



**thirteen**  
WNET NEW YORK

www.thirteen.org

1333 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Contact: Mary Schultz  
tel : 202.216.2394  
fax: 202.408.0608

## press information

For Immediate Release  
September 29, 2008

### **RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY POLL FINDS WHITE EVANGELICALS UNDER 30 LESS SUPPORTIVE OF MCCAIN THAN THEIR PARENTS**

Washington, D.C. — According to a new poll for the PBS news program *RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY*, conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research Inc., although white evangelical Christians have voted overwhelmingly Republican for the last 20 years, younger evangelicals are less supportive of John McCain than evangelicals over 30.

The September survey found that almost three-quarters (71 percent) of white evangelicals say they support McCain for president, compared to 23 percent who support Barack Obama. But the margin closes to 62-30 percent among white evangelicals ages 18-29. Younger white evangelical women are much less favorable toward Sarah Palin than their mothers, with only 46 percent of them rating her “warmly,” compared to 65 percent of evangelical women over 30.

The survey also found generational differences on key social issues. A majority of younger white evangelicals (58 percent) support some form of legal recognition for civil unions or marriage for same-sex couples. Older evangelicals remain strongly opposed. At the same time, young evangelicals are as solidly pro-life on abortion as older evangelicals.

“While political pundits have been talking a lot about the significance of younger evangelicals this election cycle, there has been very little solid data targeting them. This survey gives us a clearer picture of what they really think,” said *RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY* managing editor Kim Lawton.

The nationwide survey of 1400 adults, including an oversample of 400 evangelical Christians, ages 18-29, was conducted September 4-21, 2008. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percent for the total survey sample, +/- 4.1 percent for white evangelical Christians, and +/- 5.5 percent for white evangelical Christians ages 18-29.

The survey results are part of a larger national survey of attitudes about religion and America's role in the world to be released in October. It will be the basis of a two-part *RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY* series broadcast on PBS stations beginning the weekend of October 24 (check local listings for broadcast date and time).

For more on the survey, go to the *RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY* Web site. Additional coverage of faith and politics online is available at One Nation.

*RELIGION & ETHICS NEWSWEEKLY*, a production of Thirteen/WNET New York, is the only national television news program devoted entirely to the news of religion, spirituality, and ethics. Now in its twelfth season, it is distributed to PBS stations nationwide. Funding is provided by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. with additional support from the Henry Luce Foundation, Mutual of America, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and individual supporters. Executive editor and host is Bob Abernethy; executive producer is Arnold Labaton; Thirteen/WNET executive-in-charge is Stephen Segaller.



PBS

A Production of  
Thirteen/WNET  
New York for PBS.

Funding provided by Lilly Endowment Inc. with additional support from Mutual of America Life Insurance Company, The Henry Luce Foundation and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting