

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GOP Contenders Closely Matched

Raleigh, N.C. – Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, and Sarah Palin poll within the margin of error of each other in a national poll of Republican voters on who they'd like to see as their 2012 nominee, underscoring the fact that there is no clear front runner to be the party's standard bearer.

Romney gets 28% to 24% for Huckabee and 23% for Palin. Ron Paul polls further back at 11%, 9% of voters say they're undecided, and 6% say they would support someone else.

Romney is the strong favorite of moderate voters with 35% of them saying they would support him to 17% for Palin and 16% for Huckabee. The candidates are closely bunched with conservatives. 28% choose Huckabee, 27% go for Palin, and 25% say they prefer Romney.

Palin is actually the most popular of the field with 69% of Republican primary voters viewing her favorably to 57% for Romney and 54% for Huckabee. Her problem is that she also leads the field in people who like her but won't necessarily vote for her. Barely half of folks with a positive opinion of Palin think she could defeat Barack Obama.

"It's really impossible to say who the Republican nominee for President next time will be," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "There are positive things each candidate can take from the current polling, but there are warning signs as well."

PPP state by state 2012 polling has shown Romney leading in Florida, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. Huckabee has had the lead in North Carolina and Georgia. So far Palin hasn't been ahead anywhere.

PPP surveyed 614 self identified Republican primary voters from March 12th to 14th. The margin of error is +/-4.0%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.



National Survey Results

Q1 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mike Huckabee? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable.....54% *Not Sure*.....29%
Unfavorable16%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable.....69%
Unfavorable17%
Not Sure.....14%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable.....58%
Unfavorable17%
Not Sure.....25%

Q4 If the Republican candidates for President in 2012 were Mike Huckabee, Sarah Palin, Ron Paul, and Mitt Romney who would you support? If Mike Huckabee, press 1. If Sarah Palin, press 2. If Ron Paul, press 3. If Mitt Romney, press 4. If someone else, press 5. If you're undecided, press 6.

Huckabee.....24%
Palin.....23%
Paul11%
Romney28%
Someone Else6%
Undecided.....9%

Q5 Do you think it's more important for Republicans in 2012 to nominate someone who can beat Barack Obama or someone who holds conservative positions on every issue? If you think it's more important to nominate someone who can beat Barack Obama, press 1. If you think it's more important to nominate someone who holds conservative positions on every issue, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Can beat Obama48%
Conservative on every issue.....42%
Not Sure.....10%

Q6 Do you think Sarah Palin could defeat Barack Obama in 2012? If yes, press 1. If no, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Yes43%
No.....38%
Not Sure.....19%

Q7 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal.....1%
Moderate.....34%
Conservative.....65%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman42%
Man.....58%

Q9 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat.....6%
Republican.....78%
Independent/Other.....16%





Q10 If you are Hispanic, press 1. If white, press 2.
If African American, press 3. If other, press 4.

<i>Hispanic</i>	3%
<i>White</i>	90%
<i>African American</i>	5%
<i>Other</i>	2%

Q12

<i>Northeast</i>	23%
<i>South</i>	31%
<i>Midwest</i>	27%
<i>West</i>	19%

Q11 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If
you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65,
press 3. If older, press 4.

<i>18 to 29</i>	8%
<i>30 to 45</i>	24%
<i>46 to 65</i>	46%
<i>Older than 65</i>	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	54%	-	42%	62%
Unfavorable	16%	67%	22%	12%
Not Sure	29%	33%	36%	26%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	69%	-	49%	80%
Unfavorable	17%	67%	31%	9%
Not Sure	14%	33%	19%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	58%	33%	48%	63%
Unfavorable	17%	33%	25%	13%
Not Sure	25%	33%	27%	24%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
2012 GOP Nominee				
Huckabee	24%	33%	16%	28%
Palin	23%	-	17%	27%
Paul	11%	67%	9%	11%
Romney	28%	-	35%	25%
Someone Else	6%	-	10%	3%
Undecided	9%	-	12%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Electability/Ideology				
Can beat Obama	48%	33%	52%	46%
Conservative on every issue	42%	33%	30%	48%
Not Sure	10%	33%	18%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Electable?				
Yes	43%	33%	28%	50%
No	38%	67%	56%	29%
Not Sure	19%	-	16%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	54%	54%	54%
Unfavorable	16%	16%	16%
Not Sure	29%	30%	29%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	69%	72%	66%
Unfavorable	17%	14%	20%
Not Sure	14%	13%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	58%	52%	62%
Unfavorable	17%	17%	18%
Not Sure	25%	31%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
2012 GOP Nominee			
Huckabee	24%	24%	23%
Palin	23%	28%	19%
Paul	11%	11%	11%
Romney	28%	23%	32%
Someone Else	6%	3%	8%
Undecided	9%	10%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Electability/Ideology			
Can beat Obama	48%	48%	49%
Conservative on every issue	42%	39%	43%
Not Sure	10%	13%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Electable?			
Yes	43%	43%	42%
No	38%	38%	39%
Not Sure	19%	19%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	54%	7%	60%	48%
Unfavorable	16%	38%	14%	19%
Not Sure	29%	55%	27%	33%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	69%	31%	75%	53%
Unfavorable	17%	21%	15%	30%
Not Sure	14%	48%	11%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	58%	7%	61%	62%
Unfavorable	17%	38%	16%	14%
Not Sure	25%	55%	23%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
2012 GOP Nominee				
Huckabee	24%	14%	25%	19%
Palin	23%	31%	27%	3%
Paul	11%	14%	8%	22%
Romney	28%	10%	28%	34%
Someone Else	6%	-	6%	8%
Undecided	9%	31%	6%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Electability/Ideology				
Can beat Obama	48%	14%	50%	55%
Conservative on every issue	42%	55%	43%	29%
Not Sure	10%	31%	7%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Electable?				
Yes	43%	31%	47%	26%
No	38%	62%	35%	44%
Not Sure	19%	7%	17%	30%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	54%	100%	55%	-	67%
Unfavorable	16%	-	15%	67%	-
Not Sure	29%	-	30%	33%	33%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	69%	100%	67%	67%	67%
Unfavorable	17%	-	19%	-	-
Not Sure	14%	-	13%	33%	33%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	58%	50%	60%	33%	33%
Unfavorable	17%	50%	15%	33%	33%
Not Sure	25%	-	25%	33%	33%

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
2012 GOP Nominee					
Huckabee	24%	-	26%	-	-
Palin	23%	50%	21%	33%	33%
Paul	11%	-	12%	-	-
Romney	28%	50%	26%	33%	67%
Someone Else	6%	-	6%	-	-
Undecided	9%	-	8%	33%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Electability/Ideology					
Can beat Obama	48%	-	51%	33%	33%
Conservative on every issue	42%	100%	39%	33%	67%
Not Sure	10%	-	10%	33%	-

	Base	Race			
		Hispanic	White	African American	Other
Palin Electable?					
Yes	43%	100%	41%	33%	33%
No	38%	-	38%	67%	67%
Not Sure	19%	-	21%	-	-





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	54%	46%	54%	53%	62%
Unfavorable	16%	29%	15%	15%	15%
Not Sure	29%	26%	30%	32%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	69%	69%	77%	64%	69%
Unfavorable	17%	21%	13%	17%	23%
Not Sure	14%	10%	11%	19%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	58%	15%	56%	62%	67%
Unfavorable	17%	43%	17%	15%	13%
Not Sure	25%	41%	27%	23%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
2012 GOP Nominee					
Huckabee	24%	21%	21%	22%	31%
Palin	23%	59%	24%	22%	10%
Paul	11%	5%	13%	11%	10%
Romney	28%	-	37%	29%	27%
Someone Else	6%	10%	2%	5%	10%
Undecided	9%	5%	4%	11%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Electability/Ideology					
Can beat Obama	48%	26%	47%	45%	65%
Conservative on every issue	42%	64%	48%	39%	31%
Not Sure	10%	10%	5%	16%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Electable?					
Yes	43%	59%	44%	42%	35%
No	38%	26%	43%	36%	44%
Not Sure	19%	15%	13%	22%	21%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	54%	52%	60%	53%	48%
Unfavorable	16%	15%	13%	19%	21%
Not Sure	30%	34%	27%	28%	31%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	69%	72%	70%	66%	67%
Unfavorable	18%	17%	17%	16%	21%
Not Sure	14%	11%	13%	18%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	57%	56%	62%	51%	60%
Unfavorable	18%	20%	19%	21%	7%
Not Sure	25%	24%	18%	28%	33%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
2012 GOP Nominee					
Huckabee	24%	15%	40%	23%	9%
Palin	23%	22%	22%	21%	30%
Paul	11%	13%	7%	15%	9%
Romney	28%	34%	24%	26%	29%
Someone Else	6%	4%	3%	7%	12%
Undecided	9%	12%	4%	8%	12%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Electability/Ideology					
Can beat Obama	48%	47%	49%	47%	48%
Conservative on every issue	42%	42%	43%	42%	40%
Not Sure	10%	11%	9%	11%	12%

	Base	Region			
		Northeast	South	Midwest	West
Palin Electable?					
Yes	43%	37%	40%	45%	53%
No	39%	46%	43%	34%	29%
Not Sure	18%	17%	17%	21%	18%

