

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

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

Obama leads Romney by five points nationally

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama has brought his approval rating back into the high 40s, and he finds himself with his largest national popular vote lead over Mitt Romney since last May—a turnaround from last month, which was the first time Romney had actually led the president nationally in 17 months.

47% approve and 50% disapprove of the president’s job performance, up from 45-52 in PPP’s December national poll. Obama leads Romney by five points, 49-44. The Republican frontrunner had actually pulled ahead of the president by two points (47-45) in the previous survey.

Romney is still pulling 13% of Democrats, more than any of the other four Republicans tested, but a few more Republicans have moved from Romney’s camp to the ranks of the undecided. The most movement, however, is with independents, who favored Romney by nine points in December and Obama by 10 now.

Obama leads the others by similar margins to last month: Ron Paul also by five (47-42), Newt Gingrich by seven (49-42), and Rick Perry by 11 (51-40). Rick Santorum, tested nationally for the first time, trails by eight points (50-42).

Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson is down from 9% to 7% of the national vote since last month, but he still stands to hurt Romney more, helping Obama to a 47-40 win. Another potential candidate, Stephen Colbert, would actually hurt the president more than Romney, pulling 13% of the national vote and keeping Obama to a 41-38 margin.

“Mitt Romney’s in a great position to win the Republican nomination right now,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But the things he’s had to say to get to that point don’t seem to be helping him with independent voters. This is the worst he’s polled against Obama since right after Osama bin Laden was killed.”

PPP surveyed 700 American voters from January 13th to 16th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.7%. 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.



National Survey Results

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

Approve 47%
Disapprove..... 50%
Not sure 4%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 60%
Not sure 14%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 57%
Not sure 16%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Perry?

Favorable..... 21%
Unfavorable 63%
Not sure 15%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 13%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Santorum?

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 19%

Q7 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 49%
Newt Gingrich 42%
Undecided..... 9%

Q8 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

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

Q9 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Perry, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 51%
Rick Perry 40%
Undecided..... 10%

Q10 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 49%
Mitt Romney..... 44%
Undecided..... 7%

Q11 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Santorum, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 50%
Rick Santorum 42%
Undecided..... 8%





Q12 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, and Libertarian Gary Johnson, who would you vote for?

<i>Barack Obama</i>	47%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	40%
<i>Gary Johnson</i>	7%
<i>Undecided</i>	6%

Q13 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Stephen Colbert?

<i>Favorable</i>	36%
<i>Unfavorable</i>	28%
<i>Not sure</i>	36%

Q14 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, and independent Stephen Colbert, who would you vote for?

<i>Barack Obama</i>	41%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	38%
<i>Stephen Colbert</i>	13%
<i>Undecided</i>	7%

Q15 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	8%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	21%
<i>Moderate</i>	27%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	25%
<i>Very conservative</i>	19%

Q16 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

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

Q17 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>	41%
<i>Republican</i>	35%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	24%

Q18 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i>	10%
<i>White</i>	73%
<i>African-American</i>	11%
<i>Other</i>	6%

Q19 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>	28%
<i>46 to 65</i>	40%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	47%	80%	85%	62%	15%	12%
Disapprove	50%	18%	14%	28%	83%	87%
Not sure	4%	2%	1%	10%	2%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	26%	10%	9%	11%	43%	50%
Unfavorable	60%	84%	84%	72%	40%	35%
Not sure	14%	6%	7%	17%	17%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	27%	13%	21%	31%	27%	31%
Unfavorable	57%	70%	64%	51%	55%	58%
Not sure	16%	17%	15%	17%	18%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Favorability						
Favorable	21%	7%	10%	8%	30%	46%
Unfavorable	63%	78%	78%	74%	52%	43%
Not sure	15%	15%	12%	18%	18%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	35%	18%	17%	28%	56%	43%
Unfavorable	53%	69%	70%	57%	32%	47%
Not sure	13%	13%	12%	15%	12%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	30%	13%	9%	18%	45%	57%
Unfavorable	51%	71%	75%	60%	32%	30%
Not sure	19%	16%	16%	22%	23%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	49%	79%	86%	70%	18%	9%
New t Gingrich	42%	11%	9%	19%	71%	84%
Undecided	9%	10%	6%	10%	11%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	47%	79%	83%	63%	18%	10%
Ron Paul	42%	11%	9%	27%	64%	80%
Undecided	11%	10%	8%	10%	18%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Perry						
Barack Obama	51%	82%	88%	72%	18%	11%
Rick Perry	40%	11%	9%	18%	66%	81%
Undecided	10%	7%	4%	9%	16%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	49%	80%	84%	68%	17%	11%
Mitt Romney	44%	18%	11%	27%	71%	80%
Undecided	7%	2%	5%	5%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	50%	78%	89%	69%	17%	12%
Rick Santorum	42%	15%	8%	21%	68%	85%
Undecided	8%	7%	4%	10%	15%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney/Johnson						
Barack Obama	47%	77%	84%	67%	15%	9%
Mitt Romney	40%	9%	12%	22%	68%	70%
Gary Johnson	7%	5%	0%	8%	8%	13%
Undecided	6%	9%	4%	2%	8%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Colbert Favorability						
Favorable	36%	46%	66%	42%	15%	17%
Unfavorable	28%	26%	14%	17%	39%	46%
Not sure	36%	28%	20%	41%	46%	37%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney/Colbert						
Barack Obama	41%	72%	72%	56%	18%	7%
Mitt Romney	38%	9%	12%	21%	63%	66%
Stephen Colbert	13%	10%	11%	18%	10%	15%
Undecided	7%	9%	5%	5%	9%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	47%	53%	39%
Disapprove	50%	42%	57%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	26%	24%	29%
Unfavorable	60%	59%	61%
Not sure	14%	17%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	27%	17%	37%
Unfavorable	57%	63%	51%
Not sure	16%	20%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Favorability			
Favorable	21%	17%	26%
Unfavorable	63%	64%	63%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	35%	33%	37%
Unfavorable	53%	50%	55%
Not sure	13%	16%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	30%	26%	35%
Unfavorable	51%	51%	51%
Not sure	19%	23%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	49%	55%	43%
Newt Gingrich	42%	36%	49%
Undecided	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	47%	52%	41%
Ron Paul	42%	34%	50%
Undecided	11%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Perry			
Barack Obama	51%	55%	46%
Rick Perry	40%	33%	47%
Undecided	10%	12%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	49%	54%	43%
Mitt Romney	44%	40%	49%
Undecided	7%	6%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	50%	55%	43%
Rick Santorum	42%	37%	47%
Undecided	8%	8%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney/Johnson			
Barack Obama	47%	53%	41%
Mitt Romney	40%	35%	45%
Gary Johnson	7%	6%	8%
Undecided	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Colbert Favorability			
Favorable	36%	30%	42%
Unfavorable	28%	25%	32%
Not sure	36%	46%	25%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney/Colbert			
Barack Obama	41%	50%	33%
Mitt Romney	38%	35%	41%
Stephen Colbert	13%	9%	18%
Undecided	7%	6%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	79%	4%	52%
Disapprove	50%	15%	95%	44%
Not sure	4%	6%	1%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	12%	45%	24%
Unfavorable	60%	75%	40%	65%
Not sure	14%	13%	15%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	27%	21%	33%	28%
Unfavorable	57%	63%	51%	58%
Not sure	16%	16%	16%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	21%	11%	35%	19%
Unfavorable	63%	72%	46%	74%
Not sure	15%	17%	19%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	35%	18%	53%	38%
Unfavorable	53%	66%	35%	54%
Not sure	13%	16%	12%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	30%	13%	55%	25%
Unfavorable	51%	65%	28%	58%
Not sure	19%	22%	17%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	83%	6%	54%
Newt Gingrich	42%	12%	83%	34%
Undecided	9%	5%	11%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	81%	6%	47%
Ron Paul	42%	12%	80%	38%
Undecided	11%	7%	14%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	51%	85%	7%	55%
Rick Perry	40%	11%	81%	30%
Undecided	10%	5%	12%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	49%	82%	7%	51%
Mitt Romney	44%	13%	84%	41%
Undecided	7%	5%	10%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	50%	85%	6%	52%
Rick Santorum	42%	12%	83%	34%
Undecided	8%	3%	11%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson				
Barack Obama	47%	81%	5%	49%
Mitt Romney	40%	11%	79%	33%
Gary Johnson	7%	4%	8%	11%
Undecided	6%	3%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Colbert Favorability				
Favorable	36%	47%	18%	43%
Unfavorable	28%	21%	39%	26%
Not sure	36%	33%	43%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney/Colbert				
Barack Obama	41%	73%	6%	39%
Mitt Romney	38%	13%	72%	29%
Stephen Colbert	13%	11%	13%	18%
Undecided	7%	2%	9%	14%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	61%	38%	86%	56%
Disapprove	50%	35%	58%	14%	37%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	1%	7%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	26%	28%	29%	11%	19%
Unfavorable	60%	59%	59%	66%	69%
Not sure	14%	13%	12%	23%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	27%	25%	30%	14%	8%
Unfavorable	57%	62%	56%	65%	59%
Not sure	16%	13%	14%	20%	33%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	21%	27%	23%	12%	9%
Unfavorable	63%	61%	62%	69%	73%
Not sure	15%	11%	15%	19%	18%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	35%	38%	38%	16%	33%
Unfavorable	53%	52%	51%	61%	51%
Not sure	13%	10%	11%	24%	15%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	30%	33%	32%	16%	30%
Unfavorable	51%	56%	49%	62%	50%
Not sure	19%	11%	19%	22%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	49%	59%	41%	86%	59%
Newt Gingrich	42%	34%	49%	12%	24%
Undecided	9%	7%	10%	2%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	47%	58%	39%	79%	59%
Ron Paul	42%	35%	48%	13%	24%
Undecided	11%	7%	12%	8%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Perry					
Barack Obama	51%	69%	42%	82%	60%
Rick Perry	40%	27%	47%	12%	24%
Undecided	10%	4%	10%	5%	16%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	49%	66%	40%	82%	58%
Mitt Romney	44%	30%	52%	12%	37%
Undecided	7%	4%	8%	6%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	50%	62%	41%	86%	60%
Rick Santorum	42%	36%	49%	12%	24%
Undecided	8%	2%	10%	2%	16%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson					
Barack Obama	47%	59%	39%	81%	60%
Mitt Romney	40%	29%	47%	12%	26%
Gary Johnson	7%	11%	7%	3%	7%
Undecided	6%	1%	6%	5%	7%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Colbert Favorability					
Favorable	36%	40%	36%	29%	35%
Unfavorable	28%	24%	29%	29%	31%
Not sure	36%	36%	35%	42%	34%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney/Colbert					
Barack Obama	41%	56%	33%	82%	42%
Mitt Romney	38%	30%	44%	12%	26%
Stephen Colbert	13%	12%	15%	3%	17%
Undecided	7%	2%	8%	4%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	50%	53%	44%	40%
Disapprove	50%	43%	45%	52%	55%
Not sure	4%	7%	2%	3%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	26%	29%	19%	29%	30%
Unfavorable	60%	50%	71%	59%	54%
Not sure	14%	21%	10%	12%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	27%	43%	24%	25%	24%
Unfavorable	57%	43%	55%	61%	62%
Not sure	16%	14%	21%	14%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	21%	21%	18%	22%	25%
Unfavorable	63%	57%	68%	64%	61%
Not sure	15%	21%	15%	14%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	35%	25%	30%	38%	42%
Unfavorable	53%	57%	58%	51%	45%
Not sure	13%	18%	11%	12%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	30%	18%	26%	33%	37%
Unfavorable	51%	54%	53%	50%	47%
Not sure	19%	29%	21%	16%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	49%	54%	55%	47%	42%
Newt Gingrich	42%	43%	34%	43%	49%
Undecided	9%	4%	10%	10%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	47%	54%	53%	44%	40%
Ron Paul	42%	36%	39%	42%	48%
Undecided	11%	11%	8%	13%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Perry					
Barack Obama	51%	57%	58%	48%	42%
Rick Perry	40%	39%	32%	41%	49%
Undecided	10%	4%	9%	12%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	49%	54%	57%	46%	39%
Mitt Romney	44%	39%	35%	46%	56%
Undecided	7%	7%	7%	8%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	50%	57%	57%	46%	41%
Rick Santorum	42%	29%	36%	45%	51%
Undecided	8%	14%	6%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney/Johnson					
Barack Obama	47%	50%	55%	44%	40%
Mitt Romney	40%	29%	33%	42%	52%
Gary Johnson	7%	11%	7%	8%	4%
Undecided	6%	11%	4%	6%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Colbert Favorability					
Favorable	36%	61%	44%	30%	21%
Unfavorable	28%	11%	22%	33%	38%
Not sure	36%	29%	34%	37%	41%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney/Colbert					
Barack Obama	41%	36%	46%	42%	38%
Mitt Romney	38%	21%	30%	41%	51%
Stephen Colbert	13%	36%	18%	8%	4%
Undecided	7%	7%	6%	9%	6%

