

# US Presidential Election 2008

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Australian attitudes on the Bush years, the financial crisis and the US election

October 2008

# Methodology

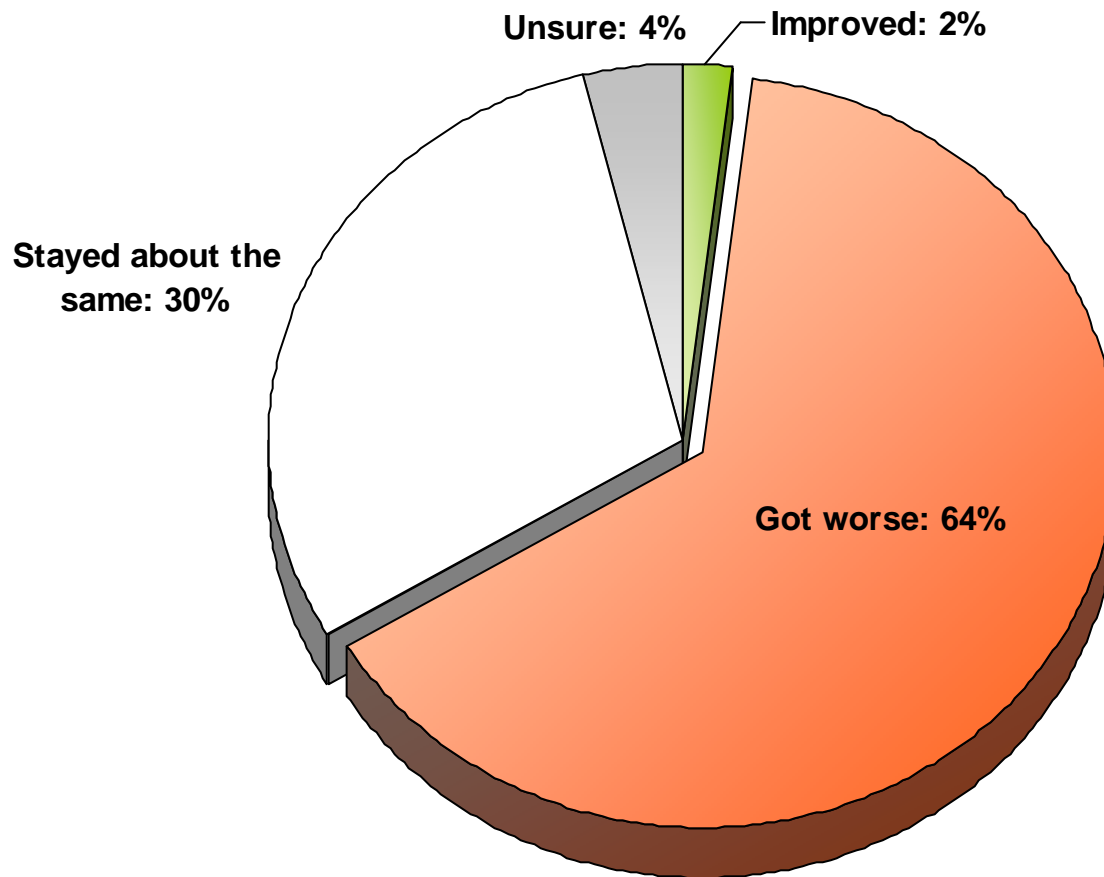
- 1000 online interviews
- Age: 18+
- Fieldwork:
  - 24-29 October 2008
- Where applicable, comparisons from previous waves are included:
  - 22-26 February
  - 16-21 May 2008
  - 20-25 June 2008
  - 19-24 September 2008
- Data is weighted and matched with ABS census data to ensure a nationally representative sample
- Online panel members are primarily recruited offline and by invitation only ruling out self-selection issues associated with online methodologies
- Maximum margin of error at 95% confidence level: +/- 3.1%

# Key Findings

- 2 in 3 Australians say they have a worse view of the USA after the George W. Bush years
- And 3 in 5 say US foreign policy during the last 8 years has made the world less safe
- 1 in 2 Australians expect the economic conditions in the country to get worse over the next 12 months and 61% of them mostly blame Wall Street bankers for this
- Hence, it is hardly surprising that 3 in 4 Australians think that it is important for Australia who wins the US Presidential election
- If Australians had a vote, Barack Obama would emerge as the clear winner: 72% of Australians prefer Barack Obama (+6% since September) whilst only 9% prefer John McCain (-4% since September)
- Looking at vice-presidential candidates, Australians would be comfortable with Democratic Joe Biden taking over from Barack Obama.
- However, 2 in 3 would not feel comfortable with the possibility that McCain's running mate Sarah Palin could become President if McCain was unable to continue in office

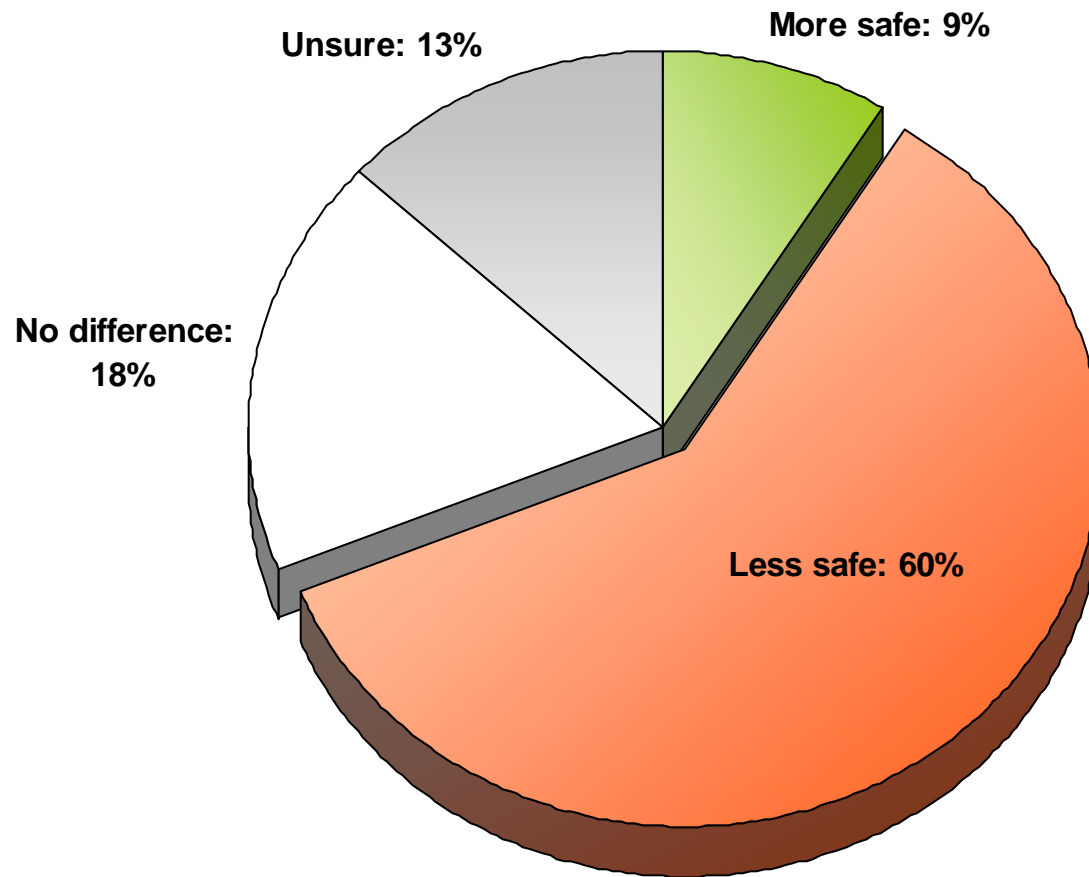
# Most Australians have a worse opinion of the USA after the George W Bush years...

Looking back at the eight years of the George W. Bush administration, would you say that during that period your opinion of the USA has...



## ...and they think that US foreign policy has made the world less safe during that time

Do you think that US foreign policy over the last eight years has made the world...



# 52% of Australians think economic conditions will get worse over the next 12 months...

In the next 12 months, do you think that economic conditions of the country will...

■ Get worse ■ Stay the same ■ Get better



# ...and most of them blame Wall Street bankers for this

In the next 12 months, do you think that economic conditions of the country will...

■ **Get worse** ■ **Stay the same** ■ **Get better**



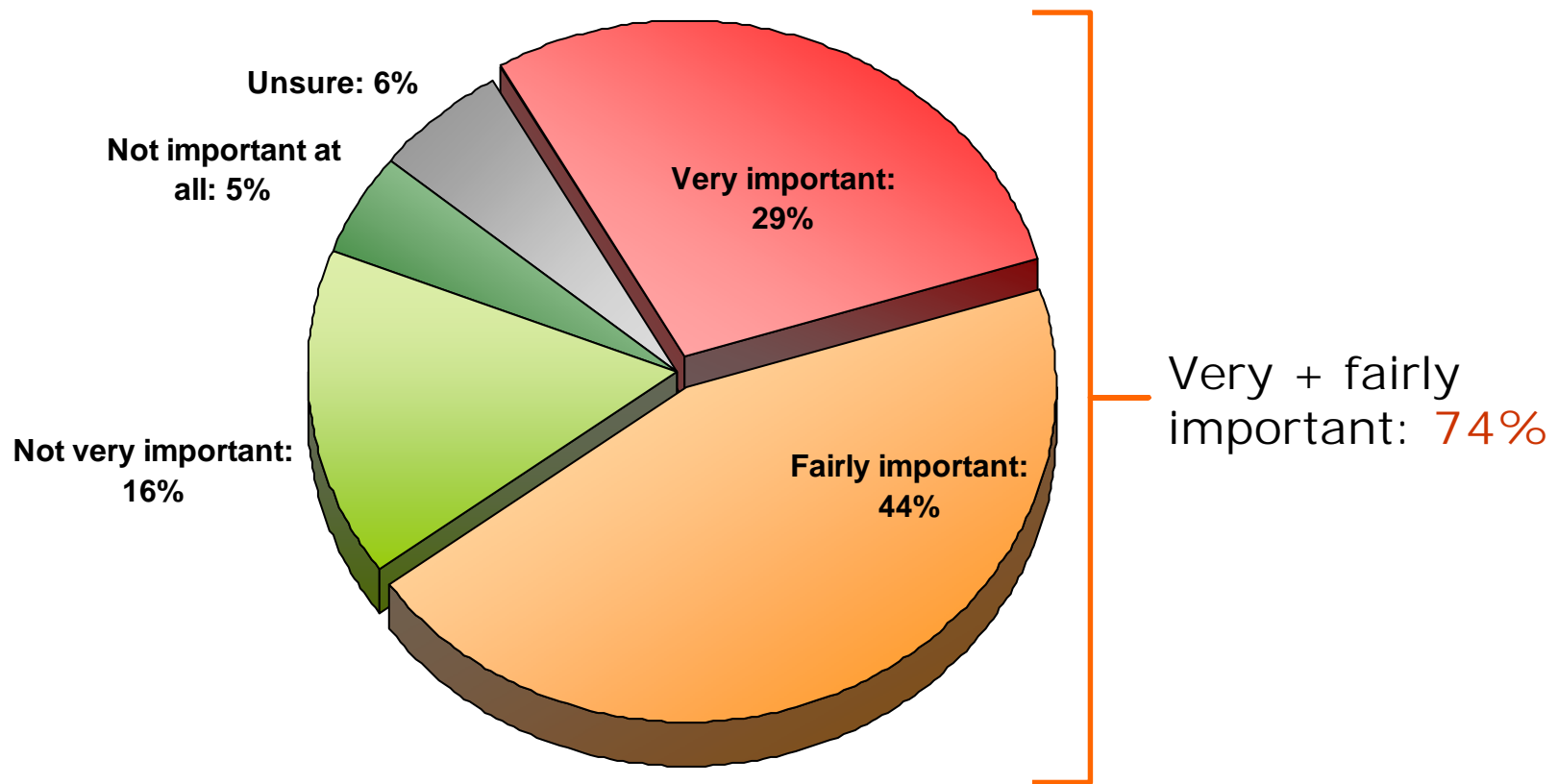
How much do you blame US Wall Street bankers for this?

■ **Not at all** ■ **Not much** ■ **A little** ■ **A lot**



# 74% think it's important for Australia who wins the US Election

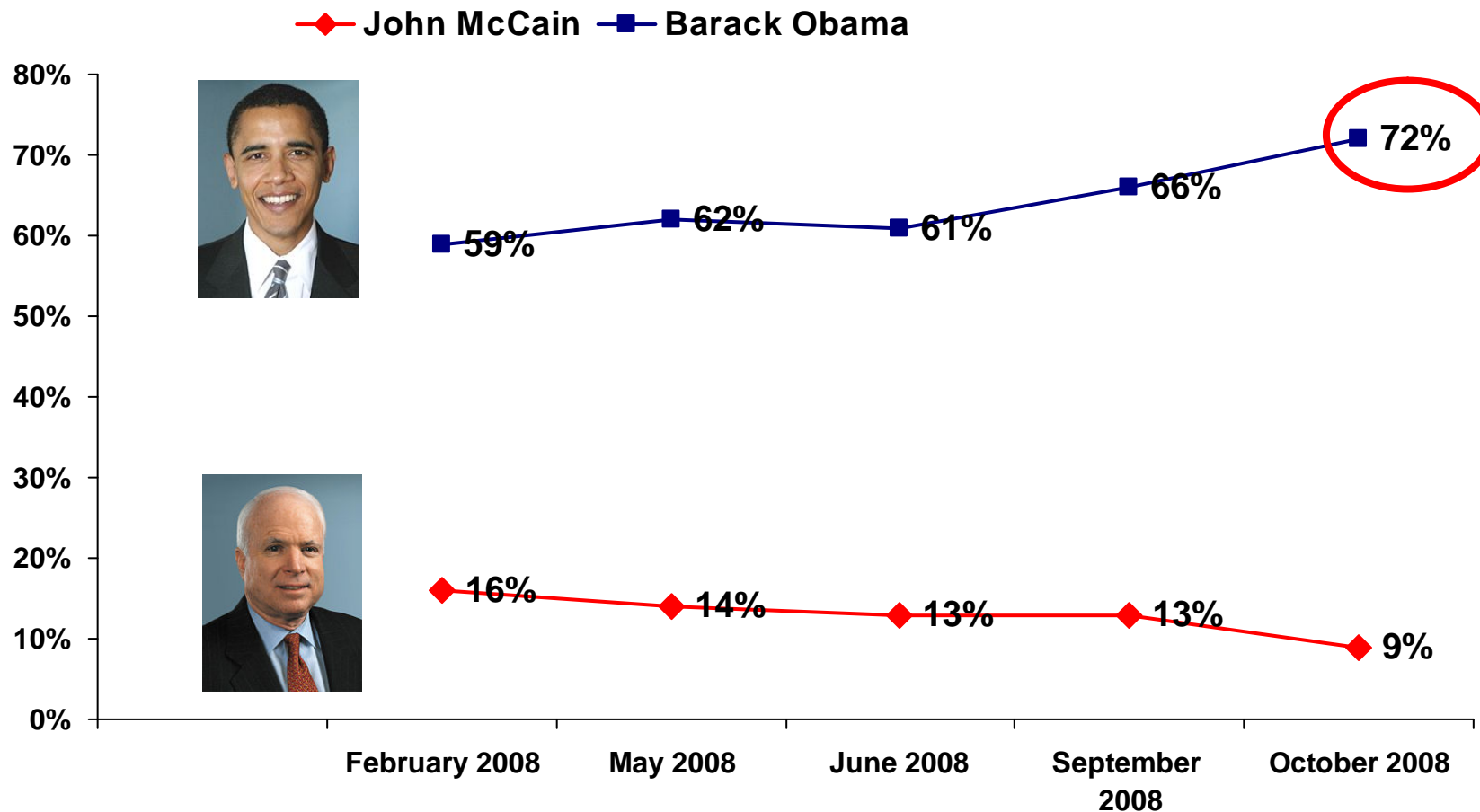
How important do you think it is for Australia who wins next month's US election?



# 72% of Australians prefer Obama as US President

February & May 2008: If the choice was between John McCain and Barack Obama who would you prefer to see as the next US President?

June - October 2008: Who would you prefer to see as the next US President, Barack Obama or John McCain?



# Australians comfortable with Joe Biden but not with Sarah Palin

If the US president is - for whatever reason - unable to continue in office, the vice-president takes over. Do you feel comfortable or not comfortable with the possibility that...

