



The Polling Report

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AN INDEPENDENT SURVEY OF TRENDS AFFECTING ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS

December 29, 2008

Fix Wall Street and Save Elm Street

by Robert Green

As the recession deepens, Americans are growing angrier with the way the federal government is dealing with the financial crisis, including the Bush-Paulson bailout plan. Sixty-four percent disapprove of how this plan has been handled since it was passed in October, compared to only 11% who approve; another 71% disapprove of the job the federal government is doing in handling the financial crisis.¹

We examined the intertwined issues of the bailout and financial services sector reform extensively in our national post-election survey of 1,057 voters, conducted Nov. 6-8, 2008. McCain's greatest strategic error in the campaign may not have been Sarah Palin,² but instead his failure to buck the New York-Washington establishment on the bank bailout when angry voters of all stripes were really looking for a maverick. (To take just one statewide example, Al Franken was falling behind Norm Coleman in the Minnesota Senate race until Franken made Coleman's pro-bailout vote the centerpiece of his candidacy.³)

It's the Home Values, Stupid!

And it's not just that many voters oppose the Bush-Paulson plan because it sent tax dollars to the banks without requiring them to stop awarding multimillion dollar bonuses to executives or even make more loans; it's that the bank bailout plan doesn't address rapidly falling home values, the biggest financial concern at stake for many voters.

One in three (36%) American voters who own a home say they have or are soon likely to have an "underwater" mortgage—one where the property is worth less than the mortgage itself—including 47% of urban homeowners, 43% who are college educated, and 41% who are Democrats. (Urban and college educated voters are the centerpiece of the "Coalition of the Ascendant" that favored Obama.⁴)

Indeed, a 90% super-majority of voters in our post-election survey say the bailout plan is not doing enough to help those losing value in their homes—even more than the 81% who worry about the plan's lack of foreclosure prevention.

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President-elect Obama

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Dec. 19-21, 2008. N=1,013 adults nationwide.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his presidential transition?"

| | |
|------------|----|
| | % |
| Approve | 82 |
| Disapprove | 15 |
| Unsure | 3 |

"Regardless of how you voted, have your impressions of Barack Obama improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse as a result of his performance during this transition period?"

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| | % |
| Improved | 33 |
| Stayed the same | 59 |
| Gotten worse | 8 |

"When it comes to each of the following, do you have a lot of confidence, some confidence, or no real confidence in Obama? . . ."

| | A lot % | Some % | None % | Unsure % |
|---|---------|--------|--------|----------|
| "Dealing with the economy" | 37 | 43 | 19 | 1 |
| "Foreign affairs" | 33 | 42 | 25 | - |
| "Appointing the best people to office" | 45 | 37 | 17 | 1 |
| "Providing real leadership for the country" | 49 | 35 | 15 | 1 |

"So far, based on what you have heard or read, do you approve or disapprove of President-elect Obama's cabinet appointments?" N=515 (Form A)

| | |
|------------|----|
| | % |
| Approve | 80 |
| Disapprove | 18 |
| Unsure | 2 |

"How would you rate the appointments President-elect Barack Obama has made so far to cabinet-level positions? Would you say his choices have been outstanding, above average, average, below average, or poor?" N=498 (Form B)

| | |
|---------------|----|
| | % |
| Outstanding | 18 |
| Above average | 38 |
| Average | 32 |
| Below average | 6 |
| Poor | 5 |

"Thinking about the following characteristics and qualities, please say whether you think it applies or doesn't apply to Barack Obama. . . ." Each item asked of half the sample

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Auto Loan

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Dec. 19-21, 2008. N=1,013 adults nationwide.

"The federal government will provide some of the major U.S. auto companies with more than thirteen billion dollars in loans in order to prevent them from going into bankruptcy. In exchange for the loans, the government wants the auto companies to produce plans by the end of March that show how they would become viable businesses in the long run. Do you favor or oppose this decision?"

| | % |
|--------|----|
| Favor | 63 |
| Oppose | 37 |

"If the major U.S. auto companies ask for more money next year, do you think the federal government should give them any additional assistance, or should the government let them go into bankruptcy?"

| | % |
|-----------------------|----|
| Additional assistance | 28 |
| Bankruptcy | 70 |
| Unsure | 2 |

"Thinking about the thirteen billion dollars in loans that the auto companies are getting right now, how much of that money do you think they will be able to pay back to the government? Do you think the auto companies will be able to pay back all of that money, most of it, some of it, only a little of it, or do you think the auto companies will not be able to pay any of that money back?"

| | % |
|---------------|----|
| All | 14 |
| Most | 14 |
| Some | 31 |
| Only a little | 18 |
| None | 22 |
| Unsure | 1 |

"If one or more of the major U.S. auto companies went into bankruptcy, what effect do you think that would have on the U.S. economy? Do you think that would cause a crisis, major problems, minor problems, or no problems at all for the U.S. economy?"

| | % |
|----------------|----|
| A crisis | 15 |
| Major problems | 51 |
| Minor problems | 28 |
| No problems | 5 |

"And if one or more of the major U.S. auto companies went into bankruptcy, what effect do you think that would have on your personal financial situation? Do you think that would cause a crisis, major problems, minor problems, or no problems at all for you personally?"

| | % |
|----------------|----|
| A crisis | 4 |
| Major problems | 15 |
| Minor problems | 33 |
| No problems | 49 |

"If you were shopping for a new car, how likely is it that you would buy a car from an auto company in bankruptcy: very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, or not likely at all?"

| | % |
|-------------------|----|
| Very likely | 10 |
| Somewhat likely | 24 |
| Not too likely | 21 |
| Not likely at all | 44 |
| Unsure | 1 |

Economic Stimulus

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Dec. 19-21, 2008. N=1,013 adults nationwide.

"Would you favor or oppose a proposal to attempt to stimulate the economy by increasing federal government spending on construction projects and economic assistance to some Americans by about eight hundred billion dollars?"

| | % |
|--------|----|
| Favor | 56 |
| Oppose | 42 |
| Unsure | 2 |

"If that proposal is passed, do you think that would help the economy a lot, some, not much, or not at all?"

| | % |
|------------|----|
| A lot | 17 |
| Some | 50 |
| Not much | 21 |
| Not at all | 10 |
| Unsure | 1 |

"In general, do you have a positive or a negative opinion of each of the following groups of people? . . ."

| | Positive % | Negative % | Unsure % |
|--|------------|------------|----------|
| "Executives at the major U.S. auto companies" | 17 | 82 | 1 |
| "The leaders of the auto workers' union" | 38 | 61 | 2 |
| "People who work at the major U.S. auto companies" | 73 | 25 | 2 |

ABC News/Washington Post Poll. Dec. 11-14, 2008. N=1,003 adults nationwide.

"The federal government is considering loaning up to 14 billion dollars to the Big Three U.S. automakers and putting in place a government board to oversee their restructuring. Some people say it's a bailout those companies don't deserve, and that they'd be better off reorganizing under bankruptcy laws. Other people say it's necessary to protect auto workers and save a key part of the U.S. economy. On balance, do you support or oppose this plan?"

| | % |
|---------|----|
| Support | 42 |
| Oppose | 55 |
| Unsure | 3 |

"Do you think the automakers' problems are mainly the fault of the bad economy or mainly the fault of their own management?"

| | % |
|----------------------|----|
| Bad economy | 22 |
| Their own management | 75 |
| Unsure | 3 |

FOX News/Opinion Dynamics Poll. Dec. 9-10, 2008. N=900 registered voters nationwide.

"How would you rate the overall quality of cars and trucks made by U.S. auto companies? Are they better, worse or the same as foreign cars?"

Big Business

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Dec. 19-21, 2008. N=1,013 adults nationwide.

"In general, do you think there is too much, too little, or about the right amount of government regulation of business and industry?" N=515 (Form A)

| | % |
|--------------|----|
| Too much | 39 |
| Too little | 39 |
| Right amount | 20 |
| Unsure | 2 |

"In general, do you think there is too much, too little, or about the right amount of government regulation of the stock market and financial institutions?" N=498 (Form B)

| | % |
|------------------------|----|
| Too much | 22 |
| Too little | 59 |
| About the right amount | 18 |
| Unsure | 1 |

"As you may know, a financial advisor named Bernard Madoff has been accused of running an illegal scheme in which many people lost millions of dollars. Do you think Madoff is an isolated case that does not reflect on other financial advisors and institutions, or do you think Madoff's behavior is common among financial advisors and institutions?"

| | % |
|----------|----|
| Isolated | 23 |
| Common | 74 |
| Unsure | 3 |

| | % |
|--------|----|
| Better | 20 |
| Worse | 40 |
| Same | 36 |
| Unsure | 5 |

"Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government giving the big three U.S. automakers billions of dollars in loan money?"

| | % |
|------------|----|
| Approve | 37 |
| Disapprove | 58 |
| Unsure | 5 |

"If U.S. automakers receive a government loan, how likely do you think it is that they will eventually pay back the money: very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?"

| | % |
|-------------------|----|
| Very likely | 14 |
| Somewhat likely | 34 |
| Not very likely | 27 |
| Not at all likely | 23 |
| Unsure | 2 |

"Which one of the following do you think is most to blame for the U.S. auto industry's troubles: labor unions, company management and executives, government regulations, or economic conditions?"

| | % |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Management and executives | 43 |
| Labor unions | 15 |
| Economic conditions | 13 |
| Government regulations | 4 |
| Combination/Other (vol.)/Unsure | 25 |

George W. Bush

CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll. Dec. 19-21, 2008. N=1,013 adults nationwide.

"Thinking about the following characteristics and qualities, please say whether you think it applies or doesn't apply to George W. Bush. How about [see below]?" Each item asked of half the sample

| | Applies % | Doesn't Apply % | Unsure % |
|--|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| "Is a strong and decisive leader" | 45 | 55 | - |
| "Cares about people like you" | 37 | 62 | 1 |
| "Brought the kind of change the country needed" | 13 | 86 | - |
| "Is honest and trustworthy" | 37 | 62 | 1 |
| "Managed the government effectively" | 25 | 75 | - |
| "Is a person you admire" | 27 | 72 | 1 |
| "Shares your values" | 34 | 65 | 1 |
| "Generally agrees with you on issues you care about" | 34 | 66 | - |
| "Inspires confidence" | 20 | 80 | - |
| "Has united the country and not divided it" | 17 | 82 | 1 |
| "Was tough enough for the job" | 49 | 51 | - |
| "Can get things done" | 31 | 69 | - |

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?"

| | 12/08 % | 12/07 % | 12/06 % |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Approve | 27 | 32 | 36 |
| Disapprove | 72 | 66 | 62 |
| Unsure | - | 2 | 2 |

"How would you rate George W. Bush in comparison to other presidents in U.S. history? Would you say he is the best president the U.S. has ever had, very good, good, poor, very poor, or would you say he is the worst president the U.S. has ever had?"

| | 12/08 % | 11/07 % |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| The best | - | 1 |
| Very good | 5 | 8 |
| Good | 26 | 32 |
| Poor | 23 | 20 |
| Very poor | 17 | 15 |
| The worst | 28 | 23 |

"Which comes closer to your view of George W. Bush as he prepares to leave the White House? You're glad he is leaving. OR, You'll miss him when he is gone." N=515 (Form A)

| | % |
|-------------------|----|
| Glad he's leaving | 75 |
| Will miss him | 23 |
| Unsure | 2 |

| | Applies % | Doesn't Apply % | Unsure % |
|--|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| "Is a strong and decisive leader" | 76 | 23 | 1 |
| "Cares about people like you" | 73 | 27 | - |
| "Can bring the kind of change the country needs" | 75 | 24 | - |
| "Is honest and trustworthy" | 72 | 26 | 2 |
| "Can manage the government effectively" | 76 | 23 | 1 |
| "Is a person you admire" | 67 | 33 | 1 |
| "Shares your values" | 72 | 28 | 1 |
| "Generally agrees with you on issues you care about" | 68 | 31 | 1 |
| "Inspires confidence" | 82 | 18 | - |
| "Will unite the country and not divide it" | 77 | 21 | 2 |
| "Is tough enough for the job" | 80 | 19 | 1 |
| "Can get things done" | 81 | 17 | 2 |

"As you may know, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich has been arrested on charges of corruption. Based on what you have heard or read, which of the following statements best describes your view of any recent contact between Blagojevich and top aides to Barack Obama? Some Obama aides did something illegal. No Obama aides did anything illegal, but did something unethical. No Obama aides did anything seriously wrong."

| | % |
|----------------------------|----|
| Illegal | 12 |
| Not illegal, but unethical | 36 |
| Nothing seriously wrong | 43 |
| Unsure | 9 |

USA Today/Gallup Poll. Dec. 12-14, 2008. N=1,008 adults nationwide.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his presidential transition?"

| | % |
|------------|----|
| Approve | 75 |
| Disapprove | 17 |
| Unsure | 8 |

"On a different topic, as you may know, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich has been charged with conspiracy in trying to profit from naming Barack Obama's replacement in the U.S. Senate. Just your best guess, do you think any member of Barack Obama's staff has done anything illegal in connection with this matter, or not?" N=525 (Form A)

| | % |
|--------------|----|
| Yes, illegal | 26 |
| No | 60 |
| Unsure | 13 |

"On a different topic, as you may know, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich has been charged with conspiracy in trying to profit from naming Barack Obama's replacement in the U.S. Senate. Just your best guess, do you think any member of Barack Obama's staff has done anything unethical in connection with this matter, or not?" N=483 (Form B)

| | % |
|----------------|----|
| Yes, unethical | 29 |
| No | 60 |
| Unsure | 11 |

What 2009 Holds In Store

ABC News/Washington Post Poll. Dec. 11-14, 2008. N=1,003 adults nationwide.

"Looking ahead to next year, are you more hopeful, or more fearful, about what the year 2009 holds in store for you personally?"

| | 12/08 % | 12/06 % |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Hopeful | 63 | 73 |
| Fearful | 35 | 24 |
| Unsure | 2 | 2 |

"How about for the world in general? Are you more hopeful, or more fearful, about what the year 2009 holds in store for the world in general?"

| | 12/08 % | 12/06 % |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Hopeful | 54 | 55 |
| Fearful | 45 | 43 |
| Unsure | 1 | 2 |

"Thinking about the next 12 months, would you say you feel optimistic or pessimistic about [see below]?"

| | Optimistic % | Pessimistic % | Unsure % |
|---|--------------|---------------|----------|
| "The state of the national economy" | 48 | 50 | 3 |
| "Your own family's financial situation" | 68 | 29 | 2 |
| "The policies Obama will pursue" | 68 | 26 | 6 |
| "The situation in Iraq" Half sample (Form A) | 65 | 30 | 5 |
| "The way things are going in this country" Half sample (Form A) | 51 | 46 | 4 |
| "The country's ability to defend itself against terrorist attacks" Half sample (Form B) | 67 | 30 | 3 |
| "The situation in Afghanistan" Half sample (Form B) | 49 | 47 | 4 |

ABC News/Washington Post Poll. Dec. 11-14, 2008. N=1,003 adults nationwide.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the presidential transition?"

| | % |
|------------|----|
| Approve | 76 |
| Disapprove | 15 |
| Unsure | 9 |

"Please tell me if the following statement applies to Obama or not: He is honest and trustworthy."

| | % |
|--------|----|
| Yes | 67 |
| No | 22 |
| Unsure | 11 |

"Apart from dealing with the economy, do you think Obama should or should not [see below]?" Each item asked of half the sample

| | Should % | Should Not % | Unsure % |
|---|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| "Withdraw U.S. forces from Iraq within the next 16 months" | 70 | 26 | 4 |
| "Make major changes in the U.S. health care system" | 77 | 20 | 3 |
| "Implement policies to try to reduce global warming" | 75 | 20 | 5 |
| "Close the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba" | 40 | 44 | 16 |
| "Expand federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research" | 52 | 42 | 7 |
| "Increase federal spending on children's health insurance" | 74 | 23 | 3 |
| "Require electricity companies to increase the use of renewable sources of energy, such as wind, solar and hydroelectric power" | 84 | 14 | 2 |
| "Impose a period of time during which banks cannot foreclose on delinquent mortgages" | 66 | 28 | 5 |
| "As president, do you think Obama will or will not be able to [see below]?" | Will % | Will not % | Unsure % |
| "End the U.S. involvement in Iraq" | 64 | 32 | 4 |
| "Make significant improvements in this country's health care system" | 68 | 28 | 4 |
| "Implement policies to try to reduce global warming" | 67 | 27 | 6 |
| "Improve America's image in the world" | 77 | 20 | 4 |

FOX News/Opinion Dynamics Poll. Dec. 9-10, 2008. N=900 registered voters nationwide.

| | % |
|--|----|
| "Do you think Hillary Clinton will make a good secretary of state or not?" | |
| Will | 72 |
| Will not | 23 |
| Unsure | 5 |

"Do you think President-elect Barack Obama's cabinet picks represent real change or are they more of the same from Washington?"

| | % |
|------------------|----|
| Real change | 56 |
| More of the same | 35 |
| Unsure | 9 |

"What are your expectations for Barack Obama's presidency? Do you think he will be one of the country's greatest presidents, a good president, an average president, a below average president, or one of the country's worst presidents?"

| | % |
|---------------------|----|
| One of the greatest | 19 |
| Good | 43 |
| Average | 23 |
| Below average | 5 |
| One of the worst | 6 |
| Unsure | 4 |

New York

Clinton's Senate Seat

Quinnipiac University Poll. Dec. 17-21, 2008. N=834 registered voters statewide.

"As you may know, Senator Hillary Clinton has been nominated to be secretary of state and Governor Paterson will pick her replacement in the Senate. Who do you think Governor Paterson should pick to replace Hillary Clinton in the United States Senate: Caroline Kennedy, Andrew Cuomo, Kirsten Gillibrand, or someone else?"

| | % |
|--------------------|----|
| Caroline Kennedy | 33 |
| Andrew Cuomo | 29 |
| Kirsten Gillibrand | 4 |
| Someone else | 24 |
| Unsure | 10 |

"Is your opinion of [see below] favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him/her?"

| | Favorable % | Unfav- orable % | Haven't Heard % | Refused % |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Andrew Cuomo | 55 | 11 | 32 | 2 |
| Caroline Kennedy | 46 | 17 | 36 | 1 |

"Do you think Caroline Kennedy would be a good United States senator or not?"

| | % |
|--------|----|
| Yes | 46 |
| No | 30 |
| Unsure | 24 |

"Do you think Caroline Kennedy is qualified to be a United States senator or not?"

| | % |
|--------|----|
| Yes | 40 |
| No | 41 |
| Unsure | 19 |

"Do you think Governor Paterson will pick Caroline Kennedy to replace Hillary Clinton in the Senate or not?"

| | % |
|--------|----|
| Yes | 48 |
| No | 25 |
| Unsure | 27 |

Siena College Poll. Dec. 8-11, 2008. N=622 registered voters statewide.

"According to the law, Governor Paterson will select Senator Clinton's replacement as United States senator from New York. Who do you think Governor Paterson SHOULD pick to replace Hillary Clinton: Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand from the Albany area, Congressman Brian Higgins from Buffalo, Caroline Kennedy, Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, or Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez from New York City?"

| | % |
|--------------------|----|
| Andrew Cuomo | 26 |
| Caroline Kennedy | 23 |
| Kirsten Gillibrand | 7 |
| Brian Higgins | 6 |
| Tom Suozzi | 5 |
| Nydia Velasquez | 4 |
| Byron Brown | 3 |
| Adolfo Carrion | 3 |
| Someone else | 4 |
| Unsure/Refused | 18 |

Alaska

GOVERNOR: Sarah Palin (R), incumbent

Research 2000 for Daily Kos. Dec. 15-17, 2008. N=600 likely voters statewide.

"Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of [see below]?"

| | Favorable % | Unfav. % | Unsure % |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Sarah Palin | 60 | 38 | 2 |
| Tony Knowles | 52 | 37 | 11 |

"If the 2010 election for governor were held today would you vote to reelect Sarah Palin, would you consider voting for another candidate, or would you vote to replace Palin?"

| | % |
|------------------|----|
| Reelect Palin | 51 |
| Consider another | 33 |
| Replace Palin | 16 |

"If the 2010 election for governor were held today for whom would you vote for if the choices were between Tony Knowles the Democrat and Sarah Palin the Republican?"

| | % |
|------------------|----|
| Sarah Palin (R) | 55 |
| Tony Knowles (D) | 38 |
| Unsure | 7 |

U.S. SENATE: Lisa Murkowski (R), incumbent

Research 2000 for Daily Kos. Dec. 15-17, 2008. Voters statewide.

"Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of [see below]?" N=600 likely voters

| | Favorable % | Unfav. % | Unsure % |
|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Lisa Murkowski | 51 | 43 | 6 |
| Tony Knowles | 52 | 37 | 11 |
| Hollis French | 28 | 8 | 64 |

"If the 2010 Republican primary for U.S. Senate were held today for whom would you vote for if the choices were between Lisa Murkowski and Sarah Palin?" N=400 Republican primary voters

| | % |
|----------------|----|
| Lisa Murkowski | 31 |
| Sarah Palin | 55 |
| Unsure | 14 |

"If the 2010 election for U.S. Senate were held today for whom would you vote for if the choices were between [see below] the Democrat and [see below] the Republican?" N=600 likely voters

| | % | | % |
|--------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Lisa Murkowski (R) | 49 | Lisa Murkowski (R) | 56 |
| Tony Knowles (D) | 41 | Hollis French (D) | 27 |
| Unsure | 10 | Unsure | 17 |
| Sarah Palin (R) | 53 | Sarah Palin (R) | 58 |
| Tony Knowles (D) | 39 | Hollis French (D) | 27 |
| Unsure | 8 | Unsure | 15 |

AT-LARGE CD: Don Young (R), incumbent

Research 2000 for Daily Kos. Dec. 15-17, 2008. Voters statewide.

"Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of [see below]? . . ." N=600 likely voters

| | Favorable % | Unfav. % | Unsure % |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Don Young | 44 | 54 | 2 |
| Ethan Berkowitz | 51 | 43 | 6 |

"If the 2010 Republican primary for Congress were held today which of the following would you vote for: [see below]?" N=400 Republican primary voters

| | % |
|--------------|----|
| Don Young | 33 |
| Sean Parnell | 27 |
| John Harris | 11 |
| Unsure | 29 |

"If the 2010 election for Congress were held today would you vote to reelect Don Young, would you consider voting for another candidate, or would you vote to replace Young?" N=600 likely voters

| | % |
|------------------|----|
| Reelect Young | 37 |
| Consider another | 27 |
| Replace Young | 36 |

"If the 2010 election for Congress were held today for whom would you vote for if the choices were between Ethan Berkowitz the Democrat and Don Young the Republican?" N=600 likely voters

| | % |
|---------------------|----|
| Don Young (R) | 49 |
| Ethan Berkowitz (D) | 46 |
| Unsure | 5 |

Connecticut

GOVERNOR: Jodi Rell (R), incumbent

Quinnipiac U. Dec. 11-15, 2008. N=1,445 registered voters statewide.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Jodi Rell is handling her job as governor?"

| | Approve % | Disap- prove % | Unsure % |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 12/11-15/08 | 68 | 20 | 12 |
| 3/19-24/08 | 76 | 13 | 10 |

"How likely are you to vote to reelect Jodi Rell for governor in 2010? Do you think you will definitely vote for her, probably vote for her, probably not vote for her, or definitely not vote for her?"

| | % |
|----------------|----|
| Definitely for | 14 |
| Probably for | 40 |
| Probably not | 18 |
| Definitely not | 13 |
| Unsure | 14 |

U.S. SENATE: Chris Dodd (D), incumbent

Quinnipiac U. Dec. 11-15, 2008. N=1,445 registered voters statewide.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chris Dodd is handling his job as United States senator?"

| | Approve % | Disap- prove % | Unsure % |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 12/11-15/08 | 47 | 41 | 12 |
| 6/26-29/08 | 51 | 34 | 16 |
| 3/19-24/08 | 51 | 28 | 21 |

"How likely are you to vote to reelect Chris Dodd for United States senator in 2010? Do you think you will definitely vote for him, probably vote for him, probably not vote for him, or definitely not vote for him?"

| | % |
|----------------|----|
| Definitely for | 13 |
| Probably for | 31 |
| Probably not | 20 |
| Definitely not | 27 |
| Unsure | 9 |

Hawaii

U.S. SENATE: Daniel Inouye (D), incumbent

Research 2000 for Daily Kos. Dec. 15-17, 2008. N=600 likely voters statewide.

"Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of [see below]?"

| | Favorable % | Unfav. % | Unsure % |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Daniel Inouye | 58 | 37 | 5 |
| Linda Lingle | 53 | 41 | 6 |

"If the 2010 election for U.S. Senate were held today for whom would you vote for if the choices were between Daniel Inouye the Democrat and Linda Lingle the Republican?"

| | Daniel Inouye (D) % | Linda Lingle (R) % | Unsure % |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| ALL | 53 | 42 | 5 |
| Democrats | 80 | 15 | 5 |
| Republicans | 9 | 86 | 5 |
| Independents | 48 | 46 | 6 |

Illinois

GOVERNOR: Rod Blagojevich (D), incumbent

Gleangriff Group (R). Dec. 9-10, 2008. N=600 registered voters statewide.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the job Rod Blagojevich is doing as governor of Illinois?"

| | Approve % | Disap- prove % | Unsure % |
|------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 12/9-10/08 | 8 | 83 | 9 |
| 11/1-3/07 | 32 | 61 | 7 |

"Given Governor Blagojevich's arrest Tuesday morning, do you think he should resign from his office or do you think he should remain as governor until he is proven guilty?"

| | Resign % | Remain until proven guilty % | Unsure % |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Resign | 70 | 25 | 5 |
| Remain until proven guilty | 25 | 5 | 70 |
| Unsure | 5 | 70 | 25 |

"Do you support or oppose the impeachment of Governor Blagojevich by the State Legislature, which would remove him from office?"

| | Support % | Oppose % | Unsure % |
|---------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Support | 73 | 14 | 12 |
| Oppose | 14 | 73 | 12 |
| Unsure | 12 | 12 | 73 |

Iowa

U.S. SENATE: Charles Grassley (R), incumbent

Research 2000 for Daily Kos. Dec. 8-10, 2008. N=600 likely voters statewide.

"Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of [see below]?"

| | Favorable % | Unfav. % | Unsure % |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| Charles Grassley | 57 | 36 | 7 |
| Tom Vilsack | 55 | 36 | 9 |

"If the 2010 election for U.S. Senate were held today for whom would you vote for if the choices were between Tom Vilsack the Democrat and Charles Grassley the Republican?"

| | Charles Grassley (R) % | Tom Vilsack (D) % | Unsure % |
|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| ALL | 48 | 44 | 8 |
| Democrats | 14 | 81 | 5 |
| Republicans | 83 | 7 | 10 |
| Independents | 51 | 41 | 8 |

New York

GOVERNOR: David Paterson (D), incumbent

Quinnipiac U. Dec. 17-21, 2008. N=834 registered voters statewide.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way David Paterson is handling his job as governor?"

| | Approve % | Disap- prove % | Unsure % |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 12/17-21/08 | 53 | 29 | 18 |
| 7/31 - 8/4/08 | 64 | 14 | 22 |
| 6/3-8/08 | 56 | 17 | 27 |
| 4/14-15/08 | 50 | 10 | 39 |

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Andrew Cuomo is handling his job as state attorney general?"

| | Approve % | Disap- prove % | Unsure % |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 12/17-21/08 | 72 | 14 | 14 |
| 7/31 - 8/4/08 | 68 | 13 | 19 |
| 6/3-8/08 | 69 | 15 | 17 |
| 4/14-15/08 | 65 | 13 | 21 |

Siena College Poll. Dec. 8-11, 2008. N=622 registered voters statewide.

"How would you rate the job that David Paterson is doing as governor? Would you rate it excellent, good, fair, or poor?"

| | Excellent % | Good % | Fair % | Poor % | Unsure % |
|-------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 12/8-11/08 | 9 | 46 | 32 | 8 | 4 |
| 11/10-13/08 | 9 | 46 | 34 | 7 | 4 |
| 8/11-14/08 | 7 | 45 | 30 | 5 | 12 |
| 7/7-10/08 | 7 | 41 | 34 | 5 | 13 |

"I know it's a long way off, but if David Paterson runs for governor in 2010, would you vote to elect him or would you prefer someone else?"

| | Paterson % | Someone else % | Unsure % |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Paterson | 36 | 31 | 33 |
| Someone else | 31 | 36 | 33 |
| Unsure | 33 | 33 | 36 |

"Looking ahead to 2010 and the next election for governor: If the Democratic primary for governor were held today and the candidates were David Paterson and Andrew Cuomo, who would you vote for?" Among Democratic voters

| | Paterson % | Cuomo % | Unsure % |
|----------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| Paterson | 49 | 26 | 25 |
| Cuomo | 26 | 49 | 25 |
| Unsure | 25 | 25 | 49 |

"If the 2010 election for governor were held today and the candidates were [see below] on the Democratic line and [see below] on the Republican line, who would you vote for?"

| | David Paterson (D) % | Andrew Cuomo (D) % | Rudolph Giuliani (R) % | Unsure % |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| David Paterson (D) | 51 | 37 | 11 | 1 |
| Rudolph Giuliani (R) | 38 | 50 | 11 | 1 |
| Unsure | 11 | 13 | 37 | 37 |

U.S. SENATE: Charles Schumer (D), incumbent

Quinnipiac U. Dec. 17-21, 2008. N=834 registered voters statewide.

"Do you approve or disapprove of the way Charles Schumer is handling his job as United States senator?"

| | Approve % | Disap- prove % | Unsure % |
|---------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 12/17-21/08 | 63 | 22 | 15 |
| 7/31 - 8/4/08 | 61 | 23 | 16 |
| 3/16-18/08 | 66 | 18 | 16 |

Siena College Poll. Dec. 8-11, 2008. N=622 registered voters statewide.

"I know it is a long way off, but if Charles Schumer runs for reelection for United States senator in 2010, would you vote to reelect him or would you prefer someone else?"

| | % |
|--------------|----|
| Schumer | 49 |
| Someone else | 36 |
| Unsure | 15 |

Pennsylvania

U.S. SENATE: Arlen Specter (R), incumbent

Research 2000 for Daily Kos. Dec. 8-10, 2008. Likely voters statewide.

Democratic Primary Trial Heats (N=400 Democratic primary voters):

| | % | | % |
|------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Chris Matthews | 24 | Chris Matthews | 28 |
| Patrick Murphy | 19 | Patrick Murphy | 21 |
| Allyson Schwartz | 15 | Unsure | 51 |
| Unsure | 42 | | |
| Chris Matthews | 30 | Patrick Murphy | 23 |
| Allyson Schwartz | 18 | Allyson Schwartz | 20 |
| Unsure | 52 | Unsure | 57 |

Republican Primary Trial Heat (N=400 Republican primary voters):

| | % |
|---------------|----|
| Arlen Specter | 43 |
| Pat Toomey | 28 |
| Unsure | 29 |

General Election Trial Heats (N=600 likely voters):

| | % | | % |
|----------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Arlen Specter (R) | 45 | Pat Toomey (R) | 35 |
| Chris Matthews (D) | 44 | Chris Matthews (D) | 46 |
| Unsure | 11 | Unsure | 19 |
| Arlen Specter (R) | 48 | Pat Toomey (R) | 36 |
| Patrick Murphy (D) | 36 | Patrick Murphy (D) | 44 |
| Unsure | 16 | Unsure | 20 |
| Arlen Specter (R) | 49 | Pat Toomey (R) | 36 |
| Allyson Schwartz (D) | 35 | Allyson Schwartz (D) | 42 |
| Unsure | 16 | Unsure | 22 |

Texas

GOVERNOR: Rick Perry (R) incumbent

Voter/Consumer Research for Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R). Dec. 7-9, 2008. N=466 Republican primary voters statewide.

Republican Primary Trial Heat:

| | % |
|----------------------|----|
| Rick Perry | 31 |
| Kay Bailey Hutchison | 55 |
| Other/Unsure | 14 |

Please indicate whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose the next Congress and the Obama Administration taking the following action. . . .

| | ALL % | Dem. % | Rep. % | Ind. % |
|--|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <i>Promote job creation programs and policies, especially in domestic energy production</i> | | | | |
| Support | 96 | 99 | 90 | 97 |
| Oppose | 5 | 1 | 10 | 3 |
| <i>Limit salary compensation for Wall Street and big bank executives</i> | | | | |
| Support | 87 | 96 | 79 | 82 |
| Oppose | 12 | 3 | 21 | 18 |
| <i>Reform bank practices concerning credit card fees and policies</i> | | | | |
| Support | 94 | 96 | 88 | 97 |
| Oppose | 6 | 4 | 11 | 3 |
| <i>Reform bank lending practices, such as sub-prime mortgage practices</i> | | | | |
| Support | 93 | 96 | 88 | 94 |
| Oppose | 7 | 4 | 13 | 6 |
| <i>Reform the health care system</i> | | | | |
| Support | 84 | 93 | 67 | 88 |
| Oppose | 17 | 7 | 33 | 12 |
| <i>Recover bonuses and other payments given to Wall Street and big bank executives in recent years</i> | | | | |
| Support | 84 | 88 | 80 | 86 |
| Oppose | 16 | 12 | 20 | 14 |

Source: Penn, Schoen, and Berland Associates, Nov. 2008

Fully 90% of voters say that the Bush-Paulson bank bailout is not tough enough when it comes to regulating the financial markets. And 90%+ majorities favor new limits on executive compensation, subprime mortgage reform, and credit card reform, even more than those who support reforming the health care system.

Hoist the Pitchforks—Or Join the Class Action Suit

Voters want more than reform of big banks and Wall Street, they want a reckoning. Fully 84% of voters favor a bonus recovery program that would in practice amount to legal proceedings to regain what taxpayers view as ill-gotten billions that went to the top executives at the biggest banks and Wall Street executives.

Reform of the financial services industry is arguably the issue that the Obama Administration should tackle first alongside economic stimulus and job creation. In particular, it is an issue that unites the interests of upscale and urban voters who are at the heart of the emerging Obama coalition. ■

- 1 *Wall Street Journal/NBC News Poll*, 1,009 Americans, Dec. 5-8, 2008.
- 2 84% of McCain voters want Palin to stay in national politics, not get out. Of the four candidates for national office, Palin was also the one whose life was viewed by voters (50%) as the most like theirs.
- 3 *New York Times*, "Off the Charts," Floyd Norris, Oct. 18, 2008.
- 4 *National Journal*, "Coalition of the Ascendant," Nov. 8, 2008.