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QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Huckabee and Romney keep things close in Iowa

Raleigh, N.C. – When PPP last polled Iowa in early January, President Obama was enjoying a bit of a surge in popularity following the lame-duck session of Congress. He has since slipped, and his small leads over his main prospective challengers have accordingly closed. Half of Iowans approved of the president's job performance three months ago, and 43% disapproved. But he is now slightly underwater, as nationwide, with only 46% approving and 48% disapproving. The slippage has come across the board. In January, 13% of Republicans approved and only 8% of Democrats disapproved, but those numbers are now reversed, while independents have moved from 49-40 to 41-50.

The good news is that the Republicans have all gotten slightly less popular as well, and none is better liked than the president. But re-election bids are more a mandate on the incumbent than the challenger, and a slightly unpopular incumbent against a slightly unpopular challenger usually produces a tie.

As such, Obama is now knotted at 45% with Mike Huckabee, winner of the 2008 caucuses and current leader of the early 2012 delegate race, per Tuesday's release. In January, Obama led, 47-43. The president leads Mitt Romney, 45-41, down a hair from 47-41 in the previous poll. If there is any solace for the president, it is that he has maintained double-digit leads over Newt Gingrich (50-39 versus 51-38) and Sarah Palin (53-36 versus 53-37). He similarly trounces Donald Trump, 51-35.

If Trump were to lose the GOP nomination and launch an independent bid, he would eat severely into Romney's support and essentially none into Obama's. Obama would lead a three-way race with 43% over Romney's 27% and Trump's 21%. Trump brings Romney down from 81% to only 56% of the GOP and from 37% of independents to only 22%.

“Obama could have a much harder time of it in Iowa next year than he did in 2008—unless the Republicans bail him out with a Trump or Palin like nominee,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “There are certainly doubts about Obama in the state but there are even bigger doubts about some of the most prominent GOP contenders.”

PPP surveyed 1,109 Iowa voters from April 15th to 17th. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Iowa Survey Results

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

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 48%
Not sure 6%

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

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 56%
Not sure 21%

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

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 17%

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

Favorable..... 29%
Unfavorable 63%
Not sure 8%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 44%
Not sure 20%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Donald Trump?

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 61%
Not sure 13%

Q7 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 39%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 45%
Mike Huckabee 45%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 53%
Sarah Palin 36%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 45%
Mitt Romney..... 41%
Undecided..... 14%

Q11 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Donald Trump, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 51%
Donald Trump 35%
Undecided..... 14%





Q12 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, and Donald Trump running as an independent, who would you vote for?

<i>Barack Obama</i>	43%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	27%
<i>Donald Trump</i>	21%
<i>Undecided</i>	9%

Q13 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	42%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	50%
<i>Someone Else/Don't Remember</i>	7%

Q14 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	8%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	19%
<i>Moderate</i>	30%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	22%
<i>Very conservative</i>	20%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	51%
<i>Man</i>	49%

Q16 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>	38%
<i>Republican</i>	33%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	29%

Q17 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

<i>White</i>	96%
<i>Other</i>	4%

Q18 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>	10%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	44%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	7%	79%	43%
Disapprove	48%	88%	15%	45%
Not sure	6%	5%	7%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	24%	45%	7%	17%
Unfavorable	56%	27%	80%	52%
Not sure	21%	28%	13%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	41%	68%	18%	41%
Unfavorable	43%	18%	64%	38%
Not sure	17%	14%	18%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	29%	57%	6%	24%
Unfavorable	63%	29%	91%	64%
Not sure	8%	14%	3%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	36%	54%	22%	23%
Unfavorable	44%	28%	57%	51%
Not sure	20%	18%	20%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Trump Favorability				
Favorable	27%	42%	13%	30%
Unfavorable	61%	41%	79%	49%
Not sure	13%	17%	8%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	9%	86%	38%
Newt Gingrich	39%	75%	7%	42%
Undecided	11%	16%	6%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	45%	7%	78%	38%
Mike Huckabee	45%	84%	14%	40%
Undecided	10%	9%	8%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	53%	11%	89%	41%
Sarah Palin	36%	72%	7%	32%
Undecided	11%	18%	3%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	45%	9%	76%	43%
Mitt Romney	41%	77%	12%	27%
Undecided	14%	14%	12%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Trump				
Barack Obama	51%	13%	84%	35%
Donald Trump	35%	66%	11%	28%
Undecided	14%	21%	5%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Romney/Trump				
Barack Obama	43%	7%	75%	35%
Mitt Romney	27%	50%	9%	16%
Donald Trump	21%	34%	9%	31%
Undecided	9%	9%	8%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	46%	78%	82%	62%	18%	6%
Disapprove	48%	18%	12%	30%	75%	92%
Not sure	6%	4%	6%	8%	7%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	24%	9%	6%	11%	35%	53%
Unfavorable	56%	79%	85%	66%	38%	22%
Not sure	21%	13%	9%	22%	28%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Favorability						
Favorable	41%	9%	21%	26%	63%	69%
Unfavorable	43%	72%	70%	49%	22%	19%
Not sure	17%	19%	9%	25%	16%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	29%	4%	8%	14%	43%	66%
Unfavorable	63%	92%	88%	81%	42%	24%
Not sure	8%	4%	4%	6%	15%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	36%	13%	27%	30%	47%	50%
Unfavorable	44%	76%	59%	47%	33%	27%
Not sure	20%	12%	15%	23%	20%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Trump Favorability						
Favorable	27%	9%	13%	19%	37%	45%
Unfavorable	61%	84%	79%	69%	48%	35%
Not sure	13%	7%	8%	12%	15%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	50%	86%	87%	67%	21%	6%
Newt Gingrich	39%	9%	11%	20%	61%	81%
Undecided	11%	5%	2%	13%	18%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Huckabee						
Barack Obama	45%	85%	86%	57%	16%	4%
Mike Huckabee	45%	9%	12%	30%	70%	89%
Undecided	10%	6%	3%	14%	15%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	53%	88%	89%	73%	23%	6%
Sarah Palin	36%	9%	8%	16%	55%	82%
Undecided	11%	2%	2%	11%	21%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	45%	87%	84%	56%	16%	6%
Mitt Romney	41%	7%	11%	26%	65%	76%
Undecided	14%	6%	4%	18%	19%	17%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Trump						
Barack Obama	51%	91%	86%	66%	25%	7%
Donald Trump	35%	9%	10%	22%	50%	72%
Undecided	14%	1%	3%	11%	25%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney/Trump						
Barack Obama	43%	86%	80%	55%	15%	4%
Mitt Romney	27%	4%	9%	18%	47%	44%
Donald Trump	21%	6%	8%	18%	27%	37%
Undecided	9%	5%	3%	9%	11%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	49%	42%
Disapprove	48%	44%	52%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	24%	19%	29%
Unfavorable	56%	57%	53%
Not sure	21%	24%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	41%	37%	45%
Unfavorable	43%	41%	44%
Not sure	17%	22%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	29%	23%	35%
Unfavorable	63%	68%	57%
Not sure	8%	9%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	36%	32%	40%
Unfavorable	44%	44%	45%
Not sure	20%	25%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trump Favorability			
Favorable	27%	23%	31%
Unfavorable	61%	62%	59%
Not sure	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	50%	53%	46%
Newt Gingrich	39%	34%	44%
Undecided	11%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	45%	47%	42%
Mike Huckabee	45%	41%	50%
Undecided	10%	12%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	53%	57%	48%
Sarah Palin	36%	30%	42%
Undecided	11%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	45%	49%	41%
Mitt Romney	41%	37%	45%
Undecided	14%	14%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Trump			
Barack Obama	51%	55%	46%
Donald Trump	35%	30%	41%
Undecided	14%	15%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney/Trump			
Barack Obama	43%	47%	39%
Mitt Romney	27%	23%	31%
Donald Trump	21%	19%	23%
Undecided	9%	11%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	82%	8%	41%
Disapprove	48%	14%	87%	50%
Not sure	6%	5%	5%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	24%	5%	50%	18%
Unfavorable	56%	83%	21%	59%
Not sure	21%	12%	29%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	41%	17%	70%	39%
Unfavorable	43%	68%	17%	38%
Not sure	17%	16%	13%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	29%	6%	60%	25%
Unfavorable	63%	92%	27%	64%
Not sure	8%	2%	14%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	36%	21%	56%	33%
Unfavorable	44%	63%	23%	43%
Not sure	20%	16%	21%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Trump Favorability				
Favorable	27%	13%	41%	29%
Unfavorable	61%	80%	40%	58%
Not sure	13%	8%	19%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	87%	9%	47%
Newt Gingrich	39%	8%	79%	34%
Undecided	11%	5%	12%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	45%	82%	5%	40%
Mike Huckabee	45%	11%	88%	44%
Undecided	10%	7%	8%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	53%	89%	10%	52%
Sarah Palin	36%	7%	73%	33%
Undecided	11%	4%	17%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	45%	81%	6%	41%
Mitt Romney	41%	10%	81%	37%
Undecided	14%	9%	13%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Trump				
Barack Obama	51%	83%	9%	54%
Donald Trump	35%	10%	66%	35%
Undecided	14%	7%	25%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney/Trump				
Barack Obama	43%	78%	4%	41%
Mitt Romney	27%	6%	56%	22%
Donald Trump	21%	10%	31%	25%
Undecided	9%	6%	10%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	45%	58%
Disapprove	48%	48%	40%
Not sure	6%	6%	2%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	24%	23%	34%
Unfavorable	56%	56%	54%
Not sure	21%	21%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	41%	42%	22%
Unfavorable	43%	42%	59%
Not sure	17%	17%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	29%	29%	37%
Unfavorable	63%	63%	60%
Not sure	8%	8%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	36%	36%	34%
Unfavorable	44%	44%	49%
Not sure	20%	20%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Trump Favorability			
Favorable	27%	27%	28%
Unfavorable	61%	61%	60%
Not sure	13%	13%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	50%	50%	54%
Newt Gingrich	39%	39%	36%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	45%	44%	49%
Mike Huckabee	45%	46%	41%
Undecided	10%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	53%	52%	54%
Sarah Palin	36%	36%	40%
Undecided	11%	11%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	45%	45%	50%
Mitt Romney	41%	41%	40%
Undecided	14%	14%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Trump			
Barack Obama	51%	51%	52%
Donald Trump	35%	35%	40%
Undecided	14%	14%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney/Trump			
Barack Obama	43%	43%	51%
Mitt Romney	27%	27%	22%
Donald Trump	21%	21%	24%
Undecided	9%	9%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	46%	38%	44%	50%	44%
Disapprove	48%	55%	50%	46%	47%
Not sure	6%	8%	6%	4%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	24%	25%	23%	22%	27%
Unfavorable	56%	57%	53%	57%	53%
Not sure	21%	18%	24%	20%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	41%	35%	40%	42%	43%
Unfavorable	43%	48%	44%	44%	35%
Not sure	17%	18%	17%	14%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	29%	30%	29%	30%	26%
Unfavorable	63%	63%	63%	62%	64%
Not sure	8%	8%	7%	8%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	36%	33%	40%	31%	43%
Unfavorable	44%	45%	40%	50%	37%
Not sure	20%	23%	19%	19%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trump Favorability					
Favorable	27%	28%	29%	24%	27%
Unfavorable	61%	60%	58%	62%	61%
Not sure	13%	13%	13%	13%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	50%	43%	49%	53%	48%
Newt Gingrich	39%	45%	39%	36%	41%
Undecided	11%	13%	12%	10%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	45%	48%	38%	48%	44%
Mike Huckabee	45%	43%	49%	44%	46%
Undecided	10%	10%	12%	8%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	53%	53%	52%	54%	50%
Sarah Palin	36%	35%	40%	35%	35%
Undecided	11%	13%	9%	11%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	45%	45%	41%	48%	42%
Mitt Romney	41%	43%	46%	36%	44%
Undecided	14%	13%	13%	16%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Trump					
Barack Obama	51%	53%	50%	52%	48%
Donald Trump	35%	38%	37%	35%	34%
Undecided	14%	10%	14%	13%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney/Trump					
Barack Obama	43%	43%	37%	47%	42%
Mitt Romney	27%	20%	32%	23%	32%
Donald Trump	21%	25%	22%	22%	17%
Undecided	9%	13%	9%	9%	9%

