

INTERVIEWS: Tom Jensen 919-744-6312

IF YOU HAVE BASIC METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE E-MAIL information@publicpolicypolling.com, OR CONSULT THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE PRESS RELEASE

Obama trails Romney, DeMint, leads others in SC

Raleigh, N.C. – The story has not really changed since PPP last took a look at the race for the White House in South Carolina. In late January, President Obama trailed Mitt Romney and the state’s junior Senator Jim DeMint, while leading the other candidates tested by small margins. That is still true. Romney tops the president, 50-41, up slightly from 49-42 four months ago and now matching John McCain’s surprisingly close victory margin in 2008. DeMint also leads, 47-44 (47-45 in January), not a good showing for a native son, particularly in a state in which Obama should not be competitive.

But the president is competitive against DeMint and everyone but Romney, the current leader in the Palmetto State’s GOP primary contest. In fact, facing any other nominee right now, Obama would be the first Democrat to take the state’s newly expanded nine electoral votes since Jimmy Carter 36 years ago. Obama ties Tim Pawlenty at 42%, and leads Newt Gingrich, 46-44 (44-43); Herman Cain, 43-40; and Sarah Palin, 48-43 (47-41). Against everyone but Romney, Obama leads with independents and earns more Republican votes than any of his potential opponents do Democratic votes.

Cain and Pawlenty have never been tested against Obama here before. While it could change when more voters get to know him, Cain’s race has had no impact on his chances in the general election so far. He does just as badly with black voters as the others, and better than Palin and about equally as well as Pawlenty and Gingrich with whites. Gingrich’s fortunes are on the decline seemingly everywhere. His favorability rating has plummeted 13 points, from 32% favorable and 46% unfavorable to 26-53. However, Romney’s have also dropped 10 points, from 42-34 to 40-42.

“South Carolina’s not a state that should really be winnable for Barack Obama but if Republicans nominate one of their weaker candidates it’s possible,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “If he did win the state it would likely be part of a 400+ plus electoral vote landslide.”

PPP surveyed 741 South Carolina voters from June 2nd to 5th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.6%. 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 43%
Disapprove..... 53%
Not sure 3%

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

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 53%
Not sure 21%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Sarah Palin?

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 56%
Not sure 7%

Q4 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mitt Romney?

Favorable..... 40%
Unfavorable 42%
Not sure 18%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tim Pawlenty?

Favorable..... 22%
Unfavorable 39%
Not sure 39%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Herman Cain?

Favorable..... 26%
Unfavorable 35%
Not sure 39%

Q7 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Jim DeMint's job performance?

Approve 47%
Disapprove..... 34%
Not sure 19%

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

Barack Obama..... 46%
Newt Gingrich 44%
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..... 48%
Sarah Palin 43%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 41%
Mitt Romney..... 50%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 42%
Tim Pawlenty 42%
Undecided..... 16%





Q12 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Herman Cain, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 43%
Herman Cain..... 40%
Undecided..... 17%

Q13 If the candidates for President next year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Jim DeMint, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 44%
Jim DeMint..... 47%
Undecided..... 9%

Q14 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 50%
Barack Obama..... 40%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 10%

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

Very liberal..... 9%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 27%
Somewhat conservative..... 22%
Very conservative 25%

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

Woman 57%
Man..... 43%

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..... 35%
Republican..... 43%
Independent/Other..... 22%

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

White 70%
African-American 26%
Other..... 4%

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..... 10%
30 to 45..... 24%
46 to 65..... 46%
Older than 65..... 20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	43%	9%	90%	29%
Disapprove	53%	88%	7%	65%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	6%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	41%	10%	15%
Unfavorable	53%	40%	70%	50%
Not sure	21%	19%	20%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	61%	6%	37%
Unfavorable	56%	29%	90%	53%
Not sure	7%	10%	4%	10%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	40%	58%	17%	41%
Unfavorable	42%	26%	63%	37%
Not sure	18%	17%	19%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Pawlenty Favorability				
Favorable	22%	34%	9%	16%
Unfavorable	39%	24%	58%	35%
Not sure	39%	42%	33%	49%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	26%	37%	13%	17%
Unfavorable	35%	23%	51%	35%
Not sure	39%	40%	36%	48%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
DeMint Approval				
Approve	47%	68%	20%	54%
Disapprove	34%	17%	55%	32%
Not sure	19%	15%	25%	13%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	46%	11%	94%	28%
Newt Gingrich	44%	76%	4%	41%
Undecided	11%	13%	2%	32%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	48%	13%	95%	31%
Sarah Palin	43%	74%	3%	44%
Undecided	9%	12%	2%	25%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	41%	8%	88%	21%
Mitt Romney	50%	84%	8%	50%
Undecided	9%	8%	4%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Pawlenty				
Barack Obama	42%	9%	89%	24%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	75%	3%	33%
Undecided	16%	16%	8%	43%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/Cain				
Barack Obama	43%	9%	90%	23%
Herman Cain	40%	69%	4%	40%
Undecided	17%	22%	7%	37%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama/DeMint				
Barack Obama	44%	11%	90%	24%
Jim DeMint	47%	80%	5%	50%
Undecided	9%	9%	4%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	43%	70%	82%	61%	15%	15%
Disapprove	53%	26%	13%	34%	82%	83%
Not sure	3%	4%	5%	4%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	26%	17%	10%	17%	33%	42%
Unfavorable	53%	65%	79%	61%	41%	36%
Not sure	21%	18%	11%	22%	26%	23%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Palin Favorability						
Favorable	37%	17%	10%	23%	50%	63%
Unfavorable	56%	81%	87%	73%	37%	27%
Not sure	7%	2%	4%	4%	13%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	40%	19%	22%	35%	54%	51%
Unfavorable	42%	68%	66%	44%	25%	30%
Not sure	18%	14%	12%	21%	21%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Pawlenty Favorability						
Favorable	22%	9%	9%	17%	32%	32%
Unfavorable	39%	71%	64%	45%	18%	24%
Not sure	39%	20%	27%	39%	50%	44%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Cain Favorability						
Favorable	26%	12%	8%	19%	35%	41%
Unfavorable	35%	65%	66%	36%	20%	19%
Not sure	39%	24%	26%	45%	45%	40%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
DeMint Approval						
Approve	47%	33%	18%	31%	64%	75%
Disapprove	34%	46%	62%	46%	21%	11%
Not sure	19%	21%	20%	24%	16%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	46%	76%	88%	66%	16%	13%
Newt Gingrich	44%	17%	4%	24%	72%	75%
Undecided	11%	7%	7%	11%	12%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Palin						
Barack Obama	48%	78%	88%	69%	21%	13%
Sarah Palin	43%	15%	7%	22%	68%	74%
Undecided	9%	7%	5%	9%	11%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	41%	72%	88%	55%	14%	11%
Mitt Romney	50%	27%	8%	37%	76%	76%
Undecided	9%	2%	4%	8%	10%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Pawlenty						
Barack Obama	42%	73%	89%	58%	13%	11%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	20%	4%	23%	67%	72%
Undecided	16%	7%	7%	20%	20%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Cain						
Barack Obama	43%	70%	87%	59%	13%	12%
Herman Cain	40%	20%	5%	19%	60%	74%
Undecided	17%	10%	7%	21%	27%	14%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/DeMint						
Barack Obama	44%	76%	87%	64%	14%	12%
Jim DeMint	47%	21%	7%	26%	73%	81%
Undecided	9%	3%	6%	10%	13%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	43%	49%	35%
Disapprove	53%	47%	61%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	26%	23%	29%
Unfavorable	53%	52%	54%
Not sure	21%	25%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Palin Favorability			
Favorable	37%	34%	40%
Unfavorable	56%	57%	54%
Not sure	7%	9%	5%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	40%	35%	46%
Unfavorable	42%	41%	43%
Not sure	18%	24%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Pawlenty Favorability			
Favorable	22%	17%	29%
Unfavorable	39%	40%	38%
Not sure	39%	44%	33%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Cain Favorability			
Favorable	26%	21%	32%
Unfavorable	35%	34%	37%
Not sure	39%	45%	31%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
DeMint Approval			
Approve	47%	46%	49%
Disapprove	34%	31%	38%
Not sure	19%	23%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	46%	50%	40%
Newt Gingrich	44%	41%	48%
Undecided	11%	9%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Palin			
Barack Obama	48%	53%	41%
Sarah Palin	43%	38%	49%
Undecided	9%	9%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	41%	46%	36%
Mitt Romney	50%	46%	55%
Undecided	9%	8%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Pawlenty			
Barack Obama	42%	47%	36%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	38%	47%
Undecided	16%	15%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Cain			
Barack Obama	43%	48%	35%
Herman Cain	40%	37%	44%
Undecided	17%	15%	21%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/DeMint			
Barack Obama	44%	49%	38%
Jim DeMint	47%	45%	50%
Undecided	9%	7%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	43%	89%	8%	38%
Disapprove	53%	7%	89%	58%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	11%	43%	16%
Unfavorable	53%	67%	38%	60%
Not sure	21%	22%	19%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	7%	62%	33%
Unfavorable	56%	87%	29%	59%
Not sure	7%	5%	9%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	40%	16%	61%	37%
Unfavorable	42%	65%	23%	41%
Not sure	18%	19%	16%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Pawlenty Favorability				
Favorable	22%	7%	33%	25%
Unfavorable	39%	57%	25%	37%
Not sure	39%	36%	43%	38%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	26%	9%	40%	24%
Unfavorable	35%	52%	21%	38%
Not sure	39%	40%	39%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
DeMint Approval				
Approve	47%	19%	74%	43%
Disapprove	34%	54%	12%	45%
Not sure	19%	28%	15%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	46%	92%	9%	44%
Newt Gingrich	44%	4%	78%	39%
Undecided	11%	4%	13%	17%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	48%	92%	12%	49%
Sarah Palin	43%	4%	76%	39%
Undecided	9%	4%	12%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	41%	88%	5%	38%
Mitt Romney	50%	8%	87%	46%
Undecided	9%	4%	8%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Pawlenty				
Barack Obama	42%	89%	6%	39%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	3%	76%	37%
Undecided	16%	8%	18%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Cain				
Barack Obama	43%	89%	6%	38%
Herman Cain	40%	5%	72%	34%
Undecided	17%	6%	21%	27%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/DeMint				
Barack Obama	44%	90%	8%	42%
Jim DeMint	47%	6%	84%	41%
Undecided	9%	5%	8%	17%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	43%	24%	94%	50%
Disapprove	53%	72%	5%	41%
Not sure	3%	4%	1%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	26%	30%	15%	17%
Unfavorable	53%	50%	60%	58%
Not sure	21%	20%	25%	25%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Palin Favorability				
Favorable	37%	48%	9%	21%
Unfavorable	56%	44%	86%	71%
Not sure	7%	8%	4%	9%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	40%	51%	14%	22%
Unfavorable	42%	32%	63%	71%
Not sure	18%	17%	22%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Pawlenty Favorability				
Favorable	22%	27%	9%	15%
Unfavorable	39%	32%	55%	52%
Not sure	39%	41%	36%	33%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Cain Favorability				
Favorable	26%	31%	12%	27%
Unfavorable	35%	28%	52%	47%
Not sure	39%	41%	35%	26%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
DeMint Approval				
Approve	47%	58%	21%	28%
Disapprove	34%	26%	50%	58%
Not sure	19%	15%	28%	14%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	46%	27%	95%	57%
Newt Gingrich	44%	59%	4%	31%
Undecided	11%	14%	1%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Palin				
Barack Obama	48%	30%	96%	57%
Sarah Palin	43%	58%	3%	27%
Undecided	9%	12%	1%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	41%	21%	93%	57%
Mitt Romney	50%	69%	3%	24%
Undecided	9%	10%	4%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Pawlenty				
Barack Obama	42%	23%	94%	50%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	57%	2%	31%
Undecided	16%	20%	4%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/Cain				
Barack Obama	43%	23%	93%	57%
Herman Cain	40%	54%	4%	29%
Undecided	17%	23%	4%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Obama/DeMint				
Barack Obama	44%	25%	93%	57%
Jim DeMint	47%	65%	2%	31%
Undecided	9%	10%	5%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	43%	52%	48%	44%	31%
Disapprove	53%	39%	50%	53%	66%
Not sure	3%	9%	2%	3%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	26%	15%	22%	27%	34%
Unfavorable	53%	52%	57%	53%	50%
Not sure	21%	33%	22%	20%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Palin Favorability					
Favorable	37%	22%	35%	37%	46%
Unfavorable	56%	69%	58%	56%	47%
Not sure	7%	9%	7%	7%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	40%	25%	36%	40%	53%
Unfavorable	42%	53%	45%	42%	33%
Not sure	18%	22%	20%	19%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Pawlenty Favorability					
Favorable	22%	18%	14%	25%	27%
Unfavorable	39%	42%	41%	38%	36%
Not sure	39%	39%	45%	37%	37%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Cain Favorability					
Favorable	26%	12%	28%	26%	30%
Unfavorable	35%	45%	32%	34%	36%
Not sure	39%	42%	40%	39%	35%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
DeMint Approval					
Approve	47%	27%	49%	46%	60%
Disapprove	34%	33%	31%	37%	30%
Not sure	19%	39%	20%	17%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	46%	64%	49%	46%	32%
Newt Gingrich	44%	21%	43%	43%	57%
Undecided	11%	15%	8%	11%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Palin					
Barack Obama	48%	64%	52%	48%	34%
Sarah Palin	43%	18%	40%	44%	56%
Undecided	9%	18%	8%	8%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	41%	55%	47%	42%	27%
Mitt Romney	50%	33%	47%	50%	64%
Undecided	9%	12%	7%	9%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Pawlenty					
Barack Obama	42%	52%	47%	44%	30%
Tim Pawlenty	42%	21%	39%	42%	55%
Undecided	16%	27%	15%	14%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Cain					
Barack Obama	43%	58%	44%	43%	31%
Herman Cain	40%	24%	42%	38%	52%
Undecided	17%	18%	14%	19%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/DeMint					
Barack Obama	44%	58%	47%	46%	31%
Jim DeMint	47%	27%	45%	45%	63%
Undecided	9%	15%	8%	9%	6%

