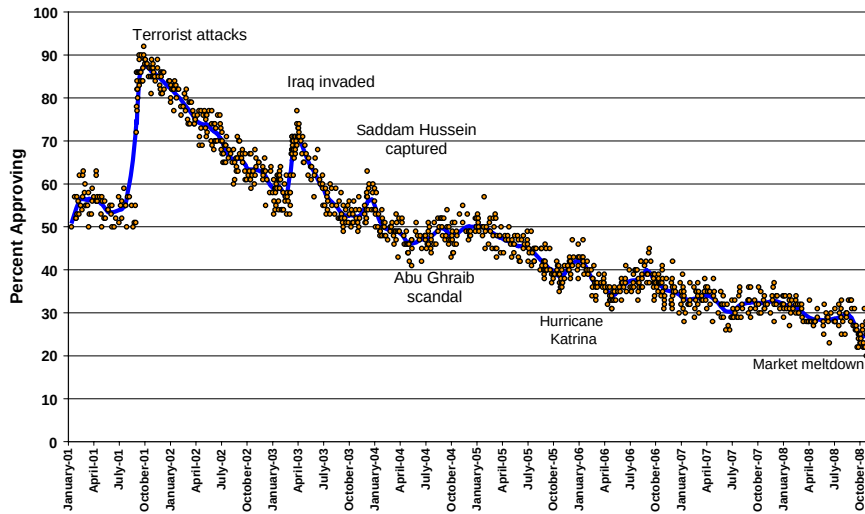


What the 2008 Election Meant: Politics and Governance

Gary Jacobson
University of California, San Diego

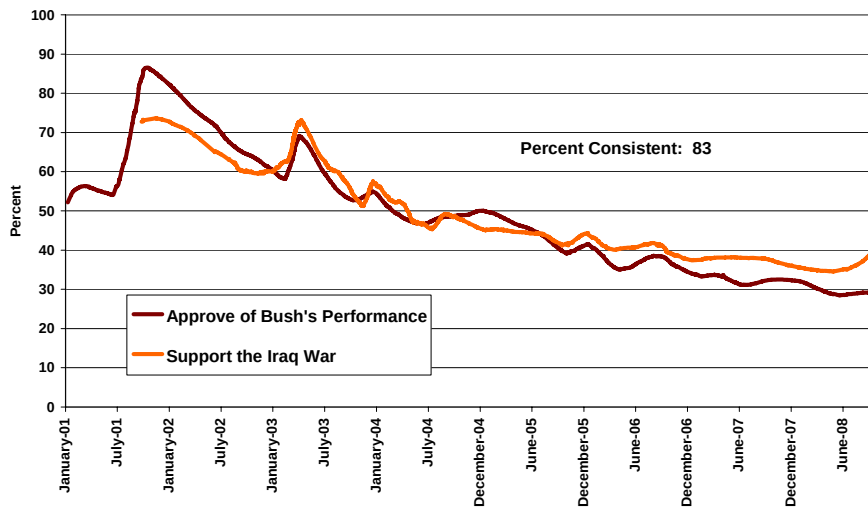
Presented at an event hosted by the Governance Studies Program at the Brookings Institution in partnership with the Center for the Study of Democratic Politics at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs

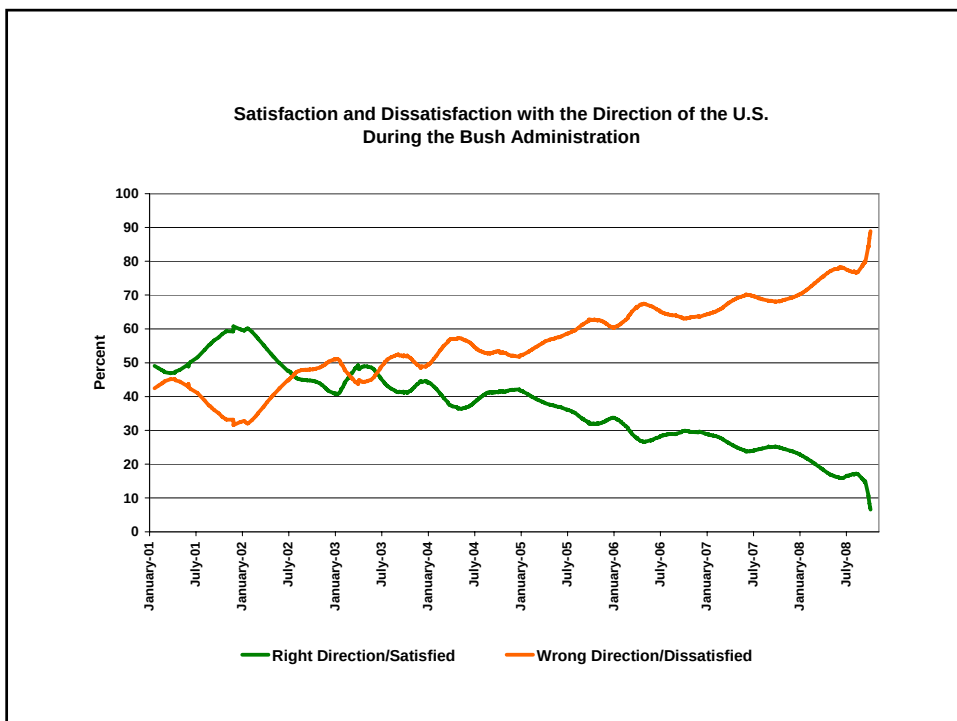
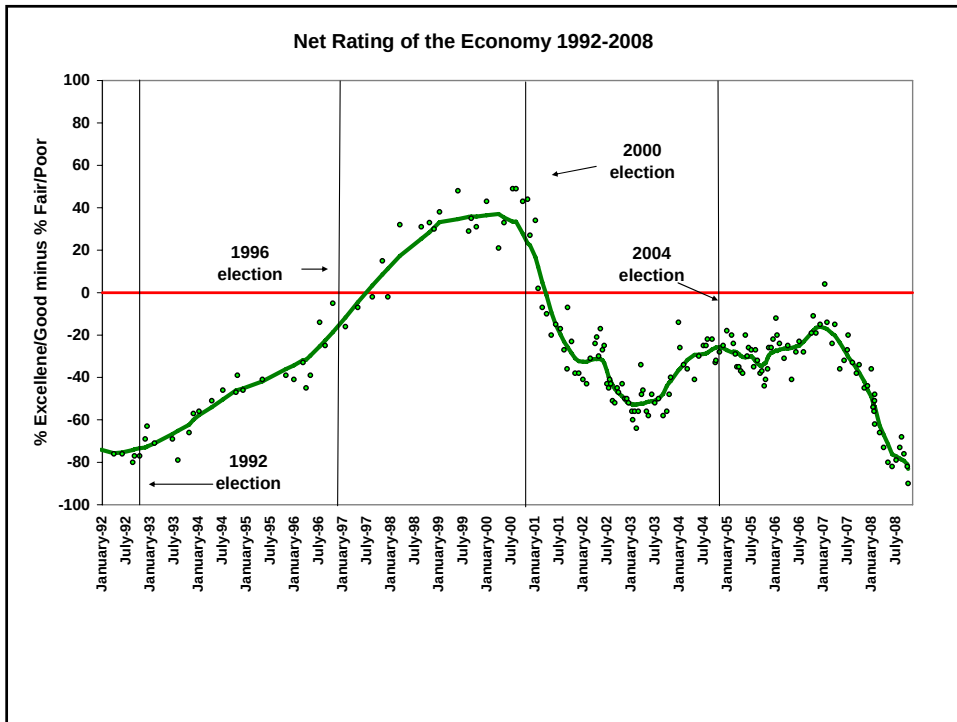
Approval of George W. Bush's Job Performance, 2001-2008



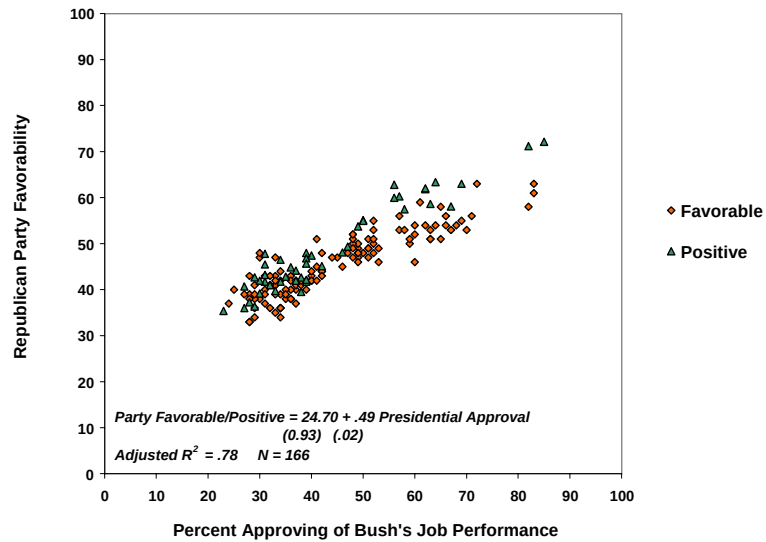
Source: 1004 national polls take by 14 major media polling organizations, reported at <http://www.pollingreport.com>.

Support for the Iraq War and Approval of G.W. Bush's Job Performance

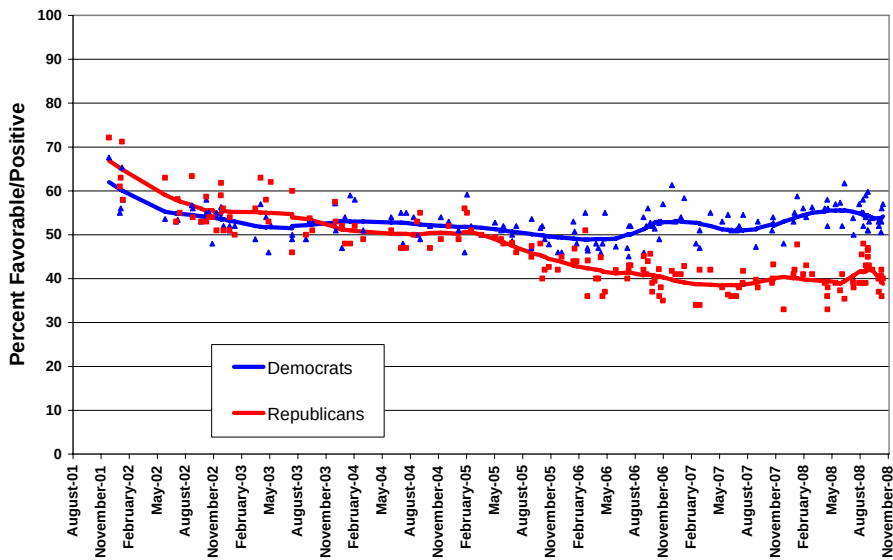


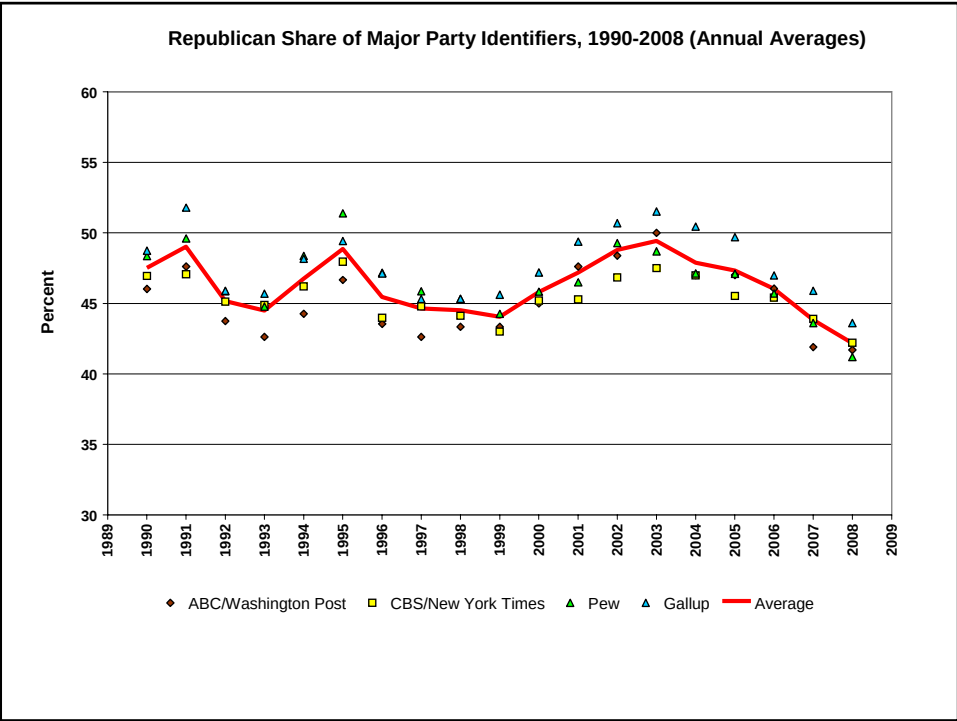
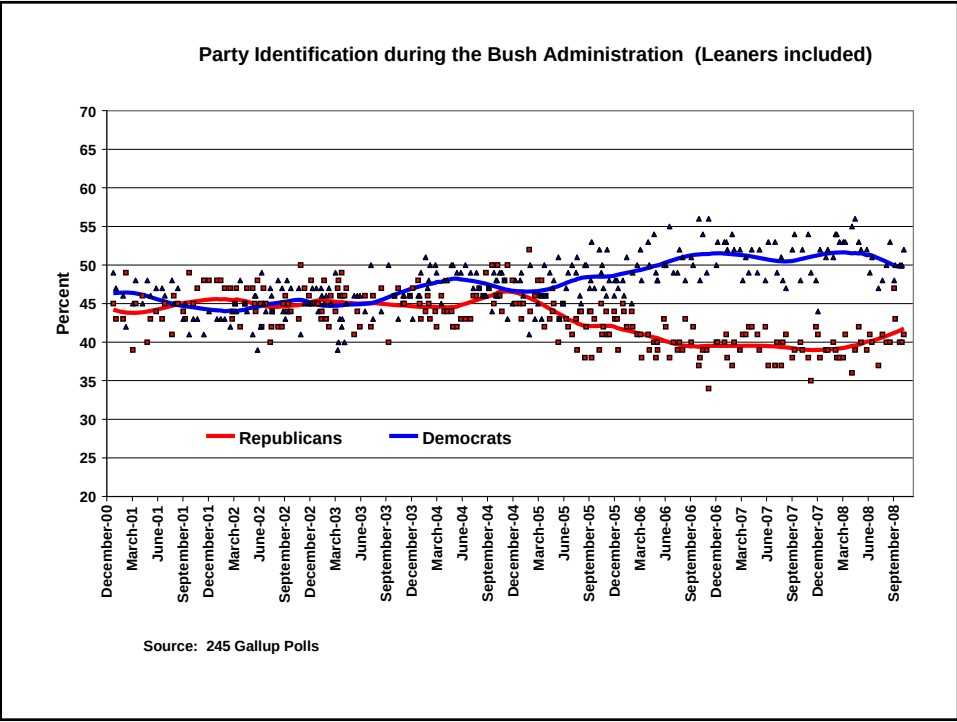


Approval of Bush's Performance and Opinions of the Republican Party



Opinions on Political Parties since 9/11/01





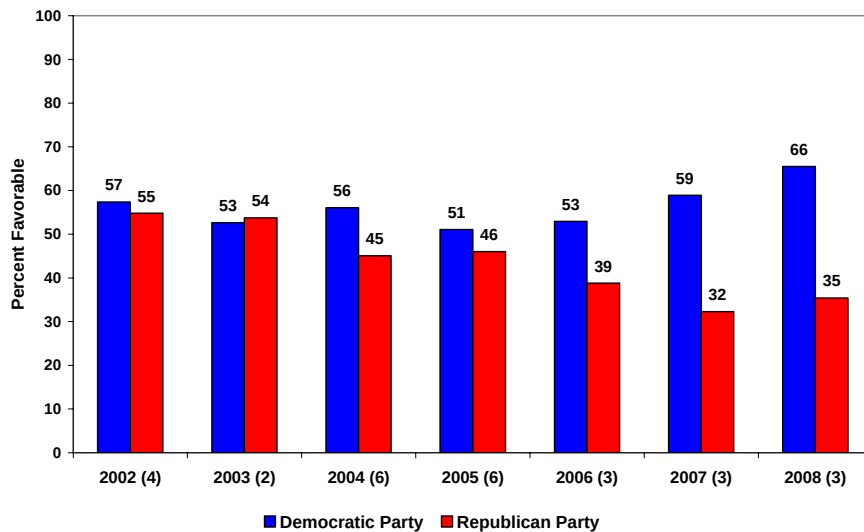
Party Identification of Respondents, by Administration at Age 20

<i>President</i>		<i>Republican</i>	<i>Democrat</i>	<i>Democratic Advantage</i>
Roosevelt	1932-1945	41	48	7
Truman	1945-1952	39	50	11
Eisenhower	1953-1960	45	45	1
Kennedy	1961-1963	42	47	6
Johnson	1964-1968	41	50	9
Nixon	1969-1974	38	51	13
Ford	1974-1976	40	51	11
Carter	1977-1980	44	47	3
Reagan	1981-1988	43	47	4
GHW Bush	1989-1992	46	45	-1
Clinton	1993-2000	40	49	9
GW Bush	2001-2006	37	52	15

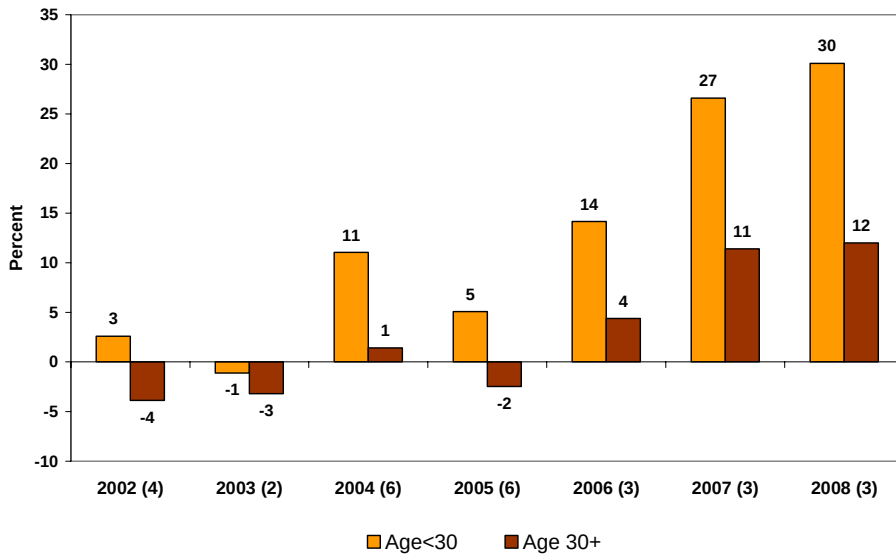
Note: Includes leaners as partisans.

Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press; compiled from surveys from January through October, 2006, by Michael Dimock; N=17,599.

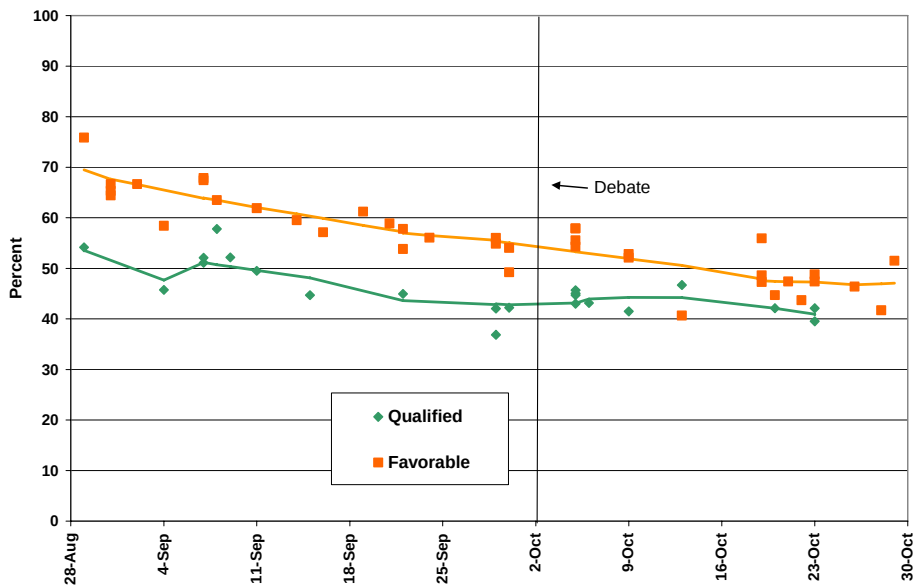
Party Favorability Among Voters Younger than 30

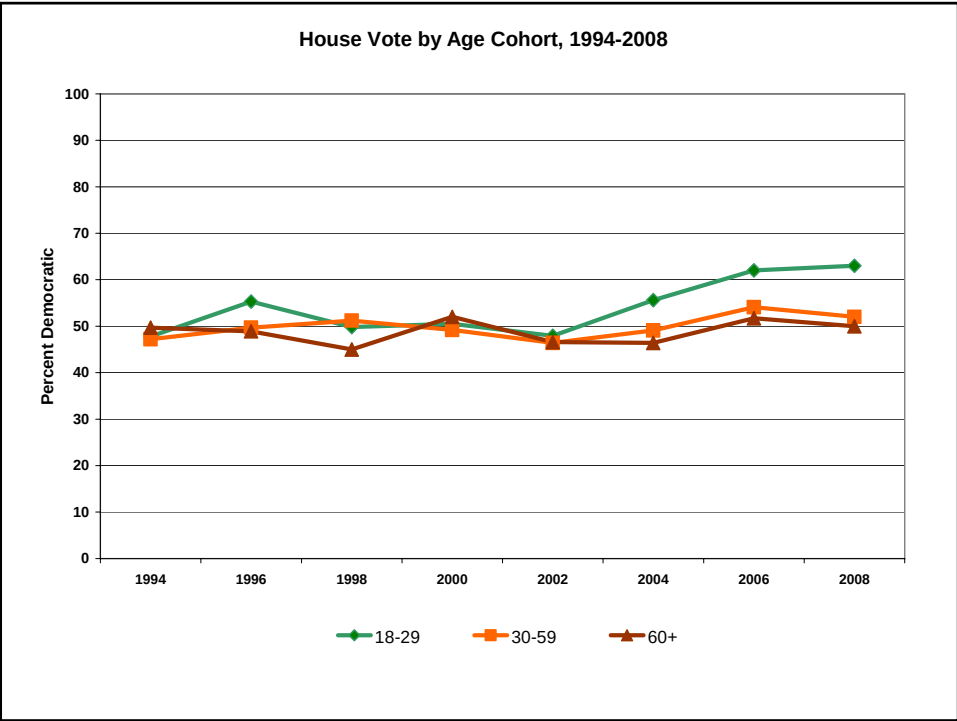
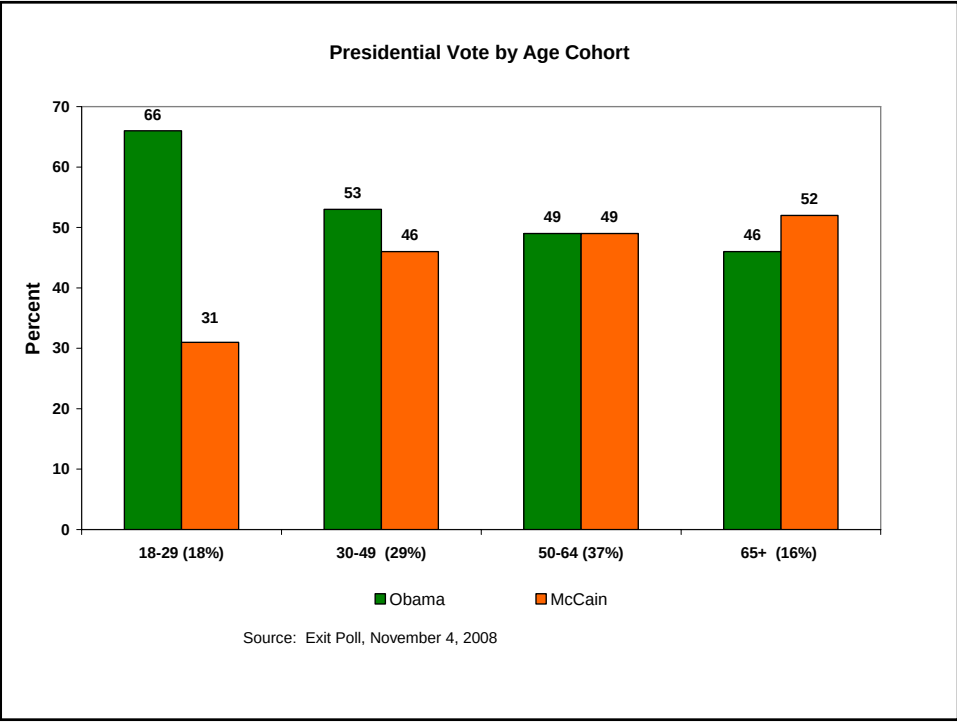


Democratic Party Favorability Advantage, by Age Cohort

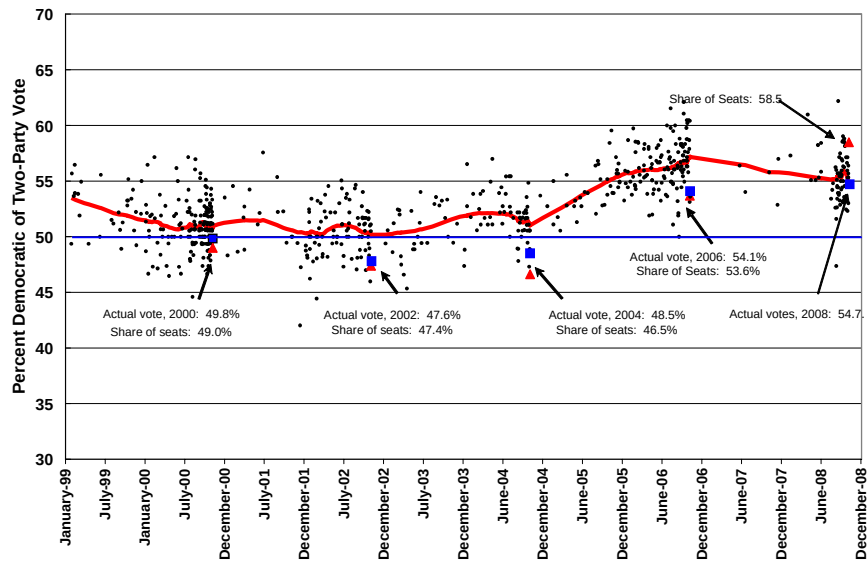


Opinions of Sarah Palin Among Respondents with an Opinion

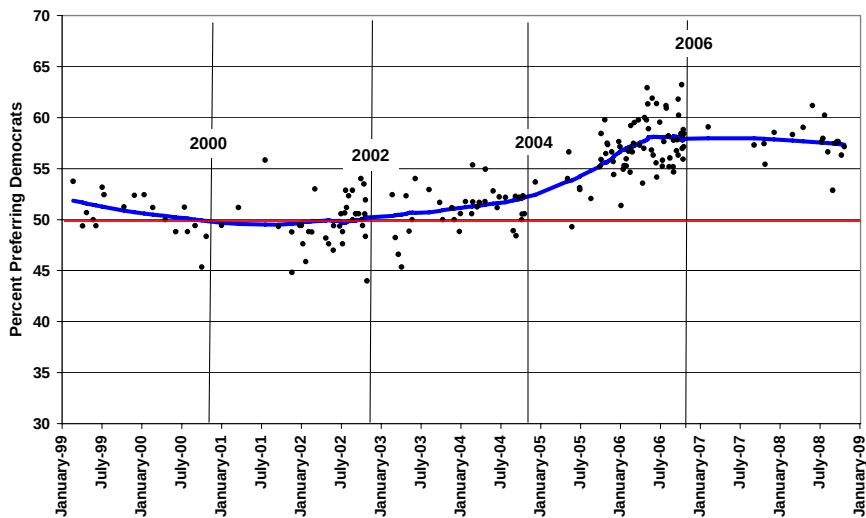




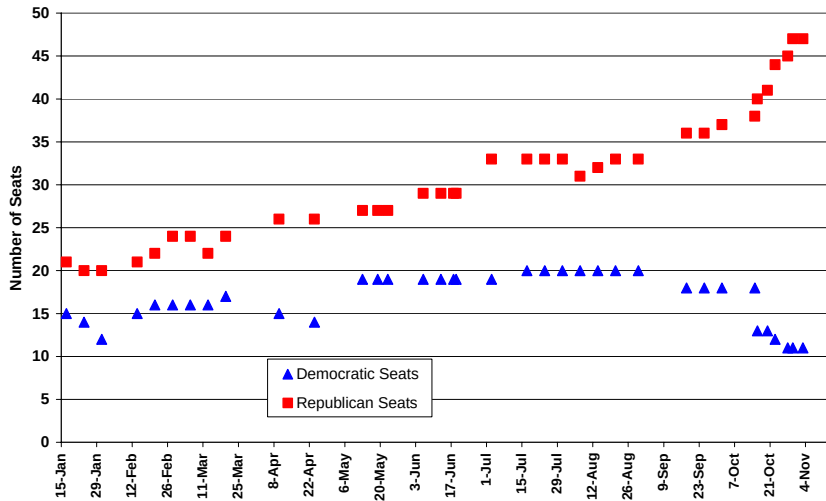
Generic House Vote Intention, 1999-2008 (Registered/Likely Voters)



Preference for Control of Congress, 1999-2008

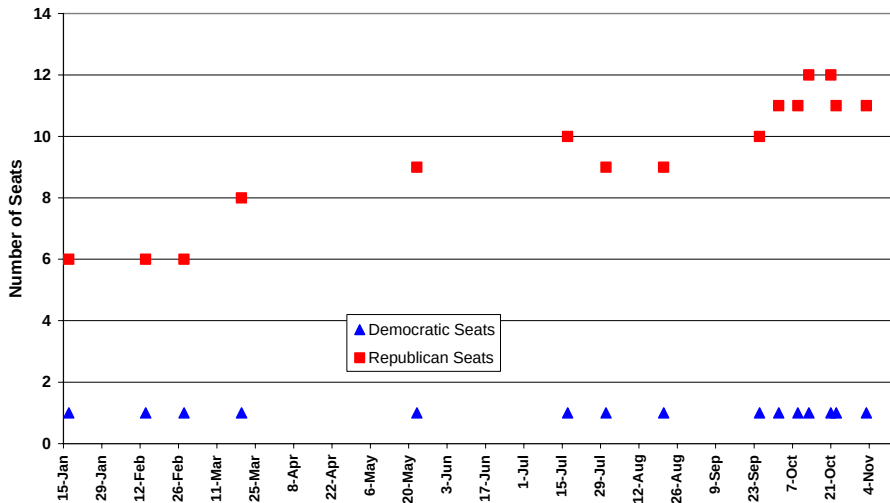


House Seats Classified as "Leaning" or "Tossup" in the Cook Report



Source: http://www.cookpolitical.com/charts/house/competitive_2008-11-03_17-12-33.php

Senate Seats Classified as "Leaning" or "Tossup" in the Cook Report



Source: http://www.cookpolitical.com/charts/senate/racerratings_2008-11-03_13-29-13.php

Membership Changes in the House and Senate in the 2008 Elections

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents
<i>House of Representatives</i>			
At the time of the 2008 election	199	236	
Elected in 2008	178	257	
Incumbents reelected	157	225	
Incumbents defeated	13	4	
Open seats retained	18	7	
Open seats lost	11	0	
<i>Senate</i>			
At the time of the 2008 election	49	49	2
After the 2008 election	43	55	2
Incumbents reelected	15	12	
Incumbents defeated	3		
Open seats retained	2		
Open seats lost	3		

Democrats' Success in Campaigns for Republican -Held Seats, 2008

House

<i>Election Results, 2004 and 2008</i>	<i>Number of States</i>	<i>Number of Republican Districts</i>	<i>Taken by Democrats in 2008</i>	<i>Net</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Won by Bush and McCain	22	83	4	1	1.2%
Won by Kerry and Obama	19	62	9	8	12.9%
Won by Bush and Obama	9	54	11	11	20.4%

Senate

<i>Election Results, 2004 and 2008</i>	<i>Number of States</i>	<i>Republican Senate Seats Up</i>	<i>Taken by Democrats in 2008</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Won by Bush and McCain	22	15	0	0.0%
Won by Kerry and Obama	19	4	2	50.0%
Won by Bush and Obama	9	4	4	100.0%

President's Party Seat Swing in Postwar Presidential Election Years:

	Coefficient	Standard Error	t-ratio
Exposure	-.79	.14	-5.53
Presidential Approval	.81	.35	2.27
Real income change	5.64	2.30	2.46
Constant	-58.84	17.19	-3.42
R ² / Adjusted R ²	.80/.74		
Number of elections	15		
Root Mean Squared Error	12.7		

Exposure = -21

Presidential Approval = 30

Real income change = 0

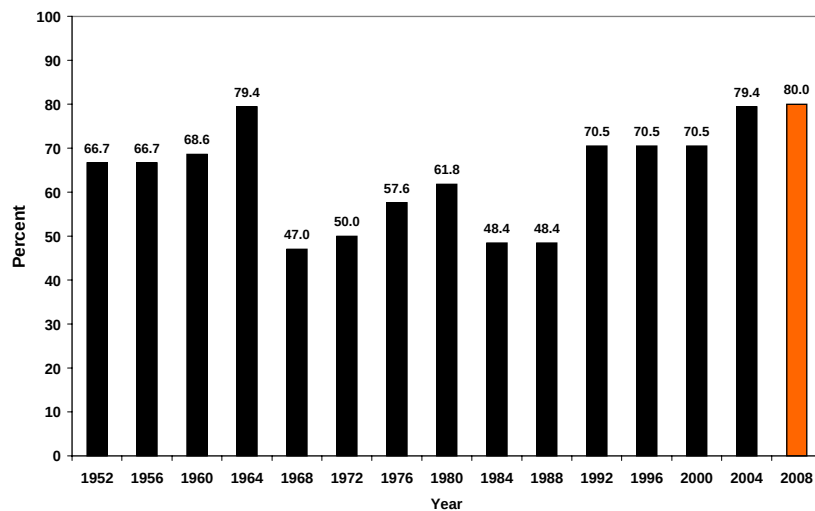
$$-58.84 - .79*(-21) + .81*30 + 5.64*0 = -18$$

Estimate: Democrats pick up 18 (+/- 25) seats for a 253-181 majority

Republican Structural Advantage discount: 5 seats

Prediction: Democrats pick up 13 seats for a 248-186 majority

States Won by Same Party in Senate and Presidential Elections, 1952-2008



Source: Compiled by author.

Senate Seats Held by Party Winning the State in the Most Recent Presidential Election

