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**For The People & The Press**

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**Favorable Ratings Are Mixed for Pelosi, Reid**  
**PUBLIC TO '08 CONTENDERS – IT'S TOO EARLY**

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**Favorable Ratings Are Mixed for Pelosi, Reid**  
**PUBLIC TO '08 CONTENDERS – IT'S TOO EARLY**

Politicians and political reporters are scrambling to book flights for New Hampshire and other presidential primary states, but the public is far from engaged in the jockeying for 2008. About a quarter of Americans (23%) say they have given a lot of thought to candidates who may be running for president, while another 36% say they have given some thought to the candidates.

Even most Americans who have given some thought to the 2008 candidates could not actually name one they have considered supporting. Nearly three-quarters (74%) could not name a Republican whom they have thought most about possibly voting for; when asked the same question about Democratic candidates, 61% did not name a candidate.

Among Democratic candidates, Sen. Hillary Clinton is named most frequently – at 19% – by those who have given at least some thought to the 2008 field. On the Republican side, 14% volunteered Sen. John McCain as the candidate they have thought most about possibly supporting.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted among 1,502 adults from Dec. 6-10, finds that more Democrats than Republicans or independents have given a lot of thought to possible candidates in 2008. Among Democrats, nearly a third (31%) have given a lot of thought to the candidates, compared with 21% each of Republicans and independents.

<b>2008 Frontrunner: None of the Above</b>	
<i>Thought about 2008 candidates...</i>	<u>Total</u> %
A lot	23
Some	36
Not much	20
Not at all	20
DK/Refused	<u>1</u>
	100
<b>Republican you've thought most about possibly voting for...*</b>	
<b>None/too early/DK</b>	<b>74</b>
John McCain	14
Rudy Giuliani	6
Mitt Romney	2
Condoleezza Rice	1
Newt Gingrich	1
Other	3
<b>Democrat you've thought most about possibly voting for...*</b>	
<b>None/too early/DK</b>	<b>61</b>
Hillary Clinton	19
Barack Obama	12
John Edwards	2
John Kerry	2
Al Gore	1
Other	5
* Based on those who have given a lot/some thought to 2008 candidates. Multiple responses accepted; numbers add to more than 100%	

Liberal Democrats are considerably more likely than others to say they have given a lot of thought to the 2008 election; 40% have thought about it a lot, compared with 27% of moderate and conservative Democrats, 26% of conservative Republicans, and just 12% of moderate or liberal Republicans.

More Democrats have thought about voting for Sen. Clinton than for any other Democratic candidate; 33% of Democrats who have given at least some thought to the 2008 field named Clinton as the candidate they have thought most about possibly voting for; 18% volunteered Sen. Barack Obama. The two candidates are tied at 13% among independents. However, fewer independents than partisans named any candidate – 67% could not name a Democrat and 70% could not name a Republican for whom they have considered voting in 2008.

Among Republicans, 17% of those who have given at least some thought to the 2008 candidates volunteered McCain as the person they have thought most about possibly voting for; 12% named Giuliani. In addition, 17% of independents who have given some thought to the '08 field also named McCain as their possible choice, more than any other GOP candidate.

***Bush Popularity Remains Low***

Favorable ratings for President Bush and Vice President Cheney remain largely unchanged over the past eight months. Only about four-in-ten Americans (41%) view the president favorably, while slightly fewer (38%) have a positive opinion of the vice president.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Robert Gates, recently confirmed as the new secretary of defense, are viewed favorably by about two-thirds (66% each) of those who can rate them. However, nearly half of Americans (48%) are not

**More Democrats Have Thought a Lot about '08 Candidates**

<i>Thought about candidates</i>	<u>Total</u> %	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %
A lot	23	21	31	21
Some	36	38	34	36
Not much	20	24	17	22
Not at all	20	17	17	21
Don't Know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	100	100	100	100

**Partisans Look Ahead to 2008**

<i>Thought about voting for...</i>	---Among---	
	<u>Dems</u> %	<u>Inds</u> %
Hillary Clinton	33	13
Barack Obama	18	13
John Edwards	4	1
John Kerry	3	2
Al Gore	1	2
Other	5	5
None/Too early/DK	41	67

  

<i>Thought about voting for...</i>	---Among---	
	<u>Reps</u> %	<u>Inds</u> %
John McCain	17	17
Rudy Giuliani	12	7
Mitt Romney	4	1
Condoleezza Rice	3	1
Newt Gingrich	3	1
Other	4	4
None/Too early/DK	60	70

Based on those who have given a lot/some thought to 2008 candidates. Multiple responses accepted; numbers add to more than 100%

familiar enough with Gates to give a rating.

Hillary Clinton and John McCain are both popular with the American public. Six-in-ten have a favorable view of Clinton, while nearly two-thirds (66%) express a positive opinion of McCain. McCain's popularity extends beyond his own party. The Republican has a favorable rating among six-in-ten Democrats, including a majority of liberal Democrats (56%), and among 65% of independents. Sen. Clinton is also popular with independents – nearly six-in-ten (58%) view her positively – but her favorability among Republicans stands at just 25%.

Six years after leaving office, former President Bill Clinton continues to have a positive image – nearly two-thirds (65%) have a favorable opinion of him. The former president is viewed positively by about nine-in-ten Democrats (91%) and 64% of independents. In May 2000, during his final year in office, just 75% of Democrats and 50% of independents expressed favorable opinions of Clinton. And while only about a third of Republicans (32%) express a favorable view of the former president, this is up significantly from almost seven years ago, when only about one-in-five (21%) had a positive opinion of then-President Clinton.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi receives a favorable rating from a majority (54%) of those who could rate her. The incoming speaker of the House is unfamiliar to about four-in-ten Americans (41%). Pelosi is slightly more popular than Newt Gingrich was in December 1994, when just under half of the public (47%) expressed a favorable view of him; 47% could not rate Gingrich at the time.

<b>Favorability Ratings</b>			
(Based on those who can rate)			
	Favor- <u>able</u>	Unfav- <u>orable</u>	<i>Can't</i> <u>rate</u>
	%	%	%
<b><i>Bush Administration</i></b>			
George W. Bush	41	59=100	4
April 2006	42	58=100	3
Oct 2005	48	52=100	3
Mar 2005	55	45=100	2
April 2003	75	25=100	3
Dick Cheney	38	62=100	10
April, 2006	40	60=100	9
October, 2005	48	52=100	11
March, 2005	53	47=100	9
April, 2003	69	31=100	13
Condoleezza Rice	66	34=100	13
April, 2006	69	31=100	14
October, 2005	70	30=100	15
March, 2005	68	32=100	15
Robert Gates	66	34=100	48
<b><i>Others</i></b>			
Bill Clinton	65	35=100	4
Hillary Clinton	60	40=100	5
John McCain	66	34=100	23
Nancy Pelosi	54	46=100	41
Harry Reid	46	54=100	63

<b>Bill Clinton's Favorability Remains High</b>				
<i>Percent favorable</i>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>	<u>Ind</u>
	%	%	%	%
Dec 2006	65	32	91	64
Oct 2005	64	36	91	63
Jan 2001	64	30	89	66
May 2000	51	21	75	50

Based on those who can rate.

Pelosi's standing among Democrats and Republicans is the mirror image of Gingrich's in 1994. More than seven-in-ten Democrats (73%) express a positive view of their party's leader; the same share of Republicans had a favorable view of Gingrich twelve years ago. Conversely, about a quarter of Republicans (26%) view Pelosi favorably, while Gingrich was popular among a similar proportion of Democrats (25%). Pelosi's advantage over Gingrich comes from slightly higher support among independents – a majority (52%) have a favorable view of the Democrat, while 44% had a favorable view of Gingrich in December of 1994.

<b>Views of the Speaker-Elect: Pelosi vs. Gingrich</b>		
	<i>Percent favorable</i>	
	<i>-Gingrich-</i>	<i>--Pelosi--</i>
	<u>Dec 1994</u>	<u>Dec 2006</u>
	%	%
Total	47	54
Republican	73	26
Democrat	25	73
Independent	44	52

Based on those who can rate.

## **ABOUT THIS SURVEY**

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, from December 6-10, 2006. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=750) and Form 2 (N=752) the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## **ABOUT THE CENTER**

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. We are sponsored by The Pew Charitable Trusts and are one of six projects that make up the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of our current survey results are made available free of charge.

All of the Center's research and reports are collaborative products based on the input and analysis of the entire Center staff consisting of:

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**DECEMBER 2006 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**December 6-10, 2006**  
**N=1,502**

**QUESTIONS 1, 5 AND 6 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**QUESTIONS 2 THROUGH 4 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

Q.7 How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2008? **[READ]**

23	A lot
36	Some
20	Not much
20	None at all
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

**ROTATE Q.8 AND Q.9**

**IF "A LOT" OR "SOME" (1,2 IN Q.7), ASK:**

Q.8 Which REPUBLICAN candidate, if any, have you thought the most about possibly voting for? **[OPEN END; DO NOT READ OPTIONS. USE PRECODES AS APPROPRIATE; ACCEPT UP TO THREE NAMES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE]**

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

8	McCain, John
4	Giuliani, Rudy
1	Romney, Mitt
1	Rice, Condoleezza
1	Gingrich, Newt
2	Other <b>[SPECIFY]</b>
33	None/too early
11	Don't know/Refused

Q.9 Which DEMOCRATIC candidate, if any, have you thought the most about possibly voting for? **[OPEN END; DO NOT READ OPTIONS. USE PRECODES AS APPROPRIATE; ACCEPT UP TO THREE NAMES BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR MORE THAN ONE]**

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

11	Clinton, Hillary
7	Obama, Barack
1	Edwards, John
1	Kerry, John
1	Gore, Al
3	Other <b>[SPECIFY]</b>
26	None/too early
11	Don't know/Refused

**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 Now I'd like your views on some people. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL)	(VOL)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never Heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a. George W. Bush	39	12	27	57	34	23	*	4=100
April, 2006	40	15	25	57	35	22	*	3=100
Late October, 2005	46	17	29	51	29	22	*	3=100
July, 2005	51	22	29	46	25	21	0	3=100
Late March, 2005	53	23	30	45	27	18	0	2=100
Mid-October, 2004 (RVs)	56	26	30	42	23	19	*	2=100
Early October, 2004 (RVs)	57	27	30	40	20	20	0	3=100
Early September, 2004	52	25	27	43	24	19	*	5=100
August, 2004	58	27	31	39	22	17	0	3=100
June, 2004	52	19	33	45	22	23	*	3=100
Early February, 2004	53	21	32	44	25	19	0	3=100
January 29-February 1, 2004	52	--	--	47	--	--	--	1=100
Gallup: January 2-5, 2004	65	--	--	35	--	--	--	*=100
Gallup: October 6-8, 2003	60	--	--	39	--	--	--	1=100
Gallup: June 9-10, 2003	66	--	--	33	--	--	--	1=100
April, 2003	72	37	35	25	11	14	0	3=100
January, 2003	70	28	42	28	10	18	0	2=100
December, 2002	68	35	33	27	11	16	0	5=100
July, 2001	61	22	39	35	14	21	*	4=100
January, 2001	60	24	36	33	12	21	0	7=100
May, 2000	58	18	40	31	12	19	1	10=100
March, 1999 <sup>1</sup>	61	21	40	21	7	14	4	14=100
November, 1997	54	13	41	18	6	12	9	19=100
b. Dick Cheney	35	10	25	55	28	27	2	8=100
April, 2006	36	11	25	55	29	26	3	6=100
Late October, 2005	43	12	31	46	22	24	2	9=100
Late March, 2005	48	15	33	42	20	22	2	8=100
Mid-October, 2004 (RVs)	48	17	31	46	25	21	*	6=100
Early October, 2004 (RVs)	48	14	34	41	20	21	*	11=100
Early September, 2004	43	13	30	42	23	19	2	13=100
August, 2004	47	13	34	41	20	21	2	10=100
April, 2003	60	21	39	27	12	15	3	10=100
December, 2002	59	20	39	26	10	16	5	10=100
July, 2001	58	19	39	26	6	20	6	10=100
January, 2001	62	20	42	18	5	13	2	18=100
December, 1994	42	10	32	19	5	14	21	18=100
March, 1991 <sup>2</sup>	68	33	35	6	2	4	10	16=100
May, 1990	20	3	17	11	3	8	44	25=100

1 In March 1999 and November 1997 the category was listed: "Texas Governor George W. Bush."

2 In March 1991 and May 1990 the category was listed: "Richard Cheney."



**Q.10 CONTINUED...**

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL)	(VOL)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never Heard of	Can't rate/Ref
c. Bill Clinton	63	29	34	33	16	17	1	3=100
April, 2006	61	27	34	36	18	18	0	3=100
Late October, 2005	62	26	36	34	18	16	*	4=100
Late March, 2005	64	24	40	32	13	19	0	4=100
December, 2002	46	17	29	49	27	22	*	5=100
July, 2001	50	20	30	46	27	19	0	4=100
January, 2001	64	23	41	34	17	17	0	2=100
May, 2000	48	17	31	47	28	19	*	5=100
March, 1999	55	21	34	42	23	19	*	3=100
December, 1998	55	23	32	43	24	19	0	2=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	15	37	44	24	20	0	4=100
Early September, 1998	57	18	39	41	23	18	0	2=100
Late August, 1998	54	18	36	44	24	20	0	2=100
March, 1998	62	22	40	35	16	19	*	3=100
November, 1997	63	19	44	35	14	21	0	2=100
October, 1997	62	15	47	36	16	20	*	2=100
September, 1997	62	18	44	35	14	21	0	3=100
August, 1997	61	16	45	38	17	21	0	1=100
April, 1997	61	17	44	37	16	21	*	2=100
January, 1997	66	17	49	32	14	18	*	2=100
October, 1996 (RVs)	57	12	45	41	19	22	0	2=100
June, 1996	61	16	45	37	14	23	*	2=100
April, 1996	57	16	41	40	16	24	0	3=100
February, 1996	55	20	35	43	21	22	0	2=100
January, 1996	56	13	43	42	15	27	0	2=100
August, 1995	49	13	36	49	20	29	0	2=100
February, 1995	55	14	41	42	17	25	0	3=100
December, 1994	51	17	34	46	22	24	0	3=100
July, 1994	58	15	43	41	16	25	*	1=100
May, 1993	60	18	42	35	12	23	0	5=100
July, 1992	59	17	42	34	9	25	0	7=100
June, 1992	46	10	36	47	14	33	1	6=100
May, 1992	53	11	42	42	10	32	*	5=100
March, 1992	53	10	43	40	11	29	1	6=100
February, 1992	59	15	44	31	7	24	2	8=100
January, 1992	37	9	28	15	4	11	27	21=100
November, 1991	30	5	25	10	2	8	39	21=100
d. Condoleezza Rice	57	19	38	30	13	17	6	7=100
April, 2006	59	26	33	27	10	17	6	8=100
Late October, 2005	60	23	37	25	9	16	6	9=100
Late March, 2005	57	22	35	28	11	17	5	10=100
e. Nancy Pelosi	32	9	23	27	13	14	26	15=100
December, 1994 <sup>3</sup> <i>Gingrich</i>	25	7	18	28	15	13	30	17=100

**Q.10 CONTINUED...**

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL) Never	(VOL) Can't
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Heard of</u>	<u>rate/Ref</u>
f.	Harry Reid	17	3	14	20	7	13	45	18=100
g.	John McCain	51	13	38	26	6	20	10	13=100
	April, 2006	54	14	40	26	7	19	8	12=100
	Late October, 2005	56	15	41	19	5	14	10	15=100
	Late March, 2005	59	15	44	17	4	13	8	16=100
	July, 2001	51	14	37	22	5	17	13	14=100
	January, 2001	59	18	41	15	3	12	9	17=100
	May, 2000	54	14	40	20	5	15	11	15=100
h.	Hillary Clinton	56	22	34	39	21	18	*	5=100
	April, 2006	54	20	34	42	21	21	1	3=100
	Late October, 2005	56	20	36	38	19	19	1	5=100
	Late March, 2005	57	22	35	36	17	19	*	7=100
	December 2002	47	15	32	44	23	21	1	8=100
	July, 2001	53	20	33	42	23	19	1	4=100
	January, 2001	60	25	35	35	16	19	*	5=100
	May, 2000	49	15	34	42	22	20	1	8=100
	Early December, 1998	66	32	34	31	15	16	*	3=100
	Early October, 1998 (RVs)	58	24	34	36	18	18	*	6=100
	Early September, 1998	64	24	40	31	13	18	0	5=100
	Late August, 1998	63	25	38	34	13	21	*	3=100
	March, 1998	65	26	39	31	14	17	*	4=100
	January, 1997	57	17	40	40	17	23	*	3=100
	June, 1996	53	13	40	43	17	26	*	4=100
	April, 1996	49	12	37	46	19	27	0	5=100
	February, 1996	42	14	28	54	27	27	0	4=100
	January, 1996	42	10	32	54	26	28	0	4=100
	October, 1995	58	14	44	38	14	24	--	4=100
	August, 1995	49	16	33	47	22	25	*	4=100
	December, 1994	50	17	33	45	20	25	1	4=100
	July, 1994	57	19	38	40	18	22	1	2=100
	May, 1993	60	19	41	29	11	18	1	10=100
i.	Robert Gates	34	7	27	18	12	6	24	24=100