

## **Election 2008: Alaska Presidential Election**

Alaska: McCain Lead Holds Steady at 44% to 39% Despite Stevens' Woes  
Friday, August 01, 2008

The indictment of Alaska Senator Ted Stevens has given the Republicans a big hill to climb in the Alaska Senate race but has not shaken up the campaign for Alaska's three Electoral College votes.

The latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey in the state shows John McCain still holding a five-percentage point lead over Barack Obama, 44% to 39%. When “leaners” are included in the total, McCain now leads 48% to 42%. The survey was the first in the state conducted following the Stevens' indictment and was completed on Wednesday night.

While closer than expected, the race has remained remarkably stable. Two weeks ago, it was McCain 45%, Obama 40%. A month ago, the Republican candidate was ahead 45% to 41%.

Nationally, the race remains very close in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll.

McCain, however, is now viewed favorably by 65% of Alaska voters, up two points from the previous survey and up eight since June. Obama is viewed favorably by 52%, down just a single point from each of the previous two surveys.

Twenty-nine percent (29%) have a Very Favorable opinion of Obama while 28% hold a Very Unfavorable view. For McCain, the numbers are 24% Very Favorable and just 13% Very Unfavorable.

Alaska Governor Sarah Palin is often mentioned as a potential Vice Presidential running mate for John McCain. Nationally, she is little known—just 11% have a favorable opinion of her while 19% hold an unfavorable view. The vast majority—70%--have no opinion.

But she is popular in her home state and is seen by most Alaska voters as more ethical than the typical politician. Sixty-four percent (64%) of voters rate Palin's job performance as excellent or good versus only 14% who view it as poor. Palin is seen as more ethical than most politicians by 51% of Alaska voters. Another 33% say she is as ethical as her peers.

Since Alaska became a state, Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 is the only Democratic presidential candidate who has ever won there. George W. Bush carried the state by 25 points in 2004 and 31 points four years earlier.

In Alaska, McCain is supported by 79% of Republicans. Obama earns the vote from 75% of Democrats and enjoys a 12-percentage point lead among unaffiliated voters. Full crosstabs are

available for Premium Members.

President Bush's job approval rating tends to track better in Alaska than much of the rest of the country. Thirty-seven percent (37%) say the President is doing a good or an excellent job while 46% rate his performance as poor.