



WNBC/Marist Poll

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National Poll: Campaign 2008 Is America Ready for a Woman President?

This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

A woman as president...it depends who you ask

- Voters divide over whether they would support a woman nominated by one of the two major political parties for president. 26% of registered voters say they are likely to support a woman for president regardless of whether she is a Democrat or a Republican. At the other extreme, 28% would not support a woman for the United States' top job regardless of which political party nominated her. 25% would support a woman if she became the Democratic nominee for president, and 21% would support her if she were the Republican 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?

	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
Registered Voters				
October 2005	26%	25%	21%	28%

- Not surprisingly, women are more likely to pull the lever for a female presidential candidate than men. 31% of women would support a woman for president regardless of whether she is a Democrat or a Republican. 33% of men would not support a woman for the country's highest office no matter which party nominated her. But age matters. 41% of women younger than forty-five years old would support a female presidential candidate regardless of the party who

nominated her compared with 28% of their forty-five and older counterparts. Only 26% of men younger than forty-five years old would not vote for a woman president regardless of her political party compared with 36% of men who are forty-five years of age or older.

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
Men	19%	25%	23%	33%
Women	31%	26%	20%	23%
Democrat	27%	50%	2%	21%
Republican	19%	1%	51%	29%
Independent	30%	20%	17%	33%
Under 45	34%	25%	20%	21%
Men	24%	28%	22%	26%
Women	41%	24%	19%	16%
45 or older	22%	26%	21%	31%
Men	16%	24%	24%	36%
Women	28%	27%	19%	26%

And, which Democratic woman might they be thinking of...

- New York Senator Hillary Clinton has a commanding lead over the field of potential Democratic candidates nationwide for the party’s 2008 presidential nomination. Clinton receives 41% among registered Democrats and Democratic leaning independents. Senator John Kerry with 17% and former Senator John Edwards with 14%, follow. Senator Joe Biden, retired General Wesley Clark, Senator Evan Bayh, Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack, and Virginia Governor Mark Warner trail with single digit support. 16% of Democrats are undecided.

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

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

- Hillary Clinton’s presidential prospects divide the national electorate right down the middle. 48% of registered voters want to see her run for president in 2008 including 74% of Democrats. 49% of registered voters do not want to see Hillary Clinton enter the presidential sweepstakes including 79% of Republicans. Independent voters evenly divide. 49% want to see her run, and 49% do not. Voters forty-five years of age or older are not as 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
October 2005	48%	49%	3%
May 2005	49%	48%	3%
February 2005	46%	49%	5%
December 2004	38%	50%	12%

	Yes, Run	No, Don’t Run	Unsure
October 2005			
Democrat	74%	23%	3%
Republican	17%	79%	4%
Independent	49%	49%	2%
Men	45%	52%	3%
Women	51%	46%	3%
Under 45	59%	40%	1%
45 and older	44%	52%	4%

- Although 46% of registered voters think Senator Clinton is about right on the ideological spectrum, 39% say she is too liberal. These two views of Hillary Clinton are colored by partisan lenses. 78% of Democrats think she is ideologically well positioned. 74% of Republicans characterize her as too liberal. Independent voters divide. 38% of these voters think she is too liberal, and 41% believe her views are about right.

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 2005	39%	6%	46%	9%
Democrat	12%	6%	78%	4%
Republican	74%	5%	13%	8%
Independent	38%	7%	41%	14%

And, which Republican woman might they be thinking of...

- Although she has said she is not interested, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is a top contender for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination. Rice receives 21% among registered Republicans and Republican leaning independents along with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Senator John McCain follows with 19%. Florida Governor Jeb Bush, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Senator George Allen, Senator Sam Brownback, Senator Bill Frist, New York Governor George Pataki, Senator Chuck Hagel, Congressman Tom Tancredo, and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney trail with single digit support. 17% of Republicans are undecided.

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

Republicans	October 2005
Condoleezza Rice	21%
Rudy Giuliani	21%
John McCain	19%
Jeb Bush	5%
Newt Gingrich	5%
George Allen	4%
Sam Brownback	2%
Bill Frist	2%
George Pataki	2%
Chuck Hagel	1%
Tom Tancredo	1%
Mitt Romney	<1%
Undecided	17%

- Although a majority of Republicans would like to see Secretary Rice enter the presidential contest, independent voters are much less enthusiastic, and most Democrats are against it. 37% of registered voters want to see her run for president in 2008 including 57% of Republicans. 57% of registered voters do not want to see Condoleezza Rice make a run for the White House in 2008 including 74% of Democrats and 57% 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
October 2005	37%	57%	6%
Democrat	21%	74%	5%
Republican	57%	36%	7%
Independent	36%	57%	7%
Men	35%	60%	5%
Women	38%	54%	8%
Under 45	42%	54%	4%
45 and older	35%	59%	6%

Without Secretary Rice...Rudy is GOP frontrunner

- If U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice does not run, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani leads the field of Republican hopefuls for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination. Giuliani receives the support nationwide of 31% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents followed by Senator John McCain with 24%. 25% 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:

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

- A majority of registered voters nationwide would like to see Rudy Giuliani run for president in 2008. Giuliani continues to improve his standing among voters fueled by 76% of Republicans and 56% of independents who would like to see the former New York City mayor join the presidential fray.

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 2005	54%	40%	6%
May 2005	49%	43%	8%
February 2005	42%	47%	11%
December 2004	32%	42%	26%

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
October 2005			
Democrat	34%	61%	5%
Republican	76%	17%	7%
Independent	56%	39%	5%

- 54% of registered voters characterize the political ideology of Rudy Giuliani as about right including 71% of registered Republicans who view him this way. 49% of independents and 45% of Democrats think he is ideologically well positioned, although these voters are more likely to say they are unsure about his ideological stance than are Republican voters.

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 2005	12%	13%	54%	21%
Democrat	14%	21%	45%	20%
Republican	10%	4%	71%	15%
Independent	12%	14%	49%	25%

McCain appeals across party lines

- 52% of registered voters would like to see Senator McCain run for president in 2008. Although John McCain does not receive as strong support among registered Republicans as Rudy Giuliani, he does better than Giuliani among Democrats. 55% of independent voters would like to see McCain make a run for the White House in 2008 as would 43% of Democrats.

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

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
October 2005	52%	40%	8%
May 2005	51%	39%	10%

Registered Voters	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
October 2005			
Democrat	43%	49%	8%
Republican	60%	31%	9%
Independent	55%	37%	8%

- Both former New York City Mayor Giuliani and Senator McCain run solidly against the top three Democratic presidential contenders. When posed in hypothetical match-ups against the leading Democrats, Rudy Giuliani and John McCain best Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, and John Edwards.
- Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice runs competitively against Senator John Kerry but lags behind Senator Hillary Clinton and former Senator John Edwards.

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 2005	50%	43%	7%
May 2005	47%	46%	7%
Registered Voters	John McCain	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
October 2005	50%	41%	9%
May 2005	50%	42%	8%
Registered Voters	Condoleezza Rice	Hillary Clinton	Undecided
October 2005	41%	50%	9%

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani	John Kerry	Undecided
October 2005	53%	40%	7%
May 2005	48%	46%	6%
Registered Voters	John McCain	John Kerry	Undecided
October 2005	51%	40%	9%
May 2005	51%	41%	8%
Registered Voters	Condoleezza Rice	John Kerry	Undecided
October 2005	45%	46%	9%

Registered Voters	Rudy Giuliani	John Edwards	Undecided
October 2005	48%	43%	9%
May 2005	45%	48%	7%
Registered Voters	John McCain	John Edwards	Undecided
October 2005	49%	41%	10%
May 2005	46%	43%	11%
Registered Voters	Condoleezza Rice	John Edwards	Undecided
October 2005	42%	49%	9%

- 57% of 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
October 2005	39%	57%	4%
May 2005	40%	56%	4%

October 2005	Yes, Run	No, Don't Run	Unsure
Democrat	62%	35%	3%
Republican	15%	80%	5%
Independent	33%	62%	5%

- Registered voters are divided over whether John Edwards should make a run for the presidency or not. 47% want him to run for president in 2008 and 44% 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
October 2005	47%	44%	9%
Democrat	70%	23%	7%
Republican	23%	66%	11%
Independent	43%	48%	9%

Voters rate the president

- 41% of registered voters nationwide approve of the job President Bush is doing in office, and 53% disapprove.

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

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
October 2005	41%	53%	6%
Democrat	16%	79%	5%
Republican	76%	21%	3%
Independent	38%	55%	7%
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%

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
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
October 2005	40%	56%	4%
Democrat	14%	82%	4%
Republican	71%	25%	4%
Independent	38%	57%	5%
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%

- 58% 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 2005	37%	58%	5%
Democrat	13%	84%	3%
Republican	74%	21%	5%
Independent	32%	62%	6%
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%

- 51% approve of the job President Bush is doing to combat terrorism, and 44% 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 2005	51%	44%	5%
Democrat	23%	69%	8%
Republican	84%	13%	3%
Independent	51%	45%	4%
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%

- 62% of Americans think the country is going in the wrong direction, the highest number since President Bush assumed office. 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 2005	31%	62%	7%
Democrat	13%	84%	3%
Republican	61%	33%	6%
Independent	30%	63%	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%

Americans	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
April 2002	60%	32%	8%
January 2002	60%	30%	10%
March 2001	41%	44%	15%
January 2001	56%	32%	12%

Nature of the Sample: 1,053 Americans

- This survey was conducted on October 12th, 13th, and 17th, 2005. 1,053 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 827 registered voters including 393 Democrats or Democratic leaning independents and 312 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.