

## SOUTH CAROLINA ACTIVIST SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAY DEAN HAS BEST CHANCE OF BEATING BUSH

Charleston, SC - The South Carolina Democratic Leadership Council (SCDLC) today launched the Democratic Digital Dialogue, a series of events and activities to use the internet and new technology to get more people involved in the upcoming presidential primary. The project was launched with the release of an [Online Survey of Party Activists](#).

"The SCDLC believes that the presidential primary is important for our state and we want to get more people involved," said Rep. John L. Scott, Jr. Chairman of the SCDLC. "This is only the first of a number of exciting activities that we have planned."

Over 500 Democratic Party activists participated in the weeklong survey that was conducted completely online via email and the SCDLC's website, [www.scdlc.org](http://www.scdlc.org). The survey had numerous questions about the various candidates, the most important issues nationally and in South Carolina and provided space for participants to directly tell the candidates what they thought was most important.

"The SCDLC is about encouraging new ideas and new people to help reform politics in South Carolina," said Phil Noble, President of the SCDLC. ""Using the Internet and new technology to engage more and different people and give them a voice is an important step in the process of reform."

The complete results of the Survey are posted on the SCDLC website and will be sent to all the Democratic Presidential candidates for their response. The candidates' response will be added to the site and then people can discuss the candidates and their comments on the [SCDLC Big Ears Message Board](#). The message board will remain active until the primary election on February 3.

**The Activist Survey Results** - The survey showed that today Governor Howard Dean is the favorite candidate of the activist/participants in the survey. The results were:

□ Gov. Howard Dean 34%	□ Sen. John Edwards 18%
□ General Wesley Clark 14%	□ Sen. John Kerry 11%
□ Cong. Dick Gephardt 7%	□ Cong. Dennis Kucinich 4%
□ Sen. Joe Lieberman 3%	□ Rev. Al Sharpton 2%
□ Ambassador Carol Mosley-Braun 1%	□ Others 6%

### Other findings from the online survey:

- **When questioned on which candidate respondents thought would have the best chance of beating Bush, Dean was the highest choice with 33 percent followed second by Clark with 27 percent, and third by Edwards with 14 percent.**
- Over 80 percent of the respondents thought the overall condition of South Carolina was on the wrong track.
- Over 91 percent thought the United States was on the wrong track.
- Crime, followed by Terrorism and Minority Issues were the three most important issues for SC activist.
- Dean scored highest on the candidate with the best ideas on dealing with Crime followed by Kerry, and then by Senator John Edwards.
- Clark scored highest as the candidate with the best ideas on dealing with Terrorism followed second by Dean and third by Kerry.
- The Reverend Al Sharpton scored highest as the candidate with the best ideas on Minority issues followed by Ambassador Carol Moseley-Braun and third by Dean.
- Dean scored highest as the candidate who respondents thought cared most about them.
- Wesley Clark was the candidate who respondents thought had the greatest leadership abilities.
- John Edwards was the candidate respondents thought was most likable.
- Noting that the candidates have different positions on the war in Iraq the majority of respondents preferred a candidate who opposed the war from the beginning.
- The majority also favored a candidate who wanted to repeal all of President Bush's tax cuts.
- Social security was another important issue to respondents who were mixed about the best way to fund the increasing demand the service. Only 3 percent thought the best way included reducing the benefit payouts, while responses to other ideas such as raising taxes, reforming immigration policies, and increasing Social Security's rate of return was evenly distributed.

The SCDLC is both a think tank and a do tank - an action-oriented public policy organization that gives a voice to people who want move beyond politics and seek to build support for a new public philosophy built on progressive ideals, mainstream values and innovative non-bureaucratic solutions to the challenges facing South Carolina families. Sign up for the SCDLC newsletter at [www.scdlc.org](http://www.scdlc.org).