

Ohio Democratic Presidential Primary

Ohio: Clinton 47% Obama 45%
Friday, February 29, 2008

In Ohio, Hillary Clinton has maintained a constant level of support over the past week, but Barack Obama is rapidly gaining ground in her rear view mirror.

The latest Rasmussen Reports poll, conducted Thursday night, shows Clinton earning 47% of the Ohio Democratic Presidential Primary vote. That's little changed from the 48% level of support the former First Lady received last Sunday night and in the previous poll conducted last week.

However, while Clinton's support has remained stable, Barack Obama has been steadily inching up in the poll. Obama now earns support from 45% of Ohio's Likely Primary Voters. That's up from 43% last Sunday, 40% last week and 38% the week before.

This puts the race in the too close to call category as Clinton's lead is now just two percentage points in Ohio, down from five-points in the previous poll, an eight-point advantage last week and fourteen points two weeks ago.

Recognizing her slide in the polls and the must-win status of next week's primaries in both Ohio and Texas, Clinton has released a tough new ad raising questions about Obama's ability to handle national security issues. Obama's team responded by re-releasing an ad from earlier in the campaign. Looking ahead to the general election, McCain already has a huge advantage over Obama on the national security issue. In fact, just 51% of Democrats trust Obama more than McCain on that topic.

Just 16% of Likely Democratic Primary Voters believe the North American Free Trade Agreement—NAFTA—is good for America. Fifty-five percent (55%) say the trade agreement negotiated by the Clinton Administration is bad for the nation. Those numbers are unchanged over the past week.

Ohio voters still tend to see Obama as opposed to NAFTA while Clinton's position is less clear. The current survey finds that 58% believe Obama opposes NAFTA, up from 53% before the Tuesday night debate. Seventeen percent (17%) believe the Illinois Senator favors that trade agreement.

For Clinton, 34% believe she favors NAFTA, little changed since the debate. However, 38% now believe she opposes that agreement, up from 31% in the previous survey.

Clinton leads by eight among women and trails by six among men.

Nationally, Obama leads Clinton in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll.

According to the Rasmussen Reports Balance of Power Calculator, the Democrats have a modest early lead in the Electoral College.

In Ohio, Clinton is viewed favorably by 76% and Obama by 71%. Both figures are similar to those from just before the Cleveland debate.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of Likely Democratic Primary Voters say that Clinton would be at least somewhat likely to win the White House if nominated. An identical percentage say the same about Obama. In both cases, that confidence is down a bit from earlier in the week.

Fifty-one percent (51%) rate the economy as the top voting issue in Election 2008. Eighteen percent (18%) believe it's the War in Iraq while 14% see health care as the top priority.

**Survey of 851 Likely Dem Primary Voters
February 28, 2008**

Ohio Democratic Primary

Hillary Clinton	47%
Barack Obama	45%
Not Sure	9%

Texas Democratic Presidential Primary

Texas: Obama 48% Clinton 44%
Thursday, February 28, 2008

Barack Obama has moved ahead of Hillary Clinton in Texas.

The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey shows Obama attracting 48% of the vote while Clinton earns 44%. Eight percent (8%) remain undecided and another 12% say it's possible they could change their mind. That latter figure includes 3% who say there's a good chance they could change their mind.

Obama leads by sixteen points among men, but trails by nine among women. Clinton's lead among Hispanic voters is down to seven percentage points.

Among those who are undecided, 73% have a favorable opinion of Clinton and 66% say the same about Obama.

Overall, 76% have a favorable opinion of Clinton and 75% view Obama in such a positive light.

Seventy-nine percent (79%) believe Clinton would be at least somewhat likely to win the White House if nominated. Seventy-eight percent (78%) say the same about Obama.

These latest results show a continuing trend in Obama's favor. Last Sunday, Clinton led by a single point. Last week, Clinton was up by three. Two weeks ago, the former First Lady enjoyed a double digit lead. The Rasmussen Reports surveys in Texas include people who have already voted and those who are likely to vote. Currently, Obama leads by six among those who have already voted or are absolutely certain they will vote.

**Survey of 503 Likely Democratic Primary Voters
February 27, 2008**

Texas Democratic Primary

Hillary Clinton	44%
Barack Obama	48%
Not Sure	8%