

Democracy Corps Congressional Battleground – Democratic-Held Districts Frequency Questionnaire

October 6-8, 2008

860 Likely Voters in 10 Democratic-held battleground districts

**(Alabama 05, California 11, Florida 16, Georgia 08, Kansas 02, Louisiana 06, New Hampshire 01,
Pennsylvania 10, Pennsylvania 11, Texas 22)**

Q.3 First of all, are you registered to vote at this address?

	Total
Yes	100
No.....	-
(Refused).....	-
(ref:SCREEN1)	

Q.4 Many people weren't able to vote in the 2004 election for president between George Bush and John Kerry. How about you? Were you able to vote, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

	Total
Voted.....	94
Not registered in 2004/Ineligible/too young	3
Did not vote	3
(Can't remember/Don't know).....	0
(Refused).....	-
(ref:VOTE00)	

Q.6 What are the chances of you voting in the election for president in 2008: are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don't you think you will vote?

	Total
Almost certain.....	96
Probably	2
50-50	-
Will not vote.....	-
(Don't know)	-
(Already voted)	2
(Refused).....	-
(ref:CP3)	

[18 Respondents]

Q.7 (IF ALREADY VOTED IN CP3) When you voted by absentee ballot or through early voting, did you vote by mail or in person?

	Total
By mail.....	43
In person	57
(Don't know/Refused).....	-
(ref:ABSENT4)	

Q.8 Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Total
Right direction	11
Wrong track	84
(Don't know/refused)	5
Right - Wrong.....	-74
(ref:DIRECT)	

Q.9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling his job as president?

	Total
Strongly approve	15
Somewhat approve	19
Somewhat disapprove.....	12
Strongly disapprove.....	50
(Don't know/refused)	4
Total approve.....	34
Total disapprove.....	62
Approve - disapprove	-28
(ref:CANDAPP2)	

Q.10 Do you approve or disapprove of the way (House incumbent)¹ is handling his/her job as a member of the U.S. Congress?

	Total
Strongly approve	21
Somewhat approve	28
Somewhat disapprove.....	10
Strongly disapprove.....	16
(Don't know/refused)	25
Total approve.....	49
Total disapprove.....	27
Approve - disapprove	22
(ref:CONGAPP)	

¹ For each district, the incumbent's name was inserted without a partisan label.

Q.11 Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with 100 meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and 50 meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred, the higher the number, the more favorable your feelings are toward that person or organization. If you have no opinion or never heard of that person or organization, please say so.

	% Mean	% Warm	% Cool	ID
11 The Republican Party	47.1	38	45	98
12 The Democratic Party	45.5	38	46	99
13 George W. Bush	38.2	33	55	99
[430 Respondents]				
14 (SPLIT A) The Congress.....	38.3	19	48	96
[430 Respondents]				
15 (SPLIT B) The Democratic Congress	41.8	34	47	98
16 Barack Obama	49.1	45	46	99
17 John McCain	52.5	50	39	99
18 The Republicans in Congress.....	43.3	30	48	97
19 Sarah Palin	50.7	46	40	94
20 Joe Biden	50.1	42	39	92
21 (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) ²	52.0	34	26	81
22 (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE).....	47.1	21	24	63
23 The N.R.A., or National Rifle Association	56.5	48	30	95
24 Pro-life, anti-abortion groups.....	51.4	41	38	98
25 NAFTA and international trade agreements	40.4	18	43	91
26 The Iraq War	40.0	34	52	99
27 Gay marriage	33.0	25	57	97
28 Immigration into the country.....	37.9	23	52	96
29 Big corporations	38.2	22	52	96
30 The state of the economy	24.6	9	77	99

² For questions 21 and 22, the applicable candidate names were inserted without party identification.

		%	%	%
	Mean	Warm	Cool	ID
[430 Respondents]				
31 (SPLIT A) Social Security	55.3	44	32	98

[430 Respondents]				
32 (SPLIT B) Social Security Privatization.....	37.9	26	52	94
(ref:THERM204/THERM04)				

Q.33 As you know, there will be elections in November for President and other offices. On a scale of one to ten, with one meaning NOT AT ALL interested and ten meaning VERY INTERESTED, please tell me how interested you are in this year's elections?

	Total
10	82
9	8
8	5
7	2
6	1
5	2
4	0
3	0
2	0
1	1
(Don't know/refused)	-
10	82
8-10	94
6-10	96
1-5	4
(ref:INTEREST)	

Q.36 Thinking about the election in November, if the election for president were held today and the candidates were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican John McCain, Libertarian Party candidate Bob Barr, Independent candidate Ralph Nader or Constitution Party candidate Ron Paul, for whom would you vote?

	Total
Democrat Barack Obama.....	43
Lean Democrat Barack Obama.....	1
Republican John McCain	48
Lean Republican John McCain	1
(Other candidate)	0
Lean (Other candidate)	-
Ralph Nader	2
Lean Ralph Nader	0
Bob Barr	2
Lean Bob Barr	-
Ron Paul.....	1
Lean Ron Paul.....	-
(Undecided).....	1
(Refused).....	1
Total Democrat Barack Obama	44
Total Republican John McCain	49
Total Ralph Nader.....	3
Total Bob Barr	2
Total Ron Paul	1
Total (Other candidate).....	0
(ref:PRES086/ PRES08AV)	

Allocated Vote

Q.38 Well, if the election for President were held today and the candidates were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain, for whom would you vote?

	Total
Barack Obama	46
John McCain	51
(Undecided/Refused)	3
(ref:PRE2WAY)	

Q.41 Thinking about the election for Congress in November, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for – (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) or (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE)³?

	Total
Democratic candidate.....	50
Lean Democratic candidate.....	3
Republican candidate.....	39
Lean Republican candidate.....	3
(Other candidate)	0
Lean (Other candidate)	0
(Undecided).....	3
(Refused).....	1
Total Democratic candidate	54
Total Republican candidate.....	42
Total (Other candidate).....	1

(ref:CONG06/CONG06AV)

Q.43 Even though you are not supporting (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) now, what are the chances that you might support (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) in the election for Congress in November -- is there a fair chance that you might support that candidate, a small chance, just a very slight chance, or no chance at all that you might support that candidate?

	Total
Fair chance.....	6
A small chance	6
Just a very slight chance	9
No chance at all.....	24
(Don't know/Refused).....	2
Democratic candidate Supporter.....	53

(ref:CONG06C)

Q.44 Even though you are not supporting (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) now, what are the chances that you might support (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) in the election for Congress in November -- is there a fair chance that you might support that candidate, a small chance, just a very slight chance, or no chance at all that you might support that candidate?

	Total
Fair chance.....	7
A small chance	8
Just a very slight chance	11
No chance at all.....	29
(Don't know/Refused).....	2
Republican candidate Supporter	42

(ref:CONG06D)

³ For each district, the candidates' names were inserted, preceded by their party identification.

Q.45 Have you seen, heard, or read anything recently about (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE)⁴?

	Total
Yes	57
No.....	42
(DK/refused).....	0
(ref:RRECALL)	

[494 Respondents]

Q.46 (IF YES IN RRECALL) Thinking back to the last month or so, have the things you've seen, heard, or read about (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) made you feel more favorable or less favorable toward him/her, or haven't they made any difference?

	Total
More favorable	20
Less favorable	26
(No difference).....	53
(DK/Refused).....	1
More favorable - Less favorable	-6
(ref:RFAV)	

Q.47 Have you seen, heard, or read anything recently about (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE)?

	Total
Yes	71
No.....	29
(DK/refused).....	1
(ref:DRECALL)	

[608 Respondents]

Q.48 (IF YES IN DRECALL) Thinking back to the last month or so, have the things you've seen, heard, or read about (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) made you feel more favorable or less favorable toward him/her, or haven't they made any difference?

	Total
More favorable	27
Less favorable	24
(No difference).....	47
(DK/Refused).....	1
More favorable - Less favorable	3
(ref:DFAV)	

⁴ For questions 45 through 48, the applicable candidate names were inserted without party identification.

[765 Respondents]

Q.49 (SKIP IF OPEN SEAT) Now, I am going to read you a list of words and phrases which people use to describe political figures. For each word or phrase, please tell me whether it describes (HOUSE INCUMBENT)⁵ very well, well, not too well or not well at all.

	Very Well	Well	Not Too Well	Not Well At All	DK/Ref	Total Well	Total Not Well	Well - Not
49 Will bring the right kind of change.....	16	30	20	19	15	47	39	8
50 Follows Barack Obama's direction too much	17	19	24	16	23	37	40	-3
51 Out of touch	12	15	34	25	15	26	59	-33
52 Fights for people here	22	33	17	14	14	55	31	24
53 On your side.....	17	31	21	17	14	47	39	9
54 Is effective in Congress.....	17	33	22	14	15	50	35	15
55 Part of the mess in Washington..... (ref:ATRIB)	17	19	30	20	14	36	50	-13

Q.56 Now I am going to ask you something different. I am going to read a list of issues and I want you to tell me whether, overall, you think (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) or (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE)⁶ would do a better job with this issue. If you do not know, just tell me and we will move on to the next item.

	Dem Much More	Dem Smwt More	Rep Smwt More	Rep Much More	Both	Neither	DK Ref	Total Dem	Total Rep	Dem - Rep
56 The economy	24	20	17	18	1	3	17	45	34	10
57 Taxes	22	21	16	22	1	2	16	43	38	4
58 Retirement and Social Security	25	20	15	17	0	2	22	45	31	13
59 Handling illegal immigration	17	18	15	22	1	2	25	35	37	-2
60 Bringing the right kind of change	27	18	16	19	0	2	18	45	35	10
61 Breaking the gridlock in Washington	19	21	17	17	0	6	20	40	34	6
62 Sharing your values	27	18	15	22	0	2	16	45	37	8

⁵ For each district, the incumbent's name was inserted without a partisan label.

⁶ For each district, the candidates' names were inserted, preceded by their party identification.

	Dem Much More	Dem Smwt More	Rep Smwt More	Rep Much More	Both	Nei ther	DK Ref	Total Dem	Total Rep	Dem - Rep
63 Being effective in Congress.....	25	24	14	18	1	2	17	49	32	17
64 Fighting for people here ...	27	21	14	19	1	2	16	48	33	15
65 The financial crisis in the country (ref:BETJOB3)	23	20	16	19	0	3	19	43	35	8

Q.66 Now I'd like to ask you which congressional candidate has tried more to reach you in this campaign in different ways, (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) or (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE)⁷?

	Dem Much More	Dem Smwt More	Rep Smwt More	Rep Much More	Both	Nei ther	DK/ Ref	Total Dem	Total Rep	Dem - Rep
[430 Respondents] 66 (SPLIT A) Received emails from the campaign or other political organizations.....	11	6	2	5	3	68	6	16	7	9
[430 Respondents] 67 (SPLIT B) Received information through watching advertisements on television	16	16	10	6	15	33	4	32	16	16
[430 Respondents] 68 (SPLIT A) Visited a campaign or candidate-sponsored website	9	6	4	5	3	64	10	15	8	7
[430 Respondents] 69 (SPLIT B) Received printed materials in the mail from the campaign or another political organization	17	15	7	4	11	43	4	32	12	20
[430 Respondents] 70 (SPLIT B) Spoken with someone who came to your door from the campaign or another political organization	6	5	2	4	1	77	4	12	7	5

⁷ For each district, the candidates' names were inserted, preceded by their party identification.

	Dem	Dem	Rep	Rep		Nei	DK/	Total	Total	Dem
	Much	Smwt	Smwt	Much	Both	ther	Ref	Dem	Rep	-
	More	More	More	More						Rep

[430 Respondents]

71 (SPLIT A) Received phone calls from the campaign or other political organizations..... 12 8 2 5 5 62 7 **20** **7** **13**
(ref:ASSOCAD3)

Q.72 Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

	1st	1st	2nd	2nd		Nei-	DK/	Total	Total	1st
	Stmg	Not	Not	Stmg	Both	ther	Ref	1st	2nd	-
	Strng	Strng	Strng	Strng				Stmg	Stmg	2nd

[765 Respondents]

72 (DO NOT ASK IN OPEN SEATS) In November, I CAN'T vote to reelect (HOUSE INCUMBENT)⁸ because we need new people that will work to bring the changes we need.
OR
In November, I WILL vote to reelect (HOUSE INCUMBENT) because he/she is doing a good job and addressing issues that are important to us..... 32 12 15 33 0 2 6 **44** **48** **-3**

73 In November I really want to be able to vote for a Democrat for Congress because at least he or she will fight for change.
OR
In November I will vote for (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE)⁹ because the new Democratic Congress is just business as usual and getting no more done than the last one..... 39 9 8 36 0 4 4 **48** **44** **5**

⁸ For each district, the incumbent's name was inserted without a partisan label.

⁹ For each district, the candidate's names was inserted, preceded by his or her party identification.

	1st Stmt Strng	1st Not Strng	2nd Not Strng	2nd Stmt Strng	Both	Nei- ther	DK/ Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
74 I'm more concerned that (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) will continue the economic policies that have cost us jobs and caused higher prices. OR I'm more concerned that (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) will raise taxes and increase government spending.	35	11	11	33	1	5	5	46	44	2

[430 Respondents]

75 (SPLIT A) When I saw that Congress passed the bailout plan I was relieved because I thought it might help the economy. OR When I saw that Congress passed the bailout plan I was upset because it bails out Wall Street and raises the deficit.....	18	19	11	44	1	3	3	38	56	-18
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[430 Respondents]

76 (SPLIT B) The Congress should now take action to help the economy get out of recession. OR After spending so much on the bailout, Congress can't afford to do more on the economy.	46	11	12	23	0	3	5	57	35	22
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	1st Stmt Strng	1st Not Strng	2nd Not Strng	2nd Stmt Strng	Both	Nei- ther	DK/ Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd
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[430 Respondents]

77 (SPLIT A) The financial crisis and the sinking economy and what's happening in Washington is leading me to want to vote for Democrats.

OR

The financial crisis and the sinking economy and what's happening in Washington is leading me to want to vote for

Republicans.	44	5	6	38	-	5	2	49	44	5
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[430 Respondents]

78 (SPLIT B) The financial crisis and the sinking economy and what's happening in Washington is leading me to want to vote against Republicans.

OR

The financial crisis and the sinking economy and what's happening in Washington is leading me to want to vote against

Democrats.....	41	8	6	38	1	5	2	49	44	5
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(ref:VALUES06)

Q.79 Now I am going to read you a pair of statements that might be made by the congressional candidates about Social Security. Please tell me whether the Democrat's statement or the Republican's statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

(DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE)¹⁰ says that (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) supports George Bush's risky plan to privatize Social Security benefits, which would cut the guaranteed benefits that people worked a lifetime earning and gamble their retirement money on the volatile stock market. I'll fight any efforts to privatize Social Security and work to shore up the system by putting the Social Security Trust Fund off-limits so Congress can't raid it to fund new government spending.

OR

(REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) says if we don't reform Social Security the system won't be able to pay the benefits promised to our children. I am against privatization but we need to make Social Security solvent by giving younger Americans the choice of investing some of their payroll taxes into safe long-term investments while guaranteeing that older Americans won't see their benefits touched. (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE)'s only solution to fixing Social Security is to raise taxes on millions of Americans.

	Total
Democratic statement strongly	32
Democratic statement somewhat	16
Republican statement somewhat	18
Republican statement strongly	28
(Both).....	0
(Neither)	3
(Don't know/refused)	4
Total Democrats	48
Total Republicans	45
Democrats - Republicans	2
(ref:SSPAIR)	

¹⁰ For questions 79 through 81, the candidate's name was inserted at the introduction of each statement with party identification and the opposing candidate's name was inserted in each statement without party identification.

[430 Respondents]

Q.80 (SPLIT C) Now I am going to read you a pair of statements that might be made by the congressional candidates about the economy. Please tell me whether the Democrat's statement or the Republican's statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

(DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) says George Bush's policies and greedy Wall Street investors have left our financial markets in turmoil, put our home values and retirement at risk and destroyed nearly a million American jobs this year alone. But (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) wants to continue the Bush policies of rewarding Wall Street and corporations that outsource with more tax breaks while giving next-to-no tax relief to middle class families. We need a new direction that gets our economy back on track by putting the middle class first.

OR

(REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) says I broke with President Bush and the Republican leadership to oppose the giant Wall Street bailout because I didn't think American taxpayers should be forced to bail out greedy banks that didn't play by the rules. We need to get our economy back on track by reigning in runaway spending and lowering taxes on American families and small businesses. (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) is tax-and-spend liberal who will bloat the government and raise our taxes when we can least afford it.

	Total
Democratic statement strongly	33
Democratic statement somewhat	13
Republican statement somewhat	14
Republican statement strongly	32
(Both).....	0
(Neither)	4
(Don't know/refused)	3
Total Democrats	47
Total Republicans	46
Democrats - Republicans	1

(ref:ECONPAIR)

[430 Respondents]

Q.81 (SPLIT D) Now I am going to read you a pair of statements that might be made by the congressional candidates about the economy. Please tell me whether the Democrat's statement or the Republican's statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

(DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) says we need to get our economy back on track by cracking down on Wall Street greed, cutting taxes for the middle class, investing in alternative energy to create millions of high-quality jobs, eliminating tax breaks for companies that outsource jobs and instead giving them to companies that create jobs here. (REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) wants to continue George Bush's policies that have left our financial markets in turmoil, put our retirement at risk and destroyed nearly a million American jobs.

OR

(REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE) says I broke with President Bush and the Republican leadership to oppose the giant Wall Street bailout because I didn't think American taxpayers should be forced to bail out greedy banks that didn't play by the rules. We need to get our economy back on track by reigning in runaway spending and lowering taxes on American families and small businesses. (DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE) is tax-and-spend liberal who will bloat the government and raise our taxes when we can least afford it.

	Total
Democratic statement strongly	37
Democratic statement somewhat	15
Republican statement somewhat	14
Republican statement strongly	28
(Both).....	-
(Neither)	3
(Don't know/refused)	3
Total Democrats	52
Total Republicans	42
Democrats - Republicans	10
(ref:ECOPAIR2)	

Q.82 Finally, I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Total
1 - 11th grade	3
High School graduate.....	23
Non-college post H.S.	1
Some college.....	28
College graduate	27
Post-graduate school	17
(Don't know/refused)	1
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.83 Are you a member of a labor union?

	Total
Yes: Respondent belongs	11
Household member	9
No member belongs	79
(Don't know/Refused)	1
Union Household.....	20
(ref:UNION)	

Q.84 Are you married, single, separated, divorced, or widowed?

	Total
Married	69
Single	13
Separated/Divorced.....	11
Widowed.....	6
(Don't know/refused)	1
Sep/Div/Wid.....	17
(ref:MARITAL)	

Q.85 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or what?

	Total
Strong Democrat	25
Weak Democrat.....	11
Independent-lean Democrat.....	10
Independent	4
Independent-lean Republican	10
Weak Republican	14
Strong Republican.....	26
(Don't know/refused)	1
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.88 Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

	Total
Liberal.....	15
Moderate	37
Conservative	45
(Don't know/refused)	4
(ref:IDEO1)	

Q.89 What is your religion?

	Total
Protestant	54
Catholic	25
Jewish	2
Muslim	0
(Don't know/refused)	19
(ref:RELIG1)	

[469 Respondents]

Q.90 (ASK IF PROTESTANT IN RELIG1) Which one of these words best describes your kind of Christianity -- fundamentalist, evangelical, charismatic, Pentecostal or moderate to liberal?

	Total
Fundamentalist.....	14
Evangelical.....	25
Charismatic/Pentecostal.....	9
Moderate to liberal.....	38
(Something else).....	5
(Don't know/Refused).....	9
(ref:RELIG3)	

Q.91 How often do you attend religious services -- every week, once or twice a month, several times a year, or hardly ever?

	Total
Every week.....	41
Once or twice a month.....	16
Several times a year.....	14
Hardly ever.....	21
(Never).....	5
(Don't know/Refused).....	3
(ref:RELIG2)	

[807 Respondents]

Q.92 (ASK IF VOTED IN VOTE00) In the 2004 election for President, did you vote for Democrat John Kerry or Republican George Bush?

	Total
Democrat John Kerry.....	39
Republican George Bush.....	55
(Ralph Nader).....	0
(Other candidate).....	1
(Don't know/Refused).....	4
(ref:VOTE2004)	

Q.93 As you know, there was an election for Congress and other offices in November 2006. Many people weren't able to vote. How about you? Were you able to vote or for some reason were you unable to vote?

	Total
Voted.....	80
Did not vote.....	18
(Can't remember/Don't know).....	2
(Refused).....	1
(ref:VOTE06)	

[685 Respondents]

Q.94 (ASK IF VOTED IN VOTE06) In the 2006 election for Congress, did you vote for (2006 HOUSE DEMOCRAT) or (2006 HOUSE REPUBLICAN)?

	Total
House Democrat	55
House Republican	34
(Other candidate)	3
(Don't know/Refused)	8
(ref:VOTE2006)	

Q.95 What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

	Total
White	78
African-American or Black.....	7
Hispanic or Latino.....	9
Native American	1
Asian	1
(Other)	1
(Don't know/Refused)	3
(ref:RACETHN)	

[77 Respondents]

Q.97 (ASK IF HISPANIC OR LATINO IN RACETHN OR IF YES IN RACETHN2) Would you describe your Hispanic origin as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Salvadoran or are you and your ancestors from another country?

	Total
Mexican	33
Puerto Rican.....	15
Cuban.....	4
Dominican	-
Salvadoran	-
Other: Central America.....	4
Other: South America.....	2
Other	37
(Don't know/Refused)	5
(ref:ORIGIN08)	

Q.2 Record respondent's gender

	Total
Male.....	47
Female	53
(ref:GENDER)	

Q.5 In what year were you born?

	Total
18 - 24	4
25 - 29	7
30 - 34	9
35 - 39	8
40 - 44	9
45 - 49	11
50 - 54	12
55 - 59	11
60 - 64	10
Over 64.....	18
(No answer).....	1
(ref:AGE)	