

Clinton, Obama top straw poll conducted at East Texas fair
By **Shem Daimwood** - Sep 19th, 2007 at 1:35 pm EDT

A close race in East Texas:

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama held a wide margin lead over the rest of the Democratic primary field in a straw poll conducted at the Gregg County Fair this past week, a local party official said.

More than 140 potential voters — anyone of voting age — participated in the poll between Sept. 11 and Saturday during the fair, said Shem Daimwood, Precinct 2 Chair of the Gregg County Democratic Party, which conducted the poll.

Clinton, a U.S. senator from New York, received 39 percent of the vote, edging Sen. Obama, D-Illinois, by three votes. Obama received 37 percent of the vote, Daimwood said.

Finishing in a distant third was John Edwards with 10 percent, followed by Dennis Kucinich with 4 percent and Bill Richardson with 3 percent. Al Gore, who served as U.S. vice president from 1992 until 2000, received two write-in votes, Daimwood said.

Six voters were undecided, and three other candidates — Joe Biden, Chris Dodd and Mike Gravel — received one vote each.

"There weren't many undecided voters in our poll," Daimwood said.