



TODAY IS ELECTION DAY.  
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

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FROM OBAMA'S CHICAGO RALLY

# The State News

2008 ELECTION

## Obama surpasses McCain in most polls

By Zack Colman  
THE STATE NEWS

Republican presidential candidate John McCain can count the red states, gray states and light blue states, but it is unlikely he will overcome one of the more sizable election-eve gaps in the last quarter century, experts said.



McCain

"You would have to go back probably until Ronald Reagan's re-election in '84 to find pre-election polls that show this big of a lead," said Craig Ruff, a senior policy fellow at Lansing-based Public Sector Consultants.

Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama is ahead by 7.5 percent, according to a poll at www.realclearpolitics.com, or RCP. The poll is an average of several national polls.

Electoral maps differ among sources, but McCain is behind by more than 100 electoral votes, according to most outlets.

"As a poker player would say, he needs to hit an inside straight," Ruff said. "It's very much uphill for him."

Bernie Pora, president of EPIC-MRA, a Lansing-based polling company, said McCain needs to win an Obama-leaning state such as Pennsylvania to offset Colorado and New Mexico, states that were for President Bush in 2004. He also said McCain capturing Pennsylvania is unlikely.

RCP lists to toss-up states as Arizona, Montana, North Dakota, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida. That number is higher than most electoral maps. Even if McCain were to grab RCP's toss-up states, he would still fall 18 electoral votes short.

But Ruff said the national polls don't tell the whole story. He said more recent polls

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### NEED A RIDE?

#### Election Day shuttle

MSU's YouVote Initiative has encouraged people to register to vote and be educated about Election Day. Today, it will be helping voters cast ballots. Shuttle services have been organized to stop at Snyder, Phillips, Mason and Abbot halls as well as Chandler Crossings to pick up students every half hour and take them near polling locations.

PAT EVANS



East Lansing residents Rick and Sue Richardson set up polling stations Monday night at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbot Road. The precinct doubled the number of stations this year in order to accommodate what they expect will be a large turnout of voters. "There's a lot of students interested and it's really exciting," Sue Richardson said.

JEANA-DEE ALLEN/THE STATE NEWS

## POLLS SET FOR STUDENTS

E.L. gears up for Election Day; student groups work to increase voter turnout

By Zack Colman  
THE STATE NEWS

If students have a long to-do list today, voting could make it even longer with record turnout expected at the polls. The city of East Lansing received about 10,000 new voter registrations this year, City Clerk Nicole Evans said. The influx of voters has led to at least a 50 percent increase in some campus precincts, she said. To avoid long lines, Evans suggested voting as soon as the polls open. "If you really want to be able to vote, you want to try voting at off-peak hours and for campus, that's right when polls open at 7 a.m.," she said.

"Most students don't get up that early because classes don't start until 8 a.m."

To accommodate, Evans said voting stations at each precinct have doubled from 10 to 20 stations. She has set up three-hour training sessions for poll workers and appointed more inspectors at each precinct. The city has expanded the amount of runners who will be available to solve various precinct problems. Each precinct also will have a help desk to expedite the voting process.

Dave Kelner, a history senior, plans on being one of the first to the polls.

"Hopefully I'm going to get up around 7:30 a.m. and get out there and get in line nice and early," he said. "You probably need a pretty big block of time to commit to it."

Many students said they would wait for more than an hour, but they also said they are trying to squeeze voting in between classes.

Evans, though, said students can still vote by being in line before the polls close at 8 p.m. That possibility has freed some voting time for students after classes.

"I guess I would have to go in time for my class, but now that I hear that I might

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Steve Ross, Midwest regional coordinator of Students for Barack Obama, works to organize volunteers Monday afternoon at Kellogg Center. Volunteers were distributing door hangings to dorms that told residents where their specific voting locations were.

GEORGIA RHODES/THE STATE NEWS

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Nicole Evans, city clerk

### UNIVERSITY

## Party politics not a factor for partisan MSU trustees

By Justin Harris  
THE STATE NEWS

When voters step into the booth today, they'll see the names of nine MSU Board of Trustees candidates, each with a party affiliation next to his or her name.

However, many board members said party politics dissolve once the election is over and they're in the board room.

"From my perspective, partisan politics does not have a place in the boardroom at

Michigan State University," Republican Trustee Melanie Foster said. "It's not in the best interest of the institution."

Although the candidates run on a partisan ballot, the position often is considered nonpartisan because of the nature of the issues the trustees discuss.

"Once we're on the board (party affiliations have) nothing to do with it," Democratic Trustee Joel Ferguson said. "Nothing, zero. From the people I've served with, it's always been what's best for Michigan State."

Although Democratic Trustee Colleen McNamara said party politics rarely appear on the board, there are some issues where fundamental differences between liberals and conservatives play a role in decision-making.

One such area is labor negotiations, in which democrats are more likely to support union and labor benefits, but even that issue recently has been nonpartisan, McNamara said.

"Last spring, we passed a project labor agreement policy that had to do with construction on campus and we had unanimous consent on that,"

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### CRIME

A man with no MSU affiliation was sentenced and fined for his involvement in April's Cedar Fest riot, page 3A.



Weather

Sunny  
High 69° | Low 45°  
Three-day forecast, page 2A