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## **Reuters/C-SPAN/Houston Chronicle Poll: Obama Builds Lead Over Clinton in Texas, But Dem Race Too Close To Call in Ohio**

### **Republican John McCain holds wide leads in Ohio and Texas in advance of Tuesday's primaries**

UTICA, New York – The political tidal wave that Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama has built with a long string of victories since February 5's Super Tuesday elections is washing over Texas, but he still trails rival Hillary Clinton in Ohio, a new Reuters/C-SPAN/Houston Chronicle poll shows.

Obama has built a six-point lead over Clinton in Texas, largely on the strength of support from what has come to be his base – younger voters and men. Evidence of his persuasive powers comes from the fact that most of those who have most recently decided for whom to support, while Clinton won more support from early deciders.

<b>Texas - Democrats</b>	
Clinton	<b>42%</b>
Obama	<b>48%</b>
Gravel	<b>&lt;1%</b>
Someone else	<b>3%</b>
Not sure	<b>7%</b>

In Ohio, Clinton holds a slim lead that has diminished steadily in past weeks. Her strength stems from the same demographic groups that carried her to victories earlier in the campaign, but the trend appears to favor Obama, as late deciders are more likely to support him over her, the survey shows, and 9% of Ohio Democrats say they have yet to make up their minds. Another five percent voiced favor for another candidate not now in the race. Some of those may have already voted, but some may have yet to do so.

<b>Ohio - Democrats</b>	
Clinton	<b>44%</b>
Obama	<b>42%</b>
Gravel	<b>1%</b>
Someone else	<b>5%</b>
Not sure	<b>9%</b>

Republicans appear to have begun the process of falling into line behind Arizona Sen. John McCain, as he has built monumental leads in both Ohio and Texas. In Texas, he leads 53% to 27% over Arkansas' Mike Huckabee, with firebrand Ron Paul pulling 11% in his home state. The Ohio GOP race is a blow-out, with McCain winning 62% to 19% over Huckabee.

<b>Texas - Republicans</b>	
McCain	<b>53%</b>
Huckabee	<b>27%</b>
Paul	<b>11%</b>
Someone else	<b>5%</b>
Not sure	<b>5%</b>
<b>Ohio - Republicans</b>	
McCain	<b>62%</b>
Huckabee	<b>19%</b>
Paul	<b>8%</b>
Someone else	<b>5%</b>
Not sure	<b>6%</b>

**Pollster John Zogby:** *“Ohio is very tight for the Democrats and is a throwback to the earlier Clinton-Obama races. Clinton leads among Democrats, women, voters over 50, and everywhere outside the three big cities. She also leads among Catholics, voters in union households, and moderates. Obama leads among voters under 50, especially those under 30, and among liberals.*

*“But the most telling numbers are those among early deciders vs. late deciders. Among those who made up their minds ‘more than a month ago’, Clinton leads 63% to 37%. Obama leads but margins as big among those who made up their minds less than a month ago, a week ago, and within the past few days. In the same vein, Clinton leads by 6 among those who have already voted.”*

*“In Texas, Obama has big leads among independents, men, voters under 65, African Americans, and voters who have decided within the last month. Clinton leads with Catholics and voters over 65.*

*“By most accounts, Clinton needs knockout blows in the March 4 states to catch up with Obama among pledged delegates. As of today, these are close races, a fact which appears to help Obama maintain his edge with delegates.”*

The Democratic Party surveys in Ohio included 708 likely voters, while the Texas survey of Democrats included 704 likely voters. Both surveys were conducted Feb. 26-28, 2008, and carry margins of error of +/- 3.8 percentage points.

The Republican survey in Ohio included 592 likely voters and carries a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points. In Texas, the GOP survey included 605 likely voters and carries a margin of error of +/- 4.1 percentage points. Both GOP surveys were conducted Feb. 26-28, 2008.

The surveys were all conducted using live English- and Spanish-speaking telephone operators working in Zogby's call center in Upstate New York.