

2008 Republican Insiders Poll

Who has the best chance to be your party's 2008 presidential nominee?

■ On John McCain

"As Bush declines and GOP leaders fear for the future, McCain's prospects strengthen. He is not trusted, but he is needed, and that may be enough. Still, he is running a big risk on the immigration issue."



McCain

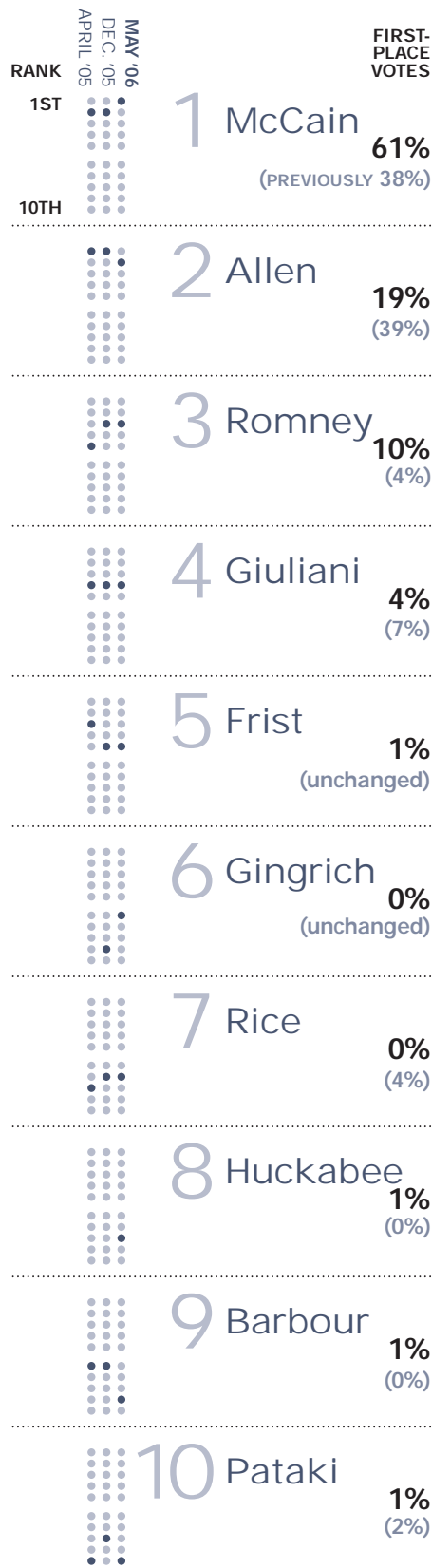
"Conservatives may never love him, but Iraq, the deficit, and Abramoff make his credentials a lot harder to dismiss."

"McCain can beat Hillary. And that fact alone may motivate a lot of conservatives and GOP-establishment types to support him. But he should ignore the inevitable attacks from *The New York Times* et al. as he courts conservatives, and [should] remember that he must first secure the nomination."

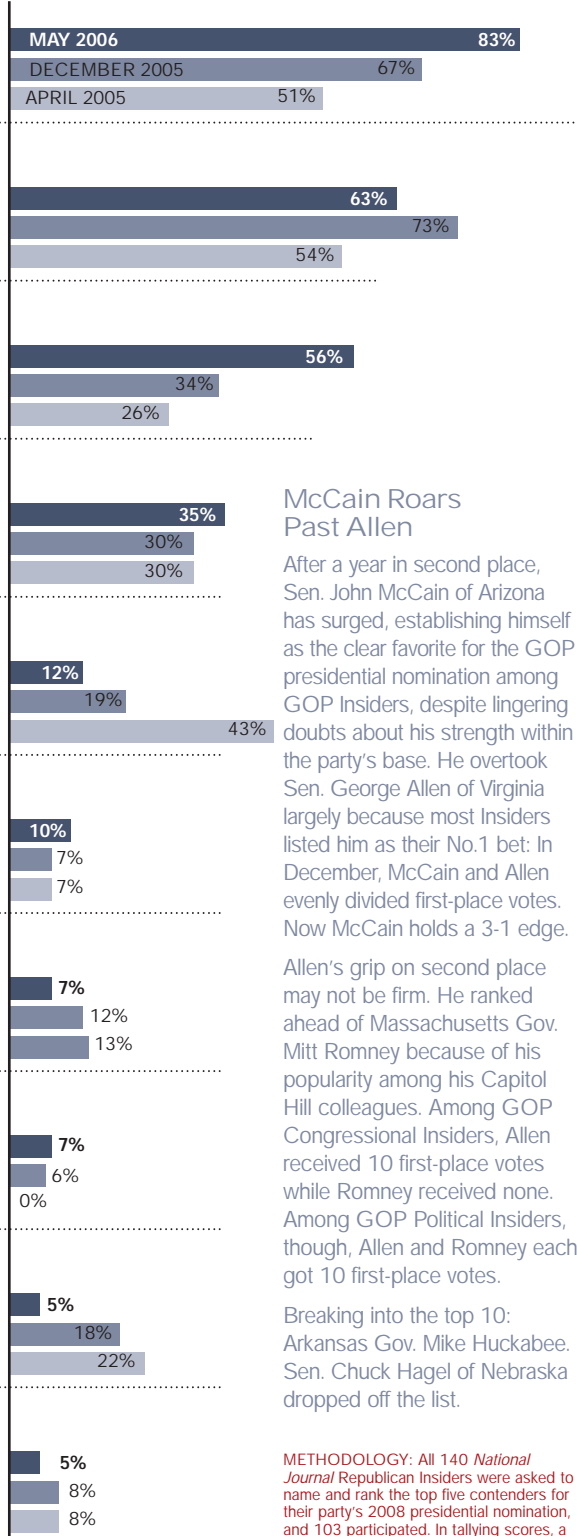
"McCain's the front-runner, several laps ahead of the field, but it gets harder from here on out. He will be the most sought-out surrogate fundraiser this fall, which allows him the opportunity to pick up a lot of chits."

"I never thought, a year ago, that I would say this, but McCain is on his way to becoming the pre-emptive favorite for the nomination. There is still plenty of time for him to blow it, but right now he is tracking due north."

"Right now he is the leader of the



PERCENTAGE OF POSSIBLE MAXIMUM POINTS



McCain Roars Past Allen

After a year in second place, Sen. John McCain of Arizona has surged, establishing himself as the clear favorite for the GOP presidential nomination among GOP Insiders, despite lingering doubts about his strength within the party's base. He overtook Sen. George Allen of Virginia largely because most Insiders listed him as their No.1 bet: In December, McCain and Allen evenly divided first-place votes. Now McCain holds a 3-1 edge.

Allen's grip on second place may not be firm. He ranked ahead of Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney because of his popularity among his Capitol Hill colleagues. Among GOP Congressional Insiders, Allen received 10 first-place votes while Romney received none. Among GOP Political Insiders, though, Allen and Romney each got 10 first-place votes.

Breaking into the top 10: Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska dropped off the list.

METHODOLOGY: All 140 *National Journal* Republican Insiders were asked to name and rank the top five contenders for their party's 2008 presidential nomination, and 103 participated. In tallying scores, a first-place vote was worth 5 points, a second-place vote 4 points, and so on.



pack, but it is hard to wear both the 'front-runner' and 'maverick' labels. It could drive him and the voters crazy."

■ On George Allen

"He tends to be a pleasant surprise to people when they hear him speak. He also has a good sense of how to use issues, a skill stunningly absent in our party lately."

"He has cooled off in recent months, but the potential is still there. A tougher-than-expected Senate race may keep him occupied and drain off his cash, delaying and perhaps destroying his chance to become the conservative alternative to McCain."



RICHARDA BLOOM

Allen

times he is trying so hard to be the Gipper he comes across as needing some identity counseling."

"Allen owns the swim lane for country-music conservatives, but may lack the heft to carry the party."

■ On Mitt Romney

"Has had the best last-90 days. Both the Memphis showing [at the conference of Southern and Midwestern Republican activists] and the successful rollout of his health care plan have been pluses. Also, there's a lot of buzz about how well his fundraising is going."



RICHARDA BLOOM

Romney

"Private businessman who got Massachusetts, of all places, to do health care vouchers. The jury's still out on the religion question."

"It's an advantage to be running from outside the Beltway in an anti-Washington year."

"Mitt has everything it takes—ideas, charisma, polish. But can someone who won over voters of the most liberal state also win over conservatives? Seems unlikely."

■ GOP Congressional Insiders Sens. Lamar Alexander, George Allen, Jim Bunning, Conrad Burns, John Cornyn, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, Mel Martinez, Lisa Murkowski, Olympia Snowe, John Sununu, John Thune; Reps. Sherwood Boehlert, John Boehner, Kevin Brady, John Campbell, Chris Cannon, Eric Cantor, Michael Castle, Tom Cole, Tom Davis, John Doolittle, David Dreier, Phil English, Jeff Flake, Mark Foley, Bob Goodlatte,

■ GOP Political Insiders Dan Allen, Stan Anderson, Gary Andres, Rich Ashooh, Brett Bader, Mitch Bainwol, Gary Bauer, David Beckwith, Wayne Berman, Charlie Black, Kirk Blalock, Jeff Boyeink, Jeff Buley, Luke Byars, Nick Calio, Jim Cicconi, Jake Corman, Greg Crist, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Rick Davis, Mike Dennehy, Ken Duberstein, Steve Duprey, Debi Durham, Frank Fahrenkopf, Don Fierce, Alex Gage, David Girard-diCarlo, Bill Greener, Lanny Griffith, Janet Mullins Grissom, Doug Gross, Steve Hart, Ralph Hellmann, Chris Henick, Clark Judge, David Kensingler, Bruce Keough, Bob Kjellander, Ed Kutler, Chris Laciuita, Jim

"Romney is right out of central casting as candidates go and is probably the smartest and most disciplined of the bunch. His [Mormon] faith is an issue but one which could break for him, especially if it becomes dinner-table conversation across America."

■ On Rudy Giuliani

"Even though he is socially to the left of most of the party, he is so strong on terrorism and crime that he is well liked by all the party."

"If he is ever to run, it must be now. His proven leadership skills and ability to attract independents as well as moderates enhance his appeal among a party desperate to win."

"A solid rock star, but has enjoyed making millions and probably has lost the fire in the belly. But still could be a contender."

"Almost all Republicans admire the 'nation's mayor' for the leadership he demonstrated after 9/11. However, as a candidate, many Republicans will be repelled by his personal life and views on most social issues."

■ Etcetera

On Bill Frist: "He may be a great heart-transplant surgeon, but he needs one himself. Comes from a long line of charismatically challenged candidates from Tennessee."

On Newt Gingrich: "Great idea guy, not enough dough. Not happening."

On Condoleezza Rice: "Celebrity goes a long way."

On Mike Huckabee: "The executive-experienced Southerner in the nomination chase."

On Haley Barbour: "It's hard to see, but he's well connected and has the good side of the Katrina story to tell."

On George Pataki: "Nicest guy around, but when he enters a room, 'Hail to the Chief' doesn't appear to be playing. But no one works harder, and he can raise the money."

ALSO MENTIONED ...

Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas, Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, 3 percent each of possible maximum points; Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Vice President Cheney, 2 percent each; Colorado Gov. Bill Owens, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, 1 percent each; Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, OMB Director-designate Rob Portman, South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, less than 1 percent each.

—JAMES A. BARNES, RICHARD E. COHEN, AND PETER BELL

Melissa Hart, Doc Hastings, J.D. Hayworth, Pete Hoekstra, Bobby Jindal, Peter King, Jack Kingston, Mark Kirk, Jim Kolbe, Ray LaHood, Dan Lungren, Kenny Marchant, Jim McCrery, Patrick McHenry, Cathy McMorris, John Mica, Marilyn Musgrave, Sue Myrick, Mike Pence, Tom Price, Deborah Pryce, Adam Putnam, Dave Reichert, Tom Reynolds, Mike Rogers of Michigan, Paul Ryan, Pete Sessions, Christopher Shays, John Sweeney, Zach Wamp, and Joe Wilson.

Lake, Chuck Larson, Steve Lombardo, Joel Maiola, Mary Matalin, Dan Mattoon, Bill McInturff, Mark McKinnon, Kyle McSillarow, Jim Merrill, Mike Murphy, Terry Nelson, Neil Newhouse, David Norcross, Ziad Ojakli, Jack Oliver, Tony Perkins, Van B. Poole, Tom Rath, Scott Reed, David Rehr, Steve Roberts, David Roederer, Ed Rogers, Dan Schnur, Russ Schriefer, Rich Schwarm, Rick Shelby, Don Sipple, Javier Soto, Fred Steeper, Eric Tanenblatt, Heath Thompson, Jay Timmons, Warren Tompkins, Dirk van Dongen, Jan van Lohuizen, Dick Wadhams, John Weaver, Dave Winston, and Ginny Wolfe.



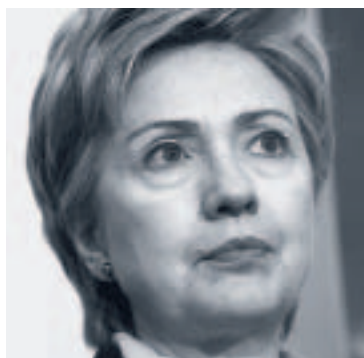
2008 Democratic Insiders Poll

Who has the best chance to be your party's 2008 presidential nominee?

■ On Hillary Rodham Clinton

"If she runs it will be like Bush 2000, overwhelming front-runner raises all the money and stumbles once but still wins."

"She's the \$20 million gorilla. Once she opens the Internet spigot, she will raise tons more there, too. Her biggest



Clinton

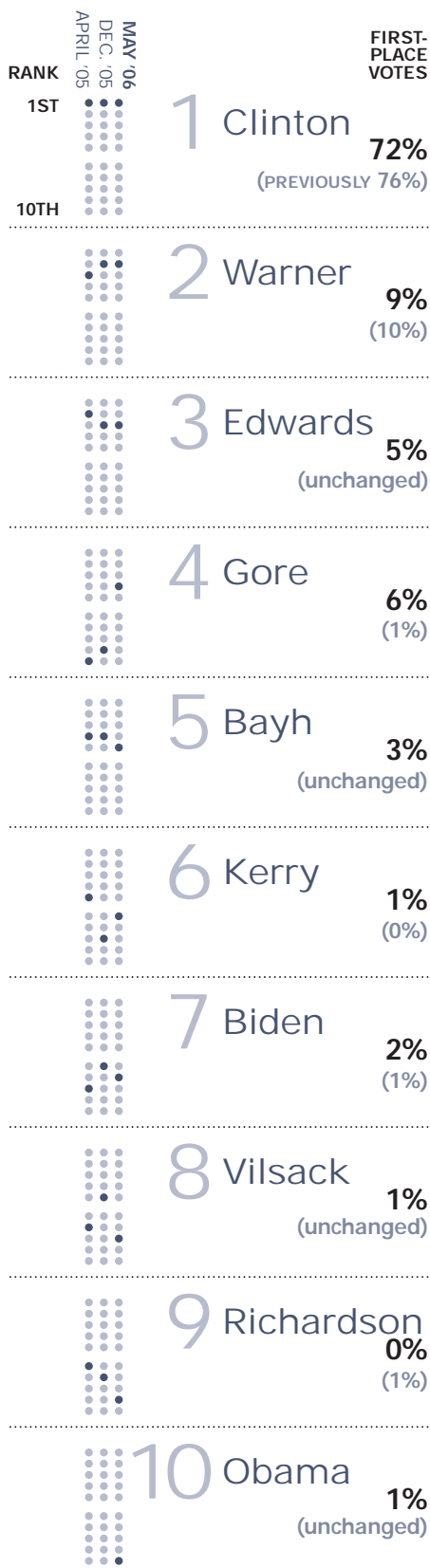
hurdle—the widespread belief among Democratic activists across the country that she flat-out can't win the general election—has got to be dealt with."

"The system is so front-loaded it benefits a candidate with money and existing name recognition. Bill Clinton of '92 couldn't beat her today the way the calendar is set up."

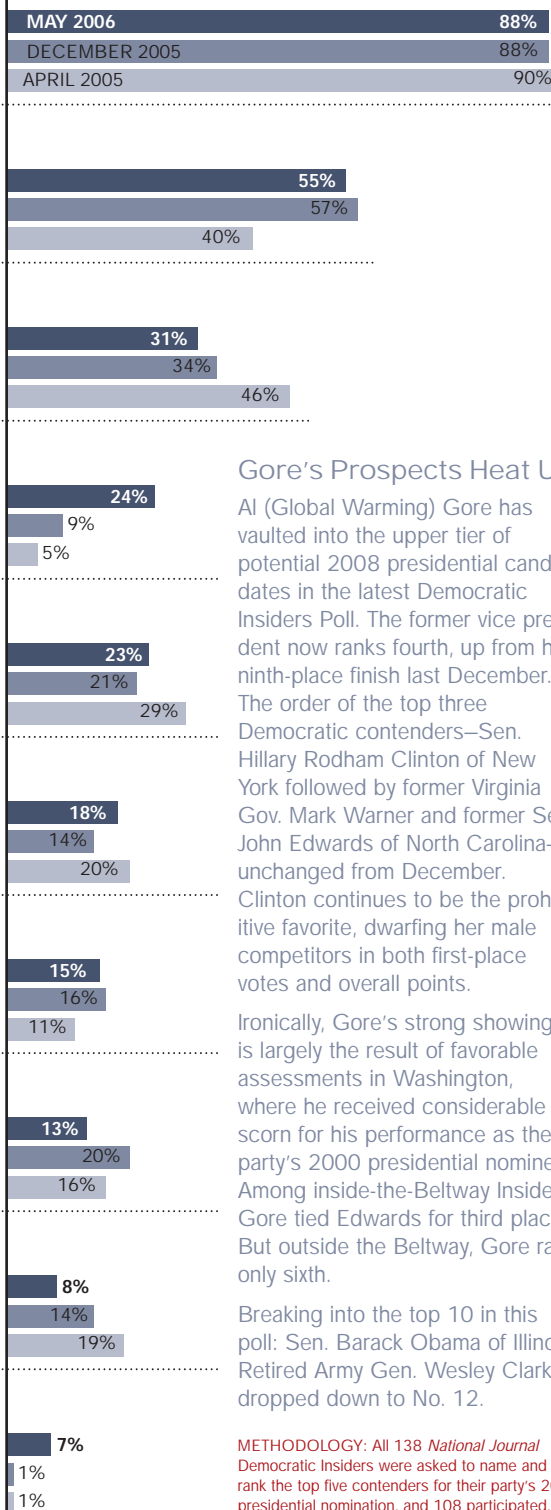
"It's Hillary's to lose, but she could be vulnerable to a liberal challenge, and Gore or Edwards could be that surprise in a heavy liberal/peace challenge in Iowa."

"There is still a lingering sense that a second Clinton presidency could be deeply polarizing and could pave the way for a centrist Republican nominee in 2012."

"Senator Clinton will continue to occupy the top slot until the voting starts; then all bets are off: Feels like Howard Dean circa 2004."



PERCENTAGE OF POSSIBLE MAXIMUM POINTS



Gore's Prospects Heat Up

AI (Global Warming) Gore has vaulted into the upper tier of potential 2008 presidential candidates in the latest Democratic Insiders Poll. The former vice president now ranks fourth, up from his ninth-place finish last December. The order of the top three Democratic contenders—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York followed by former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner and former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina—is unchanged from December. Clinton continues to be the prohibitive favorite, dwarfing her male competitors in both first-place votes and overall points.

Ironically, Gore's strong showing is largely the result of favorable assessments in Washington, where he received considerable scorn for his performance as the party's 2000 presidential nominee. Among inside-the-Beltway Insiders, Gore tied Edwards for third place. But outside the Beltway, Gore ran only sixth.

Breaking into the top 10 in this poll: Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois. Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark dropped down to No. 12.

METHODOLOGY: All 138 *National Journal* Democratic Insiders were asked to name and rank the top five contenders for their party's 2008 presidential nomination, and 108 participated. In tallying scores, a first-place vote was worth 5 points, a second-place vote 4 points, and so on.



2008 Democratic Insiders Poll



AP/GETTY IMAGES/FABRICE GOFFENINI

Warner

■ On Mark Warner

"Seems like the strongest 'not-Hillary' candidate out there: self-made, articulate, and Southern. His door-to-door style may be best suited to the folksy Iowa and New Hampshire contests."

"With the national yearning for a competent executive, Warner has the best credentials as a governor and business executive. He also has Clintonian focus and will not be outworked."

"Has all the assets on paper, but what is missing is his narrative of where he would take the party and the country."

"Would not finish second if the primaries started today, but he is doing as much as anybody to set the table for a successful long-term run. If the election comes down to who is most competent, Warner can be the nominee."

■ On John Edwards

"I had written him off, but he has smartly carved out a niche on the economic left. The MoveOn crowd could yet adopt him as its most plausible hope."

"When you hear him in person, you are reminded of why many activists were excited about his 2004 candidacy. However, based on how little electoral bump Edwards seemed to generate in November 2004, it's hard for him to make the 'electability' argument."

"How could he let his PAC spend down to zero? It will make the fundraising questionable."

"Will have surprising early strength with labor and in Iowa and other early states. Also [it's] a big help that he's run before, both in terms of name identification and knowing what works."

■ On Al Gore

"He can run on eight years of peace and prosperity versus the mess that the Republicans have created. Seems as though the '00 experience and aftermath have allowed him to grow comfortable with himself."



RICHARD A. BLOOM

Gore

"Never would have said this even six months ago, but there's a clear path for him. That being said, I doubt he runs."

"Pressure could grow on him to run and, ironically, be the fresh face. This Nixon 1968 scenario fits Gore perfectly."

"If Al Gore runs, he wins. Gore captures the energy of the activist left combined with strong minority support. Hillary feels stale in a retro '90s way."

"If he gets in ... he becomes the clear alternative to Hillary and makes it much tougher for the rest of the pack to break through. He can make the case that he can win based on the best argument of all—he already has won."

"Conventional wisdom is that Senator Clinton has the nomination clinched, but the grassroots tell me that while they believe she would be a good president, they are not convinced that she will win—and we need a winner. Al Gore, after [the global-warming documentary] *An Inconvenient Truth* comes out, will remind us that we could have done better and still can."

■ Etcetera

On Evan Bayh: "Raising money and honing his skills. There will be a tendency to underestimate him, but he's gotten elected governor and senator in a very red state."

On John Kerry: "Has shown remarkable resilience. Now the hard part: convincing Democrats to overcome their collective fascination with inexperienced 'fresh-face' candidates."

On Joseph Biden: "To his credit, he has stayed on the map. But the primary calendar will not favor him, and his ties are weak to each of the elements of the party base."

On Tom Vilsack: "The Iowa caucuses and his outsider positioning are substantial assets."

On Bill Richardson: "You can't argue with his credentials: congressman, U.N. ambassador, secretary of Energy, and governor. Now, can he raise the dough?"

ALSO MENTIONED ...

Sen. Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, 6 percent of possible maximum points; retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark, 5 percent; New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, former Sen. Tom Daschle of South Dakota, Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, 1 percent each; Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich, Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer, less than 1 percent each.

—JAMES A. BARNES, RICHARD E. COHEN, AND PETER BELL

■ Democratic Congressional Insiders Sens. Christopher Dodd, James Jeffords (independent), Edward Kennedy, Frank Lautenberg, Barbara Mikulski, Mark Pryor, Ken Salazar; Reps. Tom Allen, Tammy Baldwin, Melissa Bean, Xavier Becerra, Howard Berman, Marion Berry, Rick Boucher, Sherrod Brown, Michael Capuano, Ben Cardin, James Clyburn, Jim Cooper, Joseph Crowley, Elijah Cummings, Artur Davis, Jim

Davis, Diana DeGette, Rosa DeLauro, Eliot Engel, Anna Eshoo, Sam Farr, Chaka Fattah, Bob Filner, Alcee Hastings, Mike Honda, Steve Israel, Jim Langevin, John Lewis, Zoe Lofgren, Nita Lowey, Ed Markey, Jim McDermott, Jim McGovern, Jim Moran, David Price, Silvestre Reyes, Jan Schakowsky, Jose Serrano, Adam Smith, John Spratt, Pete Stark, John Tanner, Ellen Tauscher, Bennie Thompson, Chris Van Hollen, and Henry Waxman.

■ Democratic Political Insiders Karen Ackerman, David Axelrod, Dave Beattie, Andy Bechhoefer, Mike Berman, Donna Brazile, Mark Brewer, Ed Bruley, George Bruno, Deb Callahan, Bonnie Campbell, Bill Carrick, Tony Coelho, Jim Craig, Jerry Crawford, Jim Demers, Tad Devine, Monica Dixon, Tom Donilon, Anita Dunn, Steve Elmendorf, Eric Eve, Vic Fazio, Scott Ferson, Tina Flournoy, Don Foley, Don Fowler, Gina Glantz, Joe Grandmason, Anna Greenberg, Stan Greenberg, Pat Griffin, Michael Gronstal, Marcia Hale, Paul Harstad, Laura Hartigan, Harold Ickes, Marcus Jadotte, Steve Jarding, Jim Jordan, Gale Kaufman, Shar

Knutson, Kam Kuwata, Celinda Lake, David Lang, Sylvia Larsen, Jeff Link, Bill Lynch, Steve Marchand, Jim Margolis, Paul Maslin, Terry McAuliffe, Caroline McCarter, Gerald McEntee, Mark Mellman, John Merrigan, Steve Murphy, David Nassar, Marcia Nichols, John Norris, Tom Ochs, Tom O'Donnell, Jeffrey Peck, Debora Pignatelli, John Podesta, Tony Podesta, Bruce Reed, Steve Ricchetti, Susan Rice, Will Robinson, Steve Rosenthal, John Ryan, Wendy Sherman, Erik Smith, Doug Sosnick, Darryl Sragow, Karl Struble, Sarah Swisher, Eric Tabor, Jeffrey Trammell, Ed Turlington, Mike Veon, Rick Wiener, Bridgette Williams, and JoDee Winterhof.