



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:

- Fernando Ferrer is narrowly ahead in the Democratic primary for mayor:** Former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer narrowly leads his closest opponent Congressman Anthony Weiner by six points among Democrats likely to vote in tomorrow’s primary for mayor. Ferrer receives the support of 35% of likely Democratic voters compared with 29% for Weiner. Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields and Council Speaker Gifford Miller trail with 14% each. 8% of likely Democratic voters are undecided. When undecided likely Democratic voters who lean toward a candidate are included in the results, Fernando Ferrer receives 36%, Anthony Weiner has 29%, C. Virginia Fields has 16%, and Gifford Miller receives 15%. Only 4% 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:

	Ferrer	Weiner	Fields	Miller	Undecided
Likely Democrats					
September 12, 2005	35%	29%	14%	14%	8%
September 9, 2005	32%	30%	15%	13%	10%
September 5, 2005	33%	20%	14%	17%	16%
Likely Dems w/ leaners					
September 12, 2005	36%	29%	16%	15%	4%
September 9, 2005	33%	31%	17%	14%	5%
September 5, 2005	34%	21%	15%	17%	13%

Registered Democrats	Ferrer	Weiner	Fields	Miller	Undecided
September 12, 2005	34%	29%	13%	12%	12%
September 9, 2005	34%	27%	13%	14%	12%
September 5, 2005	32%	17%	13%	15%	23%
August 2005	30%	13%	19%	15%	23%
July 2005	36%	14%	19%	14%	17%
June 2005	38%	12%	24%	13%	13%

- Democratic candidates still getting only lukewarm support:** Many Democrats who have a preference do not strongly support their candidate. 48% of registered Democrats who support a candidate say they are strongly committed to their choice. 32% say they somewhat support their choice, and 18% say they might vote differently on primary day. 2% are unsure. 52% of Fernando Ferrer’s supporters say they are firmly committed to their choice although this is down from 67% four years ago. Only 40% of Anthony Weiner’s supporters are strongly committed to him.

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 12, 2005	48%	32%	18%	2%
September 7, 2001	54%	24%	19%	3%
Fernando Ferrer				
September 12, 2005	52%	29%	16%	3%
September 9, 2005	43%	34%	20%	3%
September 5, 2005	43%	26%	29%	2%
August 2005	35%	29%	33%	3%
September 7, 2001	67%	18%	12%	3%
Anthony Weiner				
September 12, 2005	40%	38%	21%	1%
September 9, 2005	32%	43%	24%	1%
September 5, 2005	36%	36%	26%	2%
August 2005	26%	31%	43%	<1%
C. Virginia Fields				
September 12, 2005	53%	28%	19%	<1%
September 9, 2005	48%	28%	23%	1%
September 5, 2005	44%	23%	32%	1%
August 2005	29%	37%	25%	9%

Gifford Miller				
September 12, 2005	46%	33%	19%	2%
September 9, 2005	42%	33%	22%	3%
September 5, 2005	35%	35%	27%	3%
August 2005	23%	39%	36%	2%
Registered Democrats				
September 9, 2005	40%	36%	22%	2%
September 5, 2005	40%	30%	28%	2%
August 2005	30%	33%	33%	4%

- **If there is a runoff between Ferrer and Weiner...** If no one receives at least 40% of the vote in tomorrow's Democratic primary for mayor, the top two finishers will face each other in a runoff two weeks later. A first look at a possible runoff between the two favorites reveals Fernando Ferrer with an early edge over Anthony Weiner.

Question Wording: If none of the candidates in the Democratic primary for mayor gets 40% of the vote, there is a runoff election between the two candidates with the most votes. If there is a runoff, whom would you support if the candidates are:

	Ferrer	Weiner	Undecided
Likely Democrats	51%	44%	5%
Registered Democrats	48%	45%	7%

- **The Sharpton Factor:** Although most Democrats say Reverend Sharpton's endorsement of Fernando Ferrer makes no difference in their decision whether to support Ferrer or not, the Reverend remains a polarizing figure. 26% of white Democrats say his endorsement makes them less likely to vote for Fernando Ferrer. 15% of African American Democrats say his endorsement makes them more likely to support Ferrer. Latino Democrats divide. 11% say Reverend Sharpton's endorsement makes them more likely to vote for Fernando Ferrer, and 11% say it makes them less likely.

Question Wording: Does Reverend Al Sharpton's endorsement of Fernando Ferrer make you more likely or less likely to support Fernando Ferrer in the Democratic primary for mayor, or does it make no difference to you?

	More Likely	Less Likely	No difference
Registered Democrats	8%	17%	75%
Race			
White	4%	26%	70%
African American	15%	6%	79%
Latino	11%	11%	78%

- **Democrats not riveted by primary contest:** Only 39% of Democrats say they are very interested in tomorrow’s primary contest. This compares with 49% who felt this way in 2001.

Question Wording: Using the numbers 1 to 5, with 1 meaning very interested and 5 meaning not interested at all, how interested are you in the Democratic primary for mayor?

	Very Interested 1	2	3	4	Not Interested at All 5
Registered Democrats					
September 2005	39%	13%	21%	11%	16%
September 2001	49%	14%	19%	8%	10%

How the survey was conducted:

This survey was conducted in either English or Spanish on September 8th and 11th, 2005. 989 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 ±3.5%. There are 434 likely Democrats and the results for this sub-sample are statistically significant at ±5%. The margin of error increases for cross-tabulations.