

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT SPRINGFIELD

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**Obama and Giuliani Lead in Illinois Presidential Preference Poll**  
**Heading into the Fall of 2007**

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Heading into the Fall of 2007, Illinois Senator Barack Obama holds a commanding lead over New York Senator Hillary Clinton as the choice for the 2008 Democratic nomination among potential Illinois primary voters. On the Republican side, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani holds a narrower but still sizeable lead, with more candidates on his heels. These are the results of a statewide survey of randomly-selected Illinois households conducted from late July through early September by the Survey Research Office of the University of Illinois at Springfield.

**The Democratic statewide race.** Obama has a lead over Clinton of 51% to 27% among respondents who said they would take a Democratic ballot in the primary. His margin is the same when the voting pool is expanded to include all those who were asked the Democratic preference questions (50%-26%). [This includes Democrats and independents leaning Democratic who did not say what party ballot they would choose.] Obama's lead decreases only slightly when the voting pool is narrowed to those who indicated they are "very likely" to vote in the primary (49%-27%). Former North Carolina Senator John Edwards is a distant third in all of these groups, at 6%. About 13-14% in all these groups have no opinion.

Among "strong" Democrats, Obama's lead over Clinton is 54% to 27%, with Edwards at 4%. Among others who are possible Democratic primary voters, Obama's lead over Clinton is 48% to 24%, with Edwards climbing to 8%. Fewer "strong" Democrats have no opinion (11% vs. 17% for others).

**The Republican statewide race.** Giuliani has a lead of 34% to 19% over Arizona Senator John McCain among respondents who said they would take a Republican ballot in the primary. Following in a close race for third are former Tennessee Senator and actor Fred Thompson (12%) and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney (11%). Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee garners nearly 6%. About 14% have no opinion. *(It should be noted that the*

*survey was completed prior to Fred Thompson's formal entry into the race and prior to former Illinois Governor James Thompson's endorsement of Giuliani.)*

Giuliani's margin over McCain drops a bit when the voting pool is expanded to include all those who were asked the Republican preference questions (30%-19%). [This includes Republicans and independents leaning Republican who did not say what party ballot they would choose.] The same decrease in his margin occurs when the pool is narrowed to those who indicated they are "very likely" to vote in the primary (31%-18%). These drops are a result of a small decline in Giuliani's support rather than an increase in McCain's. Among "very likely" voters, Fred Thompson's support increases to 15% while Romney is at 12% and Huckabee at 4%. About 17% have no opinion.

The Republican race differs when the strength of Republican identification is taken into account. For "strong" Republicans, Giuliani holds a lead of 35% to 18% over Fred Thompson. Romney is at 11%, McCain at 10% and Huckabee at 9%. About 12% have no opinion.

For possible Republican voters who are not "strong" Republicans, Giuliani holds a narrow 27% to 24% lead over McCain. Following are Romney (11%) and Fred Thompson (nearly 10%). Texas Congressman Ron Paul (nearly 4%) and Huckabee (3%) are next. One in five (20%) have no opinion.

**Patterns for selected characteristics.** In looking at patterns in the results across selected characteristics, the responses of all respondents who were asked the presidential preference questions were analyzed. (This includes respondents who indicated what party ballot they would choose as well as respective Democrats and Republicans -- and independents who lean toward one of the two parties -- who did not say what party ballot they would choose. See methodology below.) This increases the numbers in each of the subgroups analyzed. In the following, these respondents are sometimes referred to as "all possible" Democratic or Republican primary voters.

**Democratic presidential race patterns.** For "all possible" Democratic primary voters, Obama's lead over Clinton is well over 2-to-1 in the City of Chicago (56%-22%) and is nearly 2-to-1 in the Chicago suburbs (52% vs. 27%). This lead is narrower in both north/central Illinois (44%-31%) and southern Illinois (37%-27%).

In the Illinois Obama-Clinton race, both age and race/ethnicity are currently more related to preferences than gender. By age, Obama's lead is 60%-20% among those less than 50 years old and is 46%-28% among those in their 50s. Clinton and Obama are in a virtual dead heat among those 60 and older (Clinton at 37% vs. Obama at 36%). By race/ethnicity, whites prefer Obama over Clinton by 45%-28% compared to non-whites, who do so at 58%-24%. African-Americans prefer Obama to Clinton by 60%-21%. By gender, males prefer Obama to Clinton by 56%-23%, but females also prefer Obama, albeit by a narrower 47%-29%.

Edwards garners his highest support among those in southern Illinois (15%) and those with post high school education but not a 4-year college degree (about 12%). He also draws a somewhat higher level of support from those with household incomes of \$30,000+-\$60,000 a year (9%);

and from those in north/central Illinois, those in their 40s, and males (about 8% in each of these groups).

**Republican presidential race patterns.** *By region.* For “all possible” Republican primary voters, Giuliani’s lead narrows as we move further from the Chicago area. For instance, he has a lead over McCain of 34%-18% in the Chicago suburbs, with Fred Thompson and Romney both at 10% and Huckabee at 7%. In north/central Illinois, Giuliani’s lead decreases to 28% vs. 17% for both McClain and Fred Thompson (with Romney at 6%). And, his lead decreases even further to a virtual tie at 21%-20% with McCain in southern Illinois (with Fred Thompson at 13%, Romney at 7% and Huckabee at 4%). (Not enough possible Republican primary voters were interviewed in the City of Chicago to reach meaningful conclusions.)

In large part here, the differences are the result of decreasing support for Giuliani as one moves from the Chicago area to southern Illinois (34% in the Chicago suburbs; 28% in north/central Illinois; and 21% in southern Illinois) and the accompanying increase in those who do not have a preference (16%; 26%; and 31%, respectively).

*By gender.* Giuliani has a substantial lead over McCain among possible female Republican voters (37%-14%), followed by Romney (9%) and then Fred Thompson (6%). But, among males, he has only a slight lead over McCain (24%-21%) followed closely by Fred Thompson (17%). Romney garners 10% of the male support, and Huckabee is at 8%.

*By age.* Giuliani’s support is the same for those possible Republican voters under 50 and those 50 and older (both at 30%). For the under-50 age group, McCain is in a solid second place (21%) followed by Fred Thompson and Romney (both at nearly 10%) and then Huckabee (6%). For the 50-and-older group, McCain (16%) and Fred Thompson (15%) are in a close race for second followed by Romney (nearly 10%).

*Regular attenders of religious services.* Among possible Republican primary voters who attend religious services at least once a week, Giuliani has a 28% to 20% lead over McCain, with Romney (13%) edging out Fred Thompson (11%) for third.

**The survey and methodology.** The telephone survey was conducted over a six-week period, from July 24 through September 4, 2007 by the Survey Research Office, located in the Center for State Policy and Leadership, of the University of Illinois at Springfield. The entire survey consisted of interviews with 1,028 randomly-selected Illinois households.

Demographic characteristics of the respondent sample were adjusted for region of state, gender, education level, age of respondent, and race/ethnicity to arrive at a more representative sample. [Over-/under-representation of particular regions/groups resulted either from intentional sampling decisions or from differing response rates that are typical of all telephone surveys.]

*The Democratic presidential preference question series* was asked of 514 respondents while *the Republican presidential preference question series* was asked of 374 respondents. To determine whether a respondent was asked the Democratic or Republican preference question series, respondents were asked which party’s ballot they would request in next year’s February primary.

[Just over half (51%) said a Democratic ballot while just over one-quarter (27%) said a Republican ballot. Just over one in five (22%) either did not choose or did not know.] For those who did not choose or did not know, we relied on the respondent's answers to previous questions on party identification. Those who indicated a preference for either of the two parties (including independents who "lean" toward a party) were asked the preference questions for that particular party.

In this preference series, respondents were first asked, "If you did vote in the [Democratic / Republican ] primary for president and it was held today, which of the following would you be most likely to vote for?" Respondents were then asked "who would be your second choice." The alternatives were read to respondents in a random order. Democratic choices consisted of the eight announced candidates for President (see below). Republican choices consisted of the nine announced candidates as of mid-July plus Fred Thompson (see below). The results reported exclude Tommy Thompson who has dropped out the race. His support (which stood at 3-4%) was allocated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice preferences.

*Sampling errors.* For all those who were asked the respective preference questions, the sampling errors are +/- 4.4% for the Democratic preferences (n = 514) and +/- 5.1% for the Republican preferences (n = 374). For those who actually indicated which party's ballot they would choose, the sampling errors are +/- 4.5% for the Democratic preferences (n = 479) and +/- 5.6% for the Republican preferences (n = 313). For those who indicated they are "very likely" to vote in the primary, the sampling errors are +/- 4.9% for the Democratic preferences (n = 410) and +/- 5.8% for the Republican preferences (n = 236).

**Further results.** Further results from these presidential preference questions can be found in tables on the website of the UIS Survey Research Office:

<http://cspl.uis.edu/SurveyResearchOffice/>

**The Democratic List (asked in random order)**

Delaware Senator Joe Biden  
New York Senator Hillary Clinton  
Connecticut Senator Christopher Dodd  
Former North Carolina Senator John Edwards  
Former Alaska Senator Mike Gravel  
Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich  
Illinois Senator Barack Obama  
New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson

**The Republican List (asked in random order)**

Kansas Senator Sam Brownback  
Former NY City Mayor Rudy Guiliani  
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee  
California Congressman Duncan Hunter  
Arizona Senator John McCain  
Texas Congressman Ron Paul  
Former Mass. Governor Mitt Romney  
Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo  
Former Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson  
Former Wis. Governor Tommy Thompson  
(has dropped out; support given to 2<sup>nd</sup> choices)