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March 11, 2011

**INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312**

## **Obama weaker in ME than in '08 but still leads Republicans**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – President Obama has maintained his standing in many swing states he won in 2008 better than he has in some heavily blue states, including Maine. But while he now looks weaker against three of his potential 2012 opponents than he did against John McCain, Maine and most traditionally blue states are so Democratic that he is set to win them by a healthy margin anyway.

Mitt Romney is, as in his native Massachusetts, other New England states, and indeed most states, the president's closest competitor, down 49-41. That is less than half Obama's 17-point victory over McCain in the state, a margin only exceeded against Sarah Palin (57-35). Mike Huckabee trails, 51-39, and Newt Gingrich, 53-37.

Obama has enormous leads with independents, who, though not as big a proportion of the electorate as in 2008, are still a sizeable quarter of voters. The president earns their support by margins of 17 (against Romney) to a whopping 35 points (versus Palin).

He also earns more Republican support than any of the Republicans do Democratic votes against every candidate except Romney. While the president locks up 86-90% of his base, the Republicans can muster only 70% (Palin) to 80% (Romney) of theirs. As in many states, Republicans are still on the fence more than are Democrats, which suggests either room for improvement or a danger of these voters staying home, which was their problem in 2008 and Democrats' last fall. 10% (with Huckabee as the nominee) to 14% (Gingrich) of the GOP are undecided, versus only 3-5% of Democrats.

“What we're finding in a lot of typically Democratic states that went even more Democratic than usual in 2008 is that things are sort of reverting to normal,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “Obama will win them again, but the margins may be a little less lofty than last time around.”

There is still some hangover from the historically Republican 2010 election in Maine, with Democrats only outnumbering Republicans in this electorate, 39-36, versus the 35-26 margin reported by 2008's exit polls. In PPP's final survey of the state before the 2010 election, Republicans exceeded Democrats, 38-35.

PPP surveyed 1,247 Maine voters from March 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.8%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





## Maine Survey Results

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

*Approve* ..... 51%  
*Disapprove*..... 44%  
*Not sure* ..... 5%

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

*Favorable* ..... 28% *Not sure* ..... 17%  
*Unfavorable*..... 55%

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

*Favorable* ..... 31% *Not sure* ..... 24%  
*Unfavorable*..... 45%

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

*Favorable* ..... 31% *Not sure* ..... 6%  
*Unfavorable*..... 64%

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

*Favorable* ..... 34% *Not sure* ..... 21%  
*Unfavorable*..... 46%

**Q6** If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

*Barack Obama*..... 53%  
*Newt Gingrich*..... 37%  
*Undecided*..... 10%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 51%  
*Mike Huckabee*..... 39%  
*Undecided*..... 9%

**Q8** 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*..... 35%  
*Undecided*..... 8%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 49%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 41%  
*Undecided*..... 10%

**Q10** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal*..... 11%  
*Somewhat liberal* ..... 20%  
*Moderate*..... 30%  
*Somewhat conservative*..... 22%  
*Very conservative* ..... 17%

**Q11** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q12** 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*..... 39%  
*Republican*..... 36%  
*Independent/Other*..... 26%

**Q13** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

*White* ..... 95%  
*Other*..... 5%



**Q14** 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.....	6%
30 to 45.....	30%
46 to 65.....	44%
Older than 65.....	20%



**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>						
<b>Approve</b>	51%	88%	83%	64%	20%	5%
<b>Disapprove</b>	44%	6%	13%	27%	75%	94%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	5%	4%	9%	6%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	11%	6%	14%	51%	63%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	82%	84%	64%	29%	19%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	8%	10%	22%	21%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	11%	8%	21%	50%	63%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	45%	74%	68%	50%	26%	15%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	14%	24%	29%	24%	22%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Palin Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	6%	7%	16%	50%	77%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	64%	94%	90%	78%	42%	16%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	-	4%	6%	8%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Romney Favorability</b>						
Favorable	34%	12%	18%	34%	50%	43%
Unfavorable	46%	73%	63%	42%	30%	36%
Not sure	21%	15%	19%	25%	20%	21%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>						
Barack Obama	53%	92%	86%	67%	20%	5%
Newt Gingrich	37%	6%	8%	20%	66%	86%
Undecided	10%	2%	6%	13%	14%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>						
Barack Obama	51%	92%	85%	66%	17%	3%
Mike Huckabee	39%	5%	8%	21%	70%	92%
Undecided	9%	3%	6%	14%	13%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Palin</b>						
Barack Obama	57%	94%	88%	73%	26%	4%
Sarah Palin	35%	4%	9%	16%	61%	89%
Undecided	8%	2%	3%	11%	13%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Romney</b>						
Barack Obama	49%	92%	83%	62%	14%	4%
Mitt Romney	41%	5%	12%	26%	72%	87%
Undecided	10%	3%	5%	13%	14%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
Approve	51%	53%	49%
Disapprove	44%	41%	47%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
Favorable	28%	25%	32%
Unfavorable	55%	55%	55%
Not sure	17%	21%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
Favorable	31%	28%	34%
Unfavorable	45%	43%	48%
Not sure	24%	30%	18%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	28%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	64%	66%	61%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	34%	31%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	42%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	27%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	53%	55%	50%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	37%	34%	41%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	12%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	51%	54%	48%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	39%	34%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	9%	11%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Palin</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	57%	59%	54%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	35%	31%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	49%	51%	47%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	41%	39%	44%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	10%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	51%	84%	14%	53%
<b>Disapprove</b>	44%	11%	80%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	4%	6%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	9%	55%	20%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	78%	24%	62%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	13%	21%	18%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	13%	55%	23%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	45%	64%	23%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	23%	22%	28%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	8%	61%	22%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	64%	89%	31%	72%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	3%	8%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	34%	19%	49%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	61%	29%	46%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	20%	22%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	53%	88%	12%	58%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	37%	8%	75%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	10%	4%	14%	14%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
Barack Obama	51%	86%	13%	54%
Mike Huckabee	39%	9%	77%	32%
Undecided	9%	5%	10%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
Barack Obama	57%	90%	17%	63%
Sarah Palin	35%	8%	70%	28%
Undecided	8%	3%	13%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	49%	86%	9%	51%
Mitt Romney	41%	10%	80%	34%
Undecided	10%	4%	12%	15%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
Approve	51%	51%	59%
Disapprove	44%	44%	39%
Not sure	5%	6%	3%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	27%	41%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	55%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	17%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	30%	36%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	45%	45%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	24%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	30%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	64%	64%	56%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	5%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	34%	34%	27%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	46%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	21%	21%	21%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>53%</b>	53%	56%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<b>37%</b>	37%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	10%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>51%</b>	51%	53%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>39%</b>	39%	38%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>9%</b>	9%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>57%</b>	56%	57%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>35%</b>	35%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>8%</b>	8%	3%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>49%</b>	49%	55%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>41%</b>	41%	38%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	10%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
<b>Approve</b>	51%	46%	46%	55%	51%
<b>Disapprove</b>	44%	49%	48%	40%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	28%	35%	30%	24%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	55%	41%	51%	61%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	24%	20%	15%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	43%	30%	29%	32%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	45%	30%	43%	49%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	27%	28%	22%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Palin Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	41%	34%	28%	29%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	64%	54%	63%	67%	62%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	5%	3%	6%	9%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>34%</b>	32%	31%	33%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>46%</b>	38%	48%	49%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>21%</b>	30%	21%	18%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>53%</b>	51%	49%	57%	50%
<b>New t Gingrich</b>	<b>37%</b>	41%	40%	33%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	8%	11%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>51%</b>	49%	46%	56%	50%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>39%</b>	46%	45%	34%	40%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>9%</b>	5%	9%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Palin</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>57%</b>	49%	54%	60%	54%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>35%</b>	41%	39%	32%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>8%</b>	11%	7%	8%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>49%</b>	46%	46%	53%	47%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>41%</b>	43%	44%	37%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>10%</b>	11%	10%	10%	8%

