

Election 2008: Mississippi Presidential Election

McCain Jumps Out to 11-point Lead in Mississippi
Wednesday, July 30, 2008

John McCain has nearly doubled his lead over Barack Obama in Mississippi, according to a new Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of voters in the state.

McCain now leads his Democratic opponent by 11 points 52% to 41%, after maintaining a 6-point lead for the previous two months in a row. Counting “leaners,” McCain leads 54% to 42%.

The Republican candidate has gained slightly in terms of favorables. He is now viewed favorably by 64% of voters here, up from 58% in June. Obama has held roughly steady from last month, with 47% viewing him favorably and 51% unfavorably.

Mississippi has cast its six Electoral College votes for the Republican candidate in the last seven presidential elections. In 2004, President Bush easily won the state by a 59% to 40% margin.

Nationally, McCain and Obama remain competitive in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll.

Half of Mississippi voters rate economic issues as their number one concern this election cycle, followed by 26% who rank national security at the top. This is consistent with voter concerns nationwide. National security was the top concern in Election 2004.

Seventy percent (70%) of Mississippi voters say lowering the price of gas and oil is more important than protecting the environment, but 20% disagree. This is significantly higher than the national averages on this question.

There is a growing feeling among voters throughout the country that the U.S. and its allies are winning the war on terror [LINK](#): 59% of voters in Mississippi feel that way, while 19% say the terrorists are winning and 16% say it's a draw.

Forty-four percent (44%) believe that Afghanistan is the central front in the war on terror, as opposed to 33% who say it is Iraq. Nearly half (49%) think that Afghanistan is a greater threat to U.S. national security than Iraq, but 26% feel Iraq is the larger problem.

Mississippians have the same concerns about the media as other Americans. Sixty-eight percent (68%) believe most reporters try to help the political candidate they want to win, and 58% think reporters are trying to help Obama. Only 9% think reporters are trying to help McCain, while one-quarter (25%) think they provide unbiased coverage.

Just over half (51%) think the United States has the best economy in the world, while 36% disagree. Fifty-one percent (51%) also think the media portrays the economy as worse than it really is.

Forty-one percent (41%) say President Bush is doing a good or an excellent job, while the identical number (41%) rate his performance as poor.