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

Obama leads potential 2012 foes nationally

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama has held his ground or slightly increased his share of the vote against his prospective Republican opponents since PPP last took a measure of the American electorate in March. His closest challenger for the national popular vote is Mike Huckabee, who lags 43-48, the same deficit as last month. Close behind is Mitt Romney, down 41-47 (42-47). Obama beat John McCain by seven points in 2008. Unlikely candidates Chris Christie (39-48) and Rand Paul (38-48) trail Obama as well, as do Newt Gingrich (38-52, versus 39-50 in March) and Sarah Palin (36-54 versus 38-53). No candidate has lost the nationwide vote by 18 points since Walter Mondale won only his own state and D.C. against Ronald Reagan in 1984.

The president wins by racking up the independent vote by double-digit margins against everyone but Christie, who holds him to a seven-point advantage. The others trail with this group by ten (Huckabee and Romney) to a whopping 28 points (Palin). Obama also pads his leads by getting double-digit GOP support against Gingrich and Palin.

The president's approval rating is essentially where it was last month. 47% approve then and now, and 48% disapprove now, versus 47% last month. The only slight movement has occurred with independents, who have shifted in Obama's favor (from 46-47 to 49-42), and Republicans (who have aligned further against him, from 11-86 to 8-90).

Perhaps surprisingly, more voters (71%) profess an opinion of Paul than Christie (58%). Both are lesser known than the other four, but Paul not much less than Romney (75%) or Huckabee (78%). 28% have a favorable opinion of Christie, and 30% an unfavorable one, the best mark of any of the Republicans by a wide margin. Next is Huckabee (36-42), then Romney (32-43), Paul (26-45), and finally Gingrich (28-55) and Palin (31-61). Almost as many voters can express an opinion about Palin as the president, and his break-even marks look stratospheric next to voters' 2:1 displeasure with her.

“Obama's negative approval rating and leads over Mike Huckabee and Mitt Romney that are smaller than his 2008 margin of victory show that he is somewhat weakened,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But the weakness of the Republican candidate field would still allow him to be reelected if we voted today.”

PPP surveyed 532 registered American voters from April 7th to 10th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.3%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



National Survey Results

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

Approve 47%
Disapprove..... 48%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 22%

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

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 61%
Not sure 9%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 55%
Not sure 17%

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

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

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rand Paul?

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 45%
Not sure 29%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Chris Christie?

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 30%
Not sure 42%

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

Barack Obama..... 48%
Mike Huckabee 43%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Barack Obama..... 54%
Sarah Palin 36%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 52%
Newt Gingrich 38%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 47%
Mitt Romney..... 41%
Undecided..... 12%





Q12 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rand Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Rand Paul..... 38%
Undecided..... 14%

Q13 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Chris Christie, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Chris Christie..... 39%
Undecided..... 13%

Q14 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 8%
Somewhat liberal..... 18%
Moderate..... 34%
Somewhat conservative..... 27%
Very conservative..... 14%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman..... 51%
Man..... 49%

Q16 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..... 38%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 28%

Q17 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 9%
White..... 74%
African-American..... 11%
Other..... 6%

Q18 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..... 12%
30 to 45..... 25%
46 to 65..... 41%
Older than 65..... 22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	47%	82%	81%	61%	16%	7%
Disapprove	48%	18%	14%	33%	78%	90%
Not sure	5%	-	5%	6%	7%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Favorability						
Favorable	36%	26%	11%	26%	52%	67%
Unfavorable	42%	63%	70%	50%	21%	13%
Not sure	22%	11%	18%	24%	26%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	31%	14%	8%	15%	51%	68%
Unfavorable	61%	82%	90%	77%	38%	16%
Not sure	9%	4%	3%	8%	11%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	28%	17%	5%	23%	39%	53%
Unfavorable	55%	72%	92%	63%	31%	25%
Not sure	17%	11%	3%	15%	29%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	32%	16%	14%	31%	38%	54%
Unfavorable	43%	75%	64%	44%	29%	24%
Not sure	25%	9%	23%	25%	32%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	26%	17%	6%	21%	35%	48%
Unfavorable	45%	66%	70%	51%	28%	19%
Not sure	29%	17%	24%	28%	36%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Christie Favorability						
Favorable	28%	8%	10%	23%	36%	56%
Unfavorable	30%	55%	48%	35%	16%	12%
Not sure	42%	37%	42%	42%	48%	32%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Huckabee						
Barack Obama	48%	79%	86%	58%	21%	11%
Mike Huckabee	43%	11%	11%	32%	66%	85%
Undecided	8%	10%	2%	10%	13%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	54%	89%	90%	73%	19%	12%
Sarah Palin	36%	2%	10%	19%	64%	78%
Undecided	9%	9%	-	8%	17%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	52%	89%	92%	66%	19%	12%
Newt Gingrich	38%	9%	4%	24%	68%	75%
Undecided	10%	2%	4%	10%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	47%	89%	83%	58%	16%	8%
Mitt Romney	41%	9%	8%	26%	71%	83%
Undecided	12%	2%	9%	16%	13%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	48%	82%	82%	62%	18%	8%
Rand Paul	38%	11%	8%	22%	64%	80%
Undecided	14%	7%	10%	16%	18%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Christie						
Barack Obama	48%	82%	82%	62%	17%	8%
Chris Christie	39%	4%	7%	26%	63%	85%
Undecided	13%	14%	11%	12%	20%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	47%	45%	48%
Disapprove	48%	47%	50%
Not sure	5%	7%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	36%	32%	40%
Unfavorable	42%	41%	42%
Not sure	22%	26%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	31%	27%	34%
Unfavorable	61%	61%	61%
Not sure	9%	12%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	28%	24%	32%
Unfavorable	55%	54%	56%
Not sure	17%	22%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	32%	34%	29%
Unfavorable	43%	40%	46%
Not sure	25%	26%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	26%	17%	34%
Unfavorable	45%	46%	45%
Not sure	29%	37%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Christie Favorability			
Favorable	28%	24%	31%
Unfavorable	30%	28%	33%
Not sure	42%	48%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	48%	49%	47%
Mike Huckabee	43%	43%	43%
Undecided	8%	7%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	54%	54%	55%
Sarah Palin	36%	36%	37%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	52%	52%	52%
Newt Gingrich	38%	35%	41%
Undecided	10%	12%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	47%	46%	48%
Mitt Romney	41%	41%	42%
Undecided	12%	13%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	48%	48%	48%
Rand Paul	38%	36%	40%
Undecided	14%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Christie			
Barack Obama	48%	46%	49%
Chris Christie	39%	39%	39%
Undecided	13%	15%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	81%	8%	49%
Disapprove	48%	15%	90%	42%
Not sure	5%	4%	2%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	36%	13%	65%	31%
Unfavorable	42%	65%	16%	43%
Not sure	22%	22%	19%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	31%	8%	63%	22%
Unfavorable	61%	87%	25%	70%
Not sure	9%	6%	12%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	28%	5%	52%	29%
Unfavorable	55%	79%	28%	56%
Not sure	17%	16%	20%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	19%	50%	27%
Unfavorable	43%	60%	24%	44%
Not sure	25%	21%	27%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	26%	9%	39%	31%
Unfavorable	45%	65%	24%	45%
Not sure	29%	26%	37%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Christie Favorability				
Favorable	28%	11%	47%	27%
Unfavorable	30%	47%	14%	28%
Not sure	42%	42%	39%	44%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	48%	84%	10%	48%
Mike Huckabee	43%	11%	83%	38%
Undecided	8%	5%	7%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	54%	89%	15%	57%
Sarah Palin	36%	8%	73%	29%
Undecided	9%	3%	12%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	52%	87%	13%	53%
Newt Gingrich	38%	6%	75%	35%
Undecided	10%	6%	11%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	83%	7%	46%
Mitt Romney	41%	9%	81%	36%
Undecided	12%	8%	12%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	85%	8%	47%
Rand Paul	38%	7%	75%	33%
Undecided	14%	7%	17%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Christie				
Barack Obama	48%	85%	9%	44%
Chris Christie	39%	6%	77%	37%
Undecided	13%	9%	15%	19%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	55%	38%	81%	78%
Disapprove	48%	39%	57%	13%	15%
Not sure	5%	7%	4%	6%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	36%	26%	42%	19%	15%
Unfavorable	42%	42%	38%	51%	69%
Not sure	22%	32%	20%	29%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	31%	21%	36%	9%	15%
Unfavorable	61%	69%	55%	82%	85%
Not sure	9%	9%	9%	9%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	28%	18%	33%	13%	7%
Unfavorable	55%	54%	50%	76%	77%
Not sure	17%	27%	17%	10%	16%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Rom ney Favorability					
Favorable	32%	29%	35%	19%	21%
Unfavorable	43%	38%	42%	53%	43%
Not sure	25%	33%	23%	28%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	26%	27%	28%	12%	21%
Unfavorable	45%	43%	43%	51%	69%
Not sure	29%	30%	29%	37%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Christie Favorability					
Favorable	28%	24%	31%	18%	15%
Unfavorable	30%	31%	29%	34%	47%
Not sure	42%	45%	41%	48%	38%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	48%	58%	39%	87%	75%
Mike Huckabee	43%	31%	52%	9%	19%
Undecided	8%	11%	9%	4%	6%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	54%	59%	46%	93%	85%
Sarah Palin	36%	29%	43%	7%	15%
Undecided	9%	11%	11%	-	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	52%	64%	43%	90%	78%
Newt Gingrich	38%	29%	45%	8%	19%
Undecided	10%	8%	11%	2%	3%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	61%	37%	88%	72%
Mitt Romney	41%	29%	49%	8%	22%
Undecided	12%	10%	14%	4%	6%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	48%	58%	39%	88%	75%
Rand Paul	38%	31%	45%	7%	15%
Undecided	14%	12%	16%	4%	9%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Christie					
Barack Obama	48%	56%	38%	89%	75%
Chris Christie	39%	29%	46%	9%	22%
Undecided	13%	15%	16%	3%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	50%	45%	49%	43%
Disapprove	48%	38%	54%	48%	49%
Not sure	5%	13%	1%	3%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	36%	35%	42%	32%	37%
Unfavorable	42%	48%	36%	46%	38%
Not sure	22%	16%	22%	22%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	31%	22%	36%	30%	30%
Unfavorable	61%	66%	55%	65%	57%
Not sure	9%	13%	9%	5%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	28%	19%	34%	25%	30%
Unfavorable	55%	47%	46%	62%	56%
Not sure	17%	34%	19%	13%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	32%	28%	25%	34%	38%
Unfavorable	43%	47%	42%	46%	37%
Not sure	25%	25%	33%	20%	25%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	26%	28%	21%	26%	29%
Unfavorable	45%	41%	45%	49%	42%
Not sure	29%	31%	34%	25%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Christie Favorability					
Favorable	28%	25%	24%	28%	34%
Unfavorable	30%	31%	25%	34%	28%
Not sure	42%	44%	51%	38%	38%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	48%	44%	45%	52%	48%
Mike Huckabee	43%	47%	45%	41%	45%
Undecided	8%	9%	10%	7%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	54%	69%	48%	56%	51%
Sarah Palin	36%	28%	42%	35%	36%
Undecided	9%	3%	10%	9%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	52%	56%	49%	54%	51%
Newt Gingrich	38%	28%	45%	37%	38%
Undecided	10%	16%	6%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	53%	43%	48%	45%
Mitt Romney	41%	25%	46%	41%	45%
Undecided	12%	22%	10%	11%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	48%	50%	42%	51%	48%
Rand Paul	38%	34%	42%	36%	38%
Undecided	14%	16%	16%	13%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Christie					
Barack Obama	48%	53%	42%	50%	47%
Chris Christie	39%	28%	46%	36%	41%
Undecided	13%	19%	12%	14%	12%

