

# Election 2008: Pennsylvania Presidential Election

Obama Clings to Modest Lead in Pennsylvania  
Thursday, August 21, 2008

Barack Obama leads John McCain by five percentage points in Pennsylvania for the second month in a row. Both candidates have lost some support from a month ago, with the Democrat now favored by 45% while his Republican opponent earns the vote from 40%.

When “leaners” are included, Obama’s lead is down to just three points, 48% to 45%. A month ago, Obama led by six when leaners were included.

The data in Pennsylvania reflects patterns seen elsewhere in recent polling. McCain has more support from Republicans than Obama does from Democrats, and McCain also wins more crossover votes from the other party. The two candidates are even among unaffiliated voters.

Obama wins among younger voters and those who don’t attend church while McCain has a solid lead among senior citizens and regular churchgoers.

McCain is viewed favorably by 58% of voters in Pennsylvania, Obama by 55%. For both men, that’s a three-point decline over the past month.

Like voters throughout the nation, Pennsylvania voters overwhelmingly say it’s more important to find new sources of energy than to reduce the amount of energy we consume. Sixty-five percent (65%) say finding more energy is the top priority while just 27% favor reducing consumption. Nationally, voters believe that McCain is more interested in finding new energy sources while Obama wants to reduce consumption. Sixty-one percent (61%) of voters nationwide want Congress to return to Washington and vote on offshore drilling right away.

In another finding that mirrors the national mood 51% of Pennsylvania voters say media bias is a bigger problem than large campaign contributions.

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell earns good or excellent ratings from 40% of voters, while 24% say he is doing a poor job.

President Bush earns good or excellent ratings from just 30% of voters in Pennsylvania, while 54% rate his performance as poor.

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