



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:

- **Hillary Clinton is a strong favorite among Democrats, but is she electable?** Hillary Clinton outdistances her closest Democratic rivals by more than two to one among Democrats and Democratic leaning independents for her party's nomination. Democrats think she is 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 has much more convincing to do among a general electorate that is divided over whether they want to see her in the race. Only a slim majority of voters say they will consider supporting her, and the electorate divides evenly among voters who would vote for a woman for president on the Democratic ticket and those who would not. Hillary Clinton runs competitively, yet behind, the two top Republican frontrunners. Most voters feel her electability is not an issue in deciding their vote, although a significant proportion of Democrats voice at least some concern. Should she decide to enter the 2008 presidential contest, except for a majority of Democrats, most voters do not think she is likely to win.
- Senator Hillary Clinton receives 33% among Democrats and Democratic leaning independents for her party's 2008 presidential nomination. She is followed by former Senator John Edwards with 14%, former Vice President Al Gore with 13%, and Senator Barack Obama with 12%. Eight 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	December 2006	October 2006	February 2006
Hillary Clinton	33%	35%	33%
John Edwards	14%	10%	16%
Al Gore	13%	16%	17%
Barack Obama	12%	n.a.	n.a.
John Kerry	5%	9%	11%
Joe Biden	3%	5%	4%
Bill Richardson	1%	1%	2%
Evan Bayh	1%	1%	3%
Wesley Clark	1%	1%	3%
Tom Vilsack	1%	<1%	<1%
Al Sharpton	<1%	n.a.	n.a.
Chris Dodd	<1%	1%	n.a.
Other	n.a.	5%	2%
Undecided	16%	16%	9%

- 44% of registered voters think Senator Clinton is ideologically about right but 41% say she is too liberal. There is a wide partisan divide. 73% of Democrats think she is ideologically well positioned compared with 73% of Republicans who characterize her as too liberal. Independent voters are more divided. 44% believe her views are about right, and 38% 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
December 2006	41%	6%	44%	9%
Democrat	12%	7%	73%	8%
Republican	73%	5%	13%	9%
Independent	38%	7%	44%	11%
October 2006	40%	6%	43%	11%
February 2006	42%	6%	45%	7%
October 2005	39%	6%	46%	9%

- Voters divide over whether they want Senator Clinton to run for president in 2008. 48% of the national electorate, including 76% of Democrats, want to see her enter the presidential contest. 50% of registered voters do not want her to run including 80% of

Republicans and a majority of independent voters.

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

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
December 2006	48%	50%	2%
Democrat	76%	21%	3%
Republican	17%	80%	3%
Independent	47%	52%	1%
October 2006	46%	51%	3%
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%

- 76% of voters nationwide think Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2008, an increase from 64% in October.

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

Registered Voters	Will Run	Will Not Run	Unsure
December 2006	76%	17%	7%
Democrat	75%	15%	10%
Republican	79%	16%	5%
Independent	75%	20%	5%
October 2006	64%	26%	10%
February 2006	65%	26%	9%

- 47% of registered voters definitely will not consider voting for Hillary Clinton if she runs for president in 2008. This is fueled by 83% of Republicans and 45% of independents.

Question wording: Thinking about the 2008 presidential elections, would you definitely consider voting for Hillary Clinton, possibly consider voting for Hillary Clinton, or would you definitely not consider voting for Hillary Clinton?

Registered Voters	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider
December 2006	25%	28%	47%
Democrat	48%	38%	14%
Republican	6%	11%	83%
Independent	22%	33%	45%

- When matched against the top Republican contenders, Senator Clinton leads Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice but falls short against former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Senator John McCain. Her weaker showing against Giuliani and McCain is mostly due to a preference for the two Republican contenders by a majority of independent voters.

Question wording: If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: (candidate name, party)

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton	Condoleezza Rice	Undecided
December 2006	47%	43%	10%
Democrat	85%	10%	5%
Republican	10%	81%	9%
Independent	46%	42%	12%
October 2006	49%	43%	8%
February 2006	49%	44%	7%
October 2005	50%	41%	9%
	Hillary Clinton	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
December 2006	43%	49%	8%
Democrat	79%	14%	7%
Republican	9%	84%	7%
Independent	39%	53%	8%
October 2006	42%	49%	9%
February 2006	47%	48%	5%
October 2005	43%	50%	7%
	Hillary Clinton	John McCain	Undecided
December 2006	43%	49%	8%
Democrat	80%	14%	6%
Republican	9%	85%	6%
Independent	39%	52%	9%
October 2006	43%	48%	9%
February 2006	42%	52%	6%
October 2005	41%	50%	9%

- 67% of registered voters do not think Senator Clinton's electability is a factor in their vote. However, 40% of Democrats have at least some concern. 18% of Democrats think electability is a major factor in deciding their vote, and 22% see it as a minor one.

Question wording: New York Senator Hillary Clinton is seen by some voters as unelectable, that is, she has very little chance of being elected president in 2008. Would the view that she is not likely to be elected president be a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in deciding if you would vote for Hillary Clinton for president in 2008?

Registered Voters	Major Factor	Minor Factor	Not a Factor
December 2006	16%	17%	67%

Registered Voters	Major Factor	Minor Factor	Not a Factor
Democrat	18%	22%	60%
Republican	17%	9%	74%
Independent	14%	18%	68%

- Only a majority of Democrats think it is likely Senator Clinton will win the presidency should she decide to run in 2008. Most Republicans and independent voters are more skeptical about her chances of winning.

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
December 2006	11%	26%	38%	21%	4%
Democrat	20%	35%	32%	10%	3%
Republican	7%	14%	41%	34%	4%
Independent	8%	28%	39%	21%	4%
October 2006	10%	19%	41%	25%	5%
February 2006	9%	18%	42%	29%	2%

- **Half the national electorate will not vote for a woman for president on the Democratic ticket:** 29% of voters nationwide are not likely to support a woman nominated by either of the two major political parties for president, and 21% will support a woman only if she is the Republican nominee for president. This totals 50% of the national electorate who are not likely to support a woman as the Democratic presidential nominee.

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
December 2006	27%	23%	21%	29%
Democrat	28%	47%	2%	23%
Republican	15%	3%	47%	35%
Independent	39%	18%	15%	28%
October 2006	23%	27%	20%	30%
February 2006	23%	28%	22%	27%
October 2005	26%	25%	21%	28%

- Rudy Giuliani is a top contender, but will his views on social issues change his standing among Republicans?** Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani is among the top Republican presidential competitors for 2008 running neck and neck with John McCain for his party's nomination. Giuliani and McCain are the only leading potential candidates from either political party who a majority of registered voters nationwide would like to see run for president. A majority of voters also view Giuliani as ideologically acceptable including 64% of Republicans and 60% of independents who see him as politically about right. But when informed of his views on social issues such as abortion, gun control, and gay rights, most Republicans see this as a factor in deciding their vote. All told, most Republican and independent voters and even four in ten Democrats would consider voting for Rudy Giuliani in a presidential campaign. Many voters think he will run, although a majority does not think he is likely to win.

 - Giuliani receives the support of 24% of Republican or Republican leaning independents in the race for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination compared with 23% for Senator John McCain. They are followed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who receives the support of 15% and a field of ten other potential Republican presidential contenders 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	December 2006	October 2006	February 2006	October 2005
Rudy Giuliani	24%	23%	22%	21%
John McCain	23%	15%	22%	19%
Condoleezza Rice	15%	20%	22%	21%
Newt Gingrich	8%	7%	5%	5%
Mitt Romney	4%	4%	4%	<1%
Bill Frist	3%	4%	2%	2%
Chuck Hagel	2%	<1%	1%	1%
Tommy Thompson	1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Mike Huckabee	1%	<1%	n.a.	n.a.
Tom Tancredo	1%	1%	1%	1%
George Pataki	1%	2%	2%	2%
Sam Brownback	<1%	1%	<1%	2%
Duncan Hunter	<1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other	n.a.	2%	2%	9%
Undecided	17%	21%	17%	17%

- 56% of registered voters want to see Rudy Giuliani run for president in 2008. This includes 72% of Republicans, 62% of independent voters, and even more than one in three Democrats.

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

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
December 2006	56%	37%	7%
Democrat	35%	57%	8%
Republican	72%	21%	7%
Independent	62%	33%	5%
October 2006	54%	39%	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%

- 54% of registered voters characterize Rudy Giuliani as ideologically about right. Only 14% describe him as too liberal, and 14% think he is too conservative. 64% of Republicans and 60% of independent voters view Giuliani as ideologically well positioned.

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

Registered Voters	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
December 2006	14%	14%	54%	18%
Democrat	17%	24%	37%	22%
Republican	16%	6%	64%	14%
Independent	9%	14%	60%	17%
October 2006	12%	17%	51%	20%
February 2006	11%	20%	52%	17%
October 2005	12%	13%	54%	21%

- When informed of Rudy Giuliani's positions on social issues, 47% of Republicans consider this to be a major factor in deciding whether or not to support him.

Question Wording: Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is a pro-choice, pro-gun control, pro-gay rights Republican. Would the fact that Rudy Giuliani has these positions be a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor in deciding if you would vote for Rudy Giuliani for president in 2008?

Registered Voters	Major Factor	Minor Factor	Not a Factor
December 2006	41%	28%	31%
Democrat	35%	25%	40%
Republican	47%	31%	22%
Independent	40%	30%	30%

- 66% of registered voters would consider voting for Rudy Giuliani if he ran for president in 2008 including 84% of Republicans and 73% of independent voters. 58% of Democrats would definitely not consider voting for Giuliani for president.

Question wording: Thinking about the 2008 presidential elections, would you definitely consider voting for Rudy Giuliani, possibly consider voting for Rudy Giuliani, or would you definitely not consider voting for Rudy Giuliani?

Registered Voters	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider
December 2006	17%	49%	34%
Democrat	4%	38%	58%
Republican	30%	54%	16%
Independent	17%	56%	27%

- As noted earlier, Rudy Giuliani leads Democratic frontrunner Senator Hillary Clinton by six percentage points nationally. He receives 49% compared with 43% for Clinton. 8% of registered voters are undecided.

Question wording: If the 2008 presidential election were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are: (candidate name, party)

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
December 2006	49%	43%	8%
Democrat	14%	79%	7%
Republican	84%	9%	7%
Independent	53%	39%	8%
October 2006	49%	42%	9%
February 2006	48%	47%	5%
October 2005	50%	43%	7%
May 2005	47%	46%	7%

- 57% of registered voters now think Rudy Giuliani will run for president in 2008. In October, the national electorate was evenly divided, when 39% of voters thought he would run and 39% thought he would not.

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

Registered Voters	Will Run	Will Not Run	Unsure
December 2006	57%	27%	16%
Democrat	55%	29%	16%
Republican	61%	22%	17%
Independent	57%	29%	14%
October 2006	39%	39%	22%

- Should he decide to run, 54% 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
December 2006	8%	30%	37%	17%	8%
Democrat	4%	24%	41%	25%	6%
Republican	13%	37%	32%	9%	9%
Independent	6%	30%	39%	16%	9%
October 2006	9%	25%	38%	19%	9%

- **Rudy Giuliani and John McCain are the only presidential contenders from either party that a majority of voters would like to see run for president:** 56% of the national electorate want Rudy Giuliani to enter the presidential race for 2008, and 52% want to see John McCain enter the presidential contest. As noted earlier, voters divide over a Hillary Clinton presidential candidacy, although she receives more support from voters nationwide than any 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	56%	37%	7%
John McCain	52%	39%	9%
Hillary Clinton	48%	50%	2%
Condoleezza Rice	45%	50%	5%
John Edwards	41%	47%	12%
Al Gore	32%	66%	2%
Barack Obama	30%	51%	19%
John Kerry	22%	72%	6%
Newt Gingrich	21%	69%	10%
George Pataki	17%	64%	19%
Joe Biden	16%	62%	22%
Mitt Romney	13%	57%	30%
Michael Bloomberg	12%	69%	19%
Al Sharpton	11%	76%	13%
Donald Trump	10%	86%	4%

- **Half the national electorate is not keen on the idea of an independent candidate for president:** 50% of voters nationwide are not likely to consider an independent candidate for president. 41% of voters are open to the idea of such a candidacy, and 9% are unsure.

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
December 2006	10%	31%	30%	20%	9%
Democrat	7%	24%	38%	23%	8%
Republican	5%	29%	33%	24%	9%
Independent	18%	39%	20%	12%	11%
October 2006	10%	31%	28%	20%	11%

- When presented with a match up between the Republican and Democratic frontrunners that includes real estate mogul and television celebrity Donald Trump as an independent candidate, Republican Giuliani receives 45% compared with 41% for Democrat Clinton and 7% for independent candidate Trump.

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	Donald Trump Independent	Undecided
December 2006	45%	41%	7%	7%
Democrat	14%	77%	4%	5%
Republican	80%	8%	7%	5%
Independent	45%	36%	10%	9%

- **Voters rate the president:** 37% of registered voters nationwide approve of the job President Bush is doing in office, and 56% disapprove.

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

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
December 2006	37%	56%	7%
Democrat	11%	82%	7%
Republican	73%	22%	5%
Independent	29%	62%	9%
October 2006	41%	52%	7%
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%
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%

- 60% of Americans think the country is heading in the wrong direction including most Democrats and many independent voters. A majority of 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
December 2006	31%	60%	9%
Democrat	14%	80%	6%
Republican	55%	35%	10%
Independent	30%	63%	7%
October 2006	33%	58%	9%
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: 1,229 Americans

This survey was conducted November 27th through December 3rd, 2006. 1,229 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 967 registered voters including 327 Democrats, 294 Republicans, and 314 independent voters. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. 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.