

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**SEPTEMBER 2007 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**TOPLINE FOR RELEASE**  
**September 12-16, 2007**  
**N=1501**

**QUESTIONS 1 AND 3 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**QUESTIONS 2 AND 4-6 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

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

		July <u>2007</u>	June <u>2007</u>	April <u>2007</u>	March <u>2007</u>	Feb <u>2007</u>	Dec <u>2006</u>
27	A lot	30	29	26	24	24	23
33	Some	38	34	34	36	34	36
21	Not much	16	20	21	20	22	20
17	None at all	15	16	17	18	18	20
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL. - DO NOT READ</b> )	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**NO QUESTIONS 8-9**

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

**IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

		(VOL.)			(VOL.)			<i>Lean</i>	<i>Lean</i>
		Republican	Democrat	Independent	No Preference	Other Party	DK/Ref	<i>Rep</i>	<i>Dem</i>
September, 2007	27	32	32	32	6	*	3=100	8	16
August, 2007	26	32	32	32	5	1	4=100	10	16
July, 2007	27	32	34	34	4	*	3=100	11	17
June, 2007	25	34	32	32	6	*	3=100	10	17
April, 2007	25	28	40	40	5	*	2=100	13	17
March, 2007	25	36	33	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
February, 2007	25	34	34	34	4	*	3=100	10	18
Mid-January, 2007	24	35	34	34	3	*	4=100	12	18
Early-January, 2007	23	31	39	39	4	*	3=100	12	18
December, 2006	25	35	32	32	5	*	3=100	11	17
Mid-November, 2006	25	36	32	32	4	*	3=100	9	18
Late October, 2006	26	32	33	33	5	1	3=100	10	16
Early October, 2006	27	34	33	33	3	*	3=100	12	15
Early September, 2006	30	34	30	30	3	*	3=100	10	14
August, 2006	30	33	30	30	4	*	3=100	12	14
July, 2006	29	33	31	31	4	1	2=100	11	14
June, 2006	29	34	31	31	4	*	2=100	11	16
April, 2006	29	32	30	30	5	*	4=100	10	14
Early April, 2006	29	32	33	33	3	*	3=100	12	16
March, 2006	28	34	30	30	4	*	4=100	11	15
February, 2006	30	33	31	31	3	*	3=100	11	16
January, 2006	28	32	32	32	5	*	3=100	10	15

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

				(VOL.) No	(VOL.) Other	DK/ Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Preference</u>	<u>Party</u>			
<i>Yearly Totals</i>								
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9=100	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8=100	10.2	14.9
2004	29.5	33.1	30.0	4.0	.4	3.0=100	11.8	13.6
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5=100	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7=100	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7=100	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6=100	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1=100	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0=100	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9=100	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4=100	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3=100	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2=100			12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4=100			14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6=100			14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8=100			11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9=100			13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5=100			14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8=100			12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34=100					
1987	26	35	39=100					

**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 If there is a primary election or caucus in your state early next year, how likely is it that you will vote in the Republican or Democratic primary for President? **[READ IN ORDER]**

		Feb <sup>1</sup>
		<u>2000</u>
56	Very likely	60
19	Somewhat likely	18
6	Not too likely	7
13	Not at all likely	11
1	No primary (VOL.)	1
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3
100		

1 In February 2000, the question read, "If there is a primary election in your state this year, how likely is it that you will vote in either the Republican or Democratic primary for president?"

**IF PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2,9 ASK Q.11 BEFORE Q.12**

**IF PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1 ASK Q.12 BEFORE Q.11**

**ASK OF DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=2 OR PARTY=3) ONLY:**

Q.11 Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the Democratic presidential nomination? AS A GROUP, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, fair candidates or poor candidates?

**BASED ON DEMOCRATS [N=470]:**

		Feb <u>2004</u>	Jan <u>2004</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>	Feb <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1991</u>	Jan <u>1988</u>
15	Excellent	10	9	6	6	3	5
49	Good	51	38	38	39	25	33
27	Fair	32	40	37	44	38	44
3	Poor	3	4	5	5	9	11
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>7</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**BASED ON INDEPENDENTS [N=484]:**

		Feb <u>2004</u>	Jan <u>2004</u>	Sept <u>2003</u>	Feb <u>1992</u>	Oct <u>1991</u>	Jan <u>1988</u>
4	Excellent	3	*	1	3	1	2
33	Good	41	27	26	30	16	27
39	Fair	40	44	42	53	40	44
15	Poor	10	15	16	10	15	15
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK OF REPUBLICANS AND INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=1 OR PARTY=3) ONLY:**

Q.12 Overall, what's your impression of the candidates running for the Republican presidential nomination? As a group, would you say they are excellent candidates, good candidates, fair candidates or poor candidates?

**BASED ON REPUBLICANS [N=418]:**

		Oct <u>1995</u>	Jan <u>1988</u>
9	Excellent	6	8
40	Good	46	53
35	Fair	38	32
7	Poor	5	3
<u>9</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100

**BASED ON INDEPENDENTS [N=484]:**

		Oct <u>1995</u>	Jan <u>1988</u>
1	Excellent	2	2
20	Good	25	32
50	Fair	53	44
19	Poor	17	10
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>
100		100	100

**ASK OF DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2)**

**ONLY:**

Q.13 I'm going to read you the names of some DEMOCRATIC presidential candidates. Who would you most like to see nominated as the Democratic Party's candidate for president in 2008? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE. ACCEPT VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE IF OFFERED BEFORE FULL LIST IS READ. IF 98 'DON'T KNOW' PROBE ONCE: Is there anyone you are leaning toward as of today?]**

**BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=568]:**

					<i>WITHOUT GORE ^</i>		
		July	Apr	Mar	July	Apr	Mar
		<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>
42	Hillary Clinton	40	34	35	44	39	39
25	Barack Obama	21	24	26	24	27	28
14	John Edwards	11	18	16	13	21	19
3	Bill Richardson	2	1	1	3	2	2
2	Dennis Kucinich	2	1	*	2	1	*
2	Joe Biden	2	1	1	3	1	2
1	Chris Dodd	1	*	*	1	*	*
n/a	Al Gore ^	12	14	12	--	--	--
1	Other (VOL.) [SPECIFY]	1	*	0	1	*	*
2	None of them (VOL.)	2	5	3	3	5	4
8	Don't know/Haven't thought about it (VOL.)	6	2	5	6	3	5
*	Refused (VOL.)	<u>0</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	0	1	1
<u>100</u>		100	100	100	100	100	100

^ Al Gore not included on list beginning in September. Trends recalculated by substituting in Gore supporters' second choice.

**IF ANSWERED (1-96 IN Q.13) ASK:**

Q.14 And who would be your SECOND choice? **[READ REMAINING NAMES IF NECESSARY]**

**BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=568]:**

<u>1<sup>st</sup></u> <u>choice</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u> <u>choice</u>	<u>Com-</u> <u>bined</u>	
42	24	66	Hillary Clinton
25	28	53	Barack Obama
14	17	31	John Edwards
3	3	6	Bill Richardson
2	2	4	Dennis Kucinich
2	3	5	Joe Biden
1	1	2	Chris Dodd
1	1		Other (VOL.) [SPECIFY]
2	5		None of them (VOL.)
8	6		Don't know/Haven't thought about it (VOL.)
*	0		Refused (VOL.)
<u>n/a</u>	<u>10</u>		<i>No first choice</i>
100	100		

**ASK OF REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) ONLY :**

Q.15 I'm going to read you the names of some REPUBLICAN presidential candidates. Who would you most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate for president in 2008? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE. ACCEPT VOLUNTEERED RESPONSE IF OFFERED BEFORE FULL LIST IS READ. IF 98 'DON'T KNOW' PROBE ONCE: Is there anyone you are leaning toward as of today?]**

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=467]:**

		<u>July</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>Mar</u>
32	Rudy Giuliani	27	32	33
21	Fred Thompson	18	10	n/a
15	John McCain	16	23	22
9	Mitt Romney	10	8	8
6	Newt Gingrich	8	9	7
4	Mike Huckabee	1	3	2
2	Sam Brownback	1	*	2
1	Ron Paul	2	n/a	n/a
1	Tom Tancredo	1	n/a	n/a
n/a	Tommy Thompson	1	2	3
n/a	Jim Gilmore	n/a	*	3
n/a	Duncan Hunter	n/a	1	1
1	Other (VOL. DO NOT READ)	1	1	2
2	None of them (VOL. DO NOT READ)	3	3	5
6	Don't know/Haven't thought about it (VOL.)	11	8	12
*	Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)	*	*	*
<u>100</u>		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

**IF ANSWERED (1-96 IN Q.10) ASK:**

Q.16 And who would be your SECOND choice? **[READ REMAINING NAMES IF NECESSARY]**

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=467]:**

<u>1<sup>st</sup></u> <u>choice</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u> <u>choice</u>	<u>Com-</u> <u>bined</u>	
32	22	54	Rudy Giuliani
21	15	36	Fred Thompson
15	15	30	John McCain
9	12	21	Mitt Romney
6	6	12	Newt Gingrich
4	4	8	Mike Huckabee
2	1	3	Sam Brownback
1	1	2	Ron Paul
1	*	1	Tom Tancredo
1	1		Other (VOL.)
2	7		None of them (VOL.)
6	8		Don't know/Haven't thought about it (VOL.)
*	*		Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)
<u>n/a</u>	<u>8</u>		<i>No first choice</i>
<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>		

**ASK OF DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2) ONLY:**

Q.17 Now I have a different kind of question...as I say some words or phrases, tell me whether **[READ CANDIDATE FIRST AND LAST NAMES IN RANDOM ORDER]** comes to mind. (For example,) who comes to mind when I say **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, **[PROMPT REGULARLY WITH CANDIDATE LAST NAMES IN SAME ORDER AS ABOVE]**

**BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=568]:**

		Hillary <u>Clinton</u>	Barack <u>Obama</u>	John <u>Edwards</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>All/ Multiple</u>	(VOL.) <u>None</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
a.	Energetic	33	40	12	*	7	2	6=100
b.	Honest	24	32	19	1	6	9	9=100
c.	Friendly	22	31	28	*	11	2	6=100
d.	Smart	52	23	8	*	13	1	3=100
e.	Compassionate	33	25	24	*	5	3	10=100
f.	Tough	67	14	7	*	2	2	8=100
g.	Down-to-earth	28	30	27	1	4	3	7=100
h.	Optimistic	24	41	19	*	5	2	9=100
i.	Even-tempered	25	32	26	*	5	2	10=100

**ASK OF DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2) ONLY:**

Q.18 And which candidate do you think has the best chance of winning the general election against a Republican next November? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]:**

**BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=568]:**

53	Hillary Clinton
20	Barack Obama
16	John Edwards
*	Other (VOL.)
3	All/Multiple (VOL.)
*	None (VOL.)
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK OF REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) ONLY:**

Q.19 Now I have a different kind of question...as I say some words or phrases, tell me whether **[READ CANDIDATE FIRST AND LAST NAMES IN RANDOM ORDER]** comes to mind. (For example,) who comes to mind when I say **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, **[PROMPT REGULARLY WITH CANDIDATE LAST NAMES IN SAME ORDER AS ABOVE]**

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=467]:**

		Rudy Giuliani	Fred Thompson	Mitt Romney	John McCain	(VOL.) Other	(VOL.) All/Multiple	(VOL.) None	DK/Ref.
a.	Energetic	48	8	14	11	1	3	2	13=100
b.	Honest	22	16	12	21	1	5	12	11=100
c.	Friendly	36	20	11	12	1	6	2	12=100
d.	Smart	29	17	12	17	2	10	2	11=100
e.	Compassionate	37	10	11	18	1	2	5	16=100
f.	Tough	39	18	2	26	2	2	1	10=100
g.	Down-to-earth	27	28	8	19	1	3	4	10=100
h.	Optimistic	37	17	13	12	*	5	3	13=100
i.	Even-tempered	19	26	13	17	1	2	3	19=100

**ASK OF REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) ONLY:**

Q.20 And which candidate do you think has the best chance of winning the general election against a Democrat next November? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]:**

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN-LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=467]:**

49	Rudy Giuliani
19	Fred Thompson
4	Mitt Romney
12	John McCain
2	Other (VOL.)
2	All/Multiple (VOL.)
2	None (VOL.)
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK OF DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING INDEPENDENTS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2)  
ONLY:**

Q.21 If Al Gore said he was supporting a presidential candidate would you be more likely to vote for that candidate, less likely to vote for that candidate or wouldn't it make any difference?

**BASED ON DEMOCRATIC AND DEMOCRATIC LEANING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=568]:**

		Early Jan <u>2004</u> <sup>2</sup>
21	More likely to vote	22
7	Less likely to vote	10
69	Wouldn't make a difference	65
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )	<u>3</u>
100		100

**QUESTIONS 22 AND 47-72 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED  
NO QUESTIONS 23 OR 43-46  
QUESTIONS 24-42 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

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2 In January 2004, the question was part of a list asking about various people who might support candidates. The question was asked of a half sample of all respondents, including 354 Democrats and Democratic leaners, for whom results are shown.