



WNBC/Marist Poll

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NYC 2005 Democratic Primary Race for Mayor

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All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

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This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

- **Congressman Weiner takes command of second place:** Congressman Anthony Weiner has surged ahead of Council Speaker Gifford Miller and Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields to take sole possession of second place in next Tuesday's Democratic primary. Although former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer still leads the field, he has not gained much ground towards the 40% needed to avoid a runoff. Among registered voters, Fernando Ferrer receives 34% compared with 27% for Anthony Weiner. Gifford Miller follows with 14%, and C. Virginia Fields has 13%. 12% of registered Democrats remain undecided.
- **Among likely Democrats it's neck and neck:** Among Democrats who are likely to vote on primary day, the contest becomes a statistical tossup. Mr. Ferrer has the support of 32% of likely Democratic voters, and Mr. Weiner receives 30%. Manhattan Borough President Fields and Council Speaker Miller lag with 15% and 13%, respectively. 10% of likely Democratic voters are undecided. When undecided likely Democratic voters who lean towards a candidate are included in the results, Fernando Ferrer receives 33%, Anthony Weiner has 31%, C. Virginia Fields has 17%, and Gifford Miller receives 14%. Only 5% 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 9, 2005	34%	27%	14%	13%	12%
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%

	Ferrer	Weiner	Miller	Fields	Undecided
Likely Democrats					
September 9, 2005	32%	30%	13%	15%	10%
September 5, 2005	33%	20%	17%	14%	16%
Likely Dems w/ leaners					
September 9, 2005	33%	31%	14%	17%	5%
September 5, 2005	34%	21%	17%	15%	13%

- Many Democrats still not wowed:** Many Democrats who have a preference are not firmly committed to their candidate. Only 40% of registered Democrats who support a candidate say they are strongly committed to their choice. 36% say they somewhat support their choice, and 22% say they might vote differently on primary day. 2% are unsure. A comparison among the candidates reveals that supporters of Anthony Weiner are not as strongly committed to their choice, and supporters of C. Virginia Fields are most enthusiastic about their decision.

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 9, 2005	40%	36%	22%	2%
September 7, 2001	54%	24%	19%	3%
Fernando Ferrer				
September 9, 2005	43%	34%	20%	3%
September 5, 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%

Anthony Weiner				
September 9, 2005	32%	43%	24%	1%
September 5, 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 9, 2005	42%	33%	22%	3%
September 5, 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 9, 2005	48%	28%	23%	1%
September 5, 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%
Registered Democrats				
September 5, 2005	40%	30%	28%	2%
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%

- **Candidates still not household names:** With only days to go before the primary, many Democrats still do not know much about the candidates seeking their vote for mayor.

Question Wording: In general, do you know a great deal, a good amount, not very much, or nothing at all about (candidate name):

	A Great Deal	A Good Amount	Not Very Much	Nothing at All
Fernando Ferrer				
Registered Democrats	22%	41%	32%	5%
Likely Democrats	26%	48%	24%	2%
Anthony Weiner				
Registered Democrats	9%	26%	44%	21%
Likely Democrats	12%	32%	40%	16%

Gifford Miller				
Registered Democrats	9%	24%	43%	24%
Likely Democrats	11%	28%	43%	18%
C. Virginia Fields				
Registered Democrats	8%	25%	47%	20%
Likely Democrats	12%	32%	42%	14%

- Candidates' campaigns focused on issues, not attacks on each other:** A majority of Democrats feel the candidates have focused on the issues during this primary campaign rather than on attacking one another. 51% of registered Democrats say the candidates have spent more time discussing the issues compared with 38% 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?

Registered Democrats	Talking Issues	Attacking Opponents	Both	Neither	Unsure
September 9, 2005	51%	38%	3%	1%	7%
September 5, 2005	47%	36%	3%	2%	12%

- Democratic voters see only minor differences among the candidates:** In a campaign that has seen little sparring among the four Democratic mayoralty wannabes, many Democratic voters concede they see few differences among the candidates on issues.

Question Wording: Do the four Democratic candidates for mayor have major differences, minor differences, or no differences at all in their positions on the issues?

Registered Democrats	Major Differences	Minor Differences	No Differences	Unsure
September 9, 2005	23%	57%	14%	6%

How the survey was conducted:

This survey was conducted in either English or Spanish on September 7th and 8th, 2005. 770 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 326 likely Democrats and the results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at $\pm 5.5\%$. The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.