



Assessing the VP Candidates Heading into their Debate

September 28-October 2, 2016

Overall, the 2016 Vice Presidential candidates remain largely unknown to voters nationwide, but both have net positive ratings, unlike the candidates at the top of the ticket. The Republican Vice Presidential candidate, Mike Pence, is somewhat more familiar to voters than Democrat Tim Kaine.

Views of the VP Candidates

(Among registered voters)

	Tim Kaine		Mike Pence	
	Now	8/2016	Now	7/2016
Favorable	19%	17%	24%	22%
Unfavorable	13	14	19	18
Undecided/don't know enough	67	68	57	60

As the candidates prepare to meet for their first and only debate, voters are more likely than not to think each of these Vice Presidential candidates could serve effectively as President if they needed to step into the job. Tim Kaine and Mike Pence get similar marks: 37% think Kaine has the ability to do so and 41% say that about Pence. But a sizeable percentage of voters don't have an opinion.

Has the Ability to be an Effective President if Necessary?

(Among registered voters)

	Tim Kaine	Mike Pence
Yes	37%	41%
No	24	25
Don't know	39	33

In 2008, the last time an incumbent was not seeking re-election, voters held contrasting views of each of that year's Vice Presidential candidates. 65% said Democrat Joe Biden could be an effective President, while just 37% said that about Republican Sarah Palin.

Still, majorities of voters say their vote choice will be based mostly on the presidential candidates. 84% of voters say they'll vote primarily on the presidential candidates; just 14% say the Vice Presidential running mates will have a great deal of influence. Similar majorities across party lines hold this view.

VP Candidates' Impact on Vote

(Among registered voters)

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
VP choices have a great deal of influence	14%	17%	11%	16%
Vote mostly on presidential candidates	84	81	87	83

The 84% who say they will vote mostly on the presidential candidates is higher than it was during the 2008 and 2000 elections.

VP Candidates' Impact on Vote

(Among registered voters)

	2016	2008	2000
VP choices have a great deal of influence	14%	32%	21%
Vote mostly on presidential candidates	84	65	74

Seven in 10 voters say they plan to tune in to the Vice Presidential debate, including 47% who are very likely to watch. More Republican voters say they are very likely to watch than Democrats or independents.

How Likely are you to Watch the Vice Presidential Debate?

(Among registered voters)

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
	%	%	%	%
Very likely	47	53	46	45
Somewhat likely	25	23	30	23
Not very likely	25	23	22	30

This poll was conducted by telephone September 28-October 2, 2016 among a random sample of 1,501 adults nationwide, including 1,217 registered voters. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News by SSRS of Media, PA. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones.

The poll employed a random digit dial methodology. For the landline sample, a respondent was randomly selected from all adults in the household. For the cell sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone.

Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish using live interviewers.

The data have been weighted to reflect U.S. Census figures on demographic variables.

The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The margin of error for the sample of registered voters is three points. The error for subgroups may be higher and is available by request. The margin of error includes the effects of standard weighting procedures which enlarge sampling error slightly.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

CBS NEWS POLL**Assessing the VP Candidates Heading into the Debate****September 28 - October 2, 2016**

Q21. Is your opinion of Tim Kaine favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Tim Kaine yet to have an opinion?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Jul16e
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	19	5	34	15	17
Not favorable	13	24	2	14	14
Undecided	10	10	8	12	12
Haven't heard enough	57	60	55	57	56
Don't know/No answer	2	1	2	3	1

Q22. Is your opinion of Mike Pence favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Mike Pence yet to have an opinion?

					Jul16c
Favorable	24	45	7	23	22
Not favorable	19	4	33	16	18
Undecided	10	9	8	12	12
Haven't heard enough	47	42	50	47	48
Don't know/No answer	1	*	2	2	1

Q23. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion? 1. The Presidential candidates' choices for Vice President will have a great deal of influence on my vote. OR 2. I will vote based mostly on the presidential candidates, not on whom they choose for Vice President.

					Oct08e
VP choices have influence	14	17	11	16	32
Vote on presidential candidates	84	81	87	83	65
Don't know/No answer	2	2	2	1	3

Q24. Do you think Tim Kaine has the ability to be an effective President, if necessary, or not?

Yes, has the ability	37	24	52	33
No, does not	24	40	11	24
Don't know/No answer	39	36	37	43

Q25. Do you think Mike Pence has the ability to be an effective President, if necessary, or not?

Yes, has the ability	41	66	26	37
No, does not	25	9	39	24
Don't know/No answer	33	25	35	39

Q65. How likely is it that you will watch the vice-presidential debate on television on Tuesday, October 4th -- very likely, somewhat likely, or not very likely?

**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very likely	47	53	46	45
Somewhat likely	25	23	30	23
Not very likely	25	23	22	30
Won't watch debates (vol.)	1	*	2	1
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	2

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	1,501	
Total Registered Voters	1,217	1,119
Republican Registered Voters	374	325
Democratic Registered Voters	415	399
Independent Registered Voters	428	395