



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Colorado still Obama territory**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – In 2008, President Obama hosted the Democratic National Convention in Denver and became a rare Democrat to win the state of Colorado. The state was also one of only a few bright spots in an otherwise ugly election for his party last fall. Since then, the president's approval rating has rebounded to 51%, with 45% disapproving, versus the 41-53 spread he posted in the state before that election. As an incumbent, his chances of re-election next year are tied strongly to voters' views of his job performance. Not surprisingly then, 51% of Coloradans want to give Obama another term, while 44% plan to vote for his Republican opponent. But of the four actual Republican contenders tested against him in the state, only one can match this generic re-elect margin. The others trail by margins of nine to 19 points.

Mitt Romney, familiar for his stewardship of the 2002 Olympics in neighboring Utah, trails the president, 41-47. Mike Huckabee is next closest, down 42-51, identical to Obama's nine-point victory over John McCain in 2008. Newt Gingrich and Sarah Palin lag by respective 39-53 and 36-55 margins.

Democrats have a built-in eight-point turnout advantage over the GOP, so to win, the Republican nominee has to hold his base, win more Democratic votes than the president does Republican ones, and win independents outright. The ideal, unnamed eventual nominee does the first two of those things, but none of the named candidates, even Romney, can unite the GOP base as much as the generic candidate does. Obama earns the support of 83-87% of his party, while the Republicans can only muster 69% (Palin) to 81% (Huckabee) of theirs. Except for Palin, they do all take slightly more Democrats than the president does Republicans, but Obama posts double-digit leads with independents. In the generic matchup, he leads by 18 points with unaffiliated voters. Romney (-9) and Huckabee (-15) actually come closer than that, but Obama tops Gingrich by 23 and Palin by a whopping 30 with this group.

“Colorado is one of the states Republicans have to flip if they want to take the White House next year,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But right now, President Obama looks just as strong in the states he won last time as he did then, and Colorado continues to show that it's trending toward Democrats.”

PPP surveyed 517 Colorado voters from February 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. 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.





## Colorado Survey Results

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

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

**Q2** Generally speaking if the election was today would you vote for Barack Obama or his Republican opponent?

*Barack Obama*..... 51%  
*Republican opponent*..... 44%  
*Not sure* ..... 5%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

*Favorable*..... 26%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 55%  
*Not sure* ..... 19%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

*Favorable*..... 37%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 40%  
*Not sure* ..... 22%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

*Favorable*..... 32%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 62%  
*Not sure* ..... 6%

**Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

*Favorable*..... 40%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 40%  
*Not sure* ..... 20%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 53%  
*Newt Gingrich* ..... 39%  
*Undecided*..... 8%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 51%  
*Mike Huckabee* ..... 42%  
*Undecided*..... 7%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 55%  
*Sarah Palin* ..... 36%  
*Undecided*..... 9%

**Q10** 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*..... 13%

**Q11** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

*John McCain*..... 42%  
*Barack Obama*..... 51%  
*Someone Else/Don't Remember*..... 7%

**Q12** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

*Liberal*..... 25%  
*Moderate*..... 41%  
*Conservative*..... 35%





**Q13** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 54%

*Man*..... 46%

**Q14** 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* ..... 43%

*Republican*..... 35%

*Independent/Other*..... 22%

**Q15** If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If other, press 3.

*Hispanic*..... 14%

*White* ..... 81%

*Other*..... 5%

**Q16** 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*..... 8%

*30 to 45*..... 24%

*46 to 65*..... 48%

*Older than 65*..... 20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	51%	8%	91%	29%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	90%	6%	58%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	2%	3%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Generic Obama Re-elect</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	7%	92%	22%
<b>Republican opponent</b>	44%	89%	4%	65%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	5%	4%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	26%	53%	4%	20%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	27%	82%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	20%	14%	51%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	37%	62%	17%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	20%	59%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	17%	24%	40%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	65%	5%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	62%	26%	94%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	9%	1%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	40%	53%	27%	49%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	26%	54%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	20%	18%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	53%	8%	93%	25%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	39%	80%	4%	53%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	12%	3%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	8%	91%	22%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	42%	83%	5%	64%
<b>Undecided</b>	7%	9%	4%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	55%	11%	94%	38%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	36%	75%	4%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	15%	2%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	47%	6%	85%	17%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	41%	80%	7%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	13%	14%	9%	33%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	51%	86%	68%	8%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	11%	28%	89%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	3%	5%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Generic Obama Re-elect</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	88%	67%	5%
<b>Republican opponent</b>	44%	12%	25%	90%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	-	8%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	26%	6%	12%	57%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	82%	62%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	13%	27%	14%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	37%	20%	23%	67%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	58%	47%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	22%	31%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	9%	14%	70%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	62%	88%	80%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	3%	5%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	40%	18%	39%	57%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	63%	37%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	19%	25%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
Barack Obama	53%	87%	71%	5%
Newt Gingrich	39%	11%	19%	84%
Undecided	8%	2%	10%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
Barack Obama	51%	87%	66%	7%
Mike Huckabee	42%	13%	22%	86%
Undecided	7%	-	11%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
Barack Obama	55%	87%	76%	7%
Sarah Palin	36%	11%	13%	81%
Undecided	9%	2%	11%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	47%	86%	58%	5%
Mitt Romney	41%	11%	24%	82%
Undecided	13%	3%	18%	13%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	51%	54%	48%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	42%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	4%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Generic Obama Re-elect</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	54%	47%
<b>Republican opponent</b>	44%	40%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	6%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	26%	22%	30%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	56%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	22%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	37%	35%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	38%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	27%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32%</b>	29%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>62%</b>	66%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>6%</b>	5%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>40%</b>	38%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>40%</b>	38%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	24%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>53%</b>	56%	48%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<b>39%</b>	35%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>8%</b>	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>51%</b>	55%	46%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>42%</b>	37%	48%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>7%</b>	8%	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Palin</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	55%	58%	52%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	36%	33%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	47%	51%	43%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	41%	37%	44%
<b>Undecided</b>	13%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	51%	84%	11%	54%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	13%	85%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	3%	4%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Generic Obama Re-elect</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	86%	8%	53%
<b>Republican opponent</b>	44%	12%	89%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	3%	3%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	26%	9%	54%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	79%	27%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	12%	19%	32%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	37%	20%	65%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	58%	19%	40%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	21%	16%	35%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	13%	59%	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	62%	85%	31%	67%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	2%	10%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	40%	21%	62%	41%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	58%	22%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	21%	16%	25%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
Barack Obama	53%	86%	10%	55%
Newt Gingrich	39%	11%	79%	32%
Undecided	8%	4%	11%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
Barack Obama	51%	85%	9%	52%
Mike Huckabee	42%	12%	81%	37%
Undecided	7%	2%	10%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
Barack Obama	55%	87%	14%	60%
Sarah Palin	36%	12%	69%	30%
Undecided	9%	1%	17%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	47%	83%	6%	43%
Mitt Romney	41%	11%	80%	34%
Undecided	13%	6%	14%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	51%	64%	48%	68%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	35%	48%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	1%	4%	6%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Generic Obama Re-elect</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	61%	48%	70%
<b>Republican opponent</b>	44%	34%	47%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	6%	5%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	26%	17%	28%	11%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	62%	53%	64%
<b>Not sure</b>	19%	20%	18%	25%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	37%	32%	38%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	47%	40%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	21%	22%	27%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32%</b>	33%	33%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>62%</b>	63%	61%	71%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>6%</b>	4%	6%	3%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>40%</b>	27%	43%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>40%</b>	51%	36%	66%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	22%	21%	8%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>53%</b>	61%	50%	70%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<b>39%</b>	31%	41%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>8%</b>	8%	9%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>51%</b>	61%	48%	70%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>42%</b>	37%	44%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>7%</b>	2%	8%	-





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	55%	63%	53%	73%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	36%	36%	37%	27%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	1%	11%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	47%	59%	43%	70%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	41%	32%	43%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	13%	8%	14%	-

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	51%	48%	58%	53%	42%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	48%	42%	43%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	5%	-	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Generic Obama Re-elect</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	48%	58%	53%	40%
<b>Republican opponent</b>	44%	38%	40%	42%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	14%	2%	5%	3%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>26%</b>	19%	20%	25%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>55%</b>	48%	57%	59%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>19%</b>	33%	23%	16%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	24%	38%	34%	50%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>40%</b>	33%	38%	45%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>22%</b>	43%	23%	22%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Palin Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32%</b>	38%	33%	28%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>62%</b>	52%	65%	65%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>6%</b>	10%	2%	7%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>40%</b>	24%	38%	40%	48%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>40%</b>	52%	42%	41%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	24%	20%	19%	21%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>53%</b>	52%	58%	55%	41%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<b>39%</b>	38%	41%	34%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>8%</b>	10%	2%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>51%</b>	52%	57%	53%	40%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>42%</b>	43%	38%	40%	52%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>7%</b>	5%	5%	7%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Palin</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>55%</b>	52%	57%	59%	45%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>36%</b>	38%	35%	33%	42%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>9%</b>	10%	8%	7%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>47%</b>	48%	50%	49%	38%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>41%</b>	38%	38%	37%	53%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>13%</b>	14%	12%	14%	9%

