



WNBC/Marist Poll

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National Poll: Presidential Campaign 2008

This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

- **Hillary Clinton still outpaces her Democratic rivals nationwide as the Democrats' choice for their party's presidential nomination:** Hillary Clinton outdistances her closest contender for the Democratic nomination for president, Senator Barack Obama, by more than two to one among Democrats and Democratic leaning independents. Senator Obama, for his part, has emerged for the first time in sole possession of second place. He is followed by former Vice President Al Gore and former Senator John Edwards who are tied for third.

But Senator Clinton faces a tougher audience among the general electorate. Only a slim majority of voters will consider supporting a woman for president on the Democratic ticket and 43% say they will definitely not consider voting for her. Nearly seven out of every ten Republicans and almost four out of ten independents view her as ideologically too liberal. Senator Clinton's characterization of her vote to authorize the war in Iraq also divides the electorate although this is mostly due to a majority of independent voters who would like to see her admit her vote was a mistake. Despite these concerns among voters, Hillary Clinton runs competitively against the two Republican frontrunners, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Senator John McCain. She leads former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and former Congressman Newt Gingrich by double digits. Although a majority of voters still believe she is unlikely to be elected in 2008, the proportion of voters who hold this view has steadily declined in the past year.

- Senator Hillary Clinton receives 37% among Democrats and Democratic leaning independents for her party's 2008 presidential nomination. She is followed by Senator Barack Obama with 17%, former Vice President Al Gore and former Senator John Edwards each with 11%. Eight other potential Democratic candidates trail with low single digits. 17% 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	February 2007	December 2006	October 2006	February 2006
Hillary Clinton	37%	33%	35%	33%
Barack Obama	17%	12%	n.a.	n.a.
Al Gore	11%	13%	16%	17%
John Edwards	11%	14%	10%	16%
Joe Biden	2%	3%	5%	4%
Bill Richardson	2%	1%	1%	2%
Wesley Clark	1%	1%	1%	3%
Al Sharpton	1%	<1%	n.a.	n.a.
Mike Gravel	1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Dennis Kucinich	<1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Chris Dodd	<1%	<1%	1%	n.a.
Tom Vilsack	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%
Other	n.a.	6%	15%	16%
Undecided	17%	16%	16%	9%

- 44% of registered voters describe Senator Clinton as ideologically about right, and 39% view her as too liberal. There is a wide partisan divide. 71% of Democrats think she is ideologically well positioned compared with 69% of Republicans who characterize her as too liberal. Independent voters are more divided. 43% 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
February 2007	39%	6%	44%	11%
Democrat	14%	6%	71%	9%
Republican	69%	5%	16%	10%
Independent	38%	6%	43%	13%
December 2006	41%	6%	44%	9%
October 2006	40%	6%	43%	11%
February 2006	42%	6%	45%	7%
October 2005	39%	6%	46%	9%

- 43% of registered voters say they will definitely not consider voting for Hillary Clinton for president in 2008. This includes 80% of Republicans and 43% of independents. She has a higher proportion of voters who say they will not consider her candidacy than either Barack Obama or John Edwards. Al Gore is the only top tier Democrat whose potential candidacy receives less than a majority of support. 52% of registered voters say they will definitely not consider voting for Al Gore should he decide to enter the 2008 presidential race.

Question wording: Thinking about the 2008 presidential elections, would you definitely consider voting for Hillary Clinton/Barack Obama/John Edwards/Al Gore, possibly consider voting for Hillary Clinton/Barack Obama/John Edwards/Al Gore, or would you definitely not consider voting for Hillary Clinton/Barack Obama/John Edwards/Al Gore?

Registered Voters February 2007	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider	Unsure
Hillary Clinton	25%	30%	43%	2%
Democrat	48%	37%	12%	3%
Republican	3%	16%	80%	1%
Independent	20%	35%	43%	2%
December 2006	25%	27%	46%	2%

Registered Voters February 2007	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider	Unsure
Hillary Clinton	25%	30%	43%	2%
Barack Obama	17%	42%	32%	9%
Al Gore	12%	33%	52%	3%
John Edwards	12%	45%	35%	8%

- When matched against the top Republican contenders, Senator Clinton runs neck and neck with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and is in a dead heat with Senator John McCain. She handily outdistances former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and former Congressman Newt Gingrich.

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	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
February 2007	45%	47%	8%
Democrat	79%	15%	6%
Republican	7%	87%	6%
Independent	43%	46%	11%
December 2006	43%	49%	8%
October 2006	42%	49%	9%
February 2006	47%	48%	5%
October 2005	43%	50%	7%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton	John McCain	Undecided
February 2007	46%	46%	8%
Democrat	79%	15%	6%
Republican	9%	85%	6%
Independent	43%	45%	12%
December 2006	43%	49%	8%
October 2006	43%	48%	9%
February 2006	42%	52%	6%
October 2005	41%	50%	9%
	Hillary Clinton	Mitt Romney	Undecided
February 2007	49%	36%	15%
Democrat	82%	6%	12%
Republican	13%	72%	15%
Independent	51%	33%	16%
	Hillary Clinton	Newt Gingrich	Undecided
February 2007	56%	36%	8%
Democrat	90%	6%	4%
Republican	19%	74%	7%
Independent	51%	36%	13%

- Voters divide over whether or not Hillary Clinton should characterize her vote to give President Bush the authority for the war in Iraq as a mistake. 45% of registered voters believe she should say it was a mistake, and 47% believe she should not. Interestingly, 50% of Democrats and 51% of Republicans are comfortable with Senator Clinton's characterization and do not think she should say her vote to authorize the war was a mistake. However, 51% of independent voters disagree and believe she should say her vote was a mistake. 56% of independent voters and about one-third of Democrats are less likely to vote for her because of this issue.

Question wording: New York Senator Hillary Clinton voted to give the president authority to go to war in Iraq in 2003. She has said she would not have voted that way if she knew then what she knows now. But she does not say her vote was a mistake. She says it was the president's mistake to go to war. Do you think she should say her vote was a mistake, or not?

Registered Voters	Yes	No	Unsure
February 2007	45%	47%	8%
Democrat	42%	50%	8%
Republican	41%	51%	8%
Independent	51%	43%	6%

Question wording: Does the fact that Hillary Clinton will not say her vote was a mistake make you more or less likely to vote for her?

Registered Voters	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference
February 2007	21%	48%	31%
Democrat	30%	32%	38%
Republican	13%	56%	31%
Independent	20%	56%	24%

- Although a majority of registered voters still think Senator Clinton is unlikely to win the presidency in 2008, the proportion of voters who hold this view has declined by twenty percentage points in the past year. This time last year, 71% of registered voters thought Hillary Clinton was unelectable compared with 51% of voters who now hold this view.

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
February 2007	16%	28%	37%	14%	5%
Democrat	28%	35%	25%	7%	5%
Republican	6%	19%	44%	27%	4%
Independent	13%	30%	41%	12%	4%
December 2006	11%	26%	38%	21%	4%
October 2006	10%	19%	41%	25%	5%
February 2006	9%	18%	42%	29%	2%

- **Voters divide over whether or not they are likely to vote for a woman for president on the Democratic ticket:** 29% of voters nationwide will support a woman nominated by either of the two major political parties for president, and 23% will support a woman only if she is the Democratic nominee for president. This totals 52% of the national electorate who are likely to support a woman as the Democratic presidential nominee. This compares with 14% of registered voters who will support a woman only if she is the Republican presidential nominee, and 34% who will not support a woman for president regardless of her political party.

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
February 2007	29%	23%	14%	34%

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
Democrat	31%	49%	<1%	20%
Republican	19%	2%	34%	45%
Independent	34%	16%	10%	40%
December 2006	27%	23%	21%	29%
October 2006	23%	27%	20%	30%
February 2006	23%	28%	22%	27%
October 2005	26%	25%	21%	28%

- **Rudy Giuliani is the frontrunner for the Republican nomination for president in 2008:**

Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani tops the field of Republican presidential contenders for 2008 for his party’s nomination. He leads his closest competitor, John McCain, by seven percentage points. When informed that he has taken pro-choice, pro-gun control, and pro-gay rights stands in the past, most Republicans see this as a factor in deciding their vote. Nearly half say it would make them less likely to vote for him. Among the general electorate, most Republican and independent voters and even almost five in ten Democrats say they would consider voting for Rudy Giuliani in a presidential campaign. He runs competitively against the three top tier Democrats although many registered voters do not think he is likely to win.

- Giuliani leads the field of Republicans for his party’s 2008 presidential nomination with the support of 28% of Republicans or Republican leaning independents. He is followed by Senator John McCain with 21%, former Congressman Newt Gingrich with 11%, and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney with 10%. A field of nine other potential Republican presidential contenders trail with low 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	February 2007	December 2006	October 2006	February 2006
Rudy Giuliani	28%	24%	23%	22%
John McCain	21%	23%	15%	22%
Newt Gingrich	11%	8%	7%	5%
Mitt Romney	10%	4%	4%	4%
George Pataki	2%	1%	2%	2%
Duncan Hunter	1%	<1%	n.a.	n.a.
Mike Huckabee	1%	1%	<1%	n.a.
Ron Paul	1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Republicans	February 2007	December 2006	October 2006	February 2006
Sam Brownback	1%	<1%	1%	<1%
Tommy Thompson	1%	1%	n.a.	n.a.
Tom Tancredo	1%	1%	1%	1%
Chuck Hagel	<1%	2%	<1%	1%
John Cox	<1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other	n.a.	18%	26%	26%
Undecided	22%	17%	21%	17%

- 51% of registered voters characterize Rudy Giuliani as ideologically about right. Only 16% describe him as too liberal, and 16% think he is too conservative. 62% of Republicans and 55% 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
February 2007	16%	16%	51%	17%
Democrat	18%	28%	36%	18%
Republican	19%	4%	62%	15%
Independent	12%	16%	55%	17%
December 2006	14%	14%	54%	18%
October 2006	12%	17%	51%	20%
February 2006	11%	20%	52%	17%
October 2005	12%	13%	54%	21%

- When informed that Rudy Giuliani has taken pro-choice, pro-gun control, and pro-gay rights stands, 72% of Republicans consider these positions to be a factor in deciding whether or not to support him. 32% of Republicans consider his stance on these social issues to be a major factor, and 40% of Republicans think it is a minor factor in deciding their vote. 48% of Republicans say such positions on these social issues would make them less likely to support Rudy Giuliani.

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
February 2007	35%	28%	37%
Democrat	35%	20%	45%
Republican	32%	40%	28%
Independent	37%	28%	35%
December 2006	41%	28%	31%

Question wording: Does the fact that Rudy Giuliani has these positions make you more or less likely to vote for him?

Registered Voters	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference
February 2007	39%	46%	15%
Democrat	40%	44%	16%
Republican	36%	48%	16%
Independent	40%	45%	15%

- 67% of registered voters will consider supporting Rudy Giuliani for president in 2008, and only 30% of registered voters will not. Giuliani has the lowest negatives of any of the top tier Republican or Democratic candidates.

Question wording: Thinking about the 2008 presidential elections, would you definitely consider voting for Rudy Giuliani/John McCain/Newt Gingrich/Mitt Romney, possibly consider voting for Rudy Giuliani/John McCain/Newt Gingrich/Mitt Romney, or would you definitely not consider voting for Rudy Giuliani/John McCain/Newt Gingrich/Mitt Romney?

Registered Voters February 2007	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider	Unsure
Rudy Giuliani	16%	51%	30%	3%
Democrat	6%	41%	49%	4%
Republican	29%	58%	11%	2%
Independent	14%	56%	29%	1%
December 2006	16%	47%	33%	4%

Registered Voters February 2007	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider	Unsure
Rudy Giuliani	16%	51%	30%	3%
John McCain	14%	44%	37%	5%
Newt Gingrich	6%	25%	64%	5%
Mitt Romney	7%	25%	44%	24%

- As noted earlier, Rudy Giuliani and Democratic frontrunner Senator Hillary Clinton are closely matched. Giuliani receives the support of 47% of registered voters compared with 45% for Clinton. 8% of registered voters are undecided. Rudy Giuliani also runs competitively against Democrats Barack Obama and John Edwards.

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	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
February 2007	45%	47%	8%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
Democrat	79%	15%	6%
Republican	7%	87%	6%
Independent	43%	46%	11%
December 2006	43%	49%	8%
October 2006	42%	49%	9%
February 2006	47%	48%	5%
October 2005	43%	50%	7%
May 2005	46%	47%	7%
	Barack Obama	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
February 2007	41%	45%	14%
Democrat	74%	14%	12%
Republican	8%	81%	11%
Independent	38%	44%	18%
	John Edwards	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
February 2007	44%	44%	12%
Democrat	75%	15%	10%
Republican	10%	81%	9%
Independent	44%	42%	14%

➤ Only 37% of registered voters 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
February 2007	7%	30%	43%	13%	7%
Democrat	5%	22%	49%	17%	7%
Republican	10%	37%	39%	8%	6%
Independent	6%	30%	44%	13%	7%
December 2006	8%	30%	37%	17%	8%
October 2006	9%	25%	38%	19%	9%

- **How does John McCain fare against the top tier Democrats?** Senator John McCain runs neck and neck with each of the three top Democratic contenders. He is in a statistical tie at 46% with Hillary Clinton and in a dead heat, 44% to 43%, with John Edwards. McCain is also closely matched with Barack Obama. McCain receives the support of 44% of registered voters compared with 41% for Obama.

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	John McCain	Undecided
February 2007	46%	46%	8%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton	John McCain	Undecided
Democrat	79%	15%	6%
Republican	9%	85%	6%
Independent	43%	45%	12%
December 2006	43%	49%	8%
October 2006	43%	48%	9%
February 2006	42%	52%	6%
October 2005	41%	50%	9%
	Barack Obama	John McCain	Undecided
February 2007	41%	44%	15%
Democrat	69%	20%	11%
Republican	13%	74%	13%
Independent	37%	44%	19%
	John Edwards	John McCain	Undecided
February 2007	43%	44%	13%
Democrat	76%	11%	13%
Republican	6%	87%	7%
Independent	41%	41%	18%

- To quote Kermit the frog, “It’s not easy being green:”** As noted earlier, 34% of voters are not likely to support a woman nominated by either of the two major political parties for president. Similarly, 33% are unlikely to support an African American for president. But, religion is even more polarizing than gender and race. 56% of voters are not likely to support a Mormon for president regardless of whether that individual is a Democrat or a Republican. This includes 61% of independent voters, 54% of Republicans, and 53% of Democrats.

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

Registered Voters February 2007	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
A woman	29%	23%	14%	34%
Democrat	31%	49%	<1%	20%
Republican	19%	2%	34%	45%
Independent	34%	16%	10%	40%
African American	33%	18%	16%	33%
Democrat	34%	37%	2%	27%
Republican	24%	2%	41%	33%
Independent	41%	13%	8%	38%
Mormon	20%	13%	11%	56%
Democrat	18%	28%	1%	53%
Republican	16%	2%	28%	54%
Independent	26%	7%	6%	61%

- **Voters rate the president:** 35% of registered voters nationwide approve of the job President Bush is doing in office, and 58% disapprove.

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

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
February 2007	35%	58%	7%
Democrat	9%	84%	7%
Republican	69%	27%	4%
Independent	33%	59%	8%
December 2006	37%	56%	7%
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%

- 64% 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
February 2007	31%	64%	5%
Democrat	9%	88%	3%
Republican	60%	33%	7%
Independent	28%	66%	6%
October 2006	39%	57%	4%
February 2006	39%	59%	2%

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
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%

- 63% 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
February 2007	29%	63%	8%
Democrat	12%	82%	6%
Republican	58%	33%	9%
Independent	29%	65%	6%
December 2006	31%	60%	9%
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: 1,219 Americans

This survey was conducted February 12th through February 15th, 2007. 1,219 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 978 registered voters including 331 Democrats, 277 Republicans, and 342 independent voters. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. Independent voters were asked a follow-up question to ascertain whether they lean towards either the Democratic or Republican party. There are 471 Democrats and Democratic leaning independents and 367 Republicans and Republican leaning independents. 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.