## The Republicans: Many Possible Contenders are Unknown <br> 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)<br>No one 56\%<br>Mitt Romney 9<br>Mike Huckabee 8<br>Donald Trump 7<br>Newt Gingrich 5<br>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.

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

Undecided/

Mike Huckabee
Sarah Palin
Newt Gingrich
Mitt Romney
Donald Trump
Michele Bachmann
Tim Pawlenty
Rick Santorum
Haley Barbour
Mitch Daniels
Jon Huntsman

|  |  | Undecid |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Favorable | Unfavorable | Hav |  |
| $54 \%$ | 11 | 35 |  |
| $51 \%$ | 26 | 23 |  |
| $42 \%$ | 20 | 37 |  |
| $42 \%$ | 15 | 43 |  |
| $35 \%$ | 32 | 33 |  |
| $21 \%$ | 5 | 75 |  |
| $20 \%$ | 3 | 78 |  |
| $19 \%$ | 5 | 75 |  |
| $12 \%$ | 3 | 85 |  |
| $9 \%$ | 3 | 88 |  |
| $5 \%$ | 1 | 94 |  |

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 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mike Huckabee | $61 \%$ | 13 | 26 |
| Sarah Palin | $56 \%$ | 24 | 21 |
| Newt Gingrich | $44 \%$ | 20 | 35 |
| Mitt Romney | $41 \%$ | 23 | 36 |
| Donald Trump | $32 \%$ | 33 | 34 |
| Michele Bachmann | $27 \%$ | 4 | 68 |
| Rick Santorum | $20 \%$ | 6 | 74 |
| Tim Pawlenty | $24 \%$ | 3 | 73 |
| Haley Barbour | $14 \%$ | 4 | 82 |
| Mitch Daniels | $10 \%$ | 7 | 83 |
| Jon Huntsman | $5 \%$ | 6 | 89 |

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 <br> (Among All Registered Voters)

|  | Favorable | Unfavorable | Undecided/Haven't heard enough |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mike Huckabee | $32 \%$ | 25 | 42 |
| Mitt Romney | $28 \%$ | 24 | 47 |
| Newt Gingrich | $23 \%$ | 37 | 39 |
| Sarah Palin | $26 \%$ | 55 | 18 |
| Donald Trump | $25 \%$ | 46 | 28 |
| Tim Pawlenty | $12 \%$ | 8 | 79 |
| Michele Bachmann | $12 \%$ | 13 | 75 |
| Rick Santorum | $10 \%$ | 12 | 78 |
| Haley Barbour | $6 \%$ | 7 | 85 |
| Mitch Daniels | $5 \%$ | 6 | 88 |
| Jon Huntsman | $6 \%$ | 5 | 89 |

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? <br>  <br>  <br>  <br> (Among All Registered Voters) |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Yes | All | Reps | Dems | Inds | Tea Party Supporters

## 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 much 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? <br> (Among Tea Party Supporters) <br> <div class="inline-tabular"><table id="tabular" data-type="subtable">
<tbody>
<tr style="border-top: none !important; border-bottom: none !important;">
<td style="text-align: left; border-left: none !important; border-right: none !important; border-bottom: none !important; border-top: none !important; width: auto; vertical-align: middle; ">Very well</td>
<td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: none !important; border-top: none !important; width: auto; vertical-align: middle; ">$9 \%$</td>
</tr>
<tr style="border-top: none !important; border-bottom: none !important;">
<td style="text-align: left; border-left: none !important; border-right: none !important; border-bottom: none !important; border-top: none !important; width: auto; vertical-align: middle; ">Moderately well</td>
<td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: none !important; border-top: none !important; width: auto; vertical-align: middle; ">63</td>
</tr>
<tr style="border-top: none !important; border-bottom: none !important;">
<td style="text-align: left; border-left: none !important; border-right: none !important; border-bottom: none !important; border-top: none !important; width: auto; vertical-align: middle; ">Not too/not at all well</td>
<td style="text-align: right; border-bottom: none !important; border-top: none !important; width: auto; vertical-align: middle; ">26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
<table-markdown style="display: none">| Very well | $9 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Moderately well | 63 |
| Not too/not at all well | 26 |</table-markdown></div> 

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 not 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.

