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National Poll: Campaign 2008

This Marist College Institute for Public Opinion poll reports:

Hillary is Democratic frontrunner....

- New York Senator Hillary Clinton outpaces the field of potential Democratic candidates nationwide for the party's 2008 presidential nomination. Clinton receives 40% among registered Democrats and Democratic leaning Independents. Senator John Kerry with 18% and former Senator John Edwards with 16%, follow. Senator Joe Biden, retired General Wesley Clark, Senator Russ Feingold, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, Virginia Governor Mark Warner, Senator Evan Bayh, and Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack trail with single digit support. 12% of Democrats are undecided.

Question Wording: If the 2008 Democratic presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Democrats	May 2005	February 2005
Hillary Clinton	40%	39%
John Kerry	18%	21%
John Edwards	16%	15%
Joe Biden	7%	5%
Wesley Clark	4%	4%
Russ Feingold	2%	2%
Bill Richardson	1%	2%
Mark Warner	<1%	1%
Evan Bayh	<1%	1%
Tom Vilsack	<1%	<1%
Undecided	12%	10%

- Hillary Clinton remains a polarizing figure nationwide. 72% of Democrats would like to see her run for president in 2008, but 76% of Republicans do not want her to make the race. Independent voters are divided. She also faces a tougher audience among voters forty five years of age or older than she does among 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
May 2005	49%	48%	3%
February 2005	46%	49%	5%
December 2004	38%	50%	12%

May 2005	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
Democrats	72%	23%	5%
Republicans	22%	76%	2%
Independents	51%	46%	3%
Men	44%	52%	4%
Women	54%	44%	2%
Younger than 45	61%	38%	1%
45 and older	44%	52%	4%

Rudy is GOP frontrunner....

- Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is the early leader for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination although 24% of Republicans and Republican leaning Independents remain undecided. Giuliani receives the support nationwide of 27% followed by Senator John McCain with 20%. Florida Governor Jeb Bush receives 10%. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Senator Rick Santorum, Senator Bill Frist, New York Governor George Pataki, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Senator Chuck Hagel, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, Colorado Governor Bill Owens, Senator George Allen and Senator Sam Brownback round out the field.

Question Wording: If the 2008 Republican presidential primary were held today, whom would you support if the candidates are:

Republicans	May 2005	February 2005
Rudy Giuliani	27%	25%
John McCain	20%	21%
Jeb Bush	10%	7%
Newt Gingrich	8%	5%
Rick Santorum	3%	1%
Bill Frist	3%	3%
George Pataki	2%	1%
Mitt Romney	1%	1%
Chuck Hagel	1%	<1%
Haley Barbour	1%	n.a.
Bill Owens	<1%	2%
George Allen	<1%	<1%
Sam Brownback	<1%	n.a.
Other	n.a.	14%
Undecided	24%	20%

- 49% of registered voters nationwide would like to see Rudy Giuliani run for president in 2008, a turnaround from a similar survey done in February. His standing among voters has continued to improve since December when the controversy surrounding the nomination of former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik to secretary of Homeland Security was at its height. 71% of Republicans would like to see the former New York City mayor join the presidential sweepstakes. Like Hillary Clinton, Giuliani does not garner much support for a presidential run from voters of the opposing party, and Independent voters divide.

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

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
May 2005	49%	43%	8%
February 2005	42%	47%	11%
December 2004	32%	42%	26%

May 2005	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
Democrats	28%	64%	8%
Republicans	71%	22%	7%
Independents	48%	43%	9%

...But McCain and Edwards are stronger nationwide:

- 51% of registered voters would like to see Senator McCain run for president in 2008. John McCain is less polarizing nationally than either Rudy Giuliani or Hillary Clinton. Although 52% of Democrats would rather Republican McCain not join the fray, this is considerably fewer than the 64% of Democrats who do not want Giuliani to make a run and the 76% of Republicans who do not want to see a Hillary Clinton presidential candidacy. In addition, 52% of Independent voters would like to see John 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
May 2005	51%	39%	10%
Democrats	38%	52%	10%
Republicans	65%	27%	8%
Independents	52%	36%	12%

- Despite Senator McCain's second place standing in the Republican primary, he is a stronger candidate than Rudy Giuliani nationwide. When posed in hypothetical match-ups against the leading Democrats, John McCain bests both John Kerry and Hillary Clinton. McCain is numerically inches ahead in a competitive contest against former North Carolina Senator John Edwards.
- Rudy Giuliani runs neck and neck with these top three Democrats and fails to reach 50% against any of them.
- For the Democrats, it's John Edwards, not either of the two marquis names of Kerry or Clinton who runs strongest against the top Republicans. Edwards is numerically three points ahead of Rudy Giuliani and three points behind John McCain. Statistically both contests are a tossup.

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

Registered Voters	John McCain	John Kerry	Undecided
May 2005	51%	41%	8%
	Rudy Giuliani	John Kerry	Undecided
May 2005	48%	46%	6%

Registered Voters	John McCain	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
May 2005	50%	42%	8%
	Rudy Giuliani	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
May 2005	47%	46%	7%

Registered Voters	John McCain	John Edwards	Undecided
May 2005	46%	43%	11%
	Rudy Giuliani	John Edwards	Undecided
May 2005	45%	48%	7%

- Although Hillary Clinton is competitive nationwide, her only comfortable lead is against Florida Governor and presidential brother Jeb Bush. As noted above, she runs neck and neck with Rudy Giuliani and would lose to John McCain.

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

Registered Voters	Jeb Bush	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
May 2005	38%	55%	7%

- 56% of registered voters 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
May 2005	40%	56%	4%
Democrats	61%	34%	5%
Republicans	13%	83%	4%
Independents	42%	55%	3%

Voters rate the president... a partisan divide

- 47% of registered voters nationwide approve of the job President Bush is doing in office, and 49% disapprove.

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

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
May 2005	47%	49%	4%
Democrats	16%	81%	3%
Republicans	88%	9%	3%
Independents	40%	54%	6%
February 2005	51%	45%	4%
November 1, 2004	49%	49%	2%
October 21, 2004	49%	48%	3%
October 7, 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%

- 56% 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
May 2005	40%	56%	4%
Democrats	12%	86%	2%
Republicans	77%	18%	5%
Independents	35%	61%	4%
February 2005	46%	51%	3%
October 21, 2004	44%	53%	3%
October 7, 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%

- 56% 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
May 2005	40%	56%	4%
Democrats	10%	86%	4%
Republicans	81%	15%	4%
Independents	33%	62%	5%
February 2005	45%	52%	3%
October 21, 2004	44%	53%	3%
October 7, 2004	43%	54%	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 President Bush's handling of the war on terrorism. Only 48% approve of the job he is doing to combat terrorism, the first time fewer than half of registered voters nationally have rated the president positively on this issue.

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

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
May 2005	48%	48%	4%
Democrats	20%	74%	6%
Republicans	87%	12%	1%
Independents	42%	53%	5%
February 2005	57%	41%	2%
October 21, 2004	53%	43%	4%
October 7, 2004	52%	45%	3%
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%

- 56% of Americans think the country is going in the wrong direction an increase, from last February. Voters split along partisan lines ...Democrats think the country is going in the wrong direction and 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
May 2005	38%	56%	6%
Democrats	14%	82%	4%
Republicans	74%	21%	5%
Independents	32%	64%	4%
February 2005	47%	48%	5%
October 21, 2004	42%	55%	3%
October 7, 2004	39%	53%	8%
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: 1,007 Americans

This survey was conducted on April 18th through 21st, 2005. 1,007 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 838 registered voters including 376 Democrats or Democratic leaning Independents and 352 Republicans or Republican leaning Independents. The results for registered voters are statistically significant at $\pm 3.5\%$. The results for the Democratic and Republican sub-samples are statistically significant at $\pm 5\%$ and $\pm 5.5\%$, respectively. The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations.