



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY RACE

December 5-9, 2007

Sen. Hillary Clinton continues to lead in the race for the national preference but the gap between Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama has narrowed over the past two months. Obama benefits from a significant number of Democrats who are looking for a candidate with fresh ideas. But by a wide margin, Clinton is viewed as the most electable candidate in a general election.

Clinton leads Obama by 17 points in this poll, down from 28 points in October, when Clinton held her largest lead. The current standings are similar to September. Today, 44% of Democratic primary voters (registered voters who say they will vote in a Democratic primary or caucus) choose Clinton as the nominee, 27% support Obama. 11% back Edwards, and the other Democratic contenders register in single digits.

DEMOCRATIC CHOICE FOR THE NOMINATION

(Among Democratic primary voters)

	Now	10/07	9/07	8/07
Clinton	44%	51%	44%	45%
Obama	27	23	26	25
Edwards	11	13	17	14

The change is not due to any one demographic group of voters. Clinton has lost some support across the board, and Obama has made gains. Clinton continues to lead Obama among both men and women.

Clinton retains stronger support. 58% of her supporters say they strongly favor her. That compares with 48% of Obama supporters who favor him strongly.

STRENGTH OF SUPPORT

(Among Democratic primary voters)

	Clinton Supporters	Obama Supporters
Strongly favor	58%	48%
Like with reservations	37	42
Dislike other candidates	4	5

More than half of each candidate's supporters say their minds (and their preference) could still change.

IS YOUR MIND MADE UP?

(Among Democratic primary voters)

		Clinton	Obama
	All	Supporters	Supporters
Yes	40%	44%	43%
No	59	56	57

Still, Hillary Clinton is the Democratic candidate seen as having the best chance of winning the presidency in 2008. Both Obama and Edwards are far behind on this measure. Even four in 10 of those Democratic voters not backing Clinton say she has the best chance of defeating the Republican candidate next November.

BEST CHANCE OF WINNING IN 2008

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

Clinton	63%
Obama	14
Edwards	10

How Voters See The Candidates

Clinton and Obama appeal to voters for different reasons. Clinton backers cite her association with Bill Clinton (26%) and having the right experience (23%) as the top reasons for supporting her. Obama's voters back him because he is someone new (27%) - far and away the top answer. In addition, 14% say they are supporting Obama because he will bring change.

WHY DO YOU SUPPORT YOUR CANDIDATE?

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	<u>Clinton</u>		<u>Obama</u>
Bill Clinton	26%		New person/fresh face
Right experience	23		Will bring change
She's a woman	9		Agree on issues
She's smart	8		Honesty/integrity
			27%
			14
			10
			9

Much of the Democratic campaign and its media coverage has focused on the theme experience vs. change and when Democratic primary voters are asked directly, they remain divided over which they prefer.

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT IN A CANDIDATE?

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Now	8/07
Right experience	42%	40%
Fresh ideas	45	44

This preference, however, has an impact on vote choice. Primary voters who want fresh ideas are backing Obama, while Clinton captures the overwhelming support of those who say they value the right experience.

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT IN A CANDIDATE?

(Among Democratic primary voters)

	Fresh Ideas	Right Experience
Clinton	33%	59%
Obama	43	11

Clearly, Clinton is viewed by Democrats as someone prepared to be president; eight in 10 say she is. On the other hand, just 41% say Obama has prepared himself well for the job of president.

All three major Democratic candidates are viewed as people who would unite the country rather than divide it, but surprisingly Clinton is viewed by more voters as a uniter than Obama is. Few voters see either of them as being on the attack.

CANDIDATE QUALITIES

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards
Prepared for being President	83%	41%	36%
Needs a few more years	14	52	46
Will bring Americans together	65%	54%	56%
Will divide them	23	36	21
Is mostly explaining positions	69%	60%	45%
Is mostly attacking opponents	17	25	29

Overall, the top three Democratic candidates get positive assessments from Democratic primary voters nationwide. Clinton garners the most positive ratings, and she is also the best known.

OVERALL VIEWS OF THE CANDIDATES

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards
Favorable	68%	54%	36%
Not favorable	14	14	14
Undecided/don't know	19	32	50

Judging The Issues

34% of Democratic primary voters volunteer the war in Iraq as the most important problem facing the country - it's their top concern - and these voters are backing Clinton over Obama by 42% to 32%. Clinton has a wider lead among Democrats who cite the economy and jobs as the most important problem.

MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

War in Iraq	34%
Economy/jobs	11
Health care	9

For the more than six in 10 Democratic primary voters who want U.S. troops out of Iraq in less than a year, 46% are supporting Clinton, while 27% are for Obama.

Immigration, a top issue for Republican primary voters, is mentioned by few Democratic voters as their top concern.

BRINGING IN THE HEAVIES: BILL AND OPRAH

Talk show host Oprah Winfrey hit the campaign trail for Barack Obama in both Iowa and South Carolina this weekend, while former President Bill Clinton campaigned on behalf of his wife in South Carolina on Saturday and will be in Iowa on Monday.

For now, Hillary Clinton may be winning the celebrity endorsement battle. More than four in 10 Democratic primary voters say Bill Clinton's involvement in his wife's campaign makes them more likely to support her. Just as many say his involvement makes no difference.

BILL CLINTON'S INVOLVEMENT IN HILLARY'S CAMPAIGN

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

More likely to vote for	44%
Less likely to vote for her	7
No difference	46

But even while Oprah campaigns in the key early states, few voters nationwide say they are being swayed her. 80% say her involvement in his campaign doesn't make a difference. Just 1% say her support will make them more likely to vote for Obama.

OPRAH'S INVOLVEMENT IN BARACK'S CAMPAIGN

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

More likely to vote for her	1%
Less likely to vote for her	14
No difference	80

The race for the Democratic nomination is a historic one in that the major contenders include a woman candidate and an African American, and majorities of Democratic primary voters say most people they know would vote for a woman and a black candidate.

WOULD MOST PEOPLE YOU KNOW VOTE FOR A ... ?

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Yes	No
Women candidate	59%	29
Black candidate	63%	25

THE 2008 CAMPAIGN

The Iowa caucuses are less than a month away, and three in four voters nationwide are paying at least some attention to the presidential campaign. Many are enthusiastic about voting. In fact, more voters are

paying attention now than at this point than in any campaign since CBS News began asking this question in late 1987.

ATTENTION TO THE CAMPAIGN

(Among registered voters)

	Now	12/2003
A lot	33%	21%
Some	43	40
Not much	19	29
No attention	5	10

Democrats are more excited about this election: Among primary voters, 45% of Democrats are more enthusiastic about voting this year, compared to only 29% of Republicans.

ENTHUSIASM ABOUT VOTING THIS YEAR

(Among registered voters)

	All	Dem. Primary Voters	Rep. Primary Voters
More	35%	45%	29%
Less	22	13	24
Same	43	42	47

Voters' enthusiasm may stem from their dissatisfaction with the federal government. Just over half of voters are dissatisfied with how the federal government is working and another 17% are angry about it. Even though Democratic primary voters express more discontent with the federal government than Republican primary voters do, half of Republican primary voters are dissatisfied or angry with the federal government.

FEELINGS ABOUT HOW THE FEDERAL GOV'T IS WORKING

(Among registered voters)

	All	Dem. Primary Voters	Rep. Primary Voters
Enthusiastic	1%	1%	2%
Satisfied	27	16	48
Dissatisfied	54	60	40
Angry	17	22	10

Looking ahead to the general election in November of 2008, the Democrats still have a broad advantage: 48% of registered voters say they will vote for the Democratic candidate and 31% say they will vote for the Republican candidate.

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q11 Which one is more important to you in a presidential candidate -- having the right experience, or having fresh ideas?

	**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****				Dem	
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Primary	Aug07a
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right experience	49	68	45	37	42	44
Fresh ideas	38	23	44	45	45	41
Both (Vol.)	10	8	9	13	10	13
Don't know/No answer	3	1	2	5	3	2

q12 Which best describes your feelings about the way the federal government is working: enthusiastic, or satisfied but not enthusiastic, or dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

	Total	Dem. Prim.	Rep Prim.
	%	Voters	Voters
	%	%	%
Enthusiastic	1	1	2
Satisfied not enthusiastic	27	16	48
Dissatisfied not angry	54	60	40
Angry	17	22	10
Don't know/No answer	1	1	0

q17 How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2008 presidential campaign? a lot, some, not much, or no attention so far?

	**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Oct07a
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	33	31	38	29	24
Some	43	47	43	39	52
Not much	19	17	16	25	19
None at all	5	4	3	7	5
Don't know/No answer	0	0	1	0	0

q18 If the November 2008 election for President were being held today, would you probably vote for the Republican candidate or would you probably vote for the Democratic candidate?

Republican	31	72	2	26	33
Democratic	48	10	89	39	48
Other (vol.)	1	0	0	2	1
Won't vote (vol.)	0	0	0	1	0
Depends (vol.)	10	10	4	16	9
DK/NA	10	8	5	16	9

q19 Compared to past Presidential elections, how would you describe your level of enthusiasm about voting in the 2008 Presidential election next year -- are you more enthusiastic than usual, less enthusiastic, or about the same as usual?

	***** REGISTERED VOTERS *****			
	Total	Dem. Prim. Voters	Rep Prim. Voters	Oct07a
	%	%	%	%
More enthusiastic	35	45	29	28
Less enthusiastic	22	13	24	24
Same	43	42	47	47
Don't know/No answer	0	0	0	1

q20 Who would you like to see the Democratic party nominate as its presidential candidate in 2008 -- Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, John Edwards, Joe Biden, Christopher Dodd, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich or Bill Richardson?

	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS		Oct07a
		%	%
Biden	2	2	0
Clinton	44	44	51
Dodd	1	1	0
Edwards	11	11	13
Kucinich	2	2	0
Obama	27	27	23
Richardson	2	2	0
Gore	0	0	2
Someone else/none	2	2	5
Undecided (Vol.)	6	6	3
DK/NA	3	3	3

q21 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS		
	Total	Clinton Voters	Obama Voters
Mind made up	40	44	43
Too early to say for sure	59	56	57
DK/NA	1	0	0

q22 What specifically is it about (Selected Candidate) that makes you want to support (him/her)?

	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS		
	Total	Clinton	Obama
	%	Voters	Voters
Right/good experience	16	23	1
Married to Bill Clinton	13	26	0
New person/fresh face	10	5	27
Agree on issues	9	7	10
Will bring change	8	5	14
Smart/intelligent	6	8	5
Honesty/integrity	5	1	9
Like him/her	4	3	8
Time for a woman president	4	9	0
Vision for country	3	2	3
Stance on Iraq War	3	2	2
Time for a Black President	2	0	6
Cares about people	2	0	2
Stance on health care	2	4	0
Other	8	3	12
DK/NA	5	2	1

q23 Would you describe your support for (Selected Candidate) as strongly favoring (Selected Candidate), or do you like (him/her) but with reservations, or do you support (him/her) because you dislike the other candidates?

Strongly favor	53	58	48
Like but with reservations	39	37	42
Dislike other candidates	5	4	5
Don't know/No answer	3	1	5

q24 Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Hillary Clinton yet to have an opinion?

		Oct07a
		%
Favorable	68	72
Not favorable	14	15
Undecided	17	12
Haven't heard enough	2	0
Refused	0	1

q25 Is your opinion of John Edwards favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John Edwards yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	36	44
Not favorable	14	14
Undecided	25	32
Haven't heard enough	25	9
Refused	0	1

q26 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS	Oct07a
	%	%
Favorable	54	56
Not favorable	14	13
Undecided	22	21
Haven't heard enough	10	9
Refused	0	1

q27-q35 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q36 From what you know so far, do you think Hillary Clinton has prepared herself well enough for the job of President and all the issues a President has to face, or do you think she needs a few more years to prepare?

Prepared	83
Needs a few more years	14
DK/NA	3

q37 What do you think Hillary Clinton has been spending more time doing in her campaign - explaining what she would do as president or attacking the other Democratic candidates?

Explaining	69	68
Attacking	17	18
Neither	--	1
Don't know/No answer	15	13

q38 If Hillary Clinton eventually becomes President, do you think her presidency would bring different groups of Americans together, or do you think it would divide them?

Bring together	65	65
Divide	23	21
DK/NA	12	14

q39 From what you know so far, do you think John Edwards has prepared himself well enough for the job of President and all the issues a President has to face, or do you think he needs a few more years to prepare?

Prepared	36
Needs a few more years	46
DK/NA	18

q40 What do you think John Edwards has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking the other Democratic candidates?

Explaining	45
Attacking	29
Don't know/No answer	26

q41 If John Edwards eventually becomes President, do you think his presidency would bring different groups of Americans together, or do you think it would divide them?

Bring together	56
Divide	21
DK/NA	23

q42 From what you know so far, do you think Barack Obama has prepared himself well enough for the job of President and all the issues a President has to face, or do you think he needs a few more years to prepare?

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

	%
Prepared	41
Needs a few more years	52
DK/NA	7

q43 What do you think Barack Obama has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking the other Democratic candidates?

Explaining	60
Attacking	25
Don't know/No answer	15

q44 If Barack Obama eventually becomes President, do you think his presidency would bring different groups of Americans together, or do you think it would divide them?

Bring together	54
Divide	36
DK/NA	10

q45 Does Oprah Winfrey's involvement in Barack Obama's Presidential campaign make you more likely to support Barack Obama, less likely, or doesn't it make a difference to you?

More likely	1
Less likely	14
No difference	80
DK/NA	5

q46 Does BILL Clinton's involvement in Hillary Clinton's Presidential campaign make you more likely to support Hillary Clinton, less likely, or doesn't it make a difference to you?

More likely	44
Less likely	7
No difference	46
DK/NA	3

q47 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, which candidate do you think has the best chance of winning the general election in November --Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Christopher Dodd, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama, or Bill Richardson?

Biden	0
Clinton	63
Dodd	0
Edwards	10
Obama	14
Richardson	1
Other	0
Someone else/None	0
DK/NA	12

q48-q49 BLANK

q50 - q66 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q67-q68 BLANK

q69 Do you think most people you know would vote for a presidential candidate who is a woman, or not?

	**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****	
	Total	Dem Primary Voters
	%	%
Would	49	59
Would not	40	29
Don't know/No answer	12	12

q70 Do you think most people you know would vote for a presidential candidate who is black, or not?

Would	60	63
Would not	25	25
Don't know/No answer	15	12

	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED
Total Respondents	1133	
Registered Voters	1028	969
Republicans - Reg. Voters	301	286
Democrats - Reg. Voters	372	342
Independents - Reg. Voters	355	341
Democratic Primary Voters	417	383