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Obama on pace to win Florida again

Raleigh, N.C. – After going Republican in 11 of the last 14 presidential elections, Florida broke for Barack Obama as part of his overwhelming victory over John McCain two years ago, but only by two and a half points. But if the 2012 election were held today, even only a month and a half after the GOP's resounding successes at the polls, Obama would exceed that margin against all but one of the five candidates tested against him, including one of those successful, up-and-coming 2010 candidates.

A Mitt Romney nomination would make the race in the Sunshine State neck-and-neck, with Obama prevailing only 46-44, but the president would beat the other four by at least five points: Mike Huckabee, 49-44; Newt Gingrich, 47-42; and Sarah Palin by a whopping 52-38. He would also lead a hypothetical challenger, new conservative darling Marco Rubio, 48-40.

All of the Republicans but Palin, including Rubio, take more Democratic support from Obama than he does GOP support from them. The largest discrepancy is Romney's 21% of Democrats to Obama's 12% of Republicans, followed by Huckabee's 21% of Democrats to Obama's 15% of Republicans. But though they make up only 18% of the electorate, the president's huge leads with independents make up for his party-unity disadvantages and completely explain his overall leads. He wins independents by 44 points over Rubio, 41 over Palin, 36 over Huckabee, 34 over Gingrich, and 24 over Romney—remarkable considering how sharply unaffiliateds tilted right last month.

“Florida is emblematic of something we've been seeing in one state after another,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Barack Obama is not very popular there, but voters still find him more appealing than the Republican alternatives.”

Off the ballot for now, outgoing Governor Charlie Crist would be in a tough spot if he were to run statewide again; more (35%) are dead-set against voting for him than say they would definitely vote for him (26%). He is now essentially a Democratic-leaning independent. His 50-39 approval rating depends entirely on a huge 70-26 from independents and 54-30 from Democrats to offset the 36-54 from his former party.

PPP surveyed 1,034 Florida voters from December 17th to 20th. The survey's margin of error is +/-3.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Florida Survey Results

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

Approve 45%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 7%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 18%

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

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 16%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 57%
Not sure 6%

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

Favorable..... 43%
Unfavorable 38%
Not sure 20%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Marco Rubio?

Favorable..... 43%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 15%

Q7 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 47%
Newt Gingrich 42%
Undecided..... 11%

Q8 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mike Huckabee, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 49%
Mike Huckabee 44%
Undecided..... 7%

Q9 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Sarah Palin, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 52%
Sarah Palin 38%
Undecided..... 10%

Q10 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 46%
Mitt Romney..... 44%
Undecided..... 11%

Q11 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Marco Rubio, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Marco Rubio 40%
Undecided..... 12%





Q12 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Charlie Crist's job performance?

Approve 50%
Disapprove..... 39%
Not sure 12%

Q13 If Charlie Crist ran for political office again in the future would you definitely vote for him, consider voting for him, or definitely not vote for him?

Would definitely vote for him..... 26%
Would consider voting for him..... 36%
Would definitely not vote for him..... 35%
Not sure 4%

Q14 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Scott?

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 24%

Q15 Do you support or oppose the tax deal President Obama made with Congressional Republicans last week?

Support..... 47%
Oppose 37%
Not sure 16%

Q16 Do you think President Obama made too many concessions to Republicans with his tax deal last week, not enough concessions to Republicans, or about the right amount of concessions to Republicans?

Too much 22%
Too little 34%
About right 39%
Not sure 5%

Q17 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 22%
Moderate..... 43%
Conservative..... 36%

Q18 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man..... 50%

Q19 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 42%
Republican..... 40%
Independent/Other..... 18%

Q20 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 13%
White 72%
African-American 9%
Other..... 6%

Q21 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..... 22%
46 to 65..... 38%
Older than 65..... 28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	45%	67%	62%	10%
Disapprove	49%	31%	30%	83%
Not sure	7%	2%	9%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	36%	22%	19%	64%
Unfavorable	47%	68%	62%	15%
Not sure	18%	10%	19%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	41%	29%	23%	70%
Unfavorable	43%	60%	57%	15%
Not sure	16%	10%	20%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	36%	19%	17%	70%
Unfavorable	57%	77%	71%	29%
Not sure	6%	4%	11%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	43%	32%	31%	64%
Unfavorable	38%	56%	43%	21%
Not sure	20%	13%	27%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rubio Favorability				
Favorable	43%	24%	27%	74%
Unfavorable	42%	67%	52%	14%
Not sure	15%	9%	21%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	68%	69%	8%
Newt Gingrich	42%	18%	26%	77%
Undecided	11%	14%	5%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	49%	73%	69%	11%
Mike Huckabee	44%	20%	25%	80%
Undecided	7%	8%	6%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	52%	73%	70%	17%
Sarah Palin	38%	24%	19%	70%
Undecided	10%	3%	12%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	71%	62%	10%
Mitt Romney	44%	18%	28%	78%
Undecided	11%	11%	9%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Rubio				
Barack Obama	48%	73%	66%	12%
Marco Rubio	40%	21%	21%	73%
Undecided	12%	5%	13%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Crist Approval				
Approve	50%	58%	63%	29%
Disapprove	39%	33%	25%	60%
Not sure	12%	9%	13%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Vote for Crist Again?				
Would definitely vote for him	26%	26%	35%	15%
Would consider voting for him	36%	44%	40%	26%
Would definitely not vote for him	35%	29%	19%	57%
Not sure	4%	1%	6%	2%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Scott Favorability				
Favorable	33%	30%	19%	51%
Unfavorable	43%	53%	59%	18%
Not sure	24%	17%	22%	31%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Tax Deal Support				
Support	47%	43%	50%	45%
Oppose	37%	48%	31%	38%
Not sure	16%	9%	19%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Conceded Too Much/Too Little/About Right				
Too much	22%	35%	29%	6%
Too little	34%	19%	18%	63%
About right	39%	46%	47%	25%
Not sure	5%	1%	7%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	45%	45%	45%
Disapprove	49%	46%	52%
Not sure	7%	9%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	36%	32%	39%
Unfavorable	47%	40%	53%
Not sure	18%	27%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	41%	40%	42%
Unfavorable	43%	35%	50%
Not sure	16%	25%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	36%	31%	42%
Unfavorable	57%	60%	54%
Not sure	6%	9%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	43%	42%	44%
Unfavorable	38%	32%	43%
Not sure	20%	27%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rubio Favorability			
Favorable	43%	40%	45%
Unfavorable	42%	41%	43%
Not sure	15%	19%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	47%	45%	49%
Newt Gingrich	42%	40%	45%
Undecided	11%	16%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	49%	47%	51%
Mike Huckabee	44%	41%	46%
Undecided	7%	11%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	52%	52%	52%
Sarah Palin	38%	36%	40%
Undecided	10%	12%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	46%	46%	46%
Mitt Romney	44%	42%	45%
Undecided	11%	12%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Rubio			
Barack Obama	48%	48%	49%
Marco Rubio	40%	40%	39%
Undecided	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Crist Approval			
Approve	50%	45%	54%
Disapprove	39%	37%	41%
Not sure	12%	18%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Vote for Crist Again?			
Would definitely vote for him	26%	28%	24%
Would consider voting for him	36%	28%	44%
Would definitely not vote for him	35%	37%	32%
Not sure	4%	7%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Scott Favorability			
Favorable	33%	30%	35%
Unfavorable	43%	38%	48%
Not sure	24%	32%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Tax Deal Support			
Support	47%	43%	50%
Oppose	37%	35%	40%
Not sure	16%	23%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Conceded Too Much/Too Little/About Right			
Too much	22%	17%	27%
Too little	34%	34%	34%
About right	39%	41%	37%
Not sure	5%	8%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	45%	69%	13%	59%
Disapprove	49%	24%	81%	35%
Not sure	7%	7%	6%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	36%	16%	61%	24%
Unfavorable	47%	63%	24%	60%
Not sure	18%	20%	15%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	41%	24%	67%	25%
Unfavorable	43%	54%	22%	62%
Not sure	16%	23%	11%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	36%	15%	62%	30%
Unfavorable	57%	75%	34%	66%
Not sure	6%	9%	4%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	43%	31%	58%	36%
Unfavorable	38%	43%	26%	51%
Not sure	20%	26%	16%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rubio Favorability				
Favorable	43%	25%	68%	28%
Unfavorable	42%	59%	20%	52%
Not sure	15%	17%	12%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	73%	15%	56%
Newt Gingrich	42%	19%	76%	22%
Undecided	11%	7%	9%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	49%	77%	15%	60%
Mike Huckabee	44%	21%	77%	24%
Undecided	7%	2%	8%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	52%	76%	20%	67%
Sarah Palin	38%	19%	63%	26%
Undecided	10%	5%	17%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	76%	12%	52%
Mitt Romney	44%	20%	76%	28%
Undecided	11%	5%	12%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Rubio				
Barack Obama	48%	73%	14%	65%
Marco Rubio	40%	19%	70%	21%
Undecided	12%	7%	16%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Crist Approval				
Approve	50%	54%	36%	70%
Disapprove	39%	30%	54%	26%
Not sure	12%	16%	11%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Vote for Crist Again?				
Would definitely vote for him	26%	27%	23%	29%
Would consider voting for him	36%	43%	24%	45%
Would definitely not vote for him	35%	25%	50%	23%
Not sure	4%	6%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Scott Favorability				
Favorable	33%	21%	49%	25%
Unfavorable	43%	60%	20%	56%
Not sure	24%	19%	31%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Tax Deal Support				
Support	47%	48%	45%	47%
Oppose	37%	36%	38%	39%
Not sure	16%	16%	16%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Conceded Too Much/Too Little/About Right				
Too much	22%	32%	9%	25%
Too little	34%	13%	57%	33%
About right	39%	49%	28%	38%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	45%	46%	38%	74%	77%
Disapprove	49%	51%	55%	15%	23%
Not sure	7%	2%	7%	12%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	36%	35%	40%	19%	11%
Unfavorable	47%	45%	44%	49%	84%
Not sure	18%	20%	16%	31%	4%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	41%	44%	46%	16%	16%
Unfavorable	43%	40%	39%	48%	84%
Not sure	16%	17%	15%	35%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	36%	33%	41%	13%	26%
Unfavorable	57%	57%	53%	79%	74%
Not sure	6%	10%	6%	8%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	43%	47%	46%	20%	35%
Unfavorable	38%	46%	34%	36%	65%
Not sure	20%	7%	21%	44%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Rubio Favorability					
Favorable	43%	42%	43%	33%	53%
Unfavorable	42%	50%	40%	47%	47%
Not sure	15%	8%	17%	20%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	47%	46%	41%	82%	72%
Newt Gingrich	42%	40%	48%	16%	18%
Undecided	11%	14%	11%	2%	10%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	49%	55%	41%	84%	82%
Mike Huckabee	44%	42%	50%	15%	18%
Undecided	7%	4%	9%	2%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	52%	44%	46%	85%	82%
Sarah Palin	38%	52%	40%	15%	16%
Undecided	10%	4%	13%	-	3%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	46%	57%	36%	85%	84%
Mitt Romney	44%	42%	50%	13%	16%
Undecided	11%	1%	14%	2%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Rubio					
Barack Obama	48%	46%	41%	85%	82%
Marco Rubio	40%	46%	44%	12%	18%
Undecided	12%	7%	15%	3%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Crist Approval					
Approve	50%	34%	49%	67%	63%
Disapprove	39%	42%	42%	18%	28%
Not sure	12%	23%	9%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Vote for Crist Again?					
Would definitely vote for him	26%	27%	23%	39%	31%
Would consider voting for him	36%	26%	36%	35%	57%
Would definitely not vote for him	35%	46%	36%	21%	13%
Not sure	4%	1%	4%	5%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Scott Favorability					
Favorable	33%	39%	37%	11%	11%
Unfavorable	43%	36%	38%	66%	80%
Not sure	24%	25%	25%	23%	9%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Tax Deal Support					
Support	47%	37%	42%	71%	75%
Oppose	37%	44%	40%	19%	16%
Not sure	16%	19%	17%	10%	9%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Conceded Too Much/Too Little/About Right					
Too much	22%	16%	22%	20%	29%
Too little	34%	32%	38%	23%	7%
About right	39%	50%	34%	52%	59%
Not sure	5%	2%	5%	5%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	45%	64%	46%	43%	38%
Disapprove	49%	27%	49%	51%	55%
Not sure	7%	9%	6%	6%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	36%	36%	29%	34%	43%
Unfavorable	47%	55%	51%	46%	41%
Not sure	18%	9%	20%	20%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	41%	27%	37%	40%	52%
Unfavorable	43%	64%	46%	41%	33%
Not sure	16%	9%	17%	19%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	36%	9%	49%	36%	39%
Unfavorable	57%	82%	49%	56%	56%
Not sure	6%	9%	3%	8%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	43%	27%	40%	40%	55%
Unfavorable	38%	64%	31%	40%	28%
Not sure	20%	9%	29%	20%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rubio Favorability					
Favorable	43%	45%	37%	39%	50%
Unfavorable	42%	45%	46%	45%	33%
Not sure	15%	9%	17%	16%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	47%	64%	49%	47%	39%
Newt Gingrich	42%	18%	43%	43%	51%
Undecided	11%	18%	9%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	49%	73%	51%	47%	41%
Mike Huckabee	44%	18%	46%	47%	49%
Undecided	7%	9%	3%	7%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	52%	64%	57%	48%	48%
Sarah Palin	38%	27%	34%	41%	42%
Undecided	10%	9%	9%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	46%	73%	49%	42%	37%
Mitt Romney	44%	18%	46%	44%	53%
Undecided	11%	9%	6%	14%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Rubio					
Barack Obama	48%	64%	49%	47%	44%
Marco Rubio	40%	27%	37%	41%	45%
Undecided	12%	9%	14%	12%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Crist Approval					
Approve	50%	45%	57%	49%	46%
Disapprove	39%	45%	29%	42%	40%
Not sure	12%	9%	14%	9%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Vote for Crist Again?					
Would definitely vote for him	26%	27%	37%	22%	21%
Would consider voting for him	36%	27%	29%	41%	38%
Would definitely not vote for him	35%	36%	31%	34%	37%
Not sure	4%	9%	3%	2%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Scott Favorability					
Favorable	33%	45%	34%	30%	30%
Unfavorable	43%	45%	43%	43%	42%
Not sure	24%	9%	23%	27%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Tax Deal Support					
Support	47%	45%	60%	42%	43%
Oppose	37%	45%	37%	38%	33%
Not sure	16%	9%	3%	20%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Conceded Too Much/Too Little/About Right					
Too much	22%	9%	17%	27%	24%
Too little	34%	18%	31%	37%	40%
About right	39%	73%	46%	30%	31%
Not sure	5%	-	6%	6%	5%

