

Photo Finish: Clinton, Obama Dominate In American's Straw Poll

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Thursday, September 06, 2007

BLUE HILL — The 2008 presidential primaries for both major political parties could occur earlier than usual in several states, but why wait?

The Ellsworth American headed to the Blue Hill Fair last week to tap the great cross section of political observers who trek to the annual end-of-summer celebration.

The American asked would-be voters which candidate they would back in the 2008 presidential race. But it was the Blue Hill Fair, where fun comes first in all things.

So, the American turned the traditionally dry process of polling into an entertaining event by asking fairgoers to pose for a photo with a cardboard likeness of their candidate of choice.

Democratic hopeful Hillary Clinton received 156 votes, leading all other candidates in the straw poll that was answered by 595 fairgoers.

Fellow Democratic candidate Barack Obama finished second with 120 votes.

Not surprisingly, "Undecided" received 52 votes to finish in third place.

John Edwards, another Democrat, finished fourth with 47 votes, followed by Republicans Mitt Romney, Rudy Guiliani and Fred Thompson with 46, 43 and 40 votes respectively.

Democrats Dennis Kucinich and Bill Richardson finished eighth and ninth with Kucinich getting 28 votes and Richardson getting 18.

Republicans dominated the bottom half of the poll results, as John McCain received 12 votes; Ron Paul, eight; Mike Huckabee, six; Sam Brownback, three and one vote each for Duncan Hunter and Tom Tancredo.

Other Democrats receiving some support include Joe Biden and Christopher Dodd with five votes each and Mike Gravel with four.

For photos of the voters and their candidates, visit ellsworthamerican.com.

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