



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2011

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## **Obama leads Palin, ties Romney and Gingrich in Missouri**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – In 2008, frequent bellwether state Missouri had the closest presidential race in the country. John McCain edged out Barack Obama by about 0.1% of the vote. In 2012, the Show-Me State should have another nail-biter. The president trails his strongest opponent by seven points, ties two others, and leads the weakest by five.

President Obama has increased his advantage over Sarah Palin since PPP last polled the state late last November, leading her 48-43, up from 46-43. He has improved even more against perhaps the strongest candidate nationally, Mitt Romney, now down only 44-43, versus 47-41 last time. And he is at essentially the same place versus Newt Gingrich, tied at 44% (45-44 deficit previously), and Mike Huckabee, down 49-43 (49-42).

Huckabee leads 49-35, Romney 45-33, and Gingrich 41-39 with independents, but Palin lags 43-40. Palin is the only candidate to lose more Republican voters to Obama than she takes Democrats from him. The president locks up 85-90% of his party's votes, while the Republicans, except Huckabee (89%), take only 80-85% of the GOP. Romney does worst with the GOP, pulling only 80% and leaving 16% undecided (11% for Gingrich, 10% for Palin, and only 5% for Huckabee). Only 2-7% of Democrats are undecided.

The president's job approval rating has remained unchanged in the state in the last few months, with 43% approving and 52% disapproving. Those are poor numbers compared to his national standing, but all except one of his potential opponents are in worse shape. Huckabee has a 45-35 favorability margin, still good, but down significantly from 51-29 in the previous poll. All the others are in negative territory, and all but Romney have worsened slightly, with Romney at 32-44, Palin at 37-56, and Gingrich at 31-50.

“Mike Huckabee is currently outperforming John McCain, but if President Obama faces anyone else, it'll be another down-to-the-wire finish in Missouri,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

New Senator Roy Blunt comes in with almost upside-down numbers from where his predecessor, Kit Bond, finished his term. 37% approve and 41% disapprove of Blunt's early performance, while Bond went out with a 45-36 spread.

PPP surveyed 612 Missouri voters from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





## Missouri Survey Results

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

*Approve* ..... 43%  
*Disapprove*..... 52%  
*Not sure* ..... 5%

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

*Favorable* ..... 31% *Not sure* ..... 18%  
*Unfavorable*..... 50%

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

*Favorable* ..... 45% *Not sure* ..... 20%  
*Unfavorable*..... 35%

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

*Favorable* ..... 37% *Not sure* ..... 7%  
*Unfavorable*..... 56%

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

*Favorable* ..... 32% *Not sure* ..... 24%  
*Unfavorable*..... 44%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 44%  
*Newt Gingrich*..... 44%  
*Undecided*..... 11%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 43%  
*Mike Huckabee*..... 49%  
*Undecided*..... 8%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 48%  
*Sarah Palin*..... 43%  
*Undecided*..... 9%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 43%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 44%  
*Undecided*..... 13%

**Q10** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Roy Blunt's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 37%  
*Disapprove*..... 41%  
*Not sure* ..... 21%

**Q11** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal*..... 8%  
*Somewhat liberal* ..... 16%  
*Moderate*..... 27%  
*Somewhat conservative*..... 27%  
*Very conservative* ..... 22%

**Q12** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q13** 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* ..... 38%  
*Republican*..... 37%  
*Independent/Other*..... 25%





**Q14** 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%

**Q15** 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> .....	10%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	27%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	42%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	21%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>						
<b>Approve</b>	43%	85%	85%	63%	18%	5%
<b>Disapprove</b>	52%	13%	13%	29%	75%	95%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	2%	2%	8%	7%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	13%	7%	19%	47%	52%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	50%	78%	81%	64%	30%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	9%	12%	18%	23%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	15%	12%	31%	65%	73%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	35%	69%	67%	44%	14%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	17%	22%	25%	21%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Palin Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	37%	9%	6%	19%	47%	79%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	56%	87%	92%	76%	40%	13%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	3%	2%	6%	13%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Romney Favorability</b>						
Favorable	32%	14%	12%	29%	46%	38%
Unfavorable	44%	68%	64%	47%	26%	39%
Not sure	24%	18%	24%	24%	27%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>						
Barack Obama	44%	80%	88%	65%	17%	8%
Newt Gingrich	44%	12%	10%	24%	65%	81%
Undecided	11%	8%	2%	12%	18%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>						
Barack Obama	43%	83%	85%	62%	17%	8%
Mike Huckabee	49%	10%	12%	28%	72%	87%
Undecided	8%	8%	3%	10%	11%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Palin</b>						
Barack Obama	48%	90%	90%	70%	22%	6%
Sarah Palin	43%	8%	9%	22%	59%	87%
Undecided	9%	2%	1%	8%	19%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Romney</b>						
Barack Obama	43%	85%	88%	61%	15%	7%
Mitt Romney	44%	9%	11%	25%	64%	80%
Undecided	13%	6%	1%	14%	21%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Blunt Approval</b>						
Approve	37%	9%	13%	20%	52%	68%
Disapprove	41%	79%	71%	57%	21%	12%
Not sure	21%	12%	16%	23%	26%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
Approve	43%	45%	41%
Disapprove	52%	49%	56%
Not sure	5%	6%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
Favorable	31%	31%	32%
Unfavorable	50%	47%	54%
Not sure	18%	22%	15%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>45%</b>	44%	46%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	33%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	23%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	38%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>56%</b>	56%	56%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	7%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32%</b>	31%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	39%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>24%</b>	29%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>44%</b>	46%	42%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<b>44%</b>	42%	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	12%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>			
Barack Obama	43%	45%	41%
Mike Huckabee	49%	48%	51%
Undecided	8%	7%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Palin</b>			
Barack Obama	48%	50%	45%
Sarah Palin	43%	42%	44%
Undecided	9%	7%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
Barack Obama	43%	45%	40%
Mitt Romney	44%	41%	47%
Undecided	13%	14%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Blunt Approval</b>			
Approve	37%	36%	39%
Disapprove	41%	42%	40%
Not sure	21%	22%	20%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	43%	85%	5%	38%
<b>Disapprove</b>	52%	11%	93%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	4%	2%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	11%	55%	28%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	50%	72%	26%	55%
<b>Not sure</b>	18%	18%	20%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	45%	13%	72%	54%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	35%	59%	14%	30%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	27%	14%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	37%	9%	67%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	56%	86%	23%	59%
<b>Not sure</b>	7%	5%	10%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	32%	16%	46%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	44%	60%	29%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	24%	25%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	44%	87%	4%	39%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	44%	7%	85%	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	7%	11%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	43%	85%	6%	35%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	49%	10%	89%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	5%	5%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	90%	8%	43%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	43%	7%	82%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	2%	10%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	43%	87%	4%	33%
Mitt Romney	44%	8%	80%	45%
Undecided	13%	5%	16%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Blunt Approval</b>				
Approve	37%	10%	66%	35%
Disapprove	41%	73%	12%	37%
Not sure	21%	17%	21%	28%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
Approve	43%	37%	80%	61%
Disapprove	52%	58%	17%	36%
Not sure	5%	5%	2%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
Favorable	31%	34%	15%	19%
Unfavorable	50%	48%	66%	59%
Not sure	18%	18%	20%	22%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>45%</b>	49%	22%	30%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	32%	49%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	19%	29%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	41%	12%	14%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>56%</b>	51%	80%	78%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	7%	7%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32%</b>	33%	27%	24%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	43%	49%	59%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>24%</b>	25%	24%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>44%</b>	38%	85%	59%
<b>New t Gingrich</b>	<b>44%</b>	50%	12%	24%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	12%	2%	16%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
Barack Obama	43%	37%	80%	59%
Mike Huckabee	49%	55%	17%	24%
Undecided	8%	8%	2%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	42%	85%	68%
Sarah Palin	43%	49%	12%	24%
Undecided	9%	10%	2%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	43%	36%	85%	54%
Mitt Romney	44%	49%	12%	27%
Undecided	13%	14%	2%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Blunt Approval</b>				
Approve	37%	40%	20%	30%
Disapprove	41%	37%	63%	59%
Not sure	21%	22%	17%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>43%</b>	56%	38%	44%	43%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>52%</b>	41%	55%	53%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>5%</b>	3%	6%	3%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>31%</b>	15%	31%	33%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>50%</b>	51%	50%	51%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>18%</b>	33%	19%	16%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>45%</b>	37%	45%	46%	48%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>35%</b>	32%	31%	38%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	32%	24%	16%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Palin Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>37%</b>	29%	35%	38%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>56%</b>	62%	56%	56%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>7%</b>	9%	9%	6%	8%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32%</b>	15%	33%	35%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>44%</b>	44%	44%	46%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>24%</b>	41%	23%	20%	26%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>44%</b>	51%	44%	45%	39%
<b>New t Gingrich</b>	<b>44%</b>	34%	48%	42%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	15%	7%	13%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>43%</b>	51%	40%	42%	45%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>49%</b>	35%	54%	49%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>8%</b>	14%	6%	8%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Palin</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>48%</b>	57%	44%	49%	46%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>43%</b>	32%	50%	42%	43%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>9%</b>	11%	6%	9%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>43%</b>	50%	41%	43%	43%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>44%</b>	29%	50%	42%	48%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>13%</b>	21%	10%	15%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Blunt Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	<b>37%</b>	26%	39%	36%	44%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>41%</b>	53%	39%	42%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>21%</b>	21%	22%	22%	18%

