

Texas Lyceum Poll Shares 2008 Presidential Numbers

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Contact: Margaret Justus
281-250-8253

"Undecided" polls strong while general election trial ballots indicate Texas has 'a competitive party system at the moment'

(AUSTIN, TX) Texans appear to be in line with much of the nation when it comes to choosing their favorite 2008 presidential candidate according to numbers released today by the Texas Lyceum Poll.

The independent poll, commissioned by the Texas Lyceum, a non-partisan, non-profit statewide leadership group focused on public policy facing Texas and the nation, shows many Texans remain undecided in the primary elections while general election trial ballots indicate a tight general election.

"The primary vote numbers are mostly consistent with what we are seeing nationally," said Daron Shaw, the Texas Lyceum Poll director and associate professor at the University of Texas. "McCain is a little stronger here than he is nationally, and the support for Fred Thompson is intriguing. Clinton's position is also a little better than in the national polls, probably because Obama is still not well known in Texas."

The poll, which has a margin of error of 3 percent, was conducted April 26th through May 7th of 1,002 adults, half male, half female, is part of a three day roll-out this week that focused primarily on religion and politics and how those two issues intertwined. The entire executive summary is now posted on the Texas Lyceum's website at www.texaslyceum.org

"The general election trial ballot numbers show two things. First, support for Clinton is quite strong especially among core Democratic constituencies. Second, Obama does not run as well as Clinton right now because he isn't well known. Approximately 40% of voters are undecided in the match-ups featuring Obama," Shaw said.

"While a significant number of Texans are still, not surprisingly, undecided about their primary choices, both the spread of preferences in the primary contests and the closeness in the likely head to head, hypothetical match-ups suggests how competitive the party

system in Texas is at this moment," said Jim Henson, Director of the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas, who assisted Shaw with the poll.

"A lot can change between now and November 2008. But for the moment, we see ample evidence that the tide of one-party dominance in state party politics may have crested. There was certainly evidence of this during the recently concluded legislative session, and the Lyceum Poll adds still more movement. Texas may well be entering a period of increased electoral competition between the major parties."

"We are extremely proud to have successfully completed our 2007 Texas Lyceum Inaugural Poll," said Maggie Radford, COO Bonanza Oil and Texas Lyceum President. "As leaders in the business, civic and non-profit areas of our Texas communities, we are also Democrats, Republicans and Independents who care deeply about fostering future leaders, and understand a well-conducted poll can be a useful tool. We encourage everyone to visit our website next month when we will post the entire Texas Lyceum Poll results prior to our public conference to be held in Austin on July 13th, 2007."

Members of the media who wish to speak to Daron Shaw and Jim Henson regarding The Texas Lyceum poll results are invited to join them on a conference call today at 1 pm. The number is 1-888-296-6500, guest code 298528#. Thank you for your interest!

Texas Lyceum Presidential Poll Results

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION (among 362 Democratic Primary voters):

Hilary Clinton 33%

Barack Obama 21%

Al Gore 10%

John Edwards 8%

Bill Richardson 3%

Joe Biden 1%

Denis Kucinich 1%

other 0%

don't know 20%

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION (among 303 Republican Primary voters):

John McCain 27%

Rudy Giuliani 23%

Fred Thompson 11%

Mitt Romney 6%

Newt Gingrich 6%

Sam Brownback 3%

Tommy Thompson 1%

Duncan Hunter 1%

Ron Paul 0%

other 2%

don't know 20%

GENERAL ELECTION (among registered voters- about 81% of the sample)

Clinton 35%

McCain 36%

undecided 29%

Clinton 31%

Giuliani 32%

Undecided 37%

Obama 25%

McCain 32%

Undecided 43%

Obama 22%

Guiliani 32%

undecided 46%

About the Texas Lyceum

The 27 year-old Texas Lyceum is comprised of 96 Texas men and women who begin their tenure as Lyceum Directors before the age of 46. Each of them has demonstrated leadership in their community and profession, together with a deep commitment to Texas. The Texas Lyceum gained its name from the oak grove (lyceum) where Aristotle and his fellow Greek philosophers convened to debate issues more than 2500 years ago.

The association acts as a catalyst to bring together diverse opinions and expertise to focus on national and state issues, and seeks to emphasize constructive private sector, public sector and individual responses to the issues.

To accomplish these purposes, the Lyceum conducts periodic public forums, publishes the Lyceum Journal, The Texas Lyceum Poll, and conducts programs for the Directors to explore and discuss key economic and social issues of the state and nation. For more information about the Texas Lyceum, please visit: www.texaslyceum.org

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