

More thoughts on the Presidential election: (10/9/08)

- The over-the-top negativity of the McCain campaign is growing almost daily. The attacks on Obama's connection with William Ayers did not have much effect in the primaries and there is no reason to think they will have much effect in the general election. However, both McCain's and Palin's recent speeches have been subtly racist in tone. Their effect has been to have people in their audiences yell out at the mention of Obama's name, "terrorist" and "kill him." This is just the beginning and will become more overtly racist, especially after the last debate on October 15. For example, since Obama's Chicago home seems to be an issue to the McCain campaign, I would not be surprised to see an ad linking Obama and Louis Farrakhan.
- It is very sad to see John McCain destroy his reputation for honesty and decency in his quest for the presidency. It began when perhaps the most unqualified person ever in terms of experience, temperament and intelligence was selected by McCain as his Vice Presidential running mate. It continues as his campaign sinks morally and ethically lower and lower. In 2000, had he gotten the Republican nomination, he probably would have been elected President without hanging chads or butterfly ballots, except that he was unable to get the Republican nomination after the sleazy and scurrilous attacks against him by the Bush campaign. Unfortunately, it seems the lesson he learned from that campaign was to emulate those who had defeated him.
- Last week, the McCain campaign decided to abandon Michigan. Pennsylvania will be next, along with Minnesota.
- McCain was supposed to have the edge in the first debate because it was about foreign policy. McCain was supposed to have the edge in the second debate because it was in his preferred format, the town hall meeting. According to all the polls, Obama clearly prevailed in both debates. Why won't McCain have an edge in the last debate?
- After this campaign is over, the big winners will be those who get elected and Katie Couric. She has established herself as a first-rate interviewer.
- Two things can keep Obama from winning: the unknown extent of Americans' reluctance to vote for an African-American and a major international crisis or terrorist event.
- Right now, Obama leads in states with nearly 300 electoral votes. The closest toss-ups seem to be Florida, Missouri, North Carolina and Ohio. Even if McCain wins all these, he still falls 14 votes short of a victory.

The current Obama states include CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, HI, IL, IA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OR, PA, RI, VT, VA, WA, and WI, for a total of 291 electoral votes.

The current McCain states include AL, AK, AZ, AK, GA, ID, IN, MS, MT, NE, ND, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, WV and WY, for a total of 174 electoral votes.

The 4 tossup states of FL, MO, NC and OH have 73 electoral votes.