# Summary Results ABC7 Listens Poll #70 - June, 2008

## Impact of Gender, Race and Age on the 2008 Presidential Election

- 1. There has been a lot of debate about the roles of gender and race in this presidential campaign. First, do you believe that gender is or is not playing a significant role in determining who the Democratic nominee will be?
  - 44% 1. Played a significant role
  - 50% 2. Did not play a significant role
  - 6% 3. Not sure/No opinion
- 2. Overall, do you think that Hillary Clinton's gender has helped her, has hurt her or has had little or no impact on her primary campaign?

25% 1. Helped her 39% 3. Little or no impact 29% 2. Hurt her 7% 4. Not sure/No opinion

- 3. Do you believe that race or ethnicity is or is not playing a significant role in determining who the Democratic nominee will be?
  - 59% 1. Played a significant role
  - 35% 2. Did not play a significant role
  - 6% 3. Not sure/No opinion
- 4. Overall, do you think that Barack Obama's race or ethnicity has helped him, has hurt him or has had little or no impact on his primary campaign?

41% 1. Helped him 29% 3. Little or no impact 24% 2. Hurt him 6% 4. Not sure/No opinion

5. If Barack Obama is the Democratic nominee, do you think his race or ethnicity will help him, hurt him or have little or no impact on his campaign in the General election?

18% 1. Will help him 30% 3. Little or no impact 42% 2. Will hurt him 10% 4. Not sure/No opinion

- 6. Do you think John McCain's age will or will not play a significant role in the outcome of the race against either candidate?
  - 48% 1. Will not play a significant role
  - 40% 2. Will play a significant role against either candidate
    - 1% 3. Will play a significant role against Clinton only
    - 3% 4. Will play a significant role against Obama only
    - 8% 5. Not sure/No opinion

7. Do you think John McCain's age will help him, hurt him or have little or no impact on his campaign in the General election?

3% 1. Will help him 45% 3. Little or no impact 46% 2. Will hurt him 6% 4. Not sure/No opinion

### [Among Democrats]

8. Who would you like the Democratic nominee to be in the November General Election?

54% 1. Barack Obama 3% 3. Other

37% 2. Hillary Clinton 6% 4. Not sure/No opinion

9. If in the November Election, the choice were between Barack Obama and John McCain, whom would you probably vote for?

59% 1. Obama 5% 3. Other

31% 2. McCain 5% 4. Not sure/No opinion

9A. What if the choice were between Hillary Clinton and John McCain, whom would you probably vote for?

61% 1. Clinton 5% 3. Other

28% 2. McCain 5% 4. Not sure/No opinion

10. Are there any comments you would like to make about these or any other aspects of the Presidential campaign?

See comments

## Gay and Lesbian Rights and Other Questions

11. Now switching to our other main topic, on May 15, the California Supreme Court ruled that state laws banning same-sex couples from marrying are unconstitutional. Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

59% 1. Should be valid

35% 2. Should not be valid

6% 3. Not sure

12. An initiative that may be on the November ballot would overturn this ruling and ban same-sex marriage by amending the California Constitution to add the phrase "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California'. If a proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage were on the ballot this November, do you think you would probably favor or probably oppose it?

34% 1. Favor 61% 2. Oppose 5% 3. Not sure/No Opinion

13. Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal or not legal?

81% 1. Should be Legal

12% 2. Should be Not Legal

7% 3. Not Sure/No Opinion

14. Do you feel that homosexuality should be considered acceptable or not?

72% 1. Acceptable

18% 2. Not Acceptable

10% 3. Not Sure/No Opinion

15. In your view, is homosexuality something a person is born with, or is homosexuality due to factors such as upbringing and environment?

42% 1. Born With 36% 3. Both

12% 2. Upbringing/Environment 10% 4. Neither/Not sure/No opinion

16. Would you like to see homosexuality be more widely accepted in this nation, less widely accepted, or is the acceptance of homosexuality in this nation today about right?

54% 1. More widely accepted 17% 3. About right 21% 2. Less widely accepted 8% 4. Not sure

17. Do think that same sex marriage will ever be legalized nationally?

46% 1. Yes 40% 2. No

18. Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting same sex marriages?

14% 3. Not sure

32% 1. Favor 62% 2. Oppose 6% 3. Not sure

- 19. Do you think homosexual couples should or should not have the right to adopt a child?
  - 66% 1. Should Have Right
  - 22% 2. Should Not Have Right
  - 12% 3. Not Sure/No Opinion
- 20. Do you think a homosexual person should or should not have the right to adopt their partner's children?
  - 71% 1. Should Have Right
  - 17% 2. Should Not Have Right
  - 12% 3. Not Sure/No Opinion
- 21. Do you think homosexual couples should or should not have the same legal rights as married heterosexual couples regarding health care benefits and Social Security survivor benefits?
  - 77% 1. Yes/Should Have
  - 19% 2. No/Should Not Have
  - 4% 3. Not Sure/No Opinion
- 22. Do you think homosexuals should or should not have equal rights in terms of job opportunities?"

94% 1. Yes – Should 2% 3. Depends 4% 2. No – Should not --- 4. Not sure

23. Do you favor or oppose allowing openly gay men and lesbian women to serve in the military?

74% 1. Favor 17% 2. Oppose 9% 3. Not sure

24. There is a proposal to expand federal hate crime laws to include crimes committed on the basis of the victim's gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. Would you favor or oppose expanding the federal hate crime laws in this way?"

73% 1. Favor 20% 2. Oppose 7% 3. Not sure

25. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

90% 1. Heterosexual 2% 4. Bisexual 6% 2. Gay .2% 5. Transgender

2% 3. Lesbian

26. Which of the following best describes your household?

33% 1. Single [Skip to Q. 29] 69

6% 3. Unmarried Couple [Skip to Q. 29]

56% 2. Married [Skip to Q. 29]

5% 4. Same Sex Partners

[Ask only same sex partners Q. 27 + 28]

27. Given the recent California Supreme Court decision, do you think you will probably change your domestic status or not?

43% 1. Yes – Plan on marrying your partner

24% 2. No – Do not plan on marrying your partner

5% 3. Already married

28% 4. Not sure/No opinion

28. Are you and your partner registered domestic partners in California or another state?

67% 1. Yes

33% 2. No

29. Do you have children living in your household?

29% 1. Yes

71% 2. No

30. Are there any comments you would like to add on this topic?

See comments

#### Survey Background Facts

Number of People Interviewed 907 Bay Area Residents

Interview Dates: May 30 – June 5, 2008

Conducted Online by: Hertz Research, Petaluma, CA

#### How ABC7 Listens Polls are Conducted and Potential Sources of Error

ABC7 Listens Polls are conducted by Hertz Research of Petaluma, California. The polls are conducted online among Bay Area residents who registered in advance to participate in the ABC7 Listens Polling program. In order to create samples as representative of the entire Bay Area population as possible, the results for each poll are statistically weighted using a variety of demographic factors provided by respondents during the registration process. These statistical weighting procedures also take into account differences between groups of people who tend to use or not use the Internet.

Regardless of methodology, all polls are potentially affected by a number of factors that may influence their accuracy. A common source for survey inaccuracy is sampling error. The number of respondents largely determines sampling error. Statistical theory indicates that in the case of a poll with this sample size (907 Total Interviews), 95 percent of the time the results of a survey of this size would be the same as interviewing the entire population of the Bay Area, give or take approximately four percent. This is not a probability sample.

However, other sources of error also can impact the accuracy of poll results conducted online and with other techniques. These include but are not limited to the percentage of the population choosing to participate, the likelihood a possible respondent is at home or connected to the Internet, the wording, and ordering of questions, and the techniques used to determine possible survey participants and likely voters. The cumulative impact of all of these potential sources of error is impossible to assess precisely.