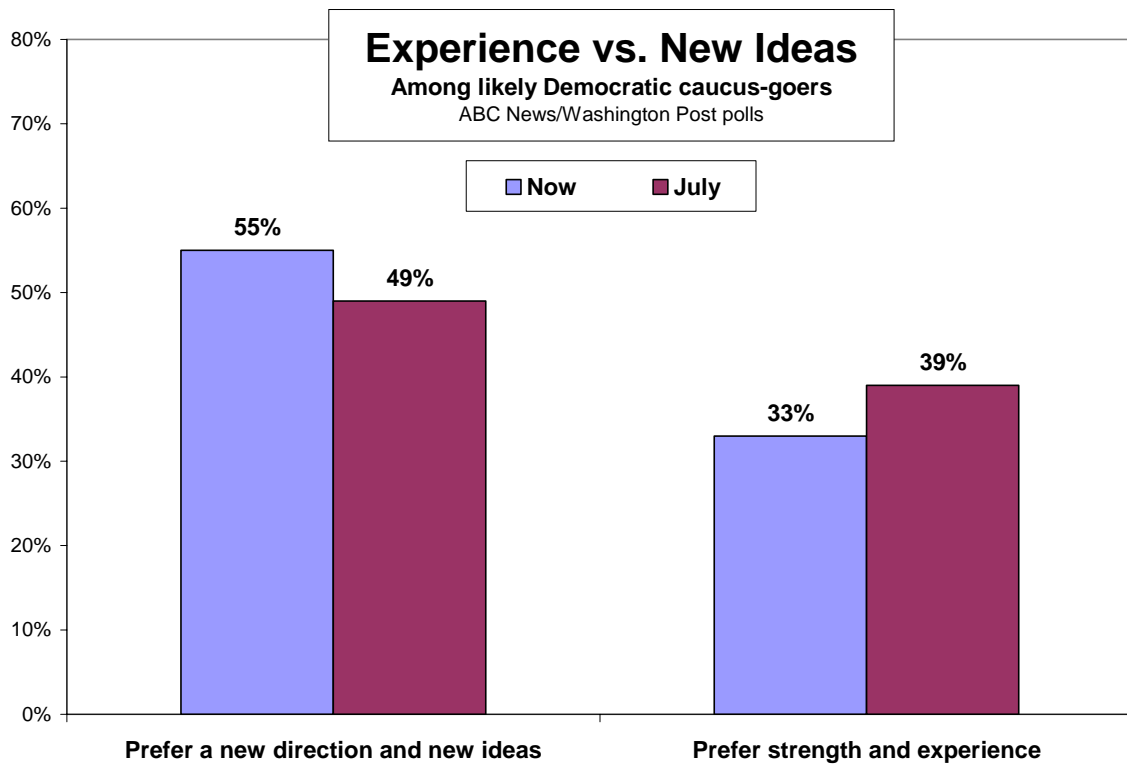


Obama Finds Help in Iowa With a Focus on New Ideas

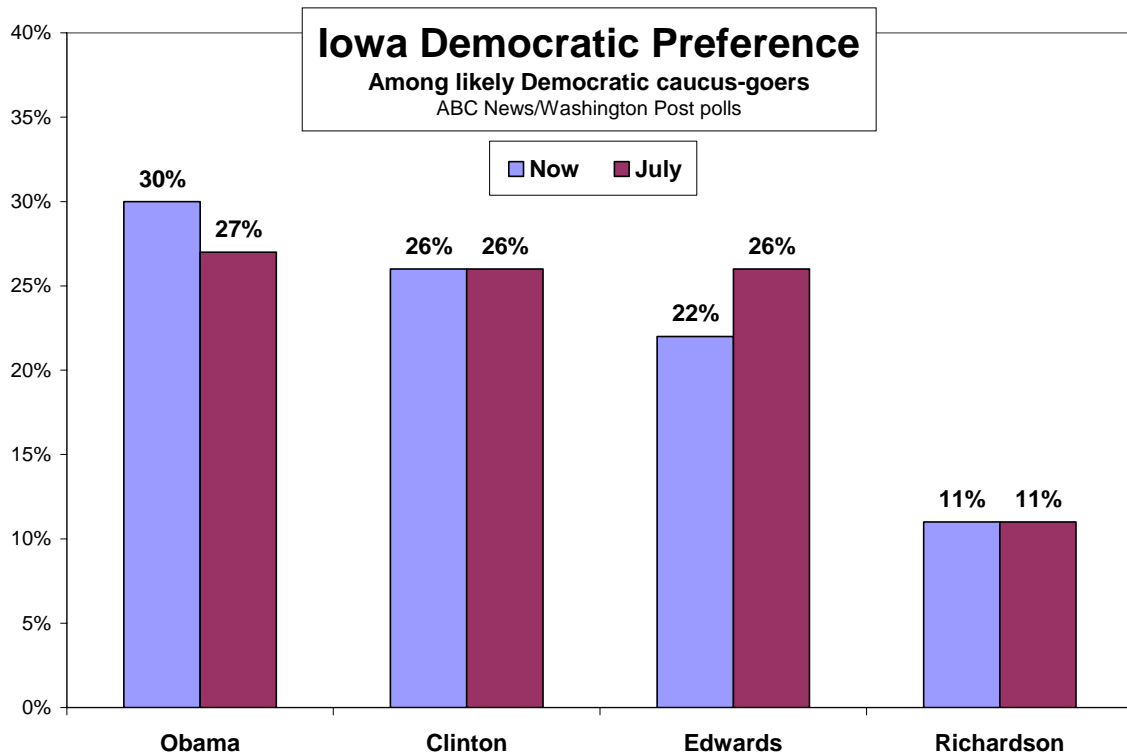
A growing focus on fresh ideas coupled with lingering doubts about Hillary Clinton’s honesty and forthrightness are keeping the Democratic presidential contest close in Iowa, with Barack Obama in particular mounting a strong race against the national front-runner.

Most Democratic likely voters in Iowa, 55 percent, say they’re more interested in a “new direction and new ideas” than in strength and experience, compared with 49 percent in July – a help to Obama, who holds a substantial lead among “new direction” voters.



While Clinton still leads on more personal attributes than any of her competitors, just half of Iowa Democrats in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll believe she’s willing to say what she really thinks – far fewer than say so of either Obama or John Edwards. Obama beats her by 2-1 as the most honest and trustworthy candidate. Her advantage on experience, while substantial, has softened since summer. She has notably less support in Iowa than nationally in trust to handle a variety of specific issues – on Iraq, Obama now runs evenly with her. And she’s third in Iowa among men.

Overall, in current preferences, 30 percent in Iowa support Obama, 26 percent Clinton and 22 percent Edwards, with 11 percent for Bill Richardson. That’s little changed since July (Edwards -4, Obama +3, both within sampling tolerances, and Clinton unchanged).



Among those who say they’re “absolutely certain” to attend a caucus, Obama has 28 percent support, Clinton 26 percent – again very close, and a contrast to Clinton’s nearly 2-1 lead over Obama nationally.

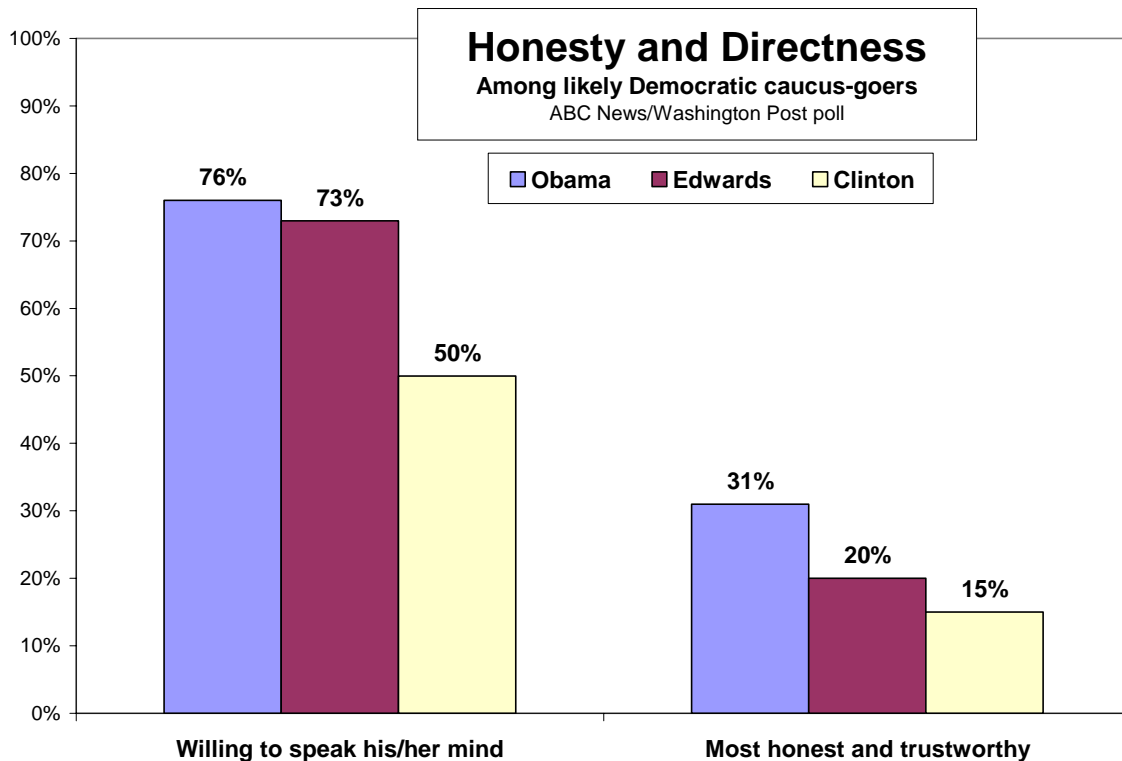
Plenty of open questions remain – including where preferences wind up at the caucuses six weeks from now and whether or how Iowans’ choices resonate elsewhere. Clearly there’s room to move: Forty-three percent say there’s a chance they could change their minds by the Jan. 3 caucuses; 20 percent say there’s a good chance of it.

ENGAGED – It’s equally clear that these Democrats are highly engaged. Fifty-three percent of likely caucus-goers are following the race very closely, more than double the level of attention among all Democrats nationally.

Other measures of the up-close-and-personal nature of the Iowa campaign are striking. Eight in 10 of those likely to attend a Democratic caucus say they’ve received a phone call from one or more of the campaigns. Just over half have attended a campaign event. More than four in 10 have visited campaign web sites. And a third say they’ve personally spoken with one or more candidates, or shaken his or her hand.

In few if any other states is this level of retail politics possible; low participation is a notable feature of the Iowa caucuses, with just 120,000 Democratic attendees in 2004. But involvement this year looks to be especially high: Six weeks before the 2004 caucus, 34 percent said they'd attended a campaign event. That compares with 52 percent now.

TWO RESULTS – Two notable results underscore vulnerabilities for Clinton that work to Obama's advantage. One, as noted, is that just 50 percent believe she's willing enough to say what she really thinks, vs. three-quarters who say this about Obama and Edwards alike – fallout, perhaps, from her recent debate performance. And among the 45 percent who don't see Clinton as forthright, her support's in the single digits.



Better yet for the Obama camp is that only a third of Iowa Democrats now say “strength and experience” is more important to them in a candidate; 55 percent instead put more emphasis on “a new direction and new ideas,” which he’s tried to make his trademark.

Among those “new direction” voters, 43 percent prefer Obama, while just 17 percent go for Clinton – a major component of his support. Among voters more concerned with strength and experience, 38 percent prefer Clinton, vs. just 12 percent for Obama.

ATTRIBUTES – But if Clinton is vulnerable on some personal measures, so is Obama – notably in having “the best experience to be president,” in which he runs fourth, behind Clinton, Edwards and Richardson alike. Still, while just 11 percent pick Obama as having the best experience, the biggest change from July is in the number who pick Clinton in this measure – 38 percent now, down from 50 percent then.

Obama is within sight of Clinton on another of her main features, an image of strong leadership: Thirty-two percent call her the strongest leader, vs. 27 percent for Obama; it was 36-23 percent last summer. And both Obama and Edwards lead Clinton in honesty and trustworthiness, and in empathy, two relative weaknesses for her nationally as well.

Clinton retains her lead in being seen as the most electable candidate, though it's much less of an advantage in Iowa than nationally. And few fault her effort: She also leads as the candidate who's campaigned hardest in the state.

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Richardson
Best chance in November	39%	25	22	2
Best experience	38	11	16	16
Campaigned hardest in Iowa	34	26	25	2
Strongest leader	32	27	17	10
Understands your problems	20	30	25	9
Honesty and trustworthy	15	31	20	13

ISSUES – As noted, Clinton also has much less of a lead in Iowa than she's enjoyed nationally in trust to handle a range of specific issues. Indeed in Iowa she has the edge on just one of six issues tested in this poll, health care. She and Obama run about evenly in trust to handle four others – the economy overall, Social Security, Iraq and Iran.

Clinton trails off on a sixth issue, immigration; on that it's about an even choice between Obama and Richardson, the governor of New Mexico.

Comparisons to national data are striking. In an ABC/Post poll early this month, for example, Clinton led Obama by 2-1 in trust to handle the situation in Iraq. In this poll 26 percent of likely caucus-goers pick Obama on that issue – up by 9 points from July – while 23 percent take Clinton, down by 6.

Yet it's notable, too, that in Iowa none of Clinton's challengers has a significant lead on any of these.

Trust to handle...	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Richardson
Health care	36%	20	27	6
The economy	28	27	21	7
Social Security	27	27	20	6
Iraq	23	26	15	15
Iran	23	26	18	14
Immigration	16	22	17	25

Separately, Iowa Democrats cite Iraq as the single most important issue in their choice (33 percent), with health care a close second, cited by 26 percent. Ten percent say it's the economy, with all other mentions in the single digits. (Among Democrats nationally, Iraq is farther out front as the top concern, with the economy alongside health care as No. 2.)

GROUPS – A look at candidate preferences among groups fleshes out their campaigns’ support profiles – crucial as they seek to motivate supporters to turn out for the caucuses. (One factor – their supporters’ levels of enthusiasm – is about even.)

As noted, Clinton has a particular problem in Iowa with men – just 19 percent support, vs. her 31 percent support among women. Obama and Edwards alike lead her among men, and Richardson is within sampling error.

Among women, meanwhile, Clinton and Obama run about evenly, compared with a more than 2-1 Clinton lead nationally. (Clinton leads in Iowa among single women, but trails Obama among those who are married.)

Most Iowa Democrats say the fact that Clinton would be the first woman president doesn’t directly influence their choice; however among women 19 percent, nearly one in five, say it does make them more likely to support her.

Apart from women, Obama does notably better, and Clinton less well, among independents rather than registered Democrats (35 percent of independents support Obama vs. 18 percent for Clinton). That’s potentially a challenge for him because it can be tougher to get independents to turn out.

Similarly, Obama does better among younger Iowans, and also among those who say it’ll be their first caucus (about a third of all likely caucus-goers). Clinton, however, also does better among first-timers; she needs their turnout as much as Obama does, or more.

The edge turns to Obama among the most highly educated voters, a reliably high turnout group; he has 37 percent among those who’ve done post-graduate work (a fifth of all likely caucus-goers) vs. just 16 percent for Clinton, her weakest education group by far.

Perhaps the largest change in any individual groups has been at Edwards’ expense – a drop in support among older voters in Iowa, which had been his best group. Among those age 65 and over, just 18 percent now support him, down from 36 percent in July. Among seniors – another normally high-turnout group – Clinton now leads.

A final change in Iowa, less fortuitous for Clinton, is among political moderates; her support in this group has slipped to 19 percent, again in third place behind Obama and Edwards. She does better with liberals, but there are fewer of them.

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Richardson
All likely voters	26%	30	22	11
Certain to attend	26	28	23	12
Attended previous caucus	21	27	26	11
First time	34	35	14	11
Men	19	28	25	15
Women	31	32	19	8

Democrats	28	28	22	10
Independents	18	35	24	10
Liberals	32	32	20	9
Moderates	19	29	25	12

SAMPLING and TURNOUT – Turnout matters especially in low-attendance events like caucuses. This poll was conducted by telephone calls to a random sample of Iowa homes with landline phone service. Adults identified as likely caucus-goers account for 14 percent of respondents; the subgroup of those who say they’re certain to attend account for just under 9 percent (with, as noted, no significant change in results). These compare to turnout in 2004 of 5 percent of the state’s voting-age population.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Nov. 14-18, 2007, among a random sample of 500 Iowan adults likely to vote in the 2008 Democratic presidential caucus. The results have a 4.5-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abncnews.com/pollingunit>.

Media contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934.

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

1. Vote registration.

2. How closely are you following the 2008 presidential campaign: very closely, somewhat closely, not too closely, or not closely at all?

	---- Closely -----			---- Not closely -----			No
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not too	At all	opinion
11/18/07	95	53	42	5	4	1	0
7/31/07	88	42	46	12	9	3	*

3. Likelihood of attending caucus.

4. Choice of caucus.

5. If the Democratic caucus were being held today, and the candidates were: (Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd, Dennis Kucinich, and Mike Gravel), who would you support?

NET LEANED VOTE:

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	26	26
John Edwards	22	26
Barack Obama	30	27
Bill Richardson	11	11
Joe Biden	4	2
Chris Dodd	1	1

Dennis Kucinich	2	2
Mike Gravel	*	0
Other (vol.)	1	0
None of these (vol.)	*	2
Would not vote (vol.)	0	0
No opinion	3	4

6. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE) Will you definitely support (NAME) as your first choice, or is there a chance you could change your mind and support someone else as your first choice? (IF CHANCE CHANGE MIND) Is there a good chance you'll change your mind, or would you say it's pretty unlikely?

	Definitely support	-Chance change mind -	No opinion
		NET Good Unlikely	
11/18/07	55	43 20 23	2

7. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE) How enthusiastic are you about supporting (NAMED CANDIDATE) - very enthusiastic, fairly enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

11/18/07 - Summary Table

	--- Enthusiastic --	---- Not enthusiastic ----	No opinion
	NET Very Fairly	NET Not too Not at all	
Hillary Clinton	96 49 47	4 4 0	0
John Edwards	94 48 46	6 5 1	0
Barack Obama	99 51 47	* 0 *	1

8. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE) Who would your second choice be?

NET LEANED VOTE:

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	19	23
John Edwards	24	23
Barack Obama	26	26
Bill Richardson	13	12
Joe Biden	6	4
Chris Dodd	4	3
Dennis Kucinich	2	1
Mike Gravel	*	*
Other (vol.)	*	1
None of these (vol.)	3	4
Would not vote (vol.)	1	1
No opinion	1	3

First choice/Second choice NET

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	44	48
John Edwards	45	48
Barack Obama	55	51
Bill Richardson	23	22
Joe Biden	10	5
Chris Dodd	4	4
Dennis Kucinich	4	3
Mike Gravel	*	*
Other (vol.)	1	1
None of these (vol.)	3	5
Would not vote (vol.)	1	1

No opinion 4 7

9. What is the single most important issue in your choice for the Democratic candidate for president?

	11/18/07
Iraq/War in Iraq	33
Terrorism/National security	1
Economy/Jobs	10
Education	3
Environment	2
Health care	26
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in government	5
Immigration/Illegal immigration	2
Abortion	1
Morals/Family values	1
Federal budget deficit	1
Housing/Mortgages	0
Global warming	*
Social Security	1
Foreign policy	2
Iran/Situation in Iran	*
Taxes	0
Energy/Ethanol	1
Farming/Agriculture issues	*
None/Nothing	1
Other	8
No opinion	3

9a. (IF MENTIONED MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE) Is there one other issue that's nearly as important?

	11/18/07
Iraq/War in Iraq	23
Terrorism/National security	1
Economy/Jobs	12
Education	7
Environment	3
Health care	24
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in government	1
Immigration/Illegal immigration	4
Abortion	1
Morals/Family values	1
Federal budget deficit	1
Housing/Mortgages	*
Global warming	2
Social Security	2
Foreign policy	4
Iran/Situation in Iran	1
Taxes	2
Energy/Ethanol	2
Farming/Agriculture issues	*
None/Nothing	4
Other	4
No opinion	3

9/9a NET: Top two important issues combined

	11/18/07
Iraq/War in Iraq	55
Terrorism/National security	1
Economy/Jobs	21
Education	10
Environment	4
Health care	50
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in government	6
Immigration/Illegal immigration	6
Abortion	2
Morals/Family values	2
Federal budget deficit	2
Housing/Mortgages	*
Global warming	2
Social Security	5
Foreign policy	3
Iran/Situation in Iran	1
Taxes	2
Energy/Ethanol	3
Farming/Agriculture issues	1
None/Nothing	1
Other	12
No opinion	3

10. Regardless of who you may support, which of the Democratic candidates do you think (ITEM) - (Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd, Dennis Kucinich, or Mike Gravel)?

11/18/07 - Summary Table

	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Richardson	Other/None/ No opinion
a. is the strongest leader	32	17	27	10	14
b. best understands the problems of people like you	20	25	30	9	16
c. is the most honest and trustworthy	15	20	31	13	21
d. has the best experience to be president	38	16	11	16	19
e. has campaigned the hardest in Iowa	34	25	26	2	14
f. has the best chance of getting elected president in November 2008	39	22	25	2	12

Trend:

a. is the strongest leader

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	32	36
John Edwards	17	18
Barack Obama	27	23
Bill Richardson	10	9
Joe Biden	6	2
Chris Dodd	*	*

Dennis Kucinich	*	1
Mike Gravel	0	0
All of them	*	*
None of them	1	2
No opinion	6	9

b. best understands the problems of people like you

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	20	22
John Edwards	25	25
Barack Obama	30	27
Bill Richardson	9	9
Joe Biden	4	1
Chris Dodd	*	2
Dennis Kucinich	3	2
Mike Gravel	0	*
All of them	2	1
None of them	3	4
No opinion	4	6

c. is the most honest and trustworthy

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	15	14
John Edwards	20	24
Barack Obama	31	30
Bill Richardson	13	8
Joe Biden	4	2
Chris Dodd	1	2
Dennis Kucinich	5	3
Mike Gravel	*	*
All of them	4	4
None of them	3	5
No opinion	4	9

d. has the best experience to be president

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	38	50
John Edwards	16	15
Barack Obama	11	7
Bill Richardson	16	13
Joe Biden	9	5
Chris Dodd	1	2
Dennis Kucinich	1	*
Mike Gravel	0	0
All of them	1	2
None of them	1	3
No opinion	6	4

e. has campaigned the hardest in Iowa

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	34	30
John Edwards	25	29
Barack Obama	26	22
Bill Richardson	2	3
Joe Biden	1	0
Chris Dodd	*	1
Dennis Kucinich	0	0
Mike Gravel	0	0

All of them	4	3
None of them	*	1
No opinion	8	10

f. has the best chance of getting elected president in November 2008

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	39	35
John Edwards	22	22
Barack Obama	25	23
Bill Richardson	2	4
Joe Biden	2	1
Chris Dodd	*	*
Dennis Kucinich	1	*
Mike Gravel	0	0
All of them	*	1
None of them	1	2
No opinion	8	12

11. Regardless of who you may support, who do you trust most to handle (ITEM)?

11/18/07 - Summary Table

	Clinton	Edwards	Obama	Richardson	Other/none/ no opinion
a. The economy	28	21	27	7	16
b. Health care	36	27	20	6	11
c. Social Security	27	20	27	6	19
d. Immigration issues	16	17	22	25	20
e. The situation in Iraq	23	15	26	15	21
f. The situation involving Iran	23	18	26	14	20

a. The economy

	11/18/07
Hillary Clinton	28
John Edwards	21
Barack Obama	27
Bill Richardson	7
Joe Biden	5
Chris Dodd	2
Dennis Kucinich	2
Mike Gravel	0
All of them	1
None of them	*
No opinion	6

b. Health care

	11/18/07
Hillary Clinton	36
John Edwards	27
Barack Obama	20
Bill Richardson	6
Joe Biden	2
Chris Dodd	1
Dennis Kucinich	1
Mike Gravel	*
All of them	*
None of them	1

No opinion 4

c. Social Security

	11/18/07
Hillary Clinton	27
John Edwards	20
Barack Obama	27
Bill Richardson	6
Joe Biden	4
Chris Dodd	*
Dennis Kucinich	3
Mike Gravel	*
All of them	1
None of them	3
No opinion	8

d. Immigration issues

	11/18/07
Hillary Clinton	16
John Edwards	17
Barack Obama	22
Bill Richardson	25
Joe Biden	3
Chris Dodd	1
Dennis Kucinich	2
Mike Gravel	0
All of them	2
None of them	4
No opinion	8

e. The situation in Iraq

	11/18/07	7/31/07
Hillary Clinton	23	29
John Edwards	15	16
Barack Obama	26	17
Bill Richardson	15	12
Joe Biden	8	5
Chris Dodd	1	2
Dennis Kucinich	3	1
Mike Gravel	*	0
All of them	1	2
None of them	3	5
No opinion	5	12

f. The situation involving Iran

	11/18/07
Hillary Clinton	23
John Edwards	18
Barack Obama	26
Bill Richardson	14
Joe Biden	9
Chris Dodd	1
Dennis Kucinich	2
Mike Gravel	0
All of them	*
None of them	2
No opinion	5

12. Regardless of who you may support, do you think (NAME) is or is not willing enough to say what [he/she] really thinks about the issues?

11/18/07 - Summary Table

	Is	Is not	No opinion
a. Hillary Clinton	50	45	5
b. Barack Obama	76	20	4
c. John Edwards	73	21	6

13. Does the fact that Clinton would be the first woman president make you (more) likely to vote for her, (less) likely to vote for her, or doesn't it make a difference in your vote?

	More	Less	No difference	No opinion
11/18/07	15	2	83	1

14-20. Held for release.

21. So far in the Democratic campaign, have you (ITEM)?

11/18/07 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No op.
a. been called on the telephone by any of the campaigns	80	19	1
b. attended a campaign event	52	48	0
c. contributed money to any of the presidential candidates	16	84	*
d. visited any of the candidates' Web sites on the Internet	44	56	*
e. received e-mails from any of the campaigns	38	60	2
f. yourself personally spoken with or shaken the hand of any of the Democratic candidates or not	33	66	*

Trend where available: December 2003 comparisons to Pew Research Center Iowa Democratic caucus poll.

a. been called on the telephone by any of the campaigns

	Yes	No	No opinion
11/18/07	80	19	1
7/31/07	71	29	*
12/4/03	74	26	*

b. attended a campaign event

	Yes	No	No opinion
11/18/07	52	48	0
7/31/07	40	60	0
12/4/03	34	66	*

c. contributed money to any of the presidential candidates

	Yes	No	No opinion
11/18/07	16	84	*
7/31/07	17	82	*
12/4/03	20	79	1

d. visited any of the candidates' Web sites on the Internet

	Yes	No	No opinion
11/18/07	44	56	*
7/31/07	33	67	0
12/4/03*	22	78	*

* 'No' includes 32 percent who don't go online.

e. received e-mails from any of the campaigns

	Yes	No	No opinion
11/18/07	38	60	2
7/31/07	32	66	2
12/4/03*	27	73	*

* 'No' includes 32 percent who don't go online.

f. No trend.

22. (IF MET CANDIDATE, Q21F) Who'd you meet?

	11/18/07
Hillary Clinton	36
John Edwards	38
Barack Obama	51
Bill Richardson	22
Joe Biden	18
Chris Dodd	13
Dennis Kucinich	4
Mike Gravel	2
Other	2
No opinion	0

21/22 NET:

	11/18/07
Have met candidate NET	33
Hillary Clinton	12
John Edwards	13
Barack Obama	17
Bill Richardson	7
Joe Biden	6
Chris Dodd	4
Dennis Kucinich	1
Mike Gravel	1
Other	1
No opinion	0
Have not met candidate	66
No opinion	*

23. Have you attended any previous Iowa caucuses, or will this be your first caucus?

	Have attended	First caucus	No opinion
11/18/07	63	36	*
7/31/07	68	31	*

24. Which of these is more important to you in a candidate for president: (strength and experience) or (a new direction and new ideas)?

	Strength and experience	New direction and new ideas	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
11/18/07	33	55	11	*	1
7/31/07	39	49	11	*	1

25. 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 ahead	Just enough to maintain	Falling behind	No opinion
11/18/07	21	61	17	1

26. As you may know, periods of economic growth are followed by periods of recession. Do you think a recession over the next year is very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely or very unlikely?

	----- Likely -----			----- Unlikely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
11/18/07	83	36	48	15	10	4	2

END