

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312**IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

Obama down a little in OH, still leads Romney, others

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama is still in decent shape to take Ohio’s newly thinned slate of electors next year, if a little weaker than when PPP last polled the crucial swing state in mid-March. Then, he led his closest competitor, Mitt Romney, 46-40. Romney has closed the gap a little, to 46-42, as have Newt Gingrich (from 50-38 to 49-40) and even Sarah Palin (from 52-36 to 50-40). In a hypothetical matchup with Sen. Rob Portman, Obama would prevail, 48-38.

There is good news for the president, though, in that even his close lead over Romney is essentially the same as his five-point victory over John McCain in 2008. That result comes even in an electorate that reports having voted for him by only one point over McCain—indicating that turnout from Obama’s base is still lagging, as it did last fall, when Portman won election by a whopping 18 points.

Unlike in most places PPP has polled more than once in the last few months, Obama’s approval rating has actually declined in Ohio, from a narrowly positive 47-46 approval-disapproval margin in March to 46-49 now. Unusually, the president has eroded support from within his own party, with only 78% approving and 19% disapproving (versus 84-11 in March), and with independents (from 39-49 to 37-55).

People have moved strongly against Portman as they have found out more about him. In March, 25% approved and 22% disapproved, with 53% still unsure of their feelings about their new senator. He stands now at 28-33.

“These Ohio numbers epitomize Barack Obama’s status right now- he’s not terribly popular but the Republican field is even more unpopular and because of that he’d be in a solid shape for reelection if we had to vote today,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “If a GOP candidate really captures the attention of the voters Obama will be in trouble but that is far from inevitable.”

PPP surveyed 565 Ohio voters from May 19th to 22nd. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.1%. 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.



Ohio Survey Results

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

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable 22% *Not sure* 19%
Unfavorable..... 59%

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

Favorable 34% *Not sure* 9%
Unfavorable..... 58%

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

Favorable 32% *Not sure* 25%
Unfavorable..... 43%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Rob Portman's job performance?

Approve 28%
Disapprove..... 33%
Not sure 39%

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

Barack Obama..... 49%
Newt Gingrich 40%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 50%
Sarah Palin 40%
Undecided..... 10%

Q8 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..... 42%
Undecided..... 12%

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

Barack Obama..... 48%
Rob Portman..... 38%
Undecided..... 15%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 45%
Barack Obama..... 46%
Someone else/Don't remember 9%

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

Very liberal..... 13%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 33%
Somewhat conservative..... 25%
Very conservative 13%

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

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%

Q13 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..... 35%
Independent/Other..... 20%



Q14 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	87%
<i>African-American</i>	9%
<i>Other</i>	4%

Q15 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>	16%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	40%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	11%	87%	13%
Disapprove	49%	84%	10%	72%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	16%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	22%	40%	5%	21%
Unfavorable	59%	37%	81%	54%
Not sure	19%	23%	14%	24%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	34%	61%	7%	36%
Unfavorable	58%	30%	88%	37%
Not sure	9%	10%	4%	27%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	51%	14%	33%
Unfavorable	43%	25%	61%	36%
Not sure	25%	25%	24%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Portman Approval				
Approve	28%	41%	13%	39%
Disapprove	33%	19%	50%	21%
Not sure	39%	40%	37%	41%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	15%	88%	18%
Newt Gingrich	40%	76%	5%	40%
Undecided	11%	9%	7%	43%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	50%	16%	88%	21%
Sarah Palin	40%	73%	7%	49%
Undecided	10%	12%	5%	29%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	11%	86%	18%
Mitt Romney	42%	78%	5%	48%
Undecided	12%	11%	9%	35%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Portman				
Barack Obama	48%	13%	88%	13%
Rob Portman	38%	70%	6%	38%
Undecided	15%	17%	6%	49%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	46%	83%	80%	56%	15%	5%
Disapprove	49%	17%	15%	36%	81%	92%
Not sure	5%	-	6%	8%	5%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	22%	15%	2%	13%	32%	57%
Unfavorable	59%	84%	81%	65%	41%	25%
Not sure	19%	1%	17%	22%	26%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	34%	14%	9%	25%	50%	76%
Unfavorable	58%	86%	87%	68%	32%	14%
Not sure	9%	-	4%	7%	18%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	32%	17%	13%	26%	51%	52%
Unfavorable	43%	74%	56%	48%	20%	25%
Not sure	25%	9%	31%	27%	28%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Portman Approval						
Approve	28%	16%	11%	19%	39%	61%
Disapprove	33%	52%	46%	42%	19%	6%
Not sure	39%	32%	44%	39%	43%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	49%	83%	87%	56%	18%	10%
Newt Gingrich	40%	13%	5%	28%	69%	84%
Undecided	11%	4%	8%	16%	13%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	50%	85%	85%	60%	19%	5%
Sarah Palin	40%	11%	8%	30%	66%	86%
Undecided	10%	3%	7%	10%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	46%	88%	83%	52%	14%	6%
Mitt Romney	42%	11%	9%	30%	72%	83%
Undecided	12%	1%	8%	18%	14%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Portman						
Barack Obama	48%	87%	83%	56%	16%	5%
Rob Portman	38%	11%	9%	27%	58%	86%
Undecided	15%	2%	7%	17%	26%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	48%	44%
Disapprove	49%	46%	52%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	22%	18%	26%
Unfavorable	59%	59%	58%
Not sure	19%	22%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	34%	32%	36%
Unfavorable	58%	58%	57%
Not sure	9%	10%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	32%	24%	42%
Unfavorable	43%	44%	41%
Not sure	25%	32%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Portman Approval			
Approve	28%	21%	35%
Disapprove	33%	32%	35%
Not sure	39%	47%	30%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	49%	51%	47%
Newt Gingrich	40%	37%	43%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	50%	53%	46%
Sarah Palin	40%	36%	45%
Undecided	10%	11%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	46%	49%	43%
Mitt Romney	42%	35%	50%
Undecided	12%	16%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Portman			
Barack Obama	48%	50%	44%
Rob Portman	38%	33%	43%
Undecided	15%	16%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	78%	11%	37%
Disapprove	49%	19%	83%	55%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	22%	8%	41%	21%
Unfavorable	59%	79%	32%	62%
Not sure	19%	13%	27%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	34%	13%	62%	29%
Unfavorable	58%	83%	26%	57%
Not sure	9%	4%	12%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	15%	52%	35%
Unfavorable	43%	61%	22%	38%
Not sure	25%	24%	26%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Portman Approval				
Approve	28%	15%	44%	27%
Disapprove	33%	46%	15%	36%
Not sure	39%	39%	40%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	82%	12%	40%
New t Gingrich	40%	11%	78%	38%
Undecided	11%	8%	10%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	50%	83%	12%	42%
Sarah Palin	40%	13%	74%	43%
Undecided	10%	5%	14%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	82%	7%	34%
Mitt Romney	42%	12%	79%	44%
Undecided	12%	6%	14%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Portman				
Barack Obama	48%	84%	9%	34%
Rob Portman	38%	9%	72%	43%
Undecided	15%	8%	19%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	41%	82%	69%
Disapprove	49%	53%	14%	25%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	22%	23%	14%	8%
Unfavorable	59%	57%	74%	73%
Not sure	19%	20%	12%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	34%	37%	11%	6%
Unfavorable	58%	54%	85%	84%
Not sure	9%	9%	5%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	34%	18%	19%
Unfavorable	43%	39%	62%	71%
Not sure	25%	26%	19%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Portman Approval				
Approve	28%	29%	18%	10%
Disapprove	33%	31%	46%	46%
Not sure	39%	39%	36%	43%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	44%	85%	71%
New t Gingrich	40%	43%	14%	23%
Undecided	11%	12%	1%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	50%	45%	88%	73%
Sarah Palin	40%	44%	10%	23%
Undecided	10%	11%	3%	4%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	42%	80%	73%
Mitt Romney	42%	45%	15%	27%
Undecided	12%	13%	5%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Portman				
Barack Obama	48%	43%	85%	69%
Rob Portman	38%	41%	14%	19%
Undecided	15%	16%	1%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	46%	66%	39%	44%	45%
Disapprove	49%	32%	54%	52%	48%
Not sure	5%	2%	7%	4%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	22%	15%	24%	23%	24%
Unfavorable	59%	64%	52%	61%	60%
Not sure	19%	21%	24%	17%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	34%	26%	36%	36%	32%
Unfavorable	58%	64%	53%	57%	58%
Not sure	9%	11%	10%	6%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	32%	13%	34%	35%	40%
Unfavorable	43%	47%	47%	38%	43%
Not sure	25%	40%	19%	26%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Portman Approval					
Approve	28%	13%	28%	30%	35%
Disapprove	33%	40%	26%	36%	31%
Not sure	39%	47%	47%	34%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	49%	68%	36%	49%	49%
Newt Gingrich	40%	21%	52%	41%	38%
Undecided	11%	11%	12%	10%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	50%	62%	40%	50%	54%
Sarah Palin	40%	30%	50%	41%	35%
Undecided	10%	9%	10%	9%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	46%	64%	41%	43%	44%
Mitt Romney	42%	23%	45%	46%	43%
Undecided	12%	13%	14%	11%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Portman					
Barack Obama	48%	65%	40%	46%	46%
Rob Portman	38%	28%	40%	40%	38%
Undecided	15%	7%	21%	14%	15%

