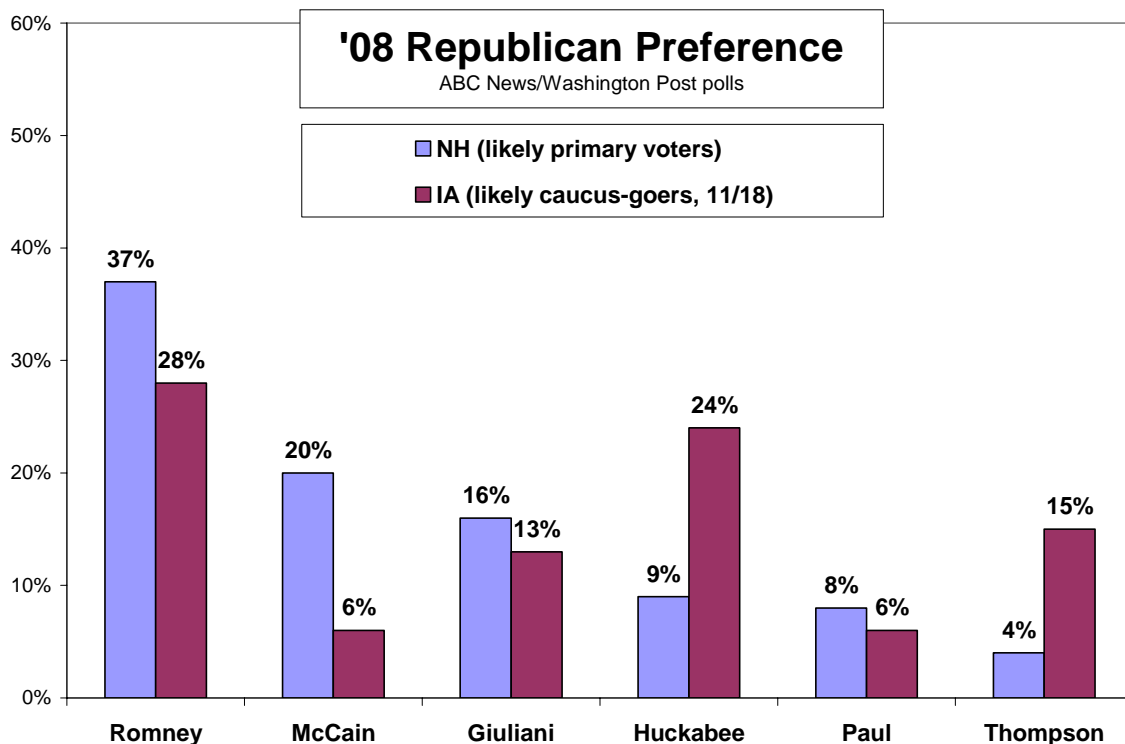


No Huckaboom in N.H. as Romney Holds Tough

The forces pulling Mike Huckabee to the fore in Iowa are fizzling 1,300 miles to the east, where, in New Hampshire, Mitt Romney is strong on issues and personal attributes – and unthreatened by the religion issue he’ll try to lay to rest in a speech tomorrow.

Romney, a Mormon, is being challenged in Iowa by Huckabee, a Baptist minister whose support has soared particularly in some core Republican groups there – evangelical Christians, conservatives and strong abortion opponents. But each of those groups is less plentiful in the New Hampshire electorate, and far more supportive of Romney.

It’s not Huckabee but John McCain and Rudy Giuliani who come closest to Romney in this ABC News/Washington Post poll in New Hampshire, notably challenging him in trust to handle terrorism and the war in Iraq. Still, Romney, familiar as governor of neighboring Massachusetts, leads handily on other issues and most personal attributes.



All told, just more than a month before the Jan. 8 primary, 37 percent of likely Republican voters in New Hampshire support Romney, 20 percent McCain and 16

percent Giuliani. Huckabee trails with 9 percent support, about the same as Ron Paul's 8 percent. Fred Thompson has 4 percent.

Huckabee's New Hampshire support about matches his average (7 percent) in polls from 10 other organizations since October. No Iowa-style surge for the Arkansan here.

CHANGE – Naturally, things can change. Polls measure current preferences rather than predicting final outcomes. And – as in Iowa – an unusually large number of Republican likely voters in New Hampshire, 61 percent, say they still may change their minds. Half of those, indeed, say there's a "good chance" of it.

	NH	IA
Definitely decided	35%	36%
Might change mind	61	59
"Good chance" of change	31	34
Very enthusiastic	34	24

It follows that enthusiasm for the candidates is not especially strong; only about a third describe themselves as "very enthusiastic" about their current preference – again, matching sentiment among Republicans in Iowa.

Iowa itself might be a wildcard. Three in 10 likely voters in New Hampshire say the outcome of the Iowa caucuses might play some role in their own ultimate decision. Most of those voters say they'll give it "just some" weight, not a more substantial amount. But with the potential for changeability in the air, and the caucuses occurring just five days before the first-in-the-nation New Hampshire primary, it could matter.

RELIGION – Romney's decision to address his religion follows an ABC/Post poll two weeks ago that found him trailing among evangelicals in Iowa by 2-1. In a national ABC/Post poll last summer, moreover, 30 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said they'd be less likely to support a Mormon candidate.

In New Hampshire, though, it's much less of an issue. Just 9 percent of Republican likely voters say they're less inclined to support Romney because of his religion; 88 percent say it doesn't make a difference to them. And, while the sample is small, Romney runs well among evangelicals in the state.

Huckabee's support from evangelicals in New Hampshire is far less than it is in Iowa. And there are far fewer of them: Evangelicals account for 37 percent of likely caucus-goers in Iowa, but just 15 percent of likely voters in the New Hampshire Republican primary.

MORE DIFFERENCES – New Hampshire is different in other ways. In Iowa, 51 percent of likely caucus goers say they attend church on a weekly basis; that drops to 28 percent of likely Republican voters in New Hampshire. Three-quarters in Iowa are conservatives,

compared with 58 percent in New Hampshire. And 75 percent in Iowa say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases; in New Hampshire that dives to 44 percent.

Romney, moreover, leads in each of these groups: He has 37 percent support from weekly churchgoers in New Hampshire, 39 percent support from conservatives and 36 percent from abortion opponents. In the ABC/Post Iowa poll, by contrast, he slightly trailed Huckabee among frequent churchgoers, and only ran evenly with him in the other two groups.

	Likely voters/caucus-goers		% support for Romney		% support for Huckabee	
	Size of group		NH	IA	NH	IA
	NH	IA				
Evangelical						
Protestants	15%	37%	NA	22%	NA	44%
All Protestants	38	62	36	24	11	29
Catholics	37	21	37	NA	8	NA
No religion	12	2	NA	NA	NA	NA
Weekly churchgoers	28	51	37	26	16	34
Republicans	61	73	40	27	11	26
Independents	34	24	30	NA	7	NA
Moderates	35	21	35	NA	5	NA
Conservatives	58	74	39	28	13	30
Abortion: Legal	52	23	37	35	7	9
Abortion: Illegal	44	75	36	26	13	28

(NA refers to inadequate sample sizes)

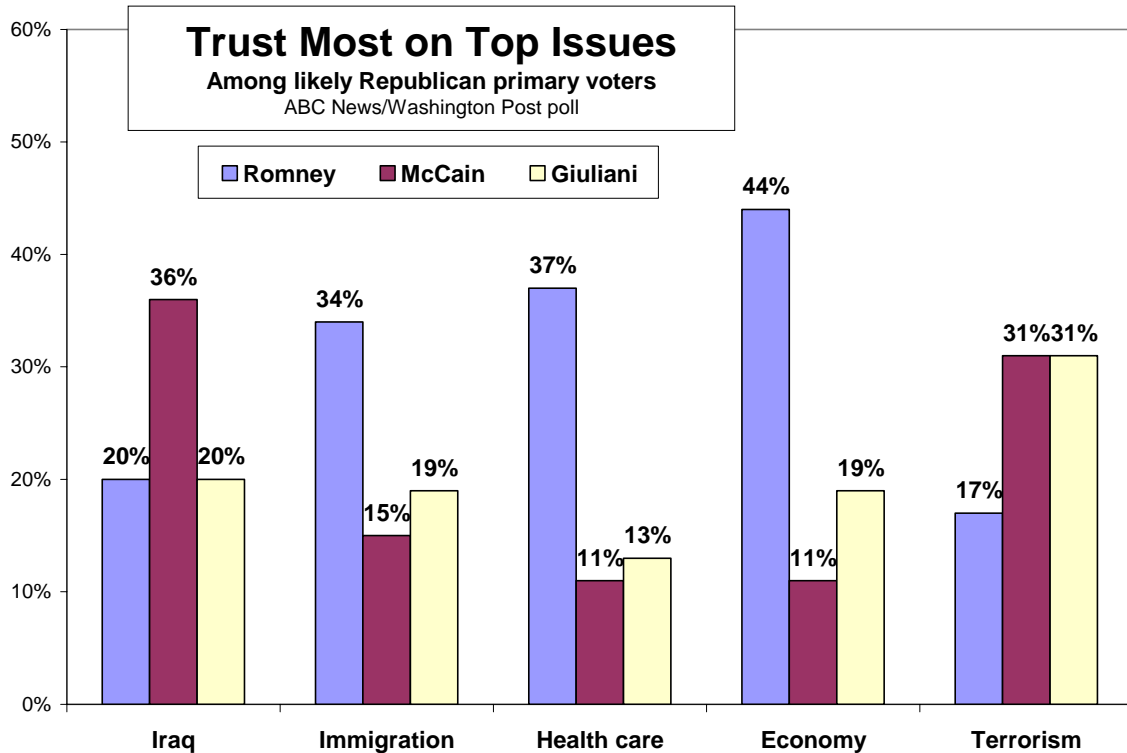
The different sizes and preferences of these groups isn't necessarily about Iowa and New Hampshire overall, but specifically about the people who are likely to turn out for their Republican caucus or primary. The Iowa GOP caucus is an especially low-participation event; the ABC/Post poll there anticipated turnout by only 8 percent of the state's voting-age population. In New Hampshire, this poll anticipates turnout in the Republican primary by 27 percent of the population, about what it was in 2000.

New Hampshire is unusual for the large number of independents who vote in its primaries. They're helpful to Giuliani; he gets 21 percent support from independents, compared with 13 percent among Republicans. (Romney does 10 points better with mainline Republicans than with independents, but again leads in both groups.)

Giuliani also does better with women than with men, while Romney does better among men than women (though leads among both). Romney also tops out among older and better-educated likely voters. McCain's support, for his part, is fairly level across groups.

ISSUES – Romney, as noted, also leads in trust to handle six of eight individual issues tested in this poll – the economy, the federal deficit, health care, taxes, immigration, and

social issues such as abortion and gay civil unions. McCain leads on Iraq, McCain and Giuliani alike on terrorism. Those are their main talking points in taking on Romney.



Trust most to handle:	Romney	McCain	Giuliani	Huckabee
Economy	44%	11	19	5
Federal deficit	38	14	18	6
Health care	37	11	13	6
Taxes	37	14	17	8
Abortion/gay civil unions	34	10	16	11
Immigration	34	15	19	6
Iraq	20	36	20	4
Terrorism	17	31	31	3

Romney also led in Iowa in trust to handle the economy, the deficit and immigration (health care and taxes weren't asked in that poll).

Among these – again, as in Iowa – there are no clear preferences as to importance. Rating the two most important issues in their vote, three in 10 cite the Iraq war and immigration, two in 10 cite health care, the economy or terrorism; and about one in 10 cite taxes, abortion or ethics in government.

	Top two issues among Republicans		
	NH	IA 11/18	National 11/1
Iraq war	31%	24%	40%
Immigration	28	24	13
Health care	21	16	19
Economy	20	16	30

Terrorism	19	21	17
Taxes	12	13	5
Abortion	8	15	2
Ethics	8	5	4
Morals/values	6	10	4

(Totals more than 100% because two answers accepted)

Romney’s been criticized for shifting some positions, and it does show up in his support profile. Among likely voters who say it’s more important that they agree with a candidate now, even if he’s changed positions in the past, Romney has 50 percent support. Among those who say it’s more important that a candidate stay consistent on the issues, he gets a lower 31 percent. But it’s a sign of his strength in New Hampshire that even in that latter group – the much bigger one – he still leads.

ATTRIBUTES – On personal attributes, Romney benefits from familiarity – his single biggest personal advantage is in having “campaigned hardest” in the state. He leads in six of eight attributes tested in this poll, with a closer call vs. McCain on experience and honesty/trustworthiness.

	Romney	McCain	Giuliani	Huckabee
Campaigned hardest in N.H.	50%	13	13	1
Best chance to win	45	8	30	4
Strongest leader	35	21	25	4
Best represents core GOP values	34	21	12	10
Do most to change Washington	33	18	14	9
Best experience	32	29	20	4
Best understands your problems	28	19	17	10
Most honest/trustworthy	27	24	10	12

CONTACT – One thing likely Republican voters in New Hampshire and Iowa have in common is ringing telephones. Majorities in both states – 54 percent in New Hampshire, 58 percent in Iowa – say they’ve received phone calls from one or more of the campaigns. Similar numbers (15 and 19 percent, respectively) also say they’ve personally met one or more of the Republican candidates.

Republican campaign events, however, have been somewhat better attended in Iowa, 29 percent vs. 17 percent. The smaller pool of likely caucus attendees in Iowa likely is one reason. Another, perhaps, could be the weather: It was a brisk 35 degrees in Des Moines yesterday afternoon, but a downright chilly 24 in New Hampshire’s capital, Concord.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2007, among a random sample of 488 New Hampshire adults likely to vote in the 2008 Republican primary. 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://abcnews.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
12/3/07	89	39	50	11	8	3	*
IA 11/18/07*	93	48	44	7	6	1	0
Nat. 11/1/07*	66	20	47	34	23	11	0

* Iowa trend among likely Republican caucus goers; national trend among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents.

3-5. Likelihood of voting in primary.

6. Choice of primary.

7-15. Held for release.

16. If the Republican primary were being held today, and the candidates were: (Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Tom Tancredo, Ron Paul, and Fred Thompson), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE:

	12/3/07	Iowa 11/18/07	National 11/1/07
Rudy Giuliani	16	13	33
John McCain	20	6	19
Mitt Romney	37	28	11
Mike Huckabee	9	24	9
Duncan Hunter	1	1	2
Tom Tancredo	*	2	1
Ron Paul	8	6	3
Fred Thompson	4	15	16
Other (vol.)	0	0	*
None of these (vol.)	1	1	4
Would not vote (vol.)	0	*	*
No opinion	4	4	3

17. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE) Will you definitely vote for (NAME), or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else?
(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
	NET	Good	Unlikely	opinion	
12/3/07	35	61	31	29	5
IA 11/18/07	36	59	34	26	5

12/3/07 - Summary Table

	Definitely support	-Chance change mind -			No
	NET	Good	Unlikely	opinion	
John McCain	36	62	30	32	3

Mitt Romney	30	64	31	33	6
IA 11/18/07	29	70	42	28	2

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

	--- Enthusiastic --			---- Not enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
12/3/07	91	34	57	8	8	1	1
IA 11/18/07	91	34	57	8	8	1	1

12/3/07 - Summary Table

	--- Enthusiastic --			---- Not enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
John McCain	84	30	54	16	15	1	0
Mitt Romney	93	33	60	5	5	0	2
IA 11/18/07	94	28	65	6	6	0	0

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

NET LEANED VOTE:

	Iowa	
	12/3/07	11/18/07
Rudy Giuliani	25	17
John McCain	13	7
Mitt Romney	21	20
Mike Huckabee	14	16
Duncan Hunter	1	1
Tom Tancredo	1	6
Ron Paul	6	6
Fred Thompson	4	17
Other (vol.)	3	2
None of these (vol.)	7	5
Would not vote (vol.)	1	0
No opinion	4	3

First choice/Second choice NET

	Iowa	
	12/3/07	11/18/07
Rudy Giuliani	40	29
John McCain	33	12
Mitt Romney	56	47
Mike Huckabee	22	39
Duncan Hunter	2	2
Tom Tancredo	2	8
Ron Paul	13	11
Fred Thompson	8	31
Other (vol.)	3	2
None of these (vol.)	8	6
Would not vote (vol.)	1	*
No opinion	8	7

20. What is the single most important issue in your choice for the Republican candidate for president?

Iowa National

	12/3/07	11/18/07	11/1/07
Iraq/War in Iraq	16	10	23
Terrorism/National security	12	14	10
Economy/Jobs	9	9	14
Education	1	1	2
Environment	0	0	1
Health care	9	8	10
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in government	6	4	3
Immigration/Illegal immigration	19	13	8
Abortion	4	10	1
Morals/Family values	3	7	4
Federal budget deficit	2	2	1
Housing/Mortgages	0	0	1
Global warming	*	0	*
Social Security	1	1	2
Foreign policy	1	*	2
Taxes	4	6	2
Energy/Ethanol	1	*	0
Guns/Gun control	1	0	0
None/Nothing	1	0	0
Other	6	10	9
No opinion	4	5	8

20a. (IF MENTIONED MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE) Is there one other issue that's nearly as important?

	12/3/07	Iowa 11/18/07	National 11/1/07
Iraq/War in Iraq	16	16	18
Terrorism/National security	8	7	8
Economy/Jobs	12	8	17
Education	2	2	2
Environment	1	*	1
Health care	12	8	10
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in government	2	1	1
Immigration/Illegal immigration	10	12	5
Abortion	4	6	1
Morals/Family values	3	3	*
Federal budget deficit	3	3	1
Housing/Mortgages	0	*	1
Global warming	0	0	*
Social Security	1	3	3
Foreign policy	1	3	1
Iran/Situation in Iran	*	*	1
Taxes	8	8	4
Energy/Ethanol	1	1	0
Guns/Gun control	1	0	0
None/Nothing	6	4	8
Other	5	8	7
No opinion	5	6	11

20/20a NET: Top two important issues combined

	12/3/07	Iowa 11/18/07	National 11/1/07
Iraq/War in Iraq	31	24	40
Terrorism/National security	19	21	17
Economy/Jobs	20	16	30

Education	3	2	4
Environment	1	*	2
Health care	21	16	19
Ethics/Honesty/Corruption in government	8	5	4
Immigration/Illegal immigration	28	24	13
Abortion	8	15	2
Morals/Family values	6	10	4
Federal budget deficit	5	4	2
Housing/Mortgages	0	*	1
Global warming	*	0	*
Social Security	2	4	4
Foreign policy	2	3	2
Iran/Situation in Iran	*	*	*
Taxes	12	13	5
Energy/Ethanol	2	2	0
Guns/Gun control	2	0	0
None/Nothing	1	0	7
Other	11	15	14
No opinion	4	5	8

21. Regardless of who you may support, which of the Republican candidates do you think (ITEM)?

12/3/07 - Summary Table

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	Huckabee	Paul	Oth./None No op.
a. is the strongest leader	25	21	35	4	2	12
IA 11/18/07	31	6	30	12	3	18
b. best understands the problems of people like you	17	19	28	10	7	19
IA 11/18/07	8	5	21	25	8	33
c. is the most honest and trustworthy	10	24	27	12	7	20
IA 11/18/07	4	8	25	26	6	31
d. has the best experience to be president	20	29	32	4	3	12
IA 11/18/07	21	13	31	12	3	20
e. has campaigned the hardest in New Hampshire	13	13	50	1	4	19
IA 11/18/07	4	5	63	8	2	18
f. has the best chance of getting elected president in November 2008	30	8	45	4	1	12
IA 11/18/07	32	3	30	12	2	21
g. best represents the core values of the Republican Party	12	21	34	10	6	16
h. would do the most to bring needed change to Washington	14	18	33	9	10	15

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

12/3/07 - Summary Table

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	Huckabee	Paul	Oth./None No opin.
a. The economy	19	11	44	5	7	13
IA 11/18/07	15	5	36	16	5	23
b. The federal budget deficit	18	14	38	6	7	16
IA 11/18/07	13	5	35	16		23
c. The U.S. campaign against terrorism	31	31	17	3	6	11
IA 11/18/07	33	15	15	10	5	22
d. Immigration issues	19	15	34	6	6	20
IA 11/18/07	9	9	27	13	6	36
e. The situation in Iraq	20	36	20	4	6	13
IA 11/18/07	19	20	19	12	5	25
f. Social issues, such as abortion and gay civil unions	16	10	34	11	6	22
IA 11/18/07	11	4	25	28	6	26
g. Health care	13	11	37	6	7	25
h. Taxes	17	14	37	8	9	15

23. What's more important to you: (a candidate who's consistent on the issues even if you don't always agree with him), or (a candidate who you agree with now, but who's changed his position on issues in the past)?

	Consistent on issues	Agree with now, but has changed in past	Depends on the issue (vol.)	No opinion
12/3/07	69	26	3	3

24. Does the fact that Romney is a Mormon make you (more) likely to vote for him, (less) likely to vote for him, or doesn't it make a difference in your vote?

	More likely	Less likely	Wouldn't matter	No opinion
12/3/07	3	9	88	*

25. So far in the Republican campaign, have you (ITEM)?

12/3/07 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No opin.
a. been called on the telephone by any of the campaigns	54	45	2
IA 11/18/07	58	41	1
b. attended a campaign event	17	83	0
IA 11/18/07	29	71	0
c. yourself personally spoken with or shaken the hand of any of the Republican candidates or not	15	84	*

27. (IF MET CANDIDATE, Q25C) Who'd you meet?

25/27 NET:

	Iowa	
	12/3/07	11/18/07
Have met candidate NET	15	19
Rudy Giuliani	5	3
John McCain	5	4
Mitt Romney	7	6
Newt Gingrich	0	*
Tommy Thompson	1	2
Mike Huckabee	3	5
Duncan Hunter	1	2
Sam Brownback	*	2
Tom Tancredo	1	3
Ron Paul	1	1
Fred Thompson	1	1
Other	0	1
Have not met candidate	84	81
No opinion	*	0

28. How much weight will you give the outcome of the Iowa caucuses in your final decision who to support here in New Hampshire - will you give it a great deal of weight, a good amount, just some or little-or-none?

	--- Great deal/Good amount ---			--- Some/Little or none ---			No
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Some	Little or none	opin.
12/3/07	10	3	7	90	21	69	1

29. 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
12/3/07	68	23	7	1	1
IA 11/18/07	70	22	6	*	2
Nat. 11/1/07	65	27	7	*	1

30. 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
12/3/07	31	54	15	1
IA 11/18/07	46	45	9	1

31. Do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws in this country? Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?

	----- Favor -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
12/3/07	40	22	18	55	17	38	5

32. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases or illegal in all cases?

		----- Legal -----			----- Illegal -----		
	NET	All cases	Most cases	NET	Most cases	All cases	No opinion
12/3/07	52	17	34	44	30	14	4
IA 11/18/07	23	6	17	75	51	24	1
Nat. 11/1/07	43	10	33	56	38	18	1

34. Have you voted in any previous New Hampshire presidential primary, or will this be your first time voting in a New Hampshire primary?

	Have voted	First primary	No opinion
12/3/07	93	7	0
IA 11/18/07*	66	34	*
* "Iowa caucuses"			

END