



# WNBC/Marist Poll

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## NYS Poll: February 5<sup>th</sup> Presidential Primaries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Saturday February 2, 2008

All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

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This WNBC/Marist Poll of New York State reports:

### *Democratic Presidential Primary 2008*

- **Hillary Clinton has a double-digit lead over Barack Obama in New York:** Senator Hillary Clinton has crossed the fifty percent mark in the support she receives from New York Democrats. Clinton receives support from 54% of Democrats likely to vote in the primary including those who are leaning toward a candidate. Senator Obama has 38%. 8% of likely Democratic voters are undecided. New York is a closed primary where only registered Democrats are eligible to participate.

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

	February 2008				January 2008	
	Likely w/ Leaners	Likely Democrats	Democrats w/ Leaners	All Democrats	Likely w/ Leaners	Likely Democrats
Hillary Clinton	<b>54%</b>	52%	<b>54%</b>	50%	<b>48%</b>	47%
Barack Obama	<b>38%</b>	37%	<b>36%</b>	35%	<b>32%</b>	31%
Other	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<1%	<b>&lt;1%</b>	<1%	<b>13%</b>	12%
Undecided	<b>8%</b>	11%	<b>10%</b>	15%	<b>7%</b>	10%

Likely Democratic Primary Voters w/ Leaners	February 2008	Upstate	NYC	Suburbs
Hillary Clinton	<b>54%</b>	53%	52%	61%
Barack Obama	<b>38%</b>	37%	42%	28%
Other	<b>&lt;1%</b>	1%	<1%	1%
Undecided	<b>8%</b>	9%	6%	10%

- **Most Democrats strongly support their choice:** 78% 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. 76% of Barack Obama's supporters 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?

Likely Democratic Primary Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
February 2008	78%	14%	7%	1%
January 2008	68%	19%	12%	1%
<b>Hillary Clinton</b>				
February 2008	79%	13%	6%	2%
January 2008	79%	16%	5%	<1%
<b>Barack Obama</b>				
February 2008	76%	16%	7%	1%
January 2008	58%	26%	14%	2%

- **Democrats divide over their impressions of the campaign's tone:** 42% of Democrats in New York think the candidates have spent more time talking about the issues compared with 40% who believe they have spent more time attacking each other.

**Question Wording:** Do you feel that the Democratic candidates for president have spent more time:

Registered Democrats	Talking about their positions on issues	Attacking each other	Both	Unsure
February 2008	42%	40%	10%	8%
Hillary Clinton supporters	49%	35%	9%	7%
Barack Obama supporters	40%	41%	10%	9%

- **What about the other Clinton?** 48% of Democrats in New York think former President Bill Clinton has helped his wife in her campaign for the White House. This includes 61% of Hillary Clinton's supporters in New York but only 34% of Democrats who support Barack Obama. 40% of Democrats think Bill Clinton has had a negative impact on his wife's candidacy including over a quarter of her own supporters and a majority of Democrats who back Obama.

**Question Wording:** Overall, do you think Bill Clinton has helped or hurt Hillary Clinton's chances of winning the Democratic nomination for president?

Registered Democrats	Helped	Hurt	Unsure
February 2008	48%	40%	12%
Hillary Clinton supporters	61%	26%	13%
Barack Obama supporters	34%	57%	9%

- **New York Democrats take notice of the Kennedy endorsements...but does it alter the contest?**

About one-third of New York Democrats say they are more likely to support Barack Obama after he received the endorsements of Caroline Kennedy and Senator Ted Kennedy including about one in five Hillary Clinton supporters. But, almost as many Democrats are less likely to support him in light of the nod from the Kennedys. 37% of Democrats say it makes no difference to their vote.

**Question Wording:** Does Caroline Kennedy’s endorsement of Barack Obama make you more likely to support Barack Obama or less likely to support him?

Registered Democrats	More likely	Less likely	Makes no difference
February 2008	33%	30%	37%
Hillary Clinton supporters	19%	45%	36%
Barack Obama supporters	59%	9%	32%

**Question Wording:** Does Senator Ted Kennedy’s endorsement of Barack Obama make you more likely to support Barack Obama or less likely to support him?

Registered Democrats	More likely	Less likely	Makes no difference
February 2008	34%	37%	29%
Hillary Clinton supporters	20%	51%	29%
Barack Obama supporters	58%	18%	24%

- **New York Democrats react favorably to Hillary Clinton after *The New York Times* endorses:** 43% of Democrats say they are more likely to support Hillary Clinton in light of *The New York Times* endorsement including one in four Barack Obama supporters. 28% of Democrats are less likely to support Clinton as a result on the newspaper’s endorsement, and 29% say it doesn’t make any difference to their vote.

**Question Wording:** Does the New York Times’ endorsement of Hillary Clinton make you more likely to support Hillary Clinton or less likely to support her?

Registered Democrats	More likely	Less likely	Makes no difference
February 2008	43%	28%	29%
Hillary Clinton supporters	59%	13%	28%
Barack Obama supporters	25%	51%	24%

**Republican Presidential Primary 2008**

- Senator John McCain outdistances his competitors by a wide margin for Tuesday’s New York State Republican Presidential Primary:** Like the Democratic primary, the Republican primary in New York is closed. Only registered Republicans may participate in Tuesday’s primary. John McCain trounces the narrowed field of Republican candidates and outpaces his closest challenger former Governor Mitt Romney by two and a half times to one among Republicans likely to vote. Including likely Republican voters who are leaning toward a candidate, McCain receives the support of 61% compared with 24% for Romney. Former Governor Mike Huckabee and Congressman Ron Paul trail with single digits.

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

Republicans	February 2008				January 2008	
	Likely w/ Leaners	Likely Republicans	Republicans w/ Leaners	All Republicans	Likely w/ Leaners	Likely Republicans
John McCain	61%	60%	61%	59%	34%	33%
Mitt Romney	24%	24%	21%	20%	19%	19%
Mike Huckabee	6%	6%	7%	6%	15%	15%
Ron Paul	5%	4%	4%	4%	2%	2%
Rudy Giuliani	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	19%	18%
Other	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	6%	5%
Undecided	4%	6%	7%	11%	5%	8%

- Republican voters’ intensity of support for their candidates has increased:** A majority of Republicans who support a candidate in Tuesday’s primary now say they are firmly committed to that candidate. Among Republicans who are currently supporting a candidate, 52% say they strongly support their choice, and only 16% say they may change their mind by primary day. 54% of John McCain’s supporters are firmly committed to him, and 52% of Mitt Romney’s voters strongly back their candidate.

**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
February 2008	52%	28%	16%	4%
January 2008	41%	28%	30%	1%
<b>John McCain</b>				
February 2008	54%	29%	13%	4%
January 2008	35%	32%	31%	2%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>				
February 2008	52%	31%	13%	4%
January 2008	42%	18%	36%	4%

- **A majority of Republicans think the candidates have focused on the issues:** 54% of registered Republicans believe the candidates are talking about the issues rather than attacking each other. John McCain’s supporters are more likely to have this view than voters who support Mitt Romney. 62% of Republicans who back McCain think issues have been the main focus of the campaign compared with 48% of Republicans who prefer Romney.

**Question Wording:** Do you feel that the Republican candidates for president have spent more time:

<b>Registered Republicans</b>	<b>Talking about their positions on issues</b>	<b>Attacking each other</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
February 2008	54%	33%	4%	9%
John McCain supporters	62%	29%	4%	5%
Mitt Romney supporters	48%	42%	3%	7%

- **Rudy Giuliani’s new role in the primary campaign in New York...his endorsement:** A majority of New York Republicans think Rudy Giuliani gave a boost to John McCain’s campaign in New York with his endorsement. 51% of registered Republican voters say are more likely to support John McCain after Giuliani’s endorsement last week including 63% of Republicans who say they currently support McCain.

**Question Wording:** Does Rudy Giuliani's endorsement of John McCain make you more likely to support John McCain or less likely to support him?

<b>Registered Republicans</b>	<b>More likely</b>	<b>Less likely</b>	<b>Makes no difference</b>
February 2008	51%	22%	27%
John McCain supporters	63%	13%	24%
Mitt Romney supporters	23%	50%	27%

- **And, what about *The New York Times*’ endorsement of McCain?** Although three in ten Republicans say *The New York Times*’ endorsement makes no difference to them, 42% believe it makes them less likely to support McCain. This includes almost one-third of current McCain supporters.

**Question Wording:** Does the New York Times’ endorsement of John McCain make you more likely to support John McCain or less likely to support him?

<b>Registered Republicans</b>	<b>More likely</b>	<b>Less likely</b>	<b>Makes no difference</b>
February 2008	28%	42%	30%
John McCain supporters	36%	32%	32%
Mitt Romney supporters	15%	77%	8%

**Nature of the Sample: 1,502 New York State Registered Voters**

This survey of 1,502 New York State registered voters was conducted January 30<sup>th</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 660 registered Democrats including 409 Democrats likely to vote in the February 5<sup>th</sup> primary. The results for these sub-samples are statistically significant at  $\pm 4\%$  and  $\pm 5\%$ , respectively. There are 390 registered Republicans including 181 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.