

Election 2008: Florida Republican Primary

Florida: Romney 33% McCain 27%
Sunday, January 27, 2008

The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey in Florida shows former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney earning 33% of the vote while Arizona Senator John McCain attracts 27%. The poll was conducted Saturday afternoon before Florida Governor Charlie Crist announced his endorsement of McCain and the race is fluid enough that both men have a realistic chance of winning on Tuesday. Rasmussen Markets data showed that expectations for a McCain victory rose following the Crist announcement.

Romney leads 42% to 22% among conservative voters while McCain leads 43% to 25% among moderates.

Among voters who consider the economy the most important issue, Romney has a very narrow edge over McCain, 37% to 33%. Among those who name either the War in Iraq or National Security issues as most important, the candidates are tied at 31%. Immigration is seen as the top issue by just 12% of Florida's Likely Republican Primary Voters, but they overwhelmingly favor Romney over McCain by a 63% to 7% margin. Huckabee picks up 16% of those who consider immigration the top priority.

Earlier this week, just before the Florida debate, Romney led by four percentage points. A poll conducted last Sunday found Romney leading by five.

As Florida voters seek to decide between the two frontrunners, support for other candidates is fading. Rudy Giuliani is a distant third at 18%, Mike Huckabee 12%, some other candidate, 5%, and Ron Paul 2%.

Three percent (3%) of Florida's Likely Voters have yet to make up their mind. Another 21% say they might still change their mind. That figure includes 8% who say there's a good chance they could change their mind before voting.

Fifteen percent (15%) of Giuliani's supporters say there's a good chance they could change their mind, a higher percentage than for any other candidate. That's potentially good news for John McCain.

Eighty-five percent (85%) of Huckabee's supporters are either certain they will vote for him or have already voted. Eighty percent (80%) of Romney's supporters are that "certain" along with 79% of Giuliani voters and 72% of those who support McCain.

Romney is now seen as the most electable Republican candidate—76% believe he would be at least somewhat likely to win the White House if nominated. Sixty-eight percent (68%) say the

same about McCain. Earlier in the week, both men were viewed as at least somewhat likely to win by 69%.

Nationally, in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll, McCain and Romney have begun to pull away from the rest of the field. The economy is seen as the top voting issue for all voters nationwide.

Looking ahead on the Primary Calendar, Huckabee leads in Georgia, Huckabee and McCain are essentially tied in both Missouri and lead in Alabama. McCain leads in New York, McCain and Giuliani are close in New Jersey, while McCain and Romney are close in California.

Survey of 500 Likely GOP Voters January 26, 2008

Election 2008: Florida GOP Primary

Mitt Romney	33%
John McCain	27%
Rudy Giuliani	18%
Mike Huckabee	12%
Ron Paul	2%
Some Other Candidate	5%

Election 2008: Florida Democratic Primary

Florida: Clinton 44% Obama 25%
Sunday, January 27, 2008

The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey in Florida finds Senator Hillary Clinton leading Barack Obama by nineteen percentage points, 44% to 25%.

Earlier this week, Clinton held a twenty-five point advantage, 51% to 26%. Last week, Clinton was leading in Florida by eighteen percentage point. The week before, she was up by twenty-four points.

Former Senator John Edwards attracts support from 19% of Likely Primary Voters. That's a six-point improvement from the previous poll. During the same time frame, Clinton lost seven

percentage points.

Eight percent (8%) say they have voted for or will vote for some other candidate and 4% are not sure.

Florida's Democratic Primary is mired in controversy. In May, a state law set January 29 as the Primary date even though national committee rules said it could not be held before February 5. The Democratic National Committee then said that Florida's delegates will not be seated at the Party's convention unless it abides by the rules. The national party leaders encouraged leading candidates to avoid campaigning in Florida and all the candidates agreed. However, Clinton and Obama have each accused the other campaign of bending the no-campaigning rules and local activity has generated a substantial level of early voting. Clinton has recently called for all of Florida's delegates to be seated at the Convention.

Polling released earlier in the week showed that 56% of Democratic Primary Voters say it's more important to select a President who can address economic issues rather than someone who can handle national security issues. Thirty percent (30%) took the opposite view. Among the state's Republican Primary Voters, the national security capability was seen as more important.

Democratic Primary Voters are evenly divided on the question of whether it's more important to create economic growth or to reduce the income gap between rich and poor. Forty-seven percent (47%) said creating growth was the top priority and 46% named reducing the income gap. Republicans overwhelmingly named economic growth a higher priority.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) of Democrats agree that the best thing the government can do for the economy is get out of the way by reducing taxes and regulation. Forty-five percent (45%) disagree.

Seventy-seven percent (77%) of the state's Democratic Primary Voters have a favorable opinion of Clinton and 64% say the same about Obama.

Eighty-two percent (82%) say Clinton is at least somewhat likely to win if nominated. That figure includes 47% who say she is Very Likely to move into the White House again if she is the Democratic nominee. Earlier in the week, 58% said she was Very Likely to win if nominated.

Looking ahead on the Primary calendar, Obama leads in Georgia. However, Clinton leads Missouri, Alabama, California, New York, and New Jersey.

Survey of 437 Likely Democratic Primary Voters January 26, 2008

Florida Democratic Primary

Hillary Clinton	44%
Barack Obama	25%

John Edwards	19%
Some Other Candidate	8%
Not Sure	4%

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