

Election 2008: Minnesota Presidential Election

Minnesota: Obama Leads by Twelve
Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Barack Obama leads John McCain 49% to 37% in Minnesota. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey in the state finds that when “leaners” are included, Obama leads 52% to 39%.

Two weeks ago, Obama had a 52% to 34% lead in the North Star State. Last month, Obama led 52% to 39%.

Nationally, the race between Obama and McCain is much closer in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll.

In Minnesota this month, Obama leads 42% to 35% among voters not affiliated with either major party. Like in many states, the Democrat has a big lead among women (54% to 35%) but a marginal lead among men (44% to 40%). Obama leads among voters from every age group, but performs strongest among younger voters.

As in all states, a solid plurality of voters in Minnesota (43%) choose the economy as the top issue of Election 2008. Among those voters, Obama has a 63% to 24% advantage. McCain has the lead among voters who say national security issues are most important, 60% to 32%. However, just 17% of Minnesota voters see this as the top issue of the upcoming election.

When it comes to the War on Terror, 54% of voters in Minnesota think the United States and its allies are winning, as opposed to 21% who think the terrorists are winning. Those results are a bit higher than those found nationally. Most voters (59%) agree with Obama in that Iraq is not the “central front” of the War on Terror, while 39% think Afghanistan holds that spot. Half of voters (50%) say Afghanistan is a bigger threat than Iraq to the U.S..

Nationally, belief is growing that the media is trying to help Obama win. In Minnesota, 47% of voters agree. A third of voters (33%) think reporters provide unbiased coverage of the election and just 8% think reporters are trying to help McCain. Fifty-nine percent (59%) believe reporters try to help the candidate they want to win when covering political news. Regarding media coverage of the ailing economy, 41% of voters think the media makes the situation sound worse than it really is, while 28% believe it provides an accurate picture.

President George W. Bush earns good or excellent ratings from 27% of voters in Minnesota, while 55% say he is doing a poor job. Nationally, Bush job approval ratings remain at record lows.

The Senate race in Minnesota between Incumbent Norm Coleman and challenger Al Franken

remains tight.

This survey was conducted in partnership with Fox Television Stations Inc.