



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**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**

## **Republicans trail Obama in Ohio by six to sixteen points**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – When PPP polled the presidential race in Ohio last December, the state’s electoral votes looked in danger of going back to the GOP after President Obama took the state over John McCain by less than five points in 2008. His party’s fortunes in a lot of blue-collar, heavily white Midwestern and Northeastern states had soured, and there was grumbling even within his own base. But a lot of that has abated as Democrats are reengaged, and independents are turning back Democrats’ way. The president now leads four potential Republican nominees by margins greater than his 2008 victory. Obama tops Mitt Romney, 46-40, after leading only 44-42 in the previous survey. He leads Mike Huckabee, 48-41 (45-44), Newt Gingrich 50-38 (47-41), and Sarah Palin 52-36 (49-42).

The parties are pretty much polarized, so the differences come with independents. Romney is now the only Republican to lead the president with independents, and barely (39-37, down slightly from 40-34). Huckabee had a 42-39 lead with them last poll, but now trails 44-36. Palin has declined with these voters from a 45-42 deficit to a whopping 49-32, and Gingrich from trailing 40-38 to 45-30.

The president’s approval rating is up eight points on the margin since the December poll, when he was at 42-49. Now, bellwether Ohioans barely approve of his job performance (47-46), mirroring his standing nationwide. Independents still give him negative marks (39-49), but that is a slight improvement from last time. His ground has been made up mostly with his own party, lending credence to the galvanization of Democrats by John Kasich’s policies as well as a national dampening of some displeasure Democrats showed with the president during the lame duck session of Congress.

Huckabee and Romney were better liked than the president a few months ago, but all the Republicans are now in worse shape. Huckabee had a net +5 favorability rating then, but has dropped to -6. Romney has a -10 (-3), Palin a -28 (-15), and Gingrich a -32 (-21).

“Our polls in states like Ohio, Virginia, and Colorado that George W. Bush won in 2004 and Barack Obama won in 2008 are all finding Obama in a position to win again,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “If that holds up he gets reelected easily.”

PPP surveyed 559 Ohio voters from March 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. The survey’s margin of error is +/-4.1%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





## Ohio Survey Results

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

*Approve* ..... 47%  
*Disapprove*..... 46%  
*Not sure* ..... 6%

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

*Favorable* ..... 24% *Not sure* ..... 20%  
*Unfavorable*..... 56%

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

*Favorable* ..... 36% *Not sure* ..... 22%  
*Unfavorable*..... 42%

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

*Favorable* ..... 31% *Not sure* ..... 10%  
*Unfavorable*..... 59%

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

*Favorable* ..... 33% *Not sure* ..... 24%  
*Unfavorable*..... 43%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 50%  
*Newt Gingrich*..... 38%  
*Undecided*..... 12%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 48%  
*Mike Huckabee*..... 41%  
*Undecided*..... 11%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 52%  
*Sarah Palin*..... 36%  
*Undecided*..... 11%

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

*Barack Obama*..... 46%  
*Mitt Romney*..... 40%  
*Undecided*..... 14%

**Q10** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

*John McCain*..... 46%  
*Barack Obama*..... 49%  
*Someone else/Don't remember* ..... 6%

**Q11** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal*..... 7%  
*Somewhat liberal* ..... 19%  
*Moderate*..... 29%  
*Somewhat conservative*..... 28%  
*Very conservative* ..... 15%

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

*Woman* ..... 55%  
*Man*..... 45%

**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* ..... 43%  
*Republican*..... 35%  
*Independent/Other*..... 21%





**Q14** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

<i>White</i> .....	84%
<i>African-American</i> .....	12%
<i>Other</i> .....	4%

**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> .....	7%
<i>30 to 45</i> .....	25%
<i>46 to 65</i> .....	47%
<i>Older than 65</i> .....	21%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	47%	9%	86%	27%
<b>Disapprove</b>	46%	84%	8%	64%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	7%	6%	9%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	24%	45%	6%	18%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	56%	30%	81%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	25%	14%	28%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	63%	11%	30%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	42%	18%	64%	39%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	19%	25%	31%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	56%	7%	31%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	59%	28%	89%	57%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	15%	4%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	51%	19%	15%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	43%	30%	55%	45%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	19%	26%	40%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	10%	90%	21%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	38%	77%	4%	21%
<b>Undecided</b>	12%	13%	6%	58%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	8%	89%	18%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	41%	79%	6%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	13%	5%	49%

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	52%	14%	92%	24%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	36%	70%	6%	28%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	16%	3%	48%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Pres Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	46%	8%	84%	18%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	40%	76%	9%	24%
<b>Undecided</b>	14%	15%	7%	58%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama Approval</b>						
<b>Approve</b>	47%	81%	83%	65%	22%	1%
<b>Disapprove</b>	46%	19%	17%	26%	67%	97%
<b>Not sure</b>	6%	-	-	10%	11%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	24%	7%	8%	8%	42%	53%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	56%	80%	83%	73%	33%	20%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	13%	9%	19%	25%	27%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	7%	11%	22%	53%	74%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	42%	62%	68%	55%	20%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	32%	20%	22%	27%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Palin Favorability</b>						
Favorable	31%	16%	11%	15%	41%	73%
Unfavorable	59%	77%	84%	79%	39%	18%
Not sure	10%	7%	4%	6%	19%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Romney Favorability</b>						
Favorable	33%	14%	22%	26%	48%	42%
Unfavorable	43%	54%	61%	50%	23%	38%
Not sure	24%	32%	16%	24%	29%	20%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>						
Barack Obama	50%	82%	85%	70%	24%	-
New t Gingrich	38%	12%	10%	16%	61%	89%
Undecided	12%	7%	5%	15%	15%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>						
Barack Obama	48%	82%	87%	66%	20%	1%
Mike Huckabee	41%	12%	11%	17%	65%	92%
Undecided	11%	7%	3%	17%	15%	7%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Palin</b>						
Barack Obama	52%	82%	86%	73%	29%	1%
Sarah Palin	36%	14%	12%	16%	51%	90%
Undecided	11%	4%	2%	11%	21%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Obama/Romney</b>						
Barack Obama	46%	82%	82%	61%	21%	-
Mitt Romney	40%	12%	15%	21%	62%	85%
Undecided	14%	7%	3%	18%	17%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama Approval</b>			
Approve	47%	54%	39%
Disapprove	46%	39%	55%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>			
Favorable	24%	20%	30%
Unfavorable	56%	58%	53%
Not sure	20%	22%	17%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>36%</b>	32%	41%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>42%</b>	42%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>22%</b>	26%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Palin Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>31%</b>	28%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>59%</b>	64%	54%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	9%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Romney Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>33%</b>	32%	35%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>43%</b>	42%	44%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>24%</b>	26%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>50%</b>	55%	44%
<b>Newt Gingrich</b>	<b>38%</b>	33%	45%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>12%</b>	13%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>48%</b>	54%	40%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	<b>41%</b>	34%	49%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	11%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Palin</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>52%</b>	57%	46%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>36%</b>	32%	42%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	11%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Obama/Romney</b>			
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>46%</b>	52%	38%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>40%</b>	35%	47%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>14%</b>	13%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>47%</b>	84%	7%	39%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>46%</b>	11%	88%	49%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>6%</b>	5%	5%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	24%	8%	47%	20%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	56%	76%	27%	63%
<b>Not sure</b>	20%	16%	26%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	36%	10%	69%	33%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	42%	60%	16%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	22%	29%	16%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	31%	11%	58%	26%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	59%	84%	27%	62%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	5%	15%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	16%	55%	34%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	43%	58%	26%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	24%	26%	19%	28%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
Barack Obama	50%	86%	8%	45%
Newt Gingrich	38%	7%	82%	30%
Undecided	12%	7%	10%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
Barack Obama	48%	85%	5%	44%
Mike Huckabee	41%	6%	86%	36%
Undecided	11%	8%	9%	20%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
Barack Obama	52%	87%	12%	49%
Sarah Palin	36%	9%	73%	32%
Undecided	11%	4%	15%	19%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	46%	83%	5%	37%
Mitt Romney	40%	8%	81%	39%
Undecided	14%	9%	14%	24%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama Approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	<b>47%</b>	41%	89%	60%
<b>Disapprove</b>	<b>46%</b>	53%	3%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>6%</b>	6%	8%	15%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>24%</b>	27%	8%	20%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>56%</b>	52%	76%	70%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>20%</b>	21%	16%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>36%</b>	41%	5%	25%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>42%</b>	39%	55%	65%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>22%</b>	20%	39%	10%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Palin Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>31%</b>	33%	13%	40%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>59%</b>	57%	79%	55%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	10%	8%	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Romney Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	33%	38%	5%	20%
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	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	50%	43%	95%	55%
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<b>Undecided</b>	12%	13%	3%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	48%	42%	89%	50%
<b>Mike Huckabee</b>	41%	46%	5%	35%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	12%	5%	15%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Palin</b>				
<b>Barack Obama</b>	52%	46%	92%	65%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	36%	41%	8%	30%
<b>Undecided</b>	11%	13%	-	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Obama/Romney</b>				
Barack Obama	46%	39%	89%	60%
Mitt Romney	40%	47%	3%	25%
Undecided	14%	15%	8%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama Approval</b>					
Approve	47%	44%	41%	48%	53%
Disapprove	46%	43%	53%	45%	42%
Not sure	6%	13%	6%	6%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gingrich Favorability</b>					
Favorable	24%	27%	18%	26%	28%
Unfavorable	56%	52%	58%	55%	57%
Not sure	20%	22%	24%	19%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Huckabee Favorability</b>					
Favorable	36%	30%	36%	38%	32%
Unfavorable	42%	37%	43%	39%	47%
Not sure	22%	33%	21%	22%	20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Palin Favorability</b>					
Favorable	31%	29%	32%	32%	28%
Unfavorable	59%	61%	60%	57%	61%
Not sure	10%	10%	8%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Romney Favorability</b>					
Favorable	33%	22%	30%	33%	43%
Unfavorable	43%	47%	44%	42%	41%
Not sure	24%	31%	26%	25%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Gingrich</b>					
Barack Obama	50%	54%	44%	51%	54%
Newt Gingrich	38%	29%	41%	39%	37%
Undecided	12%	18%	15%	10%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Huckabee</b>					
Barack Obama	48%	54%	45%	48%	51%
Mike Huckabee	41%	29%	45%	40%	41%
Undecided	11%	17%	10%	12%	9%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Palin</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>52%</b>	56%	49%	52%	56%
<b>Sarah Palin</b>	<b>36%</b>	29%	40%	37%	33%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>11%</b>	15%	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Obama/Romney</b>					
<b>Barack Obama</b>	<b>46%</b>	54%	43%	44%	49%
<b>Mitt Romney</b>	<b>40%</b>	26%	42%	41%	42%
<b>Undecided</b>	<b>14%</b>	20%	14%	15%	9%

