



CBS NEWS POLL
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THE PRIMARIES OVER... THE GENERAL ELECTION LOOMS

May 30 - June 3, 2008

Barack Obama, who has now secured enough delegates to win the Democratic nomination, enters the general election phase with a slight advantage over presumptive Republican nominee John McCain in a head-to-head matchup.

Still, there are signs in this poll Obama has some work to do coming out of a tough nomination fight: most Democrats think the length of the battle between Obama and Hillary Clinton has hurt rather than helped the party. And while many Democrats want Obama to pick Clinton as his vice presidential nominee, Obama's supporters are lukewarm to the idea.

If an Obama-McCain contest were held today, the Democrat would hold the edge.

IF THE ELECTION WERE TODAY, WOULD YOU VOTE FOR...?

(Among registered voters)

Obama	48%
McCain	42
Undecided	6
Won't vote	3

In this poll, 12% of self-identified Democrats nationwide say they'll back John McCain against Obama. That is higher than the 8% of Democrats who defected to George W. Bush from John Kerry in 2004.

And, after a long and tough primary battle, nearly a quarter of Democrats who wanted Senator Hillary Clinton to be the Democratic nominee now pick McCain over Obama in the General Election.

DEMOCRATS: CHOICE OF OBAMA VS. MCCAIN

(Among registered voters)

	All Dems	Clinton supporters
Obama	80%	63%
McCain	12	22
Undecided/DK	4	7
Won't vote	3	8

Women have been a key part of Hillary Clinton's constituency, and 13% of Democratic women say now they would back McCain. But 11% of Democratic men also pick McCain now.

McCain draws more independent voters than Obama, with one in ten undecided. In a matchup between McCain and Hillary Clinton, McCain also holds a lead.

INDEPENDENTS: CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT

(Among registered voters)

McCain	46%	McCain	46%
Obama	38	Clinton	40
Undecided/DK	11	Undecided/DK	9

Hillary Clinton, who had lately touted her electability in her campaign, would also come out ahead in a matchup with McCain, if such a contest were held today.

IF THE CANDIDATES WERE CLINTON VS. MCCAIN WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?

(Among registered voters)

Clinton	50%
McCain	41
Undecided	6

CAN THE DEMOCRATS COME TOGETHER?

The next big decision for the parties' nominees is to pick their vice presidential nominees, and some have suggested that uniting the two top Democratic contenders would make a "dream ticket."

However, Barack Obama's supporters are split on whether he should pick Hillary Clinton as his running mate.

Clinton's current backers feel differently: most of them want her to get the V.P. job. Overall, it is a popular idea among Democratic primary voters.

SHOULD OBAMA PICK CLINTON AS V.P.?

(Among Democratic primary voters)

	All	Obama supporters	Clinton supporters
Yes	59%	46%	76%
No	35	44	21

Most Democratic primary voters - those who participated in the voting - feel the length of this nomination contest has hurt their party's chances for November, because the candidates have weakened each other with criticisms during the fight. Only 38% think the long battle has tempered their nominee for the upcoming fall contest. Registered voters nationwide agree.

HAS THE LENGTH OF THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION FIGHT...

	All voters	Dem prim voters
Hurt Dem chances for November	63%	54%
Helped Dem chances for November	27	38

Two-thirds of Democratic primary voters, 65%, think there is a better way: to have things settled with a single national primary day instead of the current, staggered timeline.

Overall, Obama leads Clinton in the nomination preference of Democratic primary voters, as he does in the delegate count, though the margin is smaller than last month. In January the race was even, Clinton rallied somewhat in March, and Obama opened up a lasting lead this spring.

CHOICE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

(Among Democratic primary voters)

	Now	5/08	4/08	3/08	2/08	1/08	12/07
Obama	45%	50%	46%	46%	54%	41%	27%
Clinton	41	38	38	43	38	41	44

By a margin of 47% to 38%, Obama is also the preference of all voters who consider themselves Democrats, regardless of whether they decided to participate in a primary this year.

More than four in ten Democratic primary voters who now back Obama, or are undecided, say that they had once backed Hillary Clinton. In October of 2007, Clinton was the preference of a majority of would-be Democratic primary voters, 51%.

Looking back, more voters think former President Bill Clinton's involvement in Senator Clinton's campaign turned out to be a hindrance, instead of a help to the former First Lady. Democratic primary voters, in particular, feel the same.

DID BILL CLINTON HELP OR HURT HILLARY CLINTON?

	All voters	Dem Primary voters
Helped	23%	24%
Hurt	39	35
No difference	37	39

Back in December 2007, Democratic primary voters said President Clinton's involvement in the campaign would make them more likely to back Hillary Clinton than not.

VIEWS OF THE CANDIDATES

John McCain has one significant advantage in this poll over both Obama and Clinton: the view that he would likely be an effective Commander-in-Chief. His ratings on this quality are much higher than Obama's or Clinton's.

WOULD... BE AN EFFECTIVE COMMANDER IN CHIEF?

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain	Clinton
Very likely	25%	39%	22%
Somewhat likely	37	38	37
Not likely	35	20	39

However, a majority says it is at least somewhat likely any of the three candidates would be effective.

Obama, McCain and Clinton all continue to be seen as sharing Americans' values. Obama is most seen as caring a lot about the needs and problems of Americans, and on this measure he outdistances McCain by a large margin.

CANDIDATE QUALITIES: CARES, SHARES VALUES

(Among registered voters)

	Obama	McCain	Clinton
Cares a lot about your problems	38%	22%	31%
4/30/2008	34	26	31
Shares values	62%	63%	58%
5/3/08	60%	58%	60%
4/30/2008	64%	67%	58%

Overall views of the candidates are largely unchanged in the last few weeks.

OPINIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

(Among registered voters)

	-- Now --		-- 5/08 --	
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable	Unfavorable
Obama	41%	31	44%	30
McCain	34%	37	32%	35
Clinton	41%	39	42%	37

MCCAIN'S POTENTIAL NEGATIVES?: AGE AND PRESIDENT BUSH

As Barack Obama has increasingly turned his attention to John McCain in recent weeks, he has often argued that McCain's election would constitute a third term for President George W. Bush.

More than four in ten voters believe McCain would, indeed, generally continue George W. Bush's policies. And while about half think he would be different from the current President, nearly as many say he will be MORE conservative as think he will be LESS conservative.

VIEWS OF MCCAIN-BUSH TIES: WOULD A PRESIDENT MCCAIN...?

(Among registered voters)

Continue Bush's policies	43%
Be more conservative than Bush	21
Be less conservative than Bush	28

Some observers have suggested that McCain's age - he would be the oldest President at a first inaugural - might be a concern, but most voters say age won't affect McCain's effectiveness as President if he's elected.

WOULD MCCAIN'S AGE IMPACT EFFECTIVENESS AS PRESIDENT?

(Among registered voters)

Yes, would be an obstacle	30%
Yes, would be an asset	7
No, would not matter	62

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,038 adults nationwide, including 930 registered voters, interviewed by telephone May 30-June 3, 2008. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus four percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. The error for the sample of registered voters is plus or minus four points.

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q1-5 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q6 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 **				May08a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	53	51	55	52	55
Some	39	41	38	38	34
Not much	6	6	6	7	7
None at all	2	2	1	3	4
DK/NA	0	0	0	0	0

q7 Who would you like to see the Democratic party nominate as its presidential candidate in 2008 -- Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama ?

	* DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS *	
	%	%
Clinton	41	38
Obama	45	50
Someone else/None (vol.)	3	3
Undecided (vol.)	9	7
DK/NA	2	2

q8 Would you say you like (Clinton/Obama) a great deal better than (Obama/Clinton), somewhat better than (Obama/Clinton), or only a little better than (Obama/Clinton)?

	* DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS *		
	Total	Obama Voters	Clinton Voters
	%	%	%
A great deal	44	44	44
Somewhat	33	34	32
Only a little	21	21	21
Don't know/No answer	2	1	3

q9 Thinking back over the past few months, was there ever a time when you supported Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination?

** AMONG DPVS NOT CURRENTLY SUPPORTING CLINTON **	
Yes	44
No	55
DK/NA	1

q10 Regardless of who you support, do you think Hillary Clinton still has a good chance of winning the Democratic nomination for president in 2008, or not?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
Yes	32	29	30	37
No	63	66	64	58
DK/NA	5	5	6	5

q11 Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Hillary Clinton yet to have an opinion?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				REG
	*** Party ID ***				May08a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	41	20	58	35	42
Not favorable	39	66	21	39	37
Undecided	18	14	18	22	18
Haven't heard enough	2	0	2	2	3
Refused	0	0	1	2	0

q12 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	41	15	62	34	44
Not favorable	31	55	16	31	30
Undecided	22	26	17	26	20
Haven't heard enough	5	5	4	7	6
Refused	1	0	1	2	0

q13 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	34	64	15	33	32
Not favorable	37	14	55	31	35
Undecided	21	18	18	27	19
Haven't heard enough	8	5	11	8	14
Refused	0	0	1	1	0

q14 If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were Barack Obama, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, would you vote for Barack Obama or John McCain?

Obama	48	9	80	38	51
McCain	42	84	12	46	40
Other (Vol.)	1	1	1	2	0
Won't vote (Vol.)	3	1	3	5	4
Depends (Vol.)	2	1	1	5	1
Don't know/No answer	4	4	3	4	4

q15 If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton, the Democrat, and John McCain, the Republican, would you vote for Hillary Clinton or John McCain?

Clinton	50	9	84	40	53
McCain	41	83	11	46	41
Other (Vol.)	1	1	1	1	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	2	2	1	4	2
Depends (Vol.)	2	3	0	3	2
Don't know/No answer	4	2	3	6	1

q16 If Hillary Clinton wins the Democratic nomination, would you like to see her pick Barack Obama as her vice presidential running mate, or not?

	* DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS *	Apr08b
Yes	65	65
No	27	30
DK/NA	8	5

q17 If Barack Obama wins the Democratic nomination, would you like to see him pick Hillary Clinton as his vice presidential running mate, or not?

Yes	59	59
No	35	37
DK/NA	6	4

q18 Which comes closer to your opinion? 1. The fact that the 2008 Democratic nomination race has gone on this long will help the Democrats in November, because the nominee will have been tested and better prepared for the general election. OR 2. The fact that the 2008 Democratic nomination race has gone on this long will hurt - the Democrats in November, because the Democratic candidates have been making critical statements about each other that will weaken them for the general election.

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				Dem.
	*** Party ID ***				Primary
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Voters
	%	%	%	%	%
Help	27	17	38	21	38
Hurt	63	77	51	68	54
No effect (vol.)	6	4	7	6	5
DK/NA	4	2	4	5	3

q19 Some people favor the system of presidential primary elections as it is now -- where different groups of states hold their primaries on different days. Other people say it would be better if all states held their primaries on the same day. Which would you prefer -- different primary days or one single national primary day?

						Jul07a
						%
Different primaries	29	33	29	25	29	20
Single national primary day	65	62	65	68	66	72
DK/NA	6	5	6	7	5	8

q20 How much do you think Hillary Clinton cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself--a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Apr08b
A lot	31	14	50	22	31
Some	42	41	37	50	39
Not much	13	23	7	14	17
Not at all	12	21	5	12	11
Don't know/No answer	2	1	1	2	2

q21 Do you think Hillary Clinton shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't she?

					May08a
Yes	58	38	76	52	60
No	35	57	18	38	33
DK/NA	7	5	6	10	7

q22 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that Hillary Clinton would be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

** REGISTERED VOTERS **

*** Party ID ***

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Very likely	22	6	37	15	20
Somewhat likely	37	25	39	44	34
Not too likely	19	32	14	15	21
Not at all likely	20	36	8	23	24
DK/NA	2	1	2	3	1

q23 BLANK

q24 How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself--a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Apr08b
A lot	38	15	57	31	34
Some	36	44	29	37	38
Not much	15	23	9	16	15
Not at all	9	15	2	11	10
DK/NA	2	3	3	5	3

q25 Do you think Barack Obama shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

					May08a
Yes	62	41	80	55	60
No	30	50	14	33	33
DK/NA	8	9	6	12	7

q26 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that Barack Obama would be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

					Feb08a
Very likely	25	6	42	18	23
Somewhat likely	37	29	39	40	46
Not too likely	17	27	9	19	15
Not at all likely	18	35	6	20	13
DK/NA	3	3	4	3	3

q27 BLANK

q28 How much do you think John McCain cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself--a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

					Apr08b
A lot	22	35	12	24	26
Some	45	55	40	44	38
Not much	16	6	25	13	17
Not at all	13	2	19	13	14
DK/NA	4	2	4	6	5

q29 Do you think John McCain shares the values most Americans try to live by, or doesn't he?

**** REGISTERED VOTERS ****

***** Party ID *****

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	May08a
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	63	86	49	63	58
No	28	8	41	28	32
DK/NA	9	6	10	9	10

q30 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that John McCain would be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

					Feb08a
Very likely	39	62	25	40	48
Somewhat likely	38	33	38	41	32
Not too likely	10	2	16	8	9
Not at all likely	10	1	18	8	9
DK/NA	3	2	3	3	2

q31 BLANK

q32 What do you think John McCain will do if he is elected president: do you think he will generally continue George W. Bush's policies, change to more conservative policies, or change to less conservative policies?

Continue Bush policies	43	20	65	34
Change to more conservative	21	26	15	26
Change to less conservative	28	47	16	28
DK/NA	8	7	4	12

q33 If John McCain is elected president he will be 72 years old when he takes office. Do you think his age would help him be an effective president, or do you think his age would be an obstacle to being an effective president, or wouldn't his age matter that much?

Help	7	13	5	5
Obstacle	30	9	42	31
Won't matter	62	77	52	63
DK/NA	1	1	1	1

q34 From what you know, do you think Bill Clinton's involvement in Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign has generally helped or generally hurt her campaign, or hasn't it made much difference?

					Jan08e
Helped	23	14	27	24	28
Hurt	39	47	33	39	41
No difference	37	40	38	34	29
DK/NA	1	0	2	3	2

	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED
Total Respondents	1038	
Total Registered Voters	930	
Republicans - Reg. Voters	251	222
Democrats - Reg. Voters	376	355
Independents - Reg. Voters	303	284