

Emerson Poll: With No Joe, Clinton Leads Sanders By Wide Margin. Trump Solidifies Support in GOP Field. Carson and Rubio Pull Away From Pack.

Boston (Oct. 19, 2015): A new poll shows former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton extending her lead over Senator Bernie Sanders by a margin of 68% to 20%. This sizable boost may indicate she is winning over would-be supporters of Vice President Joe Biden, who was included in a prior poll in September, but not the most recent one. Support for Sanders has remained flat since September at 20%. Biden's window of opportunity to join the race may be closing; when asked if he should run, 43% of respondents said no, compared to 32% who said he should.

Clinton's bounce might also be attributed to last week's Democratic debate. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of those surveyed watched the debate, with 36% saying Clinton won, 17% giving the nod to Sanders, and 40% saying they were undecided about the outcome.

On the Republican side of the race, Donald Trump and Dr. Ben Carson continue to lead the GOP pack. Trump's 32% support reflected a 1-point drop from the September poll, while Carson edged up 3 points, from 20% to 23%. Marco Rubio improved from 8% to 14%, appearing to draw voters away from Jeb Bush, who fell to 8% from 12%. Ted Cruz and Carly Fiorina, with 6% each, trailed well behind the leaders.

The general election remains very tight. In head-to-head matchups, Clinton trails Trump (46% to 44%) and Carson (47% to 45%). She is tied with Rubio at 44%, and holds a slight margin over Bush (45% to 43%).

Of all the candidates, Carson is the one most favorably viewed by women and younger voters. His favorable/unfavorable ratio with women is 54/31 (+23) compared to Trump's 42/50 (-8) and Bush's 38/59 (-21). By a wide margin, women view Clinton unfavorably, 38/60 (-22). Sanders' has the biggest gender disparity gap, -31 points among females. In the 18-34 age group, Carson's net favorability is +14, compared to Trump (0), Clinton (-22) and Sanders (-10).

While religion has been a major element of discussion and coverage in past presidential campaigns, it appears Sanders being Jewish is at this time, not an issue. The majority of voters are unsure of Sander's religious views with 23% identifying him as Jewish, while 48% were not sure. If elected, Sanders would be the first Jewish president.

Caller ID

The Emerson College Polling Society poll was conducted from Friday, October 16 through Saturday, October 17. The polling sample for the Democratic and GOP primaries consisted of 390 and 403 likely primary voters, respectively, with a margin of error of +/-4.9% and +/-4.8%, margin of error and 783 registered general election voters with a +/-3.4%, and a 95% confidence level. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. The full methodology and results can be found at www.theecps.com.

Top Lines

What is your gender?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	440	46.3	46.3	46.3
	Female	510	53.7	53.7	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

Do you feel the country is headed in the right direction or is on the wrong track?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Right Direction	259	27.2	27.2	27.2
	Wrong Track	556	58.5	58.5	85.7
	Undecided	135	14.3	14.3	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Approve	387	40.7	40.7	40.7
	Disapprove	497	52.3	52.3	93.0
	Undecided	67	7.0	7.0	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

How likely are you to vote in the election for President in 2016.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very likely	893	94.0	94.0	94.0
	Somewhat likely	30	3.2	3.2	97.1
	50-50	17	1.8	1.8	98.9
	Not very likely	10	1.1	1.1	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

Are you currently registered as a Democrat, Republican, or Independent/ Other? Or are you unregistered?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democrat	407	42.8	42.8	42.8
	Republican	357	37.6	37.6	80.4
	Independent/Other	186	19.6	19.6	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

In the last presidential election in 2012, did you vote for Barack Obama, Mitt Romney, or some other candidate? Or did you not vote, or are you unsure?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Barack Obama	484	51.0	51.0	51.0
	Mitt Romney	446	47.0	47.0	98.0
	Other	19	2.0	2.0	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

Thinking about the upcoming presidential primaries and caucuses early next year, do you think you will vote/ or lean toward voting in your state's Democratic contest, Republican contest, or do you think you will skip the primary season and just vote next

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Democratic primary/caucus	390	41.1	41.1	41.1
	Republican primary/caucus	403	42.4	42.4	83.5
	Skip primaries/caucuses and vote in November	113	11.9	11.9	95.4
	Undecided	44	4.6	4.6	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

If the Democratic presidential primary was held today and the candidates were Lincoln Chafee, Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, Bernie Sanders, and Jim Webb, who would you vote or lean toward? {RANDOMIZE LIST}

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Hillary Clinton	266	28.0	68.2	68.2
	Bernie Sanders	80	8.4	20.4	88.6
	Jim Webb	3	.3	.7	89.3
	Martin O'Malley	10	1.0	2.5	91.8
	Other	9	.9	2.2	94.0
	Undecided	23	2.4	6.0	100.0
	Total	390	41.1	100.0	
Missing	System	560	58.9		
Total		950	100.0		

**If the Republican presidential primary was held today, who
would be your first choice to win the Republican nomination?
{RANDOMIZE LIST}**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Ben Carson	93	9.8	23.2	23.2
	Jeb Bush	32	3.4	8.0	31.2
	Carly Fiorina	24	2.5	6.0	37.2
	Ted Cruz	26	2.7	6.4	43.6
	Marco Rubio	54	5.7	13.5	57.1
	Donald Trump	130	13.7	32.2	89.4
	Rand Paul		.0	.1	89.4
	Mike Huckabee	18	1.9	4.4	93.8
	Chris Christie	6	.7	1.6	95.4
	Rick Santorum	1	.1	.3	95.7
	John Kasich	10	1.1	2.5	98.2
	Other		.0	.1	98.2
	Undecided	7	.7	1.8	100.0
	Total	403	42.4	100.0	
Missing	System	547	57.6		
Total		950	100.0		

What is your age category?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-34 years	134	14.1	14.1	14.1
	35-49 years	182	19.1	19.1	33.2
	50-64 years	266	28.0	28.0	61.2
	65-74 years	292	30.8	30.8	92.0
	75+ years	76	8.0	8.0	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

What your ethnic background / ancestry is?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	White/Caucasian	779	82.0	82.0	82.0
	Black/African-American	86	9.1	9.1	91.1
	American Indian/Alaska Native	23	2.4	2.4	93.5
	Asian	11	1.1	1.1	94.6
	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	7	.7	.7	95.3
	Hispanic/Latino	23	2.4	2.4	97.8
	Other or don't know	21	2.2	2.2	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	

What is your opinion of Hillary Clinton?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Favorable	327	34.5	41.8	41.8
	Unfavorable	430	45.3	55.0	96.8
	Undecided	24	2.6	3.1	99.9
	Never heard of this candidate	1	.1	.1	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

What is your opinion of Jeb Bush?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Favorable	245	25.8	31.3	31.3
	Unfavorable	453	47.7	57.9	89.1
	Undecided	80	8.4	10.2	99.3
	Never heard of this candidate	6	.6	.7	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

What is your opinion of Ben Carson?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Favorable	391	41.2	50.0	50.0
	Unfavorable	291	30.6	37.1	87.1
	Undecided	79	8.3	10.1	97.2
	Never heard of this candidate	22	2.3	2.8	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

What is your opinion of Carly Fiorina?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Favorable	299	31.5	38.2	38.2
	Unfavorable	362	38.1	46.2	84.4
	Undecided	103	10.8	13.2	97.6
	Never heard of this candidate	19	2.0	2.4	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

What is your opinion of Marco Rubio?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Favorable	307	32.3	39.2	39.2
	Unfavorable	354	37.3	45.3	84.5
	Undecided	97	10.2	12.3	96.8
	Never heard of this candidate	25	2.6	3.2	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

What is your opinion of Bernie Sanders?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Favorable	267	28.1	34.1	34.1
	Unfavorable	408	43.0	52.1	86.2
	Undecided	89	9.4	11.4	97.6
	Never heard of this candidate	19	2.0	2.4	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

What is your opinion of Donald Trump?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Favorable	315	33.1	40.2	40.2
	Unfavorable	413	43.4	52.7	92.9
	Undecided	54	5.7	6.9	99.8
	Never heard of this candidate	2	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Jeb Bush

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Clinton	354	37.2	45.2	45.2
	Bush	337	35.5	43.0	88.2
	Undecided	93	9.8	11.8	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Carly Fiorina

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Clinton	355	37.4	45.3	45.3
	Fiorina	343	36.1	43.8	89.1
	Undecided	85	9.0	10.9	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Ben Carson

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Clinton	353	37.2	45.1	45.1
	Carson	372	39.1	47.5	92.6
	Undecided	58	6.1	7.4	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Marco Rubio

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Clinton	350	36.8	44.7	44.7
	Rubio	346	36.4	44.2	88.9
	Undecided	87	9.2	11.1	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Donald Trump

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Clinton	343	36.1	43.8	43.8
	Trump	361	38.0	46.1	90.0
	Undecided	79	8.3	10.0	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Democrat Bernie Sanders or Republican Donald Trump

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Sanders	325	34.2	41.6	41.6
	Trump	382	40.2	48.8	90.4
	Undecided	75	7.9	9.6	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Did you watch the recent Democratic debate on CNN?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	449	47.3	57.3	57.3
	No	316	33.3	40.4	97.7
	Not sure	18	1.9	2.3	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Who do you think won the debate?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Hillary Clinton	284	29.8	36.2	36.2
	Bernie Sanders	131	13.8	16.7	52.9
	Jim Webb	45	4.7	5.7	58.7
	Martin O'Malley	8	.8	1.0	59.7
	Lincoln Chaffee	3	.3	.4	60.1
	Undecided	312	32.9	39.9	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

There has been speculation about whether Vice President Joe Biden will enter the Presidential race. Do you think he should run, not run, or are you undecided?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	He should run	248	26.1	31.6	31.6
	He should not run	333	35.1	42.5	74.2
	Undecided	202	21.3	25.8	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Do you know what religion Bernie Sanders' is?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Protestant	62	6.5	7.9	7.9
	Catholic	29	3.1	3.7	11.6
	Jewish	180	18.9	23.0	34.6
	Mormon	11	1.2	1.4	36.0
	Muslim	12	1.2	1.5	37.6
	Something else	377	39.7	48.1	85.7
	Not religious	112	11.8	14.3	100.0
	Total	783	82.4	100.0	
Missing	System	167	17.6		
Total		950	100.0		

Region

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Northeast	169	17.8	17.8	17.8
	Midwest	208	21.9	21.9	39.7
	South	346	36.4	36.4	76.1
	West	227	23.9	23.9	100.0
	Total	950	100.0	100.0	