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Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton Matched-Up in a Tight Race for the Democratic Presidential Race in New Hampshire

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Portsmouth, NH. – With Vice President Joe Biden officially out of the race, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (46%) is now locked in a tight race with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders (48%).

These results are based on a recent Franklin Pierce University / Boston Herald Poll conducted by RKM Research and Communications, December 13-17, 2015. The survey is based on responses from 410 randomly selected likely Democratic presidential primary voters. Interviews were conducted by landline and cellular telephone. The sampling margin of error is +/- 4.8 percent.

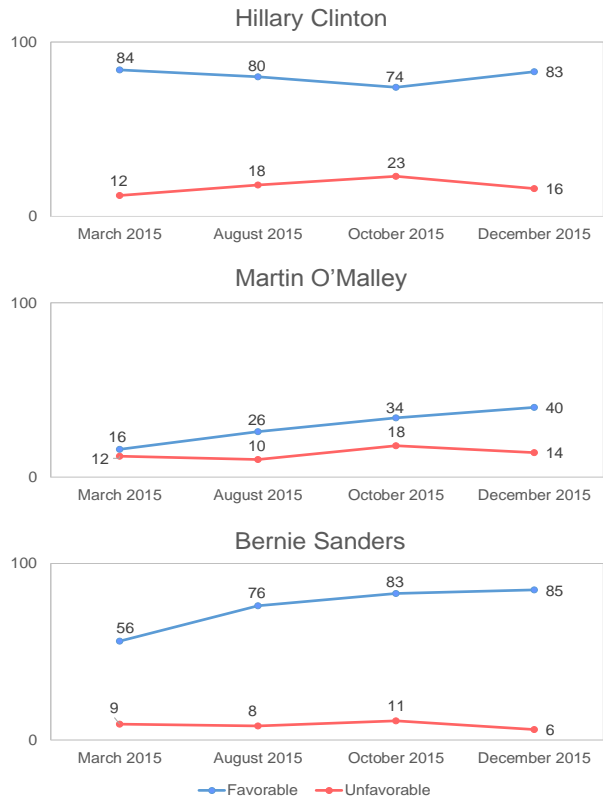
Favorability Ratings

Hillary Clinton's high favorability rating increased in the most recent poll, rising from 74 percent in October to 83 percent today. Her unfavorable rating decreased from 23 to 16 percent over the same time period.

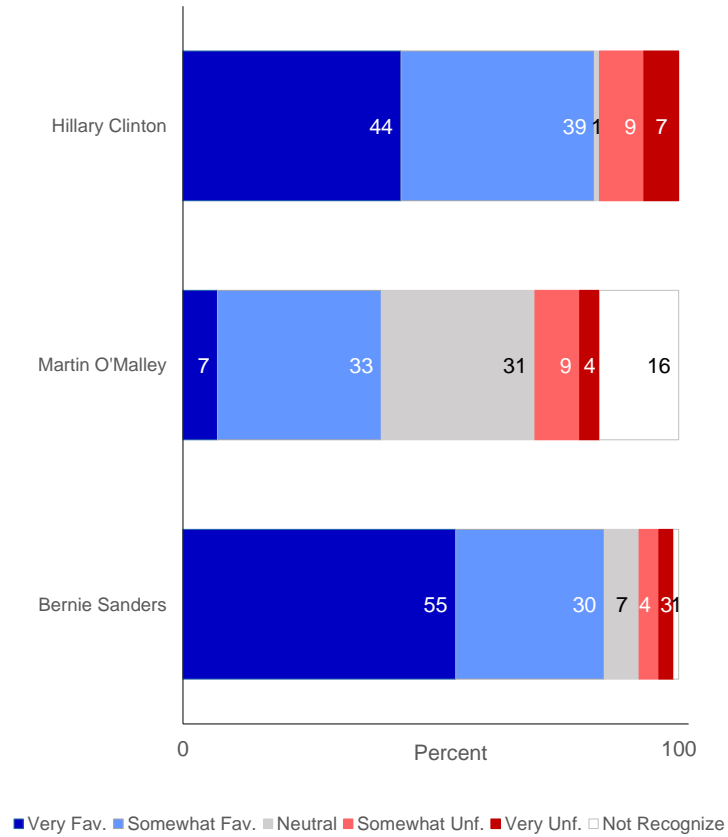
Bernie Sanders' favorability rating continues to climb. It was at 56 percent in March, 76 percent in August, 83 percent in October and 85 percent today. Only six percent of likely Democratic primary voters have an unfavorable view toward Sanders.

Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley's favorability rating continues to increase, but he remains relatively uncompetitive in the race for the Democratic nomination.

Favorability Ratings: Potential Democratic Presidential Candidates

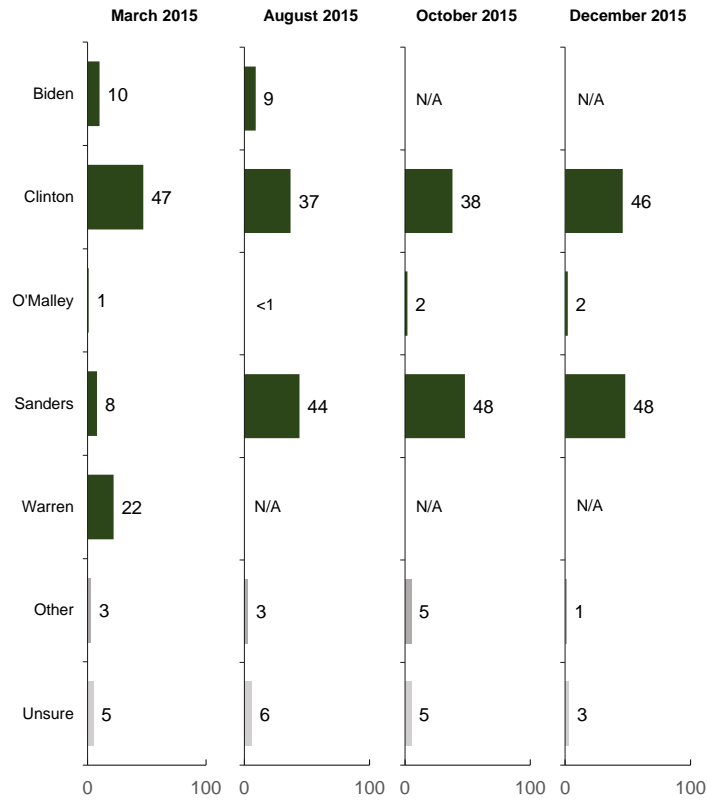


Favorability Ratings: Potential Democratic Presidential Candidates



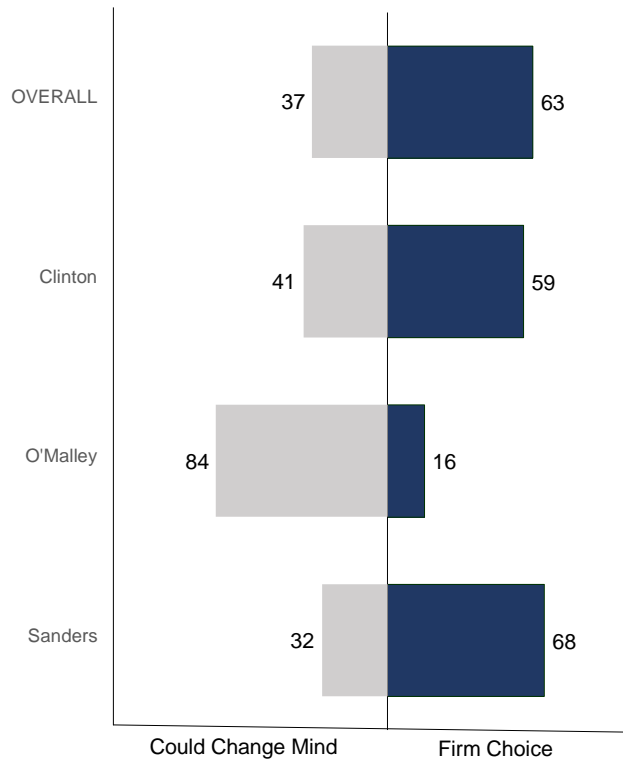
The general impressions of the candidates are further broken down to look at the strength of voters' views. Many Democratic primary voters hold strong positive views toward Clinton and Sanders.

Democratic Presidential Primary Vote Choice



Voters were asked who they would vote for if the Democratic presidential primary were held today. Bernie Sanders (48%) maintains a slight lead over Hillary Clinton (46%), but the difference is not statistically significant. As of today, the race is a statistical dead-heat between Sanders and Clinton, and O'Malley polls at just 2 percent.

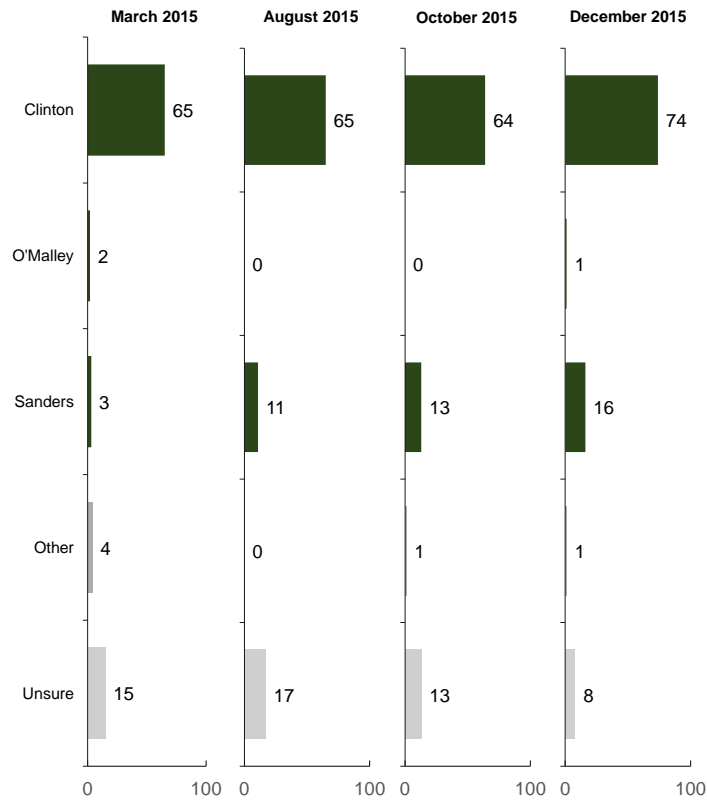
Firmness of Democratic Presidential Primary Vote Choice



Voters were asked if they have made a firm choice in the race, or whether they could change their mind between now and the time of the election. As expected, the race is beginning to firm up. Today, 63 percent of Democratic primary voters report that they have made a firm choice, while 37 percent report that they could still change their mind.

It is interesting to look at how the race is firming up between Clinton and Sanders. In August, 40 percent of Clinton's voters said that they had made a "firm choice" to vote for her. That number was 62 percent in October and is 59 percent today. Sanders' voters also appear to be standing firm. In the most recent poll, 68 percent of Sanders' supporters reported that they have made a "firm choice," compared to 44 percent in August. The results of the upcoming debate, as well as the Iowa Caucus, could change these numbers, but the results provide some suggestive evidence that the race between Clinton and Sanders is likely to remain close and competitive.

Candidate Most Likely to Win the Presidential Nomination of the Democratic Party



Despite Sanders' strong standing in the head-to-head match-up with Clinton, the perception that he can win the nomination of the Democratic Party remains very low. Today, 74 percent of likely Democratic primary voters believe that *Hillary Clinton* will win the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party, up from 64 percent in October. Only 16 percent of Democratic primary voters think that Sanders will win the nomination. These results continue to support the perception that Clinton is the presumptive nominee of the Democratic party.

Reason for Supporting Democratic Candidate

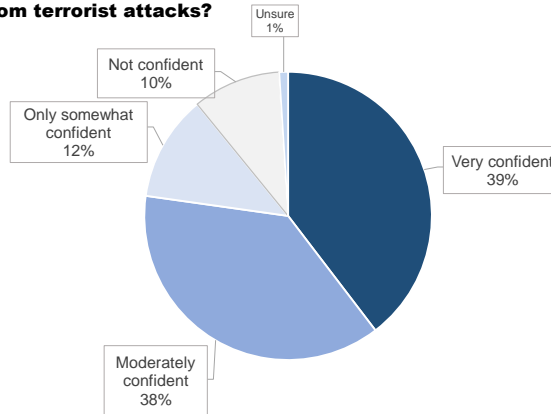
Reason for supporting Democratic presidential vote choice?

| | Overall | Clinton (n=188) | Sanders (n=197) |
|--|---------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Best chance of getting elected | 8% | 15% | 1% |
| Supports issues important to you | 27 | 20 | 35 |
| Has experience and proven record | 17 | 34 | 2 |
| Stands firm on issues and values | 21 | 11 | 33 |
| Has new ideas / would lead in a new direction | 15 | 9 | 19 |
| Can work with Democrats and Republicans | 9 | 9 | 8 |
| | | | |
| Unsure | 2 | 2 | 2 |

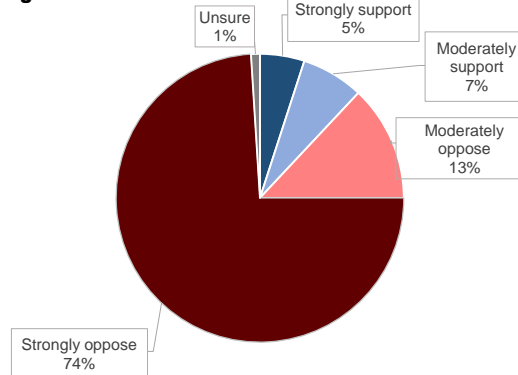
Voters were asked to describe the primary reason why they would vote for their first choice candidate. Hillary Clinton continues to attract the largest bloc of support because of her *experience and proven record* (34%), whereas Sanders' support comes largely from his *support for issues that are important* to Democratic voters (35%).

Addressing the Threat of Terrorism

Confidence in President Obama to keep Americans safe from terrorist attacks?



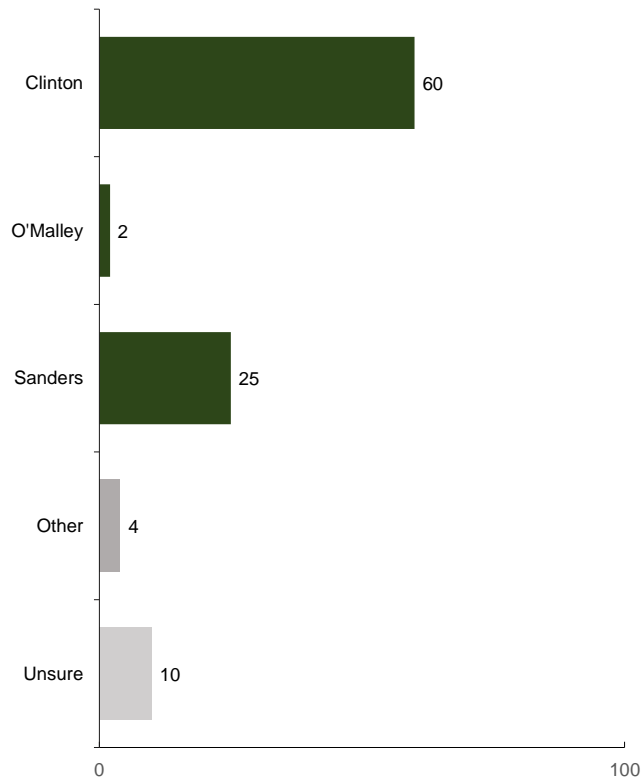
Support or oppose a proposal to ban Muslims from entering the United States?



Voters were asked how confident they are in President Obama's ability to keep Americans safe from terrorist attacks. Most Democratic voters are *very* (39%) or *moderately* (38%) confident in the President's ability to keep Americans safe from terrorism. Only 10 percent of Democratic voters are *not confident* in Obama's ability to keep Americans safe.

Voters were asked if they support or oppose a proposal to ban Muslims from entering the United States. The results indicate that the overwhelming majority of Democratic primary voters oppose such a proposal. Nearly three-fourths of likely Democratic primary voters (74%) are *strongly opposed* to the proposal, and an additional 13 percent are *moderately opposed*.

Which of the Democratic Presidential Candidates would do the best job handling the threat of terrorism?



Voters were asked to identify the Democratic Presidential Candidate they think would do the best job handling the threat of terrorism. Clinton (60%) maintains a more than 2-to-1 margin over Sanders (25%) in terms of being perceived as more qualified to handle the threat of terrorism.

Methodology

The results outlined in this report are based on a survey conducted by RKM Research and Communications on behalf of Franklin Pierce University and the Boston Herald. All interviews were conducted by paid, trained and professionally supervised live interviewers.

The survey is based on a probabilistic sample of 410 likely Democratic presidential primary voters in New Hampshire. Interviews were conducted by landline and cellular telephone, December 13-17, 2015. The sampling margin of error is +/- 4.8 percent.

The data are weighted to adjust for probability of selection, respondent sex and respondent age. In addition to sampling error, all surveys have other potential sources of non-sampling error including question wording effects, question order effects and non-response.

More information available at www.rkm-research.com (603.433.3982).