



New Hampshire Democratic Presidential Primary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Thursday, September 25, 2003

Contact: Dr. Lee M. Miringoff
Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho
Marist College
845.575.5050

This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

Democratic Presidential Primary 2004

- **How the Democratic Field Shapes Up:** Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean leads the field of Democratic presidential candidates for the 2004 New Hampshire Democratic Presidential Primary with 35%. Senator John Kerry receives 22%, followed by General Wesley Clark with 11%.* The other candidates trail with single digits.

Question Wording: If the next Democratic presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	September 2003 Total	September 2003 Democrats	September 2003 Non-enrolled	December 2002
Howard Dean	35%	36%	34%	7%
John Kerry	22%	24%	19%	37%
Wesley Clark	11%	8%	13%	n.a.
Joseph Lieberman	6%	6%	7%	16%
John Edwards	4%	3%	5%	3%
Richard Gephardt	3%	3%	3%	10%
Al Sharpton	1%	1%	1%	1%
Carol Moseley Braun	1%	1%	1%	n.a.
Bob Graham	1%	<1%	1%	n.a.
Dennis Kucinich	1%	2%	1%	n.a.
Other	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6%
Undecided	15%	16%	15%	20%

* The survey includes registered Democrats and also Independents who expressed an interest in the Democratic primary when asked, "If President George Bush has no major opponent in the next Republican presidential primary in New Hampshire and the Democrats have a serious contest, do you plan on voting in the Democratic primary, the Republican primary, or don't you plan to vote in the next New Hampshire Presidential Primary."

- **Intensity of Support:** 31% of New Hampshire Democrats and Democratic leaning Independents are strongly committed to a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president. 36% say they somewhat support their choice, and 32% indicate they might vote differently on primary day.

Question Wording: Would you say you strongly support (candidate), somewhat support him/her, or do you think you might vote differently on primary day?

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
September 2003	31%	36%	32%	1%

Waiting in the Wings?

- **Should He? Should She?** 71% of the potential electorate for the Democratic primary does not want Al Gore to run for president in 2004, an increase from 44% in a similar poll conducted last December. 62% of these voters do not want New York Senator Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2004.

Question Wording: Do you want Al Gore/Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2004 or not?

	Yes	No	Unsure
Al Gore			
September 2003	26%	71%	3%
December 2002	50%	44%	6%
Hillary Clinton			
September 2003	32%	62%	6%
December 2002	28%	68%	4%

- **The Democratic Field...Plus Hillary:** If Hillary Clinton runs for president in 2004, Howard Dean still leads the field of Democratic candidates among New Hampshire Democrats and Democratic leaning Independents for the Democratic presidential primary. Dean receives 28%, followed by Hillary Clinton with 21% and John Kerry with 15%.

Question Wording: If Hillary Clinton runs for president and the 2004 Democratic presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Total	September 2003
Howard Dean	28%
Hillary Clinton	21%
John Kerry	15%
Wesley Clark	9%
Joseph Lieberman	5%
Richard Gephardt	3%
John Edwards	3%
Al Sharpton	<1%
Carol Moseley Braun	<1%
Dennis Kucinich	<1%
Bob Graham	1%
Undecided	15%

The Democratic Primary Electorate: The Issues

- **Direction of the Country:** A growing number of New Hampshire Democratic primary voters are concerned with the direction the nation is headed. 79% of these voters think the country is going in the wrong direction.

Question Wording: In general, thinking about the way things are going in the country, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?

	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
September 2003	18%	79%	3%
December 2002	36%	61%	3%

- **The Voters' Agenda:** Domestic issues such as health care, education, and the economy far out distance other concerns on the minds of New Hampshire Democrats and Democratic leaning Independent voters.

Question Wording: Which of the following issues are you most interested in hearing about during the campaign:

Total	September 2003
Domestic issues like health care or education	42%
The economy	35%
The situation in Iraq	10%
Homeland security	5%
The war against terrorism	5%
Unsure	3%

- **The Economy:** 46% of potential Democratic primary voters think the national economy is getting worse and 16% think it is getting better. 38% think it is staying the same.

Question Wording: Do you think the U.S. economy is getting better, getting worse, or staying the same?

Economy	Getting Better	Getting Worse	Staying the Same
September 2003	16%	46%	38%
December 2002	12%	44%	44%

- **Recession:** With respect to the New Hampshire economy, 46% of registered Democrats and Democratic leaning Independents think the state is currently in a recession. 48% do not think so.

Question Wording: Do you think that New Hampshire is currently in a recession, or not?

Recession	Yes	No	Unsure
September 2003	46%	48%	6%
December 2002	51%	46%	3%

- **Iraq:** 50% of the New Hampshire Democratic primary electorate thinks the situation in Iraq is getting worse compared with 13% who think it is getting better.

Question Wording: Do you think the situation in Iraq is getting better, getting worse, or staying the same?

Iraq	Better	Worse	Staying the same
September 2003	13%	50%	37%

- **Terrorism vs. Economy:** When thinking about the future, 75% of potential New Hampshire Democratic primary voters are more concerned about jobs and the economy compared with 23% who are more concerned about the war on terrorism. This represents an increase in the number of New Hampshire Democratic primary voters who are concerned about jobs and the economy over the war on terrorism since December 2002.

Question Wording: Thinking about the future, are you more concerned about the war on terrorism, or more concerned about jobs and the economy?

	War on Terrorism	Jobs and Economy	Unsure
September 2003	23%	75%	2%
December 2002	39%	59%	2%

- **President Bush:** 75% of New Hampshire Democrats and Democratic leaning Independents disapprove of the job President Bush is doing in office.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of the job George Bush is doing as president?

	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
September 2003	21%	75%	4%
Democrats	19%	78%	3%
Non-enrolled	24%	71%	5%
December 2002	42%	52%	6%
Democrats	39%	54%	7%
Non-enrolled	47%	48%	5%

Nature of the Sample: 469 Potential New Hampshire Democratic Presidential Primary Voters

This survey was conducted on September 22nd and 23rd, 2003. 469 registered Democrats and Independent voters who expressed an interest in voting in the Democratic presidential primary in 2004 were interviewed. The sample was selected in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New Hampshire and adjusted for turnout in comparable elections. All interviews were conducted by telephone. The results are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$ for the entire sample. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.