

ELECTION 2008 - RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

REPUBLICAN PARTY	LATEST POLL RESULTS	WAR IN IRAQ	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS
<p>Rudy Giuliani (R)</p>  <p>Ex-Mayor, NY</p>	1st favored by 34% of GOP voters.	Supported invasion	Known as "America's Mayor" for handling of 9/11.	Stance on social issues, private sector business, personal life plagued with scandal.
<p>John McCain (R)</p>  <p>Senator, AZ</p>	2nd favored by 27% of GOP voters	Voted to authorize invasion; opposes specific timetable for withdrawal of troops, emphasizes support of Iraqi government.	GOP frontrunner, worked hard to earn support from the party's right wing.	Aura of independence and sincerity has begun to erode in conspicuous attempts to woo hard-line conservatives.
<p>Mitt Romney (R)</p>  <p>Governor, MA</p>	Tied for 3rd, favored by 9% of GOP voters	Supported invasion; supports president's plan to increase troops but wants objectives clarified.	Money organization, goes to the right of McCain on immigration and interrogation.	His faith (Mormon) might not resonate with GOP base.
<p>Tommy Thompson (R)</p>  <p>Ex-Governor, WI</p>	Favored by 1% of GOP voters	Supported invasion, now opposes troop increase, but does not favor date for withdrawal.	Resonates with conservative Democrats.	Low name recognition, organization and funding.
<p>Sam Brownback (R)</p>  <p>Senator, KS</p>	Favored by 1% of GOP voters	Voted for invasion, unwilling to call the vote a mistake. Does not support troop increase.	Card-carrying religious conservative in line with party base, avoids one-dimensional image by opposing Bush policy.	Suffers from media bias against pro-life candidates, opposes embryonic stem cell research.
<p>Duncan Hunter (R)</p>  <p>Rep. CA</p>	Favored by less than .5% of GOP voters	Voted to authorize invasion; supports Bush troop increase.	Voting record which appeals to defense and immigration hardliners.	Lacks organization, money and visibility in early nominating states.
<p>Jim Gilmore (R)</p>  <p>Former Governor, VA</p>	Favored by 1% of GOP voters	Hedges on whether he supported invasion; opposes troop increase.	From a state the GOP would like to reclaim, good national security credentials.	Unknown outside of Virginia and party.
<p>Newt Gingrich (R)</p>  <p>Former Speaker, GA</p>	Tied for 3rd, favored by 9% of GOP voters	Supported initial invasion, disagreed with war's execution; supports 30,000 troop increase if Congress supports.	Rock star among conservative activists for leading party to power in '94 to reclaim control of Congress.	Associated with leading role in impeachment of President Clinton, plagued with ethics violations.

<p>Chuck Hagel (R)</p>  <p>Senator, Neb</p>	<p>Favored by less than .5% of GOP voters</p>	<p>Voted to authorize invasion. Highly critical of conduct of war; calling for phased withdrawal of troops.</p>	<p>Decorated Vietnam vet, has appeal as an independent-minded conservative.</p>	<p>Public speaking style, lags behind top-tier candidates in fundraising and organization.</p>
<p>Mike Huckabee (R)</p>  <p>Governor Ark</p>	<p>Favored by 1% of GOP voters</p>	<p>Supports Bush troop increase plan, saying "we're there for the long haul".</p>	<p>Personable, feel-good candidate of 2008.</p>	<p>Lags in fundraising and organization.</p>
<p>George Pataki (R)</p>  <p>Governor, NY</p>	<p>4th, favored by 2% of GOP voters</p>	<p>Supported initial invasion of Iraq but now says he hopes troops could begin to come home in a year.</p>	<p>Three-time Republican-elected governor of blue state.</p>	<p>Did not leave office with high approval ratings.</p>

DEMOCRATIC PARTY	LATEST POLL RESULTS	WAR IN IRAQ	STRENGTHS	WEAKNESS
<p>Hillary Clinton (D)</p>  <p>Senator, NY</p>	<p>1st 41% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Voted to authorize invasion, now says vote was based on bad intelligence. Opposes increase unless part of larger withdrawal plan.</p>	<p>Vast organization power, Bill Clinton, worked hard to be bipartisan in the Senate.</p>	<p>Polarizing reputation, vote to authorize troops could haunt her.</p>
<p>Barack Obama (D)</p>  <p>Senator, IL</p>	<p>2nd 17% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Spoke against invasion before elected to Senate. Opposes troop increase, supports phased withdrawal.</p>	<p>Thrilling speaker, prodigious fundraiser, promotes bipartisanship.</p>	<p>Only been in Senate since 2005, substantive policy message yet to be seen.</p>
<p>John Edwards (D)</p>  <p>Ex- Senator, NC</p>	<p>3rd 11% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Voted to authorize invasion, says he regrets it. Advocates immediate withdrawal of troops.</p>	<p>Former VP running mate, vocal on poverty, aggressive critic of Bush administration.</p>	<p>Lacks practical governmental experience, fundraising could be a question mark.</p>
<p>John Kerry (D)</p>  <p>Senator, MA</p>	<p>5th 8% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Voted to authorize invasion but now says vote a mistake based on bad intelligence. Supports cutting off funding that would allow Bush troop increase.</p>	<p>Learned from '04 mistakes, war hero, mastery of issues, massive email database for fundraising.</p>	<p>Hard time defending why he lost to a President many saw as 'beatable'.</p>

<p>Tom Vilsack (D)</p>  <p>Governor, IA</p>	<p>Favored by .5% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Says invasion was a mistake; opposes troop increase. Favors redeployment to other parts of region, leaving small force on Northern border.</p>	<p>Prime opportunity to seize control of an early contest to start some momentum.</p>	<p>Not well-known outside of Iowa where (even there) he's polling behind more well-known rivals.</p>
<p>Joe Biden (D)</p>  <p>Senator, DE</p>	<p>6th place, favored by 3% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Voted for invasion; opposes troop increase as well as date-certain withdrawal. Says US can be out by 2008.</p>	<p>Best foreign policy resume in the race, one of war's most outspoken critics, blunt manner.</p>	<p>Famous for enjoying the sound of his own voice.</p>
<p>Wesley Clark (D)</p>  <p>General</p>	<p>Favored by 1% of Dem voters</p>	<p>Said he would have never voted for the war. Opposes troop increase.</p>	<p>Military experience that most candidates can only dream of.</p>	<p>Struggled with consistency in answering questions during his 2004 bid.</p>
<p>Chris Dodd (D)</p>  <p>Senator, DE</p>	<p>Favored by less than .5% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Voted to authorize invasion, has called vote a mistake. Favors Senate vote on reauthorizing US military effort.</p>	<p>Positioned as an experienced fresh face, fluent in Spanish.</p>	<p>Doesn't hold executive accomplishments and voted in favor of Iraq War.</p>
<p>Al Gore (D)</p>  <p>Former Vice President</p>	<p>4th, favored by 10% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Publicly opposed invasion before the start of the war. Wants troops home "as soon as possible."</p>	<p>Reinvented himself since 2000, internationally-respected environmental crusader.</p>	<p>Gore 2.0 could lapse into Gore 1.0.</p>
<p>Dennis Kucinich (D)</p>  <p>Representative, OH</p>	<p>Favored by 1% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Opposed the invasion; opposes increase. Co-sponsored bill to cut off war funds.</p>	<p>Idealistic, passionate and able to woo di-hards, refuses to cede spotlight to more popular candidates.</p>	<p>Often dismissed for cosmetic reasons, time as former Cleveland mayor extremely tumultuous.</p>
<p>Bill Richardson (D)</p>  <p>Governor, NM</p>	<p>Favored by 1% of Dem. voters</p>	<p>Opposes troop increase; supports fixed withdrawal date.</p>	<p>Dynamic resume, strong record as governor.</p>	<p>Reputation for showboating and embellishment.</p>