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Obama again narrowly lags Huckabee in NC but leads others

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama enjoyed a little surge in popularity last month around the country, regaining plurality approval in North Carolina and for the first time leading all four potential Republican opponents tested against him in the Tar Heel State. But in PPP's latest poll, he has regressed back to even on the approval front, and now posts a hair-thin deficit to Mike Huckabee while still leading Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney, and Sarah Palin in a state he won for his party for the first time in a generation.

Huckabee barely prevails, 47-46, after the president led, 49-45, in January. He has also slipped a little to Gingrich, who is now down only 48-44 (versus 50-43 a month ago). But Obama has stayed steady with the other two, leading Romney 47-44, the same as last month, and topping Palin, 51-41 (again almost exactly like the 50-41 last month). As in most other states, these candidates, already very well-known to voters at this early stage of the cycle, are not even as strong as John McCain was in his blowout 2008 defeat. Only Huckabee bests McCain's less-than-one-point loss here.

The main shift has occurred with independents. All the Republicans, even Palin, still do a better job of cutting into Obama's Democratic base than he does theirs. But while Obama led all four with independents previously, he now lags Huckabee, 40-45 (51-40 in January), and Romney, 41-42 (44-39). He can take some solace that his lead with unaffiliated voters over Palin has grown from 48-32 to 54-33, and that he still leads Gingrich by seven with this group.

"North Carolina is going to be one of the key battlegrounds next year," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Barack Obama looks a little weaker here than a month ago, but still appears to have a very real chance of repeating his surprise victory in the state from 2008."

PPP will release new numbers looking at Bev Perdue's standing in the state tomorrow.

PPP surveyed 650 North Carolina voters from February 16th to 21st. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.8%. 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 approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance?

Approve 47%
Disapprove..... 48%
Not sure 4%

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

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 48%
Not sure 22%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable..... 43%
Unfavorable 34%
Not sure 23%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 57%
Not sure 6%

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

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 39%
Not sure 24%

Q6 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Newt Gingrich..... 44%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Barack Obama..... 46%
Mike Huckabee..... 47%
Undecided..... 7%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Sarah Palin..... 41%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Barack Obama..... 47%
Mitt Romney..... 44%
Undecided..... 9%

Q10 Do you approve or disapprove of Republican Senator Richard Burr's job performance?

Approve 40%
Disapprove..... 33%
Not sure 27%

Q11 Do you approve or disapprove of Democratic Senator Kay Hagan's job performance?

Approve 39% *Not sure* 23%
Disapprove..... 38%

Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 46%
Barack Obama..... 47%
Someone else/Don't remember 7%





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

Woman 52%

Man..... 48%

Q14 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 45%

Republican..... 37%

Independent/Other..... 18%

Q15 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 74%

African-American 22%

Other..... 5%

Q16 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..... 10%

30 to 45..... 30%

46 to 65..... 40%

Older than 65..... 20%

Q17

252..... 13%

336..... 18%

704..... 20%

828..... 15%

910..... 16%

919..... 18%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	7%	91%	25%
Disapprove	48%	88%	6%	67%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%	8%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	56%	6%	17%
Unfavorable	48%	23%	73%	46%
Not sure	22%	21%	21%	38%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	43%	71%	15%	42%
Unfavorable	34%	13%	57%	25%
Not sure	23%	17%	28%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	67%	6%	50%
Unfavorable	57%	25%	92%	39%
Not sure	6%	8%	2%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	52%	21%	41%
Unfavorable	39%	24%	57%	20%
Not sure	24%	24%	23%	38%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	48%	7%	92%	26%
Newt Gingrich	44%	82%	5%	46%
Undecided	8%	11%	2%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	46%	7%	88%	25%
Mike Huckabee	47%	85%	9%	54%
Undecided	7%	8%	3%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	51%	12%	93%	39%
Sarah Palin	41%	75%	5%	47%
Undecided	8%	13%	2%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	7%	91%	23%
Mitt Romney	44%	82%	7%	35%
Undecided	9%	12%	2%	42%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Burr Approval				
Approve	40%	63%	16%	44%
Disapprove	33%	13%	56%	20%
Not sure	27%	24%	28%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Hagan Approval				
Approve	39%	12%	68%	22%
Disapprove	38%	64%	14%	27%
Not sure	23%	24%	18%	51%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	47%	51%	43%
Disapprove	48%	45%	52%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	30%	24%	37%
Unfavorable	48%	46%	50%
Not sure	22%	30%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	43%	40%	45%
Unfavorable	34%	28%	41%
Not sure	23%	32%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	37%	34%	41%
Unfavorable	57%	60%	54%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	37%	29%	45%
Unfavorable	39%	38%	40%
Not sure	24%	33%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	48%	51%	44%
Newt Gingrich	44%	40%	49%
Undecided	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	46%	48%	44%
Mike Huckabee	47%	43%	52%
Undecided	7%	9%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	51%	54%	49%
Sarah Palin	41%	38%	43%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	47%	50%	44%
Mitt Romney	44%	39%	49%
Undecided	9%	11%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Burr Approval			
Approve	40%	34%	47%
Disapprove	33%	35%	31%
Not sure	27%	31%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Hagan Approval			
Approve	39%	41%	37%
Disapprove	38%	30%	47%
Not sure	23%	29%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	81%	8%	47%
Disapprove	48%	15%	88%	46%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	9%	55%	29%
Unfavorable	48%	66%	23%	54%
Not sure	22%	25%	22%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	43%	21%	67%	46%
Unfavorable	34%	52%	15%	32%
Not sure	23%	27%	18%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	11%	71%	32%
Unfavorable	57%	84%	23%	62%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	23%	48%	45%
Unfavorable	39%	52%	25%	36%
Not sure	24%	24%	27%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	48%	84%	6%	45%
Newt Gingrich	44%	12%	86%	38%
Undecided	8%	4%	9%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	46%	81%	7%	40%
Mike Huckabee	47%	14%	88%	45%
Undecided	7%	5%	5%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	51%	85%	9%	54%
Sarah Palin	41%	11%	80%	33%
Undecided	8%	4%	11%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	82%	7%	41%
Mitt Romney	44%	15%	80%	42%
Undecided	9%	3%	13%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Burr Approval				
Approve	40%	23%	60%	40%
Disapprove	33%	48%	15%	36%
Not sure	27%	29%	25%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Hagan Approval				
Approve	39%	66%	11%	31%
Disapprove	38%	15%	61%	46%
Not sure	23%	19%	28%	23%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	34%	88%	66%
Disapprove	48%	61%	8%	28%
Not sure	4%	5%	4%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	35%	12%	26%
Unfavorable	48%	44%	57%	62%
Not sure	22%	20%	31%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	43%	52%	10%	46%
Unfavorable	34%	30%	47%	46%
Not sure	23%	18%	43%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	46%	10%	26%
Unfavorable	57%	48%	86%	67%
Not sure	6%	6%	4%	7%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	43%	14%	47%
Unfavorable	39%	34%	53%	45%
Not sure	24%	23%	33%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	48%	35%	89%	63%
Newt Gingrich	44%	55%	8%	34%
Undecided	8%	10%	3%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	46%	32%	88%	66%
Mike Huckabee	47%	60%	8%	31%
Undecided	7%	8%	4%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	51%	39%	92%	60%
Sarah Palin	41%	51%	6%	23%
Undecided	8%	9%	2%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	33%	92%	53%
Mitt Romney	44%	56%	6%	31%
Undecided	9%	11%	2%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Burr Approval				
Approve	40%	47%	19%	23%
Disapprove	33%	29%	46%	42%
Not sure	27%	24%	35%	35%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Hagan Approval				
Approve	39%	30%	66%	45%
Disapprove	38%	46%	14%	32%
Not sure	23%	24%	20%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	53%	47%	47%	45%
Disapprove	48%	43%	49%	47%	52%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	30%	27%	28%	28%	40%
Unfavorable	48%	40%	47%	55%	40%
Not sure	22%	33%	26%	18%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	43%	27%	41%	44%	50%
Unfavorable	34%	33%	32%	38%	31%
Not sure	23%	40%	28%	17%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	37%	33%	38%	37%	39%
Unfavorable	57%	63%	56%	59%	53%
Not sure	6%	3%	6%	5%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	37%	33%	33%	38%	42%
Unfavorable	39%	33%	39%	42%	37%
Not sure	24%	33%	29%	21%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	48%	50%	48%	48%	46%
New t Gingrich	44%	40%	43%	43%	48%
Undecided	8%	10%	8%	9%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	46%	47%	45%	48%	42%
Mike Huckabee	47%	40%	49%	46%	51%
Undecided	7%	13%	5%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	51%	57%	53%	51%	46%
Sarah Palin	41%	33%	41%	41%	43%
Undecided	8%	10%	6%	8%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	50%	48%	47%	42%
Mitt Romney	44%	40%	43%	43%	50%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%	11%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Burr Approval					
Approve	40%	33%	40%	39%	45%
Disapprove	33%	37%	29%	37%	31%
Not sure	27%	30%	31%	24%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Hagan Approval					
Approve	39%	43%	37%	41%	36%
Disapprove	38%	23%	41%	38%	42%
Not sure	23%	33%	22%	21%	22%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama Approval							
Approve	47%	52%	47%	43%	37%	53%	54%
Disapprove	48%	43%	48%	52%	56%	45%	44%
Not sure	4%	5%	5%	6%	7%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Gingrich Favorability							
Favorable	30%	32%	28%	29%	38%	27%	27%
Unfavorable	48%	38%	50%	49%	48%	49%	50%
Not sure	22%	30%	22%	21%	14%	24%	23%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Huckabee Favorability							
Favorable	43%	36%	40%	42%	53%	41%	43%
Unfavorable	34%	34%	33%	36%	34%	32%	36%
Not sure	23%	30%	27%	21%	13%	26%	21%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Palin Favorability							
Favorable	37%	41%	38%	36%	44%	39%	27%
Unfavorable	57%	53%	58%	58%	47%	56%	68%
Not sure	6%	6%	4%	6%	8%	5%	5%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Romney Favorability							
Favorable	37%	28%	32%	37%	52%	31%	38%
Unfavorable	39%	42%	42%	35%	34%	42%	40%
Not sure	24%	30%	26%	27%	14%	28%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Gingrich							
Barack Obama	48%	51%	49%	44%	38%	52%	53%
Newt Gingrich	44%	47%	43%	41%	51%	44%	39%
Undecided	8%	2%	8%	14%	11%	4%	8%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Huckabee							
Barack Obama	46%	48%	46%	39%	40%	50%	53%
Mike Huckabee	47%	42%	50%	52%	56%	46%	38%
Undecided	7%	10%	4%	9%	4%	4%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Palin							
Barack Obama	51%	56%	48%	49%	45%	56%	55%
Sarah Palin	41%	40%	40%	43%	46%	38%	36%
Undecided	8%	4%	12%	8%	8%	5%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Romney							
Barack Obama	47%	52%	48%	39%	37%	50%	55%
Mitt Romney	44%	39%	41%	49%	54%	44%	37%
Undecided	9%	9%	11%	12%	9%	5%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Burr Approval							
Approve	40%	45%	49%	33%	41%	32%	41%
Disapprove	33%	28%	37%	31%	28%	44%	32%
Not sure	27%	27%	15%	37%	31%	24%	26%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Hagan Approval							
Approve	39%	44%	44%	35%	35%	45%	33%
Disapprove	38%	37%	43%	39%	40%	31%	38%
Not sure	23%	20%	13%	26%	25%	24%	29%

