

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Obama on cruise control in MA—unless Romney is GOP nom

Raleigh, N.C. –Even though PPP shows Republican Scott Brown in strong shape for re-election, it appears President Obama can once again make Massachusetts fly-over country in 2012. That is, unless their former governor Mitt Romney is the GOP's choice.

In a reminder of how much stronger candidate Obama is and how much weaker the current GOP presidential frontrunners are than many of their respective state-level counterparts, the president has an almost 2:1 lead over Sarah Palin, 61-32, and he leads Mike Huckabee and Newt Gingrich by identical 57-33 margins. Against Romney, however, the president's advantage is only 52-43—still strong in just about any state but a far less healthy lead than Democrats typically get in the deeply blue Bay State.

Romney is the only of the four who leads the president with independents (52-41); Palin trails 37-54, Gingrich 38-49, and Huckabee 38-48. Unlike in some other states where he does best with independents but worst with Republicans, however, Romney also performs strongest among his own state's more moderate Republicans, and here by far. He pulls 85% of the GOP, far higher than Gingrich's 72%, Huckabee's 70%, and Palin's 67%. Romney also takes 15% of Democrats, with the others at only 10 or 11%. If it were not such a heavily Democratic state, the internals suggest Romney would have a significant lead over Obama, not the other way around.

Obama's job approval rating is 55-40, up there with Maryland and California at the top of his standings in the 33 states PPP has polled in 2010. But whereas hardly anyone who disapproves of his job performance voted for Democrats last month, a decent number prefer Obama to all the Republicans but Romney. Palin is the least popular personally, as in most states, with a 27-68 favorability rating, followed by Gingrich's 27-58, then Huckabee's 29-48, and Romney's 40-51.

“Even if Mitt Romney was the Republican nominee in 2012 it doesn't look like Massachusetts would be all that competitive,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It's going to be a long time before a GOP candidate wins the state in a Presidential race.”

PPP surveyed 500 Massachusetts voters from November 29th to December 1st. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.4%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Massachusetts Survey Results

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

Approve 55%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 58%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 29%
Unfavorable 48%
Not sure 23%

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

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 68%
Not sure 6%

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

Favorable..... 40%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 8%

Q6 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 57%
Newt Gingrich..... 33%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 57%
Mike Huckabee..... 33%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 61%
Sarah Palin..... 32%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Barack Obama..... 52%
Mitt Romney..... 43%
Undecided..... 5%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 36%
Barack Obama..... 58%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 7%

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

Liberal..... 24%
Moderate..... 51%
Conservative..... 25%

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

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%





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 42%
Republican..... 20%
Independent/Other..... 38%

Q14 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 86%
African-American 7%
Other..... 7%

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..... 9%
30 to 45..... 29%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	55%	10%	85%	38%
Disapprove	40%	86%	10%	50%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	27%	57%	10%	12%
Unfavorable	58%	29%	76%	53%
Not sure	15%	13%	14%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	29%	53%	15%	18%
Unfavorable	48%	32%	58%	38%
Not sure	23%	14%	26%	44%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	27%	60%	6%	26%
Unfavorable	68%	33%	89%	65%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	40%	81%	16%	32%
Unfavorable	51%	13%	75%	50%
Not sure	8%	6%	8%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	57%	8%	88%	44%
Newt Gingrich	33%	78%	6%	20%
Undecided	10%	13%	6%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	57%	11%	88%	38%
Mike Huckabee	33%	77%	7%	26%
Undecided	10%	13%	5%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	61%	15%	90%	47%
Sarah Palin	32%	74%	6%	32%
Undecided	8%	11%	4%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	52%	5%	83%	36%
Mitt Romney	43%	90%	12%	50%
Undecided	5%	4%	5%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	55%	92%	56%	17%
Disapprove	40%	5%	37%	77%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	27%	4%	22%	59%
Unfavorable	58%	86%	62%	24%
Not sure	15%	10%	16%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	29%	8%	27%	53%
Unfavorable	48%	68%	50%	25%
Not sure	23%	25%	23%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	27%	3%	21%	59%
Unfavorable	68%	93%	72%	35%
Not sure	6%	4%	6%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	40%	10%	40%	69%
Unfavorable	51%	79%	53%	23%
Not sure	8%	10%	7%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	57%	90%	61%	16%
Newt Gingrich	33%	3%	27%	71%
Undecided	10%	6%	12%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	57%	91%	62%	16%
Mike Huckabee	33%	4%	27%	71%
Undecided	10%	5%	11%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	61%	91%	67%	19%
Sarah Palin	32%	4%	25%	71%
Undecided	8%	5%	8%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	52%	87%	53%	17%
Mitt Romney	43%	7%	41%	79%
Undecided	5%	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	55%	61%	47%
Disapprove	40%	33%	47%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	27%	21%	35%
Unfavorable	58%	60%	55%
Not sure	15%	19%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	29%	26%	32%
Unfavorable	48%	45%	50%
Not sure	23%	28%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	27%	23%	32%
Unfavorable	68%	71%	63%
Not sure	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	40%	37%	45%
Unfavorable	51%	55%	47%
Not sure	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	57%	62%	50%
Newt Gingrich	33%	26%	41%
Undecided	10%	12%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	57%	63%	50%
Mike Huckabee	33%	27%	40%
Undecided	10%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	61%	66%	53%
Sarah Palin	32%	25%	40%
Undecided	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	52%	56%	47%
Mitt Romney	43%	37%	50%
Undecided	5%	7%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	55%	82%	17%	45%
Disapprove	40%	14%	77%	49%
Not sure	5%	4%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	27%	15%	49%	30%
Unfavorable	58%	72%	33%	55%
Not sure	15%	13%	18%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	29%	16%	50%	33%
Unfavorable	48%	58%	32%	44%
Not sure	23%	26%	18%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	27%	10%	56%	30%
Unfavorable	68%	86%	38%	63%
Not sure	6%	4%	6%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	40%	16%	75%	50%
Unfavorable	51%	76%	14%	44%
Not sure	8%	9%	10%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	57%	84%	14%	49%
Newt Gingrich	33%	10%	72%	38%
Undecided	10%	6%	14%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	57%	84%	16%	48%
Mike Huckabee	33%	11%	70%	38%
Undecided	10%	5%	14%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	61%	87%	15%	54%
Sarah Palin	32%	10%	67%	37%
Undecided	8%	3%	18%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	52%	82%	10%	41%
Mitt Romney	43%	15%	85%	52%
Undecided	5%	4%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	55%	50%	92%	73%
Disapprove	40%	44%	8%	18%
Not sure	5%	6%	-	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	27%	28%	31%	12%
Unfavorable	58%	58%	46%	68%
Not sure	15%	14%	23%	21%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	29%	31%	15%	12%
Unfavorable	48%	48%	46%	47%
Not sure	23%	21%	38%	41%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	27%	29%	8%	12%
Unfavorable	68%	65%	85%	82%
Not sure	6%	6%	8%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	40%	44%	23%	15%
Unfavorable	51%	49%	62%	74%
Not sure	8%	7%	15%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	57%	53%	85%	71%
New t Gingrich	33%	36%	8%	15%
Undecided	10%	10%	8%	15%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	57%	53%	85%	76%
Mike Huckabee	33%	37%	8%	15%
Undecided	10%	10%	8%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	61%	58%	85%	71%
Sarah Palin	32%	35%	8%	21%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	52%	49%	69%	76%
Mitt Romney	43%	46%	23%	18%
Undecided	5%	5%	8%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	55%	54%	56%	55%	54%
Disapprove	40%	34%	40%	40%	41%
Not sure	5%	11%	4%	5%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	27%	30%	20%	31%	29%
Unfavorable	58%	37%	61%	62%	53%
Not sure	15%	33%	19%	7%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	29%	22%	30%	29%	31%
Unfavorable	48%	50%	44%	54%	38%
Not sure	23%	28%	26%	17%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	27%	35%	24%	26%	28%
Unfavorable	68%	59%	68%	72%	62%
Not sure	6%	6%	8%	2%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	40%	32%	42%	40%	42%
Unfavorable	51%	57%	49%	55%	44%
Not sure	8%	11%	9%	5%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	57%	54%	60%	58%	51%
Newt Gingrich	33%	30%	28%	36%	33%
Undecided	10%	15%	12%	6%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	57%	61%	59%	58%	52%
Mike Huckabee	33%	26%	32%	35%	33%
Undecided	10%	13%	9%	7%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	61%	59%	61%	62%	58%
Sarah Palin	32%	32%	30%	33%	31%
Undecided	8%	9%	9%	5%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	52%	59%	50%	55%	46%
Mitt Romney	43%	35%	43%	42%	47%
Undecided	5%	6%	7%	4%	6%

