



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Obama doing well in Virginia

Raleigh, N.C. – PPP has polled Virginia four times in 2011 and has come to the same conclusion every time: Barack Obama just hasn't slipped there to the extent he has nationally. That's a finding with major, major implications for his reelection prospects because if he wins Virginia he's probably going to win the Electoral College...and our polling in the state over the course of the year has certainly suggested he's in a good position to do it.

Right now we find Obama on positive ground in the state with 48% of voters approving of him to 47% who disapprove. He won Virginia by 6 points against John McCain so his net approval of +1 basically suggests a 5 point decline for him from his 2008 standing. To put that in context he won the national popular vote by 7 points and our national poll this week put his approval at a -10 spread (42/52), for a 17 point decline nationally. His numbers are holding up much better in Virginia than most anywhere else.

Obama leads both Mitt Romney (48-42) and Newt Gingrich (50-43) by margins comparable to his 6 point victory over John McCain in 2008. He leads both of them with independents- Romney by 4 and Gingrich by 8. And between the two match ups he's picking up as many Republicans as he's losing Democrats, again something we just aren't seeing in very many places.

What should be particularly heartening for Obama is that this is hardly an isolated finding in our Virginia polling this year. Over the course of 4 polls where we tested a match up with Romney Obama has led by an average of 7 points. And over the course of 3 polls where Gingrich was included Obama has led by an average of 12 points, although it is worth noting that he's doing better now as he's surged ahead in the Republican race.

“It continues to look like Virginia may be Obama’s firewall state,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “He’s holding up well there and it’s going to be tough for the Republicans to get to 270 electoral votes without it in their column.”

PPP surveyed 600 Virginia voters from December 11th to 13th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.0%. 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.





Virginia Survey Results

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

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 47%
Not sure 5%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Michele Bachmann?

Favorable..... 28%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 18%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 55%
Not sure 14%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 21%
Unfavorable 57%
Not sure 21%

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

Favorable..... 20%
Unfavorable 61%
Not sure 19%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 52%
Not sure 15%

Q7 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Michele Bachmann, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 52%
Michele Bachmann 39%
Undecided..... 9%

Q8 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 50%
Newt Gingrich 43%
Undecided..... 7%

Q9 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Ron Paul..... 40%
Undecided..... 11%

Q10 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Perry, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 51%
Rick Perry 41%
Undecided..... 8%

Q11 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 48%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Undecided..... 10%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	43%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	48%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	9%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	9%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	15%
<i>Moderate</i>	34%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	24%
<i>Very conservative</i>	18%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	55%
<i>Man</i>	45%

Q15 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>	36%
<i>Republican</i>	33%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	31%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	73%
<i>African-American</i>	19%
<i>Other</i>	8%

Q17 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>	14%
<i>30 to 45</i>	30%
<i>46 to 65</i>	36%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	9%	89%	24%
Disapprove	47%	88%	7%	61%
Not sure	5%	3%	4%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	28%	38%	20%	24%
Unfavorable	53%	41%	67%	42%
Not sure	18%	22%	13%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	31%	59%	8%	17%
Unfavorable	55%	28%	79%	64%
Not sure	14%	13%	14%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	21%	23%	17%	36%
Unfavorable	57%	55%	63%	39%
Not sure	21%	22%	20%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	20%	37%	7%	12%
Unfavorable	61%	42%	78%	64%
Not sure	19%	21%	15%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	48%	18%	38%
Unfavorable	52%	38%	65%	53%
Not sure	15%	15%	17%	8%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	52%	12%	91%	34%
Michele Bachmann	39%	75%	7%	42%
Undecided	9%	12%	3%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	9%	90%	43%
Newt Gingrich	43%	85%	6%	35%
Undecided	7%	7%	4%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	10%	85%	38%
Ron Paul	40%	72%	9%	57%
Undecided	11%	19%	6%	5%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	51%	10%	91%	32%
Rick Perry	41%	78%	7%	40%
Undecided	8%	11%	2%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	48%	10%	84%	44%
Mitt Romney	42%	81%	9%	31%
Undecided	10%	10%	6%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	48%	74%	87%	68%	17%	8%
Disapprove	47%	22%	10%	24%	81%	91%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%	8%	3%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bachmann Favorability						
Favorable	28%	25%	24%	17%	34%	46%
Unfavorable	53%	66%	64%	67%	40%	30%
Not sure	18%	9%	12%	15%	26%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	31%	11%	11%	15%	49%	64%
Unfavorable	55%	82%	73%	71%	35%	22%
Not sure	14%	7%	16%	14%	16%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	21%	15%	20%	21%	16%	33%
Unfavorable	57%	76%	56%	60%	54%	48%
Not sure	21%	9%	25%	19%	29%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Favorability						
Favorable	20%	7%	3%	11%	33%	42%
Unfavorable	61%	84%	82%	76%	40%	31%
Not sure	19%	8%	15%	13%	27%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	33%	16%	22%	30%	49%	34%
Unfavorable	52%	74%	59%	56%	33%	51%
Not sure	15%	10%	19%	14%	18%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Bachmann						
Barack Obama	52%	78%	84%	77%	19%	7%
Michele Bachmann	39%	18%	14%	14%	66%	87%
Undecided	9%	3%	2%	10%	15%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	50%	75%	87%	72%	18%	9%
Newt Gingrich	43%	18%	10%	21%	72%	86%
Undecided	7%	7%	3%	7%	10%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	48%	76%	76%	67%	23%	8%
Ron Paul	40%	20%	12%	22%	61%	81%
Undecided	11%	4%	12%	10%	16%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Perry						
Barack Obama	51%	78%	88%	71%	19%	8%
Rick Perry	41%	18%	10%	17%	68%	87%
Undecided	8%	3%	2%	12%	13%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	48%	77%	84%	67%	16%	11%
Mitt Romney	42%	18%	14%	21%	74%	76%
Undecided	10%	5%	2%	12%	10%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	48%	52%	43%
Disapprove	47%	44%	51%
Not sure	5%	4%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bachmann Favorability			
Favorable	28%	27%	29%
Unfavorable	53%	54%	53%
Not sure	18%	19%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	31%	26%	37%
Unfavorable	55%	57%	54%
Not sure	14%	18%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	21%	17%	27%
Unfavorable	57%	59%	55%
Not sure	21%	24%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Favorability			
Favorable	20%	18%	23%
Unfavorable	61%	58%	65%
Not sure	19%	24%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	33%	33%	33%
Unfavorable	52%	48%	56%
Not sure	15%	19%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Bachmann			
Barack Obama	52%	56%	46%
Michele Bachmann	39%	36%	43%
Undecided	9%	8%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	50%	54%	45%
Newt Gingrich	43%	40%	46%
Undecided	7%	5%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	48%	54%	41%
Ron Paul	40%	36%	46%
Undecided	11%	10%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Perry			
Barack Obama	51%	55%	45%
Rick Perry	41%	38%	44%
Undecided	8%	7%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	48%	51%	44%
Mitt Romney	42%	40%	45%
Undecided	10%	8%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	89%	8%	43%
Disapprove	47%	8%	87%	51%
Not sure	5%	3%	5%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	28%	18%	37%	30%
Unfavorable	53%	67%	40%	52%
Not sure	18%	15%	23%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	31%	8%	59%	27%
Unfavorable	55%	79%	27%	57%
Not sure	14%	12%	13%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	21%	17%	21%	27%
Unfavorable	57%	63%	56%	52%
Not sure	21%	21%	23%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	20%	7%	33%	22%
Unfavorable	61%	77%	45%	59%
Not sure	19%	15%	22%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	19%	44%	36%
Unfavorable	52%	66%	42%	47%
Not sure	15%	14%	14%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	52%	92%	9%	50%
Michele Bachmann	39%	6%	78%	38%
Undecided	9%	2%	13%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	92%	7%	48%
Newt Gingrich	43%	6%	85%	40%
Undecided	7%	2%	8%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	87%	10%	44%
Ron Paul	40%	8%	72%	44%
Undecided	11%	5%	18%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	51%	92%	10%	46%
Rick Perry	41%	6%	80%	40%
Undecided	8%	2%	11%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	48%	88%	8%	45%
Mitt Romney	42%	9%	79%	41%
Undecided	10%	3%	14%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	37%	87%	62%
Disapprove	47%	59%	11%	25%
Not sure	5%	4%	2%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	28%	30%	24%	19%
Unfavorable	53%	53%	52%	64%
Not sure	18%	17%	24%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	31%	36%	11%	28%
Unfavorable	55%	52%	71%	52%
Not sure	14%	12%	18%	21%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	21%	23%	16%	23%
Unfavorable	57%	58%	58%	51%
Not sure	21%	20%	26%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	20%	23%	10%	24%
Unfavorable	61%	59%	68%	59%
Not sure	19%	18%	23%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	38%	13%	35%
Unfavorable	52%	49%	67%	45%
Not sure	15%	13%	21%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	52%	41%	89%	67%
Michele Bachmann	39%	49%	10%	22%
Undecided	9%	10%	1%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	38%	89%	70%
Newt Gingrich	43%	55%	10%	14%
Undecided	7%	7%	1%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	48%	36%	88%	68%
Ron Paul	40%	51%	10%	15%
Undecided	11%	13%	1%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	51%	40%	87%	62%
Rick Perry	41%	50%	10%	28%
Undecided	8%	10%	3%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	48%	35%	87%	76%
Mitt Romney	42%	53%	10%	19%
Undecided	10%	12%	4%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	60%	46%	48%	42%
Disapprove	47%	30%	47%	50%	54%
Not sure	5%	10%	6%	2%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bachmann Favorability					
Favorable	28%	30%	21%	31%	33%
Unfavorable	53%	50%	60%	53%	47%
Not sure	18%	20%	19%	16%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	31%	20%	23%	37%	39%
Unfavorable	55%	57%	62%	51%	50%
Not sure	14%	23%	15%	12%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	21%	15%	21%	24%	22%
Unfavorable	57%	63%	60%	54%	55%
Not sure	21%	23%	19%	22%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	20%	23%	16%	20%	27%
Unfavorable	61%	50%	68%	61%	57%
Not sure	19%	28%	16%	19%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	33%	28%	27%	33%	45%
Unfavorable	52%	53%	61%	51%	39%
Not sure	15%	20%	12%	16%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Bachmann					
Barack Obama	52%	60%	55%	50%	44%
Michele Bachmann	39%	28%	38%	41%	46%
Undecided	9%	13%	6%	9%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	50%	57%	54%	48%	44%
Newt Gingrich	43%	35%	39%	45%	50%
Undecided	7%	8%	7%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	48%	57%	49%	46%	44%
Ron Paul	40%	28%	43%	42%	42%
Undecided	11%	15%	7%	12%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Perry					
Barack Obama	51%	57%	53%	50%	44%
Rick Perry	41%	33%	40%	41%	49%
Undecided	8%	10%	7%	9%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	48%	55%	52%	47%	40%
Mitt Romney	42%	33%	38%	43%	54%
Undecided	10%	13%	11%	10%	6%

