



POLL MUST BE SOURCED:
NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Poll*

**Trump Ahead in FL, IL...
Kasich Up in OH...
Clinton Ahead in FL, IL, and OH**
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These NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Polls report:

In the Republican presidential primary contests in Florida and Illinois, businessman Donald Trump exhibits continued strength in his bid for the GOP nomination. Trump is also a strong second in Ohio behind the state's popular governor, John Kasich. On the Democratic side, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton outpaces Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders in Florida and Ohio, but a closer contest exists in Illinois.

"Coming out of 'Super Tuesday Round Two,' we should know whether Hillary Clinton has regained her momentum to go along with her current delegate lead," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "We should also have a better sense of whether Donald Trump is on the path to his party's nomination or whether the GOP is staring at a contested convention in this unprecedented election cycle."

In Illinois, Trump, 34%, leads Texas Senator Ted Cruz, 25%, among the state's likely Republican primary voters including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate or who voted by absentee ballot. Kasich follows with 21%, and Florida Senator Marco Rubio trails with 16%.

In Florida, Trump bests favorite son, Rubio, 43% to 22%, among the state's likely Republican primary electorate. Cruz follows with 21% while Kasich lags behind with 9%.

On Kasich's home turf of Ohio, Kasich has the support of 39% to 33% for Trump among likely Republican primary voters in Ohio including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate or who voted by absentee ballot. Cruz garners 19%, and Rubio has 6% among the likely GOP electorate in Ohio.

*All references to the survey must be sourced as "NBC News/Wall Street Journal/Marist Poll."

In Illinois and Florida, Trump has the advantage among most key demographic groups except for likely Republican primary voters who self-identify as very conservative. Among this voting group, Cruz has the advantage. In Ohio, Kasich draws strength from those who describe themselves as moderate, college graduates, women, or Republicans.

2016 Republican Presidential Primary

Including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate or voted absentee

	Likely Republican Primary Voters March 2016		
	Florida	Illinois	Ohio
Donald Trump	43%	34%	33%
Marco Rubio	22%	16%	6%
Ted Cruz	21%	25%	19%
John Kasich	9%	21%	39%
Other	1%	0%	0%
Undecided	4%	5%	3%

NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll

Florida: n=511 MOE +/- 4.3 percentage points. Illinois: n=421 MOE +/- 4.8 percentage points. Ohio: n=564 MOE +/- 4.1 percentage points. Interviews conducted March 4th through March 10th, 2016. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

58% of likely Republican primary voters with a candidate preference or who voted by absentee ballot in Illinois, 65% of those in Florida, and 65% of those in Ohio strongly support their choice of candidate. In Illinois and Florida, Trump enjoys the greatest intensity of support among his backers. In Ohio, Trump, Kasich, and Cruz have the identical proportion, 67%, of dedicated followers.

In all three states, Cruz, Rubio, and Kasich vie for the title of most preferred second choice candidate among likely Republican primary voters with a candidate preference including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate.

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2016 Republican Presidential Primary Second Choice

Including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate

Likely Republican Primary Voters with a Candidate Preference March 2016

	Florida	Illinois	Ohio
Ted Cruz	28%	26%	23%
Marco Rubio	25%	24%	26%
John Kasich	21%	24%	26%
Donald Trump	14%	13%	13%
Other	2%	1%	2%
Undecided	10%	11%	10%

NBC News/W.S.J./Marist Poll
Florida: n=337 MOE +/- 5.3 percentage points. Illinois: n=352 MOE +/- 5.2 percentage points. Ohio: n=491 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Interviews conducted March 4th through March 10th, 2016. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Looking at the Democratic side in Florida, Clinton receives 61% to 34% for Sanders among the state's likely Democratic electorate including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate or who voted by absentee ballot. In Ohio, Clinton has the support of 58% to 38% for Sanders. In Illinois, Clinton edges Sanders, 51% to 45%, among likely Democratic primary voters statewide including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate or who voted by absentee ballot.

In each of these states, Clinton's support is bolstered by likely Democratic primary voters who are African American, those over 45 years old, Democrats, or women. Sanders' support is buoyed by those who self-identify as very liberal, independents, those younger than 45 years old, or first time voters. Sanders outpaces Clinton among Latinos in Illinois and runs competitively with her among these voters in Florida.

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2016 Democratic Presidential Primary

Including those who are undecided yet leaning toward a candidate or voted absentee

	Likely Democratic Primary Voters March 2016		
	Florida	Illinois	Ohio
Hillary Clinton	61%	51%	58%
Bernie Sanders	34%	45%	38%
Other	2%	0%	0%
Undecided	3%	4%	4%

NBC News/WSJ/Marist Poll

Florida: n=500 MOE +/- 4.4 percentage points. Illinois: n=529 MOE +/- 4.3 percentage points. Ohio: n=453 MOE +/- 4.6 percentage points. Interviews conducted March 4th through March 10th, 2016. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

75% of likely Democratic primary voters with a candidate preference or who voted by absentee ballot in Florida, 70% of those in Illinois, and 64% of those in Ohio strongly support their candidate of choice. In Illinois and Ohio, Clinton and Sanders enjoy similar intensities of support among their respective backers. However, in Florida, the proportion of Clinton's supporters, 80%, who report a firm commitment to her is greater than that of Sanders' backers, 66%, who report the same level of intensity.

When Clinton or Sanders is paired against Trump or Cruz in hypothetical general election matchups, the Democratic candidate has the advantage among registered voters in Illinois and Florida. However, in Ohio, Clinton leads Trump by only 6 points and is 2 points behind Cruz. Sanders leads Trump by 9 points in Ohio and is competitive against Cruz.

When Clinton, 47%, and Rubio, 46%, are paired against each other in Florida, the two are competitive. In Ohio, Kasich leads Clinton by 21 points among registered voters in the state.

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2016 Presidential General Election Matchups

Registered Voters March 2016

	Florida	Illinois	Ohio
Hillary Clinton, the Democrat	49%	57%	48%
Donald Trump, the Republican	41%	32%	42%
Undecided	9%	11%	10%
Hillary Clinton, the Democrat	48%	51%	45%
Ted Cruz, the Republican	43%	40%	47%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%
Hillary Clinton, the Democrat	47%		
Marco Rubio, the Republican	46%		
Undecided	7%		
Hillary Clinton, the Democrat			36%
John Kasich, the Republican			57%
Undecided			7%

NBC News/W SJ/Marist Poll

Florida: n=2422 MOE +/- 2.0 percentage points. Illinois: n=1968 MOE +/- 2.2 percentage points. Ohio: n=2052 MOE +/- 2.2 percentage points. Interviews conducted March 4th through March 10th, 2016. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

2016 Presidential General Election Matchups

Registered Voters March 2016

	Florida	Illinois	Ohio
Bernie Sanders, the Democrat	50%	60%	50%
Donald Trump, the Republican	42%	30%	41%
Undecided	8%	10%	9%
Bernie Sanders, the Democrat	48%	55%	45%
Ted Cruz, the Republican	41%	35%	44%
Undecided	11%	10%	11%

NBC News/W SJ/Marist Poll

Florida: n=2422 MOE +/- 2.0 percentage points. Illinois: n=1968 MOE +/- 2.2 percentage points. Ohio: n=2052 MOE +/- 2.2 percentage points. Interviews conducted March 4th through March 10th, 2016. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

54% of Illinois residents, 48% of Floridians, and 45% of Ohio residents approve of the job performance of President Barack Obama. This includes 88% of likely Democratic primary voters in Illinois, 83% of those in Florida, and 83% of the Ohio likely Democratic electorate.

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