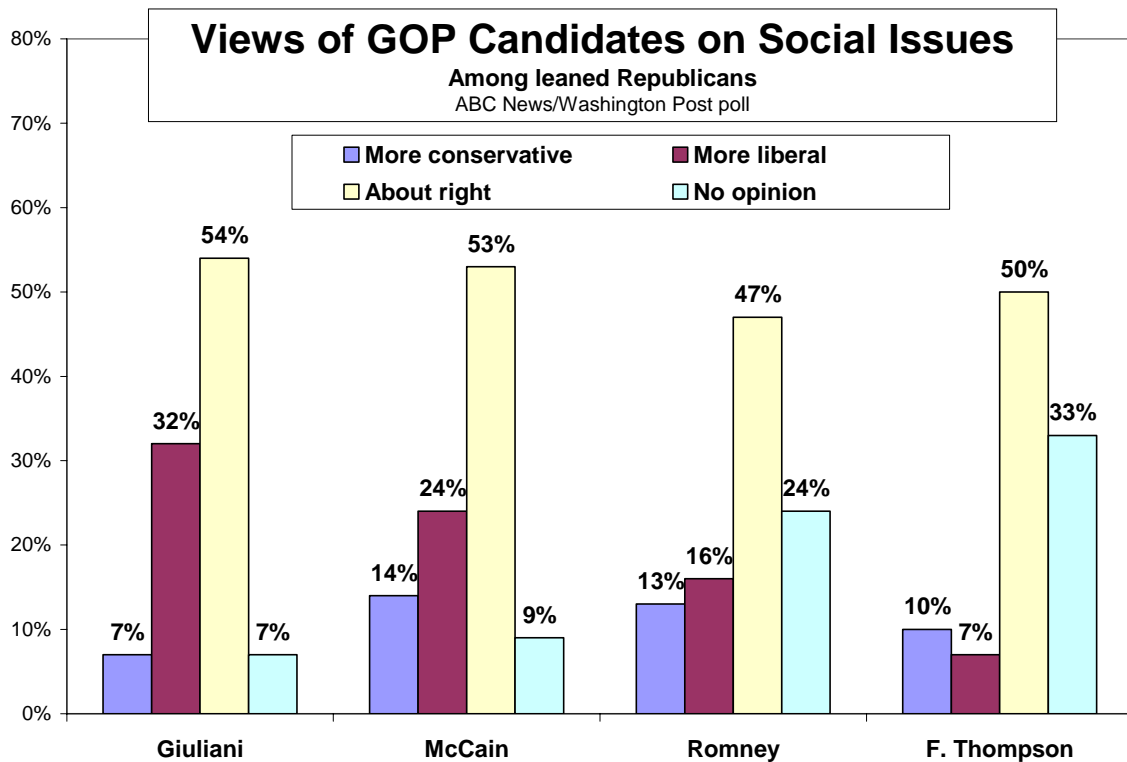


## Republicans' Challenges: Plenty for Everyone

From ideology to religion to simple unfamiliarity, the leading Republican candidates for president all face significant challenges – adding up to a lineup that's viewed a good deal less satisfactorily than their Democratic counterparts.

Given what they know, only about half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents in this ABC News/Washington Post poll say the leading GOP candidates are “about right” on social issues. While 65 percent are satisfied overall with the field, that compares with 83 percent satisfaction among Democrats. And Republicans are barely more than a third as likely as Democrats to be “very satisfied” with their choices.

Lack of intensity also shows up in strength of support for the front-running Republican, Rudy Giuliani. Among Republicans who favor him for the nomination, just 32 percent “strongly” support Giuliani, down from 45 percent in April. On the Democratic side, by contrast, Hillary Clinton has 68 percent “strong” support; Barack Obama, 56 percent.



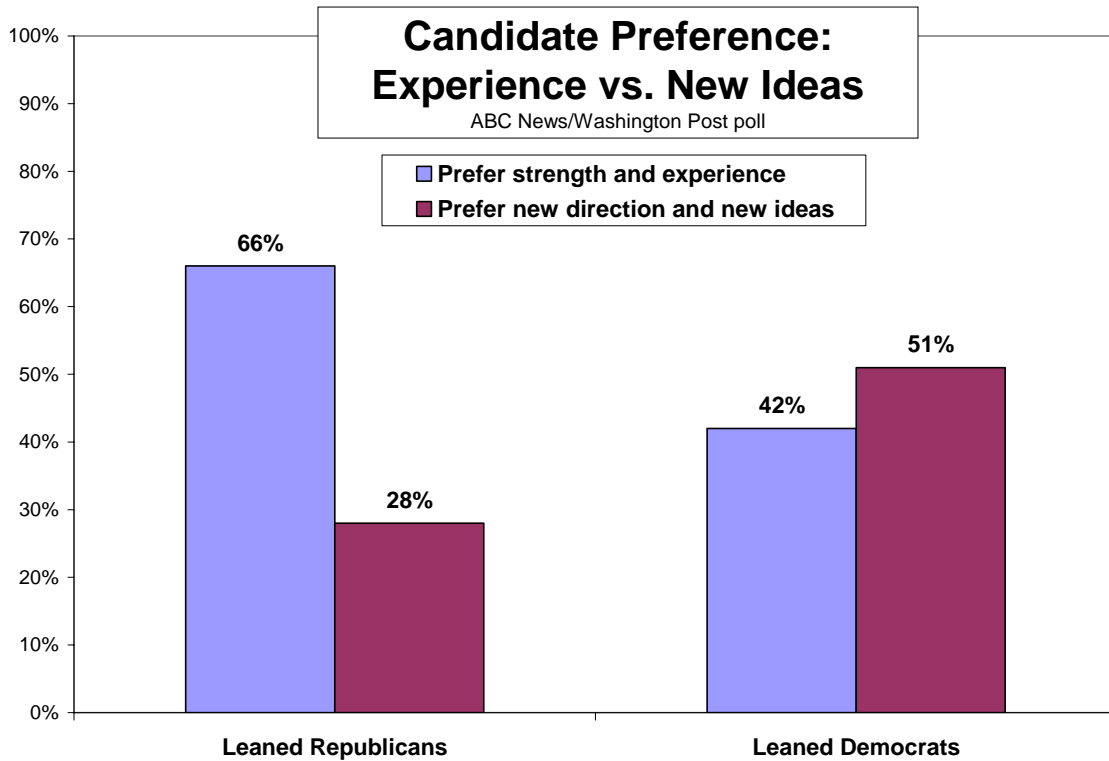
A third of leaned Republicans, moreover, see Giuliani as too liberal on social issues, more than say so about any of the other top candidates. That rises among some core Republican groups – 51 percent of evangelical white Protestants call Giuliani too liberal, as do 42 percent of conservatives and 40 percent of those who oppose legal abortion.

**THE RACE** – Giuliani nonetheless remains the preferred candidate: With support from 37 percent of leaned Republicans he continues to lead the field by double digits, as he has all year. John McCain and Fred Thompson trail him by a substantial margin, with 16 and 15 percent support, respectively

Though these numbers are very similar to last month, there have been changes. Giuliani is down from a peak of 53 percent support in February; McCain hit 23 percent in that same poll. (Thompson was not in the race at the time, though officially he still has yet to announce.) Mitt Romney has eight percent support, with other candidates in the low single digits.

'08 Republican primary preferences

	Now	June	April	Feb
Giuliani	37%	34	35	53
McCain	16	20	22	23
F. Thompson	15	13	10	NA
Romney	8	10	10	5



**EXPERIENCE vs. VISION** – Key for Giuliani is his perceived strength and experience. In marked contrast to Democrats, leaned Republicans overwhelmingly say strength and

experience are more important to them than “a new direction and new ideas,” by 66 percent to 28 percent. Democrats, by contrast, pick “a new direction,” albeit by a much closer nine-point margin.

This is critical for Giuliani because, among leaned Republicans who put strength and experience first, he has 40 percent support, compared with 15 percent for McCain and Thompson alike. Among those who place higher priority on a new direction, by contrast, Giuliani gets 26 percent support, vs. 20 percent for McCain, 15 percent for Thompson.

Interestingly, on the Democratic side, Clinton, too, owes her lead to “strength and experience,” with a 32-point lead over Obama among those who pick it, compared with a dead heat among those who care more about a new direction and news ideas.

Giuliani, like Clinton in her party, also has an aura of electability. Forty-five percent of leaned Republicans think he has best chance of winning in the general election, far outpacing his closest rivals Thompson (15 percent) and McCain (10 percent).

CHALLENGES – As noted, there are challenges for the Republicans across the board. While about a third of leaned Republicans say Giuliani’s too liberal on social issues, a quarter say the same of McCain (hardly fatal, but one in four is not nothing). In two core groups, McCain is seen as too liberal by 36 percent of evangelical white Protestants and by 35 percent of conservatives.

Thompson and Romney simply are less known: One-third of leaned Republicans are unable to rate Thompson ideologically, as are 24 percent for Romney, who’s been campaigning since last fall.

Romney, more seriously, faces continued misgivings about his faith. A third of leaned Republicans (32 percent) describe themselves as “uncomfortable” with the idea of a Mormon president. That goes to 39 percent of evangelical white Protestants, a core GOP group. Twenty-five percent of evangelicals are “entirely” uncomfortable with a Mormon president.

GROUPS – Giuliani leads among almost all groups, with a notable difference by ideology: He does 13 points better with moderate or liberal leaned Republicans than with conservatives.

Here Thompson appears to have made a move, at McCain’s expense. Last month McCain was supported by 21 percent of conservatives; today, its 12 percent. More conservatives, 22 percent, now are with Thompson than support McCain.

	Now	June
Giuliani	31%	27
McCain	12	21
F. Thompson	22	15
Romney	10	11

This also is apparent among leaned Republicans who call Giuliani more liberal than they'd like: In this group Thompson has 27 percent, McCain 17 percent. (About as many as support McCain – 15 percent – go for Giuliani anyway.)

McCain, for his part, does his best among independents and younger voters.

Slicing the race different ways makes little difference. With McCain out, for instance, Giuliani goes to 42 percent support, Thompson 18 percent, Romney 10 percent.

WAR – The unpopularity of the war in Iraq and George W. Bush's job performance pose further challenge for Republicans looking down the road to the general election. Nearly four in 10 mainline Republicans say they're more apt to favor a candidate who supports Bush's war policies – but among independents, the classic swing voters, just 13 percent call this a positive, and 49 percent instead say they're less likely to back a candidate who supports Bush on the war.

More broadly, while just 33 percent of all Americans approve of Bush's job performance – a career low – that soars to 77 percent of mainline Republicans. That means the eventual GOP candidate may be torn between running with Bush (to satisfy the base) or running away from him (to attract the center). And as if this weren't enough, just 23 percent of Americans now identify themselves as Republicans, the fewest in seven years. That's the last hurdle, and probably the highest, for the eventual Republican nominee.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone July 18-21, 2007, among a random national sample of 1,125 adults. Additional interviews were conducted with an oversample of randomly selected African-Americans for a total of 210 black respondents. The results have a three-point error margin for the full sample and five points for the sample of 403 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Peyton Craighill and Gary Langer.

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

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

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

1-24. previously released

25. If you honestly assessed yourself, thinking in general about (ITEM) president of the United States, is that something you'd be entirely comfortable with, somewhat comfortable, somewhat uncomfortable or entirely uncomfortable?

7/21/07 - Summary Table

----Comfortable----- ---Uncomfortable--- No

	NET	Ent.	Smwt.	NET	Smwt.	Ent.	opin.
a. a woman	79	54	25	20	9	10	1
b. an African American	86	56	30	12	7	5	1
c. a Mormon	63	34	29	34	16	18	4
d. an Hispanic	74	44	31	24	11	13	2
e. a Jewish	81	49	32	17	10	7	2

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

	----- Closely -----			----- Not closely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not too	At all	
7/21/07	70	22	48	30	20	10	*
6/1/07	66	18	48	34	22	13	*
4/15/07	66	20	45	34	20	14	*
2/25/07	65	20	44	35	25	10	*
Early 2004:							
10/29/03	54	15	39	45	30	15	0
9/13/03	56	16	40	44	27	17	*
Early 2000:							
12/15/99	45	12	33	55	31	24	*
10/31/99	61	16	45	38	25	13	*
Among leaned Dems:							
7/21/07	75	23	52	25	18	7	0
6/1/07	67	19	48	33	21	12	0
4/15/07	68	22	46	32	21	11	*
2/25/07	67	21	46	33	25	8	*
Early 2004*							
10/29/03	53	13	40	47	29	18	0
9/13/03	63	19	44	37	24	13	0
4/30/03	37	8	29	63	33	30	0
*"the race for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination"							
Among leaned Reps:							
7/21/07	66	23	44	34	22	11	0
6/1/07	65	16	50	34	24	10	*
4/15/07	68	22	46	31	17	14	1
2/25/07	66	22	44	34	26	8	0

27-29 previously released

30. (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 opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
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"							

31. (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, Tommy Thompson, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Sam Brownback, Tom Tancredo, Ron Paul, or Fred Thompson), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE:

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

\*Asked Hagel and Pataki 4/15 and previous, Gilmore 6/1 and previous

32. (ASKED OF MCCAIN SUPPORTERS) If McCain does not run, for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO MCCAIN

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

33. (ASKED OF GINGRICH SUPPORTERS) If Gingrich does not run, for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO GINGRICH

	7/21/07	6/1/07	4/15/07	2/25/07
Rudy Giuliani	37	34	35	53
John McCain	16	20	22	23
Fred Thompson	15	13	10	NA
Mitt Romney	8	10	10	5
Tommy Thompson	3	1	2	2
Mike Huckabee	2	2	1	2
Duncan Hunter	2	1	1	*

Ron Paul	2	2	1	1
Tom Tancredo	2	1	1	1
Sam Brownback	1	1	1	2
Other (vol.)	*	*	0	*
None of these (vol.)	5	3	4	2
Would not vote (vol.)	1	*	*	1
No opinion	5	10	7	5

\*Asked Hagel and Pataki 4/15 and previous, Gilmore 6/1 and previous

32/33 NET: NET LEANED VOTE IF NO GINGRICH OR MCCAIN

	7/21/07
Rudy Giuliani	42
Fred Thompson	18
Mitt Romney	10
Tommy Thompson	5
Mike Huckabee	2
Duncan Hunter	2
Ron Paul	2
Sam Brownback	2
Tom Tancredo	2
Other (vol.)	1
None of these (vol.)	6
Would not vote (vol.)	2
No opinion	7

34. (ASKED OF FRED THOMPSON SUPPORTERS) If Fred Thompson does not run, for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO FRED THOMPSON

	7/21/07	6/1/07	4/15/07
Rudy Giuliani	39	37	37
John McCain	17	21	22
Mitt Romney	10	9	10
Newt Gingrich	8	10	7
Mike Huckabee	3	2	1
Tommy Thompson	3	1	2
Duncan Hunter	2	1	1
Ron Paul	2	1	1
Tom Tancredo	2	1	1
Sam Brownback	1	1	1
Other (vol.)	*	*	0
None of these (vol.)	6	4	5
Would not vote (vol.)	1	*	*
No opinion	6	9	8

\*Asked Hagel and Pataki 4/15 and previous, Gilmore 6/1 and previous

35. (IF NAMED GIULIANI, Q31) Do you support (CANDIDATE) strongly, or somewhat?

	Strongly	Somewhat	No opin.
7/21/07	32	67	*
6/1/07	36	63	1
4/15/07	45	55	0
2/25/07	38	61	*

36. (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	
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

37. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) On social issues overall, do you feel that (NAME) is more conservative than you'd really like, more liberal than you'd really like, or about right?

7/21/07 - Summary Table

	More conservative	More liberal	About right	No opinion
a. Rudy Giuliani	7	32	54	7
b. John McCain	14	24	53	9
c. Mitt Romney	13	16	47	24
d. Fred Thompson	10	7	50	33

38. 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 opin.
7/21/07	50	41	6	*	2

39. If a candidate for president supports the Bush administration's policies in Iraq, would that make you more likely to (support) that candidate for president, more likely to (oppose) that candidate, or wouldn't it make much difference in your vote?

	More likely to support	More likely to oppose	Wouldn't make much difference	No opinion
7/21/07	16	47	37	*
6/1/07	19	41	40	1

40. Now, thinking ahead to November 2008: Which Democratic presidential candidate do you think has the best chance to defeat the Republican nominee in the general election? (Read list if necessary.)

	7/21/07
Hillary Clinton	43
Barack Obama	27
John Edwards	9
Al Gore	7
Bill Richardson	1
Chris Dodd	1
Joe Biden	*
Dennis Kucinich	*
Mike Gravel	*
Other	*
None of these	4
No opinion	7



41. Which Republican presidential candidate do you think has the best chance to defeat the Democratic nominee in the general election? (Read list if necessary.)

	7/21/07
Rudy Giuliani	38
John McCain	15
Fred Thompson	10
Mitt Romney	7
Newt Gingrich	2
Tommy Thompson	2
Sam Brownback	1
Mike Huckabee	1
Ron Paul	1
Duncan Hunter	*
Tom Tancredo	*
Other	2
None of these	7
No opinion	13

42-50 previously released.

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

	NET	Legal		Illegal			No opin.
		All cases	Most cases	NET	Most cases	All cases	
7/21/07	56	23	34	41	28	14	2
2/25/07	56	16	39	42	31	12	2
12/18/05	56	17	40	41	27	13	3
4/24/05	56	20	36	42	27	14	3
12/19/04	55	21	34	42	25	17	3
5/23/04	54	23	31	44	23	20	2
1/20/03	57	23	34	42	25	17	2
8/12/01	49	22	27	48	28	20	3
6/24/01	52	22	31	43	23	20	4
1/15/01	59	21	38	39	25	14	1
9/6/00 RV	55	20	35	42	25	16	3
7/23/00	53	20	33	43	26	17	4
9/2/99	56	20	37	42	26	15	2
3/14/99	55	21	34	42	27	15	3
7/12/98	54	19	35	42	29	13	4
8/5/96	56	22	34	41	27	14	3
6/30/96	58	24	34	40	25	14	2
10/1/95	60	26	35	37	25	12	3
9/21/95	60	24	36	36	25	11	4
7/17/95	59	27	32	40	26	14	1

52-53 previously released.

\*\*\*END\*\*\*