

GOP race up for grabs, Democrats tied

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The latest poll in the U.S. presidential campaign indicated a tight race between Democratic contenders and a wide open Republican field. The latest Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, released Thursday, has former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani in a near dead heat with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, with both candidates holding a slim lead over former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Arizona Sen. John McCain. The tight Republican field suggests the opinions of the national electorate are shifting from Iraq and Reagan-era conservatism to a more protectionist stance on the domestic economy amid the declining popularity of U.S. President George Bush, the Journal said. The Democratic presidential field is more stable than the Republican race as Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., has a wide lead in national polls over Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill. Obama, however, gained momentum in Iowa and New Hampshire where Clinton's lead diminished amid concerns she is cold, polarizing and pandering to the electorate. The Journal/NBC poll indicates Obama leads in a theoretical race with Huckabee by 48 percent to 36 percent, while Clinton in the same match-up has a 46 percent to 44 percent edge. The poll surveyed 1,008 adults from Dec. 14-17 and had a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

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