

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2008: THE CONTENDERS

A week after the midterm elections that led to a Democratic takeover of both chambers of Congress, a number of potential candidates for the 2008 presidential nominations have already set up exploratory committees.

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani have each formed a committee that will allow them to travel around the country and raise money for a potential 2008 White House bid. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) has stepped down from her position as Chair of the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, leading to even more speculation that she is gearing up for a presidential run.

On Election Day, the CBS News Exit Poll asked those voters in selected states whether some favorite sons and daughters would make good presidents or not. The midterm electorates are not the same as the presidential electorate, but the results give an insight into each state's most frequent voters.

**THE REPUBLICANS: 2008
WOULD _____ MAKE A GOOD PRESIDENT?**

	Yes	No
McCain		
All AZ Voters	48%	41
AZ Republicans	59%	32
Giuliani		
All NY Voters	47%	51
NY Republicans	76%	24
Hagel		
All NE Voters	37%	49
NE Republicans	36%	50
Frist		
All TN Voters	36%	45
TN Republicans	62%	21
Allen		
All VA Voters	35%	57
VA Republicans	68%	21
Romney		
All MA Voters	32%	66
MA Republicans	66%	33
Gingrich		
All GA Voters	30%	62
GA Republicans	51%	39
Pataki		
All NY Voters	15%	82
NY Republicans	37%	62

Arizona. In Arizona, voters were somewhat divided on whether or not Sen. McCain would make a good president. 48% said he would, but 41% thought he would not. He did, however, get the support of a majority of his own party's

voters. 59% of Arizona Republicans thought McCain was up to the job, but only 38% of Democrats said so. Independents were divided: 44% said he would make a good president, but 42% said he would not.

New York. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani rose to national prominence in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks. But fewer than half of voters in New York State - 47% - viewed him as someone who would make a good president. More - 51% - said he would not. Three in four New York Republicans believed Giuliani would make a good president, as did 53% of Independents.

Giuliani fares much better than fellow New Yorker Gov. George Pataki (R-NY), who did not seek reelection this year. Just 15% of New York voters thought Pataki would make a good president; 82% said he would not.

Virginia. Sen. George Allen, who lost his re-election bid in a squeaker last week, was once considered by many to be a 2008 candidate for president. Virginia voters, at least at this point, do not view him as presidential material. 57% of voters in Virginia said Allen would not make a good president; just 35% were confident he would. While 7 in 10 Virginia Republicans thought Allen was up to the job of president, only a quarter of Independents did.

Georgia. Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich does not appear to have support in his former home state (he now lives in Virginia). Only 3 in 10 Georgia voters said Gingrich would make a good president; 62% didn't think so. Among Republicans, just over half said the former Speaker would be a good president.

Tennessee. Outgoing Senator and Majority leader Bill Frist (R-TN) does not get a ringing endorsement from Tennessee voters. 36% believed he would make a good president, but 45% were doubtful. A majority of Republicans (62%), however, believed Frist would make a good president.

Massachusetts. A third of Massachusetts voters said outgoing Gov. Mitt Romney (R-MA) would make a good president, but 66% disagreed. Romney does have the support of his party, however. Two-thirds of Republicans said he would be a good president.

Nebraska. Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE), who has been critical of President Bush's policies at times, receives lukewarm support from Nebraska voters. 37% said Hagel would make a good president, while 49% said he would not. Hagel did not get the support of his fellow Republicans in Nebraska -- half of them said he would not make a good president.

THE DEMOCRATS: 2008
WOULD _____ MAKE A GOOD PRESIDENT?

	Yes	No
Obama		
All IL Voters	64%	29
IL Democrats	81%	15
Clinton		
All NY Voters	57%	40
NY Democrats	80%	16
Richardson		
All NM Voters	50%	40
NM Democrats	74%	17
Feingold		
All WI Voters	36%	50
WI Democrats	55%	24
Kerry		
All MA Voters	25%	71
MA Democrats	50%	47

On the Democratic side, some possible contenders get majority support in their home states. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) and Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) receive the most positive assessments. Governor Bill Richardson of New Mexico also does well at home.

New York. Sen. Clinton, considered by many to be the front-runner for the Democratic nomination in 2008, receives solid support from her constituents. 57% of New York voters said she would make a good president; 40% said she would not. She receives considerable support from her base: 80% of New York Democrats said she would be a good president. Just 20% of Republicans agreed. New York Independents are not completely convinced Clinton would make a good president: 43% said she would, while 52% didn't think so.

Illinois. Sen. Obama, the freshman Senator from Illinois, received even more positive views from his home state than did Sen. Clinton. 64% of Illinois voters said Obama would make a good president; only 29% said he would not. Obama got the support of 8 in 10 Democratic voters in Illinois, and nearly 4 in 10 Republican voters in that state. In addition, 62% of Independent voters said Obama was up to the job.

Massachusetts. 2004 Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) gets little support from voters in Massachusetts for a second run. Only a quarter of voters in the Bay State said Kerry would make a good president, while more than 7 in 10 said he would not. Even Democratic voters in Massachusetts are unsure: 50% said he would make a good president, while almost as many - 47% - said he would not.

New Mexico. 51% of New Mexico voters said Gov. Bill Richardson (D-NM) would make a good president; 40% didn't think so. Among New Mexico Democrats, 3 in 4 thought the just reelected Governor was up to the job of president.

Wisconsin. Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) has recently decided not to seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008, saying he wishes to concentrate on his work in the Senate. On Election Day, just 35% of Wisconsin voters thought Sen. Russ Feingold would make a good president; half said he would not.

HILLARY VS. RUDY

In New York, a traditionally Democratic state, voters were asked who they would vote for if the presidential nominees in 2008 were two New Yorkers: Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani. By 55% to 37% voters chose Clinton over Giuliani. Each candidate gets the majority support from their party, but Democratic voters outnumbered Republican voters by almost 2 to 1 in New York on Election Day, giving Clinton the advantage. Among Independents, 53% said they would vote for Giuliani, while 34% said they would support Clinton.

This match-up nearly took place in the 2000 race for Senate, but Giuliani dropped out of the race to seek treatment for prostate cancer. Clinton went on to defeat then-Congressman Rick Lazio.

2008 VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

(Among New York State Voters)

	All	Rep	Dem	Ind
Hillary Clinton	55%	18%	82%	34%
Rudy Giuliani	37	74	12	53