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Obama Blows Away Republican Field in Massachusetts

Raleigh, N.C. – Barack Obama has drastically improved his approval rating and performance against the Republican field in Massachusetts since last fall and now leads all Republican challengers by 23 points or more, a new poll from Public Policy Polling finds.

Obama leads Newt Gingrich by a whopping 34 points in Massachusetts, 62-28 (up from 58-31 last September); he leads Rick Santorum by 32 points, 61-29; and leads Ron Paul by 28 points, 58-30 (up from 55-30 last September). Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney performs best in a head to head matchup versus Obama but still loses by 23 points, 58-35 (down from 53-40 last September).

The Republican candidates suffer from horrible favorability ratings in Massachusetts – Newt Gingrich is at just 17% favorable and 75% unfavorable (down even further from 21-67 last September), Ron Paul is at 30/59, Mitt Romney is at 37/57 (down from 41/53 last September), and Rick Santorum is at 22/69. Although voters rate Romney poorly now, 48% say that he was a good Governor to 40% who believe he was not.

The President's approval ratings stands at 57% approval and 38% disapproval in Massachusetts, up sharply from the last time PPP polled the state in September when it was at 49-45. Obama's approval ratings with independent voters is now nearly even at 46-48, up from last September when it was at 42-53. He's also improved his standing with Republicans (14-86 now compared to 5-90 last September) and consolidated support with Democrats (84-10 now compared to 74-20 last September).

“Massachusetts voters think Mitt Romney was a good Governor, but they don't like the person he's transformed himself into as a Presidential candidate,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “As a result he's losing his home state by almost as much as John McCain did in 2008.”

PPP surveyed 936 Massachusetts voters from March 16th – 18th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-3.2%. 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.



Massachusetts Survey Results

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

Approve 57%
Disapprove..... 38%
Not sure 5%

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

Favorable..... 17%
Unfavorable 75%
Not sure 8%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Ron Paul?

Favorable..... 30%
Unfavorable 59%
Not sure 12%

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

Favorable..... 37%
Unfavorable 57%
Not sure 7%

Q5 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Rick Santorum?

Favorable..... 22%
Unfavorable 69%
Not sure 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 62%
Newt Gingrich..... 28%
Undecided..... 10%

Q7 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Ron Paul, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 58%
Ron Paul..... 30%
Undecided..... 12%

Q8 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 58%
Mitt Romney..... 35%
Undecided..... 7%

Q9 If the candidates for President this year were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Rick Santorum, who would you vote for?

Barack Obama..... 61%
Rick Santorum 29%
Undecided..... 10%

Q10 Regardless of how you feel about him now, do you approve or disapprove of the work Mitt Romney did while he was Governor of Massachusetts?

Approve 48%
Disapprove..... 40%
Not sure 12%

Q11 Do you think Mitt Romney's campaign for President has helped Massachusetts' image, hurt it, or has it not made a difference?

Helped 15%
Hurt..... 25%
Hasn't made a difference 59%
Not sure 2%





Q12 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

<i>John McCain</i>	32%
<i>Barack Obama</i>	57%
<i>Someone else/Don't remember</i>	11%

Q13 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

<i>Very liberal</i>	11%
<i>Somewhat liberal</i>	27%
<i>Moderate</i>	36%
<i>Somewhat conservative</i>	21%
<i>Very conservative</i>	5%

Q14 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

<i>Woman</i>	49%
<i>Man</i>	51%

Q15 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

<i>Democrat</i>	41%
<i>Republican</i>	14%
<i>Independent/Other</i>	45%

Q16 If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

<i>White</i>	87%
<i>Other</i>	13%

Q17 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>	13%
<i>30 to 45</i>	27%
<i>46 to 65</i>	40%
<i>Older than 65</i>	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	57%	13%	81%	62%
Disapprove	38%	84%	14%	29%
Not sure	5%	3%	5%	10%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	17%	31%	11%	10%
Unfavorable	75%	57%	85%	79%
Not sure	8%	11%	5%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	30%	35%	28%	25%
Unfavorable	59%	52%	62%	61%
Not sure	12%	13%	10%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	70%	19%	31%
Unfavorable	57%	24%	75%	61%
Not sure	7%	6%	7%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	22%	39%	12%	20%
Unfavorable	69%	48%	81%	70%
Not sure	9%	13%	7%	10%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	62%	19%	86%	67%
Newt Gingrich	28%	65%	10%	14%
Undecided	10%	16%	5%	19%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	58%	18%	81%	58%
Ron Paul	30%	64%	11%	26%
Undecided	12%	18%	8%	16%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	58%	12%	83%	63%
Mitt Romney	35%	80%	11%	24%
Undecided	7%	8%	5%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	61%	14%	87%	61%
Rick Santorum	29%	66%	9%	23%
Undecided	10%	20%	4%	15%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney as Gov Approval				
Approve	48%	67%	38%	44%
Disapprove	40%	24%	50%	38%
Not sure	12%	9%	13%	18%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Has Romney's Campaign Helped/Hurt MA's Im g?				
Helped	15%	28%	8%	14%
Hurt	25%	11%	32%	29%
Hasn't made a difference	59%	60%	59%	53%
Not sure	2%	2%	2%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	57%	76%	87%	55%	19%	21%
Disapprove	38%	18%	10%	36%	80%	78%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%	9%	1%	1%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	17%	7%	7%	16%	31%	42%
Unfavorable	75%	92%	86%	76%	57%	54%
Not sure	8%	1%	7%	8%	13%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	30%	26%	19%	34%	41%	25%
Unfavorable	59%	70%	72%	51%	45%	68%
Not sure	12%	4%	9%	15%	13%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	37%	16%	14%	42%	65%	56%
Unfavorable	57%	83%	80%	52%	26%	37%
Not sure	7%	1%	7%	6%	10%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	22%	12%	8%	19%	39%	57%
Unfavorable	69%	86%	85%	69%	46%	39%
Not sure	9%	2%	7%	12%	14%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	62%	84%	90%	64%	20%	25%
Newt Gingrich	28%	9%	6%	21%	68%	69%
Undecided	10%	7%	4%	15%	12%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	58%	82%	87%	55%	23%	26%
Ron Paul	30%	11%	8%	26%	65%	68%
Undecided	12%	6%	5%	19%	12%	7%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	58%	87%	88%	55%	19%	23%
Mitt Romney	35%	10%	8%	33%	76%	74%
Undecided	7%	4%	4%	12%	5%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	61%	84%	89%	62%	18%	24%
Rick Santorum	29%	11%	7%	23%	66%	72%
Undecided	10%	5%	4%	14%	16%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney as Gov Approval						
Approve	48%	29%	37%	53%	63%	51%
Disapprove	40%	58%	48%	36%	27%	40%
Not sure	12%	13%	16%	11%	10%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Has Romney's Campaign Helped/Hurt MA's Im g?						
Helped	15%	7%	6%	16%	26%	23%
Hurt	25%	47%	34%	20%	11%	17%
Hasn't made a difference	59%	44%	59%	62%	62%	49%
Not sure	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	57%	59%	54%
Disapprove	38%	35%	42%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	17%	17%	17%
Unfavorable	75%	76%	75%
Not sure	8%	7%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	30%	26%	34%
Unfavorable	59%	61%	56%
Not sure	12%	14%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	37%	39%	34%
Unfavorable	57%	55%	58%
Not sure	7%	6%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	22%	21%	22%
Unfavorable	69%	68%	70%
Not sure	9%	11%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	62%	64%	60%
Newt Gingrich	28%	26%	30%
Undecided	10%	9%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	58%	63%	54%
Ron Paul	30%	25%	34%
Undecided	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	58%	61%	55%
Mitt Romney	35%	33%	36%
Undecided	7%	5%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	61%	64%	57%
Rick Santorum	29%	26%	32%
Undecided	10%	10%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney as Gov Approval			
Approve	48%	44%	51%
Disapprove	40%	44%	37%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Has Romney's Campaign Helped/Hurt MA's Img?			
Helped	15%	13%	17%
Hurt	25%	24%	25%
Hasn't made a difference	59%	60%	57%
Not sure	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	57%	84%	14%	46%
Disapprove	38%	10%	86%	48%
Not sure	5%	6%	0%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	17%	8%	27%	22%
Unfavorable	75%	87%	63%	68%
Not sure	8%	5%	10%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	30%	20%	35%	37%
Unfavorable	59%	71%	52%	50%
Not sure	12%	9%	13%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	37%	14%	73%	45%
Unfavorable	57%	81%	17%	47%
Not sure	7%	4%	10%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	22%	11%	45%	23%
Unfavorable	69%	82%	44%	65%
Not sure	9%	7%	11%	11%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	62%	90%	17%	51%
Newt Gingrich	28%	4%	71%	36%
Undecided	10%	6%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	58%	86%	22%	45%
Ron Paul	30%	6%	65%	39%
Undecided	12%	7%	13%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	58%	89%	11%	46%
Mitt Romney	35%	7%	82%	45%
Undecided	7%	4%	7%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	61%	90%	12%	50%
Rick Santorum	29%	5%	71%	38%
Undecided	10%	6%	18%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney as Gov Approval				
Approve	48%	32%	69%	56%
Disapprove	40%	54%	17%	35%
Not sure	12%	15%	13%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Has Romney's Campaign Helped/Hurt MA's Img?				
Helped	15%	6%	37%	15%
Hurt	25%	34%	10%	21%
Hasn't made a difference	59%	58%	51%	62%
Not sure	2%	3%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	57%	55%	67%
Disapprove	38%	40%	26%
Not sure	5%	5%	6%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	17%	17%	22%
Unfavorable	75%	76%	68%
Not sure	8%	7%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	30%	30%	29%
Unfavorable	59%	60%	53%
Not sure	12%	10%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	37%	38%	25%
Unfavorable	57%	56%	62%
Not sure	7%	6%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	22%	20%	29%
Unfavorable	69%	71%	55%
Not sure	9%	8%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	62%	61%	71%
Newt Gingrich	28%	29%	21%
Undecided	10%	10%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	58%	57%	67%
Ron Paul	30%	30%	24%
Undecided	12%	13%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	58%	57%	66%
Mitt Romney	35%	36%	24%
Undecided	7%	7%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	61%	60%	64%
Rick Santorum	29%	29%	27%
Undecided	10%	11%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney as Gov Approval			
Approve	48%	50%	34%
Disapprove	40%	39%	50%
Not sure	12%	11%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Has Romney's Campaign Helped/Hurt MA's Img?			
Helped	15%	15%	12%
Hurt	25%	25%	21%
Hasn't made a difference	59%	58%	59%
Not sure	2%	1%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	57%	67%	52%	58%	52%
Disapprove	38%	27%	39%	39%	44%
Not sure	5%	7%	8%	3%	4%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	17%	18%	21%	14%	18%
Unfavorable	75%	80%	67%	80%	72%
Not sure	8%	2%	12%	5%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	30%	33%	33%	29%	26%
Unfavorable	59%	56%	56%	61%	60%
Not sure	12%	11%	11%	10%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	37%	29%	31%	39%	45%
Unfavorable	57%	67%	60%	55%	49%
Not sure	7%	4%	9%	6%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	22%	24%	23%	20%	21%
Unfavorable	69%	67%	64%	74%	69%
Not sure	9%	9%	13%	7%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	62%	73%	60%	64%	54%
Newt Gingrich	28%	22%	31%	28%	28%
Undecided	10%	4%	9%	8%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	58%	64%	57%	60%	54%
Ron Paul	30%	24%	32%	30%	29%
Undecided	12%	11%	11%	10%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	58%	71%	57%	58%	52%
Mitt Romney	35%	20%	32%	38%	42%
Undecided	7%	9%	11%	4%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	61%	64%	59%	63%	56%
Rick Santorum	29%	27%	30%	29%	29%
Undecided	10%	9%	11%	8%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney as Gov Approval					
Approve	48%	47%	46%	49%	50%
Disapprove	40%	44%	40%	40%	38%
Not sure	12%	9%	14%	11%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Has Romney's Campaign Helped/Hurt MA's Img?					
Helped	15%	9%	12%	16%	19%
Hurt	25%	31%	20%	26%	24%
Hasn't made a difference	59%	60%	66%	55%	55%
Not sure	2%	-	2%	2%	3%

