

# Post Independent

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## Poll: Thompson, Clinton have slight leads in Colorado

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DENVER (AP) — Fred Thompson has a slight lead over Republican rival Rudy Giuliani, and Hillary Clinton has an apparent edge over fellow Democrats John Edwards and Barack Obama in the race in Colorado for the White House, according to a poll released Friday.

The Ciruli Associates Poll suggested Thompson had 27 percent support among Republicans to 19 percent for Giuliani and 11 percent for John McCain.

Some 29 percent of Democrats said they supported Clinton, compared to 23 percent each for Edwards and Obama, the poll said. Remaining candidates, including Republican Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo, were in the single digits.

The telephone poll of 504 registered voters was conducted Sept. 12-15 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.4 percentage points. It was conducted as part of a survey on economic development sponsored by the Economic Development Council of Colorado, a statewide, nonprofit organization formed to attract business.

Ciruli said 70 percent of Democrats polled said they were satisfied with their field of candidates, compared to 60 percent of Republicans.

“This no doubt partially reflects Democrats’ views that 2008 will be a good year for them. Their candidates may also be doing a better job appealing to their core constituents than the Republicans at this point in the campaign,” Ciruli said.

None of the front-runners have spent much time in Colorado, but state party leaders said Friday they expect that to change after Colorado moved up its nonbinding presidential caucuses to Feb. 5.

State Republican Party chairman Dick Wadhams said most of the candidates who have visited Colorado spent their time fundraising instead of setting up organizing committees to recruit the party faithful and get them to the caucuses, where a presidential preference poll will be taken. He said that will change, now that both parties are taking their own preference polls.

Thompson and Clinton have slight leads in Colorado because most voters here are reacting to national trends, Wadhams said.

State Democratic Party chair Pat Waak said she expects more candidates to campaign in Colorado in the next few months, including Clinton, who told state party officials on Friday she expects to be here later this month.

Waak said she hopes candidates hold public functions when they come to Colorado and aren’t just here to raise money.

“We need something for the rank and file,” she said.

In Colorado, precinct caucuses to be held Feb. 5 select delegates to county conventions, which in turn select delegates to local and national conventions.

Delegates to the national conventions will not be chosen until May or June, when local assemblies are held.

Supporters of Colorado’s Byzantine system say candidates will come to Colorado to show they have momentum. For Democrats holding their national convention in Denver next year, there will be pressure to show they have support in the host state.