GWU Battleground Tracking 2008

Hello, I'm _____ of The Tarrance Group, a national survey research firm. We're talking to people long distance today about public leaders and issues facing us all**.**   May I please speak with the **youngest** member of the household who is registered to vote?

A.   Are you registered to vote in your state?

        IF "NO," ASK: Is there someone else at home who is registered to vote?
        (IF "YES," THEN ASK: MAY I SPEAK WITH HIM/HER?)

                                Yes **(CONTINUE)**
                                No **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**

Now thinking ahead to the elections that will be held in November --

B.   What is the likelihood of your voting in the elections to be held in November -- are you extremely likely, very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely at all to vote?

(CONTINUE)	Extremely Likely 68%
	Very Likely 15%
	Somewhat Likely 4%
	Already Voted **(DNR)** 13%
(THANK AND TERMINATE)	Not Very Likely
	UNSURE **(DNR)**

(UPELECT)

C.   Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed with an advertising agency, newspaper, television or radio station, or political campaign?

                                Yes **(THANK AND TERMINATE)**
                                No   **(CONTINUE)**

*=Less than 0.5%

1.   If the election for President were held today, and you had to make a choice, for which candidate would you probably vote?
        (DO *NOT* READ NAMES, JUST RECORD)

John McCain 42%
Barack Obama 45%
Bob Barr 1%
Ralph Nader .... *
NAMED OTHER **(SPECIFY)**_____ .... *
UNSURE/REFUSED 12%

(UNAIDP)

And, still thinking about the 2008 elections…

2.   If the election for CONGRESS were being held today, and you had to make a choice, would you be voting for **-- (ROTATE) --**
        • the Republican candidate or
        • the Democrat candidate, in your Congressional district?

IF "UNDECIDED", ASK: And
which party's candidate do
you lean toward at this
time?

Republican 40%
Lean Republican 1%
UNDECIDED **(DNR)** 14%
Lean Democrat 1%
Democrat 43%

(GENERCG)

Now I would like to read you a list of issues that some people from this part of the country have said are important to them. Please listen as I read the list and tell me which <u>one</u> issue is <u>most</u> important for our leaders in Washington to work on. **(READ AND ROTATE ISSUES)**

(PROMPT IF COMBINATION/EQUALLY: "BUT IF YOU HAD TO PICK JUST ONE, WHICH WOULD YOU SAY IS MOST IMPORTANT?")

	Q3 MOST <u>IMPORT</u>
• The War in Iraq	8%
• Illegal immigration	4%
• Taxes	4%
• Terrorism and homeland security	7%
• Education	4%
• Health care costs	8%
• Federal budget deficit	4%
• The economy and jobs	41%
• Gas and energy prices	4%
• The mortgage crisis	3%
• Retirement security and Social Security	5%
• COMBINATION/EQUALLY **(DNR)**	6%
• OTHER **(DNR)**	1%
• NONE **(DNR)**	*
• UNSURE **(DNR)**	*

(CONGIS1)

Still thinking about Congress…

4. How would you rate the job Congress has been doing this year? Do you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing?

           IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:

And do you feel *strongly* about that?

Approve/strongly	8%
Approve	11%
UNSURE **(DNR)**	9%
Disapprove	12%
Disapprove/strongly	60%

(CONGJA)

Now I would like to read you the names of several individuals who have been mentioned in the news recently. For each one, please tell me whether you have heard of that person and if so, whether you have a favorable or an unfavorable impression of them. If you do not recognize the name, just say so.

WAIT FOR RESPONSE, THEN ASK: Would that be a strongly (favorable/unfavorable) impression or just a somewhat (favorable/unfavorable) impression?

(ROTATE NAMES)	FAVORABLE **Strng**	Smwht	UNFAVORABLE Smwht	**Strng**	NO OPIN.	NEVER HEARD
5. Barack Obama **(BOID)**	44%	16%	8%	28%	4%	*
6. John McCain **(JMID)**	31%	24%	15%	25%	5%	*
7. Joe Biden **(“Bye-din”) (JBID)**	29%	23%	11%	23%	8%	6%
8. Sarah Palin **(”PALE-en”) (SPID)**	29%	18%	10%	35%	5%	3%

(END ROTATION)

Now, as you think about the election for President and Vice President that will held in November –

10.   If the election for President and Vice President were held today and you had to make a choice, for whom would you vote...**(ROTATE FIRST TWO NAMES ONLY)**

- John McCain and Sarah Palin, the Republicans,
- Barack Obama and Joe Biden, the Democrats,

** END ROTATION **

- Bob Barr and Wayne Allen Root, the Libertarians, OR
- Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzalez, the Independents?

	McCain-Palin/definitely 39%
IF "UNDECIDED", ASK: And	McCain-Palin/probably 5%
which candidate do you lean	McCain-Palin/lean 1%
toward slightly	
	Obama-Biden/definitely 43%
	Obama-Biden/probably 5%
	Obama-Biden/lean .... *
IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:	
Would you say that you are	Barr-Root/definitely 1%
<u>definitely</u> going to vote	Barr-Root/probably 1%
for them, or <u>probably</u>	Barr-Root/lean .... *
going to vote for them?	
	Nader-Gonzalez/definitely .... *
	Nader-Gonzalez/probably .... *
	Nader-Gonzalez/lean .... *
	UNDECIDED **(DNR)** 5%

(PRESBN)

ASK Q11-1 IF "BARR-ROOT" OR "NADER-GONZALEZ" IN Q10:

Still thinking about the election for President and Vice President –

11-1.   If, for some reason, the candidates that you just mentioned chose not to run, which of the other candidates would be your next choice? Would it be --

- John McCain and Sarah Palin, the Republicans, *OR*
- Barack Obama and Joe Biden, the Democrats,

McCain-Palin 34%
Obama-Biden 32%
OTHER **(DNR)**(Specify _____) 5%
UNSURE **(DNR)** 29%

Now, thinking overall about the candidates for President…

12.	Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the choice of candidates for president this year -- are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?

Very satisfied..25%
Somewhat satisfied...40%
UNSURE/REFUSED **(DNR)** 3%
Somewhat dissatisfied...25%
Very dissatisfied 8%

(CANSAT)

Now, still thinking about this Presidential election...

Putting aside your own personal feelings for a moment, I am going to read you a list of qualities. For each one, please tell me if your friends or neighbors would be extremely comfortable, very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, or not at all comfortable – in voting for a Presidential candidate who has this quality.

Here is the first one…

		COMFORTABLE				
		Extremely	Very	Somwht	Not at all	DK/REF
23.	Is African American	20%	30%	32%	6%	12%
24.	Is seventy-two years old	9%	16%	43%	23%	10%

(FNCOM and FNCOM2)

(END ROTATION)

(ROTATE Q12 AND Q13)

12.	Thinking about what you have seen, read or heard about John McCain, has it made you more likely or less likely to vote for him?

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:
And do you feel strongly
about that?

More likely/strongly 34%
More likely..8%
UNSURE **(DNR)**..4%
NO DIFFERENCE **(DNR)** 3%
Less likely 8%
Less likely/strongly...43%

(JMIMP)

13. Thinking about what you have seen, read or heard about Barack Obama, has it made you more likely or less likely to vote for him?

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK:	
And do you feel strongly	More likely/strongly 44%
about that?	More likely..8%
	UNSURE (DNR)...4%
	NO DIFFERENCE (DNR) 3%
	Less likely 5%
	Less likely/strongly...37%

(BOIMP)

Now, thinking about everything that you have seen, read, or heard about the upcoming election --

14. Regardless of who you intend to vote for, which candidate -- **(ROTATE)** -- • John McCain, or • Barack Obama -- do you think is running a more negative campaign?

IF CHOICE MADE, ASK: And is	
that McCain/Obama strongly or	McCain/strongly 40%
somewhat?	McCain/somewhat.. 17%
	BOTH (DNR)... 13%
	NEITHER/NO DIFF (DNR) 4%
	UNDECIDED (DNR) 7%
	Obama/somewhat 7%
	Obama/strongly 13%

(PRESNEG)

Continuing to think about the upcoming Presidential election --

Now, I would like to read you a list of issues or qualities that some people from this part of the country have said are important for the next President to have. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, who better represents this quality -- **(ROTATE) ● Senator John McCain or Senator Barack Obama.** Here is the first one:

(READ LIST & ROTATE)

		JOHN McCAIN	BARACK OBAMA	BOTH (DNR)	NEITHER (DNR)	UNSURE (DNR)
15.	Is a strong leader **(QUALITY PROMPT: WHO DO YOU THINK BETTER REPRESENTS THIS QUALITY -- (ROTATE) SENATOR JOHN McCAIN OR SENATOR BARACK OBAMA?)**	46%	44%	6%	2%	3%
16.	Shares your values **(QUALITY PROMPT)**	44%	47%	3%	4%	3%
17.	Fights for people like me **(QUALITY PROMPT)**	38%	52%	3%	4%	4%
18.	Will unite the country **(QUALITY PROMPT)**	32%	53%	2%	8%	5%
19.	Will bring change to Washington **(QUALITY PROMPT)**	28%	59%	4%	6%	3%
20.	Says what he believes **(QUALITY PROMPT)**	40%	46%	11%	2%	3%
21.	Handling the health care issue **(ISSUE PROMPT)**	31%	55%	2%	6%	7%
22.	Can reduce gas and energy prices **(ISSUE PROMPT: WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BETTER HANDLE THIS ISSUE -- (ROTATE) SENATOR JOHN McCAIN OR SENATOR BARACK OBAMA?)**	36%	40%	3%	15%	7%
23.	Will keep America prosperous **(ISSUE PROMPT)**	40%	48%	2%	5%	5%
24.	Will create jobs **(ISSUE PROMPT)**	37%	51%	2%	4%	5%
25.	Keeping America safe and secure **(ISSUE PROMPT)**	55%	37%	3%	2%	3%
26.	Will improve the economy **(ISSUE PROMPT)**	37%	50%	2%	6%	5%

(HAND1,2,4,5,14,7,13,9,10,11,15, 16)

Now, just a few final questions for statistical purposes only --

D1.   What is your age, please?

18-34...22%
35-44...20%
45-64...36%
65+..22%
UNSURE/REFUSED **(DNR)** 1%

(ACTAGE)

D2.   What is the highest level of education you have completed?
        (DO NOT READ, JUST RECORD)

Some grade school (1-8) 1%
Some high school (9-11) 2%
Graduated high school (12).................................... 21%
Technical/vocational (12).. 3%
Some college (13-15) 25%
Graduated college (16) 31%
Graduate/professional school (16 or more) 17%
Unsure/Refused .... *

(EDUC)

D3.   When thinking about politics and government, do you consider yourself to be...
        (READ LIST, ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

Very conservative.. 19%
Somewhat conservative... 38%
MODERATE **(DNR)** 3%
Somewhat liberal... 27%
Very liberal... 8%
UNSURE/REFUSED **(DNR)** 5%

(IDEOL)

D4.   Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, ASK: Would you call yourself a strong or a not very strong (Republican/Democrat)?	Republican/strong ....18% Republican/not strong ....9% Lean Republican...10% Independent 16%
IF INDEPENDENT OR ANYTHING ELSE, ASK: Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or Democrat Party?	Lean Democrat ....9% Democrat/not strong ....9% Democrat/strong ....24% NO PREFERENCE **(DNR)** ....2% OTHER **(DNR)** ....1% UNSURE/REFUSED **(DNR)** 2%

(PARTYID)

And,

D5.   Which of these statements best describes how you have usually voted in past elections?

(READ LIST, ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)	Straight Republican ....8% Mostly Republican ....25% A few more Republicans than Democrats.................13% INDEPENDENT/THE PERSON **(DNR)** ....3% A few more Democrats than Republicans.................10% Mostly Democrat..23% Straight Democrat..12% UNSURE/REFUSED **(DNR)**.....................................7%

(PARTY)

D6.   Are you a member of a labor union, including trade unions, service employee unions, public employee unions, and teachers unions?

    IF NO, THEN ASK: Is anyone in your household a member of one of these types of labor unions?

    Labor Union Member...12%
    Labor Union Household...6%
    Non-Union Household 81%
    UNSURE/REFUSED **(DNR)** 1%

(UNION)

D7.   What is your current marital status -- are you -- • single and never married, • married, • separated, • divorced, or •widowed?

Single 16%
Married 65%
Separated 3%
Divorced 8%
Widowed 7%
UNSURE/REFUSED (**DNR**) 1%

(MARITAL)

D8.   Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?

Yes 33%
No..67%
UNSURE/REFUSED (**DNR**) .... *

(CHILD)

D10.   What is the church you or your family attends most often? (**READ LIST IF NECESSARY**)

Catholic/Roman Catholic 22%
Baptist..16%
Methodist... 7%
Episcopalian 2%
Evangelical/Fundamentalist................................. 1%
Presbyterian 2%
Lutheran... 6%
Other Protestant 12%
Pentecostal 1%
Greek Orthodox ....*
Jewish 2%
Mormon/Latter Day Saints 2%
Quaker/Amish..
Other (**SPECIFY**)_____ 4%
NONE (**DNR**)..24%

(DENOM)

IF ANY RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION IN D10, ASK:

D10-1.   And how often do you attend church (or synagogue)?

More than once a week..16%
Once a week 34%
Several times a month..16%
Once a month... 8%
Several times a year...14%
Only on holidays.. 9%
NEVER/DON'T ATTEND 3%
UNSURE/REFUSED 2%

(DENOMFRQ)

IF ANY RELIGION NAMED IN D10 EXCEPT CODE 11, THEN ASK:

D10-2. Do you consider yourself to be a born-again or evangelical Christian?

Born-again/evangelical 45%
Not born-again 51%
REFUSED **(DNR)** 4%

(BORN)

ASK OF EVERYONE

D11.   What do you consider to be your race? Are you white, African-American, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or some other race?

White 79%
Black/African-American 12%
Hispanic/Latino **(TO D12)** 5%
Asian/Pacific American 1%
Native American 1%
Other **(Specify ____)** .... *
UNSURE/REFUSED **(DNR) (TO D12)** 3%

(RACE)

FOR ALL RESPONSES EXCEPT "HISPANIC/LATINO," ASK:

D11-1. And, do you consider yourself a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking American?

Yes 3%
No 97%
UNSURE/REFUSED **(DNR)** .... *

(HISP)

ASK OF EVERYONE

D12.   Sex/Emp **(BY OBSERVATION)**

ASK OF EVERYONE: Are you employed outside the house, are you a homemaker, or are you retired?

Male/employed 33%
Male/homemaker 1%
Male/retired 12%
Male/not in labor force 2%

Female/employed 29%
Female/homemaker 8%
Female/retired 14%
Female/not in labor force 2%

MALE/REFUSED **(DNR)** .... *
FEMALE/REFUSED **(DNR)** .... *

(SEXEMP)