



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

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Obama leads the GOP field in North Carolina

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama is at majority approval in North Carolina for the first time since June 2009, five months into his now 28-month term. 50% approve and 46% disapprove, up from 49-48 last month. And he may have lucked out when Mike Huckabee declined the chance to depose him next year. Huckabee was consistently the president's strongest challenger in the South, including in North Carolina.

PPP's latest poll of the Tar Heel State has Huckabee trailing the president by one point, the same as last month and almost every month, and basically the same as Obama's margin over John McCain in 2008. The toughest remaining competitor so far, Mitt Romney, is not much further behind that pace, trailing by three (46-43), the same as last month. But as he officially announced his candidacy, another Southerner, Newt Gingrich, has seen his deficit double from four points last month to eight now (50-42). Sarah Palin, the biggest remaining question mark in the potential GOP field, is down 52-40, as in April.

Romney's and Gingrich's problem is Republicans, and if one of them manages to survive the primary, his biggest task will be shoring up the base. A third of North Carolina Republicans dislike each, while only 48% have a favorable impression of Gingrich, and 43% of Romney. By comparison, Huckabee gets the nod from 65% of them, and only 19% see him negatively. While most Republicans come around when it is time to vote, Romney and Gingrich still leave more on the fence than does Huckabee, suggesting a possible enthusiasm problem for the GOP's turnout operation. 79% support Gingrich against the president, 80% Romney, and 86% Huckabee.

“North Carolina continues to be one of the swing states where Barack Obama's holding up the best,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “He can afford to lose the Floridas and Ohios of the world next year if he maintains this level of strength in the Tar Heel state.”

PPP surveyed 835 North Carolina voters from May 12th to 15th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.4%. 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.

Public Policy Polling
3020 Highwoods Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27604

Phone: 888 621-6988
Web: www.publicpolicypolling.com
Email: information@publicpolicypolling.com





North Carolina Survey Results

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

Approve 50%
Disapprove..... 46%
Not sure 4%

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

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 54%
Not sure 18%

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

Favorable..... 40%
Unfavorable 40%
Not sure 20%

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

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

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

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 26%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Donald Trump?

Favorable..... 18%
Unfavorable 72%
Not sure 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 50%
Newt Gingrich 42%
Undecided..... 8%

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

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

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

Barack Obama..... 52%
Sarah Palin 40%
Undecided..... 8%

Q10 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..... 43%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 52%
Donald Trump 35%
Undecided..... 13%





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>	10%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	15%
<i>Moderate</i>	31%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	26%
<i>Very conservative</i>	18%

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

<i>Woman</i>	53%
<i>Man</i>	47%

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>	48%
<i>Republican</i>	36%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	16%

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

<i>White</i>	73%
<i>African-American</i>	23%
<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>	12%
<i>336</i>	23%
<i>704</i>	15%
<i>828</i>	13%
<i>910</i>	14%
<i>919</i>	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	50%	10%	91%	23%
Disapprove	46%	87%	5%	62%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	28%	50%	8%	18%
Unfavorable	54%	31%	78%	47%
Not sure	18%	19%	14%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	40%	66%	18%	26%
Unfavorable	40%	19%	60%	41%
Not sure	20%	15%	22%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	32%	62%	5%	26%
Unfavorable	59%	29%	90%	44%
Not sure	9%	9%	5%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	30%	44%	19%	19%
Unfavorable	43%	34%	53%	36%
Not sure	26%	23%	28%	45%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Trump Favorability				
Favorable	18%	28%	9%	17%
Unfavorable	72%	58%	86%	62%
Not sure	10%	13%	5%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	8%	93%	30%
New t Gingrich	42%	82%	4%	37%
Undecided	8%	10%	3%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	47%	6%	90%	17%
Mike Huckabee	46%	88%	5%	47%
Undecided	7%	6%	5%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	52%	10%	95%	27%
Sarah Palin	40%	78%	3%	44%
Undecided	8%	12%	2%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	7%	87%	21%
Mitt Romney	43%	82%	7%	36%
Undecided	11%	10%	6%	44%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Trump				
Barack Obama	52%	14%	93%	19%
Donald Trump	35%	64%	7%	40%
Undecided	13%	23%	1%	41%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	50%	81%	87%	63%	23%	15%
Disapprove	46%	14%	10%	31%	72%	84%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%	5%	4%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	28%	17%	11%	16%	38%	54%
Unfavorable	54%	75%	80%	64%	37%	28%
Not sure	18%	9%	9%	20%	25%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Favorability						
Favorable	40%	20%	13%	29%	63%	62%
Unfavorable	40%	65%	66%	46%	22%	18%
Not sure	20%	16%	22%	25%	15%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	32%	17%	7%	19%	50%	61%
Unfavorable	59%	70%	90%	74%	39%	29%
Not sure	9%	13%	3%	7%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	30%	15%	21%	27%	37%	44%
Unfavorable	43%	66%	58%	43%	34%	32%
Not sure	26%	19%	21%	31%	29%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Trump Favorability						
Favorable	18%	13%	3%	14%	28%	30%
Unfavorable	72%	80%	95%	76%	61%	55%
Not sure	10%	6%	3%	10%	11%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	50%	80%	88%	63%	25%	14%
Newt Gingrich	42%	16%	11%	24%	66%	79%
Undecided	8%	4%	1%	13%	9%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Huckabee						
Barack Obama	47%	77%	89%	58%	20%	12%
Mike Huckabee	46%	19%	10%	29%	71%	84%
Undecided	7%	4%	0%	13%	8%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	52%	80%	90%	66%	26%	15%
Sarah Palin	40%	19%	8%	24%	61%	78%
Undecided	8%	1%	2%	10%	13%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	46%	74%	85%	57%	19%	15%
Mitt Romney	43%	18%	11%	28%	68%	77%
Undecided	11%	7%	4%	15%	13%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Trump						
Barack Obama	52%	72%	91%	65%	30%	14%
Donald Trump	35%	20%	6%	23%	49%	69%
Undecided	13%	7%	3%	11%	22%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	50%	54%	46%
Disapprove	46%	42%	51%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	28%	25%	30%
Unfavorable	54%	53%	56%
Not sure	18%	22%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	40%	36%	45%
Unfavorable	40%	40%	40%
Not sure	20%	24%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	32%	28%	37%
Unfavorable	59%	64%	55%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	30%	28%	33%
Unfavorable	43%	40%	47%
Not sure	26%	32%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trump Favorability			
Favorable	18%	16%	21%
Unfavorable	72%	72%	72%
Not sure	10%	12%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	50%	55%	45%
Newt Gingrich	42%	38%	46%
Undecided	8%	8%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	47%	51%	42%
Mike Huckabee	46%	43%	49%
Undecided	7%	6%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	52%	57%	47%
Sarah Palin	40%	35%	46%
Undecided	8%	9%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	46%	50%	41%
Mitt Romney	43%	39%	47%
Undecided	11%	10%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Trump			
Barack Obama	52%	55%	48%
Donald Trump	35%	31%	39%
Undecided	13%	14%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	50%	79%	13%	46%
Disapprove	46%	16%	84%	51%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	28%	12%	48%	28%
Unfavorable	54%	69%	34%	57%
Not sure	18%	19%	18%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	40%	22%	65%	39%
Unfavorable	40%	53%	19%	49%
Not sure	20%	25%	17%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	32%	14%	57%	30%
Unfavorable	59%	79%	34%	59%
Not sure	9%	8%	9%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	30%	19%	43%	36%
Unfavorable	43%	49%	34%	45%
Not sure	26%	31%	23%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Trump Favorability				
Favorable	18%	13%	29%	11%
Unfavorable	72%	79%	57%	85%
Not sure	10%	8%	14%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	80%	11%	50%
Newt Gingrich	42%	14%	79%	38%
Undecided	8%	5%	10%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	47%	78%	8%	45%
Mike Huckabee	46%	17%	86%	41%
Undecided	7%	5%	6%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	52%	81%	14%	51%
Sarah Palin	40%	13%	75%	40%
Undecided	8%	6%	10%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	77%	8%	42%
Mitt Romney	43%	15%	80%	43%
Undecided	11%	8%	12%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Trump				
Barack Obama	52%	79%	17%	50%
Donald Trump	35%	14%	63%	32%
Undecided	13%	7%	20%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	50%	37%	88%	71%
Disapprove	46%	58%	11%	29%
Not sure	4%	5%	2%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	28%	32%	16%	22%
Unfavorable	54%	50%	65%	70%
Not sure	18%	18%	19%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	40%	47%	18%	36%
Unfavorable	40%	34%	55%	55%
Not sure	20%	18%	27%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	32%	38%	14%	22%
Unfavorable	59%	53%	78%	72%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	30%	35%	13%	38%
Unfavorable	43%	40%	54%	50%
Not sure	26%	25%	33%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Trump Favorability				
Favorable	18%	21%	11%	13%
Unfavorable	72%	68%	81%	86%
Not sure	10%	11%	8%	2%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	38%	85%	76%
Newt Gingrich	42%	52%	13%	24%
Undecided	8%	10%	3%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	47%	34%	82%	74%
Mike Huckabee	46%	57%	13%	22%
Undecided	7%	8%	4%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	52%	39%	87%	76%
Sarah Palin	40%	50%	11%	22%
Undecided	8%	11%	2%	2%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	33%	84%	72%
Mitt Romney	43%	54%	13%	26%
Undecided	11%	13%	3%	2%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Trump				
Barack Obama	52%	40%	85%	71%
Donald Trump	35%	43%	11%	27%
Undecided	13%	17%	3%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	50%	60%	54%	51%	37%
Disapprove	46%	32%	43%	46%	58%
Not sure	4%	8%	3%	3%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	28%	24%	22%	29%	36%
Unfavorable	54%	58%	59%	54%	46%
Not sure	18%	18%	18%	17%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	40%	34%	39%	39%	48%
Unfavorable	40%	46%	38%	43%	32%
Not sure	20%	20%	22%	18%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	32%	36%	29%	29%	40%
Unfavorable	59%	50%	63%	64%	50%
Not sure	9%	14%	8%	7%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	30%	18%	30%	28%	41%
Unfavorable	43%	46%	41%	49%	34%
Not sure	26%	36%	29%	22%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trump Favorability					
Favorable	18%	24%	21%	15%	18%
Unfavorable	72%	66%	71%	75%	71%
Not sure	10%	10%	8%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	50%	54%	56%	51%	37%
New t Gingrich	42%	34%	37%	42%	54%
Undecided	8%	12%	7%	7%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	47%	52%	50%	49%	36%
Mike Huckabee	46%	40%	42%	44%	58%
Undecided	7%	8%	7%	8%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	52%	54%	58%	54%	38%
Sarah Palin	40%	38%	37%	38%	50%
Undecided	8%	8%	6%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	46%	54%	51%	47%	32%
Mitt Romney	43%	30%	42%	42%	57%
Undecided	11%	16%	7%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Trump					
Barack Obama	52%	54%	57%	54%	38%
Donald Trump	35%	32%	34%	32%	43%
Undecided	13%	14%	10%	13%	18%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama Approval							
Approve	50%	59%	45%	47%	44%	46%	58%
Disapprove	46%	41%	48%	51%	52%	49%	39%
Not sure	4%	1%	7%	2%	4%	5%	2%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Gingrich Favorability							
Favorable	28%	29%	29%	23%	29%	33%	25%
Unfavorable	54%	49%	60%	52%	53%	43%	61%
Not sure	18%	23%	11%	24%	18%	24%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Huckabee Favorability							
Favorable	40%	28%	49%	33%	48%	42%	37%
Unfavorable	40%	42%	33%	43%	34%	33%	52%
Not sure	20%	29%	18%	24%	18%	25%	12%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Palin Favorability							
Favorable	32%	30%	32%	33%	38%	35%	28%
Unfavorable	59%	63%	62%	59%	48%	50%	67%
Not sure	9%	6%	7%	8%	15%	15%	5%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Romney Favorability							
Favorable	30%	24%	32%	29%	30%	32%	32%
Unfavorable	43%	36%	45%	43%	42%	42%	46%
Not sure	26%	40%	23%	28%	28%	26%	21%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Trump Favorability							
Favorable	18%	11%	21%	25%	22%	21%	12%
Unfavorable	72%	74%	74%	64%	65%	66%	81%
Not sure	10%	15%	5%	12%	13%	13%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Gingrich							
Barack Obama	50%	58%	47%	47%	41%	43%	60%
Newt Gingrich	42%	34%	44%	43%	46%	50%	35%
Undecided	8%	7%	8%	10%	13%	7%	5%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Huckabee							
Barack Obama	47%	56%	44%	46%	35%	42%	55%
Mike Huckabee	46%	36%	51%	45%	50%	54%	39%
Undecided	7%	8%	5%	9%	15%	4%	6%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Palin							
Barack Obama	52%	58%	49%	51%	41%	48%	59%
Sarah Palin	40%	36%	39%	40%	51%	45%	34%
Undecided	8%	6%	11%	9%	8%	7%	7%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Romney							
Barack Obama	46%	58%	44%	44%	33%	40%	54%
Mitt Romney	43%	34%	45%	41%	51%	53%	37%
Undecided	11%	8%	10%	15%	16%	7%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Trump							
Barack Obama	52%	60%	52%	48%	41%	46%	59%
Donald Trump	35%	31%	33%	41%	41%	36%	31%
Undecided	13%	9%	14%	11%	18%	19%	10%

