

National Journal INSIDERS POLL

Insiders were asked to predict who will win their own party's 2008 presidential nomination. In tallying scores, a first-place vote was worth 5 points, a second-place vote 4 points, and so on.

85 Republican Insiders rank their 2008 contenders.



REPUBLICANS

Rank		Points	First-Place Votes
1.	George Allen	229	(19)
2.	John McCain	217	(19)
3.	Bill Frist	184	(11)
4.	Rudy Giuliani	129	(8)
5.	Mitt Romney	109	(5)
6.	Haley Barbour	93	(6)
7.	Jeb Bush	61	(6)
8.	Condoleezza Rice	56	(3)
9.	Chuck Hagel	36	(3)
10.	George Pataki	34	(2)



90 Democratic Insiders rank their 2008 contenders.

DEMOCRATS

Rank		Points	First-Place Votes
1.	Hillary Rodham Clinton	407	(68)
2.	John Edwards	205	(7)
3.	Mark Warner	179	(7)
4.	Evan Bayh	131	(2)
5.	John Kerry	90	(2)
6.	Bill Richardson	85	(0)
7.	Tom Vilsack	73	(0)
8.	Joseph Biden	49	(1)
9.	Wesley Clark	35	(1)
10.	Al Gore	21	(0)

—JAMES A. BARNES AND PETER BELL

NATIONAL JOURNAL INSIDERS

METHODOLOGY: All 216 *National Journal* Insiders were asked to name and rank the top five contenders for their own party's 2008 presidential nomination. And 175 participated. (*National Journal's* 91 Congressional Insiders are members of the House or Senate selected to reflect broad ideological and geographic ranges. *National Journal's* 125 Political Insiders were selected because of their campaign experience, insider knowledge, and ties to key voting blocs.) In tallying scores, a first-place vote was worth 5 points, a second-place vote 4 points, and so on.

CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICAN INSIDERS: Sens. Lamar Alexander, George Allen, Jim Bunning, Conrad Burns, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Mel Martinez, Olympia Snowe, John Sununu, John Thune; Reps. Sherwood Boehlert, John Boehner, Kevin Brady, Eric Cantor, Michael Castle, Tom Cole, Christopher Cox, Tom Davis, David Dreier, Phil English, Mark Foley, Bob Goodlatte, Melissa Hart, Doc Hastings, J.D. Hayworth, Jeb Hensarling, Pete Hoekstra, Bobby Jindal, Jack Kingston, Peter King, Jim Kolbe, Ray LaHood, Dan Lungren, Jim McCrery, Cathy McMorris, John Mica, Marilyn Musgrave, Sue Myrick, Mike Pence, Rob Portman, Deborah Pryce, Tom Reynolds, Mike Rogers of Michigan, Paul Ryan, Pete Sessions, Christopher Shays, John Sweeney, and Zach Wamp.

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSIDERS: Sens. Jon Corzine, Christopher Dodd, James Jeffords (independent), Edward Kennedy, Frank Lautenberg, Barbara Mikulski, Mark Pryor; Reps. Tom Allen, Tammy Baldwin, Howard Berman, Marion Berry, Rick Boucher, Michael Capuano, Ben Cardin, James Clyburn, Jim Cooper, Joseph Crowley, Jim Davis, Diana DeGette, Rosa DeLauro, Anna Eshoo, Chaka Fattah, Bob Filner, Mike Honda, Jim Langevin, Zoe Lofgren, Nita Lowey, Ed Markey, Jim McDermott, Jim McGovern, George Miller, Jim Moran, David Price, Jan Schakowsky, Jose Serrano, Adam Smith, John Spratt, John Tanner, Ellen Tauscher, Bennie Thompson, Chris Van Hollen, and Henry Waxman.

POLITICAL DEMOCRATIC INSIDERS: Karen Ackerman, David Axelrod, Dave Beattie, Mike Berman, Donna Brazile, Mark Brewer, Ed Bruley, George Bruno, Deb Callahan, Joseph Cari Jr., Bill Carrick, Tony Coelho, Miguel Contreras, Jim Craig, Jerry Crawford, Jim Demers, Tad Devine, Monica Dixon, Anita Dunn, Steve Elmendorf, Eric Eve, Vic Fazio, Scott Ferson, Don Foley, Gina Glantz, Anna Greenberg, Stan Greenberg, Pat Griffin, Michael Gronstal, Marcia Hale, Laura Harigan, Harold Ickes, Marcus Jadotte, Steve Jarding, Jim Jordan, Gale Kaufman, Celinda Lake, Jeff Link, Bill Lynch, Ellen Malcolm, Steve Marchand, Paul Maslin, Terry McAuliffe, Gerald McEntee, Mark Mellman, John Merrigan, David Nassar, Tom Ochs, Tom O'Donnell, Bruce Reed, Steve Ricchetti, Susan Rice, Will Robinson, Steve Rosenthal, John Ryan, Wendy Sherman, Erik Smith, Doug Sosnik, Jeffrey Trammell, Ed Turlington, Mike Veon, Rick Wiener, and JoDee Winterhof.

POLITICAL REPUBLICAN INSIDERS: Brett Bader, Mitch Bainwol, Gary Bauer, David Beckwith, Wayne Berman, Charlie Black, Kirk Blalock, Jeff Boeyink, Jeff Buley, Nick Calio, Jim Cicconi, Jake Corman, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Rick Davis, Mike Dennehy, Ken Duberstein, Debi Durham, Frank Fahrenkopf, Don Fierce, Alex Gage, David Girard-diCarlo, Bill Greener, Lanny Griffith, Doug Gross, Steve Hart, Chris Henick, Clark Judge, David Kensingler, Bob Kjellander, Ed Kutler, Jim Lake, Chuck Larson, Steve Lombardo, Mary Matalin, Mark McKinnon, Kyle McSillarow, Stephen Moore, David Norcross, Ziad Ojakli, Jack Oliver, Tony Perkins, Van B. Poole, Tom Rath, Scott Reed, Dave Rehr, Steve Roberts, David Roederer, Ed Rogers, Tony Rudy, Dan Schnur, Russ Schriefer, Rich Schwarm, Rick Shelby, Don Sipple, Fred Steeper, Warren Tompkins, Dirk van Dongen, Jan van Lohuizen, Dick Wadhams, John Weaver, Dave Winston, and Ginny Wolfe.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIE ABRAMSON

REPUBLICANS

ON GEORGE ALLEN



AP/LAWRENCE JACKSON

"Rare mix of legislative and executive experience."

"Allen is a bit of a wild card but is said to be hiring good people and, as a former governor, has a bit of a non-D.C. angle to play. Plus, people who know him say he does a great job of connecting with everyday folks."

"Allen is the real dark horse who should not be underestimated."

"There are very few potential candidates from the South who have the experience and the charisma to become a national candidate. Allen is the Southerner to watch."

"Wins more on style points than candle wattage."

"Connects with conservatives, [has] appealing personality, broad political experience (state Legislature, Congress, governor, Senate), tough campaigner—remember Mary Sue Terry and Chuck Robb? He is Reagan-like in his appeal to GOP activists. The national media underestimates him. Political pros do not."

On John McCain

"The only Republican who can clearly defeat Hillary will be rewarded."

"McCain has shown both independence and loyalty when he campaigned for Bush. He upsets the party faithful, but he'll look like a winner against any Democrat."



RICHARD A. BLOOM

"The sooner the [conservative] alternative emerges with a clear path, the more likely it is that McCain can be defeated. The longer this takes to occur, the more likely it is that McCain wins."

"McCain may not be the most 'Republican' of the bunch, but he

... did whatever he needed to do for Bush and is best known. Still, I see him faltering with the party faithful."

"McCain will be older than Reagan [was] when he won in 1980. And his health is a question. The base is still not trusting of McCain—never will be."

"McCain is the only candidate with an established network of support on the ground and in fundraising circles. As a seasoned candidate, his advantages are overwhelming, and his hard-core support of George W. will get him more of the establishment in 2008."

On Bill Frist

"He's gone from being the potential face of the compassionate conservative movement to becoming Tom DeLay with a medical degree."

"I can see Frist pulling this off since ... he is so smart and talented that he will learn what he has to do to win."

"His lack of status—former Senate majority leader as of 2007—will keep him from getting the support from the establishment that he needs to put together a strong run."

"Well positioned, all the right moves, but the chemistry is just not there. His prospects hinge heavily on his ability to deliver on the judges and the GOP agenda in the Senate."

On Rudy Giuliani

"The positive force of his personality could trump his pro-choice liability. He is the only charismatic person on the GOP list."

"The question is: If nobody else rises to the occasion, will we go for Rudy because he is Rudy? I don't think so. The wild card is judges and justices. If that is resolved satisfactorily for the conservative majority, then Rudy becomes a bigger player. Otherwise, they won't trust him enough to do the 'right' thing."

Etcetera

On Mitt Romney: "Good-looking, rich, but can a one-term Massachusetts governor get there from here? Doubtful."



AP/ROCELIO SOUS

On Haley Barbour: "Haley, while not my personal first choice, is well known and well liked within the party. He's a conservative with whom moderates tend to feel comfortable. He can raise money. He is savvy as hell and a terrific campaigner."

On Jeb Bush: "At the end of the day, Jeb becomes the nominee despite having 'the wrong last name and relations,' and all that implies if you are third in line, because he would be the best candidate."

ALSO MENTIONED ...

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia (31 points), Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas (18 points; 1 first-place vote), Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania (16 points; 1 first-place vote), South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford (6 points), Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (5 points), Rep. Rob Portman of Ohio (5 points), former Secretary of State Colin Powell (5 points; 1 first-place vote), former Attorney General John Ashcroft (3 points), Vice President Cheney (3 points), Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (2 points), Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado (2 points), Sen. Saxby Chambliss of Georgia (1 point), Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich (1 point), former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating (1 point), California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (1 point), and former Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma (1 point).

DEMOCRATS

On John Edwards

"He built up a lot of goodwill last year, is getting himself around and raising the right issues for the country and for Dem primary voters. He's got name recognition, and he's not running from the Senate."



LIZMAYZI

"His performance in the fall campaign as the VP nominee prevents him from being No. 1 at this point. He's the leader of the 'Stop Hillary' gang in April 2005."

"Knows the game now; could get another trip to the plate."

"Doesn't have a platform right now and couldn't carry his own state in '04. Nonetheless, he is a natural campaigner."

On Mark Warner

"He'll have money, in part due to his considerable personal wealth. His résumé is impressive—governor of a red state, successful businessman, moderate, good-government ideology."

"The appeal of a Southern governor will boost his appeal as a legitimate alternative to Clinton or Kerry."

"Red-state governor who is articulate, good-looking, smart, and has money: Not a bad package. He'll have time to campaign full-time. All of this will appeal to victory-hungry Democrats."

On Evan Bayh

"The profile of a former governor from a red state will be very appealing to Democrats in 2008."

"His youth and lack of exposure on national issues may lead to a perceived lack of gravitas. Also, might be too good-looking."

"If Bayh can get into the top two or three in fundraising, he has a résumé and perhaps a shot. If not—and the odds are against it—he will be an early exit."

On John Kerry

"He has displayed remarkable resilience post-Election Day. Kerry will be able to compete with [Hillary Clinton] in the dollars game and is doing a good job of keeping online activists engaged."

ALSO MENTIONED ...

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell (18 points), Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen (10 points; 1 first-place vote), Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano (8 points), Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich (7 points), North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley (7 points), Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius (6 points), Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois (5 points; 1 first-place vote), Sen. Russell Feingold of Wisconsin (5 points), Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois (5 points), Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean (3 points), Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut (1 point).

ON HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON



RICHARD A. BLOOM

"Hillary will raise \$70 million in 2007. No one else will be in that ballpark. That reality, along with her real skills as a campaigner and the historic nature of her campaign, will separate her from the pack."

"Hillary is the big dog ... but expectations cannot get any higher, and that—coupled with more baggage than USAir—and she is not the automatic winner. The real first scramble for the nomi-

nation is who establishes him- or herself as the 'un-Hillary.' "

"Yeah, she has high negatives, but those negatives are most problematic when we get to the general election voters. And, for now, we're only talking about connecting with Democratic primary voters."

"If she wants it, but [I] sure hope not, as I don't feel she can be elected. It is not because she is from the East or liberal, but that she doesn't have any real or perceived executive experience."

"If Hillary gets in, Hillary wins—as simple as that. For this early in the game, she's doing all the right things."

"She has the name recognition and the ambition, but we love her in Washington more than they do in Ohio."

"The only ones not impressed by—or afraid of—the senator from New York are those who haven't seen her operate. She is a real pro and knows how to work a room, not to mention make a fundraising call."

"Hillary ranks high, both in her capacity to make a strong start and in the resistance she'll face once she gets there."

"Sitting senators do not get elected, remember?"

"While I understand that if John Kerry announced he was running in 2008, he would be an instant front-runner, I cannot see a scenario where a broad coalition of activists wants to give this guy a second chance."



RICHARD A. BLOOM

"Kerry had his shot, he blew it, and there won't be a second chance. Kerry will come to his senses and not run in '08."

Etcetera

On Bill Richardson: "Latino, aggressive campaigner, diverse résumé ... fairly charismatic. Can he raise money?"

On Tom Vilsack: "He has a great [personal] story to tell and was elected from a very tough state. Being out of office helps, too."