

Six in 10 are Satisfied With the Primary System

On the eve of the biggest day in the political primary season, nearly six in 10 Americans endorse the system the political parties use to pick their presidential candidates.

Fifty-eight percent in an ABC News poll say they're satisfied with the nominating system, up a bit from 51 percent when this question previously was asked in July 1992. Thirty-three percent are dissatisfied, down more sharply from 47 percent eight years ago. More are undecided now, perhaps because it's earlier in the season.

Views on the presidential nominating process:			
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	No opin.
3/5/00	58%	33	9
7/8/92	51	47	1

This doesn't mean sizable numbers are thrilled with the process. Only nine percent say they're "very" satisfied with the way the parties pick their nominees. Nearly twice as many, 16 percent, are at the other extreme – "not satisfied at all."

THE OLD DAYS - The sharpest division in opinion is between age groups: Young adults, often portrayed as alienated politically, are the most apt to say they're satisfied with the nominating process (though it may be that they just don't care about it enough to complain). Satisfaction is lowest among older Americans, who may have forgotten (or longingly remember?) the days of smoke-filled rooms and brokered conventions.

There also are some differences among political groups. Democrats, who have a clear frontrunner in their primaries, are the most apt to be satisfied with the process. Satisfaction is a bit lower among Republicans, who are in the midst of a more contentious race; and a bit lower still among independents, who tend to be less involved politically.

Views on the presidential nominating process:			
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	No opin.
All	58%	33	9
Age 18-34	66%	22	12
Age 65+	48	48	3
Democrats	67%	27	7
Republicans	59	35	6
Independents	53	39	8

OTHER – The results are stable among other groups, including men and women, registered and non-registered voters and education levels.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone March 1-5 among a random national sample of 1,011 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Fieldwork by ICR-International Communications Research of Media, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:

<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

43. How satisfied are you with the current system used by the Democratic and Republican parties to pick their presidential nominees - very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied or not satisfied at all?

	-----Satisfied-----			-----Dissatisfied-----			
	Net	Very	Somewhat	Net	Not too	Not at all	No opin.
3/5/00	58	9	49	33	17	16	9
7/8/92	51	8	43	47	30	18	1