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www.cawp.rutgers.edu/WomensVoteWatch

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Gender Gaps: The More Things Change, The More They Stay the Same

Most national and state polls conducted after the first two presidential debates and the vice presidential debate continue to show gender gaps, according to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). CAWP's latest review of polls is part of Women's Vote Watch, a weekly look at the women's vote in the 2008 presidential election.

After the first two presidential debates and the vice-presidential debate, polls continue to show gender gaps in a range consistent with those in presidential elections since 1980. All of the national polls conducted since the first debate report Senator Barack Obama in the lead. There is variation among gender gaps, with almost all showing women supporting Obama at a higher level than men. One poll (LA Times/Bloomberg) finds no gender gap, and one (CBS/NY Times) actually reports slightly higher levels of support for Obama among men than women, but with majorities of both men and women supporting him.

Overall%		% for Obama		% for McCain		Gender Gap* (percentage point difference)	Source and Dates of Poll
Obama	McCain	Women	Men	Women	Men		
50	45	53	46	44	47	7 pts.	ARG 10/11 - 10/13
53	39	52	53	37	41	1 pt.	CBS/NY Times 10/10 - 10/13
49	41	49	49	41	40	0 pts.	LA Times/Bloomberg 10/10 - 10/13
48	39	50	45	37	41	5 pts.	Ipsos/McClatchy 10/9 - 10/13
50	40	54	46	35	46	8 pts.	Pew 10/9 - 10/12
53	43	57	48	39	47	9 pts.	ABC/Washington Post 10/8-10/11
51	41	53	49	39	44	4 pts.	Gallup 10/6 -10/12

* The gender gap shown for each poll in the table is based on the responses for the leading candidate in that poll.

Polls in key battleground state polls show similar gender gaps.

State	Overall%		% for Obama		% for McCain		Gender Gap* (percentage point difference)	Source and Dates of Poll
	Obama	McCain	Women	Men	Women	Men		
IN	43	50	48	37	46	55	9 pts.	Rasmussen 10/7
MO	50	47	51	50	46	48	1 pt.	Fox/Rasmussen 10/12
NV	47	45	52	42	40	50	10 pts.	Mason-Dixon 10/8-10/9
NC	48	48	51	43	44	54	8 pts. Obama 10 pts. McCain	Fox/Rasmussen 10/12
OH	49	47	53	45	43	52	8 pts.	Fox/Rasmussen 10/12

* The gender gap shown for each poll in the table is based on the responses for the leading candidate in that poll. For the poll where the candidates are tied overall, gender gaps are shown for both.

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This release is part of *Women's Vote Watch*, a joint effort by The Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) and the Communications Consortium Media Center (CCMC) to provide a gender gap analysis of the women's vote from key polls conducted on the presidential race at the national level and in battleground states.

CAWP will release the *Women's Vote Watch* every Friday at 10 a.m. until Election Day at its website www.cawp.rutgers.edu/WomensVoteWatch. Audio press briefings will also be offered as needed; the October 7 briefing can be [heard here](#).

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.

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