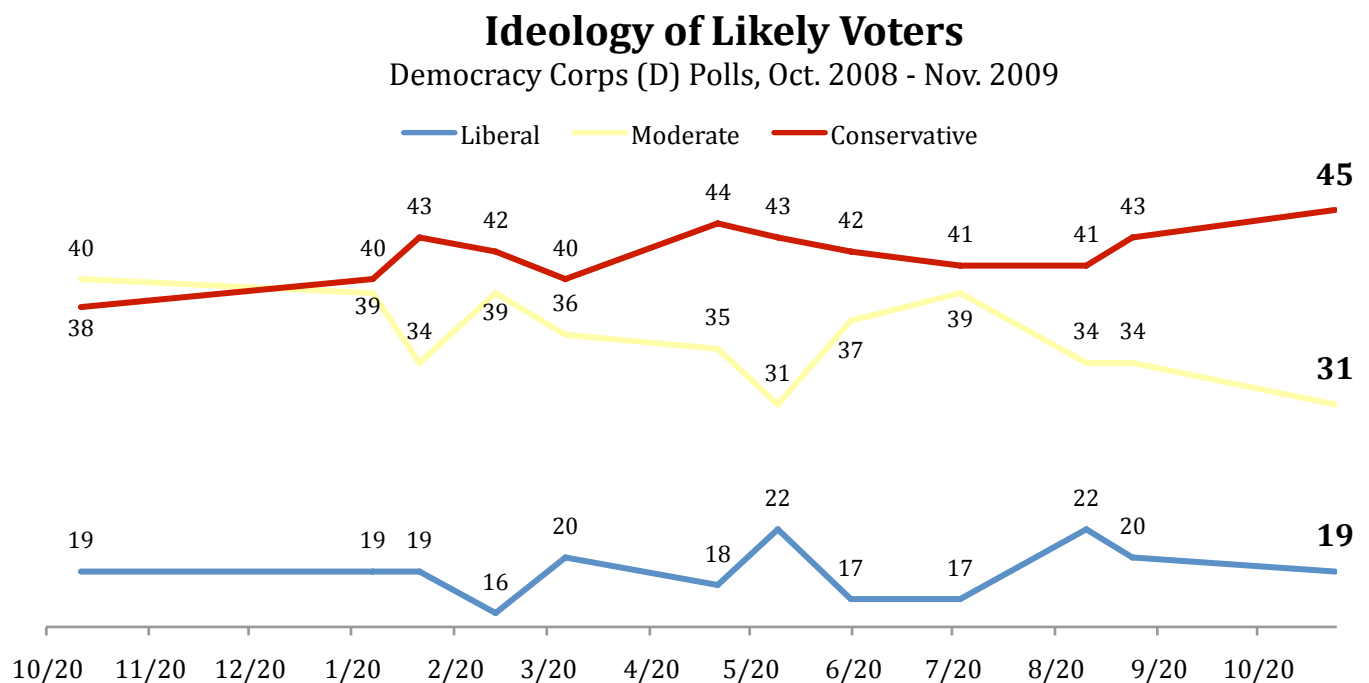


Polling News & Notes

Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • December 3, 2009

Democracy Corps – Conservatives Making Gains: James Carville and Stanley Greenberg’s non-profit Democracy Corps was founded to provide strategic advice to Democrats but sometimes its polling provides heartening news to conservatives. Its most recent poll, conducted from November 12-16, contains one such piece of cheer—45% of likely voters now identify themselves as conservatives, up five points from Barack Obama’s inauguration in January and seven points from last year’s election. While the number of self-identified liberals has stayed essentially stable at 19%, the increase in conservatives has come from self-identified moderates, whose share of the electorate has decreased nine points over the past year.



The electorate has not just become more conservative in the abstract—other polling by [Gallup](#) shows that more Americans are expressing conservative views on specific issues this year. The number of Americans who believe there is too much government regulation of business and industry rose from 38% last year to 45% now; support for keeping firearms laws the same or making them less strict rose from 49% to 55%, a record high; and the number who think the government should promote traditional value rose from 48% to 53%, its highest since 2004.

In May, James Carville released a new book proclaiming that Democrats would “rule the next generation” for “40 more years” based on the strength of Obama’s 2008 performance. But one year later, Carville’s own polling indicates the 2008 election may have been either a personal victory or the high-water mark of liberalism’s political appeal, not the start of 40 years of Democratic rule.