

Texas 3/2



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In polling conducted 2/28 and 3/2, Clinton leads Obama 56% to 38% among Whites and 64% to 30% among Latinos. Obama leads Clinton 86% to 13% among African-Americans. Women favor Clinton by six points, with men tied. Obama leads Clinton by ten points in the <40 age group and by one point in the 40-59 AG. Clinton leads Obama by sixteen points in the 60+ AG. Bush voters gave Obama a 14 point lead, while Kerry voters give Clinton a 14 point lead. Those that didn't vote in 2004 were evenly split.

My turnout model results in a 49-46 Clinton lead.

Texas voting age population is 52% white, 33% Latino, 11% African-American and 4% 'Other,' based on data from the State Demographer. This includes non-citizens and others who are not registered to vote, so registration numbers will differ from these percentages. In my survey, 97% of African-Americans, 80% of Latinos and 53% of whites who plan to vote in a primary plan to vote in the Democratic primary. One in four Democratic Primary voter voted for Bush in 2004. Eighty percent of these crossovers are white, 15% are Latino and 5% are African-American.

Exit polling from the 2004 Democratic primary estimated that Latinos were 24% and African-Americans were 21%. I do not believe this data is accurate. Analysis of the voter file shows a makeup that is similar to the voting age breakdowns above. Most counties with high turnout percentages were majority Latino counties in south Texas. Webb County (Laredo) had a high profile contested Congressional Primary and turned out 29%. Harris County (Houston) turned out 4%. South Texas turnout is average or a little low in the general election, but it is very high for the primaries.

To prepare my model, I broke down the actual 2004 primary vote by age group, ethnicity and gender. Then I multiplied the turnout by different factors - women were given a small bump, while voters under 40 and African-Americans were given a very large increase. These factors were based on earlier primaries and reports of early voting turnout. At the end, Latinos were still a larger share than African-Americans, and the influx of white Bush voters kept the non-white percentages down more than they probably would have if the GOP race was still competitive.

I find that Clinton has a slight lead in early voting. If the model was reweighted with a higher percentage of African-Americans, Obama would have led early voting. In particular, the part of Harris County where State Senate District 13 and Congressional District 18 intersect shows Obama dominating in overall margin, early voting and intent to attend the precinct convention, all with very high turnout.

Statewide, Obama and Clinton were about even in intent to caucus. As with early voting, Obama had significant leads in Harris, Dallas, Travis and Tarrant, but Clinton had smaller leads in other areas around the state. I project many of the four delegate districts to give Clinton three to Obama's one, but Clinton only coming away with one or two from each of the largest districts.

In earlier polling, I had noted a meaningful number of Bush voters who said they planned to vote in the primary for Obama after saying they would vote against him in a general election matchup. A smaller number would do the same with respect to Clinton. At that time, the gap was enough to give Obama an advantage of several points. In the latest polling, the number doing this with respect to Obama has decreased, while the number doing it with respect to Clinton has increased. It is still a net advantage to Obama, but the gain is much smaller than before. If turnout is high and lines are long, these voters may not actually vote. Both Clinton and Obama would pull a similar number of Bush voters in the general, with Clinton's crossover support mostly female while Obama's is slightly more male.

In general election matchups, McCain would beat Clinton by 14 points and Obama by 22 points. Latinos are the majority of the swing vote here. Against Huckabee, Obama would lose by 10 points and Clinton would lose by 14 points.

McCain leads Huckabee in the primary 54-38, with Paul slipping to 4 points. Paul's young white male base seems to have abandoned him, and is coincidentally the demographic that has increased in Clinton's short term crossovers. Huckabee leads McCain in voters under 40, and also among non-white voters, but McCain crushes him 2-1 among white voters over 60.

2922 likely general election voters, including 1162 likely Dem primary voters and 772 likely GOP primary voters polled 2/28 and 3/2. MoE of 1.8%, 2.9% and 3.5% respectively. Modeling flaws may exceed any statistical error. 3/2 numbers favored Clinton more than the 2/28 numbers.

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