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SD GOP wants Thune for pres., Palin if Thune declines

Raleigh, N.C. – Results PPP released Tuesday showed John Thune as the only candidate who would clearly blow President Obama out of the water in Thune’s home state of South Dakota, an eternally red state which could otherwise turn marginally competitive, especially if Sarah Palin is the nominee. Thune’s Republican base in the state wants to give him that nomination by a 3:1 margin over the next closest competitor, but if he chooses to stay out, the primary contest would be a four-way statistical tie.

In most states, Thune is almost unknown, and therefore gets almost no support against the heavy hitters. But in his hometown crowd, he earns 37% in an eight-way primary, with the usual four frontrunners bunched way back in second place, barely in double digits. Palin and Mitt Romney tie at 12% over Mike Huckabee’s 11%, Newt Gingrich’s 10%, Ron Paul’s 5%, Tim Pawlenty’s 2%, and Mitch Daniels’ 1%.

If Thune decides against jumping into the fray, a 28% plurality of his voters would be uncommitted, but Palin and Huckabee would benefit most, getting a respective 21% and 18% of Thune’s voters, followed by Romney’s 14%. In the smaller field, Palin would barely eke out a victory, with 21% to Huckabee’s 19%, Romney’s 17%, Gingrich’s 12%, Paul’s 7%, Pawlenty’s 5%, and Daniels’ 1%, with 19% undecided now, versus 10% with Thune among the options.

The supporters of the other candidates seem to be afraid of Thune. Overall, 54% of South Dakota Republicans think Thune should make a White House bid, while 26% do not. Bolstering that majority is almost unanimous support from those who pledge to vote for Thune. But except for those faithful to Palin and Paul, pluralities of the other candidates’ believers are against a Thune candidacy.

Thune also has a stronger home-state primary showing than Minnesota’s Pawlenty, South Carolina’s Jim DeMint, or Rick Perry. When PPP recently polled their states, Perry was a distant sixth in Texas, while Pawlenty and DeMint each won their respective primaries, but with barely more than the second-place finishers. Thune does nearly as well as Romney’s 47% in Massachusetts.

PPP surveyed 484 usual South Dakota Republican primary voters from January 28th to 30th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



South Dakota Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 51%
Unfavorable 23%
Not sure 25%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee?

Favorable..... 59%
Unfavorable 19%
Not sure 22%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 62%
Unfavorable 29%
Not sure 9%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 51%
Unfavorable 22%
Not sure 26%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator John Thune's job performance?

Approve 81%
Disapprove..... 11%
Not sure 7%

Q6 Do you want John Thune to run for President next year?

Yes..... 54% *Not sure* 20%
No 26%

Q7 If the Republican candidates for President next year were Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, and John Thune who would you vote for?

Mitch Daniels 1%
Newt Gingrich 10%
Mike Huckabee 11%
Sarah Palin 12%
Ron Paul..... 5%
Tim Pawlenty 2%
Mitt Romney..... 12%
John Thune..... 37%
Someone else/Undecided..... 10%

Q8 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were just Mitch Daniels, Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, and Mitt Romney who would you vote for?

Mitch Daniels 1%
Newt Gingrich 12%
Mike Huckabee 19%
Sarah Palin 21%
Ron Paul..... 7%
Tim Pawlenty 5%
Mitt Romney..... 17%
Someone else/Undecided..... 19%

Q9 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 4%
Moderate..... 27%
Conservative..... 69%





Q10 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 48%
Man..... 52%

Q11 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.

18 to 29..... 8%
30 to 45..... 27%
46 to 65..... 43%
Older than 65..... 21%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Gingrich Favorability										
Favorable	51%	100%	95%	53%	56%	30%	69%	55%	42%	30%
Unfavorable	23%	-	3%	19%	28%	26%	31%	29%	25%	28%
Not sure	26%	-	1%	28%	16%	44%	-	16%	33%	42%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Huckabee Favorability										
Favorable	58%	100%	66%	94%	45%	44%	68%	58%	57%	40%
Unfavorable	19%	-	17%	1%	32%	28%	27%	22%	15%	30%
Not sure	23%	-	18%	5%	23%	28%	6%	20%	28%	30%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Palin Favorability										
Favorable	61%	100%	68%	62%	94%	33%	60%	44%	62%	43%
Unfavorable	29%	-	26%	24%	6%	43%	40%	51%	26%	45%
Not sure	9%	-	6%	15%	-	24%	-	5%	12%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Romney Favorability										
Favorable	51%	77%	49%	51%	36%	34%	68%	95%	46%	40%
Unfavorable	22%	-	24%	24%	34%	32%	27%	2%	24%	20%
Not sure	27%	23%	28%	25%	30%	34%	6%	3%	30%	40%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Thune Approval										
Approve	82%	100%	78%	78%	80%	74%	80%	76%	92%	62%
Disapprove	11%	-	14%	14%	10%	18%	20%	15%	4%	20%
Not sure	7%	-	7%	8%	11%	7%	-	8%	3%	18%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
Want Thune to Run for Pres?										
Yes	54%	46%	39%	24%	46%	58%	28%	27%	87%	21%
No	26%	-	44%	44%	27%	28%	52%	45%	6%	31%
Not sure	21%	54%	17%	32%	26%	14%	20%	28%	7%	48%





Crosstabs

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune										
Mitch Daniels	1%	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newt Gingrich	10%	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mike Huckabee	11%	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sarah Palin	12%	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-	-
Ron Paul	5%	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-	-
Tim Pawlenty	2%	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-	-
Mitt Romney	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-	-
John Thune	37%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%	-
Someone else/Undecided	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%

	Base	2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune								
		Mitch Daniels	Newt Gingrich	Mike Huckabee	Sarah Palin	Ron Paul	Tim Pawlenty	Mitt Romney	John Thune	Someone else/Undecided
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Thune										
Mitch Daniels	1%	77%	-	-	3%	-	7%	-	0%	-
Newt Gingrich	12%	-	77%	2%	1%	4%	-	3%	8%	4%
Mike Huckabee	19%	-	10%	83%	-	8%	19%	4%	18%	9%
Sarah Palin	21%	23%	3%	5%	95%	-	-	-	21%	1%
Ron Paul	7%	-	-	1%	-	88%	7%	-	4%	4%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	-	2%	-	-	67%	7%	6%	2%
Mitt Romney	17%	-	4%	3%	-	-	-	84%	14%	4%
Someone else/Undecided	19%	-	6%	2%	-	-	-	3%	28%	76%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	31%	9%	16%	53%
Unfavorable	43%	70%	54%	24%
Not sure	26%	21%	30%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	40%	14%	29%	60%
Unfavorable	30%	54%	35%	19%
Not sure	29%	32%	37%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	14%	18%	63%
Unfavorable	55%	83%	73%	28%
Not sure	8%	4%	9%	9%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	35%	15%	28%	47%
Unfavorable	34%	58%	36%	24%
Not sure	32%	26%	36%	29%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Thune Approval				
Approve	58%	24%	46%	81%
Disapprove	31%	65%	40%	12%
Not sure	10%	11%	14%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Want Thune to Run for Pres?				
Yes	41%	24%	33%	54%
No	41%	60%	49%	26%
Not sure	18%	16%	17%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune				
Mitch Daniels	1%	-	-	1%
Newt Gingrich	10%	7%	4%	12%
Mike Huckabee	11%	10%	11%	11%
Sarah Palin	12%	12%	12%	12%
Ron Paul	5%	8%	5%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	2%	-	2%	3%
Mitt Romney	12%	9%	14%	11%
John Thune	37%	24%	41%	36%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	29%	10%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Thune				
Mitch Daniels	1%	-	1%	2%
New t Gingrich	12%	7%	8%	13%
Mike Huckabee	19%	11%	18%	20%
Sarah Palin	21%	26%	18%	21%
Ron Paul	7%	12%	6%	7%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	7%	5%
Mitt Romney	17%	8%	18%	17%
Someone else/Undecided	19%	36%	24%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	31%	22%	40%
Unfavorable	43%	44%	43%
Not sure	26%	34%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	40%	37%	44%
Unfavorable	30%	27%	34%
Not sure	29%	36%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	37%	30%	44%
Unfavorable	55%	59%	50%
Not sure	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	35%	31%	38%
Unfavorable	34%	30%	38%
Not sure	32%	39%	24%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Thune Approval			
Approve	58%	57%	59%
Disapprove	31%	29%	34%
Not sure	10%	13%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Want Thune to Run for Pres?			
Yes	41%	41%	41%
No	41%	37%	45%
Not sure	18%	22%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune			
Mitch Daniels	1%	-	1%
Newt Gingrich	10%	7%	12%
Mike Huckabee	11%	10%	12%
Sarah Palin	12%	9%	15%
Ron Paul	5%	4%	5%
Tim Pawlenty	2%	2%	3%
Mitt Romney	12%	12%	12%
John Thune	37%	42%	33%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	13%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Thune			
Mitch Daniels	1%	1%	1%
Newt Gingrich	12%	9%	15%
Mike Huckabee	19%	22%	16%
Sarah Palin	21%	17%	24%
Ron Paul	7%	4%	9%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	5%	5%
Mitt Romney	17%	15%	18%
Someone else/Undecided	19%	26%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	31%	18%	31%	31%	36%
Unfavorable	43%	40%	38%	47%	44%
Not sure	26%	42%	31%	23%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	40%	24%	38%	44%	43%
Unfavorable	30%	31%	30%	31%	29%
Not sure	29%	45%	32%	25%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	37%	29%	38%	38%	38%
Unfavorable	55%	60%	53%	56%	53%
Not sure	8%	11%	10%	7%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	35%	24%	33%	36%	38%
Unfavorable	34%	29%	34%	37%	30%
Not sure	32%	47%	33%	27%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Thune Approval					
Approve	58%	47%	61%	59%	59%
Disapprove	31%	33%	29%	32%	33%
Not sure	10%	20%	10%	9%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Want Thune to Run for Pres?					
Yes	41%	49%	47%	40%	31%
No	41%	36%	36%	42%	47%
Not sure	18%	15%	18%	18%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/ Thune					
Mitch Daniels	1%	-	-	0%	2%
Newt Gingrich	10%	10%	10%	8%	12%
Mike Huckabee	11%	5%	11%	11%	12%
Sarah Palin	12%	24%	9%	13%	10%
Ron Paul	5%	5%	5%	6%	3%
Tim Pawlenty	2%	-	2%	3%	3%
Mitt Romney	12%	14%	9%	12%	15%
John Thune	37%	38%	44%	37%	28%
Someone else/Undecided	10%	5%	11%	10%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Pres Primary w/o Thune					
Mitch Daniels	1%	5%	-	1%	1%
Newt Gingrich	12%	5%	14%	11%	13%
Mike Huckabee	19%	19%	18%	19%	20%
Sarah Palin	21%	33%	16%	24%	15%
Ron Paul	7%	-	10%	6%	6%
Tim Pawlenty	5%	-	8%	4%	6%
Mitt Romney	17%	19%	15%	18%	15%
Someone else/Undecided	19%	19%	19%	17%	24%

