

National poll shows tight Democratic race

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Democrats haven't picked a U.S. presidential nominee but like their options while Republicans made their choice but aren't too happy, a national poll indicated. The USA Today/Gallup Poll taken Friday through Sunday revealed the race between Democratic Sens. Barack Obama of Illinois and Hillary Clinton of New York too close to call, USA Today reported Tuesday. Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, Obama bested Clinton 47 percent to 44 percent, the first time he has led the USA Today survey. The margin of error was 4 percentage points. Republican front-runner Sen. John McCain of Arizona was backed by 53 percent of Republicans and held a 2-1 lead over former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, the poll showed. However, nearly half of those surveyed indicated they would prefer someone else as the party's nominee. The survey of 1,016 adults showed a presidential contest attracting high levels of interest and generating enthusiasm among Democrats. Twelve percent call Clinton and Obama the best presidential candidate of their lifetimes. Another 50 said Clinton was "better than most," while 48 percent said the same of Obama. Two percent of Republicans said McCain was the best candidate; 32 percent said he was better than most.

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