



USAT/Gallup Poll: McCain jumps to lead; Clinton regains advantage

By: Mark Memmott and Jill Lawrence

Both winners in last week's New Hampshire primary now lead in the USA TODAY/Gallup national poll of the Republican and Democratic presidential nomination races.

Sen. John McCain has jumped ahead of the other Republican contenders.

In the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has regained her lead over Sen. Barack Obama. The two were tied a week ago.

The poll of voters from each party, taken over the weekend and released just a few minutes ago, shows:

Republicans

McCain: 33%, up from 19% a week ago.

Mike Huckabee: 19%, down from 25%.

Rudy Giuliani: 13%; down from 20%.

Mitt Romney: 11%; up from 9%.

Fred Thompson: 9%; down from 12%.

Rep. Ron Paul: 3%; down from 4%.

Rep. Duncan Hunter: 2%; up from 1%.

Alan Keyes: 1%; vs. 0.

Democrats

Clinton: 45%; up from 33%.

Obama: 33%, unchanged.

John Edwards: 13%; down from 20%.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich: 1%; down from 3%.

Mike Gravel: 1%; vs. 0.

There were 1,021 Democrats and "Democratic leaners" surveyed and 831 Republicans and "Republican leaners." The Democratic results each have a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points. The Republican results each have a margin of error of +/- 4 percentage points.

As always, the poll is a snapshot of current public opinion -- and that opinion can be swayed by events, such as last week's New Hampshire primary results and the outcomes of upcoming contests in Michigan (tomorrow), South Carolina (Republicans on Saturday and Democrats on Jan. 26), Nevada (Saturday), Florida (Jan. 29) and the 22 "Super Tuesday" states on Feb. 5.

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