

EPIC•MRA STATEWIDE POLL OF LIKELY VOTERS – SEPTEMBER 2008
The Detroit News – WXYZ TV7 – WILX TV10 – WOOD TV8 – WJRT TV12
Conducted September 14 to 17, 2008

[FREQUENCY REPORT of SURVEY RESPONSES – 602 SAMPLE – ERROR ±4%]

Overall, would you say that things in the United States are generally headed in the right direction, or have things pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

17% Right direction
73% Wrong track
10% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

How about in Michigan – are things in Michigan generally headed in the right direction, or are things pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

11% Right direction
80% Wrong track
9% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Now I am going to read a list of the top 10 national problems or issues people say they are most concerned about. After I read the whole list, please tell me which one problem or issue you are personally concerned about the most?

43% Improving the nations economy and providing jobs
13% Protecting America from terrorism
9% Making quality health care affordable and accessible
8% Promoting morality and family values
7% Fighting the ongoing war in Iraq
6% Reducing the price of gasoline
5% Improving education
4% Keeping federal taxes low
2% Protecting our air and water
1% Controlling crime and drugs
1% More than one [ASK: "But which problem concerns you the most?"]
1% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Now, I would like to read a list of several political figures. For each one, please tell me if you recognize the name, and if you do, whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person. The first name is _____? Do you recognize the name?

[IF YES, ASK] Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of (him/her)?

[IF FAVORABLE/UNFAVORABLE, ASK] Would that be very or generally?

NAMES [ROTATE Qs]	<u>DON'T RECOG</u>	<u>VERY FAVOR</u>	<u>TOTAL FAVOR</u>	<u>TOTAL UNFAV</u>	<u>VERY UNFAV</u>	<u>REF UNDEC</u>
George W. Bush	---	9%	25%	62%	44%	3%
Jennifer Granholm	---	16%	50%	41%	21%	9%
John McCain	1%	17%	51%	42%	22%	6%
Barack Obama	1%	32%	54%	36%	16%	9%
Sarah Palin	6%	24%	48%	35%	19%	11%
Joe Biden	10%	19%	47%	30%	12%	13%
Carl Levin	8%	21%	55%	25%	12%	12%
Jack Hoogendyk	74%	1%	5%	6%	2%	15%

Do you think the U.S. economy is getting stronger, getting weaker, or staying about the same?

5% Getting stronger
 68% Getting weaker
 24% Staying about the same
 3% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Next, I would like to ask how you would vote in two matchups in the November 4th election.

In the election for President, if the election were held today, would you vote for [ROTATE] John McCain the Republican, Barack Obama the Democrat, Ralph Nader the Independent, or Bob Barr the Libertarian?

[IF UNDECIDED, ASK: Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, which candidate would you lean toward, [ROTATE] Obama, McCain, Nader or Barr?]

42%	Vote for Barack Obama the Democrat -----	43% TOTAL OBAMA
1%	Lean toward Barack Obama	
40%	Vote for John McCain the Republican -----	42% TOTAL MCCAIN
2%	Lean toward John McCain	
1%	Vote for Ralph Nader the Independent -----	2% TOTAL NADER
1%	Lean toward Nader	
2%	Vote for Bob Barr the Libertarian -----	2% TOTAL BARR
----	Lean toward Barr	
10%	Undecided/Don't know/Refused	

Have you ruled out voting for Barack Obama the Democrat and are pretty certain that you will vote for John McCain the Republican, or, are you still considering Barack Obama and might change your mind and vote for him?

81%	Ruled out Obama and certain to be voting for McCain
17%	Still considering Obama and may change mind
2%	Undecided/Don't know/Refused

What is the main reason why you are voting for John McCain?

21%	His Position on Issues – In General	6%	Strong Leader
18%	He's Conservative	5%	National Security Position
17%	Experience	3%	Taxes Position
13%	Best Candidate	3%	War In Iraq Position
7%	Abortion Position	2%	Running Mate - Palin
6%	Like Him – In General	---	Undecided/Don't know/Refused

(totals may be more than 100% due to rounding)

What would you say is the main reason why you are NOT voting for Barack Obama?

28%	Lacks Experience	4%	Track Record
14%	Too Liberal	3%	Would Ruin The Country
12%	Disagree with His Ideas	2%	War In Iraq Position
10%	Abortion Position	1%	Dislike Him – In General
8%	Do Not Trust Him	1%	Health Care Position
7%	Taxes Position	1%	Religion
4%	False Promises		
4%	Like McCain More – In General	2%	Undecided/Don't know/Refused

(totals may be more than 100% due to rounding)

Have you ruled out voting for John McCain the Republican and are pretty certain that you will vote for Barack Obama the Democrat, or, are you still considering John McCain and might change your mind and vote for him?

- 85% Ruled out McCain and certain to be voting for Obama
- 15% Still considering McCain and may change mind
- Undecided/Don't know/Refused

What is the main reason why you are voting for Barack Obama?

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 41% | Represents Change | 6% | Trust Him |
| 19% | Democrat | 3% | Taxes Position |
| 15% | His Position on Issues – In General | 3% | Abortion Position |
| 13% | Economy Position | | |
- (totals may be more than 100% due to rounding)*

What would you say is the main reason why you are NOT voting for John McCain?

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 42% | More Bush Policy – Same | 5% | Running Mate - Palin |
| 9% | Age | 3% | Health Care Position |
| 9% | Republican | 3% | Like Obama More – In General |
| 6% | Do Not Trust Him | 3% | War in Iraq Position |
| 6% | Does Not Understand The Middle Class | 2% | Abortion Position |
| 5% | Economy Position | 2% | Disagree with His Ideas |
| 5% | False Promises | 2% | Taxes Position |
- (totals may be more than 100% due to rounding)*

If you were not voting for **(Bob Barr/Ralph Nader)**, which of the two major party candidates would you vote for – **[ROTATE]** John McCain the Republican or Barack Obama the Democrat?

[IF UNDECIDED, ASK: Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, which candidate would you lean toward, **[ROTATE]** Obama or McCain?)

- 11% Vote for Barack Obama the Democrat ----- **11% TOTAL OBAMA**
- Lean toward Barack Obama
- 28% Vote for John McCain the Republican ----- **36% TOTAL MCCAIN**
- 8% Lean toward John McCain
- 53% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

If the November general election for U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote for -- **[ROTATE]** Jack Hoogendyk the Republican or Carl Levin the Democrat?

[IF UNDECIDED, ASK: Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, which candidate would you lean toward -- **[ROTATE]** Hoogendyk or Levin?)

- 54% Carl Levin the Democrat ----- **56% TOTAL LEVIN**
- 2% Lean toward Levin
- 26% Jack Hoogendyk the Republican --- **28% TOTAL HOOGENDYK**
- 2% Lean toward Hoogendyk
- 16% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Now I would like to read several words and phrases to you. For each word or phrase I read, please tell me whether you think it is a better description of [ROTATE] John McCain the Republican or Barack Obama the Democrat?

[ROTATE Qs]	<u>John McCain Republican</u>	<u>Barack Obama Democrat</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Ref/ Undec</u>
Someone you can trust.	43%	39%	6%	12%
He shares my values	44%	42%	5%	9%
Cares about someone like me	33%	47%	9%	11%
Has the right kind of experience	61%	26%	5%	8%
Will bring about needed change	31%	51%	7%	11%
Will work for bipartisan solutions	41%	41%	7%	11%
Will be able to inspire people	25%	62%	6%	7%
Will be a strong leader	45%	39%	9%	7%
Will protect American interests	48%	36%	10%	6%

On another topic, thinking about the two major candidates for President... [ROTATE Qs]

If John McCain is elected, how comfortable are you with the thought of having him as President – very comfortable, mostly comfortable, only somewhat comfortable, or not really comfortable at all?

24% Very comfortable
 18% Mostly comfortable ----- **42% TOTAL COMFORTABLE**
 25% Only somewhat comfortable
 30% Not really comfortable at all
 3% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

If Barack Obama is elected, how comfortable are you with the thought of having him as President – very comfortable, mostly comfortable, only somewhat comfortable, or not really comfortable at all?

30% Very comfortable
 18% Mostly comfortable ----- **48% TOTAL COMFORTABLE**
 21% Only somewhat comfortable
 28% Not really comfortable at all
 3% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Did the selection of Sarah Palin as the candidate for Vice President make you more likely to vote for John McCain, less likely to vote for him, or, would you say that the selection of Sarah Palin really didn't influence you one way or the other? **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK: Would that be much or somewhat?]**

18% Much more likely to vote for McCain
 8% Somewhat more likely to vote for McCain ----- **26% MORE LIKELY**
 47% No influence one way or the other
 8% Somewhat less likely to vote for McCain ----- **25% LESS LIKELY**
 17% Much less likely to vote for McCain
 2% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Did the selection of Joe Biden as the candidate for Vice President make you more likely to vote for Barack Obama, less likely to vote for him, or, would you say that the selection of Joe Biden really didn't influence you one way or the other? **[IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK: Would that be much or somewhat?]**

13% Much more likely to vote for Obama
 10% Somewhat more likely to vote for Obama ----- **23% MORE LIKELY**
 58% No influence one way or the other
 7% Somewhat less likely to vote for Obama ----- **16% LESS LIKELY**
 9% Much less likely to vote for Obama
 3% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Thinking about the two *tickets* for President, if the election were held today, would you vote for **[ROTATE]** John McCain and Sarah Palin the Republicans, Barack Obama and Joe Biden the Democrats, Ralph Nader the Independent, or Bob Barr the Libertarian?

[IF UNDECIDED, ASK: Well, if the election were held today and you had to decide right now, which candidate would you lean toward, [ROTATE] Obama, McCain, Nader or Barr?]

44% Vote for Barack Obama the Democrat ----- **45% TOTAL OBAMA - BIDEN**
 1% Lean toward Barack Obama
 41% Vote for John McCain the Republican ----- **42% TOTAL MCCAIN - PALIN**
 1% Lean toward John McCain
 2% Vote for Ralph Nader the Independent ----- **2% TOTAL NADER**
 ---- Lean toward Nader
 2% Vote for Bob Barr the Libertarian ----- **2% TOTAL BARR**
 ---- Lean toward Barr
 9% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

If John McCain were elected President and he was not able to serve for his entire term of office, do you think that Sarah Palin is qualified enough to be able to step in as President, or not?

43% Yes, she is qualified to be President
 47% No, she is not qualified to be President
 10% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Based on what you know or have heard of read, what do you think John McCain's religion is?
[DO NOT READ]

- 21% Protestant (**Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, or Episcopalian**)
- 6% Roman Catholic or Catholic
- Eastern Orthodox
- Jewish
- Muslim
- 2% Other
- 2% Christian – Non Denominational
- 29% None
- 40% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Based on what you know or have heard of read, what do you think Barack Obama's religion is?
[DO NOT READ]

- 19% Protestant (**Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, or Episcopalian**)
- 1% Roman Catholic or Catholic
- Eastern Orthodox
- Jewish
- 7% Muslim
- 1% Other
- 2% Christian – Non Denominational
- 33% None
- 37% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? American voters are not ready yet to elect a candidate for president who is a black man?

- 14% Agree
- 78% Disagree
- 8% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

Do you think of yourself as pro-choice, meaning that you support allowing women to have the right to an abortion, or do you consider yourself pro-life, meaning that you oppose abortions except where it is necessary to save the life of the mother?

- 50% Pro-choice
- 46% Pro-life
- 4% Undecided/Don't know/Refused