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

Republicans beat Obama in MT, but Palin & Gingrich barely

Raleigh, N.C. – Only twice since 1948 (Lyndon Johnson in 1964 and Bill Clinton in 1992) has Montana gone blue in a presidential election, but President Obama lost the state to John McCain by only 2.5%. Depending on who the Republicans nominate in 2012, he may once again make the Treasure State competitive, or he may get defeated somewhat easily. With McCain voters outnumbering Obama supporters by four points, McCain’s running mate would perform similarly against Obama, as would Newt Gingrich, but Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee would have much healthier leads.

Obama trails 2008 vice presidential pick Sarah Palin by a 45-47 margin, and Gingrich by 44-46. But Romney leads 50-39, and Huckabee 51-41. The president actually wins independents by at least five points in each matchup: 43-38 against Romney, 45-40 against Huckabee, 49-32 against Gingrich, and 52-34 against Palin.

But the GOP-heavy electorate means Obama has to hold his base and take significant Republican support, which he is not doing at this point. All four Republicans woo at least slightly more Democrats than the president does Republicans. Against Gingrich and Palin, Obama is almost evenly matched in terms of party unity, but Romney holds Obama to 84% of Democrats while pulling 92% of Republicans, and Huckabee engenders an 85-9 split.

Obama does remarkably well, considering his 41-54 job approval rating, with all but Gingrich more popular than him. At a 46-35 favorability mark, Huckabee is by far the most popular of the four challengers, with Romney next at 38-39, Palin at 44-50, and Gingrich bringing up the rear at 34-47. Both Obama and Huckabee break even with independents, but the others are way under water, Gingrich at 24-57, Palin at 35-61, and Romney at 35-43. Obama and Palin are the most polarizing—94% of Republicans disapprove of Obama’s job performance, while 85% of Democrats dislike Palin.

“Big Sky Country will be tough territory for President Obama in 2012, but considering the results here and elsewhere, he certainly should be rooting for a Sarah Palin or Newt Gingrich nomination,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling.

PPP surveyed 1,176 Montana voters from November 10th to 13th. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.9%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.



Montana Survey Results

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

Approve 41%
Disapprove..... 54%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable 34% *Not sure* 19%
Unfavorable..... 47%

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

Favorable 46% *Not sure* 19%
Unfavorable..... 35%

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

Favorable 44% *Not sure* 5%
Unfavorable..... 50%

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

Favorable 38% *Not sure* 23%
Unfavorable..... 39%

Q6 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Newt Gingrich, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 44%
Newt Gingrich..... 46%
Undecided..... 11%

Q7 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mike Huckabee, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 41%
Mike Huckabee..... 51%
Undecided..... 8%

Q8 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Sarah Palin, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 45%
Sarah Palin..... 47%
Undecided..... 9%

Q9 If the candidates for President in 2012 were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 39%
Mitt Romney..... 50%
Undecided..... 11%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 47%
Barack Obama..... 43%
Someone else/Don't remember 10%

Q11 If you are a liberal, press 1. If a moderate, press 2. If a conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 18%
Moderate..... 40%
Conservative..... 42%

Q12 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q13 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..... 29%
Republican..... 38%
Independent/Other..... 32%

Q14 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

White 95%
Other..... 5%



Q15 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.

<i>18 to 29</i>	15%
<i>30 to 45</i>	30%
<i>46 to 65</i>	33%
<i>Older than 65</i>	22%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	41%	6%	85%	13%
Disapprove	54%	91%	9%	72%
Not sure	5%	3%	6%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	34%	59%	9%	25%
Unfavorable	47%	20%	77%	44%
Not sure	19%	21%	14%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	46%	74%	16%	43%
Unfavorable	35%	14%	61%	23%
Not sure	19%	12%	23%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	44%	75%	10%	48%
Unfavorable	50%	19%	87%	37%
Not sure	5%	5%	3%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	38%	60%	15%	36%
Unfavorable	39%	22%	60%	29%
Not sure	23%	18%	25%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	44%	7%	89%	17%
Newt Gingrich	46%	84%	7%	38%
Undecided	11%	9%	5%	45%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	41%	6%	85%	14%
Mike Huckabee	51%	89%	10%	54%
Undecided	8%	5%	5%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	45%	7%	90%	22%
Sarah Palin	47%	82%	7%	52%
Undecided	9%	11%	3%	26%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	39%	3%	84%	14%
Mitt Romney	50%	88%	9%	47%
Undecided	11%	9%	7%	40%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	41%	85%	56%	8%
Disapprove	54%	9%	37%	89%
Not sure	5%	5%	8%	3%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	34%	7%	20%	58%
Unfavorable	47%	83%	58%	21%
Not sure	19%	10%	21%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	46%	13%	34%	71%
Unfavorable	35%	69%	41%	16%
Not sure	19%	18%	25%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	44%	12%	25%	76%
Unfavorable	50%	87%	71%	15%
Not sure	5%	2%	4%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	38%	11%	28%	59%
Unfavorable	39%	68%	45%	21%
Not sure	23%	21%	26%	20%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	44%	87%	61%	9%
Newt Gingrich	46%	6%	28%	80%
Undecided	11%	7%	11%	12%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	41%	84%	58%	6%
Mike Huckabee	51%	11%	32%	87%
Undecided	8%	5%	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	45%	86%	65%	7%
Sarah Palin	47%	12%	25%	82%
Undecided	9%	2%	10%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	39%	84%	55%	5%
Mitt Romney	50%	7%	31%	85%
Undecided	11%	9%	13%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	41%	42%	40%
Disapprove	54%	53%	54%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	34%	30%	38%
Unfavorable	47%	48%	46%
Not sure	19%	22%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	46%	41%	50%
Unfavorable	35%	35%	36%
Not sure	19%	24%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	44%	43%	46%
Unfavorable	50%	51%	50%
Not sure	5%	6%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	38%	34%	42%
Unfavorable	39%	37%	41%
Not sure	23%	28%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	44%	44%	43%
Newt Gingrich	46%	44%	48%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	41%	42%	40%
Mike Huckabee	51%	50%	53%
Undecided	8%	9%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	45%	44%	45%
Sarah Palin	47%	45%	49%
Undecided	9%	11%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	39%	41%	37%
Mitt Romney	50%	47%	53%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	41%	84%	4%	46%
Disapprove	54%	10%	94%	46%
Not sure	5%	6%	2%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	34%	8%	63%	24%
Unfavorable	47%	77%	16%	57%
Not sure	19%	15%	21%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	46%	16%	74%	39%
Unfavorable	35%	59%	14%	39%
Not sure	19%	25%	12%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	44%	10%	78%	35%
Unfavorable	50%	85%	15%	61%
Not sure	5%	5%	7%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	38%	12%	61%	35%
Unfavorable	39%	60%	20%	43%
Not sure	23%	29%	19%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	44%	87%	5%	49%
Newt Gingrich	46%	7%	88%	32%
Undecided	11%	6%	7%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	41%	85%	3%	45%
Mike Huckabee	51%	9%	94%	40%
Undecided	8%	6%	3%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	45%	87%	5%	52%
Sarah Palin	47%	8%	86%	34%
Undecided	9%	5%	8%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	39%	84%	2%	43%
Mitt Romney	50%	8%	92%	38%
Undecided	11%	9%	7%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	41%	40%	55%
Disapprove	54%	54%	42%
Not sure	5%	5%	2%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	34%	35%	20%
Unfavorable	47%	46%	60%
Not sure	19%	19%	20%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	46%	46%	40%
Unfavorable	35%	35%	52%
Not sure	19%	19%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	44%	45%	39%
Unfavorable	50%	50%	57%
Not sure	5%	5%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	38%	38%	31%
Unfavorable	39%	39%	47%
Not sure	23%	23%	22%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	44%	43%	62%
Newt Gingrich	46%	46%	34%
Undecided	11%	11%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	41%	40%	59%
Mike Huckabee	51%	52%	37%
Undecided	8%	8%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	45%	43%	65%
Sarah Palin	47%	47%	34%
Undecided	9%	9%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	39%	38%	55%
Mitt Romney	50%	50%	37%
Undecided	11%	11%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	41%	54%	38%	38%	41%
Disapprove	54%	36%	56%	58%	56%
Not sure	5%	10%	6%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	34%	24%	29%	38%	42%
Unfavorable	47%	46%	52%	45%	45%
Not sure	19%	30%	20%	17%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	46%	36%	46%	46%	52%
Unfavorable	35%	42%	35%	36%	31%
Not sure	19%	22%	19%	19%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	44%	34%	44%	49%	45%
Unfavorable	50%	58%	53%	46%	48%
Not sure	5%	7%	4%	5%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	38%	34%	36%	38%	44%
Unfavorable	39%	42%	39%	40%	36%
Not sure	23%	24%	26%	21%	21%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	44%	54%	46%	39%	40%
Newt Gingrich	46%	33%	43%	50%	52%
Undecided	11%	13%	11%	11%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	41%	49%	43%	37%	38%
Mike Huckabee	51%	39%	50%	56%	55%
Undecided	8%	12%	7%	7%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	45%	52%	47%	41%	42%
Sarah Palin	47%	39%	45%	51%	48%
Undecided	9%	9%	9%	8%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	39%	49%	39%	36%	38%
Mitt Romney	50%	37%	50%	53%	52%
Undecided	11%	13%	11%	11%	10%

