



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 31, 2011

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Obama lags Perry by 8, Romney by 15 in South Carolina

Raleigh, N.C. – Despite Rick Perry’s dominance in the primary and the conservative leanings of the state overall, South Carolina is another state where Mitt Romney is far-and-away the most electable of the Republican contenders for President. Romney leads President Obama by 15 points, 53-38, and everyone else does worse than John McCain did three years ago. New frontrunner Perry leads by eight, 49-41, just less than McCain’s nine-point victory. Newt Gingrich leads by only one, 45-44, while Michele Bachmann and Sarah Palin both tie, 44-44 and 45-45, respectively.

The president’s approval numbers are down from when PPP last polled the Palmetto State in June, from 43-53 to 41-56, his ninth worst of 45 states in which PPP has polled him. Unlike in a lot of states, all but two of his potential opponents (Gingrich and Palin) are seen better. The newcomer, Perry, has a 36-39 favorability rating, Romney a 37-45, Bachmann a 34-43, Palin a 36-56, and Gingrich a 27-53.

Obama has declined six points against Romney, from a 41-50 deficit in June; five points against Palin, from a 48-43 lead; and three points against Gingrich, from a 46-44 lead. The president has slipped with Democrats, Republicans, and independents alike in all three matchups. He now leads Bachmann by ten, Gingrich by 11, and Palin by 18 points with independents, but trails Perry by three and Romney by 16.

“Rick Perry is the candidate Republicans like the most but Mitt Romney is the candidate who gives them their best chance of knocking off Barack Obama,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP also polled comedian Stephen Colbert as an independent candidate in his native state. He would not hurt Perry’s chances overall, with Perry still leading Obama 43-36, and Colbert taking 12%—7% of Democrats, 10% of Republicans, and 24% of independents. 23% have a favorable impression of Colbert, and 32% an unfavorable one.

PPP surveyed 587 South Carolina voters from August 25th to 28th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-4.0%. 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.





South Carolina Survey Results

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

Approve 41%
Disapprove..... 56%
Not sure 4%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Michele Bachmann?

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 43%
Not sure 23%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Newt Gingrich?

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 20%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 56%
Not sure 8%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Perry?

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 39%
Not sure 25%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 45%
Not sure 18%

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

Barack Obama..... 44%
Michele Bachmann 44%
Undecided..... 12%

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

Barack Obama..... 44%
Newt Gingrich 45%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 45%
Sarah Palin 45%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 41%
Rick Perry 49%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 38%
Mitt Romney..... 53%
Undecided..... 9%





Q12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Stephen Colbert?

Favorable..... 23%
Unfavorable 32%
Not sure 45%

Q13 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama, Republican Rick Perry, and Stephen Colbert running as an independent, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 36%
Rick Perry 43%
Stephen Colbert..... 12%
Undecided..... 9%

Q14 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 49%
Barack Obama..... 39%
Someone else/Don't remember 11%

Q15 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal..... 7%
Somewhat liberal 14%
Moderate..... 27%
Somewhat conservative..... 26%
Very conservative 26%

Q16 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 55%
Man..... 45%

Q17 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..... 36%
Republican..... 44%
Independent/Other..... 20%

Q18 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 72%
African-American 23%
Other..... 5%

Q19 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.

18 to 29..... 17%
30 to 45..... 28%
46 to 65..... 39%
Older than 65..... 16%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	41%	8%	85%	26%
Disapprove	56%	90%	11%	61%
Not sure	4%	2%	4%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	34%	48%	22%	18%
Unfavorable	43%	29%	58%	50%
Not sure	23%	24%	20%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	27%	42%	10%	23%
Unfavorable	53%	35%	76%	45%
Not sure	20%	23%	13%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	36%	62%	3%	37%
Unfavorable	56%	30%	93%	45%
Not sure	8%	9%	4%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	36%	56%	10%	38%
Unfavorable	39%	18%	71%	20%
Not sure	25%	27%	19%	42%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	51%	18%	42%
Unfavorable	45%	30%	68%	29%
Not sure	18%	19%	14%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	44%	11%	91%	26%
Michele Bachmann	44%	76%	4%	42%
Undecided	12%	13%	5%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	44%	9%	92%	26%
Newt Gingrich	45%	77%	6%	44%
Undecided	11%	14%	3%	30%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	45%	11%	94%	25%
Sarah Palin	45%	78%	4%	45%
Undecided	10%	11%	2%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	41%	7%	90%	15%
Rick Perry	49%	83%	8%	50%
Undecided	10%	10%	3%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	38%	7%	82%	20%
Mitt Romney	53%	87%	12%	46%
Undecided	9%	6%	5%	34%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Colbert Favorability				
Favorable	23%	16%	33%	20%
Unfavorable	32%	34%	34%	18%
Not sure	45%	51%	33%	62%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Perry/Colbert				
Barack Obama	36%	5%	82%	10%
Rick Perry	43%	74%	8%	27%
Stephen Colbert	12%	11%	7%	32%
Undecided	9%	9%	3%	32%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	41%	90%	73%	54%	24%	13%
Disapprove	56%	8%	24%	40%	70%	87%
Not sure	4%	2%	3%	6%	6%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Bachmann Favorability						
Favorable	34%	26%	25%	19%	40%	52%
Unfavorable	43%	67%	70%	51%	36%	21%
Not sure	23%	7%	5%	31%	25%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	27%	9%	12%	15%	36%	43%
Unfavorable	53%	76%	84%	62%	41%	32%
Not sure	20%	15%	3%	23%	23%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	36%	15%	9%	15%	44%	69%
Unfavorable	56%	85%	89%	74%	45%	23%
Not sure	8%	-	2%	11%	11%	8%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Perry Favorability						
Favorable	36%	15%	9%	21%	48%	58%
Unfavorable	39%	76%	77%	43%	25%	19%
Not sure	25%	9%	14%	36%	27%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	37%	16%	11%	35%	47%	47%
Unfavorable	45%	75%	71%	46%	35%	32%
Not sure	18%	9%	18%	19%	18%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Bachmann						
Barack Obama	44%	85%	76%	62%	27%	15%
Michele Bachmann	44%	10%	11%	22%	60%	77%
Undecided	12%	5%	12%	16%	13%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	44%	87%	74%	64%	25%	15%
Newt Gingrich	45%	10%	15%	21%	60%	80%
Undecided	11%	2%	11%	15%	15%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	45%	87%	76%	64%	28%	15%
Sarah Palin	45%	10%	15%	21%	63%	78%
Undecided	10%	2%	9%	14%	9%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Perry						
Barack Obama	41%	87%	76%	56%	22%	12%
Rick Perry	49%	10%	13%	25%	69%	84%
Undecided	10%	2%	11%	19%	9%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	38%	87%	76%	47%	21%	13%
Mitt Romney	53%	10%	17%	36%	69%	83%
Undecided	9%	2%	7%	16%	10%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Colbert Favorability						
Favorable	23%	32%	40%	29%	24%	3%
Unfavorable	32%	31%	35%	28%	30%	36%
Not sure	45%	37%	25%	43%	45%	60%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Perry/Colbert						
Barack Obama	36%	82%	66%	49%	19%	12%
Rick Perry	43%	2%	10%	22%	59%	76%
Stephen Colbert	12%	15%	14%	14%	15%	5%
Undecided	9%	1%	10%	15%	8%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	41%	41%	40%
Disapprove	56%	55%	56%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Bachmann Favorability			
Favorable	34%	33%	36%
Unfavorable	43%	45%	39%
Not sure	23%	22%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	27%	25%	29%
Unfavorable	53%	50%	55%
Not sure	20%	24%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	36%	34%	38%
Unfavorable	56%	59%	52%
Not sure	8%	7%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Perry Favorability			
Favorable	36%	35%	37%
Unfavorable	39%	36%	43%
Not sure	25%	29%	20%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	37%	37%	37%
Unfavorable	45%	43%	48%
Not sure	18%	21%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Bachmann			
Barack Obama	44%	45%	43%
Michele Bachmann	44%	41%	47%
Undecided	12%	14%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	44%	44%	43%
Newt Gingrich	45%	45%	46%
Undecided	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	45%	46%	44%
Sarah Palin	45%	44%	47%
Undecided	10%	10%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Perry			
Barack Obama	41%	39%	43%
Rick Perry	49%	48%	51%
Undecided	10%	13%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	38%	38%	38%
Mitt Romney	53%	52%	54%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Colbert Favorability			
Favorable	23%	20%	27%
Unfavorable	32%	30%	34%
Not sure	45%	50%	40%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Perry/Colbert			
Barack Obama	36%	36%	36%
Rick Perry	43%	42%	43%
Stephen Colbert	12%	10%	14%
Undecided	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	41%	86%	6%	34%
Disapprove	56%	11%	93%	53%
Not sure	4%	3%	1%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	34%	26%	45%	26%
Unfavorable	43%	58%	29%	45%
Not sure	23%	16%	26%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	27%	13%	42%	20%
Unfavorable	53%	71%	34%	61%
Not sure	20%	16%	25%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	36%	8%	62%	28%
Unfavorable	56%	87%	27%	65%
Not sure	8%	5%	11%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	36%	8%	61%	31%
Unfavorable	39%	70%	14%	38%
Not sure	25%	22%	25%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	15%	56%	34%
Unfavorable	45%	68%	26%	44%
Not sure	18%	17%	18%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	44%	89%	9%	40%
Michele Bachmann	44%	7%	81%	30%
Undecided	12%	4%	11%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	44%	89%	7%	42%
Newt Gingrich	45%	8%	82%	31%
Undecided	11%	3%	11%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	45%	89%	9%	45%
Sarah Palin	45%	9%	84%	27%
Undecided	10%	2%	7%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	41%	88%	4%	34%
Rick Perry	49%	9%	89%	37%
Undecided	10%	4%	7%	29%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	38%	86%	4%	28%
Mitt Romney	53%	10%	91%	44%
Undecided	9%	4%	5%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Colbert Favorability				
Favorable	23%	26%	15%	33%
Unfavorable	32%	39%	30%	22%
Not sure	45%	34%	54%	45%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Perry/Colbert				
Barack Obama	36%	83%	4%	22%
Rick Perry	43%	6%	80%	27%
Stephen Colbert	12%	7%	10%	24%
Undecided	9%	4%	5%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	41%	25%	86%	54%
Disapprove	56%	70%	11%	42%
Not sure	4%	4%	3%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Bachmann Favorability				
Favorable	34%	35%	27%	55%
Unfavorable	43%	41%	50%	27%
Not sure	23%	23%	23%	18%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	27%	32%	12%	26%
Unfavorable	53%	47%	66%	71%
Not sure	20%	21%	22%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	36%	45%	8%	29%
Unfavorable	56%	46%	87%	65%
Not sure	8%	9%	5%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Perry Favorability				
Favorable	36%	44%	11%	27%
Unfavorable	39%	32%	63%	44%
Not sure	25%	24%	27%	29%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	44%	14%	38%
Unfavorable	45%	39%	62%	54%
Not sure	18%	17%	25%	8%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Bachmann				
Barack Obama	44%	28%	90%	64%
Michele Bachmann	44%	57%	6%	26%
Undecided	12%	15%	4%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	44%	29%	89%	62%
New t Gingrich	45%	58%	8%	32%
Undecided	11%	14%	4%	6%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	45%	30%	90%	62%
Sarah Palin	45%	58%	7%	35%
Undecided	10%	12%	4%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Perry				
Barack Obama	41%	24%	90%	56%
Rick Perry	49%	63%	8%	38%
Undecided	10%	13%	2%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	38%	23%	84%	53%
Mitt Romney	53%	67%	10%	41%
Undecided	9%	10%	5%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Colbert Favorability				
Favorable	23%	25%	17%	17%
Unfavorable	32%	29%	40%	39%
Not sure	45%	46%	44%	44%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Perry/Colbert				
Barack Obama	36%	19%	89%	50%
Rick Perry	43%	55%	6%	33%
Stephen Colbert	12%	15%	3%	6%
Undecided	9%	11%	2%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	41%	57%	38%	40%	30%
Disapprove	56%	39%	58%	57%	66%
Not sure	4%	5%	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Bachmann Favorability					
Favorable	34%	38%	27%	38%	35%
Unfavorable	43%	47%	35%	45%	46%
Not sure	23%	16%	39%	17%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	27%	24%	25%	28%	33%
Unfavorable	53%	53%	46%	56%	55%
Not sure	20%	22%	29%	16%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	36%	36%	34%	36%	37%
Unfavorable	56%	58%	61%	54%	53%
Not sure	8%	7%	5%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Perry Favorability					
Favorable	36%	24%	33%	36%	51%
Unfavorable	39%	51%	30%	44%	30%
Not sure	25%	24%	37%	20%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	37%	38%	41%	31%	42%
Unfavorable	45%	51%	38%	49%	40%
Not sure	18%	11%	21%	20%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Bachmann					
Barack Obama	44%	57%	46%	42%	32%
Michele Bachmann	44%	36%	39%	46%	55%
Undecided	12%	7%	14%	12%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	44%	51%	46%	44%	32%
Newt Gingrich	45%	42%	39%	46%	55%
Undecided	11%	7%	14%	10%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	45%	56%	46%	45%	33%
Sarah Palin	45%	38%	43%	47%	54%
Undecided	10%	7%	11%	9%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Perry					
Barack Obama	41%	53%	39%	39%	32%
Rick Perry	49%	38%	47%	50%	63%
Undecided	10%	9%	13%	10%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	38%	53%	33%	38%	31%
Mitt Romney	53%	42%	53%	55%	58%
Undecided	9%	4%	14%	6%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Colbert Favorability					
Favorable	23%	24%	32%	21%	10%
Unfavorable	32%	38%	25%	34%	32%
Not sure	45%	38%	43%	44%	59%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Perry/Colbert					
Barack Obama	36%	47%	34%	36%	29%
Rick Perry	43%	29%	41%	44%	58%
Stephen Colbert	12%	18%	11%	13%	5%
Undecided	9%	7%	14%	7%	7%

