



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 8, 2012

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE

Obama Leads Republican Field in North Carolina

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama leads all Republican challengers in North Carolina, a new poll from Public Policy Polling finds. The President leads Mitt Romney 47-46, Rick Santorum 48-46, Newt Gingrich 50-45, and Ron Paul 47-41.

Obama's job approval rating is nearly even, with 48% approving and 49% disapproving. This is a net +4 increase from our poll in late October which saw Obama at 45/50. Meanwhile, all 4 Republican challengers are suffering from unfavorability ratings at 50 percent or above: Newt Gingrich is at 30/58, Ron Paul is at 24/60, Mitt Romney is at 31/56, and Rick Santorum is at 35/50.

Among always crucial independent voters, the picture is not much better for Republicans. They dislike all the Republican candidates – Gingrich has a 24/61 favorability rating among independents, Paul is at 39/46, Romney is at 31/57 and Santorum's at 34/51. Obama leads Gingrich among independents 52-40, leads Romney among them 48-43, and leads Santorum among them 51-42. Only Ron Paul leads Obama among independent voters, 45-43.

“Barack Obama's approval numbers in North Carolina are the best they've been in months and that reflects what we're seeing across the entire country,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “This will never be an easy state for Democrats at the Presidential level but he has a very good chance of repeating his surprise 2008 victory here.”

PPP numbers released yesterday found Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich tied as the top choice of Republican voters for their party's nomination, with Rick Santorum running about 10 points behind.

PPP surveyed 1,052 North Carolina voters from February 3rd to 5th. The margin of error is +/-3.0%. 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.





North Carolina Survey Results

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

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 3%

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

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 58%
Not sure 12%

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

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 60%
Not sure 16%

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

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 56%
Not sure 13%

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

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 50%
Not sure 16%

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

Barack Obama..... 50%
Newt Gingrich..... 45%
Undecided..... 6%

Q7 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..... 11%

Q8 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 47%
Mitt Romney..... 46%
Undecided..... 7%

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

Barack Obama..... 48%
Rick Santorum 46%
Undecided..... 6%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 47%
Barack Obama..... 47%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

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

Very liberal..... 10%
Somewhat liberal 15%
Moderate..... 29%
Somewhat conservative..... 24%
Very conservative 22%

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

Woman 51%
Man..... 49%





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.

<i>Democrat</i>	43%
<i>Republican</i>	35%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	23%

Q14 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>	6%

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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	12%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	42%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%

Q16

252.....	11%
336.....	19%
704.....	21%
828.....	14%
910.....	14%
919.....	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	8%	91%	28%
Disapprove	49%	90%	7%	65%
Not sure	3%	2%	2%	7%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	53%	8%	23%
Unfavorable	58%	33%	83%	55%
Not sure	12%	13%	10%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	24%	27%	21%	30%
Unfavorable	60%	57%	63%	53%
Not sure	16%	16%	16%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	31%	53%	10%	27%
Unfavorable	56%	33%	79%	49%
Not sure	13%	13%	10%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	35%	60%	11%	28%
Unfavorable	50%	28%	72%	42%
Not sure	16%	12%	17%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	8%	93%	35%
Newt Gingrich	45%	85%	5%	44%
Undecided	6%	7%	2%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	8%	89%	32%
Ron Paul	41%	74%	8%	47%
Undecided	11%	18%	3%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	7%	89%	32%
Mitt Romney	46%	86%	7%	44%
Undecided	7%	8%	4%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	48%	6%	91%	37%
Rick Santorum	46%	86%	6%	47%
Undecided	6%	8%	3%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	48%	87%	81%	68%	19%	15%
Disapprove	49%	13%	15%	28%	78%	85%
Not sure	3%	1%	4%	4%	3%	-

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	30%	10%	8%	14%	43%	60%
Unfavorable	58%	83%	81%	73%	41%	30%
Not sure	12%	7%	11%	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	24%	15%	15%	26%	28%	28%
Unfavorable	60%	73%	67%	52%	57%	62%
Not sure	16%	12%	18%	22%	15%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	31%	10%	16%	25%	52%	37%
Unfavorable	56%	83%	73%	59%	37%	51%
Not sure	13%	8%	12%	16%	11%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	35%	14%	11%	19%	53%	60%
Unfavorable	50%	75%	74%	57%	32%	31%
Not sure	16%	11%	15%	24%	15%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	50%	90%	81%	72%	20%	14%
New t Gingrich	45%	9%	16%	23%	69%	82%
Undecided	6%	1%	3%	5%	11%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	47%	88%	78%	66%	20%	14%
Ron Paul	41%	11%	15%	24%	62%	72%
Undecided	11%	1%	6%	9%	19%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	47%	86%	81%	67%	18%	13%
Mitt Romney	46%	13%	18%	25%	72%	79%
Undecided	7%	1%	2%	8%	10%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	48%	89%	82%	69%	16%	15%
Rick Santorum	46%	11%	15%	24%	72%	81%
Undecided	6%	-	2%	7%	12%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	48%	55%	41%
Disapprove	49%	42%	57%
Not sure	3%	3%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	30%	25%	34%
Unfavorable	58%	62%	54%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	24%	21%	27%
Unfavorable	60%	58%	61%
Not sure	16%	20%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	31%	27%	36%
Unfavorable	56%	60%	52%
Not sure	13%	13%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	35%	29%	40%
Unfavorable	50%	52%	47%
Not sure	16%	19%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	50%	56%	43%
Newt Gingrich	45%	39%	51%
Undecided	6%	5%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	47%	55%	39%
Ron Paul	41%	33%	51%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	47%	55%	39%
Mitt Romney	46%	39%	53%
Undecided	7%	6%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	48%	55%	41%
Rick Santorum	46%	39%	53%
Undecided	6%	7%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	78%	12%	48%
Disapprove	49%	18%	87%	49%
Not sure	3%	4%	1%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	12%	55%	24%
Unfavorable	58%	77%	33%	61%
Not sure	12%	11%	12%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	24%	15%	25%	39%
Unfavorable	60%	66%	62%	46%
Not sure	16%	19%	13%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	31%	16%	50%	31%
Unfavorable	56%	71%	38%	57%
Not sure	13%	13%	12%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	35%	14%	60%	34%
Unfavorable	50%	65%	30%	51%
Not sure	16%	22%	9%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	81%	11%	52%
New t Gingrich	45%	17%	82%	40%
Undecided	6%	3%	7%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	80%	11%	43%
Ron Paul	41%	15%	71%	45%
Undecided	11%	5%	18%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	79%	8%	48%
Mitt Romney	46%	16%	84%	43%
Undecided	7%	5%	8%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	48%	79%	9%	51%
Rick Santorum	46%	16%	85%	42%
Undecided	6%	5%	7%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	34%	92%	63%
Disapprove	49%	63%	6%	33%
Not sure	3%	3%	2%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	36%	12%	20%
Unfavorable	58%	53%	74%	62%
Not sure	12%	11%	15%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	24%	28%	11%	33%
Unfavorable	60%	57%	72%	47%
Not sure	16%	15%	18%	21%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	31%	40%	8%	7%
Unfavorable	56%	48%	77%	76%
Not sure	13%	11%	15%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	35%	43%	10%	16%
Unfavorable	50%	44%	66%	60%
Not sure	16%	13%	23%	25%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	36%	92%	68%
New t Gingrich	45%	57%	8%	22%
Undecided	6%	7%	0%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	47%	33%	91%	60%
Ron Paul	41%	53%	7%	29%
Undecided	11%	14%	2%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	32%	92%	72%
Mitt Romney	46%	60%	7%	23%
Undecided	7%	9%	2%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	48%	33%	93%	70%
Rick Santorum	46%	59%	6%	24%
Undecided	6%	8%	1%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	63%	52%	45%	41%
Disapprove	49%	37%	46%	51%	56%
Not sure	3%	-	2%	4%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	30%	18%	28%	30%	38%
Unfavorable	58%	63%	56%	62%	50%
Not sure	12%	19%	16%	8%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%
Unfavorable	60%	60%	57%	62%	59%
Not sure	16%	16%	19%	14%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	31%	26%	27%	32%	37%
Unfavorable	56%	56%	60%	57%	49%
Not sure	13%	18%	13%	10%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	35%	21%	32%	38%	40%
Unfavorable	50%	60%	52%	48%	42%
Not sure	16%	19%	15%	14%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	50%	66%	54%	47%	39%
Newt Gingrich	45%	34%	40%	47%	51%
Undecided	6%	-	5%	5%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	47%	60%	51%	47%	37%
Ron Paul	41%	31%	44%	40%	46%
Undecided	11%	9%	5%	13%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	62%	52%	44%	38%
Mitt Romney	46%	36%	42%	48%	53%
Undecided	7%	2%	6%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	48%	64%	52%	45%	39%
Rick Santorum	46%	33%	44%	47%	52%
Undecided	6%	3%	4%	7%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama Approval							
Approve	48%	48%	43%	43%	48%	50%	57%
Disapprove	49%	50%	56%	54%	46%	45%	43%
Not sure	3%	2%	2%	3%	5%	5%	0%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Gingrich Favorability							
Favorable	30%	29%	32%	32%	27%	32%	27%
Unfavorable	58%	61%	54%	55%	64%	54%	62%
Not sure	12%	11%	13%	13%	9%	14%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Paul Favorability							
Favorable	24%	17%	20%	30%	29%	24%	23%
Unfavorable	60%	63%	65%	54%	52%	60%	64%
Not sure	16%	20%	15%	16%	19%	16%	13%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Romney Favorability							
Favorable	31%	29%	36%	36%	32%	21%	31%
Unfavorable	56%	51%	49%	53%	61%	63%	62%
Not sure	13%	20%	16%	12%	8%	16%	7%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Santorum Favorability							
Favorable	35%	30%	34%	44%	36%	32%	30%
Unfavorable	50%	51%	49%	40%	54%	51%	54%
Not sure	16%	18%	17%	16%	10%	17%	15%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Gingrich							
Barack Obama	50%	51%	42%	47%	49%	54%	57%
Newt Gingrich	45%	43%	50%	47%	44%	42%	40%
Undecided	6%	5%	8%	6%	7%	4%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Paul							
Barack Obama	47%	51%	41%	42%	48%	48%	56%
Ron Paul	41%	43%	44%	48%	41%	37%	35%
Undecided	11%	6%	15%	10%	11%	16%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Romney							
Barack Obama	47%	50%	40%	43%	47%	49%	55%
Mitt Romney	46%	45%	51%	49%	46%	42%	42%
Undecided	7%	5%	9%	7%	8%	10%	3%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Obama/Santorum							
Barack Obama	48%	50%	40%	44%	50%	54%	54%
Rick Santorum	46%	47%	51%	50%	45%	37%	42%
Undecided	6%	3%	9%	6%	5%	9%	4%

