

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
LATE SEPTEMBER POLITICAL/POST DEBATE #1
FINAL TOPLINE
September 27-29, 2008
N=1505

ASK ALL:

THOUGHT How much thought have you given to the coming presidential election . . . Quite a lot or only a little?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

		Quite	(VOL.)	Only a	(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Little</u>	<u>None</u>	<u>DK/</u>
						<u>Ref.</u>
2008	Late September, 2008	80	3	14	2	1=100
	Mid-September, 2008	78	4	14	3	1=100
	August, 2008	74	6	17	2	1=100
	July, 2008	74	2	20	3	1=100
	June, 2008	72	2	23	2	1=100
	Late May, 2008	75	4	17	3	1=100
	April, 2008	77	7	13	2	1=100
	March, 2008	78	3	15	3	1=100
2004	Late February, 2008	74	3	19	2	2=100
	November, 2004	82	3	12	2	1=100
	Mid-October, 2004	76	5	15	3	1=100
	Early October, 2004	74	4	19	2	1=100
	September, 2004	71	3	22	3	1=100
	August, 2004	69	2	26	2	1=100
	July, 2004	67	2	28	2	1=100
	June, 2004	58	3	36	2	1=100
2000	May, 2004	59	6	30	4	1=100
	Late March, 2004	60	4	31	4	1=100
	Mid-March, 2004	65	2	31	2	*=100
	November, 2000	72	6	19	2	1=100
	Late October, 2000	66	6	24	4	*=100
	Mid-October, 2000	67	9	19	4	1=100
	Early October, 2000	60	8	27	4	1=100
	September, 2000	59	8	29	3	1=100
1996	July, 2000	46	6	45	3	*=100
	June, 2000	46	6	43	5	*=100
	May, 2000	48	4	42	5	1=100
	April, 2000	45	7	41	7	*=100
	November, 1996	67	8	22	3	*=100
	October, 1996	65	7	26	1	1=100
	Late September, 1996	61	7	29	2	1=100
	Early September, 1996	56	3	36	4	1=100
1992	July, 1996	55	3	41	1	*=100
	June, 1996	50	5	41	3	1=100
	Early October, 1992	77	5	16	1	1=100
	September, 1992	69	3	26	1	1=100
1988	August, 1992	72	4	23	1	*=100
	June, 1992	63	6	29	1	1=100
	Gallup: November, 1988	73	8	17	2	0=100
	Gallup: October, 1988	69	9	20	2	0=100
	Gallup: August, 1988	61	10	27	2	0=100
	Gallup: September, 1988	57	18	23	2	0=100

ASK ALL:

REGIST These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN REGIST ASK:

REGICERT Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote, or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

82 Yes, Registered
 78 Absolutely certain
 3 Chance registration has lapsed
 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 17 No, not registered
 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
 100

NO QUESTIONS 1-4

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

PRECINCT Have you ever voted in your precinct or election district?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

		Mid-Sept <u>2008</u>
86	Yes	86
14	No	14
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*
100		100

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

OFTVOTE How often would you say you vote... (READ)¹

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

	<u>Always</u>	Nearly <u>Always</u>	Part of <u>The time</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	(VOL.) <u>Never</u> Vote	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref.</u>
Late September, 2008	55	27	9	6	2	1	*=100
Mid-September, 2008	54	28	10	5	2	1	*=100
July, 2008	53	30	10	4	1	1	1=100
November, 2004	62	21	7	6	3	1	*=100
Mid-October, 2004	63	22	7	5	2	1	*=100
November, 2000	57	26	8	6	2	1	*=100
Late October, 2000	52	30	9	6	1	2	0=100
Mid-October, 2000	54	27	10	6	*	3	*=100
Early October, 2000	51	29	10	6	3	1	*=100
November, 1996	55	28	8	6	2	1	*=100
October, 1996	52	30	9	5	2	2	*=100
Early October, 1992	54	33	8	4	*	1	*=100
October, 1988	51	37	8	3	1	*	*=100

¹ Complete trend for OFTVOTE not shown; comparable election year trends are presented.

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.5 If the presidential election were being held TODAY, would you vote [READ AND ROTATE] [for the Republican ticket of John McCain and Sarah Palin [pronounced: PAY-lin]] OR [for the Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden [pronounced: BUY-din]]?

IF OTHER OR DK (Q.5 =3,9), ASK:

Q.5a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ, ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.5]?

IF CHOSE MCCAIN OR OBAMA IN Q.5 (Q.5=1,2), ASK:

Q.5b Do you support (INSERT PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE FROM Q.5—LAST NAME ONLY) strongly or only moderately?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

	Mc- Cain	Strongly	Only Mod²	DK	Oba- ma	Strongly	Only Mod	DK	Third party	Fourth party	Other/ Don't know
Late September, 2008	42	23	19	*	49	33	15	1	n/a	n/a	9=100
Mid-September, 2008 ³	44	25	19	*	46	30	15	1	n/a	n/a	10=100
August, 2008	43	17	26	*	46	27	19	*	n/a	n/a	11=100
July, 2008	42	17	24	1	47	24	22	1	n/a	n/a	11=100
June, 2008	40	14	26	*	48	28	19	1	n/a	n/a	12=100
Late May, 2008	44				47				n/a	n/a	9=100
April, 2008	44				50				n/a	n/a	6=100
March, 2008	43				49				n/a	n/a	8=100
Late February, 2008	43				50				n/a	n/a	7=100
	Bush				Kerry				Nader		
November, 2004	45	34	11	*	46	29	16	1	1	n/a	8=100
Mid-October, 2004	45	32	13	*	45	28	16	1	1	n/a	9=100
Early October, 2004	48	35	12	1	41	24	17	*	2	n/a	9=100
September, 2004	49	33	15	1	43	22	20	1	1	n/a	7=100
August, 2004	45	32	13	*	47	28	19	*	2	n/a	6=100
July, 2004	44				46				3	n/a	7=100
June, 2004	46				42				6	n/a	6=100
May, 2004	43				46				6	n/a	5=100
Late March, 2004	44				43				6	n/a	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	42				49				4	n/a	5=100
Two-way trial heats:											
June, 2004	48				46				n/a	n/a	6=100
May, 2004	45				50				n/a	n/a	5=100
Late March, 2004	46				47				n/a	n/a	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	43				52				n/a	n/a	5=100
Late February, 2004	44				48				n/a	n/a	8=100
Early February, 2004	47				47				n/a	n/a	6=100
Early January, 2004	52				41				n/a	n/a	7=100
October, 2003	50				42				n/a	n/a	8=100
	Bush				Gore				Nader	Buchanan	
November, 2000	41	26	15	*	45	25	19	1	4	1	9=100
Late October, 2000	45	29	16	*	43	24	19	*	4	1	7=100
Mid-October, 2000	43	25	18	*	45	22	23	*	4	1	7=100

² Includes those who say they lean to the Republican or Democratic candidate.

³ Prior to Mid-September, 2008, July, 2004, September, 2000, September, 1996, August, 1992, and September, 1988 the question did not specify vice presidential candidates.

Q.5/Q.5a/Q.5b CONTINUED...

	Bush	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Only Mod</i>	<i>DK</i>	Gore	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Only Mod</i>	<i>DK</i>	Nader	Buchanan	Don't know
Early October, 2000	43	26	17	*	44	22	22	*	5	*	8=100
September, 2000	41	21	19	1	47	25	21	1	2	1	9=100
July, 2000	42				41				6	2	9=100
Late June, 2000	42				35				2	2	19=100
Mid-June, 2000	41				42				4	3	10=100
January, 2000	51				39				n/a	4	6=100
September, 1999	49				35				n/a	10	6=100
Two-way trial heats:											
July, 2000	48				46				n/a	n/a	6=100
Mid-June, 2000	45	20	25	*	46	18	27	1	n/a	n/a	9=100
May, 2000	46				45				n/a	n/a	9=100
March, 2000	43				49				n/a	n/a	8=100
February, 2000	46	19	27	*	45	18	26	1	n/a	n/a	9=100
December, 1999	55				40				n/a	n/a	5=100
October, 1999	54				39				n/a	n/a	7=100
September, 1999	54				39				n/a	n/a	7=100
July, 1999	53				42				n/a	n/a	5=100
March, 1999	54				41				n/a	n/a	5=100
January, 1999	50				44				n/a	n/a	6=100
Early September, 1998	53				40				n/a	n/a	7=100
	Dole				Clinton				Perot		
November, 1996	32	17	15	*	51	26	24	1	9	n/a	8=100
October, 1996	34	17	16	1	51	25	26	*	8	n/a	7=100
Late September, 1996	35	16	18	1	51	26	25	*	7	n/a	7=100
Early September, 1996	34	17	17	*	52	26	26	0	8	n/a	6=100
July, 1996	34				44				16	n/a	6=100
March, 1996	35				44				16	n/a	5=100
September, 1995	36				42				19	n/a	3=100
July, 1994	36				39				20	n/a	5=100
Two-way trial heats:											
July, 1996	42	11	30	*	53	20	31	1	n/a	n/a	5=100
June, 1996	40	13	23	1	55	22	29	1	n/a	n/a	5=100
April, 1996	40				54						6=100
March, 1996	41				53						6=100
February, 1996	44				52						4=100
January, 1996	41				53						6=100
July, 1994	49				46						5=100
	Bush, Sr.				Clinton				Perot		
Late October, 1992	34	20	14	--	44	26	18	--	19	n/a	3=100
Early October, 1992	35	14	21	--	48	23	25	--	8	n/a	9=100
June, 1992	31				27				36	n/a	6=100
Two-way trial heats:											
September, 1992	38	14	21	--	53	25	28	--	n/a	n/a	9=100
August, 1992	37	14	23	--	57	24	33	--	n/a	n/a	6=100
June, 1992	46	13	33	--	41	9	32	--	n/a	n/a	13=100
May, 1992	46	15	31	--	43	10	33	--	n/a	n/a	11=100
Late March, 1992	50	19	31	--	43	9	34	--	n/a	n/a	7=100
	Bush, Sr.				Dukakis						
October, 1988	50	24	26	--	42	20	22	--	n/a	n/a	8=100
September, 1988	50	26	24	--	44	19	25	--	n/a	n/a	6=100
May, 1988	40	12	28	--	53	14	39	--	n/a	n/a	7=100

NO QUESTION 6

**IF RESPONDENT DID NOT CHOOSE MCCAIN IN Q.5/5a (Q.5=2 OR Q.5a=2,3,9) ASK:
ROTATE Q.7 AND Q.8**

Q.7 Do you think there is a chance that you might vote for John McCain in November, or have you definitely decided not to vote for him?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

		Chance might <u>vote for</u>	Decided not <u>to vote for</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
McCain	Late September, 2008	10	42	6=58%
	Mid-September, 2008	9	40	7=56%
	August, 2008	14	37	6=57%
	July, 2008	13	38	7=58%
	June, 2008	12	41	7=60%
Bush	November, 2004	6	44	5=55%
	Mid-October, 2004	5	43	7=55%
	Early October, 2004	9	39	4=52%
	September, 2004	9	38	4=51%
	August, 2004	10	42	3=55%
	July, 2004	10	41	5=56%
	June, 2004 ⁴	9	41	2=52%
	May, 2004	9	42	4=55%
	Late March, 2004	11	40	3=54%
	Mid-March, 2004	11	44	2=57%
	Late February, 2004	10	43	3=56%
Early February, 2004	10	41	2=53%	
Bush	November, 2000	8	44	7=59%
	Late October, 2000	10	41	4=55%
	Mid-October, 2000	12	40	5=57%
	Early October, 2000	11	39	7=57%
	September, 2000	15	38	6=59%
	Mid-June, 2000	15	33	6=54%
Dole	November, 1996	8	54	6=68%
	October, 1996	11	51	4=66%
	Late September, 1996	16	44	5=65%
	Early September, 1996	14	47	5=66%
	July, 1996	15	40	3=58%
Bush, Sr	Late October, 1992	11	53	2=66%
	Early October, 1992	13	46	6=65%
	September, 1992	12	44	6=62%
	August, 1992	15	45	4=64%
	May, 1992	8	40	5=53%

⁴

In June 2004, May 2004, Late March 2004, Mid-March 2004, Mid-June 2000 and July 1996 the head-to-head match-up was asked both as a three-way and a two-way trial heat. In those surveys, this question followed the two-way trial heat.

**IF RESPONDENT DID NOT CHOOSE OBAMA IN Q.5/5a (Q.5=1 OR Q.5a=1,3,9) ASK:
ROTATE Q.7 AND Q.8**

Q.8 Do you think there is a chance that you might vote for Barack Obama in November, or have you definitely decided not to vote for him?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

		Chance might <u>vote for</u>	Decided not <u>to vote for</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
Obama	Late September, 2008	8	37	6=51%
	Mid-September, 2008	11	38	5=54%
	August, 2008	12	36	6=54%
	July, 2008	12	34	7=53%
	June, 2008	14	32	6=52%
Kerry	November, 2004	6	43	5=54%
	Mid-October, 2004	6	42	7=55%
	Early October, 2004	9	45	5=59%
	September, 2004	11	42	4=57%
	August, 2004	11	39	3=53%
	July, 2004	13	36	5=54%
	June, 2004 ⁵	10	41	3=54%
	May, 2004	11	35	4=50%
	Late March, 2004	13	37	3=53%
	Mid-March, 2004	13	32	3=48%
	Late February, 2004	13	36	3=52%
	Early February, 2004	15	33	5=53%
	Gore	November, 2000	8	41
Late October, 2000		9	44	4=57%
Mid-October, 2000		10	40	5=55%
Early October, 2000		11	38	7=56%
September, 2000		13	35	5=53%
June, 2000		14	34	6=54%
Clinton	November, 1996	6	37	6=49%
	October, 1996	10	35	4=49%
	Late September, 1996	11	35	3=49%
	Early September, 1996	10	34	4=48%
	July, 1996	8	36	4=48%
Clinton	Late October, 1992	11	43	2=56%
	Early October, 1992	14	32	6=52%
	September, 1992	12	28	6=46%
	August, 1992	14	26	3=43%
	May, 1992	11	38	6=55%

⁵

In June 2004, May 2004, Late March 2004, Mid-March 2004, Mid-June 2000 and July 1996 the head-to-head match-up was asked both as a three-way and a two-way trial heat. In those surveys, this question followed the two-way trial heat.

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.8a If John McCain were to win the presidency, do you think he would continue George W. Bush's policies, or would he take the country in a different direction? **[IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Just in general, do you think John McCain would continue George W. Bush's policies or take the country in a different direction?]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

		Mid-Sept <u>2008</u>	June <u>2008</u>	Late May <u>2008</u>	March <u>2008</u>
41	Continue Bush's policies	45	46	44	46
46	Take country in a different direction	44	42	45	43
<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>
100		100	100	100	100

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

PLANTO1 Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this November?

IF YES IN PLANTO1 (PLANTO1=1), ASK:

PLANTO2 How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain, or not certain?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

	<u>Yes, Plan To Vote</u>	Absolutely Certain	Fairly Certain	Not Certain	<u>No, Don't Plan To</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused</u>
Late September, 2008	97	91	6	*	2	1=100
Mid-September, 2008	97	90	6	1	2	1=100
August, 2008	97	--	--	--	2	1=100
July, 2008	97	--	--	--	2	1=100
June, 2008	95	85	8	2	2	3=100
November, 2006 ⁶ *	90	--	--	--	8	2=100
Late October, 2006*	94	--	--	--	3	3=100
Early October, 2006*	93	75	17	1	4	3=100
Early September, 2006*	92	--	--	--	5	3=100
November, 2004	97	--	--	--	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2004	98	--	--	--	1	1=100
Early October, 2004	98	91	6	1	1	1=100
September, 2004	98	91	6	1	1	1=100
August, 2004	98	89	8	1	2	*=100
June, 2004	96	85	10	1	2	2=100
Early November, 2002*	90	--	--	--	8	2=100
Early October, 2002*	95	--	--	--	3	2=100
Early November, 2000	96	--	--	--	3	1=100
Late October, 2000	97	--	--	--	2	1=100
Mid-October, 2000	96	--	--	--	2	2=100
Early October, 2000	97	87	9	1	2	1=100
September, 2000	95	84	10	1	3	2=100
June, 2000	95	84	10	1	2	3=100
Late October, 1998*	91	--	--	--	6	3=100
Early October, 1998*	92	--	--	--	4	4=100
Early September, 1998*	95	--	--	--	2	3=100

6

From Mid-October 2004 to November 2006 and in Early November 2002, the "Yes, Plan to vote" category also includes people who volunteered that they already voted. In November 2006, Early November 2002, Early November, 2000, Late October 1998, November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

PLANTO1/PLANTO2 CONTINUED . . .

	Yes, Plan To Vote	Absolutely Certain	Fairly Certain	Not Certain	No, Don't Plan To	Don't know/ Refused
Late August, 1998*	93	75	17	1	3	4=100
June, 1998*	95	74	19	2	3	2=100
November, 1996	96	--	--	--	2	2=100
October, 1996	98	87	10	1	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	98	89	8	1	1	1=100
Early September, 1996	96	83	11	2	2	2=100
July, 1996	95	82	12	1	3	2=100
June, 1996	96	84	11	1	2	2=100
November, 1994*	93	--	--	--	5	2=100
October, 1994*	95	--	--	--	3	2=100
October, 1992	98	91	6	1	1	1=100
September, 1992	98	85	11	2	1	1=100
August, 1992	97	89	8	*	1	2=100
June, 1992	97	88	8	1	1	2=100
Gallup: November, 1988	97	87	9	1	2	1=100
October, 1988	98	--	--	--	1	1=100

* Non-Presidential elections

ASK ALL:

Q.9 Did you happen to watch the presidential debate between Barack Obama and John McCain on Friday night, or didn't you get a chance to see it? **IF YES, ASK:** How much of the debate did you watch: all of it, some of it, or only a little?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

	<i>Kerry/Bush</i>	<i>Gore/Bush</i>
	<u>Early Oct 2004</u>	<u>Early Oct 2000</u>
60 Yes (NET)	69	63
34 Yes, all	41	32
20 Yes, some	22	24
6 Yes, a little	6	7
39 No, didn't watch	31	37
<u>1</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>
100	100	100

IF RESPONDENT WATCHED (Q.9=1-3) ASK:

ROTATE Q.10o AND Q.10m

Q.10o All in all, would you say Barack Obama did an excellent, good, only fair or poor job in the debate?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO WATCHED THE DEBATE [N=832]:

22	Excellent
50	Good
20	Only fair
6	Poor
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

IF RESPONDENT WATCHED (Q.9=1-3) ASK:

ROTATE Q.10o AND Q.10m

Q.10m All in all, would you say John McCain did an excellent, good, only fair or poor job in the debate?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO WATCHED THE DEBATE [N=832]:

14 Excellent
45 Good
28 Only fair
12 Poor
1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100

IF RESPONDENT WATCHED (Q.9=1-3) ASK:

ROTATE Q.11 AND Q.12

Q.11 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of Barack Obama in the debate. Tell me just the ONE best word that described him. (OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE ONLY IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW").

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO WATCHED THE DEBATE [N=832]:

<i>Obama</i>		<i>Kerry</i>	
Late Sept		Early Oct	
<u>2008</u>		<u>2004</u>	
50	Confident	47	Confident
31	Inexperienced	25	Prepared
31	Intelligent	19	Intelligent
28	Presidential	17	Presidential
22	Good	16	Strong/Strength
16	Change	14	Good
14	Arrogant	12	Knowledgeable
13	Strong	11	Arrogant
12	Prepared	11	Wishy-washy
12	Knowledgeable	11	Articulate
10	Calm	10	Indecisive
10	Excellent	9	Flip-flop
10	Liberal	8	Politician
9	Charismatic	7	Untrustworthy
8	Eloquent	7	Polished
8	Fair	7	Thoughtful
8	Smooth		
8	Young		
8	Leader		
8	Smart		
7	Articulate		
7	Thoughtful		
7	Unsure		

The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; they are not percentages.

**IF RESPONDENT WATCHED (Q.9=1-3) ASK:
ROTATE Q.11 AND Q.12**

Q.12 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of John McCain in the debate. Tell me just the ONE best word that described him. (**OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE ONLY IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS ‘DON’T KNOW’.**)

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO WATCHED THE DEBATE [N=832]:

<i>McCain</i>		<i>Bush</i>	
Late Sept		Early Oct	
<u>2008</u>		<u>2004</u>	
61	Experienced	33	Honest
38	Old	23	Strong/Strength
33	Knowledgeable	14	Sincere
26	Confident	14	Confident
20	Strong	13	Defensive
19	Honest	11	Determined
18	Condescending	11	Good
15	Good	11	Steady/Steadfast
13	Aggressive	11	Adequate
13	Angry	11	Liar
11	Fair	11	Nervous
11	Prepared	10	Tired/Fatigued/Exhausted
11	Sincere	9	Leader/Leadership
10	Excellent	9	Repetitive
9	Arrogant	8	Angry
9	Bush	8	Confused
9	Consistent	8	Resolute
9	Patriotic	8	Frustrated
8	Leader	8	Uncertain
7	Conservative	7	Stubborn
7	Defensive	7	Flustered
7	Liar	7	Unprepared
7	Presidential	7	Consistent
		7	Integrity

The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; they are not percentages.

NO QUESTIONS 13-19

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.20 And as I read a list of phrases, tell me if you think each phrase better describes [ROTATE ORDER OF CANDIDATES] John McCain or Barack Obama. [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] – does this better describe [READ IN SAME ORDER: McCain or Obama]? What about [INSERT ITEM]?
 [REPEAT IF NECESSARY: “Would you say this better describes [READ IN SAME ORDER: McCain or Obama]?”

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

		John McCain	Barack Obama	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) Both Equally	DK/Ref.
a.	Would use good judgment in a crisis					
	Late September, 2008	45	42	2	6	5=100
	August, 2008	51	36	3	5	5=100
	June, 2008	47	38	3	5	7=100
Bush/Kerry	Mid-October, 2004	48	41	3	2	6=100
	Early October, 2004	51	37	2	3	7=100
	Mid-September 22-26, 2004	49	36	3	3	9=100
	September, 2004	53	34	2	4	7=100
	August, 2004	50	38	2	3	7=100
	May, 2004	47	35	4	5	9=100
	Late March, 2004	46	36	2	3	13=100
	Mid-March, 2004	48	39	2	5	6=100
Bush/Gore	Late-October, 2000	43	42	2	5	8=100
	Mid-October, 2000	40	42	5	8	5=100
	Early October, 2000	36	43	4	10	7=100
	September, 2000	38	44	3	8	7=100
	June, 2000	44	37	5	6	8=100
b.	A strong leader					
	Late September, 2008	43	42	3	7	5=100
Bush/Kerry	Mid-October, 2004	50	36	5	4	5=100
	Early October, 2004	57	32	3	2	6=100
	Mid-September, 2004	54	28	5	3	10=100
	Early September, 2004	58	30	4	3	5=100
	August, 2004	57	34	2	3	4=100
	May, 2004	50	31	8	4	7=100
	Late March, 2004	51	33	4	2	10=100
	Mid-March, 2004	52	34	4	4	6=100
Bush/Gore	Late-October, 2000	44	41	6	6	3=100
	Mid-October, 2000	42	39	9	6	4=100
	Early October, 2000	41	38	7	10	4=100
	September, 2000	44	38	7	6	5=100
c.	Personally qualified to be president					
	Late September, 2008	49	35	2	9	5=100
	August, 2008	54	27	6	9	4=100
	June, 2008	55	27	5	8	5=100
Bush/Gore	Late October, 2000	38	45	5	9	3=100
	Mid-October, 2000	35	45	6	9	5=100
	Early October, 2000	31	49	5	11	4=100
	June, 2000	37	37	10	10	6=100

Q.20 CONTINUED...

		John <u>McCain</u>	Barack <u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u> <u>Equally</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
d.	Well-informed					
	Late September, 2008	41	40	2	13	4=100
e.	Willing to take a stand, even if it's unpopular					
	Late September, 2008	50	37	2	5	6=100
	August, 2008	49	38	3	5	5=100
	June, 2008	44	41	3	7	5=100
Bush/Kerry	Mid-October, 2004	63	27	2	4	4=100
	Early October, 2004	68	23	1	3	5=100
	Mid-September 22-26, 2004	63	23	3	3	8=100
	September, 2004	69	23	1	3	4=100
	August, 2004	62	29	1	5	3=100
	May, 2004	65	23	3	4	5=100
	Late March, 2004	59	28	3	3	7=100
	Mid-March, 2004	63	27	1	5	4=100
Bush/Gore	Late-October, 2000	49	35	7	4	5=100
	Mid-October, 2000	49	35	6	5	5=100
	Early October, 2000	43	35	8	6	8=100
	September, 2000	45	37	8	5	5=100
	June, 2000	46	32	9	5	8=100
f.	Can bring about the change the country needs					
	Late September, 2008	33	52	5	3	7=100

ASK REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.21 Regardless of who you support, which one of the presidential candidates — **[ROTATE ORDER OF CANDIDATES]** John McCain or Barack Obama — do you think would do the best job of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**?

And who do you think would do the best job of **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**?

IF RESPONDENT MENTIONS ANYONE OTHER THAN MCCAIN OR OBAMA PROBE ONCE:

"If you had to choose between McCain and Obama. . . "?]

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

		John <u>McCain</u>	Barack <u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref.</u>
a.	Improving economic conditions				
	Late September, 2008	33	51	6	10=100
	Mid-September, 2008	38	47	5	10=100
	July, 2008	32	47	7	14=100
	June, 2008	31	51	8	10=100
	Late May, 2008	36	51	4	9=100
	April, 2008	33	53	8	6=100
Bush/Kerry	Mid October, 2004	40	47	4	9=100
	Early October, 2004	40	46	5	9=100
	September, 2004	42	45	4	9=100
	August, 2004	37	52	3	8=100
Bush/Kerry	May, 2004	38	48	5	9=100
	Late March, 2004	39	44	6	11=100
	Mid-March, 2004	37	53	2	8=100
Bush/Gore	Mid-October, 2000	37	49	3	11=100
	Early October, 2000	35	47	6	12=100
	September, 2000	38	46	5	11=100

Q.21 CONTINUED...		John <u>McCain</u>	Barack <u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref.</u>	
	June, 2000	38	41	5	16=100	
	March, 2000	42	46	4	8=100	
Dole/Clinton	September, 1996	35	49	8	8=100	
	July, 1996	38	45	8	9=100	
	TREND FOR COMPARISON	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Perot</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
Bush/Clinton	October, 1992	26	41	16	5	12=100
b. Making wise decisions about what to do in Iraq						
	Late September, 2008	48	43	3	6=100	
	Mid-September, 2008	48	41	4	7=100	
	July, 2008	44	41	3	12=100	
	June, 2008	47	41	4	8=100	
	Late May, 2008	46	43	2	9=100	
	April, 2008	50	38	5	7=100	
Bush/Kerry	Mid October, 2004	47	41	4	8=100	
	Early October, 2004	50	40	2	8=100	
	September, 2004	51	39	3	7=100	
	August, 2004	44	46	3	7=100	
	May, 2004	44	41	4	11=100	
	Late March, 2004	49	37	4	10=100	
	Mid-March, 2004	47	45	2	6=100	
c. Making wise decisions about foreign policy						
	Late September, 2008	49	42	2	7=100	
	Mid-September, 2008	51	40	2	7=100	
	July, 2008	43	42	2	13=100	
Bush/Kerry	September, 2004	53	37	3	7=100	
	August, 2004	43	47	2	8=100	
	May, 2004	43	42	4	11=100	
	Late March, 2004	44	38	4	14=100	
	Mid-March, 2004	44	45	3	8=100	
Bush/Gore	March, 2000	40	46	4	10=100	
Dole/Clinton	Early September, 1996	39	44	7	10=100	
	July, 1996	42	42	5	11=100	
	TREND FOR COMPARISON	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Perot</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
Bush/Clinton	October, 1992	53	27	6	3	11=100
d. Defending the country from future terrorist attacks						
	Late September, 2008	53	36	3	8=100	
	Mid-September, 2008	56	31	4	9=100	
	July, 2008	48	33	5	14=100	
	June, 2008	55	31	5	9=100	
	April, 2008	63	26	5	6=100	
Bush/Kerry	Mid October, 2004	53	35	4	8=100	
	Early October, 2004	57	32	3	8=100	
	September, 2004	58	31	3	8=100	
	August, 2004	49	39	4	8=100	
	May, 2004	52	33	5	10=100	
	Late March, 2004	53	29	4	14=100	
	Mid-March, 2004	57	32	4	7=100	

Q.21 CONTINUED...		John <u>McCain</u>	Barack <u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref.</u>
e.	Dealing with the nation's energy problems				
	Late September, 2008	36	52	4	8=100
	Mid-September, 2008	40	46	4	10=100
	Late May, 2008	33	51	5	11=100
f.	Dealing with taxes				
	Late-September, 2008	36	49	6	9=100
	Mid-September, 2008	39	44	5	12=100
	June, 2008	36	47	6	11=100
	Late May, 2008	44	39	5	12=100
Bush/Gore	Late October, 2000	45	41	5	9=100
	Mid-October, 2000	41	42	5	12=100
	Early October, 2000	39	42	6	13=100
	September, 2000	41	41	5	13=100
	June, 2000	41	34	7	18=100
	March, 2000	40	44	5	11=100
	TREND FOR COMPARISON				
	Cutting taxes				
Dole/Clinton	September, 1996	42	34	14	10=100
	July, 1996	42	35	12	11=100
	TREND FOR COMPARISON	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Perot</u>	<u>Neither</u> <u>DK/Ref.</u>
	Not increasing taxes				
Bush/Clinton	October, 1992	35	25	8	16 16=100

ASK REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.22 Which candidate do you think could best address the current problems involving investment banks and companies with ties to the housing market? [**READ AND ROTATE**]:

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]:

		-NII GP- Sept. 19-22 <u>2008</u> ⁷
46	Barack Obama	47
33	John McCain	35
7	Neither (VOL. DO NOT READ)	8
3	Both/Neither (VOL. DO NOT READ)	3
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)	<u>7</u>
100		100

NO QUESTIONS 23-25

⁷ In the Sept. 19-22, 2008, News Interest Index the question was worded: "Regardless of which candidate you prefer, which candidate do you think could best address the problems investment banks and companies with ties to the house market are having?"

ASK ALL

Q.26 Now I'd like your views on some people. As I read some names, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each person. (First, **INSERT NAME**) would you say your overall opinion of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS a THRU d; FOLLOWED BY ROTATE ITEMS e AND f]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?
 How about (**NEXT NAME**)? **[IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion of [NAME] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>rate/Ref</u>
a.	John McCain								
	Late September, 2008	55	19	36	38	14	24	*	7=100
	Mid-September, 2008	58	20	38	38	16	22	*	4=100
	Late May, 2008	46	12	34	44	20	24	1	9=100
	April, 2008	48	11	37	40	17	23	2	10=100
	March, 2008	45	8	37	41	16	25	2	12=100
	Late February, 2008	48	12	36	38	14	24	1	13=100
	Early February, 2008	53	12	41	31	10	21	3	13=100
	January, 2008	55	14	41	31	9	22	3	11=100
	Late December, 2007	46	8	38	34	10	24	7	13=100
	August, 2007	47	8	39	29	8	21	12	12=100
	December, 2006	51	13	38	26	6	20	10	13=100
	April, 2006	54	14	40	26	7	19	8	12=100
	Late October, 2005	56	15	41	19	5	14	10	15=100
	Late March, 2005	59	15	44	17	4	13	8	16=100
	July, 2001	51	14	37	22	5	17	13	14=100
	January, 2001	59	18	41	15	3	12	9	17=100
	May, 2000	54	14	40	20	5	15	11	15=100
b.	Barack Obama								
	Late September, 2008	65	33	32	30	11	19	*	5=100
	Mid-September, 2008	62	28	34	34	15	19	*	4=100
	Late May, 2008	51	23	28	40	21	19	*	9=100
	April, 2008	52	21	31	42	21	21	*	6=100
	March, 2008	56	21	35	34	18	16	1	9=100
	Late February, 2008	57	24	33	34	16	18	1	8=100
	Early February, 2008	58	19	39	30	13	17	2	10=100
	January, 2008	56	20	36	33	13	20	3	8=100
	Late December, 2007	54	16	38	30	12	18	5	11=100
	August, 2007	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13=100
c.	Sarah Palin								
	Late September, 2008	47	18	29	40	21	19	4	9=100
	Mid-September, 2008	50	25	25	34	15	19	6	10=100
d.	Joe Biden								
	Late September, 2008	49	15	34	30	10	20	8	13=100
	Mid-September, 2008	48	14	34	30	11	19	8	14=100
	April, 2006	28	7	21	20	5	15	38	14=100
	Late October, 2005	21	4	17	20	6	14	43	16=100
	September, 1987	22	4	18	15	4	11	25	38=100

NO QUESTIONS 27-28

ROTATE Q.29 AND Q.30

ASK ALL:

Q.29 Based on what you know about the Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin, do you think she is qualified to serve as PRESIDENT, if it becomes necessary, or not?

			-NII GP-	<i>Dan Quayle</i>	
			Sept. 5-8	-RV-	-RV-
<u>GP</u>	<u>RV</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1988</u>
37	38	Yes, qualified	52	34	41
51	52	No, not qualified	39	47	40
<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>19</u>
100	100		100	100	100
(N=1505) (N=1258)					

ROTATE Q.29 AND Q.30

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Based on what you know about the Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Biden, do you think he is qualified to serve as PRESIDENT, if it becomes necessary, or not?

			-NII GP-	<i>Lloyd Bentsen</i>	
			Sept. 5-8	-RV-	-RV-
<u>GP</u>	<u>RV</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1988</u>
63	67	Yes, qualified	66	68	62
20	20	No, not qualified	22	16	16
<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>22</u>
100	100		100	100	100
(N=1505) (N=1258)					

NO QUESTIONS 31-33

ROTATE Q.34 AND Q.35

ASK REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.34 As I name some traits, please tell me whether you think each one describes Joe Biden. First, **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** do you think of Joe Biden as **[FIRST ITEM]** or not? Do you think of Biden as **[NEXT ITEM]** or not? **[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY DON'T KNOW CANDIDATE WELL ENOUGH ENTER AS DON'T KNOW AND EMPHASIZE THAT THAT IS A LEGITIMATE ANSWER]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]

		Yes, describes	Don't Know/	
		<u>Biden</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Refused</u>
NO ITEMS a OR b				
c.	Honest	60	24	16=100
d.	Down-to-earth	55	29	16=100
e.	Arrogant	33	53	14=100
f.	Well-informed	75	12	13=100

ROTATE Q.34 AND Q.35

ASK REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.35 As I name some traits, please tell me whether you think each one describes Sarah Palin. First, **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** do you think of Sarah Palin as **[FIRST ITEM]** or not? Do you think of Palin as **[NEXT ITEM]** or not? **[INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT SAYS THEY DON'T KNOW CANDIDATE WELL ENOUGH ENTER AS DON'T KNOW AND EMPHASIZE THAT THAT IS A LEGITIMATE ANSWER]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1258]

		Yes, describes <u>Palin</u>	<u>No</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
NO ITEMS a OR b				
c.	Honest	61	29	10=100
d.	Down-to-earth	70	22	8=100
e.	Arrogant	27	65	8=100
f.	Well-informed	45	46	9=100

NO QUESTIONS 36-39

On another topic...

ASK ALL:

Q.40 How would you rate economic conditions in this country today... as excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	(VOL.)				
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	Only <u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
Late September, 2008	*	7	27	65	1=100
July, 2008	1	9	39	50	1=100
April, 2008	1	10	33	56	*=100
March, 2008	1	10	32	56	1=100
Early February, 2008	1	16	36	45	2=100
January, 2008	3	23	45	28	1=100
November, 2007	3	20	44	32	1=100
September, 2007	3	23	43	29	2=100
June, 2007	6	27	40	25	2=100
February, 2007	5	26	45	23	1=100
December, 2006	6	32	41	19	2=100
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	9	35	37	17	2=100
Late October, 2006	6	27	40	25	2=100
September, 2006	5	32	41	20	2=100
March, 2006	4	29	44	22	1=100
January, 2006	4	30	45	19	2=100
Early October, 2005	2	23	45	29	1=100
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	44	24	1=100
Mid-May, 2005	3	29	47	20	1=100
January, 2005	3	36	45	15	1=100
December, 2004	3	33	43	20	1=100
Early November, 2004 (RVs)	5	31	37	26	1=100
Mid-September, 2004	4	34	40	20	2=100
August, 2004	3	30	45	21	1=100
Late April, 2004	4	34	38	22	2=100

Q.40 CONTINUED...

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Refused</u>
Late February, 2004	2	29	42	26	1=100
February 9-12, 2004 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	31	46	21	0=100
January 12-15, 2004 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	34	42	21	0=100
January 2-5, 2004 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	40	41	16	*=100
December 11-14, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	34	44	19	*=100
November 3-5, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	28	49	21	*=100
October 24-26, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	24	44	30	*=100
October 6-8, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	20	50	27	1=100
September 8-10, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	20	49	30	*=100
August 4-6, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	24	52	23	*=100
February 17-19, 2003 (<i>Gallup</i>)	1	17	48	34	*=100
February 4-6, 2002 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	26	55	16	1=100
March 5-7, 2001 (<i>Gallup</i>)	3	43	43	10	1=100
January 7-10, 2000 (<i>Gallup</i>)	19	52	23	5	1=100
January 15-17, 1999 (<i>Gallup</i>)	14	55	27	4	*=100
March 20-22, 1998 (<i>Gallup</i>)	20	46	27	7	*=100
Jan 31 - Feb 2, 1997 (<i>Gallup</i>)	4	38	43	15	*=100
March 15-17, 1996 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	31	48	18	1=100
May 11-14, 1995 (<i>Gallup</i>)	2	27	50	20	1=100
January 15-17, 1994 (<i>Gallup</i>)	*	22	54	24	*=100
February 12-14, 1993 (<i>Gallup</i>)	*	14	46	39	1=100
January 3-6, 1992 (<i>Gallup</i>)	*	12	46	41	1=100

IF 'ONLY FAIR' OR 'POOR (3,4 IN Q.40) ASK:

Q.41 Do you think the U.S. economy is just having a few problems, is in a recession, or is in a depression?

BASED ON TOTAL [N=1505]

	<u>July</u>	<u>March</u>
7 Excellent/Good	10	11
92 Only fair/Poor	89	88
12 Just having a few problems	14	14
56 In a recession	54	56
21 In a depression	18	15
3 Don't know/refused (VOL.)	3	3
<u>1</u> Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
100	100	100

NO QUESTION 42

QUESTIONS 43-47 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)		
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No Preference	Other Party	DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Late September, 2008	25	35	34	3	1	2=100	13	15
Mid-September, 2008	28	35	32	3	*	2=100	12	14
August, 2008	26	34	34	4	*	2=100	12	17
July, 2008	24	36	34	3	*	3=100	12	15
June, 2008	26	37	32	3	*	2=100	11	16
Late May, 2008	25	35	35	2	*	3=100	13	15
April, 2008	24	37	31	5	1	2=100	11	15
March, 2008	24	38	29	5	*	4=100	9	14
Late February, 2008	24	38	32	3	*	3=100	10	17
Early February, 2008	26	35	31	5	*	3=100	11	14
January, 2008	24	33	37	4	*	2=100	12	18
Late December, 2007	25	32	36	4	*	3=100	12	18
November, 2007	28	33	32	4	1	2=100	9	16
October, 2007	25	37	33	3	*	2=100	11	17
September, 2007	27	32	32	6	*	3=100	8	16
August, 2007	26	32	32	5	1	4=100	10	16
July, 2007	27	32	34	4	*	3=100	11	17
June, 2007	25	34	32	6	*	3=100	10	17
April, 2007	25	28	40	5	*	2=100	13	17
March, 2007	25	36	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
February, 2007	25	34	34	4	*	3=100	10	18
Mid-January, 2007	24	35	34	3	*	4=100	12	18
Early-January, 2007	23	31	39	4	*	3=100	12	18
Yearly Totals								
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1=100	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.5	33.1	30.0	4.0	.4	3.0=100	11.8	13.6
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					