



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2010

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

Tight Four-Way Race in 2012 GOP Field

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP has polled Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul for the first time in the potential 2012 Republican presidential race nationally, and their presence reduces support for the other candidates, particularly Mitt Romney. What was a decent advantage for Romney in a three-way race with Sarah Palin and Mike Huckabee is now a four-way draw, with Paul in a distant fifth and Romney slipping to a close second.

Huckabee has 25 to Romney's 23, Gingrich's 21, Palin's 20, and Paul's 8, with only 3% undecided versus last month's 17% with more limited options.

Gingrich's entry into the field erodes Romney's support among conservatives the most of the three candidates polled last month. Conservatives are 72% of the primary electorate. Romney led among that group 34 to 28 for Huckabee and 25 for Palin, but he now is tied for third with Palin at only 21, with Huckabee at 26, Gingrich 23, and Paul 7.

Romney leads among the 25% share of voters who call themselves moderate, at 27, to 21 for Huckabee, 16 for Gingrich, 15 for Palin, and 11 for Paul.

All of the three candidates polled in April either slightly upped their favorables or decreased their unfavorables. Palin is at 69-21 from 66-21, Romney at 54-19 from 54-24, and Huckabee at 58-13 from 55-13. Gingrich enters the race with a 57-21 margin.

"The Republican field for 2012 is about as muddled as it could be right now," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "All of the leading potential candidates are earning about the same amount of support right now, and that crowded pack leaves a lot of room for other candidates to become viable contenders between now and a year from now when the campaign will start to really heat up."

PPP surveyed 539 Republican primary voters from May 7th to 9th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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National Survey Results

- Q1** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?
Favorable.....58% *Not Sure*.....28%
Unfavorable13%
- Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?
Favorable.....69%
Unfavorable21%
Not Sure.....11%
- Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?
Favorable.....57%
Unfavorable21%
Not Sure.....23%
- Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?
Favorable.....54%
Unfavorable19%
Not Sure.....26%
- Q5** If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul and Mitt Romney who would you support?
Newt Gingrich21%
Mike Huckabee.....25%
Sarah Palin20%
Ron Paul.....8%
Mitt Romney.....23%
Undecided.....3%
- Q6** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?
Liberal.....2%
Moderate.....25%
Conservative.....72%
- Q7** If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.
Woman48%
Man.....52%
- Q8** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.
18 to 29.....9%
30 to 45.....30%
46 to 65.....41%
Older than 65.....20%
- Q9** If you live in the Northeast, press 1. If the South, press 2. If the Midwest, press 3. If the West, press 4.
Northeast19%
South36%
Midwest29%
West17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	58%	54%	27%	69%
Unfavorable	13%	19%	25%	9%
Not Sure	28%	28%	48%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	69%	72%	37%	80%
Unfavorable	21%	17%	46%	12%
Not Sure	11%	11%	16%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	57%	19%	37%	64%
Unfavorable	21%	22%	31%	17%
Not Sure	23%	59%	31%	19%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	54%	37%	46%	57%
Unfavorable	19%	22%	24%	18%
Not Sure	26%	41%	30%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Nominee				
Newt Gingrich	21%	-	16%	23%
Mike Huckabee	25%	29%	21%	26%
Sarah Palin	20%	20%	15%	21%
Ron Paul	8%	22%	11%	7%
Mitt Romney	23%	22%	27%	21%
Undecided	3%	7%	10%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	58%	63%	54%
Unfavorable	13%	9%	17%
Not Sure	28%	28%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	69%	72%	66%
Unfavorable	21%	16%	25%
Not Sure	11%	12%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	57%	56%	57%
Unfavorable	21%	15%	25%
Not Sure	23%	29%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	54%	55%	54%
Unfavorable	19%	13%	25%
Not Sure	26%	32%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Nominee			
Newt Gingrich	21%	20%	21%
Mike Huckabee	25%	29%	22%
Sarah Palin	20%	20%	19%
Ron Paul	8%	7%	9%
Mitt Romney	23%	22%	24%
Undecided	3%	2%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	58%	57%	53%	61%	61%
Unfavorable	13%	10%	14%	14%	12%
Not Sure	28%	33%	33%	24%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	69%	48%	72%	69%	72%
Unfavorable	21%	38%	18%	20%	19%
Not Sure	11%	14%	10%	11%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	57%	19%	58%	59%	65%
Unfavorable	21%	33%	18%	21%	18%
Not Sure	23%	48%	24%	20%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	54%	38%	53%	57%	57%
Unfavorable	19%	14%	20%	18%	22%
Not Sure	26%	48%	27%	24%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Nominee					
Newt Gingrich	21%	16%	22%	19%	23%
Mike Huckabee	25%	42%	23%	22%	25%
Sarah Palin	20%	11%	21%	19%	23%
Ron Paul	8%	11%	8%	11%	4%
Mitt Romney	23%	16%	24%	26%	17%
Undecided	3%	5%	1%	3%	8%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	58%	58%	59%	64%	49%
Unfavorable	13%	7%	13%	12%	24%
Not Sure	28%	35%	28%	24%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	69%	69%	72%	69%	61%
Unfavorable	21%	22%	18%	19%	27%
Not Sure	11%	8%	10%	12%	12%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	57%	58%	54%	57%	60%
Unfavorable	21%	20%	22%	20%	18%
Not Sure	23%	22%	24%	23%	22%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	54%	54%	44%	57%	71%
Unfavorable	19%	16%	20%	20%	21%
Not Sure	26%	29%	36%	23%	8%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
2012 GOP Nominee					
Newt Gingrich	21%	20%	17%	20%	30%
Mike Huckabee	25%	20%	34%	26%	9%
Sarah Palin	20%	23%	20%	21%	13%
Ron Paul	8%	12%	9%	8%	5%
Mitt Romney	23%	22%	17%	21%	41%
Undecided	3%	3%	3%	5%	3%

