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February 24, 2006 - Clinton, Giuliani Lead Presidential Pack In Florida, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; Nelson Has 22-Point Lead Over Harris In Senate Race

New York Sen. Hillary Clinton and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani top the list of 2008 presidential candidates, Florida voters say in a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Giuliani, who some have speculated might not run well among the socially conservative southern GOP, is the 2008 presidential choice of 47 percent of Florida Republicans, followed by Arizona Sen. John McCain with 29 percent. No other GOP contender tops 10 percent in this survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN uh-pe-ack) University poll.

Sen. Hillary Clinton is the leader among Democrats, with 41 percent, followed by Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards at 14 percent each, and Delaware Sen. Joseph Biden at 8 percent.

In a general election matchup, Sen. McCain beats Sen. Clinton 53 - 38 percent, while Giuliani would beat the Democrat 50 - 41 percent.

"Rank and file Florida Republicans either don't know or don't care about Mayor Giuliani's support for abortion rights and gay rights as they make him the clear presidential choice over John McCain," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

"Less surprising is Sen. Clinton's 27-point lead over any other candidate when Florida Democrats are asked about their choice for president. Even in Red America Clinton is the apple of Democrats' eye," Brown said.

"McCain runs better against Clinton than does Giuliani. She loses among independents by 12 points to Giuliani, but by 26 points to McCain." U.S. Senate Race

In Florida's U.S. Senate race, Democratic incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson leads U.S. Rep. Katherine Harris, his likely Republican challenger, 53 - 31 percent, similar to his lead in August 31, 2005, and November 15, 2005, Quinnipiac University polls. Republicans back Harris 62 - 22 percent, while Democrats back Nelson 82 - 7 percent and independent voters go with the Democrat 55 - 23 percent.

"U.S. Rep. Harris has gained no ground against Sen. Nelson, who has a lukewarm 49 - 20 percent approval rating for the third poll in a row," Brown said.

Florida voters disapprove 50 - 46 percent of the job President George W. Bush is doing, compared to 61 - 37 percent disapproval November 16, his lowest score ever in Florida. Voters disapprove 54 - 41 percent of the President's handling of the war in Iraq and say 51 - 42 percent that going to war in Iraq was the wrong thing to do.

"Although President Bush still doesn't have a net positive job approval among Floridians, his numbers have increased significantly since November," Brown said.

From February 15 - 20, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,076 Florida registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points. The survey includes 429 Democratic voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.7 percentage points and 443 Republican voters with a margin of error of +/- 4.7 percentage points. The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and the nation as a public service and for research. For additional data-www.quinnipiac.edu and quicklinks

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Nelson is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	49%	42%	54%	52%	49%	48%
Disapprove	20	26	14	19	24	17
DK/NA	32	32	31	29	27	36

	North/ PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	41%	55%	44%	47%	53%
Disapprove	19	17	29	19	15
DK/NA	40	29	27	34	32

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Nelson is handling his job as United States Senator? (*Also hit 50% on Feb 25, 2005)

	Feb 24 2006	Nov 15 2005	Aug 31 2005	Jun 29 2005	Apr 14 2005	Highest Approve Apr 14 2005*	Lowest Approve Aug 12 2004
Approve	49	49	49	46	50	50	42
Disapprove	20	18	20	23	17	17	18
DK/NA	32	33	30	31	33	33	40

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mel Martinez is handling his job as United States Senator?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	46%	66%	32%	40%	47%	45%
Disapprove	30	15	41	36	34	26
DK/NA	25	19	27	24	20	29

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	62%	47%	44%	45%	36%
Disapprove	19	33	31	19	36
DK/NA	19	20	25	37	29

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mel Martinez is handling his job as United States Senator?

						Highest	Lowest
						Approve	Approve
	Feb 24	Nov 15	Aug 31	Jun 29	Apr 14	Feb 24	Nov 15
	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	2006	2005
Approve	46	41	45	45	43	46	41
Disapprove	30	29	29	29	29	30	29
DK/NA	25	29	26	26	28	25	29

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	46%	85%	13%	40%	50%	42%
Disapprove	50	12	83	55	47	52
DK/NA	4	3	3	5	3	5

	North/ PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	57%	48%	46%	48%	37%
Disapprove	37	47	51	51	58
DK/NA	6	5	3	1	5

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

						Highest Approve	Lowest Approve
	Feb 24 2006	Nov 16 2005	Aug 31 2005	Jun 30 2005	Apr 13 2005	Sep 23 2004	Nov 16 2005
Approve	46	37	42	45	46	50	37
Disapprove	50	61	54	51	51	47	61
DK/NA	4	2	4	4	3	3	2

14. Is your opinion of United States Senator Bill Nelson favorable, unfavorable, mixed, or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	37%	32%	41%	40%	37%	37%
Unfavorable	11	17	6	8	14	7
Mixed	17	19	15	18	17	17
Hvn't hrd enough	34	32	37	32	31	37
REFUSED	2	1	-	2	1	2

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Favorable	33%	41%	37%	27%	40%
Unfavorable	9	11	17	9	6
Mixed	20	17	16	17	16
Hvn't hrd enough	36	30	30	44	35
REFUSED	2	2	1	2	2

TREND: Is your opinion of United States Senator Bill Nelson favorable, unfavorable, mixed, or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Feb 24	Aug 31
	2006	2005

Favorable	37	35
Unfavorable	11	8
Mixed	17	24
Hvn't hrd enough	34	31
REFUSED	2	1

15. Is your opinion of Congresswoman Katherine Harris favorable, unfavorable, mixed, or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	26%	41%	15%	19%	28%	24%
Unfavorable	27	12	42	32	28	27
Mixed	13	17	9	15	13	13
Hvn't hrd enough	32	31	34	30	30	34
REFUSED	1	-	-	4	-	2

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Favorable	31%	27%	25%	33%	20%
Unfavorable	18	29	27	32	31
Mixed	10	15	15	13	13
Hvn't hrd enough	40	28	32	22	33
REFUSED	-	2	-	-	3

TREND: Is your opinion of Congresswoman Katherine Harris favorable, unfavorable, mixed, or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Feb 24	Aug 31
	2006	2005

Favorable	26	22
Unfavorable	27	30
Mixed	13	15
Hvn't hrd enough	32	32
REFUSED	1	1

16. If the 2006 election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Bill Nelson the Democrat and Katherine Harris the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Nelson	53%	22%	82%	55%	53%	53%
Harris	31	62	7	23	34	29
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-	1	1	1
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	1	2	1	1	2	1
DK/NA	14	13	9	20	11	17

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Nelson	44%	46%	55%	47%	62%
Harris	37	39	28	37	22
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	-	1	-	1
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	-	1	3	3	-
DK/NA	17	13	13	13	15

TREND: If the election for United States Senator were being held today and the candidates were Bill Nelson the Democrat and Katherine Harris the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Feb 24	Nov 15	Aug 31	Jun 29
	2006	2005	2005	2005

Nelson	53	55	57	50
Harris	31	31	33	38
SMONE ELSE	1	1	-	1
WLDN' T VOTE	1	1	1	1
DK/NA	14	12	9	10

17. Who would you most like to see the Democrats nominate for President in 2008 if the candidates were; New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold, former Virginia Governor Mark Warner, Delaware Senator Joseph Biden, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry and former North Carolina Senator John Edwards?

Registered
Democrats

Clinton	41%
Feingold	2
Warner	5
Biden	8
Kerry	14
Edwards	14
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	2
DK/NA	12

18. Who would you most like to see the Republicans nominate for President in 2008 if the candidates were Arizona Senator John McCain, Virginia Senator George Allen, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani?

Registered
Republicans

McCain	29%
Allen	6
Frist	8
Giuliani	47
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-
DK/NA	9

19. If the election for President were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and Rudolph Giuliani the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Clinton	41%	9%	75%	38%	35%	47%
Giuliani	50	87	16	50	57	44
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	2	1	1	4	3	1
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	2	1	2	2	2	2
DK/NA	5	2	5	6	3	7

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Clinton	34%	40%	41%	28%	50%
Giuliani	57	51	50	64	41
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	1	4	2	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	3	1	1	3	1
DK/NA	5	3	5	4	6

20. If the election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and John McCain the Republican for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Clinton	38%	8%	74%	31%	32%	44%
McCain	53	86	20	57	61	45
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	1	1	-	-	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	1	1	1	3	2	1
DK/NA	7	3	5	9	5	9

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Clinton	33%	41%	39%	28%	42%
McCain	58	51	52	65	47
SMONE ELSE(VOL)	1	-	1	2	-
WLDN'T VOTE(VOL)	2	3	1	-	1
DK/NA	6	5	6	6	9

31. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	41%	80%	9%	37%	46%	37%
Disapprove	54	16	86	59	51	57
DK/NA	5	4	5	4	4	6

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Approve	52%	47%	39%	42%	31%
Disapprove	42	49	54	56	65
DK/NA	6	4	7	2	4

TREND: Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq?

	Feb 24 2006	Nov 16 2005	Aug 31 2005
Approve	41	31	39
Disapprove	54	64	55
DK/NA	5	5	6

32. Do you think going to war with Iraq was the right thing for the United States to do or the wrong thing?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Right thing	42%	79%	10%	39%	47%	38%
Wrong thing	51	16	82	57	50	52
DK/NA	6	5	8	5	3	9

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Right thing	51%	45%	43%	43%	34%
Wrong thing	39	48	52	53	61
DK/NA	11	6	6	4	5

TREND: Do you think going to war with Iraq was the right thing for the United States to do or the wrong thing?

	Feb 24 2006	Aug 31 2005	Oct 28 2004	Oct 21 2004	Oct 7 2004	Sep 23 2004	Aug 12 2004
Right thing	42	41	48	48	46	46	45
Wrong thing	51	53	44	45	49	49	49
DK/NA	6	6	8	7	5	5	6