



CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
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THE DEMOCRATS IN 2008
 March 7-11, 2007

Democratic voters are optimistic about their 2008 election prospects - they like their candidates and they think they will win the presidency in 2008.

Historically, Democrats have been skeptical of candidates for their party's nomination. In this cycle, at least for now, most Democratic primary voters are satisfied. 57% say they are satisfied with the candidates running for the Democratic nomination, while just 39% want more choices. In August 2003, opinion was reversed. During the 1992 primary campaign, Democratic voters also were not satisfied.

FEELING ABOUT DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FIELD
 (Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Now	8/2003	10/1991
Satisfied	57%	33%	18%
Want more choices	39	57	64

All the major Democratic candidates get positive assessments from Democratic primary voters. There have been small changes in the assessments of Hillary Clinton and John Edwards since January, with a few more Democratic primary voters expressing negative views of those candidates. Meanwhile, positive assessments of Barack Obama have soared, especially among blacks. In January, more blacks had a favorable view of Hillary Clinton than had a favorable view of Obama. Now the ratings among black Democratic voters are the same - two-thirds are favorable, and almost no black Democrats have unfavorable views of Clinton or Obama.

RATING THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES
 (Among Democratic Primary Voters)

	Now	1/2007
Hillary Rodham Clinton		
Favorable	59%	57%
Not favorable	17	12
Barack Obama		
Favorable	54%	40%
Not favorable	9	3
John Edwards		
Favorable	44%	50%
Not favorable	14	9

Clinton and Edwards are in their 50's, Obama is 45 years old. 52% of Democratic primary voters say they'd prefer a president who is in his or her 50s. Just 31% think the ideal age for a president is somewhere in the 40s.

THE CLINTON IRAQ VOTE

Hillary Clinton has received criticism from some Democrats about her 2002 vote to authorize the invasion of Iraq. 53% of Democratic primary voters agree her vote was a mistake, while 43% disagree.

WAS CLINTON'S 2002 VOTE ON IRAQ A MISTAKE?

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

Yes	53%
No	43

Republicans - most of whom still support the war -- don't think Clinton's vote was a mistake.

But the Democratic voters who think Clinton's 2002 vote was a mistake aren't sure she needs to state that publicly. 40% think she should, but most say that's not necessary.

SHOULD CLINTON PUBLICLY SAY HER 2002 VOTE WAS A MISTAKE?

(Among Democratic primary voters who think Clinton vote was a mistake)

Yes	40%
No	58

The war in Iraq is the dominant voting issue for Democrats. One in five says they could NOT vote for a candidate who disagrees with their position on Iraq, even if they agreed on all other issues. Most Democrats think the United States should not have gotten involved in Iraq, oppose the President's surge, and want to set a timetable for withdrawal. In addition, the overwhelming majority (85%) thinks a candidate who opposes the war has a better chance of winning in November. A majority of Republicans agree with Democrats on this, too.

Democratic voters also accept flexibility more than Republicans do. Although two-thirds of Democratic voters say they prefer a nominee who agrees with them on issues to one who they think has a better chance of winning the general election, they also believe that changing positions on some issues helps one win. By nearly two to one, Democratic voters say a candidate who has changed some of his or her positions on issues has a better chance of winning in November.

WHO HAS A BETTER CHANCE OF WINNING THE PRESIDENCY?

(Among Democratic Primary Voters)

Candidate who has never changed issue positions	33%
Candidate who has changed some positions	61

Of course, many Democrats have changed at least one position in the last few years - their original support for the invasion of Iraq has now changed to opposition.

LOOKING AHEAD

Democrats are looking ahead to the 2008 election campaign - and they are paying attention now. One in three Democratic primary voters says they are even paying a lot of attention - more than Republicans who say that. This level of attention this far out is unprecedented.

ATTENTION TO 2008 CAMPAIGN

(Among Registered Voters)

	Dem. Primary Voters	Rep. Primary Voters
A lot	31%	23%
Some	52	56
Not Much	13	18
None so far	4	2

Democrats are also united - nearly all say they expect to vote for the Democratic nominee in November 2008. A smaller majority of Republicans say they will vote for their party's nominee.

Democrats also have more faith than Republican in their party's ability to win the 2008 election. Eight in ten Democratic primary voters think a Democrat will win in 2008; barely half of Republican voters think their party's nominee will.

WHO WILL WIN IN 2008?

(Among Registered Voters)

	Dem. Primary Voters	Rep. Primary Voters
Democrat	84%	36%
Republican	8	50

One reason Democrats might be especially motivated this coming election is their antipathy to the Bush Administration. Democrats give George W. Bush only an 8% job approval rating. Nearly half describe their feelings about the Bush Administration as "angry." And Democrats disagree with many Bush policies - taxes, abortion, the budget deficit, judicial nominees and especially the war in Iraq. Only 7% say the President shares their priorities.

THE LAST DEMOCRATIC ADMINISTRATION

Bill Clinton and Al Gore are seen differently by Democrats and Republicans. Democrats like them; Republicans don't.

But national opinion of Al Gore has improved since he won an Oscar for his documentary "An Inconvenient Truth." For the first time since Gore finally conceded the 2000 election to George W. Bush in December, 2000, more Americans have a favorable view of the former Vice

President than a negative one. His January unfavorable ratings have dropped among all groups, but especially among Independents.

OPINION OF AL GORE

	Now	1/2007
Favorable	37%	32%
Not favorable	32	46

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1362 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone March 7-11, 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 Republicans was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 698 interviews among this group. The results were then weighted in proportion to the average party distributions in previous 2007 CBS News and CBS News/New York Times Polls. The margin of error for Republicans is plus or minus four percentage points. The margin of error for the 362 registered Democratic primary voters is plus or minus five percentage points.

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

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****				Feb07b
	Total	**** Party ID ****			
	%	Rep	Dem	Ind	%
Approve	34	75	8	28	29
Disapprove	58	17	88	60	61
DK/NA	8	8	4	12	10

q23 Is your opinion of Bill Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Bill Clinton yet to have an opinion?

					Oct04f*
Favorable	48	15	74	47	48
Not favorable	38	76	11	37	38
Undecided	11	9	11	13	10
Haven't heard enough	2	0	2	2	3
Refused	1	0	2	1	1

*Trend is among registered voters

q24 Is your opinion of Al Gore favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Al Gore yet to have an opinion?

					Jan07a
Favorable	37	15	54	36	32
Not favorable	32	65	14	26	46
Undecided	23	12	26	26	19
Haven't heard enough	8	8	6	12	2
Refused	0	0	1	0	1

q27 Which comes closest to your feelings about the Bush Administration -- enthusiastic, satisfied but not enthusiastic, dissatisfied but not angry, or angry?

Enthusiastic	4	11	1	2
Satisfied but not enthusia	30	63	10	26
Dissatisfied but not angry	36	21	41	43
Angry	28	5	46	27
DK/NA	2	0	2	2

q30 Do you think George W. Bush has the same priorities for the country as you have, or not?

					Jan07c
Has	29	69	7	22	28
Does not have	66	25	89	73	69
DK/NA	5	6	4	5	3

q31 Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with how George W. Bush is handling the federal budget deficit? Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?

	**** TOTAL RESPONDENTS ****			
	**** Party ID ****			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	7	20	1	4
Somewhat satisfied	22	42	9	20
Somewhat dissatisfied	26	20	31	25
Very dissatisfied	34	8	50	38
DK/NA	11	10	9	13

q32 Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with how George W. Bush is handling taxes? Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?

Very satisfied	16	41	5	10
Somewhat satisfied	26	36	11	33
Somewhat dissatisfied	21	12	29	21
Very dissatisfied	28	7	48	24
DK/NA	9	4	7	12

q33 Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with how George W. Bush is handling the issue of abortion? Would you say you are very (satisfied/dissatisfied) or somewhat (satisfied/dissatisfied)?

Very satisfied	16	38	5	11
Somewhat satisfied	21	31	16	18
Somewhat dissatisfied	19	9	28	18
Very dissatisfied	22	7	38	19
DK/NA	22	15	13	34

q34 Do you think George W. Bush's nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court have been more conservative than you would like, not conservative enough, or about right?

More conservative	24	4	40	24	Dec05a
Not conservative enough	17	12	23	15	25
About right	44	74	23	42	15
DK/NA	15	10	14	19	50
					10

q35 If the 2008 election for President were being held today, would you probably vote for the Republican candidate or would you probably vote for the Democratic candidate?

Republican	31	79	3	22
Democratic	51	6	91	46
Other (Vol.)	1	0	0	1
Won't vote (Vol.)	1	0	0	2
Depends (Vol.)	10	12	3	16
DK/NA	6	3	3	13

q39 Is your opinion of Hillary Rodham Clinton favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Hillary Rodham Clinton yet to have an opinion?

	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS	Jan07c
	%	%
Favorable	59	57
Not favorable	17	12
Undecided	20	27
Haven't heard enough	4	3
Refused	0	1

q40 Is your opinion of John Edwards favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about John Edwards yet to have an opinion?

		Jan07a
Favorable	44	50
Not favorable	14	9
Undecided	28	25
Haven't heard enough	14	16
Refused	1	0

q41 Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough about Barack Obama yet to have an opinion?

		Jan07c
Favorable	54	40
Not favorable	9	3
Undecided	17	16
Haven't heard enough	19	40
Refused	1	1

q42 Is there any one issue you feel so strongly about that you would NOT vote for a candidate for president who disagrees with you on that issue? IF YES, ASK: Which issue is that?

War in Iraq	20
Abortion	6
Poverty / Homelessness	3
Health Care	3
Economy & Jobs	3
Immigration	2
Other	10
No Issue	47
DK/NA	6

q43 In 2002, Hillary Rodham Clinton voted for the Senate resolution authorizing President Bush to take military action in Iraq. Looking back, was it a mistake or not a mistake for Hillary Rodham Clinton to vote for the resolution?

Mistake	53
Not a mistake	43
DK/NA	4

q44 Do you think Hillary Rodham Clinton should publicly say her vote was a mistake or is that unnecessary?

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
 VOTERS WHO THINK CLINTON
 IRAQ VOTE WAS A MISTAKE

Should publicly say mistake	40
Not necessary	58
DK/NA	2

q67 Which of the following is MORE important to you -- choosing a Democratic nominee who agrees with your positions on most issues, or choosing a nominee who can win in November?

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

	%
Agrees with issues	66
Win in November	31
DK/NA	3

q68 Who do you think has a better chance of winning the presidential election in 2008 -- a candidate who supports the war in Iraq or a candidate who opposes the war in Iraq?

Supports war	11
Opposes war	85
DK/NA	4

q69 Who do you think has a better chance of winning the presidential election in 2008 -- a candidate who has never changed his or her positions on the issues, or a candidate who has changed some of his or her positions on the issues?

Never changed	33
Changed some	61
DK/NA	6

q72 Are you generally satisfied with the candidates now running for the Democratic nomination for President, or do you wish there were more choices?

		Aug03b
		%
Satisfied	57	33
More choices	39	57
DK/NA	4	10

q77 Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the US have stayed out?

Right thing	18
Stayed out	80
Don't know/No answer	2

q83 Do you think the United States should or should not set a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq?

Should	62
Should not	35
DK/NA	3

q85 Last January, George W. Bush sent another 20,000 troops into Iraq to try and gain control of Baghdad. Do you favor or oppose this increase?

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

	%
Favor	14
Oppose	82
DK/NA	4

q92 In general, what is the best age for a president of the United States -- in their 30s, in their 40s, in their 50s, in their 60s, or in their 70s?

30s	6
40s	31
50s	52
60s	6
70s	0
DK/NA	5

q93 How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2008 election campaign -- a lot, some, not much, or no attention so far?

	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS %	REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS %
A lot	31	23
Some	52	56
Not much	13	18
None so far	4	2
DK/NA	0	1

q94 Regardless of how you intend to vote for President in 2008, who do you expect to finally win the 2008 Presidential election -- a Democrat or a Republican?

	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS %	REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS %
Republican	8	50
Democrat	84	36
DK/NA	8	14

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1362	
Total Republicans	698	362
Total Democrats	294	472
Total Independents	370	528
Democratic Primary Voters (RVS)	362	511
Republican Primary Voters (RVS)	603	348