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

Obama leads all Republicans in MN, Romney bests Pawlenty

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama won Minnesota by about ten points over John McCain two years ago. At this early point in the 2012 cycle, PPP finds that the candidate who comes closest to beating him is not the one who would like to ride his record from two terms as the state’s governor to the White House. In fact, it is the same candidate who comes closest in his own two native states—nearby Michigan and far-away Massachusetts—as well as nationally and in a number of other states: Mitt Romney. But even Romney comes no closer than five points, and Obama tops the candidates other than Romney and Tim Pawlenty by double digits.

Pawlenty can only muster 43% to Obama’s 51%, which essentially mirrors the governor’s 43-53 job approval rating as he prepares to leave office. Meanwhile, Romney holds Obama to 47% and gets 42% himself. Mike Huckabee lags, 40-50; Newt Gingrich, 38-51; and Sarah Palin, frequently bringing up the rear, 36-54.

As in Michigan, the president has his base almost universally behind him, earning 92% (against Romney) to 95% (Palin and Pawlenty) of Democrats’ votes. But no Republican can do better than 90% of the GOP (Pawlenty); Palin gets only 76%. Obama also wins independents by two (Romney) to 25 points (Palin).

Obama is not terribly popular in the state, with a 49-46 job performance grade, but he outdoes any of the GOP hopefuls. With a 32-42 favorability rating, Romney is essentially as well liked as Pawlenty but not quite as personally popular as Huckabee, who posts a 37-40 mark. As usual, by far the least popular candidates are Gingrich (30-52) and Palin (35-60). Romney has the worst numbers with GOP voters among that party’s contenders, but he ties Huckabee for the best with independents. And even though Republicans may not personally like the two men the best, they still are more ready to vote for them than Palin or Gingrich.

“Minnesota went only narrowly Democratic in 2000 and 2004 before Obama broke the state open in 2008,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It looks like 2012 is more likely to be a repeat of 2008 than a return to the competitiveness of earlier in the decade.”

PPP surveyed 949 Minnesota voters on December 4th and 5th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Minnesota Survey Results

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

Approve 49%
Disapprove..... 46%
Not sure 6%

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

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 52%
Not sure 19%

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

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 40%
Not sure 24%

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

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 60%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 32%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 26%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Tim Pawlenty's job performance?

Approve 43%
Disapprove..... 53%
Not sure 4%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Newt Gingrich 38%
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..... 50%
Mike Huckabee 40%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 54%
Sarah Palin 36%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 47%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Tim Pawlenty 43%
Undecided..... 6%





Q12 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal 20%
Moderate..... 41%
Conservative..... 39%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 51%
Man..... 49%

Q14 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 37%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 29%

Q15 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 95%
Other..... 5%

Q16 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..... 26%
46 to 65..... 44%
Older than 65..... 18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	90%	66%	9%
Disapprove	46%	7%	26%	86%
Not sure	6%	3%	8%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	6%	17%	56%
Unfavorable	52%	86%	65%	19%
Not sure	19%	8%	18%	25%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	37%	9%	26%	63%
Unfavorable	40%	71%	45%	17%
Not sure	24%	20%	29%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	35%	7%	19%	67%
Unfavorable	60%	92%	77%	24%
Not sure	5%	2%	4%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	9%	28%	49%
Unfavorable	42%	80%	44%	21%
Not sure	26%	11%	28%	30%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Pawlenty Approval				
Approve	43%	5%	29%	78%
Disapprove	53%	94%	68%	16%
Not sure	4%	1%	3%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	51%	93%	68%	12%
Newt Gingrich	38%	4%	21%	73%
Undecided	11%	3%	11%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	50%	90%	68%	10%
Mike Huckabee	40%	6%	22%	77%
Undecided	10%	3%	10%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	54%	92%	73%	14%
Sarah Palin	36%	6%	19%	71%
Undecided	9%	2%	8%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	92%	62%	8%
Mitt Romney	42%	4%	26%	79%
Undecided	10%	3%	12%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Pawlenty				
Barack Obama	51%	95%	68%	11%
Tim Pawlenty	43%	4%	25%	81%
Undecided	6%	1%	7%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	55%	42%
Disapprove	46%	39%	52%
Not sure	6%	5%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	30%	22%	38%
Unfavorable	52%	58%	45%
Not sure	19%	20%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	37%	33%	41%
Unfavorable	40%	38%	41%
Not sure	24%	29%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	35%	31%	39%
Unfavorable	60%	63%	56%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	32%	27%	38%
Unfavorable	42%	43%	41%
Not sure	26%	30%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Pawlenty Approval			
Approve	43%	37%	49%
Disapprove	53%	58%	48%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	51%	58%	45%
Newt Gingrich	38%	32%	44%
Undecided	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	50%	55%	44%
Mike Huckabee	40%	35%	45%
Undecided	10%	9%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	54%	59%	49%
Sarah Palin	36%	30%	43%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	47%	54%	40%
Mitt Romney	42%	36%	50%
Undecided	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Pawlenty			
Barack Obama	51%	58%	44%
Tim Pawlenty	43%	35%	50%
Undecided	6%	7%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	49%	89%	7%	48%
Disapprove	46%	5%	90%	44%
Not sure	6%	7%	3%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	5%	58%	28%
Unfavorable	52%	81%	21%	51%
Not sure	19%	14%	22%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	37%	9%	64%	39%
Unfavorable	40%	64%	16%	37%
Not sure	24%	27%	19%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	35%	5%	70%	32%
Unfavorable	60%	92%	23%	62%
Not sure	5%	3%	7%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	32%	10%	53%	37%
Unfavorable	42%	65%	23%	35%
Not sure	26%	25%	24%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Pawlenty Approval				
Approve	43%	9%	83%	40%
Disapprove	53%	89%	12%	56%
Not sure	4%	2%	6%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	51%	94%	8%	49%
Newt Gingrich	38%	2%	81%	31%
Undecided	11%	4%	12%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	50%	93%	6%	47%
Mike Huckabee	40%	3%	84%	35%
Undecided	10%	3%	10%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	54%	95%	9%	56%
Sarah Palin	36%	3%	76%	31%
Undecided	9%	2%	15%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	92%	4%	42%
Mitt Romney	42%	2%	87%	40%
Undecided	10%	6%	9%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Pawlenty				
Barack Obama	51%	95%	5%	50%
Tim Pawlenty	43%	2%	90%	38%
Undecided	6%	3%	5%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	49%	48%	57%
Disapprove	46%	46%	35%
Not sure	6%	6%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	30%	30%	24%
Unfavorable	52%	51%	61%
Not sure	19%	19%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	37%	37%	34%
Unfavorable	40%	39%	47%
Not sure	24%	24%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	35%	35%	32%
Unfavorable	60%	59%	65%
Not sure	5%	6%	3%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	32%	32%	34%
Unfavorable	42%	42%	46%
Not sure	26%	26%	21%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Pawlenty Approval			
Approve	43%	44%	30%
Disapprove	53%	52%	66%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	51%	51%	63%
Newt Gingrich	38%	38%	24%
Undecided	11%	11%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	50%	49%	64%
Mike Huckabee	40%	41%	32%
Undecided	10%	10%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	54%	54%	62%
Sarah Palin	36%	36%	36%
Undecided	9%	10%	2%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	47%	46%	59%
Mitt Romney	42%	43%	36%
Undecided	10%	11%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Pawlenty			
Barack Obama	51%	51%	64%
Tim Pawlenty	43%	43%	36%
Undecided	6%	6%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	49%	61%	39%	53%	45%
Disapprove	46%	29%	56%	43%	49%
Not sure	6%	10%	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	30%	19%	32%	29%	35%
Unfavorable	52%	55%	46%	55%	48%
Not sure	19%	26%	22%	15%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	37%	29%	42%	34%	41%
Unfavorable	40%	52%	37%	40%	36%
Not sure	24%	19%	21%	27%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	35%	29%	41%	32%	37%
Unfavorable	60%	66%	56%	62%	54%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%	6%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	32%	20%	35%	30%	41%
Unfavorable	42%	53%	42%	42%	36%
Not sure	26%	27%	23%	28%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Pawlenty Approval					
Approve	43%	36%	48%	41%	46%
Disapprove	53%	60%	48%	56%	49%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	51%	64%	41%	55%	49%
Newt Gingrich	38%	28%	44%	35%	41%
Undecided	11%	9%	15%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	50%	62%	41%	53%	46%
Mike Huckabee	40%	31%	48%	36%	46%
Undecided	10%	7%	11%	11%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	54%	61%	45%	59%	52%
Sarah Palin	36%	31%	43%	34%	36%
Undecided	9%	8%	12%	7%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	59%	36%	51%	45%
Mitt Romney	42%	34%	51%	38%	47%
Undecided	10%	7%	13%	11%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Pawlenty					
Barack Obama	51%	64%	42%	54%	49%
Tim Pawlenty	43%	31%	51%	40%	44%
Undecided	6%	5%	7%	5%	7%

