

Election 2008: North Dakota Presidential Election

North Dakota: McCain and Obama Tied
Thursday, July 10, 2008

North Dakota is as safe a Republican state as any in Presidential elections. George W. Bush carried the state by twenty-seven points in Election 2004 and twenty-eight points four years earlier. The state has voted for a Democratic Presidential candidate just once since 1936 and three times since 1916.

Despite that history, John McCain and Barack Obama are tied in the latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of North Dakota voters. Both men earn 43% of the vote. When leaners are included, McCain holds a statistically insignificant one-point advantage, 47% to 46%. Last week, a Rasmussen Reports survey showed Obama with a five-point advantage in neighboring Montana. That state, too, has a long history of voting Republican at the Presidential level but both states also have two Democratic U.S. Senators. McCain is returning the favor by running much stronger than recent Republicans in New Jersey.

In North Dakota, McCain leads by double digits among men but trails by nine among women. McCain earns the vote from 87% of Republicans while Obama attracts 79% of Democrats and holds an eighteen point lead among unaffiliated voters.

Obama leads by twenty points among those who consider economic issues most important while McCain has a thirty-seven point lead among those who see national security as the highest priority. Thirty-nine percent (39%) view the economy as most important while 24% say the same about national security.

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Twenty-five percent (25%) of North Dakota voters say McCain is too old to be President while 45% say Obama is too inexperienced. These perceptions are tracked regularly on a national basis and updated continuously along with other key stats at Obama-McCain By the Numbers. Obama has a very modest lead over McCain nationally in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll.

Fifty-three percent (53%) of North Dakota voters say it's more important to get the troops home from Iraq than it is to win the war. Forty-one percent (41%) disagree and say winning the war is more important.

Sixty-five percent (65%) favor offshore oil drilling, a figure close to the national average.

Even though George W. Bush won 63% of the vote in North Dakota four years ago, just 37% of the state's voters now say he is doing a good or an excellent job.