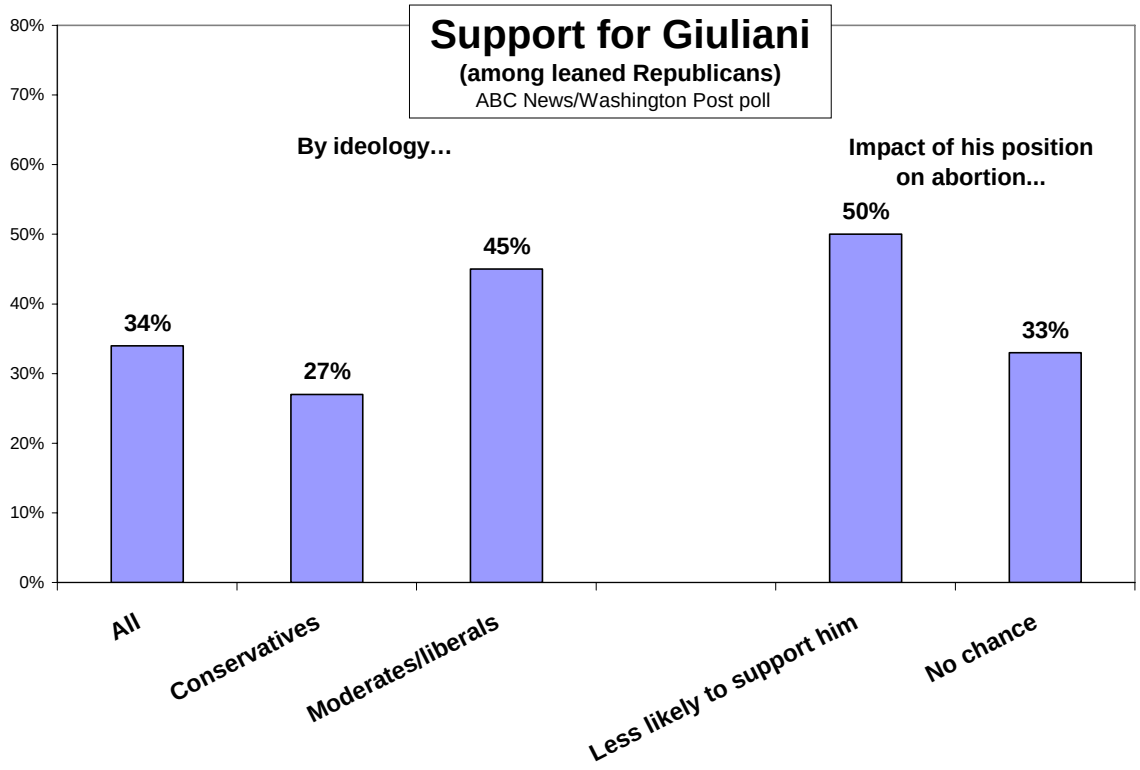
ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL: '08 ELECTION
EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 7 a.m. Sunday, June 3, 2007

A Softening for Giuliani As the '08 Race Progresses

A softening of underlying confidence in Rudolph W. Giuliani, including some damage on the abortion issue, could hearten his current – and future – opponents for the Republican presidential nomination.

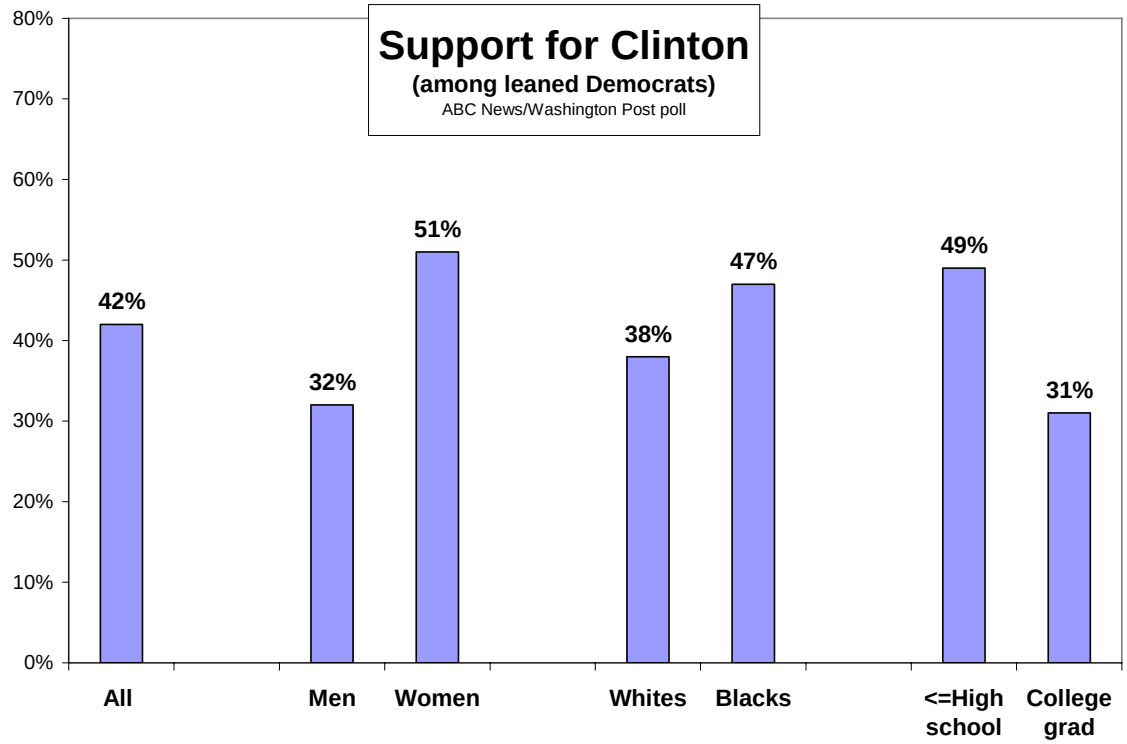
Giuliani's hardly in trouble; he maintains large leads over his opponents on key personal attributes including leadership and electability. But he's lost ground on empathy, honesty and inspiration; his support is not strong – and a third of Republicans now flatly rule him out because of his position on abortion, up from just under a quarter earlier this year.

Giuliani remains the Republican frontrunner, with overall candidate preferences stable compared with an ABC News/Washington Post poll in mid-April. But just 36 percent of his supporters are "strongly" for him, and his backing is notably lower among conservatives – a core Republican group – than among moderates. Indeed it's moderate Republicans (and the party's relatively few liberals) who propel Giuliani to a clear lead.



On the Democratic side of the 2008 contest, Hillary Clinton continues to lead on most personal attributes and in voter preferences alike, with no significant changes in her or Barack Obama's positions. Support has slipped slightly for John Edwards.

Clinton owes her frontrunner status to women; they're much more apt than men to favor her for the nomination, and significantly more likely to pick her from among the leading candidates as the best on a range of personal attributes. Democratic women, for example, are 16 points more likely than men to pick Clinton over Obama as the "most inspiring" candidate. (Men are nine points more likely than women to pick Obama as inspirational.)



And 53 percent of Clinton's supporters are "strongly" for her, substantially higher, for example, than Giuliani's strong support.

A potential concern for Clinton is that she does best with less-educated Democrats, whose turnout is less assured; another is that Obama leads her on honesty and trustworthiness. Still, experience is her trump card, she remains competitive with Obama among African-Americans, does best with committed Democrats (as opposed to Democratic-leaning independents) and stands the most to gain if Al Gore stays away.

The candidates meet in another of their debates this week – the Democrats Sunday night, the Republicans on Tuesday.

THE RACES – There's room in the Republican race for Fred Thompson, the ex-senator-turned-actor who's climbing into the contest. Including Thompson (and leaving out

former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who's flirted with the race but not committed), Giuliani has 34 percent support among leaned Republicans, John McCain 20 percent, Thompson 13 and Mitt Romney 10. Each is within three points of his mid-April position.

Among the Democrats, setting aside Gore, Clinton has 42 percent support, Obama 27 percent and Edwards 11 percent. Edwards did six points better in April.

'08 primary preferences

Republicans		Democrats	
Giuliani	34%	Clinton	42%
McCain	20	Obama	27
Thompson	13	Edwards	11
Romney	10		

None of the other candidates, in the Republican or Democratic contest, receives more than two percent support. Results are essentially the same (within two points on all candidates) for the subset of leaned Republicans and leaned Democrats who report being registered to vote.

TOP TWO – Focusing on the two leading candidates underscores both their stronger and less strong suits. Clinton's supported by 51 percent of women vs. 32 percent of men – indeed, among men only, Clinton and Obama are essentially tied.

Clinton wins support from 47 percent of African-Americans (Obama, 42 percent) and 38 percent of whites (Obama, 25 percent). Clinton does 12 points better with Democrats than with Democratic-leaning independents, and 18 points better with those who haven't gone beyond high school than with college graduates.

For Giuliani, the most notable gap is ideological: He does 18 points better with moderate or liberal Republicans than with conservatives. Indeed among conservatives Giuliani and McCain are virtually even, with 27 and 21 percent support, respectively; it's among moderates (and the relatively few liberal Republicans) that Giuliani takes the clear lead.

ABORTION – Giuliani's comparative weakness among conservatives looks linked to his past support for legal abortion and gay civil unions. Overall, half of leaned Republicans say they're less likely to support him given this issue; among conservatives that rises to 60 percent, nearly twice its level among moderate and liberal Republicans.

Further, among those less likely to support Giuliani because of these issues, two-thirds (67 percent) say there's no chance they'd vote for him – up from 49 percent earlier this year. Again, conservatives are twice as likely as moderate or liberal Republicans to rule out Giuliani entirely on the basis of abortion and gay marriage.

Given Giuliani's support for legal abortion

	Less likely to support him	Would not vote for him
All leaned Republicans	50%	33%
Conservatives	60	41

Moderates or liberals	34	21

REP ATTRIBUTES – Giuliani has very sizable leads over McCain and Romney (the two against whom he was tested in this poll) on several personal attributes – being able to handle a crisis, being the strongest leader, most inspiring and having the best chance to win. But it's a much closer call against McCain on being the most honest and trustworthy candidate, and McCain has the edge on having the best experience.

As noted, Giuliani's score on several of these is down from February, with the decline occurring mainly among conservatives, evangelical white Protestants and women. Moreover, across all these attributes his ratings among conservative Republicans are nine to 18 points lower than they are among moderate and liberal Republicans.

McCain, for his part, has lost some ground on one attribute: There's been a 12-point decline in the number of Republicans who think he's best able to win in November – 22 percent now, vs. 34 percent in February. On the other hand, fewer Republicans now say they're less likely to vote for a candidate for president who's older than 72, as McCain will be next year.

	Among leaned Republicans			
	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	Notable change
Best handle a crisis	59%	23	8	
Strongest leader	55	26	10	Giuliani -8
Most inspiring	53	22	13	Giuliani -12
Best chance to win	53	22	9	McCain -12
Best understands your problems	40	25	15	Giuliani -11
Most honest/trustworthy	36	31	14	Giuliani -7
Best experience	35	43	9	
Closest on issues	39	27	17	

DEM ATTRIBUTES – Among the top Democratic candidates, Clinton leads Obama and Edwards particularly on the related qualities of experience, leadership and trust to handle a crisis, as well as on electability and closeness on the issues. She and Obama are close on their inspirational qualities – with the divisions noted above; and the category of honesty and trustworthiness is a clear Clinton weakness.

	Among leaned Democrats		
	Clinton	Obama	Edwards
Best experience	66%	9	19
Strongest leader	50	26	15
Best handle a crisis	47	24	19
Best chance to win	43	21	26
Closest on issues	41	27	18
Best understands your problems	38	33	18
Most inspiring	37	41	15
Most honest/trustworthy	28	34	22

WAR and BUSH – Democrats are nearly twice as likely as Republicans to cite the war in Iraq as the most important issue in their vote, and much less likely to cite terrorism. (Other top issues for Democrats are the economy and health care, while Republicans divide among the economy, immigration, "leadership" and abortion.)

Indeed views on the war, and on George W. Bush, pose an interesting tightrope for Republican candidates. Despite his unpopularity more broadly, two-thirds of leaned Republicans (65 percent) nonetheless say Bush is leading his party in the right direction. And nearly four in 10 say they're more likely to favor a presidential candidate who supports Bush's policies in Iraq.

On the other hand, independents – the key swing voters in presidential politics – are by a 3-1 margin more likely to oppose than support a candidate who backs Bush on Iraq. The trick for Republican candidates, then, is to steer close enough to Bush to please the party – but not so close as to ill-position themselves for the general election.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone May 29-June 1, 2007, among a random national sample of 1,205 adults, including an oversample of African-Americans for a total of 284 black respondents. The results have a three-point error margin for the full sample, four points for leaned Democrats and five points for leaned Republicans. 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/pollvault.html.

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

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

1-26 Held for release.

27. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) On another subject: I'm going to read a few attributes that might be found in a candidate for president. Please tell me if each would make you (more likely) to vote for that candidate for president, or (less likely) to vote for that candidate, or if it wouldn't matter.

6/1/07 – Summary Table

	More	Less	Wouldn't matter	No opinion
a. someone who is a Mormon	5	30	64	1
b. someone who is over age 72	3	43	54	0

Trend: LEANED REPUBLICANS

a. someone who is a Mormon

	More likely	Less likely	Wouldn't matter	No op.
6/1/07	5	30	64	1
2/25/07	4	30	65	1

12/11/06	2	36	61	1

b. someone who is over age 72

	More likely	Less likely	Wouldn't matter	No op.
6/1/07	3	43	54	0
2/25/07	3	57	40	*

28. (IF LESS LIKELY TO VOTE FOR A MORMON, Q27a) Is there a chance you'd vote for a Mormon for president, or no chance?

	Chance	No chance	Depends (vol.)	No opinion
6/1/07	41	49	10	0
2/25/07	34	60	5	*

27a/28 NET

		---------Less likely----------					
	More likely	NET	Chance	No Chance	Depends	Wouldn't matter	No op.
6/1/07	5	30	12	15	3	64	1
2/25/07	4	30	11	18	1	65	1

29. 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
	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not too	At all	opinion
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:							
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:							
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

30. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) If the 2008 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were:

(Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Al Gore, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd, Dennis Kucinich, or Mike Gravel), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE:

	6/1/07	4/15/07	2/25/07	1/19/07	12/11/06
Hillary Clinton	35	37	36	41	39
Barack Obama	23	20	24	17	17
Al Gore	17	17	14	10	10
John Edwards	8	14	12	11	12
Bill Richardson	2	3	3	1	2
Joe Biden	2	2	1	3	2
Chris Dodd	1	*	*	*	*
Dennis Kucinich	1	1	*	1	NA
Mike Gravel	*	*	0	*	NA
John Kerry	NA	NA	NA	8	7
Wesley Clark	NA	1	*	1	1
Tom Vilsack	NA	NA	*	*	1
Evan Bayh	NA	NA	NA	NA	1
Other (vol.)	*	*	*	1	*
None of these (vol.)	4	3	3	2	2
Would not vote (vol.)	1	*	1	*	1
No opinion	5	2	3	3	4

31. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE, Q30) Do you support (NAMED CANDIDATE) strongly, or somewhat?

6/1/07 - Summary Table

	Strongly	Somewhat	No opin.
Hillary Clinton	53	47	0
Barack Obama	43	56	1
Al Gore	60	40	0

Trend:

Hillary Clinton			
6/1/07	53	47	0
4/15/07	59	41	0
2/25/06	56	44	0
Barack Obama			
6/1/07	43	56	1
4/15/07	51	49	0
2/25/06	60	38	1

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

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO GORE

	6/1/07	4/15/07	2/25/07
Hillary Clinton	42	41	43
Barack Obama	27	25	27
John Edwards	11	17	14
Bill Richardson	2	3	3
Joe Biden	2	2	2
Chris Dodd	1	*	*
Dennis Kucinich	2	1	*
Mike Gravel	*	*	*
Wesley Clark	NA	1	*
Tom Vilsack	NA	NA	*

Other (vol.)	*	*	*
None of these (vol.)	4	3	4
Would not vote (vol.)	1	1	1
No opinion	6	5	4

33. (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
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
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"

34. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) What’s the single most important issue to you in your choice for the Democratic candidate for president?

	6/1/07	2/25/07
War in Iraq	29	28
Economy/jobs	18	17
Health care	11	16
Immigration	6	1
Someone I trust	4	2
Education	3	2
Strong leadership	3	4
Honesty	3	4
Terrorism/security	2	3
Environment	2	2
The right experience	1	2
Abortion	1	*
Electability/best chance to win in November	*	1
Foreign policy	0	2
Other	7	10
No opinion	9	5

35. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Regardless of who you may support, who do you think (ITEM) - (Clinton) (Obama) or (Edwards)?

6/1/07 - Summary Table

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
a. is the strongest leader	50	26	15	1	1	1	5
b. best understands the problems of people like you	38	33	18	2	1	4	5
c. is the most honest and trustworthy	28	34	22	3	2	6	6
d. has the best experience to be president	66	9	19	1	1	2	3
e. is the most inspiring	37	41	15	1	1	3	2
f. has the best chance of getting elected president in November 2008	43	21	26	1	2	1	6

g. is closest to you on the issues	41	27	18	1	1	3	9
h. you would trust most to handle a major crisis	47	24	19	1	1	3	5

Trend where available:

a. is the strongest leader

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	50	26	15	1	1	1	5
2/25/07	52	23	17	1	1	1	5

b. best understands the problems of people like you

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	38	33	18	2	1	4	5
2/25/07	39	31	20	1	1	3	4

c. is the most honest and trustworthy

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	28	34	22	3	2	6	6
2/25/07	29	34	21	3	2	7	5

d. has the best experience to be president

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	66	9	19	1	1	2	3
2/25/07	71	5	17	1	1	2	3

e. is the most inspiring

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	37	41	15	1	1	3	2
2/25/07	36	44	14	1	1	2	3

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

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	43	21	26	1	2	1	6
2/25/07	48	17	25	*	2	1	6

g. is closest to you on the issues

	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	41	27	18	1	1	3	9
2/25/07	43	28	19	1	1	2	6

h. No trend.

36. (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, Jim Gilmore, Ron Paul, or Fred Thompson), for whom would you vote?

NET LEANED VOTE:

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

37. (IF NAMED CANDIDATE, Q36) Do you support (NAMED CANDIDATE) strongly, or somewhat?

	Strongly	Somewhat	No opinion
Rudy Giuliani			
6/1/07	36	63	1
4/15/07	45	55	0
2/25/07	38	61	*

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

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO GINGRICH

	6/1/07	4/15/07	2/25/07
Rudy Giuliani	34	35	53
John McCain	20	22	23
Fred Thompson	13	10	NA
Mitt Romney	10	10	5
Chuck Hagel	NA	*	1
Tommy Thompson	1	2	2
Mike Huckabee	2	1	2
Duncan Hunter	1	1	*
George Pataki	NA	1	1
Sam Brownback	1	1	2
Tom Tancredo	1	1	1
Jim Gilmore	1	2	*
Ron Paul	2	1	1
Other (vol.)	*	0	*
None of these (vol.)	3	4	2
Would not vote (vol.)	*	*	1
No opinion	10	7	5

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

NET LEANED VOTE IF NO FRED THOMPSON

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

40. (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
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
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

41. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) What's the single most important issue to you in your choice for the Republican candidate for president?

	6/1/07	2/25/07
War in Iraq	15	17
Economy/jobs	13	15
Terrorism/security	11	18
Immigration	9	3
Strong leadership	7	4
Abortion	7	3
Someone I trust	6	4
Honesty	6	6
Education	3	3
Health care	3	6
Foreign policy	0	2
Morals/family values	0	3
The right experience	1	*
Other	10	11
No opinion	9	5

42. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Regardless of who you may support, who do you think (ITEM) - (Giuliani), (McCain) or (Romney)?

6/1/07 - Summary Table

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.

a. is the strongest leader	55	26	10	1	1	1	7
b. best understands the problems of people like you	40	25	15	2	*	7	11
c. is the most honest and trustworthy	36	31	14	1	1	6	10
d. has the best experience to be president	35	43	9	2	1	3	8
e. is the most inspiring	53	22	13	*	1	4	7
f. has the best chance of getting elected president in November 2008	53	22	9	1	1	4	10
g. is closest to you on the issues	39	27	17	*	0	4	13
h. you would trust most to handle a major crisis	59	23	8	1	1	2	6

Trend where available:

a. is the strongest leader

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	55	26	10	1	1	1	7
2/25/07	63	26	5	*	1	1	4

b. best understands the problems of people like you

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	40	25	15	2	*	7	11
2/25/07	51	27	8	*	*	6	8

c. is the most honest and trustworthy

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	36	31	14	1	1	6	10
2/25/07	43	29	11	1	2	7	7

d. has the best experience to be president

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	35	43	9	2	1	3	8
2/25/07	38	47	6	1	1	2	4

e. is the most inspiring

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	53	22	13	*	1	4	7
2/25/07	65	21	6	*	1	3	4

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

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	53	22	9	1	1	4	10
2/25/07	55	34	4	*	*	1	5

g. is closest to you on the issues

	Giuliani	McCain	Romney	All (vol.)	Any 2 (vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
6/1/07	39	27	17	*	0	4	13
2/25/07	44	29	12	*	*	2	12

h. No trend.

43. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) Giuliani has been a supporter of legal abortion and gay civil unions. Does this make you (more likely) to vote for him for the Republican nomination for president, (less likely), or doesn't it make a difference in your vote?

	More	Less	Does not make a difference	No opinion
6/1/07	7	50	43	*
2/25/07	10	46	43	1

44. (IF LESS LIKELY, Q43) Given his position on abortion and gay civil unions, is there a chance you'd vote for Giuliani for the Republican nomination for president, or no chance?

	Chance	No chance	No opinion
6/1/07	33	67	1
2/25/07	49	49	2

NET 43/44

		Less				
	More	NET	Chance	No chance	No op.	Does not make a difference	No opin.
6/1/07	7	50	16	33	*	43	*
2/25/07	10	46	23	23	1	43	1

45. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICANS) In your view, is President Bush currently leading the Republican Party in the (right direction) or in the (wrong direction)?

	Right direction	Wrong direction	No opinion
6/1/07	65	31	4
11/2/05	72	25	3

46. 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
6/1/07	19	41	40	1

Compare to: If a candidate for Congress supports the Bush administration's policies in Iraq, would that make you more likely to (support) that candidate for Congress, 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 opin.
8/6/06	23	38	39	1

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***END***
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