UI Social Science Research Center

Mission: to provide social science research infrastructure and make it available to a wide variety of constituents who conduct social scientific research at The University of Iowa

Kevin Leicht
Professor & Director

The Social Science Research Center
311 Calvin Hall
http://www.ssrc.uiowa.edu
THE HAWKEYE POLL

The Hawkeye Poll is

- Part of the *teaching/learning mission of the University* as well as a rigorously designed public opinion polling operation;
- A *platform* for academic research on political and public policy topics;
- An *experience* for UI students in survey research that connects to their academic work as they serve as trained callers and work with results in their classes;
- A *resource* to increase our understanding of what citizens are thinking about issues that face Iowa and nation.

DAVID REDLAWSK
Director
Associate Professor of Political Science

CAROLINE TOLBERT
Co-Director
Associate Professor of Political Science
Hawkeye Poll
October 29, 2007

• Telephone survey in field October 17-24

• Random sample of Iowa Caucus Goers
  • 306 Democratic Caucus Goers, +/- 5.5%
  • 285 Republican Caucus Goers, +/- 5.8%

• Part of a larger scale ongoing research project at the University of Iowa
**Hawkeye Poll**  
**October 29, 2007**

### Republican Caucus Candidate Preference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romney</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giuliani</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huckabee</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thompson</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCain</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No other candidate over 3%

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**Summary**

- Mitt Romney has increased his Iowa lead since early August, when he registered 27.8%.
- Huckabee’s Straw Poll bounce continues, going from 1.8% in early August to 12.8% now.
- Giuliani had second place to himself in August, now a three-way tie for second.
Hawkeye Poll
October 29, 2007

Support for Republican Candidates in 2007

Romney
Don't Know
Giuliani
Huckabee
Thompson
McCain
Gender in the Republican Caucus Race

Giuliani and Thompson both do better among men than women.

Romney is the only Republican doing better among women than men.

Women twice as likely to not yet have a preference.
Hawkeye Poll
October 29, 2007

Age in the Republican Caucus Race

Romney has very strong support among the oldest Caucus goers

Huckabee is most competitive among the Baby Boomers
Hawkeye Poll
October 29, 2007

Religious Voters and Republican Candidates

Romney does best among those Republicans who do not consider themselves “born again”

Huckabee’s support is concentrated among “born again” Christians

Thompson is not gaining the support of this group
Summary: The Republicans

Mitt Romney continues his dominance in Iowa, increasing his lead. While Mike Huckabee has gained ground dramatically since the August Hawkeye Poll, he is still well behind Rudy Giuliani who seems stuck, and Fred Thompson, who is catching on slowly if at all. John McCain has not been able to recover from his collapse during the summer.

The number of Republicans with no preference dropped sharply, indicating voters are beginning to focus on candidates.

The key to the race for anyone but Romney is to figure out how to motivate Christian conservatives. Realistically Giuliani has little chance of doing so, leaving it hard to see how he can improve unless Romney slips up. Huckabee would seem to have the best chance of motivating these voters, if they are looking for someone other than Romney.
Hawkeye Poll
October 29, 2007

**DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CANDIDATE PREFERENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obama</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edwards</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richardson</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biden</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t Know</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No other candidate over 3%

**Summary**

Support for Edwards dropped from 26.0% in August, while Obama increased from 19.3% and Clinton increased from 24.8%

The Democrats continue to have three leading candidates, no other candidate is close to them.

Edwards’ drop has occurred as Caucus goers give new attention to Biden and Obama.
Hawkeye Poll
October 29, 2007

Support for Democratic Candidates in 2007

- Clinton
- Obama
- Edwards
- Don't Know
- Richardson
- Biden

March | August | Oct
Gender plays a role for the Democrats

Men’s preferences: Obama, then Edwards, then Clinton

Women’s preferences: Clinton, then Obama, then Edwards
Gender plays a role for the Democrats

Clinton “gender gap” grew in October over August

Largest gender gap yet
Age is an important factor for the Democrats

Obama is the overwhelming choice of Caucus goers under 45 years old

Clinton does well among all those 45 and over

Edwards’ greatest support is from Baby Boomers
Labor Support

Clinton and Edwards are strongest among the 18% of households with a union member.

Richardson’s support among union households is much greater than his overall support.
What if AL GORE Ran?

19.6% of Democrats would be very likely and 34.5% would be somewhat likely to support him.

Few Clinton supporters would be very likely to support Gore, but more than 1 in 5 Edwards and Obama supporters would.

Nearly a third of “don’t knows” say they would support Gore.
Summary: The Democrats

After trailing during most of the year, Clinton is now leading with Obama close behind. Clinton’s support stems primarily from her dominance among female Caucus goers. Obama’s support comes disproportionately from younger voters.

The key for either candidate is to mobilize their bases. This is likely to be much harder for Obama than for Clinton, since historically Caucus goers are older. We see clear evidence of the difficulty Obama faces: only 48% of his supporters say they are “Very Likely” to caucus and only 54% actually did caucus in 2004.

Edwards may still be positioned to challenge both of the other top Democrats. While now trailing, he remains close among those most likely to caucus and 75% of his supporters are experienced caucus goers.
What are the Issues?

Democrats and Republicans differ some on perceptions of the most important issue.

For Democrats: Iraq, Health care, the Economy are the top three

For Republicans, Terrorism, the Economy, and Iraq are the top three
Hawkeye Poll
October 29, 2007

Immigration in Iowa

No change in policy preference or responsibility assignment over time. The issue remains important, and Republicans remain somewhat more likely to advocate deportation, though the majority chooses earned citizenship.
Republicans seem less happy than Democrats

40% of Democrats are “Very Satisfied” with their candidates, while only 11% of Republicans say the same.
Republicans are less engaged in the caucus campaigns overall

On all our measures, Republicans are less likely than Democrats to be focusing on the campaign.

Even so, lots of Iowa caucus goers are paying attention!
Hawkeye Poll
October 29, 2007

Plans for the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll

- Continuing Polling through the Iowa Caucuses
  - Pre and Post Iowa Caucus Telephone Survey/Panel Study
  - In-Caucus survey in all 1784 Democratic caucuses
  - Collection of a comprehensive dataset of Iowa Caucus goers

- Post Caucus Polling
  - Planning for a national sample survey before/after Feb 5 primaries
  - Continued monitoring of the general election battleground in Iowa
Hawkeye Poll

October 29, 2007

David P. Redlawsk, Director
Caroline Tolbert, Co-Director
Department of Political Science

Special Thanks to our crack Polling Team:
Daniel Bowen, Nick Martini, James Rydberg,
Howard Sanborn, Tina Wildhagen,
and Brigid Freymuller

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