

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING: A WOMAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
May 30 - June 2, 2008

Hillary Clinton's campaign as the first serious woman contender for the Democratic presidential nomination represents a shattering of the glass ceiling in presidential politics. Most voters think that win or lose, her candidacy will make it easier for other women to run for president.

HAS CLINTON'S CANDIDACY MADE IT EASIER FOR OTHER WOMEN TO RUN?

(Among registered voters)

	All	Men	Women
Made it easier	69%	60%	76%
Made it harder	9	13	5
Had no effect	21	25	17

Majorities of both men and women agree, although more women than men think she has made it easier for future women candidates.

The historic importance of Clinton's candidacy is also reflected in the bipartisan nature of voters' views. Although more Democrats think she has made it easier for other women to run, nearly two thirds of Republicans also think that's the case.

HAS CLINTON'S CANDIDACY MADE IT EASIER FOR OTHER WOMEN TO RUN?

(Among registered voters)

	All	Reps	Dems	Inds
Made it easier	69%	63%	75%	65%
Made it harder	9	12	7	9
Had no effect	21	25	17	23

In addition, about seven in 10 voters under age 64 think Clinton has made it easier for other women candidates.

Voters embrace the concept of a woman as a serious presidential candidate. 88% agree with the statement "I am glad to see a woman as a serious contender for president."

GLAD TO SEE A WOMAN AS CONTENDER FOR PRESIDENT

(Among registered voters)

Agree	88%
Disagree	9

Nearly all Democrats and nine in 10 independents agree with this statement, as do most Republicans (76%).

This is a more widespread welcome than Geraldine Ferraro received in 1984: a CBS News/New York Times Poll then found that 62% of voters agreed they were "glad that a woman was nominated as vice president."

Two thirds of voters would like to see a woman as president in their lifetime. More women than men want to see that happen.

HOPE FOR A WOMAN PRESIDENT IN YOUR LIFETIME?

(Among registered voters)

	All	Men	Women
Yes	63%	57%	69%
No	21	26	17

Younger voters are also more likely to say they hope for a woman president in their lifetime.

And seven in 10 think a woman president in their lifetime is likely. Voters under age 45, who have more years when this can happen, are most apt to think this is likely (79%); just 44% of those 65 and older think it is.

IS A WOMAN PRESIDENT IN YOUR LIFETIME LIKELY?

(Among registered voters)

	All	Men	Women	Under 45	45-64	65+
Yes	69%	65%	72%	79%	69%	44%
No	23	25	20	16	22	39

In a Life Magazine poll conducted by Gallup in 1992, 61% of all Americans said they hoped for a woman president (a number similar to today's), but just 46% thought that was likely to occur.

But when it comes to the question of exactly who might be a future female presidential candidate, more than half cannot name any current woman they would like to see run. 13% of voters suggested Condoleezza Rice and 5% volunteered Nancy Pelosi. About 2% mentioned Oprah Winfrey or Elizabeth Dole.

WOMAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE RUN FOR PRESIDENT

(Among registered voters)

Condoleezza Rice	13%
Nancy Pelosi	5
Oprah Winfrey	2
Elizabeth Dole	2
No one	57

The absence of any currently visible successor to candidate Clinton is underscored by the fact that nearly half of voters say they would like to see more women hold high-level political office, such as governor or member of Congress. Four in 10 think the number of women politicians is about right. 53% of women would like to see more women hold political office, 39% of men would.

WOMEN HOLDING POLITICAL OFFICE

(Among registered voters)

	All	Men	Women
Would like more	46%	38%	53%
Would like fewer	3	7	1
About right	39	43	35

The months of primaries and caucuses, and the more than 17 million votes cast for Clinton in those events haven't changed views on one key question, however. 60% of voters think the country is ready to elect a woman president, a figure that has not changed in recent months. 36% think the country is not ready.

U.S. READY FOR WOMAN PRESIDENT?

(Among registered voters)

	Now	3/2008	1/2008	1/2007
Yes	60%	59%	58%	54%
No	36	34	32	40

More (68%) think the country is ready for a black president -- but that may be because Barack Obama is currently closer than Clinton to achieving the number of delegates needed to secure the Democratic nomination.

Both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have motivated voters to follow this political race. 49% of voters say that having Clinton run for the nomination has made them more interested in the campaign (about the same percentage as say Obama has done so). 54% of women and 60% of Democrats say her candidacy has sparked their interest in the campaign.

INTEREST IN CAMPAIGN AS A RESULT OF CLINTON'S CANDIDACY

(Among registered voters)

	All	Men	Women
More interested	49%	44%	54%
No difference	49	54	44
Less interested	1	1	1

SEXISM ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL?

Despite Clinton's almost-successful campaign for the Democratic nomination, voters still see women as having a more difficult time than African Americans when it comes to presidential politics. 46% think women candidates in this arena face more obstacles, while 32% think black candidates do. Women (52%) are more likely than men (40%) to say that a woman faces more obstacles than a black candidate.

WHO FACES MORE OBSTACLES IN PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS TODAY?
(Among registered voters)

	Now	3/2008
A woman candidate	46%	39%
A black candidate	32	33
No difference (vol.)	18	21

Nearly half of voters think the media has been harder on Hillary Clinton than on the other candidates. That percentage has even risen since last month, from 36% then to 45% now.

Women are particularly likely to think Clinton has been treated more harshly; 48% of women think the media has been harder on her, compared to 40% of men.

COMPARED TO OTHER CANDIDATES, THE NEWS MEDIA HAVE BEEN...?
(Among registered voters)

	Now	5/2008
Harder on Clinton	45%	36%
Easier on Clinton	8	12
The same	44	49

67% of those who think the media has been harder on Clinton feel that's at least somewhat the result of her gender.

MEDIA HAS BEEN HARDER ON CLINTON BECAUSE OF HER GENDER?

(Among registered voters who think media has been harder on her)

A lot	32%
Some	35
No much/not at all	31

When it comes to most of the people they know, most voters think Clinton has been judged no differently because she is a woman. However, four in ten voters say the people they know have judged her more harshly because she's a woman - and women in particular say this. Hardly any think her gender has made their acquaintances' treat her less harshly.

PEOPLE THEY KNOW HAVE JUDGED CLINTON ... BECAUSE SHE'S A WOMAN

(Among registered voters)

	All	Men	Women
More harshly	39%	33%	44%
Less harshly	3	5	2
No difference	56	61	51

25% of Democratic primary voters (including 31% of women Democratic primary voters) say that gender was a factor in deciding which candidate to support. They divided their vote between Clinton and Obama.

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 798 adults nationwide, including 712 registered voters, interviewed by telephone May 30-June 2, 2008. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus four percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. The error for the sample of registered voters is plus or minus four points.