

CONTACT: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Obama has strong leads over any Republican in Virginia

Raleigh, N.C. – When PPP first polled the presidential race in Virginia last November, shortly after President Obama’s self-described “shellacking,” he was at majority approval, and led each of his potential Republican opponents by solid margins. Now despite falling back to 48% approval, with 45% still disapproving, he has expanded his leads against all four Republican frontrunners to between eight and 19 points in a state he won by six in 2008.

Though he is less popular than Mike Huckabee personally, Mitt Romney now runs closest to the president, trailing 48-42, versus Huckabee’s 51-43 deficit. Further behind are Newt Gingrich, 51-39, and Sarah Palin, 54-35. In the previous poll, Huckabee and Romney both lagged by five, and the other two by 11 points.

John McCain became the first Republican to lose this state since Barry Goldwater’s landslide 1964 defeat to Lyndon Johnson, but even that does not approach the weakness of next year’s current crop of candidates. They are each losing 5-10% of McCain’s voters to Obama, while taking only 3-4% of his supporters away from him.

Despite independents disapproving of the president’s job performance by six points, Romney is the only candidate who wins this pretty sizeable group, 47-39, while the others trail by two (Huckabee), seven (Gingrich), or 16 (Palin). The president earns the support of at least as many voters as approve of his job performance in each matchup, and none of the Republicans can unify those who disapprove, despite being one of the best-known, most high-profile fields of White House contenders in a generation.

Huckabee is the most “popular” overall, with a 40-41 favorability rating, because he is by far the best liked with his own party, at 71% favorable to the others’ 52% (Romney) or 57% (Gingrich and Palin). Further, he is the only one better liked by GOP voters than disliked by Democrats (63%, versus 73% for Romney, 78% for Gingrich, and 89% for Palin). But Huckabee ultimately does little better job uniting his base against Obama (85%) than do Romney (81%) or Gingrich (80%).

“Virginia is just as strong for Barack Obama right now, if not stronger, than it was in 2008,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “That’s very good news for his reelection prospects because it’s hard to imagine him taking Virginia without winning overall”

PPP surveyed 524 Virginia voters from February 24th to 27th. The survey’s margin of error is +/-3.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Virginia Survey Results

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

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 45%
Not sure 7%

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

Favorable 29% *Not sure* 16%
Unfavorable..... 56%

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

Favorable 40% *Not sure* 19%
Unfavorable..... 41%

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

Favorable 30% *Not sure* 7%
Unfavorable..... 63%

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

Favorable 33% *Not sure* 18%
Unfavorable..... 48%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Newt Gingrich..... 39%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Mike Huckabee..... 43%
Undecided..... 6%

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

Barack Obama..... 54%
Sarah Palin..... 35%
Undecided..... 12%

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

Barack Obama..... 48%
Mitt Romney..... 42%
Undecided..... 10%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 44%
Barack Obama..... 50%
Someone else/Don't remember 6%

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

Very liberal..... 11%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 32%
Somewhat conservative..... 25%
Very conservative 16%

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

Woman 51%
Man..... 49%

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 39%
Republican..... 34%
Independent/Other..... 27%





Q14 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i>	76%
<i>African-American</i>	20%
<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>	9%
<i>30 to 45</i>	27%
<i>46 to 65</i>	41%
<i>Older than 65</i>	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	6%	88%	20%
Disapprove	45%	90%	5%	57%
Not sure	7%	4%	7%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	29%	52%	8%	24%
Unfavorable	56%	27%	80%	58%
Not sure	16%	21%	11%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	40%	68%	17%	35%
Unfavorable	41%	15%	62%	44%
Not sure	19%	17%	20%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	30%	58%	5%	34%
Unfavorable	63%	31%	93%	45%
Not sure	7%	10%	3%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	54%	15%	35%
Unfavorable	48%	25%	70%	33%
Not sure	18%	21%	15%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	51%	8%	92%	27%
Newt Gingrich	39%	80%	4%	40%
Undecided	10%	12%	4%	33%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	51%	7%	92%	19%
Mike Huckabee	43%	88%	4%	45%
Undecided	6%	5%	4%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	54%	10%	95%	25%
Sarah Palin	35%	70%	3%	41%
Undecided	12%	20%	2%	34%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	48%	5%	88%	16%
Mitt Romney	42%	86%	4%	39%
Undecided	10%	9%	7%	45%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	48%	90%	78%	64%	16%	8%
Disapprove	45%	7%	16%	25%	78%	89%
Not sure	7%	3%	7%	11%	6%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	29%	6%	11%	13%	45%	66%
Unfavorable	56%	85%	80%	71%	34%	16%
Not sure	16%	9%	9%	16%	21%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Favorability						
Favorable	40%	15%	20%	24%	61%	77%
Unfavorable	41%	74%	65%	50%	18%	11%
Not sure	19%	11%	15%	26%	21%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	30%	9%	12%	10%	53%	64%
Unfavorable	63%	88%	87%	84%	35%	26%
Not sure	7%	3%	1%	6%	12%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	33%	8%	19%	31%	44%	54%
Unfavorable	48%	78%	70%	50%	34%	25%
Not sure	18%	13%	12%	19%	22%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	51%	88%	83%	71%	18%	7%
New t Gingrich	39%	4%	9%	20%	69%	85%
Undecided	10%	8%	8%	9%	14%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Huckabee						
Barack Obama	51%	88%	85%	69%	17%	7%
Mike Huckabee	43%	5%	11%	23%	77%	88%
Undecided	6%	6%	5%	8%	7%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	54%	88%	86%	73%	22%	7%
Sarah Palin	35%	6%	8%	15%	61%	78%
Undecided	12%	6%	6%	12%	17%	15%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	48%	87%	79%	64%	16%	7%
Mitt Romney	42%	5%	9%	27%	71%	85%
Undecided	10%	8%	12%	10%	13%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	48%	52%	44%
Disapprove	45%	40%	50%
Not sure	7%	7%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	29%	26%	31%
Unfavorable	56%	57%	54%
Not sure	16%	17%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	40%	39%	42%
Unfavorable	41%	42%	39%
Not sure	19%	19%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	30%	25%	34%
Unfavorable	63%	67%	59%
Not sure	7%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	33%	28%	38%
Unfavorable	48%	50%	47%
Not sure	18%	22%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	51%	54%	48%
Newt Gingrich	39%	35%	44%
Undecided	10%	11%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	51%	53%	48%
Mike Huckabee	43%	39%	47%
Undecided	6%	7%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	54%	56%	51%
Sarah Palin	35%	29%	40%
Undecided	12%	14%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	48%	51%	44%
Mitt Romney	42%	37%	48%
Undecided	10%	12%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	87%	8%	42%
Disapprove	45%	7%	87%	48%
Not sure	7%	6%	5%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	29%	8%	57%	22%
Unfavorable	56%	78%	27%	60%
Not sure	16%	14%	17%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	40%	16%	71%	38%
Unfavorable	41%	63%	15%	40%
Not sure	19%	21%	14%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	30%	7%	57%	28%
Unfavorable	63%	89%	34%	62%
Not sure	7%	4%	9%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	11%	52%	42%
Unfavorable	48%	73%	26%	40%
Not sure	18%	15%	22%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	51%	91%	9%	45%
Newt Gingrich	39%	6%	80%	38%
Undecided	10%	3%	11%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	51%	91%	8%	46%
Mike Huckabee	43%	6%	85%	44%
Undecided	6%	3%	7%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	54%	92%	12%	50%
Sarah Palin	35%	4%	70%	34%
Undecided	12%	4%	18%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	48%	89%	6%	39%
Mitt Romney	42%	5%	81%	47%
Undecided	10%	6%	12%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	48%	37%	89%	54%
Disapprove	45%	56%	6%	32%
Not sure	7%	7%	6%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	29%	32%	17%	16%
Unfavorable	56%	52%	67%	68%
Not sure	16%	15%	17%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	40%	47%	17%	41%
Unfavorable	41%	36%	58%	41%
Not sure	19%	17%	25%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	30%	36%	8%	27%
Unfavorable	63%	56%	89%	65%
Not sure	7%	8%	3%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	33%	39%	11%	32%
Unfavorable	48%	41%	75%	43%
Not sure	18%	19%	14%	24%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	51%	41%	89%	59%
New t Gingrich	39%	50%	3%	22%
Undecided	10%	9%	8%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	51%	40%	92%	57%
Mike Huckabee	43%	54%	3%	32%
Undecided	6%	6%	6%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	54%	43%	92%	62%
Sarah Palin	35%	44%	3%	22%
Undecided	12%	13%	6%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	48%	37%	89%	49%
Mitt Romney	42%	53%	3%	30%
Undecided	10%	10%	8%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	48%	55%	49%	47%	45%
Disapprove	45%	35%	46%	50%	41%
Not sure	7%	9%	5%	3%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	29%	25%	25%	29%	34%
Unfavorable	56%	56%	60%	57%	47%
Not sure	16%	19%	15%	14%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	40%	37%	39%	42%	40%
Unfavorable	41%	39%	46%	42%	33%
Not sure	19%	24%	15%	16%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	30%	31%	26%	32%	31%
Unfavorable	63%	62%	70%	63%	56%
Not sure	7%	7%	4%	6%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	33%	22%	30%	37%	36%
Unfavorable	48%	55%	50%	49%	42%
Not sure	18%	24%	20%	14%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	51%	67%	51%	49%	48%
Newt Gingrich	39%	27%	36%	43%	42%
Undecided	10%	7%	13%	8%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	51%	63%	49%	51%	48%
Mike Huckabee	43%	33%	42%	44%	46%
Undecided	6%	4%	9%	6%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	54%	65%	51%	54%	51%
Sarah Palin	35%	30%	32%	36%	36%
Undecided	12%	5%	16%	10%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	48%	61%	49%	45%	44%
Mitt Romney	42%	30%	40%	42%	49%
Undecided	10%	8%	11%	12%	7%

