

**THE CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**  
**August 8, 2006**

Although the Democratic Senate primary race in Connecticut was close, Ned Lamont defeated incumbent Senator Joe Lieberman in a high turnout election. As expected, the war in Iraq played an important role in Lamont's win, as did opposition to the President -- both of which seemed to outweigh Lieberman's experience. But Lieberman kept it close by capturing the votes of those who made up their minds in the last few days of the campaign, closing a gap that had been much wider.

More than three in four voters opposed the war in Iraq, and nearly six in ten said Lieberman was too close to the President. Many of Lamont's voters said they voted for him because he would oppose Bush.

Looking ahead, most primary voters would rather not see Lieberman run as an Independent in November, despite his plans.

**THE VOTE**

Three quarters of voters said they made their mind up about which candidate to support a while ago -- in the last month or even earlier, and those voters went for Lamont. But the race appears to have tightened in the last few days, and Lieberman ran ahead of Lamont among the 16% of voters who made their mind up in the last three days.

**WHEN DID YOU DECIDE WHO VOTE FOR?**

	Voted for:	
	Lamont	Lieberman
Last three days	44%	54
Last week	49%	50
Last month or before	53%	46

Nearly eight in ten voters said they have voted in a Democratic primary before, but one in five had not -- 20% say they had voted before, but not in a Democratic primary. Those new Democratic primary voters strongly supported Lamont, who received 62% of their vote.

**VOTING FOR AND AGAINST LIEBERMAN**

Ned Lamont's backers went to the polls as much to oppose Joe Lieberman as to support Lamont: nearly half -- 48% -- said they considered their vote for the challenger mainly as a vote against Lieberman. 52% said their ballot was mainly in support of Lamont.

**DO YOU THINK OF YOUR LAMONT VOTE AS...?**  
**(Among Lamont voters)**

For Lamont	52%
Against Lieberman	48

Lieberman's voters, by contrast, say their vote decision was not about the challenger -- almost all of them turned out for the purpose of supporting Lieberman.

**DO YOU THINK OF YOUR LIEBERMAN VOTE AS...?**  
**(Among Lieberman voters)**

For Lieberman	92%
Against Lamont	8

Lamont's voters were also focused on Iraq. 43% said Lamont's opposition to the war was their main reason for backing him, while another 24% said they hoped he would oppose George W. Bush, generally, if elected. Nearly as many said it was just time for a change.

**MAIN REASON YOU VOTED FOR LAMONT?**  
**(Among Lamont voters)**

Opposition to Iraq war	43%
He would oppose Bush	24
It's just time for a change	21
Issues other than Iraq	9
His personal qualities	3

For Lieberman supporters, it was all about experience, which the Senator had emphasized in his campaign: half picked that as the main reason they voted for the incumbent Senator. His personal qualities and his opinions on issues other than Iraq also helped drive his voters.

**MAIN REASON YOU VOTED FOR LIEBERMAN?**  
**(Among Lieberman voters)**

His experience	48%
His personal qualities	21
Issues other than Iraq	21
His support for Iraq	6
Works well with Bush	3

**THE ROLE OF IRAQ**

78% of Democratic voters disapproved of the decision to go to war with Iraq, including 61% who said they strongly disapproved. Only 22% approved of the decision. Six in ten of those who disapproved voted for Lamont.

**U.S. DECISION TO GO TO WAR WITH IRAQ**

Approve	22%
Disapprove	78

**VOTE CHOICE OF THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF IRAQ WAR**

Lamont	60%
Lieberman	39

Connecticut Democratic primary voters' views on Iraq were much like those of Democrats nationwide. In the latest CBS News/New York Times Poll, 74% of Democrats said the U.S. should have stayed out of Iraq altogether. Overall, the nation is divided on this matter: 47% of Americans say taking action against Iraq was the right thing to do, while 48% say the U.S. should have stayed out.

Iraq dominated the campaign and the minds of Tuesday's primary voters. Nine in ten said it was important in their vote, including 61% who said it was very important to their decision. Another 32% said it was somewhat important.

**HOW IMPORTANT WAS THE WAR IN YOUR VOTE?**

Very important	61%
Somewhat important	32
Not very/not too important	7

Those who called it very important voted for Lamont by a 2-to-1 margin, 66% to 33%. By a similar margin, Lieberman captured those who thought it just somewhat important -- but there were fewer such voters.

**IMPORTANCE OF THE WAR AND VOTE**

	Voted for:	
	Lamont	Lieberman
Very important	66%	33
Somewhat important	31%	68
Not too important	16%	83

Similarly, most voters -- 69% -- also said the U.S. should begin withdrawing troops from Iraq soon. They, too, overwhelmingly voted for Lamont, by 64% to 34%. Only 31% said the U.S. should keep troops in Iraq until it is stable.

Lieberman's association with Bush may have proved a political liability. Nearly six in ten Connecticut Democratic primary voters said that Senator Lieberman is too close to the President. While this sentiment was most pronounced among liberals -- about seven in ten said he is too close -- half of moderate Democrats and about three in ten conservatives shared this opinion.

**IS LIEBERMAN TOO CLOSE TO BUSH?**

Yes	59%
No	41

Seven in ten of Lieberman's voters did not think he was too close to Bush, however.

More than 8 in 10 Connecticut Democratic primary voters disapprove of Bush's job performance as President, including seven in ten who strongly disapprove.

**BUSH JOB APPROVAL**

Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	11
Somewhat disapprove	13
Strongly disapprove	71

When asked whether or not Lieberman is in touch with the average Connecticut person, just over half said he is, while 47% said he is not.

**IS LIEBERMAN IN TOUCH WITH AVERAGE CT PERSON...?**

Yes	53%
No	47

Many of these Democratic primary voters saw Lieberman as too conservative - 45% said so. Another 45% believe that Lieberman's positions on issues are about right. In contrast, six in ten Connecticut Democratic primary voters said that Ned Lamont's positions on issues are just right. 29% said his positions are too liberal.

**ARE CANDIDATES' POSITIONS ON ISSUES...?**

	Lamont	Lieberman
Too liberal	29%	10%
Too conservative	11	45
About right	60	45

Lamont's financing of his campaign troubled less than half of voters. 40% were very or somewhat concerned over the amount of money Ned Lamont spent on his campaign, while 60% said they were not concerned.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER**

Most Democratic primary voters would not support an Independent run for U.S. Senate by Lieberman this fall, even though the majority said they approve of the way in which he is doing his job.

61% of those who voted in the Democratic primary in Connecticut do not believe Lieberman should run as an Independent, and only 39% said he should. Three out of four of those who voted for Lieberman said he should run, but a quarter said he should not.

**SHOULD LIEBERMAN RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT?**

	All	Lieberman voters
Yes	39%	73%
No	61	27

If Lieberman does decide to run as an Independent against Lamont and Schlesinger in November, he may find that many Democratic voters will choose their party's candidate instead of him. In a hypothetical three-way race against Lamont and Schlesinger, Lamont would earn 49% of the votes of these Democratic primary voters, and Lieberman would receive 36%.

Among Lieberman voters, three out of four say they will support Lieberman again under those circumstances; 16% are not sure, and 6% say they will vote for Lamont. Lamont retains more of his voters; 88% of them say they would vote for him in November.

**VOTE IN NOVEMBER IF LIEBERMAN RUNS AS AN IND.**

	All	Lieberman Voters	Lamont Voters
Lamont	49%	6%	88%
Lieberman	36	75	1
Not sure	12	16	8

Lieberman nonetheless still receives a positive job approval rating from yesterday's voters. 56% say they approve of the job he is doing as Senator; 44% disapprove.

**LIEBERMAN'S JOB APPROVAL**

Approve	56%
Disapprove	44

**WHO VOTED AND FOR WHOM**

Voters divided along age, class, ideological and religious lines. But this Democratic electorate was decidedly liberal - 55% described themselves that way. Lamont garnered a majority of votes among younger voters, better educated voters and liberal voters. Lieberman won a majority among voters with a high school education or less, more conservative voters, Catholics and Jewish voters. There was no gender gap.

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY: SENATE VOTE**

	Lamont	Lieberman
18-29	63%	36
30-44	53%	45
45-59	50%	49
60 and over	48%	51
White	50%	49
Black	55%	41

**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY: SENATE VOTE (cont'd)**

High school or less	39%	59
Some college	51%	48
College grad or more	55%	44
Protestant	58%	42
Catholic	44%	55
Jewish	39%	61
Liberal	62%	38
Moderate	39%	59
Conservative	35%	63
Union household	53%	46
Income		
Under \$50K	48%	51
\$50K-\$100K	53%	47
\$100K and over	52%	48

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The CBS News/New York Times exit poll was conducted among a random sample of Democratic primary voters in 25 randomly selected polling places throughout Connecticut as they were leaving the polls. The poll includes 2,669 voters, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES EXIT POLL  
 THE CONNECTICUT DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY  
 August 8, 2006**

q3 My vote today was mainly:

	Among Lieberman Voters
	%
For Joe Lieberman	92
Against Ned Lamont	8

q4 What is the MAIN reason you voted for Joe Lieberman?

Experience	48
Personal qualities	21
Issues other than Iraq	21
Support for Iraq	6
Works well with Bush	3

q5 My vote today was mainly:

	Among Lamont Voters
	%
For Ned Lamont	52
Against Joe Lieberman	48

q6 What is the MAIN reason you voted for Ned Lamont?

Opposition to Iraq	43
Will oppose Bush	24
Just time for change	21
Issues other than Iraq	9
Personal qualities	3

q7 When did you finally decide for whom to vote in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate?

	Total Democratic Primary Voters
	%
Just today	8
In the last three days	8
Sometime last week	8
During the last month	30
Before that	45

q9 Do you think Joe Lieberman's positions on the issues are:

Too liberal	10
Too conservative	45
About right	45

q10 Do you think Ned Lamont's positions on the issues are:

	Total Democratic Primary Voters %
Too liberal	29
Too conservative	11
About right	60

q11 If Joe Lieberman loses today's primary, should he run as an INDEPENDENT in November?

Yes	39
No	61

q12 In deciding how to vote for U.S. Senate, how important to you were the candidates' views on Iraq?

Very important	61
Somewhat important	32
Not too important	5
Not at all important	2

q13 How do you feel about the U.S. decision to go to war with Iraq?

Strongly approve	7
Somewhat approve	15
Somewhat disapprove	17
Strongly disapprove	61

q14 What should the U.S. do in Iraq now:

Begin removing troops soon	69
Keep troops in Iraq until the country is stable	31

q15 Do you approve or disapprove of how Joe Lieberman is handling his job as U.S. Senator?

Strongly approve	28
Somewhat approve	28
Somewhat disapprove	23
Strongly disapprove	21

q16 Regardless of how you voted for U.S. Senate, do you think Joe Lieberman is in touch with the average Connecticut person?

Yes	53
No	47

q17 Regardless of how you voted for U.S. Senate, do you think Joe Lieberman is too close to George W. Bush?

Yes	59
No	41

q18 Regardless of how you voted for U.S. Senate, how concerned are you with the amount of money Ned Lamont spent in his campaign?

	Total Democratic Primary Voters
	%
Very concerned	20
Somewhat concerned	20
Not very concerned	31
Not at all concerned	29

q19 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

Strongly approve	5
Somewhat approve	11
Somewhat disapprove	13
Strongly disapprove	71

q20 If Joe Lieberman runs as an Independent in November, and these are the candidates, will you vote for:

Ned Lamont (DEM)	49
Joe Lieberman (IND)	36
Alan Schlesinger (REP)	0
Someone else	1
Not sure	12
Won't vote	1

q21 No matter how you voted today, do you usually think of yourself as a:

Democrat	78
Republican	2
Independent	18
Something else	2

q22 On most political matters, do you consider yourself:

Very liberal	16
Somewhat liberal	39
Moderate	35
Somewhat conservative	7
Very conservative	3

q25 Which best describes you:

Voted in a Democratic primary before	78
Voted before, but not in a Dem. primary	20
First time voting in any election	2

Total Democratic Primary Voters: 2669

Margin of error: 3pts.