



**THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**For The People & The Press**

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Obama Leads Both in General Election Matchups

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Santorum Catches Romney in GOP Race

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## Obama Leads Both in General Election Matchups Santorum Catches Romney in GOP Race

Rick Santorum's support among Tea Party Republicans and white evangelicals is surging, and he now has pulled into a virtual tie with Mitt Romney in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. In polling conducted Feb. 8-12, 30% of Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters favor Santorum while 28% favor Romney. As recently as a month ago, Romney held a 31% to 14% advantage over Santorum among all GOP voters.

Santorum is now the clear favorite of Republican and GOP-leaning voters who agree with the Tea Party, as well as white evangelical Republicans. Currently, 42% of Tea Party Republican voters favor Santorum, compared with just 23% who back Romney. Santorum holds an almost identical advantage among white evangelical Republican voters (41% to 23%).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 8-12 among 1,501 adults, including 1172 registered voters and 552 Republican and Republican-leaning voters, finds that Barack Obama holds sizable leads over Santorum, Romney and Newt Gingrich in general election match-ups.

Obama leads Santorum by 10 points among all registered voters (53% to 43%) and his lead over Romney is nearly as large (52% to 44%).

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### Santorum Ties Romney among Republicans Nationally

Rep/Lean Rep RVs	Jan 4-8	Jan 11-16	Feb 8-12
<i>GOP nomination preference ...</i>	%	%	%
Rick Santorum	16	14	30
Mitt Romney	27	31	28
Newt Gingrich	16	16	17
Ron Paul	12	15	12
Other	--	--	1
None/Don't know	--	--	<u>12</u>
			100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Complete results for January polls not shown.

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### Obama Holds Leads in General Election Matchups

All voters	Nov 9-14	Jan 11-16	Feb 8-12
<i>If 2012 election is between ...</i>	%	%	%
Barack Obama	49	50	52
Mitt Romney	47	45	44
Other/ DK	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100
Barack Obama	--	--	53
Rick Santorum	--	--	43
Other/ DK	--	--	<u>4</u>
			100
Barack Obama	54	--	57
Newt Gingrich	42	--	39
Other/ DK	<u>4</u>	--	<u>5</u>
	100		100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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Romney ran about even with Obama in November and mid-January. Obama has a larger advantage over Newt Gingrich than over Santorum or Romney: Obama leads the former House speaker by 18 points (57% to 39%). Obama has made gains among independent voters. Today, 51% of independents favor Obama in a matchup against Romney, up from 40% a month ago.

## Romney Trailing among GOP Conservatives

In the early GOP primaries, Romney has struggled at times in winning over the conservative elements of the Republican electorate – Tea Party supporters, conservatives and white evangelical Republicans. The new poll shows that nationally he trails Santorum among all three groups.

In contrast, Romney holds leads over Santorum among non-Tea Party Republicans (34% to 19%) and moderate and liberal Republicans (34% to 20%).

### Santorum Surges with Tea Party Support

	Santorum	Romney	Gingrich	Paul	N
	%	%	%	%	
<b>Rep/Lean Rep RVs</b>	30	28	17	12	552
Tea Party	42	23	15	13	267
Not Tea Party	19	34	18	11	277
Conservative	36	25	17	11	379
Moderate/Liberal	20	34	16	14	169
18-49	26	29	15	16	198
50-64	38	22	16	11	176
65+	29	35	22	6	171
College grad+	25	39	14	11	227
Some college or less	33	24	18	13	322
White evangelical Prot	41	23	20	6	184
White mainline Prot	24	30	18	16	110
White Catholic	37	27	18	9	111

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q11. Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters. Whites are non-Hispanic.

While Santorum holds a substantial advantage over Romney among white evangelical Republicans, he also runs about even with Romney among white mainline Protestants (24% Santorum, 30% Romney).

Romney also trails Santorum among Republican and GOP-leaning voters who have not completed college (33% to 24%). Romney leads among Republican college graduates (39% to 25%).

## More Doubts about Romney's Conservatism, Consistency

Three months ago, a slim majority (53%) of Republican and Republican-leaning voters said Mitt Romney was a strong conservative. Today, 42% see him this way, while the number who say he is *not* a strong conservative has jumped from 33% to 50%.

This growing skepticism about Romney's conservatism is most pronounced among Tea Party Republicans. Among Republican and Republican-leaning voters who agree with the Tea Party, just 29% say Romney is a strong conservative, down from 51% three months ago. Fully 68% of Tea Party Republicans say Romney is *not* a strong conservative.

Fewer Republican voters today think Romney has been consistent as well. By a 48% to 39% margin, more Republicans say Romney does *not* take consistent positions on the issues. In November, 47% felt he was consistent and just 33% said he was not.

By contrast, Romney has lost virtually no ground among Republican voters in evaluations of his qualifications and honesty. Roughly as many today as in November say that he is well-qualified to be president (69%) and that he is honest and trustworthy (64%). These were Romney's strongest traits in November, and remain so today.

### GOP Voters Skeptical of Romney's Conservatism, Consistency

Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters

Describes Mitt Romney ...	Nov 2011		Feb 2012	
	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %
Well-qualified to be president	71	18	69	24
Honest and trustworthy	65	21	64	28
Understands the needs of people like you	54	30	49	42
A strong conservative	53	33	42	50
Takes consistent positions on issues	47	33	39	48

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q21.

### Most Tea Party Reps Say Romney Is Not a Strong Conservative

Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters who agree with the Tea Party

Describes Mitt Romney ...	Nov 2011		Feb 2012	
	Yes %	No %	Yes %	No %
Well-qualified to be president	76	18	74	23
Honest and trustworthy	67	22	67	29
Understands the needs of people like you	59	32	51	44
Takes consistent positions on issues	47	40	38	56
A strong conservative	51	41	29	68

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q21.

## Obama Leads in General Election Matchup

Barack Obama now holds an eight-point lead over Mitt Romney in a general election matchup, and he has gained significant ground among independent voters. A month ago, 40% of independents said they would back Obama over Romney – today 51% say they would, while the number expressing support for Romney has slipped from 50% to 42%.

Over the course of the campaign, Romney's image among independent voters has suffered substantially. Most notably, the number who believe he is honest and trustworthy has fallen from 53% to 41%, while the number who say he is *not* has risen from 32% to 45%.

And even on his qualifications for the office – Romney's strong suit – he has lost ground among independents. In November, a 58% majority of independents said Romney was well-qualified to be president, while just 31% said he was not. Today, 48% say he is well qualified, while 41% say he is not.

Despite these problems, Romney runs slightly better against Barack Obama among independents than either of the other leading GOP candidates. Independent voters favor Barack Obama over Rick Santorum by a 54% to 40% margin, and favor Obama over Gingrich by a wide 58% to 34% margin.

### Romney Loses Ground among Independents

<i>If 2012 election is between...</i>	<b>Nov 9-14</b>	<b>Jan 11-16</b>	<b>Feb 8-12</b>	<b>Jan-Feb change</b>
<b>All voters</b>	%	%	%	
Barack Obama	49	50	52	+2
Mitt Romney	47	45	44	-1
Other/DK	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	100	
<b>Independent voters</b>				
Barack Obama	41	40	51	+11
Mitt Romney	53	50	42	-8
Other/DK	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>	
	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q13. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### More Independents Question Romney's Qualifications, Honesty

*Based on independent registered voters*

<b>Describes Mitt Romney ...</b>	<b>Nov 2011</b>		<b>Feb 2012</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
	%	%	%	%
Well-qualified to be president	58	31	48	41
Honest and trustworthy	53	32	41	45
A strong conservative	47	35	39	51
Takes consistent positions on issues	36	45	32	53
Understands the needs of people like you	36	50	31	60

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q21.

## GOP Voters Say Party Would Unite Behind Romney

While Romney has lost support in the GOP nomination contest, a majority (57%) of Republican and Republican-leaning voters say that the party would unite solidly behind him if he wins the nomination. Roughly a third (32%) say disagreements within the party will keep many Republicans from supporting him.

In February 2008, following that year's Super Tuesday contests, 58% of Republican voters said the party would unite behind John McCain.

A substantial majority (70%) of GOP voters who support Romney for the Republican nomination say the party would coalesce behind the former Massachusetts governor if he is the nominee. A smaller percentage (54%) of Santorum supporters express this view.

A majority of GOP voters (55%) also say that it is a good thing the race has not yet been decided. As might be expected, Santorum supporters are more likely than Romney backers to express this view (62% vs. 45%).

In the Democratic primary race four years ago, a comparable percentage (57%) of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters in February said it was good for the party that the race had not yet been decided. But that figure fell to 35% in April, as the Democratic primary contest continued.

### Most Republicans Say Party Would Unite Behind Romney, Good that Primary is Continuing

If Romney wins the GOP nomination do you think...	All Rep/lean Rep RVS %	Support...		For reference* McCain Feb 2008 %
		Romney %	Santorum %	
The Republican Party will unite solidly behind him	57	70	54	58
Disagreements will keep many from supporting him	32	21	38	32
Don't know	11	9	8	10
	100	100	100	100
<b>Do you think the fact that the GOP primary contest is still going on is...</b>				<i>Democratic primary Feb 2008</i>
A good thing for the party	55	45	62	57
A bad thing for the party	36	42	32	27
Neither/Don't know	9	12	6	16
	100	100	100	100
N	552	164	177	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Feb. 8-12, 2012. Q19-20. Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

\* Figures from February 2008 based on all Republican and Republican leaning registered voters (top) and all Democratic and Democratic leaning voters (bottom).

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Feb. 8-12, 2012, among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (900 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 601 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 284 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,501	3.0 percentage points
Registered voters	1,172	3.5 percentage points
Republican voters	394	6.0 percentage points
Democratic voters	393	6.0 percentage points
Independent voters	355	6.5 percentage points
Rep/Rep-leaning voters	552	5.0 percentage points
Tea Party voters	267	7.0 percentage points
Not Tea Party voters	277	7.0 percentage points
Dem/Dem-leaning voters	543	5.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEATS

Q.13/14 Now suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney/Rick Santorum, the Republican, who would you vote for?/Q.13a/Q14a As of today, who do you lean more to?

	Obama	Romney	Other/ DK/Ref	Obama	Santorum	Other/ DK/Ref	N
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>ALL VOTERS</b>	52	44	4	53	43	4	1172
<b>SEX</b>							
Men	45	50	5	46	49	5	565
Women	59	38	3	59	38	3	607
<b>AGE</b>							
18-49	53	44	4	55	41	4	407
50+	52	45	3	50	46	4	739
<b>DETAILED AGE</b>							
18-29	-	-	-	-	-	-	86
30-49	47	48	4	51	45	4	321
50-64	55	42	3	53	43	4	397
65+	46	50	4	45	51	4	342
<b>SEX BY AGE</b>							
Men 18-49	45	50	5	47	48	5	214
Men 50+	45	52	4	44	51	5	339
Women 18-49	61	37	2	63	34	3	193
Women 50+	58	39	3	56	41	3	400
<b>RACE</b>							
White, non-Hispanic	44	52	4	44	52	4	925
Black, non-Hispanic	93	4	3	94	3	3	119
<b>EDUCATION</b>							
College grad+	55	43	2	58	38	4	505
Some college	52	45	3	51	45	3	323
High school or less	50	45	5	49	46	5	338
<b>FAMILY INCOME</b>							
\$75,000+	45	53	2	49	48	3	387
\$30,000-\$74,999	48	48	5	47	49	4	394
Less than \$30,000	64	32	3	64	31	5	266
<b>RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE</b>							
Total White NH Prot.	32	64	4	33	63	4	472
White NH evang. Prot.	21	76	3	23	74	3	262
White NH mainline Prot.	46	50	4	45	49	6	210
Total Catholic	52	44	4	50	47	3	248
White NH Cath.	44	52	4	42	55	2	198
Unaffiliated	68	28	5	70	26	5	213
<b>ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES</b>							
Weekly or more	39	58	3	40	55	5	473
Less than weekly	60	36	4	61	36	3	685
<b>REGION</b>							
Northeast	61	34	5	61	36	3	189
Midwest	55	44	2	53	43	4	297
South	44	51	5	46	48	6	413
West	55	43	2	56	42	2	273



## PRESIDENTIAL TRIAL HEATS (CONT.)

Q.13/14 Now suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Barack Obama, the Democrat, and Mitt Romney/Rick Santorum, the Republican, who would you vote for?/Q.13a/Q14a As of today, who do you lean more to?

	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Santorum</u>	<u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>	<u>N</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>PARTY ID</b>							
Republican	9	89	2	8	90	3	394
Democrat	94	5	1	93	4	3	393
Independent	51	42	7	54	40	6	355
<b>PARTY WITH LEANERS</b>							
Rep/Lean Rep	10	87	4	10	86	4	552
Dem/Lean Dem	93	5	1	93	5	2	543
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>							
Conservative	20	76	4	21	75	4	461
Moderate	61	34	5	62	32	6	429
Liberal	89	10	1	89	10	1	249
<b>PARTY AND IDEOLOGY</b>							
Conservative Republican	4	94	2	4	94	2	295
Mod/Lib Republican	22	76	2	19	77	3	96
Mod/Cons Democrat	93	7	1	92	3	4	209
Liberal Democrat	96	4	0	96	4	0	169
<b>TEA PARTY MOVEMENT</b>							
Agree	2	95	3	2	95	3	267
Disagree/No opinion	16	79	5	18	77	5	277
<b>AMONG WHITES</b>							
Men	36	60	5	36	59	5	442
Women	52	46	3	52	45	3	483
18-49	43	53	4	46	50	4	288
50+	44	52	3	43	53	4	621
College grad+	49	49	2	52	44	4	411
Some college or less	41	55	5	40	56	4	512
\$75,000+	43	56	1	44	53	3	326
\$30,000-\$74,999	36	58	5	35	60	4	314
Less than \$30,000	54	42	5	55	40	6	191
Republican	6	92	2	5	93	3	361
Democrat	91	8	1	91	6	3	263
Independent	46	47	7	48	45	6	282
Northeast	55	40	4	51	46	3	153
Midwest	49	49	2	48	49	4	266
South	29	65	6	32	62	6	302
West	50	47	2	54	44	2	204

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 2012 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**February 8-12, 2012**  
**N=1501**

**QUESTIONS 1-6a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.6 Is your overall opinion of [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: Just in general, is your overall opinion of [NAME] very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] [INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]

	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
b. Newt Gingrich								
Feb 8-12, 2012	25	6	19	57	29	28	7	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	31	9	23	48	23	25	11	10
Jun 10-14, 2009	35	8	27	38	16	22	16	10
October, 1998	41	8	33	49	23	26	1	9
Early September, 1998	42	7	35	48	20	28	3	7
Late August, 1998	43	5	38	52	19	33	2	3
March, 1998	36	6	30	49	20	29	6	9
November, 1997	30	6	24	59	24	35	4	7
August, 1997	30	6	24	62	27	35	2	6
April, 1997	28	5	23	64	28	36	3	5
January, 1997	28	4	24	65	26	39	2	5
August, 1995	30	9	21	54	25	29	4	12
February, 1995	41	12	29	37	15	22	10	12
December, 1994	25	7	18	28	13	15	30	17
July, 1994	14	2	12	12	4	8	65	9
c. Mitt Romney								
Feb 8-12, 2012	32	7	25	49	20	29	6	13
Jan 11-16, 2012	31	7	24	45	17	27	9	14
Nov 9-14, 2011	36	7	29	42	16	26	9	12
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	35	11	25	21	9	13	25	18
Jun 10-14, 2009	40	9	31	28	8	20	19	13
Early February, 2008	30	6	24	44	15	29	8	18
January, 2008	31	7	24	43	13	30	8	18
Late December, 2007	29	4	25	35	11	24	17	19
August, 2007	28	5	23	24	7	17	29	19
d. Rick Santorum								
Feb 8-12, 2012	33	10	23	36	16	20	14	17
e. Ron Paul								
Feb 8-12, 2012	31	7	24	43	17	26	10	17

**ASK ALL:**

REGIST These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?

**[INSTRUCTION: IF RESPONDENT VOLUNTEERS THAT THEY ARE IN NORTH DAKOTA AND DON'T HAVE TO REGISTER, PUNCH 1 FOR REGIST AND REGICERT]**

**ASK IF RESPONDENT ANSWERED '1' YES IN REGIST:**

REGICERT Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote, or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?

Feb 8-12

2012

74	Yes, registered
70	Absolutely certain
4	Chance registration has lapsed
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
26	No, not registered
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the 2012 presidential election...

Q.7 How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates running for president in 2012? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Not much</u>	<u>None at all</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	25	16	13	1
Jan 11-16, 2012	38	27	19	16	1
Jan 4-8, 2012	31	30	18	19	1
Nov 9-14, 2011 <sup>1</sup>	36	26	21	15	1
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	29	29	22	19	2
Aug 17-21, 2011	27	30	23	18	1
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	29	27	23	1
May 25-30, 2011	23	30	27	19	1
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
<b>2008 Presidential Election</b>					
February, 2008	48	29	10	11	2
January, 2008	44	32	11	11	2
December, 2007	35	33	13	18	1
November, 2007	34	35	16	14	1
October, 2007	30	37	17	14	2
September, 2007	27	33	21	17	2
July, 2007	30	38	16	15	1
June, 2007	29	34	20	16	1
April, 2007	26	34	21	17	2
March, 2007	24	36	20	18	2
February, 2007	24	34	22	18	2
December, 2006	23	36	20	20	1

<sup>1</sup> In 2011 question read "How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2012?" In 2006 and 2007, question read "How much thought, if any, have you given to candidates who may be running for president in 2008?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.8 Would you say you are looking forward to the presidential election this fall or not?

		<b>TREND FOR COMPARISONS</b>			
Feb 8-12		Apr	Late Dec	Jan	
<u>2012</u>		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>1988</u>	
62	Yes	68	70	74	
35	No	30	28	23	
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	2	3	

**NO QUESTIONS 9-10****ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.11 As I name some possible Republican candidates for president in 2012, please tell me which one, if any, you would most like to see nominated as the Republican Party's candidate? **[READ AND RANDOMIZE] [PROBE IF NECESSARY: As of today, who would you say you LEAN toward?]**

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEADING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=552]:**

Feb 8-12		Jan 11-16	Jan 4-8	Dec 7-11	Nov 9-14	Sep 22-Oct 4	Jul 20-24	Mar 8-14	Nov 4-7
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
30	Rick Santorum	14	16	3	2	2	1	2	2
28	Mitt Romney	31	27	21	23	21	21	21	17
17	Newt Gingrich	16	16	33	16	7	3	11	9
12	Ron Paul	15	12	8	8	11	9	8	10
1	Other <b>(VOL.)</b> <sup>3</sup>	2	1	*	*	1	1	1	5
--	Rick Perry	5	6	4	8	16	12	--	--
--	Jon Huntsman	2	2	3	1	1	2	--	--
--	Michele Bachmann	--	--	6	5	4	11	--	--
--	Herman Cain	--	--	--	22	12	8	--	--
--	Sarah Palin	--	--	--	--	9	11	13	16
--	Tim Pawlenty	--	--	--	--	--	3	3	5
--	Mike Huckabee	--	--	--	--	--	--	20	19
--	Mitch Daniels	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
--	Haley Barbour	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	2
--	Chris Christie	--	--	--	--	--	--	2	--
4	None <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	4	10	4	5	5	5	4
3	Too early to tell <b>(VOL.)</b>	6	5	4	5	5	7	3	--
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	6	10	7	5	5	8	7	10

**NO QUESTION 12**

<sup>2</sup> In late December 2007 and January 1988, this question was asked as part of a list and in late December 2007 the presidential election appeared first. The introductions read: "I am going to read you a list of events that will occur in the coming year. As I read each one, please tell me whether or not this is an event you are especially looking forward to. The first one is..."

<sup>3</sup> Perry, Huntsman, Bachmann, Cain, Palin, Pawlenty, Huckabee, Daniels and Barbour were explicitly asked in some previous surveys. Chris Christie was never asked in any surveys. In surveys in which they received less than 1% support, these responses are included in other. Dashes indicate that candidates were not explicitly asked about and received less than 1% support.

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.13-Q.13a/Q.14-Q.14a/Q.16-Q.16a IN BLOCKS****ASK BEFORE FIRST BLOCK:**

Now, suppose the 2012 presidential election were being held TODAY and...

**ASK BEFORE SECOND AND THIRD BLOCK:**

If the election were TODAY and...

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.13/14/16 You had to choose between, [READ AND RANDOMIZE], who would you vote for?

**ASK IF OTHER OR DK (Q.13/14/16=3,9):**

Q.13a/14a/16a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.13/14/16]?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1172]:**

Q.13 Mitt Romney

	<u>Romney</u>	<u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	44	52	1	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	45	50	2	4
Nov 9-14, 2011	47	49	1	3
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	48	48	1	4

Q.14 Rick Santorum

	<u>Santorum</u>	<u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	43	53	1	3

**NO QUESTION 15**

Q.16 Newt Gingrich

	<u>Gingrich</u>	<u>Obama</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 8-12, 2012	39	57	2	3
Nov 9-14, 2011	42	54	1	3

**Q.13-Q.13a/Q.14-Q.14a/Q.16-Q.16a TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:****BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:**

	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Nader</u>	<u>Barr</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
November, 2008	39	50	1	1	9
Late October, 2008	36	52	3	1	8
Mid-October, 2008	38	52	n/a	n/a	10
Early October, 2008	40	50	n/a	n/a	10
Late September, 2008	42	49	n/a	n/a	9
Mid-September, 2008 <sup>4</sup>	44	46	n/a	n/a	10
August, 2008	43	46	n/a	n/a	11
July, 2008	42	47	n/a	n/a	11
June, 2008	40	48	n/a	n/a	12
Late May, 2008	44	47	n/a	n/a	9
April, 2008	44	50	n/a	n/a	6

<sup>4</sup> After August 2008, June 2004, July 2000, July 1996, June 1992 and June 1988 the question specified vice presidential candidates.

## Q.13-Q.13a/Q.14-Q.14a/Q.16-Q.16a TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:

	<u>McCain</u>	<u>Obama</u>	<u>Nader</u>	<u>Barr</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
March, 2008	43	49	n/a	n/a	8
Late February, 2008	43	50	n/a	n/a	7
					(VOL.) <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Kerry</u>	<u>Nader</u>		
November, 2004	45	46	1		8
Mid-October, 2004	45	45	1		9
Early October, 2004	48	41	2		9
September, 2004	49	43	1		7
August, 2004	45	47	2		6
July, 2004	44	46	3		7
June, 2004	46	42	6		6
May, 2004	43	46	6		5
Late March, 2004	44	43	6		7
Mid-March, 2004	42	49	4		5
<i>Two-way trial heats:</i>					
June, 2004	48	46	n/a		6
May, 2004	45	50	n/a		5
Late March, 2004	46	47	n/a		7
Mid-March, 2004	43	52	n/a		5
Late February, 2004	44	48	n/a		8
Early February, 2004	47	47	n/a		6
Early January, 2004	52	41	n/a		7
October, 2003	50	42	n/a		8
					(VOL.) <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Gore</u>	<u>Nader</u>	<u>Buchanan</u>	
November, 2000	41	45	4	1	9
Late October, 2000	45	43	4	1	7
Mid-October, 2000	43	45	4	1	7
Early October, 2000	43	44	5	*	8
September, 2000	41	47	2	1	9
July, 2000	42	41	6	2	9
Late June, 2000	42	35	2	2	19
Mid-June, 2000	41	42	4	3	10
January, 2000	51	39	n/a	4	6
September, 1999	49	35	n/a	10	6
<i>Two-way trial heats:</i>					
July, 2000	48	46	n/a	n/a	6
Mid-June, 2000	45	46	n/a	n/a	9
May, 2000	46	45	n/a	n/a	9
March, 2000	43	49	n/a	n/a	8
February, 2000	46	45	n/a	n/a	9
December, 1999	55	40	n/a	n/a	5
October, 1999	54	39	n/a	n/a	7
September, 1999	54	39	n/a	n/a	7
July, 1999	53	42	n/a	n/a	5
March, 1999	54	41	n/a	n/a	5
January, 1999	50	44	n/a	n/a	6
Early September, 1998	53	40	n/a	n/a	7

## Q.13-Q.13a/Q.14-Q.14a/Q.16-Q.16a TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

<b>BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS:</b>				<b>(VOL.) Other/ DK/Ref</b>
	<b><u>Dole</u></b>	<b><u>Clinton</u></b>	<b><u>Perot</u></b>	
November, 1996	32	51	9	8
October, 1996	34	51	8	7
Late September, 1996	35	51	7	7
Early September, 1996	34	52	8	6
July, 1996	34	44	16	6
March, 1996	35	44	16	5
September, 1995	36	42	19	3
July, 1994	36	39	20	5
<b><i>Two-way trial heats:</i></b>				
July, 1996	42	53	n/a	5
June, 1996	40	55	n/a	5
April, 1996	40	54		6
March, 1996	41	53		6
February, 1996	44	52		4
January, 1996	41	53		6
July, 1994	49	46		5
	<b><u>Bush Sr.</u></b>	<b><u>Clinton</u></b>	<b><u>Perot</u></b>	<b><u>Other/ DK/Ref</u></b>
Late October, 1992	34	44	19	3
Early October, 1992	35	48	8	9
June, 1992	31	27	36	6
<b><i>Two-way trial heats:</i></b>				
September, 1992	38	53	n/a	9
August, 1992	37	57	n/a	6
June, 1992	46	41	n/a	13
May, 1992	46	43	n/a	11
Late March, 1992	50	43	n/a	7
	<b><u>Bush Sr.</u></b>	<b><u>Dukakis</u></b>		<b><u>Other/ DK/Ref</u></b>
October, 1988	50	42		8
September, 1988	50	44		6
May, 1988	40	53		7

NO QUESTIONS 17-18

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.19 If Mitt Romney wins the Republican nomination, do you think the Republican Party will unite solidly behind him or do you think disagreements within the party will keep many Republicans from supporting Romney?

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEADING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=552]:**

Feb 8-12

2012

57	Solidly unite
32	Keep many from supporting
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:****Rep/Rep Leaning Registered Voters***John McCain**Bob Dole*

Late

	May <u>2008</u> <sup>5</sup>	Mar <u>2008</u>	Feb <u>2008</u>	Jul <u>1996</u>
Solidly unite	63	64	58	46
Keep many from supporting	26	22	32	39
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	14	10	15

**Dem/Dem Leaning Registered Voters***Barack Obama**John Kerry**Bill Clinton*

	May <u>2008</u> <sup>6</sup>	Mar <u>2008</u>	Jul <u>2004</u>	Jul <u>1992</u>
Solidly unite	61	66	71	45
Keep many from supporting	31	25	15	38
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	9	14	17

**ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):**

Q.20 Do you think the fact that the Republican primary contest has not yet been decided and is still going on is a good thing or a bad thing for the Republican Party?

**BASED ON REPUBLICAN/REPUBLICAN-LEADING REGISTERED VOTERS [N=552]:**

Feb 8-12

2012

55	Good thing
36	Bad thing
4	Neither/Still early (VOL.)
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

<sup>5</sup> From February-May 2008 the question read: "Do you think the Republican Party will unite solidly behind John McCain or do you think that differences and disagreements within the party will keep many Republicans from supporting McCain." This question was asked about Bob Dole after the Republican nomination had been settled.

<sup>6</sup> In May 2008, the question read: "If Barack Obama is the Democratic candidate, do you think the Democratic Party will solidly unite behind him or do you think that differences and disagreements within the party will keep many Democrats from supporting Obama." In March 2008, the question began: "If Barack Obama wins the Democratic nomination..." but otherwise has the same language as May 2008. These questions were asked about John Kerry and Bill Clinton after the Democratic nominations had been settled.



## Q.20 CONTINUED...

## TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	Dem/Dem Leaning Registered Voters <i>Democratic Primary Contest (Clinton/Obama)</i>			
	May <u>2008</u> <sup>7</sup>	Apr <u>2008</u>	Mar <u>2008</u>	Late Feb <u>2008</u>
Good thing	38	35	44	57
Bad thing	48	51	41	27
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	14	14	15	16

## ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q.21 As I read some phrases, please tell me whether you think each one describes Mitt Romney. First, [INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE], does this describe Mitt Romney, or not? How about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]? [REPEAT IF NECESSARY: does this describe Romney, or not]?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1172]:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. A strong conservative			
Feb 8-12, 2012	39	49	12
Nov 9-14, 2011	48	35	17
b. Honest and trustworthy			
Feb 8-12, 2012	42	45	13
Nov 9-14, 2011	52	32	16
c. Takes consistent positions on issues			
Feb 8-12, 2012	30	55	15
Nov 9-14, 2011	37	43	20
d. Understands the needs of people like you			
Feb 8-12, 2012	29	61	10
Nov 9-14, 2011	37	47	16
e. Well-qualified to be president			
Feb 8-12, 2012	48	42	10
Nov 9-14, 2011	54	33	13

## NO QUESTIONS 22-31

## QUESTIONS 32-75 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

<sup>7</sup> In May 2008, the question read: "Do you think the fact that the contest between Clinton and Obama is still going on is a good thing or a bad thing for the Democratic Party." In April 2008 and earlier, the question read: "Do you think the fact that the contest between Clinton and Obama has not yet been decided is ...."

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Jun 15-19, 2011	26	34	32	4	*	4	13	13
May 25-30, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	15	17
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	25	32	37	3	*	3	17	16
Mar 8-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	*	2	17	15
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

**ASK ALL:**

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>8</sup>	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

<sup>8</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."