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Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby New Hampshire Tracking Poll: GOP and Dem Deadlocks in the Granite State

But there is clearly movement under the surface

UTICA, New York – Republican Mitt Romney slipped barely ahead of rival John McCain in what still looks like a two-man race on the GOP side of the aisle. Among Democrats, Hillary Clinton is holding steady against Iowa Caucus winner Barack Obama heading into Tuesday’s New Hampshire primary election, the Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby tracking polls show.

Republican Iowa caucus winner Mike Huckabee is a distant third in New Hampshire, while Democrat John Edwards is holding steady within striking distance in these Granite State showdowns.

Pollster John Zogby: “Make no mistake about it, there is movement here. Only 50% of this sample is after the Iowa caucus results were known and there has been a 5-point swing on the Democratic side. Clinton started out leading 32% to 26% over Obama and now she is in a dead heat at 31% to 30%. Obama has won in that part of the sample taken since Iowa – and just this past one day alone Obama led by 8 points.

Democrats – NH Tracking	1-2/5	1-1/4	12-31/1-3
Clinton	31%	32%	32%
Obama	30%	28%	26%
Edwards	20%	20%	20%
Richardson	7%	7%	7%
Kucinich	3%	3%	3%
Biden	1%	2%	2%

Dodd	1%	1%	1%
Undecided	6%	7%	8%

“Democrats are drawing the lion’s share of the Independents (40% of the total vote) and I have two key observations to make:

- *Edwards still holds at 20% (including 21% since Iowa).*
- *Obama gets the lion’s share of leaners, with Edwards receiving a smaller share. Clinton is shut out among leaners.*

“On the Republican side, Romney leads by a hair. McCain’s problem is that there are fewer Independents choosing to vote thus far in the Republican primary (just one in four total) to help him match his impressive victory here over George W. Bush in 2000. McCain leads Romney among Independents 48% to 28%, while Romney scores well thus far with Republicans, 33% to 25%. McCain simply needs more Indies but that clearly seems to be Obama’s turf.

“Huckabee has climbed a little and will move up a little more. Paul does well in Buchanan country (in the North with 14%) but McCain’s iconoclasm and Huckabee’s gains so far seem to be squeezing Paul’s overall showing.”

Republicans – NH Tracking	1-2/5	1-1/4	12-31/1-3
McCain	31%	32%	34%
Romney	32%	30%	30%
Huckabee	12%	12%	10%
Giuliani	7%	9%	9%
Paul	6%	7%	7%
Thompson	3%	3%	2%
Hunter	1%	<1%	1%
Undecided	7%	7%	6%

This is the third of five three-day tracking news reports to be released in advance of the New Hampshire

primary on Jan. 8. As mentioned above, 50% of the sample in this report was gathered before the results of the Iowa caucuses became known, while the other 50% was completed after. This sample in this report was also taken completely before last night's Republican and Democratic debates in Manchester, and it was taken before word of Romney's victory in the Wyoming caucuses was reported nationally.

While those debates did not include candidates who had either recently dropped out or who have performed poorly, Zogby continues to include them in the New Hampshire tracking poll because their names will appear on the ballot there.

The GOP and Democratic three-day rolling tracking surveys were conducted using Zogby International's live operator call center in Upstate New York. The GOP rolling sample included 837 likely voters and carries a margin of error of ± 3.4 percentage points. The Democratic rolling sample included 844 likely voters and carries a margin of error of ± 3.4 percentage points. Both tracking survey samples were taken between Jan. 2-5, 2008.