



Released: **January 23, 2008**

Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby Poll: Obama Well Ahead in South Carolina

Clinton nearly 20 points back; Edwards lags further

UTICA, New York – Buoyed by a tide of African-American support, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama is almost 20 points ahead of New York Sen. Hillary Clinton in the days ahead of the South Carolina Democratic Party primary.

A Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby telephone poll taken Jan. 20-22 shows Obama holding 43% support from likely Democratic voters, compared to Clinton's 25% support. Former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards trails at 15%. The survey included 811 likely Democratic primary voters and has a margin for error of +/-3.4 percentage points.

African Americans, a group that made up slightly more than half of the sample, backed Obama by a margin of 65% to Clinton's 16%. Eighteen percent of black voters said they were undecided. Clinton did better among white voters, getting 33% support to 32% for Edwards. Obama lagged at just 18% among whites.

Democrats	1/20-22
Obama	43%
Clinton	25%
Edwards	15%
Kucinich	<1%
Gravel	<1%
Someone else	4%

Not sure	14%
----------	-----

Obama had a strong lead among men, winning 50% of their number, compared to 19% who backed Clinton. Obama also led among women, 37% to Clinton's 29%. Clinton has dominated among women in the past two contests - Nevada and New Hampshire - though Obama won among women in Iowa.

As he has in all other primaries and caucuses, Obama won the hearts – and support - of the youngest voting bloc: 18-29 year olds. About 43% of them said they would vote for Obama, while just 17% liked Clinton. Clinton barely managed to take her usual spot at the top of the heap for voters over 65, 31% to Obama's 29%.

Pollster John Zogby: *“Obama holds a 43% to 25% lead over Clinton, with Edwards at 15%. But that does not tell the whole story here.*

“Yesterday alone, Obama led with 39% with Clinton 22% and Edwards at 18%. One day does not make a trend, but the potential is there showing that Edwards may have scored some points in the Monday CNN debate and in his campaigning. Over the three days of polling, he is clearly splitting the white vote with Clinton.

“Like other states before, this race appears to be fluid. After the first night of polling, Obama led by some 20 points. The second night alone, Clinton was down by just 10. So, is there movement? Yes, back and forth.

“The question here in South Carolina is, if Obama wins South Carolina, will his win be big enough? If his lead is cut to single digits, given where this race has been in recent weeks, it stands to be a big victory for Clinton.

“Much has been made of the racial make-up of the South Carolina Democratic primary because it is split nearly 50-50 between whites and African-Americans. Among African-Americans, Obama holds a big 63% to 15% over Clinton, with 18% undecided. Edwards wins no support from African-Americans. Among whites, Clinton and Edwards are tied, with Obama well behind.

“Some questions remain unanswered: Is the Democratic Party headed toward a serious racial divide? Did Clinton cede South Carolina in favor of states who vote on February 5? Is there the potential for Edwards to catch up with Clinton in South Carolina, and thus keep his campaign alive?

“We continue to watch . . . ”