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Moderate does better vs. Obama than Tea Partier in CO

Raleigh, N.C. – As yesterday’s release showed, President Obama looks strong enough to win Colorado regardless of the name or ideology of the GOP’s headliner next year, but new results from PPP show that a candidate with a less conservative image would certainly have a better shot than one who embraces the Tea Party. A generic Tea-Party Republican would fall to Obama in Colorado by a 53-41 margin, a bigger win for the president than the overall 51-44 he posts against any old generic Republican—but still closer than his leads over the two most conservative named candidates, Sarah Palin (19 points) and Newt Gingrich (14).

A moderate Republican, however, would pull the president under 50%, lagging only 48-42, very similar to the generic ballot test and to moderate Mitt Romney’s six-point deficit. This matchup would send 14% of independents who were in Obama’s column against a Tea Partier to the undecided category, giving him only a 43-33 lead over the GOP’s more moderate nominee. But a centrist Republican would also cause slightly more Democrats to cross the aisle, and a few more Republicans to stay true to their party.

When asked if the GOP should nominate a moderate or conservative, independents favor the former by a 48-33 margin, but two-thirds of Republicans want a conservative, to only a quarter who prefer someone toward the center.

“It’s clear that if Republicans nominate someone as stridently right-wing as Sarah Palin, they will face disaster at the ballot box next November,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Their best shot is with a mainstream moderate who can still hold together the base—a daunting challenge.”

Two-fifths of Coloradans now favor full marriage equality for same-sex couples, and a further third support civil unions. Only a quarter oppose any legal recognition for gay relationships. 63% of Democrats and a 38% plurality of independents are for gay marriage. Even 38% of the GOP supports civil unions; 45% oppose unions and marriage.

More Coloradans (38%) are in favor of making the health care reform bill even stronger than the 35% who favor full repeal. That includes a 40-27 breakdown with independents.

PPP surveyed 517 Colorado voters from February 4th to 6th. 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 If the choices for president next year were Democrat Barack Obama and a conservative Republican candidate endorsed by the Tea Party, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 53%
Conservative Tea Party Republican..... 41%
Not sure 6%

Q2 If the choices for president next year were Democrat Barack Obama and a moderate Republican candidate, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Moderate Republican..... 42%
Not sure 10%

Q3 Would you rather Republicans next year nominated a moderate candidate or a conservative one?

Moderate..... 40%
Conservative..... 42%
Not sure 17%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the new Republican majority in the US House?

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 44%
Not sure 14%

Q5 Who do you trust more to run the country: President Obama or Congressional Republicans?

President Obama..... 51%
Congressional Republicans 43%
Not sure 6%

Q6 Do you think Barack Obama is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 43%
Too conservative..... 9%
About right 44%
Not sure 4%

Q7 Do you think the Republican Party is too liberal, too conservative, or about right?

Too liberal 18%
Too conservative..... 47%
About right 27%
Not sure 8%

Q8 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship?

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry 40%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry..... 32%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship 25%
Not sure 3%





Q9 What would you like to see the new Congress do with the health care reform bill that was passed last year: keep the bill but make it stronger, keep the bill exactly in its current form, repeal certain parts of the bill, or repeal the bill entirely?

<i>Keep the bill, make it stronger</i>	38%
<i>Keep exactly in its current form</i>	5%
<i>Repeal certain parts</i>	19%
<i>Repeal entirely</i>	35%
<i>Not sure</i>	2%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	42%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	51%
<i>Someone Else/Don't Remember</i>	7%

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

<i>Liberal</i>	25%
<i>Moderate</i>	41%
<i>Conservative</i>	35%

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

<i>Woman</i>	54%
<i>Man</i>	46%

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.

<i>Democrat</i>	43%
<i>Republican</i>	35%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	22%

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

<i>Hispanic</i>	14%
<i>White</i>	81%
<i>Other</i>	5%

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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	8%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	48%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Tea Party Republican				
Barack Obama	53%	8%	93%	28%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	85%	4%	48%
Not sure	6%	8%	3%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Moderate Republican				
Barack Obama	48%	6%	85%	26%
Moderate Republican	42%	85%	5%	53%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?				
Moderate	40%	21%	58%	27%
Conservative	42%	71%	19%	38%
Not sure	17%	8%	23%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
GOP House Majority Favorability				
Favorable	41%	82%	8%	38%
Unfavorable	44%	7%	79%	22%
Not sure	14%	12%	13%	40%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?				
President Obama	51%	7%	92%	22%
Congressional Republicans	43%	87%	4%	57%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Ideology				
Too liberal	43%	88%	6%	42%
Too conservative	9%	5%	13%	5%
About right	44%	5%	79%	33%
Not sure	4%	2%	2%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
GOP Ideology				
Too liberal	18%	30%	6%	27%
Too conservative	47%	11%	80%	27%
About right	27%	52%	6%	30%
Not sure	8%	7%	8%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gay Marriage				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	10%	66%	25%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	32%	43%	25%	25%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	25%	43%	7%	47%
Not sure	3%	4%	2%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Health Care Repeal				
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	5%	69%	17%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	2%	9%	-
Repeal certain parts	19%	21%	16%	34%
Repeal entirely	35%	70%	3%	47%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Tea Party Republican				
Barack Obama	53%	90%	69%	6%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	8%	20%	90%
Not sure	6%	2%	11%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Moderate Republican				
Barack Obama	48%	88%	58%	6%
Moderate Republican	42%	10%	26%	85%
Not sure	10%	2%	16%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?				
Moderate	40%	50%	63%	7%
Conservative	42%	31%	14%	84%
Not sure	17%	20%	23%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
GOP House Majority Favorability				
Favorable	41%	9%	23%	86%
Unfavorable	44%	80%	54%	8%
Not sure	14%	11%	23%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More ?				
President Obama	51%	88%	66%	6%
Congressional Republicans	43%	10%	24%	89%
Not sure	6%	2%	10%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Ideology				
Too liberal	43%	11%	26%	86%
Too conservative	9%	21%	7%	3%
About right	44%	66%	63%	7%
Not sure	4%	2%	4%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
GOP Ideology				
Too liberal	18%	10%	6%	37%
Too conservative	47%	80%	65%	3%
About right	27%	7%	18%	52%
Not sure	8%	3%	12%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gay Marriage				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	76%	47%	6%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	32%	15%	35%	41%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	25%	8%	13%	51%
Not sure	3%	1%	5%	2%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Health Care Repeal				
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	72%	46%	6%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	6%	8%	2%
Repeal certain parts	19%	8%	28%	17%
Repeal entirely	35%	10%	15%	75%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Tea Party Republican			
Barack Obama	53%	56%	49%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	37%	46%
Not sure	6%	7%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Moderate Republican			
Barack Obama	48%	51%	43%
Moderate Republican	42%	39%	46%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?			
Moderate	40%	39%	42%
Conservative	42%	40%	44%
Not sure	17%	21%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
GOP House Majority Favorability			
Favorable	41%	37%	45%
Unfavorable	44%	46%	43%
Not sure	14%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?			
President Obama	51%	55%	46%
Congressional Republicans	43%	39%	46%
Not sure	6%	5%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Ideology			
Too liberal	43%	39%	47%
Too conservative	9%	7%	11%
About right	44%	50%	37%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
GOP Ideology			
Too liberal	18%	14%	22%
Too conservative	47%	49%	46%
About right	27%	27%	27%
Not sure	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	45%	34%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	32%	29%	36%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	25%	23%	27%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Health Care Repeal			
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	39%	38%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	6%	4%
Repeal certain parts	19%	23%	15%
Repeal entirely	35%	29%	41%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Tea Party Republican				
Barack Obama	53%	87%	8%	57%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	10%	83%	33%
Not sure	6%	3%	8%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Moderate Republican				
Barack Obama	48%	83%	7%	43%
Moderate Republican	42%	12%	85%	33%
Not sure	10%	5%	7%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?				
Moderate	40%	49%	25%	48%
Conservative	42%	27%	66%	33%
Not sure	17%	24%	8%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
GOP House Majority Favorability				
Favorable	41%	12%	82%	31%
Unfavorable	44%	74%	9%	44%
Not sure	14%	14%	9%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?				
President Obama	51%	86%	7%	52%
Congressional Republicans	43%	11%	86%	33%
Not sure	6%	3%	6%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Ideology				
Too liberal	43%	13%	85%	33%
Too conservative	9%	14%	2%	11%
About right	44%	72%	9%	48%
Not sure	4%	1%	4%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
GOP Ideology				
Too liberal	18%	11%	26%	16%
Too conservative	47%	70%	14%	56%
About right	27%	10%	53%	17%
Not sure	8%	8%	6%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	63%	13%	38%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	32%	27%	38%	34%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	25%	9%	45%	23%
Not sure	3%	2%	4%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Health Care Repeal				
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	65%	5%	40%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	7%	3%	6%
Repeal certain parts	19%	14%	22%	25%
Repeal entirely	35%	10%	69%	27%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Tea Party Republican				
Barack Obama	53%	63%	50%	70%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	32%	43%	30%
Not sure	6%	5%	7%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Moderate Republican				
Barack Obama	48%	63%	44%	68%
Moderate Republican	42%	33%	45%	30%
Not sure	10%	4%	12%	2%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?				
Moderate	40%	28%	43%	36%
Conservative	42%	45%	41%	56%
Not sure	17%	27%	16%	8%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
GOP House Majority Favorability				
Favorable	41%	36%	42%	39%
Unfavorable	44%	51%	43%	54%
Not sure	14%	13%	15%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?				
President Obama	51%	61%	48%	70%
Congressional Republicans	43%	35%	45%	30%
Not sure	6%	4%	7%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama Ideology				
Too liberal	43%	34%	45%	27%
Too conservative	9%	13%	7%	35%
About right	44%	50%	44%	32%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	7%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
GOP Ideology				
Too liberal	18%	29%	15%	29%
Too conservative	47%	44%	47%	54%
About right	27%	15%	30%	17%
Not sure	8%	13%	8%	-

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Gay Marriage				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	50%	38%	39%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	32%	18%	35%	27%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	25%	29%	24%	27%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Health Care Repeal				
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	43%	36%	64%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	6%	6%	-
Repeal certain parts	19%	18%	21%	6%
Repeal entirely	35%	30%	36%	30%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	-

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Tea Party Republican					
Barack Obama	53%	57%	58%	54%	40%
Conservative Tea Party Republican	41%	29%	40%	39%	51%
Not sure	6%	14%	2%	6%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Moderate Republican					
Barack Obama	48%	52%	50%	50%	37%
Moderate Republican	42%	38%	40%	40%	53%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should GOP Nominate Moderate or Conservative?					
Moderate	40%	33%	40%	43%	38%
Conservative	42%	38%	45%	41%	44%
Not sure	17%	29%	15%	17%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
GOP House Majority Favorability					
Favorable	41%	19%	43%	39%	52%
Unfavorable	44%	62%	48%	44%	35%
Not sure	14%	19%	8%	18%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trust Obama or Cong. GOP More?					
President Obama	51%	57%	57%	52%	40%
Congressional Republicans	43%	38%	40%	40%	55%
Not sure	6%	5%	3%	9%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Ideology					
Too liberal	43%	33%	42%	42%	51%
Too conservative	9%	19%	10%	9%	5%
About right	44%	38%	47%	47%	39%
Not sure	4%	10%	2%	3%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
GOP Ideology					
Too liberal	18%	29%	22%	16%	11%
Too conservative	47%	48%	50%	51%	36%
About right	27%	10%	22%	25%	44%
Not sure	8%	14%	7%	8%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	40%	57%	47%	40%	25%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry	32%	29%	28%	31%	42%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	25%	14%	20%	26%	33%
Not sure	3%	-	5%	4%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Health Care Repeal					
Keep the bill, make it stronger	38%	38%	50%	37%	27%
Keep exactly in its current form	5%	10%	2%	7%	5%
Repeal certain parts	19%	10%	17%	20%	24%
Repeal entirely	35%	43%	30%	34%	38%
Not sure	2%	-	2%	1%	5%

