



Hillary Clinton And Mitt Romney Win UNH Straw Poll

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DURHAM, N.H. — New York Sen. Hillary Clinton and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney edged out the competition in a straw poll taken at the University of New Hampshire Museum where an exhibit featuring political memorabilia runs through Jan. 22 — the original New Hampshire primary date.

Clinton garnered 17 votes while her Democratic challengers Dennis Kucinich and Barack Obama tied at 16 each. John Edwards received 10 votes; Chris Dodd, 4; Bill Richardson, 3; Joe Biden, 1; Mike Gravel, 0.

On the Republican side, John McCain followed Romney with 5 votes; Ron Paul 4; Rudy Giuliani, 3; Mike Huckabee, 1; Fred Thompson, 1; and Tom Tancredo, Sam Brownback, John Cox, 0.

Write-in candidates included Stephen Colbert who received 2 votes while Al Gore, Al Sharpton, and Spongebob Squarepants received 1 each.

The museum exhibit "Up Close and Personal: A Look at the NH Primaries" presents a local collection of political memorabilia and offers a look at the unique access to candidates that New Hampshire people enjoy. The majority of the objects belong to Susan Roman ('74) and her husband, Chris Regan, both Durham attorneys.

One display case has a ribbon from 1840 bearing the names of President William H. Harrison, the first Whig elected to the office, and his vice president, John Tyler.

A campaign button reads, "Eleanor start packing. The Willkies are coming." Wendell Lewis Willkie was nominated for president by the Republican Party in 1940 to run against Franklin D. Roosevelt.

George McGovern paid a visit to New Hampshire before the 1972 election which he lost by a landslide to Richard M. Nixon. A poster on display carries his well-known statement made before the Senate Armed Services Committee: "I'm fed up with old men dreaming up wars for young men to die in."

Shirley Chisholm, the first African American to seek the presidency, also visited the Granite State during the 1972 primary. The campaign poster included in the museum collection says, "The Unbossed and the Unbought."

The museum, which features two exhibitions per year highlighting different aspects of UNH history, is open during the fall and spring semesters Monday-Friday 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and, between semesters and during the summer Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information go to <http://www.izaak.unh.edu/Museum> or phone 862-1081.

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