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

Obama still tops Romney by seven in Ohio

Raleigh, N.C. – When PPP last polled Ohio a little over four months ago, Mitt Romney trailed President Obama by seven points. He has not made up any ground since, and the apparent establishment choice for his running mate, the state’s freshman Sen. Rob Portman, would not help him to catch up much.

Obama tops Romney, 50-43, essentially the same as his 49-42 lead in late January. This is despite the president’s approval rating not budging at all—48% both approved and disapproved in each poll—and despite Romney getting a little more personally popular, though still less so than the president, as Republicans come around to him. 37% see him favorably and 53% unfavorably, up from 28-56 in the previous poll.

Obama has maintained his lead because he is shoring up his own base, moving from 84% to 88% of the Democratic vote, while Romney has shifted from 80% to 82% of the GOP. Obama also has a similar lead with independents—43-40 now, versus 45-40.

Portman remains one of the most anonymous senators in the country. A 36% plurality has no opinion about him, with 31% approving and 33% disapproving of his work in D.C. If he were on the ticket with Romney, the pair would move up to 44% and bring Obama down to 49% because he would help Romney a little with Republicans but not at all with Democrats or independents.

At least Portman can claim to be of more service than two of Ohio’s other prominent figures, though neither is mentioned as potential running mates. Gov. John Kasich, whose approval rating is up a bit from 33-53 to 38-49, and Speaker John Boehner (34-50 approval statewide) would allow Romney to tread water at a seven-point deficit.

“Barack Obama’s led by 7 points or more now on our last three Ohio polls,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “It seems unlikely he’ll win the state by that much in November but it does mean he has some margin for error.”

PPP surveyed 875 Ohio voters from May 3rd to 6th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.3%. 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.



Ohio Survey Results

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

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 48%
Not sure 4%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 23%

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

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 10%

Q4 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Ron Paul..... 40%
Undecided..... 12%

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

Barack Obama..... 50%
Mitt Romney..... 43%
Undecided..... 8%

Q6 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Rob Portman's job performance?

Approve 31% *Not sure* 36%
Disapprove..... 33%

Q7 If the Democratic ticket was Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President, and the Republican ticket was Mitt Romney for President and Rob Portman for Vice President, which would you vote for?

Obama-Biden..... 49%
Romney-Portman..... 44%
Undecided..... 7%

Q8 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor John Kasich's job performance?

Approve 38%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 13%

Q9 If the Democratic ticket was Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President, and the Republican ticket was Mitt Romney for President and John Kasich for Vice President, which would you vote for?

Obama-Biden..... 50%
Romney-Kasich 43%
Undecided..... 7%

Q10 Do you approve or disapprove of House Speaker John Boehner's job performance?

Approve 34%
Disapprove..... 50%
Not sure 16%

Q11 If the Democratic ticket was Barack Obama for President and Joe Biden for Vice President, and the Republican ticket was Mitt Romney for President and John Boehner for Vice President, which would you vote for?

Obama-Biden..... 49%
Romney-Boehner..... 42%
Undecided..... 9%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	42%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	48%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	10%

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

<i>Very liberal</i>	9%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	18%
<i>Moderate</i>	31%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	22%
<i>Very conservative</i>	19%

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

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

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>	41%
<i>Republican</i>	39%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	20%

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

<i>White</i>	85%
<i>African-American</i>	11%
<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>	13%
<i>30 to 45</i>	21%
<i>46 to 65</i>	42%
<i>Older than 65</i>	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	13%	83%	24%
Disapprove	48%	84%	12%	67%
Not sure	4%	2%	5%	9%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	26%	33%	18%	35%
Unfavorable	51%	42%	62%	37%
Not sure	23%	24%	20%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	68%	10%	32%
Unfavorable	53%	20%	83%	46%
Not sure	10%	12%	7%	22%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	14%	83%	23%
Ron Paul	40%	70%	11%	51%
Undecided	12%	17%	6%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	50%	15%	85%	25%
Mitt Romney	43%	80%	9%	46%
Undecided	8%	5%	6%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Portman Approval				
Approve	31%	50%	14%	29%
Disapprove	33%	17%	48%	28%
Not sure	36%	34%	38%	42%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama-Biden/Romney-Portman				
Obama-Biden	49%	12%	86%	26%
Romney-Portman	44%	83%	10%	44%
Undecided	7%	5%	4%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Kasich Approval				
Approve	38%	67%	13%	34%
Disapprove	49%	21%	76%	44%
Not sure	13%	12%	11%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama-Biden/Romney-Kasich				
Obama-Biden	50%	13%	87%	28%
Romney-Kasich	43%	80%	10%	45%
Undecided	7%	7%	3%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Boehner Approval				
Approve	34%	62%	10%	35%
Disapprove	50%	23%	75%	40%
Not sure	16%	15%	16%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama-Biden/Romney-Boehner				
Obama-Biden	49%	12%	87%	22%
Romney-Boehner	42%	80%	9%	45%
Undecided	9%	8%	4%	33%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	48%	87%	83%	58%	23%	8%
Disapprove	48%	10%	10%	37%	74%	89%
Not sure	4%	3%	7%	5%	3%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	26%	17%	16%	27%	35%	27%
Unfavorable	51%	63%	61%	49%	44%	48%
Not sure	23%	20%	22%	24%	20%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	37%	11%	12%	26%	59%	65%
Unfavorable	53%	82%	82%	62%	30%	21%
Not sure	10%	7%	6%	12%	11%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	48%	82%	86%	57%	21%	12%
Ron Paul	40%	13%	9%	28%	62%	74%
Undecided	12%	5%	5%	15%	17%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	50%	85%	88%	56%	25%	15%
Mitt Romney	43%	11%	10%	31%	67%	79%
Undecided	8%	3%	3%	13%	9%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Portman Approval						
Approve	31%	11%	13%	22%	42%	57%
Disapprove	33%	50%	50%	38%	21%	16%
Not sure	36%	39%	37%	41%	38%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama-Biden/Romney-Portman						
Obama-Biden	49%	88%	88%	57%	21%	12%
Romney-Portman	44%	9%	10%	32%	72%	80%
Undecided	7%	3%	2%	10%	7%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Kasich Approval						
Approve	38%	14%	16%	24%	58%	69%
Disapprove	49%	77%	74%	61%	29%	19%
Not sure	13%	9%	10%	15%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama-Biden/Romney-Kasich						
Obama-Biden	50%	84%	87%	60%	25%	12%
Romney-Kasich	43%	13%	11%	30%	67%	80%
Undecided	7%	3%	1%	10%	9%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Boehner Approval						
Approve	34%	18%	6%	28%	51%	58%
Disapprove	50%	67%	80%	55%	31%	26%
Not sure	16%	14%	14%	17%	18%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama-Biden/Romney-Boehner						
Obama-Biden	49%	89%	91%	57%	21%	10%
Romney-Boehner	42%	9%	8%	30%	67%	80%
Undecided	9%	2%	1%	12%	11%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	48%	53%	43%
Disapprove	48%	41%	55%
Not sure	4%	6%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	26%	20%	32%
Unfavorable	51%	52%	51%
Not sure	23%	28%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	37%	31%	43%
Unfavorable	53%	56%	49%
Not sure	10%	12%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	48%	55%	41%
Ron Paul	40%	31%	49%
Undecided	12%	14%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	50%	55%	44%
Mitt Romney	43%	36%	50%
Undecided	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Portman Approval			
Approve	31%	23%	38%
Disapprove	33%	30%	36%
Not sure	36%	46%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama-Biden/Romney-Portman			
Obama-Biden	49%	55%	42%
Romney-Portman	44%	37%	51%
Undecided	7%	8%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Kasich Approval			
Approve	38%	32%	44%
Disapprove	49%	53%	46%
Not sure	13%	15%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama-Biden/Romney-Kasich			
Obama-Biden	50%	56%	44%
Romney-Kasich	43%	35%	51%
Undecided	7%	9%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Boehner Approval			
Approve	34%	30%	39%
Disapprove	50%	48%	52%
Not sure	16%	23%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama-Biden/Romney-Boehner			
Obama-Biden	49%	54%	45%
Romney-Boehner	42%	36%	49%
Undecided	9%	11%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	86%	12%	41%
Disapprove	48%	9%	85%	53%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	26%	17%	29%	38%
Unfavorable	51%	61%	45%	45%
Not sure	23%	22%	26%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	8%	69%	33%
Unfavorable	53%	85%	16%	59%
Not sure	10%	7%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	86%	13%	39%
Ron Paul	40%	8%	70%	45%
Undecided	12%	6%	17%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	50%	88%	13%	43%
Mitt Romney	43%	7%	82%	40%
Undecided	8%	5%	5%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Portman Approval				
Approve	31%	13%	50%	29%
Disapprove	33%	49%	17%	31%
Not sure	36%	37%	34%	40%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-Portman				
Obama-Biden	49%	89%	10%	44%
Romney-Portman	44%	7%	85%	39%
Undecided	7%	4%	5%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Kasich Approval				
Approve	38%	12%	66%	36%
Disapprove	49%	76%	20%	53%
Not sure	13%	12%	15%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-Kasich				
Obama-Biden	50%	89%	11%	47%
Romney-Kasich	43%	8%	81%	41%
Undecided	7%	3%	8%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Boehner Approval				
Approve	34%	10%	63%	26%
Disapprove	50%	72%	21%	60%
Not sure	16%	18%	16%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-Boehner				
Obama-Biden	49%	88%	10%	45%
Romney-Boehner	42%	6%	81%	41%
Undecided	9%	6%	9%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	44%	78%	45%
Disapprove	48%	52%	16%	47%
Not sure	4%	4%	6%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	26%	27%	9%	40%
Unfavorable	51%	50%	60%	50%
Not sure	23%	22%	31%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	39%	18%	41%
Unfavorable	53%	50%	76%	52%
Not sure	10%	11%	6%	7%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	45%	78%	32%
Ron Paul	40%	43%	16%	30%
Undecided	12%	12%	6%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	50%	47%	74%	44%
Mitt Romney	43%	46%	17%	47%
Undecided	8%	7%	9%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Portman Approval				
Approve	31%	33%	15%	24%
Disapprove	33%	32%	42%	36%
Not sure	36%	35%	43%	40%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-Portman				
Obama-Biden	49%	45%	77%	49%
Romney-Portman	44%	48%	16%	37%
Undecided	7%	7%	7%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Kasich Approval				
Approve	38%	40%	20%	39%
Disapprove	49%	48%	61%	56%
Not sure	13%	12%	19%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-Kasich				
Obama-Biden	50%	47%	73%	52%
Romney-Kasich	43%	46%	21%	37%
Undecided	7%	7%	7%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Boehner Approval				
Approve	34%	36%	18%	35%
Disapprove	50%	47%	61%	62%
Not sure	16%	16%	21%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama-Biden/Romney-Boehner				
Obama-Biden	49%	46%	81%	39%
Romney-Boehner	42%	46%	12%	46%
Undecided	9%	8%	7%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	64%	50%	43%	47%
Disapprove	48%	30%	46%	53%	50%
Not sure	4%	6%	4%	4%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	26%	20%	21%	29%	28%
Unfavorable	51%	54%	56%	51%	47%
Not sure	23%	26%	24%	20%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	37%	18%	38%	39%	43%
Unfavorable	53%	68%	52%	52%	46%
Not sure	10%	14%	10%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	48%	54%	53%	44%	46%
Ron Paul	40%	36%	38%	41%	40%
Undecided	12%	10%	8%	15%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	50%	62%	52%	47%	45%
Mitt Romney	43%	30%	38%	45%	49%
Undecided	8%	8%	10%	7%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Portman Approval					
Approve	31%	16%	27%	33%	37%
Disapprove	33%	42%	34%	31%	31%
Not sure	36%	42%	38%	36%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama-Biden/Romney-Portman					
Obama-Biden	49%	68%	49%	45%	45%
Romney-Portman	44%	22%	47%	47%	49%
Undecided	7%	10%	4%	9%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Kasich Approval					
Approve	38%	20%	36%	41%	45%
Disapprove	49%	68%	47%	48%	44%
Not sure	13%	12%	18%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama-Biden/Romney-Kasich					
Obama-Biden	50%	64%	49%	49%	45%
Romney-Kasich	43%	26%	47%	44%	48%
Undecided	7%	10%	4%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Boehner Approval					
Approve	34%	24%	32%	34%	42%
Disapprove	50%	60%	51%	49%	43%
Not sure	16%	16%	18%	17%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama-Biden/Romney-Boehner					
Obama-Biden	49%	68%	49%	46%	45%
Romney-Boehner	42%	26%	41%	44%	48%
Undecided	9%	6%	10%	10%	7%

