



## **New York: Presidential Campaign 2004**

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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:** 26% of New York State Democrats are undecided in their preference for their party's presidential nominee. Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean has the support of 26% of the state's registered Democrats and leads each of his rivals by more than 2:1. Among the remaining candidates, only Senator Joseph Lieberman and retired General Wesley Clark have double-digit support.

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

<b>Registered Democrats</b>	January 2004	October 2003	September 2003	April 2003	December 2002
Howard Dean	26%	18%	13%	4%	1%
Joseph Lieberman	12%	16%	23%	21%	23%
Wesley Clark	10%	14%	6%	n.a.	n.a.
Al Sharpton	8%	5%	10%	10%	14%
John Kerry	6%	8%	8%	10%	20%
Richard Gephardt	6%	10%	8%	8%	11%
John Edwards	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%
Carol Moseley Braun	2%	2%	3%	2%	n.a.
Dennis Kucinich	2%	2%	1%	2%	n.a.
Other	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9%
Undecided	26%	23%	23%	35%	19%

- **Intensity of Support:** Only 34% 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 30% 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?

<b>Registered Democrats</b>	<b>Strongly Support</b>	<b>Somewhat Support</b>	<b>Might Vote Differently</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
January 2004	34%	33%	30%	3%
Howard Dean	40%	30%	27%	3%
Joseph Lieberman	26%	44%	24%	6%
Wesley Clark	36%	48%	16%	0%
October 2003	30%	34%	35%	1%
September 2003	26%	33%	39%	2%

- **Dean vs. Not Dean:** In head-to-head hypothetical match-ups, former Vermont Governor Howard Dean leads his opponents in the New York State Democratic presidential primary.

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

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Howard Dean</b>	<b>John Kerry</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
January 2004	45%	28%	27%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Howard Dean</b>	<b>Richard Gephardt</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
January 2004	48%	28%	24%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Howard Dean</b>	<b>Joseph Lieberman</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
January 2004	51%	33%	16%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Howard Dean</b>	<b>Wesley Clark</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
January 2004	56%	21%	23%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Howard Dean</b>	<b>John Edwards</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
January 2004	58%	19%	23%

<b>Registered Voters</b>	<b>Howard Dean</b>	<b>Al Sharpton</b>	<b>Unsure</b>
January 2004	72%	18%	10%

***What Counts for New York Democrats***

- **The Candidate Most Likely To...** New York State registered Democrats want a candidate that can beat President George Bush in November, is closer to them on the issues, or has values like their own.

**Question Wording:** Which one of the following is most important to you in deciding whom to support for the Democratic presidential nomination? A candidate who:

<b>Registered Democrats</b>	January 2004
Can beat Bush in November	22%
Is closer to you on the issues	21%
Has values like your own	19%
Stands up for what they believe in	16%
Has the experience to be president	11%
Is not a typical politician	5%
Unsure	6%

- **The Iraq War:** A majority of New York State Democrats is more likely to support a candidate who opposed the U.S. war in Iraq. Supporters of Howard Dean are most likely to vote for a candidate who opposed the U.S. going to war in Iraq.

**Question Wording:** Are you more likely to vote for a candidate who supported the U.S. going to war with Iraq or are you more likely to vote for a candidate who opposed the U.S. going to war with Iraq?

<b>Registered Democrats</b>	Candidate Supported War	Candidate Opposed War	Unsure
January 2004	35%	56%	9%
Howard Dean	27%	67%	6%
Joseph Lieberman	51%	38%	11%
Wesley Clark	38%	57%	5%

***President Bush and New York State Voters***

- **Approval Rating:** President George Bush’s approval rating is currently 52% among New York State's registered voters. This is an increase since a similar poll conducted last September. 47% do not rate his job performance positively.

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

Registered Voters	Excellent/ Good	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure/ DK
January 2004	<b>52%</b>	22%	30%	19%	28%	1%
September 2003	<b>44%</b>	17%	27%	22%	33%	1%
April 2003	<b>58%</b>	29%	29%	19%	22%	1%
December 2002	<b>57%</b>	24%	33%	23%	19%	1%
April 2002	<b>72%</b>	33%	39%	17%	10%	1%
December 2001	<b>79%</b>	43%	36%	15%	5%	1%
April 2001	<b>40%</b>	11%	29%	30%	23%	7%

- **Is New York in Play for President Bush in 2004?** 34% of New York State voters definitely plan to vote for George Bush for president in 2004 and 36% definitely plan to vote against him. 30% are uncommitted.

**Question Wording:** Do you definitely plan to vote for George Bush for re-election as president in 2004 or do you definitely plan to vote against him?

Registered Voters	Vote For	Vote Against	Depends/Unsure
January 2004	34%	36%	30%
September 2003	32%	48%	20%

***Nature of the Sample: 617 NYS Registered Voters and 544 NYS Registered Democrats***

The survey of 617 registered voters was conducted January 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004. 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. Results for the Democratic primaries are based on a sample of 544 New York State registered Democrats that includes an over-sample that was conducted from January 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Results are statistically significant at  $\pm 4\%$  for registered voters and  $\pm 4.5\%$  for Democrats. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.