

**JEWISH VOTERS AND THE 2008 ELECTION**  
**CBS News Exit Poll Analysis**  
**June, 2008**

According to exit polls conducted during the Democratic primaries this year, Jewish Democratic primary voters overall supported Hillary Clinton for President over Barack Obama - 54% chose Clinton compared to 43% who chose Obama. Jewish primary voters made up 4% of the total vote in the Democratic primary states polled.

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTE AMONG JEWISH VOTERS**

Hillary Clinton	54%
Barack Obama	43

Jewish women over 45 were very solidly behind Hillary Clinton's candidacy, and she won among Jewish Democratic primary voters of all income and education levels. Still, Obama won the support of Jewish men under 65, and he also won among both men and women under 30, those who consider themselves very liberal, and those who view the war in Iraq as the country's most important problem.

Looking ahead, support for Clinton in the Democratic primaries may not indicate a problem for Obama in November among the country's Jewish voters. According to CBS News national polls conducted from February to May, Jewish registered voters overall would choose either Obama or Clinton over John McCain in the general election.

**AGE AND GENDER**

As with Democratic primary voters overall, Clinton's support among Jewish voters increased as the age of the voters increased. Obama won a majority of Jewish voters under 30, but they made up just a tenth of the Jewish voting population. The candidates were divided among Jewish voters between 30 and 44, while Clinton won among Jewish voters who were older.

**JEWISH DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTE BY AGE**

	Clinton	Obama
17-29	37%	59
30-44	49%	49
45-64	56%	41
65+	59%	36

Obama won among Jewish men, but Jewish women voted in larger numbers, and they supported Clinton by a wider margin.

**JEWISH DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTE BY GENDER**

	Total	Men	Women
Hillary Clinton	53%	44%	61%
Barack Obama	45	53	36

Most Jewish men and women under 30 voted for Obama, and most over 65 voted for Clinton, but there was a large gender divide among voters between 30 and 65. Men in that age range voted for Obama - particularly between 30 and 44 - while women voted strongly for Clinton.

**JEWISH DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTE BY AGE AND GENDER**

	***** Men *****		**** Women ****	
	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Clinton</u>	<u>Obama</u>
Total	44%	53	61%	36
17-29	36%	58	38%	61
30-44	<b>28%</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>32</b>
45-64	<b>46%</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>35</b>
65+	57%	41	63%	31

**INCOME AND EDUCATION**

Jewish Democratic primary voters are comparatively wealthy - more than half have incomes over \$100,000 a year while only a quarter do among Democratic primary voters overall. Still, a majority of Jewish voters of all income levels supported Clinton.

**JEWISH DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTE BY INCOME**

	Clinton	Obama
Under \$50K	52%	42
\$50k - \$100K	56%	41
\$100K+	53%	45

Jewish Democratic primary voters are likewise more educated than Democratic primary voters overall - 79% have at least a college degree and half have a post-graduate degree. Still, most supported Clinton regardless of their level of education, though the margin narrows among those with a post-graduate education.

**JEWISH DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTE BY EDUCATION**

	Clinton	Obama
No college degree	56%	38
College graduates	57%	42
Post-graduates	51%	46

**POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

Nearly seven in 10 Jewish primary voters were self-described liberals - far more than Democratic primary voters overall - but just how liberal they considered themselves had large implications for their vote. Most Jewish voters who said they were very liberal - slightly more than a quarter - voted for Obama, while most of those who said they were *somewhat* liberal - 4 in 10 overall - voted for Clinton. Moderates also voted for Clinton.

**JEWISH DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTE BY IDEOLOGY**

	Clinton	Obama
Very liberal	45%	53
Somewhat liberal	60%	38
Moderates	55%	41

**THE ISSUES**

As with Democratic primary voters overall, Jewish Democratic primary voters picked the economy first as the most important problem facing the country today, though they were more likely to choose the war in Iraq.

**MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM**

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	All Voters	Jewish Voters
Economy	51%	45%
War in Iraq	27	36
Health Care	19	15

And like other Democratic primary voters, most Jewish voters who picked Iraq as the country's most important problem mostly voted for Obama. Most Jewish voters who picked the economy or health care chose Clinton.

**MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM**

(Among Jewish Democratic Primary Voters)

	Clinton	Obama
Economy	57%	39
War in Iraq	46%	51
Health Care	63%	33

**LOOKING AHEAD TO THE GENERAL ELECTION**

Although Jewish Democratic voters favored Hillary Clinton in the primaries, Jewish registered voters overall say they would support either Obama or Clinton in a November match-up with McCain. According to CBS News Polls conducted from February to May, both Obama and Clinton would win among Jewish voters nationally by a comfortable margin.

**IF THE CANDIDATES WERE..., WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR?**

(Among Jewish registered voters  
CBS News polls, Feb - May, 2008)

Obama	65%
McCain	28
Clinton	68%
McCain	26

And Jewish registered voters have a more favorable opinion of Barack Obama than they do of Hillary Clinton, though both are viewed favorably.

**OPINIONS OF THE CANDIDATES**

(Among Jewish registered voters  
CBS News polls, Feb - May, 2008)

	Favorable	Unfavorable
Obama	61%	22
Clinton	51%	27

## DEMOGRAPHICS

Jewish Democratic primary voters are slightly older than Democratic primary voters overall, and they are far wealthier, better educated, and more liberal.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	All Voters	Jewish Voters
Men	42%	43%
Women	58	57

#### Age

17-29	15%	10%
30-44	25	19
45-64	43	48
65+	17	24

#### Income

Under \$50K	40%	17%
\$50K-\$100K	35	28
\$100K+	25	55

#### Education

No college degree	54%	21%
College degree	25	29
Post graduates	21	50

#### Philosophy

Very liberal	18%	27%
Somewhat liberal	29	41
Moderate	40	28
Conservative	13	4

*Note: this analysis includes a phone poll conducted in Oregon before its state's primary and excludes exit poll data in Michigan, Iowa, and Nevada when looking at all Democratic primary voters, and it also excludes South Carolina when looking at Jewish Democratic primary voters.*