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Huckabee leads GOP pres. field in NC, WV

Raleigh, N.C. – While he is also typically the strongest challenger to President Obama there, Mike Huckabee continues to show strength with Republicans in rural red and swing states. He leads the presidential primary field with almost 30% support in each North Carolina and West Virginia

Bucking previous polls, results PPP released earlier this week showed Mitt Romney usurping Huckabee's role as the strongest challenger to President Obama in the general election in the Tar Heel State, trailing by only three points. But Romney faces an obstacle in getting to that point, for he places fourth with only 11% in the state's primary, behind Huckabee's 27%, Newt Gingrich's 18%, and Sarah Palin's 16%, and ahead of Tim Pawlenty's 7%, Ron Paul's 6%, Mitch Daniels' 3%, and John Thune's 1%, with 10% unsure or going elsewhere.

The trend of Romney placing well with moderates (at 19% behind Huckabee's 21%) continues, but he drops all the way to 9% with conservatives, who make up three-quarters of the electorate. That puts him in a distant fourth behind Huckabee's 29%, Gingrich's 21%, and Palin's 17%, and just nosing out Pawlenty's 8% with that group.

The competition for Huckabee in the Mountain State is a little stronger, but if he were to prevail at the convention, a recent PPP release showed he would be the only candidate to beat the president by a larger margin than John McCain did. In the primary, he has 28% to Palin's 23%, Gingrich's 17%, Romney's 10%, Paul's 6%, Pawlenty's 5%, Daniels' 2%, and Thune's less than 1%, with 8% undecided or preferring someone else.

Here, Romney fares about equally with both moderates and conservatives, as does Gingrich. But Huckabee prevails overall because he counters Palin's 26-21 lead with moderates with his own stronger 32-21 edge with conservatives. West Virginia's Republicans are actually slightly less right-wing than North Carolina's (it is their Democrats that make the state so conservative), but still 70% place themselves to the right of center.

PPP surveyed 400 usual North Carolina Republican primary voters, with a +/-4.9% margin of error, and 355 usual West Virginia Republican primary voters, with a +/-5.2% margin of error, from January 20th to 23rd. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



North Carolina Survey Results

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

Favorable..... 62%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 20%

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

Favorable..... 70%
Unfavorable 14%
Not sure 16%

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

Favorable..... 72%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 7%

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

Favorable..... 50%
Unfavorable 26%
Not sure 24%

Q5 If the Republican candidates for President next year 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 18%
Mike Huckabee 27%
Sarah Palin 16%
Ron Paul..... 6%
Tim Pawlenty 7%
Mitt Romney..... 11%
John Thune..... 1%
Someone else/Undecided..... 10%

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

Liberal..... 3%
Moderate..... 23%
Conservative..... 74%

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

Woman 48%
Man..... 52%

Q8 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.

18 to 29..... 8%
30 to 45..... 28%
46 to 65..... 40%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	62%	46%	42%	69%
Unfavorable	18%	28%	26%	15%
Not sure	20%	26%	33%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	70%	46%	61%	73%
Unfavorable	14%	48%	17%	11%
Not sure	16%	6%	22%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	72%	47%	55%	78%
Unfavorable	22%	53%	39%	15%
Not sure	7%	-	6%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	50%	12%	47%	52%
Unfavorable	26%	82%	23%	25%
Not sure	24%	6%	30%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	3%	20%	2%	3%
Newt Gingrich	18%	8%	11%	21%
Mike Huckabee	27%	19%	21%	29%
Sarah Palin	16%	6%	13%	17%
Ron Paul	6%	14%	10%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	7%	20%	4%	8%
Mitt Romney	11%	-	19%	9%
John Thune	1%	-	2%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	14%	18%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	62%	58%	66%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	19%
Not sure	20%	25%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	70%	70%	70%
Unfavorable	14%	9%	18%
Not sure	16%	21%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	72%	68%	75%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	21%
Not sure	7%	9%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	50%	47%	53%
Unfavorable	26%	23%	29%
Not sure	24%	31%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	3%	3%	3%
Newt Gingrich	18%	17%	19%
Mike Huckabee	27%	30%	24%
Sarah Palin	16%	18%	13%
Ron Paul	6%	2%	10%
Tim Pawlenty	7%	7%	8%
Mitt Romney	11%	13%	10%
John Thune	1%	0%	2%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	62%	57%	57%	62%	69%
Unfavorable	18%	21%	19%	20%	13%
Not sure	20%	21%	24%	18%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	70%	36%	64%	75%	79%
Unfavorable	14%	43%	15%	10%	9%
Not sure	16%	21%	21%	15%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	72%	36%	82%	73%	70%
Unfavorable	22%	64%	16%	17%	21%
Not sure	7%	-	1%	10%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	50%	21%	38%	56%	64%
Unfavorable	26%	57%	28%	21%	21%
Not sure	24%	21%	34%	23%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	3%	7%	4%	2%	1%
Newt Gingrich	18%	21%	17%	18%	18%
Mike Huckabee	27%	21%	29%	28%	25%
Sarah Palin	16%	-	20%	18%	11%
Ron Paul	6%	7%	8%	7%	4%
Tim Pawlenty	7%	21%	7%	5%	7%
Mitt Romney	11%	-	5%	10%	24%
John Thune	1%	7%	1%	1%	-
Someone else/Undecided	10%	14%	8%	11%	10%





West Virginia Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Shelley Moore Capito?

Favorable..... 78%
Unfavorable 9%
Not sure 13%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Clark Barnes?

Favorable..... 9%
Unfavorable 12%
Not sure 79%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Betty Ireland?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 11%
Not sure 51%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Stuart?

Favorable..... 7%
Unfavorable 10%
Not sure 83%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 60%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 21%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable..... 76% *Not sure* 15%
Unfavorable 9%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 69%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 12%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 56%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 25%

Q9 If the Republican candidates for Governor were Clark Barnes, Shelley Moore Capito, Betty Ireland, Mark Sorsaia, and Mike Stuart who would you vote for?

Clark Barnes..... 5%
Shelley Moore Capito..... 72%
Betty Ireland..... 10%
Mark Sorsaia..... 1%
Mike Stuart..... 1%
Undecided..... 10%

Q10 If the Republican candidates for Governor were just Clark Barnes, Betty Ireland, Mark Sorsaia, and Mike Stuart who would you vote for?

Clark Barnes..... 11%
Betty Ireland..... 46%
Mark Sorsaia..... 9%
Mike Stuart..... 4%
Undecided..... 31%





Q11 If the Republican candidates for President next year were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

<i>Mitch Daniels</i>	2%
<i>Newt Gingrich</i>	17%
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	28%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	23%
<i>Ron Paul</i>	6%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	5%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	10%
<i>John Thune</i>	0%
<i>Someone else/Undecided</i>	8%

Q12 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i>	4%
<i>Moderate</i>	26%
<i>Conservative</i>	70%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	49%
<i>Man</i>	51%

Q14 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>	5%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	48%
<i>Older than 65</i>	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Capito Favorability				
Favorable	78%	44%	77%	81%
Unfavorable	9%	32%	9%	8%
Not sure	13%	24%	14%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Barnes Favorability				
Favorable	9%	14%	7%	9%
Unfavorable	12%	20%	13%	11%
Not sure	79%	67%	80%	80%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Ireland Favorability				
Favorable	38%	29%	33%	41%
Unfavorable	11%	14%	14%	10%
Not sure	51%	57%	53%	50%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Stuart Favorability				
Favorable	7%	14%	6%	7%
Unfavorable	10%	7%	11%	9%
Not sure	83%	79%	82%	84%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	60%	39%	40%	69%
Unfavorable	19%	54%	36%	10%
Not sure	21%	7%	24%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	76%	68%	57%	84%
Unfavorable	9%	14%	17%	6%
Not sure	15%	18%	26%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	69%	64%	53%	75%
Unfavorable	18%	36%	34%	12%
Not sure	12%	-	12%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	56%	56%	46%	60%
Unfavorable	18%	33%	21%	16%
Not sure	25%	11%	33%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/ Capito				
Clark Barnes	5%	7%	4%	5%
Shelley Moore Capito	72%	78%	71%	72%
Betty Ireland	10%	11%	9%	10%
Mark Sorsaia	1%	-	1%	1%
Mike Stuart	1%	-	1%	2%
Undecided	10%	4%	14%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/o Capito				
Clark Barnes	11%	7%	9%	13%
Betty Ireland	46%	78%	48%	43%
Mark Sorsaia	9%	7%	8%	9%
Mike Stuart	4%	-	2%	5%
Undecided	31%	8%	33%	31%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	2%	7%	1%	2%
Newt Gingrich	17%	4%	16%	18%
Mike Huckabee	28%	14%	21%	32%
Sarah Palin	23%	46%	26%	21%
Ron Paul	6%	4%	6%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	2%	6%
Mitt Romney	10%	14%	11%	10%
John Thune	0%	-	-	1%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	11%	16%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Capito Favorability			
Favorable	78%	78%	78%
Unfavorable	9%	7%	12%
Not sure	13%	15%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Barnes Favorability			
Favorable	9%	6%	11%
Unfavorable	12%	9%	14%
Not sure	79%	85%	74%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ireland Favorability			
Favorable	38%	39%	38%
Unfavorable	11%	11%	11%
Not sure	51%	50%	51%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Stuart Favorability			
Favorable	7%	5%	10%
Unfavorable	10%	7%	12%
Not sure	83%	88%	78%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	60%	51%	69%
Unfavorable	19%	22%	15%
Not sure	21%	27%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	76%	73%	79%
Unfavorable	9%	6%	12%
Not sure	15%	21%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	69%	66%	72%
Unfavorable	18%	19%	18%
Not sure	12%	15%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	56%	52%	61%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	20%
Not sure	25%	32%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/ Capito			
Clark Barnes	5%	2%	8%
Shelley Moore Capito	72%	69%	75%
Betty Ireland	10%	13%	7%
Mark Sorsaia	1%	2%	1%
Mike Stuart	1%	1%	2%
Undecided	10%	14%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/o Capito			
Clark Barnes	11%	5%	17%
Betty Ireland	46%	47%	45%
Mark Sorsaia	9%	9%	8%
Mike Stuart	4%	4%	4%
Undecided	31%	35%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	2%	1%	3%
Newt Gingrich	17%	8%	25%
Mike Huckabee	28%	30%	27%
Sarah Palin	23%	26%	20%
Ron Paul	6%	7%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	3%	6%
Mitt Romney	10%	11%	10%
John Thune	0%	1%	-
Someone else/Undecided	8%	14%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Capito Favorability					
Favorable	78%	44%	70%	82%	85%
Unfavorable	9%	-	18%	7%	6%
Not sure	13%	56%	11%	11%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Barnes Favorability					
Favorable	9%	-	11%	9%	8%
Unfavorable	12%	22%	11%	10%	14%
Not sure	79%	78%	77%	81%	78%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ireland Favorability					
Favorable	38%	33%	27%	40%	47%
Unfavorable	11%	11%	14%	9%	11%
Not sure	51%	56%	59%	50%	42%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Stuart Favorability					
Favorable	7%	-	11%	6%	8%
Unfavorable	10%	11%	7%	11%	9%
Not sure	83%	89%	82%	83%	83%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	60%	56%	57%	60%	66%
Unfavorable	19%	33%	20%	19%	14%
Not sure	21%	11%	23%	21%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	76%	88%	77%	76%	73%
Unfavorable	9%	13%	11%	9%	8%
Not sure	15%	-	11%	15%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	69%	78%	75%	68%	64%
Unfavorable	18%	22%	16%	17%	23%
Not sure	12%	-	9%	15%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	56%	56%	48%	58%	61%
Unfavorable	18%	22%	27%	16%	11%
Not sure	25%	22%	25%	25%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/ Capito					
Clark Barnes	5%	-	14%	3%	2%
Shelley Moore Capito	72%	78%	66%	74%	73%
Betty Ireland	10%	-	9%	11%	11%
Mark Sorsaia	1%	-	2%	1%	1%
Mike Stuart	1%	-	-	2%	2%
Undecided	10%	22%	9%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Gov Primary w/o Capito					
Clark Barnes	11%	-	20%	10%	8%
Betty Ireland	46%	33%	36%	51%	47%
Mark Sorsaia	9%	11%	5%	7%	16%
Mike Stuart	4%	-	5%	4%	5%
Undecided	31%	56%	34%	29%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	2%	-	2%	2%	2%
Newt Gingrich	17%	22%	18%	13%	23%
Mike Huckabee	28%	22%	18%	36%	26%
Sarah Palin	23%	56%	27%	22%	15%
Ron Paul	6%	-	11%	5%	4%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	5%	5%	6%
Mitt Romney	10%	-	7%	10%	17%
John Thune	0%	-	-	1%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	-	11%	8%	8%

