



WNBC/Marist Poll

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All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

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National Poll: Campaign 2008

This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

- **Will America's mayor become America's president?** Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is one of the top Republican presidential contenders for 2008 and the only leading potential candidate, Democrat or Republican, that a majority of registered voters nationwide would like to see run for president. Many voters also see him as ideologically acceptable although this is fueled by 70% of Republicans who see him as politically about right. But voters divide over whether they think he will, in fact, run for president and many are not optimistic about his chances should he decide to do so.
- Giuliani receives the support of 23% of Republican or Republican leaning independents in the race for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination followed by 20% for Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and 15% for Senator John McCain. A field of nine other potential Republican presidential contenders trails with single-digit support.

Question Wording: If the 2008 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: (asked of Republicans and Republican leaning independents)

Republicans	October 2006	February 2006	October 2005
Rudy Giuliani	23%	22%	21%
Condoleezza Rice	20%	22%	21%
John McCain	15%	22%	19%
Newt Gingrich	7%	5%	5%
Mitt Romney	4%	4%	<1%
Bill Frist	4%	2%	2%
George Allen	2%	2%	4%
George Pataki	2%	2%	2%
Sam Brownback	1%	<1%	2%
Tom Tancredo	1%	1%	1%
Chuck Hagel	<1%	1%	1%
Mike Huckabee	<1%	n.a.	n.a.
Other	n.a.	n.a.	5%
Undecided	21%	17%	17%

- 54% of registered voters want to see Rudy Giuliani run for president in 2008. This includes 78% of Republicans and 57% of independent voters. Even 32% of Democrats are interested in a Giuliani presidential candidacy.

Question Wording: Do you want Rudy Giuliani to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
October 2006	54%	39%	7%
Democrat	32%	61%	7%
Republican	78%	16%	6%
Independent	57%	36%	7%
February 2006	49%	45%	6%
October 2005	54%	40%	6%
May 2005	49%	43%	8%
February 2005	42%	47%	11%
December 2004	32%	42%	26%

- 51% of registered voters characterize Rudy Giuliani as ideologically about right including 70% of Republicans and 55% of independent voters. Only 12% of Republicans think he is too liberal. 34% of Democrats think he is ideologically well positioned although 29% of Democrats view him as too conservative.

Question Wording: Do you think Rudy Giuliani is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Registered Voters	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
October 2006	12%	17%	51%	20%
Democrat	14%	29%	34%	23%
Republican	12%	5%	70%	13%
Independent	11%	16%	55%	18%
February 2006	11%	20%	52%	17%
October 2005	12%	13%	54%	21%

- When matched against the Democratic frontrunner, Senator Hillary Clinton, Giuliani leads by seven percentage points nationally. He receives 49% compared with 42% for Clinton. 9% of registered voters are undecided.

Question wording: If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
October 2006	49%	42%	9%
Democrat	17%	79%	4%
Republican	89%	6%	5%
Independent	50%	36%	14%
February 2006	48%	47%	5%
October 2005	50%	43%	7%
May 2005	47%	46%	7%

- The national electorate evenly divides over whether Rudy Giuliani will run for president in 2008. 39% of voters think he will and 39% think he won't. About one in five voters are unsure.

Question Wording: Do you think Rudy Giuliani will run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Will Run	Will Not Run	Unsure
October 2006	39%	39%	22%
Democrat	40%	37%	23%
Republican	45%	34%	21%
Independent	35%	44%	21%

- Should he decide to run, 57% of voters do not think Rudy Giuliani is likely to be elected president in 2008.

Question Wording: Do you think it is very likely, likely, not very likely, or not likely at all that Rudy Giuliani will be elected president in 2008?

Registered Voters	Very Likely	Likely	Not Very Likely	Not Likely At All	Unsure
Rudy Giuliani	9%	25%	38%	19%	9%
Democrat	6%	19%	41%	27%	7%
Republican	13%	32%	35%	10%	10%
Independent	9%	26%	39%	17%	9%

- **Are we headed for a political subway series in 2008...another New York politician, Senator Hillary Clinton, is the Democratic presidential frontrunner and most voters think she is going to run:** Hillary Clinton is a strong favorite among Democrats and Democratic leaning independents for her party's nomination. She outdistances her closest Democratic rival, Al Gore, by more than two to one. Democrats generally think she is ideologically about right, neither too liberal nor too conservative. Most of them would like to see her enter the presidential contest in 2008, and many think she will. But Senator Clinton faces a general electorate that is divided over whether they want to see her in the race. She is competitive against the Republican presidential frontrunners, although most voters do not think she is likely to win including a majority of Democrats.
 - Senator Hillary Clinton leads the field of potential Democratic candidates nationwide for her party's 2008 presidential nomination. Clinton receives 35% among Democrats and Democratic leaning independents. She is followed by former Vice President Al Gore with 16%, former Senator John Edwards with 10% and Senator John Kerry with 9%. An additional nine other potential Democratic candidates trail with single digits. 16% of Democrats and Democratic leaning independent voters are undecided.

Question Wording: If the 2008 Democratic presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: (asked of Democrats and Democratic leaning independents)

Democrats	October 2006	February 2006
Hillary Clinton	35%	33%
Al Gore	16%	17%
John Edwards	10%	16%
John Kerry	9%	11%
Joe Biden	5%	4%
Mark Warner	2%	2%
Tom Daschle	2%	n.a.
Bill Richardson	1%	2%
Russ Feingold	1%	n.a.
Wesley Clark	1%	3%
Evan Bayh	1%	3%
Chris Dodd	1%	n.a.
Tom Vilsack	<1%	<1%
Undecided	16%	9%

- Although 43% of registered voters think Senator Clinton is ideologically about right, 40% say she is too liberal. 68% of Democrats think she is ideologically well positioned compared with 73% of Republicans who characterize her as too liberal. Independent voters divide. 41% believe her views are about right, and 41% think she is too liberal.

Question Wording: Do you think Hillary Clinton is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Registered Voters	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
October 2006	40%	6%	43%	11%
Democrat	13%	8%	68%	11%
Republican	73%	2%	14%	11%
Independent	41%	7%	41%	11%
February 2006	42%	6%	45%	7%
October 2005	39%	6%	46%	9%

- 51% of voters do not want Senator Clinton to run for president in 2008, including 80% of Republicans and 53% of independent voters. 74% of Democrats want to see her enter the presidential contest.

Question Wording: Do you want Hillary Clinton to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
October 2006	46%	51%	3%
Democrat	74%	24%	2%
Republican	17%	80%	3%
Independent	43%	53%	4%
February 2006	47%	51%	2%
October 2005	48%	49%	3%
May 2005	49%	48%	3%
February 2005	46%	49%	5%
December 2004	38%	50%	12%

- 64% of voters nationwide think Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2008 including most Democrats, Republicans, and independent voters.

Question Wording: Do you think Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Will Run	Will Not Run	Unsure
October 2006	64%	26%	10%
Democrat	61%	26%	13%
Republican	71%	24%	5%
Independent	63%	27%	10%
February 2006	65%	26%	9%

- Should Senator Clinton decide to run for president in 2008, 66% of voters do not think it is likely she will be elected, including 55% of Democrats.

Question Wording: Do you think it is very likely, likely, not very likely, or not likely at all that Hillary Clinton will be elected president in 2008?

Registered Voters	Very Likely	Likely	Not Very Likely	Not Likely At All	Unsure
October 2006	10%	19%	41%	25%	5%
Democrat	18%	24%	37%	18%	3%
Republican	4%	14%	45%	33%	4%
Independent	8%	20%	43%	23%	6%
February 2006	9%	18%	42%	29%	2%

- When matched against the top Republican contenders, Senator Clinton leads Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice but is behind former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Senator John McCain.

Question wording: If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton	Condoleezza Rice	Undecided
October 2006	49%	43%	8%
Democrat	86%	10%	4%
Republican	11%	82%	7%
Independent	44%	43%	13%
February 2006	49%	44%	7%
October 2005	50%	41%	9%
	Hillary Clinton	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
October 2006	42%	49%	9%
Democrat	79%	17%	4%
Republican	6%	89%	5%
Independent	36%	50%	14%
February 2006	47%	48%	5%
October 2005	43%	50%	7%
	Hillary Clinton	John McCain	Undecided
October 2006	43%	48%	9%
Democrat	78%	17%	5%
Republican	9%	83%	8%
Independent	34%	54%	12%
February 2006	42%	52%	6%
October 2005	41%	50%	9%

- A woman candidate for president from either party is a tough sell:** 30% of voters nationwide are not likely to support a woman nominated by either of the two major political parties for president. 27% would support a woman only if she were the Democratic nominee for president, and 20% would support her only if she were the Republican nominee. 23% of voters say they are likely to support a woman for president regardless of whether she is a Democrat or a Republican. This suggests that only 50% of the national electorate is likely to vote for a woman as the Democratic candidate for president. This includes 23% of voters who would support a woman for president regardless of her party, and 27% of voters who would support a woman only if she were the Democratic nominee. 43% of the national electorate is likely to vote for a woman as the Republican candidate.

Question Wording: If the Democratic/Republican Party nominates a woman for president in 2008, are you very likely, likely, not very likely, or not likely at all to vote for her?

Registered Voters	Very Likely or Likely if Democrat or Republican	Very Likely or Likely Only if Democrat	Very Likely or Likely Only if Republican	Not Likely Regardless if Democrat or Republican
October 2006	23%	27%	20%	30%
Democrat	24%	55%	2%	19%
Republican	14%	4%	51%	31%
Independent	30%	20%	13%	37%
February 2006	23%	28%	22%	27%
October 2005	26%	25%	21%	28%

- Rudy Giuliani is the only leading presidential contender from either party that a majority of voters would like to see run for president:** As noted earlier, 54% of the national electorate want Rudy Giuliani to enter the presidential race for 2008. Voters divide over whether they want to see John McCain enter the presidential contest. Although a majority of voters do not want Senator Clinton to run for president in 2008, she receives more support from voters nationwide for her potential presidential candidacy than each of the other top Democrats.

Question Wording: Do you want each of the following to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
Rudy Giuliani	54%	39%	7%
John McCain	47%	44%	9%
Hillary Clinton	46%	51%	3%
Condoleezza Rice	41%	53%	6%
John Edwards	32%	57%	11%
John Kerry	31%	63%	6%
Al Gore	31%	66%	3%
Newt Gingrich	18%	73%	9%
Michael Bloomberg	17%	65%	18%
George Pataki	13%	66%	21%

- Voters are mixed about the idea of an independent candidate for president:** 41% of the national electorate is likely to consider an independent candidate for president. 48% of voters are not open to the idea of such a candidacy.

Question Wording: Now thinking about independent candidates: would you be very likely, likely, not very likely, or not likely at all to vote for a candidate for president in 2008 who runs as an independent candidate and not as a Democrat or a Republican?

Registered Voters	Very Likely	Likely	Not Very Likely	Not Likely At All	Unsure
October 2006	10%	31%	28%	20%	11%
Democrat	6%	27%	31%	26%	10%
Republican	4%	30%	33%	24%	9%
Independent	18%	38%	21%	11%	12%

- When presented with a match up between the Republican and Democratic frontrunners that includes New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as an independent candidate, Republican Giuliani receives 44% compared with 39% for Democrat Clinton and 8% for independent candidate Bloomberg.

Question wording: If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Michael Bloomberg Independent	Undecided
October 2006	44%	39%	8%	9%
Democrat	14%	75%	4%	7%
Republican	84%	6%	4%	6%
Independent	42%	31%	15%	12%

- **Voters rate the president:** 41% of registered voters nationwide approve of the job President Bush is doing in office, and 52% disapprove.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of the job George Bush is doing as president?

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
October 2006	41%	52%	7%
Democrat	13%	82%	5%
Republican	79%	16%	5%
Independent	39%	52%	9%
February 2006	40%	57%	3%
October 2005	41%	53%	6%
May 2005	47%	49%	4%
February 2005	51%	45%	4%
November 2004	49%	49%	2%
October 2004	49%	48%	3%
September 2004	49%	49%	2%
August 2004	49%	47%	4%

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
July 2004	49%	48%	3%
April 2004	51%	47%	2%
March 2004	52%	45%	3%
November 2003	53%	42%	5%
April 2003	70%	23%	7%
February 2003	56%	34%	10%
January 2003	57%	34%	9%
October 2002	65%	27%	8%
April 2002	74%	17%	9%
January 2002	81%	11%	8%
November 2001	85%	8%	7%
March 2001	50%	24%	26%
January 2001	50%	20%	30%

- 57% of registered voters disapprove of President Bush's handling of the situation in Iraq.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush is handling the situation in Iraq?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
October 2006	39%	57%	4%
Democrat	13%	84%	3%
Republican	72%	22%	6%
Independent	38%	59%	3%
February 2006	39%	59%	2%
October 2005	40%	56%	4%
May 2005	40%	56%	4%
February 2005	46%	51%	3%
October 2004	44%	53%	3%
September 2004	43%	55%	2%
August 2004	41%	55%	4%
July 2004	42%	55%	3%
April 2004	47%	51%	2%
March 2004	52%	45%	3%
November 2003	48%	47%	5%
April 2003	76%	20%	4%

- 53% of registered voters disapprove of President Bush's handling of the economy.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush is handling the economy?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
October 2006	42%	53%	5%
Democrat	13%	82%	5%
Republican	78%	19%	3%
Independent	42%	52%	6%

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
February 2006	39%	58%	3%
October 2005	37%	58%	5%
May 2005	40%	56%	4%
February 2005	45%	52%	3%
October 2004	44%	53%	3%
September 2004	42%	56%	2%
August 2004	46%	51%	3%
July 2004	47%	50%	3%
April 2004	47%	51%	2%
March 2004	40%	57%	3%
November 2003	46%	50%	4%
April 2003	50%	44%	6%

- Voters divide over how they view the job President Bush is doing to combat terrorism. 48% approve and 48% disapprove.

Question Wording: Do you approve or disapprove of how President George Bush is handling the war on terrorism?

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
October 2006	48%	48%	4%
Democrat	21%	75%	4%
Republican	85%	12%	3%
Independent	47%	49%	4%
February 2006	52%	44%	4%
October 2005	51%	44%	5%
May 2005	48%	48%	4%
February 2005	57%	41%	2%
October 2004	53%	43%	4%
September 2004	52%	46%	2%
August 2004	52%	44%	4%
July 2004	53%	43%	4%
April 2004	55%	42%	3%
March 2004	61%	36%	3%
November 2003	59%	38%	3%
April 2003	78%	18%	4%

- 58% of Americans think the country is going in the wrong direction. Voters divide along partisan lines. Most Democrats and independents think the country is going in the wrong direction. Many Republicans think things are generally on the right track.

Question Wording: In general, thinking about the way things are going in the country, do you feel things are going in the right direction or that things are going in the wrong direction?

Americans	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
October 2006	33%	58%	9%
Democrat	15%	81%	4%
Republican	67%	26%	7%
Independent	32%	61%	7%
February 2006	34%	61%	5%
October 2005	31%	62%	7%
May 2005	38%	56%	6%
February 2005	47%	48%	5%
October 2004	42%	55%	3%
September 2004	38%	52%	10%
August 2004	40%	48%	12%
July 2004	37%	52%	11%
April 2004	43%	51%	6%
March 2004	43%	52%	5%
November 2003	45%	48%	7%
April 2003	55%	34%	11%
January 2003	42%	48%	10%
October 2002	45%	46%	9%
April 2002	60%	32%	8%
January 2002	60%	30%	10%
March 2001	41%	44%	15%
January 2001	56%	32%	12%

Nature of the Sample: 1,291 Americans

This survey was conducted September 18th through 20th, 2006. 1,291 adults 18 years of age or older within the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. The results of the entire survey are statistically significant at $\pm 3\%$. There are 1,018 registered voters including 345 Democrats, 286 Republicans, and 344 independent voters. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 3\%$. The results for the Democratic and Republican primary sub-samples which include independent voters who lean toward a political party are statistically significant at $\pm 4.5\%$ and $\pm 5\%$, respectively. The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations.