(READ AND RANDOMIZE)?**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>
	<u>Supporters</u>	<u>Supporters</u>
28 Positions on major issues	28	29
22 Can bring the changes this country needs	35	9
19 Leadership skills	13	27
13 Experience	6	20
10 Cares about people like you	14	6
3 Personal life history	2	3
1 (VOL) Other/None of these	1	1
4 (DO NOT READ) Don't know	1	5
100	100	100

9. If elected, which ticket do you think is MOST likely to bring about the changes this country needs... **(READ AND ROTATE 1-2)?**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>	<u>6/18-19/08²</u>
47 Barack Obama and Joe Biden	51
42 John McCain and Sarah Palin	27
1 Both equally (VOL.)	2
5 Neither (VOL.)	12
5 (DO NOT READ) Don't know	8
100	100

² Trend based on slightly different question wording that did not include vice presidential candidates' names.

10. Which ONE of the following ISSUES is MOST important in determining your vote for president this year...
(**READ AND RANDOMIZE**)?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>Obama</u> <u>Supporters</u>	<u>McCain</u> <u>Supporters</u>
39	The economy and jobs	55	23
14	Taxes and government spending	7	22
10	The Iraq war	15	5
10	Terrorism and national security	2	18
8	Energy policy and gas prices	7	9
8	Issues like abortion, guns, and same-sex marriage	3	13
7	Health care	9	4
1	(VOL) Other/None of these	*	1
<u>3</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100

11. Please tell me which presidential candidate you think would do a better job handling each of the following issues as president. What about... (**INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE**)? Do you think Barack Obama or John McCain would do a better job handling this issue?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>Equally</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>Neither</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. The economy and jobs						
CURRENT TOTAL	49	40	3	3	5	=100
TRENDS						
6/18-19/08	54	29	2	6	9	=100
4/16-17/08	54	34	2	3	7	=100
b. The Iraq war						
CURRENT TOTAL	41	51	2	2	4	=100
TRENDS						
6/18-19/08	46	40	1	4	9	=100
4/16-17/08	54	34	2	3	7	=100
c. Energy policy and gas prices ³						
CURRENT TOTAL	44	42	3	4	7	=100
TREND						
6/18-19/08	48	34	2	5	11	=100

³ Trend based on modified question wording that did not include 'gas prices'.

11. Please tell me which presidential candidate you think would do a better job handling each of the following issues as president. What about... **(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)**? Do you think Barack Obama or John McCain would do a better job handling this issue?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>(VOL.) Equally</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>DK</u>	
d. Terrorism and national security						
TOTAL	34	56	3	2	5	=100
e. Health care						
TOTAL	50	35	2	5	8	=100
f. Taxes and government spending						
TOTAL	42	48	2	3	5	=100
g. Issues like abortion, guns, and same-sex marriage						
TOTAL	42	43	2	4	9	=100

12. If John McCain is elected president, do you think he would mostly carry out the policies of George W. Bush or would mostly have different policies?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>Obama</u> <u>Supporters</u>	<u>McCain</u> <u>Supporters</u>
47	Would carry out Bush's policies	85	11
48	Would have different policies	11	85
<u>5</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100

13. From what you know about Barack Obama, do you think he has enough experience in politics and government to be a good president, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	47	46	7	=100
TRENDS				
5/21-22/08	44	49	7	=100
4/24-25/08	45	47	8	=100
7/2-3/07	39	35	26	=100

14. Regardless of which presidential candidate you personally support, please tell me which candidate – Barack Obama or John McCain – you think is BEST described by each of the following phrases. What about...(INSERT READ AND ROTATE)?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>McCain</u>	<u>(VOL.) Equally</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Is honest and trustworthy						
TOTAL	39	39	12	6	4	=100
b. Cares about people like you						
TOTAL	49	36	7	6	2	=100
c. Can get things done						
TOTAL	38	46	6	5	5	=100
d. Shares your values						
TOTAL	45	44	4	4	3	=100
e. Would trust his judgment to deal with an international crisis						
TOTAL	37	54	3	2	4	=100
f. Would bring about major reforms to government and the political system						
TOTAL	49	37	3	7	4	=100
g. Can bring the country together						
TOTAL	48	37	4	7	4	=100

(THERE IS NO Q15)

Q16 AND Q17 ROTATED

16. Does John McCain's choice of Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate make you more likely or less likely to vote for McCain this fall – or does it not make much difference either way?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>More likely</u>	<u>Less likely</u>	<u>No difference</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	29	22	47	2	=100
WHITE WOMEN	35	24	40	1	=100
WHITE MEN	33	18	47	2	=100
TRENDS					
7/8-9/04 – Edwards	21	8	69	2	=100
8/10-11/00 – Lieberman	25	6	65	4	=100
7/27-28/00 – Cheney	26	15	52	7	=100
8/15-16/96 – Kemp	32	10	53	5	=100
7/8-9/92 – Gore	33	8	57	2	=100

17. Does Barack Obama's choice of Joe Biden as his vice presidential running mate make you more likely or less likely to vote for Obama this fall – or does it not make much difference either way?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>More likely</u>	<u>Less likely</u>	<u>No difference</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	21	17	60	2	=100
WHITE WOMEN	21	19	57	3	=100
WHITE MEN	16	20	63	1	=100
TRENDS					
7/8-9/04 – Edwards	21	8	69	2	=100
8/10-11/00 – Lieberman	25	6	65	4	=100
7/27-28/00 – Cheney	26	15	52	7	=100
8/15-16/96 – Kemp	32	10	53	5	=100
7/8-9/92 – Gore	33	8	57	2	=100

Note: Trend for 1992 is from Yankelovich.

Q18 AND Q19 ROTATED

18. Do you think Sarah Palin is qualified to step in as president if she had to?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	45	46	9	=100
WHITE WOMEN	49	41	10	=100
WHITE MEN	49	42	9	=100
TRENDS				
7/8-9/04 – Edwards	51	30	19	=100
8/10-12/00 – Lieberman	60	12	28	=100
7/27-28/00 – Cheney	60	18	22	=100
7/24-26/92 – Gore	64	19	17	=100
8/18-19/88 – Bentsen	67	14	19	=100
8/18-19/88 – Quayle	43	36	21	=100

19. Do you think Joe Biden is qualified to step in as president if he had to?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	71	19	10	=100
TRENDS				
7/8-9/04 – Edwards	51	30	19	=100
8/10-12/00 – Lieberman	60	12	28	=100
7/27-28/00 – Cheney	60	18	22	=100
7/24-26/92 – Gore	64	19	17	=100
8/18-19/88 – Bentsen	67	14	19	=100
8/18-19/88 – Quayle	43	36	21	=100

20. If elected, Sarah Palin would be the first woman vice president. Does this make you more likely to vote for John McCain and the Republican ticket this fall, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>White Women</u>	<u>Clinton Supporters</u>
18	Yes, makes more likely	24	14
77	No, does not	73	82
<u>5</u>	Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100

21. Based on what you have seen or heard about Sarah Palin so far, please tell me whether or not you think each of the following phrases describes Palin. What about...(READ AND RANDOMIZE)? Does this describe Palin, or not?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Yes, describes</u>	<u>No, does not</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Has taken on her own party to fight corruption in the Alaska state government				
TOTAL	60	18	22	=100
WHITE WOMEN	65	16	19	=100
b. Has a record of opposing wasteful earmarks or “pork barrel” government spending				
TOTAL	47	31	22	=100
WHITE WOMEN	47	30	23	=100
c. Shares your views on the abortion issue				
TOTAL	40	39	21	=100
WHITE WOMEN	43	41	16	=100
d. Shares your views about environmental policy and climate change				
TOTAL	49	31	20	=100
WHITE WOMEN	53	27	20	=100

22. As far as you know, which of the following best describes Sarah Palin’s position on abortion? Does Palin (READ)

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>White Women</u>
6	Support abortion rights for women and upholding Roe versus Wade, OR	5
23	Oppose legal abortion except in cases of rape, incest, and when the woman’s life is in danger, OR	22
43	Oppose legal abortion in nearly all cases, including rape and incest?	48
<u>28</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don’t know	<u>25</u>
100		100

23. As far as you know, has Sarah Palin supported or opposed including instruction about “creationism” or intelligent design, along with evolution, in Alaska public schools?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>White Women</u>	<u>White Mothers</u>
31	Supported	31	32
13	Opposed	13	13
<u>56</u>	Don't know	<u>56</u>	<u>55</u>
100		100	100

24. As far as you know, what are Sarah Palin’s views about climate change? Does she believe... **(READ)**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>White Women</u>
14	Human activities, such as burning coal and oil, are a major cause of global warming, OR does she...	14
39	Have serious doubts about the role of human activities in causing global warming?	35
<u>47</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>51</u>
100		100

25. As far as you know, does Sarah Palin favor or oppose drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>White Women</u>
66	Favors drilling	68
9	Opposes drilling	6
<u>25</u>	Don't know	<u>26</u>
100		100

26. Based on what you’ve seen or heard about the so-called “Bridge to Nowhere” – a 400 million dollar proposed transportation project in Alaska – which of the following best describes Sarah Palin’s role in stopping the project... **(READ)**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>White Women</u>
24	Palin personally stopped the project by telling Congress “thanks but no thanks,” rejecting federal funding, OR	24
41	Palin dropped her support for the project only after it became clear that Congress would not fund it?	40
<u>35</u>	(DO NOT READ) Don't know	<u>36</u>
100		100

27. Overall, do you think the national media's coverage of Sarah Palin has been too critical of her, not critical enough, or about right?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

<u>Total</u>		<u>White Women</u>	<u>Clinton Supporters</u>
37	Too critical	39	22
17	Not critical enough	16	25
37	About right	37	39
<u>9</u>	Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>14</u>
100		100	100

28. Do you have reservations about electing a woman vice president who has...**(READ AND ROTATE)**, or is this not a concern for you?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS

	<u>Yes, have reservations</u>	<u>No, not a concern</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. A new child with special needs				
CURRENT TOTAL	10	88	2	=100
WHITE MOTHERS	12	87	1	=100
b. A teenage daughter who is pregnant				
CURRENT TOTAL	7	91	2	=100
WHITE MOTHERS	7	91	2	=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>	
27	31	Republican
35	37	Democrat
31	29	Independent
4	1	No party/Not interested in politics (VOL.)
1	*	Other party (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know
100	100	
39	44	Total Republican/Lean Republican
49	49	Total Democrat/Lean Democrat

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,038 registered voters nationwide, screened from a sample of 1,204 adults, age 18 and over. Interviewing was conducted September 10-11, 2008. The overall margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points for results based on the total sample of registered voters. Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error. In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting surveys can also introduce error or bias to poll results.