



WNBC/Marist Poll

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday November 6, 2007

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:

- **One year out from election 2008:** Following last Tuesday’s Democratic debate, Hillary Clinton has a commanding, though diminished, lead nationwide against her rivals for the Democratic nomination. Overall, 48% of Democrats and Democratic leaning independents nationwide support Senator Hillary Clinton for the nomination. Her closest primary opponent is Senator Barack Obama who receives 17% followed by John Edwards with 10%. But, a comparison of interviews completed before and after last week’s Democratic debate reveals Hillary Clinton’s support among Democratic primary voters was 52% before the debate and 43% after the debate.

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

Democratic Primary Voters	November 2007	Monday Tuesday	Wednesday Thursday	May 2007
Hillary Clinton	48%	52%	43%	35%
Barack Obama	17%	16%	18%	17%
John Edwards	10%	10%	8%	15%
Bill Richardson	3%	2%	6%	3%
Dennis Kucinich	1%	2%	1%	1%
Joe Biden	1%	1%	1%	2%
Chris Dodd	1%	1%	1%	1%
Mike Gravel	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Other	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9%
Undecided	19%	16%	22%	17%

- 55% of Democrats who support Hillary Clinton are strongly committed to voting for her on primary day. 26% say they somewhat support her, and 16% might vote differently. This compares with 48% of Barack Obama’s supporters who are firmly committed to him.

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support (candidate name), somewhat support her/him, or do you think that you might vote differently on primary day? (Support for the other candidates is too small for subgroup analysis)

Democratic Primary Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
November 2007	52%	27%	19%	2%
Hillary Clinton supporters				
November 2007	55%	26%	16%	3%
May 2007	60%	21%	18%	1%
Barack Obama supporters				
November 2007	48%	30%	19%	3%

- Among registered voters, Hillary Clinton leads Rudy Giuliani, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination, by ten percentage points. Nationally, Clinton receives the support of 50% of registered voters compared with 40% for Giuliani. 10% of voters are undecided. Clinton has a wide margin over Giuliani among women but is closely matched against him among men. There was statistically no difference before and after the Democratic debate.

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 Democrat	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Undecided
November 2007	50%	40%	10%
Monday/Tuesday	50%	38%	12%
Wednesday/Thursday	50%	41%	9%
Democrat	85%	9%	6%
Republican	12%	81%	7%
Independent	49%	36%	15%
Men	46%	44%	10%
Women	53%	35%	12%
May 2007	48%	43%	9%
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%

- Nationwide, 43% of registered voters view Hillary Clinton as ideologically on track but 36% see her as too liberal. There is a divide along party lines. 76% of Democrats characterize her as ideologically about right, 76% of Republicans perceive her as too liberal. Independent voters split. 37% find her views are about right, and 31% 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
November 2007	36%	7%	43%	14%
Democrat	9%	6%	76%	9%
Republican	76%	1%	15%	8%
Independent	31%	12%	37%	20%
May 2007	40%	7%	43%	10%
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%

- 42% of voters nationwide, including 79% of Republicans and 39% of independent voters, say they will not even consider voting for Hillary Clinton. In May, 41% of registered voters expressed this view.

Question Wording: Thinking about the 2008 presidential elections, would you definitely consider voting for Hillary Clinton, possibly consider voting for her, or would you definitely not consider voting for Hillary Clinton?

Registered Voters	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider	Unsure
November 2007	27%	28%	42%	3%
Democrat	49%	40%	10%	1%
Republican	10%	9%	79%	2%
Independent	22%	34%	39%	5%
May 2007	27%	31%	41%	1%
February 2007	25%	30%	43%	2%
December 2006	25%	27%	46%	2%

- **Nationally, Rudy Giuliani leads the Republican field for his party's nomination in 2008:** Former Mayor Rudy Giuliani leads Senator John McCain, his closest competitor, by a margin of thirteen percentage points among Republicans and Republican leaning independents nationwide. Giuliani has the support of 30% compared with McCain who has 17%. Former Governor Mitt

Romney is now in third place with 13% followed closely by Former Senator Fred Thompson with 12%. The remaining Republican presidential contenders trail with 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

Republican Primary Voters	November 2007	May 2007
Rudy Giuliani	30%	28%
John McCain	17%	18%
Mitt Romney	13%	7%
Fred Thompson	12%	13%
Mike Huckabee	5%	2%
Ron Paul	2%	<1%
Duncan Hunter	1%	2%
Tom Tancredo	<1%	1%
Other	n.a.	14%
Undecided	20%	15%

- When supporters of Rudy Giuliani are asked how committed they are to his candidacy, only 36% of Giuliani backers are firmly committed to voting for him. 40% say they somewhat support him, and 22% say they might vote differently on primary day. 32% of John McCain’s supporters say they are firmly committed to him.

Question Wording: Would you say that you strongly support (candidate name), somewhat support him, or do you think that you might vote differently on primary day? (Support for other candidates is too small for subgroup analysis)

Republican Primary Voters	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Might Vote Differently	Unsure
November 2007	35%	36%	28%	1%
Rudy Giuliani supporters				
November 2007	36%	40%	22%	2%
May 2007	30%	35%	29%	6%
John McCain supporters				
November 2007	32%	32%	36%	<1%

- Nearly one in four registered voters nationally are unsure how to describe Rudy Giuliani ideologically. 41% think of him as ideologically well positioned. 17% characterize him as too liberal, and 19% view him as too conservative. 66% of Republicans view him as ideologically acceptable although one in five view him as too liberal.

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

Registered Voters	Too Liberal	Too Conservative	About Right	Unsure
November 2007	17%	19%	41%	23%
Democrat	15%	33%	24%	28%
Republican	20%	4%	66%	10%
Independent	16%	19%	38%	27%
May 2007	16%	17%	46%	21%
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%

- Like Hillary Clinton, 42% of registered voters say they will definitely not consider voting for Rudy Giuliani for president. This includes 69% of Democrats and 41% of independent voters.

Question Wording: Thinking about the 2008 presidential elections, would you definitely consider voting for Rudy Giuliani, possibly consider voting for him, or would you definitely not consider voting for Rudy Giuliani?

Registered Voters	Definitely Consider	Possibly Consider	Definitely Not Consider	Unsure
November 2007	13%	40%	42%	5%
Democrat	3%	26%	69%	2%
Republican	30%	53%	12%	5%
Independent	11%	42%	41%	6%
May 2007	14%	44%	39%	3%
February 2007	16%	51%	30%	3%
December 2006	16%	47%	33%	4%

- **Adding another New Yorker to the mix:** When Michael Bloomberg is included in the presidential sweepstakes as an independent candidate, he receives the support of 8% of registered voters nationwide and siphons support fairly evenly from both Clinton and Giuliani.

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

Registered Voters	Hillary Clinton Democrat	Rudy Giuliani Republican	Michael Bloomberg Independent	Undecided
November 2007	46%	34%	8%	12%
Democrat	83%	7%	3%	7%
Republican	11%	73%	5%	11%
Independent	41%	28%	17%	14%
May 2007	45%	38%	7%	10%

- **Voters rate the president:** 58% of registered voters disapprove of the job President Bush is doing in office. 34% approve of the job the president is doing including 70% of Republicans.

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

Registered Voters	Approve	Disapprove	Unsure
November 2007	34%	58%	8%
Democrat	6%	91%	3%
Republican	70%	23%	7%
Independent	32%	56%	12%
May 2007	33%	61%	6%
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%
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%

- 67% of Americans think the country is heading in the wrong direction. Nine in ten Democrats and nearly seven in ten independent voters share this view. Almost 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
November 2007	23%	67%	10%

Americans	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Unsure
Democrat	6%	91%	3%
Republican	49%	42%	9%
Independent	19%	69%	12%
May 2007	26%	65%	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: 1,102 Americans

This survey was conducted October 29th through November 1st, 2007. 1,102 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 811 registered voters including 271 Democrats, 229 Republicans, and 273 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 385 Democrats and Democratic leaning independents. 224 were interviewed on Monday and Tuesday and 161 were interviewed on Wednesday and Thursday. The results for the entire Democratic primary sub-sample, including independent voters who lean toward a political party, is statistically significant at $\pm 5\%$. The results for the Monday/Tuesday and the Wednesday/Thursday primary samples are statistically significant at $\pm 6.5\%$ and $\pm 8\%$, respectively. The sample of 306 Republican and Republican leaning independents is statistically significant at $\pm 5.5\%$. The margin for error increases for cross-tabulations.