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

Obama ties Romney, leads others by double digits in Nevada

Raleigh, N.C. – Mitt Romney’s argument for being the candidate who can best put President Obama on defense gets another boost with PPP’s results today from Nevada, which show that Romney is the only candidate with a single-digit deficit against Obama. Romney won the 2008 Republican caucus in Nevada, and has a strong base of support from native Mormons. He trails Obama by a single point in an early general-election match-up for 2012, while the other candidates lag by as much as 13 in a state Obama turned blue by 12 points just over two years ago.

The president just edges out Romney, 47-46. But he leads 51-41 against Mike Huckabee, 51-40 against Newt Gingrich, and 52-39 against Sarah Palin—similar to the 2008 results. The difference? Against the other three, Obama takes slightly more Republicans than they do Democrats, and holds significantly stronger numbers within his own party than they do with the GOP. He also beats them by a whopping 22 to 27 points with independents. But Romney turns that around, leading the president 52-41 with unaffiliated voters, matching his 78% base support, and taking 16% of Democrats to his 13% of Republicans.

Unlike in most states, where he suffers with the GOP base personally, Romney is best liked by his own party members in the Silver State, just narrowly ahead of Huckabee’s standing with them. Either Huckabee or Palin usually do best with Republicans. All four are liked by at least two-thirds of them here. The real difference comes with everyone else. Democrats strongly despise Palin and Gingrich, and Romney and Huckabee are still persona non grata, but much less disliked by the opposite party than the other two. Romney, at 58-28, is by far the best liked by independents; in fact, the other three are all disliked by 12-point (Huckabee) to 39-point (Gingrich) margins. The president has majority approval here, unlike in many swing states, with 50% approving and 46% disapproving. That is in stark contrast to his 41-56 margin with the more conservative electorate before last November’s election.

“The story in Nevada right now is pretty simple,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “If the Republicans nominate Mitt Romney it’s a toss up and if they don’t Obama wins the state easily again like he did in 2008.”

PPP surveyed 932 Nevada voters from January 3rd to 5th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Nevada Survey Results

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

Approve 50%
Disapprove..... 46%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 35%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 43%
Unfavorable 39%
Not sure 18%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 58%
Not sure 7%

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

Favorable..... 47%
Unfavorable 37%
Not sure 16%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Newt Gingrich..... 40%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Mike Huckabee 41%
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..... 52%
Sarah Palin 39%
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..... 47%
Mitt Romney..... 46%
Undecided..... 7%

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

Liberal..... 17%
Moderate..... 45%
Conservative..... 38%

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

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%

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..... 45%
Republican..... 39%
Independent/Other..... 16%





Q13 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2.
If African-American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i>	14%
<i>White</i>	71%
<i>African-American</i>	8%
<i>Other</i>	7%

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>	11%
<i>30 to 45</i>	25%
<i>46 to 65</i>	44%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	50%	88%	64%	16%
Disapprove	46%	12%	30%	79%
Not sure	5%	-	6%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	35%	6%	20%	64%
Unfavorable	51%	88%	65%	17%
Not sure	15%	6%	15%	18%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	43%	10%	35%	66%
Unfavorable	39%	71%	47%	17%
Not sure	18%	19%	18%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	36%	4%	17%	71%
Unfavorable	58%	95%	74%	23%
Not sure	7%	1%	9%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	47%	17%	42%	66%
Unfavorable	37%	65%	42%	18%
Not sure	16%	18%	16%	16%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	51%	88%	69%	14%
Newt Gingrich	40%	9%	23%	73%
Undecided	9%	3%	9%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	51%	86%	68%	17%
Mike Huckabee	41%	8%	24%	74%
Undecided	8%	6%	8%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	52%	86%	68%	19%
Sarah Palin	39%	9%	21%	72%
Undecided	9%	5%	11%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	84%	61%	14%
Mitt Romney	46%	8%	35%	76%
Undecided	7%	7%	5%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	50%	50%	49%
Disapprove	46%	42%	50%
Not sure	5%	8%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	35%	38%	31%
Unfavorable	51%	44%	58%
Not sure	15%	18%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	43%	42%	44%
Unfavorable	39%	39%	40%
Not sure	18%	20%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	36%	36%	36%
Unfavorable	58%	58%	57%
Not sure	7%	6%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	47%	49%	45%
Unfavorable	37%	30%	46%
Not sure	16%	22%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	51%	51%	51%
Newt Gingrich	40%	41%	38%
Undecided	9%	8%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	51%	53%	49%
Mike Huckabee	41%	40%	41%
Undecided	8%	6%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	52%	54%	50%
Sarah Palin	39%	39%	38%
Undecided	9%	7%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	47%	49%	44%
Mitt Romney	46%	45%	47%
Undecided	7%	5%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	50%	79%	13%	55%
Disapprove	46%	14%	84%	41%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	35%	10%	67%	26%
Unfavorable	51%	71%	21%	65%
Not sure	15%	19%	12%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	43%	24%	67%	38%
Unfavorable	39%	51%	21%	50%
Not sure	18%	25%	12%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	36%	12%	67%	28%
Unfavorable	58%	82%	27%	61%
Not sure	7%	6%	6%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	47%	22%	71%	58%
Unfavorable	37%	54%	20%	28%
Not sure	16%	24%	8%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	51%	81%	14%	56%
Newt Gingrich	40%	12%	76%	29%
Undecided	9%	7%	10%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	51%	82%	13%	58%
Mike Huckabee	41%	12%	77%	35%
Undecided	8%	6%	10%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	52%	80%	17%	57%
Sarah Palin	39%	12%	71%	35%
Undecided	9%	8%	12%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	47%	78%	13%	41%
Mitt Romney	46%	16%	78%	52%
Undecided	7%	6%	9%	7%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval					
Approve	50%	60%	43%	79%	63%
Disapprove	46%	35%	53%	12%	33%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%	9%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	35%	22%	41%	12%	21%
Unfavorable	51%	52%	45%	72%	77%
Not sure	15%	26%	14%	16%	2%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	43%	41%	48%	14%	33%
Unfavorable	39%	40%	36%	57%	50%
Not sure	18%	19%	16%	30%	17%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	36%	35%	40%	9%	26%
Unfavorable	58%	60%	54%	86%	52%
Not sure	7%	5%	6%	5%	22%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	47%	41%	52%	14%	44%
Unfavorable	37%	41%	35%	51%	37%
Not sure	16%	18%	13%	35%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	51%	64%	43%	86%	67%
Newt Gingrich	40%	28%	47%	12%	21%
Undecided	9%	8%	10%	2%	12%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	51%	59%	44%	86%	67%
Mike Huckabee	41%	33%	47%	12%	21%
Undecided	8%	8%	8%	2%	12%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	52%	64%	45%	86%	58%
Sarah Palin	39%	27%	45%	10%	30%
Undecided	9%	9%	10%	3%	12%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	64%	37%	86%	59%
Mitt Romney	46%	28%	54%	12%	41%
Undecided	7%	8%	9%	2%	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	50%	59%	56%	47%	43%
Disapprove	46%	29%	42%	48%	54%
Not sure	5%	12%	3%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	35%	24%	31%	38%	39%
Unfavorable	51%	29%	64%	51%	45%
Not sure	15%	47%	6%	12%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	43%	18%	42%	47%	49%
Unfavorable	39%	41%	47%	37%	32%
Not sure	18%	41%	11%	15%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	36%	35%	36%	33%	43%
Unfavorable	58%	53%	58%	62%	50%
Not sure	7%	12%	6%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	47%	18%	50%	52%	49%
Unfavorable	37%	41%	39%	36%	34%
Not sure	16%	41%	11%	12%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	51%	59%	61%	48%	39%
New t Gingrich	40%	35%	31%	42%	49%
Undecided	9%	6%	8%	10%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	51%	65%	58%	50%	39%
Mike Huckabee	41%	29%	36%	42%	50%
Undecided	8%	6%	6%	8%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	52%	53%	58%	52%	45%
Sarah Palin	39%	35%	31%	41%	46%
Undecided	9%	12%	11%	8%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	47%	53%	53%	46%	38%
Mitt Romney	46%	41%	42%	46%	54%
Undecided	7%	6%	6%	8%	8%

