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Obama leads by 4 in Ohio

Raleigh, N.C.-- PPP's newest poll of the Presidential race in Ohio finds Barack Obama leading Mitt Romney 49-45, down just slightly from a 50-45 advantage on our last independent poll there three weeks ago.

It's a mistake to think based on recent polling in Ohio that the race there is over. Obama is not popular in the state, with 48% of voters approving of him to 49% who disapprove. Among voters who remain undecided there just 13% think he's doing a good job to 65% who give him poor marks. That doesn't mean those folks will move to Romney en masse because they don't particularly like him either (a 26/37 favorability rating) but it does mean there's potential for the race there to get within tossup range over the final five weeks.

The reason Obama continues to lead in Ohio despite not being all that popular in his own right is Romney's inability to make a positive impression on voters in the state. Only 45% of voters see him favorably to 49% with a negative opinion, numbers virtually unchanged from 44/49 on our previous poll. Romney shot himself in the foot with his recent '47%' comments. By a 53/42 margin voters thought they were inappropriate and 40% say they made them less likely to vote for Romney compared to only 31% who considered them a positive.

One issue that's killing Romney and may end up being what puts Obama over the top in the state is the auto industry. 73% of voters say the candidates' records on the auto industry is important to their votes, including 44% who say it's 'very important.' And by a 54/31 margin voters say they think Obama has been better for the auto industry in Ohio than Romney.

“Barack Obama is still the favorite in Ohio,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But it’s still a relatively close race there and a Mitt Romney comeback isn’t out of the question. It’s too early for Democrats to be celebrating or Republicans to be conceding.”

PPP surveyed 897 likely Ohio voters from September 27th to 30th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.3%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization.



Ohio Survey Results

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

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 2%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 45%
Unfavorable 49%
Not sure 6%

Q3 The candidates for President are Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 49%
Mitt Romney..... 45%
Undecided..... 7%

Q4 Do you trust Barack Obama or Mitt Romney more on the issue of the economy?

Barack Obama..... 47%
Mitt Romney..... 47%
Not sure 6%

Q5 Do you trust Barack Obama or Mitt Romney more on the issue of foreign policy?

Barack Obama..... 49%
Mitt Romney..... 45%
Not sure 6%

Q6 Are you very excited, somewhat excited, or not at all excited about voting in the 2012 elections?

Very excited 58%
Somewhat excited 24%
Not at all excited 18%

Q7 Who do you think has been better for the automotive industry in Ohio: Barack Obama or Mitt Romney?

Barack Obama..... 54%
Mitt Romney..... 31%
Not sure 15%

Q8 Is the candidates' for President records on the automotive industry very important, somewhat important, or not that important to you?

Very important..... 44%
Somewhat important..... 29%
Not that important 24%
Not sure 2%

Q9 Are you familiar with comments Mitt Romney has made about the '47%', or not?

Familiar 90%
Not familiar..... 10%

Q10 Mitt Romney recently said, "There are 47 percent of the people who will vote for the president no matter what. All right? There are 47 percent who are with him, who are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe the government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you-name-it, that that's an entitlement. And the government should give it to them. And they will vote for this president no matter what... These are people who pay no income tax." Do you think Romney's comments were appropriate or inappropriate?

Appropriate 42%
Inappropriate..... 53%
Not sure 6%





Q11 Do these comments make you more or less likely to vote for Mitt Romney, or do they not make a difference?

More likely..... 31%
Less likely..... 40%
No difference..... 28%
Not sure..... 1%

Q12 Do you think Mitt Romney should release his tax returns for the last 12 years, or not?

He should..... 50%
He should not..... 41%
Not sure..... 9%

Q13 Do you think pollsters are intentionally skewing their polls this year to help Barack Obama, or not?

They are intentionally skewing their polls..... 41%
They are not..... 43%
Not sure..... 16%

Q14 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 11%
Somewhat liberal..... 16%
Moderate..... 33%
Somewhat conservative..... 24%
Very conservative..... 17%

Q15 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman..... 54%
Man..... 46%

Q16 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 41%
Republican..... 36%
Independent/Other..... 23%

Q17 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White..... 84%
African-American..... 11%
Other..... 6%

Q18 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.

18 to 29..... 12%
30 to 45..... 26%
46 to 65..... 42%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	48%	85%	79%	60%	18%	15%
Disapprove	49%	11%	19%	39%	79%	82%
Not sure	2%	4%	2%	1%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	45%	7%	16%	33%	76%	77%
Unfavorable	49%	85%	76%	61%	19%	18%
Not sure	6%	8%	8%	5%	4%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	49%	88%	79%	60%	18%	15%
Mitt Romney	45%	7%	13%	32%	76%	80%
Undecided	7%	5%	8%	8%	5%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Trust More on Economy?						
Barack Obama	47%	84%	78%	57%	18%	15%
Mitt Romney	47%	8%	18%	35%	77%	81%
Not sure	6%	8%	3%	7%	6%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Trust More on Foreign Policy?						
Barack Obama	49%	84%	80%	61%	19%	14%
Mitt Romney	45%	11%	14%	34%	75%	78%
Not sure	6%	4%	6%	5%	6%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Voter Enthusiasm						
Very excited	58%	82%	59%	46%	54%	68%
Somewhat excited	24%	12%	25%	31%	23%	20%
Not at all excited	18%	7%	16%	24%	23%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Better for Auto Industry?						
Barack Obama	54%	86%	87%	68%	22%	15%
Mitt Romney	31%	5%	6%	20%	53%	65%
Not sure	15%	9%	7%	12%	26%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Importance of Candidates' Bailout Records						
Very important	44%	74%	60%	47%	24%	33%
Somewhat important	29%	21%	24%	29%	40%	23%
Not that important	24%	3%	13%	24%	31%	40%
Not sure	2%	1%	3%	1%	4%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Familiar with Romney Comments?						
Familiar	90%	89%	93%	94%	93%	76%
Not familiar	10%	11%	7%	6%	7%	24%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate						
Appropriate	42%	17%	11%	33%	67%	71%
Inappropriate	53%	82%	84%	63%	22%	24%
Not sure	6%	1%	6%	4%	11%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Comments: More/Less Likely to Vote for Him						
More likely	31%	26%	10%	24%	36%	59%
Less likely	40%	57%	77%	51%	14%	6%
No difference	28%	16%	13%	24%	47%	31%
Not sure	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Should Romney Release Taxes?						
He should	50%	86%	82%	58%	20%	19%
He should not	41%	14%	12%	34%	67%	67%
Not sure	9%	-	6%	9%	13%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Are Pollsters Skewing Polls to Help Obama?						
They are intentionally skewing their polls	41%	12%	17%	28%	66%	76%
They are not	43%	73%	65%	54%	17%	16%
Not sure	16%	14%	18%	17%	17%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	48%	48%	49%
Disapprove	49%	49%	49%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	45%	44%	46%
Unfavorable	49%	48%	51%
Not sure	6%	8%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	49%	48%	50%
Mitt Romney	45%	46%	43%
Undecided	7%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trust More on Economy?			
Barack Obama	47%	47%	48%
Mitt Romney	47%	46%	48%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trust More on Foreign Policy?			
Barack Obama	49%	47%	51%
Mitt Romney	45%	46%	44%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Voter Enthusiasm			
Very excited	58%	60%	55%
Somewhat excited	24%	20%	29%
Not at all excited	18%	21%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Better for Auto Industry?			
Barack Obama	54%	51%	56%
Mitt Romney	31%	33%	29%
Not sure	15%	16%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Importance of Candidates' Bailout Records			
Very important	44%	45%	44%
Somewhat important	29%	29%	29%
Not that important	24%	23%	25%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Familiar with Romney Comments?			
Familiar	90%	87%	95%
Not familiar	10%	13%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate			
Appropriate	42%	43%	40%
Inappropriate	53%	51%	54%
Not sure	6%	6%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Comments: More/Less Likely to Vote for Him			
More likely	31%	33%	27%
Less likely	40%	38%	43%
No difference	28%	27%	30%
Not sure	1%	2%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Should Romney Release Taxes?			
He should	50%	49%	51%
He should not	41%	40%	42%
Not sure	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Are Pollsters Skewing Polls to Help Obama?			
They are intentionally skewing their polls	41%	45%	36%
They are not	43%	38%	49%
Not sure	16%	16%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	85%	11%	41%
Disapprove	49%	14%	88%	52%
Not sure	2%	1%	1%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	45%	13%	84%	41%
Unfavorable	49%	83%	14%	45%
Not sure	6%	5%	2%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	49%	85%	12%	41%
Mitt Romney	45%	10%	86%	42%
Undecided	7%	4%	2%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Trust More on Economy?				
Barack Obama	47%	84%	10%	40%
Mitt Romney	47%	13%	86%	45%
Not sure	6%	2%	4%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Trust More on Foreign Policy?				
Barack Obama	49%	85%	11%	45%
Mitt Romney	45%	12%	86%	41%
Not sure	6%	3%	3%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Voter Enthusiasm				
Very excited	58%	66%	62%	36%
Somewhat excited	24%	20%	26%	28%
Not at all excited	18%	14%	13%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Better for Auto Industry?				
Barack Obama	54%	86%	16%	51%
Mitt Romney	31%	9%	62%	24%
Not sure	15%	5%	21%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Importance of Candidates' Bailout Records				
Very important	44%	65%	30%	30%
Somewhat important	29%	23%	33%	35%
Not that important	24%	10%	35%	32%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Familiar with Romney Comments?				
Familiar	90%	92%	88%	91%
Not familiar	10%	8%	12%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate				
Appropriate	42%	17%	71%	41%
Inappropriate	53%	80%	21%	50%
Not sure	6%	3%	8%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Comments: More/Less Likely to Vote for Him				
More likely	31%	15%	51%	29%
Less likely	40%	62%	15%	37%
No difference	28%	21%	34%	33%
Not sure	1%	3%	0%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Should Romney Release Taxes?				
He should	50%	79%	20%	42%
He should not	41%	16%	68%	45%
Not sure	9%	4%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Are Pollsters Skewing Polls to Help Obama?				
They are intentionally skewing their polls	41%	16%	72%	40%
They are not	43%	69%	14%	42%
Not sure	16%	16%	14%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African- American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	45%	78%	43%
Disapprove	49%	53%	21%	48%
Not sure	2%	2%	1%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	45%	48%	17%	47%
Unfavorable	49%	47%	72%	40%
Not sure	6%	5%	10%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	49%	46%	77%	35%
Mitt Romney	45%	49%	11%	48%
Undecided	7%	5%	12%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Trust More on Economy?				
Barack Obama	47%	44%	76%	38%
Mitt Romney	47%	50%	24%	52%
Not sure	6%	6%	0%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Trust More on Foreign Policy?				
Barack Obama	49%	46%	79%	43%
Mitt Romney	45%	49%	13%	50%
Not sure	6%	5%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Voter Enthusiasm				
Very excited	58%	56%	70%	57%
Somewhat excited	24%	26%	12%	17%
Not at all excited	18%	18%	18%	26%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Better for Auto Industry?				
Barack Obama	54%	51%	78%	48%
Mitt Romney	31%	33%	16%	28%
Not sure	15%	16%	6%	24%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Importance of Candidates' Bailout Records				
Very important	44%	41%	75%	41%
Somewhat important	29%	32%	7%	23%
Not that important	24%	24%	15%	35%
Not sure	2%	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Familiar with Romney Comments?				
Familiar	90%	91%	84%	89%
Not familiar	10%	9%	16%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate				
Appropriate	42%	44%	18%	48%
Inappropriate	53%	50%	77%	38%
Not sure	6%	5%	5%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Comments: More/Less Likely to Vote for Him				
More likely	31%	32%	12%	43%
Less likely	40%	39%	51%	28%
No difference	28%	28%	30%	27%
Not sure	1%	1%	8%	1%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Should Romney Release Taxes?				
He should	50%	48%	74%	28%
He should not	41%	43%	22%	45%
Not sure	9%	8%	4%	27%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Are Pollsters Skewing Polls to Help Obama?				
They are intentionally skewing their polls	41%	43%	29%	29%
They are not	43%	43%	50%	40%
Not sure	16%	14%	21%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	42%	43%	54%	47%
Disapprove	49%	54%	55%	44%	50%
Not sure	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	45%	44%	52%	40%	47%
Unfavorable	49%	48%	41%	56%	47%
Not sure	6%	8%	7%	4%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	49%	50%	41%	54%	47%
Mitt Romney	45%	35%	51%	42%	48%
Undecided	7%	15%	8%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trust More on Economy?					
Barack Obama	47%	42%	40%	54%	46%
Mitt Romney	47%	50%	52%	42%	48%
Not sure	6%	8%	8%	4%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trust More on Foreign Policy?					
Barack Obama	49%	42%	45%	54%	48%
Mitt Romney	45%	42%	51%	42%	47%
Not sure	6%	15%	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Voter Enthusiasm					
Very excited	58%	81%	52%	56%	55%
Somewhat excited	24%	4%	31%	24%	27%
Not at all excited	18%	15%	17%	20%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Better for Auto Industry?					
Barack Obama	54%	50%	53%	56%	51%
Mitt Romney	31%	38%	29%	29%	35%
Not sure	15%	13%	18%	15%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Importance of Candidates' Bailout Records					
Very important	44%	50%	35%	45%	52%
Somewhat important	29%	31%	32%	28%	27%
Not that important	24%	19%	31%	24%	18%
Not sure	2%	-	1%	3%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Familiar with Romney Comments?					
Familiar	90%	81%	91%	94%	88%
Not familiar	10%	19%	9%	6%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Comments Appropriate/Inappropriate					
Appropriate	42%	50%	49%	38%	35%
Inappropriate	53%	50%	44%	58%	54%
Not sure	6%	-	7%	4%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Comments: More/Less Likely to Vote for Him					
More likely	31%	50%	33%	25%	31%
Less likely	40%	31%	39%	43%	39%
No difference	28%	13%	29%	32%	26%
Not sure	1%	6%	-	-	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Should Romney Release Taxes?					
He should	50%	63%	38%	55%	47%
He should not	41%	38%	48%	37%	44%
Not sure	9%	-	14%	8%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Are Pollsters Skewing Polls to Help Obama?					
They are intentionally skewing their polls	41%	50%	40%	38%	45%
They are not	43%	44%	40%	47%	40%
Not sure	16%	6%	21%	15%	16%

