

WHO ARE BC STUDENTS VOTING FOR?

Six out of 10 Brevard College students have voted or will vote for Barack Obama for president, according to a poll conducted Tuesday and Wednesday on campus.

The poll of 106 students shows 60 percent choosing Obama, while only 25 percent chose John McCain. Nine percent of respondents remain undecided, and 6 percent said they would be voting

for another candidate.

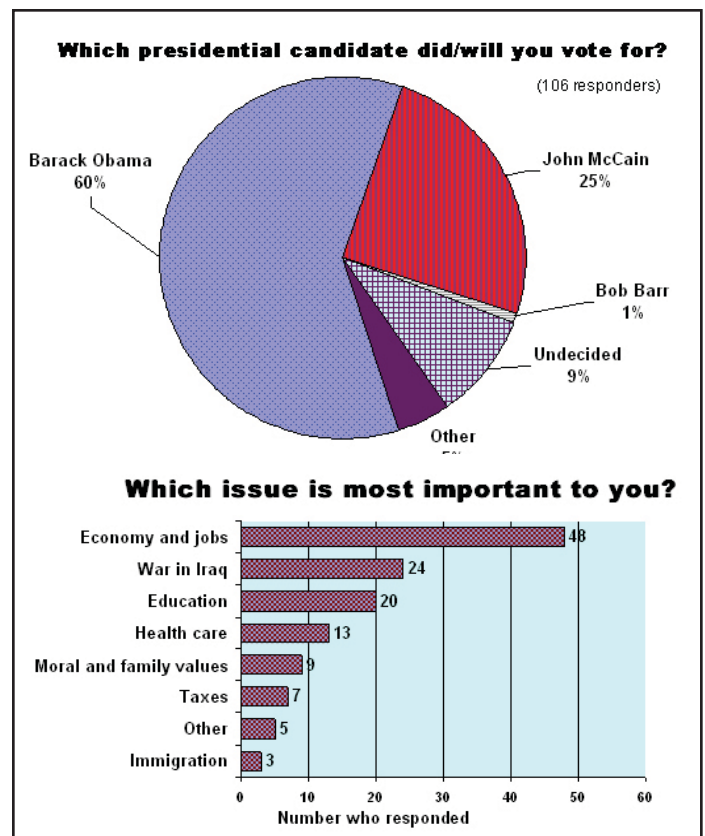
Roughly half of those polled said the economy and jobs was the main issue to them this election season, while about one-fourth said the war in Iraq was the main issue. Education was the third most important issue for those polled, at nearly 20 percent.

Because the poll had a limited number of responses, the margin of error is 9 percent—meaning that there is a 95 percent confidence that the actual percentage of Obama voters at Brevard is within 9 points, somewhere in the range from 51 percent to 69 percent.

Despite this somewhat high error margin, however, Obama still garners more than 50 percent of votes at Brevard College—a fact which might play a key role in the overall vote in North Carolina, which has for weeks been a battleground between Obama and McCain. The aggregate of polls at Pollster.com Thursday afternoon showed a narrow Obama lead in the Tarheel state, 48.9 percent versus 46.4 for McCain, a difference of only 2.5 percent.

North Carolina is home to about half the students polled. Of the 50 respondents who listed another state as home, 19 students—nearly 40 percent—said they specifically chose to register in North Carolina. For those who registered in North Carolina instead of their home state, an overwhelming majority favored the Democrat: 14 of the 19 picked Obama, compared to just four for McCain and one undecided.

The poll also asked respondents to pick which political party they most affiliated themselves with. Trends here are similar to others in North Carolina and across the nation, with 38 percent calling themselves Democrats, 26 percent Republicans, and 38 percent saying they are



independent. Another three percent identify with the Libertarian Party.

The vast majority of self-identified Democrats voted for Obama, but so did seven out of 10 independents, and even 22 percent of Republicans say they are voting for Obama.

The poll was conducted by members of the COM 316, "Campaign Coverage '08" class.

One-stop Early Voting ends tomorrow. Polls in Transylvania County will be open until 6 p.m. tonight and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday at the old Transylvania County Library. On Election Day Tuesday, voters may vote at their regular polling location from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Complete results of this poll will be available on The Clarion Web site. (A link to the site is available in MyBC.)

With reporting by Elyse Veeneman, Zach Hazen, David Alexander, Dana Ainsworth, and Johnny Lange

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