

THE OHIO POLL*

FOR RELEASE

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CLINTON LEADS OBAMA BY 8 POINTS; MCCAIN HOLDS WIDE LEAD IN OHIO

Cincinnati, OH--With just over a week remaining until the Ohio presidential primary, the latest Ohio Poll finds Hillary Clinton leading Barack Obama by eight percentage points among likely Democratic primary voters. John McCain holds a wide lead among likely Republican primary voters.

These findings are based on the latest Ohio Poll, conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. The Ohio Poll is sponsored by the University of Cincinnati. The Poll was conducted from February 21 through February 24, 2008.

In the latest Ohio Poll, likely Democratic and Republican primary voters were asked their preferences among the candidates that will appear on their respective primary ballots.

OHIO DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

The latest Ohio Poll finds Hillary Clinton leads Barack Obama 47 to 39 percent among likely Democratic primary voters. At this time, an additional nine percent of likely Democratic primary voters intend to vote for John Edwards, who suspended his campaign at the end of January. Two percent of likely Democratic primary voters intend to vote for another candidate, including Ohioan Dennis Kucinich (who ended his campaign for president in January), and four percent are undecided as to how they will cast their vote March 4.

Three issues dominate Democratic primary voter decisions about the 2008 presidential race: the economy/jobs (41%), health care/health insurance (25%) and the war in Iraq/Iraq policy (16%).

OHIO REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

The latest Ohio Poll also finds John McCain leads Mike Huckabee 55 to 20 percent among likely Republican primary voters. At this time, an additional nine percent of likely Republican primary voters intend to vote for Mitt Romney, who suspended his campaign earlier this month, and five percent intend to vote for Ron Paul. Eight percent of likely Republican primary voters intend to vote for another candidate, including Rudy Giuliani or Fred Thompson (both of whom dropped out of the race in January), and three percent are undecided as to how they will cast their vote March 4.

A variety of issues are influencing Republican primary voter decisions about the 2008 presidential race, including: the economy/jobs (30%), homeland security/national defense (16%), the war in Iraq/Iraq policy (9%), health care/health insurance (8%), abortion (7%) and taxes (6%).

**We ask users to properly attribute this copyrighted information to the "Ohio Poll," sponsored by the University of Cincinnati. The name, "Ohio Poll," is registered with the Ohio Secretary of State.*

Ohio Poll Methodology

These findings are based on the most recent Ohio Poll conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati from February 21 through February 24, 2008.

A random sample of 529 Democratic likely voters from throughout the state was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 4.3 percent.

A random sample of 312 Republican likely voters from throughout the state was interviewed by telephone. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to plus or minus 5.5 percent.

In addition to sampling error, there are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects that can introduce error or bias.

Results reported for subgroups have the potential for somewhat larger variation than those for the entire population.

Reported percentages may not total to 100% due to rounding.

Respondents to the Ohio Poll were asked:

- “I’m going to read the names of people who are on the Democratic primary ballot for president. Suppose the Democratic primary was being held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Dennis Kucinich and Barack Obama. Which would you vote for?”
- “I’m going to read the names of people who are on the Republican primary ballot for president. Suppose the Republican primary was being held today and the candidates were Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, John McCain, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney and Fred Thompson. Which would you vote for?”
- “Suppose the 2008 election for president was held today. If the presidential election were held today, what do you think would be the most important issue in deciding your vote for president?”

**Ohio Democratic Presidential Primary
(Likely Democratic Primary Voters)**

	<u>February 21-24</u>
Hillary Clinton	47%
Barack Obama	39
John Edwards	9
Other (Other/Kucinich)	2
Don't know	4
(N=)	(499)

**Most Important Issue in Deciding Fall 2008 Presidential Vote
(Likely Democratic Primary Voters Only)**

	<u>February 21-24</u>
Economy/jobs	41%
Health care/health insurance	25
War in Iraq/Iraq policy	16
Other (Issue mentioned by 1 percent or less)	15
Don't know	3
(N=)	(518)

**Ohio Republican Presidential Primary
(Likely Republican Primary Voters)**

	<u>February 21-24</u>
John McCain	55%
Mike Huckabee	20
Mitt Romney	9
Ron Paul	5
Other (Other/Giuliani/Thompson)	8
Don't know	3
(N=)	(305)

**Most Important Issue in Deciding Fall 2008 Presidential Vote
(Likely Republican Primary Voters Only)**

	<u>February 21-24</u>
Economy/jobs	30%
Homeland security/national defense	16
War in Iraq/Iraq policy	9
Health care/health insurance	8
Abortion	7
Taxes	6
Immigration	4
Terrorism/war on terror	2
Other (Issue mentioned by 1 percent or less)	13
Don't know	5
(N=)	(310)

Ohio Democratic Presidential Primary (Likely Democratic Primary Voters Only)

		Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Other	Don't Know
Likely Democratic Primary Voters		47%	9%	39%	2%	4%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	49%	2%	49%		
	30 to 45	42%	2%	49%	3%	4%
	46 to 64	45%	10%	41%	1%	3%
	65 and over	57%	13%	22%	2%	6%
Race	African-American*	22%		75%		3%
	White	51%	9%	34%	2%	4%
Sex	Male	42%	8%	45%	2%	3%
	Female	52%	9%	34%	1%	4%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	51%	8%	37%	1%	3%
	Northwest Ohio*	54%	7%	30%	6%	3%
	Central Ohio*	31%	8%	52%	2%	7%
	Southeast Ohio*	49%	19%	29%		3%
	Southwest Ohio	43%	8%	45%	1%	3%
Most Important Issue - 2008 Presidential Election	Economy/Jobs	46%	8%	41%	0%	4%
	Health Care/Health Insurance	53%	4%	40%	1%	3%
	War in Iraq/Iraq Policy	47%	10%	39%	2%	3%

Ohio Poll #112, February 2008
 Institute for Policy Research
 University of Cincinnati

*Note: Number of respondents is 75 or less. Additional caution should
 be taken when interpreting the findings of this subgroup
 because of the potential for larger variation.

Ohio Republican Presidential Primary (Likely Republican Primary Voters Only)

		Huckabee	McCain	Paul	Romney	Other	Don't Know
Likely Republican Primary Voters		20%	55%	5%	9%	8%	3%
Age of Respondent	18 to 29*	12%	44%	11%	26%	2%	4%
	30 to 45	23%	43%	7%	9%	10%	8%
	46 to 64	21%	60%	4%	7%	8%	
	65 and over*	16%	65%	2%	9%	5%	2%
Sex	Male	16%	60%	8%	7%	6%	3%
	Female	25%	49%	1%	12%	9%	3%
Geographical Region	Northeast Ohio	25%	52%	6%	8%	8%	1%
	Northwest Ohio*	21%	48%	5%	4%	10%	12%
	Central Ohio*	11%	64%	6%	17%	2%	
	Southeast Ohio*	21%	57%			13%	9%
	Southwest Ohio	20%	56%	4%	11%	8%	1%

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