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Obama approval down in CO, but still leads Republicans

Raleigh, N.C. – President Obama’s approval rating in Colorado has plummeted since PPP last surveyed the state in February. 46% of Coloradans approve of the president’s job performance, and 50% disapprove, about where he stands nationally. But that is down from 51-45 in the previous survey, with independents moving from 54-42 to 38-56. Despite this, Obama has maintained his advantage over Republican frontrunner Mitt Romney and the other competitors.

While the president has gotten less popular, so has Romney, and by a similar amount. Six months ago, voters were split on Romney personally, 40% favorable and 40% unfavorable. That has now slipped to 30-51. Thus, Obama’s advantage over Romney has not faltered. He led 47-41 half a year ago, and 48-41 now.

By net favorability margin, Herman Cain is the best-liked GOP contender, at 20-30, but half of voters still have no opinion on the dark horse. Almost-official-candidate Rick Perry is at 24-38, then Romney, then Michele Bachmann at 28-50, and finally Sarah Palin at 33-60.

Since, as almost everywhere, the president is still more popular than any of the Republicans, he leads the rest of the slate by even larger margins than he does Romney. Obama tops Bachmann, 51-39; Perry, 51-38; Cain, 51-35; and Palin, 54-38. Despite falling with independents, the president still leads by two to 19 points with them, because they like all the Republicans even less. All of these candidates except Romney perform worse than John McCain did in a similar turnout environment to 2008. Poll respondents report having voted for Obama by nine points, his actual victory margin.

“Colorado and Virginia are two states where President Obama seems to be holding his ground right now,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “They may be the ones that get him to 270 electoral votes next year.”

PPP surveyed 510 Colorado voters from August 4th to 7th. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 4.3%. 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.