



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

Gary Johnson not favored for Sen. or Pres. by NM GOP

Raleigh, N.C. – Though he is unusually popular across party lines, and would therefore come closer than any other Republican to beating either Jeff Bingaman or Barack Obama, former Governor Gary Johnson is not currently his party's favorite in PPP's early test of the GOP Senate and presidential primaries in New Mexico.

In the race to take on Bingaman or his replacement on the Democratic ticket if he retires, former Congresswoman Heather Wilson has 35% to Johnson's 27%, with Congressman Steve Pearce at 17%, Ninth Judicial District Attorney Matt Chandler and Secretary of State Dianna Duran at 6% apiece, Lieutenant Governor John Sanchez at 4%, and 6% favoring someone else or unsure. The two frontrunners both do about equally well with moderates and conservatives, but Pearce builds his relatively strong showing by getting 21% of the 70% conservative supermajority, bolstering his weak 7% with centrists.

Johnson could be a formidable general-election opponent for Democrats, because he is almost as well liked by Democrats as Republicans, and liked best by independents, but that means his intraparty support is particularly weak. While Pearce and Wilson have +53 favorability margins, Johnson posts only a +13, with 46% of conservatives expressing a positive opinion of him, versus 79% for Pearce and 74% for Wilson.

In the presidential field, Johnson also gets no favorite-son bounce, tying for fourth with Newt Gingrich at 13%, behind Sarah Palin's 20%, Mike Huckabee's 17%, and Mitt Romney's 16%. This is the first Western state PPP has polled in which Romney has not led the primary contest—he is at least narrowly the favorite in Nevada, California, Colorado, and Arizona. Bringing up the rear are Tim Pawlenty's 6%, Ron Paul's 4%, and Mitch Daniels' 3%, with 8% preferring an unnamed option or completely undecided. Romney has a bare lead with moderates over Palin and Johnson, but ties with Gingrich for third with conservatives, who favor Palin and Huckabee.

In the event Johnson does not enter the race, there is no clear beneficiary, not even fellow libertarian Paul, who is not hurt any more than the others by a Johnson candidacy. Palin still leads, now with 22% over Huckabee's 18%, Romney's 16%, Gingrich's 15%, Pawlenty's 7%, Paul's 6%, and Daniels' 3%, with 12% now undecided.

PPP surveyed 357 usual New Mexico Republican primary voters from February 4th to 6th. The survey's margin of error is +/-5.2%. 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 have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 53%
Unfavorable 30%
Not sure 17%

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

Favorable..... 67%
Unfavorable 17%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 69%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 56%
Unfavorable 29%
Not sure 14%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Gary Johnson?

Favorable..... 46%
Unfavorable 33%
Not sure 21%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve Pearce?

Favorable..... 69%
Unfavorable 16%
Not sure 15%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Heather Wilson?

Favorable..... 71%
Unfavorable 18%
Not sure 11%

Q8 Given the choices of Matt Chandler, Dianna Duran, Gary Johnson, Steve Pearce, John Sanchez, and Heather Wilson who would you most like to see as the Republican candidate for Senate next year?

Matt Chandler 6%
Dianna Duran..... 6%
Gary Johnson 27%
Steve Pearce 17%
John Sanchez..... 4%
Heather Wilson 35%
Someone else/Not sure 6%





Q9 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Gary Johnson, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, and Mitt Romney who would you vote for?

<i>Mitch Daniels</i>	3%
<i>Newt Gingrich</i>	13%
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	17%
<i>Gary Johnson</i>	13%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	20%
<i>Ron Paul</i>	4%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	6%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	16%
<i>Someone else/Undecided</i>	8%

Q10 If the Republican candidates for President next year were just Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, and Mitt Romney who would you vote for?

<i>Mitch Daniels</i>	3%
<i>Newt Gingrich</i>	15%
<i>Mike Huckabee</i>	18%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	22%
<i>Ron Paul</i>	6%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	7%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	16%
<i>Someone else/Undecided</i>	12%

Q11 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

<i>Liberal</i>	2%
<i>Moderate</i>	28%
<i>Conservative</i>	70%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	50%
<i>Man</i>	50%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	53%	38%	29%	64%
Unfavorable	30%	38%	52%	20%
Not sure	17%	25%	19%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	67%	63%	46%	76%
Unfavorable	17%	25%	36%	10%
Not sure	15%	13%	18%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	69%	88%	41%	80%
Unfavorable	25%	13%	55%	14%
Not sure	5%	-	4%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	56%	50%	51%	59%
Unfavorable	29%	13%	35%	28%
Not sure	14%	38%	14%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	46%	63%	45%	46%
Unfavorable	33%	13%	32%	34%
Not sure	21%	25%	23%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Pearce Favorability				
Favorable	69%	50%	46%	79%
Unfavorable	16%	38%	28%	10%
Not sure	15%	13%	25%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Wilson Favorability				
Favorable	71%	50%	64%	74%
Unfavorable	18%	38%	25%	14%
Not sure	11%	13%	11%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Sen Primary				
Matt Chandler	6%	-	8%	6%
Dianna Duran	6%	13%	11%	3%
Gary Johnson	27%	63%	28%	25%
Steve Pearce	17%	-	7%	21%
John Sanchez	4%	-	4%	4%
Heather Wilson	35%	13%	35%	36%
Someone else/Not sure	6%	13%	7%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Johnson				
Mitch Daniels	3%	-	6%	2%
Newt Gingrich	13%	13%	7%	15%
Mike Huckabee	17%	13%	10%	20%
Gary Johnson	13%	25%	15%	12%
Sarah Palin	20%	50%	16%	20%
Ron Paul	4%	-	5%	4%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	-	6%	6%
Mitt Romney	16%	-	19%	15%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	-	16%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Johnson				
Mitch Daniels	3%	-	6%	2%
Newt Gingrich	15%	13%	6%	18%
Mike Huckabee	18%	13%	11%	21%
Sarah Palin	22%	63%	16%	23%
Ron Paul	6%	-	8%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	7%	-	6%	8%
Mitt Romney	16%	-	24%	14%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	13%	22%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	53%	50%	57%
Unfavorable	30%	31%	29%
Not sure	17%	20%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	67%	66%	68%
Unfavorable	17%	17%	18%
Not sure	15%	16%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	69%	65%	73%
Unfavorable	25%	31%	21%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	56%	53%	59%
Unfavorable	29%	33%	26%
Not sure	14%	14%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	46%	44%	48%
Unfavorable	33%	36%	31%
Not sure	21%	20%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Pearce Favorability			
Favorable	69%	65%	74%
Unfavorable	16%	16%	16%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Wilson Favorability			
Favorable	71%	68%	73%
Unfavorable	18%	20%	15%
Not sure	11%	11%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Sen Primary			
Matt Chandler	6%	8%	4%
Dianna Duran	6%	5%	6%
Gary Johnson	27%	29%	24%
Steve Pearce	17%	16%	17%
John Sanchez	4%	3%	5%
Heather Wilson	35%	32%	38%
Someone else/Not sure	6%	6%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Johnson			
Mitch Daniels	3%	4%	3%
Newt Gingrich	13%	7%	18%
Mike Huckabee	17%	20%	13%
Gary Johnson	13%	12%	14%
Sarah Palin	20%	21%	18%
Ron Paul	4%	3%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	5%	7%
Mitt Romney	16%	17%	14%
Someone else/Undecided	8%	11%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Johnson			
Mitch Daniels	3%	4%	3%
Newt Gingrich	15%	11%	18%
Mike Huckabee	18%	21%	15%
Sarah Palin	22%	24%	20%
Ron Paul	6%	5%	8%
Tim Pawlenty	7%	6%	8%
Mitt Romney	16%	15%	17%
Someone else/Undecided	12%	14%	10%

