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**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Obama trails all Republicans in WV, but Palin barely**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – With Joe Manchin resorting to shooting the cap-and-trade bill in his infamous campaign ad last fall, it will probably come as no shock that President Obama is not the most popular person in West Virginia, despite its Democratic leanings. The state still gives him one of his worst approval ratings anywhere in the country, even with a less conservative electorate than November 2010's. But except against Mike Huckabee, who is quite popular here, the president does no worse against his prospective 2012 GOP opponents than he did against John McCain in 2008, when he lost by 13 points. Indeed, the Mountain State joins the list with Texas and others of foregone red states that suddenly and shockingly become competitive with a Sarah Palin nomination.

Huckabee leads the president by a whopping 54-36 margin. Mitt Romney holds a 50-37 advantage, and Newt Gingrich a 49-39 edge. But Palin tops Obama only 46-42.

The Republicans dominate here because they are taking more Democratic voters from Obama than he is Republicans from them by anywhere from 2:1 (Palin) to 5:1 (Huckabee) margins. In a state with a 57-32 Democratic registration advantage, that level of crossover support is necessary, along with their 23-point (Palin) to 41-point (Huckabee and Romney) leads with the small group of independents. Obama runs stronger with Democrats, Republicans, and independents against Palin than versus the others, and he holds her to only 75% of the GOP, when the others take 81-86% of their party.

The president still has only a 34-58 approval rating here, with only Wyoming, Kentucky, and Louisiana viewing him worse of the 39 states in which PPP has measured him since early 2010. With a 48-27 favorability rating, Huckabee is by far the best liked of the five, mostly because almost as many Democrats (31%) like him as dislike him (37%). Romney posts a 34-37. Even Palin is not close to as disliked as she is in most states, with a 41-47. While Palin usually brings up the rear, Gingrich does here, at 33-43.

“Democrats may return to their former winning ways at the Presidential level in West Virginia some day,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But it’s not likely to happen while Barack Obama is in the picture.”

PPP surveyed 1,105 West Virginia voters from January 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-2.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



## West Virginia Survey Results

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

*Approve*..... 34% *Not sure* ..... 8%  
*Disapprove*..... 58%

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

*Favorable*..... 33%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 43%  
*Not sure* ..... 24%

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

*Favorable*..... 48% *Not sure* ..... 25%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 27%

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

*Favorable*..... 41%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 47%  
*Not sure* ..... 12%

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

*Favorable*..... 34%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 37%  
*Not sure* ..... 30%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 39%  
*Newt Gingrich*..... 49%  
*Undecided*..... 12%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 36%  
*Mike Huckabee* ..... 54%  
*Undecided*..... 10%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 42%  
*Sarah Palin* ..... 46%  
*Undecided*..... 12%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 37%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 50%  
*Undecided*..... 13%

**Q10** Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

*Liberal*..... 15%  
*Moderate*..... 40%  
*Conservative*..... 45%

**Q11** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 52%  
*Man*..... 48%

**Q12** 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*..... 57%  
*Republican*..... 32%  
*Independent/Other*..... 10%





**Q13** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

*White* ..... 95%  
*Other*..... 5%

**Q14** 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*..... 8%  
*30 to 45*..... 22%  
*46 to 65*..... 47%  
*Older than 65*..... 23%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	34%	73%	45%	10%
<b>Disapprove</b>	58%	19%	43%	84%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	7%	12%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	10%	18%	53%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	43%	75%	57%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	15%	25%	26%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	48%	23%	37%	66%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	53%	32%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	25%	25%	30%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	41%	16%	27%	62%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	47%	78%	61%	23%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	6%	12%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	34%	15%	26%	47%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	37%	61%	41%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	23%	33%	29%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	39%	80%	54%	13%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	49%	13%	33%	75%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	6%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	36%	79%	48%	11%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	54%	17%	39%	81%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	4%	13%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	42%	81%	60%	14%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	46%	11%	30%	71%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	8%	10%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	37%	80%	49%	11%
Mitt Romney	50%	11%	35%	76%
Undecided	13%	8%	16%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
Approve	34%	38%	30%
Disapprove	58%	53%	63%
Not sure	8%	9%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
Favorable	33%	27%	39%
Unfavorable	43%	45%	42%
Not sure	24%	28%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
Favorable	48%	44%	53%
Unfavorable	27%	25%	29%
Not sure	25%	32%	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	41%	37%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	47%	51%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	13%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	34%	28%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	37%	35%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	36%	22%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	39%	42%	36%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	49%	43%	54%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	14%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	36%	40%	32%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	54%	49%	60%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	11%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Palin</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>42%</b>	47%	38%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>46%</b>	39%	52%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>12%</b>	14%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>37%</b>	40%	33%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>50%</b>	43%	57%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>13%</b>	17%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>34%</b>	50%	9%	22%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>58%</b>	40%	86%	68%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>8%</b>	10%	5%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>33%</b>	16%	59%	42%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>43%</b>	58%	21%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>24%</b>	25%	21%	27%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	48%	31%	74%	57%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	37%	10%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	25%	31%	16%	23%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	41%	25%	66%	51%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	47%	64%	21%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	11%	13%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	34%	22%	55%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	37%	45%	19%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	33%	25%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	39%	59%	10%	25%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	49%	29%	81%	56%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	12%	9%	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
Barack Obama	36%	56%	7%	20%
Mike Huckabee	54%	35%	86%	61%
Undecided	10%	9%	7%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
Barack Obama	42%	62%	12%	30%
Sarah Palin	46%	27%	75%	53%
Undecided	12%	11%	13%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	37%	56%	8%	20%
Mitt Romney	50%	30%	81%	61%
Undecided	13%	14%	11%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
Approve	34%	34%	36%
Disapprove	58%	58%	49%
Not sure	8%	8%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	32%	37%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	43%	44%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	24%	25%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	48%	48%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	27%	27%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	25%	25%	34%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	41%	41%	45%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	47%	47%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	12%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	34%	34%	23%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	37%	36%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	30%	29%	36%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	39%	39%	40%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	49%	49%	48%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	36%	36%	35%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	54%	55%	50%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	9%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	42%	43%	38%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	46%	46%	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	12%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	37%	37%	40%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	50%	50%	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	13%	13%	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>34%</b>	33%	30%	33%	40%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>58%</b>	54%	63%	59%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>8%</b>	13%	7%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>33%</b>	27%	32%	34%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>43%</b>	54%	38%	42%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>24%</b>	19%	30%	24%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>48%</b>	36%	52%	50%	44%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>27%</b>	43%	24%	25%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>25%</b>	21%	24%	25%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Palin Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>41%</b>	27%	51%	42%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>47%</b>	63%	37%	45%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>12%</b>	10%	11%	13%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>34%</b>	21%	28%	35%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	52%	43%	36%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>30%</b>	27%	28%	29%	33%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>39%</b>	38%	35%	39%	45%
<b>New t Gingrich</b>	<b>49%</b>	46%	56%	49%	42%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>12%</b>	17%	9%	12%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>36%</b>	35%	28%	36%	44%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>54%</b>	58%	63%	54%	46%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	6%	8%	11%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Palin</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>42%</b>	48%	35%	41%	50%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>46%</b>	35%	54%	48%	37%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>12%</b>	17%	11%	11%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>37%</b>	42%	32%	36%	43%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>50%</b>	40%	59%	50%	44%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>13%</b>	19%	10%	14%	14%

