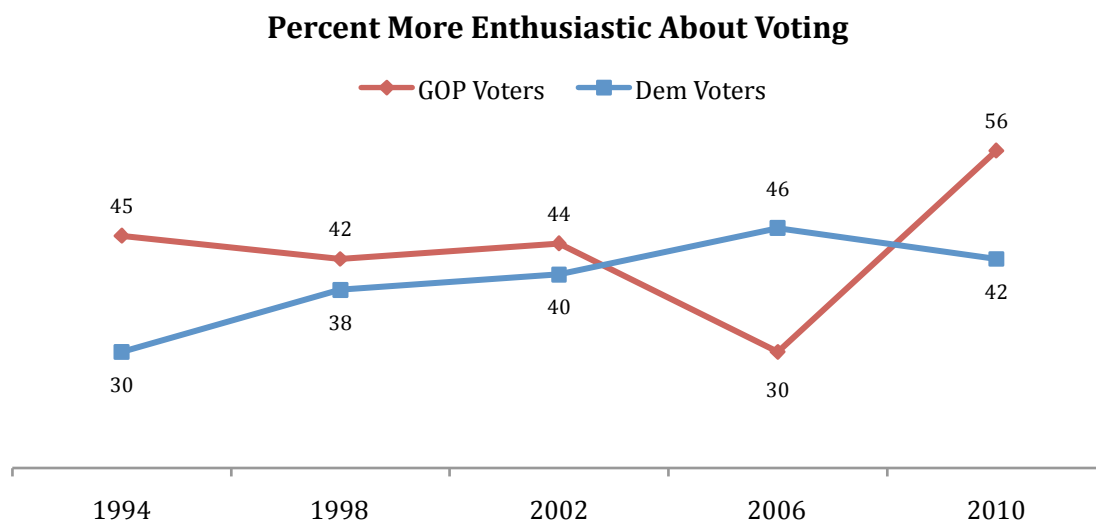


Polling News & Notes

Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • July 8, 2010

Republican Enthusiasm Points to Midterm Turnout Advantage: Over this year, the media has anecdotally reported on Republican voters' enthusiasm turning out for this November's midterm election. But now [new polling](#) released last week by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press gives statistical evidence for the Republican intensity advantage. In the Pew survey, 56% of Republicans said they are more enthusiastic than usual about voting this year, compared to 42% of Democrats—a 14-point advantage. By comparison, Republicans held a 15-point advantage before 1994's "wave" election, and Democrats held a 16-point edge before their 2006 wave.



Similarly, 64% of Republicans say they are following campaign news closely, compared to 50% of Democrats, again giving the GOP a 14-point lead. That's significantly higher than 1994 when Republicans had a two-point advantage on following the news and 2006 when Democrats and Republicans were even.

Even among independents, the difference in enthusiasm is stark. Independent voters who say they plan to vote for the Republican candidate in their district are more likely to be enthusiastic about voting this year (55% vs. 36% for independents who plan to vote for the Democrat), more likely to be closely following campaign news (63% vs. 48%), and more likely to say they are absolutely certain they will vote (77% vs. 62%).

Polling isn't the only sign of heightened GOP turnout either. A [recent analysis](#) by Rhodes Cook in the *Wall Street Journal* found nearly 1 million more votes have been cast so far in Republican primaries than in Democratic contests. Just as the Democrats' massive advantage in primary turnout in 2008 served as a harbinger of Obama's victory and Democratic gains in both houses of Congress, so too might Republicans' turnout advantage this year point to victories in the fall.

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