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School of Public Health

Toplines

Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

Survey of Likely Voters in Early Primary States

January 2008

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Survey of Likely Voters in Early Primary States* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The study's findings are featured in an article published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* on January 24, 2008. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Drew E. Altman, Ph.D., Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., and Claudia Deane, M.A. from the Kaiser Family Foundation; and Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., John Benson, M.A., and Tami Buhr, A.M. of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Fieldwork was done by telephone from November 1 – 11, 2007 in 35 states and the District of Columbia, chosen because each was holding a primary or caucus -- Republican, Democratic or both -- before the end of February 2008. The states included: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Fieldwork was done by ICR/International Communications Research. Other states who moved their primary or caucus forward after the beginning of the field period (11/1/07) were not included.

Overall, the survey included 1,486 respondents age 18 and older who reported that they were registered to vote and considered it likely that they would participate in their state's primary or caucus (for specific screening questions, please see questionnaire). Of those, a total of 674 were likely Democratic primary/caucus voters and a total of 508 were likely Republican primary/caucus voters (304 people were uncertain which party's primary/caucus they were going to attend, if any, and are not included in the results presented in the following pages). The incidence of these groups as a portion of the general population of the early primary state population is as follows:

Primary/caucus voters as share of total early primary states population

100%	Total early primary states population
72	Registered voters
56	Likely voters
25	Intend to vote in Democratic primary/caucus
19	Intend to vote in Republican primary/caucus
12	Neither/Other/Undecided
15	Not likely voters
27	Not Registered to vote
1	Don't know/Refused

The margin of sampling error for likely Democratic primary/caucus voters is plus or minus four percentage points, and plus or minus five percentage points for likely Republican primary/caucus voters. For results based on smaller subsets of respondents the margin of sampling error is somewhat higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (*). "Vol." indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

1. Some people are registered to vote and others are not. Are you currently registered to vote at your present address, or not?

Based on total respondents

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
100	100	Yes, registered to vote
--	--	No, not registered to vote
--	--	Don't know
--	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

2. As you may know, many states are holding presidential primaries or caucuses in January and February to select each party's nominee for president. I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in your state's upcoming presidential primary or caucus. Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

Based on registered voters

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
83	78	Absolutely certain to vote
17	22	Will probably vote
--	--	Chances are 50-50 I will vote
--	--	Less than that
--	--	(VOL.) Won't vote
--	--	Don't know
--	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(ROTATE CHOICES IN PARENS)

3. If you do vote, will you vote in the (Democratic) primary or caucus, OR the (Republican) primary or caucus?

Based on likely state/primary caucus voters

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
100	--	Will vote in the Democratic primary or caucus
--	100	Will vote in the Republican primary or caucus
--	--	(VOL.) Neither/Other
--	--	Don't know
--	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

Primary/caucus voters as share of total population

100	Total population
72	Registered voters
56	Likely voters
25	Intend to vote in Democratic primary/caucus
19	Intend to vote in Republican primary/caucus
12	Neither/Other/Undecided
15	Not likely voters
27	Not Registered to vote
1	Don't know/Refused

(ROTATE CHOICES IN PARENS)

4. Overall, which of the following will be MOST important when you decide who to vote for? Will it be (the candidates' stands on the issues) or (your perception of the candidates' leadership abilities, character, values, and experience)?

Based on likely state/primary caucus voters

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
51	50	The candidates' stands on the issues
42	45	Perceptions of the candidates
6	5	Don't know
1	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

5. There are many issues facing the candidates in the election for president. In your opinion, which one issue is the most important to your vote in the presidential primary or caucus? (Open-ended)
- 5a. Which issue is the next most important?

Based on likely state/primary caucus voters (Total mentions)

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
45	33	Iraq/War in Iraq
32	14	Healthcare
5	1	<i>Healthcare Costs</i>
5	1	<i>Healthcare costs (general)</i>
--	--	<i>Prescription drug costs (not Medicare/elderly)</i>
2	2	<i>Medicare</i>
*	--	<i>Medicare prescription drug benefit</i>
1	2	<i>Other Medicare mentions</i>
9	3	<i>The uninsured/access to health care/universal coverage</i>
13	7	<i>Healthcare (general)</i>
3	1	<i>Children's healthcare</i>
--	--	<i>Other healthcare mentions</i>
21	19	Economic Issues
4	3	<i>Jobs</i>
2	1	<i>More jobs/unemployment</i>
*	*	<i>Better job/better wages/increase minimum wage</i>
1	1	<i>Jobs going overseas</i>
*	*	<i>Other job mentions</i>
2	*	<i>Poverty/homelessness</i>
16	16	<i>Economy (general)</i>
6	4	Foreign affairs/Not Iraq
*	*	<i>Iran</i>
1	*	<i>Middle East</i>
5	3	<i>Foreign affairs/relations (general)</i>
*	--	<i>Other foreign affairs mentions</i>
6	4	Education/schools
5	7	Frustrations with Government/Corruption
2	4	<i>Government ethics/scandals/corruption</i>
--	--	<i>Partisan politics/party bickering</i>
4	3	<i>Campaigns/elections</i>
--	*	<i>Other frustration with government mentions</i>
4	16	Immigration/illegal immigration
4	14	Terrorism/National Security
1	6	<i>Terrorism/war on terror</i>
3	8	<i>National security</i>
--	1	<i>Other terrorism/national security mentions</i>
4	10	Taxes
4	6	Budget deficit/national debt
4	1	Environmental issues/pollution/global warming
3	10	Morality Issues
2	6	<i>Abortion</i>
*	*	<i>Stem cells</i>
*	1	<i>Same sex marriage/gay marriage</i>
*	3	<i>Moral issues (general)</i>
*	*	<i>Other mentions moral issues/values</i>
3	4	Gas prices/Energy
2	2	<i>Gas prices</i>
1	2	<i>Energy Issues</i>

(continued on next page)

3	2	Social Security
2	*	Seniors/retirement issues (not Medicare)
2	2	Local/Domestic issues
1	1	Crime/Violence
1	4	Constitutional rights/freedoms
8	6	Other
3	4	No issue is most important
9	9	Don't know
*	*	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(ROTATE SCRAMBLED CODES 1-4)

6. Now thinking specifically about healthcare and the upcoming presidential primaries and caucuses, which ONE of the following health care issues will be most important to you in deciding who to vote for?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
35	42	Reducing the costs of health care and health insurance
38	19	Expanding health insurance coverage for the uninsured
16	22	Improving the quality of care and reducing medical errors
5	12	Reducing spending on government health programs like Medicare and Medicaid
2	1	Other issue
1	3	None of these
2	1	Don't know
*	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(SCRAMBLE CANDIDATES, 01-08)

7a. If you had to choose, which 2008 presidential candidate do you think would do the best job on health care issues as president?

Based on one half of total who will vote in the Republican primary or caucus (N = 255)

**Likely Republican
primary caucus**

voters

21	Rudy Giuliani
8	Mike Huckabee
1	Duncan Hunter
10	John McCain
8	Ron Paul
17	Mitt Romney
1	Tom Tancredo
9	Fred Thompson
5	Some other candidate
1	None of these
19	Don't know
*	Refused

(SCRAMBLE CANDIDATES, 01-08)

7b. If you had to choose, which 2008 presidential candidate do you think would do the best job on health care issues as president?

Based on one half of total who will vote in the Democratic primary or caucus (N = 337)

**Likely Democratic
primary caucus**

voters

3	Joe Biden
52	Hillary Clinton
*	Chris Dodd
8	John Edwards
1	Mike Gravel
2	Dennis Kucinich
14	Barack Obama
2	Bill Richardson
3	Some other candidate
1	None of these
13	Don't know
1	Refused

(SCRAMBLE ITEMS)

8a. Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, how much confidence do you have in the ability of (INSERT FIRST ITEM) to make the right decisions about health care, A lot, Some, Not much, or None at all?

How about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: RE-READ THE ENTIRE QUESTION AFTER EVERY THIRD ITEM)

Based on one half of total who will vote in the Republican primary or caucus (N = 253)

	A lot	Some	Not much	None at all	Don't know	Refused
a. Rudy Giuliani	23	43	11	12	11	--
b. Mike Huckabee	10	21	18	14	37	--
c. Duncan Hunter	1	9	16	19	54	*
d. John McCain	21	40	16	12	11	*
e. Ron Paul	5	15	15	23	42	*
f. Mitt Romney	20	36	15	12	17	*
g. Tom Tancredo	3	10	13	19	54	1
h. Fred Thompson	18	32	12	9	29	*

(SCRAMBLE ITEMS)

8b. Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, how much confidence do you have in the ability of (INSERT FIRST ITEM) to make the right decisions about health care, A lot, Some, Not much, or None at all?

How about (INSERT NEXT ITEM)?

(INTERVIEWER NOTE: RE-READ THE ENTIRE QUESTION AFTER EVERY THIRD ITEM)

Based on one half of total who will vote in the Democratic primary or caucus (N = 337)

	A lot	Some	Not much	None at all	Don't know	Refused
a. Joe Biden	11	29	16	15	29	1
b. Hillary Clinton	53	31	6	8	2	1
c. Chris Dodd	6	25	19	18	31	1
d. John Edwards	26	44	8	10	11	*
e. Mike Gravel	2	13	18	15	51	1
f. Dennis Kucinich	10	21	17	16	35	1
g. Barack Obama	29	42	11	10	8	*
h. Bill Richardson	9	26	19	17	29	1

9. Which ONE of the following three things would you like to see in a health care reform proposal from a presidential candidate? Would you want your candidate to propose...
 READ IF NECESSARY: Which would you want your presidential candidate to propose – a major plan OR a more limited plan OR to keep things as they are?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
65	23	A new health plan that would make a major effort to provide health insurance for all or nearly all of the uninsured BUT would involve a substantial increase in spending
22	42	A new health plan that is more limited and would cover only some of the uninsured BUT would involve less new spending
8	27	Keeping things basically as they are
4	7	Don't know
*	1	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(ROTATE 1-3, 3-1)

10. Thinking about how the issue of health care might affect your vote for president, would you ...?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
15	9	ONLY vote for a candidate who shares your views on health care
74	68	Consider a candidate's position on health care as just one of many important factors
8	21	Not see health care as a major issue in your vote
2	2	Don't know
*	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(ROTATE Q11 AND Q12)

(ROTATE 1-3, 3-1 IN SAME ORDER AS Q.10)

11. How about the issue of abortion, would you...?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
26	29	ONLY vote for a candidate who shares your views on abortion
43	44	Consider a candidate's position on abortion as just one of many important factors
28	25	Not see abortion as a major issue in your vote
2	2	Don't know
1	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(ROTATE Q11 AND Q12)

(ROTATE 1-3, 3-1 IN SAME ORDER AS Q.10)

12. How about the issue of federal funding of stem cell research, would you...?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
19	18	ONLY vote for a candidate who shares your views on stem cells
56	51	Consider a candidate's position on stem cells as just one of many important factors
21	29	Not see stem cells as a major issue in your vote
3	3	Don't know
1	*	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(ROTATE Q13 AND Q14)

(ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1)

13. Do you think abortion should be (legal in all cases), (legal in most cases,) (illegal in most cases), (or illegal in all cases)?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
30	9	Legal in all cases
40	27	Legal in most cases
17	42	Illegal in most cases
8	17	Illegal in all cases
4	4	Don't know
1	2	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(ROTATE Q13 AND Q14)

14. Do you support or oppose loosening the current restrictions on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
70	43	Support
19	42	Oppose
11	14	Don't know
1	1	Refused
N=674	N=508	

Demographics

(ROTATE ITEMS IN PARENS)

15. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as: (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

INTERVIEWER IF REFUSED READ: We understand and respect that this information is private, we ask only for research purposes, and all your answers are confidential.

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
75	2	Democrat
3	71	Republican
20	23	Independent
1	3	Something else
1	*	None/no specific party
*	1	Don't know
*	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

(ROTATE SCALE 1-3/ 3-1)

16. Would you say your views on most political matters are liberal, moderate or conservative...?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
32	5	Liberal
47	34	Moderate
17	59	Conservative
1	1	Don't think in those terms
2	2	Don't know
1	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

17. Are you, yourself, now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan? This would include any private insurance plan through your employer or that you purchase yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
91	94	Yes
9	6	No
--	--	Don't know
--	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

18. In general, would you say your health is excellent, very good, good, fair, or poor?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
23	24	Excellent
29	38	Very good
29	24	Good
15	10	Fair
4	4	Poor
--	1	Don't know
--	--	Refused
N=674	N=508	

19. What is your religious preference? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, some other religion, or no religion?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
29	47	Protestant
22	25	Roman Catholic
4	1	Jewish
28	20	Some other religion
15	6	No religion
1	*	Don't know
1	*	Refused
N=674	N=508	

20. (If said "some other religion", ask:)Do you consider yourself a Christian or not?

21. Do you consider yourself a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not?

Based on total likely state/primary caucus voters who are Christian

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
42	43	Yes
55	53	No
2	2	Don't know
1	1	Refused
N=495	N=452	

19/20/21. Combo Table based on total likely state/primary caucus voters

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
73	89	Christian
30	39	Evangelical
40	48	Not Evangelical
4	1	Jewish
6	3	Some other religion
15	6	No religion
1	*	Don't know
1	*	Refused
N=674	N=508	

22/22a. What is your age?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
12	11	18-29
38	45	30-49
30	25	50-64
20	19	65+
*	*	Refused
N=674	N=508	

23. What is the last grade of school you completed?

24. Was that an associate's degree, a bachelor's degree, or what?

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
2	*	8 th grade or less
4	5	Some high school
28	30	Graduated high school
31	31	Some college
16	21	College graduate
19	13	Post graduate training
*	--	Don't know
*	*	Refused
N=674	N=508	

- 25. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?
- 26. Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?
- 27. Are you white, black, or some other race?

Race Summary Table

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
64	90	White (non-Hispanic)
19	1	Black (non-Hispanic)
6	3	Asian (non-Hispanic)
1	*	Native American Indian (non-Hispanic)
7	4	Hispanic
5	3	White Hispanic
1	*	Black Hispanic
1	1	Hispanic unspecified
2	*	Some other race
--	--	Don't know
1	1	Refused
N=674	N=508	

- 28. Last year, that is in 2006, what was your total family income from all sources, BEFORE taxes? Just stop me when I get to the right category. (READ LIST)

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
39	32	Less than \$50K
12	6	Less than \$20K
9	6	\$20K but less than \$30K
9	10	\$30K but less than \$40K
9	10	\$40K but less than \$50K
50	57	More than \$50K
9	10	\$50K but less than \$60K
13	15	\$60K but less than \$80K
8	12	\$80K but less than \$100K
20	20	\$100K or more (NET)
3	2	Don't know
8	10	Refused
N=674	N=508	

71. LANGUAGE OF INTERVIEW

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
1	--	All Spanish
--	--	Mostly Spanish
--	--	Both Spanish and English equally
--	*	Mostly English
99	100	All English
N=674	N=508	

REGION

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
18	15	Northeast
20	21	North Central
36	37	South
27	28	West
N=674	N=508	

METRO STATUS

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
31	25	Urban
50	50	Suburban
19	26	Rural
N=674	N=508	

D01. RESPONDENT GENDER

Based on total respondents

Likely Democratic primary caucus voters	Likely Republican primary caucus voters	
43	53	Male
57	47	Female
N=674	N=508	



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