

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Abby Taylor

312.222.3188

ATaylor@McCormickTribune.org

OBAMA AND HUCKABEE DECLARED FRONTRUNNERS IN MCCORMICK TRIBUNE FREEDOM MUSEUM STUDENT ELECTION POLL

Will Student Poll Predict Outcome on Super Tuesday?

CHICAGO, January 31, 2008—More than 1,000 Chicagoland students voiced their support for Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee in an election poll of students, high school and below, visiting the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum between December 8 and January 25. While most of the students polled are unable to vote on Super Tuesday, the more than 6,000 adults participating in the Freedom Museum visitor poll also reached the same outcome.

“In the last three decades, there’s been a significant decline in youth participation, due to lack of education on our political process, polarizing candidates and the feeling of alienation as leaders neglect issues that resonate with young people,” said Shawn Healy, resident scholar, McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum. “The Freedom Museum poll reveals that young people are engaged and thinking for themselves, and it is our goal to encourage and involve them in this historic election.”

The student polling results declared Barack Obama as the top choice among Illinois youth, capturing 80 percent of the vote. Mike Huckabee was the preferred candidate among young Republicans, with 34.9 percent of the vote. The student election poll results defy the national polls that show Hillary Clinton leading Barack Obama by 8.5 percent, 43.1 percent to 34.5 percent (in a composite of polls collected to date by *Pollster.com*), and John McCain leading Huckabee by 12.8 percent, 32 percent to 19.5 percent (in a composite of polls collected to date by *Pollster.com*).

The McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum plans to capture the voice of future voters on Super Tuesday. On February 5, more than 3,000 Chicagoland students will participate in the Freedom Museum’s Student Vote Project by casting a vote in a primary simulation. Throughout the day, students will have an opportunity to see how their votes fare among others by checking live election results posted on the Freedom Museum Student Vote Project Web site: www.freedommuseum.us/students/student_vote_2008.htm.

For the General Election on November 4, the Freedom Museum will open up the Student Vote Project to any middle or high school classes that are interested in participating.

-more-

Freedom Museum Student Election Poll - Page 2

Adult Polling Results

More than 6,000 adult visitors cast their vote at the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum during the 2008 election season. The Museum's "adult" visitor polling results also counter the national polls declaring Barack Obama and Mike Huckabee the winners. Obama claimed 53.5 percent of the Democratic vote, compared to Hillary Clinton's 29.9 percent. Huckabee maintained 27 percent of the Republican vote with John McCain trailing close behind with 22 percent. In the past two weeks, the Freedom Museum's adult polling results have been consistent with the national polls showing Huckabee declining, and McCain surging upward.

"These polling results are an interesting sample of voter sentiment in Illinois and the Midwest," said Healy. "Democratic candidates have received significantly more support at the Museum, which is consistent with the higher voter turnout witnessed in the Democratic primary elections to date."

Polling Statistics:

Note: This is not a random sample. It includes visitors (general visitors and school groups) to the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum from December 8, 2007-January 25, 2008. The Museum has only included statistics for top candidates.

Democrats	Students:	Adults:
Barack Obama	80.3%	53.5%
Hillary Clinton	14%	29.9%
John Edwards	1.4%	7.1%

Republicans	Students:	Adults:
Mike Huckabee	34.9%	27%
Mitt Romney:	17.7%	10.7%
Rudy Giuliani:	15.4%	21.8%
Ron Paul	12.6%	9.5%
John McCain:	9.7%	22%

Other	Students:	Adults:
None:	4.8%	6.4%
Green:	2.2%	2.4%
Libertarian:	0.3%	1.2%

About the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum

The McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum (www.FreedomMuseum.US) inspires generations to better understand, value and protect freedom. Through interactive exploration, visitors gain a greater understanding of the struggle for freedom in the United States and the role the First Amendment plays in society. The McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum is part of the McCormick Tribune Foundation team, which also includes the Robert R. McCormick Museum, Cantigny Park and Golf, the Cantigny First Division Foundation and five grant making programs.

A focus on children, communities and country binds the Foundation and its many parts and keeps us true to our mission of advancing the ideals of a free and democratic society. To learn more, please visit www.McCormickTribune.org.

#