#### The Republicans: Many Possible Contenders are Unknown April 15-20, 2011

- With many months to go before the first presidential nominating contests, 56% of Republicans say there is no one they are excited about yet.
- Large percentages of voters overall, and even sizable percentages of Republican voters, have yet to form an opinion of many of the potential Republican presidential candidates.
- Half of Tea Party supporters think the movement has the right amount of influence on the Republican Party, but 44% say it has too little influence.

# **Views of Potential Republican Candidates**

At this very early stage in the 2012 presidential campaign, most Republicans aren't especially excited about the candidates currently being discussed for the nomination. When asked if there is anyone they feel enthusiastic about for the nomination among the potential candidates, without mentioning any names, 56% say they feel that way about no one.

9% of Republicans volunteer that they feel enthusiastic about Mitt Romney, and Mike Huckabee is mentioned by 8%, followed by Donald Trump (7%), Newt Gingrich (5%), and Sarah Palin (4%).

# Any Potential Candidate You Feel Enthusiastic About? (Among Republican Voters)

No one	56%
Mitt Romney	9
Mike Huckabee	8
Donald Trump	7
Newt Gingrich	5
Sarah Palin	4

Former Governor and 2008 candidate Mike Huckabee receives the highest favorable rating from Republican voters (54%), followed by former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin (51%), former Governor and 2008 candidate Mitt Romney (42%), and Newt Gingrich (42%). Republicans are split in their views of New York businessman Donald Trump: 35% view him favorably, while 32% have an unfavorable opinion of him. 33% are undecided or haven't heard enough about him to have an opinion.

Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (21% favorable), who chairs the Tea Party Caucus in the House of Representatives, former Governor Tim Pawlenty (20%) and former Senator Rick Santorum (19%) get similar favorable ratings from Republicans (and low unfavorable ratings), but about three in four are undecided or don't know enough about them.

Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour, Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels, and Jon Huntsman are the least well-known of the potential Republican candidates asked about in the poll. More than eight in 10 Republicans did not offer an opinion of Barbour or Daniels; that number was even higher (94%) for Huntsman.

	<b>C</b> .	Undecided/		
	Favorable	Unfavorable	Haven't heard enough	
Mike Huckabee	54%	11	35	
Sarah Palin	51%	26	23	
Newt Gingrich	42%	20	37	
Mitt Romney	42%	15	43	
Donald Trump	35%	32	33	
Michele Bachmann	21%	5	75	
Tim Pawlenty	20%	3	78	
Rick Santorum	19%	5	75	
Haley Barbour	12%	3	85	
Mitch Daniels	9%	3	88	
Jon Huntsman	5%	1	94	

# Views of Potential Republican Presidential Candidates (Among Republican Voters)

Favorable ratings for some of these possible candidates are slightly higher among those who support the Tea Party movement (54% of whom identify as Republicans and 36% of whom are independents). Huckabee and Palin's favorable ratings are higher, as are Bachmann's. Bachmann does especially well among those Tea Party supporters who are Republicans, compared to those who call themselves independents.

# Views of Potential Republican Presidential Candidates (Among Voters who are Tea Party Supporters)

Undecided/		
Favorable	Unfavorable	Haven't heard enough
61%	13	26
56%	24	21
44%	20	35
41%	23	36
32%	33	34
27%	4	68
20%	6	74
24%	3	73
14%	4	82
10%	7	83
5%	6	89
	61% 56% 44% 41% 32% 27% 20% 24% 14% 10%	FavorableUnfavorable61%1356%2444%2041%2332%3327%420%624%314%410%7

Opinions of these potential candidates are different (and mostly more negative) among voters nationwide than among Republicans. Huckabee and Romney receive net positive ratings, but more than four in 10 don't have an opinion of each. Gingrich, Palin and Trump are each viewed more unfavorably than favorably among voters overall.

Pawlenty, who has launched a presidential exploratory committee, is viewed more positively than negatively, but nearly eight in 10 voters nationwide do not have an opinion of him. Large majorities are undecided or haven't heard enough about the other possible candidates.

#### Views of Potential Republican Presidential Candidates (Among All Registered Voters)

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Favorable	Unfavorable	Undecided/Haven't heard enough
32%	25	42
28%	24	47
23%	37	39
26%	55	18
25%	46	28
12%	8	79
12%	13	75
10%	12	78
6%	7	85
5%	6	88
6%	5	89
	Favorable 32% 28% 23% 26% 25% 12% 12% 10% 6% 5%	FavorableUnfavorable32%2528%2423%3726%5525%4612%812%1310%126%75%6

Donald Trump has been publicly saying he is considering a run for the presidency. At this point, most registered voters nationwide (72%) do not think Donald Trump is a serious presidential candidate, including majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents. Even though 37% of Republicans (and 38% of Tea Party supporters) think Trump is a serious candidate, more than half of each of these groups does not.

#### Is Donald Trump A Serious Presidential Candidate? (Among All Registered Voters)

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	All	Reps	Dems	Inds	Tea Party Supporters
Yes	23%	37%	8%	27%	38%
No	72	57	88	68	55

# The Tea Party Movement and the Republican Party

Just over half of Republicans say they are supporters of the Tea Party movement, about double the 24% of Americans overall who say the same. 19% of Tea Party supporters have been active supporters, either by donating money, attending a rally or both.

The Tea Party has made its influence felt in last year's elections and in the movement's efforts to lower government spending. Just over half of Republicans think the Tea Party has the right amount of influence on their party, but some Republicans would like it to have more; 23% think it has too little influence. That figure rises to 44% among Tea Party supporters. Among Americans overall, 27% think the Tea Party has too <u>much</u> influence on the Republican Party.

Tea Party Influence on Republican Party				
-	All	Republicans	Tea Party Supporters	
Too much	27%	9%	1%	
Too little	18	23	44	
Right amount	32	53	50	

Most Tea Party supporters think Congressional Republicans represent their values; 72% say they do so moderately or very well, while 26% say they do not represent them well.

#### How Well Do Congressional Republicans Represent Your Values? (Among Tea Party Supporters)

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Very well	9%
Moderately well	63
Not too/not at all well	26

Views of Republicans are mixed on one assessment of their own party. 49% think the Republican party is united, while 47% think it is divided.

# Views of the Tea Party

Overall views of the Tea Party are mixed, and 43% of Americans don't have an opinion of the movement. That has not changed much in the past few months. The Tea Party is viewed more positively by Republicans; 59% of them have a favorable opinion, and just 10% are unfavorable.

# Views of Tea Party Movement

	All	Republicans
Favorable	26%	59%
Not favorable	29	10
Undecided	21	17
Haven't heard enough	22	14

Among Republicans, a Tea Party affiliation may provide some help to a candidate. 29% of Republicans say that if a candidate was part of the Tea Party movement, they would be more likely to support that candidate. However, far more, 59%, say that affiliation would not make a difference to them; just 7% said they would be less likely to support a Tea Party candidate.

Among Americans overall, 26% say they would be less likely to support a candidate that was part of the Tea Party movement.

#### The President's Birthplace

Recently some people have questioned whether President Barack Obama was born in the United States. In this poll, 25% say they think he was <u>not</u> born in the U.S., while 57% think he was, and 18% do not have an opinion. 45% of Republicans, and 45% of Tea Party supporters, think the President was born in another country.

Was President Obama Born in U.S.?					
	All	Republicans	Tea Party Supporters		
Yes	57%	33%	34%		
No	25	45	45		
Don't know	18	22	21		

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,224adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone April 15-20, 2011. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. An oversample of Republicans was also conducted for this poll, for a total of 543 interviews among this group. The results were then weighted in proportion to the average party distributions in previous 2011 CBS News and CBS News/New York Times Polls and in the random sample in this poll. The margin of error for Republicans is plus or minus four percentage points.