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Obama leads Romney by only two in CO, Gingrich by 8

Raleigh, N.C. – In its first poll of one of the most crucial yet least talked-about presidential swing states in four months, PPP finds yet another example of the large electability gap between Mitt Romney and new frontrunner Newt Gingrich. Romney trails President Obama by two points (47-45), while Gingrich lags by eight (50-42), nearly John McCain’s nine-point loss margin. All of the other contenders, now looking like long shots, are even further behind: Ron Paul by nine (48-39), Rick Perry by 15 (52-37), and had he stayed in the race, Herman Cain by 16 (52-36).

Gingrich was not tested in the previous poll, but in early August, Romney was behind by seven points (48-41). The margin has tightened despite the president’s approval rating remaining almost identical (45% approving and 50% disapproving, versus 46-50), and Romney’s favorability rating only improving by a few points (35% favorable and 53% unfavorable, as opposed to 30-51). And Romney is still viewed far more poorly than the president is, reinforcing the notion of the election being a referendum on the president, despite the unpopularity of the GOP field.

The president has improved over Romney with the large chunk of voters that belong to neither party. The 28% of the electorate who claim to be independents have moved from 42-40 to 49-37 for Obama, but Romney has gained ground by cutting into Obama’s party. He was already getting 10% of Democrats in August, but that is now 14%. Meanwhile, Obama gets a still healthy 8% of Republicans, but Romney is up from 80% to 84% of the GOP. Obama does so much better against Gingrich because he takes a 24-point lead with independents (56-32). Plus, the former Speaker pulls only 11% of the president’s base, while getting similar numbers with Republicans as Romney.

“Colorado is just another example of an emerging truth,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “If the Republicans nominate Mitt Romney, it’s a toss up. But if they go with Newt Gingrich Obama should be reelected comfortably.”

PPP surveyed 793 Colorado voters from December 1st to 4th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.5%. 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.



Colorado Survey Results

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

Approve 45%
Disapprove..... 50%
Not sure 4%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Herman Cain?

Favorable..... 23%
Unfavorable 62%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 32%
Unfavorable 55%
Not sure 13%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 29%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 18%

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

Favorable..... 16%
Unfavorable 69%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 13%

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

Barack Obama..... 52%
Herman Cain..... 36%
Undecided..... 12%

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

Barack Obama..... 50%
Newt Gingrich 42%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Barack Obama..... 48%
Ron Paul..... 39%
Undecided..... 13%

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

Barack Obama..... 52%
Rick Perry 37%
Undecided..... 11%

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..... 45%
Undecided..... 8%





Q12 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	11%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	18%
<i>Moderate</i>	32%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	25%
<i>Very conservative</i>	14%

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

<i>Woman</i>	52%
<i>Man</i>	48%

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.

<i>Democrat</i>	37%
<i>Republican</i>	35%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	28%

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

<i>Hispanic</i>	15%
<i>White</i>	79%
<i>Other</i>	6%

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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	15%
<i>30 to 45</i>	27%
<i>46 to 65</i>	38%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	45%	75%	78%	55%	21%	4%
Disapprove	50%	22%	17%	36%	77%	96%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%	9%	2%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cain Favorability						
Favorable	23%	9%	16%	16%	27%	51%
Unfavorable	62%	81%	79%	68%	54%	27%
Not sure	15%	10%	5%	16%	20%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	32%	15%	10%	21%	53%	63%
Unfavorable	55%	73%	81%	64%	37%	20%
Not sure	13%	12%	9%	15%	11%	17%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	29%	27%	24%	28%	32%	31%
Unfavorable	53%	58%	62%	47%	49%	57%
Not sure	18%	15%	14%	24%	19%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Favorability						
Favorable	16%	9%	3%	11%	23%	39%
Unfavorable	69%	83%	88%	75%	56%	42%
Not sure	15%	8%	9%	14%	21%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	35%	17%	15%	32%	54%	46%
Unfavorable	53%	74%	69%	55%	34%	42%
Not sure	13%	10%	15%	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Cain						
Barack Obama	52%	79%	90%	65%	24%	6%
Herman Cain	36%	14%	5%	22%	58%	82%
Undecided	12%	7%	5%	13%	18%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	50%	80%	88%	61%	20%	4%
Newt Gingrich	42%	15%	8%	27%	73%	86%
Undecided	8%	5%	4%	12%	7%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	48%	78%	86%	55%	23%	6%
Ron Paul	39%	19%	9%	27%	60%	83%
Undecided	13%	3%	5%	17%	17%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Perry						
Barack Obama	52%	81%	89%	65%	24%	4%
Rick Perry	37%	16%	6%	18%	64%	87%
Undecided	11%	3%	5%	16%	13%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	47%	80%	85%	55%	19%	5%
Mitt Romney	45%	19%	10%	32%	74%	86%
Undecided	8%	2%	5%	13%	7%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	45%	46%	44%
Disapprove	50%	47%	53%
Not sure	4%	6%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cain Favorability			
Favorable	23%	17%	29%
Unfavorable	62%	64%	60%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	32%	29%	36%
Unfavorable	55%	53%	57%
Not sure	13%	18%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	29%	24%	33%
Unfavorable	53%	52%	54%
Not sure	18%	24%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Favorability			
Favorable	16%	16%	16%
Unfavorable	69%	65%	73%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	35%	33%	36%
Unfavorable	53%	51%	55%
Not sure	13%	16%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Cain			
Barack Obama	52%	55%	50%
Herman Cain	36%	30%	41%
Undecided	12%	15%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	50%	51%	48%
Newt Gingrich	42%	39%	46%
Undecided	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	48%	50%	46%
Ron Paul	39%	33%	46%
Undecided	13%	17%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Perry			
Barack Obama	52%	54%	51%
Rick Perry	37%	32%	42%
Undecided	11%	14%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	47%	49%	45%
Mitt Romney	45%	42%	49%
Undecided	8%	10%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	45%	76%	11%	49%
Disapprove	50%	18%	89%	42%
Not sure	4%	5%	1%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	23%	12%	38%	19%
Unfavorable	62%	78%	41%	67%
Not sure	15%	10%	21%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	32%	11%	60%	25%
Unfavorable	55%	81%	23%	59%
Not sure	13%	8%	16%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	29%	24%	30%	34%
Unfavorable	53%	58%	54%	46%
Not sure	18%	18%	17%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	16%	4%	31%	14%
Unfavorable	69%	85%	49%	72%
Not sure	15%	10%	20%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	35%	20%	56%	28%
Unfavorable	53%	68%	32%	59%
Not sure	13%	12%	12%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Cain				
Barack Obama	52%	85%	13%	58%
Herman Cain	36%	9%	70%	26%
Undecided	12%	5%	17%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	85%	8%	56%
Newt Gingrich	42%	11%	82%	32%
Undecided	8%	5%	9%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	80%	11%	52%
Ron Paul	39%	14%	71%	32%
Undecided	13%	6%	18%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	52%	86%	11%	59%
Rick Perry	37%	8%	76%	26%
Undecided	11%	5%	13%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	83%	8%	49%
Mitt Romney	45%	14%	84%	37%
Undecided	8%	3%	8%	15%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	45%	61%	42%	58%
Disapprove	50%	34%	54%	38%
Not sure	4%	4%	5%	4%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	23%	25%	23%	19%
Unfavorable	62%	63%	61%	70%
Not sure	15%	11%	16%	11%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	32%	27%	34%	21%
Unfavorable	55%	63%	52%	71%
Not sure	13%	10%	14%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	29%	24%	29%	42%
Unfavorable	53%	59%	52%	45%
Not sure	18%	17%	19%	12%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	16%	15%	16%	15%
Unfavorable	69%	75%	67%	76%
Not sure	15%	9%	16%	10%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	35%	21%	38%	24%
Unfavorable	53%	70%	49%	61%
Not sure	13%	8%	13%	15%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Cain				
Barack Obama	52%	67%	48%	73%
Herman Cain	36%	25%	39%	15%
Undecided	12%	8%	13%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	66%	45%	70%
Newt Gingrich	42%	29%	45%	27%
Undecided	8%	5%	9%	3%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	66%	43%	69%
Ron Paul	39%	23%	43%	26%
Undecided	13%	10%	14%	5%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	52%	68%	48%	69%
Rick Perry	37%	23%	41%	17%
Undecided	11%	8%	11%	14%

	Base	Race		
		Hispanic	White	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	63%	43%	60%
Mitt Romney	45%	29%	49%	25%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	45%	49%	52%	43%	38%
Disapprove	50%	44%	45%	51%	59%
Not sure	4%	7%	3%	5%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cain Favorability					
Favorable	23%	24%	23%	23%	22%
Unfavorable	62%	57%	62%	64%	63%
Not sure	15%	20%	15%	14%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	32%	13%	29%	38%	41%
Unfavorable	55%	65%	55%	53%	48%
Not sure	13%	22%	15%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	29%	28%	33%	29%	22%
Unfavorable	53%	52%	47%	53%	61%
Not sure	18%	20%	20%	18%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	16%	9%	15%	16%	22%
Unfavorable	69%	76%	66%	71%	64%
Not sure	15%	15%	19%	13%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	35%	30%	28%	36%	45%
Unfavorable	53%	61%	57%	51%	45%
Not sure	13%	9%	15%	13%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Cain					
Barack Obama	52%	59%	56%	52%	43%
Herman Cain	36%	33%	33%	37%	38%
Undecided	12%	9%	11%	10%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	50%	61%	52%	47%	43%
Newt Gingrich	42%	33%	37%	45%	49%
Undecided	8%	7%	10%	8%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	48%	60%	52%	44%	41%
Ron Paul	39%	33%	36%	43%	41%
Undecided	13%	7%	12%	13%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Perry					
Barack Obama	52%	60%	58%	50%	42%
Rick Perry	37%	31%	32%	39%	43%
Undecided	11%	9%	10%	11%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	58%	52%	43%	38%
Mitt Romney	45%	40%	38%	48%	53%
Undecided	8%	2%	10%	9%	9%

