



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL  
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**THE REPUBLICAN RACE: SWEEPING CHANGES**

December 5-9, 2007

The race for the Republican nomination nationwide has undergone sweeping changes since October: former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee now challenges Rudy Giuliani for the lead, with Mitt Romney on their heels. Just six points separate the three candidates.

Fred Thompson, a strong contender earlier in the fall, has sunk from a strong second to a tie for fourth place. Huckabee, a former Baptist minister and evangelical himself, has made impressive gains in this poll among white evangelical voters.

21% of Republican primary voters now support Huckabee, up from just 4% in October. Huckabee's surge has come at the expense of both Giuliani and Thompson. The former New York City Mayor's support has shrunk from 38% in August and 29% in October to 22% now. Thompson's support has dropped precipitously, from 21% in October to 7% now. Mitt Romney has risen to 16% in this poll, from 12% in October. John McCain now garners less than one in 10 primary voters.

**REPUBLICAN CHOICE FOR THE NOMINATION**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Now	10/07
Giuliani	22%	29%
Huckabee	21	4
Romney	16	12
McCain	7	18
Thompson	7	21

Huckabee is now in a commanding position among the more conservative blocs of Republican primary voters - he has posted double-digit gains among conservatives, white evangelicals and those who attend church weekly. Both Giuliani's and Thompson's standing among those voters has declined. Romney receives support from those who attend religious services weekly (43% of Republican primary voters), and ties Huckabee among this group of voters.

**REPUBLICAN CHOICE FOR THE NOMINATION**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Conser- vatives		White Evan- gelicals		Weekly Church- goers	
	Now	10/07	Now	10/07	Now	10/07
Huckabee	25%	5%	34%	6	22%	6
Romney	17	14	6	7	22	11
Giuliani	12	24	15	26	13	18
Thompson	8	24	7	29	7	28
McCain	6	16	7	15	6	18

The poll was conducted in the week that attention was focused on Romney's Mormon religion. Most of the interviews were conducted after his Thursday speech about religion and politics.

The race for the nomination remains very fluid. Three in four Republican primary voters say it is too early to say for sure which candidate they will support, and just 23% say their minds are made up.

**MIND MADE UP WHOM TO SUPPORT?**

(Among Republican Primary Voters with a Choice)

Yes	23%
Too early	76

The sense of settling that existed in the minds of many Republican primary voters in October has dwindled somewhat in the last two months. Now, 52% of primary voters say they strongly favor their candidate, while 37% like him but still have reservations. In October, 50% said they had reservations about their candidate.

**STRENGTH OF CANDIDATE SUPPORT**

(Among Republican Primary Voters with a Choice)

	Now	10/07
Strongly favor	52%	40%
Have reservations	37	50
Dislike others	6	7

One in four Republican primary voters says they support their choice because of experience, and 16% volunteer stands on the issues. 12% mention their candidate's honesty.

**VIEWS OF THE CANDIDATES**

Republican primary voters still see Rudy Giuliani as the most electable candidate, and by a large margin. When asked which one of the candidates has the best chance of winning the general election in November, 43% think Rudy Giuliani does. Fewer than one in five see Romney and Huckabee as most electable.

**CANDIDATE QUALITIES: MOST ELECTABLE**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

Giuliani	43%
Romney	18
Huckabee	13
McCain	7
Thompson	3

About half of Republican primary voters see each of the front-running candidates as sharing the values of most Republicans, although about a third think Giuliani and McCain do not. Many are still uncertain about Huckabee.

**CANDIDATE QUALITIES: SHARES REPUBLICANS' VALUES?**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Yes	No	DK
Thompson	52%	16	32
Giuliani	52%	36	12
Romney	52%	17	31
Huckabee	49%	15	36
McCain	47%	29	24

Just over half think Giuliani says what he believes, though 37% think he says what people want to hear. Many also see John McCain and Mitt Romney as altering their message to match the audience.

**CANDIDATE QUALITIES: SAYS WHAT HE BELIEVES?**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Says what believes	Says what people want to hear	DK
Giuliani	55%	37	8
Huckabee	47%	16	37
McCain	46%	36	18
Thompson	43%	23	34
Romney	42%	29	29

In the past two months, more Republican primary voters are able to express an opinion of Huckabee - and it's positive. Favorable views of both Huckabee and Romney have risen in the past two months, while Giuliani's and Thompson's favorable ratings have declined.

**VIEWS OF THE CANDIDATES**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Now	10/07
Huckabee: Favorable	30%	12%
Not favorable	10	9
Undecided/DK	60	79
Giuliani: Favorable	41%	48%
Not favorable	28	20
Undecided/DK	30	32
Romney: Favorable	36%	28%
Not favorable	16	16
Undecided/DK	48	56
McCain: Favorable	37%	37%
Not favorable	32	22
Undecided/DK	30	41
Thompson: Favorable	20%	32%
Not favorable	16	11
Undecided/DK	62	56

So far, more Republican primary voters see the front-running Republican candidates as running positive campaigns. By large margins, they are more likely to think each is explaining his positions rather than attacking the other candidates.

### **RELIGION AND THE RACE**

Religion may always have been important to Republican primary voters, but it now has become a central factor in the Republican race.

Voters who say that sharing their religious beliefs is important express a slight preference for Rudy Giuliani, but Mike Huckabee is close behind. Romney, a Mormon, receives just 9% of their support. Romney does much better with voters who don't think sharing their own religious beliefs is important.

#### **VOTE CHOICE: IMPORTANT CANDIDATE SHARES RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Important	Not Important
Giuliani	29%	12%
Huckabee	24	16
Romney	9	27
McCain	5	12
Thompson	7	5

Six in 10 Republican primary voters say it is very or somewhat important that a candidate shares their religious beliefs - about the same as two months ago. One in 4 says this is very important.

Nevertheless, acceptance of a Mormon candidate appears to have grown. Now, 52% of Republican primary voters say that most people they know would vote for a Mormon candidate, and 33% think most people they know would not. Last June, just 36% thought people they knew would do so.

#### **WOULD MOST PEOPLE YOU KNOW VOTE FOR A MORMON?**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

	Now	6/07
Yes	52%	36%
No	33	40

More voters now know that Romney is a Mormon in the wake of his speech last week about his religion. 55% of Republican primary voters correctly identify him as such, up from 41% of Republican primary voters in June. Among voters overall, 44% now know he is a Mormon, up from 32% in June. Still, 45% of Republican primary voters and 55% of all voters don't know Romney's religion.

### **IMMIGRATION, ABORTION AND THE RACE**

8% of Republican primary voters cite immigration as the most important problem facing the country, placing it third after the war in Iraq and the economy. The vast majority of Republican primary voters see it as

a very serious problem - 77% describe it as such. 41% think that illegal immigrants should be required to leave the U.S. and their jobs here.

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WORKING IN U.S. SHOULD BE...**

(Among Republican Primary Voters)

Allowed to keep jobs, apply for citizenship	29%
Allowed to stay as guest workers	27
Required to leave U.S.	41

These voters have yet to coalesce behind a single candidate, however. Voters who want illegal immigrants to leave the U.S. are tied between supporting Mike Huckabee (29%), and Rudy Giuliani (28%).

Huckabee has a comfortable lead over Giuliani among anti-abortion Republican primary voters.

50% of Republican primary voters say they are dissatisfied or angry about the way the federal government is working. About one in 5 of those voters support Huckabee, and a similar percentage supports Giuliani.

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1133 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone December 5-9, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

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q1-26 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q27 Who would you like to see the Republican party nominate as its presidential candidate in 2008 -- John McCain, Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, Fred Thompson, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Ron Paul, or Tom Tancredo?

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

Giuliani	22
Huckabee	21
Hunter	3
McCain	7
Paul	4
Romney	16
Tancredo	1
Thompson	7
Someone else /None	2
Undecided (Vol.)	14
DK/NA	3

q28 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

AMONG REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS WITH A CANDIDATE CHOICE

Mind made up	23
Too early to say for sure	76
DK/NA	1

q29 What specifically is it about (Selected Candidate) that makes you want to support him?

Right/good experience	23
Agree on issues	16
Honesty/integrity/trustworthy	12
Handling of Sept 11	11
Represents/shares my values	7
Like him/her	5
New person/fresh face	3
Religious beliefs	3
Will bring change	2
Stance on abortion	2
Strong leader	2
Other	9
DK/NA	3

q30 Would you describe your support for (Selected Candidate) as strongly favoring (Selected Candidate), or do you like him but with reservations, or do you support him because you dislike the other candidates?

Strongly favor	52	Oct07a
Like but with reservations	37	40
Dislike other candidates	6	50
Don't know/No answer	5	7
		3

q31 Is your opinion of Rudy Giuliani favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Rudy Giuliani yet to have an opinion?

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

	Total	Oct07a
	%	%
Favorable	41	48
Not favorable	28	20
Undecided	19	26
Haven't heard enough	11	6
Refused	1	0

q32 Is your opinion of Mike Huckabee favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Mike Huckabee yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	30	12
Not favorable	10	9
Undecided	18	11
Haven't heard enough	42	68
Refused	0	0

q33 Is your opinion of John McCain favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John McCain yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	37	37
Not favorable	32	22
Undecided	22	27
Haven't heard enough	8	14
Refused	1	0

q34 Is your opinion of Mitt Romney favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Mitt Romney yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	36	28
Not favorable	16	16
Undecided	20	22
Haven't heard enough	28	34
Refused	0	0

q35 Is your opinion of Fred Thompson favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Fred Thompson yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	20	32
Not favorable	16	11
Undecided	21	18
Haven't heard enough	41	38
Refused	2	1

q36-49 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q50 Is it possible you would ever vote for a candidate for the 2008 Republican nomination who does not share your views on social issues like abortion or same-sex marriage, or are these social issues so important that you could not vote for a candidate who disagrees with you?

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

	Total	Oct07a
	%	%
Yes, would vote	42	46
No, would not vote	53	46
Depends (Vol.)	3	6
Don't know/No answer	2	2

q51 Do you think John McCain says what he believes most of the time, or does he say what he thinks people want to hear?

What he believes	46
What he thinks people want	36
DK/NA	18

q52 Do you think John McCain shares the values of most Republicans, or doesn't he share the same values?

		Jun07c
Shares same values	47	56
Doesn't share values	29	24
Don't know/No answer	24	20

q53 What do you think John McCain has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking the other Republican candidates?

Explaining	41
Attacking	22
Don't know/No answer	37

q54 Do you think Mitt Romney says what he believes most of the time, or does he say what he thinks people want to hear?

What he believes	42	38
What he thinks people want	29	15
DK/NA	29	47

q55 Do you think Mitt Romney shares the values of most Republicans, or doesn't he share the same values?

Shares same values	52
Doesn't share values	17
Don't know/No answer	31

q56 What do you think Mitt Romney has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking the other Republican candidates?

Explaining	54
Attacking	18
Don't know/No answer	28



q57 Do you think Rudy Giuliani says what he believes most of the time, or does he say what he thinks people want to hear?

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

	Total	Jul07a
	%	%
What he believes	55	64
What he thinks people want	37	27
DK/NA	8	9

q58 Do you think Rudy Giuliani shares the values of most Republicans, or doesn't he share the same values?

		Sep07a
Shares same values	52	52
Doesn't share values	36	31
Don't know/No answer	12	17

q59 What do you think Rudy Giuliani has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking the other Republican candidates?

Explaining	57
Attacking	24
Don't know/No answer	19

q60 Do you think Mike Huckabee says what he believes most of the time, or does he say what he thinks people want to hear?

What he believes	47
What he thinks people want	16
DK/NA	37

q61 Do you think Mike Huckabee shares the values of most Republicans, or doesn't he share the same values?

Shares same values	49
Doesn't share values	15
Don't know/No answer	36

q62 What do you think Mike Huckabee has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking the other Republican candidates?

Explaining	53
Attacking	9
Don't know/No answer	38

q63 Do you think Fred Thompson says what he believes most of the time, or does he say what he thinks people want to hear?

What he believes	43
What he thinks people want	23
DK/NA	34

q64 Do you think Fred Thompson shares the values of most Republicans, or doesn't he share the same values?

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

	Total	Jun07c
	%	%
Shares same values	52	44
Doesn't share values	16	8
Don't know/No answer	32	48

q65 What do you think Fred Thompson has been spending more time doing in his campaign -- explaining what he would do as president or attacking the other Republican candidates?

Explaining	41
Attacking	18
Don't know/No answer	41

q66 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 -- Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, John McCain, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, Tom Tancredo or Fred Thompson?

Giuliani	43
Huckabee	13
Duncan Hunter	0
McCain	7
Romney	18
Paul	2
Tancredo	0
Thompson	3
Someone else /None	1
DK/NA	13

q67-70 PLACEHOLDER

q71 Do you think most people you know would vote for a presidential candidate who is a Mormon, or not?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	
Would	45	52	36
Would not	41	33	40
Don't know/No answer	14	15	24

q72-73 PLACEHOLDER

q74 Thinking about your vote for president next year, how important is it that a candidate shares your religious beliefs--is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

\*\* REGISTERED VOTERS\*\*

	Total	Rep Primary Voters	Oct07a
	%	%	%
Very important	16	24	20
Somewhat important	27	38	30
Not very important	21	18	24
Not at all important	35	18	25
DK/NA	1	1	1

q75 Do you know what Mitt Romney's religion is? IF YES, ASK: What religion is he?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **		
	Total	Rep Primary Voters	Jun07c
	%	%	%
Mormon/LDS	44	55	32
None	0	0	1
Don't know/no answer	55	45	67

q76-82 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q83 How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for the country right now -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

			May07a*
Very serious	57	77	61
Somewhat serious	32	19	30
Not too serious	8	2	6
Not at all serious	3	2	1
Don't know/No answer	1	0	2

\*asked with intro "What about ILLEGAL immigration?"

Trend is among Total Respondents

q84 Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are currently working in the U.S.: 1. They should be allowed to stay in their jobs, and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship; OR 2. They should be allowed to stay in their jobs only as temporary guest workers, but NOT to apply for U.S. citizenship; OR 3. They should be required to leave their jobs and leave the U.S.

Allowed to stay and apply	37	29
Stay as guest worker	28	27
Required to leave jobs & U.S.	30	41
Don't know/No answer	5	3

q85 Do you think the children of illegal immigrants who graduate from high school in the U.S. should be allowed to attend state public colleges at the same reduced in-state tuition rates as other state residents, or should they pay higher tuition?

			May07a^
In-state tuition	54	44	52
Higher rate	33	40	39
Shouldn't be allowed to at	5	8	4
DK/NA	8	8	5

^Trend is among Total Respondents

	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED
Total Respondents	1133	
Registered Voters	969	
Republicans - Reg. Voters	301	286 (30%)
Democrats - Reg. Voters	372	342 (35%)
Independents - Reg. Voters	355	341 (35%)
Republican Primary Voters	266	232