

Election 2008: Tennessee GOP Presidential Primary

Tennessee: McCain 32% Romney 29% Huckabee 23%
Saturday, February 02, 2008

The Republican Presidential Primary in Tennessee is very competitive. A Rasmussen Reports telephone survey found John McCain narrowly on top with 32% support followed closely by Mitt Romney at 29% and Mike Huckabee at 23%. Ron Paul attracts 8% of the vote while 5% still plan to vote for some other candidate.

The situation remains very fluid as 10-15% of each major candidate's supporters say there's a good chance they could change their mind before voting. Just 63% of all voters are "certain" they will stick with their current candidate. The survey was conducted Wednesday night, six days before Election Day.

At one point not too long ago, the Tennessee Primary was expected to give a big victory to favorite son candidate Fred Thompson. However, Thompson dropped out of the race following a disappointing performance in the early state primaries.

Romney edges McCain by a 32% to 29% margin among conservative voters. McCain earns 38% of the moderate vote while Huckabee gets 22% and Romney 17%.

As in many other states, McCain leads among voters who name the economy or the War in Iraq as the top voting issue. Romney leads 50% to 17% among those who consider immigration the highest priority.

Romney is viewed favorably by 69% of Likely Primary Voters, Huckabee by 65% and McCain by 64%. McCain earns favorable reviews from 61% of conservatives likely to vote in the Primary.

McCain is seen as the most electable candidate. Seventy-six percent (76%) say that he would be at least somewhat likely to win if nominated. Sixty-four percent (64%) say the same about Romney and 50% have such confidence in Huckabee. Among conservative voters, 76% believe McCain would have a chance to win while 67% believe Romney would be at least somewhat likely to win.

Survey of 531 Likely GOP Primary Voters
January 30, 2008

Tennessee GOP Primary

John McCain	32%
Mitt Romney	29%
Mike Huckabee	23%
Ron Paul	8%

Election 2008: Tennessee Democratic Presidential Primary

Tennessee: Clinton 49% Obama 35%
Saturday, February 02, 2008

In Tennessee, Hillary Clinton leads Barack Obama by fourteen percentage points. A Rasmussen Reports telephone survey conducted Wednesday night found Clinton with 49% of the Volunteer State vote while Obama earned 35%. Twelve percent (12%) said they still planned to vote for some other candidate even though only Clinton and Obama are still in the race.

Clinton leads by twenty-five points among women but by just a single point among men. Twenty-six percent (26%) of men are either undecided or say they will vote for some other candidate.

Clinton leads 61% to 23% among white voters while Obama leads 71% to 12% among African-American voters.

Clinton leads by seventeen points among those who consider the economy to be the top issue. The candidates are essentially even among those who consider the War in Iraq as the highest priority.

Forty-six percent (46%) of the state's Likely Democratic Primary Voters say the economy is the most important voting issue. Twenty-one percent (21%) say it's the War in Iraq, while 14% see health care as their top voting issue.

Clinton has led nationally in the Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll since the beginning of 2007, but Obama has gained ground since his victory in South Carolina last week and a series of high profile endorsements. A Rasmussen Reports analysis earlier in the week noted that the numbers still favored Clinton, but sometimes the numbers don't matter. Since that time, Obama has gained momentum and it is now unlikely that the Democratic nominee will be selected on February 5.

**Survey of 448 Likely Democratic Primary Voters
January 30, 2008**

Election 2008: Tennessee Democratic Primary

Hillary Clinton	49%
Barack Obama	35%
Some Other Candidate	12%
Not Sure	4%