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Obama trails Perry, Romney by single digits in Kentucky

Raleigh, N.C. – Though he is seen better now than when PPP last polled the state before last fall’s Tea-Party-enthused election, President Obama is still very unpopular in Kentucky. Despite that, if the 2012 election were held today, he would defeat two of his potential opponents and take the state’s eight electoral votes for his party for the first time since Bill Clinton’s near-landslide re-election in 1996.

39% of voters approve and 56% disapprove of the president’s job performance, up from a 31-62 margin late last October. That still makes it his seventh or eighth worst standing in any of the 45 states in which PPP has measured him. 32% of the state’s conservative Democrats disapprove, to two-thirds approving; they make up 55% of voters. Republicans almost unanimously disapprove, and independents fall at 31-66.

None of the Republicans is seen very well either. Fresh-faced Rick Perry is best off, with a 35-41 favorability rating, followed by Mitt Romney’s 30-47, Michele Bachmann’s 30-50, Sarah Palin’s 33-58, and Newt Gingrich’s 22-63. As such, the president trails Perry only 49-42; Romney, 48-40; and Bachmann, 46-43. He actually leads Gingrich, 47-44, and Palin, 48-44. 19% to 24% of Democrats defect to the Republicans, and they lead the president by 10 to 25 points with independents.

Poll respondents—likely voters in this fall’s gubernatorial election—report having voted for McCain over Obama by only four points, when he actually won by 16. In that sense, Romney and Perry actually improve on McCain’s victory margin. But Obama would outperform his 2008 pace in the state against the others, something PPP is finding in nearly every state.

“The president is not likely to win Kentucky in the end,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “In fact, he’ll probably get slaughtered. But even here, these Republican candidates are pretty weak.”

PPP surveyed 600 likely Kentucky voters from August 25th to 28th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.0%. 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.



Kentucky Survey Results

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

Approve 39%
Disapprove..... 56%
Not sure 5%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Michele Bachmann?

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

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

Favorable..... 22%
Unfavorable 63%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 58%
Not sure 9%

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

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 41%
Not sure 24%

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

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 22%

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

Barack Obama..... 43%
Michele Bachmann 46%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 47%
Newt Gingrich 44%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 48%
Sarah Palin 44%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Barack Obama..... 42%
Rick Perry 49%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 40%
Mitt Romney..... 48%
Undecided..... 11%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	48%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	44%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	8%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	8%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	17%
<i>Moderate</i>	29%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	28%
<i>Very conservative</i>	19%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

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

Q15 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>	55%
<i>Republican</i>	36%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	9%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If African American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	90%
<i>African American</i>	6%
<i>Other</i>	4%

Q17 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>	13%
<i>30 to 45</i>	22%
<i>46 to 65</i>	38%
<i>Older than 65</i>	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	39%	4%	78%	36%
Disapprove	56%	95%	14%	59%
Not sure	5%	2%	8%	6%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	30%	42%	18%	27%
Unfavorable	50%	33%	67%	55%
Not sure	20%	25%	15%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	22%	41%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	63%	40%	85%	84%
Not sure	15%	19%	10%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	33%	59%	7%	21%
Unfavorable	58%	30%	88%	61%
Not sure	9%	10%	5%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	35%	59%	11%	23%
Unfavorable	41%	12%	71%	54%
Not sure	24%	29%	18%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	30%	40%	19%	33%
Unfavorable	47%	33%	63%	49%
Not sure	22%	27%	18%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	43%	6%	85%	36%
Michele Bachmann	46%	81%	11%	34%
Undecided	10%	13%	4%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	9%	88%	46%
Newt Gingrich	44%	81%	7%	27%
Undecided	9%	10%	5%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	48%	8%	91%	46%
Sarah Palin	44%	78%	7%	39%
Undecided	8%	14%	2%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	42%	5%	83%	38%
Rick Perry	49%	86%	10%	37%
Undecided	9%	9%	7%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	40%	5%	81%	34%
Mitt Romney	48%	83%	12%	38%
Undecided	11%	12%	7%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	39%	81%	78%	49%	17%	2%
Disapprove	56%	16%	19%	42%	80%	95%
Not sure	5%	3%	3%	9%	2%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bachmann Favorability						
Favorable	30%	19%	12%	19%	36%	58%
Unfavorable	50%	61%	72%	62%	35%	29%
Not sure	20%	20%	16%	19%	28%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	22%	4%	4%	10%	38%	41%
Unfavorable	63%	85%	88%	77%	43%	41%
Not sure	15%	11%	8%	13%	19%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	33%	17%	6%	18%	43%	72%
Unfavorable	58%	79%	86%	75%	43%	22%
Not sure	9%	4%	8%	7%	15%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Favorability						
Favorable	35%	3%	6%	22%	54%	67%
Unfavorable	41%	82%	79%	49%	18%	14%
Not sure	24%	15%	15%	30%	28%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	30%	11%	17%	31%	43%	31%
Unfavorable	47%	65%	67%	48%	33%	42%
Not sure	22%	24%	16%	21%	24%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Bachmann						
Barack Obama	43%	83%	80%	58%	20%	5%
Michele Bachmann	46%	16%	11%	26%	68%	89%
Undecided	10%	1%	8%	15%	12%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	47%	83%	83%	65%	24%	6%
Newt Gingrich	44%	17%	6%	26%	65%	85%
Undecided	9%	-	11%	9%	11%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	48%	82%	83%	68%	24%	7%
Sarah Palin	44%	18%	8%	24%	62%	89%
Undecided	8%	-	8%	8%	14%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Perry						
Barack Obama	42%	84%	81%	55%	21%	2%
Rick Perry	49%	10%	10%	28%	75%	93%
Undecided	9%	6%	9%	17%	4%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	40%	83%	79%	52%	20%	2%
Mitt Romney	48%	15%	11%	30%	76%	83%
Undecided	11%	3%	10%	18%	4%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	39%	42%	36%
Disapprove	56%	52%	62%
Not sure	5%	6%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bachmann Favorability			
Favorable	30%	29%	32%
Unfavorable	50%	49%	51%
Not sure	20%	22%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	22%	18%	27%
Unfavorable	63%	64%	62%
Not sure	15%	18%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	33%	32%	34%
Unfavorable	58%	58%	58%
Not sure	9%	9%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Favorability			
Favorable	35%	27%	44%
Unfavorable	41%	45%	37%
Not sure	24%	28%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	30%	29%	32%
Unfavorable	47%	45%	50%
Not sure	22%	26%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Bachmann			
Barack Obama	43%	47%	39%
Michele Bachmann	46%	43%	50%
Undecided	10%	10%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	47%	49%	45%
Newt Gingrich	44%	42%	46%
Undecided	9%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	48%	50%	45%
Sarah Palin	44%	43%	45%
Undecided	8%	7%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Perry			
Barack Obama	42%	45%	38%
Rick Perry	49%	44%	55%
Undecided	9%	11%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	40%	44%	36%
Mitt Romney	48%	44%	54%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	39%	61%	7%	31%
Disapprove	56%	32%	91%	66%
Not sure	5%	7%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	30%	20%	50%	17%
Unfavorable	50%	59%	31%	69%
Not sure	20%	22%	19%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	22%	12%	40%	14%
Unfavorable	63%	76%	41%	76%
Not sure	15%	12%	19%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	33%	16%	62%	24%
Unfavorable	58%	77%	29%	58%
Not sure	9%	7%	9%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	35%	18%	61%	34%
Unfavorable	41%	58%	14%	41%
Not sure	24%	23%	24%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	30%	23%	41%	30%
Unfavorable	47%	56%	33%	50%
Not sure	22%	20%	25%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	43%	69%	7%	30%
Michele Bachmann	46%	23%	84%	42%
Undecided	10%	9%	9%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	73%	10%	33%
Newt Gingrich	44%	19%	81%	48%
Undecided	9%	8%	9%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	48%	74%	12%	33%
Sarah Palin	44%	21%	79%	43%
Undecided	8%	5%	9%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	42%	67%	5%	31%
Rick Perry	49%	23%	89%	46%
Undecided	9%	9%	6%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	40%	64%	7%	26%
Mitt Romney	48%	24%	85%	51%
Undecided	11%	12%	8%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	39%	36%	84%	38%
Disapprove	56%	60%	14%	49%
Not sure	5%	5%	2%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	30%	30%	32%	22%
Unfavorable	50%	49%	52%	67%
Not sure	20%	21%	16%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	22%	23%	9%	15%
Unfavorable	63%	62%	73%	71%
Not sure	15%	14%	18%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	33%	35%	8%	20%
Unfavorable	58%	56%	82%	66%
Not sure	9%	8%	10%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	35%	37%	10%	21%
Unfavorable	41%	38%	75%	53%
Not sure	24%	24%	15%	26%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	30%	33%	3%	17%
Unfavorable	47%	46%	61%	52%
Not sure	22%	21%	36%	32%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	43%	40%	87%	63%
Michele Bachmann	46%	50%	13%	20%
Undecided	10%	11%	-	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	43%	87%	66%
Newt Gingrich	44%	47%	13%	22%
Undecided	9%	10%	-	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	48%	44%	87%	66%
Sarah Palin	44%	47%	13%	25%
Undecided	8%	9%	-	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	42%	38%	89%	59%
Rick Perry	49%	52%	11%	28%
Undecided	9%	10%	-	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	40%	37%	87%	46%
Mitt Romney	48%	52%	11%	26%
Undecided	11%	11%	2%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	39%	43%	30%	44%	37%
Disapprove	56%	55%	63%	52%	58%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	4%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bachmann Favorability					
Favorable	30%	23%	29%	32%	33%
Unfavorable	50%	55%	49%	51%	47%
Not sure	20%	23%	22%	18%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	22%	8%	21%	23%	30%
Unfavorable	63%	75%	60%	68%	52%
Not sure	15%	18%	19%	9%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	33%	30%	35%	31%	36%
Unfavorable	58%	57%	57%	63%	53%
Not sure	9%	13%	8%	7%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	35%	28%	35%	33%	42%
Unfavorable	41%	51%	30%	46%	38%
Not sure	24%	21%	35%	21%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	30%	28%	27%	32%	33%
Unfavorable	47%	55%	41%	49%	46%
Not sure	22%	18%	32%	19%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Bachmann					
Barack Obama	43%	43%	37%	49%	41%
Michele Bachmann	46%	40%	50%	44%	49%
Undecided	10%	18%	13%	7%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	47%	46%	40%	54%	43%
Newt Gingrich	44%	38%	51%	39%	48%
Undecided	9%	15%	10%	7%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	48%	51%	43%	54%	42%
Sarah Palin	44%	44%	48%	38%	48%
Undecided	8%	5%	10%	8%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Perry					
Barack Obama	42%	41%	32%	50%	39%
Rick Perry	49%	44%	56%	44%	53%
Undecided	9%	15%	13%	6%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	40%	41%	27%	49%	39%
Mitt Romney	48%	38%	59%	43%	52%
Undecided	11%	21%	14%	8%	8%

