

Results of SurveyUSA Election Poll #14480

Geography: Minnesota  
Data Collected: 09/30/2008 - 10/01/2008  
Release Date: 10/02/2008  
Percentages

**Minnesota Presidential Teeter Totter Tips Toward McCain:** In an election for President of the United States in Minnesota today, 10/02/08, 33 days from the vote, John McCain and Barack Obama finish effectively even, according to a SurveyUSA poll conducted exclusively for KSTP-TV in Minneapolis, WDIO-TV in Duluth, KAAL-TV in Rochester, and KSAX-TV in Alexandria. The nominal advantage today goes to McCain, who is atop Obama 1 percentage point, 47% to 46%, within the survey's 3.7 percentage point margin of sampling error. But: Compared to an identical SurveyUSA poll 20 days ago, Obama is down 3 points. How much of this is movement and how much of this is "noise" is unclear. Minnesota behaves unlike other states in some respects. Among women, there is movement to McCain, at a time when McCain is losing ground among women elsewhere. Among voters younger than Obama, there movement to McCain, at a time when Obama is consolidating support among young voters elsewhere. Among voters older than McCain, there is movement to Obama, at a time when older voters elsewhere are sticking by McCain. In Western MN, which abuts the Dakotas, there is movement to McCain. In Northeastern MN, which overhangs Michigan, there is see-sawing back to Obama. Complicating this analysis is the emergence of a possible protest vote. 12% of Independents, 8% of young voters, 6% of men, 6% of those who almost never go to church, 5% of Conservatives and 5% of Twin Cities voters tell SurveyUSA that they will vote for neither McCain nor Obama, but rather "some other candidate." How much of this protest can be attributed to the failure of the U.S. House of Representatives to pass an economic recovery bill, the day before interviewing for this survey began, is unclear. Ron Paul held his campaign "convention" in Minnesota a month ago. Bob Barr and Ralph Nader are on the ballot in Minnesota. Voters who tell SurveyUSA they are for "some other candidate" also tell SurveyUSA they are likely to change their minds. It is unclear how many actual votes will be siphoned from McCain and/or Obama on Election Day, however, polling results from the Norm Coleman / Al Franken U.S. Senate race in Minnesota, [also released today by SurveyUSA](#), suggest the protest may be non-trivial.

**Filtering:** SurveyUSA interviewed 900 Minnesota adults 09/30/08 and 10/01/08. Of them, 839 were registered to vote. Of the registered voters, 725 were determined by SurveyUSA to be likely voters in the 11/04/08 general election. Minnesota has 10 Electoral College votes. John Kerry carried Minnesota by 3 points in 2004; Al Gore carried the state by 2 points in 2000.

1 If the election for President were today, would you vote for ... (choices rotated) Republican John McCain? Or, Democrat Barack Obama?

725 Likely Voters	All	Gender		Age				<50 / 50+		Age			Race				Party Affiliation			Ideology			College Grad		Attend Religious Service			Abortion		Change Your Mi	
Credibility Interval: +/-3.7 pct points		Male	Female	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	18-49	50+	< Obam	> McCa	> In Bet	White	Black	Hispani	Other	Republi	Democr	Indepe	Conser	Modera	Liberal	Yes	No	Regular	Occasi	Almost	Pro-life	Pro-cho	Could	Mind M
McCain (R)	47%	47%	48%	43%	55%	44%	42%	50%	43%	50%	40%	46%	50%	**	**	**	90%	11%	44%	83%	36%	10%	47%	48%	52%	50%	34%	69%	29%	39%	50%
Obama (D)	46%	44%	47%	47%	39%	49%	52%	42%	50%	41%	54%	49%	44%	**	**	**	7%	85%	39%	10%	57%	89%	48%	44%	40%	47%	57%	25%	65%	39%	47%
Other	4%	6%	2%	8%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%	5%	4%	2%	3%	**	**	**	1%	2%	12%	5%	3%	0%	2%	5%	4%	1%	6%	2%	3%	10%	2%
Undecided	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	2%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	**	**	**	2%	1%	5%	2%	4%	1%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	2%	12%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Likely Voters	100%	49%	51%	22%	35%	23%	19%	57%	43%	50%	11%	39%	91%	3%	2%	4%	30%	37%	21%	31%	43%	15%	42%	58%	51%	27%	22%	45%	51%	21%	77%

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725 Likely Voters	All	Top Issue For Next President								Income		Region			
Credibility Interval: +/-3.7 pct points		Econo	Environ	Health	Iraq	Terroris	Social	Educati	Immigr	< \$50K	> \$50K	Twin Ci	South	West M	Northea
McCain (R)	47%	48%	**	23%	36%	88%	**	**	**	41%	50%	44%	48%	62%	47%
Obama (D)	46%	44%	**	73%	53%	8%	**	**	**	54%	42%	47%	48%	32%	50%
Other	4%	4%	**	2%	5%	4%	**	**	**	4%	3%	5%	1%	3%	1%
Undecided	3%	4%	**	2%	6%	0%	**	**	**	1%	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Composition of Likely Voters	100%	62%	2%	8%	7%	6%	3%	3%	4%	34%	66%	58%	13%	14%	15%

\*\* Too few respondents of this type were interviewed for this data to be meaningful.

: KAAL-TV Rochester-Mason City-Austin, KSAX-TV Alexandria, MN, KSTP-TV Minneapolis, WDIO-TV Duluth

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**Statement of Methodology:** About the Poll: This poll was conducted by telephone in the voice of a professional announcer. Respondent households were selected at random, using Random Digit Dialed (RDD) sample provided by Survey Sampling, of Fairfield CT. All respondents heard the questions asked identically. The pollster's report includes the geography that was surveyed; the date(s) interviews were conducted, the number of respondents who answered each question and the theoretical margin of sampling error for each question. Where necessary, respondents were weighted using the most recent US Census estimates for age, gender, ethnic origin and region, to align the sample to the population. In theory, one can say with 95% certainty that the results would not vary by more than the stated margin of sampling error, in one direction or the other, had the entire universe of respondents with home telephones been interviewed with complete accuracy. There are other possible sources of error in all surveys that may be more serious than sampling error. These include: the difficulty of interviewing respondents who do not have a home telephone; the refusal by some with home telephones to be interviewed; the order in which questions are asked; the wording of questions; the way and extent to which data are weighted; and the manner in which specialized populations, such as likely voters, are determined. It is difficult to quantify the errors that may result from these and other factors. Research methodology, questionnaire design and fieldwork for this survey were completed by SurveyUSA of Clifton, NJ. This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.