
ABC News/Washington Post John McCain
Departure Poll, March 2000

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST JOHN MCCAIN DEPARTURE POLL,
MARCH 2000

(ICPSR 2970)

Principal Investigators

ABC News/The Washington Post

First ICPSR Version
November 2000

Inter-university Consortium for
Political and Social Research
P.O. Box 1248
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DATA COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

ABC News/The Washington Post

ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST JOHN MCCAIN DEPARTURE POLL, MARCH 2000 (ICPSR 2970)

SUMMARY: This poll, fielded March 8, 2000, the eve of Arizona senator John McCain's announcement that he was withdrawing from the presidential race, is part of a continuing series of monthly surveys that solicit public opinion on the presidency and on a range of other political and social issues. Respondents were asked whether they intended to vote in the November 7, 2000, presidential election and for whom they would vote if the election were held that day, given a choice between Vice President Al Gore (Democrat), Texas governor George W. Bush (Republican), Arizona senator John McCain (Republican), and conservative commentator Pat Buchanan (Reform). Those queried were asked whether Bush or Gore better understood the problems of the American people, was a strong leader, would bring change to Washington, DC, was intelligent, and was mature enough to be president. Views were sought on which candidate was best able to address gun control, campaign finance reform, protecting patients' rights in the health care system, taxes, foreign affairs, protecting Social Security, health care, Medicare, the economy, education, the environment, and abortion. An additional question asked respondents whether they thought that Gore was too close to President Bill Clinton. Background information on respondents includes age, gender, political party, political orientation, voter registration and participation history, education, religion, Hispanic origin, labor union membership, and household income.

NOTE: (1) The data are provided as an SPSS portable file. (2) This collection has not been processed by ICPSR staff. ICPSR is distributing the data and documentation for this collection in essentially the same form in which they were received. When appropriate, documentation has been converted to Portable Document Format (PDF), data files have been converted to non-platform-specific formats, and variables have been recoded to ensure respondents' anonymity. (3) The codebook is provided by ICPSR as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file. The PDF file format was developed by Adobe Systems Incorporated and can be accessed using PDF reader software, such as the Adobe Acrobat Reader. Information on how to obtain a copy of the Acrobat Reader is provided on the ICPSR Web site.

EXTENT OF COLLECTION: 1 data file + machine-readable documentation (PDF)

EXTENT OF PROCESSING: REFORM.DATA/ REFORM.DOC

Cases: 1,218

Variables: 69

ABC News/Washington Post State Code List (No Polling done in Alaska or Hawaii)

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- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 01. Maine | 25. West Virginia |
| 02. New Hampshire | 26. Virginia |
| 03. Vermont | 27. North Carolina |
| 04. Massachusetts | 28. South Caroline |
| 05. Connecticut | 29. Georgia |
| 06. Rhode Island | 30. Florida |
| 07. New York | 31. Mississippi |
| 08. New Jersey | 32. Alabama |
| 09. Pennsylvania | 33. Tennessee |
| 10. Ohio | 34. Kentucky |
| 11. Indiana | 35. Arkansas |
| 12. Illinois | 36. Louisiana |
| 13. Michigan | 37. Texas |
| 14. Wisconsin | 38. Oklahoma |
| 15. Minnesota | 39. New Mexico |
| 16. Iowa | 40. Arizona |
| 17. Missouri | 41. Nevada |
| 18. Kansas | 42. Utah |
| 19. Nebraska | 43. Colorado |
| 20. South Dakota | 44. Wyoming |
| 21. North Dakota | 45. Montana |
| 22. Delaware | 46. Idaho |
| 23. Maryland | 47. Washington |
| 24. District of Columbia | 48. Oregon |
| | 49. California |

ABC News/Washington Post Region Codes

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- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1 | NEW ENGLAND | Connecticut | New Hampshire |
| | | Maine | Rhode Island |
| | | Massachusetts | Vermont |
| 2 | MIDDLE ATLANTIC | New Jersey | |
| | | New York | |
| | | Pennsylvania | |
| 3 | EAST NORTH CENTRAL | Illinois | Ohio |
| | | Indiana | Wisconsin |
| | | Michigan | |
| 4 | WEST NORTH CENTRAL | Iowa | Nebraska |
| | | Kansas | North Dakota |
| | | Minnesota | South Dakota |
| | | Missouri | |
| 5 | SOUTH ATLANTIC | Delaware | North Carolina |
| | | District of Columbia | South Carolina |
| | | Florida | Virginia |
| | | Georgia | West Virginia |
| | | Maryland | |
| 6 | EAST SOUTH CENTRAL | Alabama | Mississippi |
| | | Kentucky | Tennessee |
| 7 | WEST SOUTH CENTRAL | Arkansas | Oklahoma |
| | | Louisiana | Texas |
| 8 | MOUNTAIN | Arizona | Nevada |
| | | Colorado | New Mexico |
| | | Idaho | Utah |
| | | Montana | Wyoming |
| 9 | PACIFIC | Alaska | Oregon |
| | | California | Washington |
| | | Hawaii | |

ABC News/Washington Post State Codes

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ALA	01	Alabama	MON	27	Montana
LAS	02	Alaska	NEB	28	Nebraska
ARI	03	Arizona	NEV	29	Nevada
ARK	04	Arkansas	N/H	30	New hampshire
CAL	05	California	N/J	31	New Jersey
COL	06	Colorado	N/M	32	New Mexico
CON	07	Connecticut	N/Y	33	New York
DEL	08	Delaware	N/C	34	North Carolina
D/C	09	District of Columbia	N/D	35	North Dakota
FLO	10	Florida	OHI	36	Ohio
GEO	11	Georgia	OKL	37	Oklahoma
HAW	12	Hawaii	ORE	38	Oregon
IDA	13	Idaho	PEN	39	Pennsylvania
ILL	14	Illinois	R/I	40	Rhode Island
IND	15	Indiana	S/C	41	South Carolina
IOW	16	Iowa	S/D	42	South Dakota
KAN	17	Kansas	TEN	43	Tennessee
KEN	18	Kentucky	TEX	44	Texas
LOU	19	Louisiana	UTA	45	Utah
MAI	20	Maine	VER	46	Vermont
MAR	21	Maryland	VIR	47	Virginia
MAS	22	Massachusetts	WAS	48	Washington
MIC	23	Michigan	W/V	49	West Virginia
MIN	24	Minnesota	WIS	50	Wisconsin
MIS	25	Mississippi	WYO	51	Wyoming
ISS	26	Missouri			

ABC News/Washington Post Region Codes

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1 EAST

Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

2 MIDWEST

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Dakota
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin

3 SOUTH

Alabama
Arkansas
Florida
Georgia
Kentucky
Louisiana
Mississippi
North Carolina
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Virginia
West Virginia

4 WEST

Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming

TNS INTERSEARCH
Horsham, PA

#DL-13690
March 8, 2000
FINAL

(NATIONAL POLL: MCCAIN DEPARTURE)

INTRODUCTION: Hello, I'm calling from TNS Intersearch.
We are doing a survey for ABC News and The Washington Post on some
current events.

Our research experts have randomly selected the person in
your household that I should speak to, so that all types of
people will be represented in our survey. Thinking of all the
male/female adults 18 years of age and older, living in this
household and who are currently at home . . . may I please speak
to the one who last had a birthday? **(IF NO MALE/FEMALE IN THE
HOUSEHOLD, ASK: Then may I please speak to the female/male who
last had a birthday?) (REPEAT INTRODUCTION IF NEEDED)**

1. How closely are you following the 2000 presidential race: very
closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Somewhat closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not closely at all
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

2. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the 2000
presidential election in November: Are you absolutely certain to vote,
will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

- 1 Absolutely certain to vote
- 2 Probably vote
- 3 Chances 50-50
- 4 Less than 50-50
- 5 Don't think will vote (vol.)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE NAME IN PARENTHESES****

3. If the election for president in November 2000 were being held
today, and the candidates were (Al Gore, the Democrat), and (George W.
Bush, the Republican), for whom would you vote?

- 1 Al Gore (SKIP TO Q.4)
- 2 George W. Bush (SKIP TO Q.4)
- 3 (VOL.) OTHER (ASK Q.3a)
- 4 (VOL.) NONE (ASK Q.3a)
- 5 (VOL.) Would not vote (SKIP TO Q.4)
- 8 DK/No opinion (ASK Q.3a)
- 9 NA/Refused (ASK Q.3a)

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE NAME IN PARENTHESES in same order as Q3****

3a. Who would you lean toward, (Al Gore, the Democrat) or (George W. Bush, the Republican)?

- 1 Al Gore (ASK Q.4)
- 2 George W. Bush (ASK Q.4)
- 3 (VOL.) OTHER (ASK Q.4)
- 4 (VOL.) NONE (ASK Q.4)
- 5 (VOL.) Would not vote (ASK Q.4)
- 8 DK/No opinion (ASK Q.4)
- 9 NA/Refused (ASK Q.4)

****AUTHOR NOTE:ROTATE NAME IN PARENTHESES*****

4. How about if the candidates were (Al Gore, the Democrat), (George W. Bush, the Republican) and (Pat Buchanan, the Reform Party candidate), for whom would you vote?

- 1 Al Gore (SKIP TO Q.5)
- 2 George W. Bush (SKIP TO Q.5)
- 3 Pat Buchanan (SKIP TO Q.5)
- 4 (VOL.) NONE (ASK Q.4a)
- 5 (VOL.) OTHER (ASK Q.4a)
- 6 (VOL.) Would not vote (SKIP TO Q.5)
- 8 DK/No opinion (ASK Q4a)
- 9 NA/Refused (ASK Q4a)

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE NAME IN PARENTHESES, ALSO REPRESENT NAMES IN SAME ORDER AS Q.4*****

4a. Who would you lean toward, (Al Gore, the Democrat, (George W. Bush, the Republican) or (Pat Buchanan, the Reform Party candidate)?

- 1 Al Gore (ASK Q.5)
- 2 George W. Bush (ASK Q.5)
- 3 Pat Buchanan (ASK Q.5)
- 4 (VOL.) NONE (ASK Q.5)
- 5 (VOL.) OTHER (ASK Q.5)
- 6 (VOL.) Would not vote (ASK Q.5)
- 8 DK/No opinion (ASK Q.5)
- 9 NA/Refused (ASK Q.5)

****AUTHOR NOTE:ROTATE NAME IN PARENTHESES*****

5. How about if the candidates were (Al Gore, the Democrat), (George W. Bush, the Republican) and (John McCain, the Reform Party candidate), for whom would you vote?

- 1 Al Gore (SKIP TO Q.6)
- 2 George W. Bush (SKIP TO Q.6)
- 3 John McCain (SKIP TO Q.6)
- 4 (VOL.) NONE (ASK Q.5a)
- 5 (VOL.) OTHER (ASK Q.5a)
- 6 (VOL.) Would not vote (SKIP TO Q.6)
- 8 DK/No opinion (ASK Q5a)
- 9 NA/Refused (ASK Q5a)

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE NAME IN PARENTHESIS, ALSO REPRESENT NAMES IN SAME ORDER AS Q.5*****

5a. Who would you lean toward, (Al Gore, the Democrat, (George W. Bush, the Republican) or (John McCain, the Reform Party candidate)?

- 1 Al Gore
- 2 George W. Bush
- 3 John McCain
- 4 (VOL.) NONE
- 5 (VOL.) OTHER
- 6 (VOL.) Would not vote
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

****AUTHOR NOTE: SCRAMBLE ORDER OF ITEMS A-E, SCRAMBLE BUSH/GORE.
EXAMPLE: RESPONDENT WOULD RECEIVE ALL ATTRIBUTES APPLYING TO BUSH, THEN ALL ATTRIBUTES TO GORE****

ALWAYS ASK ALL ATTRIBUTES IN Q6 FIRST THEN ATTRIBUTES IN 6a.

6. Please tell me whether the following statement applies to (Bush/Gore), or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

6a. Does it apply to (Bush/Gore), or not?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

- A. He understands the problems of people like you
- B. He is a strong leader
- C. He would bring needed change to Washington
- D. He's very intelligent
- E. He's mature enough to take on the responsibilities of the presidency

*****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE GORE/BUSH (SCRAMBLE LIST, ASK A-F of Half Sample, ASK G-L of Half Sample), ALSO ROTATE NAMES IN PARENTHESSES*****

7. Which candidate, (Gore) or (Bush), do you trust to do a better job on (INSERT ITEM)... How about on...(INSERT ITEM)

- A. Handling the issue of gun control
- B. Reforming election campaign finance laws
- C. Protecting patients' rights in the health care system
- D. Holding taxes down
- E. Handling foreign affairs
- F. Protecting the Social Security system

- G. Improving the health care system
- H. Protecting the Medicare system
- I. Handling the national economy
- J. Improving education and the schools
- K. Protecting the environment
- L. Handling the abortion issue

- 1 Gore
- 2 Bush
- 3 Both equally (vol.)
- 4 Neither (vol.)
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

*****ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENTHESES*****

8. Which should be a higher priority for the next president - (cutting taxes) or (strengthening the Social Security system)?

- 1 Cutting taxes
- 2 Strengthening the Social Security System
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

9. Suppose that Gore is the Democratic nominee for president in November 2000 and Bush is the Republican nominee. Would you be satisfied with the choice of Gore or Bush, or would you want a third-party candidate to run?

- 1 Satisfied with choice
- 2 Third-party candidate
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2****

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (READ LIST)

- 1 A Democrat (SKIP TO Q.11)
- 2 A Republican (SKIP TO Q.10)
- 3 An Independent (ASK Q.904)
- 4 Or what? (ASK Q.904)
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)
- 8 DK/No opinion (ASK Q.904)
- 9 NA/Refused (ASK Q.904)

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE ORDER OF CODES 1 and 2 IN SAME ORDER AS Q.901****

904. Do you lean more towards the: (READ LIST)

- 1 Democratic Party (SKIP TO Q.11)
- 2 Or, Republican Party (SKIP TO Q.10)
- (DO NOT READ BELOW)
- 3 (VOL)Neither (SKIP TO Q.12)
- 8 DK/No opinion (SKIP TO Q.12)
- 9 NA/Refused (SKIP TO Q.12)

****AUTHOR NOTE: ASK ONLY AMONG LEANED REPUBLICANS (901=2;904=2)
SCRAMBLE LIST****

10. Who did you support for the Republican nomination for president this year - (George W. Bush). (John McCain) or (Alan Keyes)?

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. George W. Bush | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 2. John McCain | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 3. Alan Keyes | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 4. (VOL.) Other | (ASK Q.10a) |
| 5. (VOL.) None | (ASK Q.10a) |
| 6. (VOL.) Would not vote | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 88 DK/No opinion | (ASK Q.10a) |
| 99 NA/Refused | (ASK Q.10a) |

ASK 10a ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY NONE (5), OTHER (4), DK or REF TO 10
10a. Who did you lean toward? **REREAD LIST IF NECESSARY**

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. George W. Bush | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 2. John McCain | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 3. Alan Keyes | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 4. (VOL.) Other | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 5. (VOL.) None | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 6. (VOL.) Would not vote | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 88 DK/No opinion | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 99 NA/Refused | (SKIP TO Q.12) |

****ASK ONLY AMONG LEANED DEMOCRATS: (901=1;904=1). SCRAMBLE ORDER OF
"AL GORE" AND "BILL BRADLEY"*****

11. Who did you support for the Democratic nomination for president this year - (Al Gore) or (Bill Bradley)?

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Al Gore | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 2 Bill Bradley | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 3 (VOL.) Other | (ASK TO Q.11a) |
| 4 (VOL.) None | (ASK TO Q.11a) |
| 5 (VOL.) Would not vote | (SKIP TO Q.12) |
| 8 DK/No opinion | (ASK TO Q.11a) |
| 9 NA/Refused | (ASK TO Q.11a) |

ASK 11a ONLY OF THOSE WHO SAY OTHER (3), NONE (4), DK or REF TO 11
11a. Who did you lean toward? **REREAD LIST IF NECESSARY**

- | |
|-------------------------|
| 1 Al Gore |
| 2 Bill Bradley |
| 3 (VOL.) Other |
| 4 (VOL.) None |
| 5 (VOL.) Would not vote |
| 8 DK/No opinion |
| 9 NA/Refused |

PROGRAMMER NOTE: ROTATE QUESTIONS 12 and 13, insert "As you may know," in front of first question rotated

12. Bradley has dropped out of the Democratic race for president. Do you think Gore is the Democrats' best candidate, or do you think Bradley would have been the stronger Democratic candidate?

- 1 Al Gore best candidate
- 2 Bill Bradley stronger candidate
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

13. McCain has suspended his campaign in the Republican race for president. Do you think Bush is the Republicans best candidate, or do you think McCain would have been the stronger Republican candidate?

- 1 George W. Bush best candidate
- 2 John McCain stronger candidate
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

13a. If Bush chose John McCain as his vice presidential running mate, would that make you more likely to support Bush for president, less likely, or wouldn't it make much difference in your vote?

- 1 More likely
- 2 Less likely
- 3 No difference
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

****AUTHOR NOTE: ROTATE GORE AND BUSH****

14. Do you think (INSERT CANDIDATE NAME) views on most issues are too liberal for you, too conservative, or just about right?

- A. Gore's
- B. Bush's

- 1 Too liberal
- 2 Too conservative
- 3 Just about Right
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

15. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: Al Gore is too close to Bill Clinton to provide the fresh start the country needs. **(GET ANSWER THEN ASK: Do you feel that way strongly, or only somewhat?)**

- 1 Agree strongly
- 2 Agree somewhat
- 3 Disagree strongly
- 4 Disagree somewhat
- 8 DK/No opinion
- 9 NA/Refused

Now just a few more questions to help classify your answers:

905. Are you registered to vote at your present address, or not?

110

- Yes 1
- No 2
- DK/No opinion 8
- NA/Refused 9

906. As you may know, around half the public does not vote in presidential elections. How about you - did you vote in the presidential election in 1996 when Bill Clinton ran against Bob Dole and Ross Perot, or did you skip that one?

- Yes 1
- No 2 SKIP TO 908
- DK/No opinion 8 SKIP TO 908
- NA/Refused 9 SKIP TO 908

907. Which candidate did you vote for? (DO NOT READ LIST)

- Clinton 1
- Dole 2
- Perot 3
- Other 4
- DK/No opinion 8
- NA/Refused 9

908a. Would you say your views in most political matters are liberal, moderate, or conservative,?

113

- Liberal 1
- Moderate 2
- Conservative 3

(VOL)Don't think in those terms	4
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

909. What was the last grade of school you completed?

114

8th grade or less	1
Some high school	2
Graduated high school	3
Some college	4(ASK IF SCHOOL WAS A TECHNICAL SCHOOL; IF IT WAS, CIRCLE CODE 3, FOR HIGH SCHOOL)
Graduated College	5
Post-graduate	6
DK/No opinion	8
NA/Refused	9

910. What is your age?

115-18

DK/No opinion	8888
NA/Refused	9999

55. Do you consider yourself part of the conservative Christian political movement, also known as the religious right?

1	Yes
2	No
8	DK/No opinion
9	NA/Refused

911. In what religion were you brought up? (READ LIST)

Protestant	1
Catholic	2
Another Christian religion	3(ASK PROBE: WHAT DENOMINATION IS THAT? IF PROTESTANT DENOMINATION, CODE AS PROTESTANT)

Jewish	4
Or, another non-Christian religion	5
---DO NOT READ BELOW---	
None	6
NA/Refused	9

916. Do you or does anyone in your household belong to a labor union?

126

Only respondent belongs	1
Only other household member belongs	2
Both respondent and other household member belong	3
No union members	4
Not sure	8
NA/Refused	9

918. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?
 (IF "YES," ASK:) Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?

(IF "NO," ASK:) are you white, black, or some other race?

128

White	1
Black	2
White Hispanic	3
Black Hispanic	4
Hispanic(no race given)	5
Other Race	6
NA/Refused	9

919. If you added together the yearly incomes, before taxes, of all the members of your household for last year, 1999, would the total be:
 (READ LIST)

Less than \$30,000, or	1
\$30,000 or more	2(SKIP TO Q.919.2)
(DO NOT READ) NA/Refused	9(SKIP TO Q.920)

919.1 Would that be: (READ LIST)

Under \$8,000	1(SKIP TO Q.920)
\$8,000 but less than \$12,000	2(SKIP TO Q.920)
\$12,000 but less than \$20,000	3(SKIP TO Q.920)
\$20,000 but less than \$30,000	4(SKIP TO Q.920)
(DO NOT READ) NA/Refused	9(SKIP TO Q.920)

919.2 Would that be: (READ LIST)

\$30,000 but less than \$50,000	1
\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	2
Or more than \$75,000	3
(DO NOT READ)NA/Refused	9

920.1 May a reporter call you to talk about some of the things we've been discussing?

Yes	1
No	2(SKIP TO Q.921)
DK/No opinion	8(SKIP TO Q.921)
NA/Refused	9(SKIP TO Q.921)

920.2 May I please have your first name, so the reporter will know who to ask for:

RECORD GENDER
1 Male
2 Female

END