



Energy policy was the most important consideration for the US's 1.5 million engineers in deciding how to vote for President, according to research by EPCglobal. The engineering staffing specialist surveyed 1,013 US engineers on their policy priorities and found that it was 'very' or 'quite' important for 99% of respondents, just in front of economy/jobs, at number two (98%).

The principal issue within energy that required a policy response from the candidates was: 'Meeting our future need for more power' (85% believed this issue of primary importance). 'Opportunities presented by 'green collar job' creation' were least likely to be seen as of primary importance (33%).

45% of all respondents believed John McCain had the most effective suite of policies to address the chief long and short term energy-related priorities for the US, but his support fell to 31% amongst female engineers. 27% of all respondents chose Obama but candidate preference was reversed among engineers under 45 years of age (McCain with 33%, Obama with 37%). Significantly, almost one fifth of engineers thought neither candidate had the solution.

Respondents were also questioned about their approval of each of the candidates' key energy policies without being told which policy belonged to which candidate. The average approval rating for Obama's 16 key energy pledges was 49%, almost identical to McCain's 19 key energy pledges, at 51%. Obama's most approved was 'Promote the responsible domestic production of oil and natural gas' (75%). The most disapproved pledge was: 'Swap oil from the strategic petroleum reserve to cut prices' (47% disapprove). McCain's most popular policy was 'Promoting and expanding the use of our domestic supplies of natural gas' (75%), his most disapproved was 'A \$5,000 tax credit for each and every customer who buys a zero carbon emission car' (25% disapproved).

Richard Spragg, VP at EPCglobal said: "Engineers have been giving us their opinions about the elections and energy appeared to be a salient issue. We wanted to establish just how important the issue was to this large constituency which was exceptionally well equipped to assess the candidates' policies in this area. Both sets of energy policies were broadly similar and were rated almost equally when considered on their own merits. However, the research suggests McCain's emphasis on issues such as energy supply security and expanding production gave him a distinct lead with engineers".

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Publication: EIC 7

Publication: EIC Newsletter
Subject: US elections survey
Circulation: Members
Date: January 2009
Source: Information supplied by Wide PR