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Romney up five in Montana

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama is in worse shape in Montana than he was four years ago against John McCain. As part of his near landslide nationally, he lost this usually Republican state by only two points. Now, he trails Mitt Romney by five. But that is half the deficit Obama faced just five months ago.

Romney leads Obama 48-43, down from a 50-40 advantage when PPP last polled the state in November. Worse for Romney is that his soon-to-be-vanquished intraparty foe Ron Paul actually leads Obama by eight points (49-41). Obama is able to keep it relatively close here because he basically ties Romney with the plurality independents, while Paul leads by 22 points.

At this point, Romney is far more popular than Paul with Republicans, and has two-thirds of the vote in the caucus, while Paul only maintains the quarter of the vote he got in the three-way 2008 caucus. But with independents, Romney has a lot of work to do, and this is true and more problematic for him in swing states where Obama is doing just as well as he did in 2008 because of Romney's toxicity with independents and Democrats. That is on top of lingering doubts with some partisan Republicans who were not behind him in the primary battle.

Paul's libertarian brother Gary Johnson could present a problem for Romney, particularly in the western states. Johnson's presence on a third-party ballot line would bring Romney's lead down to two points over Obama, with Johnson pulling 8%. That is because he lowers Romney's share of the GOP vote from 92% to 83% while hardly touching Obama's grasp of his party.

"Barack Obama probably missed out on his best chance to win Montana in 2008," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "But the race there is still closer than you would expect it to be."

PPP surveyed 934 Montana voters, including 403 usual Republican primary voters, from April 26th to 29th. The margin of error for the overall survey is +/-3.2%, and +/-4.9% for the primary portion. 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.



Montana Survey Results

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

Approve 42%
Disapprove..... 54%
Not sure 4%

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

Favorable..... 25%
Unfavorable 63%
Not sure 13%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 17%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 50%
Not sure 12%

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

Barack Obama..... 45%
Newt Gingrich..... 45%
Undecided..... 10%

Q6 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 41%
Ron Paul..... 49%
Undecided..... 10%

Q7 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 43%
Mitt Romney..... 48%
Undecided..... 9%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Gary Johnson?

Favorable..... 5%
Unfavorable 17%
Not sure 78%

Q9 If the candidates for President this fall were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, and Libertarian Gary Johnson, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 41%
Mitt Romney..... 43%
Gary Johnson 8%
Undecided..... 7%

Q10 If the Republican candidates for President were Ron Paul and Mitt Romney, who would you vote for? (Asked of 403 Republican primary voters)

Ron Paul..... 25%
Mitt Romney..... 66%
Undecided..... 9%

Q11 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 45%
Barack Obama..... 42%
Someone else/Don't remember 13%





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

<i>Very liberal</i>	8%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	16%
<i>Moderate</i>	32%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	26%
<i>Very conservative</i>	18%

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

<i>Woman</i>	53%
<i>Man</i>	47%

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.

<i>Democrat</i>	30%
<i>Republican</i>	33%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	37%

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

<i>White</i>	89%
<i>Other</i>	11%

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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	13%
<i>30 to 45</i>	31%
<i>46 to 65</i>	36%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	8%	83%	25%
Disapprove	54%	89%	12%	66%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	9%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	43%	6%	20%
Unfavorable	63%	42%	86%	58%
Not sure	13%	15%	8%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	36%	39%	29%	44%
Unfavorable	47%	44%	56%	31%
Not sure	17%	17%	15%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	38%	63%	12%	30%
Unfavorable	50%	25%	78%	50%
Not sure	12%	12%	10%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	45%	9%	89%	27%
Newt Gingrich	45%	80%	7%	44%
Undecided	10%	11%	4%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	41%	8%	81%	27%
Ron Paul	49%	79%	15%	56%
Undecided	10%	13%	4%	17%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	43%	9%	84%	32%
Mitt Romney	48%	84%	8%	46%
Undecided	9%	7%	8%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	5%	6%	5%	4%
Unfavorable	17%	12%	22%	16%
Not sure	78%	82%	74%	80%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney/Johnson				
Barack Obama	41%	7%	83%	27%
Mitt Romney	43%	77%	7%	40%
Gary Johnson	8%	7%	5%	19%
Undecided	7%	8%	5%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Ron Paul	25%	20%	38%	57%
Mitt Romney	66%	72%	48%	33%
Undecided	9%	8%	14%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	42%	83%	80%	58%	12%	3%
Disapprove	54%	13%	15%	37%	83%	96%
Not sure	4%	4%	6%	5%	5%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	25%	11%	7%	14%	32%	53%
Unfavorable	63%	85%	83%	73%	51%	33%
Not sure	13%	4%	10%	12%	17%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	36%	17%	29%	37%	38%	44%
Unfavorable	47%	71%	60%	44%	39%	43%
Not sure	17%	12%	11%	19%	22%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	38%	12%	11%	28%	53%	68%
Unfavorable	50%	85%	81%	58%	31%	20%
Not sure	12%	3%	8%	14%	16%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	45%	92%	84%	63%	13%	3%
New t Gingrich	45%	4%	9%	27%	73%	87%
Undecided	10%	4%	7%	10%	14%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	41%	86%	82%	54%	12%	3%
Ron Paul	49%	10%	15%	35%	75%	85%
Undecided	10%	4%	4%	11%	13%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	43%	86%	85%	59%	12%	5%
Mitt Romney	48%	12%	10%	27%	78%	90%
Undecided	9%	3%	5%	14%	10%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Johnson Favorability						
Favorable	5%	10%	6%	4%	3%	7%
Unfavorable	17%	29%	23%	15%	10%	18%
Not sure	78%	61%	71%	82%	87%	75%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney/Johnson						
Barack Obama	41%	86%	79%	56%	12%	3%
Mitt Romney	43%	9%	10%	24%	70%	83%
Gary Johnson	8%	3%	7%	12%	6%	7%
Undecided	7%	3%	4%	8%	11%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary						
Ron Paul	25%	57%	18%	37%	19%	24%
Mitt Romney	66%	29%	58%	52%	70%	72%
Undecided	9%	14%	24%	10%	10%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	45%	38%
Disapprove	54%	52%	57%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	25%	22%	27%
Unfavorable	63%	62%	64%
Not sure	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	36%	31%	42%
Unfavorable	47%	50%	43%
Not sure	17%	19%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	38%	37%	39%
Unfavorable	50%	51%	50%
Not sure	12%	13%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	45%	49%	40%
Newt Gingrich	45%	42%	48%
Undecided	10%	9%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	41%	47%	34%
Ron Paul	49%	42%	57%
Undecided	10%	11%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	43%	46%	40%
Mitt Romney	48%	46%	49%
Undecided	9%	8%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	5%	4%	6%
Unfavorable	17%	15%	18%
Not sure	78%	81%	75%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney/Johnson			
Barack Obama	41%	45%	37%
Mitt Romney	43%	42%	45%
Gary Johnson	8%	5%	11%
Undecided	7%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Ron Paul	25%	23%	28%
Mitt Romney	66%	67%	64%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	87%	4%	37%
Disapprove	54%	10%	92%	56%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	25%	9%	46%	18%
Unfavorable	63%	83%	39%	68%
Not sure	13%	8%	15%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	36%	24%	37%	44%
Unfavorable	47%	61%	44%	38%
Not sure	17%	15%	19%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	38%	12%	68%	32%
Unfavorable	50%	80%	20%	53%
Not sure	12%	8%	12%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	45%	92%	6%	41%
Newt Gingrich	45%	5%	86%	42%
Undecided	10%	4%	8%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	41%	89%	5%	33%
Ron Paul	49%	8%	81%	55%
Undecided	10%	3%	13%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	43%	89%	3%	41%
Mitt Romney	48%	6%	92%	42%
Undecided	9%	5%	5%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	5%	6%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	17%	22%	14%	14%
Not sure	78%	72%	81%	82%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson				
Barack Obama	41%	88%	5%	35%
Mitt Romney	43%	5%	83%	39%
Gary Johnson	8%	4%	5%	15%
Undecided	7%	3%	7%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
2012 GOP Pres Primary				
Ron Paul	25%	31%	18%	37%
Mitt Romney	66%	21%	77%	49%
Undecided	9%	48%	5%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	41%	43%
Disapprove	54%	55%	50%
Not sure	4%	4%	7%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	25%	24%	29%
Unfavorable	63%	63%	57%
Not sure	13%	13%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	36%	37%	29%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	50%
Not sure	17%	17%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	38%	38%	33%
Unfavorable	50%	51%	44%
Not sure	12%	11%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	45%	45%	42%
Newt Gingrich	45%	45%	44%
Undecided	10%	10%	13%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	41%	41%	38%
Ron Paul	49%	49%	51%
Undecided	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	43%	44%	35%
Mitt Romney	48%	47%	53%
Undecided	9%	9%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	5%	5%	2%
Unfavorable	17%	16%	24%
Not sure	78%	79%	74%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson			
Barack Obama	41%	42%	34%
Mitt Romney	43%	43%	45%
Gary Johnson	8%	7%	15%
Undecided	7%	8%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
2012 GOP Pres Primary			
Ron Paul	25%	24%	38%
Mitt Romney	66%	67%	55%
Undecided	9%	9%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	42%	40%	45%	42%	37%
Disapprove	54%	57%	50%	54%	60%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%	4%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	25%	19%	16%	29%	33%
Unfavorable	63%	60%	72%	60%	56%
Not sure	13%	21%	12%	11%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	36%	39%	38%	34%	34%
Unfavorable	47%	42%	46%	48%	50%
Not sure	17%	19%	15%	18%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	38%	29%	33%	39%	48%
Unfavorable	50%	56%	51%	52%	41%
Not sure	12%	15%	16%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	45%	44%	47%	47%	38%
Newt Gingrich	45%	42%	43%	44%	53%
Undecided	10%	14%	10%	9%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	41%	36%	44%	42%	37%
Ron Paul	49%	53%	49%	47%	52%
Undecided	10%	11%	7%	11%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	43%	44%	46%	44%	37%
Mitt Romney	48%	44%	43%	48%	55%
Undecided	9%	11%	10%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Johnson Favorability					
Favorable	5%	11%	4%	3%	6%
Unfavorable	17%	15%	17%	17%	16%
Not sure	78%	74%	79%	80%	78%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney/Johnson					
Barack Obama	41%	39%	46%	41%	36%
Mitt Romney	43%	39%	37%	44%	53%
Gary Johnson	8%	13%	9%	7%	6%
Undecided	7%	10%	8%	8%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary					
Ron Paul	25%	48%	28%	20%	19%
Mitt Romney	66%	36%	62%	73%	73%
Undecided	9%	16%	10%	7%	7%

