



**SOUTH CAROLINA: THE REPUBLICAN RACE**

December 13-17, 2007

- One month before the South Carolina primary, Huckabee leads there, propelled by religious voters and evangelicals - but seven in ten voters say their minds could change.
- Immigration is the top issue for South Carolina Republican primary voters, and Romney is viewed as the strongest candidate on that issue. But his Mormon religion is viewed negatively, especially by evangelical voters.
- Giuliani and Romney are seen as most electable, but Huckabee and McCain are perceived as the candidates who most share the values of the people in South Carolina.

Mike Huckabee, whose surge in national polls could shake up the Republican race for the nomination, leads Mitt Romney among likely South Carolina Republican primary voters by 8 percentage points.

**REPUBLICAN CHOICE FOR THE NOMINATION**  
(Among likely Republican Primary Voters)

	All	White Evan- gelicals	Conser- vatives	Weekly Church- goers
Huckabee	28%	33%	32%	33%
Romney	20	18	21	18
Giuliani	12	7	10	8
McCain	11	9	8	11
Thompson	10	15	11	10

*As in a CBS News/New York Times national poll released last week, Huckabee enjoys a substantial lead among the South Carolina Republican base. He leads by double digits among white evangelical voters, conservatives, and weekly church-goers.*

*McCain and Giuliani do much better among moderates.*

But the Republican race could still change in South Carolina.

*Seven in ten Republican voters (including most Huckabee and Romney voters) report it is too early to say for sure who they will vote for, and half of both the leading candidates' voters have reservations about their choice.*

**MIND MADE UP WHOM TO SUPPORT?**

(Among likely Republican Primary Voters with a Choice)

	All	Huckabee Voters	Romney Voters
Yes	29%	30%	31%
Too early	71	70	69

**STRENGTH OF CANDIDATE SUPPORT**

(Among likely Republican Primary Voters with a Choice)

	All	Huckabee Voters	Romney Voters
Strongly favor	47%	47%	51%
Have reservations	41	44	43
Dislike others	9	9	5

Huckabee has only recently moved into the top tier of Republican candidates in both national and state polls, and his support has come at the expense of Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney and Fred Thompson.

**DID YOU EVER SUPPORT ANOTHER CANDIDATE?**

(Among likely Republican Primary Voters)

	All	Huckabee Voters	Romney Voters
Yes	44%	59%	45%
No	53	35	50

*Many of Huckabee's supporters have switched from supporting another candidate -- six in 10 say they used to support someone else.*

Huckabee and Romney voters choose their candidate for different reasons. When asked why they are supporting him, Huckabee's voters mention his honesty (17%) and his religious beliefs (15%). But Romney's voters choose him because they agree with him on the issues (18%), his honesty (13%), and his experience (12%).

**IMMIGRATION IS THE KEY ISSUE, BUT VALUES AND SOCIAL ISSUES MATTER TOO**

Immigration is the issue most on the minds of South Carolina Republican voters. 23% want to hear the candidates talk about it.

**WHAT ISSUE SHOULD CANDIDATES DISCUSS?**

(Among likely Republican primary voters)

Immigration	23%
War in Iraq	18
The economy/jobs	11
Health care	10
Taxes	4

*Immigration is followed by the war in Iraq (18%), the economy and jobs (11%) and health care (10%). In addition, nearly nine in 10 say illegal immigration is a very or somewhat serious problem in South Carolina, including 57% who describe it as "very serious".*

Romney is viewed as the candidate who agrees with Republican primary voters on illegal immigration, followed by Huckabee and then Thompson.

But Giuliani and Romney are the candidates voters think have the best chances of winning the presidency in November 2008.

**WHICH CANDIDATE ...?**

(Among likely Republican primary voters)

	<u>Most shares your views on illegal immigration</u>	<u>Has best chance of winning in 11/2008</u>
Romney	20%	24%
Huckabee	14	19
Thompson	11	4
McCain	10	9
Giuliani	10	27

*Just one in five Republican primary voters see Huckabee as the most electable candidate.*

55% of Republican primary voters say Huckabee shares the values of most people in South Carolina - the highest percentage among the major candidates.

**DOES ... SHARE THE VALUES OF PEOPLE IN SOUTH CAROLINA?**

(Among likely Republican primary voters)

	Huckabee	Romney	McCain	Giuliani	Thompson
Yes	55%	43%	53%	25%	47%
No	11	24	27	52	14
Don't know	34	33	20	23	39

*Rudy Giuliani is the only candidate viewed by a majority as NOT sharing the values of most South Carolinians.*

In general, more than six in 10 South Carolina Republicans would settle for someone less conservative than themselves in order to win back the White House.

But they are divided on whether they'd be willing to vote for a candidate with whom they disagreed on the social issues of abortion and same-sex marriage.

**WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE...?**

(Among likely Republican primary voters)

	Yes	No
Less conservative, if they could win	63%	29
With different views on social issues	47%	44

*Huckabee has a commanding lead among those voters who would not vote for a candidate who disagreed with them on social issues.*

**CHOICE FOR REPUBLICAN NOMINATION**

(Among Republicans who would not vote for a candidate who disagreed with them on social issues)

Huckabee	41%
Romney	14
Thompson	13
McCain	11
Giuliani	6

*49% of Republican primary voters think abortion should be available but under stricter limits than now, and another 30% think it should not be permitted at all. Among those who think abortion should not be permitted, more than seven in 10 would not vote for a candidate who disagreed with them on it.*

**RELIGION MATTERS IN SOUTH CAROLINA, AND MANY WANT A CANDIDATE LIKE THEMSELVES**

*Church-goers and white evangelicals are important voting constituencies in South Carolina; weekly church-goers comprise 43% of Republican primary voters, and white evangelicals are 50%.*

Voters who say it is important to them that a candidate shares their religious beliefs support Huckabee by a 13-point margin, while those who say it is not important to them support Romney over Huckabee.

**VOTE CHOICE: IMPORTANT CANDIDATE SHARES RELIGIOUS BELIEFS**

(Among likely Republican Primary Voters)

	Important	Not Important
Huckabee	32%	18%
Romney	19	23
Thompson	11	9
Giuliani	10	15
McCain	10	14

*66% of Republican primary voters in South Carolina say it is important that a candidate shares their religious beliefs, slightly higher than the percentage nationally.*

And a third says that all things being equal, they would prefer to vote for a candidate of the same religion that they are. Most say it would make no difference to them.

**PREFER TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATE...**

(Among likely Republican Primary Voters)

	All	White Evangelicals
Of your religion	34%	51%
Of different religion	2	3
No difference	61	43

*However, half of white evangelical voters say that all things being equal, they would prefer to vote for a candidate who is a member of their own religion -- which no doubt is contributing to Huckabee's lead in South Carolina.*

South Carolinian Republican primary voters' views of the Mormon religion are mixed to negative and many just don't know much about it. 31% have a favorable view of Mormonism but even more (39%) are unfavorable. Not surprisingly, Romney receives greater support from voters who have a positive impression of his religion.

**VIEWS OF MORMONISM**

(Among likely Republican Primary Voters)

	All	White Evangelicals
Very/somewhat favorable	31%	25%
Very/somewhat unfavorable	39	51
Haven't heard enough	30	24

*Unfavorable views of Mormonism rise to 51% among white evangelical voters.*

**DESPITE HIS LEAD, FOUR IN 10 DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HUCKABEE**

Although he places fourth in the Republican horse race in this poll, McCain receives the highest favorable ratings (49%) of the major Republican candidates. Giuliani is the candidate viewed most unfavorably (38%).

**OPINION OF THE CANDIDATES**

(Among likely Republican primary voters)

	Huckabee	Romney	McCain	Giuliani	Thompson
Favorable	46%	46%	49%	38%	36%
Unfavorable	10	15	23	38	16
Undecided/ Don't know	43	38	26	25	47

*Few Republican primary voters in South Carolina view Huckabee unfavorably, but four in ten are undecided or don't know enough about him. Thompson is the least known of the Republican candidates, with about half of Republican primary voters unable to offer an opinion of him.*

**THESE REPUBLICANS LIKE THE PRESIDENT**

George W. Bush is popular among South Carolina's Republican primary voters: three in four approve of the job he is doing as president.

**BUSH JOB OVERALL RATING**

	* South Carolina *	* Nationwide * (12/10/08)
	All Reg. Rep	All Reg.
	Voters Primary Voters	Voters
Approve	40%	75%
Disapprove	52	18
		62

*Among South Carolina voters statewide, more registered voters disapprove of Bush's job as president than approve. Nationwide, just 31% of voters approve of the job Bush is doing as president.*

**WITH THE ELECTION ONE MONTH AWAY, MANY ARE PAYING ATTENTION**

South Carolina Republican voters are paying attention to this campaign, but they are not as engaged as Iowa Republicans.

**ATTENTION TO THE 2008 CAMPAIGN**

	SC Rep. Primary Voters	11/2007 Iowa Rep. Caucus-Goers	11/2007 NH Rep. Primary Voters
A lot	45%	60%	50%
Some	44	33	43
Not much	10	5	6
None at all	2	1	1

*45% of Republican voters in South Carolina are paying a lot of attention to the campaign, compared to 60% of Republican caucus-goers in Iowa who were interviewed last month.*

12% of Republican primary voters in South Carolina have attended a campaign event - a significantly lower number than their counterparts in Iowa and New Hampshire a month ago.

**HAVE YOU BEEN TO A CAMPAIGN EVENT?**

	SC Rep. Primary Voters	11/2007 Iowa Rep. Caucus-Goers	11/2007 NH Rep. Primary Voters
Yes	12%	45%	29%
No	88	55	71

This poll was conducted among a South Carolina statewide random sample of 1319 registered voters, including an oversample of African American voters. There are 599 likely Democratic Primary voters and 447 likely Republican Primary voters. The error due to sampling could be 3 points for all registered voters, 4 points for Democratic primary voters, and 5 points for Republican Primary voters.

The sample was drawn from two sources: records on the state of South Carolina's registered voter list for which phone numbers were available, and a statewide RDD phone sample. Numbers dialed from the RDD sample were only those not among the numbers available for records on the registered voter list.

Results were weighted by probabilities of selection and by demographic characteristics to reflect the South Carolina registered voter list. To create the probable electorate, registered voters were also weighted by their intention of voting, their attention to the campaign, and their past voting behavior.

CBS NEWS POLL  
 South Carolina: The Republican Race  
 December 13-17, 2007

q1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?

\*\* SC REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

	All Voters %	Dem Primary Voters %	Rep Primary Voters %
Approve	40	7	75
Disapprove	52	89	18
DK/NA	8	4	7

q2 How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2008 presidential campaign--a lot, some, not much, or no attention so far?

	All	Dem Primary	Rep Primary
A lot	39	47	45
Some	44	40	44
Not much	14	9	10
None at all	4	3	2

q3-q4 DEMOS

q5-q39 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q40 If the South Carolina Republican Presidential primary were held today, which candidate would you vote for -- John McCain, Rudy Giuliani, Mitt Romney, Fred Thompson, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Ron Paul, or Tom Tancredo?

\* SC LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS \*

	%
Giuliani	12
Huckabee	28
McCain	11
Paul	3
Romney	20
Tancredo	1
Thompson	10
Someone else /None	0
Undecided (Vol.)	10
DK/NA	5

q41 Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

\* SC LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS \*

	All Voters %	Huckabee Voters %	Romney Voters %
Mind made up	29	30	31
Too early to say for sure	71	70	69

q42 What specifically is it about [fill can1] that makes you want to support him?

\* SC LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS \*

	All	Huckabee Voters	Romney Voters
	%	%	%
Like him	7	9	4
Best candidate for the job	3	5	3
Agree on issues	17	11	18
Right experience	10	3	12
Honesty/integrity	12	17	13
Shares my values	6	10	6
His religious beliefs	6	15	3
Stance on immigration	6	1	8
He's conservative	5	8	5
Strong leader/leadership	3	0	3
Other	16	12	12
DK/NA	4	1	5

q43 Would you describe your support for [CANDIDATE] as strongly favoring [CANDIDATE], or do you like him but with reservations, or do you support him because you dislike the other candidates?

Strongly favor	47	47	51
Like but with reservations	41	44	43
Dislike other candidates	9	9	5
Don't know/No answer	3	0	1

q44 Was there a time when you were supporting a different candidate for the nomination, or have you always supported the candidate you are backing now?

Yes, supported diff. cand.	44	59	45
No, always supported this	53	35	50
DK/NA	3	6	5

q45 Which candidate did you support?

SC REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS  
WHO ONCE SUPPORTED ANOTHER CANDIDATE

McCain	20
Giuliani	27
Romney	15
Thompson	14
Huckabee	3
Hunter	3
Paul	1
Tancredo	1
Someone else /None (Vol.)	10
Undecided (Vol.)	2
DK/NA	4



q46 Is your opinion of Rudy Giuliani favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Rudy Giuliani yet to have an opinion?

\* SC LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS \*

Favorable	38
Not favorable	38
Undecided	22
Haven't heard enough	3
Refused	0

q47 Is your opinion of Mike Huckabee favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Mike Huckabee yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	46
Not favorable	10
Undecided	15
Haven't heard enough	28
Refused	1

q48 Is your opinion of John McCain favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John McCain yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	49
Not favorable	23
Undecided	22
Haven't heard enough	4
Refused	2

q49 Is your opinion of Mitt Romney favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Mitt Romney yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	46
Not favorable	15
Undecided	21
Haven't heard enough	17
Refused	1

q50 Is your opinion of Fred Thompson favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Fred Thompson yet to have an opinion?

Favorable	36
Not favorable	16
Undecided	18
Haven't heard enough	29
Refused	1

q53 Is it possible you would ever vote for a candidate for the 2008 Republican nomination who does not share your views on social issues like abortion or same-sex marriage, or are these social issues so important that you could not vote for a candidate who disagrees with you?

Yes, would vote	47
No, would not vote	44
Depends (Vol.)	7
Don't know/No answer	2

q54 Would you be willing or not willing to vote for a candidate for the Republican nomination who has views that are less conservative than yours if you thought that candidate had a good chance to win the presidency in November 2008?

\* SC LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS \*

	%
Willing	63
Not willing	29
Don't know/No answer	8

q55 Do you think Fred Thompson shares the values of most people in South Carolina, or not?

Yes	47
No	14
Don't know/No answer	39

q56 Do you think Mike Huckabee shares the values of most people in South Carolina, or not?

Yes	55
No	11
Don't know/No answer	34

q57 Do you think John McCain shares the values of most people in South Carolina, or not?

Yes	53
No	27
Don't know/No answer	20

q58 Do you think Mitt Romney shares the values of most people in South Carolina, or not?

Yes	43
No	24
Don't know/No answer	33

q59 Do you think Rudy Giuliani shares the values of most people in South Carolina, or not?

Yes	25
No	52
Don't know/No answer	23

q60 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, which candidate do you think has the best chance of winning the general election in November -- Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter John McCain, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, Tom Tancredo or Fred Thompson?

\* SC LIKELY REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS \*

	%
Giuliani	27
Huckabee	19
McCain	9
Romney	24
Paul	1
Tancredo	1
Thompson	4
Someone else /None	1
DK/NA	14

q61 Regardless of how you intend to vote in 2008, which candidate comes closest to sharing your views on illegal immigration -- Rudy Giuliani, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, John McCain, Mitt Romney, Ron Paul, Tom Tancredo, or Fred Thompson?

Giuliani	10
Huckabee	14
Hunter	2
McCain	10
Romney	20
Paul	6
Tancredo	2
Thompson	11
Someone else /None	0
DK/NA	25

q62 Thinking about your vote for president next year, how important is it that a candidate shares your religious beliefs--is it very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

Very important	29
Somewhat important	37
Not very important	15
Not at all important	18
DK/NA	1

q68 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q69 What is your impression of the Mormon religion? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable, or haven't you heard enough about that to say?

Very favorable	7
Somewhat favorable	24
Somewhat unfavorable	21
Very unfavorable	18
Haven't heard enough	20
Don't know/No answer	10

q71 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q72 All things being equal, would you be more likely to vote for a candidate of a different religion than you, more likely to vote for a candidate with the same religion as you, or wouldn't a candidate's religion make a difference to you?

\*\* SC REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

	Total	Rep. Primary Voters
	%	%
Different religion	2	2
Own religion	26	34
No difference	69	61
DK/NA	3	3

q73 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q76 Which of these comes closest to your view? Abortion should be generally available to those who want it, abortion should be available but under stricter limits than it is now, abortion should not be permitted?

Generally available	28	19
Available but limits	42	49
Should not be permitted	26	30
Don't know/No answer	4	2

q77-q78 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q81 How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for South Carolina right now -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not at all serious?

Very serious	50	57
Somewhat serious	31	30
Not too serious	13	9
Not at all serious	4	2
Don't know/No answer	2	2

q82 Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are currently working in the U.S.: 1. They should be allowed to stay in their jobs, and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship; OR 2. They should be allowed to stay in their jobs only as temporary guest workers, but NOT to apply for U.S. citizenship; OR 3. They should be required to leave their jobs and leave the U.S.

Allowed to stay & apply	33	25
Stay as guest workers	27	31
Required to leave jobs & U.S.	34	39
Don't know/No answer	6	5

q84,q86, q87 RELEASED SEPARATELY

q88 During this presidential campaign, have you attended any campaign events or seen any of the Presidential candidates in person, or haven't you?

Yes	13	12
No	87	88
DK/NA	0	0

q89 In the last week, have you talked about the political candidates or their campaigns with anyone at the church or synagogue you attend?

\*\* SC REGISTERED VOTERS \*\*

	Total	Rep. Primary Voters
	%	%
Yes	24	23
No	75	75
Don't attend (vol.)	2	2
DK/NA	0	0

q91 Would you say you attend religious services every week, almost every week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, or never?

Every week	40	43
Almost every week	16	21
Once or twice a month	17	14
A few times a year	18	16
Never	9	5
DK/NA	0	1

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Registered Voters	1319	
Likely Republican Primary Voters	447	516