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Santorum ties Obama in N.C., Romney down one

Raleigh, N.C. – The prospective race between President Obama and Republican frontrunner Mitt Romney remains as tight as ever in North Carolina, but for the first time since Rick Perry’s peak in September, someone other than Romney comes closest to the president in the Tar Heel State. Romney could also stand to lose the state by a larger margin if newly announced Libertarian Gary Johnson wages a serious campaign.

Obama edges out Romney by one point, 46-45; it was a 46-all tie in last month’s survey. Newt Gingrich has fallen two points from the zenith of his surge in the polls; he trailed 49-45 in December, and 49-43 now. Ron Paul lags by a similar 47-41 (47-42). And Perry also has not moved (49-41 versus 50-42).

But it is the Iowa caucus’ co-winner Rick Santorum who performs best, tying the president at 46%. Santorum also has the best favorability numbers of the Republican candidates, with 35% seeing him positively and 42% negatively, edging Romney’s 34-48 and far outpacing Gingrich’s 28-57, Paul’s 21-58, and Perry’s 18-63. The president’s approval rating is almost unchanged from last month (47-49 versus 47-50).

Johnson would take 8% of the vote in North Carolina, giving Obama a 45-41 edge over Romney. Johnson does not hurt Obama at all with Democrats, Republicans, or independents. Head-to-head with Romney and in the three-way contest, he takes 77% of Democrats and 8% of Republicans, and is down to 30% of independents from 31% against just Romney. But Johnson does hurt Romney, bringing him from 82% to 76% of the GOP and from 51% to 40% of independents. Johnson earns 14% of independents, 9% of Republicans, and 4% of Democrats.

“North Carolina continues to look like it will be one of the closest states in the country this year,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “And that means every little thing, like a stronger than usual Libertarian candidate, could make the difference.”

PPP surveyed 780 North Carolina voters from January 5th to 8th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.5%. 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.



North Carolina Survey Results

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

Approve 47%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 4%

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

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 57%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 21%
Unfavorable 58%
Not sure 21%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Perry?

Favorable..... 18%
Unfavorable 63%
Not sure 19%

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

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 48%
Not sure 18%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Santorum?

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 23%

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

Barack Obama..... 49%
Newt Gingrich 43%
Undecided..... 8%

Q8 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..... 41%
Undecided..... 12%

Q9 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Perry, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 49%
Rick Perry 41%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 46%
Mitt Romney..... 45%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 45%
Mitt Romney..... 41%
Gary Johnson 8%
Undecided..... 7%





Q12 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Santorum, who would you vote for?

<i>Barack Obama</i>	46%
<i>Rick Santorum</i>	46%
<i>Undecided</i>	8%

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

<i>Very liberal</i>	10%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	16%
<i>Moderate</i>	30%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	27%
<i>Very conservative</i>	18%

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

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

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>	48%
<i>Republican</i>	34%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	18%

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

<i>White</i>	73%
<i>African-American</i>	22%
<i>Other</i>	5%

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>	11%
<i>30 to 45</i>	25%
<i>46 to 65</i>	44%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%

Q18

<i>252</i>	11%
<i>336</i>	18%
<i>704</i>	19%
<i>828</i>	14%
<i>910</i>	15%
<i>919</i>	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	47%	87%	84%	61%	16%	17%
Disapprove	49%	13%	13%	30%	82%	79%
Not sure	4%	-	3%	8%	2%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	28%	10%	10%	17%	40%	53%
Unfavorable	57%	83%	78%	66%	43%	31%
Not sure	15%	6%	13%	17%	17%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	21%	7%	19%	24%	24%	22%
Unfavorable	58%	78%	65%	52%	57%	52%
Not sure	21%	15%	17%	24%	19%	26%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Favorability						
Favorable	18%	4%	2%	12%	28%	35%
Unfavorable	63%	91%	87%	68%	48%	39%
Not sure	19%	5%	11%	20%	24%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	34%	22%	21%	30%	45%	41%
Unfavorable	48%	65%	65%	51%	37%	37%
Not sure	18%	13%	13%	19%	18%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	35%	17%	14%	22%	50%	61%
Unfavorable	42%	73%	68%	50%	25%	17%
Not sure	23%	10%	17%	28%	25%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	49%	85%	85%	67%	16%	19%
New t Gingrich	43%	12%	12%	25%	71%	76%
Undecided	8%	2%	3%	9%	13%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	47%	83%	82%	60%	19%	16%
Ron Paul	41%	12%	13%	28%	64%	70%
Undecided	12%	5%	5%	12%	17%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Perry						
Barack Obama	49%	86%	88%	66%	17%	18%
Rick Perry	41%	11%	9%	24%	67%	77%
Undecided	9%	4%	3%	10%	16%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	46%	82%	83%	61%	13%	17%
Mitt Romney	45%	13%	13%	28%	74%	77%
Undecided	9%	5%	4%	12%	13%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney/Johnson						
Barack Obama	45%	79%	82%	60%	14%	18%
Mitt Romney	41%	13%	12%	25%	67%	68%
Gary Johnson	8%	5%	3%	9%	10%	7%
Undecided	7%	2%	4%	6%	10%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	46%	85%	82%	61%	13%	18%
Rick Santorum	46%	12%	15%	27%	76%	77%
Undecided	8%	2%	3%	12%	11%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	47%	51%	43%
Disapprove	49%	44%	54%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	28%	23%	34%
Unfavorable	57%	58%	55%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	21%	15%	28%
Unfavorable	58%	58%	57%
Not sure	21%	26%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Favorability			
Favorable	18%	12%	25%
Unfavorable	63%	62%	64%
Not sure	19%	27%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	34%	30%	38%
Unfavorable	48%	48%	48%
Not sure	18%	22%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	35%	28%	42%
Unfavorable	42%	42%	43%
Not sure	23%	30%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	49%	55%	43%
Newt Gingrich	43%	37%	50%
Undecided	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	47%	53%	40%
Ron Paul	41%	32%	51%
Undecided	12%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Perry			
Barack Obama	49%	55%	43%
Rick Perry	41%	34%	50%
Undecided	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	46%	51%	39%
Mitt Romney	45%	38%	53%
Undecided	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney/Johnson			
Barack Obama	45%	52%	37%
Mitt Romney	41%	34%	48%
Gary Johnson	8%	6%	9%
Undecided	7%	7%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	46%	52%	39%
Rick Santorum	46%	39%	53%
Undecided	8%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	76%	11%	38%
Disapprove	49%	21%	85%	56%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	28%	15%	46%	29%
Unfavorable	57%	72%	33%	60%
Not sure	15%	13%	21%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	21%	17%	22%	29%
Unfavorable	58%	65%	53%	48%
Not sure	21%	18%	25%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	18%	9%	29%	21%
Unfavorable	63%	78%	43%	60%
Not sure	19%	13%	28%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	23%	48%	35%
Unfavorable	48%	62%	31%	44%
Not sure	18%	15%	21%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	35%	21%	54%	39%
Unfavorable	42%	58%	20%	41%
Not sure	23%	21%	26%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	79%	12%	37%
Newt Gingrich	43%	18%	78%	47%
Undecided	8%	3%	9%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	78%	10%	31%
Ron Paul	41%	16%	75%	47%
Undecided	12%	6%	15%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	49%	81%	11%	37%
Rick Perry	41%	14%	76%	50%
Undecided	9%	5%	13%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	77%	8%	31%
Mitt Romney	45%	17%	82%	51%
Undecided	9%	6%	10%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson				
Barack Obama	45%	77%	8%	30%
Mitt Romney	41%	16%	76%	40%
Gary Johnson	8%	4%	9%	14%
Undecided	7%	3%	7%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	46%	76%	10%	33%
Rick Santorum	46%	20%	80%	53%
Undecided	8%	4%	10%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	47%	34%	87%	71%
Disapprove	49%	62%	11%	24%
Not sure	4%	5%	2%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	28%	33%	12%	22%
Unfavorable	57%	51%	75%	63%
Not sure	15%	16%	13%	15%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	21%	23%	11%	29%
Unfavorable	58%	57%	68%	31%
Not sure	21%	20%	21%	40%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	18%	21%	7%	19%
Unfavorable	63%	58%	78%	65%
Not sure	19%	21%	16%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	40%	11%	41%
Unfavorable	48%	43%	69%	46%
Not sure	18%	18%	20%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	35%	43%	11%	22%
Unfavorable	42%	35%	62%	63%
Not sure	23%	22%	26%	15%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	49%	36%	88%	72%
Newt Gingrich	43%	55%	10%	18%
Undecided	8%	9%	2%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	34%	87%	65%
Ron Paul	41%	52%	9%	30%
Undecided	12%	15%	5%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	49%	36%	89%	70%
Rick Perry	41%	52%	9%	20%
Undecided	9%	11%	2%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	31%	89%	72%
Mitt Romney	45%	58%	9%	16%
Undecided	9%	11%	3%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson				
Barack Obama	45%	31%	89%	62%
Mitt Romney	41%	52%	8%	14%
Gary Johnson	8%	9%	1%	16%
Undecided	7%	8%	2%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	46%	32%	89%	65%
Rick Santorum	46%	58%	9%	25%
Undecided	8%	10%	2%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	47%	57%	46%	45%	48%
Disapprove	49%	39%	49%	51%	48%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	28%	24%	24%	29%	33%
Unfavorable	57%	57%	60%	57%	54%
Not sure	15%	20%	16%	14%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	21%	11%	27%	21%	19%
Unfavorable	58%	56%	53%	58%	65%
Not sure	21%	33%	21%	21%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	18%	17%	19%	17%	18%
Unfavorable	63%	63%	61%	63%	65%
Not sure	19%	20%	21%	20%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	34%	39%	29%	34%	36%
Unfavorable	48%	41%	53%	49%	46%
Not sure	18%	20%	19%	17%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	35%	24%	33%	35%	43%
Unfavorable	42%	48%	42%	42%	41%
Not sure	23%	28%	25%	23%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	49%	65%	43%	49%	47%
Newt Gingrich	43%	28%	46%	44%	45%
Undecided	8%	7%	10%	6%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	47%	59%	40%	47%	48%
Ron Paul	41%	30%	47%	41%	39%
Undecided	12%	11%	12%	12%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Perry					
Barack Obama	49%	63%	47%	48%	48%
Rick Perry	41%	33%	44%	42%	42%
Undecided	9%	4%	8%	11%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	46%	57%	44%	45%	44%
Mitt Romney	45%	33%	45%	47%	48%
Undecided	9%	11%	10%	8%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney/Johnson					
Barack Obama	45%	54%	43%	45%	44%
Mitt Romney	41%	33%	40%	43%	40%
Gary Johnson	8%	4%	9%	8%	7%
Undecided	7%	9%	7%	5%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	46%	63%	43%	44%	44%
Rick Santorum	46%	33%	51%	46%	48%
Undecided	8%	4%	6%	10%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama Approval							
Approve	47%	57%	43%	42%	43%	51%	51%
Disapprove	49%	41%	52%	55%	54%	45%	44%
Not sure	4%	2%	5%	3%	3%	4%	5%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Gingrich Favorability							
Favorable	28%	25%	29%	38%	27%	23%	24%
Unfavorable	57%	60%	48%	48%	59%	59%	67%
Not sure	15%	15%	22%	15%	14%	18%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Paul Favorability							
Favorable	21%	15%	20%	26%	29%	11%	22%
Unfavorable	58%	64%	55%	47%	52%	63%	67%
Not sure	21%	22%	25%	27%	19%	26%	11%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Perry Favorability							
Favorable	18%	20%	16%	20%	16%	18%	17%
Unfavorable	63%	64%	59%	56%	64%	62%	71%
Not sure	19%	16%	24%	24%	20%	20%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Romney Favorability							
Favorable	34%	32%	35%	38%	39%	27%	31%
Unfavorable	48%	48%	44%	46%	47%	49%	55%
Not sure	18%	19%	21%	17%	15%	24%	14%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Santorum Favorability							
Favorable	35%	27%	35%	43%	37%	32%	33%
Unfavorable	42%	45%	39%	31%	46%	41%	53%
Not sure	23%	28%	27%	26%	16%	27%	14%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Gingrich							
Barack Obama	49%	57%	40%	43%	50%	57%	53%
Newt Gingrich	43%	41%	47%	53%	42%	34%	40%
Undecided	8%	2%	13%	4%	9%	9%	7%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Paul							
Barack Obama	47%	59%	40%	37%	43%	56%	51%
Ron Paul	41%	35%	44%	50%	43%	35%	37%
Undecided	12%	6%	16%	13%	14%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Perry							
Barack Obama	49%	60%	42%	44%	46%	57%	53%
Rick Perry	41%	35%	41%	49%	42%	36%	41%
Undecided	9%	5%	17%	7%	12%	7%	6%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Romney							
Barack Obama	46%	55%	40%	37%	44%	52%	50%
Mitt Romney	45%	40%	42%	58%	45%	40%	42%
Undecided	9%	5%	18%	5%	10%	9%	8%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Romney/Johnson							
Barack Obama	45%	55%	41%	39%	43%	51%	48%
Mitt Romney	41%	38%	38%	49%	40%	38%	39%
Gary Johnson	8%	5%	15%	5%	6%	7%	7%
Undecided	7%	2%	7%	7%	11%	4%	7%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Santorum							
Barack Obama	46%	55%	39%	40%	41%	53%	51%
Rick Santorum	46%	40%	44%	55%	48%	39%	45%
Undecided	8%	5%	17%	4%	11%	7%	5%

