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## RI GOP favors Carcieri for Senate, Romney for President

**Raleigh, N.C.** – If Rhode Island’s most recent ex-governor chooses to make a bid to challenge freshman Senator Sheldon Whitehouse next year, he would be an instant favorite to claim the Republican nomination.

Carcieri gets almost half the votes, with 44% over four others knotted way back at 12% each: Scott Avedisian, Buddy Cianci, John Loughlin, and John Robitaille. Allan Fung gets 6%, Catherine Taylor 2%, and Giovanni Cicione less than 1%.

An earlier release showed that Carcieri would be perhaps the weakest candidate against Whitehouse, losing by 17 points—the same as Loughlin, but the state representative is far less known than the former governor. Avedisian placed only ten points behind Whitehouse, and Robitaille 11.

In Carcieri’s absence, the candidates separate themselves, and the GOP is more likely to nominate a strong candidate to face the incumbent Democrat. In the narrower field, Robitaille benefits most, jumping up to 31%, with Loughlin at 24%, Avedisian at 21%, Fung at 14%, Cicione at 3%, and Taylor still at 2%.

41% of the voters in this primary are self-identified independents, and only 57% Republicans. If this proportion holds, the state’s huge share of unaffiliated voters could have a big impact on the outcome of the race, though at the moment, there is little difference in who they favor for the Senate nomination compared to Republicans.

Though there is more difference across party lines in the presidential contest, Mitt Romney has such a dominant lead that it will not likely be contested. Romney has strong regional appeal, trouncing the competition here, as well as in first-primary New Hampshire and his own Massachusetts in recent PPP polls. Most of the other candidates are not showing very strongly in their own states, let alone neighboring ones.

Romney has 39% of the vote to Mike Huckabee’s 15%, Newt Gingrich’s 13%, and Sarah Palin’s 10%, with four others in low single digits. Generally someone who does better with moderates than conservatives, Romney actually has a slightly larger share of the GOP, 41%, than independents (39%). Gingrich is in a distant second with the base, at 17%, but gets only 7% of independents, with whom Huckabee places second at 21% (to only 12% among the GOP).

PPP surveyed 250 Rhode Island Republican primary voters from February 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-6.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

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## Rhode Island Survey Results

**Q1** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

*Favorable*..... 56%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 28%  
*Not sure* ..... 16%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

*Favorable*..... 64%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 19%  
*Not sure* ..... 18%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

*Favorable*..... 51%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 36%  
*Not sure* ..... 13%

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

*Favorable*..... 73%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 16%  
*Not sure* ..... 11%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Scott Avedisian?

*Favorable*..... 43%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 17%  
*Not sure* ..... 40%

**Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Don Carcieri?

*Favorable*..... 81%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 14%  
*Not sure* ..... 5%

**Q7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Buddy Cianci?

*Favorable*..... 48%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 41%  
*Not sure* ..... 11%

**Q8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Loughlin?

*Favorable*..... 51%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 12%  
*Not sure* ..... 37%

**Q9** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Robitaille?

*Favorable*..... 75%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 9%  
*Not sure* ..... 17%

**Q10** If the Republican candidates for President next year were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

*Mitch Daniels* ..... 4%  
*Newt Gingrich* ..... 13%  
*Mike Huckabee* ..... 15%  
*Sarah Palin* ..... 10%  
*Ron Paul* ..... 5%  
*Tim Pawlenty* ..... 5%  
*Mitt Romney* ..... 39%  
*John Thune* ..... 1%  
*Someone else/Undecided* ..... 9%





**Q11** Given the choices of Scott Avedisian, Don Carcieri, Buddy Cianci, Giovanni Cicione, Allan Fung, John Loughlin, John Robitaille, and Catherine Taylor who would you most like to see as the Republican Senate candidate next year?

<i>Scott Avedisian</i> .....	12%
<i>Don Carcieri</i> .....	44%
<i>Buddy Cianci</i> .....	12%
<i>Giovanni Cicione</i> .....	0%
<i>Allan Fung</i> .....	6%
<i>John Loughlin</i> .....	12%
<i>John Robitaille</i> .....	12%
<i>Catherine Taylor</i> .....	2%

**Q12** If the choices were just Scott Avedisian, Giovanni Cicione, Allan Fung, John Loughlin, John Robitaille, and Catherine Taylor who would you most like to see as the Republican Senate candidate next year?

<i>Scott Avedisian</i> .....	21%
<i>Giovanni Cicione</i> .....	3%
<i>Allan Fung</i> .....	14%
<i>John Loughlin</i> .....	24%
<i>John Robitaille</i> .....	31%
<i>Catherine Taylor</i> .....	2%
<i>Someone else/Not sure</i> .....	6%

**Q13** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i> .....	49%
<i>Man</i> .....	51%

**Q14** 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> .....	3%
<i>Republican</i> .....	57%
<i>Independent/Other</i> .....	41%

**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> .....	8%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	30%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	42%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	56%	53%	60%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	29%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	18%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	64%	68%	60%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	19%	17%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	16%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	51%	46%	56%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	36%	35%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	19%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	73%	74%	72%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	16%	12%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	14%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Avedisian Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>43%</b>	48%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>17%</b>	8%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>40%</b>	44%	36%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Carcieri Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>81%</b>	80%	82%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>14%</b>	14%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>5%</b>	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Cianci Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>48%</b>	49%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>41%</b>	35%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>11%</b>	16%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Loughlin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>51%</b>	53%	50%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>12%</b>	12%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>37%</b>	35%	38%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Robitaille Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	75%	74%	75%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	9%	11%	6%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	15%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>2012 GOP Pres Primary</b>			
<b>Mitch Daniels</b>	4%	2%	6%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	13%	11%	15%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	15%	21%	9%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	10%	10%	10%
<b>Ron Paul</b>	5%	5%	5%
<b>Tim Pawlenty</b>	5%	3%	6%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	39%	36%	41%
<b>John Thune</b>	1%	1%	1%
<b>Someone else/Undecided</b>	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>2012 GOP Sen Primary w/ Carcieri</b>			
<b>Scott Avedisian</b>	12%	14%	10%
<b>Don Carcieri</b>	44%	35%	53%
<b>Buddy Cianci</b>	12%	14%	10%
<b>Giovanni Cicione</b>	0%	-	1%
<b>Allan Fung</b>	6%	3%	8%
<b>John Loughlin</b>	12%	17%	8%
<b>John Robitaille</b>	12%	15%	9%
<b>Catherine Taylor</b>	2%	2%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Carcieri</b>			
<b>Scott Avedisian</b>	21%	19%	23%
<b>Giovanni Cicione</b>	3%	1%	4%
<b>Allan Fung</b>	14%	14%	13%
<b>John Loughlin</b>	24%	29%	20%
<b>John Robitaille</b>	31%	27%	34%
<b>Catherine Taylor</b>	2%	3%	1%
<b>Someone else/Not sure</b>	6%	6%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	56%	44%	65%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	56%	22%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	-	13%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	64%	44%	67%	60%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	19%	56%	19%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	-	14%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	51%	12%	58%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	36%	88%	33%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	-	9%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	73%	12%	77%	73%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	16%	88%	15%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	-	9%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Avedisian Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	43%	32%	42%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	17%	56%	18%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	40%	12%	39%	43%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Carcieri Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	81%	44%	84%	80%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	56%	12%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	-	4%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Cianci Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	48%	37%	49%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	41%	63%	41%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	-	9%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Loughlin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	51%	44%	53%	49%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	56%	6%	17%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	-	41%	34%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Robitaille Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	75%	37%	77%	74%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	9%	63%	5%	10%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	-	18%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>2012 GOP Pres Primary</b>				
<b>Mitch Daniels</b>	4%	44%	4%	2%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	13%	-	17%	7%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	15%	12%	12%	21%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	10%	-	11%	10%
<b>Ron Paul</b>	5%	-	5%	5%
<b>Tim Pawlenty</b>	5%	-	5%	5%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	39%	-	41%	39%
<b>John Thune</b>	1%	-	0%	1%
<b>Someone else/Undecided</b>	9%	44%	5%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>2012 GOP Sen Primary w/ Carcieri</b>				
<b>Scott Avedisian</b>	12%	36%	12%	11%
<b>Don Carcieri</b>	44%	36%	46%	41%
<b>Buddy Cianci</b>	12%	14%	12%	11%
<b>Giovanni Cicione</b>	0%	-	-	1%
<b>Allan Fung</b>	6%	-	7%	4%
<b>John Loughlin</b>	12%	14%	9%	17%
<b>John Robitaille</b>	12%	-	11%	14%
<b>Catherine Taylor</b>	2%	-	2%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Carcieri</b>				
<b>Scott Avedisian</b>	21%	75%	20%	18%
<b>Giovanni Cicione</b>	3%	-	4%	1%
<b>Allan Fung</b>	14%	-	14%	14%
<b>John Loughlin</b>	24%	25%	22%	27%
<b>John Robitaille</b>	31%	-	29%	35%
<b>Catherine Taylor</b>	2%	-	3%	1%
<b>Someone else/Not sure</b>	6%	-	7%	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	56%	78%	56%	52%	59%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	28%	22%	30%	29%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	16%	-	14%	20%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	64%	67%	67%	60%	64%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	19%	22%	19%	20%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	11%	14%	20%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Palin Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	51%	11%	60%	52%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	36%	89%	28%	35%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	13%	-	12%	12%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	73%	78%	70%	72%	79%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	16%	22%	19%	15%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	-	12%	13%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Avedisian Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	43%	56%	33%	46%	50%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	17%	33%	19%	12%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	40%	11%	49%	42%	34%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Carcieri Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	81%	89%	79%	82%	80%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	14%	11%	14%	15%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	-	7%	3%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Cianci Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	48%	67%	53%	43%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	41%	33%	37%	43%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	11%	-	9%	14%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Loughlin Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	51%	56%	47%	50%	59%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	12%	33%	7%	14%	7%
<b>Not sure</b>	37%	11%	47%	36%	34%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Robitaille Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	75%	78%	70%	74%	83%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	9%	22%	7%	9%	5%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	-	23%	17%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>2012 GOP Pres Primary</b>					
<b>Mitch Daniels</b>	4%	11%	2%	4%	4%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	13%	11%	16%	11%	13%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	15%	11%	12%	19%	14%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	10%	-	12%	13%	5%
<b>Ron Paul</b>	5%	11%	2%	2%	11%
<b>Tim Pawlenty</b>	5%	-	5%	5%	7%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	39%	44%	44%	36%	34%
<b>John Thune</b>	1%	-	-	1%	1%
<b>Someone else/Undecided</b>	9%	11%	7%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>2012 GOP Sen Primary w/ Carcieri</b>					
<b>Scott Avedisian</b>	12%	11%	12%	12%	12%
<b>Don Carcieri</b>	44%	56%	46%	39%	47%
<b>Buddy Cianci</b>	12%	11%	12%	13%	9%
<b>Giovanni Cicione</b>	0%	-	-	1%	-
<b>Allan Fung</b>	6%	11%	2%	7%	5%
<b>John Loughlin</b>	12%	11%	12%	13%	11%
<b>John Robitaille</b>	12%	-	12%	13%	15%
<b>Catherine Taylor</b>	2%	-	2%	2%	1%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>2012 GOP Sen Primary w/o Carcieri</b>					
<b>Scott Avedisian</b>	21%	44%	19%	20%	17%
<b>Giovanni Cicione</b>	3%	-	5%	2%	3%
<b>Allan Fung</b>	14%	11%	16%	15%	8%
<b>John Loughlin</b>	24%	33%	23%	21%	29%
<b>John Robitaille</b>	31%	11%	28%	35%	34%
<b>Catherine Taylor</b>	2%	-	2%	2%	1%
<b>Someone else/Not sure</b>	6%	-	7%	6%	8%

