

Two-Thirds Would Consider Clinton – Ahead, for Now, of GOP Prospects

Two-thirds of Americans in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll say they'd consider supporting Hillary Clinton for president, far more than the current take-a-look numbers for a range of potential Republican candidates – some of them less popular, others just less known.

As potential Republican candidates make their appearances at the Conservative Political Action Committee Conference starting today, 25 percent of Americans say they'd "definitely" support Clinton if she ran for president and 41 percent say they would consider her. The rest, 32 percent, rule her out – fewer than did so in 2006-7, in advance of her losing run for the 2008 Democratic nomination.

	Definitely support	Would consider	Definitely not support	No opinion
Hillary Clinton	25%	41	32	2
Mitt Romney	12	33	49	6
Rand Paul	9	38	38	15
Chris Christie	6	41	39	13
Mike Huckabee	6	38	40	15
Jeb Bush	6	38	48	8
Marco Rubio	5	40	32	23
Ted Cruz	4	34	38	24
Scott Walker	4	33	28	35
Rick Perry	3	36	40	21

Some in the potential GOP herd start with bigger handicaps, including some marquee names: Forty-nine percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), say they'd definitely not support Mitt Romney; 48 percent say the same about Jeb Bush (perhaps conflating him with his brother George, deeply unpopular in his second term).

Thirty-eight to 40 percent rule out other notable Republicans, including Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Chris Christie, Mike Huckabee and Rick Perry. Fewer, 32 and 28 percent, respectively, rule out supporting Marco Rubio or the particularly little-known Scott Walker. In any case, each of these still has a clear majority available to woo – and a majority is what it takes.

GOP DIVISIONS – Getting there, though, is a challenge: Sharp ideological divisions mark views within the ranks of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, underscoring the conflict between "very" conservative Republicans and less-so ones.

Willingness at least to consider Rand Paul, for example, reaches 83 percent among very conservative Republicans but slides to 60 percent among their "somewhat" conservative counterparts. There's a similar gap for Scott Walker and a sizable one for Ted Cruz, as well.

	Would support/consider vs. would not support					
	Among leaned Republicans					
	Very conservative		Smwt conservative		Moderate	
Rand Paul	83-10%	+73	60-24	+36	65-26	+39
Scott Walker	71- 3	+68	49-20	+29	49-17	+32
Marco Rubio	73-13	+60	61-20	+41	60-18	+42
Ted Cruz	70-12	+58	56-27	+29	49-29	+20
Mitt Romney	75-22	+53	74-25	+49	70-29	+41
Mike Huckabee	74-22	+52	63-28	+35	65-25	+40
Jeb Bush	68-27	+41	66-30	+36	71-23	+48
Rick Perry	64-23	+41	47-29	+18	55-32	+23
Chris Christie	52-36	+16	53-39	+14	64-29	+35

Tea Party favorites are likely to be among the most popular attendees at CPAC, while Christie, with his more moderate image (and recent Bridgewater scandal) may fare less well. As noted, potential support from strong conservative Republicans ranges as high as 83 percent for Paul – but drops as low as a downright chilly 52 percent for Christie. Nor does Christie do better among somewhat conservative Republicans, a challenge if he runs.

At the same time, among all adults, 48 percent say they’d consider Christie, as good or better than any of his competitors. It’s the nomination that’s his bigger difficulty.

Rubio, Paul and Huckabee, for their part, maintain high levels of support among somewhat conservative and moderate Republicans, but it’s Bush and Romney who lead in this wing of the GOP. Seventy-four percent of somewhat conservatives in the party would at least consider Romney and two-thirds say the same for Bush; both also have potential support from seven in 10 moderate leaned Republicans. (Strong conservatives account for 23 percent of all Republicans and Republican-leaning independents in this poll, somewhat conservatives for 36 percent and moderates for 32 percent.)

Meanwhile Walker, the Wisconsin governor, has an opportunity to gain a greater following given that he’s unknown to 35 percent overall and three in 10 leaned Republicans.

OVERALL – Two-thirds of Americans, as noted, say they’d at least consider Clinton for president; that drops to the high 30s to high 40s for the Republicans tested in this survey. Simply being known is one factor: While just 2 percent can’t say whether or not they’d consider Clinton, that jumps, for example, to 15 percent for Paul, 23 percent for Rubio and 35 percent for Walker. As they become better known, their take-a-look numbers may well grow.

	Would support/consider vs. would not support							
	All Americans		Democrats		Republicans		Independents	
Hillary Clinton	66-32%	+34	90- 8	+82	32-67	-35	68-30	+38
Marco Rubio	46-32	+14	33-49	-16	65-17	+48	46-29	+17
Chris Christie	48-39	+9	36-50	-14	59-30	+29	52-36	+16
Rand Paul	47-38	+9	28-58	-30	66-17	+49	48-37	+11
Scott Walker	37-28	+9	25-46	-21	55-12	+43	35-25	+10
Mike Huckabee	45-40	+5	28-58	-30	66-24	+42	47-37	+10
Ted Cruz	38-38	0	25-53	-28	57-20	+37	38-39	-1
Rick Perry	39-40	-1	29-53	-24	61-21	+40	36-42	-6

Mitt Romney	45-49	-4	22-72	-50	75-23	+52	49-46	+3
Jeb Bush	44-48	-4	21-72	-51	76-18	+58	44-49	-5

Clinton’s potential voters include nine in 10 Democrats, two-thirds of independents and even a third of Republicans. Among possible Republican candidates, Rubio is competitive within his own party and also has reasonable interest outside it. Some of the others show less cross-border appeal.

GROUPS – As expected given partisan preferences, whites, rural dwellers and evangelical white Protestants are most willing to consider Republican candidates. Clinton, for her part, gets the closest look from nonwhites, those with no religious affiliation, young adults, people earning less than \$50,000 a year, those with either the most or least formal education, Northeasterners and women.

There’s also an age effect: Young adults generally are more willing to give any of the possible candidates a chance, while seniors are most apt to rule them out.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Feb. 27-March 2, 2014, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults, including landline and cell-phone-only respondents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including design effect. Partisan divisions are 30-22-40 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gregory Holyk and Gary Langer.

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

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Full results follow.

* in data columns = less than 0.5 percent

1-11, 13-21 previously released.

22-26 held for release.

Now thinking about the presidential election in 2016,
 12. If (NAME) runs for president in 2016, would you definitely vote for (him/her), would you consider voting for (him/her), or would you definitely not vote for (him/her)?

3/2/14 - Summary Table

	Definitely would	Would consider	Definitely would not	No opinion
a. Hillary Clinton	25	41	32	2
b. Chris Christie	6	41	39	13

c. Ted Cruz	4	34	38	24
d. Rand Paul	9	38	38	15
e. Marco Rubio	5	40	32	23
f. Scott Walker	4	33	28	35
g. Rick Perry	3	36	40	21
h. Jeb Bush	6	38	48	8
i. Mike Huckabee	6	38	40	15
j. Mitt Romney	12	33	49	6

Trend where available:

a. Hillary Clinton

	Definitely would	Would consider	Definitely would not	No opinion
3/2/14	25	41	32	2
9/30/07*	30	28	41	1
4/15/07	27	26	45	1
5/15/06**	19	38	42	1

*2007: If Hillary Clinton wins the Democratic nomination for president..."

**2006: "If (NAME) runs for president in 2008..."

g. Rick Perry

	Definitely would	Would consider	Definitely would not	No opinion
3/2/14	3	36	40	21
10/2/11*	17	31	44	7

*"If Rick Perry wins the Republican nomination for president..."

j. Mitt Romney

	Definitely would	Would consider	Definitely would not	No opinion
3/2/14	12	33	49	6
10/2/11*	19	37	37	7
9/30/07	8	28	57	7
4/15/07	7	32	54	8

*2011 and previous: "If Mitt Romney wins the Republican nomination for president..."

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