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Clinton, Giuliani hold strong leads in California primaries *Obama next among Democrats; McCain holds second in GOP* Bush credibility and approval of the war in Iraq at record lows

SAN JOSE, October 12, 2007 – New York Sen. Hillary Clinton holds a commanding 22 percentage-point lead in the California Democratic Party presidential primary and former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has widened his lead to 17 percentage points in the Republican contest, according to the latest statewide survey by the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San Jose State University.

Illinois Sen. Barack Obama is in second place among the Democrats, followed by former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards. Among Republicans, Arizona Sen. John McCain is in second place, followed by former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson, who appears to have lost ground since formally entering the race.

At the same time, President George Bush's approval rating among Californians has plunged to a record low, driven by continuing dissatisfaction with the situation in Iraq, economic anxieties and pessimism about the direction the country is headed.

More than eight in 10 Democrats, nearly six in 10 independents and almost half the Republicans now say it was not worth going to war in Iraq – an outlook that sharply conflicts with views expressed by all of the leading GOP presidential contenders.

"Never have this president and the war in Iraq been more unpopular," said survey director Melinda Jackson, assistant professor of political science at San Jose State University. "California voters seem to have largely given up on President Bush at this point, and are now looking ahead to 2008."

SPRI's quarterly California Consumer Confidence Survey included a random sample of 652 California adults, including 400 frequent voters, surveyed by telephone Oct. 1-8. The margin of error for all adults in the survey is +/- 3.8% and for all voters it is +/- 4.9%.

Presidential primaries

Clinton has the support of 42% of Democratic primary voters, up from the 37% she had in SPRI's survey in June. Not only has she maintained her standing with women, among whom she draws 44%, but she now has the support of 40% of the men, an increase of 13 percentage points since June.

She dominates every demographic and geographic portion of the state except for the youngest, most infrequent voters, aged 18-34, among whom Obama is leading. Clinton and

Obama also are tied among the small number of independents who say they will vote in the Democratic primary.

“Unless Clinton implodes, it’s hard to see how either Obama or Edwards can overcome her daunting lead in California,” said SPRI Director Philip J. Trownstine. Currently Obama stands at 20% and Edwards at 14% among Democratic primary voters. “What will likely keep Obama, Edwards and perhaps others engaged in California is their hope that if they do well in some congressional districts they can still pick up a significant portion of the state’s delegates.”

In the Republican contest, Giuliani draws 34%, compared to 17% for McCain, 11% for Romney and 7% for Thompson. The weakest link in that lineup is Thompson who was in a virtual tie for second place in June at 16% -- before he had formally declared his candidacy for the nomination.

Like Clinton in the Democratic race, Giuliani dominates in all regions and demographic divisions of the state, except among liberal Republicans, 40% of whom support McCain, and those with incomes under \$50,000, 28% of whom back the Arizona senator. Unfortunately for McCain, these are tiny slivers of the Republican primary electorate.

“Giuliani has four in 10 of the conservative Republicans – the largest bloc of GOP primary voters – and he’s leading by better two-to-one among older Republicans who are the most likely to turn up at the polls,” said Trownstine.

Unlike the Democratic primary, in which delegates are awarded in proportion to a candidate’s vote in each congressional district (plus the candidates’ proportions statewide), all of the GOP delegates in a congressional district are awarded to the candidate who wins that district. As a result, Giuliani’s widespread lead is likely to put a damper on other candidates’ interest in the California primary.

	DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY				REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY				
	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Others	McCain	Giuliani	Romney	Thompson	Others
All primary voters	42	14	20	5	17	34	11	7	10
Women	44	9	22	3	11	31	7	9	10
Men	40	21	18	7	22	36	13	5	9
Liberals	44	14	23	8	40	10	0	0	20
Moderates	38	13	23	4	17	30	8	3	12
Conservatives	49	22	11	3	12	40	15	12	7
Whites	41	17	22	6	16	29	12	9	11
Non-Whites	44	10	19	5	21	48	6	0	6
Bay Area	43	13	26	4	14	23	9	9	14
Los Angeles	47	17	16	5	18	32	21	0	18
Other Southern CA	44	12	20	7	17	45	9	6	8
Central Valley	38	14	28	7	17	17	3	10	14
Union HH	41	26	26	3	20	40	0	7	13
Non-union HH	43	12	18	5	17	34	10	6	10
Religious attenders	42	13	18	4	22	34	10	10	8
Non-attenders	44	17	21	5	9	36	9	4	13
<\$50K	38	14	21	7	28	21	0	7	7
\$50-100K	45	22	24	0	17	37	9	11	11
>\$100K	50	13	16	8	15	41	17	5	7
18-34	25	9	44	0	33	40	0	0	0
35-54	45	12	18	9	13	30	11	11	15
55+	48	16	14	3	15	42	10	5	8
Democrats/Republicans	44	14	18	6	17	34	11	7	10
Independents	32	16	32	0	Independents cannot vote in the GOP primary				

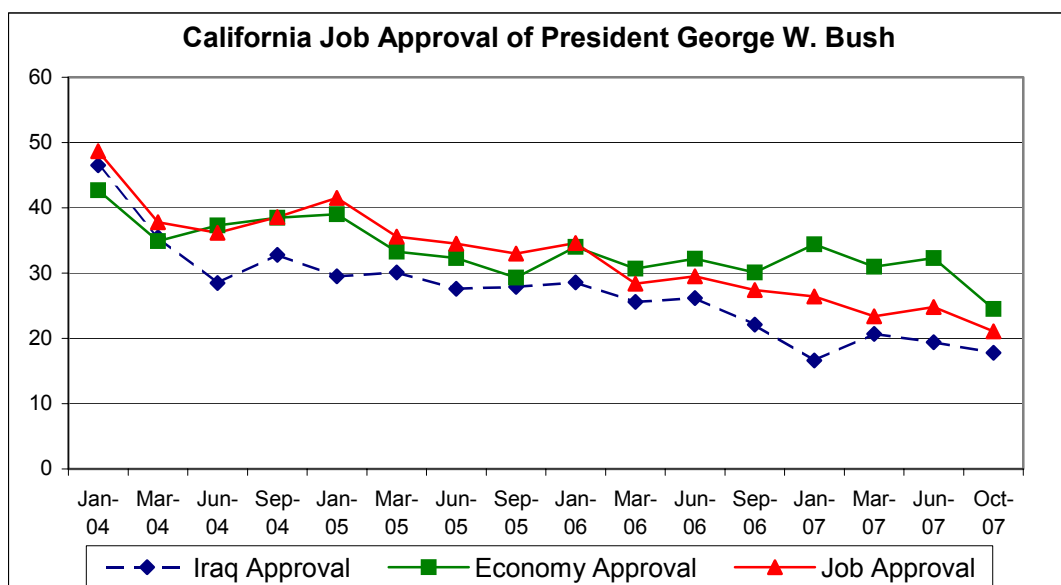
(Note: Because of the relatively small number of voters surveyed, the margin of error is 7% for the Democratic primary (200 voters) and 8% for Republican primary (147 voters). Smaller demographic and geographic divisions will have even higher margins of error. These percentages should therefore be interpreted as general indicators, not precise measures.)

President Bush and Iraq

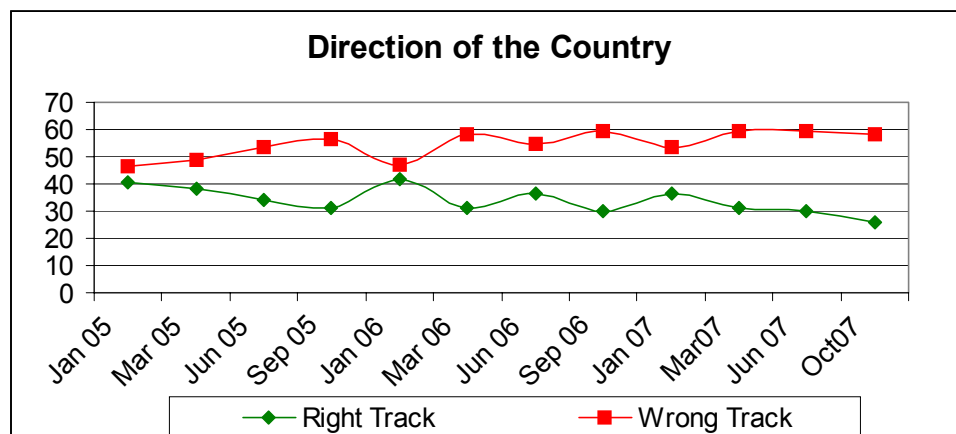
The president's overall job approval now stands at 21% among California adults (25% among voters), the lowest number recorded by SPRI since our poll began in January 2004. Just 18% of Californians say they approve of the president's handling of the situation in Iraq, while 73% disapprove.

In addition, ratings of Bush's handling of the economy have dropped to a record low of 25% approving, with 63% disapproving.

Added to this is a significant credibility gap, with only 26% of Californians saying they believe what President Bush tells the American people is true, while six in ten (61%) say they do not believe the president.



Opinions about the direction of the country hit a record low in October, with just 26% of California adults saying they think things in this country are generally going in the right direction and nearly six in ten (59%) saying things are seriously off on the wrong track. This reflects a growing sense of pessimism about the state of the nation over the past year.



These numbers reflect stark partisan divisions, with overwhelming majorities of Democrats giving President Bush poor marks across the board, while Republicans are more evenly divided. Fewer than one in ten Democratic voters in the state (8%) approve of the job Bush is doing as president while 86% disapprove. Among Republican voters in California, a bare majority (51%) express approval of the president while 41% disapprove.

But with regard to the war in Iraq, even Republicans have turned negative. Less than half of Republican voters in the state (47%) approve of the president's handling of Iraq, while 43% disapprove. And when asked if going to war in Iraq was worth it all in all, 47% of Republican voters say that it was not worth it, while 39% say it was worth it.

	Jun-06		Sep-06		Jan-07		Mar-07		Jun-07		Oct-07	
	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg
Direction of Country	36	55	30	60	36	54	31	59	30	59	26	59
Bush Approval on Iraq	26	67	22	68	17	75	21	73	19	71	18	73
Bush Approval on Economy	32	56	30	57	34	56	31	61	32	58	25	63
Bush Approval on Terrorism	41	52	35	56	30	60	34	58	35	54	31	58
Bush Overall Approval	30	60	27	62	26	66	23	69	25	64	21	68
Bush Tells the Truth	33	57	29	62	28	63	28	64	27	61	26	61
Iraq War Made US safer	25	45	25	50	22	50	20	47	23	49	20	47
Iraq War Worth It	29	63	25	65	19	72	24	70	23	69	20	68

Methodology

The Survey and Policy Research Institute polled a random sample of 652 California adults October 1-8 by telephone. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The questions on state and national politics were included in the quarterly California Consumer Confidence Survey, funded by San Jose State University. The survey included 400 respondents identified as frequent voters. The margin of error for all adults, at the 95% confidence level, is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points and for voters it is plus or minus 4.9 percentage points. Democratic primary results are based on 200 voters (Democrats and independents) and Republican primary results are based on 147 voters. The margin of error for the Democratic primary results is 6.9% and for the Republican primary results it is 8%.

Survey marginals are attached.

SURVEY MARGINALS

Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?

	Adults	Voters	Dem	Rep	Ind
Right direction	26	25	16	42	14
Wrong track	59	61	74	40	74

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

	Adults	Voters	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	21	25	8	51	16
Disapprove	68	66	85	41	69

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy?

	Adults	Voters	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	25	30	13	56	25
Disapprove	63	62	80	37	63

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

	Adults	Voters	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	18	25	9	47	21
Disapprove	73	69	91	43	66

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling terrorism?

	Adults	Voters	Dem	Rep	Ind
Approve	31	36	17	64	29
Disapprove	58	55	77	27	57

Do you think the war in Iraq has made the United States safer, less safe, or hasn't it had an effect on the safety of the United States?

	Adults	Voters	Dem	Rep	Ind
Safer	20	23	12	39	20
Less safe	47	46	59	25	55
No effect	25	26	25	33	17

All in all, do you think it was worth going to war in Iraq, or not?

	Adults	Voters	Dem	Rep	Ind
Worth going to war	20	24	10	39	28
Not worth going to war	68	66	84	47	57

Generally speaking, do you believe that what President Bush tells the American people is true?

	Adults	Voters	Dem	Rep	Ind
Yes	26	31	10	60	30
No	61	58	78	29	64