

VOTERS REPORT A HIGH LEVEL OF INTEREST, ENGAGEMENT IN THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Among Their Own Party's Likely Primary Voters, Clinton and Giuliani Have the Lead, with Unannounced Candidates Gore and Gingrich in Third Place

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Engagement in the 2008 Presidential Election

With just under 18 months until the 2008 presidential election, the vast majority of registered voters report being closely engaged in the campaign. The overwhelming majority express “a lot” of interest (77%) in the campaign, with another 15% reporting at least “some” interest. In addition, four in ten (40%) report having watched or listened to at least one of the debates between the candidates. Of the three debates, the Democratic debate on April 26th was the most popular, with 53% reporting seeing the debate (compared to 38% for the Republican debate on May 3rd, and 39% for the Republican debate on May 15th).

2008 Primary Vote

Among likely Democratic primary voters (self-identified Democrats who say they typically vote in their party's primary election), Hillary Clinton takes the top spot with a 10-point lead over closest rival, Barack Obama. Former Vice President Al Gore and John Edwards are in a statistical dead heat for third place. Hillary Clinton also tops the list of candidates who Democratic primary voters say they would never choose to vote for, followed by Bill Richardson, Barack Obama, Al Gore, and Dennis Kucinich.

Table 1: 2008 Primary Vote – Democratic Party
*(% Among Self-Identified Democrats who Vote in Primary Elections
“Always/Nearly always/Part of the time”; N=261)*

| DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY | VOTE |
|-----------------------|------|
| Clinton | 31% |
| Obama | 21% |
| Gore | 13% |
| Edwards | 10% |
| Kucinich | 2% |
| Richardson | 2% |
| Biden | * |
| Dodd | * |
| Gravel | - |

| DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY | NEVER VOTE |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Clinton | 16% |
| Richardson | 9% |
| Obama | 8% |
| Gore | 8% |
| Kucinich | 8% |
| Biden | 7% |
| Gravel | 6% |
| Edwards | 5% |
| Dodd | 4% |

Among likely Republican primary voters, Rudolph Giuliani leads John McCain by 9 points (26% to 17%), while Newt Gingrich, Fred Thompson, and Mitt Romney are in a statistical dead-heat for the third position. When asked who they would never support in the Republican primary, voters are divided between Newt Gingrich (14%), Rudolph Giuliani (13%), John McCain (12%), and Mitt Romney (12%).

Table 2: 2008 Primary Vote – Republican Party
(% Among Self-Identified Republicans who Vote in Primary Elections “Always/Nearly always/Part of the time”; N=196)

| REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES | VOTE |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Giuliani | 26% |
| McCain | 17% |
| Gingrich | 10% |
| F. Thompson | 9% |
| Romney | 8% |
| Huckabee | 2% |
| Brownback | 2% |
| Tancredo | 2% |
| Gilmore | 1% |
| Hunter | 1% |
| Paul | 1% |
| T. Thompson | 1% |

| REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES | NEVER VOTE |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Gingrich | 14% |
| Giuliani | 13% |
| McCain | 12% |
| Romney | 12% |
| Paul | 7% |
| Hunter | 4% |
| T. Thompson | 4% |
| Huckabee | 3% |
| Tancredo | 3% |
| Gilmore | 2% |
| F. Thompson | 2% |
| Brownback | 1% |

2008 Presidential Vote Match-Ups

In a generic presidential ballot, a Democratic candidate has a strong lead over a Republican candidate, 46% to 27%. The Democratic edge shrinks significantly, however, when voters are asked to choose between specific Democratic and Republican candidates.

Although the Democrats take four out of six of the head-to-head match-ups, their lead is most often within the margin of error – only John Edwards’ lead over John McCain breaks the 4-point threshold. The two races in which the Republican has the edge – Rudolph Giuliani vs. Hillary Clinton and Rudolph Giuliani vs. John Edwards – are within the margin of error of +/- 3.5%.

Table 3: Vote Results Among Top Presidential Candidates
(% Among National Sample of Registered Voters)

| | Hillary Clinton | John Edwards | Barack Obama |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Rudy Giuliani | 45%-43% | 43%-42% | 43%-41% |
| John McCain | 45%-43% | 44%-39% | 42%-39% |

Immigration

With a new immigration bill before the Senate, 42% of registered voters say they believe that legal immigration into the US should decrease, while 26% say it should be kept at its present level (23% say it should be increased).

The majority of registered voters think that people who originally entered the US illegally should have to return to their home country before applying for full US citizenship (61%). In addition, 39% of voters say they think that citizenship priority should be given to those with family members in the US, compared to 31% who say those who are highly-skilled and educated should be given the priority.

To obtain complete poll results please see www.diageohotlinepoll.com.

To schedule an interview with Ed Rollins or Ed Reilly, contact Lauren Vincelli at (212) 850-5600 or Lauren.Vincelli@fd.com

Methodology: The Diageo/*Hotline* Poll was conducted by telephone from May 16 through May 20, 2007, among a random, nationally representative sample of 800 registered voters (margin of error +/- 3.5%), age 18 and older.

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