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Obama Grows Lead Over Romney in Iowa, Now Up 10

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama has expanded his lead over presumptive Republican nominee Mitt Romney and now leads the former Massachusetts Governor by 10 points, 51%-41%. When PPP last polled Iowa in October 2011, Obama led by just 4 points, 46-42.

Since last October, Obama has reversed his net-negative approval rating with Iowa voters. In October just 43% of voters approved of his job performance with 52% disapproving. Now he sits at 49% approval and 46% disapproval, including a 52-41 rating with independents.

By contrast, barely 1/3 of Iowans have a favorable opinion of Mitt Romney, weeks after he's effectively wrapped up the Republican nomination. His approval rating stands at 34% favorable and 56% unfavorable, even worse than last October when he was at 34-52. Romney's favorability rating among independent voters is an awful 28-59, and he still earns the disapproval of 25% of Republicans with just 63% approving. Meanwhile Obama enjoys the approval of 86% of Democrats and the disapproval of just 10%.

“Pundits who have Iowa in the lean Republican column might need to rethink their assessments,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Barack Obama’s approval numbers have rebounded strongly there over the last six months, and in one of the states where voters have seen Mitt Romney the most their view of him is not particularly charitable.”

PPP also looked at how adding Governor Terry Branstad or Representative Steve King to the Republican ticket might help Romney’s fortunes in Iowa. Neither man is exceedingly popular right now – Branstad’s approval rating is 43-43 and Steve King’s is at 25% favorable, 38% unfavorable and 37% not sure. With Branstad on the ticket, Romney gains 2 points but still loses to Obama 50-42, and with King as his hypothetical running mate, Obama wins 50-40.

PPP surveyed 1,181 Iowa voters between May 3rd and 6th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.85%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. 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.



Iowa Survey Results

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

Approve 49%
Disapprove..... 46%
Not sure 5%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 50%
Not sure 20%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 56%
Not sure 10%

Q4 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 47%
Ron Paul..... 39%
Undecided..... 14%

Q5 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 51%
Mitt Romney..... 41%
Undecided..... 8%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Terry Branstad's job performance?

Approve 43%
Disapprove..... 43%
Not sure 14%

Q7 If the Democratic ticket was Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President, and the Republican ticket was Mitt Romney for President and Terry Branstad for Vice President, which would you vote for?

Obama-Biden..... 50%
Romney-Branstad..... 42%
Undecided..... 8%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Steve King?

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 38%
Not sure 37%

Q9 If the Democratic ticket was Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President, and the Republican ticket was Mitt Romney for President and Steve King for Vice President, which would you vote for?

Obama-Biden..... 50%
Romney-King..... 40%
Undecided..... 10%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 40%
Barack Obama..... 51%
Someone else/Don't remember 9%

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

Very liberal..... 10%
Somewhat liberal 18%
Moderate..... 30%
Somewhat conservative..... 24%
Very conservative 19%





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

Woman 51%

Man..... 49%

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.

Democrat 36%

Republican..... 37%

Independent/Other..... 27%

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

White 91%

Other..... 9%

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.

18 to 29..... 12%

30 to 45..... 22%

46 to 65..... 41%

Older than 65..... 25%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	9%	83%	34%
Disapprove	46%	87%	13%	49%
Not sure	5%	4%	4%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Ron Paul Favorability				
Favorable	30%	34%	25%	42%
Unfavorable	50%	46%	56%	34%
Not sure	20%	20%	19%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	66%	11%	24%
Unfavorable	56%	22%	83%	53%
Not sure	10%	12%	6%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	8%	82%	28%
Ron Paul	39%	71%	12%	45%
Undecided	14%	22%	6%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	51%	8%	88%	34%
Mitt Romney	41%	84%	9%	35%
Undecided	8%	8%	3%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Branstad Approval				
Approve	43%	72%	21%	37%
Disapprove	43%	15%	67%	34%
Not sure	14%	13%	12%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama-Biden/Romney-Branstad				
Obama-Biden	50%	7%	87%	35%
Romney-Branstad	42%	84%	10%	36%
Undecided	8%	8%	3%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
King Favorability				
Favorable	25%	53%	6%	11%
Unfavorable	38%	12%	60%	26%
Not sure	37%	36%	33%	63%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama-Biden/Romney-King				
Obama-Biden	50%	9%	86%	33%
Romney-King	40%	80%	10%	28%
Undecided	10%	11%	4%	39%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	49%	75%	88%	65%	20%	9%
Disapprove	46%	20%	9%	28%	73%	88%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%	6%	7%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Ron Paul Favorability						
Favorable	30%	20%	27%	32%	34%	31%
Unfavorable	50%	66%	56%	48%	42%	49%
Not sure	20%	14%	17%	20%	23%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	34%	15%	8%	22%	55%	60%
Unfavorable	56%	83%	86%	70%	27%	28%
Not sure	10%	1%	6%	8%	17%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	47%	77%	83%	61%	22%	9%
Ron Paul	39%	17%	12%	24%	59%	73%
Undecided	14%	6%	5%	16%	19%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	51%	81%	88%	70%	20%	9%
Mitt Romney	41%	17%	8%	24%	70%	78%
Undecided	8%	2%	4%	6%	10%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Branstad Approval						
Approve	43%	16%	17%	33%	64%	71%
Disapprove	43%	75%	72%	51%	20%	15%
Not sure	14%	9%	11%	16%	16%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama-Biden/Romney-Branstad						
Obama-Biden	50%	81%	86%	69%	20%	9%
Romney-Branstad	42%	18%	10%	25%	68%	80%
Undecided	8%	0%	4%	6%	12%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
King Favorability						
Favorable	25%	6%	4%	14%	41%	55%
Unfavorable	38%	60%	68%	45%	17%	12%
Not sure	37%	33%	28%	42%	42%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama-Biden/Romney-King						
Obama-Biden	50%	79%	85%	69%	21%	9%
Romney-King	40%	20%	9%	23%	62%	78%
Undecided	10%	1%	6%	8%	17%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	54%	44%
Disapprove	46%	40%	52%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Ron Paul Favorability			
Favorable	30%	26%	34%
Unfavorable	50%	51%	49%
Not sure	20%	23%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	34%	29%	39%
Unfavorable	56%	61%	51%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	47%	52%	42%
Ron Paul	39%	33%	44%
Undecided	14%	15%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	51%	57%	45%
Mitt Romney	41%	37%	46%
Undecided	8%	6%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Branstad Approval			
Approve	43%	39%	47%
Disapprove	43%	46%	40%
Not sure	14%	15%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama-Biden/Romney-Branstad			
Obama-Biden	50%	55%	45%
Romney-Branstad	42%	37%	47%
Undecided	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
King Favorability			
Favorable	25%	21%	29%
Unfavorable	38%	40%	35%
Not sure	37%	38%	35%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama-Biden/Romney-King			
Obama-Biden	50%	56%	44%
Romney-King	40%	34%	45%
Undecided	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	86%	11%	52%
Disapprove	46%	10%	84%	41%
Not sure	5%	4%	4%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Ron Paul Favorability				
Favorable	30%	20%	33%	40%
Unfavorable	50%	62%	48%	38%
Not sure	20%	18%	20%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	9%	63%	28%
Unfavorable	56%	86%	25%	59%
Not sure	10%	5%	12%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	86%	11%	45%
Ron Paul	39%	8%	69%	37%
Undecided	14%	6%	20%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	51%	90%	11%	54%
Mitt Romney	41%	9%	79%	34%
Undecided	8%	1%	10%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Branstad Approval				
Approve	43%	15%	72%	41%
Disapprove	43%	73%	15%	40%
Not sure	14%	12%	13%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-Branstad				
Obama-Biden	50%	88%	9%	56%
Romney-Branstad	42%	9%	81%	34%
Undecided	8%	3%	10%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
King Favorability				
Favorable	25%	5%	48%	22%
Unfavorable	38%	62%	18%	32%
Not sure	37%	33%	34%	47%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-King				
Obama-Biden	50%	88%	11%	54%
Romney-King	40%	9%	75%	33%
Undecided	10%	4%	15%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	48%	55%
Disapprove	46%	47%	37%
Not sure	5%	5%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Ron Paul Favorability			
Favorable	30%	30%	32%
Unfavorable	50%	51%	42%
Not sure	20%	19%	26%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	34%	34%	36%
Unfavorable	56%	56%	55%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	47%	47%	50%
Ron Paul	39%	39%	33%
Undecided	14%	14%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	51%	51%	54%
Mitt Romney	41%	42%	35%
Undecided	8%	7%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Branstad Approval			
Approve	43%	44%	35%
Disapprove	43%	43%	47%
Not sure	14%	14%	18%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-Branstad			
Obama-Biden	50%	50%	54%
Romney-Branstad	42%	42%	42%
Undecided	8%	8%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
King Favorability			
Favorable	25%	25%	28%
Unfavorable	38%	38%	37%
Not sure	37%	37%	35%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-King			
Obama-Biden	50%	50%	53%
Romney-King	40%	40%	39%
Undecided	10%	10%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	49%	53%	50%	49%	46%
Disapprove	46%	37%	45%	48%	49%
Not sure	5%	10%	5%	3%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Ron Paul Favorability					
Favorable	30%	40%	24%	32%	27%
Unfavorable	50%	48%	51%	50%	51%
Not sure	20%	12%	25%	17%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	34%	32%	35%	32%	38%
Unfavorable	56%	60%	60%	58%	48%
Not sure	10%	8%	5%	10%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	47%	46%	47%	48%	47%
Ron Paul	39%	36%	42%	38%	38%
Undecided	14%	18%	11%	14%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	51%	58%	52%	51%	47%
Mitt Romney	41%	30%	41%	42%	46%
Undecided	8%	12%	8%	6%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Branstad Approval					
Approve	43%	40%	39%	43%	48%
Disapprove	43%	42%	45%	46%	37%
Not sure	14%	18%	16%	12%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama-Biden/Romney-Branstad					
Obama-Biden	50%	58%	51%	51%	46%
Romney-Branstad	42%	38%	42%	42%	44%
Undecided	8%	4%	7%	7%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
King Favorability					
Favorable	25%	12%	23%	27%	32%
Unfavorable	38%	48%	34%	37%	37%
Not sure	37%	40%	42%	36%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama-Biden/Romney-King					
Obama-Biden	50%	54%	52%	51%	47%
Romney-King	40%	34%	39%	40%	42%
Undecided	10%	12%	9%	9%	12%

