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TO: Interested Parties

FR: The Feldman Group, Inc.
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Senator Hillary Clinton holds a commanding lead among women primary voters in three February 5th primary states and that support results from women voters' considered opinions that Clinton has the traits they are looking for in a President.

EMILY's List's WOMEN VOTE! project recently conducted a survey of 900 Democratic primary women voters in three February 5 states—New Jersey, Georgia and Arizona. The study was designed to assess the strength of Clinton's bid for President among women primary voters, and to understand the basis for her support among this group.

Key findings from the survey:

- **In these three states, Clinton is viewed favorably by 85 percent of women primary voters.** That includes 36 percent of women primary voters who view her *very* favorably. Clinton is viewed more favorably than both Senator Barack Obama (71 percent total favorable including 23 percent very favorable) and John Edwards (67 percent total favorable including 15 percent very favorable).
- **Clinton enjoys a wide lead over all her opponents.** When asked which of the leading candidates for the Democratic nomination they would support, 54 percent of women voters chose Senator Clinton. Her nearest opponent, Barack Obama, received the support of only 18 percent of women voters, with 9 percent of voters undecided. Their support is quite enthusiastic, with 75 percent of those who are supporting Clinton saying that they support her because they are excited about her, rather than concerned about supporting one of the other candidates.



- **Clinton enjoys a similarly wide lead in all three states, and across all age, educational and racial categories.** Clinton leads across age groups with 60 percent of women 65 and above, 54 percent of ages 44-64, and 49 percent of ages 18-44. Across racial groups, Clinton receives support from 55 percent of whites, 54 percent of African-Americans, and 51 percent of Hispanics. She leads both married (55 percent) and unmarried (54 percent) women, as well as non-college (58 percent) and college graduates (50 percent). Clinton leads among women who are employed full time (51 percent), retired (57 percent), and women who describe themselves as homemakers (56 percent). Clinton also leads among women who are Catholic (55 percent), Protestant (56 percent) and Evangelical or other Christian faiths (57 percent).
- **Women primary voters want someone with the experience and background to handle the job of President—and they see Clinton as that candidate.** When asked to identify the characteristic they are most looking for in a President, experience and background to handle the job is seen as most important; in fact, 38 percent of these voters say the top quality they want in a candidate for President is “someone who has the experience and background to handle the job of President”. When asked if Clinton “has the experience to be President,” 71 percent of voters give her an 8 or higher on a scale of zero to ten. Thirty-eight (38) percent say the phrase describes her perfectly.
- **Clinton is perceived as the candidate of change by women primary voters.** Thirty-three percent of voters say that they want a candidate who “will bring the biggest change to our country”. Among Democratic primary women voters, 72 percent give her an 8 or higher, with 39 percent saying “will bring change” describes Clinton perfectly.
- **Women primary voters see Clinton as a strong commander in Chief.** Seventy-two (72) percent of voters rate Clinton an 8 or higher on this measure. Thirty-six (36) percent of Democratic primary women voters said that the description “would be a strong commander in Chief” describes her perfectly.
- **They trust Clinton to be a capable leader on the issues they care about most.** Affordable healthcare (43 percent) and ending the war in Iraq (42 percent) were the top issues among Democratic primary women voters. When asked if Clinton’s vote to authorize the use of force in Iraq bothered them, 42 percent said not at all. Clinton also receives high marks on “will be effective and get things done” (70 percent rated her an 8 or higher on a zero to ten scale, and 32 percent said it described her perfectly), “is someone I trust” (62 percent rated her an 8 or higher, 30 percent said it described her perfectly), and “will get us out of Iraq” (53 percent rated her an 8 or higher, 23 percent said it described her perfectly).

- **On important personal qualities—like “caring about children”, being “someone they respect”, “someone they trust”, “having integrity” and being a person with “similar life experiences”—voters give Clinton strong marks.** Seventy-six percent of voters rate her an 8 or higher, and 45 percent of Democratic primary women say that “someone they respect” is a phrase that describes Clinton perfectly. Seventy-six percent rate her an 8 or higher, and 44 percent say that “cares about children” describes her perfectly. Seventy percent rate her strongly as someone who “has integrity” and 62 percent feel strongly that Clinton is “someone I trust”. Just over half (51 percent) of voters say that Clinton’s experiences as a woman are at least somewhat similar to their own.
- **Clinton also benefits from the excitement many women voters feel about the prospect of her as the first woman president.** When asked to rate the importance of Clinton becoming the first woman President of the United States, 37 percent said that it was more important to them than nearly anything else in the election, giving it an 8 or higher on a zero to 10 scale of importance. However, they do not believe that Clinton being a woman will have a negative affect on her performance as President. A large majority (68 percent) said it would have no effect and 27 percent said that it would make her a better President, with just 2 percent saying it would make her a worse President.

Consistent with other national and state-specific polling, Clinton is doing extremely well with women Democratic primary voters. There is tremendous depth to the support that women primary voters express for Clinton. Women primary voters appear to have given careful consideration to the qualities they want in a President and are satisfied that Senator Clinton is the candidate who measures up best by those standards—decreasing the likelihood of significant shifts among women voters.