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Obama up three to eight nationally

Raleigh, N.C. – Though Mitt Romney may be starting to grab hold of the Republican presidential nomination, his months-long struggle to sway conservative voters and eke out a delegate lead has taken a greater toll on his personal image than it has on the other candidates, relative to where he started. He used to be the most electable candidate against President Obama, but in PPP's latest monthly national poll, both Rick Santorum and Ron Paul perform better in the popular vote than Romney does.

Obama leads Romney by four points (48-44), but he tops Santorum (48-45) and Paul (46-43) by only three. Only Newt Gingrich does worse than the frontrunner (42-50). The bright side for the Republicans is that Obama has slipped a little since last month, when he led Santorum by five, Romney by seven, Paul by eight, and Gingrich by 12, and that the president is down relative to 2008, when he beat John McCain by about seven points nationwide.

The reason Obama continues to do so well, despite voters being split on his job performance (48% both approving and disapproving), is that the Republicans are so strongly disliked. Santorum is the most "popular," but only 36% have a favorable impression of him, and 53% an unfavorable one. That is down from 39-46 in February. Romney sits at 33-58, Paul at 30-58, and Gingrich at 28-61. Obama ties Paul with independents but leads Romney by six, Santorum by eight, and Gingrich by 15.

Democrats are, at this point, more united than the GOP is, and Libertarian Gary Johnson's candidacy is earning 7% of the vote, helping Obama to a wider 46-39 edge over Romney in a three-way battle. Johnson does not weaken the president at all with Democrats, but pulls Romney from 78% to 71% of his party.

"Barack Obama continues to lead for reelection but the Republican candidates have gained a little ground since last month," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 900 American voters from March 15th to 17th. 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.



National 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 Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 61%
Not sure 11%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 58%
Not sure 12%

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

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 58%
Not sure 10%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Santorum?

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 11%

Q6 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 50%
Newt Gingrich 42%
Undecided..... 8%

Q7 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 46%
Ron Paul..... 43%
Undecided..... 10%

Q8 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Mitt Romney..... 44%
Undecided..... 8%

Q9 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Gary Johnson?

Favorable..... 4%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 74%

Q10 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney, and Libertarian Gary Johnson, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 46%
Mitt Romney..... 39%
Gary Johnson 7%
Undecided..... 8%

Q11 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Santorum, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Rick Santorum 45%
Undecided..... 7%





Q12 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	12%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	21%
<i>Moderate</i>	25%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	26%
<i>Very conservative</i>	16%

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

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

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>	41%
<i>Republican</i>	37%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	22%

Q15 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i>	10%
<i>White</i>	75%
<i>African-American</i>	10%
<i>Other</i>	5%

Q16 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>	15%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	37%
<i>Older than 65</i>	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	48%	82%	86%	54%	17%	12%
Disapprove	48%	14%	11%	41%	79%	85%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	5%	4%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
N. Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	28%	19%	10%	20%	43%	49%
Unfavorable	61%	80%	86%	66%	40%	39%
Not sure	11%	1%	4%	14%	17%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	30%	23%	26%	31%	34%	32%
Unfavorable	58%	71%	62%	54%	54%	56%
Not sure	12%	5%	12%	16%	12%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
M. Romney Favorability						
Favorable	33%	19%	11%	33%	49%	43%
Unfavorable	58%	75%	80%	57%	38%	48%
Not sure	10%	6%	9%	10%	13%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
R. Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	36%	19%	13%	26%	54%	68%
Unfavorable	53%	78%	79%	59%	31%	24%
Not sure	11%	4%	8%	16%	15%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	50%	81%	89%	56%	20%	16%
Newt Gingrich	42%	11%	9%	34%	71%	77%
Undecided	8%	8%	3%	10%	9%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	46%	74%	87%	51%	15%	13%
Ron Paul	43%	20%	11%	37%	67%	75%
Undecided	10%	6%	2%	12%	18%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	48%	81%	88%	51%	17%	16%
Mitt Romney	44%	15%	10%	38%	73%	76%
Undecided	8%	5%	2%	11%	10%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
G. Johnson Favorability						
Favorable	4%	7%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Unfavorable	22%	40%	19%	18%	17%	27%
Not sure	74%	53%	77%	79%	79%	69%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney/Johnson						
Barack Obama	46%	77%	84%	50%	15%	14%
Mitt Romney	39%	13%	10%	32%	63%	71%
Gary Johnson	7%	7%	2%	9%	10%	6%
Undecided	8%	4%	3%	9%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	48%	80%	88%	54%	16%	14%
Rick Santorum	45%	12%	10%	34%	77%	83%
Undecided	7%	8%	2%	12%	7%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	48%	52%	44%
Disapprove	48%	44%	53%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
N. Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	28%	26%	31%
Unfavorable	61%	63%	58%
Not sure	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	30%	23%	37%
Unfavorable	58%	64%	52%
Not sure	12%	13%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
M. Romney Favorability			
Favorable	33%	34%	31%
Unfavorable	58%	57%	58%
Not sure	10%	9%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
R. Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	36%	35%	37%
Unfavorable	53%	52%	53%
Not sure	11%	13%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	50%	54%	46%
Newt Gingrich	42%	37%	48%
Undecided	8%	9%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	46%	51%	40%
Ron Paul	43%	39%	49%
Undecided	10%	10%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	48%	51%	45%
Mitt Romney	44%	42%	47%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
G. Johnson Favorability			
Favorable	4%	3%	6%
Unfavorable	22%	20%	24%
Not sure	74%	77%	70%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney/Johnson			
Barack Obama	46%	49%	43%
Mitt Romney	39%	37%	41%
Gary Johnson	7%	6%	8%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	48%	51%	46%
Rick Santorum	45%	41%	49%
Undecided	7%	8%	5%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	80%	13%	47%
Disapprove	48%	16%	85%	47%
Not sure	4%	4%	2%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
N. Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	28%	15%	46%	24%
Unfavorable	61%	76%	43%	63%
Not sure	11%	9%	11%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	30%	21%	33%	41%
Unfavorable	58%	66%	56%	47%
Not sure	12%	13%	11%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
M. Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	20%	49%	29%
Unfavorable	58%	71%	42%	58%
Not sure	10%	9%	9%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
R. Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	36%	17%	62%	29%
Unfavorable	53%	71%	29%	59%
Not sure	11%	12%	9%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	80%	16%	52%
Newt Gingrich	42%	14%	77%	37%
Undecided	8%	5%	8%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	46%	79%	12%	42%
Ron Paul	43%	15%	76%	42%
Undecided	10%	6%	12%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	48%	79%	14%	48%
Mitt Romney	44%	15%	78%	42%
Undecided	8%	6%	8%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
G. Johnson Favorability				
Favorable	4%	3%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	22%	23%	24%	16%
Not sure	74%	73%	71%	80%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson				
Barack Obama	46%	78%	12%	43%
Mitt Romney	39%	14%	71%	32%
Gary Johnson	7%	3%	6%	17%
Undecided	8%	5%	11%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	48%	79%	14%	48%
Rick Santorum	45%	15%	81%	40%
Undecided	7%	5%	5%	13%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	67%	39%	86%	61%
Disapprove	48%	30%	57%	11%	36%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	3%	2%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
N. Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	28%	26%	29%	18%	39%
Unfavorable	61%	64%	60%	67%	55%
Not sure	11%	10%	10%	15%	6%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	30%	33%	33%	12%	17%
Unfavorable	58%	60%	55%	71%	76%
Not sure	12%	7%	13%	17%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
M. Romney Favorability					
Favorable	33%	34%	36%	16%	16%
Unfavorable	58%	59%	55%	74%	68%
Not sure	10%	7%	10%	10%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
R. Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	36%	31%	40%	13%	42%
Unfavorable	53%	57%	49%	74%	48%
Not sure	11%	11%	11%	13%	11%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	50%	66%	42%	87%	62%
Newt Gingrich	42%	28%	49%	12%	36%
Undecided	8%	6%	9%	1%	1%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	46%	61%	38%	89%	54%
Ron Paul	43%	33%	50%	11%	29%
Undecided	10%	6%	12%	1%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	48%	64%	39%	88%	60%
Mitt Romney	44%	26%	52%	11%	34%
Undecided	8%	10%	8%	1%	6%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
G. Johnson Favorability					
Favorable	4%	8%	4%	4%	4%
Unfavorable	22%	21%	21%	30%	17%
Not sure	74%	71%	75%	66%	79%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney/Johnson					
Barack Obama	46%	62%	38%	87%	49%
Mitt Romney	39%	25%	46%	10%	23%
Gary Johnson	7%	4%	8%	-	17%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%	3%	11%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	48%	65%	39%	90%	64%
Rick Santorum	45%	27%	53%	10%	34%
Undecided	7%	8%	8%	-	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	69%	43%	45%	45%
Disapprove	48%	27%	53%	53%	50%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%	3%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
N. Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	28%	24%	27%	32%	27%
Unfavorable	61%	64%	60%	60%	61%
Not sure	11%	11%	13%	8%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	30%	42%	36%	25%	25%
Unfavorable	58%	49%	51%	65%	59%
Not sure	12%	9%	13%	10%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
M. Romney Favorability					
Favorable	33%	24%	28%	37%	35%
Unfavorable	58%	62%	64%	53%	54%
Not sure	10%	13%	7%	10%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
R. Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	36%	33%	45%	34%	34%
Unfavorable	53%	56%	44%	55%	56%
Not sure	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	50%	69%	47%	45%	49%
New t Gingrich	42%	24%	45%	47%	43%
Undecided	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	46%	56%	41%	45%	47%
Ron Paul	43%	40%	47%	45%	40%
Undecided	10%	4%	12%	11%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	48%	64%	44%	44%	47%
Mitt Romney	44%	22%	49%	49%	46%
Undecided	8%	13%	7%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
G. Johnson Favorability					
Favorable	4%	7%	4%	4%	4%
Unfavorable	22%	31%	18%	23%	20%
Not sure	74%	62%	79%	74%	76%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney/Johnson					
Barack Obama	46%	58%	43%	43%	46%
Mitt Romney	39%	20%	39%	44%	44%
Gary Johnson	7%	13%	8%	6%	5%
Undecided	8%	9%	10%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	48%	60%	44%	47%	47%
Rick Santorum	45%	29%	50%	47%	46%
Undecided	7%	11%	6%	6%	6%

