



Presidential Poll Results



Barack Obama

Montpelier, Vermont - February 26, 2008

Even on a chilly day people have heated political opinions.

"I've just heard a few of the views from Barack Obama and he sounds like a worthy candidate. I don't like how Hillary keeps putting him down," says Dennis Leslie of Websterville.



Hillary Clinton

"I'm listening to Hillary more and more. I like what she says," says Libby Hamilton of Northfield.

"I think Obama is going to make it. To me he is a better candidate," says another Northfield resident, Marty Emerson.

Pat Nelson of Montpelier says, "I think Barack Obama has plenty of support in the state of Vermont."

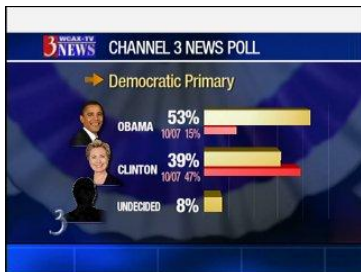


John McCain

She's right. A new Channel 3 News poll of 400 Vermonters found a majority-- 53 percent--- support Barack Obama to Hillary Clinton's 39 percent.

The results are much different than just 4 months ago when Hillary Clinton had a commanding lead in Vermont.

"To increase his/her vote share by three times in the space of just four months says that candidate has great momentum and has been running a great campaign," explains Middlebury College Political Scientist Eric Davis.



Davis says Obama took the lead because he gained the support of Vermonters who were voting for other Democratic candidates who dropped out.

Davis also says thanks to new ads, Obama's message is resonating: "I think in part it's because voters want change more than experience. They feel that Obama has passed the bar in terms of qualifications for President."



On the Republican side, John McCain just made a visit to the state and that seems to have made an impression with voters. McCain gets 52 percent in our poll, Mike Huckabee 32 percent and Ron Paul 7 percent.

"I'm leaning toward John McCain," says Beth Daut of Berlin. "I'm a Republican-- I think that less government is better."

But stack McCain against Obama-- and Obama wins by 21 percentage points-- 57

percent to 36 percent.

Clinton head to head against McCain is similar-- 56 percent to 36 percent.

"So it seems that at least in Vermont, there is not going to be many hard feelings on the part of the supporters of the second place Democratic candidate for the fall election," says Davis.

At Barack Obama's Montpelier headquarters supporters were glad to hear he's in the lead, but they're not taking anything for granted.

"That's exciting but we should not really pay attention to polls because it's important to keep working hard," says Montpelier High School sophomore and Obama volunteer Joe Carlomagno.

Good advice-- for any candidate.

[Kristin Carlson](#) - WCAX News



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