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Romney, Clinton Lead Primaries in Michigan

Huckabee's Rise is Giuliani's Fall for GOP; Obama, Gore, Edwards Next for Democrats

LANSING, Mich. — With the January 15 presidential primary looming ahead in Michigan, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney continues to lead the GOP field, while U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton continues to enjoy a wide lead over the other Democrat candidates.

According to the latest Rossman Group/MIRS/Denno-Noor survey, the GOP field is a moving target with Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee (at 19 percent, not previously tested) jumping into a horse race with Romney (at 20 percent, up five percent from the September 2007 poll), while former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's support has plummeted (at 11 percent, down 11 percent) and now trails Arizona Senator John McCain (at 13 percent, up four percent).

Also trailing are former Tennessee U.S. Senator Fred Thompson (at 8 percent, down 11 percent) and Texas Congressman Ron Paul (at 1 percent, not tested previously).

"It will be interesting to see how the results of the Iowa Caucuses (January 3, 2008) and the New Hampshire Primary (January 8, 2008) impact the GOP race in Michigan," said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, CEO of The Rossman Group. "Mitt Romney, who has strong Michigan ties, has watched his support in the Great Lake State stay relatively consistent. Meanwhile, Governor Huckabee's surge has meant a purge of support from September's front runner, Rudy Giuliani."

Meanwhile, among Democrats, Clinton's support continues to grow (at 37 percent, up three percent since September), expanding her lead over her nearest rival, Illinois U.S. Senator Barack Obama (at 20 percent, no change), and South Carolina U.S. Senator John Edwards (at 11 percent, down one percent). Former Vice President Al Gore, who is not an announced candidate for President at this time, still weighs in relatively strong (at 13 percent, up four percent).

The rest of the Democratic field lags considerably behind – Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich (at two percent – Kucinich was not tested in September), Delaware U.S. Senator Joseph Biden (at one percent), New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson (at zero percent, with 1 respondent), and Connecticut U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd (at zero percent).

Even with all the support for the various Democratic presidential hopefuls, Michigan residents will only have two options – Clinton and Kucinich – on the primary ballot this January.

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“We’ve seen the undecideds among Democrats almost shaved in half since our September survey,” said John T. Reurink, president of Michigan Information & Research Service Inc. (*MIRS* newsletter). “That support has gone to Clinton, Gore and Kucinich. Organized labor, historically a very strong player in Michigan Democratic politics, has yet to see their endorsements translate into significant gains for Edwards, their candidate of choice.”

The statewide survey was conducted by Denno-Noor Research in partnership with The Rossman Group and Michigan Information & Research Services, Michigan’s leading daily legislative and state government newsletter. The Rossman Group was recently named Lansing’s Most Effective Public Relations Firm by a survey of political insiders, and *MIRS* was recently voted the preferred newsletter of Lansing’s political insiders.

The results are as follows:

<u>GOP</u>	<u>December 2007</u>	<u>September 2007</u>	<u>May 2007</u>	<u>Democrats</u>	<u>December 2007</u>	<u>September 2007</u>	<u>May 2007</u>
Brownback	---	0%	1%	Biden	1%	2%	1%
Giuliani	11%	22%	17%	Dodd	0%	0%	0%
McCain	13%	9%	17%	Edwards	11%	12%	8%
ROMNEY	20%	15%	25%	CLINTON	37%	34%	34%
Gingrich	---	7%	9%	Obama	20%	20%	22%
Thompson	8%	19%	10%	Richardson	0%	1%	3%
Huckabee	19%	---	---	Gore	13%	9%	9%
Paul	2%	---	---	Kucinich	2%	---	---
Other	2%	1%	0%	Other	2%	1%	0%
DNK/Refused	24%	18%	17%	DNK/Refused	12%	21%	23%

“Huckabee’s success in Iowa has made him a player in Michigan,” said Denno-Noor President Dennis Denno. “He’s making a strong challenge to Romney, and a strong showing in Iowa could lead to even more momentum in Michigan. On the Democratic side, Michigan continues to be Clinton’s state to lose.”

“Who would have thought that two Razorbacks – one in each political party’s presidential primary – could actually win in Michigan,” added Rossman-McKinney. “But right now, Clinton and Huckabee are going hog-wild in the Wolverine state.”

Methodology:

This survey was part of the Rossman Group/MIRS/Denno-Noor Quarterly Survey of the Michigan electorate. Six hundred respondents were surveyed between November 30 and December 3, and the participation was stratified based on census data and past voter behavior. A screen was employed to include only those participants who said they intended on voting, either at the polls or by absentee ballot, in the November 2008 Election. The margin of error is plus/minus 4 percent.