

Election 2008: New York Presidential Election

New York: Obama Holds onto Dominant Lead
Wednesday, August 06, 2008

Barack Obama doesn't have a two-to-one margin in New York anymore, but he still leads John McCain by 20 points, 52% to 32%, according to the latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of Empire State voters. When “leaners” are included, the Democrat has a 55% to 36% lead.

In late June, Obama led his Republican opponent 60% to 29%.

Obama leads 47% to 36% among men in the Empire State and 56% to 28% among women. He's also backed by 78% of Democrats and 10% of Republicans. Among unaffiliated voters, Obama has a 45% to 27% advantage over McCain.

The presumptive Democratic nominee's favorability ratings in New York have decreased somewhat along with his lead in August. He is viewed favorably by 59%, down from 67% in June. Obama is now viewed unfavorably by 39% of voters, up from 30% a month ago. McCain's numbers have changed little since the last poll. He is now viewed favorably by 49% and unfavorably by 49%.

The survey also found that when it comes to New York's current financial problems, the majority of voters (60%) are confident that Governor David Paterson has the ability to solve them. Another 36% are not confident in the governor's abilities. Paterson earns good or excellent ratings from 51% of voters in the state, while 13% say he is doing a poor job.

A plurality of voters (43%) believes a combination of tax increases and cuts in funding of state services and municipalities would help solve the New York's financial woes.

When it comes to the War on Terror, 46% of New York voters say the United States and its allies are winning. That number is slightly lower than the national average. Most New Yorkers (66%) agree with Obama that Iraq is not the “central” front of the war, and 40% give that title to Afghanistan. Nearly half (47%) say Afghanistan is a greater threat than Iraq to the U.S.

Voters in New York, as in most states, believe most reporters are biased. Fifty-nine percent (59%) believe that most reporters covering an election try to help the candidate they want to win, and 40% believe they are trying to help Obama this year.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) also think the media portrays the current economic situation as worse than it really is. But 28% think the media makes the situation sound better than reality, while 25% say it presents an accurate picture.

Just 27% of voters in New York give President George W. Bush good or excellent ratings, while 63% give the president poor marks.

The survey was conducted in partnership with Fox Television Stations, Inc.