



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 ♦ Phone 845.575.5050 ♦ Fax 845.575.5111 www.maristpoll.marist.edu

New York City Democrats and the Race for Mayor

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: Monday 6:30 p.m. September 5, 2005

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

This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

- **Woulda, coulda, shoulda?** Had Republican Michael Bloomberg sought the Democratic nomination for mayor he would handily defeat all four of the candidates running in next week's Democratic primary. When registered Democrats are asked to choose a candidate for mayor, 42% would give their party's nod to Mayor Bloomberg.

Question Wording: If Mayor Bloomberg were a candidate in the Democratic primary for mayor in New York City, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	September 2005
Registered Democrats	
Mayor Michael Bloomberg	42%
Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer	23%
Congressman Anthony Weiner	10%
Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields	8%
Council Speaker Gifford Miller	7%
Undecided	10%

- **Jockeying for position:** Although former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer still leads the field of Democratic candidates on the ballot for next week's primary, he hasn't gotten much closer to the 40% needed to avoid a run-off. Ferrer has the support of 32% of registered Democrats. His three competitors are closely matched for second place. Congressman Anthony Weiner receives 17%, and Council Speaker Gifford Miller has 15%. Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields has slipped to 13%. 23% of Democrats are undecided.

- **Likely Democratic voters:** Among Democrats who are likely to vote on primary day, Fernando Ferrer receives 33% compared with 20% for Congressman Weiner, 17% for Council Speaker Miller, and 14% for Manhattan Borough President Fields. 16% of likely Democratic voters remain undecided.

Question Wording: If the Democratic primary for mayor in New York City were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Democrats	Ferrer	Weiner	Miller	Fields	Undecided
September 5, 2005	32%	17%	15%	13%	23%
August 2005	30%	13%	15%	19%	23%
July 2005	36%	14%	14%	19%	17%
June 2005	38%	12%	13%	24%	13%

September 5, 2005	Ferrer	Weiner	Miller	Fields	Undecided
Likely Democrats	33%	20%	17%	14%	16%
Likely Dems w/ leaners	34%	21%	17%	15%	13%

- **Many Democrats still waiting to be wooed:** In addition to the 23% of registered Democrats who are undecided about their choice in next week's primary for mayor, many Democrats who have made up their mind are not firmly committed to their candidate. Only 40% of registered Democrats who support a candidate say they are strongly committed to their choice compared with 54% who felt this way in the first week of September, 2001. 30% say they somewhat support their choice, and 28% say they might vote differently on primary day. 2% are unsure.

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

Registered Democrats	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
September 5, 2005	40%	30%	28%	2%
September 7, 2001	54%	24%	19%	3%
Fernando Ferrer				
September 2005	43%	26%	29%	2%
August 2005	35%	29%	33%	3%
July 2005	34%	34%	28%	4%
June 2005	43%	28%	26%	3%
April 2005	30%	36%	32%	2%
March 2005	48%	24%	24%	4%

Registered Democrats	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
Anthony Weiner				
September 2005	36%	36%	26%	2%
August 2005	26%	31%	43%	<1%
July 2005	19%	42%	36%	3%
June 2005	26%	32%	39%	3%
April 2005	33%	39%	25%	3%
March 2005	33%	43%	18%	6%
Gifford Miller				
September 2005	35%	35%	27%	3%
August 2005	23%	39%	36%	2%
July 2005	26%	41%	27%	6%
June 2005	25%	32%	39%	4%
April 2005	22%	39%	36%	3%
March 2005	22%	48%	28%	2%
C. Virginia Fields				
September 2005	44%	23%	32%	1%
August 2005	29%	37%	25%	9%
July 2005	27%	34%	35%	4%
June 2005	32%	31%	35%	2%
April 2005	29%	37%	33%	1%
March 2005	41%	25%	30%	4%
August 2005	30%	33%	33%	4%
July 2005	29%	37%	30%	4%
June 2005	35%	30%	32%	3%
April 2005	29%	37%	32%	2%
March 2005	41%	30%	25%	4%
December 2004	39%	25%	32%	4%

- Democrats see issues as focus of candidates' campaigns:** As the Democratic candidates enter the final stretch of the primary campaign, more Democratic voters feel the candidates have focused on the issues rather than on attacking one another. 47% of registered Democrats say the candidates have spent more time discussing the issues compared with 36% of Democrats who feel they have spent more time attacking their opponents.

Question Wording: In general, do you feel that the Democratic candidates for mayor have spent more time talking about their positions on the issues or attacking their opponents?

	Talking Issues	Attacking Opponents	Both	Neither	Unsure
Registered Democrats	47%	36%	3%	2%	12%

- **Most Democrats believe Mayor Bloomberg will win a second term:** Regardless of the candidate they support, 76% of New York City Democrats believe Mayor Bloomberg will win re-election.

Question Wording: Regardless of whom you are planning to vote for, who do you think will win the election for mayor in November:

Registered Democrats	September 2005
Michael Bloomberg	76%
Fernando Ferrer	10%
Gifford Miller	3%
C. Virginia Fields	2%
Anthony Weiner	2%
Unsure	7%

- **Democrats see education as top priority:** Democrats place education at the top of the list of priorities facing the next mayor. They would also like to see jobs, economic development, poverty and homelessness, security from terrorism, crime, taxes, and race relations on the mayor's agenda.

Question Wording: Do you think the top priority for the next mayor should be:

Registered Democrats	September 2005
Education	34%
Jobs	16%
Economic development	15%
Poverty and homelessness	12%
Security from terrorism	12%
Crime	5%
Taxes	4%
Ethnic and racial relations	2%

How the survey was conducted:

This survey was conducted in either English or Spanish from August 29th through September 2nd, 2005. 735 registered Democrats in New York City were interviewed in proportion to the enrollment in each borough and adjusted for turnout in comparable city elections. The results are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$. There are 314 likely Democrats and the results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at $\pm 5.5\%$. The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.