



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2011

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IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE

Obama, Romney deadlocked, Gingrich down four in N.C.

Raleigh, N.C. – North Carolina remains as dead-even as ever. President Obama and his potentially toughest foe, Mitt Romney, are tied at 46% apiece. In four straight polls, the two have been even, give or take a point, and in every monthly poll PPP has conducted in the Tar Heel State this year, Obama has led by no more than three and Romney by no more than one. A year ago, the two were tied at 44%.

New frontrunner Newt Gingrich has closed on the president since last month, as has Ron Paul, but neither can quite match Romney's competitiveness. Gingrich trails by four points (49-45), and Paul is down by five (47-42). Both have closed by three points since late October, while Romney is down an insignificant point, having led 46-45 then. Rick Perry is at the same eight-point (50-42) deficit as in the previous survey.

As the GOP primary contest heads toward Iowa, North Carolina voters have soured a little on Romney and improved their views of Gingrich, Paul, and Obama. Romney's favorability spread has declined eight points from 36-47 to 32-51, while Gingrich is up ten from 35-53 to 41-49, now the most popular of the Republicans. Paul is up four from 22-54 to 26-54. The president's approval rating is now 47%, with 50% disapproving, versus 45-50 in the last poll.

The president has improved by ten points with independents both in the approval column and in the head-to-head against Romney, now trailing by only five points. Gingrich leads by four, and Paul by eight with unaffiliated voters. Gingrich's problem is that he allows Obama to consolidate more of his base than Romney does, and a lot of Republicans are on the fence when faced with a choice of Obama and Paul.

"Our North Carolina polling has been amazingly consistent over the course of this year," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "It will be a hotly contested swing state in 2012."

PPP surveyed 865 North Carolina voters from December 1st to 4th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.3%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.

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North Carolina Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 47%
Disapprove..... 50%
Not sure 3%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Herman Cain?

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 59%
Not sure 16%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 49%
Not sure 11%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 54%
Not sure 20%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Perry?

Favorable..... 19%
Unfavorable 65%
Not sure 17%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 32%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 17%

Q7 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Herman Cain, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 50%
Herman Cain..... 37%
Undecided..... 13%

Q8 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 49%
Newt Gingrich 45%
Undecided..... 5%

Q9 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 47%
Ron Paul..... 42%
Undecided..... 11%

Q10 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Perry, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 50%
Rick Perry 42%
Undecided..... 9%

Q11 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 46%
Mitt Romney..... 46%
Undecided..... 8%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	46%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	48%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	6%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	9%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	17%
<i>Moderate</i>	30%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	24%
<i>Very conservative</i>	19%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	52%
<i>Man</i>	48%

Q15 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	47%
<i>Republican</i>	35%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	18%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	75%
<i>African-American</i>	20%
<i>Other</i>	4%

Q17 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	30%
<i>46 to 65</i>	38%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%

Q18

<i>252</i>	11%
<i>336</i>	19%
<i>704</i>	24%
<i>828</i>	12%
<i>910</i>	16%
<i>919</i>	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	9%	86%	27%
Disapprove	50%	90%	9%	64%
Not sure	3%	1%	5%	9%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	25%	41%	12%	16%
Unfavorable	59%	43%	75%	57%
Not sure	16%	17%	14%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	41%	68%	13%	42%
Unfavorable	49%	22%	76%	39%
Not sure	11%	9%	11%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	26%	28%	23%	37%
Unfavorable	54%	52%	59%	33%
Not sure	20%	20%	18%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	19%	30%	8%	17%
Unfavorable	65%	51%	79%	50%
Not sure	17%	19%	13%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	45%	21%	25%
Unfavorable	51%	39%	64%	47%
Not sure	17%	16%	16%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Cain				
Barack Obama	50%	10%	91%	35%
Herman Cain	37%	68%	6%	35%
Undecided	13%	21%	3%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	11%	90%	29%
Newt Gingrich	45%	84%	8%	44%
Undecided	5%	6%	2%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	11%	86%	22%
Ron Paul	42%	73%	10%	51%
Undecided	11%	16%	4%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	50%	11%	91%	28%
Rick Perry	42%	79%	5%	45%
Undecided	9%	11%	4%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	8%	86%	27%
Mitt Romney	46%	84%	9%	41%
Undecided	8%	8%	5%	31%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	47%	86%	86%	57%	18%	14%
Disapprove	50%	14%	11%	35%	80%	85%
Not sure	3%	-	3%	7%	2%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cain Favorability						
Favorable	25%	9%	12%	21%	31%	44%
Unfavorable	59%	83%	77%	60%	49%	42%
Not sure	16%	7%	11%	19%	20%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	41%	16%	11%	29%	63%	68%
Unfavorable	49%	74%	82%	56%	29%	20%
Not sure	11%	10%	7%	14%	8%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	26%	21%	20%	24%	37%	22%
Unfavorable	54%	64%	62%	53%	45%	56%
Not sure	20%	14%	18%	22%	18%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Favorability						
Favorable	19%	15%	6%	9%	30%	33%
Unfavorable	65%	71%	82%	75%	52%	46%
Not sure	17%	14%	12%	16%	18%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	32%	16%	16%	33%	50%	31%
Unfavorable	51%	69%	71%	49%	35%	48%
Not sure	17%	15%	13%	17%	16%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Cain						
Barack Obama	50%	87%	87%	63%	22%	16%
Herman Cain	37%	8%	8%	24%	58%	69%
Undecided	13%	5%	4%	13%	20%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	49%	86%	88%	63%	19%	15%
Newt Gingrich	45%	11%	10%	32%	73%	80%
Undecided	5%	3%	3%	5%	9%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	47%	81%	88%	57%	20%	15%
Ron Paul	42%	14%	9%	32%	64%	70%
Undecided	11%	5%	3%	11%	16%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Perry						
Barack Obama	50%	85%	89%	63%	19%	15%
Rick Perry	42%	11%	10%	26%	66%	78%
Undecided	9%	4%	1%	11%	14%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	46%	82%	89%	57%	15%	15%
Mitt Romney	46%	13%	11%	34%	76%	75%
Undecided	8%	5%	1%	10%	9%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	47%	52%	41%
Disapprove	50%	42%	58%
Not sure	3%	5%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cain Favorability			
Favorable	25%	20%	31%
Unfavorable	59%	62%	55%
Not sure	16%	18%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	41%	32%	50%
Unfavorable	49%	52%	45%
Not sure	11%	16%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	26%	24%	29%
Unfavorable	54%	53%	56%
Not sure	20%	23%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Favorability			
Favorable	19%	16%	22%
Unfavorable	65%	63%	66%
Not sure	17%	21%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	32%	32%	33%
Unfavorable	51%	48%	55%
Not sure	17%	21%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Cain			
Barack Obama	50%	58%	42%
Herman Cain	37%	30%	45%
Undecided	13%	13%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	49%	55%	43%
Newt Gingrich	45%	38%	53%
Undecided	5%	7%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	47%	53%	41%
Ron Paul	42%	34%	50%
Undecided	11%	13%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Perry			
Barack Obama	50%	56%	43%
Rick Perry	42%	32%	52%
Undecided	9%	12%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	46%	53%	39%
Mitt Romney	46%	38%	54%
Undecided	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	79%	7%	43%
Disapprove	50%	18%	92%	51%
Not sure	3%	4%	1%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	25%	16%	39%	23%
Unfavorable	59%	73%	43%	54%
Not sure	16%	11%	18%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	41%	18%	72%	41%
Unfavorable	49%	73%	18%	43%
Not sure	11%	9%	10%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	26%	22%	27%	34%
Unfavorable	54%	61%	51%	44%
Not sure	20%	17%	22%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	19%	12%	30%	14%
Unfavorable	65%	74%	50%	67%
Not sure	17%	13%	20%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	22%	46%	33%
Unfavorable	51%	63%	36%	50%
Not sure	17%	16%	18%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Cain				
Barack Obama	50%	83%	9%	45%
Herman Cain	37%	11%	72%	36%
Undecided	13%	6%	19%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	83%	7%	43%
Newt Gingrich	45%	14%	88%	47%
Undecided	5%	3%	5%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	79%	9%	39%
Ron Paul	42%	16%	74%	47%
Undecided	11%	5%	17%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	50%	82%	8%	45%
Rick Perry	42%	13%	81%	41%
Undecided	9%	4%	11%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	79%	6%	40%
Mitt Romney	46%	16%	87%	45%
Undecided	8%	5%	7%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	35%	89%	57%
Disapprove	50%	61%	9%	38%
Not sure	3%	3%	2%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	25%	28%	16%	23%
Unfavorable	59%	57%	68%	48%
Not sure	16%	15%	16%	29%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	41%	48%	13%	35%
Unfavorable	49%	42%	73%	44%
Not sure	11%	9%	14%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	26%	29%	17%	13%
Unfavorable	54%	53%	64%	33%
Not sure	20%	18%	19%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	19%	21%	12%	17%
Unfavorable	65%	64%	72%	39%
Not sure	17%	15%	16%	44%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	37%	15%	35%
Unfavorable	51%	48%	68%	32%
Not sure	17%	16%	17%	33%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Cain				
Barack Obama	50%	39%	91%	57%
Herman Cain	37%	45%	7%	34%
Undecided	13%	16%	2%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	38%	90%	51%
Newt Gingrich	45%	56%	8%	45%
Undecided	5%	6%	3%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	36%	90%	53%
Ron Paul	42%	52%	7%	32%
Undecided	11%	13%	3%	15%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	50%	38%	90%	53%
Rick Perry	42%	51%	7%	35%
Undecided	9%	10%	2%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	35%	89%	40%
Mitt Romney	46%	56%	9%	42%
Undecided	8%	9%	2%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	56%	50%	48%	37%
Disapprove	50%	37%	49%	50%	59%
Not sure	3%	7%	2%	3%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cain Favorability					
Favorable	25%	20%	30%	25%	22%
Unfavorable	59%	61%	53%	61%	63%
Not sure	16%	19%	17%	14%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	41%	35%	41%	38%	50%
Unfavorable	49%	50%	50%	50%	42%
Not sure	11%	15%	9%	12%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	26%	27%	32%	20%	27%
Unfavorable	54%	53%	49%	60%	53%
Not sure	20%	20%	19%	20%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	19%	20%	21%	16%	20%
Unfavorable	65%	65%	63%	67%	61%
Not sure	17%	15%	16%	17%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	32%	25%	32%	30%	40%
Unfavorable	51%	62%	50%	53%	42%
Not sure	17%	13%	17%	17%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Cain					
Barack Obama	50%	64%	50%	52%	40%
Herman Cain	37%	25%	41%	35%	41%
Undecided	13%	11%	9%	13%	19%

	Base	Age			
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Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	49%	60%	49%	51%	41%
Newt Gingrich	45%	35%	47%	43%	53%
Undecided	5%	5%	4%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	47%	55%	48%	49%	39%
Ron Paul	42%	36%	45%	40%	44%
Undecided	11%	9%	7%	11%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Perry					
Barack Obama	50%	56%	51%	51%	40%
Rick Perry	42%	33%	44%	40%	46%
Undecided	9%	11%	5%	9%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	46%	56%	48%	47%	37%
Mitt Romney	46%	36%	46%	45%	54%
Undecided	8%	7%	6%	8%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama Approval							
Approve	47%	48%	46%	44%	36%	46%	61%
Disapprove	50%	49%	51%	54%	58%	52%	35%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	2%	6%	2%	4%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Cain Favorability							
Favorable	25%	21%	23%	32%	20%	37%	15%
Unfavorable	59%	64%	61%	56%	55%	47%	70%
Not sure	16%	15%	16%	12%	25%	16%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Gingrich Favorability							
Favorable	41%	47%	42%	45%	38%	46%	28%
Unfavorable	49%	44%	46%	47%	49%	43%	62%
Not sure	11%	9%	12%	8%	13%	11%	10%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Paul Favorability							
Favorable	26%	25%	24%	31%	26%	25%	24%
Unfavorable	54%	54%	55%	54%	49%	52%	61%
Not sure	20%	22%	22%	16%	25%	23%	15%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perry Favorability							
Favorable	19%	27%	17%	21%	23%	19%	8%
Unfavorable	65%	55%	70%	61%	55%	60%	81%
Not sure	17%	18%	13%	18%	22%	21%	11%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Romney Favorability							
Favorable	32%	32%	29%	33%	31%	45%	24%
Unfavorable	51%	52%	53%	51%	48%	40%	62%
Not sure	17%	16%	18%	17%	20%	15%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Cain							
Barack Obama	50%	50%	48%	45%	42%	50%	67%
Herman Cain	37%	40%	37%	38%	45%	39%	24%
Undecided	13%	9%	15%	17%	13%	11%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Gingrich							
Barack Obama	49%	50%	47%	45%	43%	47%	64%
Newt Gingrich	45%	47%	45%	49%	54%	48%	31%
Undecided	5%	4%	8%	6%	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Paul							
Barack Obama	47%	46%	48%	42%	39%	43%	64%
Ron Paul	42%	44%	39%	46%	52%	44%	29%
Undecided	11%	10%	13%	12%	9%	13%	7%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Perry							
Barack Obama	50%	48%	49%	46%	43%	45%	65%
Rick Perry	42%	45%	39%	46%	51%	43%	28%
Undecided	9%	7%	12%	8%	6%	12%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Romney							
Barack Obama	46%	45%	47%	42%	38%	42%	63%
Mitt Romney	46%	49%	44%	49%	56%	51%	32%
Undecided	8%	7%	9%	10%	6%	7%	6%

