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Reuters/Zogby National Poll: Huckabee Nearly Ties Giuliani

Clinton's lead over Obama continues to shrink as once undecided likely voters begin to make up their minds

Support for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee has surged to 22% in a national 2008 Republican preference poll, bringing him within one point of front-runner Rudy Giuliani, who enjoys slim 23% lead among likely Republican primary and caucus voters, the latest Reuters/Zogby telephone survey shows.

Huckabee's support stood at 11% in November, moving up from just 4% in October polling. Giuliani's support has fallen to 23% in this latest poll from the 29% support he enjoyed in November. Trailing behind Giuliani and Huckabee in third place is former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney at 16%, followed by former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson at 13%, Arizona Sen. John McCain at 12% and Ron Paul at 4%.

Republicans	Dec. 14	Nov. 17	Oct. 14	Sept. 16	July 14	May 20
Giuliani	23%	29%	28%	27%	21%	26%
Huckabee	22%	11%	4%	3%	5%	4%
Romney	16%	9%	14%	7%	11%	10%
Thompson	13%	15%	20%	24%	22%	10%
McCain	12%	9%	8%	13%	9%	13%
Paul	4%	5%	3%	2%	1%	<1%
Hunter	1%	1%	<1%	1%	1%	1%
Tancredo	1%	<1%	2%	1%	<1%	1%
Someone else	<1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	4%
Not sure	9%	21%	18%	20%	25%	26%

New York Democrat Hillary Clinton's lead over Illinois Sen. Barack Obama has slipped from 11 points in polling last month to 8 points in this latest survey. Clinton's support stands at 40%, up from 38% last month, while Obama's support is up to 32% from 27% last month.

Democrats	Dec. 14	Nov. 17	Oct. 14	Sept. 16	July 14	May 20
Clinton	40%	38%	46%	35%	37%	39%
Obama	32%	27%	25%	21%	25%	24%
Edwards	13%	13%	9%	10%	11%	11%
Richardson	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%
Kucinich	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Biden	3%	2%	2%	4%	1%	2%
Dodd	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Gravel	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Someone else	1%	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%
Not sure	4%	14%	12%	22%	18%	17%

Former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards is in third place among Democrats at 13% support, showing no change from polling last month. Joe Biden and Bill Richardson are tied at 3% support.

Voters on both sides of the political aisle are drawing conclusions in the nomination races, the poll shows. Undecided Republicans dropped from 21% in mid-November to just 9% in the latest Reuters/Zogby poll. Undecided Democrats comprised just 4% of the survey sample, down from 14% in the mid-November poll.

The telephone survey included 1,000 likely voters nationwide and was conducted Dec. 12-14, 2007. It carries a margin of error of +/- 3.2 percentage points, with Democratic and Republican primary sub-samples. The Republican primary sub-sample included 432 likely voters and carries a margin of error of +/- 4.8 percentage points. The Democratic sub-sample included 436 likely voters and carries a margin of error of +/- 4.8 percentage points.