



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Obama tops all Republicans in swing-state Pennsylvania

Raleigh, N.C. – Republican presidential candidates have perennially contested Pennsylvania in recent years, and the results are usually close, but they have not succeeded in actually winning the state since 1988. President Obama defeated John McCain there by ten points. But while he currently leads all five possible contenders tested against him for 2012, including a native, two of them come significantly closer to making it the close battle it was in 2000 and 2004.

Obama bests Sarah Palin, 51-36; Newt Gingrich, 50-40; and former Senator Rick Santorum, 48-40. But Mitt Romney lags only 42-46, and Mike Huckabee only 44-47.

Except Huckabee, who the president beats by 12 points with independents, the others trail with this group by 18 or 20 points. But unaffiliated voters make up only 9% of the electorate, so the real difference comes in how much support the candidates get from the two parties. The starkest gulf in party unity comes when voters are given the choice between Obama and Palin—83% of Democrats surge toward the president, and only 64% of Republicans pledge for Palin. Obama earns seven points more of his base's votes than each Gingrich and Santorum do theirs. Huckabee and Romney trail by low single digits overall because they both get a little less than 80% of Republicans and hold Obama to a similar share of Democrats.

Defeated for re-election in 2006, Santorum has not regained much personal favor in the intervening years, and his weakness in his crucial swing-state home base gives him a weak argument for the GOP's nomination. At 38-44, he still has a significantly better favorability rating than either Palin (34-59) or Gingrich (29-53), but comes out slightly worse than Romney (34-38) and Huckabee (39-36). Obama's approval rating is still in negative territory at 46-49, but that is an improvement on the 40-54 he earned with the more Republican-heavy electorate just before last year's election.

"It's becoming a broken record in the swing states," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "Pennsylvania voters aren't enamored with Barack Obama but the weakness of the Republican candidate field has him leading all of his potential opponents anyway."

PPP surveyed 547 Pennsylvania voters from January 3rd to 5th. The survey's margin of error is +/-4.2%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.





Pennsylvania Survey Results

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

Approve 46%
Disapprove..... 49%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 29%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 17%

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

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

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

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 59%
Not sure 7%

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

Favorable..... 34%
Unfavorable 38%
Not sure 28%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Santorum?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 44%
Not sure 19%

Q7 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 40%
Undecided..... 10%

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

Barack Obama..... 47%
Mike Huckabee 44%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 51%
Sarah Palin 36%
Undecided..... 13%

Q10 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..... 42%
Undecided..... 13%

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

Barack Obama..... 48%
Rick Santorum 40%
Undecided..... 12%





Q12 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

Liberal..... 17%
Moderate..... 45%
Conservative..... 39%

Q13 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%

Q14 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 48%
Republican..... 43%
Independent/Other..... 9%

Q15 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 84%
African-American 11%
Other..... 5%

Q16 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..... 8%
30 to 45..... 24%
46 to 65..... 44%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	80%	59%	16%
Disapprove	49%	15%	35%	79%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	29%	10%	18%	51%
Unfavorable	53%	83%	67%	25%
Not sure	17%	7%	15%	24%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	39%	15%	30%	60%
Unfavorable	36%	61%	43%	16%
Not sure	25%	24%	27%	24%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	34%	12%	21%	60%
Unfavorable	59%	87%	72%	31%
Not sure	7%	2%	7%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	13%	34%	44%
Unfavorable	38%	59%	39%	27%
Not sure	28%	28%	27%	29%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	38%	15%	32%	55%
Unfavorable	44%	68%	52%	23%
Not sure	19%	17%	16%	22%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	84%	64%	19%
Newt Gingrich	40%	8%	27%	68%
Undecided	10%	7%	9%	13%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	47%	85%	59%	15%
Mike Huckabee	44%	8%	32%	75%
Undecided	9%	6%	9%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	51%	85%	68%	18%
Sarah Palin	36%	12%	23%	61%
Undecided	13%	3%	9%	21%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	85%	56%	17%
Mitt Romney	42%	7%	33%	67%
Undecided	13%	7%	11%	17%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	48%	85%	60%	18%
Rick Santorum	40%	10%	29%	67%
Undecided	12%	5%	11%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	46%	50%	42%
Disapprove	49%	43%	55%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	29%	28%	32%
Unfavorable	53%	52%	55%
Not sure	17%	21%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Huckabee Favorability			
Favorable	39%	36%	42%
Unfavorable	36%	32%	40%
Not sure	25%	32%	18%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	34%	34%	35%
Unfavorable	59%	59%	58%
Not sure	7%	7%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	34%	37%	32%
Unfavorable	38%	31%	46%
Not sure	28%	33%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	38%	38%	38%
Unfavorable	44%	38%	50%
Not sure	19%	24%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	50%	51%	48%
Newt Gingrich	40%	37%	43%
Undecided	10%	12%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Huckabee			
Barack Obama	47%	49%	44%
Mike Huckabee	44%	40%	49%
Undecided	9%	11%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	51%	53%	50%
Sarah Palin	36%	33%	39%
Undecided	13%	15%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	46%	48%	43%
Mitt Romney	42%	38%	46%
Undecided	13%	14%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	48%	50%	46%
Rick Santorum	40%	35%	46%
Undecided	12%	15%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	76%	12%	49%
Disapprove	49%	16%	85%	49%
Not sure	5%	8%	3%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	29%	11%	53%	12%
Unfavorable	53%	71%	29%	71%
Not sure	17%	17%	17%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	39%	21%	62%	21%
Unfavorable	36%	47%	19%	57%
Not sure	25%	32%	19%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	34%	14%	58%	28%
Unfavorable	59%	81%	32%	67%
Not sure	7%	5%	9%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	20%	52%	26%
Unfavorable	38%	47%	25%	49%
Not sure	28%	33%	23%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	38%	25%	53%	30%
Unfavorable	44%	56%	28%	54%
Not sure	19%	19%	19%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	81%	15%	53%
Newt Gingrich	40%	11%	74%	33%
Undecided	10%	8%	12%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	47%	78%	10%	49%
Mike Huckabee	44%	14%	80%	37%
Undecided	9%	8%	10%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	51%	83%	17%	51%
Sarah Palin	36%	11%	64%	33%
Undecided	13%	6%	19%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	78%	10%	47%
Mitt Romney	42%	12%	77%	29%
Undecided	13%	10%	14%	24%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	48%	79%	13%	49%
Rick Santorum	40%	14%	72%	29%
Undecided	12%	7%	15%	22%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	46%	40%	93%	47%
Disapprove	49%	55%	5%	47%
Not sure	5%	6%	2%	7%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	29%	33%	7%	23%
Unfavorable	53%	51%	64%	60%
Not sure	17%	16%	29%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Huckabee Favorability				
Favorable	39%	43%	10%	37%
Unfavorable	36%	34%	50%	37%
Not sure	25%	23%	40%	27%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	34%	39%	2%	23%
Unfavorable	59%	55%	86%	63%
Not sure	7%	6%	12%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	34%	38%	14%	27%
Unfavorable	38%	37%	40%	50%
Not sure	28%	26%	45%	23%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	38%	39%	31%	30%
Unfavorable	44%	44%	36%	47%
Not sure	19%	16%	33%	23%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	50%	44%	95%	57%
Newt Gingrich	40%	45%	2%	37%
Undecided	10%	11%	2%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Huckabee				
Barack Obama	47%	40%	95%	53%
Mike Huckabee	44%	51%	2%	33%
Undecided	9%	10%	2%	13%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	51%	46%	93%	57%
Sarah Palin	36%	41%	2%	27%
Undecided	13%	14%	5%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	46%	40%	93%	47%
Mitt Romney	42%	47%	2%	37%
Undecided	13%	13%	5%	17%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	48%	42%	90%	53%
Rick Santorum	40%	46%	7%	23%
Undecided	12%	12%	2%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	46%	47%	37%	48%	51%
Disapprove	49%	43%	56%	48%	45%
Not sure	5%	10%	7%	4%	4%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	29%	20%	26%	32%	31%
Unfavorable	53%	53%	54%	53%	54%
Not sure	17%	27%	21%	15%	15%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Huckabee Favorability					
Favorable	39%	42%	35%	41%	39%
Unfavorable	36%	27%	42%	32%	39%
Not sure	25%	31%	23%	27%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	34%	28%	39%	36%	29%
Unfavorable	59%	70%	55%	56%	63%
Not sure	7%	2%	5%	8%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	34%	24%	31%	31%	47%
Unfavorable	38%	42%	44%	38%	31%
Not sure	28%	35%	25%	31%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	38%	21%	45%	35%	41%
Unfavorable	44%	39%	36%	47%	47%
Not sure	19%	41%	19%	18%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	50%	55%	43%	51%	53%
Newt Gingrich	40%	39%	44%	41%	33%
Undecided	10%	6%	13%	8%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Huckabee					
Barack Obama	47%	55%	40%	46%	50%
Mike Huckabee	44%	43%	47%	44%	43%
Undecided	9%	2%	12%	10%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	51%	60%	46%	51%	56%
Sarah Palin	36%	28%	39%	37%	32%
Undecided	13%	12%	15%	12%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	46%	49%	42%	45%	50%
Mitt Romney	42%	37%	43%	41%	41%
Undecided	13%	14%	14%	14%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	48%	51%	42%	49%	50%
Rick Santorum	40%	42%	45%	39%	37%
Undecided	12%	6%	12%	12%	13%

