

Release Detail

February 21, 2008 - Clinton, Obama Each Have Key To Victory In New Jersey, Quinnipiac University Poll Finds; U.S. Is In A Recession, Voters Say 2 - 1

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Either Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, with an advantage among independents, or New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, with an advantage among Democrats and women, would defeat Arizona Sen. McCain by a substantial margin in New Jersey in the presidential election, according to a Quinnipiac University poll released today.

Sen. Clinton beats McCain 47 - 41 percent, taking 80 percent of the Democratic vote and 52 percent of the women, while splitting independents. Obama wins 46 - 39 percent, bolstered by a 47 - 38 percent edge among independent voters, according to the independent Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University poll.

New Jersey voters like Obama more than Clinton, giving him a 58 - 21 percent favorability rating to her 50 - 43 percent. McCain gets a 52 - 28 percent favorability rating.

"Sen. Obama runs as well as the Senator next door against Sen. John McCain in New Jersey in the general election. The big difference is that Sen. Clinton and Sen. McCain split the independent vote almost evenly while Obama holds a nine-point edge among independents - the group that has given the Democratic candidate the edge in New Jersey in most recent statewide elections," said Clay F. Richards, assistant director of the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute.

"Also, Obama ties McCain 43 - 43 percent among men in New Jersey while Clinton loses the male vote 41 - 47 percent to McCain.

"Either way, McCain could run a close race in New Jersey this year, but at this early point not close enough to make the Garden State a key swing state in the presidential election."

In an open-ended question, allowing for any answer, 27 percent of New Jersey voters say the economy is the most important issue in deciding how they will vote, followed by 21 percent who list the war in Iraq, 11 percent who list healthcare and 9 percent who list terrorism.

The U.S. economy is in a recession, voters say 64 - 32 percent. Republicans say 50 - 45 percent that the economy is not in a recession, while Democrats say 79 - 18 percent that it is. Independent voters also use the 'R' word 62 - 34 percent.

Only 16 percent of voters describe the economy as "excellent" or "good," while 83 percent say the economy is "not so good" or "poor."

New Jersey voters also say 65 - 31 percent that going to war in Iraq was the wrong thing to do. The situation in Iraq is getting better, 28 percent of voters say, while 24 percent say it is getting worse and 45 percent say it is the same.

The U.S. should set a timetable to get out of Iraq, 56 percent of voters say, while 38 percent say the U.S. should stay until the country is stabilized.

"With two-thirds of voters saying the U.S. is in a recession, the economy has become more important than the Iraq war in the election, a development which could rewrite the script in New Jersey," Richards said.

If they had to choose, 30 percent of New Jersey voters would back Sen. Robert Menendez as a Democratic vice presidential candidate, while 29 percent would back Gov. Jon Corzine and 40 percent are undecided.

New Jersey voters disapprove 70 - 26 percent of the job President George W. Bush is doing. Voters say 35 - 7 percent that President Bush's job performance makes them less likely to vote for a Republican for President, while 55 percent say this will not affect their vote.

From February 13 - 18, Quinnipiac University surveyed 1,803 New Jersey voters, with a margin of error of +/- 2.3 percent.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Douglas Schwartz, Ph.D., conducts public opinion surveys in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio and nationwide as a public service and for research. For more data -- <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x271.xml>, or call (203) 582-5201.

1. If the 2008 election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Hillary Clinton the Democrat and John McCain the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Clinton	47%	7%	80%	43%	41%	52%	42%	75%
McCain	41	83	10	44	47	36	47	13
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	3	2	1	2	2	1	4
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	3	2	3	4	4	2	2	4
DK/NA	7	5	5	9	7	8	7	4

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col	College
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	degree	degree
Clinton	47%	53%	50%	44%	47%	46%	48%
McCain	41	42	38	44	38	41	42
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	3	1	2	2	2	2
WLDN' T VOTE (VOL)	3	-	3	2	5	3	2
DK/NA	7	2	7	8	8	8	6

TREND: If the 2008 election for President were being held today and the candidates were Hillary Clinton the Democrat and John McCain the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Feb 21 2008	Sep 26 2007	Jul 5 2007	Apr 19 2007	Mar 1 2007	Jan 25 2007
Clinton	47	46	47	45	45	43
McCain	41	41	41	41	45	44
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	2	2	2	2	1
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	3	4	3	2	2	2
DK/NA	7	7	7	9	6	10

2. If the 2008 election for President were being held today, and the candidates were Barack Obama the Democrat and John McCain the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Obama	46%	12%	72%	47%	43%	49%	39%	87%
McCain	39	74	15	38	43	35	46	6
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1
WLDN ' T VOTE (VOL)	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1
DK/NA	11	10	7	11	9	12	11	5

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col	College
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	degree	degree
Obama	46%	59%	54%	43%	41%	44%	52%
McCain	39	32	34	44	38	41	36
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	5	1	2	2	2	2
WLDN ' T VOTE (VOL)	2	-	2	2	3	2	2
DK/NA	11	4	9	10	15	11	9

TREND: If the 2008 election for President were being held today and the candidates were Barack Obama the Democrat and John McCain the Republican, for whom would you vote?

	Feb 21 2008	Sep 26 2007	Jul 5 2007	Apr 19 2007	Mar 1 2007	Jan 25 2007
Obama	46	44	44	43	45	39
McCain	39	41	40	41	41	42
SMONE ELSE (VOL)	2	1	2	2	2	2
WLDN'T VOTE (VOL)	2	5	4	3	2	2
DK/NA	11	9	9	11	10	15

3. Is your opinion of -- Hillary Clinton favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	50%	17%	77%	47%	43%	55%	45%	69%
Unfavorable	43	80	16	44	49	38	48	20
Hvn't hrd enough	5	3	5	7	6	4	5	4
REFUSED	3	1	3	2	2	3	2	6

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col degree	College degree
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+		
Favorable	50%	49%	51%	50%	49%	50%	48%
Unfavorable	43	42	41	44	42	42	44
Hvn't hrd enough	5	9	5	4	5	5	4
REFUSED	3	-	3	2	4	2	3

TREND: Is your opinion of Hillary Clinton favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about her?

	Feb 21 2008	Dec 13 2007	Sep 26 2007	Jul 5 2007	Apr 19 2007	Mar 1 2007	Jan 25 2007
Favorable	50	43	51	50	49	47	53
Unfavorable	43	42	41	42	43	43	38
Hvn't hrd enough	5	11	6	6	5	8	6
REFUSED	3	4	2	2	3	2	2

4. Is your opinion of -- Barack Obama favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	58%	41%	71%	59%	56%	59%	53%	86%
Unfavorable	21	35	13	17	22	19	23	5
Hvn't hrd enough	19	22	14	21	19	19	22	5
REFUSED	3	2	1	3	2	3	3	3

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col	College
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	degree	degree
Favorable	58%	59%	63%	57%	56%	54%	66%
Unfavorable	21	21	19	23	16	22	17
Hvn't hrd enough	19	18	15	18	23	22	14
REFUSED	3	2	2	2	4	3	3

TREND: Is your opinion of Barack Obama favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Feb 21 2008	Sep 26 2007	Jul 5 2007	Apr 19 2007	Mar 1 2007	Jan 25 2007
Favorable	58	50	49	48	42	41
Unfavorable	21	23	21	15	11	9
Hvn't hrd enough	19	25	29	34	45	49
REFUSED	3	2	1	2	2	1

5. Is your opinion of -- John McCain favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Favorable	52%	77%	33%	54%	57%	48%	57%	27%
Unfavorable	28	12	43	26	27	29	25	46
Hvn't hrd enough	16	9	22	16	13	19	14	24
REFUSED	3	2	2	4	2	5	3	3
		Age in years.....					No col	College
	Tot	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	degree	degree	

Favorable	52%	50%	47%	57%	52%	50%	58%
Unfavorable	28	24	31	26	31	28	27
Hvn't hrd enough	16	26	21	14	12	19	12
REFUSED	3	-	1	3	5	4	3

TREND: Is your opinion of John McCain favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	Feb 21 2008	Sep 26 2007	Jul 5 2007	Apr 19 2007	Mar 1 2007	Jan 25 2007
Favorable	52	47	46	52	48	52
Unfavorable	28	28	30	24	24	24
Hvn't hrd enough	16	23	21	20	25	21
REFUSED	3	3	3	4	4	2

6. Thinking ahead to the November 2008 presidential election, what is the single most important issue in your vote for president?

	Tot
Economy Total	27%
Economy general	22
Unemployment/jobs	2
Cost of living	2
Business leaving/ Outsourcing	1
War (Iraq)	21%
Healthcare/Costs/ Ins/HMO's	11%
Terrorism Total	9%
Terrorism general	3
Security/Safety	6
Taxes general	4%
Politicians Total	3%
Political corruption	1
Bush admin	1
Politicians/ Campaigns other	1
Immigration	3%
Foreign affairs/ policy general	3%

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

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Approve	26%	59%	8%	18%	27%	25%	29%	5%
Disapprove	70	37	90	75	69	70	66	94
DK/NA	5	5	2	6	4	5	5	1

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col degree	College degree
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+		
Approve	26%	22%	29%	25%	23%	26%	25%
Disapprove	70	74	67	71	71	69	71
DK/NA	5	4	5	4	6	5	4

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

	Feb 21 2008	Dec 13 2007	Sep 26 2007	Jul 5 2007	Apr 19 2007	Highest Approve Oct 18 2001	Lowest Approve Jul 5 2007
Approve	26	26	27	21	25	90	21
Disapprove	70	67	68	74	70	7	74
DK/NA	5	7	5	4	5	3	4

24. Both Governor Jon Corzine and Senator Robert Menendez have been mentioned as possible vice presidential candidates this year. If it came down to that, which one would you prefer to run for vice president - Jon Corzine or Robert Menendez?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Corzine	29%	20%	38%	30%	29%	29%	30%	35%
Menendez	30	29	31	31	32	29	29	28
DK/NA	40	51	31	39	39	42	41	37

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col degree	College degree
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+		
Corzine	29%	28%	31%	30%	30%	25%	38%
Menendez	30	54	34	28	22	32	27
DK/NA	40	18	35	42	48	43	35

26. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as - Excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Excellent	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	2%
Good	15	26	6	16	19	12	17	6
Not so good	45	47	45	45	42	47	45	38
Poor	38	25	46	38	36	39	36	53
DK/NA	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col degree	College degree
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+		
Excellent	1%	-	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Good	15	15	19	13	15	15	16
Not so good	45	51	44	46	42	43	49
Poor	38	31	35	41	41	39	34
DK/NA	1	2	1	0	1	2	0

TREND: Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as - Excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

	Feb 21 2008	Sep 21 2004	Aug 5 2004	Jun 23 2004	Oct 18 2001
Excellent	1	2	2	3	1
Good	15	38	40	38	39
Not so good	45	39	40	44	50
Poor	38	20	17	14	10
DK/NA	1	1	1	1	1

27. During the next 12 months, do you think your own personal financial situation will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Get better	23%	24%	23%	21%	26%	19%	20%	30%
Get worse	20	14	23	22	17	23	19	26
Stay the same	55	60	52	55	55	56	59	42
DK/NA	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col degree	College degree
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+		
Get better	23%	55%	32%	18%	8%	21%	26%
Get worse	20	10	12	23	29	22	16
Stay the same	55	35	55	57	60	54	57
DK/NA	2	-	1	2	3	3	1

TREND: During the next 12 months, do you think your own personal financial situation will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	Feb 21 2008	Oct 18 2001
Get better	23	35
Get worse	20	8
Stay the same	55	54
DK/NA	2	3

28. Do you think the United States economy is in a recession now?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Yes	64%	45%	79%	62%	61%	66%	60%	78%
No	32	50	18	34	36	29	34	22
DK/NA	4	4	2	4	3	5	5	-

	Age in years.....					No col	College
	Tot	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	degree	degree
Yes	64%	56%	59%	68%	66%	65%	60%
No	32	38	40	29	27	30	36
DK/NA	4	7	1	3	7	4	4

29. Do you think going to war with Iraq was the right thing for the United States to do or the wrong thing?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Right thing	31%	66%	8%	27%	35%	27%	37%	7%
Wrong thing	65	30	87	69	61	68	60	85
DK/NA	5	5	5	4	3	6	3	8

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col degree	College degree
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+		
Right thing	31%	28%	32%	33%	27%	31%	31%
Wrong thing	65	67	63	64	68	64	65
DK/NA	5	6	6	3	5	5	4

TREND: Do you think going to war with Iraq was the right thing for the United States to do or the wrong thing?

	Feb 21 2008	Jul 5 2007	Apr 19 2007	Mar 1 2007	Jan 25 2007	Highest Right Oct 19 2004	Lowest Right Jan 25 2007
Right thing	31	32	33	32	30	44	30
Wrong thing	65	64	62	64	63	51	63
DK/NA	5	5	5	3	7	5	7

30. Do you think the situation in Iraq is getting better, getting worse, or staying the same?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Better	28%	54%	8%	28%	37%	21%	33%	6%
Worse	24	10	38	22	20	28	20	42
Same	45	34	52	48	42	47	44	49
DK/NA	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col	College
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	degree	degree
Better	28%	19%	24%	30%	33%	28%	29%
Worse	24	34	25	23	23	25	22
Same	45	46	48	45	42	43	47
DK/NA	3	-	3	2	3	3	2

31. Should the United States set an announced timetable to get out of Iraq or stay until the country is stabilized?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
Set timetable	56%	35%	75%	53%	48%	62%	51%	77%
Stay until stabilized	38	63	19	40	49	29	43	15
DK/NA	6	3	6	7	3	9	5	8

	Age in years.....					No col	College
	Tot	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	degree	degree
Set timetable	56%	55%	56%	57%	53%	56%	55%
Stay until stabilized	38	39	38	38	38	38	39
DK/NA	6	6	6	5	9	6	6

32. Does President Bush's job performance make you more likely to vote for Republican John McCain for President this November, less likely to vote for him, or doesn't it make a difference?

	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk
More likely	7%	15%	3%	5%	8%	7%	8%	3%
Less likely	35	10	55	36	33	37	30	60
Doesn't make diff	55	74	38	57	57	53	59	34
DK/NA	3	1	4	2	2	3	2	4

	Tot	Age in years.....				No col degree	College degree
		18-29	30-44	45-64	65+		
More likely	7%	8%	7%	5%	10%	8%	6%
Less likely	35	30	39	35	37	33	38
Doesn't make diff	55	61	53	58	47	55	54
DK/NA	3	1	1	2	6	3	2