

U.S. election nears climax

America's longest-ever presidential race is about to enter its final stretch with Democrat Barack Obama holding a nine point lead over Republican John McCain in Gallup's most recent tracking poll



- **Aug 4:** Obama's 47th birthday
- **Aug 25:** Democratic Convention opens in Denver, Colorado
- **Aug 28:** Obama accepts Democratic presidential nomination
- **Aug 29:** McCain's 72nd birthday
- **Sep 1:** Republican Convention opens in Minneapolis-Saint Paul
- **Sep 4:** McCain accepts Republican presidential nomination
- **Sep 26 / Oct 7 / Oct 15:** Three presidential TV debates will focus on domestic and foreign policy
- **Nov 4:** Election Day