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## Clinton, Obama Stay Out Front in Michigan

*Survey shows Edwards third with 12 percent*

**LANSING** — Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama continue to enjoy leading positions in Michigan's Jan. 15 race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Clinton maintains a double-digit lead over Obama, but support for both candidates appears to be holding steady in the latest Rossman Group/MIRS/Denno-Noor survey. Previous polls were taken in May and in March.

Clinton, at 34 percent, moved up two percentage points since March, while Obama stayed the course at 20 percent.

Edwards slipped from 21 percent in March to 12 percent this month.

"None of the Democratic contenders have really been able to bust out of their groove," said Kelly Rossman-McKinney, CEO of The Rossman Group. "Michigan voters continue to see the candidates pretty much as the same players they were six months ago."

Survey respondents who were uncertain which candidate they'd back in Michigan's Democratic presidential primary jumped from 17 percent in March to 21 percent in September.

U.S. Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware held steady at 2 percent since the March survey, as did New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson at 1 percent.

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Former Vice President Al Gore bumped up from 6 percent to 9 percent between March and September. U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut slipped from 1 percent to 0 percent.

Denno-Noor Research conducted the statewide survey in partnership with The Rossman Group and Michigan Information & Research Services (MIRS). The Rossman Group was recently named Lansing's most effective public relations firm by a survey of political insiders. MIRS was recently voted the preferred legislative and state government newsletter of Lansing political insiders.

Respondents who identified themselves as Democrats were asked:

*“If the Democratic primary for U.S. president were being held today, which candidate do you think you would vote for, Sen. Joseph Biden, Sen. Christopher Dodd, former senator and vice presidential candidate John Edwards, former first lady Sen. Hillary Clinton, Sen. Barack Obama, Gov. Bill Richardson or former Vice President Al Gore.”*

*The results:*

	Sept. 2007	May 2007	March 2007
Biden	2%	1%	2%
Dodd	0%	0%	1%
Edwards	12%	8%	21%
Clinton	34%	34%	32%
Obama	20%	22%	20%
Richardson	1%	3%	1%
Gore	9%	9%	6%
Other	1%	0%	0%
Unsure	21%	23%	17%

“Clinton and Obama appear to have incredible stamina among Michigan voters, outrunning Edwards despite what you'd assume to be his appeal to the state's large contingent of blue-collar voters,” said John T. Reurink, president of Michigan Information & Research Service Inc.

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“With almost a quarter of Michigan Democrats still undecided about who they want running for the White House, the field is wide open,” said Dennis Denno, president of Denno-Noor Research. “Hillary Clinton leads with 34 percent of the votes, but that’s still far from what she’ll need to make it to Pennsylvania Avenue.”

**Methodology:**

**This survey is part of the Rossman Group/MIRS/Denno-Noor Quarterly Survey of the Michigan electorate. Six hundred respondents were surveyed between Sept. 11 and Sept. 15, 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 to vote, either at the polls or by absentee ballot, in the November 2008 election. The margin of error is plus/minus 4 percentage points.**

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