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Romney leads GOP field, Cain in strong second

Raleigh, N.C. – As the Republican presidential field approaches its final form, Mitt Romney has taken a small lead. Though the race remains wide open, Romney takes 22% of the Republican vote to 17% for Herman Cain, 15% for Sarah Palin, 9% for Newt Gingrich and Tim Pawlenty, 8% for Michele Bachmann, 7% for Ron Paul, and just 1% for Jon Huntsman.

Romney has made gains over two weeks ago when he tied Palin for the lead with 16% of the vote. Herman Cain has also gained, rising from 12% two weeks ago. Cain has surged to second place despite being one of the least recognized candidates. 34% of Republicans are unsure how they feel about Cain, almost double that of Mitt Romney.

If Palin does not run, Romney's lead remains with 27% to 20% for Cain, 13% for Bachman, 12% for Gingrich, 10% for Pawlenty, 6% for Paul and 3% for Huntsman. A more fundamental shake up of the race would occur if unlikely candidates Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Rudy Giuliani, and Paul Ryan were to enter this race. In this scenario, Christie would take the lead with 18% to Romney's 17%, Palin's 13%, Giuliani and Bush's 11%, Bachmann's 8%, and Pawlenty and Ryan's 6%.

In the presidential race, Republican voters value electability over ideology. 56% would prefer the candidate with the best chance of beating Obama, compared to 31% who would prefer the candidate with conservative positions on every issue. Romney benefits from this sentiment as he garners a strong lead with 27% of the vote among those who want a candidate with the best chance of beating Obama. On the other hand, Cain leads with 22% among those who prefer a candidate with conservative positions on every issue

“Mitt Romney has cemented his place as the frontrunner,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But the rapid rise of candidates such as Herman Cain and previously Donald Trump reveals a fluid field and a precarious position for Romney.”

PPP surveyed 544 usual Republican primary voters nationwide from June 9th to 12th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.2%. 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.



National Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 62%
Unfavorable 27%
Not sure 11%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 49%
Not sure 14%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 55%
Unfavorable 27%
Not sure 18%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tim Pawlenty?

Favorable..... 44%
Unfavorable 25%
Not sure 31%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Herman Cain?

Favorable..... 40%
Unfavorable 26%
Not sure 34%

Q6 Given the choices of Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, and Mitt Romney who would you most like to see as the Republican candidate for President next year?

Michele Bachmann 8%
Herman Cain..... 17%
Newt Gingrich 9%
Jon Huntsman..... 1%
Sarah Palin 15%
Ron Paul..... 7%
Tim Pawlenty 9%
Mitt Romney..... 22%
Someone else/Not sure 12%

Q7 If Sarah Palin didn't run and the choices were just Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Jon Huntsman, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, and Mitt Romney who would you most like to see as the nominee?

Michele Bachmann 13%
Herman Cain..... 20%
Newt Gingrich 12%
Jon Huntsman..... 3%
Ron Paul..... 6%
Tim Pawlenty 10%
Mitt Romney..... 27%
Someone else/Not sure 11%





Q8 If the Republican candidates for President were Michele Bachmann, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Rudy Giuliani, Sarah Palin, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and Paul Ryan who would you vote for?

<i>Michele Bachmann</i>	8%
<i>Jeb Bush</i>	11%
<i>Chris Christie</i>	18%
<i>Rudy Giuliani</i>	11%
<i>Sarah Palin</i>	13%
<i>Tim Pawlenty</i>	6%
<i>Mitt Romney</i>	17%
<i>Paul Ryan</i>	6%
<i>Someone else/Not sure</i>	9%

Q9 If you had to choose between a candidate with conservative positions on every issue and one with the best chance of defeating Barack Obama, which would you prefer?

<i>Candidate with conservative positions on every issue</i>	31%
<i>One with the best chance of defeating Obama</i>	56%
<i>Not sure</i>	13%

Q10 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	3%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	3%
<i>Moderate</i>	18%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	41%
<i>Very conservative</i>	35%

Q11 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	48%
<i>Man</i>	52%

Q12 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>	6%
<i>30 to 45</i>	20%
<i>46 to 65</i>	44%
<i>Older than 65</i>	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Conservative Candidate or One Who Can Beat Obama?		
		Candidate with conservative positions on every issue	One with the best chance of defeating Obama	Not sure
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	62%	64%	65%	43%
Unfavorable	27%	26%	24%	44%
Not sure	11%	10%	11%	12%

	Base	Conservative Candidate or One Who Can Beat Obama?		
		Candidate with conservative positions on every issue	One with the best chance of defeating Obama	Not sure
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	36%	32%	40%	29%
Unfavorable	50%	52%	47%	54%
Not sure	14%	15%	13%	17%

	Base	Conservative Candidate or One Who Can Beat Obama?		
		Candidate with conservative positions on every issue	One with the best chance of defeating Obama	Not sure
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	55%	45%	63%	45%
Unfavorable	27%	39%	20%	32%
Not sure	18%	17%	17%	23%

	Base	Conservative Candidate or One Who Can Beat Obama?		
		Candidate with conservative positions on every issue	One with the best chance of defeating Obama	Not sure
Pawlenty Favorability				
Favorable	44%	43%	48%	29%
Unfavorable	25%	27%	23%	27%
Not sure	31%	29%	29%	43%





Crosstabs

	Base	Conservative Candidate or One Who Can Beat Obama?		
		Candidate with conservative positions on every issue	One with the best chance of defeating Obama	Not sure
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	40%	45%	42%	19%
Unfavorable	26%	29%	24%	25%
Not sure	34%	26%	34%	55%

	Base	Conservative Candidate or One Who Can Beat Obama?		
		Candidate with conservative positions on every issue	One with the best chance of defeating Obama	Not sure
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Palin				
Michele Bachmann	8%	10%	8%	2%
Herman Cain	17%	22%	14%	16%
Newt Gingrich	9%	10%	7%	16%
Jon Huntsman	2%	1%	1%	4%
Sarah Palin	15%	18%	14%	9%
Ron Paul	7%	8%	6%	7%
Tim Pawlenty	9%	5%	12%	6%
Mitt Romney	22%	16%	27%	17%
Someone else/Not sure	11%	10%	10%	22%

	Base	Conservative Candidate or One Who Can Beat Obama?		
		Candidate with conservative positions on every issue	One with the best chance of defeating Obama	Not sure
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Palin				
Michele Bachmann	13%	20%	12%	4%
Herman Cain	20%	22%	19%	20%
Newt Gingrich	12%	16%	8%	15%
Jon Huntsman	3%	2%	3%	3%
Ron Paul	6%	9%	4%	8%
Tim Pawlenty	10%	6%	13%	7%
Mitt Romney	27%	20%	31%	24%
Someone else/Not sure	11%	5%	11%	20%

	Base	Conservative Candidate or One Who Can Beat Obama?		
		Candidate with conservative positions on every issue	One with the best chance of defeating Obama	Not sure
2012 GOP Pres Primary Alternate				
Michele Bachmann	8%	14%	6%	6%
Jeb Bush	11%	11%	13%	7%
Chris Christie	18%	12%	22%	16%
Rudy Giuliani	11%	10%	11%	15%
Sarah Palin	13%	19%	10%	10%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	7%	5%	7%
Mitt Romney	17%	10%	21%	18%
Paul Ryan	6%	8%	6%	1%
Someone else/Not sure	9%	10%	6%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	62%	48%	35%	42%	57%	82%
Unfavorable	27%	52%	46%	50%	28%	11%
Not sure	11%	-	19%	7%	16%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	36%	27%	10%	23%	38%	44%
Unfavorable	49%	56%	71%	64%	46%	43%
Not sure	14%	17%	19%	13%	16%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	55%	44%	40%	48%	60%	55%
Unfavorable	27%	48%	45%	28%	19%	33%
Not sure	18%	7%	15%	23%	21%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Pawlenty Favorability						
Favorable	44%	31%	13%	30%	43%	57%
Unfavorable	25%	52%	50%	36%	24%	15%
Not sure	31%	17%	37%	34%	33%	28%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cain Favorability						
Favorable	40%	48%	13%	18%	38%	55%
Unfavorable	26%	44%	46%	30%	25%	20%
Not sure	34%	7%	40%	52%	36%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Palin						
Michele Bachmann	8%	19%	-	7%	8%	8%
Herman Cain	17%	27%	6%	11%	14%	22%
Newt Gingrich	9%	-	4%	11%	9%	9%
Jon Huntsman	1%	-	6%	2%	2%	1%
Sarah Palin	15%	10%	25%	20%	10%	17%
Ron Paul	7%	17%	21%	8%	6%	4%
Tim Pawlenty	9%	4%	6%	6%	11%	10%
Mitt Romney	22%	15%	15%	24%	27%	17%
Someone else/Not sure	12%	7%	18%	11%	12%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Palin						
Michele Bachmann	13%	27%	18%	16%	10%	13%
Herman Cain	20%	15%	6%	16%	18%	25%
Newt Gingrich	12%	6%	15%	15%	10%	13%
Jon Huntsman	3%	4%	-	3%	2%	3%
Ron Paul	6%	-	21%	5%	5%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	10%	4%	6%	6%	11%	11%
Mitt Romney	27%	27%	30%	22%	34%	20%
Someone else/Not sure	11%	17%	4%	16%	11%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary Alternate						
Michele Bachmann	8%	-	12%	7%	8%	9%
Jeb Bush	11%	29%	19%	12%	13%	6%
Chris Christie	18%	4%	12%	14%	18%	21%
Rudy Giuliani	11%	21%	12%	19%	10%	7%
Sarah Palin	13%	15%	10%	12%	9%	19%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	-	10%	3%	7%	7%
Mitt Romney	17%	17%	15%	16%	21%	14%
Paul Ryan	6%	10%	-	4%	6%	8%
Someone else/Not sure	9%	4%	12%	11%	9%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	62%	62%	62%
Unfavorable	27%	27%	27%
Not sure	11%	10%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	36%	37%	35%
Unfavorable	49%	46%	53%
Not sure	14%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	55%	52%	57%
Unfavorable	27%	26%	29%
Not sure	18%	22%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Pawlenty Favorability			
Favorable	44%	39%	48%
Unfavorable	25%	22%	28%
Not sure	31%	39%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cain Favorability			
Favorable	40%	33%	47%
Unfavorable	26%	23%	28%
Not sure	34%	44%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Palin			
Michele Bachmann	8%	8%	8%
Herman Cain	17%	17%	16%
Newt Gingrich	9%	7%	11%
Jon Huntsman	1%	0%	3%
Sarah Palin	15%	16%	14%
Ron Paul	7%	4%	9%
Tim Pawlenty	9%	7%	11%
Mitt Romney	22%	26%	19%
Someone else/Not sure	12%	14%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Palin			
Michele Bachmann	13%	14%	13%
Herman Cain	20%	20%	20%
Newt Gingrich	12%	9%	14%
Jon Huntsman	3%	2%	3%
Ron Paul	6%	4%	8%
Tim Pawlenty	10%	9%	11%
Mitt Romney	27%	30%	23%
Someone else/Not sure	11%	13%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary Alternate			
Michele Bachmann	8%	9%	7%
Jeb Bush	11%	13%	10%
Chris Christie	18%	14%	21%
Rudy Giuliani	11%	13%	9%
Sarah Palin	13%	11%	15%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	5%	7%
Mitt Romney	17%	18%	17%
Paul Ryan	6%	4%	7%
Someone else/Not sure	9%	12%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	62%	47%	50%	67%	67%
Unfavorable	27%	47%	35%	23%	24%
Not sure	11%	7%	15%	10%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	36%	25%	37%	39%	34%
Unfavorable	49%	56%	50%	47%	52%
Not sure	14%	19%	13%	14%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	55%	63%	52%	52%	60%
Unfavorable	27%	25%	23%	31%	25%
Not sure	18%	13%	25%	17%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Pawlenty Favorability					
Favorable	44%	40%	33%	45%	50%
Unfavorable	25%	40%	31%	23%	20%
Not sure	31%	20%	37%	31%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cain Favorability					
Favorable	40%	44%	29%	41%	46%
Unfavorable	26%	31%	29%	23%	26%
Not sure	34%	25%	42%	36%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Palin					
Michele Bachmann	8%	13%	8%	9%	7%
Herman Cain	17%	13%	19%	16%	17%
Newt Gingrich	9%	13%	6%	11%	8%
Jon Huntsman	1%	-	-	2%	2%
Sarah Palin	15%	25%	13%	15%	13%
Ron Paul	7%	6%	8%	7%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	9%	13%	10%	10%	8%
Mitt Romney	22%	13%	23%	19%	29%
Someone else/Not sure	12%	6%	13%	12%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Palin					
Michele Bachmann	13%	25%	12%	15%	9%
Herman Cain	20%	25%	17%	21%	19%
Newt Gingrich	12%	13%	12%	14%	9%
Jon Huntsman	3%	-	2%	2%	4%
Ron Paul	6%	-	6%	7%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	10%	6%	10%	11%	9%
Mitt Romney	27%	25%	27%	23%	32%
Someone else/Not sure	11%	6%	15%	8%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary Alternate					
Michele Bachmann	8%	13%	6%	10%	6%
Jeb Bush	11%	31%	10%	8%	13%
Chris Christie	18%	6%	21%	17%	19%
Rudy Giuliani	11%	6%	15%	11%	9%
Sarah Palin	13%	6%	10%	17%	11%
Tim Pawlenty	6%	13%	2%	7%	6%
Mitt Romney	17%	13%	15%	16%	21%
Paul Ryan	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Someone else/Not sure	9%	6%	15%	7%	10%

