



CBS NEWS POLL
 For Release: Friday, August 17, 2007
 6:30 pm EDT

THE CANDIDACY OF JOHN EDWARDS

August 8-12, 2007

John Edwards continues to trail Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in a three-way national race for the Democratic nomination. Even though most Democratic primary voters think he has the right kind of experience to be president, fewer than half are confident in Edwards' ability to handle an international crisis and three in ten think his policies would favor rich people, not other income groups.

THE RACE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

Nationally, former Senator John Edwards continues to be in third place behind Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in the race for the Democratic nomination. These standings have not changed much over the summer.

IF THESE WERE THE CANDIDATES, WHO WOULD YOU WANT AS DEM NOMINEE?

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Now	7/2007	6/2007	5/2007
Clinton	45%	43%	48%	46%
Obama	25	24	24	24
Edwards	14	16	11	14

Edwards' support may not be as solid as that of the two leading candidates. Just 43% of Edwards' supporters say they strongly favor him -- a lower percentage compared with backers of both Clinton and Obama. 61% of Clinton supporters strongly favor her and 63% of Obama supporters say they strongly back him. 16% of Edwards' backers say they prefer him mostly because they dislike the other candidates, something few Clinton and Obama supporters say.

SUPPORT FOR CANDIDATE

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Edwards Supporters	Clinton Supporters	Obama Supporters
Strongly favor	43%	61%	63%
Have reservations	38	34	29
Dislike others	16	5	5

When primary voters are asked about their second choice for the Democratic nomination, Clinton's supporters mainly support Obama as their second choice, and vice versa. They are less likely to name Edwards.

SECOND CHOICE FOR DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	<u>1st choice</u>	<u>1st choice</u>
	Clinton	Obama
	Supporters	Supporters
Clinton	--%	53%
Obama	44	--
Edwards	25	36

EVALUATIONS OF EDWARDS

Just one in 10 registered voters thinks an Edwards Administration would favor the poor. 24% say its policies would favor the middle class and about one in five think it would treat all groups equally. Still, 30% think Edwards' policies would favor rich Americans. Views among Democratic primary voters are similar.

WHO WOULD EDWARDS' POLICIES FAVOR?

	All	Dem. Primary
	Voters	Voters
Rich	30%	30%
Middle	24	30
Poor	9	7
Treat all the same	18	20

Majorities of Democratic primary voters say the top three Democratic presidential candidates care at least some about their needs and problems, but compared to Clinton and Obama, they are less likely to say Edwards cares "a lot" about them. 33% say he cares a lot about their needs and problems; half say this about Clinton and Obama.

HOW MUCH DOES ... CARE ABOUT YOUR NEEDS AND PROBLEMS?

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Edwards	Clinton	Obama
A lot	33%	51%	50%
Some	43	36	34
Not much/at all	16	12	8

Much of this presidential campaign has focused on experience and just under half of registered voters say Edwards, who served one term in the U.S. Senate, has the right kind of experience to be President. More of those intending to vote in a Democratic primary - 60% - say he does. Clinton gets better marks than Edwards on this measure but Obama does less well than Edwards.

When it comes to international matters, more voters are uneasy than confident in Edwards' ability to handle an international crisis wisely. 46% are uneasy about his approach, while 38% express confidence in him. Among Democratic primary voters, 47% have confidence that Edwards will deal wisely with an international crisis. Again here, Edwards does a bit better than Obama on this measure, but Clinton gets better marks than both of them. Challengers usually fare less well than incumbent presidents do on this measure.

EVALUATIONS OF DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES

	All Voters		Democratic Primary Voters	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Edwards:				
Has right experience to be president	49%	36	60%	28
Handle international crisis wisely	38%	46	47%	40

Clinton:

Has right experience to be president	59%	35	80%	13
Handle international crisis wisely	44%	49	62%	31

Obama:

Has right experience to be president	29%	51	41%	43
Handle international crisis wisely	33%	49	44%	45

Two-thirds of voters believe Edwards is likely to make the right decisions in dealing with foreign countries, and similar large majorities say the same about Clinton and Obama. Still, twice as many voters say Clinton is "very likely" to make good decisions in dealing with other countries than say that about Edwards.

LIKELY TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS DEALING WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

(Among Registered Voters)

	Edwards	Clinton	Obama
Very	16%	32%	19%
Somewhat	50	42	48
Not very	15	15	16
Not at all	9	9	6

Edwards is viewed as more traditional in his approach than his two major challengers. Half of voters think Edwards will follow generally familiar approaches to solving problems while 30% think he will try new approaches. More voters think Obama will try new ways to solve problems, while views of Clinton on this are split.

Opinions of Edwards overall among registered voters are divided: 31% hold a favorable view of him, while 30% view him unfavorably. 38% are undecided or haven't heard enough about him. Democratic primary voters are more inclined to like him - 42% of those voters view Edwards favorably, but that rating is down seven points from July.

VIEWS OF JOHN EDWARDS

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Now	7/2007
Favorable	42%	49%
Not favorable	19	14
Undecided/Haven't heard enough	39	36

ELIZABETH EDWARDS

Voters overall have a favorable view of John Edwards' wife Elizabeth but she still remains unfamiliar to a significant number of voters. Democratic primary voters are even more likely than all voters to have a favorable opinion of her.

VIEWS OF ELIZABETH EDWARDS

	All Voters	Dem. Primary Voters
Favorable	38%	43%
Not favorable	4	2
Undecided/Haven't heard Enough	55	53

Mrs. Edwards, although diagnosed with a recurrence of cancer early this year, has spent a lot of time campaigning for her husband. Seven in 10 primary voters describe her level of involvement in the campaign as about right. 7% say she is not involved enough, while a similar number says she is too involved.

INVOLVEMENT IN SPOUSE'S CAMPAIGN

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Elizabeth Edwards	Bill Clinton
Too involved	6%	6%
Not involved enough	7	13
About right	71	77

A solid majority of Democratic primary voters also think former President Bill Clinton is spending the right amount of time on his wife's campaign. But 13% think he should have more involvement, while 6% say he is too involved.

WHO SUPPORTS JOHN EDWARDS?

Edwards does better with Independents who plan to vote in a Democratic primary than with self-identified Democrats.

He gets more support from men than women. As for income, Edwards does best among those who earn between \$30,000 and \$75,000 a year.

Edwards runs neck and neck with Obama among seniors: 20% back Edwards; 21% support Obama.

11% of Southerners back Edwards, but despite his southern roots, he gets more support in the Midwest (16%) and the West (21%). Edwards gets the support of just 9% of Democratic voters in the Northeast.

RACE FOR DEMOCRATIC NOMINATION - DEMOGRAPHICS

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards
Total	45%	25	14
Men	37%	32	16
Women	51%	21	12
Age			
Under 45	39	33	11
45-64	53	15	15
65+	49	21	20
Northeast	49%	23	9
Midwest	31%	41	16
South	52%	17	11
West	44%	22	21
Income			
<\$30K	45%	30	10
\$30-\$75K	43%	21	18
Over \$75K	47%	29	12
Democrats	48%	25	12
Independents	37%	23	21
Liberal	48%	27	11
Moderate	41%	28	18

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1214 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone August 8-12, 2007. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. An oversample of African Americans was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 169 interviews among this group and 149 African American registered voters. The results were then weighted in proportion to the racial composition of the adult population in the U.S. Census. The margin of error for African Americans (overall and registered voters) is plus or minus 8 percentage points.

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q1-26 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q27 Is your opinion of John Edwards favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John Edwards yet to have an opinion?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				Dem	
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Primary Voters	Jul07a
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Favorable	31	16	41	31	42%	34
Not favorable	30	52	19	26	19	29
Undecided	27	19	31	29	30	26
Haven't heard enough	11	13	9	13	9	11
Refused	1	0	0	1	0	0

q29 BLANK

q30 Suppose the race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2008 comes down to a choice among Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and John Edwards. Who would you most like to see nominated--Clinton, Obama, Edwards, or would you rather see someone else nominated?

IF SOMEONE ELSE, ASK: Who would you like to see nominated?

	** DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS **	
	%	%
Clinton	45	43
Obama	25	24
Edwards	14	16
Someone else/None	7	9
Undecided (Vol.)	6	7
DK/NA	3	1

q31 Would you describe your support for (Candidate's Name) as strongly favoring (Candidate's Name), or do you like HIM/HER but with reservations, or do you support HIM/HER because you dislike the other candidates?

	** DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS **			
	Total	Edwards	Clinton	Obama
	%	%	%	%
Strongly favor	58	43	61	63
Like but with reservations	34	38	34	29
Dislike other candidates	7	16	5	5
Don't know/No answer	1	3	0	3

q32 Who would be your second choice?

	** DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS **		
	Total	Clinton	Obama
	%	%	%
Clinton	22	0	53
Obama	29	44	0
Edwards	25	25	36
Someone else/None	10	12	7
Undecided (Vol.)	4	5	3
DK/NA	10	14	1

q33-36 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q37 How much do you think Hillary Clinton cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself--a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				Dem.
	*** Party ID ***				Primary
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Voters
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	31	7	52	25	51
Some	33	31	35	33	36
Not much	17	29	5	20	6
Not at all	16	30	5	18	6
Don't know/No answer	3	3	3	4	1

q38 How much do you think Barack Obama cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself--a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

A lot	31	13	48	27	50
Some	38	44	34	37	34
Not much	11	18	4	12	4
Not at all	6	9	3	8	4
Don't know/No answer	14	16	11	16	8

q39 How much do you think John Edwards cares about the needs and problems of people like yourself--a lot, some, not much, or not at all?

						Mar07b
						%
A lot	23	12	31	23	33	22
Some	40	38	43	38	43	38
Not much	17	22	11	19	11	16
Not at all	10	19	5	10	5	8
Don't know/No answer	10	9	10	10	8	16

q40-42 BLANK

q43 Do you think Hillary Clinton has the right kind of experience to be a good president, or not?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				Dem.	
	Total	*** Party ID ***			Primary	Jan07c*
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	Voters	%
Yes	59	27	82	57	80	58
No	35	68	12	36	13	36
Don't know/No answer	6	5	6	7	7	7

*Hillary Rodham Clinton

q44 Do you think Barack Obama has the right kind of experience to be a good president, or not?

Yes	29	15	41	27	41	25
No	51	71	41	47	43	33
Don't know/No answer	20	14	18	26	16	41

q45 Do you think John Edwards has the right kind of experience to be a good president, or not?

						Mar07b
Yes	49	35	58	50	60	39
No	36	52	27	36	28	30
Don't know/No answer	15	13	15	14	12	31

q46 Do you think Hillary Clinton is someone who will try new ways of solving the country's problems, or is she someone who will follow generally familiar approaches and try to do them better?

Try new ways	43	45	41	44	42
Follow familiar approaches	40	37	42	41	40
Both (vol.)	7	5	11	6	12
Don't know/No answer	9	13	6	9	6

q47 Do you think Barack Obama is someone who will try new ways of solving the country's problems, or is he someone who will follow generally familiar approaches and try to do them better?

Try new ways	61	59	65	57	67
Follow familiar approaches	18	20	17	17	17
Both (vol.)	2	1	4	1	4
Don't know/No answer	19	20	14	25	12

q48 Do you think John Edwards is someone who will try new ways of solving the country's problems, or is he someone who will follow generally familiar approaches and try to do them better?

Try new ways	30	23	34	30	34
Follow familiar approaches	51	56	51	48	52
Both (vol.)	2	4	1	2	3
Don't know/No answer	17	17	15	20	11

q49-52 PLACEHOLDER

q53 Do you have confidence in Hillary Clinton's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about her approach?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				Dem.	
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Primary Voters	Jul07a
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Confidence	44	14	67	41	62	42
Uneasy	49	81	26	49	31	52
Don't know/No answer	7	5	7	10	7	6

q54 Do you have confidence in Barack Obama's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confidence	33	20	42	31	44
Uneasy	49	64	44	44	45
Don't know/No answer	18	16	14	25	12

q55 Do you have confidence in John Edwards' ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confidence	38	26	46	37	47
Uneasy	46	61	38	44	40
Don't know/No answer	16	13	16	19	13

q56 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that Hillary Clinton would make good decisions in dealing with foreign countries--would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

					Jul07a	
					%	
Very likely	32	8	51	27	47	30
Somewhat likely	42	39	41	44	44	38
Not very likely	15	30	4	17	5	15
Not at all likely	9	21	2	7	2	15
Don't know/No answer	2	2	2	5	2	2

q57 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that Barack Obama would make good decisions in dealing with foreign countries--would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

Very likely	19	7	29	16	28
Somewhat likely	48	47	52	44	54
Not very likely	16	28	8	16	7
Not at all likely	6	9	4	6	4
Don't know/No answer	11	9	7	18	7

q58 Regardless of how you intend to vote, how likely do you think it is that John Edwards would make good decisions in dealing with foreign countries--would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?

Very likely	16	8	20	18	21
Somewhat likely	50	45	56	46	56
Not very likely	15	24	12	13	10
Not at all likely	9	15	5	9	6
Don't know/No answer	10	8	7	14	7

q59 If John Edwards were elected President, do you think the policies of his Administration would favor the rich, favor the middle class, favor the poor, or would they treat all groups the same?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				Dem.
	Total	*** Party ID ***			Primary Voters
	%	Rep %	Dem %	Ind %	%
Rich	30	32	28	30	30
Middle	24	18	31	22	30
Poor	9	11	7	10	7
Treat groups the same	18	18	20	16	20
DK/NA	19	21	14	22	13

q60-62 PLACEHOLDER

q63 Is your opinion of Elizabeth Edwards favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Elizabeth Edwards yet to have an opinion?

						Mar07b %
Favorable	38	33	44	33	43	39
Not favorable	4	6	2	6	2	3
Undecided	13	16	11	14	12	16
Haven't heard enough	42	41	40	44	41	42
Refused	3	4	3	3	2	1

q64 From what you know, how would you describe former President Bill Clinton's involvement in Hillary Clinton's campaign? Would you say he is too involved, not involved enough, or is his involvement about right?

Too involved	14	21	7	16	6
Not involved enough	10	7	12	9	13
About right	70	61	78	67	77
Don't know/No answer	6	11	3	8	4

q65 From what you know, how would you describe Elizabeth Edwards' involvement in John Edwards' campaign? Would you say she is too involved, not involved enough, or is her involvement about right?

Too involved	9	15	5	10	6
Not involved enough	5	4	7	5	7
About right	65	63	73	58	71
Don't know/No answer	21	18	15	27	16

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1214	
Total Republicans	302	308 (25%)
Total Democrats	472	459 (38%)
Total Independents	440	446 (36%)
Registered Voters	1072	
Democratic Primary Voters	492	468