



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tight race in Pa., Obama ties Romney, Huckabee, Santorum

Raleigh, N.C. – Like other Northeastern and Midwestern states PPP has polled in recent months, Pennsylvania is set to feature a closer race for the White House than in 2008, when President Obama rolled through the Great Lakes with double-digit victories in almost every state. But unlike in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, and others, President Obama actually trails one potential opponent and barely leads two others in PPP's latest look at the Keystone State. No GOP presidential nominee has won Pennsylvania since George H.W. Bush in 1988.

Only against Sarah Palin does the president match his 10-point victory margin over Palin's 2008 running mate, John McCain, leading her 50-39. He also has a strong lead over Newt Gingrich, 47-39. But he narrowly lags Mitt Romney, 42-43, and just edges Mike Huckabee, 45-44, and the state's former senator, Rick Santorum, 45-43.

Respondents report only voting for Obama over McCain by four points, about the same as in PPP's final poll before the 2010 election which featured a surge in Republican turnout. Other states have begun to bounce back toward an electorate more like 2008's.

The president's approval rating is way under water, with only 42% approving and 52% disapproving, putting his standing here in league with where PPP has found him recently in Missouri, Tennessee, and Mississippi, and worse than in McCain states like South Dakota, South Carolina, Arizona, and Georgia.

Since then and since 2008, Obama has declined with his own party. 24% of them disapprove of his job performance, and 14-19% are planning to vote for the GOP nominee, versus only 10% who crossed over in 2008, according to exit polls. He won decisively with independents then, but unaffiliated voters split between him and the top three Republicans, and give him strong leads against only Gingrich and Palin.

"Obama's big problem in Pennsylvania right now is keeping conservative white Democrats in line," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "They voted for him in November 2008 after supporting Hillary Clinton in the primary, but they have not liked what they've seen in his first two plus years in office."

PPP surveyed 593 Pennsylvania voters from April 7th to 10th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





Pennsylvania Survey Results

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

Approve 42%
Disapprove..... 52%
Not sure 6%

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

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 54%
Not sure 21%

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

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 20%

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

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 61%
Not sure 7%

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

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 41%
Not sure 27%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Santorum?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 16%

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

Barack Obama..... 47%
Newt Gingrich 39%
Undecided..... 14%

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

Barack Obama..... 45%
Mike Huckabee 44%
Undecided..... 11%

Q9 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 39%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 42%
Mitt Romney..... 43%
Undecided..... 15%

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

Barack Obama..... 45%
Rick Santorum 43%
Undecided..... 12%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	44%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	48%
<i>Someone Else/Don't Remember</i>	7%

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

<i>Very liberal</i>	8%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	19%
<i>Moderate</i>	33%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	23%
<i>Very conservative</i>	17%

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>	51%
<i>Republican</i>	38%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	11%

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

<i>White</i>	85%
<i>African American</i>	11%
<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>	8%
<i>30 to 45</i>	31%
<i>46 to 65</i>	40%
<i>Older than 65</i>	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	9%	75%	25%
Disapprove	52%	89%	16%	62%
Not sure	6%	2%	9%	13%

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	46%	7%	16%
Unfavorable	54%	31%	76%	51%
Not sure	21%	24%	17%	33%

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	37%	61%	17%	29%
Unfavorable	43%	22%	62%	41%
Not sure	20%	17%	21%	31%

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	33%	62%	6%	29%
Unfavorable	61%	29%	90%	61%
Not sure	7%	9%	4%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	31%	47%	20%	11%
Unfavorable	41%	27%	54%	45%
Not sure	27%	26%	26%	44%

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	37%	55%	21%	37%
Unfavorable	47%	27%	66%	36%
Not sure	16%	17%	13%	26%

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	10%	84%	25%
Newt Gingrich	39%	73%	8%	40%
Undecided	14%	17%	8%	35%

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	45%	9%	82%	23%
Mike Huckabee	44%	79%	10%	50%
Undecided	11%	12%	8%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	50%	11%	88%	32%
Sarah Palin	39%	73%	8%	35%
Undecided	11%	15%	4%	32%

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	42%	6%	78%	21%
Mitt Romney	43%	77%	12%	35%
Undecided	15%	16%	10%	44%

	Base	2008 Pres. Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	45%	8%	83%	25%
Rick Santorum	43%	76%	12%	46%
Undecided	12%	15%	6%	29%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	42%	76%	71%	52%	19%	4%
Disapprove	52%	18%	22%	37%	78%	94%
Not sure	6%	6%	7%	10%	3%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	25%	10%	7%	13%	35%	62%
Unfavorable	54%	74%	78%	63%	40%	20%
Not sure	21%	16%	16%	24%	25%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Favorability						
Favorable	37%	14%	15%	31%	54%	63%
Unfavorable	43%	70%	66%	41%	28%	23%
Not sure	20%	15%	18%	28%	17%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	33%	15%	16%	16%	48%	72%
Unfavorable	61%	76%	83%	78%	43%	20%
Not sure	7%	10%	1%	7%	9%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	31%	14%	20%	25%	43%	48%
Unfavorable	41%	60%	59%	40%	31%	27%
Not sure	27%	26%	21%	35%	26%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	37%	18%	19%	29%	46%	73%
Unfavorable	47%	64%	71%	53%	35%	15%
Not sure	16%	18%	10%	18%	19%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	47%	71%	82%	61%	20%	5%
Newt Gingrich	39%	21%	13%	23%	56%	87%
Undecided	14%	8%	5%	16%	24%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Huckabee						
Barack Obama	45%	76%	79%	58%	19%	4%
Mike Huckabee	44%	18%	15%	28%	67%	89%
Undecided	11%	6%	6%	14%	15%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	50%	78%	80%	66%	24%	5%
Sarah Palin	39%	15%	17%	22%	56%	88%
Undecided	11%	8%	3%	12%	20%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	42%	75%	77%	51%	18%	3%
Mitt Romney	43%	14%	14%	33%	63%	82%
Undecided	15%	10%	9%	17%	19%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	45%	75%	80%	57%	19%	4%
Rick Santorum	43%	19%	15%	29%	60%	90%
Undecided	12%	6%	5%	13%	20%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	45%	39%
Disapprove	52%	46%	57%
Not sure	6%	9%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	25%	20%	30%
Unfavorable	54%	54%	54%
Not sure	21%	26%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	37%	37%	38%
Unfavorable	43%	38%	47%
Not sure	20%	25%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	33%	29%	37%
Unfavorable	61%	63%	58%
Not sure	7%	8%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	31%	24%	39%
Unfavorable	41%	40%	43%
Not sure	27%	36%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	37%	35%	40%
Unfavorable	47%	45%	49%
Not sure	16%	20%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	47%	50%	43%
Newt Gingrich	39%	36%	42%
Undecided	14%	14%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	45%	48%	42%
Mike Huckabee	44%	42%	46%
Undecided	11%	11%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	50%	53%	46%
Sarah Palin	39%	36%	43%
Undecided	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	42%	46%	38%
Mitt Romney	43%	39%	47%
Undecided	15%	15%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	45%	49%	41%
Rick Santorum	43%	39%	48%
Undecided	12%	12%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	68%	8%	39%
Disapprove	52%	24%	89%	54%
Not sure	6%	8%	4%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	9%	48%	18%
Unfavorable	54%	72%	30%	53%
Not sure	21%	19%	22%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	37%	20%	60%	40%
Unfavorable	43%	57%	23%	40%
Not sure	20%	22%	17%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	33%	13%	60%	31%
Unfavorable	61%	82%	30%	64%
Not sure	7%	5%	10%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	31%	21%	47%	27%
Unfavorable	41%	51%	27%	47%
Not sure	27%	29%	26%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	37%	24%	58%	32%
Unfavorable	47%	63%	25%	45%
Not sure	16%	13%	17%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	75%	10%	43%
Newt Gingrich	39%	15%	74%	28%
Undecided	14%	10%	15%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	45%	72%	10%	40%
Mike Huckabee	44%	19%	78%	41%
Undecided	11%	9%	12%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	50%	79%	12%	45%
Sarah Palin	39%	14%	75%	37%
Undecided	11%	8%	13%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	42%	70%	6%	35%
Mitt Romney	43%	17%	80%	34%
Undecided	15%	12%	14%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	45%	74%	9%	39%
Rick Santorum	43%	18%	78%	38%
Undecided	12%	8%	13%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	37%	76%	59%
Disapprove	52%	57%	13%	36%
Not sure	6%	6%	11%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	25%	21%	27%
Unfavorable	54%	53%	58%	64%
Not sure	21%	22%	21%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	37%	39%	24%	41%
Unfavorable	43%	41%	50%	45%
Not sure	20%	20%	26%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	33%	35%	14%	27%
Unfavorable	61%	58%	78%	68%
Not sure	7%	7%	8%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	31%	34%	13%	32%
Unfavorable	41%	39%	55%	50%
Not sure	27%	27%	32%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	37%	38%	39%	27%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	42%	59%
Not sure	16%	15%	18%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	42%	79%	59%
Newt Gingrich	39%	43%	11%	32%
Undecided	14%	15%	11%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	45%	40%	79%	64%
Mike Huckabee	44%	48%	16%	27%
Undecided	11%	12%	5%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	50%	46%	74%	64%
Sarah Palin	39%	42%	21%	36%
Undecided	11%	12%	5%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	42%	37%	74%	64%
Mitt Romney	43%	46%	21%	27%
Undecided	15%	17%	5%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	45%	41%	76%	64%
Rick Santorum	43%	47%	18%	27%
Undecided	12%	13%	5%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	42%	42%	37%	47%	40%
Disapprove	52%	43%	58%	49%	50%
Not sure	6%	15%	5%	4%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	25%	21%	27%	24%	25%
Unfavorable	54%	44%	53%	59%	51%
Not sure	21%	35%	20%	17%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	37%	23%	34%	39%	44%
Unfavorable	43%	45%	45%	42%	39%
Not sure	20%	31%	21%	19%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	33%	26%	34%	33%	32%
Unfavorable	61%	68%	59%	64%	55%
Not sure	7%	6%	7%	3%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	31%	29%	30%	30%	35%
Unfavorable	41%	38%	45%	42%	36%
Not sure	27%	33%	25%	28%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	37%	29%	42%	37%	35%
Unfavorable	47%	41%	40%	53%	48%
Not sure	16%	30%	19%	10%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	47%	52%	44%	51%	44%
New t Gingrich	39%	38%	43%	37%	38%
Undecided	14%	10%	13%	13%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	45%	54%	41%	48%	42%
Mike Huckabee	44%	33%	47%	40%	50%
Undecided	11%	12%	12%	12%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	50%	52%	49%	54%	43%
Sarah Palin	39%	42%	42%	36%	41%
Undecided	11%	6%	10%	10%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	42%	46%	36%	47%	42%
Mitt Romney	43%	42%	47%	38%	46%
Undecided	15%	12%	18%	15%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	45%	48%	40%	51%	43%
Rick Santorum	43%	42%	52%	38%	40%
Undecided	12%	10%	8%	12%	17%

