



"What in the world people are really thinking"

For Immediate Release



Contact Fritz Wenzel - 315-624-0200 ext. 229 or 419-205-0287
Also available at: fritz@zogby.com

Date: Jan. 14, 2008

Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby Poll: McCain Clings to Slim Lead in Michigan

Utica, New York - Arizona Sen. John McCain holds a slim lead over former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney heading into the Republican primary election in Michigan, a new Reuters/C-SPAN/Zogby poll shows.

The survey shows McCain with a 27% to 24% edge over Romney, with Iowa caucus winner Mike Huckabee trailing with 15% support. McCain, fresh off a 37% to 32% victory in New Hampshire over Romney, is battling the former governor on what is essentially Romney's home turf, having grown up in the Detroit suburbs while his father, George, was governor of the state in the early 1960s.

Republicans are the only game in town, as Democrats have been put on ice because of a battle they are waging with the Democratic National Committee over the accelerated timing of their election. The national party wanted the state to delay its vote until later and has threatened candidates with sanctions should they campaign there. Hillary Clinton is the only major candidate with her name on tomorrow's ballot. Still, the GOP vote is open to all registered voters, as the state has a lenient primary voting rule that allows all comers to be allowed to take part, regardless of their partisan leanings.

The poll shows that among Republicans, Romney beats McCain, 30% to 20%, but McCain gets more support from Democrats and independent voters. Republicans made up about 51% of the sample, Democrats 22% and independents 27%. About 35% of Democrats liked McCain, to Romney's 17%. Among independents, about 33% like the maverick Arizona senator, compared to 18% for Romney and 11.6% for Huckabee. Huckabee and McCain are roughly tied among Republicans, each with about 20% support.

McCain also beats Romney handily in the western and central regions of the state with 10-point margins, and holds a slim lead in the Peninsula region. In Detroit, however, Romney has a roughly five-point advantage.

Union members, too, favor McCain over Romney, 31% to 20%.

McCain had an edge among women, with 30% saying they would vote for him and just 21% for Romney. Among men, the two leading candidates appeared neck and neck, with about 27% liking Romney and 24% liking McCain. Voters over 65 prefer McCain to Romney, 36% to 29%, but among other age groups the two are tied.

Republicans – Michigan	1-11/13 2008
McCain	27%
Romney	24%
Huckabee	15%
Paul	8%
Giuliani	6%
Thompson	5%
Hunter	<1%
Someone else	7%
Undecided	9%



Pollster John Zogby: *"This has remained tight over each of the three days we have polled. McCain won in Michigan in 2000 and still has some good will in the state. And, of course, Michigan is Romney's home state -- his father was an automobile executive and a popular governor. Huckabee is running a credible third place here prior to his big showdown in South Carolina on Saturday with McCain, Romney, and Thompson.*

"Romney has the support of Republicans (30% to 21% for Huckabee, and 20% for McCain) but McCain mops up among Independents (33%-18%), and among the more than one in six voters who are Democrats (35%-17%). Remember it was organized labor pushing Democrats to vote for McCain in 2000. This year, with no competitive Democratic race, there is less organizational effort, but still a combination of pro-McCain sentiment among Dems and a little mischief gives McCain his very slight lead.

"McCain does best among the oldest voters and also among women, moderates, those in households earning \$35,000-\$50,000, and in households where there is a union member. Romney's strength is in the Detroit metro area and among conservatives. The two leaders are pretty much tied among every other major sub-group. "Huckabee is strong among evangelical Christians and self-described very conservative voters.

"About half of McCain's and Romney's supporters describe themselves as very strong and definite -- but another 46% for each man say they are "strong but could change" their minds. Eight percent of McCain's supporters say their support is weak or very weak, as do 4% of Romney's..

"The top issue is the economy, cited by 47%, followed by the war in Iraq (18%), abortion (9%), immigration (8%), and the war on terrorism (6%). Among those who cite the economy, McCain and Romney are tied (25% for McCain, 24% for Romney). McCain leads on Iraq (33% to 27% for Romney). Huckabee dominates among those who said abortion (48%, McCain 18%, Romney 13%).

Immigration voters pick Romney 37% to 17% for McCain and 11% for Huckabee. And Romney is the favored candidate on the war on terror (34% to McCain's 28%). "Seventeen percent of McCain's supporters say that they have made up their minds only in the past few days, as do 10% of Romney's.

"Experience tops change as the preferred theme for primary voters 52% to 38%. McCain is the choice on experience 46% to Romney's 18% -- while on change, the results are almost evenly split (Romney 20%, and 16% each for McCain, Huckabee, and Paul".

This is the first of two three-day tracking news reports to be released in advance of Tuesday's Michigan primary. Because most Democrats are not campaigning in Michigan or appearing on the ballot there, Zogby International polled only for the Republican race.



The GOP three-day rolling tracking surveys are conducted using Zogby International's live operator call center in Upstate New York. The sample included 915 likely voters and carries a margin of error of +/- 3.4 percentage points. The tracking survey samples were taken Jan. 11-13, 2008.

-Z-