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EMERSON POLL: CLINTON LEADS SANDERS BY A WIDE MARGIN IN SOUTH CAROLINA, WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM AFRICAN AMERICANS

Boston, MA – Heading into Saturday’s Democratic presidential primary in South Carolina, Hillary Clinton holds a commanding lead over Bernie Sanders, 60% to 37% among likely Democratic primary voters.

South Carolina is the first primary to test how the candidates will fare with a larger African American voting bloc, who comprise 55% of registered Democrats in the Palmetto State. Clinton appears poised to win this group with 71% of African Americans saying they will vote for her, compared to 25% for Sanders.

She also has a significant advantage among white voters (57% to 40%), women (62% to 33%), men (56% to 43%) and all age groups except young people 18-34, who favor Sanders 55% to 43%. In contrast, those ages 55-74 and 75 and above prefer the former Secretary of State by margins of 56 points and 59 points, respectively.

Likely Democratic primary voters have a very favorable view of both Sanders (75%) and Clinton (73%). However, of those with a positive view of Clinton, 75% plan to vote for her, whereas only 43% of those with a favorable opinion of Sanders say they will vote for him.

Both Clinton and Sanders voters expect Clinton to win. Ninety-one percent (91%) of Clinton supporters said they expect her to win and 67% of Sanders supporters said she would win as well, despite voting for Sanders.

Asked which issue was most important to them in this election, 30% of respondents cited the economy, 27% said race issues were their greatest concern, followed by dissatisfaction with government, chosen by 23%. This is in sharp contrast to the 40% of Republican primary voters in South Carolina who reported last week that defeating ISIS and terrorism was their number one issue.

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The Emerson College Polling Society poll was conducted from February 22-24, 2016. The Democratic primary consisted of 266 likely primary voters, with a margin of error of +/-6%, and the Democratic primary consisted. Data was collected using an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system of landlines only and weighted by 2012 presidential election results. The full methodology and results can be found at theecps.com