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

Obama beats Palin in AZ, ties Gingrich, trails others narrowly

Raleigh, N.C. – Barack Obama had little chance in Arizona last time around, with popular hometown hero John McCain heading the GOP ballot line. So his campaign barely contested it. But despite that, Obama ended up losing by fewer than nine points, a closer result than in 2004. Except 1996, the Grand Canyon State has gone Republican in every election since 1952. But with the McCain advantage removed, it could enter the list of presidential swing states in 2012 and join its Southwestern neighbors Colorado, New Mexico, and Nevada as states that are increasingly trending blue as the Latino, Northeastern, and Midwestern immigrant populations grow. The president beats Sarah Palin here by eight points and trails the others by no more than six.

Obama tops McCain's running mate with a near majority, 49-41, and he ties Newt Gingrich at 46%. But he lags Mike Huckabee, 44-48, and Mitt Romney, 43-49.

With respective 44-35 and 44-38 favorability margins, both Huckabee and Romney are far better liked than either Gingrich (34-48) or Palin (39-57). They also best Obama's job performance mark, which nevertheless has rebounded from a dismal 36-58 just before the 2010 election to 45-51 now, putting his standing here in the top half of the 41 states in which PPP has measured him in the last year.

Romney just barely outperforms Huckabee against the president because he is the only Republican to tie him with independents. Against Huckabee, Obama wins unaffiliated voters 47-40, to go with a whopping 53-38 lead over Gingrich and 57-31 over Palin. Almost a quarter of voters call themselves independent, a larger share of the electorate than in many states. Palin is also the only candidate who cedes more of the GOP to Obama than she takes of Democratic voters.

"If you want a measure of how much Barack Obama's stock has risen and how much Sarah Palin's has fallen in the wake of their reactions to the Arizona shooting this is a good one," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Obama would not only snag a rare Democratic win in Arizona if he got to match up with her, but he would do so by a wide margin."

PPP surveyed 599 Arizona voters from January 28th to 30th. 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.



Arizona Survey Results

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

Approve 45%
Disapprove..... 51%
Not sure 4%

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

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 48%
Not sure 18%

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

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 35%
Not sure 20%

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

Favorable..... 39%
Unfavorable 57%
Not sure 4%

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

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 38%
Not sure 18%

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

Barack Obama..... 46%
Newt Gingrich..... 46%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 44%
Mike Huckabee 48%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Barack Obama..... 49%
Sarah Palin 41%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 43%
Mitt Romney..... 49%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Liberal..... 18%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 38%

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

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q12 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..... 36%
Republican..... 40%
Independent/Other..... 24%



Q13 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2.
If other, press 3.

<i>Hispanic</i>	17%
<i>White</i>	74%
<i>Other</i>	9%

Q14 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>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	22%
<i>46 to 65</i>	46%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%



Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	45%	81%	62%	8%
Disapprove	51%	14%	34%	88%
Not sure	4%	6%	4%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	34%	11%	22%	59%
Unfavorable	48%	77%	59%	21%
Not sure	18%	12%	19%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	44%	21%	31%	70%
Unfavorable	35%	63%	45%	11%
Not sure	20%	16%	23%	19%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	39%	13%	20%	74%
Unfavorable	57%	86%	76%	20%
Not sure	4%	2%	4%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	44%	18%	40%	60%
Unfavorable	38%	67%	41%	22%
Not sure	18%	15%	19%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	46%	85%	62%	8%
Newt Gingrich	46%	12%	27%	83%
Undecided	9%	3%	10%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	44%	86%	59%	7%
Mike Huckabee	48%	10%	30%	88%
Undecided	8%	4%	12%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	49%	86%	68%	10%
Sarah Palin	41%	11%	21%	78%
Undecided	10%	3%	11%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	43%	86%	54%	9%
Mitt Romney	49%	12%	34%	85%
Undecided	8%	2%	12%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	45%	48%	41%
Disapprove	51%	47%	55%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	34%	32%	37%
Unfavorable	48%	45%	50%
Not sure	18%	23%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	44%	41%	47%
Unfavorable	35%	33%	39%
Not sure	20%	26%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	39%	36%	43%
Unfavorable	57%	59%	54%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	44%	43%	45%
Unfavorable	38%	37%	40%
Not sure	18%	20%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	46%	48%	43%
Newt Gingrich	46%	43%	49%
Undecided	9%	9%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	44%	47%	40%
Mike Huckabee	48%	45%	52%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	49%	50%	47%
Sarah Palin	41%	38%	44%
Undecided	10%	11%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	43%	46%	38%
Mitt Romney	49%	47%	52%
Undecided	8%	7%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	45%	81%	9%	53%
Disapprove	51%	15%	87%	42%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	34%	14%	59%	23%
Unfavorable	48%	69%	22%	59%
Not sure	18%	17%	19%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	44%	21%	66%	40%
Unfavorable	35%	55%	15%	42%
Not sure	20%	23%	19%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	39%	12%	67%	32%
Unfavorable	57%	85%	25%	67%
Not sure	4%	2%	8%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	44%	28%	59%	42%
Unfavorable	38%	54%	22%	42%
Not sure	18%	19%	18%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	46%	81%	10%	53%
Newt Gingrich	46%	12%	81%	38%
Undecided	9%	7%	10%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	44%	83%	7%	47%
Mike Huckabee	48%	13%	85%	40%
Undecided	8%	4%	8%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	49%	84%	14%	57%
Sarah Palin	41%	10%	74%	31%
Undecided	10%	6%	13%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	43%	80%	9%	43%
Mitt Romney	49%	16%	83%	43%
Undecided	8%	4%	9%	14%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	45%	53%	40%	68%
Disapprove	51%	44%	56%	22%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	34%	26%	37%	26%
Unfavorable	48%	44%	48%	48%
Not sure	18%	30%	15%	26%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	44%	49%	45%	27%
Unfavorable	35%	31%	35%	43%
Not sure	20%	20%	19%	30%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	39%	42%	41%	24%
Unfavorable	57%	56%	55%	73%
Not sure	4%	2%	5%	3%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	44%	37%	48%	26%
Unfavorable	38%	42%	36%	48%
Not sure	18%	21%	16%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	46%	51%	42%	65%
Newt Gingrich	46%	41%	50%	21%
Undecided	9%	7%	8%	14%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	44%	52%	40%	62%
Mike Huckabee	48%	42%	53%	25%
Undecided	8%	6%	8%	13%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	49%	52%	46%	70%
Sarah Palin	41%	38%	44%	19%
Undecided	10%	9%	10%	12%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	43%	54%	37%	70%
Mitt Romney	49%	38%	54%	27%
Undecided	8%	8%	9%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	45%	65%	35%	44%	46%
Disapprove	51%	29%	60%	52%	49%
Not sure	4%	6%	4%	3%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	34%	19%	31%	36%	43%
Unfavorable	48%	52%	47%	48%	46%
Not sure	18%	29%	22%	17%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	44%	37%	43%	47%	42%
Unfavorable	35%	33%	34%	37%	35%
Not sure	20%	30%	24%	15%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	39%	26%	40%	42%	40%
Unfavorable	57%	71%	57%	54%	54%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	4%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	44%	32%	43%	44%	51%
Unfavorable	38%	42%	41%	38%	35%
Not sure	18%	26%	16%	18%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	46%	72%	35%	43%	47%
New t Gingrich	46%	25%	53%	48%	46%
Undecided	9%	3%	12%	9%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	44%	71%	32%	42%	45%
Mike Huckabee	48%	29%	57%	51%	44%
Undecided	8%	-	10%	8%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	49%	77%	43%	46%	48%
Sarah Palin	41%	23%	46%	44%	39%
Undecided	10%	-	12%	11%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	43%	69%	37%	39%	42%
Mitt Romney	49%	28%	56%	51%	50%
Undecided	8%	3%	7%	9%	9%

