



New York Democratic Presidential Primary

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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:** 23% of New York State Democrats are undecided in their preference for their party's presidential nominee. Senator Joseph Lieberman no longer leads the crowded field of Democratic candidates in New York. Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean has the support of 18% of the state's registered Democrats, followed by Senator Joseph Lieberman with 16%, 14% for retired General Wesley Clark, and 10% for Congressman Richard Gephardt.

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

Registered Democrats	October 2003	September 2003	April 2003	December 2002
Howard Dean	18%	13%	4%	1%
Joseph Lieberman	16%	23%	21%	23%
Wesley Clark	14%	6%	n.a.	n.a.
Richard Gephardt	10%	8%	8%	11%
John Kerry	8%	8%	10%	20%
Al Sharpton	5%	10%	10%	14%
Carol Moseley Braun	2%	3%	2%	n.a.
Dennis Kucinich	2%	1%	2%	n.a.
John Edwards	2%	3%	2%	3%
Other	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9%
Undecided	23%	23%	35%	19%

- **Intensity of Support:** Only 30% of New York State Democrats are strongly committed to a candidate for their party's nomination for president. 34% say they somewhat support their choice, and 35% 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
October 2003	30%	34%	35%	1%
September 2003	26%	33%	39%	2%

Following the Campaign

- **Taking notice:** Only 15% of New York State Democrats are following the presidential campaign very closely.

Question Wording: In general, would you say that you are currently following the presidential campaign very closely, closely, not very closely, or not at all?

Registered Democrats	October 2003
Very closely	15%
Closely	37%
Not very closely	40%
Not at all	8%

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	October 2003	September 2003
Domestic issues like health care or education	43%	41%
The economy	32%	33%
The situation in Iraq	9%	5%
The war against terrorism	9%	9%
Homeland security	6%	10%
Unsure	1%	2%

Nature of the Sample: 417 New York State Registered Democrats

This survey was conducted October 8th through 20th, 2003. 417 registered Democrats were interviewed by telephone in proportion to the voter registration in each county in New York State and adjusted for turnout in statewide elections. Results are statistically significant at $\pm 5\%$. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.