

Election 2008: Texas Presidential Election

Texas: McCain Leads by Nine for Second Straight Month
Thursday, July 31, 2008

John McCain continues to lead Barack Obama by nine points in Texas. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey in the state finds the Republican ahead 50% to 41%. When “leaners” are included, McCain leads 52% to 44%.

McCain also had a nine point lead a month ago in the Lone Star State, after falling from a thirteen point lead in May.

Nationally, in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll, the race between McCain and Obama remains very close.

In Texas, the race among unaffiliated voters is quite close. This month, McCain leads 45% to 42% among those voters. The Republican’s lead among those voters has fallen significantly since the last poll, when he led 49% to 32%.

While McCain has a big advantage among men, the two candidates are even among women. McCain leads 58% to 33% among married voters in Texas, while Obama has a 59% to 34% advantage among voters who are not married.

Texas has voted for the Republican candidate in every election for the past twenty-eight years. At the time this poll was released, Texas was rated as a “Safely Republican” in the Rasmussen Reports Balance of Power Calculator.

McCain’s favorability ratings have remained stable this month. He is viewed favorably by 60% of voters and unfavorably by 37%. Meanwhile, Obama’s marks have declined somewhat in the Lone Star State. The Democrat is viewed favorably by 46%, down from 50% last month. He is viewed unfavorably by 51%, up from 48% last month.

Most voters in Texas (62%) believe gun laws will be stricter if Obama is president. One in five voters (20%) believe gun laws would be less restrictive. While 74% of Republicans say Obama would increase restrictions of gun laws, 48% of Democrats agree, along with 63% of unaffiliated voters.

Eighty-five percent (85%) oppose an increase in the federal gas tax, even after being told that as people drive less there is less money available for highway repairs. Texas voters are split on whether the federal gas tax should be permanently eliminated--45% say it should while 33% disagree.

President George W. Bush receives good or excellent ratings from 41% of voters in his home state. That’s a better report card than he gets nationally. Forty-four percent (44%) of Texas voters

think he is doing a poor job.

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