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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Romney barely favored in Colorado GOP primary

Raleigh, N.C. – There is no denying that Mitt Romney has a more moderate image than many of his potential competitors for the GOP presidential nomination next year. Because of that, he tends to do the best or second-best against President Obama in every state, particularly in the coastal blue states. He also usually leads in those states' Republican primaries. His problem with conservatives may ultimately keep him from winning the nomination in an electorate dominated overwhelmingly by conservative voters faced with candidates trying to out-Tea-Party each other, but at least for now, he is strong in the early tests of the GOP race in the Northeast and West, including Colorado.

Colorado Republicans give Romney a very tenuous lead, with 19% to Mike Huckabee's and Sarah Palin's 16%. Newt Gingrich follows closely with 12% over Ron Paul's 9%, Tim Pawlenty's 7%, John Thune's 4%, and Mitch Daniels' 3%. With the top four and almost the top five candidates within the margin of error of the lead and just as many (16%) undecided or preferring someone else as support either of the second-place candidates, the race in this state is as wide open as anywhere.

Palin runs a close second, at 17% to Romney's 18%, with the huge 72% who call themselves conservative, but Romney just outdoes Huckabee, 22-20, with moderates, with whom Palin gets only 10%. This dichotomy is seen in almost every state, and is propping up Palin and depressing Romney's support. Rarely does Romney even get second place with conservatives, let alone first.

Unlike in many states, where Huckabee or Palin are best liked personally, Romney has the highest favorability rating (60%) and the best net favorable margin (+37), followed closely by Huckabee (59%, +35), Palin (59%, +27), and Gingrich (54%, +27). Palin does best with conservatives (70-22), and Romney second-worst (63-21), but the disparity between their ratings with moderates (Palin's 30-60 to Romney's 55-24) tells the story.

PPP surveyed 400 usual Colorado Republican primary voters from February 4th to 6th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Colorado Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 54%
Unfavorable 27%
Not sure 20%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable..... 59%
Unfavorable 24%
Not sure 17%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 59%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 9%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 60%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 18%

Q5 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

Mitch Daniels 3%
Newt Gingrich 12%
Mike Huckabee 16%
Sarah Palin 16%
Ron Paul..... 9%
Tim Pawlenty 7%
Mitt Romney..... 19%
John Thune..... 4%
Someone else/Undecided..... 16%

Q6 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 2%
Moderate..... 27%
Conservative..... 72%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 48%
Man..... 53%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	54%	33%	34%	62%
Unfavorable	27%	50%	40%	21%
Not sure	20%	17%	26%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	59%	50%	40%	66%
Unfavorable	24%	33%	32%	21%
Not sure	17%	17%	28%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	59%	50%	30%	70%
Unfavorable	32%	33%	60%	22%
Not sure	9%	17%	9%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	60%	33%	55%	63%
Unfavorable	22%	33%	24%	21%
Not sure	18%	33%	22%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	3%	-	4%	2%
Newt Gingrich	12%	-	10%	13%
Mike Huckabee	16%	-	20%	15%
Sarah Palin	16%	33%	10%	17%
Ron Paul	9%	17%	6%	10%
Tim Pawlenty	7%	17%	8%	6%
Mitt Romney	19%	-	22%	18%
John Thune	4%	-	3%	4%
Someone else/Undecided	16%	33%	17%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	54%	51%	57%
Unfavorable	27%	25%	28%
Not sure	20%	24%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	59%	60%	58%
Unfavorable	24%	21%	27%
Not sure	17%	19%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	59%	56%	61%
Unfavorable	32%	34%	31%
Not sure	9%	10%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	60%	58%	62%
Unfavorable	22%	19%	25%
Not sure	18%	23%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	3%	1%	5%
Newt Gingrich	12%	9%	14%
Mike Huckabee	16%	17%	15%
Sarah Palin	16%	15%	16%
Ron Paul	9%	7%	10%
Tim Pawlenty	7%	8%	6%
Mitt Romney	19%	21%	18%
John Thune	4%	4%	4%
Someone else/Undecided	16%	19%	13%

