

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2010

INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

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

Obama leads 2012 Opponents

Raleigh, N.C. – Barack Obama leads his top potential Republican opponents in hypothetical contests this month, after trailing one of them for the first time in January.

Obama's up 45-43 on Mitt Romney, 46-43 on Mike Huckabee, 50-43 on Sarah Palin, and 46-28 on John Thune.

This is Romney's first time with exclusive status as polling closest to Obama. He does the best of the Republican contenders with independents, leading 43-38. At a 37/28 spread he also has the best favorability numbers out of the GOP field. Only 22% of voters think he's too conservative, less than the 24% who attach that label to Huckabee and the 34% who give it to Palin.

Huckabee led Obama a month ago but now for the first time is not the most competitive of the Republican candidates with Obama. 35% of voters have a favorable opinion to 26% who view him negatively. At 16% favorability with Democrats he has the most crossover popularity of any of the GOP hopefuls.

Sarah Palin continues to fare poorest among the top tier of Republican possibles. 49% of voters view her unfavorably to only 39% with a positive opinion. Beyond that 59% think she's not qualified to be President with just 30% expressing the sentiment that she is.

John Thune is unknown at this point, with only 16% of voters offering an opinion of him.

"For all the trouble Barack Obama's had lately voters still prefer him to any of the top Republican contenders for 2012," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 743 registered voters from February 13th to 15th. The margin of error is +/-3.6%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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National Survey Results

Q1 Do you approve or disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve..... 48% *Not Sure*..... 6%
Disapprove..... 47%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable.....35% *Not Sure*.....39%
Unfavorable26%

Q3 Do you think Mike Huckabee is too conservative, too liberal, or about right, or are you not sure? If too conservative, press 1. If too liberal, press 2. If about right, press 3. If you're not sure, press 4.

Too Conservative..... 24%
Too Liberal..... 8%
About Right..... 37%
Not Sure..... 31%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 39%
Unfavorable 49%
Not Sure..... 13%

Q5 Do you think Sarah Palin is too conservative, too liberal, or about right, or are you not sure? If too conservative, press 1. If too liberal, press 2. If about right, press 3. If you're not sure, press 4.

Too Conservative..... 34%
Too Liberal..... 10%
About Right..... 39%
Not Sure..... 17%

Q6 Do you think Sarah Palin is or is not qualified to serve as President? If qualified, press 1. If not qualified, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Qualified..... 30%
Not Qualified 59%
Not Sure..... 11%

Q7 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of John Thune? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 5%
Unfavorable 11%
Not Sure..... 84%

Q8 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 28%
Not Sure..... 35%





Q9 Do you think Mitt Romney is too conservative, too liberal, or about right, or are you not sure? If too conservative, press 1. If too liberal, press 2. If about right, press 3. If you're not sure, press 4.

Too Conservative..... 22%
Too Liberal..... 8%
About Right..... 43%
Not Sure..... 27%

Q10 If the candidates for President next time were Mike Huckabee and Barack Obama, who would you vote for? If Mike Huckabee, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Huckabee..... 43%
Obama..... 46%
Not Sure..... 11%

Q11 If the candidates for President next time were Sarah Palin and Barack Obama, who would you vote for? If Sarah Palin, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Palin..... 43%
Obama..... 50%
Not Sure..... 7%

Q12 If the candidates for President in 2012 were John Thune and Barack Obama, who would you vote for? If John Thune, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're undecided, press 3.

Thune 28%
Obama..... 46%
Undecided..... 26%

Q13 If the candidates for President next time were Mitt Romney and Barack Obama, who would you vote for? If Mitt Romney, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Romney 43%
Obama..... 45%
Not Sure..... 12%

Q14 Who did you vote for President last year? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

McCain..... 46%
Obama..... 51%
Someone else/don't remember..... 3%

Q15 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 16%
Moderate..... 48%
Conservative..... 35%

Q16 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q17 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 40%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 26%

Q18 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2. If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

Hispanic..... 10%
White 74%
African American 12%
Other..... 4%





Q19 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	11%
<i>30 to 45</i>	23%
<i>46 to 65</i>	47%
<i>Older than 65</i>	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	7%	86%	42%
Disapprove	47%	91%	9%	27%
Not Sure	5%	2%	5%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	36%	62%	12%	36%
Unfavorable	26%	11%	39%	24%
Not Sure	38%	27%	48%	39%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Huckabee Ideology				
Too Conservative	24%	7%	41%	17%
Too Liberal	8%	9%	6%	15%
About Right	37%	58%	19%	45%
Not Sure	31%	27%	35%	24%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	39%	74%	7%	39%
Unfavorable	50%	14%	83%	31%
Not Sure	12%	12%	10%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Palin Ideology				
Too Conservative	34%	8%	59%	27%
Too Liberal	11%	4%	16%	18%
About Right	39%	74%	8%	27%
Not Sure	16%	14%	16%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Palin Qualified				
Qualified	30%	53%	8%	39%
Not Qualified	59%	28%	88%	55%
Not Sure	11%	19%	4%	6%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Thune Favorability				
Favorable	6%	8%	4%	4%
Unfavorable	11%	3%	18%	4%
Not Sure	84%	89%	78%	92%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	38%	57%	23%	7%
Unfavorable	28%	12%	43%	21%
Not Sure	34%	31%	34%	72%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Romney Ideology				
Too Conservative	22%	4%	39%	10%
Too Liberal	8%	9%	6%	22%
About Right	42%	61%	27%	27%
Not Sure	27%	26%	28%	42%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Huckabee/Obama				
Huckabee	44%	86%	5%	38%
Obama	47%	5%	85%	49%
Not Sure	10%	9%	10%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Palin	43%	84%	7%	35%
Obama	50%	8%	89%	52%
Not Sure	6%	9%	4%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Obama/Thune				
Thune	29%	56%	4%	31%
Obama	47%	6%	83%	49%
Undecided	24%	38%	12%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone else/don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Romney	44%	83%	8%	35%
Obama	45%	6%	81%	45%
Not Sure	11%	11%	10%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	81%	59%	16%
Disapprove	47%	15%	34%	80%
Not Sure	6%	4%	7%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	35%	7%	28%	57%
Unfavorable	26%	45%	29%	13%
Not Sure	39%	47%	43%	29%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Ideology				
Too Conservative	24%	48%	28%	7%
Too Liberal	8%	5%	8%	9%
About Right	37%	20%	30%	54%
Not Sure	31%	27%	34%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	39%	18%	23%	69%
Unfavorable	49%	74%	63%	18%
Not Sure	13%	9%	13%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Ideology				
Too Conservative	34%	69%	41%	7%
Too Liberal	10%	2%	14%	9%
About Right	39%	15%	24%	71%
Not Sure	17%	13%	21%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Qualified				
Qualified	30%	16%	18%	52%
Not Qualified	59%	79%	73%	31%
Not Sure	11%	5%	9%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Thune Favorability				
Favorable	5%	4%	4%	8%
Unfavorable	11%	18%	13%	4%
Not Sure	84%	78%	84%	88%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	9%	37%	51%
Unfavorable	28%	53%	29%	15%
Not Sure	35%	38%	34%	34%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Ideology				
Too Conservative	22%	53%	24%	4%
Too Liberal	8%	7%	7%	11%
About Right	43%	17%	41%	57%
Not Sure	27%	23%	28%	28%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee/Obama				
Huckabee	43%	11%	30%	76%
Obama	46%	86%	57%	13%
Not Sure	11%	3%	13%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Palin	43%	16%	27%	76%
Obama	50%	83%	63%	18%
Not Sure	7%	1%	10%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Thune				
Thune	28%	11%	18%	50%
Obama	46%	82%	56%	16%
Undecided	26%	7%	26%	34%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Romney	43%	10%	31%	76%
Obama	45%	84%	54%	14%
Not Sure	12%	6%	15%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	48%	48%	47%
Disapprove	47%	47%	47%
Not Sure	6%	5%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	35%	35%	35%
Unfavorable	26%	22%	30%
Not Sure	39%	43%	34%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Ideology			
Too Conservative	24%	21%	27%
Too Liberal	8%	5%	11%
About Right	37%	38%	36%
Not Sure	31%	36%	26%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	39%	38%	39%
Unfavorable	49%	50%	48%
Not Sure	13%	12%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Ideology			
Too Conservative	34%	33%	34%
Too Liberal	10%	11%	10%
About Right	39%	37%	41%
Not Sure	17%	19%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Qualified			
Qualified	30%	27%	32%
Not Qualified	59%	60%	58%
Not Sure	11%	13%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Thune Favorability			
Favorable	5%	4%	7%
Unfavorable	11%	6%	16%
Not Sure	84%	90%	78%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	37%	35%	40%
Unfavorable	28%	27%	29%
Not Sure	35%	38%	31%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Ideology			
Too Conservative	22%	20%	23%
Too Liberal	8%	4%	13%
About Right	43%	42%	43%
Not Sure	27%	34%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee/Obama			
Huckabee	43%	43%	44%
Obama	46%	46%	46%
Not Sure	11%	11%	10%





Crosstabs

		Base	Gender	
			Woman	Man
Obama/Palin				
	Palin	43%	41%	44%
	Obama	50%	50%	50%
	Not Sure	7%	8%	6%

		Base	Gender	
			Woman	Man
Obama/Thune				
	Thune	28%	27%	30%
	Obama	46%	45%	47%
	Undecided	26%	27%	24%

		Base	Gender	
			Woman	Man
Obama/Romney				
	Romney	43%	42%	45%
	Obama	45%	45%	45%
	Not Sure	12%	13%	10%

		Base	Party		
			Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval					
	Approve	48%	77%	12%	48%
	Disapprove	47%	15%	85%	47%
	Not Sure	6%	8%	3%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	35%	16%	56%	38%
Unfavorable	26%	40%	14%	20%
Not Sure	39%	44%	30%	42%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Ideology				
Too Conservative	24%	36%	11%	22%
Too Liberal	8%	7%	10%	6%
About Right	37%	21%	54%	39%
Not Sure	31%	36%	25%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	39%	13%	72%	33%
Unfavorable	49%	74%	17%	53%
Not Sure	13%	13%	11%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Ideology				
Too Conservative	34%	52%	12%	34%
Too Liberal	10%	16%	5%	9%
About Right	39%	12%	71%	39%
Not Sure	17%	20%	12%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Qualified				
Qualified	30%	12%	53%	28%
Not Qualified	59%	83%	30%	61%
Not Sure	11%	6%	18%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Thune Favorability				
Favorable	5%	3%	6%	7%
Unfavorable	11%	15%	4%	12%
Not Sure	84%	82%	89%	81%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	15%	58%	44%
Unfavorable	28%	44%	14%	22%
Not Sure	35%	41%	28%	34%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Ideology				
Too Conservative	22%	38%	7%	16%
Too Liberal	8%	8%	9%	8%
About Right	43%	23%	61%	50%
Not Sure	27%	31%	24%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee/Obama				
Huckabee	43%	12%	81%	43%
Obama	46%	78%	11%	42%
Not Sure	11%	10%	8%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Palin	43%	15%	78%	39%
Obama	50%	81%	14%	49%
Not Sure	7%	4%	8%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Thune				
Thune	28%	11%	50%	27%
Obama	46%	78%	13%	41%
Undecided	26%	11%	37%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Romney	43%	13%	80%	43%
Obama	45%	78%	10%	38%
Not Sure	12%	9%	11%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	76%	37%	85%	54%
Disapprove	47%	14%	58%	12%	42%
Not Sure	6%	10%	5%	3%	4%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	35%	33%	39%	15%	28%
Unfavorable	26%	19%	26%	35%	21%
Not Sure	39%	48%	35%	50%	51%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Huckabee Ideology					
Too Conservative	24%	33%	22%	24%	30%
Too Liberal	8%	14%	7%	9%	2%
About Right	37%	24%	43%	15%	30%
Not Sure	31%	29%	28%	52%	38%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	39%	24%	46%	6%	37%
Unfavorable	49%	48%	43%	85%	54%
Not Sure	13%	29%	11%	9%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Palin Ideology					
Too Conservative	34%	38%	31%	44%	38%
Too Liberal	10%	24%	6%	26%	10%
About Right	39%	14%	48%	9%	31%
Not Sure	17%	24%	15%	21%	21%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Palin Qualified					
Qualified	30%	24%	34%	9%	27%
Not Qualified	59%	71%	53%	85%	65%
Not Sure	11%	5%	13%	6%	8%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Thune Favorability					
Favorable	5%	15%	5%	-	6%
Unfavorable	11%	30%	7%	15%	15%
Not Sure	84%	55%	88%	85%	79%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	37%	29%	41%	24%	27%
Unfavorable	28%	29%	26%	35%	35%
Not Sure	35%	43%	32%	41%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Romney Ideology					
Too Conservative	22%	30%	19%	29%	21%
Too Liberal	8%	20%	7%	6%	11%
About Right	43%	40%	45%	38%	26%
Not Sure	27%	10%	29%	26%	43%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Huckabee/Obama					
Huckabee	43%	14%	53%	12%	35%
Obama	46%	71%	36%	82%	50%
Not Sure	11%	14%	11%	6%	15%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama/Palin					
Palin	43%	19%	51%	12%	40%
Obama	50%	76%	41%	85%	54%
Not Sure	7%	5%	8%	3%	6%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama/Thune					
Thune	28%	10%	34%	9%	25%
Obama	46%	76%	36%	79%	54%
Undecided	26%	14%	30%	12%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Obama/Romney					
Romney	43%	14%	53%	15%	33%
Obama	45%	76%	33%	82%	54%
Not Sure	12%	10%	14%	3%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	64%	33%	50%	51%
Disapprove	47%	33%	62%	45%	43%
Not Sure	6%	4%	5%	6%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	35%	20%	35%	35%	43%
Unfavorable	26%	28%	28%	25%	25%
Not Sure	39%	52%	37%	39%	33%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Ideology					
Too Conservative	24%	31%	21%	24%	22%
Too Liberal	8%	14%	5%	8%	6%
About Right	37%	18%	37%	39%	44%
Not Sure	31%	37%	37%	28%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	39%	32%	49%	35%	38%
Unfavorable	49%	54%	40%	53%	48%
Not Sure	13%	14%	12%	12%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Ideology					
Too Conservative	34%	40%	30%	35%	32%
Too Liberal	10%	15%	6%	12%	9%
About Right	39%	32%	48%	35%	42%
Not Sure	17%	14%	17%	18%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Qualified					
Qualified	30%	34%	35%	28%	25%
Not Qualified	59%	57%	50%	62%	65%
Not Sure	11%	9%	15%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Thune Favorability					
Favorable	5%	11%	4%	5%	5%
Unfavorable	11%	17%	8%	12%	7%
Not Sure	84%	72%	88%	84%	88%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	37%	28%	37%	39%	38%
Unfavorable	28%	29%	26%	29%	28%
Not Sure	35%	43%	37%	32%	35%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Ideology					
Too Conservative	22%	31%	16%	23%	20%
Too Liberal	8%	10%	8%	8%	7%
About Right	43%	37%	45%	40%	49%
Not Sure	27%	21%	30%	29%	24%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee/Obama					
Huckabee	43%	21%	58%	42%	43%
Obama	46%	65%	30%	48%	49%
Not Sure	11%	14%	11%	10%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Palin	43%	29%	59%	40%	37%
Obama	50%	68%	38%	51%	53%
Not Sure	7%	3%	3%	9%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Thune					
Thune	28%	19%	42%	27%	22%
Obama	46%	64%	31%	48%	49%
Undecided	26%	18%	28%	25%	29%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Romney	43%	24%	55%	42%	43%
Obama	45%	65%	32%	46%	46%
Not Sure	12%	12%	13%	12%	11%

