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OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

Obama safe in Washington

Raleigh, N.C. –Washington is turning increasingly bluer, having not voted for a Republican presidential nominee since 1984. George W. Bush lost it by five points in 2000 and seven points in 2004, and President Obama won the state by 17 over John McCain last time. Looking ahead to 2012, Obama looks just about as comfortable, regardless of his opponent. In PPP's latest poll, Obama leads Mitt Romney, 51-40; Newt Gingrich, 54-36; and Sarah Palin, 57-34. Washington gained an electoral vote after the most recent census, so another win here will offset electoral vote losses in other states Obama is likely to win again.

With a 52-43 job approval spread, the president has almost flipped his numbers from PPP's final poll before last fall's election, when he had a 42-53 margin. This 20-point improvement pegs him at his eighth best standing of the 43 states in which PPP has measured him since the beginning of last year.

But that net +9 job performance rating, narrower than any of his leads over the Republicans, suggests that, as in most places, it is not so much his strength as the Republicans' weakness that keeps him in good shape for winning the state's 12 electoral votes again. No more than a third like any of the remaining contenders tested, with Romney at a 34-47 favorability spread, Gingrich at 26-59, and Palin at 29-65.

Despite a slightly negative (44-47) mark with independents, the president at worst ties with them (42-42 against Romney) because all of the Republicans are also seen negatively by these voters. He leads Gingrich by 12 and Palin by 18, while locking up 93-95% of Democrats and earning 7-15% of Republican votes.

“Barack Obama would have to see a total collapse in his popularity nationally for Washington to be competitive next year,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “He’s headed for another double digit win there.”

PPP surveyed 1,098 Washington voters from May 12th to 15th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.0%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



Washington Survey Results

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

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

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

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 59%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 33%
Unfavorable 48%
Not sure 19%

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

Favorable..... 29%
Unfavorable 65%
Not sure 7%

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

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 19%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Donald Trump?

Favorable..... 16%
Unfavorable 75%
Not sure 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 54%
Newt Gingrich 36%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 53%
Mike Huckabee 39%
Undecided..... 8%

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

Barack Obama..... 57%
Sarah Palin 34%
Undecided..... 8%

Q10 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 51%
Mitt Romney..... 40%
Undecided..... 9%

Q11 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Donald Trump, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 58%
Donald Trump 31%
Undecided..... 11%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	39%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	53%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	8%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	11%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	22%
<i>Moderate</i>	30%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	21%
<i>Very conservative</i>	16%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	52%
<i>Man</i>	48%

Q15 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	39%
<i>Republican</i>	30%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	31%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

<i>White</i>	87%
<i>Other</i>	13%

Q17 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>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	46%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	52%	10%	88%	24%
Disapprove	43%	87%	7%	65%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	56%	5%	21%
Unfavorable	59%	24%	85%	53%
Not sure	15%	20%	10%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	33%	59%	13%	29%
Unfavorable	48%	23%	68%	37%
Not sure	19%	18%	19%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	29%	62%	4%	28%
Unfavorable	65%	28%	93%	53%
Not sure	7%	10%	3%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	50%	22%	33%
Unfavorable	47%	30%	62%	38%
Not sure	19%	21%	16%	28%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Trump Favorability				
Favorable	16%	32%	5%	16%
Unfavorable	75%	56%	90%	64%
Not sure	9%	12%	5%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	54%	10%	92%	22%
Newt Gingrich	36%	78%	4%	48%
Undecided	10%	12%	5%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	53%	9%	90%	21%
Mike Huckabee	39%	84%	5%	47%
Undecided	8%	7%	5%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	57%	14%	93%	30%
Sarah Palin	34%	75%	4%	41%
Undecided	8%	12%	3%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	51%	8%	88%	17%
Mitt Romney	40%	82%	7%	54%
Undecided	9%	11%	6%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Trump				
Barack Obama	58%	16%	92%	29%
Donald Trump	31%	66%	4%	40%
Undecided	11%	18%	4%	31%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	52%	93%	88%	63%	15%	3%
Disapprove	43%	4%	10%	27%	80%	95%
Not sure	5%	3%	2%	10%	4%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	26%	1%	6%	13%	50%	66%
Unfavorable	59%	95%	87%	65%	28%	21%
Not sure	15%	5%	8%	21%	22%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Huckabee Favorability						
Favorable	33%	7%	11%	21%	58%	69%
Unfavorable	48%	81%	70%	53%	20%	19%
Not sure	19%	12%	18%	26%	21%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	29%	2%	7%	15%	51%	74%
Unfavorable	65%	98%	89%	77%	37%	19%
Not sure	7%	0%	3%	8%	12%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	34%	11%	18%	34%	48%	51%
Unfavorable	47%	84%	63%	45%	25%	35%
Not sure	19%	5%	19%	22%	27%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Trump Favorability						
Favorable	16%	3%	5%	13%	33%	27%
Unfavorable	75%	93%	92%	78%	53%	60%
Not sure	9%	4%	3%	9%	15%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	54%	96%	91%	65%	15%	4%
Newt Gingrich	36%	3%	5%	21%	71%	87%
Undecided	10%	1%	4%	14%	15%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Huckabee						
Barack Obama	53%	97%	90%	63%	13%	1%
Mike Huckabee	39%	2%	7%	22%	77%	95%
Undecided	8%	1%	3%	15%	10%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	57%	97%	92%	71%	20%	5%
Sarah Palin	34%	2%	7%	17%	65%	89%
Undecided	8%	1%	2%	12%	16%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	51%	96%	88%	59%	13%	1%
Mitt Romney	40%	2%	7%	28%	74%	90%
Undecided	9%	2%	5%	14%	13%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Trump						
Barack Obama	58%	95%	91%	73%	20%	6%
Donald Trump	31%	4%	5%	17%	60%	76%
Undecided	11%	2%	4%	10%	20%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	52%	56%	48%
Disapprove	43%	38%	47%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	26%	21%	31%
Unfavorable	59%	59%	58%
Not sure	15%	20%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	33%	31%	34%
Unfavorable	48%	46%	50%
Not sure	19%	23%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	29%	26%	32%
Unfavorable	65%	68%	61%
Not sure	7%	6%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	34%	31%	36%
Unfavorable	47%	46%	49%
Not sure	19%	23%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Trump Favorability			
Favorable	16%	17%	16%
Unfavorable	75%	74%	76%
Not sure	9%	10%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	54%	58%	50%
Newt Gingrich	36%	34%	39%
Undecided	10%	8%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	53%	58%	47%
Mike Huckabee	39%	35%	44%
Undecided	8%	7%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	57%	62%	52%
Sarah Palin	34%	29%	39%
Undecided	8%	8%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	51%	56%	45%
Mitt Romney	40%	34%	46%
Undecided	9%	10%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Trump			
Barack Obama	58%	62%	54%
Donald Trump	31%	29%	33%
Undecided	11%	10%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	52%	90%	11%	44%
Disapprove	43%	5%	87%	47%
Not sure	5%	5%	2%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	5%	54%	25%
Unfavorable	59%	85%	27%	56%
Not sure	15%	10%	19%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	33%	9%	64%	31%
Unfavorable	48%	71%	19%	47%
Not sure	19%	19%	16%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	29%	4%	61%	28%
Unfavorable	65%	93%	29%	63%
Not sure	7%	3%	10%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	16%	51%	38%
Unfavorable	47%	66%	29%	42%
Not sure	19%	18%	20%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Trump Favorability				
Favorable	16%	6%	30%	16%
Unfavorable	75%	88%	56%	76%
Not sure	9%	6%	14%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	54%	94%	9%	47%
Newt Gingrich	36%	4%	78%	35%
Undecided	10%	1%	12%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	53%	94%	9%	43%
Mike Huckabee	39%	4%	83%	40%
Undecided	8%	2%	7%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	57%	95%	15%	51%
Sarah Palin	34%	4%	74%	33%
Undecided	8%	1%	11%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	51%	93%	7%	42%
Mitt Romney	40%	4%	83%	42%
Undecided	9%	3%	10%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Trump				
Barack Obama	58%	93%	15%	55%
Donald Trump	31%	5%	67%	29%
Undecided	11%	2%	18%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	52%	51%	61%
Disapprove	43%	44%	34%
Not sure	5%	5%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	26%	27%	21%
Unfavorable	59%	59%	55%
Not sure	15%	14%	24%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	33%	34%	21%
Unfavorable	48%	47%	53%
Not sure	19%	18%	26%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	29%	30%	20%
Unfavorable	65%	64%	70%
Not sure	7%	6%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	34%	35%	23%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	51%
Not sure	19%	18%	26%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Trump Favorability			
Favorable	16%	17%	13%
Unfavorable	75%	74%	80%
Not sure	9%	9%	7%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	54%	52%	64%
Newt Gingrich	36%	39%	22%
Undecided	10%	9%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	53%	51%	61%
Mike Huckabee	39%	41%	29%
Undecided	8%	8%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	57%	57%	61%
Sarah Palin	34%	36%	25%
Undecided	8%	8%	14%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	51%	49%	61%
Mitt Romney	40%	41%	30%
Undecided	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Trump			
Barack Obama	58%	56%	67%
Donald Trump	31%	32%	22%
Undecided	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	52%	59%	47%	52%	55%
Disapprove	43%	34%	46%	44%	40%
Not sure	5%	7%	7%	4%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	26%	17%	28%	26%	29%
Unfavorable	59%	59%	56%	60%	58%
Not sure	15%	24%	16%	14%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	33%	24%	36%	32%	34%
Unfavorable	48%	55%	44%	48%	49%
Not sure	19%	21%	21%	20%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	29%	21%	29%	30%	30%
Unfavorable	65%	72%	64%	64%	63%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	34%	32%	33%	32%	39%
Unfavorable	47%	54%	49%	48%	41%
Not sure	19%	14%	19%	20%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Trump Favorability					
Favorable	16%	10%	24%	15%	13%
Unfavorable	75%	79%	69%	76%	76%
Not sure	9%	10%	7%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	54%	64%	50%	54%	54%
New t Gingrich	36%	29%	35%	38%	39%
Undecided	10%	7%	15%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	53%	64%	48%	51%	55%
Mike Huckabee	39%	29%	41%	41%	37%
Undecided	8%	7%	10%	7%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	57%	69%	55%	56%	57%
Sarah Palin	34%	24%	33%	37%	35%
Undecided	8%	7%	13%	7%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	51%	66%	47%	50%	51%
Mitt Romney	40%	31%	40%	42%	39%
Undecided	9%	3%	13%	9%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Trump					
Barack Obama	58%	69%	57%	56%	58%
Donald Trump	31%	24%	34%	31%	30%
Undecided	11%	7%	9%	13%	12%

