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PRESS RELEASE

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Emerson College Poll: Teflon Donald takes double-digit lead into GOP debates. Kasich surges into top 10. Hillary holds a slim lead against all Republican rivals.

One week out from the first GOP debate, Donald Trump leads the crowded Republican presidential field with 31% of the vote, followed by Gov. Jeb Bush at 15% and Gov. Scott Walker in third at 13%.

The national survey was conducted by the Emerson College Polling Society (ECPS) from July 26 to July 28, with 481 likely GOP voters participating. The poll's margin of error was 4.4%. Forty percent (40%) of respondents viewed Trump's comments regarding Senator John McCain's war record as unimportant to their vote, while 47% said they would be less likely to vote for Trump because of his remarks. Interestingly, 11% said they were more likely to vote for Trump because of his commentary on McCain.

Rounding out the top 10 Republicans in the poll were Sen. Ted Cruz at 8% and Gov. Mike Huckabee at 6%, followed by Dr. Ben Carson at 5%, and Senators Rand Paul and Marco Rubio at 4%. Carly Fiorina was in 9th place at 3% and Gov. John Kasich was tied with Gov. Chris Christie with 2% of the vote. All other candidates received under 1% of the vote; 7% of Republican primary voters were undecided.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton holds a significant lead for the Democratic presidential nomination, with 54% of likely primary voters favoring her over Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is in second place with 33%, and Vice President Joe Biden who garnered 9%. All other announced Democratic candidates register under 2% of the vote. The sample size of likely Democrat primary voters was 476, with a margin of error of 4.4%.

In a head-to-head contest, Clinton holds a 2-point lead over Jeb Bush (44% to 42%), an 8-point lead over Walker (49% to 41%), and a 9-point lead over Trump (49% to 40%). The poll suggests that likely voters are not thrilled with any of the presidential candidate as all held higher negative than favorable opinions except for Sanders who had a 33% favorable and 32% unfavorable opinion. Clinton has an overall 38% favorable and 48% unfavorable rating; Trump is at 31% to 56%, Bush at 25% to 52% and Walker at 24% to 38%.

Trump holds the highest favorable rating among Republican primary voters at 54% to 33%. Walker has the widest favorability margin (46% to 20%), and Bush is barely in positive territory (40% to 39%).

Caller ID: The Emerson College Polling Society poll was conducted Sunday July 26 through Tuesday July 28. The polling sample for the Democrat and the GOP primary consisted of 476 and 481 likely voters respectively, with a margin of error of +/-4.4% and a 95% confidence level. The General Election sample consisted of 950 likely voters with a margin of error of +/-3.1% and a 95% confidence level. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system. The full methodology and results can be found at www.theecps.com.