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May 30, 2006 - Sen. Clinton Barely Hits 50% Against Relative Unknowns Quinnipiac University Florida Poll Finds; GOP Contenders Romney, Allen At 40% Vs Dem Leader

New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, leading candidate for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, has difficulty getting above 50 percent in Florida against two relatively unknown Republican candidates, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Sen. Clinton defeats Sen. George Allen of Virginia in a trial heat 46 - 40 percent, while she tops Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney 50 percent to 39 percent. Among independent voters, Sen. Clinton gets 44 percent against Allen and 45 percent against Romney, the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN uh-pe-ack) University poll finds.

Sen. Allen and Gov. Romney are considered likely candidates for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination, but neither is widely known outside their own states. Sen. Clinton, on the other hand, has virtual universal name recognition with American voters.

In the Quinnipiac University poll's previously reported trial heats in Florida, perhaps the nation's most important swing state in a presidential election, Sen. Clinton has also trailed the equally well-known Sen. John McCain of Arizona and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani. In a May 24 survey, Sen. Clinton trailed McCain 48 - 42 percent, and Giuliani 49 - 42 percent.

"Within the Democratic Party, there are some who argue that Sen. Clinton might have difficulty winning a general election. These results might give support to those voices," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

"The inability to top 50 percent in a poll far before an election by a well-known candidate matched against an unknown has historically indicated potential problems for the better-known candidate," said Brown.

The Clinton-Allen data comes from the poll's April survey of 951 registered voters in Florida and has a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percent. The Clinton-Romney results comes from May Quinnipiac survey of 1,086 Florida voters, with a margin of error of +/- 3 percent.

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.

19. 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, former North Carolina Senator John Edwards and Indiana Senator Evan Bayh?

	Registered Democrats
Clinton	44%
Feingold	2
Warner	3
Biden	8
Kerry	10
Edwards	17
Bayh	3
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	1
DK/NA	10

TREND: 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, former North Carolina Senator John Edwards, and Indiana Senator Evan Bayh? (na = not asked)

REGISTERED DEMOCRATS . .

May 24 Apr 20 Feb 24
 2006 2006 2006

Clinton	44	43	41%
Feingold	2	2	2
Warner	3	4	5
Biden	8	8	8
Kerry	10	12	14
Edwards	17	16	14
Bayh	3	2	na
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	2
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	1	1	2
DK/NA	10	11	12

20. 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, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney?

Registered
 Republicans

McCain	25%
Allen	7
Frist	7
Giuliani	46
Romney	5
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	-
DK/NA	8

TREND: 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, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney? (na = not asked)

REGISTERED REPUBLICANS
 May 24 Apr 20 Feb 24
 2006 2006 2006

McCain	25	26	29
Allen	7	9	6
Frist	7	6	8
Giuliani	46	42	47
Romney	5	4	na
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	2	1
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	-	1	-
DK/NA	8	9	9

21. 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	42%	8%	74%	36%	34%	50%
Giuliani	49	87	17	53	56	43
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	2	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	2	2	3	1
DK/NA	6	2	6	8	6	6

TREND: 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?

	May 24 2006	Apr 20 2006	Feb 24 2006
Clinton	42	41	41
Giuliani	49	52	50
SMONE ELSE	1	1	2
WLDN'T VOTE	2	1	2
DK/NA	6	6	5

22. 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	42%	12%	71%	36%	30%	52%
McCain	48	82	20	52	59	39
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	2	2	2	1
WLDN ' T VOTE (VOL)	1	1	-	3	2	1
DK/NA	6	3	7	7	6	6

TREND: 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?

	May 24 2006	Apr 20 2006	Feb 24 2006
Clinton	42	42	38
McCain	48	48	53
SMONE ELSE	2	2	1
WLDN ' T VOTE	1	2	1
DK/NA	6	6	7

23. If the election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and Mitt Romney the Republican for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Clinton	50%	16%	80%	45%	38%	60%
Romney	39	78	11	38	50	31
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	1	1	1	-
WLDN ' T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	1	4	3	1
DK/NA	8	4	7	12	8	8

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Clinton	48%	40%	43%	46%	65%
Romney	40	49	44	51	25
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	1	-
WLDN ' T VOTE (VOL)	2	3	2	-	2
DK/NA	8	7	10	1	8

23. If the election for President were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Rodham Clinton the Democrat and George Allen the Republican for whom would you vote? (This question was asked in a previous Florida poll conducted April 11-17, 2006)

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Clinton	46%	10%	81%	44%	40%	52%
Allen	40	79	10	34	46	34
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	2	1	5	3	2
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	2	1	1	3	2	1
DK/NA	10	9	6	15	10	11

	North/				
	PnHnd	Bay	Cntrl	SthW	SthE
Clinton	39%	44%	41%	23%	61%
Allen	52	41	42	55	27
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	3	4	-	1
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	3	1	2	2	1
DK/NA	6	11	11	21	10