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NEW YORK: CLINTON LEADS BY 12

Limits to former senator's home state advantage

West Long Branch, NJ – Hillary Clinton leads Bernie Sanders by 12 points in the upcoming New York Democratic primary. The *Monmouth University Poll* found that likely voters consider Sanders, who left the state after high school, as much of a New Yorker as Clinton, who has lived in the state for 16 years and was twice elected as its U.S. Senator.

Currently, 51% of likely Democratic primary voters in New York support Clinton compared to 39% who support Sanders. Another 9% do not have a candidate preference with just over a week to go before the election.

The race is basically tied among non-Hispanic white primary voters (48% for Sanders and 46% for Clinton), while Clinton enjoys a large lead among black, Hispanic and other voters (62% to 22%). Clinton holds a significant advantage among voters age 50 and older (57% to 36%), while the race is much closer among voters under 50 (45% for Clinton to 43% for Sanders).

Clinton earns similar levels of support across the state, including Manhattan and the Bronx (52%), Brooklyn and Queens (48%), Staten Island and the metro suburbs of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, and Putnam counties (51%), and upstate New York (51%). Sanders performs better upstate (44%) and in the metro suburbs (41%) than he does in Brooklyn/Queens (36%) or Manhattan/Bronx (35%). However, 13% of primary voters in these four New York City boroughs say they do not have a candidate preference.

"It is worth noting that a significant number of minority voters in New York City are undecided. Based on past primaries, these should turn out to be Clinton voters, but Sanders is making an all-out appeal for their support," said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute.

Clinton's service as New York's senator helped sweep her to a 17 point victory over Barack Obama in the 2008 primary. She still receives largely positive marks from primary voters for her time in the Senate – 28% say she did an excellent job and 42% say she did a good job, compared to 20% who say she did an only fair job and just 7% who say she did a poor job.

It does not appear, however, that her time in office gives her much of a home state advantage over Sanders, a native son who moved out of Brooklyn after high school. Just 3-in-10 primary voters (29%) say they definitely consider Clinton to be a New Yorker, while 32% say they think of her as somewhat of a New Yorker. Another 35% say they do not really think of her as a New Yorker. The results for Sanders, who has represented Vermont in Congress for more than two decades, are similar. Nearly 3-in-10 primary voters (28%) say they definitely consider Sanders to be a New Yorker, while 30% say they think of him as somewhat of a New Yorker. Another 33% say they do not really think of him as a New Yorker.

"I'm sure the Clinton camp was hoping for a much bigger lead in her adopted home state, but any such advantage appears to be limited against Sanders," said Murray.

A majority of likely Democratic primary voters (54%) say they are certain about their vote choice, with slightly more Sanders supporters (65%) than Clinton supporters (56%) saying their choice is locked in. Another 24% have a strong preference but are willing to change their minds, 6% have only a slight preference, and 16% say they really are undecided even if they name a candidate choice.

Sanders would have only a slight advantage over Clinton of holding on to the Democratic base in a general election campaign against another New Yorker, Donald Trump. Fully 84% of Democratic primary voters say they would back Sanders in November compared to just 6% who would vote for Trump. If Clinton was the Democratic nominee, 79% of Democratic primary voters say they would back her while 9% say they would vote for Trump.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from April 8 to 10, 2016 with 302 New York voters likely to vote in the Democratic presidential primary. This sample has a margin of error of +5.6 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

DATA TABLES

The questions referred to in this release are as follows:
(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

1. If the Democratic primary election for president was today, would you vote for – [*NAMES WERE ROTATED*]

	April 2016
Hillary Clinton	51%
Bernie Sanders	39%
(VOL) Other	1%
(VOL) Undecided	9%
(n)	*(302)*

2. Which of the following best describes where your decision stands at this moment: I am completely decided on which candidate I will support, I have a strong preference right now but I am willing to consider other candidates, I have a slight preference among a group of candidates I like, or I am really undecided among a number of candidates?

	April 2016
Already voted	*3%*
Completely decided	51%
Strong preference	24%
Slight preference	6%
Undecided	16%

[*QUESTIONS 3 & 4 WERE ROTATED*]
3. If Donald Trump became the Republican nominee and Hillary Clinton became the Democratic nominee, who would you vote for in the general election in November – Trump or Clinton or an independent candidate, or would you not vote for president?

	April 2016
Donald Trump	9%
Hillary Clinton	79%
Independent candidate	8%
Would not vote	2%
(VOL) Undecided	2%

4. If Donald Trump became the Republican nominee and Bernie Sanders became the Democratic nominee, who would you vote for in the general election in November – Trump or Sanders or an independent candidate, or would you not vote for president?

	April 2016
Donald Trump	6%
Bernie Sanders	84%
Independent candidate	4%
Would not vote	3%
(VOL) Undecided	3%

[*QUESTIONS 5 & 6 WERE ROTATED*]
5. Do you consider Hillary Clinton to be a New Yorker – definitely, somewhat, or not really?

	April 2016
Definitely	29%
Somewhat	32%
Not really	32%
(VOL) Not at all	3%
(VOL) Don't know	4%

6. Do you consider Bernie Sanders to be a New Yorker – definitely, somewhat, or not really?

	April 2016
Definitely	**28%**
Somewhat	**30%**
Not really	**30%**
(VOL) Not at all	**3%**
(VOL) Don't know	**8%**

7. How would you rate the job Clinton did when she was a U.S. Senator representing New York – excellent, good, only fair, or poor?

	April 2016
Excellent	**28%**
Good	**42%**
Only fair	**20%**
Poor	**7%**
(VOL) Don't know	**3%**

POLL DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)
LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

42% Male	*20% 18-34*	*65% White*
58% Female	*27% 35-49*	*18% Black*
	31% 50-64	*13% Hispanic*
	22% 65+	*4% Other*

MARGIN OF ERROR
LIKELY DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

	LIKELY VOTERS	*GENDER*		*POLITICAL IDEOLOGY*		
		Male	*Female*	*Very Liberal*	*Somewhat Liberal*	*Mod/ Conserve*
Unweighted N	*302*	*122*	*180*	*83*	*59*	*152*
moe	*5.6%*	*8.9%*	*7.3%*	*10.8%*	*12.8%*	*8.0%*

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