



[WATCH](#) The News in 2 minutes

News services
Your news when you want it



Last Updated: Thursday, 18 January 2007, 08:44 GMT

[E-mail this to a friend](#)

[Printable version](#)

- [News Front Page](#)
- [World](#)
- [UK](#)
- [England](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Business](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Science/Nature](#)
- [Technology](#)
- [Entertainment](#)

[Video and Audio](#)

[Have Your Say](#)

[Magazine](#)

[In Pictures](#)

[Country Profiles](#)

[Special Reports](#)

RELATED BBC SITES

[SPORT](#)

[WEATHER](#)

[CBBC NEWSROUND](#)

[ON THIS DAY](#)

[EDITORS' BLOG](#)

Americans embrace politics online

Americans are increasingly using the internet as their primary source of political news, a study has found.



Americans turned to net during 2006 mid-term election campaign

The report from the Pew Internet and American Life Project also found that more people are contributing to political debate via their own blogs.

While it stops short of claiming the net has politicised Americans, the report sees a growing online influence on how people think about civic issues.

The prevalence of broadband in US homes is one reason for the growth.

Nearly half of US homes now have a broadband connection and the internet is playing an increasing role in daily lives.

"Turbo-charged" activism

"Broadband is now part of the rhythm of people's lives, including the civic rhythm," said report author Lee Rainie.

Some 15% of Americans said that the internet was the place they got most of their news during the mid-term election campaign, up from 7% for the last mid-term election.

"People see the internet as providing more information than other news channels. It offers a variety of perspectives," said Mr Rainie.

Increasingly Americans are turning to international online news sources to get a perspective on how domestic political life is played out on the wider stage.



US senator used web for a major announcement

"The BBC News website is among the most popular," said Mr Rainie.

The survey could find no direct evidence that the internet is drawing previously uninvolved people into the political debate but it did find that the internet has allowed activists to become "turbo-charged".

"The vanguard of YouTubers and bloggers has become influential in politics. Those who wish to engage voters around a particular issue or candidate have many more tools at their disposal," said Mr Rainie.

SEE ALSO

- [Teens 'turn to social websites'](#)
07 Jan 07 | Technology
- [Podcast numbers show 'few hooked'](#)
23 Nov 06 | Technology
- [Internet's future in 2020 debated](#)
24 Sep 06 | Technology
- [Numbers cut through blogging hype](#)
20 Jul 06 | Technology

RELATED INTERNET LINKS

- [Barack Obama](#)
- [Pew Internet and American Life Project](#)

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external internet sites

TOP TECHNOLOGY STORIES

- [Americans embrace politics online](#)
- [Concern over China's missile test](#)
- [Apple profits surge on iPod sales](#)
- [RSS](#) | [News feeds](#)

MOST POPULAR STORIES NOW

[MOST E-MAILED](#)

[MOST READ](#)

- [UK braced for second day of gales](#)
- [Rows 'not racist', say housemates](#)
- [GP pay 'should have been capped'](#)
- [Girl has report from wrong school](#)
- [Concern over China's missile test](#)

[Most popular now, in detail](#)

It is not just citizens who are finding the net a useful tool in untangling thorny political issues, politicians themselves are keen to embrace new technology.

Barack Obama, a popular US senator, chose to announce himself in the race to be the next Democrat president via a video on his website last week.

 [E-mail this to a friend](#)

 [Printable version](#)

FEATURES, VIEWS, ANALYSIS



A volunteer lesson
Teacher's tale shows charity needs help from Generation X



In pictures
Your perspective on the world during the past week



Net tightens
Will MySpace's latest scheme protect children online?

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

[E-mail news](#) [Mobiles](#) [Alerts](#) [News feeds](#) [Interactive TV](#) [Podcasts](#)

MMVII

Most Popular Now | 48,143 people are reading stories on the site right now.

[Back to top](#) ^^

[Help](#) | [Privacy and cookies policy](#) | [News sources](#) | [About the BBC](#) | [Contact us](#)