

Political Insiders Poll



Which presidential candidate of the other party could your party most easily work with if he or she were elected?

■ Democrats (82 votes)

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| John McCain | 34 percent |
| Rudy Giuliani | 22 percent |
| Mitt Romney | 22 percent |
| Mike Huckabee | 12 percent |
| Ron Paul | 2 percent |
| Fred Thompson | 1 percent |
| Other responses, including none of them (volunteered) | 6 percent |

■ McCain

"I would say McCain, based on his many good personal relations with Democratic members of Congress and—in a strange way—on his age. If elected, he would bring an aura of tested wisdom to the bully pulpit. And I think he could build bridges with the bipartisan center."

"He has demonstrated his capacity to work with a broad range of Democrats on a broad range of issues."

"He's a senator; they were made to compromise."

"He is the most consistent and honest of the major Republican candidates. You are never certain of the other major candidates."

■ Giuliani

"Despite his shameless wooing of the Right in the primaries, he'll seek to govern from the middle. He has longed for the LaGuardia mantle in New York City, and would seek to become the first 'fusion' president."

"If he survives the nomination [fight], he will have the same antipathy for the Religious Right as the Democrats."

"He doesn't believe half of the BS from his own party."

■ Romney

"Because he's such an opportunist, he'll cut the deals he needs to in order to get stuff done."

"In signing the health care bill, he demonstrated his ability to work across the partisan divide on big issues."

"Although I disagree with most of his positions, I think he is a decent, smart person who exhibits good leadership qualities."

■ Huckabee

"He is a Baptist preacher with a fiscally responsible view—meaning, no debt and efficiency, not just cutting taxes—and works for results, rather than the tired rhetoric from many of the Republicans."

"He's actually had to deal with a Democratic Legislature. And he's not as arrogant as Romney or Rudy."

■ Paul

"He is the only real Republican running: The guy actually cares about the Constitution."

■ Republicans (86 votes)

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Bill Richardson | 27 percent |
| Hillary Rodham Clinton | 23 percent |
| Joseph Biden | 16 percent |
| Barack Obama | 14 percent |
| Christopher Dodd | 10 percent |
| Other responses, including none of them (volunteered) | 9 percent |

■ Richardson

"Wide experience in state, local, and international posts; from a Western state with a large GOP base; not an ideologue. A reasonable man with few axes to grind."

"Probably Richardson, because of his broad experience including having been in Congress."

"Candidates who come from the Senate are congenitally incapable of constructive compromise these days. This is true of both parties' candidates. Governors have to learn to reach across the aisle, and they do."

"He's less beholden, less liberal, and less irritating than his counterparts on the hustings."

■ Clinton

"Because she is not unduly burdened by principle, and because she will have survived an incredibly divisive election, she will seek, at least initially, to track the middle and work collaboratively."

"She has learned the hard way the difficulty of getting something significant accomplished in Washington with just support from your own party."

"She understands the process and knows how to play the game. She's demonstrated already an ability to reach across the aisle when necessary to share the credit to achieve her goals."

"Because she'll throw her party overboard preparing for her re-elect."

■ Biden

"He has a history of working well with Republicans in the Senate."

"He's a pragmatist."

■ Obama

"He does not have much of an ideology or program, does not have the scars of 20 years of infighting, and is not the instinctive partisan Hillary Clinton is."

"He is not nearly as cold-blooded as Hillary."

■ Dodd

"He has a proven track record of working to get things done rather than angling for partisan stalemate."

—JAMES A. BARNES AND PETER BELL



Political Insiders Poll



Which will be the more important issue in the 2008 presidential election, national security or the economy?

■ Democrats (82 votes)

| | |
|--|------------|
| National security | 56 percent |
| The economy | 35 percent |
| Equally important; depends (volunteered) | 9 percent |

■ National security

"People will tell you that their own personal economy is most important—good-paying jobs with affordable health care and the ability to send kids to school, etc. But if they don't feel safe in the world, national security will trump 'economy.'"

"It's still all about the war in Iraq and a growing concern about a possible war with Iran."

"It is hard for people to focus on personal economic issues when Americans are dying on foreign soil. Democrats don't make the mistake John Kerry did and think that if you talk about the economy, that it will trump the war. The only thing that got trumped in that logic was John Kerry."

"Democrats will drive Iraq. Republicans, terrorism—especially if [Rudy] Giuliani is nominated."

"First and foremost, people look to the government to reassure them on the question of safety in a dangerous world."

■ The economy

"National security remains always on people's minds, but they go on with their everyday lives. If they can't pay their bills [or] are worried about their kids' ability to go to college, that's much more immediate."

"It will be the economy unless there is a terrorist attack—then Katie, bar the door!"

"Republicans can't scare the voters again. And the housing crunch plus energy situation demonstrate the economic situation is hardly rosy."

"People are struggling financially in a way that will only be further compounded in the coming months with tighter credit, a slowing economy, and the subprime mortgage mess."

■ Republicans (86 votes)

| | |
|--|------------|
| National security | 59 percent |
| The economy | 34 percent |
| Equally important; depends (volunteered) | 7 percent |

■ National security

"It's going to drive the Clinton campaign, as she has to prove she has the mettle to deal with threats. It's sexist, but it's also reality."

"Both will matter, but uneasiness over an uncertain world will galvanize more minds."

"National security for the foreseeable future will drive national politics. Until the GOP figures out a way to counterattack on the war, our political losses will mount."

"National security will be the deciding issue for crucial swing voters."

"As Churchill said, the most important factors in campaigns are 'events.' We just don't know the 'events' landscape in 2008, and one domestic attack could reshape the whole race."

"Democrats have once again overplayed their hand on Iraq, and will pay the price next November."

■ The economy

"Rising inflation, especially the cost of oil, and the loud drumbeat of higher taxes and more government under an all-Democrat-controlled government will force the majority of Americans to have their wallets on their minds when they walk into the ballot box."

"Polling is showing the country's concern trending toward economic issues—jobs and health care—unless Iraq or Iran blows up."

"The downdrafts in the economy are picking up and are likely to increase over the coming months. Given voter unease about the economy while it's been good, it will come into increasing focus."

"Déjà vu all over again: It's the economy, stupid. Hillary will use her husband's credentials to solidify her ability to get the country back on track fiscally."

—JAMES A. BARNES AND PETER BELL

National Journal Insiders

■ The 205 participants in *National Journal's* Political Insiders Poll were selected because of their campaign experience, insider knowledge, and ties to key voting blocs. The votes of 168 insiders—82 Democrats and 86 Republicans—were counted this week.

■ **Democratic Political Insiders** Karen Ackerman, Jill Alper, David Axelrod, Brad Bannon, Dave Beattie, Andy Bechhoefer, Cornell Belcher, Mitchell W. Berger, Mike Berman, Donna Brazile, Mark Brewer, Ed Bruley, George Bruno, Deb Callahan, Bonnie Campbell, Bill Carrick, Martin J. Chavez, Tony Coelho, Jim Craig, Jerry Crawford, Jeff Danielson, Jim Demers, Tad Devine, Monica Dixon, Michael Donilon, Tom Donilon, Anita Dunn, Steve Elmendorf, Carter Eskew, Eric Eve, Vic Fazio, Scott Ferson, Gordon Fischer, Tina Flournoy, Don Foley, Don Fowler, Gina Glantz, Joe Grandmason, Anna Greenberg, Stan Greenberg, Pat Griffin, Michael Gronstal, Marcia Hale, Paul Harstad, Laura Hartigan, Mike Henry, Harold Ickes, Marcus Jadotte, John Jameson, Steve Jarding, Jonathon Jones, Jim Jordan, Gale Kaufman, Shar Knutson, Kam Kuwata, Celinda Lake, David Lang, Sylvia Larsen, Jeff Link, Bill Lynch, Steve Marchand, Jim Margolis, Paul Maslin, Terry McAuliffe, Caroline McCarley, Gerald McEntee, Tom McMahon, David Medina, Mark Mellman, John Merigan, Steve Murphy, Janet Napolitano, David Nassar, Marcia Nichols, John Norris, Tom Ochs, Tom O'Donnell, Scott Parven, Jeffrey Peck, Debora Pignatelli, John Podesta, Tony Podesta, Bruce Reed, Mame Reiley, Steve Ricchetti, Susan Rice, Will Robinson, Steve Rosenthal, John Ryan, Wendy Sherman, Terry Shumaker, Bob Slagle, Erik Smith, Doug Sosnik, Darryl Sragow, Karl Struble, Katrina Swett, Sarah Swisher, Eric Tabor, Jeffrey Trammell, Ed Turlington, Mike Veon, Rick Wiener, Bridgette Williams, and JoDee Winterhof.

■ **GOP Political Insiders** Dan Allen, Stan Anderson, Gary Andres, Saulius (Saul) Anuzis, Rich Ashooh, Whit Ayres, Brett Bader, Mitch Bainwol, Gary Bauer, David Beckwith, Wayne Berman, Charlie Black, Kirk Blalock, Carmine Boal, Jeff Boeyink, Jeff Buley, Luke Byars, Nick Calio, Danny Carroll, Ron Christie, Jim Cicconi, Cesar Conda, Jake Corman, Greg Crist, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Rick Davis, Mike Dennehy, Ken Duberstein, Steve Duprey, Debi Durham, Frank Fahrenkopf, John Feehery, Don Fierce, Carl Forti, Alex Gage, Sam Geduldig, Benjamin Ginsberg, David Girard-diCarlo, Bill Greener, Lanny Griffith, Janet Mullins Grissom, Doug Gross, Todd Harris, Steve Hart, Ralph Hellmann, Chris Henick, Clark Judge, David Keating, David Kensinger, Bruce Keough, Bob Kjellander, Ed Kutler, Chris Lacivita, Jim Lake, Chuck Larson, Steve Lombardo, Joel Maiola, Gary Maloney, Mary Matalin, Dan Mattoon, Bill McInturff, Mark McKinnon, Kyle McSarrow, Ken Mehlman, Jim Merrill, Mike Murphy, Phil Musser, Terry Nelson, Neil Newhouse, David Norcross, Ziad Ojakli, Jack Oliver, Van B. Poole, Tom Rath, Scott Reed, David Rehr, Steve Roberts, David Roederer, Ed Rogers, Dan Schnur, Russ Schriener, Rich Schwam, Brent Seaborn, Rick Shelby, Andrew Shore, Don Sipple, Javier Soto, Fred Steeper, Bob Stevenson, Eric Tanenblatt, Heath Thompson, Jay Timmons, Warren Tompkins, Ted Van Der Meid, Dirk van Dongen, Jan van Lohuizen, Dick Wadhams, John Weaver, Dave Winston, and Ginny Wolfe.