

Election 2008: Nebraska President

Nebraska: McCain Maintains Double-Digit Lead
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John McCain continues to hold a big lead in the race for Nebraska's Electoral College votes. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey in the Cornhusker State found the GOP hopeful leading Barack Obama 50% to 32%. Eight percent (8%) of voters say they'd prefer a third party option while 10% are undecided.

That eighteen-point lead is similar to his sixteen-point edge last month.

Fifty-eight percent (58%) of Nebraska voters believe most reporters are trying to help Barack Obama win the election. Just 9% think they are trying to help McCain. Those numbers are not too different from the national average.

Over the past three months, McCain's support has stayed in a very small range from 50% to 52%. Obama's support has consistently declined, falling from 39% in May to 36% in June and 32% in July.

McCain is now viewed favorably by 71% of Nebraska voters, up three points from a month ago. Obama's ratings are less flattering: 45% favorable and 54% unfavorable.

When "leaners" are included, McCain now leads 55% to 36%. Leaners are voters who initially do not support either McCain or Obama but express a preference in a follow-up question.

McCain picks up support from 20% of Democrats, and from 83% of those in his own party. Obama is supported by 72% of Nebraska Democrats in Nebraska. The two candidates are essentially even among unaffiliated voters.

Nebraska is one of only two states that does not award its five Electoral Votes on a winner-take-all basis. The statewide winner gets two Electoral votes and the other three are awarded based upon the winner in each Congressional District. Since the system was established in 1996, the state has never split its Electoral votes. However, if the statewide vote is close enough, it might be possible for the losing candidate to pick up one of Nebraska's Electoral Votes. Maine is the only other state to use this system.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of Nebraska voters say economic issues are most important in Election 2008. Twenty-one percent (21%) consider national security issues to be the highest priority.

Sixty-two percent (62%) say that the U.S. and its allies are winning the War on Terror. That's a bit more upbeat than the national average, but confidence throughout the nation is at the highest levels of the past four years.

Fifty-nine percent (59%) say that reducing the price of gas and oil is more important than protecting the environment. Just 29% disagree and take the opposite view.