Public Policy Polling

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **November 30, 2010**

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

Palin barely tops muddled national GOP presidential picture

Raleigh, N.C. – Things could not be closer in the early race to face President Obama in 2012, as the top four Republicans expected to vie for that chance are within five points of each other among all Americans who say they usually vote in Republican primaries. The picture hardly changes even when voters are asked their second choice.

Sarah Palin pulls 21% to Newt Gingrich's 19%, Mitt Romney's 18%, Mike Huckabee's 16%, Ron Paul's and Tim Pawlenty's 5%, John Thune's 3%, and Mitch Daniels' 2%. To make things even more chaotic, 12%—almost as many as favor the bottom four combined—are either completely unsure or want another candidate to jump in. If some unnamed contender or one of the less-supported options managed to pick up momentum with this group, he or she would instantly join the conversation near the top.

There is a sizeable ideological divide. As is typically the case, Romney's strength is among moderates, with 25% to Huckabee's 20%, Palin's 13%, and Gingrich's 10%. Unfortunately for Romney, self-proclaimed centrists make up only 28% of the nationwide electorate. The 71% who call themselves conservative give Palin and Gingrich a huge boost—the two are essentially tied with right-wingers at 24% and 23%, respectively. Romney drops way down to 15%, just nosing out Huckabee's 14%.

Despite his conservative base of support, Gingrich's supporters would actually go most heavily to the two favored by the moderates, Huckabee (31%) and Romney (27%), if he were not in the race. 34% of Huckabee backers would go to Palin, with Gingrich way behind at 19%. Palin's voters are more spread out, but would fall mostly to Gingrich and Huckabee, and Romney's to Palin and Huckabee. Pawlenty's presence continues to hurt Romney, as 35% of his partisans would move to Romney, far ahead of Palin's 17%.

On another front, RNC Chairman Michael Steele's persistence in seeking a second term at the helm of the party could run into a significant roadblock if committeemen and other party officials listen to the base. The most frequent Republican voters are against re-upping Steele by more than a 2:1 margin, with 47% opposed and only 23% supportive.

PPP surveyed 400 typical national Republican primary voters from November 19th to 21st. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

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National Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable ..... 63% *Not sure* 21%

Unfavorable 17%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable 68%

Unfavorable 22%

Not sure 10%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable 57%

Unfavorable 28%

Not sure 15%

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

Favorable 56%

Unfavorable 24%

Not sure 20%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Marco Rubio?

Favorable ..... 43% *Not sure* 41%

Unfavorable 16%

Q6 Do you think the Republican Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal ..... 26% *About right* 54%

Too conservative ... 15% *Not sure* 5%

Q7 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 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 2%

Newt Gingrich 19%

Mike Huckabee 16%

Sarah Palin 21%

Ron Paul 5%

Tim Pawlenty 5%

Mitt Romney 18%

John Thune 3%

Someone else/Undecided 12%

Q8 Given the same list of choices who would your second choice be for President in 2012?

Mitch Daniels 3%

Newt Gingrich 13%

Mike Huckabee 20%

Sarah Palin 20%

Ron Paul 6%

Tim Pawlenty 4%

Mitt Romney 13%

John Thune 1%

Someone else/Undecided 19%

Q9 Would you like to see Michael Steele continue as chairman of the Republican Party or would you rather he was replaced?

Continue 23%

Be replaced 47%

Not sure 30%

November 19-21, 2010
Survey of 400 Republican primary voters

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Q10 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal	1%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	71%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman	51%
Man	49%

Q12 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	45%
Older than 65	19%

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Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Huckabee Favorability										
Favorable	**63%**	59%	78%	93%	52%	61%	67%	46%	78%	39%
Unfavorable	**17%**	11%	11%	-	19%	23%	28%	25%	22%	23%
Not sure	**21%**	30%	12%	7%	29%	16%	5%	29%	-	38%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Palin Favorability										
Favorable	**68%**	63%	67%	64%	100%	67%	63%	46%	82%	52%
Unfavorable	**22%**	37%	14%	27%	-	33%	33%	36%	-	38%
Not sure	**10%**	-	19%	9%	-	-	4%	17%	18%	10%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Gingrich Favorability										
Favorable	**57%**	59%	88%	53%	42%	59%	76%	41%	87%	47%
Unfavorable	**28%**	11%	4%	23%	38%	41%	13%	42%	13%	39%
Not sure	**15%**	30%	9%	24%	20%	-	11%	18%	-	15%

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Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Romney Favorability										
Favorable	**56%**	59%	61%	59%	40%	33%	74%	84%	53%	31%
Unfavorable	**24%**	11%	26%	26%	35%	54%	9%	9%	22%	18%
Not sure	**20%**	30%	12%	14%	25%	13%	16%	7%	25%	51%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Rubio Favorability										
Favorable	**43%**	48%	64%	40%	33%	28%	87%	35%	75%	25%
Unfavorable	**16%**	11%	10%	15%	20%	43%	4%	19%	-	15%
Not sure	**41%**	41%	26%	45%	48%	29%	9%	45%	25%	60%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
GOP Ideology										
Too liberal	**26%**	22%	31%	17%	30%	48%	31%	20%	7%	27%
Too conservative	**15%**	11%	7%	11%	11%	7%	13%	22%	-	34%
About right	**54%**	67%	54%	68%	58%	46%	46%	54%	75%	30%
Not sure	**5%**	-	7%	4%	1%	-	9%	4%	18%	10%

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Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
2012 GOP Pres Primary										
Mitch Daniels	**2%**	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newt Gingrich	**19%**	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mike Huckabee	**16%**	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sarah Palin	**21%**	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-
Ron Paul	**5%**	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-
Tim Pawlenty	**5%**	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-
Mitt Romney	**18%**	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-
John Thune	**3%**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-
Someone else/Undecided	**12%**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
2012 GOP Pres Primary 2nd Choice										
Mitch Daniels	**3%**	-	2%	2%	4%	3%	11%	5%	-	-
Newt Gingrich	**13%**	11%	7%	19%	20%	7%	-	14%	25%	6%
Mike Huckabee	**20%**	22%	31%	14%	24%	26%	13%	23%	21%	4%
Sarah Palin	**20%**	15%	19%	34%	18%	23%	17%	27%	7%	1%
Ron Paul	**6%**	-	9%	1%	10%	13%	4%	6%	-	-
Tim Pawlenty	**4%**	11%	4%	7%	4%	-	-	5%	16%	-
Mitt Romney	**13%**	26%	27%	17%	12%	7%	35%	-	7%	4%
John Thune	**1%**	-	-	-	1%	-	4%	3%	-	1%
Someone else/Undecided	**19%**	15%	2%	6%	7%	21%	16%	18%	25%	84%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Steele Continue or Be Replaced?										
Continue	**23%**	41%	28%	19%	19%	29%	26%	25%	13%	20%
Be replaced	**47%**	44%	44%	47%	58%	54%	43%	39%	47%	41%
Not sure	**30%**	15%	27%	34%	23%	16%	31%	36%	40%	39%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	**63%**	19%	44%	71%
Unfavorable	**17%**	19%	25%	13%
Not sure	**21%**	63%	31%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	**68%**	44%	44%	78%
Unfavorable	**22%**	19%	44%	13%
Not sure	**10%**	37%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	**57%**	37%	38%	65%
Unfavorable	**28%**	19%	45%	21%
Not sure	**15%**	44%	17%	14%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	**56%**	44%	50%	59%
Unfavorable	**24%**	19%	27%	23%
Not sure	**20%**	37%	22%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rubio Favorability				
Favorable	**43%**	19%	26%	50%
Unfavorable	**16%**	44%	21%	14%
Not sure	**41%**	37%	54%	36%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
GOP Ideology				
Too liberal	**26%**	-	9%	33%
Too conservative	**15%**	56%	38%	5%
About right	**54%**	26%	46%	58%
Not sure	**5%**	19%	7%	4%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Mitch Daniels	**2%**	-	2%	2%
Newt Gingrich	**19%**	-	10%	23%
Mike Huckabee	**16%**	-	20%	14%
Sarah Palin	**21%**	-	13%	24%
Ron Paul	**5%**	-	4%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	**5%**	-	4%	5%
Mitt Romney	**18%**	26%	25%	15%
John Thune	**3%**	-	3%	3%
Someone else/Undecided	**12%**	74%	20%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary 2nd Choice				
Mitch Daniels	**3%**	-	5%	3%
Newt Gingrich	**13%**	19%	13%	13%
Mike Huckabee	**20%**	-	18%	22%
Sarah Palin	**20%**	26%	17%	21%
Ron Paul	**6%**	-	6%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	**4%**	-	3%	5%
Mitt Romney	**13%**	-	10%	15%
John Thune	**1%**	-	2%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	**19%**	56%	26%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Steele Continue or Be Replaced?				
Continue	**23%**	37%	21%	24%
Be replaced	**47%**	37%	49%	46%
Not sure	**30%**	26%	31%	30%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	**63%**	64%	61%
Unfavorable	**17%**	12%	21%
Not sure	**21%**	24%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	**68%**	67%	69%
Unfavorable	**22%**	20%	24%
Not sure	**10%**	13%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	**57%**	52%	62%
Unfavorable	**28%**	26%	29%
Not sure	**15%**	22%	9%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	**56%**	57%	56%
Unfavorable	**24%**	19%	30%
Not sure	**20%**	24%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rubio Favorability			
Favorable	**43%**	38%	48%
Unfavorable	**16%**	16%	16%
Not sure	**41%**	46%	35%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
GOP Ideology			
Too liberal	**26%**	23%	29%
Too conservative	**15%**	14%	15%
About right	**54%**	57%	52%
Not sure	**5%**	7%	3%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Mitch Daniels	**2%**	2%	2%
Newt Gingrich	**19%**	16%	23%
Mike Huckabee	**16%**	20%	11%
Sarah Palin	**21%**	19%	23%
Ron Paul	**5%**	4%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	**5%**	3%	6%
Mitt Romney	**18%**	20%	16%
John Thune	**3%**	3%	2%
Someone else/Undecided	**12%**	13%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary 2nd Choice			
Mitch Daniels	**3%**	2%	4%
Newt Gingrich	**13%**	15%	11%
Mike Huckabee	**20%**	25%	16%
Sarah Palin	**20%**	19%	22%
Ron Paul	**6%**	3%	9%
Tim Pawlenty	**4%**	3%	5%
Mitt Romney	**13%**	12%	15%
John Thune	**1%**	1%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	**19%**	21%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Steele Continue or Be Replaced?			
Continue	**23%**	17%	29%
Be replaced	**47%**	44%	49%
Not sure	**30%**	38%	22%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	**63%**	79%	64%	60%	60%
Unfavorable	**17%**	-	18%	19%	17%
Not sure	**21%**	21%	18%	21%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	**68%**	71%	63%	67%	77%
Unfavorable	**22%**	7%	27%	24%	17%
Not sure	**10%**	21%	11%	9%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	**57%**	36%	55%	60%	60%
Unfavorable	**28%**	14%	32%	28%	27%
Not sure	**15%**	50%	13%	12%	13%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	**56%**	57%	53%	56%	61%
Unfavorable	**24%**	14%	31%	23%	22%
Not sure	**20%**	29%	16%	21%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rubio Favorability					
Favorable	**43%**	29%	45%	42%	49%
Unfavorable	**16%**	7%	14%	18%	19%
Not sure	**41%**	64%	41%	40%	31%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
GOP Ideology					
Too liberal	**26%**	21%	34%	23%	25%
Too conservative	**15%**	-	14%	21%	5%
About right	**54%**	71%	48%	52%	62%
Not sure	**5%**	7%	4%	4%	8%

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Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Mitch Daniels	**2%**	-	-	2%	4%
Newt Gingrich	**19%**	36%	20%	17%	17%
Mike Huckabee	**16%**	29%	14%	14%	17%
Sarah Palin	**21%**	29%	16%	21%	23%
Ron Paul	**5%**	-	9%	6%	1%
Tim Pawlenty	**5%**	-	5%	4%	8%
Mitt Romney	**18%**	-	23%	18%	19%
John Thune	**3%**	7%	4%	2%	1%
Someone else/Undecided	**12%**	-	9%	17%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary 2nd Choice					
Mitch Daniels	**3%**	-	4%	3%	4%
Newt Gingrich	**13%**	14%	9%	16%	12%
Mike Huckabee	**20%**	43%	20%	16%	23%
Sarah Palin	**20%**	21%	20%	18%	26%
Ron Paul	**6%**	7%	7%	7%	3%
Tim Pawlenty	**4%**	-	5%	5%	3%
Mitt Romney	**13%**	14%	16%	10%	16%
John Thune	**1%**	-	-	2%	-
Someone else/Undecided	**19%**	-	20%	23%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Steele Continue or Be Replaced?					
Continue	**23%**	21%	18%	25%	26%
Be replaced	**47%**	43%	45%	50%	43%
Not sure	**30%**	36%	38%	24%	31%

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