

# “Twists and Turns?”

Health care reform, 2009 edition

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## It begins ... June

- Near universal concern with exploding costs
- Most see government action as critical to controlling costs and expanding coverage
- BUT broad satisfaction with current levels of coverage, care and costs
- Widespread anxiety about the potential impact of reform
- Conflicting views of proposed actions; details/implications matter

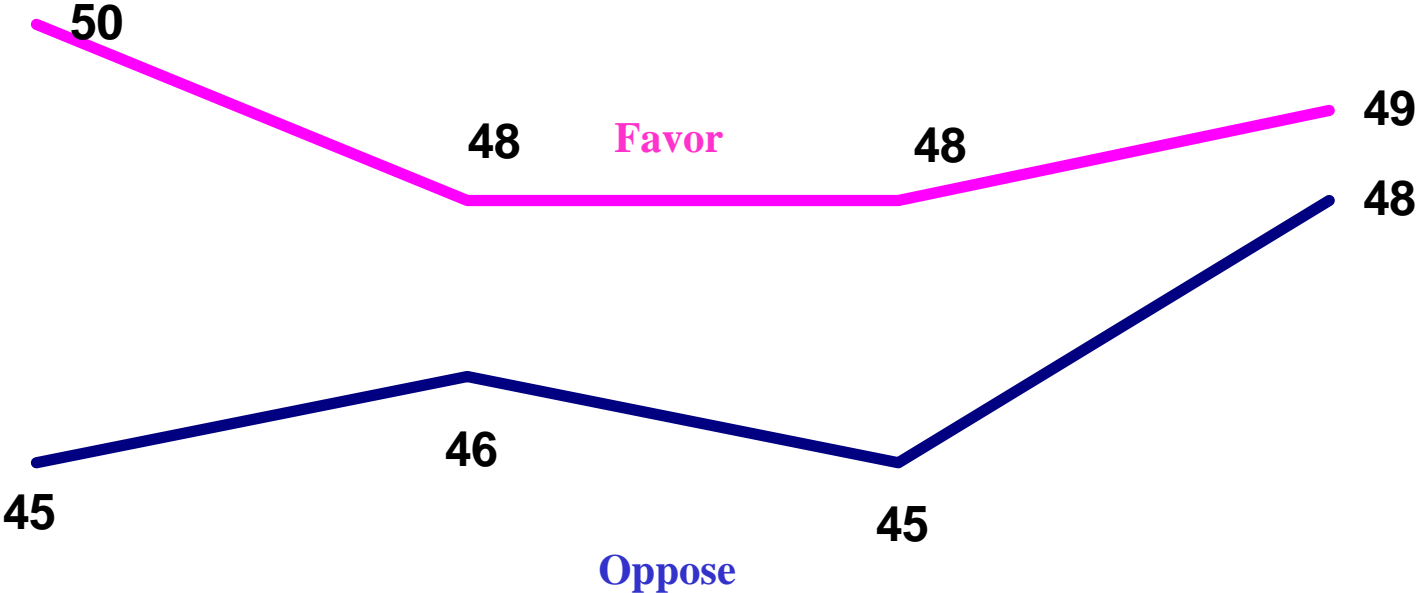
## It's "core"

- **62%** “very concerned” reform will raise their health care costs
- **58%** ... reduce the quality of their care
- **56%** ... limit their choices of doctors
- **56%** ... sharply increase the deficit
- **55%** ... reduce insurance coverage
- **51%** ... increase gov't bureaucracy

## It's complicated

- **49%** support individual mandate
- **70%** ... if low-income tax credits
- **68%** ... if insurers required to cover those with pre-existing conditions
- **62%** ... if companies required to offer coverage or pay into gov't fund
- **44%** ... if includes penalties for non-compliant individuals

# Twisting?



August

September

October

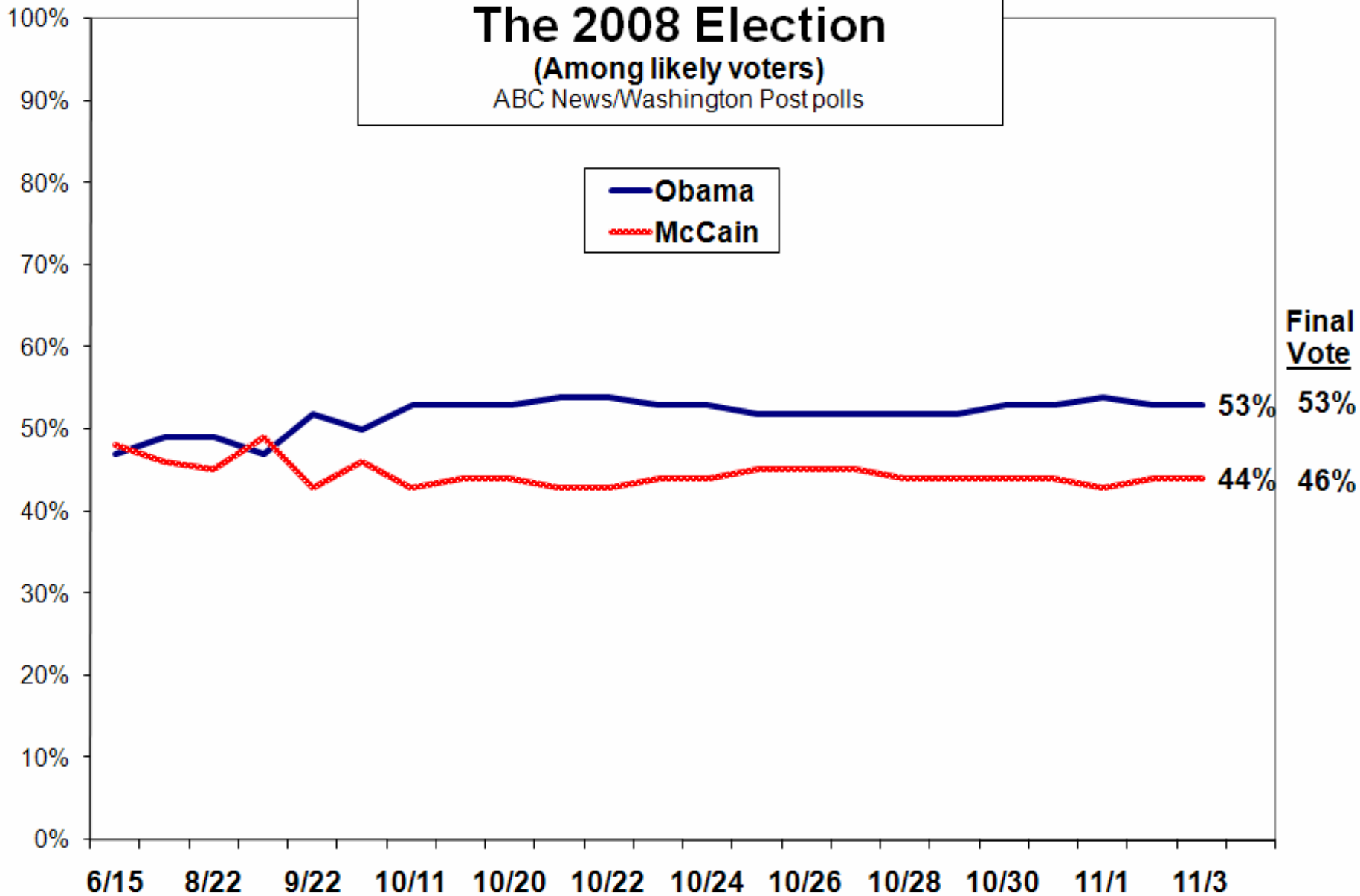
November

Source: Washington Post-ABC News polls

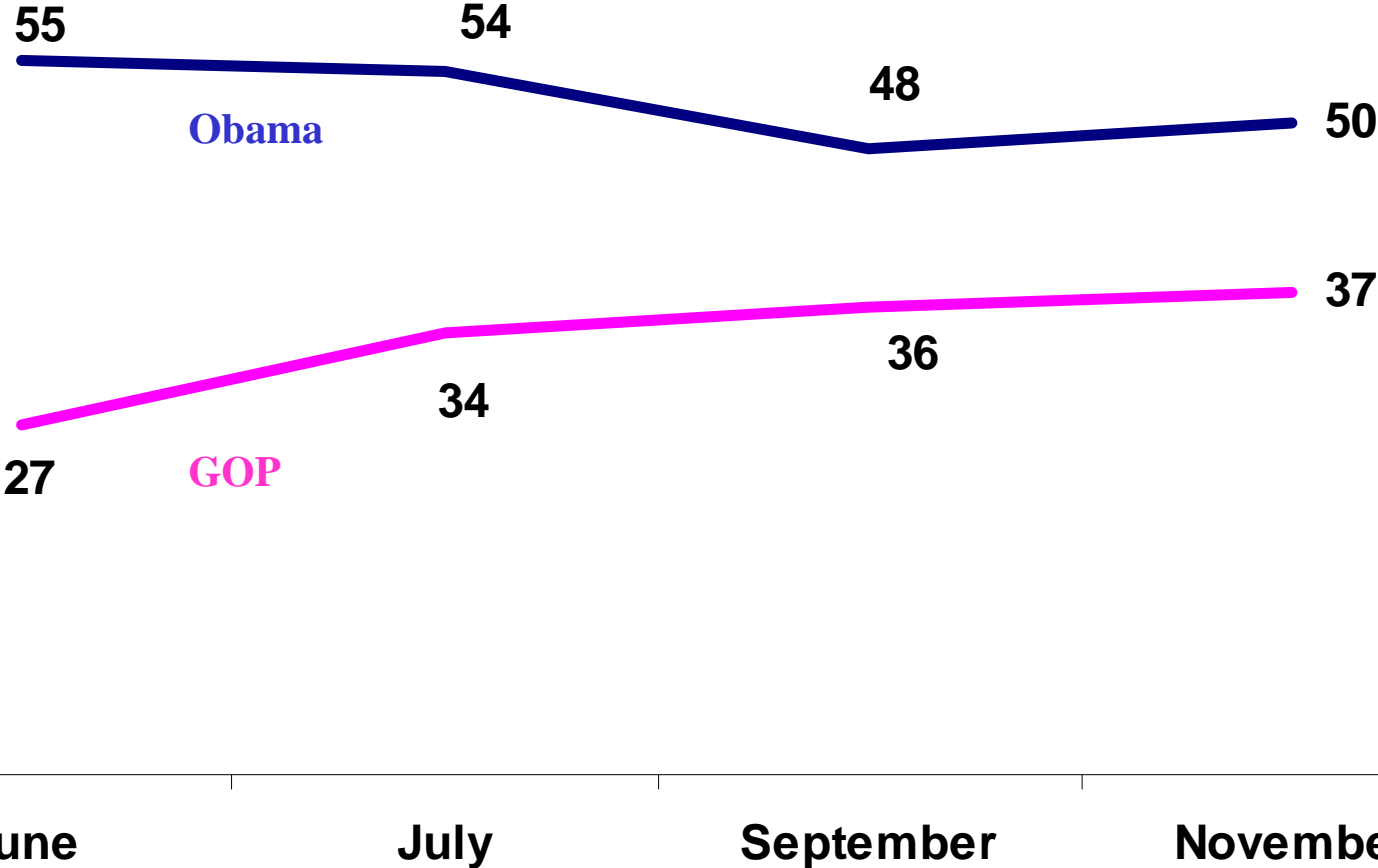
# The 2008 Election

(Among likely voters)

ABC News/Washington Post polls

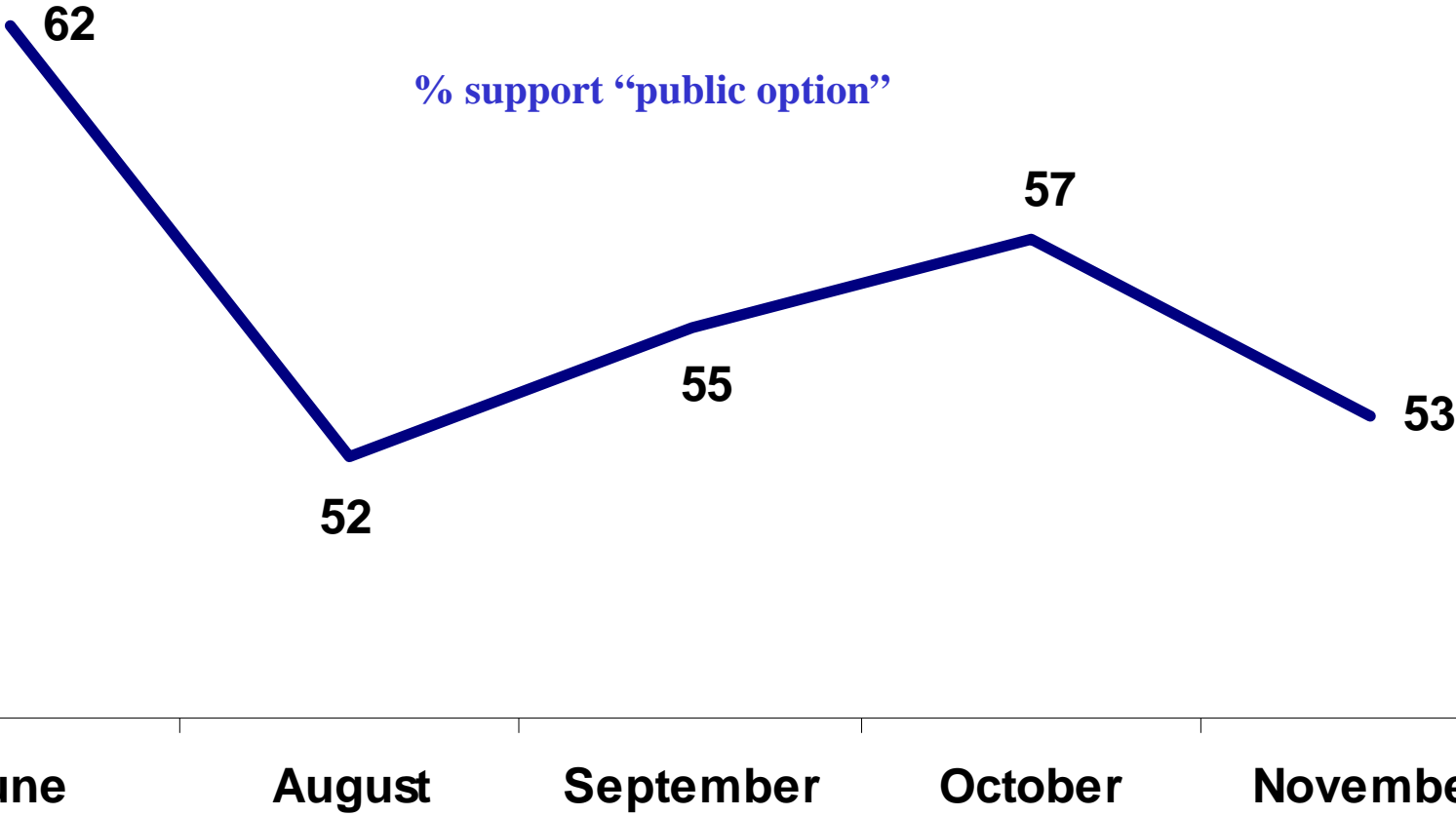


# But no stasis



Source: Washington Post-ABC News polls

# Timing is everything



Source: Washington Post-ABC News polls

## **Remember: it's complicated**

- Support for “public option” in June ... 62% or 37%?
- Support in November ... 53% or 72%?
- Range across polls and scenarios

## Insiders' game, but ...

- Most Republicans intensely oppose health reform, and 77% want the GOP to work to spike health care reform (71% strongly) rather than try to adjust the proposals
- Moderate and conservative Democrats much less apt to be strong supporters of reform package and “public option”