



## PUBLIC OPINION AND OPINION POLLING SELECTED WEBSITES AND ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

From time to time, the Reference Center would like to bring to your attention topics which we think might be of interest to you.

*No recommendation is made in respect of non-U.S. Government web sites listed.*

### Polling Organizations

#### Gallup Organization

Gallup Brain (data since 1935)

Roper Center for Public Opinion Research

Pew Research Center for People and the Press

Program on International Policy Attitudes

Worldviews - foreign policy attitudes of the American and European publics

Harris Interactive

Public Agenda Online

Public Opinion Online

The Chicago Council



### Other Organizations

American Association for Public Opinion Research

### General Information

Public Opinion Surveys – an annotated guide by Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research.

American Public Says Government Leaders Should Pay Attention to Polls – 81% say when making "an important decision" government leaders "should pay attention to public opinion polls because this will help them get a sense of the public's views." Only 18% said "they should not pay attention to public opinion polls because this will distract them from deciding what they think is right."

Polling 101: the Basics of Public Opinion Research *The Roper Center.*

Guide to Public Opinion Poll Web Sites: Polling Data From Around the World'06.

### Public Approval of Presidents' Performance

Presidential Approval Ratings

Presidential Approval – Historical Perspective

President Bush Approval Ratings – time graph

Presidential Scandals and Job Approval

### Election Campaign Polling

Real Clear Politics - Election 2008 RCP Poll Average Chart / Election 2008 – Latest Polls

[Poll trends, election campaign 2004](#) tabular data by *Washington Post*

[Charting the Campaign – presidential campaign 2004 opinion polling](#)

[Sources of Variation in Election Polling: a Primer](#) by Professor Cliff Zukin, 2004. 7p.

## Public's Cooperation With Polling

### [Be an Election Poll Worker](#)

[Volunteering and Contributing to the Election Process](#) – Become a poll worker; political activity by federal govt. employees (*The Hatch Act*); campaign contributions; supporting federal candidates...

[Pew report finds growing resistance in USA to participation in public opinion polling by telephone](#)  
April 2004.

## Political Polling & the Presidential Race

[Fewer Voters Identify as Republicans](#) - The balance of party identification in the American electorate now favors the Democratic Party by a decidedly larger margin than in either of the two previous presidential election cycles.

[How and When Experience in a President Counts](#) - Experience has become a dominant issue in the 2008 presidential campaign. Initially thought to be an open contest, the range and types of candidate experience have varied substantially: sitting and former senators, representatives and governors, and a former mayor and first lady. This paper will treat the following questions: Is the 2008 presidential election an open contest? How common are open contests? When have they occurred? What are the types of heirs apparent as candidates? Which presidencies have been successful? How might the *historical experience of experience* apply to 2008?

[The Crapshoot of Presidential Politics: Why the primary results and polling numbers aren't the Alpha and Omega](#) - This week's detour into the murk of racial politics underlines that it's going to be a long, hard slog on the Democratic side. The next opportunity for Democrats to resolve their deadlock will come in June, once the primaries are over and every state (and territory) has had its say.

[Racial Tensions Roil Democrats' Media Narrative](#) - For the first time since the primaries began in January, some other story besides the election seriously competed for the media's attention last week.

[Here's One Crystal Ball You Can Bet On in 2008](#) - Yale University economist Ray Fair had developed an econometric model that predicted the outcome of presidential elections with stunning accuracy...but what is his model saying about this year's election?

[The George Washington University Battleground Poll](#) "A collaborative bi-partisan survey produced by Republican strategist Ed Goetas of The Tarrance Group and Democrat Celinda Lake of Lake Snell Perry and Associates. This national polling program is unique to the industry, in that it offers the distinct perspectives of two top pollsters from different sides of the aisle. Battleground Polls are conducted, not for the benefit of any paying client, but to give the public a look at Americans' opinions and an inside peek at strategic recommendations for both political parties."

[Public Divided on Whether Obama Has Necessary Experience](#) - The most recent *USA Today*/Gallup poll finds 46% of Americans saying Barack Obama has the experience necessary to be President.

[Dems, Reps Agree: Obama Tougher Opponent for McCain](#) - A new Gallup Panel survey finds a majority of both Republicans and Democrats saying Barack Obama has a better chance than Hillary Clinton of defeating Republican John McCain in the November presidential election...

[If McCain vs. Obama, 28% of Clinton Backers Go for McCain](#) - A sizable proportion of Democrats would vote for John McCain next November if he is matched against the candidate they do not support for the Democratic nomination. This is particularly true for Hillary Clinton supporters, more than a quarter of whom currently say they would vote for McCain if Barack Obama is the Democratic nominee.

[Presidential Race State-by-State Snapshot](#) - The table below contains results of the most recent general election poll conducted in each state. To see the related article for each poll click on the state name.

**Awareness of Iraq War Fatalities Plummets** - Public awareness of the number of American military fatalities in Iraq has declined sharply since last August. Today, just 28% of adults are able to say that approximately 4,000 Americans have died in the Iraq war.

**No New Primary for Florida Democrats** - ..."We researched every potential alternative process -- from caucuses to county conventions to mail-in elections -- but no plan could come anywhere close to being viable in Florida," said state party chairwoman Karen Thurman.

**Gallup Daily: McCain Competitive With Obama, Clinton** - In the first release of Gallup Poll Daily tracking on the 2008 general election, Republican John McCain is competitive when matched up against either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton, with the Democrats having a slight advantage among registered voters in both races, but not beyond the margin of sampling error.

**McCain's 67% Favorable Rating His Highest in Eight Years** - John McCain's 67% favorable rating is the highest of any of the three major candidates running for president, and ties for his highest in Gallup polling history.

**Superdelegates: An Obstacle on the Road to Democratic Elections** - Hillary Clinton's wins in Texas and Ohio have revitalized the possibility that in the tight race for the Democratic nomination, the deciding votes could be cast by the party's superdelegates. That's bad for the Democratic party. Why's that?

**A Virtual Tie: Clinton, Obama Divide the Democratic Primary Vote** - As the presidential campaigns of Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama approach the ides of March, they are virtually tied in the Democratic primary vote count. Include results from the unsanctioned contests in Florida and Michigan and Clinton leads by less than 80,000 votes out of almost 30 million Democratic primary ballots cast. Exclude these unsanctioned results and Obama is ahead by more than a half million votes, a lead which grows if caucus votes are added to the mix.

**Half of Americans Pessimistic About Economy of Their Region over Next Six Months** - According to a new nationwide Harris Poll, Americans are not only pessimistic about the economic conditions of their region in the near future, they are only slightly optimistic about their own financial situation looking forward.

## **Candidate Issue Index: Iraq**

### **Public Opinion on Business and Industry**

**Some Substantial Changes in How Americans View Different Industries** Harris Poll, 8 August, 2007.

### **Public Opinion on Economic Issues**

**Here's One Crystal Ball You Can Bet On in 2008** - Yale University economist Ray Fair had developed an econometric model that predicted the outcome of presidential elections with stunning accuracy...but what is his model saying about this year's election?

**Impact of Financial Crisis Different for Five Largest European Countries and the U.S.** - While much of the focus may be on the United States, the recent financial crisis has impacted countries around the world, some worse than others. One sees varying degrees of impact when looking at on the crisis in the five largest European countries and the U.S.

### **Public Opinion on Budget, Public Spending and Taxation Issues**

**Public Opinion on Taxes** *AEI Studies in Public Opinion*, 6 April, 2007. 78p.

**Do Deficits Matter Any More? Apparently Not to the Public** *Analysis, Pew Research*, 14 March 14, 2006.

**Trends in National Spending Priorities, 1973-2006** by Tom W. Smith. *National Opinion Research Center (NORC)*, University of Chicago, January 2007.

**Facing Up to the Nation's Finances: Understanding Public Attitudes About the Federal Budget: A Report on Focus Groups** *Public Agenda* (and others), December 2006. 13p.

## **Public Opinion on International Affairs**

**Program on International Policy Attitudes**

**Polling Report.com**

**Pew Global Attitudes Project**

**Public Opinion and Foreign Policy** – quarterly surveys by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations

**Worldviews** - foreign policy attitudes of the American and European publics

**Transatlantic Trends** – annual survey of European public opinion on U.S. and on U.S.-Europe relations; by U.S. German Marshall Fund

**American Public Says Government Leaders Should Pay Attention to Polls** – 81% say when making "an important decision" government leaders "should pay attention to public opinion polls because this will help them get a sense of the public's views." Only 18% said "they should not pay attention to public opinion polls because this will distract them from deciding what they think is right."

**Nine-Country Poll Finds Europeans and Americans Desire Closer Relations** - A poll of seven European countries, Canada, and the United States finds widespread support for closer relations between Europe and the United States. However, currently, cooperation between Europe and North America is seen as largely ineffective and overall transatlantic feelings are cool, especially on the side of the Europeans.

**America's Place on the World 2005: Opinion Leaders Turn Cautious, Public Looks Homeward** *Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, and Council on Foreign Relations, November 2005.*

**WorldPublicOpinion.org** – a project, begun January 2006, of *Program on Internat. Policy Attitudes (PIPA)*

**America's Image Slips, But Allies Share U.S. Concerns over Iran, Hamas: No Global Warming Alarm in U.S., China. Results of Survey** by *Pew Global Attitudes Project*, released June 13, 2006

**The U.S. Public's Pro-Israel History: In Mid-East Conflicts, Americans Consistently Side with Israel** Analysis by *Pew Research Center*, July 19, 2006

**Public Opinion in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** by Jacob Shamir. *U.S. Inst. of Peace*, June 2007. 72p.

**Poll of Western and Asian Publics Finds Criticism of Chinese Policy on Tibet** - A poll of three western and three Asian countries finds widespread criticism of Chinese policies toward Tibet. This critical view is held by large majorities in all three western countries--the United States (74%), France (75%) and Britain (63%). However, views are more varied among the Asian countries.

**The United States and the Rise of China and India** Results of a 2006 Multination Survey of Public Opinion. *Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, (October) 2006. 89p.

**Public Broadly Uneasy on U.S. Foreign Policy - New "Anxiety Indicator"** *Public Agenda*, 18 October '06.

**Public Opinion and the War With Iraq** by Karlyn Bowman. *American Enterprise Institute, Short Publications*, 14 March, 2008.

This study is a compilation of recent public opinion polls on, among other things, the build-up to and beginning of the war in Iraq, the proper use of force, achieving stability in the region and the prospect of peace, and what should be done from here on out. Among the highlights:

- 59 % in Gallup's latest survey say the war in Iraq was a mistake but 40% believe the "surge" is working.
- According to Pew, 48% say the war is going well, 48% say it is not going well.
- 31% approved of Pres. Bush's handling of the war according to CBS/NY Times poll.

**Public Attitudes Toward the War in Iraq: 2003-2008** - Five years after the start of the conflict in Iraq, many public evaluations of the situation in Iraq have turned more positive. But there has been no turnaround in the public's opinion about the original decision to take military action in Iraq.

**Public Still Faults Government Care for Troops** - A year after the problems at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and other military hospitals made major news, the public remains highly critical of the government's performance in supporting and caring for soldiers who have returned from Iraq and Afghanistan.

**Public Opinion in Iran and America on Key International Issues** by Steven Kull et al. *Program on International Policy Attitudes*, 24 January, 2007.

**Confidence in U.S. Foreign Policy Index** *Public Agenda*, 2007.

**Confidence in U.S. Foreign Policy Index: Volume 4, Spring 2007: Anxious Public Pulling Back from Use of Force** *Public Agenda*, April 2007.

**World Publics Reject U.S. Role as the World Leader** Study by *Chicago Council on Global Affairs and World Public Opinion.org* April 2007. **Full report** 17p.

**What Americans and Cuban Americans Really Think About US-Cuba Relations** Compilation, by Washington Office on Latin America (a non-government organization), of public opinion polls on U.S.-Cuba issues, 27 April, 2007.

**World Publics Favor New Powers for the UN** by *Chicago Cncl on Global Affairs/World Pub.Opinion.org*, May 2007.

**World View of U.S. Role Goes From Bad to Worse** *Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA), Center on Policy Attitudes (COPA) and Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland (CISSM)*, 23 January, 2007. 23p.

The global view of the U.S. concerning world affairs has dropped significantly in the past year--according to a poll of 26,381 respondents across 25 countries. 49% of those polled say the U.S. is playing a mainly negative role around the world; and two-thirds believe that the U.S. presence in the Middle East creates more conflict. "The poll shows that world citizens disapprove of the way the US government has handled all six of the foreign policy areas explored." The six foreign policy areas were: Iraq, Guantanamo detainees, Israeli-Hezbollah war, Iran's nuclear program, global warming, and North Korea's nuclear program.

**Global Unease with Major World Powers: Rising Environmental Concern in 47-Nation Survey** *Pew Global Attitudes Project*, 27 June. 2007. 133p. **Summary**

**Comprehensive Analysis of Polls Reveals Americans' Attitudes on US Role in the World** *World Public Opinion.org*, August 3, 2007. **Summary**

**World Publics Welcome Global Trade – But Not Immigration** 47-Nation Pew Global Attitudes Survey. *Pew Global Attitudes Project*, 4 October, 2007. 144p. **Summary**

## **Africa – Public Opinion**

**Afro Barometer** "A comparative series of national public attitude surveys on democracy, markets, and civil society in Africa"

**African Opinion on U.S. Policies, Values, and People** Hearing before subcommittees of the *U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, March 28, 2007

## **Latin America – Public Opinion**

**Latin American Public Opinion Project** (Vanderbilt University)

**Polling Data on Latin American Opinion of United States Policies, Values and People** Hearing before subcommittees of the *U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs*, 8 March, 2007.

## **Muslim Countries – Public Opinion**

**Two New Polls Reported to Show negative Image of Islam in U.S.** *Council on American-Islamic Relations(CAIR)*, March 9, 2006.

**Values Surveys in Islamic Countries: Findings** by Mansoor Moaddel. Pop. St. Center, Univ of Michigan

**A Rising Tide Lifts Mood in the Developing World; Support for Suicide Bombing Drops Sharply in Muslim Countries** *Pew Global Attitudes Project, Pew Research Center*, 24 July, 2007.

## **Public Opinion on Defense and Military Issues**

**American's Feelings Towards Iraq War Best in Months** - As the fifth anniversary of the war in Iraq passes, the attitudes of Americans toward the war and President Bush's handling of it are improving. Currently, one-third of Americans (32%) give the president positive ratings on the war, up from December when 29 percent felt the same way... April, 2008.

**Diminished Public Support for Military Force and Mideast Oil** *Pew Research Center*, 6 Sept., 2006.

**Public Opinion on the War with Iraq** by Karlyn H. Bowman, *AEI*, 26 May, 2006. 145p.

[American Public Support for U.S. Military Operations from Mogadishu to Baghdad](#) *RAND*, 2005.

[Public Unmoved by Washington's Rhetoric on Iraq](#) *Pew Research Center for People & the Press*, 14 December, 2005.

[Public Opinion on Patriotism and Military Service](#) *AEI Studies in Public Opinion*, June 2005.

### **Public Opinion on Intelligence, Terrorism and Homeland Security Issues**

[America and the War on Terror](#) by Karlyn Bowman. *AEI*, 4 May, 2007 (analysis of results). 160p.

[America and the War on Terrorism](#) *AEI*, 29 November, 2007. 159p.

[Public Attitudes Towards Security and Counter-Espionage Matters in 1994 and 1996](#) by Tom W. Smith, *National Opinion Research Center*, University of Chicago, November 1996.

### **Public Opinion on Immigration / Health Issues**

[Summary of Findings of Judicial Watch. Zogby Poll on Public Support for Using More Law Enforcement to Prevent Illegal Immigration](#) *Judicial Watch*, 10 April, 2007.

### **Most Republicans Think the U.S. Health Care System is the Best in the World, Democrats Disagree**

A recent survey by the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) and Harris Interactive, as part of their ongoing series, *Debating Health: Election 2008*, finds that Americans are generally split on the issue of whether the United States has the best health care system in the world...

### **Public Opinion on Education / Religious Issues / Environmental Issues**

[U.S. Religious Landscape Survey](#) *Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life*, 2008.

[37<sup>th</sup> Annual Phi Delta Kappa / Gallup Poll - Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools](#) August '05.

[Half of Public Favors the Environment Over Growth](#) - Although a recession is looming, Americans continue to favor protecting the environment even at the risk of curbing economic growth in a new Gallup Poll, conducted March 6-9, 2008.

[Polls on the Environment and Global Warming](#) *AEI*, 20 April, 2007. 50p. [News Release](#)

### **Public Opinion on Firearms Issues**

[Public Attitudes Towards the Regulation of Firearms](#) by Tom W. Smith. *National Opinion Research Center*, University of Chicago, March 2007. 11p.

### **Youth Opinion Polls**

[National Youth Opinion Polls](#) – conducted by *Hamilton College*, New York.

### **Hamilton College National Youth Polls: Hot Button Issues Poll: Guns, Gays and Abortion**

*Hamilton College* (New York), January 2006.

The U.S. Department of State assumes no responsibility for the content and availability of the resources listed above. All Internet links were active on April 2, 2008.

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See also: our e-Spotlite "[Elections 2008](#)"

