

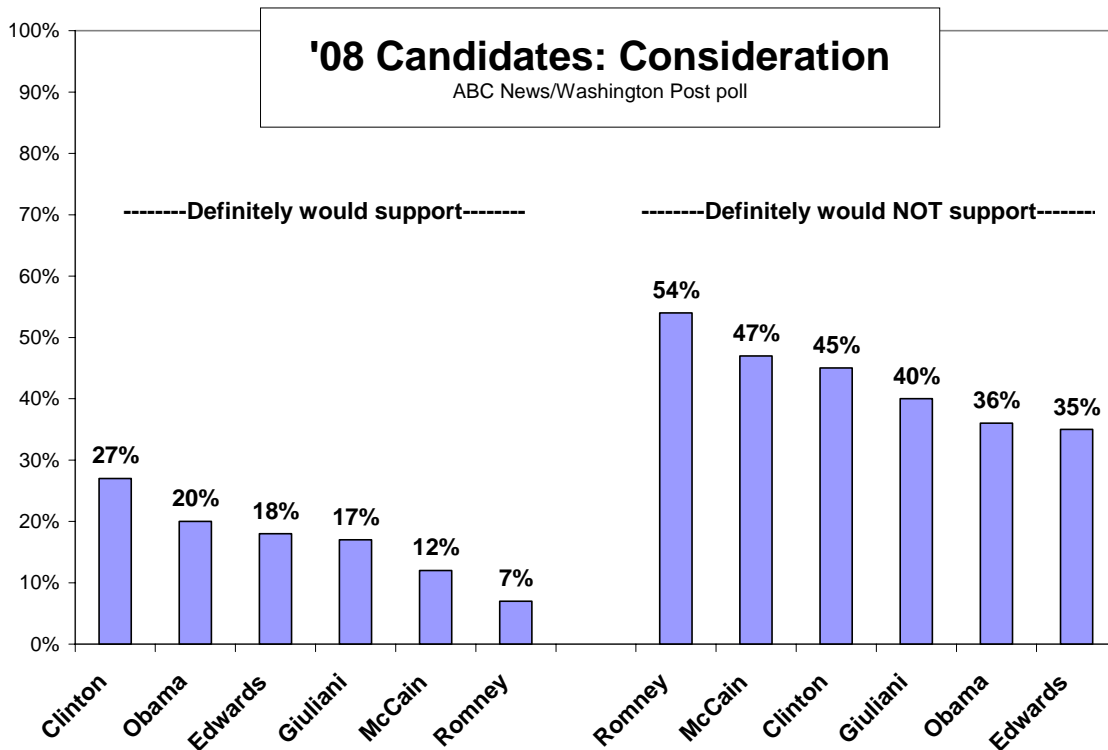
McCain's Rejection Rate Spikes; Matches Clinton's, Romney's Higher

Voter rejection of John McCain, the candidate who's most staunchly backed the Iraq war, has spiked in the past year, to the point where nearly half of Americans – including a quarter of Republicans – say they definitely would not support him for president.

That marks a sharp change: In an ABC News/Washington Post poll in May 2006, 28 percent said they wouldn't consider supporting McCain if he were to win his party's nomination. Today that's risen to 47 percent.

It's worse still for Mitt Romney; a majority of Americans, 54 percent, say they definitely wouldn't vote for him, including a third of Republicans – a particularly broad level of rejection within his own party.

Indeed McCain and Romney's negatives on this measure match or exceed those of Hillary Clinton, whose polarized political profile has been well documented. Forty-five percent of adults say they definitely wouldn't vote for her, about the same as last May.



Clinton sustains less rejection within her own party than either McCain or Romney in theirs – 15 percent of Democrats say they wouldn’t support her. And, conversely, she’s also got the highest “definite” support: Twenty-seven percent say she’s got their vote nailed down, more than say so about any of her leading rivals, Democratic or Republican.

Rounding out the top contenders, 40 percent say they definitely wouldn’t vote for Rudy Giuliani, and 35 or 36 percent flatly reject Democrats John Edwards and Barack Obama. In the plus column, 17 to 20 percent say they’d definitely back Obama, Edwards or Giuliani; fewer are definitely for McCain (12 percent) or Romney (seven percent).

INDEPENDENTS – Since much of this is based in partisanship, these views may be at least as instructive among independents alone, on the theory that party adherents are likely ultimately to line up behind their party’s nominee.

That result shifts the picture: Fifty-one percent of independents say they definitely would not support Clinton for president, more than say so about any other candidate save Romney (53 percent). By contrast, Obama is ruled out by just 29 percent of independents, Giuliani by 35 percent, Edwards by 39 percent and McCain by 41 percent.

Among independents	
Definitely would NOT support	
Romney	53%
Clinton	51
McCain	41
Edwards	39
Giuliani	35
Obama	29

WAR/McCAIN – In an indication that his position on the war in Iraq isn’t helping McCain, this poll finds a striking change in the number of “strong” war opponents who reject his candidacy.

Among people who both feel strongly that the war was not worth fighting and who strongly disapprove of how Bush is handling it (nearly half of all adults), 63 percent say they definitely would not support McCain for president. Among this same group in May 2006, by contrast, far fewer – 34 percent – rejected McCain.

McCain meanwhile has not improved his standing among people who strongly approve of the war – and there are many fewer of them.

	Strong war disapprovers		Strong war approvers	
	4/15/07	5/15/06	4/15/07	5/15/06
% who definitely would not support McCain	63%	34	25	27

FAMILIARITY – These and other election views can change as the campaigns evolve and the public becomes more familiar with the candidates. Clinton still holds a substantial

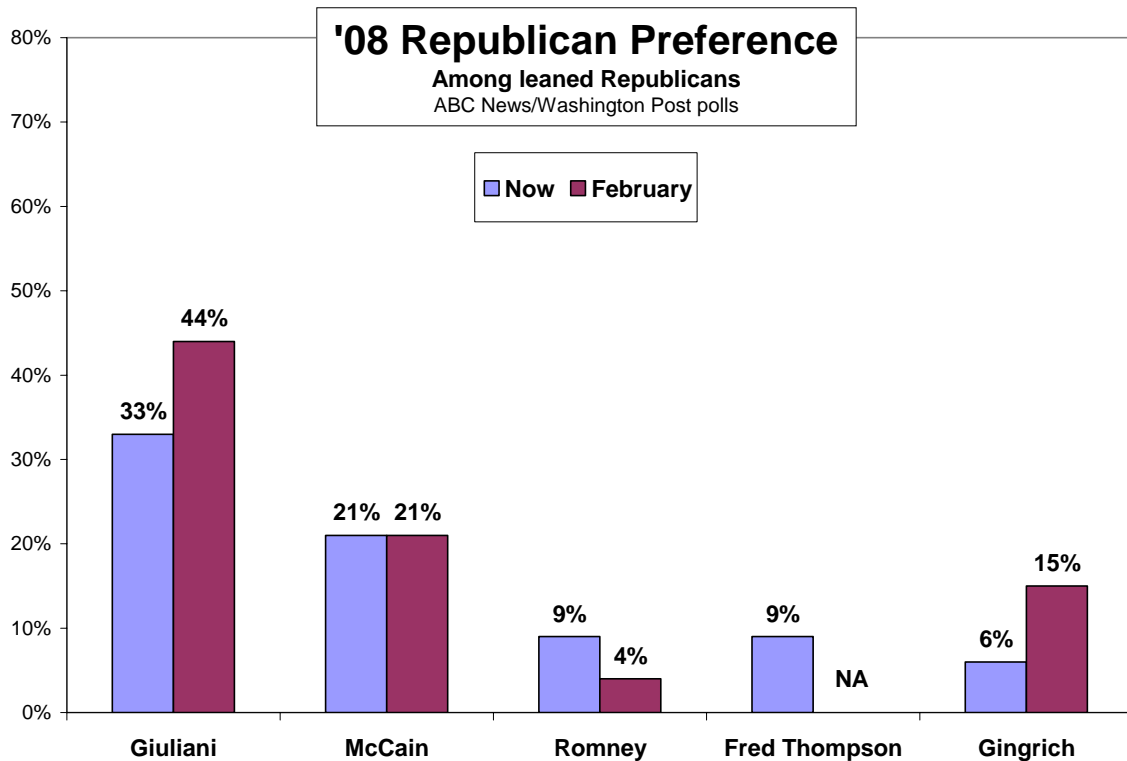
lead in familiarity, but even in her own party, among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, just a narrow majority, 52 percent, say they know at least a good amount about her positions. That falls to 28 percent familiarity with Edwards, and 25 percent with Obama.

It's much the same on the Republican side. Fewer than half of leaned Republicans feel they know a good deal about any of the leading candidates' positions – 44 percent say so about McCain, 38 percent about Giuliani and just 14 percent in Romney's case.

That's not entirely for lack of interest: It remains high, with 66 percent of Americans overall saying they're following the campaign at least somewhat closely. That's about the same as in February, much higher than in the early stages of the 2000 or 2004 contests.

SUPPORT – In terms of candidate standings, this poll finds no significant change among Democrats, regardless of heavy coverage of Obama's fundraising prowess; and among Republicans a decline in Giuliani's support from its February level, with McCain stable despite his own fundraising difficulties.

Giuliani is supported by 33 percent of leaned Republicans in this survey, down from 44 percent in February and back to where he was in January. Part (but not all) of that is because of the inclusion of possible candidate Fred Thompson, a former senator and current television actor; removing Thompson from the equation, Giuliani has 37 percent support.

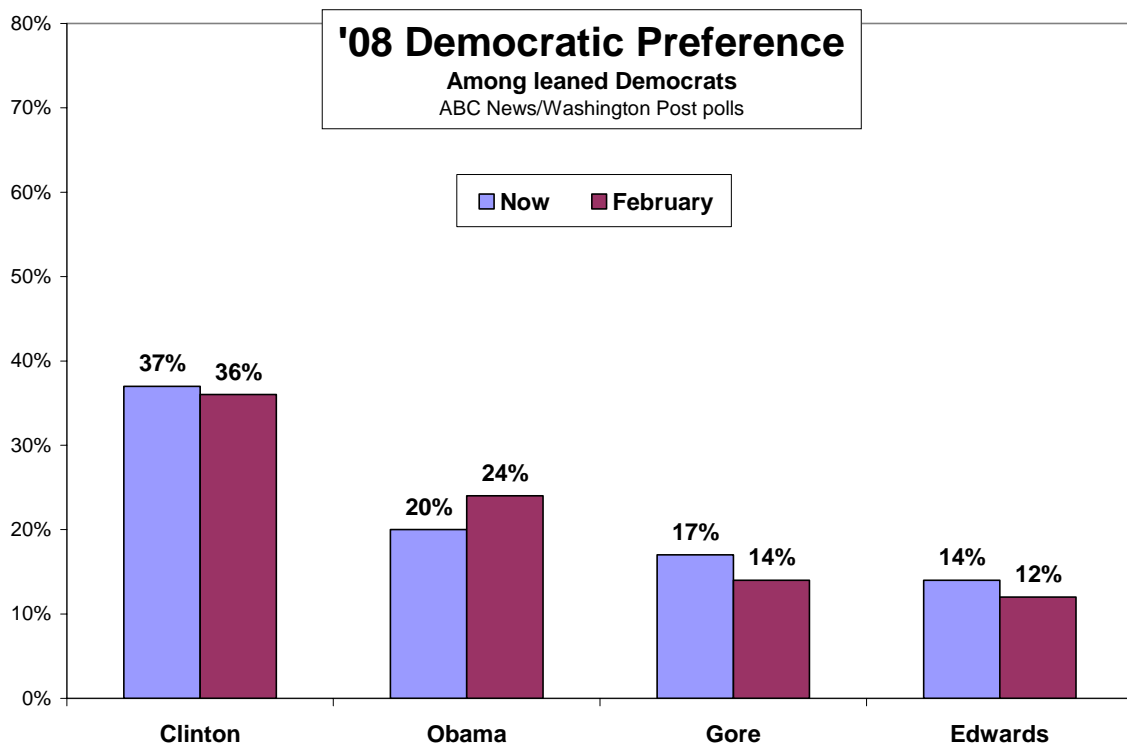


With Thompson included, McCain gets 21 percent support, the same as in February; Romney, nine percent; Thompson, nine percent; and Newt Gingrich (who, like Thompson, has not announced his candidacy) six percent, down from 15 percent. Others are in the lower single digits.

For the Democrats, support levels are very similar in this poll to what they were in February: Thirty-seven percent support among leaned Democrats for Clinton, 20 percent for Obama, 17 percent for Al Gore (not an announced candidate) and 14 percent for Edwards, with others in single digits.

With Gore excluded, it's 41 percent for Clinton, 25 percent for Obama and 17 percent for Edwards, again very similar to the last ABC/Post poll.

While there's been speculation that Clinton is vulnerable among Democrats most strongly opposed to the Iraq war – she voted to authorize the use of force – that doesn't seem to be borne out. Her support levels are essentially the same among leaned Democrats who strongly disapprove of the war and of the way Bush is handling it. (Of course, those strong war disapprovers account for most leaned Democrats, 76 percent.)



STRONG/SATISFIED – Overall, Democrats remain more satisfied than Republicans with their options – 80 percent of leaned Democrats describe themselves as satisfied with their choice of candidates, compared with 65 percent of Republicans. And Clinton, the

Democratic leader, has 59 percent “strong” support in her party, compared with 45 percent “strong” support among leaned Republicans for Giuliani.

The Democrats may also take some hope from recent trends in political affiliation. As reported in an April 16 analysis of other results of this poll, self-identified partisanship has shifted from an even split between Democrats and Republicans in 2003 to a four-point Democratic edge on average from 2004-2006, widening to a 10-point Democratic advantage so far this year. Nonetheless, plenty of Republicans have overcome that kind of gap to win the presidency in past years.

CANCER – This poll also tested issues involving cancer and the candidates, and finds some possible impact, but not much. Nine percent of Americans say they’d be less likely to support a candidate who’d been treated for cancer but is now in remission. That’s much less than the possible impact, in earlier polling, of being older than 72, a Mormon, a smoker or twice divorced. (Fred Thompson has been diagnosed with “indolent lymphoma” and Giuliani has been treated for prostate cancer.)

Among leaned Democrats, fewer still report any impact on their vote from the fact that John Edwards’ wife, Elizabeth, has had a recurrence of cancer; 94 percent say it makes no difference in their vote choice. Three-quarters of leaned Democrats say Edwards is doing the right thing by continuing his campaign; 17 percent instead say he should suspend or end his race for the presidency.

SCHEDULE – Finally, there’s no broad concern – and even a bit more hope – about what apparently will be a highly compressed nominating season, with a large number of states holding their presidential primaries earlier in the year than ever before.

Sixty-three percent of Americans think a compressed season won’t make much difference in the quality of the nominating system. And while 14 percent think it’ll make it worse, slightly more, 20 percent, think it’ll make the system better.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone April 12-15, 2007, among a random national sample of 1,141 adults, including an oversample of African-Americans. The results from the full survey have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, PA.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html>.

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

1-23 Previously released.

24-27 Held for release.

28. How closely are you following the 2008 presidential race: very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

	----- Closely -----			----- Not closely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not too	At all	
4/15/07	66	20	45	34	20	14	*
2/25/07	65	20	44	35	25	10	*
Early 2004:							
10/29/03	54	15	39	45	30	15	0
9/13/03	56	16	40	44	27	17	*
Early 2000:							
12/15/99	45	12	33	55	31	24	*
10/31/99	61	16	45	38	25	13	*

29. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) If the 2008 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were: (Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Al Gore, Wesley Clark, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd, Dennis Kucinich, or Mike Gravel), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE:

	4/15/07	2/25/07	1/19/07	12/11/06
Hillary Clinton	37	36	41	39
John Edwards	14	12	11	12
Barack Obama	20	24	17	17
John Kerry	NA	NA	8	7
Al Gore	17	14	10	10
Wesley Clark	1	*	1	1
Tom Vilsack	NA	*	*	1
Evan Bayh	NA	NA	NA	1
Bill Richardson	3	3	1	2
Joe Biden	2	1	3	2
Chris Dodd	*	*	*	*
Dennis Kucinich	1	*	1	NA
Mike Gravel	*	0	*	NA
Other (vol.)	*	*	1	*
None of these (vol.)	3	3	2	2
Would not vote (vol.)	*	1	*	1
No opinion	2	3	3	4

08DEM2. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE, 08DEM1) Do you support (INSERT NAMED CANDIDATE) strongly, or somewhat?

4/15/07 - Summary Table

	Strongly	Somewhat	No opin.
Hillary Clinton	59	41	0
Barack Obama	51	49	0

Trend:

Hillary Clinton			
4/15/07	59	41	0
2/25/06	56	44	0
Barack Obama			
4/15/07	51	49	0
2/25/06	60	38	1

30. (ASKED OF GORE SUPPORTERS) If Gore does not run, for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO GORE

	4/15/07	2/25/07
Hillary Clinton	41	43
John Edwards	17	14
Barack Obama	25	27
Wesley Clark	1	*
Tom Vilsack	NA	*
Bill Richardson	3	3
Joe Biden	2	2
Chris Dodd	*	*
Dennis Kucinich	1	*
Mike Gravel	*	*
Other (vol.)	*	*
None of these (vol.)	3	4
Would not vote (vol.)	1	1
No opinion	5	4

31. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the choice of candidates for the Democratic nomination for president this year - are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?

	---- Satisfied -----			--- Dissatisfied ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
4/15/07	80	29	51	18	14	3	2
2/25/07	86	29	57	12	9	3	2
10/29/03	68	9	58	28	21	8	4
9/13/03	64	8	56	34	27	7	2
1/16/00	69	14	56	28	21	7	2

*10/29/03 and previous: "candidates in the Democratic primary"

32. If a candidate for president has been treated for cancer, but is now in remission, would that make you (more likely) to vote for that candidate for president, or (less likely) to vote for that candidate, or wouldn't it matter?

	More likely	Less likely	Wouldn't matter	No opinion
4/15/07	1	9	89	1

33. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) As you may know, Elizabeth Edwards, the wife of Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards, recently announced that her cancer has returned. Does this make you (more likely) to vote for John Edwards for president, (less likely), or doesn't it make a difference in your vote?

	More likely	Less likely	No difference	No opinion
4/15/07	1	4	94	1

34. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Do you think John Edwards (is doing the right thing to continue his campaign), or (should suspend or end his campaign) for the presidency?

	Doing right thing to continue	Should suspend or end his campaign	No opinion
4/15/07	76	17	7

35. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) If the 2008 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were: (Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Chuck Hagel, Tommy Thompson, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, George Pataki, Sam Brownback, Tom Tancredo, Jim Gilmore, Ron Paul, or Fred Thompson), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE:

	4/15/07	2/25/07	1/19/07	12/11/06
Rudy Giuliani	33	44	34	34
Fred Thompson	9	NA	NA	NA
John McCain	21	21	27	26
Mitt Romney	9	4	9	5
Newt Gingrich	6	15	9	12
Chuck Hagel	*	1	*	*
Tommy Thompson	2	2	1	2
Mike Huckabee	1	2	1	*
Duncan Hunter	1	*	*	1
George Pataki	1	1	2	3
Sam Brownback	1	1	1	1
Tom Tancredo	1	*	1	*
Jim Gilmore	1	*	1	NA
Ron Paul	1	1	1	NA
Other (vol.)	0	*	*	*
None of these (vol.)	4	2	2	6
Would not vote (vol.)	*	1	1	*
No opinion	6	4	9	9

08REP2. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE, 08REP1) Do you support (INSERT NAMED CANDIDATE) strongly, or somewhat?

	Strongly	Somewhat	No opinion
Rudy Giuliani			
4/15/07	45	55	0
2/25/07	38	61	*

36. (ASKED OF GINGRICH SUPPORTERS) If Gingrich does not run, for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO GINGRICH

	4/15/07	2/25/07
Rudy Giuliani	35	53
John McCain	22	23
Mitt Romney	10	5
Chuck Hagel	*	1
Tommy Thompson	2	2
Mike Huckabee	1	2
Duncan Hunter	1	*
George Pataki	1	1
Sam Brownback	1	2
Tom Tancredo	1	1
Jim Gilmore	2	*
Ron Paul	1	1
Fred Thompson	10	NA
Other (vol.)	0	*
None of these (vol.)	4	2
Would not vote (vol.)	*	1
No opinion	7	5

37. (ASKED OF FRED THOMPSON SUPPORTERS) If Fred Thompson does not run, for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO FRED THOMPSON

	4/15/07
Rudy Giuliani	37
John McCain	22
Mitt Romney	10
Newt Gingrich	7
Chuck Hagel	*
Tommy Thompson	2
Mike Huckabee	1
Duncan Hunter	1
George Pataki	1
Sam Brownback	1
Tom Tancredo	1
Jim Gilmore	1
Ron Paul	1
Other (vol.)	0
None of these (vol.)	5
Would not vote (vol.)	*
No opinion	8

38. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the choice of candidates for the Republican nomination for President this year - are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?

	---- Satisfied -----			--- Dissatisfied ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
4/15/07	65	16	49	31	27	5	3
2/25/07	73	14	58	24	20	5	3

39. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Regardless of who you yourself support, which candidate do you think is most likely to win the Democratic nomination for president?

	4/15/07	2/25/07
Hillary Clinton	45	46
John Edwards	13	12
Barack Obama	22	16
Al Gore	5	4
Wesley Clark	0	1
Bill Richardson	*	0
Joe Biden	1	*
Chris Dodd	0	0
Dennis Kucinich	1	*
Mike Gravel	0	0
Other (vol.)	*	3
No opinion	13	17

40. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Regardless of who you yourself support, which candidate do you think is most likely to win the Republican nomination for president?

	4/15/07	2/25/07
Rudy Giuliani	42	44
John McCain	16	26

Mitt Romney	7	3
Newt Gingrich	3	2
Chuck Hagel	*	0
Tommy Thompson	1	1
Mike Huckabee	0	2
Duncan Hunter	1	0
George Pataki	*	1
Sam Brownback	*	*
Tom Tancredo	*	0
Jim Gilmore	0	0
Ron Paul	0	*
Fred Thompson	3	0
Other (vol.)	1	3
No opinion	25	17

41. If (NAME) wins the (Democratic/Republican) nomination for president would you definitely vote for (him/her) in the general election for president in 2008, would you consider voting for (him/her) or would you definitely not vote for (him/her)?

4/15/07 - Summary Table

	Definitely would	Would consider	Definitely would not	No opinion
a. Hillary Clinton	27	26	45	1
b. Barack Obama	20	40	36	5
c. John Edwards	18	45	35	3
d. Rudy Giuliani	17	40	40	2
e. John McCain	12	39	47	2
f. Mitt Romney	7	32	54	8

Trend:

a. Hillary Clinton

	Definitely would	Would consider	Definitely would not	No opinion
4/15/07	27	26	45	1
5/15/06	19	38	42	1

b-d. No trend.

e. John McCain

	Definitely would	Would consider	Definitely would not	No opinion
4/15/07	12	39	47	2
5/15/06	9	57	28	6

f. No trend.

42. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) How much do you feel you know about (ITEM) positions on specific issues - a great deal, a good amount, only some, or little or none?

4/15/07 - Summary Table

	-Grt deal/Good amount- NET	Great	Good amt	- Some/Little-none- NET	Some	Little	No opinion
a. Hillary Clinton's	52	19	33	48	34	14	*
b. Barack Obama's	25	7	18	75	38	37	*
c. John Edwards'	28	6	23	72	41	30	*

Trend:

a. Hillary Clinton's

	-Great deal/Good amount-			-Only some/Little-none-			No
	NET	Great	Good amt	NET	Some	Little	opinion
4/15/07	52	19	33	48	34	14	*
12/11/06	50	12	38	50	32	18	0

b. Barack Obama's

	-Great deal/Good amount-			-Only some/Little-none-			No
	NET	Great	Good amt	NET	Some	Little	opinion
4/15/07	25	7	18	75	38	37	*
12/11/06	25	4	21	74	25	48	2

c. John Edwards'

	-Great deal/Good amount-			-Only some/Little-none-			No
	NET	Great	Good amt	NET	Some	Little	opinion
4/15/07	28	6	23	72	41	30	*
12/11/06	25	6	20	75	34	40	0

43. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) How much do you feel you know about (ITEM) positions on specific issues - a great deal, a good amount, only some, or little or none?

4/15/07 - Summary Table

	-Grt deal/Good amount-			- Some/Little-none-			No
	NET	Great	Good amt	NET	Some	Little	opinion
a. Rudy Giuliani's	38	11	26	62	41	21	*
b. John McCain's	44	14	30	56	34	21	*
c. Mitt Romney's	14	5	9	85	34	51	1
d. Fred Thompson's	9	4	6	89	21	68	2

Trend where available:

a. Rudy Giuliani's

	-Great deal/Good amount-			-Only some/Little-none-			No
	NET	Great	Good amt	NET	Some	Little	opinion
4/15/07	38	11	26	62	41	21	*
12/11/06	38	13	25	62	34	28	0

b. John McCain's

	-Great deal/Good amount-			-Only some/Little-none-			No
	NET	Great	Good amt	NET	Some	Little	opinion
4/15/07	44	14	30	56	34	21	*
12/11/06	39	11	28	60	30	30	1
2/24/00*	32	6	26	66	40	27	2
10/31/99	16	4	12	83	22	60	1

c. Mitt Romney's

	-Great deal/Good amount-			-Only some/Little-none-			No
	NET	Great	Good amt	NET	Some	Little	opinion
4/15/07	14	5	9	85	34	51	1
12/11/06	9	3	6	87	15	72	4

d. No trend.

44. It appears that in 2008 a large number of states will hold their presidential primaries earlier in the year than ever before. Do you think this will make the nominating system better, make it worse or won't it make much difference?

	Better	Worse	Won't make much difference	No opinion
4/15/07	20	14	63	3

45-49 Previously released.

END