

Los Angeles Times

MEMBERS OF THE RNC AND DNC HAVE OPPOSING VIEWS ABOUT HOW THE COUNTRY IS DOING AND HOW TO HANDLE THE IRAQ WAR

The midterm elections were barely over last November, when potential candidates for president from both parties started jockeying for position (and competing for campaign money) for the upcoming 2008 presidential election. Earlier this year, several Democratic and Republican candidates had already declared their intentions of running and by this month, all candidates are likely to have either declared their candidacy or dropped out (for lack of money or voter interest). This is the earliest candidates have started their campaigns in modern day history and the proliferation of national polls on this subject only proves that the election season has begun (even though the first caucus is not until January 14th in Iowa).

The Los Angeles Times Poll decided instead of doing a national poll of registered voters, to survey members of the Democratic and Republican National Committees (hereafter referred to as DNC/RNC) – the governing bodies of the two major political parties. These insiders could have an important role in deciding which of their candidates face each other in November 2008. They were asked their opinions on which candidate they would like as their nominee, how does Iraq play into that equation, along with how the country is doing economically and what are the most important issues for their party's candidate to address.

At this point, though, it is mainly high name recognition that is catapulting a few candidates from both sides to the head of their party's line. For the DNC members, New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton takes the early lead, while former governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney is the top choice of RNC members. Arizona Senator John McCain, who unofficially announced his candidacy Wednesday night on the David Letterman show, could have problems with the party's core base of conservative Republicans (38% of all RNC members and 44% of conservative members gave the senator an unfavorable rating); and 11% would refuse to support his candidacy if he becomes the presidential nominee.

When analyzing the results, the differences between the parties show that the Democratic and Republican insiders seem to be living in parallel universes. Their differences are illustrated by virtually all DNC members who believe the country is seriously off on the wrong track, compared to more than four-fifths of RNC members who believe the country is generally going in the right direction. Another difference is that all RNC members feel the economy is doing either very well (71%) or fairly well (29%), while the Democrats are not as optimistic. More than a third think the economy is doing well (including only 1%

who said very well and 35% who said fairly well), but almost two-thirds believe the nation's economy is doing badly (including 48% who said fairly badly and 15% who said very badly). Worrisome for Republican candidates is the war in Iraq. Iraq will play a huge role in the election if the war remains the status quo or if Americans still don't believe that the president's strategy is working. Not surprisingly, nearly nine out of 10 DNC members think it will be difficult for a Republican candidate to be elected in 2008 because of Bush's tenure in office. Even the RNC members acknowledge there will be some difficulty for a Republican candidate to win next year.

After two terms of the Bush administration, will it be easy or difficult for a Republican candidate to be elected in 2008, or will Bush's two terms in office not play a role one way or the other?

| | DNC | RNC |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Easy | <u>2</u> % | <u>8</u> % |
| Difficult (net) | <u>88</u> | <u>42</u> |
| Fairly difficult | 42 | 41 |
| Very difficult | 46 | 1 |
| Bush administration | | |
| does not play role | <u>7</u> | <u>38</u> |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> | <u>12</u> |

Yet, the Republican party insiders still support the president -- 87% approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president. (Virtually all DNC members disapprove.) The RNC members are much more approving of the president than Republicans in general. In an ABC/Washington Post poll conducted this week, 72% of self-identified Republicans approved of the way Bush is handling his job. The support by his own base, although still positive, has been declining steadily. In a Times/Bloomberg poll taken in early January, 82% of Republicans nationwide had a positive image of the president handling his job.

Issues for the candidates running for president to address: The issues deemed important are different for both parties. For DNC members: The top issues party insiders want a Democratic candidate running for president to address is healthcare/reforming the healthcare system (59%) and the war in Iraq (46%). John Edwards should be pleased about this topic being on the top of many members' minds as he has come out with an ambitious healthcare proposal. Also, about a quarter said that the candidate should be opposed to the war (which is helpful for Barack Obama who has opposed the war from the beginning).

For Republicans, 34% mentioned the Iraq war, followed by improving the economy (23%), global terrorism (22%) and immigration reform (21%). Only 2% of DNC members mentioned immigration reform. Also 10% of Republicans want their candidates to address making tax cuts permanent (only 1% of Democrats mentioned repealing Bush's tax cuts).

Presidential candidates

Democratic candidates: A list of presidential hopefuls were read to the DNC members as to whom they would like as their candidate for president. Hillary Rodham Clinton received 20% of the vote, followed by former North Carolina Senator John Edwards (15%), Illinois Senator Barack Obama (11%), former Vice President Al Gore (10%) and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson at 9% and Delaware Senator Joe Biden at 4%. Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd and former Governor of Iowa Tom Vilsack each received 1% of the vote. The other candidates mentioned did not receive any support (retired general Wesley Clark,

former Alaska Senator Mike Gravel, Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich and Rev. Al Sharpton from New York). Almost three in 10 weren't sure who they would support. (During the survey's interviewing period, Tom Vilsack dropped out of the race.)

Almost four out of 10 said they supported their candidate because of his/her experience. Clinton received the top mention among those who cited this attribute, followed by Richardson, Gore and Edwards. Another 17% cited strong qualities of leadership and again Clinton was the top mention among this group, followed by Edwards, Richardson and Obama. But of the 14% who cited that they supported their candidate because he/she can win in November 2008, Edwards got the highest mark -- at least twice as much than for Gore or Clinton.

The second choice for these party activists would be Obama (22%), followed by Edwards (18%), Richardson (15%) and Clinton (14%). Almost three out of 10 also believe that Clinton would be the strongest person to beat a Republican candidate in November 2008, followed by Edwards. More than three-fifths of the DNC members said they could support any of the candidates nominated, but 13% said they could not support Gravel from Alaska.

Democratic Choice:

| | First Choice | Second Choice | Strongest* | Refused to Support |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Hillary R. Clinton | 20% | 14% | 27% | 1% |
| John Edwards | 15 | 18 | 17 | 1 |
| Barack Obama | 11 | 22 | 9 | 1 |
| Al Gore | 10 | 7 | 8 | -- |
| Bill Richardson | 9 | 15 | 8 | -- |
| Joe Biden | 4 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Chris Dodd | 1 | 1 | -- | 1 |
| Tom Vilsack | 1 | 3 | -- | -- |
| Wesley Clark | -- | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Mike Gravel | -- | -- | -- | 13 |
| Dennis Kucinich | -- | -- | -- | 9 |
| Al Sharpton | -- | -- | -- | 5 |
| Undecided | 29 | 4 | 17 | 5 |
| No second choice | na | 9 | na | na |
| All/No one in particular | na | na | 12 | na |
| Could support all | na | na | na | 62 |

*Strongest candidate to beat the Republican candidate

Almost all of the DNC members (98%) are satisfied with the selection of candidates running for president, compared to a Times poll of DNC members in December 2003, where only three-quarters were satisfied.

Are the party insiders in sync with the Democratic rank and file voter? They are somewhat in alignment. In the ABC News/Washington Post national poll, 36% of Democratic voters would support Clinton, followed by 24% for Obama, 14% for Gore, 12% for Edwards and 3% for Richardson.

Impressions of the Democratic candidates: Obama, Clinton, Edwards and Richardson have the highest favorability ratings with at least three out of five DNC members giving the first three candidates a *very* favorable rating. Sharpton, Kucinich and Gravel have the worst ratings.

As of today, what is your general impression of:

| | Favorable | Unfavorable | Not Aware | Don't Know |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Barack Obama | 92% | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Hillary R. Clinton | 91% | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Al Gore | 91% | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| John Edwards | 89% | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| Bill Richardson | 89% | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| Chris Dodd | 78% | 10 | 10 | 2 |
| Joe Biden | 76% | 17 | 4 | 3 |
| Wesley Clark | 72% | 21 | 5 | 2 |
| Tom Vilsack | 68% | 10 | 18 | 3 |
| Al Sharpton | 40% | 49 | 7 | 4 |
| Dennis Kucinich | 36% | 51 | 9 | 3 |
| Mike Gravel | 16% | 45 | 36 | 3 |

When considering what kind of candidate they want for president, 37% of the DNC members said what is most important is whether the candidate can win, followed by a third who said where the candidate stands on the issues. A little more than one in ten would support their candidate because of the kind of person he/she is, while 7% said how much the candidate represents what the party stands for is the most important. Four percent thought whether the candidate will support the concerns of their area was the most important reason why they would support their candidate.

For Democrats, the candidate's stand on Iraq is either the most important issue (22%) or an important issue (75%). This is also true for Republicans as well (but for different reasons).

Republican Candidates: RNC members were also given a list of their party's candidates and asked to name the one they would support for president. Three names came out on top, with more than a third either not sure or not knowing enough to form an opinion. The top mention was Romney at 20%, followed by former mayor of New York Rudy Giuliani (14%), McCain (10%) and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (8%). Former governor of Arkansas Mike Huckabee and California Representative Duncan Hunter each received 4% of support.

Asked why they would support their candidate: More than three in 10 cited strong leadership qualities and among that group, more thought Giuliani had that attribute than the other Republican candidates. Romney came in a distant second on having leadership qualities. More than a quarter mentioned experience and by more than two to one Romney beat Gingrich and Giuliani on this characteristic. (The other candidates were barely mentioned.) Only 11 RNC insiders mentioned that their candidate could win in November and this small group locked in on Giuliani for this attribute.

A quarter of the RNC members gave Giuliani as their second choice, followed by McCain and Romney. And 30% thought Giuliani would be the strongest candidate to beat a Democrat in November 2008.

Republican Choice:

| | First Choice | Second Choice | Strongest* | Refused to Support |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|
| Mitt Romney | 20% | 15% | 17% | 1% |
| Rudy Giuliani | 14 | 25 | 30 | 1 |
| John McCain | 10 | 16 | 11 | 11 |
| Newt Gingrich | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| Mike Huckabee | 4 | 1 | 2 | -- |
| Duncan Hunter | 4 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Tom Tancredo | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| James Gilmore | 1 | 2 | -- | -- |
| Chuck Hagel | 1 | -- | -- | 7 |
| Tommy Thompson | 1 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Sam Brownback | -- | 7 | -- | 2 |
| Condoleeza Rice | na | na | 1 | na |
| Undecided | 36 | 6 | 23 | 12 |
| All/No one | na | na | 12 | na |
| Could support all | na | na | na | 59 |

*Strongest candidate to beat the Democratic candidate

Republican voters nationally appear to have a different opinion than that of their RNC counterparts. In the same ABC/Washington Post poll, 44% would support Giuliani, 21% would back McCain and 15% would vote for Gingrich. Just 4% mentioned Romney. (Of course, as was mentioned before, name recognition at this point plays a big part in the voters' decisions.)

More than four-fifths of RNC members are satisfied with the field of candidates. And when deciding on which candidate to support for their party's nomination, a third said it was important to know where the candidate stands on the issues, followed by more than a fifth who said whether the candidate can win is imperative for their support. Less than a fifth thought the kind of person the candidate is would be part of their decision, as well as 11% who said the candidate must represent what the party stands for. Just 2% mentioned whether the candidate will support the concerns of their area as part of their decision to support one candidate over the other. And like the Democrats, Iraq will play an important role in support of their party's nomination (although 23% said it would be the most important issue and 68% said it would be an important issue, but not the most important).

Impressions of the Republican candidates: Many of the candidates are unknowns, even to these party insiders. But Romney and Giuliani stand out with the highest favorable ratings, while Hagel has a net negative rating. McCain's unfavorables are high, but he still maintains a 56% positive opinion.

As of today, what is your general impression of:

| | Favorable | Unfavorable | Not Aware | Don't Know |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| Mitt Romney | 83% | 8 | 4 | 4 |
| Rudy Giuliani | 83% | 10 | 2 | 5 |
| Newt Gingrich | 78% | 15 | 2 | 5 |
| Mike Huckabee | 66% | 4 | 26 | 4 |
| Tommy Thompson | 63% | 11 | 21 | 5 |
| George Pataki | 57% | 26 | 12 | 5 |
| John McCain | 56% | 38 | 2 | 4 |
| Sam Brownback | 47% | 20 | 29 | 4 |
| Tom Gilmore | 44% | 20 | 31 | 5 |
| Duncan Hunter | 32% | 8 | 56 | 4 |
| Tom Tancredo | 23% | 26 | 47 | 4 |
| Chuck Hagel | 20% | 47 | 28 | 5 |
| Ron Paul | 16% | 16 | 64 | 4 |

Both DNC and RNC members believe the country is ready to elect a president who is a minority or a woman. However, DNC members are somewhat more divided on whether a Mormon can be elected.

Is the country ready to elect a president who is::

| | YES | | NO | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | DNC | RNC | DNC | RNC |
| An African-American | 75% | 68% | 19% | 22% |
| A woman | 86% | 74% | 10% | 17% |
| A Latino | 75% | 73% | 20% | 22% |
| A Mormon | 48% | 77% | 40% | 10% |

RNC members are aware of the vagaries of the upcoming election and how Bush's tenure can be a drag on the Republican candidates. With that in mind, 51% of these activists think that whoever becomes the next Republican nominee should campaign on a platform of moving the country in a new direction. Even roughly half of conservative Republicans believe this as well. Just 29% believe the next nominee should campaign on a platform of continuing the president's policies.

Iraq

Once again the division between the party committee members is palpable on the subject of Iraq and especially among the possibility of troop withdrawal. Virtually all DNC members believe the war was not worth fighting, while more than eight out of 10 RNC members said the war was worth fighting. On bringing the troops home -- more than 7 out of 10 Democrats want to start bringing the troops home within the next year and a fifth want an immediate withdrawal. For the Republicans, three-quarters want the troops to remain in Iraq for as long as it takes to win the war. Just 13% want to start bringing the troops home within the next year. There weren't any Republican committee members advocating an immediate withdrawal.

Almost all Democrats disapprove of sending an additional 22,000 troops into Iraq, while nearly all Republicans approve. Most DNC members agree with the newly elected Democratic leadership in terms of withdrawing troops. They want Bush to start withdrawing troops either by cutting off funding or through some other legislative measure, setting a mandatory deadline for withdrawal of troops and want Congress to attempt to prevent Bush from sending more troops to Iraq. On the other hand, nearly all Republicans are in lockstep with the president. They do not want to require Bush to begin a troop withdrawal, don't want to set a mandatory timeline for withdrawal, and do not want to block deployment of sending additional troops to Iraq.

But 82% of Democrats agree that the president will be pressured by his own party to start withdrawing troops from Iraq in order to help the Republican candidates running for president. Although more than half of Republicans disagree with this assessment, more than a third agree that Bush needs to change the course of the war in order to help his party win in 2008.

Analysis by Susan H. Pinkus

**(Democratic and Republican National Committee Members' Views on
the Upcoming 2008 Presidential Election and Iraq)
February 13-26, 2007**

Guide to Column Headings

DNC Democratic National Committee members
RNC Republican National Committee members

Note:

- (vol.) indicates a volunteered response
- ‘-’ indicates of less than 0.5%
- Due to the fact that this press release combines two different studies, #541 of DNC and #542 of RNC, some question numbers are repeated. The numberings for the last 17 questions correspond to study #541.

ASKED OF DNC MEMBERS

Q1. Are you the chairperson of your state committee, or the vice chair, or do you hold another office, or are you a member of your state's Democratic committee, but not an office holder?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|------------------------------|------------|
| (member-at-large) | 18 |
| State chair | 15 |
| State vice chair | 16 |
| State-member, another office | 7 |
| State-member, no office | 44 |

ASKED OF RNC MEMBERS

Q1. Are you the chairperson of your state committee or a national committee member?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|--------------------------|------------|
| State chair | 32 |
| National committee man | 32 |
| National committee woman | 36 |

NEXT TWO QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF MEMBERS OF BOTH COMMITTEES

Q2. Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or are they seriously off on the wrong track?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Right direction | 4 | 83 |
| Wrong track | 95 | 10 |
| Don't know | 1 | 7 |

Q3. Generally speaking, do you think the nation's economy these days is doing very well, or fairly well, or fairly badly, or very badly?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Well (net) | 36 | 100 |
| Very well | 1 | 71 |
| Fairly well | 35 | 29 |
| Badly (net) | 63 | - |
| Fairly badly | 48 | - |
| Very badly | 15 | - |
| Don't know | 1 | - |

ASKED OF DNC MEMBERS

Q4. Thinking about issues which best highlight the differences between the Democrats and Republicans... What do you see as the most important issue for the Democratic candidates running for president to address?
(UP TO THREE REPLIES ACCEPTED)

DNC

| | |
|--|----|
| Health care system/reforming health care/health care for all | 59 |
| Iraq war/Iraq reconstruction | 46 |
| Opposition to war in Iraq | 24 |
| Economy/improving the economy | 21 |
| Education improvements/test scores | 16 |
| Jobs creation/cut unemployment | 15 |
| U.S. foreign policy - change in policy | 12 |
| Budget deficit / balancing the budget/ cutting the deficit | 9 |
| Increased funding for public education | 8 |
| Disparity between rich and poor | 7 |
| Alternative energy sources | 4 |
| Energy policy | 4 |
| Tax reform to help low/middle class | 4 |
| Homeland security issues (infrastructure/borders/ports/airports) | 4 |
| Working/middle class rights - support and protection of | 4 |
| Social security/strengthen social security | 3 |
| Environmental protections | 3 |
| Ethics reform in government | 3 |
| Fair trade/ensure other countries practice fair trade | 2 |
| Al Qaeda/Osama bin Laden/global terrorism | 2 |
| Immigration reform | 2 |
| Global warming | 2 |
| Misc. economic issues | 2 |
| Repeal tax cuts | 1 |
| Reduce reliance on foreign oil | 1 |
| Increase spending on social programs | 1 |
| Medicare/reform new Medicare-drug plan legislation | 1 |
| Protect civil liberties | 1 |
| Abortion issues/Roe v. Wade | 1 |
| Crime/drugs/gangs | 1 |
| Domestic issues in general | 1 |
| Misc. social issues | 1 |
| Other | 7 |
| Don't know | — |

ASKED OF RNC MEMBERS

Q4. Thinking about issues which best highlight the differences between the Democrats and Republicans... What do you see as the most important issue for the Republican candidates running for president to address?
(UP TO THREE REPLIES ACCEPTED)

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|---|------------|
| Iraq war/Iraq reconstruction | 34 |
| Homeland security issues (infrastructure/borders/ports/airports) | 26 |
| Economy/improving the economy | 23 |
| Al Qaeda/Osama bin Laden/global terrorism | 22 |
| Immigration reform | 21 |
| Health care system/reforming health care | 16 |
| Cutting taxes/lowering taxes in general | 11 |
| Education improvements/test scores | 10 |
| Make tax cuts permanent | 10 |
| Smaller government / more individual freedom | 9 |
| Morality/family values | 8 |
| Job creation/cut unemployment | 6 |
| Budget deficit / balancing the budget | 5 |
| Ethics reform in government | 5 |
| U.S. foreign policy - change in policy | 5 |
| Military spending/strengthen military | 4 |
| Abortion issues/Roe v. Wade | 4 |
| Spending limits/cap government spending | 4 |
| Social security/privatize social security | 2 |
| Eliminate "death tax" / estate tax | 2 |
| Alternative energy sources | 1 |
| Energy policy | 1 |
| Environmental protections | 1 |
| Appointments to the U.S. Supreme and federal courts | 1 |
| Fight judicial activism/reform justice system | 1 |
| Stress personal responsibility | 1 |
| Medicare/reform new Medicare-drug plan legislation | 1 |
| Opposition to war in Iraq | 1 |
| Crime/drugs/gangs | 1 |
| Business/helping business compete, increase productivity | 1 |
| Fair trade/ensure other countries practice fair trade | 1 |
| Reform unethical business practices | 1 |
| Conflict between Palestinians and Israel | 1 |
| Decrease spending on social programs | 1 |
| Disparity between rich and poor | 1 |
| Domestic issues in general | 1 |
| Gun control | 1 |
| Nothing in particular | 1 |
| Other | 7 |
| Don't know | 1 |

NEXT SEVEN QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF DNC MEMBERS

Thinking ahead to the 2008 presidential election.....

Q5. Who would you like to see as the Democratic candidate for president? (unaided responses)

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|------------------------|------------|
| Hillary Rodham Clinton | 20 |
| John Edwards | 15 |
| Barack Obama | 11 |
| Bill Richardson | 9 |
| Joe Biden | 3 |
| Mike Gravel | 2 |
| Chris Dodd | 1 |
| No one in particular | 10 |
| Don't know | 29 |

(ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES IS ROTATED WITHIN TEXT)

Q6. What if the candidates running for the Democratic presidential nomination were Delaware Senator Joe Biden, retired General Wesley Clark, New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd, former North Carolina Senator John Edwards, former Vice President Al Gore, former Alaska Senator Mike Gravel, Ohio Representative Dennis Kucinich, Illinois Senator Barack Obama, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, Rev Al Sharpton from New York, and former Governor of Iowa Tom Vilsack, for whom would you vote: Biden, Clark, Clinton, Dodd, Edwards, Gore, Gravel, Kucinich, Obama, Richardson, Sharpton or Vilsack?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|---|------------|
| Hillary Rodham Clinton | 20 |
| John Edwards | 15 |
| Barack Obama | 11 |
| Al Gore | 10 |
| Bill Richardson | 9 |
| Joe Biden | 4 |
| Chris Dodd | 1 |
| Tom Vilsack | 1 |
| Wesley Clark | - |
| Don't know /Haven't heard enough (vol.) | 29 |

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO CHOSE A CANDIDATE)

Q7. Why would you support that candidate? (UP TO TWO REPLIES ACCEPTED)

DNC

| | |
|---|----|
| Experienced/strong track record | 39 |
| Leadership qualities, strong | 17 |
| Can win in November | 14 |
| Intelligent/bright | 11 |
| Honest/has integrity | 9 |
| Shares my views on issues | 6 |
| Fresh face | 5 |
| Know personally | 5 |
| Health care position | 5 |
| Understands/articulates the issues | 5 |
| Charismatic | 4 |
| Progressive/has new ideas | 4 |
| Vision | 4 |
| Woman | 4 |
| Foreign policy experience | 4 |
| Can unite country/build consensus | 3 |
| Has the same values as most Americans | 3 |
| Astute | 3 |
| Strongest candidate | 3 |
| Foreign policy position | 3 |
| Opposed war in Iraq | 3 |
| Name recognition | 2 |
| Knows the ways of Washington | 2 |
| Can carry southern states | 2 |
| Faithful to basic Democratic party principles | 2 |
| Economy position | 2 |
| Energy bill position | 1 |
| Pro labor | 1 |
| Supports DNC member's state | 1 |
| Supported war in Iraq | 1 |
| Campaigns well | 1 |
| Can carry western states | 1 |
| Environment | 1 |
| Moderate | 1 |
| Other | 9 |

(ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES IS ROTATED WITHIN TEXT)

Q8. Who would be your second choice: (OMIT MENTION OF FIRST CHOICE) Would it be Joe Biden, Wesley Clark, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Chris Dodd, John Edwards, Al Gore, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama, Bill Richardson, Al Sharpton, or Tom Vilsack, or would you not have a second choice?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|------------------------|------------|
| Barack Obama | 22 |
| John Edwards | 18 |
| Bill Richardson | 15 |
| Hillary Rodham Clinton | 14 |
| Al Gore | 7 |
| Joe Biden | 5 |
| Tom Vilsack | 3 |
| Wesley Clark | 2 |
| Chris Dodd | 1 |
| No second choice | 9 |
| Don't know | 4 |

Q9. Regardless of your choice for president at this time, which Democratic presidential candidate would be the strongest one to beat a Republican candidate in November 2008?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Hillary Rodham Clinton | 27 |
| John Edwards | 17 |
| Barack Obama | 9 |
| Al Gore | 8 |
| Bill Richardson | 8 |
| Joe Biden | 1 |
| Wesley Clark | 1 |
| No one in particular /all (vol.) | 12 |
| Don't know | 17 |

Q10. Of the presidential candidates I mentioned, is there any one candidate you would refuse to support?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|--|------------|
| Mike Gravel | 13 |
| Dennis Kucinich | 9 |
| Al Sharpton | 5 |
| Joe Biden | 1 |
| Wesley Clark | 1 |
| Hillary Rodham Clinton | 1 |
| Chris Dodd | 1 |
| John Edwards | 1 |
| Barack Obama | 1 |
| Could support all of the candidates (vol.) | 62 |
| Don't know | 5 |

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE)
 Q11. Why would you refuse to support that candidate? (UP TO TWO REPLIES ACCEPTED)

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|---|------------|
| Unelectable | 23 |
| Doesn't represent party mainstream | 16 |
| Disagree on issues | 13 |
| Dishonest/lacks credibility | 11 |
| Too inflammatory/divisive | 10 |
| Not qualified to be president | 9 |
| Narrow base/appeals to a very small segment | 8 |
| Lacks charisma | 5 |
| Not the strongest candidate | 4 |
| Political inexperience | 4 |
| Time has passed for presidential bid | 4 |
| Weak leadership qualities | 4 |
| Past track record/history | 2 |
| No new ideas/too tied to the past | 2 |
| Unpopular in own state | 1 |
| Conservative | 1 |
| Liberal | 1 |
| Supported war in Iraq | 1 |
| Can't raise funds | 1 |
| Can't carry important states/parts of the country | 1 |
| Little known outside home state/new to national scene | 1 |
| Other | 9 |
| No particular reason/just don't like | 8 |
| Don't know | 1 |

NEXT SEVEN QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF RNC MEMBERS

Thinking ahead to the 2008 presidential election.....

Q5. Who would you like to see as the Republican candidate for president? (unaided responses)

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Mitt Romney | 18 |
| Rudy Giuliani | 11 |
| John McCain | 9 |
| Mike Huckabee | 4 |
| Newt Gingrich | 2 |
| Duncan Hunter | 2 |
| Chuck Hagel | 1 |
| Condoleezza Rice | 1 |
| Tom Tancredo | 1 |
| No one in particular | 23 |
| Somebody else | 1 |
| Don't know | 27 |

(ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES IS ROTATED WITHIN TEXT)

Q6. What if the candidates running for the Republican presidential nomination were: Kansas Senator Sam Brownback, former Governor of Virginia James Gilmore, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel, former Governor of Arkansas Mike Huckabee, Representative from California Duncan Hunter, Arizona Senator John McCain, New York Governor George Pataki, Representative from Texas Ron Paul, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Representative from Colorado Tom Tancredo, and former Wisconsin governor Tommy Thompson, for whom would you vote: Brownback, Gilmore, Gingrich, Giuliani, Hagel, Huckabee, Hunter, McCain, Pataki, Paul, Romney, Tancredo or Thompson?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|---|------------|
| Mitt Romney | 20 |
| Rudy Giuliani | 14 |
| John McCain | 10 |
| Newt Gingrich | 8 |
| Mike Huckabee | 4 |
| Duncan Hunter | 4 |
| James Gilmore | 1 |
| Chuck Hagel | 1 |
| Tom Tancredo | 1 |
| Tommy Thompson | 1 |
| Don't know/ Haven't heard enough (vol.) | 36 |

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO CHOSE A CANDIDATE)

Q7. Why would you support that candidate? (UP TO TWO REPLIES ACCEPTED)

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|---|------------|
| Leadership qualities, strong | 31 |
| Experienced/strong track record | 26 |
| Can win in November | 13 |
| Conservative | 11 |
| Focus on fighting terrorism | 9 |
| Honest/has integrity | 8 |
| Has the same values as most Americans | 7 |
| Faithful to basic Republican Party principles | 6 |
| Intelligent/bright | 6 |
| Economy position | 6 |
| Shares my views on issues | 6 |
| Progressive/has new ideas | 5 |
| Strongest candidate | 5 |
| Health care position | 5 |
| Supported war in Iraq | 5 |
| Foreign policy position | 4 |
| Charismatic | 2 |
| Moderate | 2 |
| Supports tax cuts | 2 |
| Understands/articulates the issues | 2 |
| Immigration position | 2 |
| Knows the ways of Washington | 1 |
| Astute | 1 |
| Know personally | 1 |
| Military background | 1 |
| No particular reason/just like him or her | 1 |
| Other | 8 |

(ORDER OF CANDIDATE NAMES IS ROTATED WITHIN TEXT)

Q8. Who would be your second choice: (OMIT MENTION OF FIRST CHOICE) Would it be Sam Brownback, James Gilmore, Newt Gingrich, Rudolph Giuliani, Chuck Hagel, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, John McCain, George Pataki, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Tom Tancredo, or Tommy Thompson, or would you not have a second choice?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------|------------|
| Rudy Giuliani | 25 |
| John McCain | 16 |
| Mitt Romney | 15 |
| Sam Brownback | 7 |
| Newt Gingrich | 6 |
| Tom Tancredo | 4 |
| James Gilmore | 2 |
| Mike Huckabee | 1 |
| Duncan Hunter | 1 |
| Tommy Thompson | 1 |
| Don't know | 6 |

Q9. Regardless of your choice for president at this time, which Republican presidential candidate would be the strongest one to beat a Democratic candidate in November 2008?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|---------------|------------|
| Giuliani | 30 |
| Romney | 17 |
| Mccain | 11 |
| Gingrich | 2 |
| Huckabee | 2 |
| Rice | 1 |
| Tancredo | 1 |
| No one (vol.) | 12 |
| Someone else | 1 |
| Don't know | 23 |

Q10. Of the presidential candidates I have mentioned, is there any one candidate you would refuse to support?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|--|------------|
| John McCain | 11 |
| Chuck Hagel | 7 |
| Tom Tancredo | 6 |
| Sam Brownback | 2 |
| Newt Gingrich | 1 |
| Rudy Giuliani | 1 |
| Mitt Romney | 1 |
| Could support all of the candidates (vol.) | 59 |
| Don't know | 12 |

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO SAY THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT A PARTICULAR CANDIDATE)
 Q11. Why would you refuse to support that candidate? (UP TO TWO REPLIES ACCEPTED)

| | <u>RNC*</u> |
|---|-------------|
| Doesn't represent party mainstream | 11 |
| Disagree on the issues | 9 |
| Too inflammatory/divisive | 7 |
| Opposed war/didn't support Bush's plans | 4 |
| Immigration position | 4 |
| Narrow base/appeals to a very small segment | 3 |
| Weak leadership qualities | 8 |
| Conservative | 2 |
| Past track record/history | 2 |
| Didn't support Bush strongly enough | 2 |
| Support of campaign finance reform | 2 |
| Dishonest/untrustworthy/lacks credibility | 1 |
| Lacks charisma | 1 |
| Washington D.C. insider | 1 |
| Liberal | 1 |
| Other | 3 |

* Frequency table among N=39

NEXT THREE QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF MEMBERS OF BOTH COMMITTEES

Q12. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the selection of candidates running so far for the presidential nomination?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Satisfied with candidates | 98 | 85 |
| Dissatisfied with candidates | 2 | 10 |
| Don't know | - | 5 |

(ORDER OF STATEMENTS IS ROTATED)

Q13. When you decide which candidate to support for your party's presidential nomination, which is most important to you: The kind of person the candidate is, or where the candidate stands on the issues, or whether the candidate can win, or how much he or she represents what the party stands for, or whether the candidate will support the concerns of your area, or the candidate's fundraising abilities, or what?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|--|------------|------------|
| Whether the candidate can win | 37 | 22 |
| Where the candidate stands on the issues | 34 | 34 |
| The kind of person candidate is | 11 | 18 |
| How much the candidate represents what the party stands for | 7 | 11 |
| Whether the candidate will support the concerns of your area | 4 | 2 |
| Some other reason | 4 | 6 |
| Don't know | 3 | 7 |

Q14. When you decide which candidate to support for your party's presidential nomination, is his or her stand on Iraq the most important issue, an important issue - but not the most important one, not too important, or not important at all?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|--|------------|------------|
| Important issue (net) | <u>97</u> | <u>91</u> |
| The most important issue | 22 | 23 |
| An important issue, but not the most important | 75 | 68 |
| Not important (net) | <u>2</u> | <u>7</u> |
| Not too important | 1 | 7 |
| Not important at all | 1 | - |
| Don't know | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> |

NEXT TWELVE QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF DNC MEMBERS

The next twelve questions ask about impressions of the Democratic candidates who have declared they are running for president, or formed an exploratory committee, or are considering a run for the presidency.

(ORDER OF IMPRESSION QUESTIONS IS ROTATED)

Q15. As of today, what is your general impression of Delaware Senator Joe Biden? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>76</u> |
| Very favorable | 27 |
| Somewhat favorable | 49 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>17</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 13 |
| Very unfavorable | 4 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>4</u> |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> |

Q16. As of today, what is your general impression of retired General Wesley Clark? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>72</u> |
| Very favorable | 26 |
| Somewhat favorable | 46 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>21</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 17 |
| Very unfavorable | 3 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>5</u> |
| Don't know | <u>2</u> |

Q17. As of today, what is your general impression of New York Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about her to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>91</u> |
| Very favorable | 60 |
| Somewhat favorable | 31 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>5</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 4 |
| Very unfavorable | 1 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>2</u> |
| Don't know | <u>2</u> |

Q18. As of today, what is your general impression of Connecticut Senator Chris Dodd? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>78</u> |
| Very favorable | 20 |
| Somewhat favorable | 58 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>10</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 9 |
| Very unfavorable | 1 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>10</u> |
| Don't know | <u>2</u> |

Q19. As of today, what is your general impression of former North Carolina Senator John Edwards? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>89</u> |
| Very favorable | 60 |
| Somewhat favorable | 29 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>6</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 4 |
| Very unfavorable | 2 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>2</u> |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> |

Q20. As of today, what is your general impression of former Alaska Senator Mike Gravel? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>16</u> |
| Very favorable | 2 |
| Somewhat favorable | 14 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>45</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 23 |
| Very unfavorable | 22 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>36</u> |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> |

Q21. As of today, what is your general impression of former vice president Al Gore? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>91</u> |
| Very favorable | 62 |
| Somewhat favorable | 29 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>5</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 4 |
| Very unfavorable | 1 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>1</u> |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> |

Q22. As of today, what is your general impression of Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>36</u> |
| Very favorable | 6 |
| Somewhat favorable | 30 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>51</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 36 |
| Very unfavorable | 16 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>10</u> |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> |

Q23. As of today, what is your general impression of Illinois Senator Barack Obama? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>92</u> |
| Very favorable | 61 |
| Somewhat favorable | 31 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>3</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 3 |
| Very unfavorable | - |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>3</u> |
| Don't know | <u>2</u> |

Q24. As of today, what is your general impression of New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>89</u> |
| Very favorable | <u>56</u> |
| Somewhat favorable | <u>33</u> |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>3</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | <u>3</u> |
| Very unfavorable | — |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>6</u> |
| Don't know | <u>2</u> |

Q25. As of today, what is your general impression of Reverend Al Sharpton from New York? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>40</u> |
| Very favorable | <u>7</u> |
| Somewhat favorable | <u>33</u> |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>49</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | <u>34</u> |
| Very unfavorable | <u>15</u> |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>7</u> |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> |

Q26. As of today, what is your general impression of former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack? Is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable -- or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>DNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>68</u> |
| Very favorable | <u>20</u> |
| Somewhat favorable | <u>48</u> |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>10</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | <u>10</u> |
| Very unfavorable | — |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>18</u> |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> |

NEXT 14 QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF RNC MEMBERS

The next thirteen questions ask about impressions of the major Republican candidates who have declared they are running for president, or formed an exploratory committee, or are considering a run for the presidency.

(ORDER OF IMPRESSION QUESTIONS IS ROTATED)

Q15. As of today, what is your general impression of Kansas Senator Sam Brownback? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>47</u> |
| Very favorable | 13 |
| Somewhat favorable | 34 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>20</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 16 |
| Very unfavorable | 4 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>29</u> |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> |

Q16. As of today, what is your general impression of former Virginia Governor James S. Gilmore? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>44</u> |
| Very favorable | 9 |
| Somewhat favorable | 35 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>20</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 14 |
| Very unfavorable | 6 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>31</u> |
| Don't know | <u>5</u> |

Q17. As of today, what is your general impression of former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>78</u> |
| Very favorable | 38 |
| Somewhat favorable | 39 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>15</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 14 |
| Very unfavorable | 1 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>2</u> |
| Don't know | <u>5</u> |

Q18. As of today, what is your general impression of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>83</u> |
| Very favorable | 44 |
| Somewhat favorable | 40 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>10</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 8 |
| Very unfavorable | 2 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>2</u> |
| Don't know | <u>5</u> |

Q19. As of today, what is your general impression of Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>20</u> |
| Very favorable | 3 |
| Somewhat favorable | 17 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>47</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 23 |
| Very unfavorable | 24 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>28</u> |
| Don't know | <u>5</u> |

Q20. As of today, what is your general impression of Former Governor of Arkansas Mike Huckabee? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>66</u> |
| Very favorable | 19 |
| Somewhat favorable | 47 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>4</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 3 |
| Very unfavorable | 1 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>26</u> |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> |

Q21. As of today, what is your general impression of California Congressman Duncan Hunter? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>32</u> |
| Very favorable | 11 |
| Somewhat favorable | 21 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>8</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 7 |
| Very unfavorable | 1 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>56</u> |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> |

Q22. As of today, what is your general impression of Arizona Senator John McCain? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>56</u> |
| Very favorable | 33 |
| Somewhat favorable | 23 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>38</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 24 |
| Very unfavorable | 14 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>2</u> |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> |

Q23. As of today, what is your general impression of New York Governor George Pataki? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>57</u> |
| Very favorable | 11 |
| Somewhat favorable | 45 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>26</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 22 |
| Very unfavorable | 5 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>12</u> |
| Don't know | <u>5</u> |

Q24. As of today, what is your general impression of Texas Congressman Ron Paul? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>16</u> |
| Very favorable | 5 |
| Somewhat favorable | 11 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>16</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 11 |
| Very unfavorable | 5 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>64</u> |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> |

Q25. As of today, what is your general impression of former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>83</u> |
| Very favorable | 43 |
| Somewhat favorable | 41 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>8</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 7 |
| Very unfavorable | 1 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>4</u> |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> |

Q26. As of today, what is your general impression of Colorado Congressman Tom Tancredo? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>23</u> |
| Very favorable | 7 |
| Somewhat favorable | 15 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>26</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 17 |
| Very unfavorable | 10 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>47</u> |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> |

Q27. As of today, what is your general impression of former governor of Wisconsin Tommy Thompson? As of today, is it very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, very unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him to say?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------|------------|
| Favorable (net) | <u>63</u> |
| Very favorable | 16 |
| Somewhat favorable | 47 |
| Unfavorable (net) | <u>11</u> |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 8 |
| Very unfavorable | 4 |
| Haven't heard enough | <u>21</u> |
| Don't know | <u>5</u> |

Q28. In your opinion, should whoever becomes the next Republican nominee campaign on a platform of continuing the policies of George W. Bush, or should he talk about moving the country in a new direction?

| | <u>RNC</u> |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Continue Bush policies | 29 |
| Move in a new direction | 51 |
| Don't know | 20 |

NEXT 17 QUESTIONS ARE ASKED OF MEMBERS OF BOTH COMMITTEES

Regardless of your choice for president, do you think the country is ready to elect any of the following kinds of candidates:

(THE NEXT FOUR QUESTIONS ARE ROTATED)

Q27. Do you think the country is ready to elect an African-American president, or not?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | 75 | 68 |
| No | 19 | 22 |
| Don't know | 6 | 10 |

Q28. Do you think the country is ready to elect a woman president, or not?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | 86 | 74 |
| No | 10 | 17 |
| Don't know | 4 | 9 |

Q29. Do you think the country is ready to elect a Latino president, or not?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | 75 | 73 |
| No | 20 | 22 |
| Don't know | 5 | 5 |

Q30. Do you think the country is ready to elect a Mormon president, or not?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | 48 | 77 |
| No | 40 | 10 |
| Don't know | 12 | 13 |

Q31. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or do you (approve/disapprove) somewhat?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Approve (net) | <u>1</u> | <u>87</u> |
| Approve strongly | — | 53 |
| Approve somewhat | 1 | 34 |
| Disapprove (net) | <u>99</u> | <u>11</u> |
| Disapprove somewhat | 3 | 8 |
| Disapprove strongly | 96 | 2 |
| Don't know | — | <u>2</u> |

Q32. After two terms of the Bush administration, will it be easy or difficult for a Republican candidate to be elected in 2008, or will Bush's two terms in office not play a role one way or the other? (IF EASY OR DIFFICULT) Will it be very (easy/difficult) or fairly (easy/difficult) for a Republican candidate to be elected in 2008?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| Easy (net) | <u>2</u> | <u>8</u> |
| Very easy | – | 1 |
| Fairly easy | 2 | 7 |
| Difficult (net) | <u>88</u> | <u>42</u> |
| Fairly difficult | 42 | 41 |
| Very difficult | 46 | 1 |
| Bush administration not play a role | <u>7</u> | <u>38</u> |
| Don't know | <u>3</u> | <u>12</u> |

Q33. Regardless of how you feel about the war in Iraq, how important an issue will Iraq be in the 2008 presidential election: the most important issue, or an important issue - but not the most important one, not too important, or not important at all?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|--|------------|------------|
| The most important issue | <u>48</u> | <u>30</u> |
| An important issue, but not the most important | <u>50</u> | <u>65</u> |
| Not too important | 1 | 2 |
| Don't know | 1 | 3 |

Q34. In your opinion, should the United States withdraw troops from Iraq right away, or should the U.S. begin bringing troops home within the next year, or should troops stay in Iraq for as long as it takes to win the war?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|--|------------|------------|
| Troops home right away | <u>20</u> | – |
| Begin bringing home within the next year | <u>73</u> | <u>13</u> |
| As long as it takes to win the war | 2 | 77 |
| Don't know | 5 | 10 |

Q35. All in all, do you think the situation in Iraq was worth going to war over, or not?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Yes, worth going to war | 1 | 82 |
| No, not worth going to war | 97 | 11 |
| Don't know | 2 | 7 |

Q36. Do you approve or disapprove of George W. Bush's plan to send almost an additional twenty-two thousand U.S. troops into Iraq? (IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE) Do you (approve/disapprove) strongly or only somewhat?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Approve (net) | <u>3</u> | <u>91</u> |
| Approve strongly | 1 | 65 |
| Approve somewhat | 2 | 26 |
| Disapprove (net) | <u>95</u> | <u>5</u> |
| Disapprove somewhat | 5 | 4 |
| Disapprove strongly | 89 | 1 |
| Don't know | <u>2</u> | <u>4</u> |

Q37. Should Congress attempt to require George W. Bush to begin withdrawing the troops already in Iraq by cutting off funding or through some other legislative measure, or not?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|--|------------|------------|
| Do not require Bush to begin withdrawing troops | 18 | 98 |
| Require Bush to begin withdrawing troops by cutting off funding | 17 | 1 |
| Require Bush to begin withdrawing troops through legislative measure | 55 | — |
| Don't know | 10 | 1 |

Q38. Should Congress set a mandatory deadline for the withdrawal of all American troops in Iraq either by cutting off funding or through some other legislative measure, or not?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|---|------------|------------|
| Do not set a mandatory date for withdrawal | 37 | 98 |
| Set a mandatory date for withdrawal by cutting off funding | 13 | — |
| Set a mandatory date for withdrawal through legislative measure | 41 | 1 |
| Don't know | 9 | 1 |

Q39. Should Congress attempt to prevent George W. Bush from sending more troops to Iraq either by denying him funding for the deployment or through some other legislative measure, or not?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|---|------------|------------|
| Do not block deployment of additional troops | 9 | 98 |
| Block additional troops by refusing to fund deployment | 32 | — |
| Block additional troops through other legislative measure | 49 | 2 |
| Don't know | 10 | — |

Q40. Do you agree or disagree with those who say that adding almost twenty-two thousand additional U.S. troops to those in Iraq right now will allow U.S. and Iraqi forces to defeat the insurgency and win the war in Iraq? (IF AGREE OR DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly, or only somewhat?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Agree (net) | <u>1</u> | <u>77</u> |
| Agree strongly | 1 | 38 |
| Agree somewhat | — | 39 |
| Disagree (net) | <u>95</u> | <u>9</u> |
| Disagree somewhat | 11 | 7 |
| Disagree strongly | 84 | 1 |
| Don't know | <u>4</u> | <u>14</u> |

Q41. Do you agree or disagree that President Bush will be pressured by his own party to start withdrawing troops from Iraq by the end of the year in order to help Republican candidates who are running for president? (IF AGREE OR DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or only somewhat?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Agree (net) | <u>82</u> | <u>35</u> |
| Agree strongly | 51 | 7 |
| Agree somewhat | 31 | 29 |
| Disagree (net) | <u>12</u> | <u>54</u> |
| Disagree somewhat | 7 | 15 |
| Disagree strongly | 5 | 39 |
| Don't know | <u>6</u> | <u>11</u> |

Q42. How would you describe your views on most matters having to do with politics? Do you generally think of yourself as very liberal, or somewhat liberal, or middle-of-the-road, or somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Liberal | 53 | 2 |
| Middle-of-the-road | 39 | 16 |
| Conservative | 6 | 80 |
| Don't pay attention (vol.) | 1 | — |
| Don't know | 1 | 2 |

Q44. Gender:

| | <u>DNC</u> | <u>RNC</u> |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Male | 50 | 62 |
| Female | 50 | 38 |

METHODOLOGY

The Times Poll interviewed 313 out of 386 current* state members and members-at-large of the Democratic National Committee, and 133 out of 165 current* state members of the Republican National Committee Feb. 13-26, 2007. (Sixty-one DNC members and 23 RNC members were unavailable during that time period, 12 DNC members and 10 RNC members declined to be interviewed.) Up to fifteen attempts were made to contact each member by telephone, and a faxed version of the questionnaire was made available upon request. The response rate for DNC members was 81%; for RNC members it was 80%. Since this survey was a census, rather than a sample, there is no margin of sampling error.

* Seats that were filled as of the poll's interviewing period.