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Obama surges to tie with Romney in Arizona

Raleigh, N.C. – As part of their nationwide rejuvenation, President Obama is now competitive in his 2008 opponent’s home state, and Rick Santorum performs better against the president than does Mitt Romney. Obama and Romney are tied at 47% in Arizona, while Santorum leads the president, 47-46.

Romney led the president by seven points (49-42) when PPP last polled the state in November. His personal image continues to take a hit as the primary battle wages on. 56% of Arizonans see him unfavorably and only 35% favorably; previously, it was 51-38. Santorum was not tested then, but he stands at 39-52 now.

Meanwhile, the president’s net approval rating is up seven points from just three months ago. Then, only 41% approved and 54% disapproved, but he now stands at 46-52. That still puts him in worse shape than in most of the other states he wants to win, but it is a strong showing in a traditionally red state. The only red-leaning swing state where he does better is Missouri, and by only one point.

Obama is up 27 points with independents, from 35-57 to 51-46, and has also improved with his own party, from 74-22 to 87-12. That is reflected in the match-up with Romney; where he trailed with independents by a 47-36 spread in November, he now leads 52-38. And where he led only 79-16 with Democrats, that is now 87-11. He also holds Romney to only a 77-16 lead with the GOP, versus 80-11 last time.

Obama has improved four points over less likely nominee Newt Gingrich, from a 45-all tie to a 48-44 lead, and by five points over Ron Paul, from a 43-44 deficit to a 46-42 lead. John McCain won his own state by eight-and-a-half points four years ago.

“Arizona looks like it could be competitive this fall,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “That’s another data point showing Obama’s in the strongest position he’s found himself for a very long time.”

PPP surveyed 743 Arizona voters from February 17th to 19th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.6%. 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.



Arizona Survey Results

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

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 52%
Not sure 2%

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

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 65%
Not sure 8%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 58%
Not sure 11%

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

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 56%
Not sure 9%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Santorum?

Favorable..... 39%
Unfavorable 52%
Not sure 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 48%
Newt Gingrich 44%
Undecided..... 8%

Q7 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 46%
Ron Paul..... 42%
Undecided..... 12%

Q8 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 47%
Mitt Romney..... 47%
Undecided..... 6%

Q9 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Santorum, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 46%
Rick Santorum 47%
Undecided..... 7%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 50%
Barack Obama..... 43%
Someone else/Don't remember 7%

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

Very liberal..... 9%
Somewhat liberal 17%
Moderate..... 30%
Somewhat conservative..... 22%
Very conservative 23%

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

Woman 48%
Man..... 52%





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 31%
Republican..... 46%
Independent/Other..... 23%

Q14 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If other, press 3.

Hispanic..... 15%
White 76%
Other..... 9%

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.

18 to 29..... 12%
30 to 45..... 29%
46 to 65..... 39%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	10%	92%	26%
Disapprove	52%	88%	7%	70%
Not sure	2%	2%	1%	4%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	43%	8%	17%
Unfavorable	65%	47%	85%	76%
Not sure	8%	10%	7%	7%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	31%	33%	28%	33%
Unfavorable	58%	57%	59%	55%
Not sure	11%	10%	13%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	35%	55%	12%	27%
Unfavorable	56%	36%	78%	59%
Not sure	9%	8%	9%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	39%	64%	11%	27%
Unfavorable	52%	26%	82%	53%
Not sure	9%	10%	7%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	48%	12%	93%	29%
Newt Gingrich	44%	78%	4%	46%
Undecided	8%	10%	3%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	46%	13%	87%	30%
Ron Paul	42%	69%	8%	50%
Undecided	12%	18%	4%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	11%	91%	27%
Mitt Romney	47%	83%	6%	48%
Undecided	6%	6%	3%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	46%	10%	90%	29%
Rick Santorum	47%	82%	6%	54%
Undecided	7%	8%	3%	17%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	46%	80%	89%	64%	11%	12%
Disapprove	52%	18%	9%	32%	88%	88%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	4%	1%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	26%	8%	8%	9%	42%	52%
Unfavorable	65%	88%	85%	81%	48%	39%
Not sure	8%	5%	6%	9%	10%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	31%	15%	39%	28%	33%	33%
Unfavorable	58%	80%	47%	57%	58%	58%
Not sure	11%	5%	15%	15%	10%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	35%	12%	11%	28%	56%	50%
Unfavorable	56%	84%	79%	60%	37%	43%
Not sure	9%	4%	10%	13%	7%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	39%	14%	10%	22%	61%	69%
Unfavorable	52%	83%	84%	65%	28%	25%
Not sure	9%	3%	7%	13%	11%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	48%	84%	91%	69%	12%	10%
New t Gingrich	44%	11%	5%	25%	71%	84%
Undecided	8%	5%	4%	6%	17%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	46%	80%	82%	65%	16%	11%
Ron Paul	42%	12%	12%	24%	66%	75%
Undecided	12%	8%	6%	11%	19%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	47%	82%	90%	63%	12%	15%
Mitt Romney	47%	11%	8%	32%	81%	76%
Undecided	6%	7%	2%	5%	7%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	46%	82%	92%	64%	10%	9%
Rick Santorum	47%	13%	7%	26%	79%	87%
Undecided	7%	5%	1%	10%	11%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	49%	43%
Disapprove	52%	49%	55%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	26%	23%	29%
Unfavorable	65%	69%	62%
Not sure	8%	8%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	31%	25%	36%
Unfavorable	58%	62%	54%
Not sure	11%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	35%	34%	36%
Unfavorable	56%	57%	55%
Not sure	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	39%	34%	43%
Unfavorable	52%	54%	51%
Not sure	9%	13%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	48%	52%	44%
Newt Gingrich	44%	38%	49%
Undecided	8%	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	46%	49%	42%
Ron Paul	42%	35%	48%
Undecided	12%	16%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	47%	49%	44%
Mitt Romney	47%	43%	51%
Undecided	6%	7%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	46%	48%	44%
Rick Santorum	47%	44%	50%
Undecided	7%	8%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	87%	15%	51%
Disapprove	52%	12%	83%	46%
Not sure	2%	1%	2%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	10%	42%	18%
Unfavorable	65%	84%	47%	76%
Not sure	8%	7%	11%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	31%	24%	29%	44%
Unfavorable	58%	63%	59%	48%
Not sure	11%	14%	11%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	35%	15%	54%	24%
Unfavorable	56%	77%	36%	67%
Not sure	9%	8%	10%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	39%	15%	59%	31%
Unfavorable	52%	78%	29%	63%
Not sure	9%	7%	13%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	48%	89%	16%	56%
Newt Gingrich	44%	8%	75%	33%
Undecided	8%	3%	10%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	46%	85%	16%	51%
Ron Paul	42%	11%	64%	39%
Undecided	12%	4%	19%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	87%	16%	52%
Mitt Romney	47%	11%	77%	38%
Undecided	6%	2%	7%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	46%	85%	16%	53%
Rick Santorum	47%	12%	76%	39%
Undecided	7%	3%	8%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	64%	41%	56%
Disapprove	52%	33%	57%	44%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	1%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	23%	27%	21%
Unfavorable	65%	64%	65%	73%
Not sure	8%	13%	8%	6%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	31%	31%	31%	30%
Unfavorable	58%	54%	58%	61%
Not sure	11%	14%	11%	9%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	35%	27%	37%	27%
Unfavorable	56%	66%	53%	65%
Not sure	9%	8%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	39%	29%	41%	32%
Unfavorable	52%	60%	50%	53%
Not sure	9%	11%	8%	15%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	48%	65%	44%	56%
Newt Gingrich	44%	29%	48%	37%
Undecided	8%	6%	9%	7%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	46%	64%	41%	52%
Ron Paul	42%	29%	44%	41%
Undecided	12%	7%	14%	7%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	64%	42%	56%
Mitt Romney	47%	33%	51%	36%
Undecided	6%	3%	6%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	46%	58%	42%	59%
Rick Santorum	47%	34%	52%	35%
Undecided	7%	8%	7%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	46%	61%	51%	42%	38%
Disapprove	52%	36%	49%	57%	58%
Not sure	2%	4%	-	1%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	26%	18%	24%	29%	29%
Unfavorable	65%	75%	67%	64%	61%
Not sure	8%	7%	9%	7%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	31%	29%	34%	33%	23%
Unfavorable	58%	64%	53%	56%	63%
Not sure	11%	7%	13%	11%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	35%	32%	32%	35%	40%
Unfavorable	56%	64%	58%	54%	51%
Not sure	9%	4%	10%	10%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	39%	21%	34%	45%	44%
Unfavorable	52%	64%	59%	47%	45%
Not sure	9%	14%	7%	8%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	48%	61%	51%	45%	41%
Newt Gingrich	44%	36%	43%	45%	49%
Undecided	8%	4%	6%	11%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	46%	61%	49%	43%	39%
Ron Paul	42%	32%	44%	43%	42%
Undecided	12%	7%	7%	14%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	57%	53%	43%	38%
Mitt Romney	47%	43%	42%	48%	55%
Undecided	6%	-	5%	9%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	46%	57%	51%	43%	38%
Rick Santorum	47%	39%	45%	49%	53%
Undecided	7%	4%	3%	9%	9%

