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January 28, 2008 - McCain, Romney Tops In Florida GOP Race, As Giuliani Fades, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; Clinton Has 20-Point Lead Among Democrats

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Sen. John McCain and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney are running neck and neck among Florida likely Republican voters, with 32 percent for McCain and 31 percent for Romney, as former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani gets 14 percent and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee gets 13 percent, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Among likely Democratic presidential primary voters, New York Sen. Hillary Clinton leads Illinois Sen. Barack Obama 50 - 30 percent, with 12 percent for former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards.

This compares to a four-way Republican primary horse race in a January 14 survey by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University with McCain at 22 percent, Giuliani at 20 percent, and Romney and Huckabee at 19 percent each.

In that January 14 survey, Sen. Clinton topped Obama 52 - 31 percent.

"Sen. McCain and Gov. Romney are tight as a tick, although McCain's supporters appear slightly more committed. With 24 hours to go, the race is up in the air. Whichever candidate finishes strongest will win Florida and all 57 of its reduced delegate count," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

"The major unknown in the final hours before primary day, which could make the critical difference in determining the winner, is how much weight the endorsements by Gov. Charlie Crist and Sen. Mel Martinez of Sen. McCain carry with Florida Republicans.

"Even with Sen. Obama's landslide win in South Carolina, he still trails Sen. Clinton by 20 points and a comeback of that magnitude in the final hours would be virtually unprecedented in recent political history," said Brown. "Moreover, the demographics of the Florida Democratic electorate are not nearly as favorable to Obama as was the case in South Carolina, where more than half the voters were African-American.

"On the Democratic side, there are no delegates at stake at this point."

The shakeup in the Republican race, in which McCain and Romney have pulled away from what was a four-way dead heat two weeks ago, stems from former Huckabee and Giuliani voters moving to one of the two front-runners. In the last two weeks, McCain and Romney have gained 10 and 12 points respectively, while Giuliani and Huckabee have lost six points each.

"Mayor Giuliani rolled the dice for his entire campaign on Florida, and barring a comeback of monumental proportions, it looks like he is coming up snake eyes," said Brown.

A total of 82 percent of Clinton voters say they "are not too likely" or "not likely at all" to change their minds by tomorrow, compared to 69 percent of Obama supporters.

On the Republican side, 78 percent of McCain voters and 66 percent of Romney voters say they are not likely to change their minds.

Because Florida scheduled its January 29 primary outside the window allowed by the Republican and Democratic National Committee rules, the Democratic primary will award no delegates; while the GOP haul will be half its normal allotment.

From January 24 - 27, Quinnipiac University surveyed 481 Florida likely Democratic primary voters, with a margin of error of 4.5 percent and 585 likely Republican primary voters, with a margin of error of 4.1 percent.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Ohio and the nation as a public service and for research. For more data -- <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x271.xml>, or call (203) 582-5201.

1. (If registered Democrat) If the 2008 Democratic primary for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, and Barack Obama, for whom would you vote?(If undecided q1) As of today, do you lean more toward Clinton, Edwards, Gravel, or Obama? *This table includes "Leaners".

LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

	Tot	Men	Wom
Clinton	50%	50%	51%
Edwards	12	11	13
Gravel	-	-	-
Obama	30	30	29
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-
DK/NA	7	9	6

TREND: (Likely Democratic Primary Voters) If the 2008 Democratic primary for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, and Barack Obama, for whom would you vote? na = not asked

LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

Jan 28 Jan 14 Dec 20
2008 2008 2007

Clinton	50	52	43
Edwards	12	9	19
Gravel	-	1	-
Obama	30	31	21
Biden	na	na	3
Dodd	na	na	2
Kucinich	na	1	1
Richardson	na	na	2
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	-
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-
DK/NA	7	5	9

1a. (If express choice in Democratic Primary) How likely is it that you could change your mind?
Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, not likely at all?

LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

Tot Clinton Obama

Very likely	4%	2%	2%
Smwht likely	19	14	28
Not too likely	19	22	18
Not likely at all	58	60	51
DK/NA	1	1	-

TREND: (If express choice in Democratic Primary) How likely is it that you could change your mind? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, not likely at all?

LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

Jan 28 Jan 14 Dec 20
2008 2008 2007

Very likely	4	5	9
Smwht likely	19	26	34
Not too likely	19	19	21
Not likely at all	58	50	36
DK/NA	1	1	-

2.(If registered Republican) If the 2008 Republican primary for President were being held today and the candidates were Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, John McCain, Ron Paul, and Mitt Romney for whom would you vote? (If undecided q2) As of today, do you lean more toward Giuliani, Huckabee, McCain, Paul or Romney? *This table includes "Leaners"

LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

Tot Men Wom WtBrnAgn
Evangls

Giuliani	14%	17%	10%	7%
Huckabee	13	9	18	23
McCain	32	32	32	30
Paul	3	3	2	2
Romney	31	31	31	28
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	2	1
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	7	8	5	9

TREND: (Likely Republican Primary Voters) If the 2008 Republican primary for President were being held today, and the candidates were Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, John McCain, Ron Paul, and Mitt Romney, for whom would you vote? na = not asked

LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

	Jan 28 2008	Jan 14 2008	Dec 20 2007
Giuliani	14	20	28
Huckabee	13	19	21
McCain	32	22	13
Paul	3	5	2
Romney	31	19	20
Hunter	na	1	1
Tancredo	na	na	-
Thompson	na	7	8
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	-	-
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-
DK/NA	7	7	6

2a. (If express choice in Republican primary) How likely is it that you could change your mind?
Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, not likely at all?

LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

Tot McCain Romney

Very likely	5%	2%	7%
Smwht likely	24	20	24
Not too likely	18	23	19
Not likely at all	52	55	47
DK/NA	1	-	3

TREND: (If express choice in Republican Primary) How likely is it that you could change your mind? Very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely, not likely at all?

LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

Jan 28 Jan 14 Dec 20

2008 2008 2007

Very likely	5	7	12
Smwht likely	24	39	45
Not too likely	18	18	17
Not likely at all	52	35	23
DK/NA	1	-	3