



WNBC/Marist Poll

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NYS Poll: February 5th Presidential Primaries

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All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

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This WNBC/Marist Poll of New York State reports:

Republican Presidential Primary 2008

- Senator John McCain leads among Republicans in New York State:** John McCain outpaces the Republican field of presidential candidates including former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani among New York’s registered Republicans. Despite Giuliani’s hopes for a strong showing in New York, right now, 34% of registered Republicans including those leaning to a candidate support McCain compared with 23% for Giuliani. Among Republicans likely to vote in the February 5th primary, McCain maintains his support of 34%, but Giuliani is tied for second with former Governor Mitt Romney at 19%. Former Governor Mike Huckabee receives 15% among Republicans likely to vote.

Question Wording: If the New York Republican Presidential Primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Republicans	Likely w/ Leaners	Likely Republicans	Republicans w/ Leaners	All Republicans
John McCain	34%	33%	34%	32%
Rudy Giuliani	19%	18%	23%	22%
Mitt Romney	19%	19%	15%	14%
Mike Huckabee	15%	15%	11%	11%
Fred Thompson	6%	5%	5%	4%
Ron Paul	2%	2%	2%	2%
Other	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Undecided	5%	8%	10%	15%

- **The Candidates' Supporters:** John McCain runs strongest against his opponents upstate where the lion's share of the Republican vote will come on primary day. Giuliani competes better in the suburbs surrounding New York City and among the handful of Republican voters who reside in New York City. McCain does well among Republicans with higher income and higher education.

Question Wording: If the New York Republican Presidential Primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Reg. Republicans w/ Leaners	McCain	Giuliani	Romney	Huckabee	Other	Undecided
Upstate	33%	15%	20%	16%	5%	11%
New York City	32%	31%	8%	7%	15%	7%
Suburbs	35%	37%	8%	5%	8%	7%
Men	33%	20%	17%	15%	9%	6%
Women	35%	26%	13%	7%	5%	14%
Moderate	36%	22%	18%	7%	5%	12%
Conservative	31%	23%	14%	17%	10%	5%
Not college	30%	24%	14%	13%	7%	12%
College	40%	21%	17%	9%	8%	5%
< \$50,000	26%	23%	19%	15%	7%	10%
\$50,000 or >	41%	22%	11%	11%	7%	8%
18 to 44	34%	20%	12%	17%	7%	10%
45 or older	34%	24%	16%	10%	7%	9%
1st time voter in Rep. primary	32%	26%	13%	12%	3%	14%

- **When factoring in voters' intensity of candidate support, McCain still needs to close the sale:** This is a contest that is still in flux. Many Republican voters are not particularly enthusiastic about their choice. Among Republicans who are currently supporting a candidate, only 41% say they strongly support their choice, and 30% say they may change their mind by primary day. 35% of John McCain's supporters are firmly committed to him. This compares with 42% of Mitt Romney's voters and 51% of Rudy Giuliani's backers.

Question Wording: Would you say you strongly support (candidate), somewhat support him, or do you think you might vote differently on primary day? (Support for the other candidates is too small for subgroup analysis)

Registered Republicans	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
January 2008	41%	28%	30%	1%
McCain supporters	35%	32%	31%	2%
Giuliani supporters	51%	28%	21%	<1%
Romney supporters	42%	18%	36%	4%
Huckabee supporters	32%	37%	31%	<1%

The Republican Primary Electorate

- The Voters' Agenda:** Three in ten Republicans are looking for a strong leader in their presidential nominee. Although John McCain is ahead of the other presidential contenders among this group of voters, 22% of Republicans who see this as the most important quality in the next president are still undecided about whom to support in the primary. 21% of Republicans want someone who is close to them on the issues. 20% would like someone who can bring about change and another one-fifth of the Republican electorate wants a candidate who shares their values.

Question Wording: When deciding your vote for president which one of the following qualities is most important to you, someone who:

Registered Republicans	January 2008 Quality Col %	Support for Candidate by Quality					
		McCain	Giuliani	Romney	Huckabee	Other	Und.
Is a strong leader	30%	39%	14%	12%	7%	6%	22%
Closer to you on the issues	21%	32%	27%	8%	13%	12%	8%
Bring change	20%	19%	22%	27%	7%	9%	16%
Shares your values	20%	20%	8%	29%	21%	14%	8%
Has experience	7%	Response is too small for subgroup analysis					
Best chance of being elected	2%						

- The Voters' Priorities:** The economy, the war in Iraq, and security from terrorism top the list of concerns on the minds of New York Republican voters. 24% of Republicans say the economy is the most important issue when deciding their vote for president, 18% mention the war in Iraq, and 16% cite security against terrorism.

Question Wording: When deciding your vote for president which one of the following issues is most important to you:

Registered Republicans	January 2008 Issue Col %	Support for Candidate by Issue					
		McCain	Giuliani	Romney	Huckabee	Other	Und.
The economy	24%	36%	30%	10%	5%	7%	12%
The war in Iraq	18%	39%	10%	11%	4%	10%	26%
Security against terrorism	16%	28%	33%	15%	16%	2%	6%
Health care	9%	Response is too small for subgroup analysis					
Illegal immigration	8%						
Education	7%						
Taxes	7%						
Social issues abortion/gay rights	6%						
Environment	5%						

- **Electability:** 46% of registered Republicans in New York think John McCain is the Republican most likely to beat the Democrat in November. 19% of Republicans in the state have this view of Mitt Romney, and only 15% think Rudy Giuliani is most electable.

Question Wording: Regardless of whom you are planning to vote for, which Republican candidate [for president] do you think has the best chance of beating the Democrat in November?

Registered Republicans	January 2008
John McCain	46%
Mitt Romney	19%
Rudy Giuliani	15%
Mike Huckabee	8%
Fred Thompson	1%
Ron Paul	<1%
Duncan Hunter	<1%
Undecided	11%

- **Presidential politics and religion:** Many New York Republicans do not think it matters that a candidate shares a voters' religious beliefs. In fact, 41% says it doesn't matter at all. In contrast, 71% of Republicans who support Mike Huckabee think the candidate they support should share their religious beliefs at least somewhat.

Question Wording: How much does it matter to you that a candidate shares your religious beliefs: a great deal, somewhat, not much, or not at all?

Registered Republicans	A Great Deal	Somewhat	Not Much	Not at All
January 2008	14%	26%	19%	41%
McCain supporters	7%	26%	17%	50%
Giuliani supporters	13%	23%	21%	43%
Romney supporters	17%	20%	23%	40%
Huckabee supporters	36%	35%	14%	15%

Democratic Presidential Primary 2008

- **New York Senator Hillary Clinton leads the Democratic field of candidates in the state:** Hillary Clinton receives the support of 48% of Democratic voters likely to vote in New York's Democratic Presidential Primary on February 5th including those currently leaning towards a candidate. She is followed by Senator Barack Obama with 32% and former Senator John Edwards with 9%. Dennis Kucinich receives 3%, and 7% of likely Democratic voters are undecided.

Question Wording: If the New York Democratic Presidential Primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Democrats	Likely w/ Leaners	Likely Democrats	Democrats w/ Leaners	All Democrats
Hillary Clinton	48%	47%	49%	48%
Barack Obama	32%	31%	30%	28%
John Edwards	9%	8%	9%	8%
Dennis Kucinich	3%	3%	3%	3%
Other	1%	1%	<1%	1%
Undecided	7%	10%	9%	12%

- Who's supporting whom?** The New York State Democratic Primary is most competitive in New York City where about half of the state's Democratic voters reside. Clinton receives support from 43% of likely Democratic voters in New York City compared with 39% for Obama. Clinton outdistances Obama upstate 59% to 22%, and she has an 18 percentage point lead in the suburbs which surround New York City. Barack Obama leads among African Americans likely to vote on primary day. African American voters historically comprise between one-fifth and one-quarter of the state's Democratic primary vote. He is very competitive among younger Democrats. He receives 47% among likely Democrats who are under 45 years of age compared with 43% for Clinton. Among Democrats likely to vote who are 45 years of age or older, Clinton leads Obama 50% to 27%.

Question Wording: If the New York Democratic Presidential Primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Likely Dem Prim Voters w/ Leaners	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Other	Undecided
Upstate	59%	22%	8%	4%	7%
New York City	43%	39%	7%	4%	7%
Suburbs	46%	28%	14%	4%	8%
Men	44%	33%	11%	7%	5%
Women	51%	31%	7%	2%	9%
White	55%	20%	12%	6%	7%
African American	26%	67%	<1%	<1%	7%
Latino	57%	30%	5%	<1%	8%
White Catholic	63%	18%	9%	4%	6%
Jewish	63%	16%	4%	6%	11%
Liberal	46%	33%	10%	6%	5%
Moderate	49%	32%	7%	3%	9%
Conservative	50%	27%	10%	1%	12%
Not college	47%	36%	7%	3%	7%
College	48%	29%	10%	5%	8%
< \$50,000	48%	35%	8%	3%	6%
\$50,000 or >	51%	31%	9%	3%	6%
18 to 44	43%	47%	6%	2%	2%
45 or older	50%	27%	10%	5%	8%
1st time voter in Dem. Primary	49%	44%	4%	2%	1%

- **Intensity of Support:** Overall, 68% of likely Democratic voters strongly support a candidate for their party's nomination for president. 79% of likely Democrats who back Hillary Clinton say they are strongly committed to her. This compares with 58% of Barack Obama's supporters who are firmly committed to him.

Question Wording: Would you say you strongly support (candidate), somewhat support him/her, or do you think you might vote differently on primary day? (Support for the other candidates is too small for subgroup analysis)

Likely Democratic Primary Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
January 2008	68%	19%	12%	1%
Clinton supporters	79%	16%	5%	<1%
Obama supporters	58%	26%	14%	2%

The Democratic Primary Electorate

- **The Voters' Agenda:** The number one quality Democratic primary voters in New York are looking for in a presidential candidate is someone who can bring about change. 27% of likely Democratic voters want a presidential candidate who is an agent of change followed closely by 24% who are looking for a candidate who is closer to them on the issues. 19% want a candidate who is a strong leader, 13% want someone who shares their values or has experience, and 4% are looking for a candidate that has the best chance of being elected in November.

Question Wording: When deciding your vote for president which one of the following qualities is most important to you, someone who:

Likely Democratic Primary Voters	January 2008 Quality Col %	Support for Top Tier Candidates by Quality		
		Clinton	Obama	Edwards
Bring about change	27%	37%	45%	6%
Closer to you on the issues	24%	38%	24%	20%
Is a strong leader	19%	51%	22%	12%
Shares your values	13%	Response is too small for subgroup analysis		
Has experience	13%			
Best chance of being elected	4%			

- **The Voters' Priorities:** The economy is the number one issue on the minds of likely Democratic primary voters in New York. 37% of likely Democratic voters are most concerned about the economy followed by 20% who cite the war in Iraq, and 19% who mention health care as the most important issue.

Question Wording: When deciding your vote for president which one of the following issues is most important to you:

Likely Democratic Primary Voters	January 2008 Issue Col %	Support for Top Tier Candidate by Issue		
		Clinton	Obama	Edwards
The economy	37%	55%	28%	4%
The war in Iraq	20%	45%	27%	13%
Health care	19%	57%	23%	9%
Education	9%	Response is too small for subgroup analysis		
Security against terrorism	7%			
Environment	3%			
Social issues abortion/gay rights	3%			
Illegal immigration	2%			
Taxes	<1%			

- **Electability:** A majority of likely Democratic primary voters in New York think Hillary Clinton has the best chance of beating the Republican candidate for president in November. 59% think Clinton is the most electable Democratic presidential candidate compared with 24% who believe Obama is.

Question Wording: Regardless of whom you are planning to vote for, which Democratic candidate [for president] do you think has the best chance of beating the Republican in November?

Likely Democratic Primary Voters	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Other	Undecided
January 2008	59%	24%	7%	<1%	10%

Nature of the Sample: 1,467 New York State Registered Voters

This survey of 1,467 New York State registered voters was conducted January 15th through January 17th, 2008. 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. The margin of error is $\pm 3\%$. There are 679 registered Democrats including 426 Democrats likely to vote in the February 5th primary. The results for these sub-samples are statistically significant at $\pm 4\%$ and $\pm 5\%$, respectively. There are 401 registered Republicans including 175 likely Republican primary voters. The results for these sub-samples are statistically significant at $\pm 5\%$ and $\pm 7.5\%$, respectively. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.