



WNBC/Marist Poll

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

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All references must be sourced WNBC/Marist Poll

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

National Poll: Presidential Campaign 2008

This WNBC/Marist Poll reports:

- **Hillary Clinton is not only the Democratic favorite for her party's nomination but, for the first time, she edges both Rudy Giuliani and John McCain:** Senator Hillary Clinton still outpaces her Democratic rivals by a wide margin. She has the support of over one-third of Democrats and Democratic leaning independents nationwide and leads her closest primary opponent, Senator Barack Obama, by 18 percentage points. 35% of potential Democratic primary voters support Clinton, and 17% support Obama. Former Senator John Edwards follows with 15%. In addition, 60% of Hillary Clinton's supporters in the primary say they are firmly committed to voting for her.

Democrats are looking for strong leadership in their nominee and someone who will bring about change. Democrats who support Hillary Clinton think she fits the bill. 34% of her supporters want a strong leader, and 21% want a candidate that will bring about change. Backers of Barack Obama are most interested in a candidate that will be an agent of change.

Hillary Clinton's position on the war in Iraq is also not hurting her among Democrats. Only 9% of Democrats say her position makes them less likely to vote for her, and 48% say it actually makes them more likely to support her.

Among registered voters as a whole, Hillary Clinton is still a polarizing figure. 41% of voters say they will not even consider voting for her, and four in ten feel she is too liberal. However, for the first time, Clinton narrowly leads in matchups for the general election against the top two Republican candidates, former Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Senator John McCain.

- 35% of Democrats and Democratic leaning independents nationwide support Senator Hillary Clinton for the party's 2008 presidential nomination. Senator Barack Obama receives 17%, former Senator John Edwards garners 15%, and former Vice President Al Gore has 9%. A field of six other Democratic contenders trail with very low single digits. 17% of potential Democratic primary voters are undecided.

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

Democrats	May 2007	February 2007	December 2006	October 2006	February 2006
Hillary Clinton	35%	37%	33%	35%	33%
Barack Obama	17%	17%	12%	n.a.	n.a.
John Edwards	15%	11%	14%	10%	16%
Al Gore	9%	11%	13%	16%	17%
Bill Richardson	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Joe Biden	2%	2%	3%	5%	4%
Dennis Kucinich	1%	<1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Chris Dodd	1%	<1%	<1%	1%	n.a.
Wesley Clark	<1%	1%	1%	1%	3%
Mike Gravel	<1%	1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other	n.a	1%	7%	15%	16%
Undecided	17%	17%	16%	16%	9%

- 60% of Democrats who support Hillary Clinton are strongly committed to voting for her on primary day. 21% say they somewhat support her, and 18% might vote differently.

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support Hillary Clinton, somewhat support her, or do you think that you might vote differently on primary day? Only Democrats supporting Hillary Clinton in the primary

Democrats Supporting Hillary Clinton	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
May 2007	60%	21%	18%	1%

- 27% of Democrats cite strong leadership as the most important quality they would like to see in a presidential candidate, and 24% are looking for someone that will bring about change. 34% of Democrats who support Hillary Clinton want a strong leader, and 21% are interested in a candidate that will bring change. Backers of Barack Obama are most likely to want change. 41% of his supporters want their nominee to be an agent of change, and 19% are interested in a strong leader. There is no consensus among John Edwards' supporters. 24% of his backers want a strong leader, 19% want someone who will bring about change, is closer to them on the issues, or shares their values, and 16% want a candidate with the experience to be president.

Question Wording: When thinking about whom to support for president, which one of the following qualities is most important to you: someone who is closer to you on the issues, has experience, is a strong leader, will bring about change, shares your values, or has the best chance of being elected? Democrats/Democratic leaning independents

	Strong leader	Bring about change	Shares your values	Closer on the issues	Has experience	Chance of being elected
Democrats						
May 2007	27%	24%	19%	18%	10%	2%
Hillary Clinton	34%	21%	19%	13%	12%	1%
Barack Obama	19%	41%	18%	18%	4%	<1%
John Edwards	24%	19%	19%	19%	16%	3%

- 27% of registered voters say Hillary Clinton's position on the war makes them less likely to support her, while 29% state that it makes them more likely to do so. 44% say it makes no difference in their decision to back Senator Clinton. Among Democrats, 48% say her position on the war makes them more likely to vote for her, and only 9% are less likely to do so.

Question wording: Does Hillary Clinton's position on the war in Iraq make you more likely or less likely to support her, or does it make no difference to you?

Registered Voters	More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference
May 2007	29%	27%	44%
Democrat	48%	9%	43%
Republican	5%	56%	39%
Independent	28%	23%	49%

- 41% of registered voters say they will definitely not consider voting for Hillary Clinton. Although still higher than her closest rivals, Obama and Edwards, the number of voters who feel this way has declined from 46% at the end of last year. 35% of voters say they will not consider supporting Barack Obama, and 35% feel similarly about John Edwards. A majority of voters will not consider voting for Al Gore.

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 May 2007	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider	Unsure
Hillary Clinton	27%	31%	41%	1%
Democrat	51%	36%	12%	1%
Republican	5%	16%	78%	1%
Independent	21%	37%	40%	2%
February 2007	25%	30%	43%	2%
December 2006	25%	27%	46%	2%
Barack Obama				
May 2007	20%	38%	35%	7%
February 2007	17%	42%	32%	9%
John Edwards				
May 2007	16%	43%	35%	6%
February 2007	12%	45%	35%	8%
Al Gore				
May 2007	14%	30%	53%	3%
February 2007	12%	33%	52%	3%

- 43% of registered voters think Senator Clinton is about right ideologically, but 40% find her to be too liberal. Democrats and Republicans differ greatly in their perceptions of Clinton. While 71% of Democrats characterize her as ideologically about right, 75% of Republicans perceive her as too liberal. Independent voters split over whether Clinton is about right ideologically or too liberal. 42% find her views are about right, and 39% view her as 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
May 2007	40%	7%	43%	10%

Registered Voters	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
Democrat	14%	8%	71%	7%
Republican	75%	6%	11%	8%
Independent	39%	6%	42%	13%
February 2007	39%	6%	44%	11%
December 2006	41%	6%	44%	9%
October 2006	40%	6%	43%	11%
February 2006	42%	6%	45%	7%
October 2005	39%	6%	46%	9%

- In hypothetical matchups against the two leading Republican candidates, Senator Clinton edges former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Senator John McCain each by five percentage points.

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
May 2007	48%	43%	9%
Democrat	83%	12%	5%
Republican	11%	82%	7%
Independent	43%	42%	15%
February 2007	45%	47%	8%
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
May 2007	47%	42%	11%
Democrat	80%	14%	6%
Republican	11%	81%	8%
Independent	43%	41%	16%
February 2007	46%	46%	8%
December 2006	43%	49%	8%
October 2006	43%	48%	9%
February 2006	42%	52%	6%
October 2005	41%	50%	9%

- **Rudy Giuliani still tops the Republican field for his party's nomination in 2008 but support has tempered:** Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani outdistances John McCain, his closest competitor, by a margin of ten percentage points among Republicans and Republican leaning independents nationwide. Giuliani has the support of 28% compared with John McCain who has 18%. Former Senator Fred Thompson, who is considering a run, is now in third with 13%. Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney follow with 8% and 7%, respectively. However, when supporters of

Rudy Giuliani are asked how committed they are to his candidacy, only 30% of Giuliani backers are firmly committed to voting for him.

Republicans want a presidential nominee who shares their values and is a strong leader. A large proportion of Republicans who support Rudy Giuliani are interested in his leadership abilities. 42% of Giuliani's backers want someone who is a strong leader, and 22% want someone who shares their values. 34% of McCain's supporters want someone who is a strong leader, and 25% are looking for someone who shares their values.

When informed about Rudy Giuliani's positions on social issues like abortion, gun control, and gay rights, most Republicans see this as a factor in whether or not they will support his candidacy. A majority of Republicans say this makes them less likely to vote for him.

Among registered voters, enthusiasm for Rudy Giuliani has mollified. Although 58% still say they will consider voting for him for president, 39% say they definitely will not do so. This is an increase from 30% of registered voters who said in February they would not consider voting for him. For the first time, fewer than half of the national electorate views Rudy Giuliani as ideologically about right. 60% of Republicans still view him as ideologically acceptable although almost one in four view him as too liberal. In head to head matchups against the top tier Democrats, Giuliani narrowly loses to Hillary Clinton and John Edwards. He runs neck and neck with Barack Obama.

➤ Giuliani receives 28% among Republicans and Republican leaning independents for his party's 2008 presidential nomination. Senator John McCain has 18% followed by former Senator Fred Thompson with 13%, former Congressman Newt Gingrich with 8%, and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney with 7%. A field of eight 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: Republicans/Republican leaning independents

Republicans	May 2007	February 2007	December 2006	October 2006	February 2006
Rudy Giuliani	28%	28%	24%	23%	22%
John McCain	18%	21%	23%	15%	22%
Fred Thompson	13%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Newt Gingrich	8%	11%	8%	7%	5%
Mitt Romney	7%	10%	4%	4%	4%
Tommy Thompson	3%	1%	1%	n.a.	n.a.
Mike Huckabee	2%	1%	1%	<1%	n.a.
Sam Brownback	2%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%
Duncan Hunter	2%	1%	<1%	n.a.	n.a.
Tom Tancredo	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Chuck Hagel	1%	<1%	2%	<1%	1%
Ron Paul	<1%	1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
John Cox	<1%	<1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Other	n.a.	2%	19%	28%	28%
Undecided	15%	22%	17%	21%	17%

- Only 30% of Republicans who support Rudy Giuliani are strongly committed to voting for him on primary day. 35% say they somewhat support him. 29% say they might vote differently, and 6% are unsure.

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support Rudy Giuliani, somewhat support him, or do you think that you might vote differently on primary day? Only Republicans supporting Rudy Giuliani in the primary

Republicans Supporting Rudy Giuliani	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
May 2007	30%	35%	29%	6%

- Potential Republican primary voters want candidates that share their values or are strong leaders. 42% of Rudy Giuliani supporters would like a strong leader, as do 34% of John McCain supporters.

Question Wording: When thinking about whom to support for president, which one of the following qualities is most important to you: someone who is closer to you on the issues, has experience, is a strong leader, will bring about change, shares your values, or has the best chance of being elected? Republicans/Republican leaning independents

	Shares your values	Strong leader	Closer on the issues	Bring about change	Has experience	Chance of being elected
Republicans						
May 2007	31%	31%	20%	9%	6%	3%
Rudy Giuliani	22%	42%	14%	11%	9%	2%
John McCain	25%	34%	18%	2%	14%	7%

- 72% of Republicans think Rudy Giuliani’s pro-choice, pro-gun control, and pro-gay rights stands are a factor in whether or not they would choose to support him. 38% of Republicans consider Giuliani’s position on these issues to be a major factor, and 34% of Republicans consider it a minor factor in determining their support for him. A majority of Republicans say Giuliani’s stance on these social issues make them less likely 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
May 2007	38%	27%	35%
Democrat	37%	23%	40%
Republican	38%	34%	28%
Independent	40%	26%	34%
February 2007	35%	28%	37%
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
May 2007	35%	51%	14%
Democrat	38%	49%	13%
Republican	32%	52%	16%
Independent	34%	52%	14%
February 2007	39%	46%	15%

- 39% of registered voters will not even consider supporting Rudy Giuliani for president in 2008, an increase from 30% in February. 41% of registered voters will not consider voting for John McCain. 47% will not consider voting for Mitt Romney, and an additional 20% are unsure. Only 33% of registered voters will consider casting a vote for Romney. Newt Gingrich has the highest negatives among both the top tier Democrats and Republicans. 64% of registered voters say they will not consider voting for him.

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 May 2007	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider	Unsure
Rudy Giuliani	14%	44%	39%	3%
Democrat	8%	29%	62%	1%
Republican	23%	59%	15%	3%
Independent	13%	45%	37%	5%
February 2007	16%	51%	30%	3%
December 2006	16%	47%	33%	4%
John McCain				
May 2007	12%	43%	41%	4%
February 2007	14%	44%	37%	5%
Newt Gingrich				
May 2007	6%	23%	64%	7%
February 2007	6%	25%	64%	5%
Mitt Romney				
May 2007	7%	26%	47%	20%
February 2007	7%	25%	44%	24%

- Falling below a majority for the first time, only 46% of registered voters describe Rudy Giuliani as ideologically well positioned. 16% characterize him as too liberal, while 17% view him as too conservative. Six in ten Republicans and nearly half of independent voters perceive Giuliani as ideologically about right.

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

Registered Voters	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
May 2007	16%	17%	46%	21%
Democrat	18%	28%	31%	23%
Republican	23%	7%	60%	10%
Independent	11%	14%	48%	27%

Registered Voters	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
February 2007	16%	16%	51%	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%

- In general election matchups for 2008, as already noted, Democratic frontrunner Senator Hillary Clinton leads Rudy Giuliani 48% to 43%. Democrat John Edwards has a six percentage point lead over Giuliani. Giuliani runs neck and neck with Barack 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	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
May 2007	48%	43%	9%
Democrat	83%	12%	5%
Republican	11%	82%	7%
Independent	43%	42%	15%
February 2007	45%	47%	8%
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
May 2007	41%	43%	16%
Democrat	69%	20%	11%
Republican	15%	74%	11%
Independent	36%	38%	26%
February 2007	41%	45%	14%
	John Edwards	Rudy Giuliani	Undecided
May 2007	49%	43%	8%
Democrat	78%	19%	3%
Republican	16%	78%	6%
Independent	45%	41%	14%
February 2007	44%	44%	12%

- **McCain is behind Clinton and Edwards but leads Obama.** In hypothetical matchups for next year's presidential contest, John McCain finds himself losing to both Hillary Clinton and John Edwards. When matched against Clinton, McCain receives 42% compared with 47% for Clinton. McCain runs ten percentage points behind Edwards, 39% to 49%. McCain leads Barack Obama, 46% to 39%.

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
May 2007	47%	42%	11%
Democrat	80%	14%	6%
Republican	11%	81%	8%
Independent	43%	41%	16%
February 2007	46%	46%	8%
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
May 2007	39%	46%	15%
Democrat	66%	25%	9%
Republican	14%	75%	11%
Independent	39%	39%	22%
February 2007	41%	44%	15%
	John Edwards	John McCain	Undecided
May 2007	49%	39%	12%
Democrat	76%	16%	8%
Republican	17%	70%	13%
Independent	48%	38%	14%
February 2007	43%	44%	13%

- **Voters rate the president:** 61% of registered voters disapprove of the job President Bush is doing in office, and 33% approve.

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

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
May 2007	33%	61%	6%
Democrat	10%	86%	4%
Republican	70%	23%	7%
Independent	28%	65%	7%
February 2007	35%	58%	7%
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%

Registered voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
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
May 2007	31%	64%	5%
Democrat	10%	88%	2%
Republican	65%	28%	7%
Independent	25%	69%	6%
February 2007	31%	64%	5%
October 2006	39%	57%	4%
February 2006	39%	59%	2%
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%

- 65% of Americans think the country is heading in the wrong direction. Over eight in ten Democrats and two thirds of independent voters share this view. Half 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
May 2007	26%	65%	9%
Democrat	12%	82%	6%
Republican	50%	43%	7%
Independent	24%	67%	9%
February 2007	29%	63%	8%
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: 1,003 Americans

This survey was conducted April 26th through May 1st, 2007. 1,003 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 823 registered voters including 279 Democrats, 227 Republicans, and 299 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 392 Democrats and Democratic leaning independents and 306 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.