



Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

New York State Democrats Assess the Field of Democratic Candidates

- **Democratic Presidential Primary 2004:** Connecticut Senator Joseph Lieberman has the support of 23% of New York State's registered Democrats, followed by 13% for former Vermont Governor Howard Dean and 10% for the Reverend Al Sharpton. Newcomer Wesley Clark has 6%. 23% of New York State Democrats are undecided in their preference for their party's presidential nominee.

Question Wording: If the 2004 Democratic presidential primary in New York were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Democrats	September 2003	April 2003	December 2002
Joseph Lieberman	23%	21%	23%
Howard Dean	13%	4%	1%
Al Sharpton	10%	10%	14%
Richard Gephardt	8%	8%	11%
John Kerry	8%	10%	20%
Wesley Clark	6%	n.a.	n.a.
John Edwards	3%	2%	3%
Carol Moseley Braun	3%	2%	n.a.
Bob Graham	2%	1%	n.a.
Dennis Kucinich	1%	2%	n.a.
Other	n.a.	n.a.	9%
Undecided	23%	35%	19%

- **Intensity of Support:** Only 26% of New York State Democrats are strongly committed to a candidate for their party's nomination for president. 33% say they somewhat support their choice, and 39% 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?

Registered Democrats	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
September 2003	26%	33%	39%	2%

What's Next for Senator Clinton

- **Senator Clinton for President?** If Hillary Clinton runs for president in 2004, she would lead the field of Democratic candidates among New York State Democratic presidential primary voters by a wide margin.

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

Registered Democrats	September 2003
Hillary Clinton	46%
Joseph Lieberman	14%
Howard Dean	7%
John Kerry	6%
Richard Gephardt	5%
Wesley Clark	4%
Al Sharpton	3%
John Edwards	2%
Carol Moseley Braun	1%
Dennis Kucinich	1%
Bob Graham	< 1%
Undecided	11%

- **Should She or Shouldn't She?** A growing number of New York State voters think Hillary Clinton will serve out her full six-year term and not run for president in 2004. Most New York State registered voters do not want her to run for president this time including a majority of Democrats. But state voters divide

along partisan lines over whether she should seek the presidency at some point in the future with Democrats very positive about that possibility.

Question Wording: Hillary Clinton has stated that she will serve her full six-year term in the U.S. Senate and not run for president in 2004. Do you think Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2004 or serve out her six-year term?

Registered Voters	Run in 2004	Serve Out Term	Unsure
September 2003	24%	67%	9%
Democrats	21%	72%	7%
Republicans	29%	60%	11%
Non-enrolled	22%	71%	7%
April 2001	37%	54%	9%
December 2000	40%	51%	9%

Question Wording: Do you want Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2004?

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
September 2003	26%	69%	5%
Democrats	37%	57%	6%
Republicans	13%	84%	3%
Non-enrolled	23%	72%	5%
April 2003	43%	54%	3%
December 2002	37%	59%	4%

Question Wording: Would you like to see Hillary Clinton run for president someday?

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
September 2003	50%	46%	4%
Democrats	70%	26%	4%
Republicans	25%	71%	4%
Non-enrolled	48%	48%	4%

What About Al Gore

- **Gore for President?** A majority of New York State Democrats does not want Al Gore to run for president in 2004.

Question Wording: Do you want Al Gore to run for president in 2004?

Registered Democrats	Yes	No	Unsure
September 2003	36%	58%	6%

Campaign Agenda

- **Top Priority:** Domestic issues such as health care, education, and the economy far out distance other concerns on the minds of New York State Democratic voters.

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

Registered Democrats	September 2003
Domestic issues like health care or education	41%
The economy	33%
Homeland security	10%
The war against terrorism	9%
The situation in Iraq	5%
Unsure	2%

- **The Economy:** A majority of New York State Democrats thinks the U.S. economy is getting worse.

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

Registered Democrats	Better	Worse	Staying the same
U.S. Economy	17%	55%	28%

- **Iraq:** 51% of New York State Democrats think the situation in Iraq is getting worse compared with 16% who think it is getting better.

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

Registered Democrats	Better	Worse	Staying the same
Iraq	16%	51%	33%

- **Terrorism vs. Economy:** When thinking about the future, 60% of New York State Democrats are more concerned about jobs and the economy compared with 35% who are more concerned about the war on terrorism.

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/Economy	Unsure
Registered Democrats	35%	60%	5%

- **President Bush:** 47% of New York State Democrats rate the job President Bush is doing in office as poor.

Question Wording: Would you rate the job President George Bush is doing in office as excellent, good, fair, or poor?

Reg. Democrats	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
September 2003	28%	8%	20%	25%	47%	< 1%

Nature of the Sample: 912 New York State Registered Voters

This survey was conducted on September 15 through 18, 2003. 912 registered voters were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York State and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. There are 397 registered Democrats. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$ for registered voters and $\pm 5\%$ for Democrats. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.