



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Obama romping again in New Mexico

Raleigh, N.C. – After George W. Bush very narrowly won the state in 2004, Barack Obama took New Mexico back for the Democrats in 2008, beating John McCain by 15 points. In PPP's first look at next year's race for the White House, he is set to at least match his performance there against any of five candidates tested against him.

New Mexicans approve of the president's job performance by a 55-40 margin, tying with deep-blue Massachusetts for this third-best showing of any of the 40 states PPP has polled in the last year, after Maryland and his native Hawaii. More Republicans are unhappy with him than Democrats are happy, but Republicans are only 29% of voters, and independents lean strongly Democratic here, giving him almost a 2:1 boost, 60-32.

With the majority Democratic turnout and such huge favor with unaffiliated voters, it is no surprise the president easily beats any opponent thrown at him. He tops the least likely of the five prospective nominees, former governor Gary Johnson, by the same margin by which he trounced McCain, 51-36. Doing almost as well, Mitt Romney trails by 16 points, 53-37. The president's lead grows to 19 versus Mike Huckabee, 55-36; 21 against Newt Gingrich, 56-35; and an enormous 29 over Sarah Palin, 62-33.

Most of the difference in the matchups can be explained by independents, even though they make up only 16% of the electorate. President Obama posts large-enough leads of 25 (against Johnson) to 34 points (versus Huckabee) with independents, but against Palin, he takes them by an astounding 51. Except Palin, all the Republicans steal more Democratic votes than the president does self-identified Republicans.

At 39%, Hispanics make up a larger share of the electorate than in any other state PPP has polled. Romney wins white voters by four points, and Johnson by three. The president ties Huckabee with them, beats Gingrich by one, and Palin by ten. But Hispanics give Obama margins of 35 (against Johnson) to 52 points (versus Palin).

“At this rate, New Mexico may not even be considered a swing state,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Despite Democrats' difficulties last year, the West—including Colorado and Nevada—is turning more and more solid blue.”

PPP surveyed 545 New Mexico voters from February 4th to 6th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





New Mexico Survey Results

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

Approve 55%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 56%
Not sure 19%

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

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 46%
Not sure 20%

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

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 64%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 45%
Not sure 22%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Gary Johnson?

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 24%

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

Barack Obama..... 56%
Newt Gingrich 35%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 55%
Mike Huckabee 36%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 62%
Sarah Palin 33%
Undecided..... 4%

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

Barack Obama..... 53%
Mitt Romney..... 37%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Gary Johnson 36%
Undecided..... 13%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	39%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	55%
<i>Someone Else/Don't Remember</i>	6%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i>	23%
<i>Moderate</i>	46%
<i>Conservative</i>	32%

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

<i>Woman</i>	54%
<i>Man</i>	46%

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>	55%
<i>Republican</i>	29%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	16%

Q16 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>Hispanic</i>	39%
<i>White</i>	53%
<i>Other</i>	8%

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>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	44%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	55%	11%	87%	49%
Disapprove	40%	85%	9%	40%
Not sure	5%	4%	4%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	49%	7%	24%
Unfavorable	56%	28%	76%	53%
Not sure	19%	23%	16%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	34%	66%	11%	32%
Unfavorable	46%	16%	69%	34%
Not sure	20%	18%	20%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	31%	66%	7%	26%
Unfavorable	64%	28%	91%	60%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	53%	20%	28%
Unfavorable	45%	24%	60%	37%
Not sure	22%	23%	20%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	44%	47%	42%	38%
Unfavorable	32%	23%	39%	27%
Not sure	24%	29%	19%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	56%	12%	89%	42%
Newt Gingrich	35%	79%	4%	26%
Undecided	9%	9%	7%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	55%	12%	88%	29%
Mike Huckabee	36%	78%	6%	32%
Undecided	9%	10%	6%	39%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	62%	17%	94%	68%
Sarah Palin	33%	75%	5%	24%
Undecided	4%	8%	1%	8%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	53%	10%	84%	40%
Mitt Romney	37%	80%	7%	24%
Undecided	11%	9%	9%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Johnson				
Barack Obama	51%	10%	81%	40%
Gary Johnson	36%	73%	11%	31%
Undecided	13%	18%	7%	29%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	55%	86%	65%	19%
Disapprove	40%	10%	30%	78%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	4%	12%	57%
Unfavorable	56%	86%	66%	21%
Not sure	19%	10%	22%	22%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	34%	11%	25%	63%
Unfavorable	46%	76%	51%	18%
Not sure	20%	13%	25%	19%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	31%	6%	18%	67%
Unfavorable	64%	93%	78%	24%
Not sure	5%	0%	4%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	13%	33%	48%
Unfavorable	45%	68%	44%	30%
Not sure	22%	19%	23%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	44%	38%	43%	50%
Unfavorable	32%	47%	31%	24%
Not sure	24%	16%	26%	26%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	56%	90%	65%	20%
Newt Gingrich	35%	5%	24%	72%
Undecided	9%	5%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	55%	92%	64%	15%
Mike Huckabee	36%	2%	26%	74%
Undecided	9%	6%	10%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	62%	94%	76%	21%
Sarah Palin	33%	5%	19%	75%
Undecided	4%	1%	6%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	53%	87%	60%	18%
Mitt Romney	37%	6%	27%	72%
Undecided	11%	8%	13%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Johnson				
Barack Obama	51%	84%	58%	16%
Gary Johnson	36%	9%	27%	70%
Undecided	13%	6%	15%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	55%	57%	52%
Disapprove	40%	37%	44%
Not sure	5%	6%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	25%	24%	25%
Unfavorable	56%	52%	61%
Not sure	19%	23%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	34%	33%	35%
Unfavorable	46%	44%	48%
Not sure	20%	23%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	31%	29%	33%
Unfavorable	64%	66%	62%
Not sure	5%	4%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	33%	31%	36%
Unfavorable	45%	45%	45%
Not sure	22%	24%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	44%	41%	47%
Unfavorable	32%	33%	32%
Not sure	24%	26%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	56%	58%	53%
Newt Gingrich	35%	31%	38%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	55%	57%	53%
Mike Huckabee	36%	32%	40%
Undecided	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	62%	65%	59%
Sarah Palin	33%	30%	37%
Undecided	4%	5%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	53%	55%	50%
Mitt Romney	37%	35%	39%
Undecided	11%	10%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Johnson			
Barack Obama	51%	54%	47%
Gary Johnson	36%	31%	42%
Undecided	13%	14%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	55%	77%	10%	60%
Disapprove	40%	19%	87%	32%
Not sure	5%	4%	4%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	11%	52%	23%
Unfavorable	56%	70%	26%	62%
Not sure	19%	19%	22%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	34%	18%	65%	30%
Unfavorable	46%	61%	17%	49%
Not sure	20%	21%	18%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	31%	13%	66%	28%
Unfavorable	64%	83%	27%	67%
Not sure	5%	4%	7%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	24%	54%	29%
Unfavorable	45%	53%	27%	50%
Not sure	22%	23%	19%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	44%	44%	43%	46%
Unfavorable	32%	37%	27%	25%
Not sure	24%	19%	30%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	56%	81%	9%	57%
Newt Gingrich	35%	13%	81%	26%
Undecided	9%	7%	10%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	55%	78%	9%	59%
Mike Huckabee	36%	15%	82%	25%
Undecided	9%	7%	10%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	62%	86%	12%	73%
Sarah Palin	33%	12%	80%	22%
Undecided	4%	3%	7%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	53%	76%	7%	56%
Mitt Romney	37%	14%	83%	29%
Undecided	11%	10%	10%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Johnson				
Barack Obama	51%	73%	7%	53%
Gary Johnson	36%	19%	75%	28%
Undecided	13%	8%	18%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	55%	70%	44%	55%
Disapprove	40%	26%	52%	33%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%	12%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	17%	30%	23%
Unfavorable	56%	61%	54%	42%
Not sure	19%	21%	16%	35%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	34%	29%	37%	31%
Unfavorable	46%	53%	42%	43%
Not sure	20%	18%	21%	26%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	31%	26%	36%	17%
Unfavorable	64%	70%	59%	72%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	31%	36%	29%
Unfavorable	45%	46%	44%	45%
Not sure	22%	24%	20%	27%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	44%	52%	39%	40%
Unfavorable	32%	32%	32%	33%
Not sure	24%	16%	29%	28%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	56%	69%	46%	60%
Newt Gingrich	35%	22%	45%	26%
Undecided	9%	8%	10%	14%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	55%	66%	46%	55%
Mike Huckabee	36%	25%	46%	19%
Undecided	9%	8%	8%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	62%	75%	52%	71%
Sarah Palin	33%	23%	42%	23%
Undecided	4%	2%	6%	6%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	53%	65%	43%	60%
Mitt Romney	37%	25%	47%	25%
Undecided	11%	11%	10%	15%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Johnson				
Barack Obama	51%	63%	41%	55%
Gary Johnson	36%	28%	44%	26%
Undecided	13%	9%	15%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	55%	61%	60%	55%	46%
Disapprove	40%	30%	34%	42%	50%
Not sure	5%	9%	6%	3%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	25%	21%	16%	26%	34%
Unfavorable	56%	45%	66%	58%	47%
Not sure	19%	33%	18%	16%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	34%	36%	25%	34%	42%
Unfavorable	46%	45%	56%	45%	38%
Not sure	20%	18%	19%	21%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	31%	27%	25%	32%	38%
Unfavorable	64%	67%	74%	63%	54%
Not sure	5%	6%	1%	5%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	33%	30%	29%	33%	41%
Unfavorable	45%	48%	47%	46%	38%
Not sure	22%	21%	24%	22%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Johnson Favorability					
Favorable	44%	52%	35%	49%	39%
Unfavorable	32%	27%	34%	31%	37%
Not sure	24%	21%	31%	20%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	56%	64%	63%	55%	46%
New t Gingrich	35%	30%	25%	36%	45%
Undecided	9%	6%	12%	9%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	55%	64%	60%	54%	45%
Mike Huckabee	36%	21%	32%	38%	43%
Undecided	9%	15%	7%	8%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	62%	73%	68%	61%	52%
Sarah Palin	33%	27%	29%	34%	39%
Undecided	4%	-	3%	4%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	53%	61%	59%	52%	41%
Mitt Romney	37%	27%	34%	37%	44%
Undecided	11%	12%	7%	10%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Johnson					
Barack Obama	51%	61%	56%	50%	41%
Gary Johnson	36%	27%	37%	36%	43%
Undecided	13%	12%	7%	14%	16%

