



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Only Romney seen as presidential material

Raleigh, N.C. – Yesterday’s release showed that all of the GOP's leading contenders to face Barack Obama next year currently trail him. Part of the reason is that, except for Mitt Romney, voters see them more as running mates than as presidents.

When asked whether they view these candidates as more suited to be Commander in Chief or Numero Dos, voters see only Romney as more presidential than vice-presidential material (30-20). And even then, half of voters are not sure. For Huckabee, that is 22-27, with 51% unsure. For Gingrich, 16-27 (57% unsure). And for Palin, last election's GOP VP nominee, the divide is 16-32 (52% unsure).

Tuesday's release showed that among even Republicans, only Romney and Huckabee are viewed as more fit for the Oval Office than for a warm bucket of spit, meaning they all have a lot of work to do to convince even their own voters they are ready for the task, let alone swing voters.

Palin usually is the biggest turn-off to both Democrats and independents. But interestingly, while Palin does unsurprisingly worst overall on this question, Democrats actually give her better marks (7-16) than they do for Huckabee (8-21) or Gingrich (4-18). Romney nearly breaks even across the aisle, 13-16. Rather, it is independents who most strongly slot Palin at the bottom of the ticket, 13-34. By contrast, unaffiliated voters break almost 2:1 (37-19) for Romney's White House ambitions and respective 21-32 and 15-28 against Huckabee's and Gingrich's.

Women are even more fine than men with keeping the glass ceiling in place for Palin, saying by a 12-30 margin that she is better off for the job McCain picked her for; that compares to men's 20-33. Those are the worst marks of anyone with the female gender. They say Romney is fit for president by four points, and they give Huckabee only a -3 and Gingrich a -13. Romney is also the only one with positive marks from men (35-18), versus 24-30 for Huckabee and 19-29 for Gingrich.

“As television pundits and previous candidates and office holders, all four of these candidates are already very well-known quantities,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Yet even their own base has questions about their readiness to lead the country, not to mention independents and Democrats.”

PPP surveyed 600 registered American voters from February 11th to 14th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





National Survey Results

Q1 Do you think Newt Gingrich is most qualified to be President or Vice President?

President..... 16%
Vice president..... 27%
Not sure 57%

Q2 Do you think Mike Huckabee is most qualified to be President or Vice President?

President..... 22%
Vice president..... 27%
Not sure 51%

Q3 Do you think Sarah Palin is most qualified to be President or Vice President?

President..... 16%
Vice president..... 32%
Not sure 52%

Q4 Do you think Mitt Romney is most qualified to be President or Vice President?

President..... 30%
Vice president..... 20%
Not sure 50%

Q5 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 43%
Barack Obama..... 49%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 9%

Q6 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 8%
Somewhat liberal 18%
Moderate..... 30%
Somewhat conservative..... 25%
Very conservative 19%

Q7 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 50%
Man..... 50%

Q8 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 42%
Republican..... 38%
Independent/Other..... 20%

Q9 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 8%
White 76%
African-American 13%
Other..... 3%

Q10 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..... 10%
30 to 45..... 30%
46 to 65..... 40%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gingrich Most Qualified for Pres or VP?				
President	16%	30%	4%	10%
Vice president	27%	33%	22%	28%
Not sure	57%	37%	73%	62%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Huckabee Most Qualified for Pres or VP?				
President	22%	37%	9%	24%
Vice president	27%	32%	23%	20%
Not sure	51%	31%	68%	56%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Palin Most Qualified for Pres or VP?				
President	16%	30%	2%	24%
Vice president	32%	47%	20%	27%
Not sure	52%	23%	78%	50%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Romney Most Qualified for Pres or VP?				
President	30%	50%	14%	22%
Vice president	20%	23%	16%	24%
Not sure	50%	26%	70%	54%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Most Qualified for Pres or VP?						
President	16%	5%	4%	6%	25%	35%
Vice president	27%	9%	19%	28%	36%	30%
Not sure	57%	86%	77%	66%	39%	35%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Most Qualified for Pres or VP?						
President	22%	2%	6%	13%	40%	38%
Vice president	27%	20%	20%	27%	28%	32%
Not sure	51%	78%	73%	60%	31%	30%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Most Qualified for Pres or VP?						
President	16%	2%	7%	9%	22%	32%
Vice president	32%	31%	15%	24%	42%	48%
Not sure	52%	67%	78%	66%	36%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Most Qualified for Pres or VP?						
President	30%	7%	13%	22%	48%	46%
Vice president	20%	20%	16%	17%	20%	27%
Not sure	50%	72%	71%	61%	32%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Most Qualified for Pres or VP?			
President	16%	12%	19%
Vice president	27%	25%	29%
Not sure	57%	62%	51%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Most Qualified for Pres or VP?			
President	22%	20%	24%
Vice president	27%	23%	30%
Not sure	51%	57%	45%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Most Qualified for Pres or VP?			
President	16%	12%	20%
Vice president	32%	30%	33%
Not sure	52%	58%	47%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Most Qualified for Pres or VP?			
President	30%	25%	35%
Vice president	20%	21%	18%
Not sure	50%	54%	46%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Most Qualified for Pres or VP?				
President	16%	4%	29%	15%
Vice president	27%	18%	37%	28%
Not sure	57%	78%	34%	58%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Most Qualified for Pres or VP?				
President	22%	8%	38%	21%
Vice president	27%	21%	30%	32%
Not sure	51%	71%	32%	46%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Most Qualified for Pres or VP?				
President	16%	7%	27%	13%
Vice president	32%	16%	48%	34%
Not sure	52%	77%	26%	53%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Most Qualified for Pres or VP?				
President	30%	13%	45%	37%
Vice president	20%	16%	24%	19%
Not sure	50%	70%	31%	45%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Most Qualified for Pres or VP?					
President	16%	10%	18%	10%	4%
Vice president	27%	21%	28%	27%	41%
Not sure	57%	69%	55%	63%	55%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Most Qualified for Pres or VP?					
President	22%	10%	26%	6%	35%
Vice president	27%	28%	24%	41%	18%
Not sure	51%	62%	50%	53%	46%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Palin Most Qualified for Pres or VP?					
President	16%	18%	16%	12%	12%
Vice president	32%	19%	37%	17%	10%
Not sure	52%	63%	47%	71%	79%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Romney Most Qualified for Pres or VP?					
President	30%	28%	34%	14%	23%
Vice president	20%	11%	21%	17%	14%
Not sure	50%	61%	45%	69%	63%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Most Qualified for Pres or VP?					
President	16%	3%	10%	22%	18%
Vice president	27%	20%	38%	22%	25%
Not sure	57%	77%	52%	56%	56%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Most Qualified for Pres or VP?					
President	22%	30%	18%	21%	27%
Vice president	27%	20%	28%	28%	25%
Not sure	51%	50%	53%	51%	49%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Most Qualified for Pres or VP?					
President	16%	13%	16%	16%	16%
Vice president	32%	40%	34%	30%	28%
Not sure	52%	47%	50%	53%	56%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Most Qualified for Pres or VP?					
President	30%	17%	35%	31%	29%
Vice president	20%	20%	20%	19%	22%
Not sure	50%	63%	46%	50%	49%

