



Date: September 20, 2004

To: Open Debat

From: Rebecca Wittman

RE: Results from nationwide poll

Methodology

Zogby International conducted interviews of 1,066 likely voters chosen at random nationwide. All calls were made from Zogby International headquarters in Utica, N.Y., from 9/17/04 through 9/19/04. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percentage points. Slight weights were added to region, party, age, race, religion, and gender to more accurately reflect the voting population. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest percent and might not total 100.

Narrative Summary

14. Should only Democrat John Kerry and Republican George W. Bush participate in the upcoming Presidential debates, or should other candidates also be included?

Other candidates included	57%
Only Kerry and Bush	40
Not sure	4

Nearly three in five likely voters (57%) feel that other candidates should be included in the upcoming presidential debates. Two in five (40%) say that only Bush and Kerry should participate in the debates.

A majority or plurality of people in most sub-groups feels the debates should include additional candidates. This includes half or more of Democrats (50%), Republicans (56%), and independent voters (66%). Three-fifths or slightly more of 18-49 year-olds, Hispanics, residents of the West region, and people with annual household income of \$35,000-\$74,999 agree.

Approximately half of seniors 65 and older, African Americans, and people with household income of \$25,000-\$34,999, and 65% of Jews say that only Bush and Kerry should participate in the debates.

15 – 18. I'm going to read you a list of presidential candidates. Please tell me if you believe each candidate should or should not be allowed to participate in the upcoming Presidential debates with Democrat John Kerry and Republican George W. Bush.

Table 1.

	Should participate	Should not participate	Not sure
Independent candidate Ralph Nader	57	40	3
Libertarian Party's Michael Badnarik	44	47	10
Green Party's David Cobb	43	47	10
Constitution Party's Michael Peroutka	41	48	11

A majority of respondents (57%) feels that Ralph Nader should be allowed to participate in the presidential debates, and more than two in five believe each of the other three men should be allowed to participate as well. Pluralities, though, do not believe that either Badnarik, Cobb, or Peroutka should be included in the debates.

More Republicans (62%) and independents (62%) than Democrats agree that **Nader should** be allowed to participate. More than three-fifths of 18-49 year-olds, residents of the West, and people with household income of \$35,000-\$74,999 agree.

Majorities of African Americans (58%), seniors 65 and older (55%), and Jews (70%), and half of people with household income of \$15,000-\$34,999 believe that **Nader should not** be allowed to participate.

Just over half of independent voters, 18-49 year-olds, and residents of the West say that Michael **Badnarik should** be allowed to participate in the debates. Republicans are split 45%-45%, and just over half of Democrats (53%) say he should not be included in the debates.

Majorities in several other sub-groups say that **Badnarik should not** be allowed to participate. These include adults 50 and older, Hispanics, African Americans (62%), Catholics, born-again Christians, and Jews (68%).

Small majorities of independent voters (53%) and 18-49 year-olds (52%) believe that David **Cobb should** be included in the debates. Half of residents from the West and people with household income of \$50,000 \$74,999 agree.

A majority or plurality in most other sub-groups says that **Cobb should not** be allowed to participate in the debates. Majorities include Democrats (53%), 50-64 year-olds, seniors 65 and older (63%), Hispanics, African Americans (62%), and Jews (73%). Nearly half of Republicans, Catholics, Protestants, and men (and 45% of women) agree the Green Party's candidate should not be allowed to participate.

A majority or plurality in most sub-groups also says that Michael **Peroutka should not** be included in the presidential debates. The most likely are seniors 65 and older (63%) and Jews (68%). Half or more of Democrats, 50-64 year-olds, Hispanics, African Americans, Catholics, Protestants, and men agree, as do pluralities of Republicans (48%) and women (46%).

The most likely to say that **Peroutka should** be included in the debates are small majorities of 18-49 year-olds and people with household income less than \$15,000, and pluralities of independent voters (49%) and residents of the West (47%).