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Hearst Newspapers/Siena College Poll:

Do you think the United States is Ready for a Women President in 2008? - 62% say 'yes'

81% would vote for a woman for president

53% say Hillary should run; 42% say Condi Rice should run

67% say a woman president would be better than a man on health, education

Loudonville, NY – In a just-released national Hearst Newspapers/Siena College poll, 62% of registered voters say that the United States is ready for a woman president in 2008; 81% say they would vote for a woman as president. The poll of 1,125 registered voters from the fifty states and the District of Columbia has a margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

Looking at the 2008 presidential race:

- 60% expect a woman to be on the Democratic ticket for president
- 42% expect a woman to be on the Democratic ticket for vice president
- 18% expect a woman to be on the Republican ticket for president
- 28% expect a woman to be on the Republican ticket for vice president

The Hearst Newspapers/Siena College poll also asked respondents if four women active in public affairs nationally should run for president. New York's Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton received the greatest support (53%), followed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (42%). Trailing were Senators Elizabeth Dole (33%) and Barbara Boxer (13%).

	Barbara Boxer	Hillary Rodham Clinton	Elizabeth Dole	Condoleezza Rice
Should run	13%	53%	33%	42%
Should not run	39%	37%	48%	41%
No opinion	11%	8%	12%	10%
Don't know who she is	38%	1%	7%	7%

The Hearst Newspapers/Siena College poll was conducted as part of a First Woman President Symposium to be hosted by Siena College March 4-5 on its campus in Loudonville (Albany), New York.

Hearst Newspapers/Siena College Poll
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“The results are fascinating and very encouraging for women – and all Americans who want the nation’s highest office held by the best people, regardless of their gender,” said Dr. Douglas Lonnstrom, director of the Siena Research Institute and professor of statistics. “There was very little difference between men (64%) and women (60%) on whether or not the country was ready for a woman president in 2008 and whether or not respondents were prepared to vote for a woman – 80% of men and 82% of women said ‘yes.’

“‘Run, Hillary, Run’ says a majority of women, half of men and three-quarters of Democrats. And Condi Rice has the majority of Republicans telling her to run as well,” Lonnstrom said.

The survey asked if a woman president would be *better*, *worse*, or *no different* than a man president would be on certain issues.

Would a woman president be better than a man president on:	Foreign policy	Commander-in-Chief	Domestic Issues
Better	24%	18%	67%
Worse	11%	23%	3%
No different	52%	45%	23%
don't know	13%	15%	7%

“Overwhelmingly, American voters think that a woman president would be better on domestic issues than a man president. But even more interesting is that more people think that a woman would be better than a man on foreign policy issues and by only a very small margin do voters think that a male president would be better than a female as commander-in chief,” Lonnstrom said.

“Hosting the symposium and conducting the poll are logical extensions of the Siena College Research Institute’s expert opinion polls, which include ‘America’s Greatest Presidents’ and ‘Ranking the First Ladies,’” Lonnstrom said. “These seminal works, begun in 1982 and repeated with each new president, have shown credible consistency and the rankings have been used in numerous books and journal references.

“There has been tremendous support for SRI’s upcoming First Woman President Symposium and I am certain that this will increase interest even more. Helen Thomas and Eleanor Clift are headlining an outstanding group of presenters,” Lonnstrom concluded.

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This Hearst Newspapers/Siena College poll was conducted February 10-17, 2005 by telephone calls to 1,125 registered voters in the fifty states and the District of Columbia. It has a margin of error of ± 2.9 points. For more information or comments, please call Dr. Douglas Lonnstrom, Director, Siena Research Institute, at 518-281-1711.