



WNBC/Marist Poll

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 ♦ Phone 845.575.5050 ♦ Fax 845.575.5111 www.maristpoll.marist.edu

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE: Wednesday 6:00 p.m. February 22, 2006

All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

Contact: Dr. Lee M. Miringoff
Dr. Barbara L. Carvalho
Marist College
845.575.5050

National Poll: Campaign 2008

Hillary Clinton and Condoleezza Rice Are Top Contenders Among Their Party's Faithful But Is America Ready for a Woman President?

This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

- **Hillary Clinton is the Democratic presidential primary frontrunner and most voters think she is going to run:** Hillary Clinton is a formidable favorite among Democrats for her party's presidential nomination. A majority of Democrats like her more than they did just two years ago. 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 like the other potential Democratic and Republican presidential candidates for 2008, Senator Clinton faces a general electorate that is divided over who they would like to see in the race. She is competitive, though politically polarizing, against two of the three Republican presidential frontrunners. But most registered voters do not think she is likely to win. A majority of both Democrats and independents believe she will be treated more harshly on the campaign hustings than other potential presidential candidates.
- Senator Hillary Clinton outpaces the field of potential Democratic candidates nationwide for the party's 2008 presidential nomination. Clinton receives 40% among Democrats and Democratic leaning independents. Former Senator John Edwards and Senator John Kerry follow with 16% and 15%, respectively. Senator Joe Biden, retired General Wesley Clark, Senator Evan Bayh, Governor Bill Richardson, former Governor Mark

Warner, and Governor Tom Vilsack trail. 10% of Democrats are undecided. If Al Gore is added to the field of Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton receives the support of 33% of Democrats, and Gore places second with 17%. John Edwards with 16% and John Kerry with 11% follow.

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 2006	October 2005	May 2005	February 2005
Hillary Clinton	40%	41%	40%	39%
John Edwards	16%	14%	16%	15%
John Kerry	15%	17%	18%	21%
Joe Biden	7%	5%	7%	5%
Wesley Clark	4%	3%	4%	4%
Evan Bayh	3%	2%	<1%	1%
Bill Richardson	3%	n.a	1%	2%
Mark Warner	2%	1%	<1%	1%
Tom Vilsack	<1%	1%	<1%	<1%
Other	n.a.	n.a.	2%	2%
Undecided	10%	16%	12%	10%

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 2006
Hillary Clinton	33%
Al Gore	17%
John Edwards	16%
John Kerry	11%
Joe Biden	4%
Wesley Clark	3%
Evan Bayh	3%
Mark Warner	2%
Bill Richardson	2%
Tom Vilsack	<1%
Undecided	9%

- 54% of Democrats like Hillary Clinton more now than they did two years ago. In contrast, 56% of Republicans say they like her less. Independent voters divide evenly. 34% say they like her more, 33% say they like her less, and 33% say their opinion of her has not changed.

Question Wording: Do you like Hillary Clinton more or less than you did two years ago?

Registered Voters	More	Less	About the Same
February 2006	36%	33%	31%
Democrat	54%	13%	33%
Republican	18%	56%	26%
Independent	34%	33%	33%

- Although 45% of voters think Senator Clinton is ideologically about right, 42% say she is too liberal. But these two views are partisan poles apart. 72% of Democrats think she is ideologically well positioned compared with 79% of Republicans who characterize her as too liberal. Independent voters divide. 44% believe her views are about right, but 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 2006	42%	6%	45%	7%
Democrat	16%	6%	72%	6%
Republican	79%	2%	13%	6%
Independent	38%	8%	44%	10%
October 2005	39%	6%	46%	9%

- 73% of Democrats would like to see Hillary Clinton run for president in 2008. But interest in her presidential prospects again divides the national electorate along partisan lines. 51% of registered voters do not want to see Hillary Clinton enter the presidential sweepstakes including 80% of Republicans and a majority of independent voters. Voters forty-five years of age or older are less encouraging of a run for the White House by Hillary Clinton than are younger 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
February 2006	47%	51%	2%
Democrat	73%	25%	2%
Republican	17%	80%	3%
Independent	46%	53%	1%
Men	45%	54%	1%
Women	49%	48%	3%
Under 45	57%	42%	1%
45 and older	44%	54%	2%

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
October 2005	48%	49%	3%
May 2005	49%	48%	3%
February 2005	46%	49%	5%
December 2004	38%	50%	12%

- Of the top four Democrats, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards receive the most support from voters nationwide for their potential presidential candidacies. But among both the main Democratic and Republican contenders, only John McCain has a majority of voters who would like to see him enter the presidential sweepstakes in 2008.

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
John McCain	56%	39%	5%
Rudy Giuliani	49%	45%	6%
Hillary Clinton	47%	51%	2%
John Edwards	44%	49%	7%
Condoleezza Rice	39%	56%	5%
John Kerry	35%	62%	3%
Al Gore	29%	68%	3%

- 65% of the national electorate thinks 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
February 2006	65%	26%	9%
Democrat	62%	29%	9%
Republican	65%	28%	7%
Independent	70%	21%	9%

- In hypothetical matchups against the top Republican contenders, Senator Clinton runs competitively against Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and former Mayor Rudy Giuliani. She trails Senator John McCain by 10 points.

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
February 2006	49%	44%	7%

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton	Condoleezza Rice	Undecided
Democrat	84%	13%	3%
Republican	8%	86%	6%
Independent	49%	41%	10%
October 2005	50%	41%	9%
	Hillary Clinton	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
February 2006	47%	48%	5%
Democrat	81%	15%	4%
Republican	6%	88%	6%
Independent	46%	49%	5%
October 2005	43%	50%	7%
May 2005	46%	47%	7%
	Hillary Clinton	John McCain	Undecided
February 2006	42%	52%	6%
Democrat	76%	20%	4%
Republican	7%	87%	6%
Independent	36%	56%	8%
October 2005	41%	50%	9%
May 2005	42%	50%	8%

- 57% of Democrats and 52% of independent voters think Hillary Clinton will be treated more harshly than her opponents should she seek the presidency in 2008. 31% of Republicans believe she will receive harsher treatment although most Republicans think she will be treated as well or better than her competitors.

Question Wording: If Hillary Clinton runs for president in 2008, because of who she is, do you think she will be treated more harshly than the other candidates, be treated just like any other candidate, or will she be treated better than the other candidates?

Registered Voters	Treated More Harshly	Treated the Same	Treated Better
February 2006	48%	34%	18%
Democrat	57%	30%	13%
Republican	31%	44%	25%
Independent	52%	31%	17%

- **Republicans' top picks for their party's presidential nomination also include a woman:** Although Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said she is not interested, she is a top contender for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination. Most Republicans would like to see her on the campaign trail in 2008 and would back her candidacy against the current Democratic frontrunners. But her appeal among independent voters is not strong, and many would rather not see her join the presidential campaign fray.

- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice receives 22% among Republicans and Republican leaning independents as does former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Senator John McCain. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Governor Mitt Romney, Governor George Pataki, Senator Bill Frist, Senator George Allen, Senator Chuck Hagel, Congressman Tom Tancredo, and Senator Sam Brownback trail. 17% are undecided.

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

- Although two-thirds of Republicans would like to see Secretary of State Rice enter the presidential contest, many independent voters and most Democrats would not. 39% of registered voters want to see her run for president in 2008 including 66% of Republicans. 56% of registered voters do not want to see Condoleezza Rice make a run for the White House in 2008 including 74% of Democrats and 62% of independents.

Question Wording: Do you want Condoleezza Rice to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
February 2006	39%	56%	5%
Democrat	20%	74%	6%
Republican	66%	28%	6%
Independent	36%	62%	2%
Men	38%	58%	4%
Women	40%	55%	5%
Under 45	36%	60%	4%
45 and older	39%	56%	5%
October 2005	37%	57%	6%

- Looking at the electoral strength of Secretary of State Rice against several potential Democratic contenders, she runs best against Senator John Kerry. She receives the support of 50% of voters compared with 44% for Kerry. Rice is edged out by Senator Clinton and trails former Senator John Edwards by 9 points.

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

Registered Voters	Condoleezza Rice	John Kerry	Undecided
February 2006	50%	44%	6%
Democrat	17%	81%	2%
Republican	93%	4%	3%
Independent	49%	39%	12%
October 2005	45%	46%	9%
	Condoleezza Rice	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
February 2006	44%	49%	7%
Democrat	13%	84%	3%
Republican	86%	8%	6%
Independent	41%	49%	10%
October 2005	41%	50%	9%
	Condoleezza Rice	John Edwards	Undecided
February 2006	42%	51%	7%
Democrat	11%	86%	3%
Republican	89%	4%	7%
Independent	35%	55%	10%
October 2005	42%	49%	9%

- **A woman candidate for president from either party would have a lot of convincing to do:** Over one-fourth of the national electorate would not vote for a woman for president regardless of her political party and about another quarter would not vote for her if she were the nominee of the opposing party. The top reason given by voters who are not likely to vote for a woman for president regardless of the political party who nominated her is that women are not up to the job. Voters who would vote for a woman regardless of whether she were a Democrat or a Republican are most likely to think it's time for a change. Most voters think it is unlikely that Hillary Clinton or Condoleezza Rice would be elected president if either chose to run in 2008.

- 27% of voters are not likely to support a woman nominated by one of the two major political parties for president. 28% would support a woman only if she became the Democratic nominee for president, and 22% 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 51% of the national electorate is likely to vote for a woman as the Democratic candidate for president, and about 45% 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
February 2006	23%	28%	22%	27%
Democrat	24%	56%	2%	18%
Republican	16%	1%	50%	33%
Independent	27%	22%	18%	33%
October 2005	26%	25%	21%	28%

- 30% of voters who said they are not likely to vote for a woman for president regardless of her political party said the main reason they would not do so is because women are not up to the job. The responses given to an open ended question include a belief that women do not have the capability, experience, or qualities needed to do the job or are emotionally ill suited. 18% indicate they do not think the time is right or say the country is not ready for that kind of change. 14% refer to their dislike of the current potential candidates on either the Democratic or Republican side. Among voters who said they are likely to vote for a woman presidential candidate regardless of her political party, 31% believe it is time for a change or overdue. 26% mention that women are qualified or have the experience to lead. 15% believe women can do just as well if not better than a man as president.

Question Wording – Open ended – No choices were provided: What would you say is the most important reason *why you are not likely* to vote for a woman for president (asked of the 27% of voters who are not likely to vote for a woman regardless of whether she is a Democrat or a Republican)/What would you say is the most important reason *why you are likely* to vote for a woman for president? (asked of the 23% of voters who are likely to vote for a woman regardless of whether she is a Democrat or a Republican)

Why not likely to vote for a woman	Voters Not Likely	Why likely to vote for a woman	Voters Likely
Women are not up to the job	30%	It's time for a change/overdue	31%
Country is not ready	18%	Their qualifications	26%
Do not like potential candidates	14%	Do just as well/better than a man	15%
Depends on the candidates	12%	Their issues, platform	10%
It's a man's job	11%	Gender isn't important to vote	7%
Their issues, platform	8%	Depends on the candidates	5%
Just old fashioned	2%	Other	6%
Other	5%		

- But can either Hillary Clinton or Condoleezza Rice win? Most voters think not. Should Senator Clinton decide to run for president in 2008, 71% of voters do not think it is likely she would be elected. Similarly, 79% believe it is unlikely Secretary of State Rice would win the presidency if she decided to enter the race.

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

Registered Voters	Very Likely	Likely	Not Very Likely	Not Likely At All	Unsure
Hillary Clinton	9%	18%	42%	29%	2%
Democrat	15%	25%	41%	18%	1%
Republican	2%	8%	46%	41%	3%
Independent	8%	18%	41%	31%	2%
Condoleezza Rice	4%	13%	42%	37%	4%
Democrat	2%	9%	40%	47%	2%
Republican	7%	22%	44%	22%	5%
Independent	5%	9%	42%	41%	3%

- **Without a Condoleezza Rice candidacy, Rudy Giuliani and John McCain lead the Republican pack of potential presidential primary contenders:** Rudy Giuliani and John McCain are competitive frontrunners in a large field of Republican presidential primary hopefuls where more than one out of five Republican voters is undecided. Giuliani is seen as politically about right on the ideological spectrum by two-thirds of Republican voters.

Most Republicans would like to see him enter the 2008 presidential contest as would a majority of independent voters. John McCain is a formidable competitor to Giuliani for the Republican nomination. As noted earlier, McCain is the only candidate among the frontrunners from either party who a majority of voters want to see run for president.

- If Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice does not run, former Mayor Rudy Giuliani edges John McCain among the field of potential Republican candidates for the party's 2008 presidential nomination. Giuliani receives the support nationwide of 28% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents followed by Senator John McCain with 24%. 22% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents are undecided.

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 2006	October 2005	May 2005	February 2005
Rudy Giuliani	28%	31%	27%	25%
John McCain	24%	24%	20%	21%
Newt Gingrich	8%	5%	8%	5%
Mitt Romney	5%	1%	1%	1%
George Allen	4%	5%	<1%	<1%
Bill Frist	4%	4%	3%	3%
George Pataki	3%	2%	2%	1%
Tom Tancredo	1%	1%	n.a.	n.a.
Chuck Hagel	1%	1%	1%	<1%
Sam Brownback	<1%	1%	<1%	n.a.
Other	n.a.	n.a.	14%	24%
Undecided	22%	25%	24%	20%

- 52% of registered voters characterize Rudy Giuliani as ideologically about right including 66% of Republicans and 56% of independent voters who share this view. Only 10% of Republicans think he is too liberal. 38% of Democrats think he is ideologically well positioned although 32% of these voters think his ideological stance is 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
February 2006	11%	20%	52%	17%

Registered Voters	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
Democrat	12%	32%	38%	18%
Republican	10%	7%	66%	17%
Independent	9%	20%	56%	15%
October 2005	12%	13%	54%	21%

- 49% of voters would like to see Rudy Giuliani run for president in 2008. Interest in a Giuliani candidacy is fueled by 71% of Republicans and 52% of independents who would like to see the former New York City mayor join the presidential contest.

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

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
February 2006	49%	45%	6%
Democrat	29%	66%	5%
Republican	71%	21%	8%
Independent	52%	42%	6%
October 2005	54%	40%	6%
May 2005	49%	43%	8%
February 2005	42%	47%	11%
December 2004	32%	42%	26%

- When posed against the leading Democrats, Rudy Giuliani is closely matched with John Kerry, John Edwards, and Hillary Clinton. He outpaces Al Gore by 11 points.

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

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani	Al Gore	Undecided
February 2006	53%	42%	5%
Democrat	25%	73%	2%
Republican	86%	8%	6%
Independent	55%	38%	7%
	Rudy Giuliani	John Kerry	Undecided
February 2006	48%	45%	7%
Democrat	17%	82%	1%
Republican	84%	10%	6%
Independent	53%	36%	11%
October 2005	53%	40%	7%
May 2005	48%	46%	6%
	Rudy Giuliani	John Edwards	Undecided
February 2006	47%	44%	9%
Democrat	19%	72%	9%
Republican	85%	8%	7%
Independent	44%	47%	9%
October 2005	48%	43%	9%
May 2005	45%	48%	7%

	Rudy Giuliani	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
February 2006	48%	47%	5%
Democrat	15%	81%	4%
Republican	88%	6%	6%
Independent	49%	46%	5%
October 2005	50%	43%	7%
May 2005	47%	46%	7%

- 56% of registered voters would like to see Senator McCain run for president in 2008. John McCain receives strong support among Republicans and independent voters. Even 44% of Democrats would like to see McCain make a run for the White House in 2008.

Question Wording: Do you want John McCain to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
February 2006	56%	39%	5%
Democrat	44%	52%	4%
Republican	64%	31%	5%
Independent	62%	33%	5%
October 2005	52%	40%	8%
May 2005	51%	39%	10%

- Senator McCain has a strong lead against all the top Democratic presidential contenders except for John Edwards. When posed in hypothetical match-ups against the leading Democrats, John McCain breaks fifty percent against Al Gore, John Kerry, and Hillary Clinton and outpaces each by double-digits. Senator McCain's lead is fueled by the majority support he receives from independent voters in each of these contests. McCain would face a more competitive race against John Edwards. McCain receives the support of 47% of registered voters compared with 41% for Edwards.

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

Registered Voters	John McCain	Al Gore	Undecided
February 2006	55%	38%	7%
Democrat	25%	68%	7%
Republican	85%	5%	10%
Independent	60%	35%	5%

	John McCain	John Kerry	Undecided
February 2006	54%	37%	9%
Democrat	27%	67%	6%
Republican	85%	4%	11%
Independent	57%	34%	9%
October 2005	51%	40%	9%
May 2005	51%	41%	8%
	John McCain	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
February 2006	52%	42%	6%
Democrat	20%	76%	4%
Republican	87%	7%	6%
Independent	56%	36%	8%
October 2005	50%	41%	9%
May 2005	50%	42%	8%
	John McCain	John Edwards	Undecided
February 2006	47%	41%	12%
Democrat	20%	71%	9%
Republican	75%	12%	13%
Independent	54%	35%	11%
October 2005	49%	41%	10%
May 2005	46%	43%	11%

- **Most voters do not want to see John Kerry or Al Gore make another presidential run in 2008:** Among the top four Democrats, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards receive the most support from voters for their potential presidential candidacies. As noted earlier, although voters divide over whether they want Hillary Clinton or John Edwards to run for president, most voters do not want either John Kerry or Al Gore to enter the race.
 - 44% of voters want John Edwards to run for president in 2008, and 49% do not.

Question Wording: Do you want John Edwards to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
February 2006	44%	49%	7%
Democrat	59%	34%	7%
Republican	23%	69%	8%
Independent	48%	46%	6%
October 2005	47%	44%	9%

- 62% of voters nationwide do not want John Kerry to make another run for the presidency in 2008.

Question Wording: Do you want John Kerry to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
February 2006	35%	62%	3%
Democrat	55%	42%	3%
Republican	12%	85%	3%
Independent	33%	65%	2%
October 2005	39%	57%	4%
May 2005	40%	56%	4%

- 68% of voters do not want Al Gore to run for president in 2008 including a majority of Democrats.

Question Wording: Do you want Al Gore to run for president in 2008 or not?

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
February 2006	29%	68%	3%
Democrat	46%	51%	3%
Republican	9%	89%	2%
Independent	28%	69%	3%

Nature of the Sample: 1,132 Americans

This survey was conducted on February 13th and 15th, 2006. 1,132 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 931 registered voters including 335 Democrats, 271 Republicans, and 305 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 $\pm 5\%$ and $\pm 5.5\%$, respectively. The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations.