

Hillary Clinton Wins Minnesota Caucus Straw Poll

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Sen. Hillary Clinton narrowly won the Minnesota caucus straw poll over Sen. Barack Obama by only one vote. The non-binding caucus is one of the first tests of the 2008 presidential election cycle and is held one year before the statewide presidential preference poll which determines the apportionment of delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Former Sen. John Edwards came in third place with Gov. Bill Richardson finishing with a strong fourth place finish. A write in campaign for Al Gore finished in fifth place followed by Wesley Clark in sixth place and Joseph Biden, Christopher Dodd, Thomas Vilsack all receiving a handful of votes.

<http://bluesunbelt.com/showDiary.do?diaryId=221>

Hillary Rodham Clinton, 324
Barack Obama, 323
John Edwards, 176
Bill Richardson, 115
Al Gore (write-in), 31
Wesley Clark, 17
Joseph Biden, 13
Christopher Dodd, 6
Thomas Vilsack, 4
Undecided, 207

<http://www.startribune.com/587/story/1037042.html>

Politico describes the 2,000 caucus goers who participate a "valuable and early indicant of the sentiments of a mainstream Democratic electorate".

On Tuesday the 2008 campaign cycle for president of the United States begins in earnest. The St. Paul, Minn., Democratic Farmer-Labor Party is holding a straw poll on the presidential race during their regularly scheduled precinct caucuses.

St. Paul is the only city in Minnesota that caucuses in non-general election years. It does so for selection of the delegates to endorse candidates for the seven city council wards of Minnesota's capitol city. This is a non-binding ballot set one year before the binding statewide presidential preference poll, which determines the apportionment of delegates to the Democratic National Convention. The 2,000 or so caucus attendees will make their preference for president known on Tuesday evening.

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0307/2987.html>