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Obama troops undeterred by Clinton

 By [Max Pizarro](#) - April 3, 2007 - 8:52pm

 Tags: [Obama](#), [Clinton](#),

 by **MAX PIZARRO**
PoliticsNJ.com

A ceremony for the 2008 Presidential candidacy of Sen. Hillary Clinton in Elizabeth drummed up buko backing in New Jersey on Monday, but supporters of Sen. Barack Obama continue to organize on the ground -- and work for the endorsements from public officials who so far, at least publicly, remain coy about their presidential picks.

Riding a surge of rock star popularity nationwide, Obama limps far behind Clinton in the polls - 40-19 in New Jersey, according to Quinnipiac University.

But Newark City Councilman Ronald Rice Jr., whose unofficial role in the burgeoning Obama campaign is to serve as a liaison between the grassroots movement for Obama and elected officials, says the ground remains fertile for the freshman Illinois senator to come from behind with less than a year to go before the Democratic Primary here.

Rice says he noticed a lot of political figures were absent from the steps of Elizabeth City Hall yesterday when Gov. Jon Corzine and others threw their support behind Clinton.

"It's not what you see on the Republican side, where almost everyone is endorsing (former New York City Mayor) Rudy Giuliani," says Rice. "There are important Democrats who weren't represented there, including Sen. Frank Lautenberg and Sen. Robert Menendez, the mayors of New Jersey's biggest cities (namely Cory Booker and Jerramiah Healy, who both support Obama), and much of the rest of the New Jersey Congressional delegation."

The Newark councilman, who says he supported Vermont Gov. Howard Dean in the 2004 Democratic Primary, remembers when then-Gov. James McGreevey backed Dean early, bringing almost every elected official along with him, a circumstance that in Rice's view dampened the grassroots movement for Dean. It ended up not mattering much, as Dean's candidacy was dead before the New Jersey Primary.

But Rice says what happened then was instructive, as he now sees an opportunity for Obama, unfettered by a ceremonial coronation - to move forward here on the grassroots level, to transmit a sense of urgency to voters for the battle ahead, as well as play the suitor to uncommitted politicians.

"It's going to be about who has the best army on the ground to get the vote out," says Rice. "Right now, this is not even half of what you'd consider the power leaders of the state who are supporting Hillary. I think if you'd look at this list compared to the list of Democratic politicians who got behind Dean in 2004 with McGreevey, that group in '04 would outnumber this one, 2-1."

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WHERE'S FRANK & BOB?

 Submitted by [Mr. Democrat](#) on April 3, 2007 - 10:41pm.

I haven't heard any explanation of where Lautenberg and Menendez were yesterday.

If Corzine can't even convince his 2 closest allies, then I'd say his rally yesterday was more fluff than substance.

I hope this means that Frank & Bob are still open to other candidates, and will consider taking a look at Obama and Edwards.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
May 9, 2007

"Don't come near me; you're liable to get slapped." -- David Callaway, of the Atlantic City political family, to a reporter after leaving a courtroom yesterday.

--Press of Atlantic City, 05/09/07

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DOES ANYONE REALLY THINK

Submitted by [WNYer](#) on April 3, 2007 - 11:05pm.

Does anyone really think that Obama or Edwards have any chance at all at becoming president?

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YES AND WE ARE MANY

Submitted by [Steve Spagnolo](#) on April 4, 2007 - 1:58am.

To respond to WNYer and comment on the endorsements which took place on Monday April 2nd yes I do think that Obama and possibly even Edwards has a chance of becoming President. As someone who follows polling one might say that Obama has an even better chance than Hillary in winning against some key Republicans such as Giuliani and McCain. Hillary on the other hand is having difficulty in head to head contest and has a strong dislikability factor which will hurt her. Also with regards particularly to New Jersey, Sen. Obama has about 23% while Hillary has 37% according to the American Research Group. I point this out to show that the Quinnipiac poll is a bit old and recent polling shows a slow shift in favor of Obama. Sen. Obama, as of now, is still behind by 14% in New Jersey, but with the grassroots efforts growing New Jersey will be a state Hillary will have to fight to keep. One must keep in mind that although Gov. Corzine and the other democratic party leadership in New Jersey have endorsed Clinton they are only one vote in the Primary and they truly only count in the sense that they are fundraiser endorsement and not really much more. Sincerely, Steve Spagnolo NJ Team Administrator-Families for Obama

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ENDORSEMENTS NOW KEY

Submitted by [Aesop](#) on April 4, 2007 - 10:10am.

With all the states moving their primaries to February the need for a candidate to have surrogates speak for them is more important than ever. Hillary being both well-known and a senator from a neighboring state should have had many more endorsements. NJ is open for any candidate at this point.

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BEATING CLINTON'S MONEY GAME...

Submitted by [Stanczyk](#) on April 4, 2007 - 11:33am.

Also, Obama's strength in fundraising can be clearly seen in his grassroots and netroots support both online and in the field. New Jersey is definitely a battleground for the primary season. The establishment is suffering from premature endorsing.

See for yourself:

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/eqqwrap/>

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EDWARDS OR OBAMA COULD BE PRESIDENT

Submitted by [MartinOne](#) on April 4, 2007 - 11:47am.



Also in response to another poster's inquiry, I too would argue that Obama or Edwards could be the Democratic nominee; surely, none of us, from whatever political stripe, would foresee Clinton doing better than either of them versus a Republican in a general election. Keep in mind that Edwards has been leading consistently in Iowa, and he just moved up several points in the polls in N.H. (Clinton @ 27%, Edwards @ 21%, Obama @ 20%). Also keep in mind that name recognition, more than anything else, is at play in these early polls; Joe Lieberman was the leading Dem at this point in the '04 race, and he didn't exactly take the nomination by storm. I also think that there is a wink-wink, nudge-nudge between Edwards supporters and Obama supporters that, should there only be two candidates left later in the primary/caucus season, we'll defect to each other's camp to ensure that one of them, not Hillary, gets the nomination. Finally, someone from the second tier, and I would wager it would be Richardson or possibly Biden, will get momentum for the nomination, if history holds true, so there should be another wildcard coming.

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POLL

Who wins a congressional race in the second district between Frank LoBiondo and Jeff Van Drew:

- LoBiondo
 Van Drew



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BIDEN?

Submitted by [Aesop](#) on April 4, 2007 - 11:57am.

Oh come on Martin One did you throw that in because you are a South Jersey guy and had to name the senior Senator from the great state of Delaware. His time has come and gone back in '88.

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OBAMA

Submitted by [aviator](#) on April 4, 2007 - 5:54pm.

If Obama was white he would have been laughed at and forgotten by the media long ago. So please, this new found politician with all these great ideas, ideas that have been around forever, is a nothing. As for Edwards, he is nothing but a cutie-boy trial lawyer - a disingenuous man.

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I DON'T THINK SO

Submitted by [Nick](#) on April 5, 2007 - 10:26am.

Wow? A nothing? At least 100,000 people disagree- 100,000 being the number of donors to Sen. Obama's campaign. That's double the amount of donors to HRC's campaign and 40,000 more contributors than John McCain.



It's not his race Aviator - it's his intellect, his judgement and most importantly it's his commitment to shift the tone of national political debate from "Rovian" divide and conquer politics (focused on issues that split the electorate like gay marriage and abortion) to a message of unity and cooperation (focused on issues that everyone can get behind like smarter foreign policy and providing healthcare to 46 million uninsured Americans).

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ROVIAN

Submitted by [aviator](#) on April 6, 2007 - 9:06am.

Rovian. Wow, what a term for divide and conquer! Anyhow, what I stated was that Obama is nothing more than the common politician that is in office today. He has no new issues or new ways of producing results for these old/new issues. No politician running for president or for that matter, in congress, floats my boat. The country needs someone who will do the right thing, like "Mr. Smith goes to Washington." No matter what, the nation will survive, but at what cost to its people!

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