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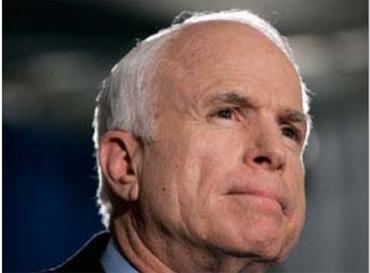
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Undecideds unlikely 'life raft' for McCain

By DAVID PAUL KUHN | 10/30/08 4:42 AM EDT

Text Size: **A** **A** **A**



A Pew analysis concluded that undecideds will likely split equally for McCain and Obama on Election Day. Photo: AP

The pool of undecided voters remains as large as one in 10, but John McCain can hardly rely on them to overtake Barack Obama. According to past election results, those voters who decided in the last week of a campaign are unlikely to break decisively for either candidate and dramatically alter Tuesday's race.

In the past eight presidential contests, voters who made up their minds during the last week of the campaign never went for either ticket by large margins of 3-2 or 2-1, which potentially could tip the scales.

"There is likely no hidden life raft in the undecided vote for John McCain," said Andy Kohut, director of the Pew Research Center.

Pew recently conducted an internal analysis of its polls and concluded that undecided voters were likely to split about equally between McCain and Obama on Election Day, meaning the group is more evenly split between the two candidates than the electorate overall, Kohut said. In the coming days, Pew, like the Gallup poll, will finalize its best estimate for how undecided voters will cast their ballots.

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Since 1976, when exit polls first asked voters when they made up their minds, about 10 percent to 25 percent of voters consistently told pollsters that they didn't decide until the final week of the campaign.

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Pew's recent studies found that 8 percent of the 2008 electorate remained undecided, similar to its findings among registered voters in the last week of the 2004 election. Other recent surveys from Ipsos/McClatchy Poll and the IBD/TIPP Tracking Poll generally match Pew's results.

Data shows that undecided voters are significantly more likely to be women, 63 percent to 37 percent. They are more likely to be working class, while about half have a high school education or less. And by double-digit margins, undecided voters are less engaged in the presidential race than those who have already made up their minds, according to Pew.

Those who decided in the final week broke only slightly for Ronald Reagan in his 1980 blowout of Jimmy Carter; Reagan won the election in an electoral landslide, in part, after he famously outperformed the incumbent in the campaign's sole debate one week before the vote.

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Replies: 1814



WWE

Party: Democrat

Reply #1

Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:15 AM EST

Palin's 2012 talk leaves McCain aide speechless
Palin throws McCain under the Bus one more time.
Palin openly talking about hoping to be the candidate in 2012 and not concerned about John McCain's loss on Tuesday.

http://rawstory.com/news/2008/Palins_2012_talk_leaves_McCain_aide_1029.html

Opt">http://rawstory.com/news/... align=left class=signaturehr_forum>Stop Drinking The McCain, Bush, Cheney, Kool - Aid!

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WWE

Party: Democrat

Reply #2

Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:15 AM EST updated

McCain has no clear vision to lead this country forward.
Clinton talks about Obama

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RC-9PgJfJlw

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right time

Party: Conservative

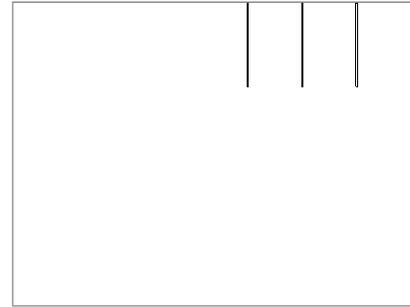
Reply #3

Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:16 AM EST

I don't think Obama should rely on the undecided voters either!

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Updated: 10/31/2008 3:43 PM ET

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Perceptions
Party: Independent

Reply #4
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:20 AM EST

Can't wait for the "Axis of Liberal Incompetence" to get into place. Obama, Harry, and Nancy.....a Chicago Gangster.....a Las Vegas Mobster.....and a San Francisco Snobster. Is this anit-business trio the ones who are going to get the country moving forward again? Is this the team? We should ALL have our heads checked.....very sad indeed.....

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europe goes to the white house
Party: NA

Reply #5
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:36 AM EST

INTERESTED IN WHAT EUROPEANS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE ELECTION.

CHECK OUT THE EUROPE GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE BLOG AND POST A MESSAGE

<http://blogs.rnw.nl/europeg...>

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europe goes to the white house
Party: NA

Reply #6
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:36 AM EST

INTERESTED IN WHAT EUROPEANS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE ELECTION.

CHECK OUT THE EUROPE GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE BLOG AND POST A MESSAGE

<http://blogs.rnw.nl/europeg...>

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demsHATEobama
Party: Democrat

Reply #7
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:37 AM EST

Pew Research ? That's a joke. They have the race for Obama at 15 points or so. They can't even do a poll right after all these years. Rasmussen is the best in the biz for analysis. McCain is closing the gap very fast. The obama camp seems to be a bit stung by this. You will see the closeness in the state polling over the weekend. It's gonna be a very close race. I don't know who's gonna win but right now if I were a republican, I'd thank my lucky stars that it's this close. McCain is relentless and showing what he's made of. I can't say that for alot of Republicans that jumped ship to obama. Guess they thought they were gonna get a position with him or something. Ya'll might wanna rethink that strategy. As far as undecideds go, those are mccains people to win back. if they haven't gone for obama yet after this media saturation, obama will never get them.

CR

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3primecubed
Party: Independent

Reply #8
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:39 AM EST

The undecideds will vote:

Obama 3 to Barr 1.....

McCain has picked up all the votes he will ever get.

People are still upset with McCain for giving the race to Obama

and with Palin for putting her ambitions before the McCain Campaign.

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3primecubed
Party: Independent

Reply #9
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:43 AM EST

Obama's TV event was a success.

What genius. Absolutely brilliant.

A real look at Obama

and a precise explanation of his policies.

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Finally.....a candidate who spoke of the small business owner.

Obama is the candidate for the middle class.

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3primecubed
Party: Independent

Reply #10
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:45 AM EST

Obama's TV event really closed the deal for me.

He convinced me that I have to vote for him.

He is the only real option.

I am certain he put many minds at ease last night.

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Meritocrat
Party: Independent

Reply #11
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:47 AM EST

[Perceptions: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:20 AM EST](#)

Can't wait for the "Axis of Liberal Incompetence" to get into place. Obama, Harry, and Nancy.....a Chicago Gangster.....a Las Vegas Mobster.....and a San Francisco Snobster. Is this anit-business trio the ones who are going to get the country moving forward again?

Hark; the pot calls the kettle black. Under 8 years of a Republican President and 12 of the last 14 under a Republican Congress, federal spending –including non-defense discretionary spending- has increased at the fastest rate since LBJ. Under their "fiscal stewardship," the national debt, which is essentially a tax increase deferred to our children, has more than doubled from \$4.6 trillion to \$10 trillion, that's over \$60,000.00 for every working American, with another \$410 billion expected for FY 2009. It is utterly dishonest to suggest that either we can continue to add to this debt, which McCain plans to do through 2013, without ruining our economy or without increasing revenues through new or increased taxes (which are still among the lowest in the western world) to balance the budget and begin paying the mortgage on our children's future. At least Obama will do the latter by targeting the rich who have reaped the greatest benefits of this society and have the greatest means to pay it back. Even Warren Buffett slammed our current shameful tax system which allowed his \$46 million (and no tax shelters) to be taxed at 17.7 percent while his receptionist was taxed at about 30 percent. And McCain wants to give him and other billionaires an even BIGGER tax cut.

"Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."- Thomas Jefferson 1789

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Vlad the impaler
Party: Conservative

Reply #12
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:49 AM EST

[europe goes to the white house: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:36 AM EST](#)

INTERESTED IN WHAT EUROPEANS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE ELECTION.

oh- YOU MUST MEAN THOSE SUPER SMART SCUM WHO GOT US IN TO NOT ONE, BUT TWO WARS. I KNOW I TRY TO PAY ATTENTION TO EVERY SINGLE THING THEY SAY. LISTEN- I HEAR THE GERMANS SCREAMING IN THE STREETS FOR GUMBI AND THE FRENCH TOASTING HIM AT THE CORNER CAFE. THE MUSLIMS ALL OVER EUROPE JUST LOVE HIM AND THE TERRORISTS CAN'T WAIT FOR A WHITEHOUSE INVITATION. EUROPE IS EVER SO GRAND.

europe=misery loves company

Democratic motto: I got mine,now I am going to take yours and give it to people who vote for me.
Politico: the official Obama robe rub and tingle site.

[Reply](#) [Quote](#)



BalancingPower
Party: Libertarian

Reply #13
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:50 AM EST

[3primecubed: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:43 AM EST](#)

Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:43 AM EST

Obama's TV event was a success.

What genius. Absolutely brilliant.

Ha Ha ha...

Dressing up a deadbeat is what we call it in the real estate business...

\$4 million dollar infomercial....

When do we get the free steak knives? In time for the Chicago rally when he loses?

 Reply  Quote  Report Abuse



3primecubed
Party: Independent

Reply #14
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:50 AM EST

.....
Last night's Obama event,

wes enough to make Republicans question

their votes for John McCain.

McCain supporters were secondary

in his campaign

to presenting Palin for her 2012 presidential run.

Palin is the only Republican who comes out ahead in this race.

.....
.

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3primecubed
Party: Independent

Reply #15
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:52 AM EST

.....
After last night,

Palin and the extreme Right Wing of the Republican Party,

Are winners.

They have brought down McCain

and can move ahead with their ultra-conservative agenda

in 2012.

.....
.

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BalancingPower
Party: Libertarian

Reply #16
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:54 AM EST

.....

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3primecubed
Party: Independent

Reply #17
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:55 AM EST

.....
It was touching to see how Obama

Really connects with the People.

He shares our middle class values

and our middle class vision for America.

He is a man of compassion.

He was stong and a determined leader.

He won over may hearts and minds

but he changed even more.

Brilliant!

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Vlad the impaler
Party: Conservative

Reply #18
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:56 AM EST

[3primecubed: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:43 AM EST](#)

Obama is the candidate for the middle class.

That is sort of what they said about Hitler, Peron, and Castro. Just men of the people, helping the little guy. I bet you love Hugo Chavez. They all just want to help you and your 5 kids find bugs to eat without a trip to Mexico. ENJOY!

'MOMMY, I THOUGHT YOU VOTED FOR LORD GUMBI, WHY DON'T WE HAVE ANY FOOD?'

Democratic motto: I got mine,now I am going to take yours and give it to people who vote for me.
Politico: the official Obama robe rub and tingle site.

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Meritocrat
Party: Independent

Reply #19
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:56 AM EST

[demsHATEobama: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:37 AM EST](#)

McCain is closing the gap very fast.

...go fight with Karl Rove...

Former Bush strategist Karl Rove, on Rove.com, has his tally at 306 for Obama to 171 for McCain, with 61 tossups. Rove's latest analysis has McCain making progress in Florida: "With under two weeks to go before Election Day, Barack Obama retains the lead in the Electoral College with 306 votes to McCain's 171 and 61 votes as a toss-up. Since last week, Ohio (20 EV) has shifted from toss-up to Obama, while Florida (27 EV) has gone from Obama to toss-up, a net loss of 7 electoral votes for the Illinois senator. McCain still needs to win the toss-up states and peel Ohio and at least one substantial state away from Obama to have a chance at victory. In Virginia (13 EV) and Pennsylvania (21 EV), which his campaign says he is targeting, he trails by 7 and 13 points, respectively."

"Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."- Thomas Jefferson 1789

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3primecubed
Party: Independent

Reply #20
Date: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:58 AM EST

[right time: Oct. 30, 2008 - 5:16 AM EST](#)

I don't think Obama should rely on the undecided voters either!

He is not relying on undecideds

He doesn't need to rely on them

They will go to Obama or Barr

Because McCain is no longer an option.

It is the Palin Campaign, now,

and it Has been since the Repulican convention.

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