

Gallup Pakistan Latest Press Release

GALLUP PAKISTAN POLL FINDINGS ON **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

Survey Dates: *August 31 & September 01, 2008*

Results released on: *September 5, 2008*



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44 % reject all Presidential candidates, 34 % want a President with no party associations: GALLUP PAKISTAN

ISLAMABAD: Public opinion findings on the forthcoming Presidential Elections reflect a growing sense of alienation between the public at large, the society and the political system and political parties. When asked as to which of the nominees of the major political parties would they like to have as their next President none of the three was able to get popular acclaim, with the single largest response saying they wanted a non-party President. Thirty four percent (34%) gave that response when asked which party nominee they wanted to see as President and even a higher number at 44% gave the same response when presented with a list of candidates.

Ironically the Constitution of Pakistan is closer to the position of the ordinary man on the street. The office of the President is that of the Head of the State and is supposed to be above party politics, exercising little executive power. The chief executive authority and associated 'politics' is supposed to rest with the Prime Minister. A deeper analysis of survey findings shows the continuation of a pattern of attitudes among Pakistani public – unexpected but consistent support for upholding rule of law and the Constitution of the country. In nominating a much respected former Chief Justice of Supreme Court, PML-N tried to reflect that public view. But survey findings show that their nominee was still seen as politicizing the office. He is seen largely with the same sentiment as the two partisan politicians nominated by the other two major parties, including Asif Ali Zardari and Mushahid Hussain.

Give a choice between party nominees and a list of hypothetical non-party persons, popular sentiment favors a non-party President. With Election so close, this is not a real possibility. Nor is the President elected by popular vote in Pakistan. Its constituency is limited to less than 2000 members of the Parliament, most of who are subject to their party decision which may or may not be reflective of popular sentiments.

The findings suggest that Voters are not entirely attached to the parties they voted for or even the ones that they still intend to vote for. A substantial section of them hold independent views cross-cutting party positions. This explains the slightly different pattern of response in the two Tables presented in this Report.

These findings are based on a recent national survey conducted by Gallup Pakistan (*Pakistan Institute of Public Opinion*) the Pakistani affiliate of Gallup International. The sample size was approximately 2000 men and women statistically chosen from all four provinces of the country comprising a cross-section of all ages, socio-economic and linguistic groups. Interviews were carried face to face between August 31 and September 1, 2008. Error margin is estimated to be approx. $\pm$ 3-5 percent at 95 percent confidence level.

In your view, from which party the next President should be elected after Musharraf's resignation? (Options provided)

	%
From PPP	26
From PML (N)	27
From another party	12
A non-Party person	34
NR/DK	1

Who should be the next President in your view? (Options provided)

	%
Asif Ali Zardari	26
Saeed-Uz-Zaman Siddiqui	18
Mushahid Hussain Syed	10
None	44
DK/NR	2

Source: Gallup Pakistan Surveys, 31Aug-01Sep 2008.