

Election 2008: New York Democratic Presidential Primary

New York: Clinton 52% Obama 34%
 Saturday, February 02, 2008

In New York’s Democratic Presidential Primary, Hillary Clinton has an eighteen point lead over Barack Obama. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey shows Clinton picking up 52% of the vote while Obama earns 34%. Eight percent (8%) say they plan to vote for some other candidate while 6% remain undecided.

The divides between the candidates nationally are evident in the Empire State as well. Clinton leads by thirty points among women but trails by two among men. She leads by twenty-three points among white voters but trails by forty among African-Americans.

Clinton is viewed favorably by 80% of Likely Primary Voters, Obama by 77%.

The economy is viewed as the top issue by 43% of New York’s Likely Democratic Primary Voters. Twenty-four percent (24%) name the War in Iraq as the highest priority while 11% see Health Care as the most important issue.

Clinton remains the frontrunner for the Democratic Nomination, but Obama has gained ground since Obama’s huge victory in South Carolina and high-profile endorsements from the daughter and brother of martyred President John F. Kennedy. A Rasmussen Reports analysis earlier in the week noted that the numbers still favored Clinton, but sometimes the numbers don’t matter.

Since then, Obama’s position has improved in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll and in several states including California, Missouri, Alabama, and Massachusetts (see summary of Super Tuesday polls). Still, while Clinton has lost ground, she started from a very solid position. So, it remains to be seen whether Obama’s surge will be enough to actually take the lead or if he will fall just a little bit short. Whatever the outcome, it is now unlikely that the Democratic nominee will be selected on February 5.

Survey of 799 Likely Democratic Primary Voters January 31-February 1, 2008

New York Democratic Presidential Primary

Hillary Clinton	52%
Barack Obama	34%

Election 2008: New York Republican Presidential Primary

New York: McCain 49% Romney 30%
Saturday, February 02, 2008

John McCain appears poised for victory in New York State's Republican Presidential Primary. A Rasmussen Reports telephone survey shows McCain with 49% of the vote, nineteen points ahead of Mitt Romney who attracts 30%. Nobody else reaches double digits. Mike Huckabee is at 8%, Ron Paul at 4%, and 8% say they will vote for some other candidate.

Among conservatives, McCain leads Romney by just two percentage points, 42% to 40%. However, McCain leads by a 4-to-1 margin among the state's politically moderate voters.

New York offers its 101 delegates on a winner take-all basis which means a victory for McCain would give him 8% of the delegates he needs to capture the GOP nomination. McCain also has solid leads in the neighboring winner-take-all states of New Jersey and Connecticut, Combined, the tri-state region could give McCain a total of 183 delegates out of the 1,191 needed for a majority at the convention. The Arizona Senator has already won 93 delegates in earlier contests.

Sixty-eight percent (68%) of the state's Likely Primary Voters have a favorable opinion of McCain. That includes 39% with a Very Favorable opinion.

Sixty-seven percent (67%) have a favorable opinion of Romney, including 23% with a Very Favorable opinion.

Forty-three percent (43%) say the economy is the top voting issue while 19% believe the War in Iraq is the top priority. Immigration and National Security are each named as the top issue by 13%.

Nationally, McCain and Romney are on top in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll.

McCain leads Huckabee in Alabama and the race is very close in Missouri and Tennessee. McCain leads in the winner-take-all state of New Jersey. He also holds modest leads over Romney in California, Connecticut, and Illinois.

**Survey of 524 Likely GOP Primary Voters
January 31-February 1, 2008**

New York GOP Primary

John McCain	49%
Mitt Romney	30%
Mike Huckabee	8%
Ron Paul	4%