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OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

Obama has comfortable leads in Washington state

Raleigh, N.C. – Mitt Romney’s fortunes have really been sinking in PPP’s look ahead to the fall campaign, to the point where he routinely now performs worse against President Obama than the surging Rick Santorum does. Indeed, in Washington state, Romney not only trails Santorum with general election voters, but also Ron Paul.

Romney trails Obama by 15 points (53-38). That is two points better than McCain did in 2008, but one point worse than poll respondents’ self-reported 2008 vote, and a full three points worse than Santorum, who trails by only 12 points (52-40), and two points worse than Paul, who lags by 13 (51-38). Only Gingrich would be a worse nominee at this point; he would get blown out by 20 points (55-35).

The president’s net approval rating has slipped by three points since PPP last polled the state in May 2011, but that was two weeks after Osama Bin Laden was killed, a recent high point in the president’s standing. Now 51% of the state’s voters approve of his job performance, and 45% disapprove, versus 52-43.

But Romney’s personal image has slipped even further as the primary race has dragged on. Last May, he trailed the president by only 11 points (51-40), and 34% saw him favorably to 47% unfavorably, already bad enough. But that is now 27-63, 23 points worse on the margin. Romney has slipped across the board in the last nine months. Even his own party only sees him positively by a 48-40 margin now (versus 51-29). Against the president, Santorum does only marginally better, trailing with independents by six rather than seven points, uniting the GOP only a bit more, and taking a hair more of the Democratic vote.

“Washington was decently close for President in 2000 and 2004,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But it looks like the 2012 results will be a lot closer to 2008- an Obama blowout.”

PPP surveyed 1,264 Washington voters from February 16th to 19th. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.76%. 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.



Washington Survey Results

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

Approve 51%
Disapprove..... 45%
Not sure 4%

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

Favorable..... 19%
Unfavorable 69%
Not sure 11%

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

Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 55%
Not sure 15%

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

Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 63%
Not sure 10%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 13%

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

Barack Obama..... 55%
Newt Gingrich 35%
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..... 51%
Ron Paul..... 38%
Undecided..... 11%

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

Barack Obama..... 53%
Mitt Romney..... 38%
Undecided..... 9%

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

Barack Obama..... 52%
Rick Santorum 40%
Undecided..... 8%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 39%
Barack Obama..... 53%
Someone else/Don't remember 8%

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

Very liberal..... 14%
Somewhat liberal 20%
Moderate..... 28%
Somewhat conservative..... 21%
Very conservative 17%

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

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%



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 36%
Republican..... 32%
Independent/Other..... 32%

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

White 89%
Other..... 11%

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.

18 to 29..... 9%
30 to 45..... 22%
46 to 65..... 49%
Older than 65..... 20%

Q16 Area Code

206..... 13%
253..... 12%
360..... 33%
425..... 15%
509..... 27%



Washington Survey Results

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

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Disapprove..... 45%
Not sure 4%

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Favorable..... 19%
Unfavorable 69%
Not sure 11%

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Favorable..... 31%
Unfavorable 55%
Not sure 15%

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Favorable..... 27%
Unfavorable 63%
Not sure 10%

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

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 51%
Not sure 13%

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

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Newt Gingrich 35%
Undecided..... 10%

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Ron Paul..... 38%
Undecided..... 11%

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

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Mitt Romney..... 38%
Undecided..... 9%

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Barack Obama..... 52%
Rick Santorum 40%
Undecided..... 8%

Q10 Who did you vote for President in 2008?

John McCain..... 39%
Barack Obama..... 53%
Someone else/Don't remember 8%

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

Very liberal..... 14%
Somewhat liberal 20%
Moderate..... 28%
Somewhat conservative..... 21%
Very conservative 17%

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

Woman 54%
Man..... 46%



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 36%
Republican..... 32%
Independent/Other..... 32%

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

White 89%
Other..... 11%

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.

18 to 29..... 9%
30 to 45..... 22%
46 to 65..... 49%
Older than 65..... 20%

Q16 Area Code

206..... 13%
253..... 12%
360..... 33%
425..... 15%
509..... 27%



Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	51%	7%	89%	20%
Disapprove	45%	90%	8%	68%
Not sure	4%	3%	3%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	19%	39%	5%	21%
Unfavorable	69%	44%	91%	50%
Not sure	11%	16%	5%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	31%	33%	27%	42%
Unfavorable	55%	51%	60%	37%
Not sure	15%	16%	13%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	27%	49%	9%	37%
Unfavorable	63%	38%	85%	48%
Not sure	10%	13%	6%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	36%	67%	10%	50%
Unfavorable	51%	19%	79%	23%
Not sure	13%	14%	11%	27%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	55%	9%	93%	32%
Newt Gingrich	35%	76%	4%	39%
Undecided	10%	15%	3%	29%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	51%	9%	86%	25%
Ron Paul	38%	75%	10%	44%
Undecided	11%	16%	4%	31%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	53%	7%	90%	31%
Mitt Romney	38%	80%	6%	44%
Undecided	9%	12%	4%	25%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	52%	7%	91%	21%
Rick Santorum	40%	85%	5%	54%
Undecided	8%	9%	4%	25%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama Approval						
Approve	51%	87%	88%	59%	17%	6%
Disapprove	45%	10%	9%	34%	80%	93%
Not sure	4%	3%	4%	8%	2%	1%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	19%	7%	7%	12%	31%	43%
Unfavorable	69%	92%	89%	78%	50%	38%
Not sure	11%	2%	4%	11%	19%	19%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	31%	21%	21%	39%	32%	36%
Unfavorable	55%	74%	67%	43%	47%	53%
Not sure	15%	6%	13%	19%	21%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	27%	5%	12%	21%	47%	46%
Unfavorable	63%	90%	84%	68%	38%	41%
Not sure	10%	4%	4%	11%	14%	13%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	36%	6%	8%	26%	62%	78%
Unfavorable	51%	88%	82%	56%	21%	11%
Not sure	13%	6%	10%	18%	17%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	55%	90%	92%	66%	21%	6%
New t Gingrich	35%	6%	6%	20%	62%	85%
Undecided	10%	4%	3%	14%	17%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	51%	86%	87%	58%	20%	3%
Ron Paul	38%	9%	8%	27%	65%	85%
Undecided	11%	5%	5%	15%	16%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	53%	91%	89%	62%	17%	5%
Mitt Romney	38%	5%	8%	24%	71%	85%
Undecided	9%	4%	3%	14%	11%	10%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	52%	89%	90%	61%	17%	5%
Rick Santorum	40%	4%	8%	27%	72%	92%
Undecided	8%	6%	2%	12%	11%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	51%	55%	46%
Disapprove	45%	41%	49%
Not sure	4%	4%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	19%	17%	22%
Unfavorable	69%	72%	66%
Not sure	11%	10%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	31%	26%	36%
Unfavorable	55%	56%	53%
Not sure	15%	18%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	27%	26%	28%
Unfavorable	63%	63%	64%
Not sure	10%	11%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	36%	33%	40%
Unfavorable	51%	51%	50%
Not sure	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	55%	59%	50%
Newt Gingrich	35%	31%	40%
Undecided	10%	10%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	51%	56%	44%
Ron Paul	38%	32%	46%
Undecided	11%	12%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	53%	56%	49%
Mitt Romney	38%	35%	42%
Undecided	9%	10%	8%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	52%	57%	47%
Rick Santorum	40%	35%	46%
Undecided	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	51%	92%	12%	44%
Disapprove	45%	6%	84%	50%
Not sure	4%	2%	3%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gingrich Favorability				
Favorable	19%	4%	38%	19%
Unfavorable	69%	92%	46%	67%
Not sure	11%	4%	16%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Paul Favorability				
Favorable	31%	19%	32%	42%
Unfavorable	55%	68%	54%	40%
Not sure	15%	13%	14%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Romney Favorability				
Favorable	27%	7%	48%	28%
Unfavorable	63%	88%	40%	59%
Not sure	10%	4%	12%	13%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Santorum Favorability				
Favorable	36%	7%	65%	40%
Unfavorable	51%	82%	20%	46%
Not sure	13%	11%	15%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Gingrich				
Barack Obama	55%	95%	14%	51%
Newt Gingrich	35%	4%	72%	34%
Undecided	10%	1%	15%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Paul				
Barack Obama	51%	91%	12%	43%
Ron Paul	38%	6%	73%	41%
Undecided	11%	3%	16%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Romney				
Barack Obama	53%	95%	12%	46%
Mitt Romney	38%	2%	78%	39%
Undecided	9%	3%	10%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama/Santorum				
Barack Obama	52%	94%	11%	46%
Rick Santorum	40%	4%	81%	40%
Undecided	8%	2%	8%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	51%	51%	51%
Disapprove	45%	46%	41%
Not sure	4%	3%	8%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Gingrich Favorability			
Favorable	19%	20%	19%
Unfavorable	69%	69%	71%
Not sure	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Paul Favorability			
Favorable	31%	31%	29%
Unfavorable	55%	55%	52%
Not sure	15%	14%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Romney Favorability			
Favorable	27%	28%	17%
Unfavorable	63%	62%	72%
Not sure	10%	10%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Santorum Favorability			
Favorable	36%	37%	29%
Unfavorable	51%	51%	52%
Not sure	13%	13%	19%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Gingrich			
Barack Obama	55%	54%	60%
Newt Gingrich	35%	36%	29%
Undecided	10%	10%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Paul			
Barack Obama	51%	50%	53%
Ron Paul	38%	39%	35%
Undecided	11%	11%	11%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Romney			
Barack Obama	53%	52%	62%
Mitt Romney	38%	39%	28%
Undecided	9%	9%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama/Santorum			
Barack Obama	52%	52%	56%
Rick Santorum	40%	41%	33%
Undecided	8%	7%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	51%	47%	52%	52%	49%
Disapprove	45%	45%	43%	45%	48%
Not sure	4%	8%	5%	3%	3%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gingrich Favorability					
Favorable	19%	16%	14%	21%	22%
Unfavorable	69%	66%	73%	70%	66%
Not sure	11%	18%	12%	9%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Paul Favorability					
Favorable	31%	29%	31%	32%	27%
Unfavorable	55%	50%	50%	56%	59%
Not sure	15%	21%	19%	12%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Romney Favorability					
Favorable	27%	26%	23%	27%	30%
Unfavorable	63%	68%	64%	65%	58%
Not sure	10%	5%	13%	8%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Santorum Favorability					
Favorable	36%	27%	34%	35%	43%
Unfavorable	51%	54%	51%	53%	43%
Not sure	13%	19%	15%	11%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Gingrich					
Barack Obama	55%	58%	53%	56%	52%
Newt Gingrich	35%	29%	34%	35%	40%
Undecided	10%	13%	13%	9%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Paul					
Barack Obama	51%	47%	48%	53%	49%
Ron Paul	38%	42%	39%	37%	40%
Undecided	11%	11%	12%	11%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Romney					
Barack Obama	53%	61%	50%	54%	50%
Mitt Romney	38%	32%	39%	37%	42%
Undecided	9%	8%	11%	9%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama/Santorum					
Barack Obama	52%	58%	49%	54%	49%
Rick Santorum	40%	29%	42%	40%	45%
Undecided	8%	13%	9%	7%	6%

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Obama Approval						
Approve	51%	73%	52%	49%	59%	37%
Disapprove	45%	22%	43%	48%	39%	58%
Not sure	4%	5%	4%	3%	2%	5%

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Gingrich Favorability						
Favorable	19%	10%	16%	21%	20%	24%
Unfavorable	69%	83%	75%	68%	73%	60%
Not sure	11%	7%	10%	11%	7%	16%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Paul Favorability						
Favorable	31%	25%	35%	29%	34%	31%
Unfavorable	55%	60%	49%	54%	56%	54%
Not sure	15%	15%	16%	17%	10%	15%

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Romney Favorability						
Favorable	27%	15%	30%	25%	26%	34%
Unfavorable	63%	78%	59%	64%	66%	56%
Not sure	10%	8%	11%	11%	8%	10%

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Santorum Favorability						
Favorable	36%	17%	35%	34%	32%	50%
Unfavorable	51%	74%	53%	48%	56%	39%
Not sure	13%	9%	13%	17%	12%	11%

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Obama/Gingrich						
Barack Obama	55%	79%	54%	51%	67%	42%
Newt Gingrich	35%	16%	34%	37%	28%	47%
Undecided	10%	6%	13%	12%	6%	11%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Obama/Paul						
Barack Obama	51%	72%	49%	49%	58%	38%
Ron Paul	38%	19%	37%	40%	32%	50%
Undecided	11%	9%	14%	11%	9%	12%

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Obama/Romney						
Barack Obama	53%	76%	52%	49%	65%	40%
Mitt Romney	38%	17%	36%	41%	30%	51%
Undecided	9%	8%	12%	11%	6%	9%

	Base	Area Code				
		206	253	360	425	509
Obama/Santorum						
Barack Obama	52%	78%	53%	50%	62%	37%
Rick Santorum	40%	16%	34%	41%	32%	58%
Undecided	8%	6%	13%	9%	6%	5%

