



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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DEMOCRATIC DELEGATES: CLINTON, THE NOMINATION AND THE PROCESS
July 16 - August 17, 2008

Despite calls by Democratic leaders for party unity at the Democratic convention, the CBS News/New York Times Poll of delegates to the convention shows some continuing dissatisfaction among delegates pledged to Senator Hillary Clinton -- with both the nominee and the process by which he was elected. Many of those who say they will still vote for Clinton on the floor of the convention are doubtful about Obama's electability and concerned about his lack of experience. Fewer than half are enthusiastic about his impending nomination.

Among all delegates, about a third are not satisfied with the Democratic Party's method of choosing a nominee; that rises to nearly half among Clinton's pledged delegates. A majority of her delegates want the Michigan and Florida delegates seated with full votes at the convention.

HILLARY CLINTON'S SUPPORTERS

Some delegates who supported Hillary Clinton in her losing race for the Democratic presidential nomination - pledged and unpledged - remain unhappy with Barack Obama and say they will still vote for Clinton.

42% of those delegates originally pledged to Hillary Clinton (20% of all pledged delegates) and 8% of superdelegates say they will vote for Clinton on the convention's presidential roll call.

FLOOR VOTE
(Among Democratic delegates)
Table with 4 columns: Candidate, All, Total Pledged, Clinton Pledged. Rows include Clinton, Obama, Someone else, and Don't know.

Delegates who will vote for Clinton on the floor of the convention overwhelmingly worry about Obama's lack of experience; 62% volunteer that as his biggest weakness.

Most of the interviews for this CBS News/New York Times Poll of delegates to the Democratic convention were conducted before the announcement of an agreement between the two campaigns that Hillary Clinton's name would be entered into nomination at the Democratic

convention, so they may not reflect the actual number who will cast votes for her on that roll call.

Delegates who will vote for Clinton on the floor are less confident than delegates voting for Obama that he can win in November; 60% are confident, compared to 86% of those who will vote for Obama.

**CONFIDENT OBAMA CAN WIN?**

(Among pledged delegates)

	Will vote for:	
	Clinton	Obama
Confident	60%	86%
Real chance he could lose	28	10

More than half of those voting for Clinton see an Obama victory in their own state as in question. 26% of delegates who will vote for Clinton say that McCain has an edge in their state, and another 31% describe the race as a toss-up. Far fewer delegates who will vote for Obama say the same.

And only 46% of delegates who will vote for Clinton on the floor think Obama will help candidates in their state a lot, although they don't exactly see him as a drag on them.

Just 45% of delegates who will vote for Clinton are enthusiastic about their party's nominee. Four in 10 express lukewarm support: 18% are supporting Obama but with reservations, and another 23% are supporting him because he is their party's nominee. 7% say outright that they don't support him. Nearly all of Obama's own pledged delegates are enthusiastic.

**FEEL ABOUT OBAMA AS NOMINEE**

(Among pledged delegates)

	Will vote for:	
	Clinton	Obama
Enthusiastic	45%	94%
Support with reservations	18	3
Support because he is party nominee	23	3
Don't support him	7	0

Delegates who will vote for Clinton on the floor are about equally as likely to be men as women. For two thirds of them, it is their first convention. 36% are under age 50, and four in 5 are white. Very few, just 21%, say they have made a donation to the Obama campaign (compared to 69% of delegates who will vote for Obama on the floor).

Delegates overall have highly positive views of Hillary Clinton. 85% of them have a favorable impression of her. That drops to 68% among delegates pledged to Barack Obama, however.

**OPINION OF HILLARY CLINTON**

	Total Delegates	Pledged to:		Super- delegates
		BO	HRC	
Favorable	85%	68%	99%	90%
Not favorable	8	18	1	4
Undecided/Don't know	5	12	0	1

**THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING A NOMINEE**

During the convention, the Obama campaign is expected to call for the formation of a commission that would address the rules for selecting a presidential nominee in 2012.

Currently, two-thirds of Democratic delegates are satisfied with the system the Democratic party uses to pick its nominees, but just 21% are "very satisfied" with it.

**SATISFIED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S WAY OF PICKING ITS NOMINEE**

(Among Democratic Delegates)

	All	Pledged to	
		Obama	Clinton
Very	21%	29%	13%
Somewhat	46	55	38
Not too	19	11	24
Not at all	12	4	24

Satisfaction with the nominating system is tied to which candidate delegates support. Delegates pledged to support Barack Obama are happier with the nominating system than are those pledged to support Hillary Clinton. In fact, 48% of Clinton's pledged delegates are not satisfied with the Democratic Party's method of selecting its nominee.

Florida and Michigan. Much of the dissatisfaction among Clintons' delegates may stem from what happened in Florida and Michigan. Florida and Michigan violated Democratic National Committee rules by holding their primaries too early. Both states were ultimately penalized, first by being awarded no delegates, and then being granted half the original allocation.

61% of delegates pledged to Clinton say Florida and Michigan's delegates should have been granted full votes. 76% of Obama's pledged delegates are satisfied with the outcome.

**VIEWS OF FLORIDA AND MICHIGAN DELEGATES**

(Among Democratic Delegates)

	All	Pledged to	
		Obama	Clinton
Seated with full votes	31%	8%	61%
Not seated at all	8	12	3
Satisfied w/ half vote outcome	54	76	28

Frontloading. The commission, if approved by the delegates, will be urged to address the criticized frontloading of the primary calendar. This year, more than half the states held their primaries or caucuses by February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Although Iowa and New Hampshire continued their "first in the nation" status, 57% of delegates now say they would like to see other states hold their events first. (Only a handful of Iowa and New Hampshire delegates were interviewed; more of them want to leave the calendar as it is.)

**SHOULD IOWA AND NEW HAMPSHIRE CONTINUE HOLD THEIR EVENTS FIRST?**

(Among Democratic Delegates)

Yes	29%
No	57

Superdelegates. The commission will also be encouraged to reduce the number of superdelegates - elected officials and party leaders who are not bound by results of primaries and caucuses - or to reduce their influence by increasing the number of pledged delegates.

55% of Democratic delegates think the party should continue to have a mix of super and elected delegates. A third, however, would like to see the party select its nominee using only elected or pledged delegates.

**SHOULD THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONTINUE TO USE BOTH PLEDGED AND SUPERDELEGATES?**

(Among Democratic Delegates)

	All	Pledged Delegates	Superdelegates
Yes	55%	52%	70%
No	34	38	16

Not surprisingly, superdelegates are more likely than pledged delegates to say they should remain part of the nominating process. Obama and Clinton delegations hold similar views on this question.

The Campaign. Thinking about the nomination process in their own state, 65% of delegates think the system to select delegates works fine.

While to some it seemed like the Democratic primary campaign went on forever, most delegates - 57% - think the length of the campaign helped the party's chances of winning in November. Both Obama and Clinton pledged delegates agree.

**LENGTH OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CAMPAIGN'S IMPACT ON CHANCES  
IN NOVEMBER**

(Among Democratic Delegates)

Helped the party's chances	57%
Hurt	10
Had no effect	29

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The CBS News/New York Times Delegate Poll was conducted July 16-August 17, 2008 with a random sample of 970 Democratic delegates. The error due to sampling could be plus or minus three percentage points for results based on the entire sample. Interviews were conducted via phone; if a delegate preferred, he or she could complete the survey online. Online interviewing was conducted by CfMC, a San Francisco-based research software company.