



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Obama narrowly leads all Republicans in Ohio

Raleigh, N.C. – The good news for President Obama: after giving him a four-point margin over John McCain in 2008, Ohio has voted for the ultimate winner of the presidential election every year since 1964, and he now leads all four of the nominal GOP frontrunners in 2012. The bad news: all four leads are within the margin of error, and two of the candidates come closer to beating him than McCain did.

Obama tops Mike Huckabee, 45-44, and Mitt Romney, 44-42. As in most other states in which PPP has polled the race so far, he pulls out to larger leads against Newt Gingrich (47-41) and Sarah Palin (49-42). The secret to Huckabee's and Romney's success is that they lock up Republicans just as much as Obama does Democrats, they have small leads with independents, and they take slightly more Democrats than Obama does Republicans. Against the other two, however, the President reverses those trends, holding Palin and Gingrich to under 80% of their party's vote, and earning small leads with independents.

Ohio is one state where Palin is not the least popular of the Republicans. Her 37-52 favorability margin tops Gingrich's 30-51 because she is, for once, more popular with independents and, as is often the case, with Republicans. Huckabee is by far the most popular, with a 41-36 overall mark. He is the only of the four who is more popular with the GOP than unpopular with the opposite party. Huckabee's 47-31 with independents is far-and-away the best, with Romney's 38-36 making him the only other one with a positive margin with that group. He stands at 36-39 overall.

Obama's job approval rating stands at 42%, with 49% disapproving, still pretty weak in an electorate of registered voters instead of likely voters. He stands at only 71-15 with his own party, but the extreme disfavor Democrats have towards the Republicans means they come home when it comes time to vote. 87% of Republicans and 54% of independents disapprove of his job performance.

“Barack Obama has miserable approval numbers in Ohio yet still leads all of the Republicans,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “That speaks to the remarkable weakness of the GOP candidate field. They may need a fresh face to win in 2012.”

PPP surveyed 510 Ohio voters from December 10th to 12th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.3%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





Ohio Survey Results

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

Approve 42%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 8%

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

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 18%

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

Favorable..... 41%
Unfavorable 36%
Not sure 23%

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

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 52%
Not sure 10%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 39%
Not sure 25%

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

Barack Obama..... 47%
Newt Gingrich..... 41%
Undecided..... 12%

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

Barack Obama..... 45%
Mike Huckabee..... 44%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 49%
Sarah Palin..... 42%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 44%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Undecided..... 14%

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

Liberal..... 18%
Moderate..... 42%
Conservative..... 40%

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

Woman 51%
Man..... 49%

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..... 44%
Republican..... 39%
Independent/Other..... 18%



Q13 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	84%
<i>African-American</i>	12%
<i>Other</i>	4%

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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	6%
<i>30 to 45</i>	26%
<i>46 to 65</i>	47%
<i>Older than 65</i>	21%

Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	67%	63%	10%
Disapprove	49%	18%	29%	85%
Not sure	8%	15%	8%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	10%	15%	56%
Unfavorable	51%	84%	65%	23%
Not sure	18%	6%	20%	22%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	41%	16%	26%	69%
Unfavorable	36%	60%	44%	16%
Not sure	23%	24%	30%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	14%	21%	66%
Unfavorable	52%	81%	70%	20%
Not sure	10%	5%	9%	14%



Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	36%	18%	27%	53%
Unfavorable	39%	59%	47%	21%
Not sure	25%	23%	26%	26%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	84%	65%	12%
Newt Gingrich	41%	9%	22%	76%
Undecided	12%	7%	14%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	45%	84%	62%	10%
Mike Huckabee	44%	9%	24%	80%
Undecided	11%	7%	15%	10%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	49%	84%	67%	13%
Sarah Palin	42%	11%	23%	76%
Undecided	9%	5%	9%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	44%	83%	59%	9%
Mitt Romney	42%	9%	24%	76%
Undecided	14%	8%	17%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	42%	47%	38%
Disapprove	49%	44%	55%
Not sure	8%	9%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	30%	26%	35%
Unfavorable	51%	55%	48%
Not sure	18%	20%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	41%	39%	43%
Unfavorable	36%	36%	35%
Not sure	23%	25%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	37%	35%	40%
Unfavorable	52%	57%	48%
Not sure	10%	8%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	36%	33%	39%
Unfavorable	39%	38%	40%
Not sure	25%	30%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	47%	54%	39%
Newt Gingrich	41%	35%	47%
Undecided	12%	11%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	45%	52%	38%
Mike Huckabee	44%	38%	49%
Undecided	11%	10%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	49%	53%	44%
Sarah Palin	42%	37%	47%
Undecided	9%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	44%	51%	37%
Mitt Romney	42%	37%	47%
Undecided	14%	13%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	71%	11%	40%
Disapprove	49%	15%	87%	54%
Not sure	8%	14%	2%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	9%	57%	27%
Unfavorable	51%	76%	23%	52%
Not sure	18%	15%	20%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	41%	15%	69%	47%
Unfavorable	36%	52%	19%	31%
Not sure	23%	32%	13%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	12%	67%	37%
Unfavorable	52%	81%	21%	50%
Not sure	10%	7%	12%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	36%	17%	57%	38%
Unfavorable	39%	55%	22%	36%
Not sure	25%	28%	21%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	82%	10%	40%
Newt Gingrich	41%	9%	79%	38%
Undecided	12%	9%	11%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	45%	81%	7%	39%
Mike Huckabee	44%	11%	82%	42%
Undecided	11%	9%	11%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	49%	82%	12%	45%
Sarah Palin	42%	11%	77%	42%
Undecided	9%	7%	11%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	44%	80%	7%	34%
Mitt Romney	42%	10%	80%	40%
Undecided	14%	10%	14%	26%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	42%	36%	80%	67%
Disapprove	49%	56%	7%	33%
Not sure	8%	8%	13%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	30%	34%	7%	17%
Unfavorable	51%	48%	73%	61%
Not sure	18%	18%	20%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	41%	46%	7%	39%
Unfavorable	36%	34%	47%	39%
Not sure	23%	20%	47%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	41%	13%	28%
Unfavorable	52%	48%	80%	61%
Not sure	10%	11%	7%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	36%	39%	13%	28%
Unfavorable	39%	37%	47%	56%
Not sure	25%	24%	40%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	47%	41%	87%	61%
Newt Gingrich	41%	47%	7%	28%
Undecided	12%	13%	7%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	45%	38%	87%	67%
Mike Huckabee	44%	49%	7%	33%
Undecided	11%	13%	7%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	49%	43%	87%	56%
Sarah Palin	42%	47%	7%	44%
Undecided	9%	10%	7%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	44%	36%	87%	67%
Mitt Romney	42%	47%	7%	33%
Undecided	14%	16%	7%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	42%	37%	40%	43%	45%
Disapprove	49%	52%	53%	48%	47%
Not sure	8%	11%	8%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	30%	27%	30%	29%	35%
Unfavorable	51%	50%	50%	54%	47%
Not sure	18%	23%	19%	17%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	41%	47%	37%	42%	43%
Unfavorable	36%	28%	37%	38%	31%
Not sure	23%	25%	26%	20%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	37%	43%	37%	38%	35%
Unfavorable	52%	48%	49%	55%	51%
Not sure	10%	8%	14%	6%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	36%	29%	36%	36%	38%
Unfavorable	39%	34%	36%	40%	40%
Not sure	25%	36%	28%	24%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	47%	45%	43%	48%	50%
New t Gingrich	41%	32%	49%	40%	36%
Undecided	12%	22%	8%	12%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	45%	43%	42%	46%	47%
Mike Huckabee	44%	38%	48%	45%	38%
Undecided	11%	20%	11%	9%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	49%	48%	44%	51%	48%
Sarah Palin	42%	38%	47%	41%	39%
Undecided	9%	14%	9%	8%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	44%	37%	39%	46%	47%
Mitt Romney	42%	32%	50%	41%	37%
Undecided	14%	31%	11%	13%	16%

