

Giuliani, 9/11 and the 2008 Race

Six years after the terrorist attacks that vaulted him to national prominence, it's unclear whether 9/11 will lift Rudy Giuliani all the way to the presidency: He remains hamstrung in the Republican base, and his overall support for his party's nomination has slipped in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll.

Giuliani does better with Republicans who are concerned about another major terrorist attack in this country, a legacy of his 9/11 performance. But among those less focused on terrorism, he's in a dead heat against newcomer Fred Thompson.

Thompson also challenges Giuliani among conservatives and evangelical white Protestants – base groups in the Republican constituency – while John McCain has stabilized after a decline in support. Giuliani still leads, but his support is down by nine points in this poll from his level in July.

Indeed this is the first ABC/Post poll this cycle in which Giuliani had less than a double-digit lead over all his competitors: He now leads Thompson by nine points (and McCain by 10). Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 28 percent support Giuliani, 19 percent Thompson, 18 percent McCain and 10 percent Mitt Romney. Other candidates remain in the low single digits. (There's no significant difference among registered voters – and plenty of time to register.)

	'08 Republican primary preferences				
	Now	July	June	April	Feb
Giuliani	28%	37	34	35	53
Thompson	19	15	13	10	NA
McCain	18	16	20	22	23
Romney	10	8	10	10	5

The Democratic race, meanwhile, remains exceedingly stable; Hillary Clinton has led Barack Obama by 14 to 16 points in each ABC/Post poll since February, and still does.

	'08 Democratic primary preferences				
	Now	July	June	April	Feb
Clinton	41%	45	42	41	43
Obama	27	30	27	25	27
Edwards	14	12	11	17	14

Democrats remain more satisfied with their choice of candidates: Seventy-eight percent say they're satisfied with the field, vs. 68 percent of Republicans.

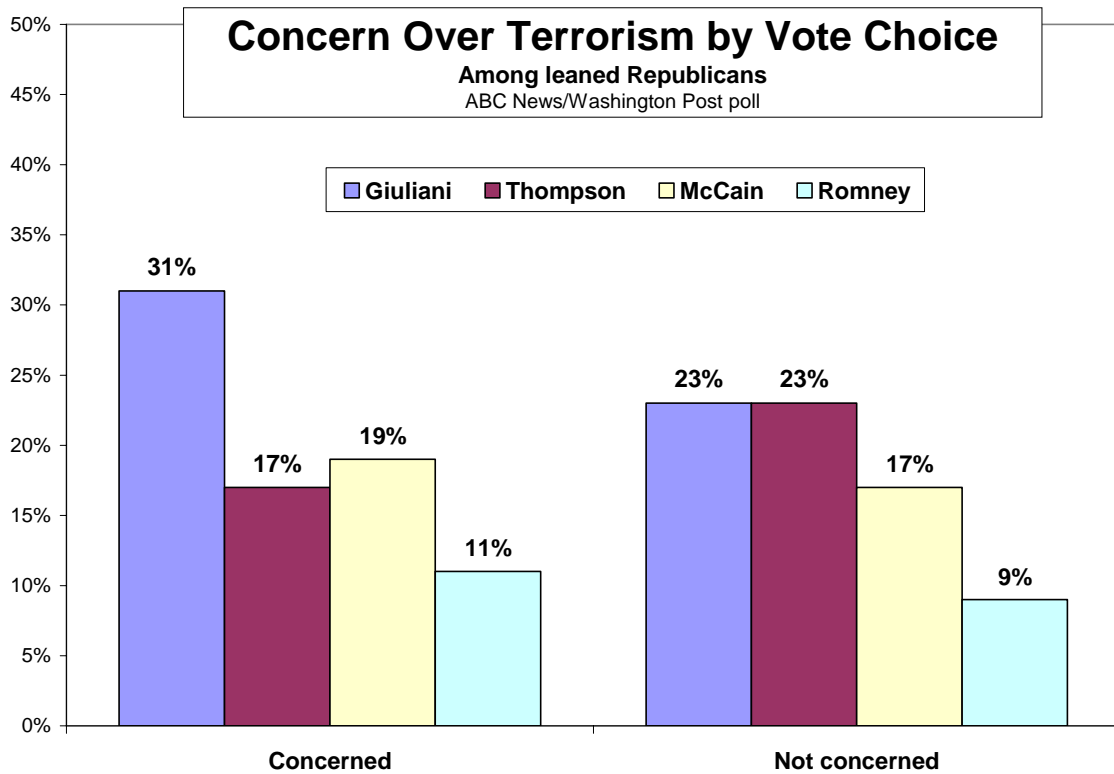
GOP GROUPS – The Republican race, as noted, is closest in core Republican groups, which differ with Giuliani’s positions on issues including abortion and same-sex marriage. Among evangelical white Protestants, Thompson has 29 percent support to Giuliani’s 25 percent; among conservatives, Giuliani has 24 percent support, while Thompson’s right there with 21 percent.

Giuliani does better among moderate Republicans, with 35 percent support. But they’re outnumbered by conservatives in the party by more than 2-1.

While Giuliani’s slip in support in this poll is broadly based, it’s steepest among women, among whom he’s gone from 41 percent support in July to 27 percent now. He’s also lost ground to McCain and Thompson in his native Northeast, usually his best region.

Likely related to his strong, 9/11-inspired ratings for leadership, Giuliani has a wider lead among Republicans who cite the war in Iraq as the most important issue in their vote – 36 percent support, followed by McCain at 25, Romney at 12 and Thompson at just seven percent. Among Republicans who cite other issues, Giuliani and McCain get eight or nine points less support apiece, and Thompson jumps to 26 percent.

TERRORISM – As noted, Giuliani does better among Republicans who are concerned about another terrorist attack, with 31 percent support in this group to McCain’s 19 percent and Thompson’s 17 percent. Among those who are not so concerned about another attack, by contrast, Giuliani and Thompson run evenly.



Not all views on terrorism work as well for Giuliani. For instance, his support is no different among Republicans who are confident in the government's ability to prevent further terrorism compared with those who aren't confident.

DEMOCRATS – While the Democratic race is very stable overall, some shifts among subgroups continue. Clinton is back to a much larger lead among women than men – among Democratic and Democratic-leaning women, 51 percent support her for the nomination; among men, her support drops to 29 percent. Obama runs about evenly with Clinton among men, with 32 percent support, but does less well with women, with 23 percent – less than half Clinton's support.

Clinton's support is softer among Democratic-leaning independents (30 to 32 percent for Obama), those with higher incomes (35 to 37 percent for Obama), Southerners (35 to 33 percent for Obama) and those under age 40 (37 to 32 percent for Obama).

ISSUES – The war in Iraq dominates as a political issue in the 2008 election, but more among Democrats – who're far more critical of the war – than among Republicans.

Among Democrats (and Democratic-leaning independents), 44 percent call the war the single most important issue in their vote for president, a very high level of agreement on an open-ended question. Sixteen percent say health care, with all other answers in single digits.

The war in Iraq is No. 1 among leaned Republicans as well, but at a lower level, cited by 26 percent; 13 percent cite the economy, 11 percent, terrorism.

	Most Important Issue	
	Leaned Party	
	Dem	Rep
Iraq	44%	26%
Health care	16	9
Economy	9	13
Terrorism	3	11
Ethics	4	9
Immigration	3	7

Looking ahead to the general election, Democrats have an advantage on Iraq: Asked which political party they trust more to handle the war, 42 percent of Americans cite the Democrats, to 31 percent – a new low since 2002 – for the Republicans.

There is room to move, however: Nineteen percent – a new high – say they don't trust either party to do a better job on Iraq.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 4-7, 2007, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults. The results have a three-point error margin for the full sample, 4.5 points for the sample of 467 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents and five points for the sample of 401 Republicans

and Republican-leaning independents. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Peyton M. Craighill and Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollvault.html>.

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Full results follow (*= less than 0.5 percent).

1. Previously released.

2. Thinking ahead to the November 2008 presidential election, what is the single most important issue in your choice for president?

	9/7/07
Iraq/War in Iraq	35
Terrorism/national security	6
Economy/jobs	11
Education	1
Environment	1
Health care	13
Ethics/honesty/corruption in government	6
Immigration/illegal immigration	5
Abortion	1
Morals/family values	2
Federal budget deficit	1
Housing/mortgages	*
Global warming	*
Social Security	1
Foreign Policy	1
None/Nothing	*
Other	7
No opinion	9

3. (IF MENTIONED MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE) Is there one other issue that's nearly as important?

	9/7/07
Iraq/War in Iraq	20
Terrorism/national security	3
Economy/jobs	19
Education	6
Environment	1
Health care	15
Ethics/honesty/corruption in government	1
Immigration/illegal immigration	5

Abortion	1
Morals/family values	2
Federal budget deficit	3
Housing/mortgages	*
Global warming	1
Social Security	2
Foreign Policy	1
None/Nothing	4
Other	5
No opinion	10

4-24. Previously released.

25. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) If the 2008 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were: (Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd, Dennis Kucinich, or Mike Gravel), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE

	9/7/07	7/21/07	6/1/07	4/15/07	2/25/07
Hillary Clinton	41	45	42	41	43
Barack Obama	27	30	27	25	27
John Edwards	14	12	11	17	14
Bill Richardson	2	3	2	3	3
Joe Biden	3	2	2	2	2
Chris Dodd	1	1	1	*	*
Dennis Kucinich	2	1	2	1	*
Mike Gravel	1	0	*	*	*
Other (vol.)	1	1	*	1	*
None of these (vol.)	4	2	4	3	4
Would not vote (vol.)	0	2	1	1	1
No opinion	5	2	6	5	4

*Asked Al Gore 7/21 and previous, Wesley Clark 4/15 and previous, Tom Vilsack 2/25 and previous, John Kerry 1/19 and previous, Evan Bayh 12/11

First choice/Second choice NET

	9/7/07	12/11/06
Hillary Clinton	67	60
Barack Obama	50	33
Al Gore	NA	29
John Edwards	35	22
Bill Richardson	7	4
Joe Biden	5	3
Dennis Kucinich	3	NA
Chris Dodd	2	1
Mike Gravel	1	NA
Other (vol.)	1	1
None of these (vol.)	12	4
Would not vote (vol.)	*	1
No opinion	7	7

26. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the choice of candidates for the Democratic nomination for president this year - are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?

----	Satisfied	-----	---	Dissatisfied	----	No
NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion

9/7/07	78	28	50	21	17	4	2
7/21/07	83	33	50	16	14	2	1
6/1/07	79	26	53	18	15	4	2
4/15/07	80	29	51	18	14	3	2
2/25/07	86	29	57	12	9	3	2
10/29/03	68	9	58	28	21	8	4
9/13/03	64	8	56	34	27	7	2
1/16/00	69	14	56	28	21	7	2

*10/29/03 and previous: "candidates in the Democratic primary"

27. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) If the 2008 Republican presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were: (Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Sam Brownback, Tom Tancredo, Ron Paul, or Fred Thompson), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO GINGRICH:

	9/7/07	7/21/07	6/1/07	4/15/07	2/25/07
Rudy Giuliani	28	37	34	35	53
John McCain	18	16	20	22	23
Fred Thompson	19	15	13	10	NA
Mitt Romney	10	8	10	10	5
Tommy Thompson	NA	3	1	2	2
Mike Huckabee	5	2	2	1	2
Duncan Hunter	1	2	1	1	*
Ron Paul	1	2	2	1	1
Tom Tancredo	*	2	1	1	1
Sam Brownback	2	1	1	1	2
Other (vol.)	1	*	*	0	*
None of these (vol.)	2	5	3	4	2
Would not vote (vol.)	2	1	*	*	1
No opinion	10	5	10	7	5

*Asked Tommy Thompson 7/21 and previous, Hagel and Pataki 4/15 and previous, Gilmore 6/1 and previous.

NET LEANED VOTE WITH GINGRICH:

	9/7/07	7/21/07	6/1/07	4/15/07	2/25/07	1/19/07	12/11/06
Rudy Giuliani	26	34	32	33	44	34	34
John McCain	18	16	19	21	21	27	26
Fred Thompson	18	14	11	9	NA	NA	NA
Mitt Romney	9	8	9	9	4	9	5
Newt Gingrich	5	7	9	6	15	9	12
Tommy Thompson	NA	3	1	2	2	1	2
Mike Huckabee	5	2	2	1	2	1	*
Duncan Hunter	1	2	1	1	*	*	1
Ron Paul	1	2	1	1	1	1	NA
Sam Brownback	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tom Tancredo	*	1	1	1	*	1	*
Jim Gilmore	NA	NA	1	1	*	1	NA
Chuck Hagel	NA	NA	NA	*	1	*	*
George Pataki	NA	NA	NA	1	1	2	3
Other (vol.)	1	*	*	0	*	*	*
None of these (vol.)	2	5	3	4	2	2	6
Would not vote (vol.)	2	1	*	*	1	1	*
No opinion	9	5	8	6	4	9	9

*Asked Tommy Thompson 7/21 and previous, Chuck Hagel and George Pataki 4/15 and previous, Jim Gilmore 6/1 and previous

First choice/Second choice NET

	9/7/07	12/11/06
Rudy Giuliani	51	57
John McCain	33	47
Fred Thompson	29	NA
Mitt Romney	22	9
Newt Gingrich	11	22
Mike Huckabee	8	2
Duncan Hunter	3	1
Ron Paul	2	NA
Sam Brownback	3	2
Tom Tancredo	1	1
George Pataki	NA	8
Tommy Thompson	NA	5
Chuck Hagel	NA	1
Other (vol.)	1	1
None of these (vol.)	4	11
Would not vote (vol.)	2	*
No opinion	16	15

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO MCCAIN

	9/7/07	7/21/07
Rudy Giuliani	36	39
Fred Thompson	21	16
Mitt Romney	12	10
Newt Gingrich	6	8
Tommy Thompson	NA	4
Mike Huckabee	5	2
Duncan Hunter	1	2
Ron Paul	1	2
Sam Brownback	2	1
Tom Tancredo	*	1
Other (vol.)	1	1
None of these (vol.)	2	5
Would not vote (vol.)	2	2
No opinion	11	6

*Asked Tommy Thompson 7/21 and previous.

28. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the choice of candidates for the Republican nomination for President this year - are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?

	---- Satisfied -----			--- Dissatisfied ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
9/7/07	68	19	49	26	21	6	5
7/21/07	65	13	53	32	26	6	3
6/1/07	68	11	56	28	22	6	4
4/15/07	65	16	49	31	27	5	3
2/25/07	73	14	58	24	20	5	3

29. Which best describes your family's financial situation? Do you feel as if you (are getting ahead financially), have just enough money to maintain your standard of living, or (are falling behind financially)?

Getting Just enough Falling No

	ahead	to maintain	behind	opin.
9/7/07	26	53	20	1
11/4/06 RV	28	48	23	1
10/22/06 RV	25	53	21	1
All	24	52	23	1

END