



CAWP

Women's Vote Watch

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www.cawp.rutgers.edu/WomensVoteWatch/

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The Gender Gap: Present and Accounted For in 2008

Center for American Women and Politics and Communications Consortium Media Center to Present Weekly Women's Vote Analysis

As the 2008 presidential campaign season enters its final month, the women's vote is emerging as the bloc that could well determine who will be the next president of the United States. The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) and the Communications Consortium Media Center (CCMC) will team up from now until Election Day to provide a weekly gender gap analysis of the women's vote from key polls conducted on the presidential race at the national level and in battleground states.

Every Friday at 10 a.m. from now until the election, CAWP will release the weekly *Women's Vote Watch* – an analysis of that week's polls – at www.cawp.rutgers.edu/WomensVoteWatch/.

A gender gap has been present in every presidential election from 1980 through 2004, averaging 7.6 percentage points. While the Nov. 4 election is still weeks away, there is no indication so far that the gender gap will be smaller this year than in the past.

Please join us Tuesday, October 7 at 1 p.m. for an audio press briefing that will feature a special analysis on the gender gap to date as well as an analysis of post-debate polls.

Audio Press Conference	
What:	A gender gap analysis of post-debate polls
Who:	Debbie Walsh, director of CAWP, and Dr. Susan J. Carroll, CAWP senior scholar and noted expert on the gender gap
When:	1 p.m., Tuesday, October 7
How	Toll-free number (877)795-3599; Password: Gender Gap
Please call to reserve a spot: Nancy Bennett, (800) 834-1110	

Background

Despite widespread speculation about disaffected Hillary Clinton supporters and the impact of Sarah Palin on women's support for the Republican ticket, September polls show gender gaps similar to those observed in recent presidential elections.



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Figures compiled by the Center for American Women and Politics from several polls conducted before the first presidential debate showed gender gaps among registered and likely voters as large as 11 percentage points. As in past elections, women voters are more likely than men to favor the Democratic ticket.

% for Obama		% for McCain		Gender Gap* (percentage point difference)	Source and Dates of Poll
Women	Men	Women	Men		
49	45	36	49	4	CBS News/ <i>New York Times</i> (9/21 - 9/24, registered voters)
50	45	42	50	5	NBC News/ <i>Wall Street Journal</i> (9/19 - 9/22, registered voters)
56	47	40	47	9	ABC News/ <i>Washington Post</i> (9/19- 9/23, likely voters)
50	41	40	49	9	Pew Research Center (9/9 - 9/14, registered voters)
54	43	40	50	11	Quinnipiac (9/11 - 9/16, likely voters)

**Because Senator Obama leads in the polls cited, the gender gap is calculated based on voters supporting him.*

The gender gap is the difference in the percentage of women and men who support a given candidate, generally the leading or winning candidate. It is the gap *between* the genders, not *within* a gender. Even if women and men favor the same candidate, they may do so by different margins, resulting in a gender gap.

In the 2004 presidential election, women were 7 percentage points less likely than men to vote for George W. Bush; women preferred John Kerry (51% versus 48% for Bush), while a majority of male voters favored Bush (55% versus 41% for Kerry). (Edison Media Research & Mitofsky International)

In the 2000 election, women were 10 percentage points less likely than men to vote for George W. Bush (43% of women vs. 53% of men supported Bush); and 12 percentage points more likely than men to vote for Al Gore (54% of women vs. 42% of men supported Gore). (Voter News Service)

For more information, see “The Gender Gap: Voting Choices in Presidential Elections” at http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/voters/documents/GGPresVote.pdf.

About CAWP

The Center for American Women and Politics, a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is a university-based research, education and public service center. Its mission is to promote greater knowledge and understanding about women’s changing relationship to politics and government and to enhance women’s influence and leadership in public life. CAWP is a leading authority in its field and a respected bridge between the academic and political worlds.

About CCMC

The Communications Consortium Media Center (CCMC) is a public interest media center dedicated to helping nonprofit organizations use media and new technologies as tools for policy change. It seeks to influence the public debate in ways that respect and support individual rights, healthy families, cultural diversity and a sustainable environment. Its mission is to use communications strategies for policy change. CCMC is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization.