

**CLICK  
HERE!**

**0 to a thousand in 5 seconds!**

That's how fast it is to find information  
on thousands of Michiana cars!

for our new automobile research and shopping guide or to browse thousands of used cars



This is a printer friendly version of an article from [www.southbendtribune.com](http://www.southbendtribune.com)  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

For a printer friendly version that includes the article's picture click here:  [Print Story with picture](#)

[Back](#)

---

Article published Apr 24, 2008

## **Poll shows Indiana primary still a tossup Obama may trail McCain slightly less than Clinton does**

**By ED RONCO**  
*Tribune Staff Writer*

Conventional wisdom said Tuesday's voting in Pennsylvania would sway Hoosier opinions on who to vote for in Indiana's May 6 presidential primary.

But Pennsylvania's results don't appear to have cleared up anything in Indiana, according to a new statewide poll commissioned by The Tribune, WSBT-TV, WISH-TV in Indianapolis and WANE-TV in Fort Wayne.

Sen. Barack Obama leads Sen. Hillary Clinton by 1 point in a sample of 400 likely Democratic primary voters polled by telephone April 23 and 24.

If the election were today, Obama would get 48 percent of the vote to Clinton's 47 percent. The poll has a 5 percent margin of error.

A poll conducted for The Tribune earlier in the month showed Clinton at 49 percent and Obama at 46 percent.

The closer numbers might muddy the waters a little in terms of who will win, but the state's demographics might point more to an Obama victory, said Del Ali, of the Rockville, Md.-based Research 2000, which conducted the study.

"The Democratic electorate in Indiana is not heavily made up among white women over the age of 60 like it was in Pennsylvania," Ali said, referring to a group of voters heavily in Clinton's corner.

Clinton won Pennsylvania by about 10 percent.

Here in Indiana, she got the nod from 59 percent of the respondents over age 60, to Obama's 35 percent.

Clinton also holds 53 percent of women voters, to Obama's 45 percent.

Similarly, Obama needs to retain, and even increase, the number of younger voters who will cast their ballots for him May 6, Ali said.

Obama earned support from 66 percent of respondents between 18 and 29 years old in the Tribune poll, to Clinton's 33 percent.

"If that 18-to-29 grows in percent, he wins," Ali said.

And the two campaigns agree on one thing, at least: It's going to be a close race, and your vote matters.

"If any Indiana voter had any question about whether his or her vote will be able to shape this nominating process, and finally fundamentally change Washington, I think all the recent polls have put this to rest," said Kevin Griffis, a spokesman for Obama's Indiana campaign.

That means both sides will be working hard to capture your vote in the next week and a half.

"We're concentrating on getting out the vote and winning on May 6," said Jonathan Swain, spokesman for Hoosiers for Hillary.

All of that means this: Indiana's primary is a one-point game, in the closing minutes of the fourth quarter, and if you haven't noticed the mailers, TV commercials, radio ads and yard signs yet, you will soon.

## **Negativity**

One thing Hoosiers have noticed is the tone of the campaign, according to the poll.

Some 48 percent said Clinton was running the more negative campaign of the two, compared to the 23 percent who pointed their finger at Obama. About 21 percent said both were equally negative and 8 percent weren't sure.

And what do the campaigns think of that?

Clinton has answered Obama attacks, Swain said.

"You really can't sit back and let misleading statements or attacks go unanswered," he said. "And so from our campaign, it really is about setting the record straight, making sure that if there were questions about Senator Clinton's record on an issue that the voters actually have the facts in front of them."

Obama, on the other hand, has benefited from the perception that Clinton is more negative, even in Pennsylvania, said Griffis, his Indiana spokesman.

Even in Pennsylvania, where he lost by about 10 percent.

Pennsylvania was "a race where we were down 25, 26 points," Griffis said. "What we're going to try to do is focus as much as we possibly can on the issues ahead and not get dragged into the back-and-forth."

But both campaigns have made accusations against each other, and questioned the truthfulness of various statements made by the opposing candidate.

"In fairness to Clinton, she has to go negative, and for one reason," said Ali, the pollster. "She's got to raise doubts about Obama to the superdelegates."

Neither candidate is on track to get the 2,025 delegates needed to clinch the nomination, so both sides will have to woo superdelegates to vote for them.

Superdelegates are people who have an automatic vote at the Democratic National Convention because of their status within the party.

In other words, Clinton has to raise questions about Obama so that even if he wins Indiana, the state's superdelegates might have second thoughts, Ali said.

"But I think a lot of voters are astute and realize, 'Hey, this thing stinks, but she's got to do what she's got to do,'" Ali said.

"That's certainly an interesting assessment," said Swain, the Clinton spokesman. "If you look back over the last several weeks, there's been a real contrast between the two campaigns. She has demonstrated again that she's very committed to winning Indiana."

Campaigns go negative in every election cycle, Ali said, even though voters swear that they don't want any mud-slinging.

"We're all full of crap when it comes to that," Ali said. "I want to see the negative stuff ... just to see the ad. Some are pretty funny."

## **Who can beat McCain?**

The poll asked separate samples of voters who would win against John McCain - Clinton or Obama?

In either scenario, McCain wins Indiana, but Obama is slightly closer to beating him than is Clinton.

McCain would get 52 percent of the vote to Clinton's 41 percent, said the sample of 600 likely voters from both parties.

McCain would get 51 percent to Obama's 43 percent.

The margin of error was 4 percent, and slightly more Republicans (252) were sampled than Democrats (210) to represent Indiana's demographics.

You can look at the Obama scenario two ways, Ali said.

"McCain can say, 'You know, in spite of how unpopular the incumbent party is, I not only win, I'm over 50 (percent),' he said. "Obama can say, 'I'm competitive. I'm within 10 points.'"

That said, Indiana's gone to the Republican nominee every year since 1964.

"McCain has to win Indiana; that's it," Ali said. "He should win it by a pretty good margin. By 10-plus points."

*Staff writer Ed Ronco:*  
*eronco@sbtinfo.com*  
*(574) 235-6353*

---