

Political Poll- Which Issues Most Concern You?

1. Select the THREE issues you consider most when voting. Assign the number in the blank in front of selected issues as follows:

- > Place a "3" beside the issue you consider the most important
- > Place a "2" beside the second-most important issue
- > Place a "1" beside the next issue of in line of importance

We will use the point system to depict the ECSU Student Community results in a graph in the next release of the school newspaper.

The Issues cited for this poll were compiled with the help of two websites: www.Otizen.joe.com & www.Cnnnews.com



ISSUES:

Business and the Economy

This covers:

- Food
- Housing
- NASA
- Personal debt
- Research and Development
- Trade
- Transportation
- Farm subsidies
- Housing jitters

Crime and Justice This covers:

- Civil litigation
- Crime and justice overview
- Guns
- ID theft/ID security
- Elder abuse/fraud
- Illegal drugs
- Prisons

Energy and the Environment

This covers:

- Air
- Endangered species
- Energy overview
- Conservation efforts
- Fossil fuels
- Alternative fuel sources
- Land
- Nuclear energy
- Water
- ANWR
- Gas prices
- Global warming
- Price gouging

Government and Politics

This covers:

- Civics 101
- The budget process
- Budget basics
- Campaign finance
- Corporate welfare
- Deficits and debts
- Taxes
- Voting and ballot initiatives
- 527s and campaign finance reform
- Budget reform
- Estate tax
- Line item vetoes
- Lobby and earmark reform
- Redistricting
- Filibusters

Health

This covers:

- Abortion
- Day after pill

- Teens and sex
- Health care
- Mental health
- Obesity
- Prescription drugs
- Smoking
- Avian flu awareness/hype
- SARS
- Mad cow disease
- Medical malpractice/cap on lawsuits
- Small business health plans

Jobs and Welfare

This covers:

- Jobs Poverty Retirement Unemployment
- Welfare Minimum wage Social Security

National Security

This covers:

- Armed Forces
- Foreign aid
- Homeland Security
- Intelligence
- Iraq involvement
- National missile defense
- Nuclear plant security
- Terrorism
- Terrorist groups
- War spending
- Where our troops are
- WMD *
- Dubai port deals
- Enemy combatants and terrorist trials/prison issues
- Iraq split versus surge
- NSA wiretap program
- State grants and first responders

Social Issues

This covers:

- Arts
- Disabled
- Faith and religion Family and marriage Homeless Immigration The media Race and ethnicity Internet neutrality Same sex marriage Stem cell research

2. Do you vote as a straight ballot or do you vote based on who best represents the issues most important to you?

Check beside the following:

- o Straight ballot voter
 - o Vote based off of who best represents the issues most important to me
 - o Neither
3. Do you feel the country is ready for a female president?
- o YES o NO

The Young Democratic Vote: Does It Count and who do they want to Elect for President?

By Jessica McDonald

Who do young democrats want for president, the wife of a former U.S. president who garnered great support in the past or a new comer to the arena who has shown himself to be a viable and strong candidate?

With young democratic voters running to the polls in droves, their vote may be the defining line of who becomes our next president. The Young Voter Pac, an organization for youth political engagement and research, reports that once again young democratic voters have outperformed young republicans in the 2008 election campaign. Their statistics show that over all, 67 percent of young democratic voters are expected to vote in the 2008 election. Statistics also reveal that 63,230 of young people were caucus-goers in 2008, with 52,580 of them democrats and only 12,650 of them republicans.

Senator Hillary Clinton, wife of former U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Senator Barack Obama are the two front running democratic presidential candidates battling it out state to state for the young democratic vote. The Harvard Institute of Politics conducted a study between October and November of 2007 on 1,289 U.S. citizens, ages 18-24 enrolled in four year colleges and universities and those who were not. Findings from the research revealed that young democrats favored Senator Barack Obama over Senator Hillary Clinton on college campuses, while Clinton edged among non-college youth. The numbers from the polls show 38 percent of 18-24 year olds will vote for Obama and 33 percent for Clinton.

The 2008 election campaign has proved that young voters do matter, and their power to elect the next president of the United States is more than just child's-play. Great efforts have been made to reach young vot-

ers, and as a result, they feel that they are inclined to vote for the candidate that best appeals to them and their needs. This outpour of youth participation is evident, with the increase of young voters from the 2004 election to now. Young people were 9 percent of the overall Democratic primary vote in 2004 and increased to 14 percent in 2008.

Although race and gender have been the major variables in this race for the democratic nomination, Senator Barack Obama has managed to have support from the masses, and so has Clinton.

Elizabeth City State University's Jason A. Mitchell age 27, Lecturer of Communication Studies, feels that Barack Obama is the voice of the people and that he is reaching out to the youth more, by addressing their issues and visiting college campuses, especially HBCU. Mitchell said that Obama is unlike past African American candidates who ran for president, in that he has a credible political background.

On the other hand, Jermaine Cofield, a 24 year old Elizabeth City resident and non-college student says he will vote for Hillary Clinton. "Her husband will help her win the election, and he knows how to run this country," Cofield said.

Many voters feel the same way Mr. Cofield feels, that Bill Clinton's experience will be the backbone of Clinton's presidency. The question is, will this hurt Hillary and weaken her image as a stand alone candidate, or is this enough to sway young democratic voters? Barack Obama, the new kid on the block who has gained mass appeal and has stood his ground, has a chance to win, but what more does he need to take home the victory?