

Release Detail

February 25, 2008 - Obama Gains On Clinton In Ohio Dem Primary Quinnipiac University Likely Voter Poll Finds; College-Educated Voters In Big Shift To Obama

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Buoyed by a big shift among college-educated voters, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama is gaining on New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, who now leads 51 - 40 percent among Ohio likely Democratic primary voters, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

This compares to a 55 - 34 percent Clinton lead in a February 14 likely voter poll by the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University. College-educated voters back Sen. Obama 58 - 33 percent, compared to a 46 - 41 percent Clinton lead with these voters February 14.

On the eve of the only televised debate between the two Democratic contenders in Ohio and just one week before the crucial March 4 primary, Sen. Clinton's large margins among women, 53 - 36 percent; older voters, whites and those without a college education keep her out front.

"Sen. Clinton's lead remains substantial, but the trend line should be worrisome for her in a state that even her husband, former President Bill Clinton, has said she must win," said Peter Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. "A week is an awful long time in politics to be playing defense, but one thing going in her favor is that she is viewed more favorably than is he by Ohio likely Democratic primary voters.

"Sen. Obama, to no one's surprise given his momentum nationally, has made inroads, especially among some of Sen. Clinton's softer supporters," said Brown. "If she is to stop his momentum in Ohio, she must retain her margins among her core backers - women, older voters and those lower on the social-economic and education scale."

"For instance, while she held leads of four points and 27 points among likely primary voters below and over age 45 respectively earlier this month, now she trails by 52 - 42 percent among the younger group and her margin has shrunk to 55 - 35 percent among older voters," said Brown.

When asked how they view the two candidates, 64 percent of likely primary voters view Sen. Obama favorably, 16 percent unfavorably. Sen. Clinton's numbers are 76 percent favorable, 17

percent unfavorable.

Compared to other states where Obama has taken more than 80 percent of the black vote, he leads 68 - 20 percent among blacks in Ohio, while Clinton leads among whites 59 - 33 percent.

If Arizona Sen. John McCain, the de facto Republican presidential nominee, were to pick Ohio's senior senator George Voinovich as his vice president, only 9 percent of registered voters, including 11 percent of independents, say they would be more likely to vote for McCain. But 18 percent of all voters, with 18 percent of independents, say it would make them less likely to vote for the Republican ticket. Overall, 70 percent say it would make no difference.

McCain's selection of Rob Portman, a former Ohio congressman and U.S. Trade representative, also would have no real effect. Five percent, including 6 percent of independents, would be more likely to vote for McCain; 12 percent, including 11 percent of independents, say it would make them less likely, and 76 percent say it would have no effect. Bush Approval

Ohio registered voters disapprove 69 - 28 percent of the job President George W. Bush is doing, his lowest score ever in the state. Voters say 65 - 30 percent that the U.S. economy is in a recession. But 56 percent of Ohio voters say their personal finances are "excellent" or "good," while 44 percent say they are "not so good" or "poor."

Voters also say 62 - 31 percent that going to war in Iraq was the wrong thing to do.

From February 18 - 23, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,853 Ohio registered voters with a margin of error of +/- 2.3 percent. The survey includes 741 likely Democratic primary voters with a margin of error of +/- 3.6 percentage points.

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

LIKELY DEM PRIMARY VOTERS.....

						Wht	Wht
	Tot	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Men	Wom
Clinton	51%	48%	53%	59%	20%	55%	61%
Obama	40	45	36	33	68	39	29
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	1	-	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	9	7	10	7	12	5	9

	Age	Age	No col	College
	18-44	45+	degree	degree
Clinton	42%	55%	57%	33%
Obama	52	35	34	58
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	1	1	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	-	-	-	-
DK/NA	5	9	9	8

TREND: If the 2008 Democratic primary for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, for whom would you vote? (If undecided) As of today, do you lean more toward Clinton or Obama? *This table includes Leaners.

LIKELY DEMOCRATIC

PRIMARY VOTERS

Feb 25 Feb 14

2008 2008

Clinton	51	55%
Obama	40	34
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	1	2
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	-	-
DK/NA	9	9

2. Is your opinion of -- Hillary Clinton favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

LIKELY DEM PRIMARY VOTERS.....

	Reg						Wht	Wht
	ToVote	Tot	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Men	Wom
Favorable	47%	76%	73%	78%	77%	73%	72%	80%
Unfavorable	41	17	21	14	17	16	24	12
Hvn't hrd enough	9	5	4	5	5	7	3	6
REFUSED	3	2	1	3	2	4	1	2

Age Age No col College
 18-44 45+ degree degree

Favorable	71%	78%	77%	72%
Unfavorable	21	15	16	19
Hvn't hrd enough	7	4	5	6
REFUSED	1	2	2	3

3. Is your opinion of -- Barack Obama favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

LIKELY DEM PRIMARY VOTERS.....

	Reg						Wht	Wht
	ToVote	Tot	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Men	Wom
Favorable	47%	64%	67%	62%	59%	87%	61%	57%
Unfavorable	26	16	14	17	19	-	17	21
Hvn't hrd enough	23	18	18	18	19	12	20	18
REFUSED	4	2	1	3	3	1	2	3

Age Age No col College
 18-44 45+ degree degree

Favorable	70%	62%	58%	83%
Unfavorable	13	17	19	6
Hvn't hrd enough	16	19	21	9
REFUSED	2	2	2	3

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

REGISTERED VOTERS.....

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WtBrnAgn Evnglc1
Approve	28%	66%	5%	23%	33%	23%	42%
Disapprove	69	28	95	71	63	73	52
DK/NA	4	6	1	6	4	4	6

	Cntrl	NrthE	NrthW	SthE	SthW	WstCnt
Approve	29%	22%	28%	25%	39%	34%
Disapprove	67	75	68	71	55	63
DK/NA	3	3	3	5	7	4

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

	Feb 25 2008	Feb 14 2008	Nov 14 2007	Sep 6 2007	Jul 12 2007	Highest Approve May 16 2007	Lowest Approve Feb 25 2008
Approve	28	31	29	32	29	35	28
Disapprove	69	61	67	64	66	61	69
DK/NA	4	7	4	5	5	4	4

12. If Republican presidential candidate John McCain picked Senator George Voinovich as his running mate, would that make you more likely to vote for McCain for president, less likely to vote

for McCain for president or wouldn't it make a difference?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WtBrnAgn Evnglc1
More likely	9%	14%	3%	11%	10%	8%	8%
Less likely	18	16	21	18	17	20	20
Doesn't make diff	70	66	75	67	71	69	68
DK/NA	3	3	2	3	2	4	4

	Cntrl	NrthE	NrthW	SthE	SthW	WstCnt
More likely	11%	9%	7%	3%	6%	10%
Less likely	15	20	24	17	18	14
Doesn't make diff	72	67	68	76	72	71
DK/NA	2	4	1	3	4	5

13. If Republican presidential candidate John McCain picked former cabinet member and U.S. Representative Rob Portman as his running mate would that make you more likely to vote for McCain for president, less likely to vote for McCain for president or wouldn't it make a difference?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WtBrnAgn Evnglc1
More likely	5%	10%	1%	6%	6%	4%	6%
Less likely	12	8	16	11	11	13	11
Doesn't make diff	76	74	78	76	77	76	72
DK/NA	7	8	5	7	6	8	11

	Cntrl	NrthE	NrthW	SthE	SthW	WstCnt
More likely	2%	4%	1%	2%	16%	4%
Less likely	13	12	13	11	12	8
Doesn't make diff	78	76	78	82	67	79
DK/NA	7	7	8	5	5	8

14. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as - Excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WtBrnAgn Evnglc1
Excellent	1%	1%	-	1%	-	-	-
Good	13	30	3	11	18	9	18
Not so good	36	46	25	40	39	33	38
Poor	50	22	70	47	40	58	43
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

	Cntrl	NrthE	NrthW	SthE	SthW	WstCnt
Excellent	1%	1%	-	-	1%	-
Good	14	10	13	10	21	15
Not so good	38	34	35	34	39	38
Poor	46	55	51	55	39	46
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	-	1

15. Would you describe your own personal financial situation as - Excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WtBrnAgn Evnglc1
Excellent	6%	8%	4%	7%	8%	4%	3%
Good	50	65	42	48	55	45	57
Not so good	30	19	38	28	26	33	26
Poor	14	7	15	16	10	16	12
DK/NA	1	1	2	1	1	2	1

	Cntrl	NrthE	NrthW	SthE	SthW	WstCnt
Excellent	8%	5%	7%	3%	5%	5%
Good	46	50	45	39	57	56
Not so good	29	30	31	39	24	30
Poor	15	14	18	17	12	7
DK/NA	2	1	-	2	2	1

16. During the next 12 months, do you think your own personal financial situation will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WtBrnAgn Evnglc1
Get better	29%	30%	27%	30%	32%	26%	24%
Get worse	12	9	13	13	12	12	12
Stay the same	57	60	57	55	54	60	61
DK/NA	2	2	2	2	3	2	3

	Cntrl	NrthE	NrthW	SthE	SthW	WstCnt
Get better	31%	27%	27%	25%	35%	27%
Get worse	10	12	17	15	8	11
Stay the same	55	58	56	57	55	60
DK/NA	3	3	-	3	2	2

17. Do you think the United States economy is in a recession now?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	WtBrnAgn Evnglc1
Yes	65%	47%	79%	63%	60%	69%	60%
No	30	49	17	30	36	25	34
DK/NA	5	4	4	6	4	6	6

	Cntrl	NrthE	NrthW	SthE	SthW	WstCnt
Yes	61%	69%	68%	73%	55%	59%
No	31	25	31	25	42	34
DK/NA	7	5	2	3	4	7

18. 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	WtBrnAgn Evnglc1
Right thing	31%	68%	9%	29%	37%	26%	46%
Wrong thing	62	25	88	62	57	67	47
DK/NA	6	7	3	9	5	7	7

	Cntrl	NrthE	NrthW	SthE	SthW	WstCnt
Right thing	30%	25%	32%	24%	48%	39%
Wrong thing	65	66	62	68	49	57
DK/NA	5	8	5	8	3	4

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

	Feb 25 2008	Mar 22 2007	Jan 30 2007
Right thing	31	34	37
Wrong thing	62	60	56
DK/NA	6	6	6