



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Virginia's 13 electoral votes still in Obama's column**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – In his overwhelming 2008 victory, President Obama turned Virginia blue for the first time since Lyndon Johnson's landslide in 1964. Some speculate that that was a temporary trend due to be reversed in 2012, but PPP's first look at the state almost two years from the election suggests otherwise. Just three weeks following the low point of his presidency, Obama leads all four current Republican frontrunners by healthy margins, and has a positive job approval rating in the Old Dominion.

PPP's final 2008 poll of the state which nailed the actual 53-46 result reflected an electorate in which Democrats outnumbered Republicans by five points. This electorate, at D +1, is more evenly split, but still gives the president a 50-45 job performance mark, better than PPP has measured him almost anywhere in 2010.

Obama posts his strongest leads against Sarah Palin (52-41) and Newt Gingrich (51-40), with smaller advantages over Mike Huckabee (49-44) and Mitt Romney (48-43). The president has at least 91% of his party's votes against any of the Republicans, with no more than 5% defecting. At 85%, Huckabee gets the most Republican support, and Gingrich, at 79%, the least. A Palin candidacy would be most welcome to the president's team, as he leads her 53-36 with independents, a far larger margin than he sports against Gingrich (49-41), Huckabee (45-43), or Romney (a 42-42 tie). The flip side is that Obama would get the least Republican support (7%) against Palin than the others (10% against Gingrich and 9% versus the other two).

With a putrid 35-58 favorability rating, Palin, as nationally, is the best known but least liked overall because while the Republican base loves her (though here not quite as much as Huckabee), she is by far the most reviled by Democrats and, close behind Gingrich, the second least liked by independents. Romney does best with unaffiliated voters, at 37-38, narrowly ahead of Huckabee's 39-43, but his 57-28 with the GOP is far behind third-place Gingrich's 67-20.

"It's clearly far too early to write Virginia off the list of swing states for 2012, with Obama looking about as good now as he did in 2008," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 551 Virginia voters from November 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





## Virginia Survey Results

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

*Approve* ..... 50%  
*Disapprove*..... 45%  
*Not sure* ..... 5%

**Q2** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

*Favorable* ..... 32% *Not sure* ..... 15%  
*Unfavorable*..... 53%

**Q3** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

*Favorable* ..... 40% *Not sure* ..... 20%  
*Unfavorable*..... 40%

**Q4** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

*Favorable* ..... 35% *Not sure* ..... 7%  
*Unfavorable*..... 58%

**Q5** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

*Favorable* ..... 33% *Not sure* ..... 21%  
*Unfavorable*..... 46%

**Q6** If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 52%  
*Newt Gingrich*..... 41%  
*Undecided*..... 8%

**Q7** If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mike Huckabee, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 49%  
*Mike Huckabee*..... 44%  
*Undecided*..... 7%

**Q8** If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Sarah Palin, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 51%  
*Sarah Palin*..... 40%  
*Undecided*..... 8%

**Q9** If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 48%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 43%  
*Undecided*..... 9%

**Q10** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

*John McCain*..... 44%  
*Barack Obama*..... 49%  
*Someone else/Don't remember* ..... 7%

**Q11** If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

*Liberal*..... 19%  
*Moderate*..... 44%  
*Conservative*..... 37%

**Q12** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 55%  
*Man*..... 45%

**Q13** 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*..... 36%  
*Republican*..... 35%  
*Independent/Other*..... 30%





**Q14** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i> .....	78%
<i>African-American</i> .....	18%
<i>Other</i> .....	4%

**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> .....	45%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	11%	90%	16%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	87%	6%	63%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	2%	5%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	60%	7%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	53%	24%	81%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	15%	13%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	40%	69%	12%	56%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	18%	61%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	13%	27%	14%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	70%	4%	38%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	58%	24%	91%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	6%	5%	23%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	55%	13%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	28%	63%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	17%	24%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	52%	10%	93%	25%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	41%	79%	4%	52%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	10%	3%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	49%	10%	88%	20%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	44%	84%	6%	59%
<b>Undecided</b>	7%	6%	6%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	9%	94%	23%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	40%	80%	4%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	11%	2%	28%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	9%	86%	25%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	43%	81%	7%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	9%	7%	25%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	87%	68%	10%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	10%	26%	86%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	3%	6%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	10%	19%	59%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	53%	81%	68%	21%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	9%	14%	19%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	40%	15%	24%	73%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	60%	55%	12%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	25%	21%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	13%	16%	70%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	58%	85%	76%	22%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	3%	7%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	11%	23%	56%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	69%	53%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	20%	24%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	52%	87%	70%	12%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	41%	12%	21%	79%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	1%	9%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	49%	87%	66%	9%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	44%	9%	24%	86%
<b>Undecided</b>	7%	4%	10%	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
Barack Obama	51%	84%	72%	10%
Sarah Palin	40%	13%	21%	78%
Undecided	8%	3%	7%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	88%	62%	11%
Mitt Romney	43%	8%	27%	79%
Undecided	9%	4%	11%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
Approve	50%	54%	46%
Disapprove	45%	42%	49%
Not sure	5%	4%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
Favorable	32%	28%	38%
Unfavorable	53%	55%	51%
Not sure	15%	18%	11%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	40%	36%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	39%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	25%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	32%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	58%	62%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	6%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	33%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	42%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	25%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	52%	56%	46%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	41%	36%	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	8%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>			
Barack Obama	49%	52%	45%
Mike Huckabee	44%	41%	47%
Undecided	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Palin</b>			
Barack Obama	51%	56%	45%
Sarah Palin	40%	36%	46%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
Barack Obama	48%	50%	45%
Mitt Romney	43%	41%	44%
Undecided	9%	9%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
Approve	50%	90%	10%	48%
Disapprove	45%	7%	86%	44%
Not sure	5%	3%	4%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	6%	67%	23%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	53%	82%	20%	56%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	12%	13%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	40%	9%	74%	39%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	62%	14%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	29%	11%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	4%	72%	31%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	58%	92%	22%	59%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	5%	6%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	6%	57%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	69%	28%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	25%	16%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
Barack Obama	52%	94%	10%	49%
Newt Gingrich	41%	3%	79%	41%
Undecided	8%	3%	11%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
Barack Obama	49%	91%	9%	45%
Mike Huckabee	44%	5%	85%	43%
Undecided	7%	4%	6%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
Barack Obama	51%	94%	7%	53%
Sarah Palin	40%	4%	83%	36%
Undecided	8%	3%	11%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	91%	9%	42%
Mitt Romney	43%	5%	82%	42%
Undecided	9%	4%	9%	16%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	50%	41%	91%	45%
<b>Disapprove</b>	45%	55%	3%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	4%	6%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	38%	9%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	53%	50%	66%	55%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	12%	26%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	40%	47%	11%	38%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	40%	35%	60%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	18%	29%	24%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	42%	6%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	58%	52%	86%	55%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	6%	9%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>33%</b>	40%	6%	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>46%</b>	41%	69%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>21%</b>	20%	26%	36%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>52%</b>	42%	94%	45%
<b>New t Gingrich</b>	<b>41%</b>	50%	-	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>8%</b>	8%	6%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>49%</b>	39%	89%	59%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>44%</b>	54%	3%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>7%</b>	7%	9%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>51%</b>	43%	89%	50%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>40%</b>	49%	6%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>8%</b>	8%	6%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	39%	89%	45%
Mitt Romney	43%	52%	3%	36%
Undecided	9%	9%	9%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
Approve	50%	58%	52%	50%	42%
Disapprove	45%	34%	42%	47%	52%
Not sure	5%	8%	6%	3%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>					
Favorable	32%	39%	23%	33%	44%
Unfavorable	53%	51%	59%	53%	43%
Not sure	15%	10%	18%	14%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>					
Favorable	40%	56%	31%	39%	52%
Unfavorable	40%	30%	47%	41%	28%
Not sure	20%	14%	22%	20%	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Palin Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	35%	41%	27%	35%	47%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	58%	59%	65%	58%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	-	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	23%	27%	37%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	61%	49%	43%	40%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	16%	24%	20%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	52%	62%	55%	50%	44%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	41%	30%	36%	42%	51%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	8%	9%	8%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	49%	60%	52%	48%	41%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	44%	28%	42%	45%	54%
<b>Undecided</b>	7%	12%	7%	7%	5%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Palin</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	49%	57%	52%	43%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	40%	41%	34%	41%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	10%	9%	7%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	58%	53%	46%	41%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	43%	32%	37%	45%	52%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	10%	10%	9%	7%

